

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2011030344701**

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

**RE: James L. Wilkerson, Respondent
CRD No. 1109116**

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Respondent James L. Wilkerson ("Respondent") submits 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 Respondent alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Respondent hereby accepts and consents, 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 any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:

BACKGROUND

Respondent was associated with First Financial Equity Corporation (the "Firm") from April 15, 2005 through April 1, 2014, where he was registered as a general securities representative. Respondent is not currently associated with a member firm.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Respondent has no relevant disciplinary history.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

FINRA Rule 1122 provides, in relevant part, that no "person associated with a member shall file with FINRA information with respect to membership or registration which is incomplete or inaccurate so as to be misleading, or which could in any way tend to mislead...."

Article V, Section 2(c) of FINRA's By-Laws provides, in pertinent part, that "[e]very application for registration ...shall be kept current at all times by

supplementary amendments.... Such amendment to the application shall be filed ...not later than 30 days after learning of the facts or circumstances giving rise to the amendment."

On or about September 12, 2011, the IRS recorded a tax lien against respondent for unpaid taxes for the years 2009 and 2010 in the amount of \$36,971.17. In or around the date that the lien was recorded, Respondent received notice of and was aware of the lien filed by the IRS. The lien has not been satisfied.

Question 14M on the Application for Securities Industry Registration of Transfer ("Form U4") asks "[d]o you have any unsatisfied judgments or liens against you?" At all relevant times, Respondent was required to keep his application current by filing amendments within 30 days of learning of facts that are required to be disclosed. Respondent's Form U4 was not amended to disclose the IRS lien until November 21, 2013.

Respondent completed the Firm's "Annual U4 Update Requests" on December 3, 2011 and December 9, 2012. For both update requests, Respondent falsely answered "no" to the question - "Do you have any unsatisfied judgments or liens against you." Both update requests also contained certifications that Respondent had answered the questions contained therein truthfully and that he would immediately notify the Firm upon any changes in the above information. Notwithstanding the above, Respondent did not disclose the September 2011 IRS lien to the Firm until November 2013.

As a result of the foregoing conduct, Respondent willfully violated Article V, Section 2(c) of FINRA's By-Laws and FINRA Rules 1122 and 2010.

B. Respondent also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

A three-month suspension from association with any FINRA member firm in any capacity.

On October 22, 2014, Respondent filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition pursuant to Title 11, United States Code. Accordingly, no monetary sanction is being assessed in this matter.

Respondent understands that if he is barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, he becomes subject to a statutory disqualification as that term is defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, Respondent 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* FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311).

Respondent understands that this settlement includes a finding that he willfully omitted to state a material fact on a Form U4, and that under Section 3(a)(39)(F) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Article III, Section 3 of FINRA's By-Laws, this omission makes him subject to a statutory disqualification with respect to association with a member.

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

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against him;
- B. To be notified of the 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, Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives 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.

Respondent further specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of FINRA 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

Respondent understands 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 FINRA Rule 9216;

- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against him;
- C. If accepted:
 - 1. this AWC will become part of Respondent's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against him;
 - 2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in response to public inquiries about Respondent's disciplinary record;
 - 3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and
 - 4. Respondent 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. Respondent 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 Respondent's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.
- D. Respondent may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. Respondent understands that he 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.

Respondent certifies that he has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that Respondent has 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 Respondent to submit it.

11/10/2014
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

James L. Wilkerson
James L. Wilkerson, Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

12/4/2014
Date

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

Heather Hawker
Heather Hawker

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