

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2015047426901

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

**RE: Stephen Giannantonio, Respondent
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 2309181**

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Respondent Stephen Giannantonio ("Respondent" or "Giannantonio") 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

Giannantonio first became registered in February 1994 as a General Securities Representative ("GSR") through an association with a FINRA member firm. He was subsequently registered as a GSR through associations with several FINRA member firms. Since June 2013, he has been registered as a GSR through an association with Aegis Capital Corp. (BD No. 15007) ("Aegis") where he remains registered today.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Giannantonio has no disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

Between October 2014 and March 2015 (the "Relevant Period"), Giannantonio exercised discretion in a customer's account without obtaining prior written authorization from the customer or written approval of the account as discretionary from his employing member firm in violation of NASD Conduct Rule 2510(b) and FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

NASD Rule 2510(b) provides that registered persons may not exercise discretionary power in a customer's account unless the customer has given prior written authorization and the account has been accepted by the member firm in writing as a discretionary account.

During the Relevant Period, Giannantonio exercised discretion in executing 14 transactions in a customer's account. Giannantonio regularly discussed investment strategies with the customer, but exercised his discretion in executing the transactions on dates when he had not spoken with the customer. Giannantonio did not obtain written authorization from the customer to exercise discretion in the account and Aegis did not approve the account for discretionary trading.

As a result of the foregoing, Giannantonio violated NASD Rule 2510(b) and FINRA Rule 2010.

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

- A suspension from associating with any FINRA member firm in any capacity for 10 business days; and
- A fine in the amount of \$5,000.

Respondent agrees to pay the monetary sanctions upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payments are due and payable. Respondent has submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which Respondent proposes to pay the fine imposed.

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

Respondent understands that if Respondent is barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, Respondent becomes 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, Respondent 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

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 Respondent;
- 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, 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

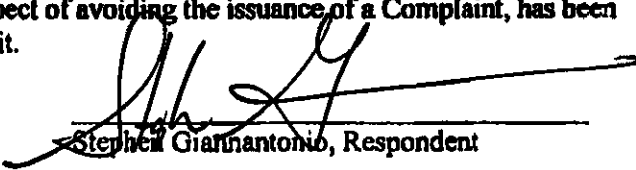
Respondent understands that:

- 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 Respondent's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against Respondent;
 - 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 Respondent'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. Respondent understands that Respondent 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.


Respondent certifies that Respondent has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that Respondent has 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 Respondent to submit it.

8/17/16
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Stephen Giannantonio, Respondent

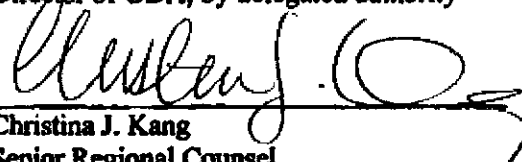
Reviewed by:


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Accepted by FINRA:

October 4, 2016
Date

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


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