

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
SECRETARY OF STATE
SECURITIES DEPARTMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF: GRAND)	
MERIDIAN PRIVATE EQUITY, Ltd.,)	File No. 1300439
SEAN WINEBERG.)	

ORDER OF PROHIBITION

TO THE RESPONDENTS:

**Grand Meridian Private Equity, Ltd.
25 E. Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602**

**Sean Wineberg
25 E. Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 11.F of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5] (the "Act"), the Secretary of State has determined that the offer or sale of securities by any person in Respondent Grand Meridian Private Equity, Ltd. is subject to a Order of Prohibition.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State finds that the grounds for such Order of Prohibition are as follows.

1. Respondent Grand Meridian Private Equity, Ltd. ("Meridian") is an unregistered limited company with the last known address of 25 E Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.
- 2 Respondent Sean Wineberg ("SW") holds himself out as Senior Administrative Manager at Meridian with the last known address of 25 E. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602
3. Respondents Meridian and SW are currently NOT registered as a Broker-Dealer, Investment Adviser, or Investment Adviser Representative with the Secretary of State of Illinois.
4. At or around September 3, 2013, Investor A entered into an agreement with Respondent Meridian, whereby Meridian would sell securities of a non-publically traded company held by Investor A for a fee of \$7,280

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5. At or Around September 23, 2013, Investor A wired the sum of \$7,280, representing the fee to sell Investor A's securities, to Respondent Meridian's bank
6. Since that time and after numerous inquiries, Investor A has not had any correspondence with Respondents Meridian or SW, nor received any proceeds of the proposed sale of securities or return of collected fee.
7. An investigation was commenced by the Illinois Secretary of State. There have been several attempts to get in contact with Respondents, however, the Respondents do not have nor have they ever occupied an office at the listed address, the web-site is no longer active, the phone number is disconnected, and the email does not receive messages
8. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") issued a statement warning United Kingdom residents that Meridian had been targeting UK customers, and therefore added Meridian to its unauthorized firms and individuals list.
9. Section 12.C of the Act states *inter alia* that it shall be a violation of the provisions of this Act for any person to act as a dealer, salesperson, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative, unless registered as such, where such registration is required, under the provisions of the Act.
10. Section 12.F of the Act states *inter alia* that it shall be a violation of the provisions of the Act for any person to engage in any transaction, practice or course of business in connection with the sale of securities which works or tends to work a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser or seller thereof.
11. Section 11.F(2) of the Act states *inter alia* immediately after taking action without such notice of hearing, the Secretary of State shall deliver a copy of the temporary order to the respondent named therein by personal service or registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested. The temporary order shall set forth the grounds for the action and shall advise that the respondent may request a hearing and that respondent's failure to request a hearing within 30 days after the date of the entry of the temporary order shall constitute an admission of any alleged facts therein and shall constitute a sufficient basis to make the temporary order final.
12. Respondents Grand Meridian and Sean Wineberg failed to request a hearing within thirty (30) days of the Temporary Order of Prohibition issued on December 12, 2013, and therefore constitutes an admission of the alleged facts incorporated herein by reference and a sufficient basis to make this order final

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NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That pursuant to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

Respondent **GRAND MERIDIAN PRIVATE EQUITY, LTD.**, is PROHIBITED from the offer or sale of securities in the State of Illinois.

Respondent **SEAN WINEBERG**, is PROHIBITED from the offer or sale of securities in the State of Illinois.

Entered. This 13th day of January, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse White", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

NOTICE: Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be a violation of Section 12.D of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953, as amended, 815 ILCS 5/1 et. seq. (the "Act"). Any person or entity who fails to comply with the terms of this Order of the Secretary of State, having knowledge of existence of this Order, shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

This is a final order subject to administrative review pursuant to the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-101 et. seq. and the Rules and Regulations of the Act (14 Ill. Admin. Code, Ch. I, Sec. 130.1123). Any action for judicial review must be commenced within thirty five (35) days from the date a copy of this order is served by US mail upon a party seeking review.

Attorney for the Secretary of State:
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