

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2016052276601**

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

RE: Christopher Hanley Russell, Respondent
Former General Securities Representative
CRD No. 5012084

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

Christopher Hanley Russell ("Russell") joined the securities industry in approximately June 2005 and has been associated with four present and former FINRA-member broker-dealers since September 2005, when he obtained his Series 7 (General Securities Representative). Russell was associated with LPL Financial LLC ("LPL" or the "Firm") from April 2014 through November 29, 2016.

In a Uniform Termination Notice of Securities Industry Registration ("Form U5") filed on November 29, 2016, LPL reported that it had terminated Russell's employment effective November 4, 2016 for a "violation of Firm policy regarding private securities transactions."

Russell is not currently associated with any FINRA member but remains subject to FINRA's jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

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

OVERVIEW

From approximately March 2016 through August 2016, Russell participated in private securities transactions without notifying his Firm. As a result of the foregoing, Russell violated FINRA Rules 3280 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

FINRA Rule 3280, effective September 21, 2015, prohibits any person associated with a member from "participat[ing] in any manner in a private securities transaction" without first providing written notice to his member firm. The rule further defines a private securities transaction as "any securities transaction outside the regular course or scope of an associated person's employment with a member." FINRA Rule 2010 requires associated persons, in the conduct of their business, to observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade.

From approximately March 2016 through August 2016, while associated with LPL, Russell participated in private securities transactions without providing prior written notice to or receiving prior written approval from LPL. Specifically, Russell invested approximately \$50,000 in a private company that produced craft beers. In addition, after solicitation from Russell, two investors who were not Firm clients invested in the company. Russell facilitated their investments by furnishing these investors with relevant paperwork and instructions. Each of the investors invested \$50,000. Russell did not receive selling compensation. On the annual compliance questionnaire that Russell submitted to LPL for 2016, Russell inaccurately indicated that he had not participated in any private securities transactions.

By virtue of the foregoing, Russell violated FINRA Rules 3280 and 2010.

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

- A three-month suspension from association with any FINRA member firm in any capacity; and
- A fine of \$5,000.

The fine shall be due and payable either immediately upon reassociation with a member firm, 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(s) 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

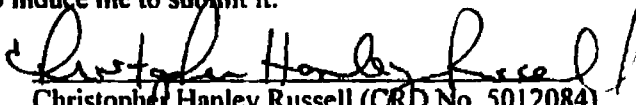
I understand that:

- 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 understand and acknowledge that FINRA does not represent or advise me and I cannot rely on FINRA or FINRA staff members for legal advice; 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.

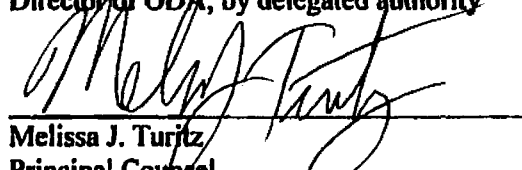
07/20/2017
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Christopher Hanley Russell (CRD No. 5012084)

Accepted by FINRA:

7/20/2017
Date

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


Melissa J. Turitz
Principal Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
Brookfield Place, 11th Floor
New York, New York 10281
Tel 646-315-7403 / fax 301-527-4835