

FORTUNE

Term Sheet *by Dan Primack*

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Random Ramblings

A few notes to kick off your Thursday...

*** **Fund scoop:** Last November we reported that Chris Douvos, otherwise known as the "Super LP," was opening a Silicon Valley office for New Jersey fund-of-funds manager Venture Investment Associates. What we didn't know at the time was that he also was charged with raising a new capital pool that would back a concentrated portfolio of seed-stage and micro-VC funds. Word is that the vehicle closed at its \$25 million hard cap, and already has backed funds managed by such firms as First Round Capital, True Ventures, O'Reilly AlphaTech and K9 Ventures.

*** **Advanced Equities still isn't** commenting on its decision to shutter its broker-dealer. Not only to folks like me, but also to many of their own investors (some of whom have been asking me for information).

In fact, the only official comment so far came from Fisker Automotive, the electric car company that had used AE to raise money as recently as last month. Following our original story on Monday, Fisker told Dow Jones that it had been informed that AE was shutting its broker-dealer operations.

How AE hasn't reached out to its investors yet is beyond me. I understand that those who have shares of Fisker or Bloom or whatever via AE aren't directly affected by the broker-dealer shutdown, but they certainly are concerned. After all, who will manage the various LLC's going forward? AE is maintaining a skeleton crew, so maybe that's the answer. Or perhaps there's a third-party manager/buyer coming in. Again, many more questions than answers.

Also worth noting that Neil Di Carlo, a compliance officer with AE, last week lost his bid to be elected a state senator in New York (on the Conservative Party ticket). That's right, a compliance officer with AE was running for elected office. Let that one sink in for a few minutes...

*** **Just asking:** **Josh Harris**, co-founder of Apollo Global Management, said during a banking conference earlier this week that Apollo is about to launch marketing for its latest flagship private equity fund with a \$12 billion target. Lots of folks in the room, including press, and the entire speech is publicly available online. How is this not a violation of those pesky SEC solicitation rules? Does Apollo get an exemption because it's a publicly-traded company? And is that how firms like Carlyle and KKR also get to discuss active fundraising during their quarterly analyst calls?

In related news, the SEC still has not issued its final fund solicitation rules (which would, presumably, remove the aforementioned restrictions). The comment period ended more than a month ago, but an Agency spokeswoman would not give a timeframe for when actual decisions might be made.