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Barclays Shuts Down Fake 'Lehman Brothers' Group

By [Bill Donahue](#)

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Law360 (March 23, 2021, 6:42 PM EDT) -- [Barclays PLC](#) has secured a court order shutting down an entity that had been pretending to be connected to [Lehman Brothers](#), the famously defunct investment bank now owned by Barclays.

In a consent order posted publicly on Monday, U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan permanently banned Vladimir "Val" Sklarov from using the name "Shearson Lehman" — a name that Lehman used in the 1980s — or any other company trademarks.

The Southern District of New York judge also ordered Sklarov to transfer control of a website, ShearsonLehmanBrothers.com, and to cease other actions that might cause consumer confusion, like listing the same address as Lehman's old headquarters in Lower Manhattan.

Barclays — which bought Lehman out of bankruptcy at the height of the 2008 financial crisis — sued Sklarov for alleged trademark infringement and cybersquatting in October, calling him the "ringleader" of a scheme to use Lehman's trademarks to dupe consumers.

The lawsuit said Sklarov had previously been convicted of Medicare fraud and that he had been successfully sued for impersonating the famous Rothschild financial family.

"Given Sklarov's history of criminal and civil fraud lawsuits and defendants' blatant disregard for the intellectual property rights of third parties, consumers and the public at large are at a significant risk not only of likely confusion that defendants are associated or affiliated with Lehman Brothers, but also that they will be defrauded by defendants in their purported financial dealings," Barclays wrote in October. "As such, defendants' unlawful actions must be stopped."

According to Barclays, Sklarov was operating a website that purported to offer financial services, using a logo that featured the same font and stylization as the old Shearson Lehman logo and calling the firm "A Lehman Brothers Company."

The lawsuit claimed that Sklarov was even listing the company's address as 200 Vesey St. in New York City — the same skyscraper that was once occupied by the legitimate Lehman Brothers.

Neither side's attorneys immediately responded to requests for comment on Tuesday.

The case against Sklarov is Barclays' second recent trademark battle over the Lehman name. The bank [won a ruling in October](#) at the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board blocking a small company from registering the name for a brand of whiskey.

In the current lawsuit, Barclays is represented by Eric Joseph Shimanoff, Joelle Anne Milov and Justin I. Karasick of [Cowan Liebowitz & Latman PC](#).

Sklarov is represented by Michael T. McCracken of the Law Offices of Michael T. McCracken PC.

The case is Barclays PLC et al v. Sklarov et al, case number [1:20-cv-08437](#), in the [U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York](#).

--Editing by Jill Coffey.

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Case Information

Case Title

[Barclays PLC et al v. Sklarov et al](#)

Case Number

[1:20-cv-08437](#)

Court

New York Southern

Nature of Suit

Trademark

Judge

[Lewis A. Kaplan](#)

Date Filed

October 09, 2020

Law Firms

- [Cowan Liebowitz](#)

Companies