

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2016048730602**

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

RE: Alfonso Papa, Respondent
Former Registered Representative
CRD No. 6016829

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

Papa entered the securities industry in 2012. From January 2014 until January 2016, Papa was registered with Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. ("Merrill Lynch"). Papa is not currently registered with any FINRA member but remains subject to FINRA's jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws.

OVERVIEW

Papa violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010 by (a) failing to respond to two requests for documents and information pursuant to Rule 8210, and (b) failing to provide on-the-record testimony pursuant to Rule 8210.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In January 2016, Merrill Lynch terminated Papa's registration. On Papa's Form U5, Merrill Lynch stated that it had terminated Papa due to "Loss of management's confidence as a result of conduct related to personal bank accounts."

On September 9, 2016, FINRA staff sent a request to Papa, pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, asking Papa to provide information relating to his termination and appear for on-the-record testimony. On September 13, 2016, FINRA staff sent another request to Papa, pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, asking Papa to provide additional documents and information relating to his termination. As stated in Papa's email to FINRA staff on September 28, 2016, and by this agreement, Papa acknowledges that he received FINRA's requests and will not provide the documents and information requested or appear for on-the-record testimony at any time. By refusing to provide the documents and information and appear for on-the-record testimony as requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, Papa violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

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

- A bar in all capacities.

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. 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 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.

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.

10/07/2016
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

[Signature]
Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

10/31/16
Date

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

[Signature]

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