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Report on
2008 Inspection of Malone & Bailey, PC
(Headquartered in Houston, Texas)

Issued by the
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

April 16, 2009

THIS IS A PUBLIC VERSION OF A PCAOB INSPECTION REPORT

**PORTIONS OF THE COMPLETE REPORT ARE OMITTED
FROM THIS DOCUMENT IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH
SECTIONS 104(g)(2) AND 105(b)(5)(A)
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

PCAOB RELEASE NO. 104-2009-053



Preface to Reports Concerning Annually Inspected Firms

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB" or "the Board") to conduct an annual inspection of each registered public accounting firm that regularly provides audit reports for more than 100 issuers. The Board's report on any such inspection includes this preface to provide context for information in the public portion of the report.

A Board inspection includes, among other things, a review of selected audits of financial statements and of internal control over financial reporting. If the Board inspection team identifies deficiencies in those audits, it alerts the firm to the deficiencies during the inspection process. Deficiencies that exceed a certain significance threshold are also summarized in the public portion of the Board's inspection report. The Board encourages readers to bear in mind two points concerning those reported deficiencies.

First, inclusion in an inspection report does not mean that the deficiency remained unaddressed after the inspection team brought it to the firm's attention. Under PCAOB standards, a firm must take appropriate action to assess the importance of the deficiency to the firm's present ability to support its previously expressed audit opinions. Depending upon the circumstances, compliance with these standards may require the firm to perform additional audit procedures, or to inform a client of the need for changes to its financial statements or reporting on internal control, or to take steps to prevent reliance on previously expressed audit opinions. A Board inspection does not typically include review of a firm's actions to address deficiencies identified in that inspection, but the Board expects that firms are attempting to take appropriate action, and firms frequently represent that they have taken, are taking, or will take, action. If, through subsequent inspections or other processes, the Board determines that the firm failed to take appropriate action, that failure may be grounds for a Board disciplinary sanction.

Second, the Board cautions against drawing conclusions about the comparative merits of the annually inspected firms based on the number of reported deficiencies in any given year. The total number of audits reviewed is a small portion of the total audits performed by these firms, and the frequency of deficiencies identified does not necessarily represent the frequency of deficiencies throughout the firm's practice. Moreover, if the Board discovers a potential weakness during an inspection, the Board may revise its inspection plan to target additional audits that may be affected by that weakness, and this may increase the number of deficiencies reported for that firm in that year. Such weaknesses may emerge in varying degrees at different firms in different years.

Notes Concerning this Report

1. Portions of this report may describe deficiencies or potential deficiencies in the systems, policies, procedures, practices, or conduct of the firm that is the subject of this report. The express inclusion of certain deficiencies and potential deficiencies, however, should not be construed to support any negative inference that any other aspect of the firm's systems, policies, procedures, practices, or conduct is approved or condoned by the Board or judged by the Board to comply with laws, rules, and professional standards.
2. Any references in this report to violations or potential violations of law, rules, or professional standards should be understood in the supervisory context in which this report was prepared. Any such references are not a result of an adversarial adjudicative process and do not constitute conclusive findings of fact or of violations for purposes of imposing legal liability. Similarly, any description herein of a firm's cooperation in addressing issues constructively should not be construed, and is not construed by the Board, as an admission, for purposes of potential legal liability, of any violation.
3. Board inspections encompass, among other things, whether the firm has failed to identify departures from U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") or Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") disclosure requirements in its audits of financial statements. This report's descriptions of any such auditing failures necessarily involve descriptions of the related GAAP or disclosure departures. The Board, however, has no authority to prescribe the form or content of an issuer's financial statements. That authority, and the authority to make binding determinations concerning an issuer's compliance with GAAP or Commission disclosure requirements, rests with the Commission. Any description, in this report, of perceived departures from GAAP or Commission disclosure requirements should not be understood as an indication that the Commission has considered or made any determination regarding these issues unless otherwise expressly stated.



2008 INSPECTION OF MALONE & BAILEY, PC

In 2008, the Board conducted an inspection of Malone & Bailey, PC ("Malone" or "the Firm"). The Board is today issuing this report of that inspection in accordance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("the Act").

The Board is making portions of the report publicly available. Specifically, the Board is releasing to the public Part I of the report, Appendix A, and portions of Appendix B. Appendix A provides an overview of the inspection process. Appendix B includes the Firm's comments, if any, on a draft of the report.^{1/}

The Board has elsewhere described in detail its approach to making inspection-related information publicly available consistent with legal restrictions.^{2/} A substantial portion of the Board's criticisms of a firm (specifically criticisms of the firm's quality control system), and the Board's dialogue with the firm about those criticisms, occurs out of public view, unless the firm fails to make progress to the Board's satisfaction in addressing those criticisms. In addition, the Board generally does not disclose otherwise nonpublic information, learned through inspections, about the firm or its clients. Accordingly, information in those categories generally does not appear in the publicly available portion of an inspection report.

^{1/} The Board does not make public any of a firm's comments that address a nonpublic portion of the report. In addition, pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), if a firm requests, and the Board grants, confidential treatment for any of the firm's comments on a draft report, the Board does not include those comments in the final report at all. The Board routinely grants confidential treatment, if requested, for any portion of a firm's response that addresses any point in the draft that the Board omits from, or any inaccurate statement in the draft that the Board corrects in, the final report.

^{2/} See Statement Concerning the Issuance of Inspection Reports, PCAOB Release No. 104-2004-001 (August 26, 2004).

PART I

INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS

Members of the Board's inspection staff ("the inspection team") performed an inspection of the Firm from September 8, 2008 to September 11, 2008 and from October 27, 2008 to October 30, 2008. The inspection team performed field work at the Firm's office which is located in Houston, Texas.

Board inspections are designed to identify and address weaknesses and deficiencies related to how a firm conducts audits.^{3/} To achieve that goal, Board inspections include reviews of certain aspects of selected audits performed by the firm and reviews of other matters related to the firm's quality control system. Appendix A to this report provides a description of the steps the inspection team took with respect to the review of audits and the review of certain firm-wide quality control processes.

In the course of reviewing aspects of selected audits, an inspection may identify ways in which a particular audit is deficient, including failures by the firm to identify, or to address appropriately, respects in which an issuer's financial statements do not present fairly the financial position, results of operations, or cash flows of the issuer in conformity with GAAP.^{4/} It is not the purpose of an inspection, however, to review all of a firm's audits or to identify every respect in which a reviewed audit is deficient. Accordingly, a Board inspection report should not be understood to provide any assurance that the firm's audits, or its issuer clients' financial statements or reporting on internal control, are free of any deficiencies not specifically described in an inspection report.

^{3/} This focus necessarily carries through to reports on inspections and, accordingly, Board inspection reports are not intended to serve as balanced report cards or overall rating tools.

^{4/} When the Board becomes aware that an issuer's financial statements appear not to present fairly, in a material respect, the financial position, results of operations, or cash flows of the issuer in conformity with GAAP, the Board's practice is to report that information to the SEC, which has jurisdiction to determine proper accounting in issuers' financial statements.

A. Review of Audit Engagements

The scope of the inspection procedures performed included reviews of aspects of selected audits performed by the Firm. Those audits and aspects were selected according to the Board's criteria, and the Firm was not allowed an opportunity to limit or influence the selection process.

In reviewing the audits, the inspection team identified matters that it considered to be audit deficiencies.^{5/} The deficiencies included failures by the Firm to perform, or to perform sufficiently, certain necessary audit procedures.

In some cases, the conclusion that the Firm failed to perform a procedure may be based on the absence of documentation and the absence of persuasive other evidence, even if the Firm claims to have performed the procedure. PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 3, *Audit Documentation* ("AS No. 3") provides that, in various circumstances including PCAOB inspections, a firm that has not adequately documented that it performed a procedure, obtained evidence, or reached an appropriate conclusion must demonstrate with persuasive other evidence that it did so, and that oral assertions and explanations alone do not constitute persuasive other evidence.^{6/} For purposes of the inspection, an observation that the Firm did not perform a procedure, obtain evidence, or reach an appropriate conclusion may be based on the absence of such documentation and the absence of persuasive other evidence.

When audit deficiencies are identified after the date of the audit report, PCAOB standards require a firm to take appropriate actions to assess the importance of the deficiencies to the firm's present ability to support its previously expressed opinions,^{7/} and failure to take such actions could be a basis for Board disciplinary sanctions.

^{5/} The discussion in this report of any deficiency observed in a particular audit reflects information reported to the Board by the inspection team and does not reflect any determination by the Board as to whether the Firm has engaged in any conduct for which it could be sanctioned through the Board's disciplinary process.

^{6/} See AS No. 3, paragraph 9; Appendix A to AS No. 3, paragraph A28.

^{7/} See AU 390, *Consideration of Omitted Procedures After the Report Date*, AU 561, *Subsequent Discovery of Facts Existing at the Date of the Auditor's Report* (both included among the PCAOB's interim auditing standards, pursuant to PCAOB Rule 3200T), and PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 5, *An Audit of Internal Control Over*

In some cases, the deficiencies identified were of such significance that it appeared to the inspection team that the Firm, at the time it issued its audit report, had not obtained sufficient competent evidential matter to support its opinion on the issuer's financial statements. The deficiencies that reached this degree of significance are described below.

Inappropriate use of the work of a specialist (three audits)

In three audits, the Firm failed to perform procedures necessary to use the work of a specialist and, as a result, the Firm failed to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to support its audit opinion. The deficiencies are as follows:

- One issuer recognized an impairment of its oil and gas properties that represented approximately half of its net loss for the year. The issuer had used an outside specialist's valuation to evaluate possible impairment of the reserves. There was no evidence in the audit documentation, and no persuasive other evidence, that the Firm had tested the significant underlying data that the issuer had provided to the specialist, such as year-end natural gas prices, estimated operating expenses, ad valorem taxes, severance taxes, and capital costs. (Issuer A)
- One issuer entered into a securities purchase agreement for the sale of secured convertible debentures and the issuance of warrants to purchase common stock. The issuer engaged an outside specialist to prepare valuations for the convertible debentures, a related derivative liability, and the warrants. The issuer recorded the resulting values in its year-end financial statements. There was no evidence in the audit documentation, and no persuasive other evidence, that the Firm had tested the significant underlying data that the issuer had provided to the specialist, nor is there such evidence that the Firm had evaluated the appropriateness of the methodology and the reasonableness of the assumptions used by the specialist in valuing the convertible debentures, warrants, and derivative liability. (Issuer B)
- One issuer, a development-stage company, had acquired in the previous year a license to market and sell a drug that was under development. The license

constituted the issuer's primary asset both in the previous year and in the year under audit. The issuer engaged an outside specialist to value the license rights in order to evaluate possible impairment. The specialist was the same specialist that the issuer had used the previous year to perform an initial valuation of the license. The issuer provided the specialist with projected revenues, costs, and operating expenses, which indicated no revenues for the next eight years and revenues from the drug thereafter. Using these projections, the specialist estimated the fair value of the license; this value was approximately 27,000 percent higher than the value the specialist had estimated the preceding year. The Firm's testing of the data the issuer provided to the specialist was insufficient, as it was limited to monitoring issuer-prepared press releases and discussing the drug with the issuer's management. Further, the Firm failed to evaluate the appropriateness of the methodology and the reasonableness of the assumptions used by the specialist. (Issuer C)

Issuer A

Substantially all of the issuer's revenue for the year was derived from consulting services, and it recognized this revenue when hours were worked. The Firm identified revenue recognition as a potential fraud risk. As described below, the Firm's testing of revenue and accounts receivable was insufficient.

To test revenue, the Firm gained an understanding of the revenue-generating process and selected amounts of individual transactions from an issuer-prepared worksheet and traced those amounts to issuer-generated invoices and, in some cases, to system-generated time summaries. There was no evidence in the audit documentation, and no persuasive other evidence, that the Firm had traced amounts recognized to source documentation, such as time sheets of employees performing the services, other than in instances involving subcontractors. There was also no such evidence that the Firm had reviewed the issuer's contracts.

To test the existence of accounts receivable, in addition to reviewing the issuer-prepared accounts receivable aging reports and tracing the totals in those reports to the general ledger, the Firm sent out confirmation requests for selected accounts. For confirmations that were not returned, the Firm tested for subsequent receipts. For a significant portion of the amounts subject to confirmation, however, the issuer had not received payment and the Firm performed no additional alternative procedures.

B. Review of Quality Control System

In addition to evaluating the quality of the audit work performed on specific audits, the inspection included review of certain of the Firm's practices, policies, and procedures related to audit quality. This review addressed practices, policies, and procedures concerning audit performance and the following eight functional areas (1) tone at the top; (2) practices for partner evaluation, compensation, admission, assignment of responsibilities, and disciplinary actions; (3) independence implications of non-audit services; business ventures, alliances, and arrangements; personal financial interests; and commissions and contingent fees; (4) practices for client acceptance and retention; (5) practices for consultations on accounting, auditing, and SEC matters; (6) the Firm's internal inspection program; (7) practices for establishment and communication of audit policies, procedures, and methodologies, including training; and (8) the Firm's policies and practices related to professional development, including continuing professional education for its personnel. Any defects in, or criticisms of, the Firm's quality control system are discussed in the nonpublic portion of this report and will remain nonpublic unless the Firm fails to address them to the Board's satisfaction within 12 months of the date of this report.

END OF PART I



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PARTS II AND III OF THIS REPORT ARE NONPUBLIC
AND ARE OMITTED FROM THIS PUBLIC DOCUMENT

APPENDIX A

THE INSPECTION PROCESS

The inspection process was designed and performed to provide a basis for assessing the degree of compliance of the Firm with applicable requirements related to auditing issuers. This process included reviews of components of selected issuer audits completed by the Firm. These reviews were intended both to identify deficiencies, if any, in those components of the audits and to determine whether the results of those reviews indicated deficiencies in the design or operation of the Firm's system of quality control over audits. In addition, the inspection included reviews of policies and procedures related to certain functional areas of the Firm that could be expected to influence audit quality.

1. Review of Selected Audits

The inspection team reviewed aspects of selected audits, which it chose according to the Board's criteria. The Firm was not allowed an opportunity to limit or influence the engagement selection process or any other aspect of the review.

For each audit engagement selected, the inspection team reviewed the issuer's financial statements and certain SEC filings. The inspection team selected certain higher-risk areas for review and inspected the engagement team's work papers and interviewed engagement personnel regarding those areas. The areas subject to review included, but were not limited to, revenues, oil and gas properties, equity transactions, derivatives, convertible debt, acquisitions, license rights, and consideration of fraud. The inspection team also analyzed potential adjustments to the issuer's financial statements that had been identified during the audit but not recorded in the financial statements. For the selected engagements, the inspection team also reviewed written communications between the Firm and the issuer's audit committee. When the inspection team identified a potential issue, it discussed the issue with members of the engagement team.

2. Review of Eight Functional Areas

The inspection team reviewed the eight functional areas both to identify possible defects in the Firm's system of quality control and, where applicable, to update the Board's knowledge of the Firm's policies and procedures in the functional areas.

a. Review of Partner Evaluation, Compensation, Admission, Assignment of Responsibilities, and Disciplinary Actions

The objective of the inspection procedures was to assess whether the design and application of the Firm's processes related to partner evaluation, compensation, admission, assignment, termination, and disciplinary actions could be expected to encourage an appropriate emphasis on audit quality and technical competence, as compared to marketing or other activities of the Firm. The inspection team interviewed members of the Firm's leadership regarding these topics. In addition, the inspection team reviewed a sample of partners' personnel files.

b. Review of Independence Policies

The objective of the inspection procedures in this area was to evaluate the Firm's policies and procedures for compliance with the independence requirements applicable to its audits of issuers. To accomplish this objective, the inspection team reviewed the Firm's policies, procedures, and guidance; reviewed the Firm's monitoring of compliance with its policies and procedures; and interviewed firm leadership regarding the Firm's independence policies, practices, and procedures.

c. Review of Client Acceptance and Retention Policies

The objectives of the inspection procedures in this area were to evaluate whether the Firm appropriately considers and addresses the risks involved in accepting and retaining clients in the particular circumstances. Toward those objectives, the inspection team reviewed the Firm's policies, procedures, and forms related to client acceptance and continuance; interviewed members of the Firm's leadership; and for a sample of the engagements reviewed, assessed whether the audit procedures included the specific actions, if any, contemplated in response to any risks identified in the client acceptance or retention process.

d. Review of Practices for Consultations

The objective of the inspection procedures in this area was to assess the effectiveness of the Firm's consultation process. Toward this objective, the inspection team gained an understanding of and evaluated the Firm's policies and procedures relating to its consultation process.

e. Review of Internal Inspection Program

The objective of the inspection procedures in this area was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Firm's internal inspection program in enhancing audit quality. To meet this objective, the inspection team reviewed policies, procedures, guidance, and forms; documentation of the results of the current year's internal inspection program; and steps the Firm took in response to those results. The inspection team also interviewed the Firm's leadership concerning the process and effectiveness of its internal inspection program.

f. Review of Practices for Establishment and Communication of Audit Policies, Procedures, and Methodologies, Including Training

The objectives of the inspection procedures in this area were to update the inspection team's understanding of the Firm's processes for establishing and communicating audit policies, procedures, and methodologies and to evaluate whether the design of these processes could be expected to promote audit quality and enhance compliance. Toward those objectives, the inspection team reviewed documentation relating to internal guidance and/or training materials distributed to audit personnel with respect to recent changes in requirements and with respect to selected specific areas. The inspection team also evaluated the effectiveness of the design of the Firm's processes for monitoring developments that could affect the Firm's audit policies, procedures, and methodologies.

g. Review of Professional Development

The objective of the inspection procedures was to evaluate whether the Firm was providing appropriate and adequate training opportunities to its professional staff. To achieve this objective the inspection team reviewed the Firm's policies related to its professional development program, interviewed personnel responsible for assessing and monitoring the professional personnel's compliance with the Firm's training programs, and reviewed the continuing education reports for the partners responsible for the issuers inspected.

h. Review of Tone at the Top

The objective of the review of the Firm's "tone at the top" was to assess whether actions and communications by the Firm's leadership demonstrate a commitment to audit quality. Toward that end, the inspection team interviewed members of the Firm's leadership to understand their perspectives on the Firm's culture and the messages



being conveyed by leadership. In addition, the inspection team reviewed the Firm's code of conduct.

APPENDIX B

RESPONSE OF THE FIRM TO DRAFT INSPECTION REPORT

Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(a), the Firm provided a written response to a draft of this report. Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), the Firm's response, minus any portion granted confidential treatment, is attached hereto and made part of this final inspection report.^{8/}

^{8/} In any version of an inspection report that the Board makes publicly available, any portions of a firm's response that address nonpublic portions of the report are omitted. In some cases, the result may be that none of a firm's response is made publicly available.



MALONE & BAILEY^{PC}

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

March 26, 2009

Mr. George Diacont
Director
Division of Registration and Inspections
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
1666 K Street NW
Washington DC 20006

Re: Malone & Bailey, PC – Response to Part I of Draft Report on 2008 Inspection

Dear Mr. Diacont:

We are pleased to submit our response to your March 2, 2009 draft report on your 2008 inspection of our public company audit practice completed October 2008. Our highest priority is to continuously improve our audit quality while also performing our engagements in an effective and efficient manner. Your inspections of our practice (annually beginning 2007) help us identify areas where we can improve our audit process.

We believe that your reported observations on certain aspects of our practice reflect the fact that professional judgments are involved both in auditing financial statements as well as in subsequently inspecting any such audits. Professional judgments of reasonable and highly competent people may differ as to the nature and extent of necessary auditing procedures, conclusions reached and required documentation. We recognize the constructive intent of the inspection process and we have made every effort to cooperate fully, understand your team's views and carefully consider their judgments.

Your report was designed to report any deficiencies found. Based on your limited selection of our files, your findings are not reflective of the overall high quality of our audit practice. Further, your report provides condensed information regarding the findings, so there is no description of the procedures that were performed in the applicable areas at the time of the audits or other information that may provide additional context for understanding the nature or magnitude of the findings.

While we disagree with your findings of inadequate procedures, we generally do agree with your assertion that our overall audit documentation still needs some improvements and we continue to upgrade our practice to accomplish these goals. We carefully considered each of your findings as to whether it was necessary to perform additional procedures. In some cases we added additional documentation and in others, we decided that none were needed. In one case, additional audit procedures were performed. There were no changes in our overall audit conclusions or any audit report.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Malone & Bailey, PC