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A RE-EVALUATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATION OF INSIDER TRADING ON THE OPEN SECURITIES MARKET

Insider trading occurs when fiduciaries purchase or sell shares of their corporation and the transactions are, at least in part, motivated by insider information acquired in performance of their fiduciary duties. Although authority exists to the contrary, the widely accepted view is that insider trading should be deterred because it is unfair to other investors who do not enjoy access to inside information. A principal goal of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is "to insure the maintenance of a fair and honest market" in securities trading. One means of achieving this end is through regulation of insider trading.

This Note focuses on trading on the open market by corporate officers and directors who use undisclosed material inside information. Specifically, this Note examines the lack of federal or state regulation of insider activity in impersonal market transactions. The present scheme of insider trading regulation demands renewed examination in light of recent developments in federal securities law.

5. Id. at § 78b.
The examination begins with a survey of the common-law approach to insider trading. Part II reviews an innovative remedy fashioned by the New York Court of Appeals in *Diamond v. Oreamuno.* Part III analyzes the effectiveness of federal securities regulation in addition to emphasizing recent Supreme Court mandates in rule 10b-5 actions. Part IV evaluates three reform proposals for providing legal sanctions against insider trading on the open securities market.

I. COMMON-LAW APPROACHES TO INSIDER TRADING

Traditionally directors and officers of a corporation owe no duty to disclose material inside information in the purchase or sale of stock. If the insider makes misrepresentations or half-truths in the purchase or sale of stock, however, he may be liable in a common-law tort action for deceit or fraud. Thus, under the majority common-law approach, a director or officer is not liable to a purchaser or seller for nondisclosure of inside information providing the nondisclosure falls short of an affirmative misrepresentation or half-truth.

Several jurisdictions developed the "special facts rule" as an exception to the majority rule. The rule, first enunciated by the Supreme Court in *Strong v. Repide,* recognizes a duty to disclose inside infor-
mation to sellers or purchasers under special facts or circumstances.\textsuperscript{15}

Although the special facts rule marked a significant departure from the majority approach, a third view, the "minority rule," completely repudiated the traditional majority view. The minority rule requires corporate fiduciaries to disclose all material information to trading shareholders.\textsuperscript{16} Under this approach nondisclosure, even in the absence of special facts, constitutes a breach of fiduciary duty.\textsuperscript{17}

Organization of the common-law approach into three distinct views is easier in theory than in practice. Courts purporting to apply the majority rule instead apply the special facts doctrine.\textsuperscript{18} In many states the expanding special facts doctrine virtually encompasses the minority rule.\textsuperscript{19} Frequently, minority rule cases actually contain an element of fraud or a breach of fiduciary duty.\textsuperscript{20} The case law does reveal, however, a growing sense of fiduciary responsibility to disclose inside information.\textsuperscript{21}

Although courts are expanding the fiduciary duties of a corporate insider, common-law approaches have been unsatisfactory in deterring

\textsuperscript{15} The special facts or circumstances that trigger a duty either to disclose material inside information to sellers or purchasers or to refrain from buying or selling stock include: Closely held shares with no readily ascertainable market value, Saville v. Sweet, 234 A.D. 236, 254 N.Y.S. 768 (1932); director or officer with insider access to information, Gratz v. Claughton, 187 F.2d 46 (2d Cir. 1951); shareholder lacking in business acumen, Jaynes v. Jaynes, 98 Cal. App. 2d 447, 220 P.2d 598 (1951); instigation of a transaction by director or officer, Strong v. Repide, 213 U.S. 419 (1909); and the use of an intermediary by a director or officer coupled with nondisclosure of the principal, Taylor v. Wright, 69 Cal. App. 2d 371, 159 P.2d 980 (1945). \textit{See Comment, Insider Liability Under Securities Exchange Act Rule 10b-5: The Cady, Roberts Doctrine,} 30 U. CHI. L. REV. 121, 123-25 (1962).


\textsuperscript{17} Most commentators approve this view. L. Loss, \textit{supra} note 3, at 1446-47. \textit{See Annot.,} 84 A.L.R. 615, 622-23 (1933).

\textsuperscript{18} \textit{See, e.g.,} Taylor v. Wright, 69 Cal. App. 2d 371, 159 P.2d 980 (1945).

\textsuperscript{19} \textit{See, e.g.,} Jacobson v. Yaschik, 249 S.C. 577, 155 S.E.2d 601 (1967).

\textsuperscript{20} \textit{See, e.g.,} Oliver v. Oliver, 118 Ga. 362, 45 S.E. 232 (1903); Stewart v. Harris, 69 Kan. 498, 77 P. 277 (1904).

\textsuperscript{21} In the last fifty years the majority rule has been applied in pure form in very few cases. H. HENN, \textit{supra} note 10, \S 239, at 472 n.4. Some authorities maintain that the "majority rule" has actually been applied in pure form in only one or two cases in the last thirty years. L. Loss, \textit{supra} note 3, at 1448 n.8.
insider trading on the securities exchange or in over-the-counter trans-
actions. Even under the liberal special facts or minority rule, the suc-
cessful plaintiff must demonstrate privity between the parties.\footnote{22} The
burden of proving that a plaintiff bought the shares from, or sold them
to, the insider presents an almost insurmountable obstacle to plaintiff
when the transaction occurs on a national securities exchange.\footnote{23}
Furthermore, plaintiff must demonstrate reliance on the disclosed or, worse
yet, the undisclosed information.\footnote{24} Reliance, however, is virtually im-
possible to prove in anonymous trading transactions.\footnote{25} At common
law an insider, even one with a duty to disclose inside information, can
trade on the open market with impunity.\footnote{26}

II. AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO INSIDER TRADING:
\textit{Diamond v. Oreamuno}

A. \textit{Prelude to Diamond}

At common law, courts do not permit the corporation to recover
against its officers or directors who trade on inside information.\footnote{27} The
only two recognized exceptions to corporate nonrecovery occur with
diversion of a corporate opportunity,\footnote{28} or loss of corporate con-

\begin{footnotes}
\footnotenum{22} See note 11 supra for a list of the elements of an action for deceit.
\footnotenum{23} For a good discussion of the time consuming and expensive steps necessary in tracing
shares from the purchasers to the original sellers in open market transactions, see Reynolds v.
Texas Gulf Sulphur Co., 309 F. Supp. 566, 569-70 (D. Utah 1970). See also \textit{Securities and
\footnotenum{25} See, e.g., Joseph v. Farnsworth Radio & Television Corp., 99 F. Supp. 701 (S.D.N.Y.
1951); Goodwin v. Agassiz, 283 Mass. 358, 186 N.E. 659 (1933).
\footnotenum{26} Every state has some law regulating securities transactions. These statutes, known as
"blue sky laws," typically protect only purchasers and are directed at deterring infirmities in the
original issuance of securities, not in subsequent transactions in the stock. See L. Loss & E.
half the states, falls short. It has adopted all three 10b-5 clauses in its general prohibition and
clause 2 in its express civil liability provision, but recovery is limited to purchasers, and implied
liability is denied." 1 A. Bromberg, \textit{Securities Law: Fraud} § 2.7(2), at 57 (1977).
\footnotenum{27} See notes 10-25 supra and accompanying text.
\footnotenum{28} The corporate opportunity doctrine prohibits corporate personnel from diverting to
themselves opportunities in which the corporation has a right, property interest, or expectancy or
which, in justice, belongs to the corporation. The following factors often point to a corporate
opportunity: (1) The corporation has a present interest, a tangible expectancy in the opportunity;
(2) the opportunity was discovered by the director in his capacity as director of the corporation; (3)
the corporation's funds were involved in the director discovering or acquiring the opportunity; or
(4) where the corporation's facilities or employees were used in developing it. H. Henn, \textit{supra

Courts that deny relief to the corporation for use of inside information by its officers and directors reason that the corporation suffers no harm in the traditional sense of measurable, monetary loss. The resulting injury, if any, is to the uninformed trader, rather than to the corporation. 

In *Brophy v. Cities Service* a court first recognized a cause of action in the corporation for recovery of insider trading profits. The *Brophy* court held an employee liable to the corporation for profits realized in the purchase and sale of stock based on inside information. The employee, a confidential secretary to an officer and director of Cities Service, learned through his position that the corporation planned a tender offer for a substantial number of shares. The proposed offer was sufficient to cause a rise in the market price of the shares. Acting on the basis of the inside information, the employee purchased a block of stock and subsequently sold the stock when the corporation entered the market in accordance with the planned tender offer.

In ordering an accounting of the profits, the Delaware court stated that loss to the corporation need not be alleged in a suit in equity for breach of a confidential relationship by an employee. The court anal-

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30. In Newman v. Baldwin, 13 Misc. 2d 898, 179 N.Y.S.2d 19 (Sup. Ct. 1958), the shareholders of the corporation brought a derivative suit against the directors of the company for profits obtained through misrepresentations made in the sale of stock. The court held:

> [D]efendants have not been paid anything for an asset of the corporation. They have made profits as a result of misrepresentations, not an asset of the corporation [sic]. No court of equity would hold the corporation is entitled to the fruits of such misrepresentations. If there were misrepresentations, those who purchased in reliance on them may have causes of action against the tortfeasors for damages they sustained, but no recovery can enure to the benefit of the corporation or its stockholders generally. As to them, such a recovery would be an unjustified windfall.


32. *Id.* at 247, 70 A.2d at 8.

33. *Id.* at 243, 70 A.2d at 7.

34. *Id.*

35. *Id.*

36. The *Brophy* court stated: "Public policy will not permit an employee occupying a posi-
ogized an employee occupying a position of trust and confidence to the corporation to a fiduciary owing a duty to the beneficiary. The court held that the employee, as a fiduciary, must not use confidential information acquired in the course of employment for his own benefit.

B. Diamond v. Oreamuno

The principle set forth in *Brophy* lay dormant for twenty years until the New York Court of Appeals handed down the *Diamond v. Oreamuno* decision. In *Diamond* defendants Oreamuno and Gonzales were, respectively, chairman of the board of directors and president of Management Assistance, Inc. (MAI). Defendants learned that the net earnings of the corporation dropped seventy-five percent between July 1966 and August 1966 because of increased corporate expenditures. Before the corporation publicly announced the decrease in net earnings, defendants sold 56,500 shares of MAI stock at the prevailing market price of twenty-eight dollars per share. After the corporation disclosed its net earnings, the value of the stock fell to eleven dollars per share.

Plaintiff, a shareholder of MAI, brought a derivative suit to compel an accounting of the profits acquired by defendants. The New York Court of Appeals held that insider trading constitutes a breach of the fiduciary duties owed to the corporation regardless of whether the corporation to a fiduciary owing a duty to the beneficiary. The court held that the employee, as a fiduciary, must not use confidential information acquired in the course of employment for his own benefit.

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37. *Id.* at 244, 70 A.2d at 7-8.
38. *Id.*
40. MAI was in the business of financing computer installations through sale and lease back arrangements with various commercial and industrial users. *Id.* at 496, 248 N.E.2d at 911, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 79-80.
41. Under the lease provisions, MAI was required to maintain and repair the computers. Because MAI lacked the capacity to perform this function it was forced to hire the manufacturer of the computers, International Business Machines (IBM), to service the machines. As a result of a sharp increase in service charges by IBM, MAI's expenses for August 1966 rose considerably and its net earnings declined approximately 75%. *Id.* at 496-97, 248 N.E.2d at 911, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 80.
42. *Id.* at 497, 248 N.E.2d at 911, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 80.
43. The plaintiff alleged that "by taking advantage of their privileged position and their access to confidential information, Oreamuno and Gonzales were able to realize $800,000 more for their securities than they would have had this inside information not been available to them." *Id.*
44. *Id.* at 496, 248 N.E.2d at 911, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 79.
poration is a party to the transaction.45

Relying on principles from the law of trusts, the court reasoned that one who learns of confidential information by virtue of his fiduciary relationship cannot use that information for personal benefit.46 The court compared the corporate fiduciary to a trustee, labeled "insider information" a corporate asset, and concluded that a corporate officer or director could not appropriate that asset for personal benefit.47 Although the Diamond court found that plaintiff need not allege injury to the corporation in an action founded on breach of fiduciary duty, the court reasoned that it could infer harm in loss of corporate prestige and good will from abuse of a fiduciary relationship.48

The court concluded that the available federal remedies were inadequate to deter insider trading in this situation.49 Section 10(b),50 the general antifraud provision of the 1934 Act, provides three different means of enforcement, but the court found those remedies limited in scope.51 A Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) injunctive proceeding, the first method of enforcement, was more effective in establishing a principle than in providing a regular method of enforcement.52 The class action, a second method of enforcement and a potentially effective remedy, was laden with unresolved questions.53 A third method of enforcement under section 10(b), a private right of action, only existed if the individual purchaser or seller could demon-

45. Id. at 498, 248 N.E.2d at 912, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 81.
46. Id. at 497, 248 N.E.2d at 912, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 80.
47. Just as a trustee has no right to retain for himself the profits yielded by property placed in his possession but must account to his beneficiaries, a corporate fiduciary, who is entrusted with potentially valuable information, may not appropriate that asset for his own use, even though, in so doing, he causes no injury to the corporation.
49. Id. at 502-03, 248 N.E.2d at 914-15, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 84-85.
51. See notes 87-89 infra and accompanying text.
52. 24 N.Y.2d at 502-03, 248 N.E.2d at 914-15, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 84-85.
53. Id.
strate injury resulting from the insider trading. The court could not refer to a single successful prosecution for insider trading in a public sale of securities. Unless a section 16(b) "short swing profit" violation was present, the court determined that an effective federal remedy did not exist. The defendants fell outside the proscriptions of section 16(b), however, because defendants' purchases and sales were not within a six month period.

In supporting the derivative action as a proper remedy, the *Diamond* court relied heavily on *Brophy v. Cities Service* and section 16(b) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. Section 16(b) provides for corporate recovery of certain insider trading profits acquired in the purchase and sale (or sale and purchase) of securities within a six month period. Section 16(b), the court reasoned, illustrates that the derivative action can be an effective method for dealing with insider trading and can be used to accomplish a similar purpose in situations not covered by the statute. The New York court found nothing in federal law that limited the power of the states to fashion additional remedies.

C. *Aftermath of Diamond v. Oreamuno*

The innovative approach fashioned by the *Diamond* court, although a significant development in state common law, met with judicial hos-

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54. Id.
55. Id.
56. See note 61 infra and accompanying text.
57. 24 N.Y.2d at 502-03, 248 N.E.2d at 914-15, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 84-85.
58. Id. at 501, 248 N.E.2d at 914, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 84. See notes 178-90 infra and accompanying text.
61. Id. See notes 178-90 infra and accompanying text.
62. 24 N.Y.2d at 500, 248 N.E.2d at 913, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 83.
63. Congress expressly provided against such an implication, the court said, by declaring that "the rights and remedies provided by this title [§ 28(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934] shall be in addition to any and all rights and remedies that may exist at law or in equity." 24 N.Y.2d at 503-04, 248 N.E.2d at 914-15, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 85, (citing 15 U.S.C. § 78bb(a) (1976)).

In fashioning a derivative right in the corporation for insider trading violations, the court was undeterred by the possibility of double liability. If the defendant wished to protect himself against double liability, the court suggested that the defendant interplead all possible claimants and bind them to the judgment. 24 N.Y.2d at 504, 248 N.E.2d at 915-16, 301 N.Y.S.2d at 86.
tility in other state forums. The Florida Supreme Court in *Schein v. Chasen* not only refused to extend the innovative ruling of *Diamond* to trading tippees, but also refused to follow *Diamond* in holding a director-officer liable in the absence of a showing of actual damage to the corporation. The *Schein* court recognized the need to maintain a free and honest securities market, but restricted consideration of this need to claims arising under federal securities law.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in *Freeman v. Decio* dismissed a derivative suit against corporate officers and directors to re-

64. See note 65 infra and accompanying text.
65. 313 So. 2d 739 (Fla. 1975).

In *Schein v. Chasen*, 478 F.2d 817 (2d Cir. 1973), vacated and remanded sub. nom. Lehman Bros. v. Schein, 416 U.S. 386, on certification, to the Fla. Sup. Ct., 313 So.2d 739 (Fla. 1975), the plaintiffs, stockholders in Lum's, Inc., a Florida corporation, brought a derivative action by invoking diversity jurisdiction. In November 1969 Chasen, president and chief operating officer at Lum's, announced to a group of securities investors that the corporation's earning prospects for the fiscal year ending July, 1970 would be approximately one dollar per share. Two months later, after learning that Lum's earnings would be significantly lower, Chasen telephoned Simon, a stockholder employed by defendant Lehman Bros., and relayed the revised earnings figure. Simon reconveyed the information to investment advisors of two mutual funds. On the morning of January 9, 1970, before any public announcement, the two mutual funds sold, in the aggregate, 83,000 shares of Lum's at $17.50 a share. After the public announcement the stock closed at fourteen dollars per share. Plaintiffs alleged that the investment advisors and the mutual funds were jointly and severally liable to the corporation under Florida law for misusing corporation information to their own advantage in violation of the duty they owed to Lum's. *Id*.

66. 313 So.2d at 746-47. In earlier *Schein* proceedings, however, the Second Circuit Court had held that Florida law was the applicable state law, but in the absence of a clearly enunciated state rule, the federal court could turn to other state law for guidance in resolving the issue. Concluding that the *Schein* issues resembled those present in *Diamond*, the court interpreted the facts in light of the New York court's decision. The Second Circuit held that *Diamond* "should extend to reach third parties, who, though not officers or directors of the injured corporation, are involved with directors in a common enterprise to misuse confidential corporate information for their own enrichment." 478 F.2d at 823. The court reasoned that the corporate image is damaged just as much by tippee trading as when the trading is by its own directors and officers. To immunize tippees from liability to the corporation would encourage insider "leaks" to outsiders, thus defeating the policies underlying the *Diamond* decision. *Id*.

The Second Circuit decision was later vacated and remanded by the United States Supreme Court on certification to the Florida courts to determine Florida law. Lehman Bros. v. Schein, 416 U.S. 386, on certification to the Fla. Sup. Ct., 313 So.2d 739 (Fla. 1975).


67. 313 So.2d at 745 (citing 478 F.2d at 825 (Kaufman, J., dissenting)). The Florida Supreme Court's reasoning is compared with that of the Second Circuit's at 41 Mo. L. Rev. 589 (1976).
68. 584 F.2d 186 (7th Cir. 1978).
cover profits allegedly acquired through use of inside information. The *Freeman* court held that Indiana law neither recognized this corporate right nor was likely to follow the lead of the New York Court of Appeals in *Diamond*.

Although the *Freeman* court acknowledged the general policy of deterring insider trading, it found that the expanding common law and existent federal remedies afforded sufficient relief. Repeated rejection of the *Diamond* approach to insider trading regulation dictates a re-evaluation of present federal remedies to determine if they do indeed "afford sufficient relief" to deter insider trading on the open securities market.

### III. Federal Regulation of Insider Trading

Before adoption of federal securities regulations, no federal remedy existed for fraudulent activities in the securities area. The wake of confusion and disaster following the stock market crash of 1929, however, produced a public demand for closer supervision and investigation of securities exchange practices. Congress heard considerable

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69. *Id.*. Plaintiffs, shareholders of Skyline Corporation, brought a derivative action against the corporation's directors to recover profits the directors allegedly acquired through use of inside information. The plaintiffs charged the defendants with creating a market for the corporate stock by overstating earnings and understating expenses and then selling a substantial number of their shares on this artificial market. *Id.* at 187.

70. *Id.* at 193-96. The *Freeman* court criticized *Diamond* for its reliance on *Brophy* and distinguished *Brophy* because potential harm to the corporation existed on the *Brophy* facts. Because the corporation was about to enter the market, the employee's acquisition of stock competed with the corporate plans. The *Freeman* court viewed this potential harm as a very persuasive factor in the *Brophy* court's decision. *Id.*

The Seventh Circuit also objected to *Diamond*’s automatic characterization of inside information as a corporate asset. Rather, the court argued, the question is whether there is any potential loss to the corporation from the use of this information. The court objected strongly to *Diamond*’s failure to insist on a showing of damages to the corporation. The court accused the *Diamond* court of instituting the corporate cause of action as a "back up" plan in the event the "real victims" were unable to bring suit. 584 F.2d at 193-96.

71. The *Freeman* court recognized that several courts had expanded significantly the requirements of privity, reliance, and misrepresentation in the 10b-5 actions decided subsequent to *Diamond*. This fact, coupled with the court's clarification of class action requirements, provided an adequate basis for relief in the opinion of the *Freeman* court. *Id.*

72. See notes 10-30 *supra* and accompanying text. The only possibility of federal relief prior to the enactment of securities regulations was a federal prosecution for violation of the mail fraud statute. 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (1976). This statute prohibits use of the mail service to perpetrate a fraud.

73. Prior to the enactment of the Securities Exchange Act, profits from "sure thing" speculation in the stocks of their corporations were more or less generally accepted by the financial community as part of the emolument for serving as a corporate officer or director notwithstanding the flagrantly inequitable character of such trading.

A. Section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5

Section 10(b) is the antifraud provision of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The provision grants the Securities and Exchange Commission power to adopt rules and regulations proscribing deceptive practices in the purchase or sale of securities. Rule 10b-5, promulgated by the Commission in 1942, prohibits, inter alia, affirmative misrepresentations and omissions of material facts in connection with the purchase or sale of any security. Although section 10(b) does not ex-
pressly provide a private right of action to recover damages, the courts extended an implied right of recovery to the defrauded investor. ¹⁰

Regulation of insider trading under rule 10b-5 is premised on the theory that the "market for a security should reflect the judgments of purchasers and sellers with equal access to all relevant information." Possession of material inside information alone is not prohibited under rule 10b-5. ²² An insider possessing confidential information violates rule 10b-5 if the insider subsequently trades without disclosing the in-

Rule 10b-5 was created to fill the void present in § 17(a) of the 1933 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77q(a) (1976). The elements of a violation under § 17(a) include the requirements of misrepresentation or omission of a material fact that give rise to an action under rule 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Section 17(a), however, extends relief only to defrauded purchasers. After tabling a contemplated extension of § 17(a) the Commission adopted rule X-10B-5, later renamed rule 10b-5. See K. Bialkin, THE 10b-5 SERIES OF RULES 4 (1975); L. Loss, supra note 3, at 1426-27. See also Conference on Codification of the Federal Securities Laws, 22 BUS. LAW. 793, 922 (1967).


The violation of a legislative enactment by doing a prohibited act, or by failing to do a required act, makes the actor liable for an invasion of an interest of another if:

(a) the intent of the enactment is exclusively or in part to protect an interest of the other as an individual; and

(b) the interest invaded is one which the enactment is intended to protect.

RESTATEMENT OF TORTS § 286 (1934).

The rationale underlying a private cause of action is to encourage enforcement of the Act and to compensate for the SEC's inability to investigate and prosecute every violation. An implied right of action prevailed in spite of arguments by the rule's originators that no private right was intended and that where a private right was so intended, both the 1933 and 1934 Acts explicitly provided for one, e.g., §§ 11 and 12 of the 1933 Act, and § 18 of the 1934 Act. K. Bialkin, supra note 79, at 5.

The Supreme Court finally recognized an implied right of action under § 10(b) in Superintendent of Ins. v. Bankers Life & Cas. Co., 404 U.S. 6 (1971).

81. R. FROME, supra note 11, at 157.

formation. The judicially created "disclose or abstain" rule requires an insider possessing material inside information to disclose the information to the investing public or abstain from trading in the securities while the information remains undisclosed.

Rule 10b-5 has existed for almost forty years. Although few would doubt the rule's broad purpose, few would agree that its purpose has been adequately effectuated. One of the chief criticisms of the rule is that its proscriptive measures fail to provide relief when insider trading appears on the open securities market.

Three civil remedies are available against an insider who trades without disclosing material information: The SEC can sue for injunctive relief against future violations; the defrauded investor can bring a private cause of action for damages, restitution, or recission; or defrauded investors may bring a class action. Although the remedies appear sufficient, they fail to provide effective relief in most instances of insider trading on the open market.

1. **Injunctive Relief**

The SEC is expressly authorized to bring injunctive actions under section 21(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. As "ancillary relief" the SEC can request a court order for disgorgement of profits. Normally the defendants pay the profits into a fund for eventual distribution to persons deemed entitled to them. For a discussion of administrative remedies available to the Securities and Exchange Commission, see Jacobs, *Judicial and Administrative Remedies Available to the SEC for Breaches of Rule 10b-5*, 53 St. John's L. Rev. 397 (1979).

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84. Id. at 848.
85. See, e.g., 4 A. Bromberg, *supra* note 26, § 12.9, at 283.
88. See note 80 *supra*.
89. See notes 170-71 *infra* and accompanying text.
adequately pursuing many alleged violations of rule 10b-5.92

Assuming the SEC does have sufficient resources to effectively pursue rule 10b-5 violations, injunctive relief is only granted to prevent future violations.93 In many situations inside trading is completed and material information disclosed before the rule 10b-5 violation becomes apparent. Furthermore, the SEC may prefer to bring an administrative proceeding against the alleged violator rather than to institute judicial proceedings.94 If the SEC elects to resolve the issue administratively, however, it is powerless to require disgorgement of profits.95 Thus, although a SEC action for injunctive relief is a potentially powerful weapon, the opportunities for successful application are limited.

2. Private Cause of Action

Courts imply a private cause of action under rule 10b-596 to aid the SEC in deterring activities proscribed under rule 10b-597 and to compensate the victims of fraud.98 Judicial recognition of the broad remedial99 and preventive100 purposes of the rule led courts to extend the scope of rule 10b-5 beyond the confines of common-law deceit.101 The

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92. See note 97 infra and accompanying text.
93. Section 21(d) requires a reasonable likelihood that the defendant will commit the violations in the future. 15 U.S.C. § 78u(d) (1976).
96. See note 80 supra.
99. The Supreme Court in SEC v. Capital Gains Research Bureau, Inc., 375 U.S. 180, 186 (1963), stated: "A fundamental purpose, common to these statutes is to substitute a philosophy of full disclosure for the philosophy of caveat emptor and thus achieve a high standard of business ethics in the securities industry."
101. See note 11 supra for the elements of a common-law deceit action.
"The fact is that the courts have repeatedly said that the fraud provision in the SEC acts . . . are not limited to circumstances which would give rise to a common law action for deceit." L. Loss, supra note 3, at 1435.
"[C]ommon law fraud provides a starting point from which the courts can develop a federal
lack of explicit legislative history on the scope of rule 10b-5 coupled with the noticeable reluctance, until recently, of the Supreme Court to entertain rule 10b-5 actions, yielded major inconsistencies among the circuits in defining basic elements of a rule 10b-5 action.

An increasing concern with the flood of securities litigation in the federal courts finally prompted Supreme Court action. The Supreme Court responded to this concern and the need for precise delineation of the requisite elements of a rule 10b-5 action by sharply curtailing access to federal courts through strict interpretation of basic elements of a 10b-5 action. In the past decade the Supreme Court delineated four basic elements of a 10b-5 action. First, rule 10b-5 extends protection only to the defrauded purchaser or seller of securities. Secondly, the defrauded purchaser or seller must demonstrate "scienter" on the part of the defendant. Thirdly, the 10b-5 plaintiff must prove a misrepresentation or an omission of a material fact. Finally, the injured party must show resulting damage, usually established in terms of reliance or causation.

A noticeable cutback in rule 10b-5 relief occurred when the Supreme


It [rule 10b-5] was intended to give the Commission power to deal with this problem—lack of protection for defrauded sellers of securities. It had no relation in the commission's contemplation to private proceedings. How it got into private proceedings was by the ingenuity of the private Bar starting with the Kardon case.

Id. at 922.


104. See generally Note, supra note 101.


Court affirmed the *Birnbaum* purchaser-seller requirement. In 1952 the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in *Birnbaum v. Newport Steel Corp.* held that rule 10b-5 extended protection only to a defrauded purchaser or seller of securities. Dissatisfied with the arbitrariness of the rule, however, lower courts chipped away at the *Birnbaum* doctrine. The courts liberally interpreted the purchaser-seller requirement to include those defrauded investors not technically connected with the sale of securities. Finally in 1975 the Supreme Court in *Blue Chip Stamps v. Manor Drug Stores*, attempting to discourage private actions against corporate mismanagement under section 10(b), reaffirmed the battered *Birnbaum* doctrine.

Pursuant to a consent decree entered in an antitrust action, the defendant in *Blue Chip Stamps*, a company that provided trading stamps to retailers, offered a substantial number of its shares to retailers who previously used the stamp service but who were not stockholders. The retailers charged that the prospectus prepared in connection with the offer was materially misleading and that they failed to purchase stock in reliance on the misleading information. The Supreme Court, in a decision based heavily on policy considerations, reaffirmed the battered *Birnbaum* doctrine.

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112. The eminent panel announcing the doctrine consisted of Augustus Hand, author of the opinion, Learned Hand, and Chief Judge Thomas Swan.
113. *Id.*
114. 193 F.2d at 464. In *Birnbaum* the shareholders of a corporation brought a derivative suit charging the officers and directors of the corporation with violation of their fiduciary duties and specific acts of fraud. The court concluded that § 10(b) was directed only at fraudulent practices associated with the sale or purchase of securities and did not encompass fraudulent mismanagement of corporate affairs. Consequently the court determined that the plaintiffs lacked standing to sue under rule 10b-5 because they were neither purchasers nor sellers of the securities in question. *Id.*
115. See, e.g., *Eason v. General Motors Acceptance Corp.*, 490 F.2d 654 (7th Cir. 1973) (abolished the purchaser-seller requirement altogether); *A.T. Brod & Co. v. Perlow*, 375 F.2d 393 (2d Cir. 1967) (broker allowed to maintain action against customers who ordered him to purchase shares, intending to pay only if price increased); *Vine v. Beneficial Fin. Co.*, 374 F.2d 627 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 389 U.S. 970 (1967) (minority shareholder in a short form merger is a forced seller); *Commerce Reporting Co. v. Puretec, Inc.*, 290 F. Supp. 715 (S.D.N.Y. 1968) (extended *Birnbaum* requirement to protect parties to an agreement to sell securities).
116. *See note 115 supra.*
118. *Id.*
119. *Id.* at 726.
120. *Id.* at 726-27.
121. *Id.*
122. Justice Rehnquist's opinion cited three policy considerations: (1) a susceptibility to "vex-
firmed the purchaser-seller requirement first enunciated in *Birnbaum* and denied relief to retailers.123

The *Blue Chip Stamps* ruling flatly eliminates the possibility of a 10b-5 action on behalf of the corporation to recover insider trading profits. Unless the corporation is a defrauded purchaser or seller of securities, the corporate plaintiff lacks standing to sue under rule 10b-5. By removing the possibility of a federally derived corporate right of recovery under rule 10b-5, the Court eliminated a potentially effective method of regulating insider trading on the open market.124

Until 1976 courts failed to consistently require "sciente" as a requisite element of a 10b-5 action.125 In 1976, however, the Supreme Court in *Ernst & Ernst v. Hochfelder*126 resolved this long standing conflict among the circuits127 and held: A private cause of action for damages does not lie under section 10(b) in the absence of an allegation of "sciente."128 The Court removed any remaining dispute on whether 10b-5 liability would lie for negligent conduct alone.129 The *Ernst* decision narrowed the class of culpable defendants to those possessing "a mental state embracing intent to deceive, manipulate, or defraud."130

The third requisite element of a 10b-5 action, a showing of materiality, lies at the heart of 10b-5 litigation.131 A synthesis of the language employed by various courts yields a definition of materiality that focuses on whether undisclosed information would affect decisions of the reasonable investor.132 When the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citi-
zens v. United States'\textsuperscript{133} confronted the issue of materiality under 10b-5, the Court found material those facts that a reasonable investor “might have considered . . . important”\textsuperscript{134} in making a decision. Five years later, however, the Court in \textit{TSC Industries, Inc. v. Northway, Inc.} \textsuperscript{135} narrowly defined an omitted fact as material “if there is \textit{substantial likelihood} that a reasonable shareholder would consider it important in deciding how to vote.”\textsuperscript{136} Once again the Supreme Court sharply curtailed available relief under 10b-5 by strictly interpreting the third element of a 10b-5 action. \textit{Blue Chip Stamps} narrowed the class of compensable plaintiffs,\textsuperscript{137} \textit{Ernst & Ernst} narrowed the class of culpable defendants,\textsuperscript{138} and \textit{TSC Industries} narrowed the definition of materiality.\textsuperscript{139}

The 10b-5 plaintiff must prove causation of a compensable injury as the final element in a 10b-5 action.\textsuperscript{140} Before 1972, a plaintiff satisfied the causation requirement in a 10b-5 action by showing that plaintiff detrimentally relied on the alleged material misrepresentation.\textsuperscript{141} In 1972,\textsuperscript{142} however, the Supreme Court in \textit{Affiliated Ute Citizens v. United States}\textsuperscript{143} reconstructed the requirement of reliance.

In \textit{Affiliated Ute} a corporation formed by Ute Indians appointed a bank as transfer agent for its stock.\textsuperscript{144} The bank and its employees

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\textsuperscript{134} 406 U.S. 128 (1972).
\textsuperscript{135} \textit{Id.} at 54 (emphasis added).
\textsuperscript{136} 426 U.S. 438 (1976).
\textsuperscript{137} \textit{Id.} at 449 (emphasis added). Although the \textit{TSC} case defined materiality in the context of SEC rule 14a-9, 17 C.F.R. § 240.14a-9(a) (1980), the definition is readily applicable in rule 10b-5 cases.
\textsuperscript{138} \textit{See} notes 111-23 supra and accompanying text.
\textsuperscript{139} \textit{See} notes 125-30 supra and accompanying text.
\textsuperscript{141} The requisite element of causation stems from the compensatory aspect of rule 10b-5 private actions. \textit{See}, e.g., Rochez Bros., Inc. v. Rhoades, 491 F.2d 402, 410 (3d Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 425 U.S. 993 (1976).
\textsuperscript{142} \textit{See}, e.g., List v. Fashion Park, Inc., 340 F.2d 457 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 382 U.S. 811 (1965).
\textsuperscript{143} Before \textit{Affiliated Ute Citizens}, \textit{List} was often cited in support of the need to prove reliance in rule 10b-5 cases.
\textsuperscript{144} 406 U.S. 128 (1972).
\textsuperscript{144} 406 U.S. at 144-49. \textit{See} Note, \textit{The Reliance Requirement in Private Actions Under SEC Rule 10b-5}, 88 HARV. L. REV. 584, 586 n.9 (1975), in which the author states: The 85 Indian plaintiffs were former shareholders of the Ute Development Corporation.
\end{flushleft}
purchased shares from the unsophisticated shareholders without disclosing the bank's status as a market maker in the stock or the true value of the shares. The Court, particularly cognizant of the fiduciary relationship between the bank and the Indian shareholders, held that positive proof of reliance was not a prerequisite to recovery under 10b-5 in situations involving primarily a failure to disclose material information. The Court determined that the obligation to disclose material facts coupled with the nondisclosure of material facts established the causation element. The Court's two-prong test for establishing causation—duty to disclose material information and nondisclosure of that information—has been labelled a "relaxed causation standard."

The courts have been inconsistent in their application of the relaxed causation standard of Affiliated Ute. Their treatment of reliance de-

The corporation had been formed by the Affiliated Ute Citizens, an unincorporated association whose members were of mixed-blood Ute ancestry, under the Ute Partition Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 677-77aa (1970), which provided for partition and distribution of Ute tribal assets between mixed-blood and full-blood Ute Indians. The Ute Development Corporation appointed the First Security Bank of Utah as transfer agent for its stock certificates. Employees of the bank encouraged Indian shareholders to sell their shares to the bank or to the employees themselves without disclosing that the price in the secondary market exceeded that paid to the Indian shareholders.

45. 406 U.S. at 144-49.
46. Id. at 153-54. The Court argued that the "defendants may not stand mute while they facilitate...sales to those seeking to profit in the...market the defendants had developed and encouraged and with which they were fully familiar." Id. at 153.
47. Id.

Although some courts speak of the Affiliated Ute holding as creating a presumption of reliance, the court in Blackie v. Barrack, 524 F.2d 891 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 429 U.S. 816 (1976), noted that the Supreme Court did not speak of such a presumption. The Blackie court recognized that "materiality directly establishes causation more likely than not, and that reliance as a separate requirement is simply a milepost on the road to causation." Id. at 906 n.22.


pends on whether the material information was nondisclosed\textsuperscript{150} or misrepresented\textsuperscript{151} and whether the transaction occurred face-to-face or on the open market.\textsuperscript{152} \textit{Affiliated Ute} concerned the nondisclosure of material information in a face-to-face transaction.\textsuperscript{153} The courts usually agree that "reliance has little if any rational role" in establishing a private action under rule 10b-5 when the alleged deception occurs through nondisclosure of material facts in a face-to-face transaction.\textsuperscript{154} Hence, the lower courts almost uniformly adopt a presumption of reliance on a showing of materiality in nondisclosure cases.\textsuperscript{155}

The courts refuse to apply \textit{Affiliated Ute} when the alleged deception occurs through the misrepresentation of material facts in a face-to-face transaction;\textsuperscript{156} requiring, instead, that plaintiff demonstrate actual reliance on the misrepresentation. The courts reason that when fraud occurs through misrepresentation in a face-to-face transaction, the plaintiff encounters no special difficulties in proving reliance.\textsuperscript{157}

The courts are divided, however, in their treatment of reliance when

\begin{footnotes}


\item[153.] 406 U.S. 128 (1972).

\item[154.] 3 A. Bromberg, \textit{supra} note 26, § 8.6, at 209. \textit{See note 149 supra.}

\item[155.] \textit{See Note, supra} note 144, at 589:

A few courts have held that a reliance requirement still exists, without even mentioning \textit{Affiliated Ute}. One court has said, without further elaboration, that \textit{Affiliated Ute} makes reliance "a somewhat lesser evidentiary hurdle"; and another appears to have introduced a new kind of reliance requirement, proof of "general" reliance, which must be met before \textit{Affiliated Ute} applies.

Other courts have ameliorated the "relaxed causation standard" by allowing the defendant to rebut the "presumption of reliance." \textit{See Blackie v. Barrack}, 524 F.2d 891 (9th Cir. 1975), \textit{cert. denied}, 429 U.S. 816 (1976).

\item[156.] \textit{See note 149 supra.} Some courts do not require a showing of reliance when both misrepresentation and omission are present in the fraudulent activities. \textit{See Competitive Assocs., Inc. v. Lavenhol, Krekslein, Horwath & Horwath}, 516 F.2d 811, 814 (2d Cir. 1975); \textit{Clark v. Cameron-Brown Co.}, 72 F.R.D. 48, 57 (M.D.N.C. 1976).

\item[157.] \textit{See 3 A. Bromberg, supra} note 26, § 8.6, at 209-12 (1975); \textit{Note, supra} note 144, at 587-89.
\end{footnotes}
the alleged fraud is perpetrated on the open market. Some courts abandon the need to demonstrate actual reliance when insider trading occurs on the open market. They argue that the reliance requirement is meaningless when the misrepresentation or nondisclosure occurs in open market trading. Deception, if material, presumably affects the market in the form of inflated or deflated market prices. Therefore, the trading investor, relying on general market conditions and prices is adversely affected. Proof of specific reliance becomes superfluous under these circumstances. Other courts, however, insist on maintaining the evidentiary hurdle and require "a direct causal relationship or connection between the insider’s trading and the injury suffered." The effectiveness of rule 10b-5 in deterring insider trading on the open market turns on whether courts will apply the "relaxed causation standard" in impersonal market transactions. In spite of the strict purchaser-seller requirement, the necessity of demonstrating scienter, and the limited definition of materiality, a relaxation of the reliance requirement in impersonal open market transactions could make rule 10b-5 a viable remedy for deterring insider trading on the open market. Proving reliance on the misrepresented or omitted fact is virtually impossible when the transaction takes place on the open market. Whether the defrauded open market trader obtains relief thus depends on the causation standard applied by the court. The Supreme Court has perpetuated this dilemma by refusing to clarify the role of reliance in open market transactions. In light of recent Supreme Court decisions limiting the scope of rule 10b-5, further expansion of relief under

158. See notes 159-64 infra and accompanying text.
161. See Note, supra note 157, at 587-89.
162. Id.
163. Id.
165. See notes 194-204 infra and accompanying text.
166. Id.
167. See note 160 supra.
168. See notes 149-52 supra for cases in which Supreme Court has denied certiorari.
rule 10b-5 is improbable.\(^{169}\)

3. Class Actions

The third form of relief under rule 10b-5 is the class action.\(^{170}\) The class action facilitates claims by small investors whose claims would be insufficient to warrant individual litigation.\(^{171}\) Judicial distaste for the class action,\(^{172}\) coupled with procedural, evidentiary, and administrative problems, diminishes the potential efficacy of this alternative.

The procedural obstacle erected by the Supreme Court in *Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin*\(^ {173}\) illustrates the judicial distaste for class action suits. The *Eisen* Court required that individual notice be sent to all class members whose names and addresses could be ascertained through reasonable effort.\(^ {174}\) The class action is a desirable vehicle for litigation because it allows formation of a large class of investors. The requirement of individual notice, however, renders the class action unworkable as an effective enforcement alternative.

The evidentiary problems associated with proving actual reliance in impersonal transactions are compounded in the class action setting.\(^ {175}\) The burden of demonstrating reliance in open market transactions may be insurmountable. Different degrees of reliance among the plaintiff

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\(^{169}\) See note 106 *supra.*

\(^{170}\) The basic requirements of a class action under Rule 23 are:

1. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable,
2. There are questions of law or fact common to the class,
3. The claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class,
4. The representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

*FED. R. CIV. P.* 23(a).

Securities fraud cases usually fall under Rule 23(b)(3) which allows a class action where:

[T]he court finds that the questions of law or fact common to the members and the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

For a thorough discussion of the class action as applied in securities litigation, see Bernfeldt, *Class Actions and Federal Securities Laws,* 55 CORNELL L. REV. 78 (1969).


\(^{172}\) See Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin, 391 F.2d 555, 572 (2d Cir. 1968) (Lumbard, J., dissenting), vacated, 417 U.S. 156 (1974), described the class action as a "Frankenstein monster."


\(^{174}\) 417 U.S. at 173. "The plaintiff in *Eisen* had a mere $70 at stake and sought to represent a class of at least 2.25 million members. Personal notice to all of these absentees would have cost plaintiff approximately $225,000." Klein, *supra* note 173, at 59.

\(^{175}\) See notes 149-64 *supra* and accompanying text.
class may also afford defendant the means with which to challenge plaintiff's claim.\footnote{176}

Administration of relief presents the largest impasse to effective use of the class action suit. If relief is awarded to every member of the class based on actual loss incurred, total damages could reach outrageous proportions.\footnote{177} But recovery limited to the insider's profits would remove the compensatory incentive for instituting the action.

B. \textit{Section 16(b)}

The second major provision of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 governing insider trading is section 16(b).\footnote{178} Section 16(b), or the "short swing profit" provision, imposes strict liability on those falling within its narrow scope.\footnote{179} The section prohibits certain directors,\footnote{180} officers,\footnote{181} and beneficial owners of securities\footnote{182} from engaging in the

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\item[176.] See generally 4 A. Bromberg, \textit{supra} note 26, \textsection 11.6, at 255.
\item[177.] This is the most frequently cited reason for seeking some limitation to insider liability. In the \textit{Texas Gulf Sulphur Co.} litigation it was estimated that damages, depending on the method of calculation used, might well range to $84 million and could possibly reach $390 million—a figure well over the company's worth. 446 F.2d at 105 n.13.
\item[178.] Securities Exchange Act of 1934 \textsection 16(b), 15 U.S.C. \textsection 78p(b) (1976).
\item[179.] \textit{Id.} Section 16 applies to issuers that have securities registered under \textsection 12 of the Securities Exchange Act. Section 12 requires registration of any equity securities listed on a national exchange and any class of equity securities of an issuer engaged in interstate commerce, or in a business affecting interstate commerce or whose securities are traded by use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce if that issuer's total assets exceed $1,000,000 and the class of equity security is held by 500 or more persons. 15 U.S.C. \textsection 78l(g) (1976).
\item[180.] A director is "any director of a corporation or any person performing similar functions with respect to any organization, whether incorporated or unincorporated." 15 U.S.C. \textsection 78c(a)(7) (1976).
\item[181.] An officer is "a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, comptroller, and any other person who performs for an issuer . . . functions corresponding to those performed by the foregoing officers." 17 C.F.R. \textsection 240.3b-2 (1980).
\item[182.] A beneficial owner for purposes of section 16(b) is a "person who is directly or indirectly the beneficial owner of more than 10 per centum of any class of any equity security (other than an exempted security) which is registered pursuant to section 78l of this title . . . ." 15 U.S.C. \textsection 78p(a) (1976).
\end{enumerate}
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purchase and sale (or sale and purchase) of security equities within a six month period.\textsuperscript{183} Any profit\textsuperscript{184} realized from short swing purchases and sales is recoverable by the corporation or by shareholders of the corporation in a derivative suit.\textsuperscript{185}

The guidelines of section 16(b) are clearly delineated and applied in a fairly mechanical fashion. The primary problem in the application of section 16(b) concerns the definition of "insider," "sale," "purchase," and "profit."\textsuperscript{186}

Although the purpose of section 16(b) is to prevent unfair use of information obtained by an insider through his relationship with the issuer,\textsuperscript{187} the section is both over inclusive and under inclusive in its reach. Liability is automatically imposed under section 16(b) without a showing that the insider actually used the confidential information.\textsuperscript{188} Conversely, a person who is not a statutorily designated insider, but trades on the basis of inside information, falls outside the confines of the section.\textsuperscript{189} Furthermore, the director, officer, or beneficial owner who engages in transactions based on inside information but trades outside the designated six month period escapes the scope of section 16(b).\textsuperscript{190}

IV. PROPOSALS FOR REFORM

Existing federal and state remedies are inadequate to curb insider

\textsuperscript{183} The constitutionality of section 16(b) was upheld in Smolowe v. Delendo Corp., 136 F.2d 231 (2d Cir.), \textit{cert. denied}, 320 U.S. 751 (1943).

\textsuperscript{184} The profit realized is computed by matching the highest price sales with the lowest price purchases during the six month period. Smolowe v. Delendo Corp., 136 F.2d 231 (2d Cir.), \textit{cert. denied}, 320 U.S. 751 (1943). This method is premised on the theory that "the statute was intended to . . . squeeze all possible profits out of stock transactions." \textit{Id.} at 239.


\textsuperscript{188} Thus one of the draftsmen of the provision testified before the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency:

\textit{You hold the director, irrespective of any intention or expectation to sell the security within 6 months after, because it will be absolutely impossible to prove the existence of such intention or expectation, and you have to have this crude rule of thumb, because you cannot undertake the burden of having to prove that the director intended, at the time he bought, to get out on a short swing.}

\textit{Hearings on S. Res. 84 and S. Res. 56 and S. Res. 97 Before the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency}, 73d Cong., 2d Sess. 6554 (1934).


\textsuperscript{190} For a thorough discussion on the limitations of section 16(b), see 45 \textit{NOTRE DAME LAW.} 314, 316 n.16 (1969).
trading on the open securities market. Several alternative means exist that would more closely regulate insider trading. One alternative is application of the Affiliated Ute "relaxed causation standard" when insider trading is perpetuated on the open market.191 Another alternative, suggested in Diamond v. Oreamuno,192 is a state cause of action in the corporation to recover insider trading profits. A third alternative provides for a federally derived right of action on behalf of the corporation to recover insider trading profits.193

The first proposal purports to increase the efficacy of private enforcement under rule 10b-5 by removing proof of actual reliance. Although the Supreme Court in Affiliated Ute Citizens v. United States194 first applied the "relaxed causation standard," any further expansion of the reliance requirement by the Supreme Court is unlikely in view of the Court's recent restrictions in private actions under 10b-5.195 Unless the Court decides to limit the Affiliated Ute holding to face-to-face transactions involving the nondisclosure of material information, the individual circuits are free to adopt the so-called "relaxed causation standard."

Uniform application of this standard would foster consistency, simplicity, and predictability. A relaxation of the reliance requirement would insure the in terrorem effect of section 10(b).196 Nationwide service of process197 and a broad choice of venue198 are additional advantages offered by this approach.

Relaxation of the reliance requirement would increase the number of plaintiffs able to bring suit under section 10(b). The large number of potential plaintiffs would make the class action device more desira-
Relaxation of the reliance requirement would also greatly increase chances for successful application of the class action. The defendant could no longer assert varying degrees of reliance by the plaintiffs as an affirmative defense. 200

Because of the increased number of potential plaintiffs, however, and the availability of the class action, removal of the reliance safeguard risks inundation of federal courts with groundless rule 10b-5 claims. 201 Given the present concern with the flood of securities litigation in federal courts, 202 the “relaxed causation” alternative presents certain judicial problems.

The greatest infirmity of the “relaxed causation” proposal, however, is the potential for imposition of unlimited liability on the insider. In applying a liberal reliance requirement, some courts have adjudged 10b-5 defendants liable to all investors trading in stock from the time the insider began trading until effective disclosure. 203 Other courts have attempted to mitigate the possibility of unlimited liability by restricting recovery to investors trading on the market during the time the insider was actually trading. 204 Under either approach, potential liability could assume punitive proportions. The limitation of the amount of recovery to the insider’s profits, however, reduces individual recovery to miniscule proportions and decreases the incentive to bring suit.

The second proposal, a state cause of action in the corporation to recover the insider’s profits, was fashioned by the Diamond court nearly ten years ago. 205 The Diamond court attempted to bridge the gap in federal and state regulation of insider trading on the open market by creating a cause of action in the corporation. 206 Although the

199. The requirement that individual notice be sent to all class members whose names and addresses can be ascertained through reasonable effort, however, would hamper effective use of the class action suit. See notes 173-74 supra and accompanying text.

200. See generally Comment, supra note 149.

201. See note 105 supra.

202. Id.

203. This principle concern with unlimited liability led the court in Fridrich v. Bradford to hold: no private action for damages under rule 10b-5 will lie in favor of open market purchasers or sellers of securities against those persons having material inside information who transact in those securities without disclosing that information to the marketplace. 542 F.2d 307 (6th Cir. 1976), cert. denied, 429 U.S. 1053 (1977).

204. Id. (Celebrezze, J., concurring).


last decade of Supreme Court activity in the 10b-5 area widened the gap, state courts refuse to adopt the Diamond approach.

The chief criticism of the Diamond approach is that it lacks uniformity. Imposition of liability on insiders who trade in stock listed on the national securities exchange or over-the-counter exchanges will depend on the applicable law of the state of incorporation. Even if the state recognizes a corporate right of recovery, the plaintiff may not be able to serve process on all defendants involved in the suit. Although a shareholder who suspects insider abuse could institute proceedings on behalf of the corporation, certain states require a derivative complainant to post security for expenses incurred by the defense. These procedural obstacles hamper effective corporate recovery at the state level.

Additionally, the Diamond approach raises the possibility of dual liability under concurrent federal and state law. The defendant could interplead all possible claimants to avoid double liability. This suggestion, however, presents several problems. First, effective use of state interpleader is hindered by difficulties in obtaining jurisdiction over all traders. Secondly, the addition of a section 16(b), section 10(b), or rule 10b-5 claim divests the state court of jurisdiction because federal courts exercise exclusive jurisdiction over all claims brought under the 1934 Act.

In an effort to ameliorate the effect of dual liability, courts have ordered defendants to place insider trading profits in escrow. After five years, any unclaimed moneys in the account are paid to the corporation. This alternative, however, ignores the separate harm to the corporation and places the costs of administering the fund on the

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207. See notes 77-139 supra and accompanying text.
208. See notes 64-71 supra and accompanying text.
210. See note 95 supra.
211. See, e.g., N.Y. BUS. CORP. LAW § 627 (McKinney 1965).
213. See note 63 supra.
214. See note 212 supra.
217. Id.
218. The theoretical solution to the problem of concurrent liability is to recognize two injuries: not only on the corporation for breach of fiduciary duty, but also on the trading investors for violation of federal securities law. Under this approach, however, actual injury to the corporation
corporation. If all the money is claimed before expiration of five years, the corporation is financially penalized for bringing the suit.

The third and most feasible proposal is a federally derived cause of action in the corporation to recover the insider's profits. This proposal retains many of the positive attributes of the "relaxed causation" alternative and eliminates the potential imposition of unlimited liability. Nationwide service of process and wide selection of venue are available under a federally derived right of recovery in the corporation. Additionally, a federally derived cause of action retains the virtues of consistency, simplicity, and predictability.

Contrary to the "relaxed causation" proposal, the theory behind the proposal for a federal cause of action in the corporation is not compensation of injured open market traders. The proposal, like the Diamond approach, seeks to deter insider trading by placing the right of recovery in a readily available plaintiff, the corporation. By placing the right of recovery in the corporation or derivatively, its stockholders, uninterested shareholders are replaced with corporate watchdogs. A shareholder who suspects insider abuse could institute proceedings on behalf of the corporation. By limiting the amount of damages to insider profits, the danger of unlimited liability is ameliorated. Sanctions are thus imposed on insiders to discourage an undesirable practice, not to compensate injured victims of open market transactions.

The proposal's sanction would extend beyond the arbitrary six month period established in section 16(b). Additionally, the proposal would ease the harshness of section 16(b)'s strict liability by requiring proof of actual insider abuse.

Before Blue Chip Stamps, gradual erosion of the Birnbaum doctrine revealed the possibility that courts could implant a federal cause of action in the corporation. Affirmation of the purchaser-seller require-
ment in section 10(b) actions, however, extinguished judicial implementation of this approach. A federally derived right of recovery in the corporation or, derivatively, its shareholders, will thus require congressional action.

The proposal for a federal derivative cause of action is not free from infirmities. First, additional federal relief would accelerate the growth of securities litigation in federal courts. Secondly, federal legislation creating a corporate right of recovery could signal encroachment of federal law into issues of corporate mismanagement and fiduciary duties of corporate officers, areas traditionally of state concern. Lastly, adoption of a federal cause of action in the corporation would place the defendant in jeopardy of multiple liability under section 16(b), section 10(b), and the proposed federal right of corporate recovery.

**Conclusion**

In spite of difficulties mentioned in connection with the federally derived cause of action, the absence of effective regulation of insider trading on the open securities market demands legislative implementation of this approach. The Supreme Court decisions in 10(b) actions have effectively diminished opportunities for judicial resolution at the federal level. State courts have similarly failed to respond with effective relief in an area that is arguably of traditional state concern. Federal securities laws purport to "insure the maintenance of a fair and honest market," but in actuality leave a major area of insider trading unregulated. The burden is thus on Congress to effectuate this goal.

*Anne Graff Brown*

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227. *Id.*
228. *See* note 105 *supra.*
229. *See* notes 77-139 *supra* and accompanying text.
230. *See* notes 64-71 *supra* and accompanying text.