

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20120318698-01**

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

RE: BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc., Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 24962

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc. (the "firm" or "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

The firm has been a member of FINRA since July 19, 1989, and its registration remains in effect. The firm has no relevant disciplinary history.

SUMMARY

In Review No. 20120318698, the Short Interest staff of the Department of Market Regulation reviewed the firm's compliance with NASD and FINRA rules applicable to short interest reporting for settlement dates October 15, 2008 through January 13, 2012 (the "review period").

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

1. During the review period, the firm failed to report its short interest in 1,934 positions totaling 330,300,866 shares. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes

separate and distinct violations of NASD Rule 3360 (for conduct prior to December 15, 2008) and FINRA Rule 4560 (for conduct on or after December 15, 2008).

2. During the review period, the firm submitted to FINRA its short interest position report. This report included 79 short interest positions totaling 22,623,264 shares, when the actual short interest was 79 positions totaling 26,862,852 shares. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of NASD Rule 3360 (for conduct prior to December 15, 2008) and FINRA Rule 4560 (for conduct on or after December 15, 2008).
3. The firm's supervisory system did not provide for supervision reasonably designed to achieve compliance with respect to the applicable securities laws and regulations, and the Rules of FINRA, concerning short interest reporting. Specifically, the firm's supervisory system did not include written supervisory procedures providing for a statement of the supervisory step(s) to be taken by the identified person(s). The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes a violation of NASD Rule 2110 (for conduct prior to December 15, 2008), FINRA Rule 2010 (for conduct on or after December 15, 2008) and NASD Rule 3010.

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

A censure and a fine of \$105,000 (comprised of \$85,000 for short interest reporting and \$20,000 for supervision).

Respondent agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment(s) are due and payable. It has submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that it is unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction(s) imposed in this matter.

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 the firm;

- 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 Chief Legal Officer, 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 Respondent; and
- C. If accepted:
 - 1. this AWC will become part of the firm's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against the firm;
 - 2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in response to public inquiries about the firm'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 the firm'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. The firm understands that it 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.

The undersigned, on behalf of the firm, certifies that a person duly authorized to act on its behalf has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that it has agreed to the AWC's 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 the firm to submit it.

10/10/2014
Date

Respondent
BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc.

By: 

Name: **M. Andrews Yeo**
~~Managing Director~~

Title: _____

Reviewed by:

Attorney Name
Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

11/19/24
Date

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


Robert A. Marchman
Executive Vice President
FINRA Department of Market Regulation