

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2013035523701**

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

RE: Jeffrey E. Biernat (CRD No. 1390428),
Respondent

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Jeffrey E. Biernat 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 Biernat 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

Biernat has been employed in the financial industry with various employers since June 1985. From January 2012 to December 2012, Biernat was associated with Hornor Townsend & Kent Inc. ("HTK"), a FINRA-registered firm. On January 8, 2013, HTK filed a Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration ("Form U5") terminating Biernat's registration. Pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, FINRA retains jurisdiction over Biernat until at least January 8, 2015.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Biernat has no prior formal disciplinary history with the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities regulator, or any self-regulatory organization.

OVERVIEW

In August 2012, Biernat borrowed \$15,000 from a limited liability company ("LLC"), which was funded entirely by an HTK customer, in violation of FINRA Rules 3240 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

FINRA Rule 3240 states that a registered representative may not borrow money from any customer unless his member firm has written procedures that allow for such borrowing and the borrowing arrangement meets certain other conditions.

In August 2012, Biernat borrowed \$15,000 from an LLC, which was funded entirely by DD, an HTK customer. Biernat repaid the loan in December 2012.

In August 2012, HTK's policies and procedures prohibited registered representatives from borrowing money from firm customers unless they were immediate family members. DD was not a member of Biernat's immediate family. Also, Biernat never sought permission from HTK to borrow funds from DD or the LLC and HTK never granted Biernat permission to borrow funds from DD or the LLC.

As a result of the foregoing conduct, Biernat violated FINRA Rules 3240 and 2010.

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

- A four-month suspension from associating with any FINRA registered broker-dealer in any capacity; and
- A fine in the amount of \$5,000 (deferred).

The fine shall be due and payable either immediately upon reassociation with a member firm following the four-month suspension noted above, or prior to any application or request for relief from any statutory disqualification resulting from this or any other event or proceeding, whichever is earlier.

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.

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 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; and

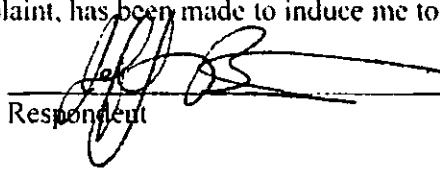
C. If accepted:

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.

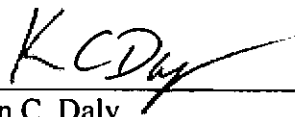
12/10/2014
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

December 17, 2014
Date

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KCDaly", is written over a horizontal line.

Karen C. Daly
Principal Regional Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
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Philadelphia, PA 19103
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