

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2012035157202**

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

RE: Ekaterina Mestre, Respondent
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 5747882

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Ekaterina Mestre ("Mestre") 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 me alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Mestre 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

Mestre entered the securities industry in January 2010, when she was associated with a FINRA member. Mestre acquired a Series 7 license on February 22, 2010. Mestre was associated with several FINRA members since 2010, including Arca Capital Investments, Inc. f/k/a Bianco Financial, Inc. ("Bianco") from November 26, 2012 through December 6, 2012. Although Mestre is not currently associated with a FINRA member, she remains subject to the jurisdiction of FINRA, pursuant to Article V, Section 4(a) of FINRA's By-Laws, which provides for a two-year period of retained jurisdiction over formerly-registered persons.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Mestre has no relevant disciplinary history.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In 2013, FINRA staff was investigating allegations that Mestre had failed to disclose her outside business activities to Bianco. On February 20, 2013, March 11, 2013, April 11, 2013, June 19, 2013, and July 9, 2013, FINRA staff sent Mestre requests for documents and information, which were issued pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. Mestre did not respond to the staff's requests. After not receiving responses to the staff's requests, on November 7, 2013, FINRA issued a Notice of Suspension to Mestre, pursuant to FINRA Rule 9552, setting forth that Mestre would be suspended from associating with any FINRA member in any capacity if she did not take corrective action and respond to the staff's requests before December 2, 2013. Mestre finally responded to the staff's requests on November 23, 2013, albeit untimely. As a result of such conduct, Mestre violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

Prior to and during her association with Bianco, Mestre was an officer of two corporations outside the scope of her relationship with Bianco. One business was engaged in refurbishing automobiles and the other business was engaged in providing concierge services. Mestre did not provide Bianco with prior written notice of these outside business activities. As a result of such conduct, Mestre violated FINRA Rules 3270 and 2010.

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

- A seven-month suspension from association with any FINRA member in all capacities.

Respondent has submitted a sworn financial statement and demonstrated an inability to pay. In light of the financial status of Respondent, no monetary sanctions have been imposed.

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).

The sanction 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 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 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:

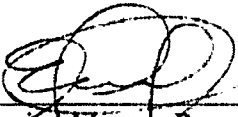
- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against me; 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 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.

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.

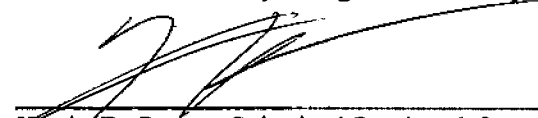
4/25/2014
Date


Ekaterina Mestre, Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

05/01/2014
Date

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


Kevin D. Rosen, Principal Regional Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
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