

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20150442342-01

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

RE: Potamus Trading, LLC, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 142867

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Potamus Trading, LLC (the "firm" or "Respondent") 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 Respondent alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Respondent 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

The firm became a FINRA member on June 7, 2007. Its registration remains in effect. The firm has no prior relevant disciplinary history.

SUMMARY

In connection with the firm's 2015 Trading and Financial Compliance Examinations ("TFCE") Exam, Matter No. 20150442342, FINRA's Department of Market Regulation reviewed the trading activity of the firm for trade dates February 9 through 13, 2015 (the "review period") for compliance with applicable SEC and FINRA rules. As discussed further below, the Firm violated FINRA rules relating to Order Audit Trail System ("OATS") reporting and supervision.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

1. During the review period, the firm, in 17 instances, the submitted a long sale transaction to OATS when the transaction was short or short exempt. In one additional instance, the Firm failed to submit an "RT" report to OATS. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of FINRA Rule 7450.

2. The firm's supervisory system did not provide for supervision reasonably designed to achieve compliance with respect to certain applicable securities laws and regulations, and/or the Rules of FINRA. At a minimum, adequate written supervisory procedures addressing quality of markets topics should describe the following:

- (a) specific identification of the individual(s) responsible for supervision;
- (b) the supervisory steps and reviews to be taken by the appropriate supervisor;
- (c) the frequency of such reviews; and
- (d) how such reviews shall be documented.

The firm's written supervisory procedures failed to provide for one or more of the four above-cited minimum requirements for adequate written supervisory procedures, in the following subject areas:

- Sales Transactions: Reporting sales to a TRF [(b)]; and
- OATS: Clock synchronization [(b), (d)]; Accurate and timely reporting of OATS data [(b)]; Review to ensure that reported OATS data is consistent with information submitted to the TRF [(a), (b), (c), (d)]; and OATS routed order identification number consistency [(a), (b), (c), (d)].

The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes violations of FINRA Rules 3110 and 2010.

- B. Respondent also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

- 1) Censure;
- 2) A fine of \$20,000 (consisting of \$15,000 for OATS reporting violations and \$5,000 for supervision violations); and
- 3) An undertaking to revise the firm's written supervisory procedures with respect to the areas described in paragraph I.A.2 above. Within 30 business days of acceptance of this AWC by the National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC"), a registered principal of the Respondent shall submit to the **COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT, LEGAL SECTION, MARKET REGULATION DEPARTMENT, 9509 KEY WEST AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850**, a signed, dated letter, or an e-mail from a work-related account of the registered principal to MarketRegulationComp@finra.org, providing the following information: (1) a reference to this matter; (2) a representation that the firm has revised its written supervisory procedures to address the deficiencies described in paragraph I.A.2; and, (3) the date the revised procedures were implemented.

Respondent agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment(s) are due and payable. It has submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that it is unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction(s) imposed in this matter.

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against the firm;
- 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 NAC and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives 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.

Respondent further specifically and voluntarily waives 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

Respondent understands 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 Respondent; and
- C. If accepted:
1. this AWC will become part of the firm's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against the firm;
 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. Respondent 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. Respondent 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 the firm's: (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. Respondent may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. The firm understands that it 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.

Date 12/6/2016

By: Kristin Linn
Name: KRISTIN LINN

December 19, 2016
Date