COUNTY OF ORANGE LEVY, SMALL & LALLAS 1 CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER A Partnership Including Professional Corporations 2 LEO D. PLOTKIN (SBN 101893) JAN 17 2012 815 Moraga Drive ALAN CARLSON, Clerk of the Court Los Angeles, California 90049-1633 3 (310) 471-3000 Telephone: (310) 471-7990 4 Facsimile: Email: lplotkin@lsl-la.com 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff Partners for Growth II, L.P. 6 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE 30-2012 10 CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER 11 PARTNERS FOR GROWTH II, L.P., a Case No. 00537668 Delaware limited partnership, 12 Plaintiff. COMPLAINT FOR: 13 VS. BREACH OF FIDUCIARY 14 DUTY: BENTON H.WILCOXON, an individual; IMPAIRMENT OF 2) 15 DOMONIC J. CARNEY, an individual; COLLATERAL; STEWART RAMSAY, an individual; **NEGLIGENCE**; AND 16 DENNIS C. CAREY, an individual; CONVERSION MICHAEL K. LEE, an individual; judge frederick P. Horn MICHAEL D. MCINTOSH; an individual; H. DEAN MCCORMICK, an individual; 17 18 and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, 19 Defendants. 20 21 Plaintiff alleges: 22 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS** 23 The Parties A. 24 1. Plaintiff Partners for Growth II, L.P. ("PFG") is a limited partnership organized 25 and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in the 26 County of San Francisco, State of California. 27 PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Benton 2. 28 H. Wilcoxon ("Wilcoxon") is an individual residing in the County of Orange, State of California.

> -1-COMPLAINT

Wilcoxon formerly was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Composite Technology Corporation ("CTC"), a Nevada corporation with its principal place of business in the County of Orange, State of California, and also served as Chief Executive Officer of CTC and its subsidiaries, CTC Cable Corporation ("CTC Cable") and Stribog, Inc. ("Stribog").

- 3. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Domonic J. Carney ("Carney") is an individual residing in the County of San Diego, State of California. Carney formerly served as the Chief Financial Officer of CTC and CTC Cable.
- 4. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Stewart Ramsay ("Ramsay") is an individual residing in the County of Contra Costa, State of California. Ramsay formerly served as CTC Cable's president.
- 5. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Dennis C. Carey ("Carey") is an individual residing in the State of Arizona. Carey formerly served as a director of CTC.
- 6. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Michael K. Lee ("Lee") is an individual residing in the County of San Diego, State of California. Lee formerly served as a director of CTC.
- 7. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant Michael D. McIntosh ("McIntosh") is an individual residing in the State of Colorado. McIntosh formerly served as a director of CTC.
- 8. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendant D. Dean McCormick, III ("McCormick") is an individual residing in the State of California, County of Orange. McCormick formerly served, and may be continuing to serve, as a director of CTC.
- 9. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of defendants Does 1 through 20, inclusive, are unknown to PFG, who therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names. PFG will amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.
- 10. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each defendant was the agent, servant and/or employee of each of the other defendants, and in doing and suffering

the acts hereinafter alleged, each was acting in such capacity and within the relative scope of his or her authority.

B. The Escrow Agreement

- 11. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that on or about August 10, 2009, CTC, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co., Ltd. ("DSME"), and Stribog (then known as DeWind, Inc.) entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") pursuant to which, among other things, Stribog agreed to sell substantially all of its assets to DSME for \$46,500,000, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Purchase Agreement, and DSME's assumption of certain of Stribog's liabilities. At closing, a portion of the cash consideration was to be paid to Stribog, with the remainder to be deposited into an escrow account.
- 12. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that on or about September 4, 2009, DeWind Turbine Co. ("DeWind Turbine"), an affiliate of DSME and assignee of DSME's rights under the Purchase Agreement, Stribog (then known as DeWind, Inc.), and US Bank, N.A. ("US Bank"), entered into an Escrow and Security Agreement (the "Escrow Agreement") pursuant to which DeWind Turbine deposited \$17,175,000 into an escrow account (the "Escrow Account") established with US Bank in accordance with the Purchase Agreement. The Escrow Agreement provides, among other things, as follows:
- a. Stribog's interest in the funds in the Escrow Account was a contingent right to payment of such funds;
- b. US Bank was holding the funds in the Escrow Account for the benefit of Stribog and DeWind Turbine; and
- c. The funds in the Escrow Account were to be released to DeWind Turbine and/or Stribog under terms and conditions specified in the Purchase Agreement and the Escrow Agreement.

C. The Loan and Security Agreement and the Guaranty

13. On or about April 12, 2010, PFG, on the one hand, and CTC, CTC Cable, and another CTC subsidiary, CTC Renewables Corporation (collectively, the "CTC Borrowers"), on

the other hand, entered into a written Loan and Security Agreement pursuant to which, among other things, PFG agreed to loan the CTC Borrowers the sum of \$10 million in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.

- Pursuant to Section 2.1 of the Loan and Security Agreement, the CTC Borrowers granted PFG a first-priority security interest in all of their right, title and interest in and to all of the following, whether then owned or thereafter arising or acquired and wherever located: all Accounts; all Inventory; all Equipment; all Deposit Accounts; all General Intangibles (including without limitation all Intellectual Property); all Investment Property; all Other Property; and any and all claims, rights and interests in any of the foregoing, and all guaranties and security for any of the foregoing, and all substitutions and replacements for, additions, accessions, attachments, accessories, and improvements to, and proceeds (including proceeds of any insurance policies, proceeds of proceeds and claims against third parties) of, any and all of the foregoing, and all the CTC Borrowers' books relating to any and all of the foregoing (collectively, the "Borrower Collateral"). Capitalized terms in the foregoing description have the meanings accorded them in the Loan and Security Agreement and by the California Uniform Commercial Code.
- 15. Pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Loan and Security Agreement, the CTC Borrowers specifically acknowledged that the proceeds of the sale of assets to De Wind Turbine constituted part of the Borrower Collateral for all purposes under such agreement. PFG's security interest in Stribog's right to payment from the Escrow Account accordingly attached at the time the Loan and Security Agreement was executed and PFG advanced funds thereunder shortly thereafter.
- 16. PFG perfected its security interest in the Borrower Collateral by filing a UCC-1 Financing Statement with the Nevada Secretary of State on April 6, 2010 as Document No. 2010008490-8.
- 17. On or about April 12, 2010, Stribog executed and delivered to PFG a written Cross-Corporate Continuing Guaranty and Security Agreement (the "Guaranty"). Pursuant to the Guaranty, Stribog, among other things, unconditionally guaranteed and promised to pay PFG, and perform for PFG's benefit, all of the CTC Borrowers' present and future indebtedness to

PFG, including without limitation all obligations under the Loan Agreement and any amendments, modifications, renewals or extensions thereof.

- 18. Pursuant to Section 14 of the Guaranty, Stribog granted PFG a first-priority security interest in all of Stribog's right, title and interest in and to all of the following, whether then owned or thereafter arising or acquired and wherever located: all Accounts; all Inventory; all Equipment; all Deposit Accounts; all General Intangibles (including without limitation all Intellectual Property); all Investment Property; all Other Property; and any and all claims, rights and interests in any of the foregoing, and all guaranties and security for any of the foregoing, and all substitutions and replacements for, additions, accessions, attachments, accessories, and improvements to, and proceeds (including proceeds of any insurance policies, proceeds of proceeds and claims against third parties) of, any and all of the foregoing, and all of Guarantor's books relating to any and all of the foregoing (collectively, the "Guarantor Collateral"). Capitalized terms in the foregoing description have the meanings accorded them in the Loan Agreement and by the California Uniform Commercial Code.
- 19. PFG perfected its security interest in the Guarantor Collateral by filing a UCC-1 Financing Statement with the Nevada Secretary of State on April 9, 2010 as Document No. 2010008938-8.
- 20. On or about October 18, 2010, PFG and the CTC Borrowers entered into a Conditional Waiver and Modification to Loan and Security Agreement (the "Original Modification").
- 21. On or about December 13, 2010, PFG and the CTC Borrowers entered into a Conditional Waiver and Modification No. 2 to Loan and Security Agreement (the "Second Modification") pursuant to which, among other things, the CTC Borrowers agreed to cause to be paid over to PFG all monies received under the Escrow Agreement within one business day of receipt. The Loan and Security Agreement, as modified by the Original Modification and the Second Modification, is hereinafter referred to as the "Loan Agreement."

D. Partial Release of Funds from Escrow Account

- 22. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that on or about March 24, 2011, the Escrow Agreement was amended and restated to provide, among other things, that approximately \$7,233,620 of the funds in the Escrow Account would be released to Stribog.
- 23. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that on or about March 30, 2011, CTC received \$7,000,000 of funds from the Escrow Account (the "Escrow Proceeds"), which it was obligated to turn over to PFG under the Second Modification and in which PFG had a first priority security interest as proceeds of Stribog's right to payment from the Escrow Account under the terms of the Loan and Security Agreement and as the CTC Borrowers specifically acknowledged in Section 4.2 thereof.
- 24. In April 2011, the CTC Borrowers and Stribog filed bankruptcy, and were at that time in default under the Loan Agreement and the Guaranty and owed PFG the principal sum of \$10,050,000 plus interest, attorneys' fees, and other charges.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants

For Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

- 25. PFG incorporates by this reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 24, inclusive, of the General Allegations.
- 26. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that as of March 2011, CTC and CTC Cable were insolvent as they were generally unable to pay their debts as they became due, including their debts to PFG, to trade creditors, and to certain of the defendants. As the result of such insolvency, defendants owed PFG and other creditors a fiduciary duty to refrain from engaging in conduct, including without limitation self-dealing and the preferential treatment of creditors, that diverted, dissipated, or unduly risked corporate assets that might otherwise have been used to satisfy creditors' claims.
- 27. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendants knew that pursuant to the Loan and Security Agreement, PFG had a security interest in Stribog's contingent right to payment from the Escrow Account to secure performance of the obligations

of the CTC Borrowers and Stribog to PFG, and that CTC was required under the Second Modification to transfer the Escrow Proceeds to PFG within one business day of receipt.

- 28. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendants breached their fiduciary duty to PFG by diverting and dissipating corporate assets through self-dealing and the preferential treatment of favored creditors by, among other things, the following:
- a. Rather than pay the Escrow Proceeds to PFG as CTC was contractually required to do under the Second Modification, or at a minimum deposit the funds in an account over which PFG had a control agreement as required by the Loan and Security Agreement, defendants caused CTC to transfer the Escrow Proceeds to CTC's attorneys to put such funds beyond PFG's reach;
- b. Defendants directed CTC's attorneys to pay a portion of the Escrow Proceeds, which constituted proceeds of Stribog's contingent right to payment from the Escrow Account in which PFG had a prior security interest, to or for the benefit of defendants Ramsay, Carney, Carey, Lee, and McIntosh (collectively, the "Defendant Insiders") in purported repayment of expenses and/or loans on which they received not only the principal balance allegedly due, but also interest that equaled an annualized rate of approximately 72%; and
- c. Defendants directed CTC's attorneys to pay other favored creditors in preference to PFG with the Escrow Proceeds in which PFG had a prior security interest as proceeds of Stribog's contingent right to payment from the Escrow Account, and failed and refused to pay outstanding obligations due to PFG.
- 29. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that in determining to utilize the Escrow Proceeds instead of turning them over to PFG, and by deciding to pay the Insider Defendants and other favored creditors, such as The McIntosh Group of which McIntosh was the principal, with the Escrow Proceeds, defendants did not act in good faith and had conflicting interests.
- 30. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' breach of fiduciary duty, PFG has been damaged through the loss of the Escrow Proceeds in a sum as yet unascertained, but in no event less than the jurisdictional minimum of this Court. PFG will seek leave to amend this

and is unable to satisfy PFG's claim in full. Such impairment of collateral was the reasonably

foreseeable consequence of defendants' actions.

27

28

37. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' impairment of PFG's collateral, PFG has been damaged in a sum as yet unascertained, but in no event less than the jurisdictional minimum of this Court. PFG will seek leave to amend this complaint to set forth the true nature and full extent of its damages when ascertained or at the time of trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants

For Negligence)

- 38. PFG incorporates by this reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 24, inclusive, of the General Allegations.
- 39. As officers and directors of CTC, and as a result of the financing relationship between CTC and PFG, defendants owed PFG a duty of care in conducting CTC's operations to ensure that CTC abided by its contractual commitments to PFG, and did not act in a manner that would violate CTC's obligations to PFG.
- 40. Defendants breached their duty of care to PFG by utilizing the Escrow Proceeds in a manner inconsistent with CTC's obligations under the Loan Agreement and in disregard of PFG's prior security interest in Stribog's contingent right to payment from the Escrow Account by, among other things, causing the Escrow Proceeds, which constituted proceeds of Stribog's right to payment from the Escrow Account and which therefore were subject to PFG's security interest, to be transferred to the trust account of CTC's attorneys rather than turning over such proceeds to PFG, and directing payment of claims to certain of the defendants and other creditors to the exclusion of PFG (except for a minimal payment), even though CTC had agreed in the Second Amendment to remit the Escrow Proceeds to PFG within one business day of receipt.
- 41. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, PFG has been damaged through the loss of the Escrow Proceeds in a sum as yet unascertained, but in no event less than the jurisdictional minimum of this Court. PFG will seek leave to amend this complaint to set forth the true nature and full extent of its damages when ascertained or at the time of trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against All Defendants for Conversion)

- 42. PFG incorporates by this reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 24, inclusive, of the General Allegations.
- 43. Pursuant to, among other things, the Loan Agreement, the UCC-1 financing statements, and related documents, PFG was at all times material hereto entitled to immediate and exclusive possession of, and had a first-priority security interest in, Stribog's right to payment from the Escrow Account and the proceeds thereof.
- 44. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that defendants knew that pursuant to the Loan and Security Agreement, PFG had a security interest in Stribog's contingent right to payment from the Escrow Account to secure performance of the obligations of the CTC Borrowers and Stribog to PFG, and that CTC was required under the Second Modification to transfer the Escrow Proceeds to PFG within one business day of receipt.
- 45. PFG is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that from and after March 30, 2011, defendants intentionally and wrongfully converted the Escrow Proceeds to their own use and benefit by (a) exercising dominion and control over the Escrow Proceeds, (b) failing to remit the Escrow Proceeds to PFG within one business day of receipt, and (c) diverting the Escrow Proceeds to themselves, third parties, or other uses or purposes not authorized by PFG.
- 46. Notwithstanding PFG's demand, defendants have failed and refused, and continue to fail and to refuse, to turn over the Escrow Proceeds to PFG, including without limitation the portions of the Escrow Proceeds that certain defendants personally received and retained.
- 47. By collecting, diverting, and retaining the Escrow Proceeds, defendants have wrongfully acted to deprive PFG of its interest in, and right to possession of, the Escrow Proceeds, which constitutes proceeds of Stribog's right to payment from the Escrow Account and therefore are subject to PFG's security interest.
- 48. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' conversion of the Escrow Proceeds, PFG is entitled to possession of such proceeds, or, alternatively, damages in an amount according to proof.

1	49.	49. Pursuant to Civil Code Section 3336, PFG is entitled to fair compensation for		
2	time and money expended in pursuit of the converted Escrow Proceeds.			
3	WHEREFORE, PFG prays for judgment against defendants as follows:			
4	1,	On the First Cause of Action for Breach of Fiduciary Duty against all defendants:		
5		a. For dama	ages in such sum as shall be determined at trial; and	
6		b. For preju	adgment interest thereon.	
7	2.	On the Second	d Cause of Action for Impairment of Collateral against all	
8	defendants:			
9		a. For dame	ages in such sum as shall be determined at trial; and	
10		b. For preju	adgment interest thereon.	
11	3.	On the Third Ca	suse of Action for Negligence against all defendants:	
12	The second secon	a. For dama	ages in such sum as shall be determined at trial; and	
13		b. For preju	adgment interest thereon	
14	4.	On the Fourth C	ause of Action for Conversion against all defendants:	
15		a. For dama	ages in such sum as shall be determined at trial;	
16		b. For preju	adgment interest thereon; and	
17		c. For fair	compensation for time and money expended in pursuant of the	
18	Escrow Proce	eds.		
19	5.	On all causes of	action:	
20		a. For costs	s of suit incurred herein; and	
21		b. For such	other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.	
22	DATED: January 13, 2012 LEO D. PLOTKIN			
23	DATED. January 13, 2012		LEVY, SMALL & LALLAS	
24			A Partnership Including Professional Corporations	
25			By: Ces O Plane	
26			Attorneys for Plaintiff	
27			Partners for Growth II, L.P.	
28				