

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2007009050501**

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REGISTRATION & DISCLOSURE

TO: Department of Enforcement
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: Ronald Sirota, Respondent
Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal; Investment Company
Products/Variable Contracts Representative
(CRD No. 872341)

Pursuant to NASD Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I submit this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, FINRA will not bring any future actions against me alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. I hereby accept and consent, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of an issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:

BACKGROUND

Sirota first became associated with FINRA (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers or NASD) on or about October 1, 1979. Sirota was registered as (i) an Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal; (ii) an Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative; (iii) a Corporate Securities Representative; and (iv) a Direct Participation Programs Representative through member firms MetLife Securities Inc. (BD no. 14251) and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (BD no. 4095) (collectively, "MetLife") from August 12, 2002 through July 16, 2007. Sirota is currently registered with FINRA through another member firm. Sirota has no relevant disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

While registered through MetLife, Sirota attempted to settle the complaint of a MetLife customer by sending her a check and proposing settlement terms, without providing prior notice to MetLife regarding these settlement efforts or obtaining its consent. This conduct violated NASD Conduct Rule 2110.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

On or about March 7, 2007, while registered with FINRA through MetLife, Sirota and MetLife received a complaint from DA, one of Sirota's customers. DA complained that in March 2006 she had paid \$2,000 to have a financial plan prepared by me and that Sirota had failed to complete the plan. On or about April 5, 2007, Sirota sent DA a check for \$2,000 and a letter for her to sign for purposes of retracting her complaint. Sirota did not inform MetLife of the check and the retraction letter or obtain MetLife's consent to send them. DA declined to accept the payment or sign the retraction letter.

By reason of the foregoing, Sirota violated NASD Conduct Rule 2110.

OTHER FACTORS

B. I also consent to the imposition of the following sanctions:

- A suspension from association with a FINRA member firm in all capacities for a period of 10 business days; and
- A \$5,000 fine

I agree to pay the monetary sanction(s) upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment(s) are due and payable. I have submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which I propose to pay the fine imposed.

I specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim that I am unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction(s) imposed in this matter.

I understand that if I am barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, I become subject to a statutory disqualification as that term is defined in Section 3(a)(3)(I) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Accordingly, I may not be associated with any FINRA member in any capacity, including clerical or ministerial functions, during the period of the bar or suspension. (See NASD Rule 8310 and IM-8310-1.)

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

I specifically and voluntarily waive the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Formal Complaint issued specifying the allegations against me;
- B. To be notified of the Formal Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and
- D. To appeal any such decision to the National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC") and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, I specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim bias or prejudgment of the General Counsel, the NAC, or any member of the NAC, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

I further specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of NASD Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of NASD Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

I understand that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to NASD Rule 9216;

B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against me; and

C. If accepted:

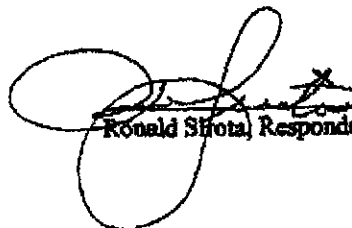
1. this AWC will become part of my permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against me;
2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in response to public inquiries about my disciplinary record;
3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with NASD Rule 8310 and IM-8310-3; and
4. I may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. I may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects my right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.

D. I may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. I understand that I may not deny the charges or make any statement that is inconsistent with the AWC in this Statement. This Statement does not constitute factual or legal findings by FINRA, nor does it reflect the views of FINRA or its staff.

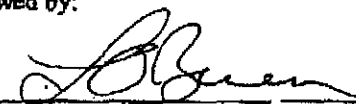
I certify that I have read and understand all of the provisions of this AWC and have been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that I have agreed to its provisions voluntarily; and that

no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce me to submit it.

12/17/08
Date


Ronald Shota, Respondent

Reviewed by:


Liam O'Brien
McCormick & O'Brien LLP
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New York, New York 10018
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Tel: 1 (866) 853-0931
Attorneys for Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

Dec. 31, 2008
Date

Signed on behalf of the
Director of ODA, by delegated authority


Samuel L. Barkin
Senior Regional Counsel
FINRA, District 10
Two Jericho Plaza, 2nd Floor
Jericho, NY 11753
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