

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2013036001201**

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

**RE: Garrett A. Ahrens, Respondent
General Securities Principal and
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 1999696**

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I, Garrett A. Ahrens, 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

Ahrens entered the securities industry in October 1989, as a General Securities Representative of a member of FINRA. Ahrens, during all periods mentioned herein, was associated with LPL Financial LLC ("LPL") and was registered with FINRA under Article V of the By-Laws as a General Securities Principal and a General Securities Representative. Ahrens' employment with LPL was terminated on August 18, 2015. Although Ahrens is not currently associated with a FINRA member firm or registered with FINRA, he is subject to the jurisdiction of FINRA, pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, which provides for a two-year period of retained jurisdiction over formerly registered persons. Ahrens has no prior disciplinary history.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

A consolidated report is a single document that combines information regarding most or all of a customer's financial holdings, regardless of where those assets are held. Consolidated reports supplement, but do not replace customer account statements required pursuant to NASD Rule 2340.

FINRA Regulatory Notice 10-19 reminded registered representatives that consolidated reports are communications with the public by the registered representative and must be clear, accurate, and not misleading. For assets held at the registered representative's firm, the valuations provided must be consistent with the customer's official account statement. For assets held away, the registered representative must take reasonable steps to accurately reproduce information regarding outside assets and accounts and not include information that is false or misleading.

Between on or about January 6, 2011 and June 7, 2013, Ahrens prepared a total of approximately 65 consolidated reports for at least four customers that inaccurately reflected the current value of investments and the performance of investments, including private placements and non-traded REITS. The consolidated reports were false and misleading because the current values of the investments provided on the consolidated reports were shown at a significantly higher price than their actual values. For example, on a statement dated May 31, 2013 for customer AR, the current value of a non-traded REIT was reflected by Ahrens as \$66,990.57, but the official firm statement reflected the value as \$34,701.12. Ahrens also inaccurately reflected the performance as 33.98% for the same non-traded REIT. The other consolidated reports prepared by Ahrens also reflected similar inflated values.

As a result of the foregoing conduct, Ahrens violated NASD Rule 2210(d)(1) (for conduct prior to February 4, 2013), FINRA Rule 2210(d)(1) (for conduct after February 3, 2013) and FINRA Rule 2010.

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

- A \$5,000 fine and a one-month suspension with any FINRA member in all capacities.**

The fine shall be due and payable either immediately upon reassociation with a member firm following the one-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 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.

- 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.

9/29/15
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Garrett A. Ahrens, Respondent

Reviewed by:

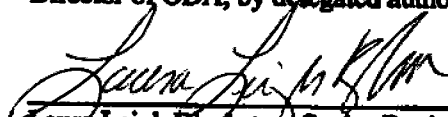

Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

October 6, 2015

Date

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Leigh Blackston", written over a horizontal line.

**Laura Leigh Blackston, Senior Regional Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
1100 Poydras Street
Energy Centre, Suite 850
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163-1108
Phone: (504) 522-6527; FAX: (504) 522-4077**