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13
14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
15 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

16
17
18 UNITED STATES SECURITIES
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

19 Plaintiff,

20 vs.

21 HEDONOVA LLC, and HEDONOVA
22 ADVISORS LLC

23 Defendants.
24

Case No. 2:24-cv-05293

COMPLAINT

JURY DEMAND

1 Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) alleges as follows:

2 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3 1. The SEC brings this action pursuant to Sections 20(b) and 20(d) of the
4 Securities Act of 1933 (“Securities Act”) [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b) and 77t(d)], Sections
5 21(d) and 21(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) [15 U.S.C.
6 §§ 78u(d) and 78u(e)], and Sections 209(d), 209(e)(1) and 214 of the Investment
7 Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”) [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-9(d), 80b-9(e)(1) and 80b-
8 14].

9 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331,
10 Sections 20(b), 20(d), and 22 of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77t(b), 77t(d), and
11 77v], Sections 21(d), 21(e), and 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d), 78u(e),
12 and 78aa], and Sections 209(d), 209(e)(1), and 214 of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C.
13 §§ 80b-9(d), 80b-9(e)(1), and 80b-14].

14 3. Defendants, directly or indirectly, made use of the means or instruments
15 of transportation or communication in, and the means and instruments of, interstate
16 commerce, or of the mails, in connection with the acts, practices, and courses of
17 business alleged in this Complaint.

18 4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities
19 Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)], Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa] and
20 Section 214 of the Advisers Act [17 U.S.C. § 80b-14]. Acts, practices, and courses of
21 business constituting violations alleged herein have occurred within the jurisdiction
22 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California and
23 elsewhere. Moreover, of the victims of Defendants’ alleged securities violations the
24 SEC has identified thus far, a total of approximately 28 reside in California, with
25 approximately 11 residing in this district.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 5. Defendant Hedonova LLC (“Hedonova Fund” or “the Fund”) represents
28 to investors that it is a “mutual fund, but for alternative assets.” From at least

1 November 2021 to the present, Hedonova Fund engaged in a fraudulent scheme by
2 raising money from investors while making materially false statements about the
3 Fund's investments and about its operations and governance, including the identities
4 of the Fund's auditor, administrator, custodian of funds, and bankers. During this
5 period, accounts held in the name of Hedonova Fund received at least \$12.5 million.
6 At least \$3.8 million of this amount was raised from confirmed or potential investors.
7 Hedonova Fund claims that it achieves extraordinary investment returns.

8 6. Defendant Hedonova Advisors LLC ("Hedonova Advisors") was formed
9 in August 2022. It became an SEC-registered investment adviser by filing a Form
10 ADV on September 29, 2023. Hedonova Advisors makes materially false statements
11 about itself and about Hedonova Fund in its Form ADV.

12 7. The Form ADV for Hedonova Advisors lists Alexander Cavendish
13 ("Cavendish"), Munish Kumar ("Kumar"), and Suman Bannerjee ("Bannerjee") as
14 the principals of Hedonova Fund. It also identifies those three individuals as control
15 persons of, and persons with an ownership interest in, Hedonova Advisors.
16 Hedonova Fund represents that these individuals are located outside of the United
17 States. They all declined to appear for testimony in the United States during the
18 investigation of this matter.

19 8. The fraudulent investment scheme perpetrated by Hedonova Fund and
20 Hedonova Advisors appears to be ongoing. Hedonova Fund's website was publicly
21 available at least as late as June 7, 2024, and the Fund is known to have received
22 investments as recently as February 2024. Hedonova Advisors sent at least one
23 investor a quantitative report as recently as May 1, 2024, purporting to address the
24 performance of Hedonova Fund in April 2024.

25 9. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants have violated,
26 and apparently continue to violate, numerous antifraud provisions of the federal
27 securities laws.

28 10. The SEC brings this action to hold Hedonova Fund and Hedonova

1 Advisors responsible for their violations of the federal securities laws.

2 11. The SEC seeks to enjoin each of the Defendants in this action from
3 violations of the federal securities laws and seeks disgorgement of their ill-gotten
4 gains, along with prejudgment interest and civil penalties.

5 **THE DEFENDANTS**

6 12. **Hedonova LLC** is a purported investment fund formed in April 2021
7 under the laws of Delaware. In September 2023, it was domesticated in Idaho.
8 Hedonova Fund has variously listed its principal place of business as Dover,
9 Delaware and Meridian, Idaho, and has purported to do business in Los Angeles,
10 California. In May 2024, Hedonova Fund was the subject of a California state
11 administrative desist and refrain order in connection with its securities investment
12 business. The California order found, among other things, that Hedonova Fund made
13 untrue statements of material fact in connection with the offer and sale of its
14 securities.

15 13. **Hedonova Advisors LLC** is an SEC-registered investment adviser to
16 the Fund. Hedonova Advisors was formed in August 2022 under the laws of
17 Delaware. It registered with the SEC by filing a Form ADV approximately a year
18 later, on September 29, 2023. The September 29, 2023 Form ADV identified an
19 address in Los Angeles, California as its principal office and place of business. On
20 March 29, 2024, Hedonova Advisors filed an updated Form ADV listing an address
21 in Post Falls, Idaho as its principal office and place of business.

22 **FACTS**

23 14. The definition of a “security” under the securities laws includes, among
24 other instruments, “investment contracts.”

25 15. Investment contracts are instruments through which a person invests
26 money in a common enterprise with expectations of profits or returns produced by the
27 entrepreneurial or managerial efforts of others.

28 16. Between at least November 2021 and February 2024, Hedonova

1 Advisors and Hedonova Fund offered and sold securities in the form of limited
2 liability company membership interests in Hedonova Fund, through general
3 solicitation on the Fund’s website. The limited liability company membership
4 interests in Hedonova Fund are investment contracts.

5 17. Hedonova Fund solicited investments of at least \$5,000, later raised to
6 \$10,000.

7 18. Hedonova Fund informed investors that their money would “purchase
8 parts of the fund, called ‘blocks,’” and that the investors would “make a profit when
9 the overall value of [Hedonova] increases.”

10 19. Individuals invested money in response to the Fund’s solicitations. The
11 money they invested was pooled into accounts with an online payment processor and
12 an online money transfer service. Some of the pooled investor money was
13 subsequently transferred into Hedonova Fund accounts at various regional and online
14 banks.

15 20. In addition, in Item 5.G of its Form ADV, Hedonova Advisors self-
16 identified as being engaged in “Portfolio management for pooled investment vehicles
17 (other than investment companies).”

18 21. Hedonova Fund offered membership interests to investors through a
19 Private Offering Memorandum dated January 2021 (“January 2021 PPM”), and later,
20 a Private Placement Memorandum dated October 2022.

21 22. The January 2021 PPM represented to investors that the Fund’s “goal is
22 to generate outstanding returns on a rolling 24-36 month time horizon through the use
23 of fundamental research across multiple industry sectors in order to generate an edge
24 of insight or factual information.”

25 23. Investors in Hedonova Fund were not expected to take any action to
26 generate profits beyond investing their money.

27 24. Investors in the Fund reside in various states throughout the United
28 States, including approximately 28 in California and approximately 11 in this district.

1 **I. Defendants’ Offer and Sale of Securities by Means of False and**
2 **Misleading Statements.**

3 **A. False and Misleading Statements in the Hedonova Fund PPM**

4 25. Hedonova Fund was formed in April 2021 but solicited investors with a
5 private offering memorandum dated January 2021.

6 26. In the January 2021 PPM, the Fund represents to investors that “The
7 Company will engage primarily in the purchase and sale of long positions in publicly
8 traded securities, other investment funds, U.S. governmental and infrastructure
9 projects, and during certain market environments, may hedge the portfolio using
10 other derivative securities. Its principal investment objective is the achievement of
11 superior investment returns.” A different section of the January 2021 PPM states that
12 the Fund is “primarily a long investor on U.S. and foreign equity markets,” and will
13 invest in “alternative assets like startups, artwork, film and media royalties,
14 equipment leasing, litigation funding, crypto currencies, and emerging market equity
15 investment.”

16 27. The January 2021 PPM claimed a Big Four accounting firm as the
17 Fund’s auditor (“Big Four Accounting Firm A”), a Chicago-based financial services
18 firm as its administrator (“Financial Services Firm B”), and an international bank as
19 its bank (“International Bank C”).

20 28. However, in response to inquiries from the SEC, these entities, after
21 reviewing their records, found no evidence of their ever having had a relationship
22 with Hedonova Fund. Big Four Accounting Firm A found no record of Hedonova
23 Fund ever being listed as its client. Financial Services Firm B performed a diligent
24 search of its records and was unable to locate any records regarding Hedonova Fund
25 or Hedonova Advisors. International Bank C found no record of any entity with
26 Hedonova in its name being a client or customer of International Bank C’s American
27 bank.

28 29. The Fund’s January 2021 PPM further stated that “Hedonova Advisors

1 LLC, a Delaware company” was the fund’s manager, even though Hedonova
2 Advisors was not formed in Delaware until August 2022.

3 30. The Fund opened a bank account at Regional Bank D on or around
4 October 31, 2021, and accepted its first investment on or around November 5, 2021.
5 Regional Bank D is not mentioned in any of the Fund’s promotional materials
6 identified by the SEC. It is not the international bank identified in the January 2021
7 PPM.

8 31. Between November 2021 and when Hedonova Advisors was formed in
9 August 2022, the Hedonova Fund account at Regional Bank D received more than
10 100 deposits totaling approximately \$1.6 million in what appear to be investor funds.
11 The deposits were made either directly into the Hedonova Fund account at Regional
12 Bank D or through an online payment processor.

13 32. During this period, Hedonova transferred approximately \$400,000 to
14 digital branding and marketing companies, approximately \$119,000 to companies
15 that publish investor newsletters and financial blogs, and approximately \$460,000 to
16 an account at Financial Technology Company P. The records also show, among other
17 things, payments of approximately \$1,100 to OnlyFans (an adult performance
18 website) and approximately \$8,200 in transfers to an entity that appears to operate a
19 resort in Nepal.

20 33. On information and belief, Cavendish, Kumar, and Bannerjee, together
21 with other persons associated with Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors,
22 knowingly made and disseminated the false and misleading statements described
23 above, or recklessly allowed those false and misleading statements to be
24 disseminated.

25 **B. False and Misleading Statements on the Hedonova.io Website and in**
26 **the Form ADV for Hedonova Advisors.**

27 34. At all times relevant to this action, Hedonova Fund has maintained a
28 website that is available to the public at the following URL: Hedonova.io.

1 35. On its website, Hedonova Fund claims to be a “mutual fund, but for
2 alternative assets.” The website represents that investors’ money will be distributed
3 among alternative asset classes such as litigation finance, startup companies, wine
4 and spirits, real estate, and fine art.

5 36. Through its website, Hedonova Fund solicited investments of \$5,000 or
6 more (later raised to \$10,000). The website claims impressive investment returns,
7 including a 38.78% net internal rate of return and a 53.16% compound annual growth
8 rate. The website also represents that as of October 2023, it had achieved “105.27%
9 Alpha over S&P 500.”

10 37. The Fund’s website represented prior to Fall 2023 that it used Fine Art
11 Investing Platform E to invest in fine art and Litigation Investing Platform F to make
12 litigation finance investments. Hedonova Fund’s website also, at that time,
13 represented that Big Four Accounting Firm A was its auditor.

14 38. These representations were all false. When Fine Art Investing Platform
15 E and Big Four Accounting Firm A learned of the Fund’s claims, in or about January
16 2023, they sent Hedonova cease-and-desist letters.

17 39. In the meantime, on or about March 1, 2023, the California Department
18 of Financial Protection and Innovation (“DPFI”) questioned Hedonova Fund about its
19 website. Personnel from the Fund responded that it had a relationship with a different
20 entity affiliated with Big Four Accounting Firm A and made its art investments
21 through a different intermediary than Fine Art Investing Platform E. In May 2024,
22 the DPFI issued a desist and refrain order finding, among other things, that at least
23 146 investors had purchased at least \$5,688,390.23 of limited liability company
24 membership interests in Hedonova Fund.

25 40. In or around Fall 2023, Hedonova Fund revised its website to delete
26 references to Fine Art Investing Platform E and Big Four Accounting Firm A.

27 41. On September 29, 2023 Hedonova Advisors registered as an Investment
28 Adviser with the SEC by filing a Form ADV. On March 29, 2024, Hedonova

1 Advisors filed an updated Form ADV. The Forms ADV for Hedonova Advisors list
2 the Hedonova.io website as one of the website addresses where Hedonova Advisors
3 “control[s] the content.”

4 42. Both the 2023 and 2024 Forms ADV state that certain books and records
5 of Hedonova Advisors are kept at the London office of a Big Four accounting firm
6 (“Big Four Accounting Firm O”). However, representatives of Big Four Accounting
7 Firm O have been unable to locate any information showing a relationship with
8 Hedonova Advisors in their internal conflicts database.

9 43. None of the Fund’s known accounts with financial institutions reflect the
10 amount of activity claimed in Hedonova Advisors’ 2023 or 2024 Forms ADV.

11 44. Hedonova Advisors’ 2023 Form ADV reported that Hedonova Fund’s
12 gross asset value was \$704,000,000.

13 45. On March 29, 2024, Hedonova Advisors filed an updated Form ADV
14 reporting that Hedonova Fund’s gross asset value was \$823,806,897.

15 46. On or around March 25, 2024, Hedonova Fund produced to the SEC an
16 undated document purporting to be a portfolio allocation schedule. The schedule
17 reported holdings with market values totaling only \$79,304,244.

18 47. During the SEC’s investigation, Defendants provided the SEC with what
19 purported to be a list of investors in the Fund. The list included only approximately
20 85 investors. The purported aggregate investment amount for the 85 investors was
21 only \$1,710,778.

22 48. The records of the Fund’s known financial accounts reflect no transfers
23 to Fine Art Investing Platform E or to Litigation Investing Platform F. Nor do the
24 records of the Fund’s accounts reflect payments for services rendered by Big Four
25 Accounting Firm A or Big Four Accounting Firm O.

26 49. The identity of the people who control Hedonova Fund and Hedonova
27 Advisors is unclear. The LinkedIn profiles for Bannerjee and for a person identified
28 as Hedonova Fund’s Chief Technology Officer as of October 2022 appear to use

1 stock photographs. The photo for Bannerjee appears on a stock photography website,
2 and the photo for the Chief Technology Officer appears under a different name on a
3 blog post by an employee at a major consulting firm.

4 50. As of November 1, 2023, Hedonova Fund’s website claimed
5 relationships with several reputable accounting firms and banks. The website listed
6 Accounting Firm G as the Fund’s auditor and explained that “Auditors ensure we
7 follow the best accounting practices, standards, and protocols. They also review our
8 valuation methods and how they are implemented.”

9 51. As of the same date, Hedonova Fund’s website listed two international
10 banks, International Bank C and International Bank H, as “Bankers” and the Chicago-
11 based Financial Services Firm B as “Custodian,” including images of the logos of
12 both international banks and the Chicago-based financial services firm. The website
13 stated that “Hedonova is in charge of all investment decisions. However the fund’s
14 assets are held by custodians who act in the best interest of the investors.”

15 52. The 2023 and 2024 Hedonova Advisors Forms ADV made similar
16 claims. The Forms ADV list a purported affiliate of Chicago-based Financial
17 Services Firm B located in Dublin, Ireland, as the custodian of funds.

18 53. The 2023 and 2024 Hedonova Advisors Forms ADV further identified a
19 specific affiliate of Big Four Accounting Firm A, Accounting Firm J, as Hedonova
20 Fund’s auditor and provided a London address for the Accounting Firm J.

21 54. These representations are all false. Each of the several professional
22 services firms named in paragraphs 50 through 53 above has informed the SEC that it
23 has no record of Hedonova Fund or Hedonova Advisors ever having been a client.

24 55. Chicago-based Financial Services Firm B also informed the SEC staff
25 that the purported affiliate of Financial Services Firm B supposedly located in
26 Dublin, Ireland does not exist.

27 56. International Bank C and International Bank H, identified on Hedonova
28 Fund’s website, maintain controls around the use of their corporate names and logos.

1 Both international banks searched their brand control records and determined that
2 Hedonova Fund’s use of the banks’ names and logos is unauthorized.

3 57. Sometime between February 8, 2024 and March 1, 2024, Hedonova
4 Fund removed the reference to Chicago-based Financial Services Firm B as
5 “Custodian” from its website and added a reference to Global Hedge Fund
6 Administrator K as Hedonova Fund’s “Administrator,” including a copy of Global
7 Hedge Fund Administrator K’s logo.

8 58. But this new representation is false too. Global Hedge Fund
9 Administrator K does not currently provide, and has not in the past provided, services
10 to Hedonova Fund. Nor did it authorize Hedonova Fund to use its name and logo on
11 the Hedonova.io website.

12 59. Investors considered Hedonova Fund’s representations about the Fund’s
13 investment portfolio and performance before making investment decisions. They
14 believed that Hedonova Fund’s portfolio of alternative asset investments offered them
15 exposure to asset classes that were not readily available to them in other funds.
16 Investors’ decisions to invest were influenced by the disclosures on Hedonova Fund’s
17 website about the Fund’s rate of return compared to that of the S&P 500.

18 60. To convince investors their investments in Hedonova Fund were
19 profitable and safe, Hedonova Advisors sends investors monthly “quantitative
20 reports” touting Hedonova Fund’s purported strong performance. Hedonova
21 Advisors sent at least one investor a quantitative report as recently as May 1, 2024,
22 purporting to address the performance of Hedonova Fund in April 2024.

23 61. On information and belief, Cavendish, Kumar, and Bannerjee, together
24 with other persons associated with Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors
25 knowingly made and disseminated the false and misleading statements described
26 above or recklessly allowed those false and misleading statements to be disseminated.

27 **C. Defendants Received Approximately \$12.5 Million**

28 62. From on or about November 2021 through at least October 2023,

1 accounts in the name of Hedonova Fund received approximately \$12.5 million in
2 deposits.

3 63. Of the \$12.5 million, approximately \$1.6 million was deposited into the
4 Hedonova Fund account at Regional Bank D prior to the time that Hedonova
5 Advisors was formed.

6 64. From approximately April 2022 to October 2023, investors sent funds to
7 Hedonova Fund through an account held at Payment Processor L.

8 65. In addition to Regional Bank D and Payment Processor L, at various
9 times Hedonova Fund also used bank ACH transfers, credit card payments, a money
10 transfer service, Money Transfer Service M, and another regional bank, Regional
11 Bank N, to receive investor funds.

12 66. A client list produced by Hedonova contained the names of
13 approximately 85 investors with a purported aggregate investment amount totaling
14 \$1,710,778. Hedonova Fund's financial records revealed that Hedonova received
15 \$1,265,114 from investors on its client list and sent \$1,314,250 to this group of
16 investors.

17 67. The SEC has identified additional deposits of \$2,536,669 into Hedonova
18 Fund accounts bearing notations that they were investments in Hedonova Fund. Of
19 these deposits, \$633,566 came from parties who were not included on the investor list
20 described in paragraph 66 above.

21 68. The SEC has not identified payments to or from Fine Art Investing
22 Platform E, Litigation Investing Platform F, Accounting Firm J, Big Four Accounting
23 Firm O, Financial Services Firm B, International Bank H, Global Hedge Fund
24 Administrator K, or Accounting Firm G in the bank and other financial institution
25 records for Hedonova Fund or Hedonova Advisors.

26 **II. Defendants Failed to Produce Evidence Corroborating**
27 **Their Representations**

28 69. The SEC issued a subpoena for documents to Hedonova Fund on

1 September 28, 2023 seeking to substantiate the Fund's purported investment activity
2 and the relationships it claimed to have with the several financial institutions and
3 professional firms discussed above.

4 70. Hedonova Fund's production in response to the September 28, 2023
5 subpoena was incomplete. The Fund has not produced copies of its audited or
6 unaudited financial statements for any period covered by the SEC's subpoena. The
7 Fund did identify accounts at four banks (one of which is affiliated with Money
8 Transfer Service M and one of which is affiliated with Regional Bank N), but the
9 Fund failed to provide any documentation substantiating relationships with
10 International Bank C, International Bank H, or Chicago-based Financial Services
11 Firm B. Nor did the Fund produce engagement letters, service contracts, or other
12 documentation establishing current or former relationships with Accounting Firm G
13 or the U.S. affiliate of Big Four Accounting Firm A. As discussed above, the SEC
14 has been informed by the financial institutions and accounting firms that they have
15 not located any evidence showing a relationship with Hedonova Fund.

16 71. The Fund also failed to produce documents proving its current holdings
17 in the various alternative asset classes identified on its website. Instead, Hedonova
18 Fund produced a few documents including reports concerning the provenance and
19 condition of several fine art paintings, miscellaneous documents from the
20 Governments of India and Nepal, and pictures of what appear to be real estate parcels
21 in Nepal. However, Hedonova Fund produced no documentation proving that it
22 owned these assets, or any other assets beyond accounts at the four financial
23 institutions discussed above.

24 72. The SEC issued another subpoena to Hedonova Fund on April 4, 2024
25 requiring the production of additional documents, including documents relating to
26 social media posts concerning Hedonova Fund's purported investments and portfolio
27 transactions, and awards received by Hedonova Fund or Hedonova Advisors.
28 Hedonova Fund has not produced any documents responsive to the April 4, 2024

1 subpoena.

2 73. The SEC issued a subpoena to Hedonova Advisors on May 2, 2024
3 requesting the production of certain documents that registered investment advisers are
4 required by law to keep in an easily accessible place, including journals, ledgers,
5 records of purchases and sales of securities, checkbooks, bank statements, audited
6 financial statements, and client agreements. Hedonova Advisors has not produced
7 any documents to the SEC in response to the May 2, 2024 subpoena.

8 74. When the SEC subpoenaed Cavendish, Kumar, and Bannerjee for
9 investigative testimony, they declined to appear in the United States. Instead, they
10 proposed to testify remotely. Bannerjee and Cavendish proposed testifying from
11 jurisdictions where such testimony would be prohibited by local law. Kumar
12 proposed to testify from a location where compelled testimony is not permitted, and
13 voluntary testimony requires obtaining prior permission of the foreign government.
14 Accordingly, the SEC has not taken the testimony of Bannerjee, Kumar, or
15 Cavendish.

16 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

17 **Fraud in the Connection with the Purchase and Sale of Securities**

18 **Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5**

19 **(Against Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors)**

20 75. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through
21 74 above.

22 76. As alleged above, Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors
23 sold securities, in the form of investments in Defendant Hedonova Fund, by means of
24 materially false and misleading statements about the business of Defendant Hedonova
25 Fund and the potential risks and rewards of investing in Defendant Hedonova Fund.

26 77. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Hedonova
27 Fund and Hedonova Advisors, and each of them, directly or indirectly, in connection
28 with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of

1 interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities
2 exchange: (a) employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue
3 statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to
4 make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were
5 made, not misleading; and (c) engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which
6 operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.

7 78. Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors, and each of them,
8 acted knowingly and/or recklessly.

9 79. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Hedonova
10 Fund and Hedonova Advisors violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will
11 continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule
12 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

13 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

14 **Fraud in the Offer or Sale of Securities**

15 **Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act**

16 **(Against Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors)**

17 80. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through
18 74 above.

19 81. As alleged above, Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors
20 offered and sold securities, in the form of investments in Defendants Hedonova Fund,
21 by means of materially false and misleading statements about the business of
22 Defendant Hedonova Fund and the potential risks and rewards of investing in
23 Defendant Hedonova Fund.

24 82. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Hedonova
25 Fund and Hedonova Advisors, in the offer and sale of securities, by the use of the
26 means and instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or
27 by use of the mails, directly or indirectly, have employed devices, schemes and
28 artifices to defraud; obtained money and property by means of untrue statements of

1 material facts and omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the
2 statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not
3 misleading; and engaged in transactions, practices, and courses of business which
4 operated or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchasers of such securities.

5 83. Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova Advisors acted knowingly,
6 recklessly, and/or negligently, in engaging in the conduct described above.

7 84. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendants Hedonova
8 Fund and Hedonova Advisors violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will
9 continue to violate, Sections 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].

10 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

11 **Fraud by an Investment Adviser**

12 **Violations of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-8**

13 **(Against Defendant Hedonova Advisors)**

14 85. The SEC realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through
15 74 above.

16 86. As alleged above, Defendant Hedonova Advisors is an investment
17 adviser to a pooled investment vehicle, Defendant Hedonova Fund. Defendant
18 Hedonova Advisors therefore owed a fiduciary duty to Defendant Hedonova Fund.
19 Defendant Hedonova Advisors breached its fiduciary duty by recommending the sale
20 of securities, in the form of investments in Defendant Hedonova Fund, by means of
21 materially false and misleading statements about the business of Defendant Hedonova
22 Fund and the potential risks and rewards of investing in Defendant Hedonova Fund.

23 87. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant Hedonova
24 Advisors, directly or indirectly, by use of the mails or means and instrumentalities of
25 interstate commerce, while serving as an investment adviser to a pooled investment
26 vehicle: (a) made untrue statements of material fact and omitted to state material facts
27 necessary to make the statements made not misleading to investors and prospective
28 investors in the pooled vehicles; and (b) engaged in fraudulent, deceptive, and

1 manipulative conduct with respect to investors and prospective investors in a pooled
2 vehicle.

3 88. By engaging in the conduct described above, Defendant Hedonova
4 Advisors has violated, and unless restrained and enjoined, is reasonably likely to
5 continue to violate, Sections 206(4) [15 U.S.C. §§ 80b-6(4)] of the Advisers Act and
6 Rule 206(4)-8 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 275.206(4)-8].

7 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

8 WHEREFORE, the SEC respectfully requests that the Court:

9 **I.**

10 Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that Defendants committed the
11 alleged violations.

12 **II.**

13 Issue a judgment, in a form consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of
14 Civil Procedure, permanently enjoining Defendant Hedonova Fund, and its officers,
15 agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or
16 participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal
17 service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities
18 Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)]
19 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

20 **III.**

21 Issue a judgment, in a form consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of
22 Civil Procedure, permanently enjoining Defendant Hedonova Advisors, and its
23 officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those persons in active
24 concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment
25 by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Section 17(a) of
26 the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)], Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15
27 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], and Section
28 206(4) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-6(4)] and Rule 206(4)-8 thereunder [17

1 C.F.R. § 275.206(4)-8].

2 **IV.**

3 Issue judgments, in forms consistent with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of
4 Civil Procedure, permanently enjoining Defendants Hedonova Fund and Hedonova
5 Advisors, and their officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those
6 persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice
7 of the judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from (1)
8 participating in the issuance, purchase, offer, or sale of securities; (2) requiring
9 Hedonova Fund to remove all pages of its website from all hosting services it uses or
10 has used and in its place post a copy of the Commission’s complaint; and (3)
11 requiring Hedonova Advisors to submit a new form ADV to the Commission within
12 24 hours correcting any false or misleading statements.

13 **V.**

14 Order Defendants to disgorge all funds received from their illegal conduct,
15 together with prejudgment interest thereon under Sections 21(d)(3), 21(d)(5), and
16 21(d)(7) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 78u(d)(3), 78u(d)(5), and 78u(d)(7)].

17 **VI.**

18 Order Defendant Hedonova Advisors to pay civil penalties under Section 20(d)
19 of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)], Section 21(d)(3) of the Exchange Act [15
20 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(3)], and Section 209(e) of the Advisers Act [15 U.S.C. § 80b-9(e)].

21 **VII.**

22 Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and
23 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of
24 all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or
25 motion for additional relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

26 **VIII.**

27 Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and
28 necessary.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff SEC demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Dated: June 24, 2024

/s/ Alec Johnson

Alec Johnson
Attorney for Plaintiff
Securities and Exchange Commission

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Complaints and Other Initiating Documents

[2:24-cv-05293 United States Securities and Exchange Commission v. Hedonova LLC et al](#)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered by Johnson, Alec on 6/24/2024 at 12:09 PM PDT and filed on 6/24/2024

Case Name: United States Securities and Exchange Commission v. Hedonova LLC et al

Case Number: [2:24-cv-05293](#)

Filer: United States Securities and Exchange Commission

Document Number: [1](#)

Docket Text:

COMPLAINT No Fee Required - US Government, filed by Plaintiff United States Securities and Exchange Commission. (Attorney Alec Johnson added to party United States Securities and Exchange Commission(pty:pla))(Johnson, Alec)

2:24-cv-05293 Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Alec Johnson johnsonstu@sec.gov, irwinma@sec.gov, nicholsl@sec.gov

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Original filename:C:\fakepath\2024-06-24 Complaint (for filing).pdf

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[STAMP cacdStamp_ID=1020290914 [Date=6/24/2024] [FileNumber=38161607-0
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