



1666 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Office: 202-207-9100
Fax: 202-862-8430

www.pcaobus.org

Order Instituting Disciplinary Proceedings, Making Findings, and Imposing Sanctions

In the Matter of James Pai CPA PLLC,

Respondent.

PCAOB Release No. 105-2022-021

October 4, 2022

By this Order Instituting Disciplinary Proceedings, Making Findings, and Imposing Sanctions (“Order”), the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the “Board” or “PCAOB”) is:

- (1) censuring James Pai CPA PLLC, a registered public accounting firm (the “Firm” or “Respondent”);
- (2) imposing a civil money penalty in the amount of \$20,000 upon the Firm; and
- (3) requiring the Firm to undertake certain remedial measures to establish policies and procedures directed toward ensuring future compliance with PCAOB reporting requirements.

The Board is imposing these sanctions on the basis of its findings that the Firm failed to timely file required Form APs, in violation of PCAOB Rule 3211, *Auditor Reporting of Certain Audit Participants*.

I.

The Board deems it necessary and appropriate, for the protection of investors and to further the public interest in the preparation of informative, accurate, and independent audit reports, that disciplinary proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Section 105(c) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended (the “Act”), and PCAOB Rule 5200(a)(1) against Respondent.

II.

In anticipation of institution of these proceedings, and pursuant to PCAOB Rule 5205, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (“Offer”) that the Board has determined to accept. Solely for purposes of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Board, or to which the Board is a party, and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Board’s jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of these proceedings, which are admitted, Respondent consents to entry of this Order.¹

III.

On the basis of Respondent’s Offer, the Board finds that:

A. Respondent

1. **James Pai CPA PLLC** is a limited liability corporation located in New York, New York. At all relevant times, the Firm was registered with the Board pursuant to Section 102 of the Act and PCAOB rules.

B. Respondent Failed to Timely File Form APs in Violation of PCAOB Rule 3211

2. PCAOB Rule 3211, which took effect for issuer audit reports issued on or after January 31, 2017, provides that each registered public accounting firm must provide information about engagement partners and other accounting firms that participate in audits of issuers by filing a Form AP, *Auditor Reporting of Certain Audit Participants*, for each audit report issued by the firm for an issuer. Form APs must be filed by the 35th day after the date the audit report is first included in a document filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC),² subject to a shorter filing deadline that applies when the audit report is first included in a registration statement filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.³

3. The Firm audited the financial statements of Sino United Worldwide Consolidated Ltd. (“Sino United”) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. For Sino United’s 2018 and 2019 financial statements, the Firm issued an audit report dated May 25, 2020, which was included in Sino United’s Form 10-K filed with the SEC on May 26, 2020. For Sino United’s 2019 and 2020 financial statements, the Firm issued an audit report

¹ The findings herein are made pursuant to the Respondent’s Offer and are not binding on any other person or entity in this or any other proceeding.

² See Rule 3211(b)(1).

³ In that instance, a firm is required to file the Form AP by the tenth day after the date the audit report is first included in a document filed with the Commission. See Rule 3211(b)(2).

dated March 30, 2021, which was included in Sino United's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 30, 2021. For Sino United's 2020 and 2021 financial statements, the Firm issued an audit report dated March 31, 2022, which was included in Sino United's Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2022.

4. Over a two-year period, the Firm failed to file three required Form APs for the above filings by the 35th day after the date the audit reports were first included with the filings made with the SEC, in violation of PCAOB Rule 3211.

5. The Firm belatedly filed the aforementioned Form APs on July 29, 2022, after receiving notice of the deficiencies from the Division of Enforcement and Investigations.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, and to protect the interests of investors and further the public interest in the preparation of informative, accurate, and independent audit reports, the Board determines it appropriate to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondent's Offer. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that:

- A. Pursuant to Section 105(c)(4)(E) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 5300(a)(5), the Firm is hereby censured;
- B. Pursuant to Section 105(c)(4)(D) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 5300(a)(4), a civil money penalty in the amount of \$20,000 is imposed upon the Firm. All funds collected by the Board as a result of the assessment of this civil money penalty will be used in accordance with Section 109(c)(2) of the Act. The Firm shall pay this civil money penalty within ten (10) days of the issuance of this Order by: (1) wire transfer pursuant to instructions provided by Board staff; or (2) United States Postal Service money order, bank money order, certified check, or bank cashier's check (a) made payable to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, (b) delivered to the Office of Finance, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 1666 K Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006, and (c) submitted under a cover letter, which identifies the Firm as a respondent in these proceedings, sets forth the title and PCAOB release number of these proceedings, and states that payment is made pursuant to this Order, a copy of which cover letter and money order or check shall be sent to Office of the Secretary, Attention: Phoebe W. Brown, Secretary, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 1666 K Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006. **Respondent understands that its failure to pay the civil money penalty described above may result in summary suspension of the Firm's registration, pursuant to PCAOB Rule 5304(a);**

- C. Pursuant to Section 105(c)(4)(G) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 5300(a)(9), the Firm is required:
1. within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, to establish policies and procedures, or revise and/or supplement existing policies and procedures, for the purpose of providing the Firm with reasonable assurance of compliance with PCAOB reporting requirements, including PCAOB Rule 3211 and that Form APs are filed in a timely and complete manner;
 2. within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, to establish policies to ensure training concerning PCAOB reporting requirements, including PCAOB Rule 3211, at least annually, of any Firm personnel who participate in the Firm's PCAOB reporting process; and
 3. within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of this Order, to certify in writing to the Director of the Division of Enforcement and Investigations, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 1666 K Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20006, the Firm's compliance with paragraphs C(1) and C(2) above. The certification shall identify the undertakings, provide written evidence of compliance in the form of a narrative, and be supported by exhibits sufficient to demonstrate compliance. The Firm shall also submit such additional evidence of and information concerning compliance as the staff of the Division of Enforcement and Investigations may reasonably request. ***The Firm understands that the failure to satisfy these undertakings may constitute a violation of PCAOB Rule 5000 that could provide a basis for the imposition of additional sanctions in a subsequent disciplinary proceeding.***

ISSUED BY THE BOARD.

/s/ Phoebe W. Brown

Phoebe W. Brown
Secretary

October 4, 2022