

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2015045682701**

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

RE: Byron A. Echeverria, Respondent
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 4957701

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

Byron Echeverria ("Echeverria") entered the securities industry in May 2005 when he became associated with a FINRA member firm. He became registered with FINRA as a General Securities Representative ("GSR") through an association with that member in August 2005. From May 2005 to May 2011, he was associated with several member firms. In May 2011 Respondent became registered as a GSR through an association with Morgan Stanley ("Morgan Stanley" or the "Firm"), where he remained until May 2015. Since September 1, 2015, Echeverria has been registered as a GSR through an association with another FINRA member.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Echeverria does not have any disciplinary history with the Securities and Exchange Commission, FINRA, any other self-regulatory organization or any state securities regulator.

OVERVIEW

While associated with the Firm, Echeverria falsified documents related to customer accounts by re-using original customer signatures from previously executed documents, recycling customer-signed signature pages from expired forms, affixing customer initials to handwritten changes, and altering tax withholding amounts in violation of FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

FINRA Rule 2010 requires that its members to "observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade."

Between September 2010 and May 2015 (the "Relevant Period"), Echeverria falsified 10 documents related to 10 customer accounts, including disclosure forms, transfer forms and IRA distribution forms. Echeverria re-used original customer signatures from previously executed documents, recycled customer-signed signature pages from expired forms, affixed customer initials to handwritten changes, and altered tax withholding amounts to expedite transactions.

The customers were not aware that the forms were altered or that their signatures were affixed to the documents by Echeverria. The Firm's written procedures prohibited the alteration of documents in any manner, including the methods employed by Echeverria.

By engaging in the foregoing conduct, Echeverria violated FINRA Rule 2010.

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

- a three-month suspension from associating with any FINRA member in all capacities.

I understand that if I am barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member in a principal capacity, 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 a principal capacity, during the period of the bar or suspension (see FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311). Furthermore, because I am subject to a statutory disqualification during the suspension, if I remain associated with a member firm in a non-suspended capacity, an application to continue that association may be required.

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.

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.

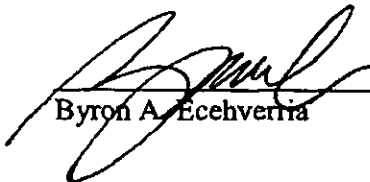
I certify that I have read and understand all of the provisions of this AWC and have been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that I have agreed to its provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the

prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce me to submit it.

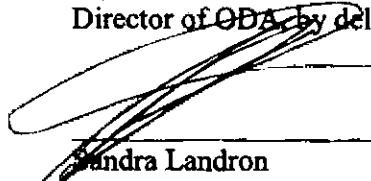
2-22-16
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Accepted by FINRA:

2/26/16
Date


Byron A. Echeverria

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


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