

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

NAP IV LLC, d/b/a STS MCM,

Plaintiff,

- against -

QUBE USA LLC, GEORGE VLAMIS and
QUINE LIDDELL,

Defendants.

Index No.

SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates New York
County as the place of trial

The basis of the venue is location of
the subject real property

Address of the subject real
property:

1412 Broadway
New York, New York 10018

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the verified complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your verified answer on the plaintiff's attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the verified complaint.

Dated: White Plains, NY
April 12, 2024

LACHTMAN COHEN & BELOWICH LLP

By: James K. Landau
James K. Landau (jlandau@lcb-law.com)
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(914) 505-6169

Attorneys for Plaintiff
NAP IV LLC, d/b/a STS MCM

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VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff NAP IV LLC, d/b/a STS MCM (“Plaintiff” or “NAP IV”), by and through its attorneys, Lachtman Cohen & Belowich LLP, for its verified complaint against Defendants QUBE USA LLC (“Qube”), GEORGE VLAMIS (“Vlamis”) and QUINE LIDDELL (“Liddell”, and collectively the “Qube Defendants”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. NAP IV brings this action to obtain the benefit of its bargain with QUBE, Vlamis and Liddell with respect to a New York State licensed Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary (“CAURD”) about to open at a location that has been designated as protected by the Office of Cannabis Management (“OCM”) at 1412 Broadway, New York, New York (the “Location”). Being a protected location in some of the most valuable real estate in New York City, as a matter of law, no other licensed cannabis retail dispensary can be within a 1000-foot radius of this Times Square Location. At bottom, NAP IV expended significant time and effort procuring the Location for QUBE. QUBE, through its members Vlamis and Lidell caused QUBE to sign a non-disclosure agreement (the “NDA”) with NAP IV by promising, among other things, that it would not circumvent the NDA by going around NAP IV and entering into any lease or other

transaction with the landlord or its representatives at the Location without NAP IV's knowledge and consent.

2. After executing the NDA and thereby obtaining the identity of the Location and the landlord, QUBE promised that NAP IV would receive 49% equity in the company, if NAP IV negotiated a viable lease with the landlord which also provided for landlord funding for capital and operating expenses as well as tenant improvements to the Location or in the alternative secure third-party funding. NAP IV negotiated and obtained such provisions as well as landlord's signature on a viable lease and transmitted that lease to QUBE in addition to independently securing funding from a third party in excess of \$1,250,000. QUBE acknowledged that NAP IV had fulfilled its obligations by deciding at a corporate meeting to issue NAP IV the promised equity in QUBE, issuing a corporate resolution to that effect, and representing to a court in an affidavit that NAP IV was entitled to such equity.

3. However, instead of moving forward with NAP IV as a 49% equity holder, NAP IV has learned that, upon information and belief, QUBE bypassed and replaced NAP IV with third party investors in derogation of the NDA and negotiated another lease directly with the landlord, thereby cutting NAP IV out of its equity interest in QUBE and the transaction altogether.

4. NAP IV had spent significant time and resources to obtain knowledge of and effective control over the Location prior to revealing it to the QUBE Defendants after execution of the NDA and persisted in dedicating considerable time and resources, materially relying on the safeguards and protections provided by the NDA thereafter. Having misappropriated the Location from NAP IV, upon information and belief, QUBE has signed another lease for the Location, is proceeding with its buildout and intends to complete the opening of the dispensary, all while cutting NAP IV out from the equity it

was promised, equity which Liddell has represented in a sworn affidavit to at least one court belongs to NAP IV.

5. Accordingly, NAP IV seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief against the QUBE Defendants, relief to which it is expressly entitled and agreed to under the NDA, enjoining them from proceeding any further towards allowing QUBE to open a licensed dispensary at the Location until such time that QUBE issues NAP IV 49% equity and further seeks a judgment directing QUBE to issue NAP IV 49% equity in QUBE.

6. NAP IV also seeks compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial (but not less \$500,000) against the QUBE defendants, jointly and severally, resulting from their breach of their fiduciary duties to NAP IV and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff NAP IV, d/b/a STS MCM LLC, is a limited liability company organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New Jersey, and registered to do business in New York, with its principal place of business located at 770 River Road, Suite #726, Edgewater, New Jersey.

8. Defendant QUBE is a limited liability company organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, with an address on file with the New York State Secretary of State of 199 Hawleys Corners Rd, Highland, Ulster County, New York.

9. Upon information and belief Defendant Vlamis is an adult individual residing at 199 Hawleys Corners Rd, Highland, Ulster County, New York. Vlamis is a member of QUBE.

10. Upon information and belief Defendant Liddell is an adult individual residing at 12 Hampton St, Apt 1, Albany, Albany County, New York. Liddell is a member of QUBE.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

I. **NAP IV Obtains Site Control Over the Location**

11. On March 2, 2023, after a significant amount of effort and artful use of NAP IV's connections by NAP IV seeking suitable locations for licensed cannabis businesses, Charles Aini ("Aini"), a landlord representative, sent NAP IV a list of three addresses that NAP IV could use for a New York State licensed retail cannabis dispensary. Mr. Aini represented that each of these addresses, including the Location, were not publicly listed. Mr. Aini advised that the landlord for the Location was asking \$80,000 per month in rent. NAP IV's relationship with Mr. Aini, cultivated over an extensive period was critical to obtaining this opportunity and rights to the location, given the general lack of familiarity with adult-use cannabis issues by owners of property.

12. On March 4, 2023, with the permission of both NAP IV and Aini, Emely Chavez on behalf of Royal Leaf NY, LLC (OCMCAURD-2022-000548) ("Royal Leaf") emailed OCM to request its approval to use the Location as a temporary delivery hub while it sought alternative premises for a retail dispensary. OCM approved the Location for that use and conferred proximity or "site lock" protection upon it preventing another retail cannabis operator to be within a 1000-foot radius of the Location. Thereafter, Royal Leaf determined that the Location once approved by OCM was better suited for a dispensary than a delivery hub.

13. Accordingly, NAP IV weighed its various options and spent several months: (1) interviewing alternative candidates with a Manhattan CAURD license to open a dispensary at the now site locked Location, (2) keeping the Location for a delivery only hub for Royal Leaf, or (3) partnering up with another license holder down the road all while continuing to develop a relationship with Aini because having a cannabis-friendly landlord or landlord representative was and continues to be rare.

II. NAP IV and QUBE Enter into the NDA

14. On May 31, 2023, NAP IV was introduced to QUBE as a potential partner with a CAURD license that had been trying to locate a suitable property in Manhattan to open a dispensary. Up to that point, the only property QUBE had located in the Times Square area was going to cost \$200,000 a month, vastly more than the rent to be charged at the Location situated in that area. In its discussions with NAP IV, QUBE was represented at various times by its members, Vlamis and Liddell.

15. At the meeting on May 31, 2023, Vlamis represented to NAP IV that QUBE had access to celebrity, Snoop Dogg, and that Snoop Dogg could make virtual appearances in Qubes (hologram technology that Vlamis falsely claimed that QUBE owned) at the dispensary. Vlamis further represented that QUBE had access to the necessary funding and had an operational team ready to run a dispensary. Vlamis represented that if NAP IV was able to provide a suitable location, his team would build a dispensary and turn it into a huge success with minimal effort from NAP IV. Vlamis and Liddell further promised that in exchange for providing QUBE with the identity and control over a suitable location, NAP IV would receive an ownership interest in QUBE.

16. NAP IV advised QUBE, that it would not disclose information regarding the Location or landlord without a suitable non-disclosure agreement with a non-circumvent clause. On June 1, 2023, NAP IV and QUBE executed the NDA.

17. The NDA provides in paragraph 6 that QUBE “agree[s] that without [NAP IV’s] prior written consent, neither [QUBE] nor any of his/her Agents or Representatives shall, during the Term . . . or for a period of eighteen (18) months following expiration of the Term, directly or indirectly participate in any agreement or transaction with respect to the Opportunity identified by [NAP IV].” The Term of the NDA runs from its effective date, June 1, 2023 and terminates two (2) years from that

date (see paragraph 11 of the NDA). Thus, QUBE's obligation not to circumvent the purposes of the NDA continues and does not run until November 30, 2026.

18. The NDA also provides, in paragraph 13 that:

A breach of this NDA may cause [NAP IV] either individually or collectively to suffer loss that cannot be adequately compensated for by monetary damages alone. In addition to claiming damages in respect of such loss . . ., [NAP IV] may seek an injunction, or other equitable relief to specifically enforce the terms of this NDA and such right shall be cumulative and in addition to any other remedies which may be available to [NAP IV] . . .”

III. NAP IV Hands QUBE the Location Together with Buildout Funds In Exchange For QUBE's Promise of 49% Equity

19. In reliance upon QUBE's entering into the NDA and the promises and representations of Vlamis and Liddell (which turned out to be false), NAP IV disclosed the Location to QUBE. Soon after, QUBE expressed an interest to secure the Location for a dispensary and partner with NAP IV. QUBE's sole concern revolved around addressing the presence of the existing tenant, Stubhub, at the Location. The primary question was how to persuade Stubhub to terminate its leasehold earlier than planned, with terms that would satisfy both Stubhub and the landlord. Securing the landlord's consent for this arrangement was deemed essential.

20. On June 12, 2023, NAP IV arranged a meeting and showing of the Location to Liddell and Vlamis. Later that night, Vlamis called NAP IV and confirmed that as long it could deliver the opportunity at the Location, NAP IV could have equity in QUBE.

21. Thereafter, NAP IV spoke with Royal Leaf, which in the eyes of the Office of Cannabis Management still had ‘site lock’ control over the Location, and as a result of that communication, Royal Leaf advised OCM that it was no longer interested in using the Location as a delivery hub thus clearing the way for NAP IV to get a substituted proximity lock for QUBE which sought to install a retail

dispensary. On June 13, Vlamis requested that NAP IV provide QUBE with a document showing that QUBE controlled the Location for purposes of submission to OCM to get the substituted proximity lock. In pursuit of obtaining substituted proximity lock for QUBE, NAP IV shared a preliminary submission letter with Vlamis, which revealed Aini's identity. Vlamis reviewed the letter, granted approval for its finalization, and acknowledged receipt of this information from NAP IV. Had there been no agreement providing for equity in QUBE for NAP IV, NAP IV would not have done so and would not have sent the submission letter to Aini for his signature to effectuate the anticipated notification to OCM.

22. Later that same day, NAP IV emailed Vlamis a copy of the submission letter signed by Aini as the landlord representative, which Vlamis submitted on QUBE's behalf to the OCM. Confirmation of this submission was sent by Vlamis to NAP IV. Later that night, the parties began the process of jointly negotiating a term sheet for a lease at the Location. The landlord previously had concerns in leasing the Location for cannabis use because it knew that it would have to finance its mortgage in 2029. To alleviate that concern, NAP IV convinced Aini to put an option for the landlord to terminate the lease should having a cannabis tenant affect its ability to refinance its mortgage. Aini and the Landlord agreed that was a sufficient remedy to eliminate the concern.

23. After a few weeks, when negotiations on the Term Sheet to sublease the Location from the present tenant, Stubhub, had significantly progressed, Aini stated that the landlord and its representatives had requested an in person meeting to meet QUBE's owners and operators to make sure they have the necessary experience as well as explain the planned use of the money to be advanced by the landlord in connection with QUBE's capital expenditures, operating expenditures and towards the build out at the Location.

24. That meeting occurred on June 27, 2023. NAP IV prepared most of the materials for the meeting with the landlord's team. NAP IV individually met with Aini and the partners and convinced

them to submit a modified term sheet to Stubhub to sublease to QUBE. The landlord's team represented to NAP IV (which NAP IV would materially depend on) before Vlamis and Liddell joined the meeting, that it had no interest in doing this deal with anyone unless NAP IV was involved. NAP IV was to be the point of contact. Had NAP IV declined, there would be no term sheet submitted to Stubhub, and there would have been no lease.

25. When Vlamis and Liddell arrived at the meeting, the terms of the most recent version of the term sheet dated June 27, 2023, were explained to both of them. The QUBE Defendants then submitted the term sheet to Stubhub.

26. This term sheet provided that QUBE would pay \$620,000 in annual rent in year one and \$1,170,000 in year two. Stubhub would remain the sub landlord, pay the difference in rent between its lease and what it collected from QUBE and Stubhub would continue to guarantee the lease. The landlord would provide QUBE \$650,000 in a tenant improvement allowance that could be used for capital and operating expenses while Stubhub would provide another \$100,000. QUBE would deposit into a security deposit account \$24,375 monthly for 12 months to build up its reserve to put down towards the security deposit of the lease it would have to sign when Stubhub's sub-lease to QUBE ended in about three years. Both Liddell and Vlamis were so delighted with this term sheet that they treated NAP IV to drinks and food, with Vlamis generously covering the bill.

27. Unfortunately, Stubhub rejected the term sheet because ultimately, as publicly traded company and with cannabis being illegal on a federal level, it had concerns about issues they could experience subleasing to a cannabis sub-tenant. Stubhub requested that NAP IV continue negotiations through its broker who had recently attempted to sublease the property to other potential non-cannabis related tenants without success and was not previously known to NAP IV. Despite Vlamis making initial

contact with the broker independent of NAP IV, it was NAP IV who negotiated a new term sheet with Stubhub's broker.

28. NAP IV spent almost two months negotiating a deal between Stubhub and the landlord to release Stubhub from its lease early without any help of any other member of QUBE. Finally, on or about July 27th QUBE was informed that Stubhub, agreed it would pay more than \$1,700,000 to be released from the lease and the Landlord represented to NAP IV that it would release Stubhub. Thereafter, Aini represented to NAP IV that it would give QUBE a lease and still provide \$650,000 for QUBE to use for buildout, capital, and operating expenses so long as the landlord received an equity pledge from NAP IV's equity in QUBE.

29. In August 2023, Aini provided NAP IV with a draft lease which NAP IV thereafter negotiated with input from Vlamis and the attorney hired by Vlamis and NAP IV.

30. After redlined drafts were exchanged with NAP IV, Aini prepared a lease for signing on August 10, 2023, with a conditional rider and Aini represented that he included a provision stipulating that a security deposit of \$420,000 is required until NAP IV furnishes the necessary equity pledge to obtain the landlord's waiver of the security deposit. Vlamis then contacted NAP IV, urging an end to negotiations and the immediate signing of the lease. Vlamis insisted it was necessary to sign the lease so that QUBE could submit it as part of its Phase II supplemental materials to the OCM and thereafter qualify to apply to the Supreme Court, Albany County, in a matter known as *Fiore v. New York State Office of Cannabis Management*, Index No. 907282-23, for relief from a preliminary injunction that was impacting their CAURD license and progress in getting a dispensary location secured and opened for business. Vlamis also wanted the newly approved amended operating agreement that had been drafted by the attorney hired by Vlamis and NAP IV to be signed and submitted to the Court in furtherance of the request for relief from the injunction.

31. However, the August 10th lease included spaces for a notary, and it was conveyed to Aini that QUBE could not sign if notarization was required. Subsequently, NAP IV communicated to Aini that QUBE would proceed by removing the notary fields.

32. On August 11, 2023, Aini sent an email requesting to disregard all previous versions and attached an unmarked copy, without notary fields, for signing. The lease sent by Aini on August 11th was successfully executed by QUBE and the landlords of the Location.

33. On August 23, 2023, Vlamis sent to NAP IV a resolution passed by QUBE's Board indicating that QUBE held a meeting and voted to grant NAP IV's designee, STS MCM, a 49% interest in QUBE, provided that two conditions were met: (1) providing a viable lease and (2) funding of at least \$500,000 for QUBE's build-out and operations. The conditions were in fact satisfied back on August 11th when NAP IV delivered a lease signed by the landlord to QUBE, and which contained a provision for \$650,000 for build-out and operations.

IV. QUBE Confirmed and Ratified Its Promise of 49% Equity to NAP IV

34. When this lease was delivered to QUBE by NAP IV on August 11th, it did not express any complaints or reservations about it to NAP IV. To the contrary, on August 22, 2023, eleven days later, QUBE signed a resolution formalizing the decision to grant NAP IV's designee 49% equity in QUBE and expressly acknowledging that all conditions precedent had been satisfied. And as if that were not enough confirmation, Liddell submitted an affidavit to intervene in *Fiore, et al. v. New York State Cannabis Control Board, et al.*, Sup. Ct. Albany Cty., Index No. 907282 (the "Affidavit") so that QUBE may seek relief from the preliminary injunction temporarily staying the CAURD program. In his Affidavit, Liddell stated in paragraph 5 that "[o]n or about August 4th, 2023, I agreed to transfer 49% of my company equity to a third party for successfully gaining the lease rights and sourcing funding for the location that was approved by the OCM." Mr. Liddell also represented to the *Fiore* Court in his

Affidavit that if the injunction was not lifted "our 49% partner who chose us will sue us because of the promises we made, causing them to pass on other opportunities [for the Location], including more viable CAURD licenses."

V. QUBE's Breach of the NDA and of its Promise to NAP IV

35. Having obtained the knowledge and control of the Location after the execution of the NDA and non-circumvention agreement, and having gotten the benefit of NAP IV's time, effort, and connections, QUBE has, upon information and belief, directly negotiated another lease with the landlord, in derogation of the NDA and without notice to, and the consent of NAP IV.

36. After learning about the new lease, NAP IV advised QUBE that it had access to more than enough funds to cover the security deposit as well as the buildout and would deposit such funds upon the execution of a mutually agreeable updated amended operating agreement.

37. Upon information and belief, QUBE has given away a portion if not all of NAP IV's 49% equity in QUBE to different investors who have purportedly provided it with additional funding.

38. Upon information and belief, QUBE is in the process of planning the build out and proceeding towards opening a dispensary at the Location, without NAP IV's having any ownership interest in QUBE despite the earlier Board resolution provided to the Supreme Court, effectively misappropriating the Location and 49% equity from NAP IV. Consequently, QUBE is representing to the Court, OCM, and CCB that it has had the right to the Location since August 11, 2023, long before this new lease was purportedly signed.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(Breach of Contract against QUBE USA LLC)

39. NAP IV repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 hereof as if set forth more fully hereon.
40. As set forth in greater detail above, NAP IV entered into the NDA with QUBE.
41. At all times relevant hereto, NAP IV has fully performed its obligations under the NDA and QUBE has acknowledged such satisfaction in its representations to the Supreme Court, Albany County, as well as in its Board resolution to grant NAP IV a 49% equity interest due to satisfaction of the performance obligations.
42. QUBE is in default of the NDA, by participating in agreements and/or transactions with respect to the Location without NAP IV's prior written consent. Such default is a material breach of the parties' contracts.

43. As set forth above, the NDA expressly provides that upon a breach of the NDA by QUBE, NAP IV is entitled to injunctive or other equitable relief to specifically enforce the terms of the NDA against QUBE.

44. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that QUBE and its agents, including Liddell and Vlamis, be preliminarily and permanently enjoined from opening a dispensary at the Location until such time as QUBE issues NAP IV 49% equity in QUBE.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(Breach of Fiduciary Duty against QUBE, Liddell and Vlamis)

45. NAP IV repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 44 hereof as if set forth more fully herein.

46. As set forth above, by virtue of the NDA, NAP IV presented the identity of the Location to QUBE, in exchange for QUBE's agreement not to circumvent the opportunity to develop that Location without NAP IV's prior written consent.

47. At the time that the NDA was signed, Vlamis and Liddell were the members of QUBE, who at all times dominated and controlled QUBE's decision making and strategy. After the NDA was signed, Vlamis and Liddell through their ownership and domination of QUBE became aware of the Location.

48. As a result of the foregoing, the QUBE Defendants became fiduciaries to NAP IV, owing NAP IV fiduciary duties of loyalty and to act in the best interest of and in good faith toward NAP IV.

49. QUBE, Vlamis and Liddell promised NAP IV 49% equity in QUBE if NAP IV provided (i) a lease to the Location that was acceptable to landlord and (ii) at least \$500,000 towards buildout costs, regardless of whether such funds came from the Landlord, NAP IV or any other source.

50. NAP IV delivered such a lease to the QUBE Defendants and the QUBE Defendants ratified NAP IV's performance by reference in QUBE's limited liability company board minutes, a resolution that was passed by QUBE's members granting NAP IV 49% equity in QUBE and in an affidavit submitted by Liddell to a New York State Supreme Court.

51. Notwithstanding the foregoing, through its participation in the bad faith actions set forth in the paragraphs above, the QUBE Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to NAP IV.

52. As a direct and proximate result of the QUBE Defendants' breach of their fiduciary duties to NAP IV, NAP IV has been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial,

but not less than \$500,000, together with pre-judgment interest, costs, attorneys' fees and punitive or exemplary damages.

WHEREFORE, NAP IV respectfully demands the entry of judgment in its favor and against the QUBE Defendants as follows:

- a. On the First Cause of Action, (i) preliminarily and permanently enjoining the Qube Defendants from opening a dispensary at the Location until such time as the Qube Defendants issue NAP IV an undiluted 49% ownership interest in QUBE; and (ii) directing the Qube Defendants to issue NAP IV an undiluted 49% ownership interest in QUBE;
- b. On the Second Cause of Action, against the QUBE Defendants in an amount to be determined at trial but in no event less than \$500,000.00, together with pre-judgment interest, costs and attorneys' fees.
- c. On all causes of action, awarding NAP IV such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

Dated: White Plains, New York
April 12, 2024

LACHTMAN COHEN & BELOWICH LLP

By: James K. Landau
James K. Landau jlandau@lcb-law.com
245 Main Street, Suite 230
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 505-6169

Attorneys for Plaintiff NAP IV LLC

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
)
COUNTY OF BERGEN)

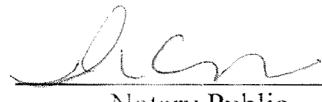
Vadim Korytny, having been duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the managing member of plaintiff NAP IV LLC ("NAP IV"), which is also doing business as STS MCM LLC. I am authorized to execute this verification on NAP IV's behalf. I have reviewed the foregoing Complaint. The foregoing Complaint is true to my own knowledge, except as to matters stated to be on information and belief and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.



Vadim Korytny

Sworn to before me this
12 day of April, 2024.



Notary Public

IVON CAMPUZANO
Notary Public, State of New Jersey
My Commission Expires Jan 9, 2028