

# SEC QUESTION THE CRYPTO, WHAT ARE DOING WITH IT?

Report by Crypto Extraction



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#### Hold on a second, what does that mean?

# FIRST OF ALL, **SEC WANTS TO STOP STAKING**

On February 9th, 2023, Brian Armstrong, CEO of Coinbase, tweeted a thread about the rumor that the SEC wants to stop staking, especially for retail investors.

#### **On Twitter**

1/We're hearing rumors that the SEC would like to get rid of crypto staking in the U.S. for retail customers. I hope that's not the case as I believe it would be a terrible path for the U.S. if that was allowed to happen.



# How does the SEC define an investment as part of securities? **HOWEY TEST**

## What is Howey Test?

The US Supreme Court has established a standard, known as the Howey test, for determining whether an "investment contract" qualifies as a security under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This standard requires disclosure and registration with the SEC.

## 4 Criteria to determine a securities:



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**Market Contralized Cryptocur** 

Kraken is a worldwide centralized cryptocurrency exchange based in San Francisco where buyers can use fiat, such as US dollars, euros, Japanese yen, and Canadian dollars. To date, Kraken is the 3rd CEX after Binance and Coinbase, with trading volume above \$400 million.



Every investment categorized as securities that is placed in the USA must be registered under the SEC



#### 9 Feb 2023

The SEC charged Payward Ventures, Inc. and Payward Trading Ltd., which own Kraken, \$30 million after failing to register staking as a service program with the SEC

Both holding businesses agreed to directly settle with the SEC and paid the \$30 million without fighting it, and **no more staking as a service for US customers** 

<image><text><text><text>



## Kraken is under sec alert **THE SEC DOCUMENT FOR COMPLAINT AND DEMAND JURY TRIAL**



#### Let's see the document

- On June 2022, Kraken has over 135,000 US based customer with \$2.7 billion of crypto worth with the staked crypto has made a million revenue for Kraken in which around \$45 million
- The SEC has several concerns about Kraken staking, from not registering this stake information with the SEC, not staking the token that should be staked on the onchain, Kraken's control of the staking fee, and Kraken's advertising to the public. For instance, the Kraken website shows "Earn up to 21% yearly on your crypto."

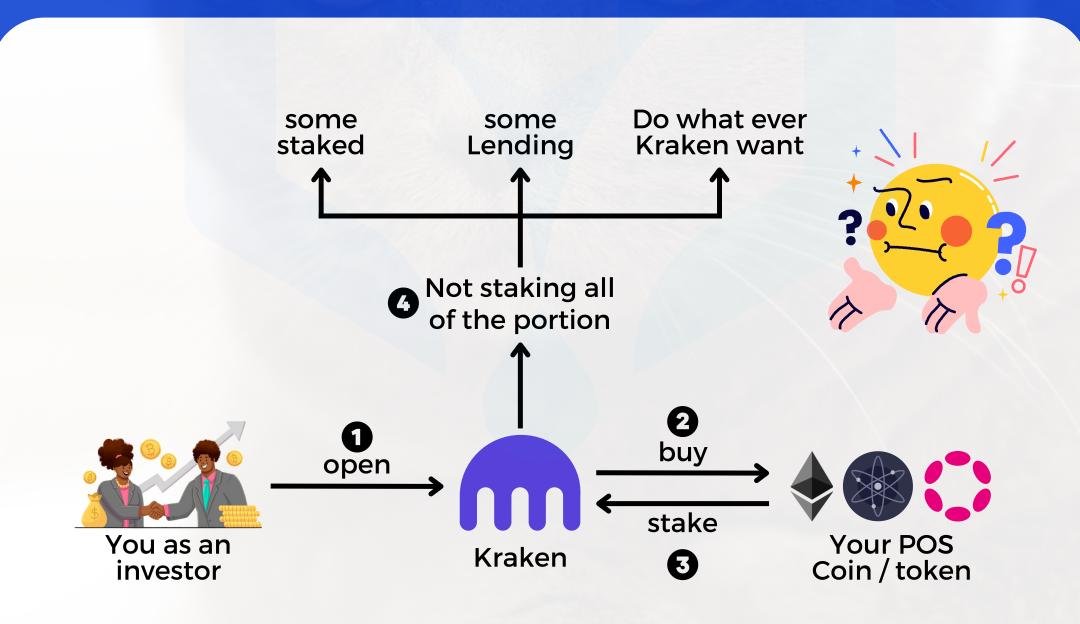
	Case 3:23-cv-00588 Document 1 Fi	led 0	2/09/23 Page 1 of 25
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8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
10	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
11	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.		
12	Plaintiff.		a 11 AN 100
13	Plainuir, v.		Case No. 23-cv-588
14	v. PAYWARD VENTURES, INC. (D/B/A KRAKEN	.	COMPLAINT AND
16	and		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
17	PAYWARD TRADING, LTD. (D/B/A KRAKEN),		
18	Defendants,		
19			
20	Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC" or "Commission"), for its		
21	Complaint against Defendants Payward Ventures, Inc. d/b/a Kraken and Payward Trading,		
22	Ltd. d/b/a Kraken (collectively "Defendants" or "Kraken"), alleges as follows:		
23	SUMMARY		
24	1. This case concerns the illegal unregistered offer and sale of securities		
25	involving the staking of crypto assets.1 In particular, Defendants have offered and sold an		
26	investment contract to the general public, including United States investors, whereby		
27			
28	<sup>1</sup> As used in this Complaint, "crypto asset" refers to an asset that is issued and/or transferred using distributed ledger or blockchain technology—including, but not limited to, so-called 'digital assets," "virtual currencies," "cryptocurrencies," coins," and "tokens."		
COMPLAINT			



## INTERESTING

#### In the facts section, number 2, the kraken staking program is offered and sold as security > A Participants In The Kraken Staking Program Invest Money

"71. Investors put their crypto assets at risk as part of the Kraken Staking Program. Defendants have control over all the crypto assets invested in the Kraken Staking Program and choose when and how to use them. (As explained above, Defendants do not actually stake all crypto assets received from investors.) Moreover, according to the Kraken Terms of Service, these crypto assets may be encumbered by Kraken's creditors. In addition, to the extent that an investor's crypto assets actually are staked to the underlying blockchain protocol, those assets are at risk of being slashed.5"



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STAKE





SEC Chair Gary Gensler Archive 🤡 @GenslerArchive - Follow

Today @SECGov charged Kraken for the unregistered offer & sale of securities thru its staking-as-a-service program.

Whether it's through staking-as-a-service, lending, or other means, crypto intermediaries must provide the proper disclosures & safeguards required by our laws

X



Kraken to End Staking-As-A-Service Program

Source: https://twitter.com/GaryGensler/status/1623777842000539648

## The next day, February 10th, 2023 GARY GEN

Gary Gensler tweeted that the SEC charged Kraken for selling unregistered securities through staking-as-a-service program. The crypto provider must comply with disclosure and safeguard laws. Gary also attached a video about staking that needs to comply with US law to protect customers!



## PO

**BASIC AND RISK OF STAKING** 



TOKENOMIC DISCLOSURES



SECURITY LAW FOR STAKER?

#### **Provide additional comment:**

"with wide-ranging noncompiance, franky, it's not suprising that we've seen many problem in these [crypto] markets... it's reminiscent of what we had in the 1920s before the federal securities laws were put in place.

**Gary Gensler** 

33rd Chair @SECGov



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Kraken

For

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## -MEANWHILE-**COINBASE WILL** FIGHT SEC FOR U.S. **CRYPTOS INVESTOR** X Brian Armstrong 📀 💽 @brian\_armstrong · Follow Coinbase's staking services are not securities. We will happily defend this in court if needed. coinbase.com/blog/coinbases... 5:54 PM · Feb 12, 2023 (;) Reply *O* Copy link 13.5K

Unlike Kraken, Coinbase will make additional efforts to make US investors able to stake proofof-stake coins or tokens through a centralized exchange. This will promote the adoption and growth of proof-of-stake cryptocurrencies

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Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brsc-MbYNnA

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