

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2013035729601**

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

RE: John Rom, Respondent
Registered Representative
CRD No. 5508431

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I, John Rom, 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

John Rom ("Rom" or "Respondent") first entered the securities industry when he became a registered representative with MetLife Securities Inc. in May 2008. On February 19, 2010, MetLife Securities, Inc. filed a Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration (the "Form U-5") reporting that on February 16, 2010 Rom was terminated for "job abandonment". In March 2010 Rom became associated with Chase Investment Services Corp. and remained with it until October 2012 when Rom became associated with J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (the "Firm"). During his association with the Firm, Rom was also affiliated with J.P. Morgan Chase Bank N.A. (the "Bank").

On April 12, 2013, the Firm filed a Form U-5 reporting that on March 15, 2013 Rom was "terminated by affiliate bank...after he was unable to resolve his criminal charges during a discretionary leave of absence." Rom is not currently employed in the securities industry in any capacity.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, FINRA retains jurisdiction over Rom until at least March 15, 2015.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Rom has no formal disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

Between February 2009 and May 2011, while associated with FINRA-regulated firms, Rom misappropriated at least \$3,000 from a school parent teacher association ("PTA") by writing a series of checks on the PTA's bank account that were made payable to either himself or cash. Rom did not have permission or authority to use the funds for his own purposes. As a result of this conduct, Rom violated FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

Between February 2009 and May 2011, Rom in his capacity as the treasurer of the PTA misappropriated at least \$3,000 from the PTA by writing a series of checks on the PTA's bank account that were made payable to either himself or cash. Rom then used these funds for personal expenses. Rom did not have permission or authority to use the funds for his own purposes.

FINRA Conduct Rule 2010 provides that "[a] member, in the conduct of his business, shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade."

By virtue of the foregoing conduct Rom violated FINRA Rule 2010.

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

A bar from associating with any FINRA member firm in any capacity.

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. Pursuant to FINRA Rule 8313(e), a bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

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.

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.

6/17/13
Date

John Rom
Respondent
John Rom

Reviewed by:

Aida Ferrer Leisenring, Esq.
Aida Ferrer Leisenring, Esq.
Barket, Marion, Epstein & Kearon
666 Old Country Road, Ste 700
Garden City, NY 11530
Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

6.28.13
Date

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

Richard R. Best
Richard R. Best
Chief Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
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