

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
SHELBY COUNTY)

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF
THE BENJAMIN GROUP, INC.

The undersigned acting as incorporator of a corporation under the Alabama Business Corporation Act, adopts the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

FIRST:

The name of the proposed corporation shall be:

THE BENJAMIN GROUP, INC.

SECOND:

The period of its duration shall be perpetual.

THIRD:

The purposes for which this corporation is organized are:

To buy, sell, distribute, policies of life insurance, annuities, stocks, bonds and all other negotiable instruments requiring licensure to sell. To make custom or stock financial plans for clients individually or in groups, to sell stocks, bonds,

01/04/1999-00292
03:53 PM CERTIFIED
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE
010 CRH 90.00

Inst # 1999-00292

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

securities, insurance or annuities to or purchase same for ultimate delivery to individual or group clients. To make recommendations concerning their financial condition, to select and recommend strategies and courses of action to individual and groups of clients, and in all ways legal and ethical to serve the financial needs of its clients and the public at large, and to do any and all acts necessary and proper appertaining to the conduct of said business.

The sale of personal services of its stockholders and of persons employed by the corporation for the provision of record keeping and billing accounts receivable and other for individuals, proprietors, partnerships and corporations; devising the proper procedures necessary to accomplish same, giving counsel and advice to its clients relating to the services outlined herein.

To purchase, acquire, hold, improve, sell, convey, assign, lease, manage, mortgage, hire and deal in real and personal property of every name and nature, including stocks and securities of other corporations, and to loan money and take securities for the payment of all sums due the corporation, and to sell, assign and release such securities.

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

To buy, sell, trade, manufacture, deal in and deal with goods, wares and merchandise of every kind and nature, and to carry on such business as wholesalers, retailers, manufacturers, importers and exporters; to acquire all such merchandise, supplies, materials and other articles as shall be necessary or incidental to such business; to hold, acquire, mortgage, lease and convey real and personal property in any part of the world, so far as necessary or expedient in conducting the business of the corporation; and to have any and all powers above set forth as fully as natural persons, whether as principals, agents, trustees, or otherwise.

The buying and selling, as broker or agent, or on its own account, of all kinds of machinery, electrical and machine supplies.

To purchase or otherwise acquire letters patent, concessions, licenses, inventions, rights, and privileges, subject to royalty or otherwise, and whether exclusive, nonexclusive, or limited, or any part interest in such letters patent, concessions, licenses, inventions, rights and privileges, whether in the United States or in any other part of the world.

To sell, let or grant any patent rights, concessions,

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

licenses, inventions, rights or privileges belonging to the corporation, or which it may acquire, or any interest in the same.

To register any patent or patents for any invention or inventions, or obtain exclusive or other privileges in respect of same, in any part of the world, and to apply for exercise, use, or otherwise deal with or turn to account any patent rights, concessions, or other rights or privileges, either in the United States or in any other part of the world.

To manufacture and produce, and trade and deal in all machinery, plant, articles, appliances, and things capable of being manufactured, produced or traded in by virtue of or in connection with any such letters patent, concessions, licenses, inventions, rights, privileges as aforesaid.

To invest money in all kinds and types of property, both real and personal, at wholesale and retail, as principal or as agent for others, upon commission, consignment or otherwise, goods, wares, commodities, merchandise and personal property of every class, name, nature and description.

To invest money in all kinds and types of property, both real

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

and personal, and wheresoever they may be situated.

To borrow and lend money, with and without security, and to mortgage, pledge or hypothecate any property the corporation may own, regardless of its nature or the evidence of same.

And generally to do and perform all the acts and enjoy all the powers conferred by the Constitution and General Laws of the State of Alabama, as provided in the Alabama Business Corporation Act and the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended to date.

FOURTH:

The aggregate number of shares which this corporation shall have authority to issue is 100,000 shares of common stock, with a par value of \$ 1.00 per share. The amount of the total authorized capital stock with which the corporation shall begin business shall be \$ 5,000.00 made up of 5,000 shares, all of said stock having been fully paid for in cash, or by the transfer of tangible personal property.

FIFTH:

The address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 522 Bayhill Ridge Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35243,

---- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

and the name of the initial registered agent at such address is Stuart W. Benjamin.

SIXTH:

The number of directors constituting the initial board of directors of the corporation is one (1) and the name and address of the person who is to serve as director until his successor is elected and shall qualify is:

Stuart W. Benjamin
2204 Lakeshore Drive
Suite 250
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

SEVENTH:

The following named persons will serve as all the officers of the corporation for the first year and until their successors are chosen and have qualified.

Stuart W. Benjamin
President & Treasurer

Kimberly B. Benjamin
Vice-President & Secretary

EIGHTH:

The stockholders shall have the right to increase or decrease

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

the capital stock of the corporation to such sum or sums as they may desire and as may be permitted by the Laws of the State of Alabama.

NINTH:

The directors or the stockholders may waive, in writing, any requirements under the By-Laws of the Corporation and the Laws of the State of Alabama, where the law permits such waiver, to hold a formal meeting with respect to any business to be transacted by the corporation, and may transact the business of the corporation by resolution executed and consented to in writing by all the directors or stockholders without the formality of a meeting, which resolution when so executed and consented to shall be valid and binding on the corporation in the same manner as if a meeting had been called with respect to the action in the same manner as if a meeting had been called with respect to the action and notice issued, as provided in the By-Laws of the corporation and the Laws of the State of Alabama.

TENTH:

The name and address of the incorporator is:

Stuart W. Benjamin
2204 Lakeshore Drive

----- Articles of Incorporation of The Benjamin Group, Inc. -----

Suite 250
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the incorporator has hereunto signed and
subscribed his name this the 14th day of January, 1999.



Stuart W. Benjamin

This instrument was prepared by:

John Burdette Bates, Attorney at Law
#10 Office Park Circle, Suite 122
Birmingham, Alabama 35223

STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Jim Bennett, Secretary of State of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that pursuant to the provisions of Section 10-2B-4.02, Code of Alabama 1975, and upon an examination of the corporation records on file in this office, the following corporate name is reserved as available:

The Benjamin Group, Inc.

This domestic corporation name is proposed to be incorporated in Shelby County and is for the exclusive use of John Bates, 10 Office Park Cir Ste 122, Birmingham, AL 35223 for a period of one hundred twenty days beginning November 12, 1998 and expiring March 13, 1999.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

November 12, 1998

Date

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Bennett'.

Jim Bennett

Secretary of State

Inst # 1999-00292

01/04/1999-00292
03:53 PM CERTIFIED
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE
010 CRN 90.00