

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2015

**FINRA
S.F. ENFORCEMENT OFFICE**

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2012034397901**

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

**RE: James G. Christianson, Respondent
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 1434189**

Pursuant to FINRA 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 any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:**

BACKGROUND

Respondent James G. Christianson entered the securities industry by applying for registration at a FINRA member firm in October 1985, and he first became registered as a General Securities Representative in January 1987. He has worked for several firms while in the industry.

From January 1, 2008, through October 12, 2012, Christianson was registered as a General Securities Representative at FINRA member Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC ("the Firm"). Since November 7, 2014, he has been registered in that same capacity at a different FINRA member firm.

OVERVIEW

Christianson exercised discretion in three accounts of one customer without obtaining written authorization from the customer and without written acceptance by his firm.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

From July 2011 through November 2012, Christianson effected approximately 822 purchases and sales of securities in three accounts of a Firm customer. The customer was an entity that had authorized three individuals ("the authorized persons") to approve transactions for its accounts. Christianson did not discuss more than half of these transactions with any of the authorized persons before placing them. Although those persons had orally granted Christianson authority to exercise discretionary power in the accounts, the grant of authority was never memorialized in writing. Moreover, the Firm did not permit its registered representatives to exercise discretion in customer accounts during the time period of the transactions and, as such, none of the accounts were ever accepted by the Firm as discretionary accounts.

By exercising discretionary power in customer accounts without obtaining written authorization from the customer or written acceptance by his member firm, Christianson violated NASD Rule 2510 and FINRA Rule 2010.

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

1. A 15 business-day suspension from association with all FINRA members in all capacities; and
2. A \$10,000 fine.

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 Article III, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, incorporating Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. 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 FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311).

I agree to pay the monetary sanction upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment is 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 imposed in this matter.

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 Complaint issued specifying the allegations against me;
- 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, I specifically and voluntarily waive 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.

I further specifically and voluntarily waive 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

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 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 me;
- 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 accordance with FINRA Rule 8313;

3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; 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: (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; and

- 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.

8/26/15
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

James G. Christianson
James G. Christianson, Respondent

Reviewed by:

~~Moira K. Moran, Esq.
Counsel for Respondent
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated
777 East Wisconsin Avenue
18th Floor, Legal Department
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 298-6134~~

Accepted by FINRA:

10/16/2015
Date

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



Christopher Perrin
Deputy Regional Chief Counsel, West Region
FINRA Department of Enforcement
One Montgomery Street, Suite 2100
San Francisco, California 94104
Phone: (415) 217-1121
Fax: (415) 217-1201