

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE DIVISION**

BRIAN PAIGE,

Plaintiff, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly
situated,

v.

BITCONNECT INTERNATIONAL PLC,
et al.

Defendants.

Case No.: 3:18-cv-00058-JHM

ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Docket No. 9). In consideration of this motion, the Court has considered the following factors: (1) whether the movant has a strong likelihood of success on the merits, (2) whether the movant would suffer irreparable injury absent a preliminary injunction, (3) whether granting the preliminary injunction would cause substantial harm to others, and (4) whether the public interest would be served by granting the preliminary injunction. *Ohio Rep. Party v. Brunner*, 543 F.3rd 357, 361 (6th Cir. 2008) (citation omitted). The Court having reviewed the motion, understanding the agreement of the parties hereto, and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Court hereby finds as follows:

1. While Defendant, Ryan Maasen, disputes the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Docket No. 9) and Memorandum In Support of Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Docket No. 9-1), he does not oppose the entry of this Order Granting Preliminary Injunction.

2. With respect to the claims against Maasen, Plaintiff and the Class has shown a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their claims for violations of Federal securities law, Kentucky security law, breach of contract, and fraudulent inducement.

3. Plaintiff has established in its Motion that the rights of Plaintiff and the Class will be irreparably harmed absent a preliminary injunction from this Court against Defendant, Ryan Maasen. Without entry of the preliminary injunction, Plaintiff may be unable to recover for his equitable claims against Defendant, Ryan Maasen.

4. The balance of hardships between Plaintiff and Defendant, Ryan Maasen, also favors Plaintiff because a preliminary injunction would preserve the status quo and give the Court the ability to make a meaningful ruling on the merits of this case.

5. The entry of a preliminary injunction against Defendant, Ryan Maasen, is in the public interest because the public is interested in preventing massive consumer fraud and other securities violations described in the Class Action Complaint.

6. Because of the apparent strength of Plaintiff's case, the Court concludes that requiring security pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c) is not appropriate in this case, for now.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:


1. Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction is GRANTED against Defendant, Ryan Maasen.

2. Defendant, Ryan Maasen, must disclose all Bitcoin and other wallet addresses so his money can be monitored if he has not previously disclosed this information to Plaintiff.

3. Defendant, Ryan Maasen, is authorized to use his finances for: 1) retention of legal counsel and ongoing legal fees and costs, 2) payment of reasonable personal expenses for him and his family and 3) trading and investing cryptocurrencies for the purpose of generating personal

income. Other than as is set forth herein, Defendant, Ryan Maasen, shall not transfer any other assets unless specifically allowed by this Court.

4. The requirement of security under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c) is waived, for now.
5. Entered this 26th day of February, 2018, at 10:50 a.m., CST.


Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Chief Judge
United States District Court

February 26, 2018

HAVE SEEN AND AGREE TO:

/s/ Jasper D. Ward, IV (signed with permission)

Jasper D. Ward, IV
Alex C. Davis
JONES WARD PLC
The Point
1205 E. Washington Street, Suite 111
Louisville, KY 40206
T: (502) 882-6000
Jasper@jonesward.com
Alex@jonesward.com
Counsel for Plaintiff and the Class

/s/ Abigale Rhodes Green

Abigale Rhodes Green
ABIGALE RHODES GREEN INJURY LAW, PLLC
1800 Kentucky Home Life Building
239 S. Fifth Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 736-8159
agreeen@arglawfirm.com
Counsel for Plaintiff and the Class

/s/ R. Kent Westberry (signed with permission)

R. Kent Westberry
Bridget M. Bush
LANDRUM & SHOUSE, LLP
220 W. Main St., Suite 1900
Louisville, KY 40202-1395
Ph: (502) 589-7616
kwestberry@landrumshouse.com
bbush@landrumshouse.com
Counsel for Ryan Maasen