

BrokerCheck Report

ERNEST JULIUS ROMER III

CRD# 2311741

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About BrokerCheck®



BrokerCheck offers information on all current, and many former, registered securities brokers, and all current and former registered securities firms. FINRA strongly encourages investors to use BrokerCheck to check the background of securities brokers and brokerage firms before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

What is included in a BrokerCheck report?

- BrokerCheck reports for individual brokers include information such as employment history, professional
 qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards. BrokerCheck
 reports for brokerage firms include information on a firm's profile, history, and operations, as well as many of the
 same disclosure events mentioned above.
- Please note that the information contained in a BrokerCheck report may include pending actions or allegations that may be contested, unresolved or unproven. In the end, these actions or allegations may be resolved in favor of the broker or brokerage firm, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.
- Where did this information come from?
- The information contained in BrokerCheck comes from FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD® and is a combination of:
 - o information FINRA and/or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) require brokers and brokerage firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
 - o information that regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against firms or brokers.
- How current is this information?
- Generally, active brokerage firms and brokers are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in CRD within 30 days. Under most circumstances, information reported by brokerage firms, brokers and regulators is available in BrokerCheck the next business day.
- What if I want to check the background of an investment adviser firm or investment adviser representative?
- To check the background of an investment adviser firm or representative, you can search for the firm or individual in BrokerCheck. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) website at https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. In the alternative, you may search the IAPD website directly or contact your state securities regulator at http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/P455414.
- Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?
- FINRA recommends that you learn as much as possible about an investment professional before deciding
 to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research brokers and investment adviser
 representatives doing business in your state.

Thank you for using FINRA BrokerCheck.



Using this site/information means that you accept the FINRA BrokerCheck Terms and Conditions. A complete list of Terms and Conditions can be found at brokercheck.finra.org



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or www.finra.org/brokercheck. It provides a glossary of terms and a list of frequently asked questions, as well as additional resources. For more information about FINRA, visit www.finra.org.

www.finra.org/brokercheck
User Guidance

ERNEST J. ROMER III

CRD# 2311741

This broker is not currently registered.

Report Summary for this Broker



This report summary provides an overview of the broker's professional background and conduct. Additional information can be found in the detailed report.

Broker Qualifications

This broker is not currently registered.

This broker has passed:

- 0 Principal/Supervisory Exams
- 1 General Industry/Product Exam
- 2 State Securities Law Exams

Registration History

This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):

CORECAP INVESTMENTS, INC.

CRD# 37068 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 10/2012 - 01/2017

L.M. KOHN & COMPANY

CRD# 27913 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 07/2012 - 10/2012

LEONARD & COMPANY

CRD# 36527 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 12/2005 - 07/2012

Disclosure Events

All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.

Are there events disclosed about this broker? Yes

The following types of disclosures have been reported:

Туре	Count	
Regulatory Event	5	
Customer Dispute	5	
Termination	4	
Financial	2	
Judgment/Lien	3	

Investment Adviser Representative Information

The information below represents the individual's record as a broker. For details on this individual's record as an investment adviser representative, visit the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at

https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov

www.finra.org/brokercheck
User Guidance

Broker Qualifications



Registrations

This section provides the self-regulatory organizations (SROs) and U.S. states/territories the broker is currently registered and licensed with, the category of each license, and the date on which it became effective. This section also provides, for every brokerage firm with which the broker is currently employed, the address of each branch where the broker works.

This broker is not currently registered.

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Broker Qualifications



Industry Exams this Broker has Passed

This section includes all securities industry exams that the broker has passed. Under limited circumstances, a broker may attain a registration after receiving an exam waiver based on exams the broker has passed and/or qualifying work experience. Any exam waivers that the broker has received are not included below.

This individual has passed 0 principal/supervisory exams, 1 general industry/product exam, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
No information reported.		
General Industry/Product Exams		
Exam	Category	Date
General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	03/27/1993
State Securities Law Exams		
Exam	Category	Date
Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	04/01/1993
Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	09/01/2004

Additional information about the above exams or other exams FINRA administers to brokers and other securities professionals can be found at www.finra.org/brokerqualifications/registeredrep/.

Registration and Employment History



Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following firms:

Registration Dates	Firm Name	CRD#	Branch Location
10/2012 - 01/2017	CORECAP INVESTMENTS, INC.	37068	STERLING HEIGHTS, MI
07/2012 - 10/2012	L.M. KOHN & COMPANY	27913	STERLING HEIGHTS, MI
12/2005 - 07/2012	LEONARD & COMPANY	36527	STERLING HEIGHTS, MI
02/1999 - 12/2005	COMERICA SECURITIES	17079	WARREN, MI
12/1995 - 11/1998	FIRST OF AMERICA BROKERAGE SERVICE, INC.	16989	CLEVELAND, OH
04/1998 - 11/1998	NATCITY INVESTMENTS, INC.	17490	CLEVELAND, OH
01/1994 - 12/1995	INDEPENDENCE ONE BROKERAGE SERVICES, INC.	17529	FARMINGTON HILLS, MI
11/1993 - 12/1993	SIGMA FINANCIAL CORPORATION	14303	ANN ARBOR, MI
04/1993 - 11/1993	PORTFOLIO ASSET MGT/USA FINANCIAL GROUP INC.	13741	EL PASO, TX

Employment History

This section provides up to 10 years of an individual broker's employment history as reported by the individual broker on the most recently filed Form U4.

Please note that the broker is required to provide this information only while registered with FINRA or a national securities exchange and the information is not updated via Form U4 after the broker ceases to be registered. Therefore, an employment end date of "Present" may not reflect the broker's current employment status.

Employment Dates	Employer Name	Employer Location
10/2012 - Present	WINDSOR SHEFFIELD	WAYNE, PA
07/2012 - 10/2012	L.M. KOHN & COMPANY	CINCINNATI, OH
12/2005 - 07/2012	LEONARD & COMPANY	TROY, MI

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Registration and Employment History



Other Business Activities

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the broker regarding other business activities the broker is currently engaged in either as a proprietor, partner, officer, director, employee, trustee, agent or otherwise. This section does not include non-investment related activity that is exclusively charitable, civic, religious or fraternal and is recognized as tax exempt.

No information reported.

Disclosure Events



What you should know about reported disclosure events:

1. All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.

2. Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to CRD, for example:

- A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
- A customer dispute must involve allegations that a broker engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.

3. Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:

- As mentioned at the beginning of this report, information contained in BrokerCheck comes from brokers, brokerage firms and regulators. When more than one of these sources reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the BrokerCheck report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.
- 4. There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:
 - o A disclosure event may have a status of pending, on appeal, or final.
 - A "pending" event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
 - An event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
 - A "final" event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
 - o A final event generally has a disposition of adjudicated, settled or otherwise resolved.
 - An "adjudicated" matter includes a disposition by (1) a court of law in a criminal or civil matter, or (2) an administrative panel in an action brought by a regulator that is contested by the party charged with some alleged wrongdoing.
 - A "settled" matter generally involves an agreement by the parties to resolve the matter. Please
 note that brokers and brokerage firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory
 matters for business or other reasons.
 - A "resolved" matter usually involves no payment to the customer and no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the individual broker. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

For your convenience, below is a matrix of the number and status of disclosure events involving this broker. Further information regarding these events can be found in the subsequent pages of this report. You also may wish to contact the broker to obtain further information regarding these events.

	Pending	Final	On Appeal
Regulatory Event	2	3	0

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Customer Dispute	0	5	N/A
Termination	N/A	4	N/A
Financial	0	2	N/A
Judgment/Lien	3	N/A	N/A



Disclosure Event Details

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that a discloure event may be pending or involve allegations that are contested and have not been resolved or proven. The matter may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the broker, or concluded through a negotiated settlement for certain business reasons (e.g., to maintain customer relationships or to limit the litigation costs associated with disputing the allegations) with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to CRD and therefore some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided to CRD.

Regulatory - Final

This type of disclosure event may involves (1) a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations; or (2) a revocation or suspension of a broker's authority to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 3

Reporting Source: Regulator
Regulatory Action Initiated FINRA

By:

Sanction(s) Sought: Suspension

Date Initiated: 04/13/2017

Docket/Case Number: 2017053029101

n/a

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the

regulatory action:

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: Respondent Romer failed to respond to FINRA request for information.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: letter



Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date:

07/17/2017

Sanctions Ordered:

Bar (Permanent)

If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise? No

(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?



- (2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or
- (3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board?

Sanction 1 of 2

Sanction Type: Bar (Permanent)

Capacities Affected: All Capacities

Duration: Indefinite

Start Date: 07/17/2017

End Date:

Sanction 2 of 2



Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: All Capacities

Duration: n/a

Start Date: 05/08/2017 **End Date:** 07/16/2017

Regulator Statement Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9552(h) and in accordance with FINRA's Notice of

Suspension and Suspension from Association letters dated April 13, 2017 and May 8, 2017 respectively, on July 17, 2017, Romer is barred from association with any FINRA member in all capacities. Respondent failed to request termination of his suspension within three months of the date of the Notice of Suspension; therefore, he is automatically barred from association with any FINRA member in all

capacities.

Disclosure 2 of 3

Regulatory Action Initiated FINRA

By: Sanction(s) Sought:

Date Initiated: 12/31/2015

Docket/Case Number: 2015044603501

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

CoreCap Investments, Inc., L.M. Kohn & Company and Leonard & Company

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: Without admitting or denying the findings, Romer consented to the sanctions and

to the entry of findings that he failed to disclose on his initial Form U4 the existence of a federal tax levy and state tax liens filed against him. The findings stated that although Romer was aware of an IRS tax levy and State of Michigan liens filed against him, he never amended his Form U4 while registered with a member firm, nor did be disclose them on his Forms U4 that he submitted to two other member

firms.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)



Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date: 12/31/2015

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise? No

(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?



(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or

(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities **Rulemaking Board?**

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: Any capacity

Duration: one month

Start Date: 01/19/2016

End Date: 02/18/2016



Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$10,000.00

Portion Levied against

individual:

\$10,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual: 02/01/2017

Was any portion of penalty

waived?

No

Amount Waived:

Reporting Source: Broker

Regulatory Action Initiated

By:

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority

Sanction(s) Sought: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

Date Initiated: 12/31/2015

Docket/Case Number: 2015244603501

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the

regulatory action:

Leonard & Company

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: FINRA alleged, and Registrant neither admitted nor denied, that he had failed to

report federal and state tax liens on his Form U-4.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)



Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date: 12/31/2015

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension **Capacities Affected:** All capacities

Duration: One month Start Date: 01/19/2016 End Date: 02/18/2016

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$10,000.00

Portion Levied against individual:

\$10,000.00

Payment Plan: To be provided by FINRA

Is Payment Plan Current: Yes

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty waived?

No

Amount Waived:

Broker Statement Leonard & Company was aware of the liens and told Registrant he did not need to

> amend his U-4. The next firm was simply a reorganization of Leonard, with the same staff, and still did not require the disclosure. The individual who handled Registrant's registration at his current firm had come from the prior firms and did not request the disclosure. When current management became aware of the liens, disclosure was promptly made. Registrant did not willfully avoid making the filings

but followed the advice of registration staff at his firms.



Disclosure 3 of 3

Regulatory Action Initiated FINRA

By:

Sanction(s) Sought: Other: N/A

Date Initiated: 01/15/2013

Docket/Case Number: 2011025852103

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

LEONARD & COMPANY

Product Type: Other: INVERSE FLOATER COLLATERALIZED MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS

Allegations: FINRA RULE 2010, NASD RULES 2110, 2310, 2510: FOR A PERIOD, ROMER

RECOMMENDED NUMEROUS INVERSE FLOATER COLLATERALIZED

MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS (INVERSE FLOATER CMOS) TRANSACTIONS TO

SEVERAL OF HIS CUSTOMERS WITHOUT HAVING A REASONABLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE, RISKS AND REWARDS OF EACH TRANSACTION HE RECOMMENDED. ROMER LACKED A REASONABLE BASIS TO RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF INVERSE FLOATER CMOS TO HIS CUSTOMERS, AND FAILED TO PERFORM A REASONABLE INVESTIGATION OR APPROPRIATE DUE DILIGENCE OF EACH INVERSE FLOATER CMO HE RECOMMENDED. ROMER ALSO FAILED TO INVESTIGATE EACH INVERSE FLOATER CMO HE RECOMMENDED WITH RESPECT TO SEVERAL KEY RISK FACTORS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE INVERSE FLOATER CMO'S MORTGAGE POOL, ITS STRUCTURE, AND ITS EXPECTED AVERAGE LIFE. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF REVENUE EARNED BY

ROMER, IN CONNECTION WITH THESE INVERSE FLOATER CMO

RETAIL CUSTOMERS. HAD VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE

TRANSACTIONS, WAS APPROXIMATELY \$400,000. FOR THE PERIOD, ROMER USED DISCRETION TO BUY AND SELL AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF INVERSE FLOATER CMOS ON BEHALF OF SOME CUSTOMERS, WITHOUT HAVING OBTAINED PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THEM TO EXERCISE DISCRETION AND PRIOR WRITTEN ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR ACCOUNTS AS DISCRETIONARY FROM HIS MEMBER FIRM. ALTHOUGH THE FIRM PERMITTED DISCRETIONARY TRADING, ROMER WAS REQUIRED BY HIS FIRM'S WRITTEN SUPERVISORY PROCEDURES TO OBTAIN PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE FIRM'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BEFORE ENGAGING IN ANY DISCRETIONARY TRADING ACTIVITIES. ROMER DID NOT HAVE ANY PRIOR EXPERIENCE SELLING INVERSE FLOATER CMOS TO



CHARACTERISTICS AND RISKS OF THE PRODUCT, HAD NO TRAINING THAT PROVIDED HIM WITH SPECIFIC, OBJECTIVE CRITERIA OR GUIDELINES TO USE IN CONDUCTING AN ANALYSIS OF EACH INVERSE FLOATER CMO, AND FAILED TO OBTAIN PROPER TRAINING PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SALES ACTIVITIES OF THE PRODUCT.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date: 01/15/2013

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise? No

(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?



(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or

(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the **Securities Exchange Act of** 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the **Investment Company Act of** 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities **Rulemaking Board?**

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: ANY CAPACITY

Duration: TWO MONTHS

Start Date: 02/04/2013

End Date: 04/03/2013



Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$30,000.00

Portion Levied against

individual:

\$30,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual: 08/02/2013

Was any portion of penalty

waived?

No

Amount Waived:

Regulator Statement WITHOUT ADMITTING OR DENYING THE FINDINGS. ROMER CONSENTED

> TO THE DESCRIBED SANCTIONS AND TO THE ENTRY OF FINDINGS: THEREFORE, HE IS FINED \$30,000 AND SUSPENDED FROM ASSOCIATION WITH ANY FINRA MEMBER IN ANY CAPACITY FOR TWO MONTHS. THE SUSPENSION IS IN EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 4, 2013, THROUGH APRIL 3,

2013. FINE PAID.

Reporting Source: Broker

Regulatory Action Initiated

By:

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Sanction(s) Sought: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

Date Initiated: 11/29/2012

Docket/Case Number: 201102582103

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

LEONARD & COMPANY

Other: INVERSE FLOATER COLLATERALIZED MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS **Product Type:**

Allegations: FINRA ALLEGED THAT APPLICANT, WHILE PARTICIPATING IN A FIRM

DIRECTED SALES EFFORT RELATING TO INVERSE FLOATER CMOS (HEREAFTER "CMOS") DID NOT HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN SUCH SALES

AND HAD LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PRODUCT. FINRA ALSO



ALLEGED THAT APPLICANT DID NOT TAKE TRAINING PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN SUCH SALES: APPLICANT DENIED THIS ALLEGATION AND STATED THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN AND COMPLETED ALL FIRM-PROVIDED TRAINING FOR THE CMOS. FINRA, HOWEVER, ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE FIRM TRAINING WAS INADEQUATE EVEN IF COMPLETED. FINRA ALSO ALLEGED THAT APPLICANT HAD NOT MADE APPROPRIATE REASONABLE BASIS SUITABILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR THE CUSTOMERS TO WHOM HE SOLD THE CMOS. FINRA ALSO ALLEGED THAT APPLICANT ENGAGED IN DISCRETIONARY TRADING WITHOUT APPROPRIATE PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IN MAKING SALES OF CMOS TO CERTAIN CLIENTS AND WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM THE FIRM'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED BY THE FIRM. BASED ON THESE ALLEGATIONS APPLICANT, WITHOUT ADMITTING OR DENYING FINRA'S FINDINGS, AND SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS AND ANY OTHER FINRA PROCEEDINGS, ACCEPTED AND CONSENTED TO FINRA'S FINDINGS AND CONSENTED TO THE IMPOSITION OF A TWO-MONTH SUSPENSION FROM ASSOCIATION WITH ANY FINRA MEMBER IN ANY CAPACITY AND A \$30,000 FINE, FOR WHICH AN INSTALLMENT PLAN WAS ESTABLISHED. THE SUSPENSION WAS TO RUN FROM 2/4/2013 TO 4/3/2013.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

Nο

Resolution Date: 01/15/2013

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Suspension

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: ALL CAPACITIES

Duration: 60 DAYS

Start Date: 02/04/2013

End Date: 04/03/2013

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

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Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$30,000.00

Portion Levied against

individual:

\$30,000.00

Payment Plan: 25% INITIAL PAYMENT

Is Payment Plan Current: No

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty

waived?

No

Amount Waived:



Regulatory - Pending

This type of disclosure event involves a pending formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory agency such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for alleged violations of investment-related rules or regulations.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source:

Regulatory Action Initiated

By:

Sanction(s) Sought:

Date Initiated: 08/08/2017

Docket/Case Number:

332099, 332685, 332805

URL for Regulatory Action:

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

CoreCap Investments, Inc.

Product Type:

No Product

Regulator

Michigan

Allegations:

The Administrator finds that this ORDER is authorized, appropriate, and in the

public interest based on the above-cited facts and law.

Other: Notice of Intent to Revoke Securities Agent Registration

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

The Administrator intends TO REVOKE THE SECURITIES AGENT

REGISTRATION OF ERNEST J. ROMER III under section 412(2) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(2), because he is subject to an order by a self-regulatory organization barring him from registration with a broker-dealer, and because he has engaged in dishonest or unethical business practices in the securities industry within the previous 10 years, which support the revocation of his securities agent registration under the above-cited provisions of the Michigan Uniform Securities

Act (2002), 2008 PA 551, MCL 451.2101 et seq.

Current Status:

Pending

Disclosure 2 of 2

Regulator **Reporting Source: Regulatory Action Initiated** Michigan

By:



Sanction(s) Sought: Cease and Desist

Date Initiated: 08/08/2017

Docket/Case Number: 332099, 332685, 332805

URL for Regulatory Action:

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

CoreCap Investments

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: 1.Respondent Ernest J. Romer III engaged in an act, practice, or course of

business that operated as a fraud or deceit on another person in connection with the offer or sale of securities when he convinced Customer MR to liquidate securities, then accepted the proceeds of the liquidation to invest on Customer MR's behalf, but instead deposited the funds into an account that he controlled, and used the funds for his own benefit, rather than the benefit of Customer MR. Respondent's act, practice, or course of business was in violation of section 501(c)

of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2501(c).

2.Respondent Ernest J. Romer III engaged in an act, practice, or course of business that operated as a fraud or deceit on another person in connection with the offer or sale of securities when he convinced Customer GP to liquidate securities, then accepted the proceeds of the liquidation to invest on Customer GP's behalf, but instead deposited the funds into an account that he controlled, and used the funds for his own benefit, rather than the benefit of Customer GP. Respondent's act, practice, or course of business was in violation of section 501(c)

of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2501(c).

3. Respondent Ernest J. Romer III engaged in an act, practice, or course of business that operated as a fraud or deceit on another person in connection with the offer or sale of securities when he convinced Customer RK to liquidate securities, then accepted the proceeds of the liquidation to invest on Customer RK's behalf, but instead deposited the funds into an account that he controlled, and used the funds for his own benefit, rather than the benefit of Customer RK. Respondent's act, practice, or course of business was in violation of section 501(c)

of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2501(c).

Current Status: Pending



Customer Dispute - Award / Judgment

This type of disclosure event involves a final, consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the broker that resulted in an arbitration award or civil judgment for the customer.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led

COMERICA SECURITIES, INC.

to the complaint:

Allegations: THE CUSTOMER'S STATEMENT OF CLAIM ALLEGES THAT IN JUNE AND JULY

OF 2001, THE RR RECOMMENDED THE PURCHASE OF VARIABLE

ANNUITIES. CLAIMANT ALLEGES THAT THE SUB-ACCOUNT ALLOCATION RECOMMENDED BY THE RR WAS NOT SUITABLE GIVEN CLAIMANT'S

CIRCUMSTANCES AND INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND THAT RR FAILED TO

DISCLOSE THE RISKS OF THE INVESTMENT.

Product Type: Annuity(ies) - Variable

Alleged Damages: \$184,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 11/17/2003

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Arbitration/Reparation

Status Date: 11/17/2003

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution

Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim

filed with and Docket/Case

No.:

NASD ARBITRATION NO. 03-07960

Date Notice/Process Served: 11/17/2003

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Award to Customer

Disposition Date: 01/14/2005

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Monetary Compensation

Amount:

\$100,000.00

Individual Contribution

Amount:

\$0.00

Broker Statement

RESULTED IN AWARD TO CLAIMANT



Customer Dispute - Settled

This type of disclosure event involves a consumer-initiated, investment-related complaint, arbitration proceeding or civil suit containing allegations of sale practice violations against the broker that resulted in a monetary settlement to the customer.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led COMERICA SECURITIES, INC.

to the complaint: Allegations:

TRANSACTION: PURCHASE OF 75,000 SHARES OF (SYMBOL)CIEN

TOTALLING \$396,000 IN MARCH 2004. THE CUSTOMER ALLEGES: FAILURE

TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THAT THE CUSTOMER CLAIMS HE AUTHORIZED ONLY A \$200,000 INVESTMENT AMOUNT; FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THAT THE RR DID NOT PLACE A STOP LOSS ORDER; AND, THAT THE RR DID NOT MANAGE THE ACCOUNT ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOMER'S INVESTMENT GOALS. THE FIRM SETTLED WITH THE

CUSTOMER.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Alleged Damages: \$228,495.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/26/2005

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 11/15/2005

Settlement Amount: \$102,208.53

Individual Contribution

Amount:

\$0.00

Disclosure 2 of 2

Allegations:

Reporting Source: Firm

NATCITY

Employing firm when activities occurred which led

to the complaint:

Unauthorized option trades



Product Type:

Alleged Damages:

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/21/1998

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 11/09/1998

Settlement Amount: \$130,110.71

Individual Contribution

Amount:

Firm Statement Settled with customer calverley for \$130,110.71

NATCITY

on 11/09/1998.

NA.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when

activities occurred which led

to the complaint:

Allegations: UNAUTHORIZED OPTION TRADES

Product Type:

Alleged Damages:

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/21/1998

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

 Status Date:
 11/09/1998

 Settlement Amount:
 \$130,110.71

Individual Contribution

Amount:

Broker Statement NAT CITY BROKERAGE SETTLED WITH CLIENT (PER

PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE: FOR \$130,110.71)



NAT CITY SETTLED WITH CLIENT WITHOUT INVESTIGATING THE FACTS OF CLIENT PHONE RECORDS SHOWING DATE OF

TRADES OR CONSULTING WITH MYSELF, THIS SETTLEMENT WAS MADE WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR ACCEPTANCE.



Customer Dispute - Closed-No Action / Withdrawn / Dismissed / Denied

This type of disclosure event involves (1) a consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the individual broker that was dismissed, withdrawn, or denied; or (2) a consumer-initiated, investment-related written complaint containing allegations that the broker engaged in sales practice violations resulting in compensatory damages of at least \$5,000, forgery, theft, or misappropriation, or conversion of funds or securities, which was closed without action, withdrawn, or denied.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:

COMERICA SECURITIES

COMERICA SECURITIES, INC.

Allegations:

CUSTOMER PURCHASED INVESTMENT IN MARCH OF 2003 AFTER MEETING

AND SPEAKING WITH THE RR SEVERAL TIMES REGARDING THE

INVESTMENT. CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT RR MISREPRESENTED THE

INVESTMENT AND THAT THE PRODUCT WAS UNSUITABLE.

Product Type: CD(s)

Alleged Damages: \$6,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/24/2003

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 11/12/2003

Settlement Amount: \$0.00

Individual Contribution \$0.00

Amount:

AFTER INVESTIGATION. THE FIRM FOUND THE COMPLAINT TO BE WITHOUT

MERIT.RR INDICATES"CUSTOMER CLOSED 4.5YR CD AFTER ONLY 7

MOS..AND INCURRED A LOSS BCS OF HIS EARLY LIQUIDATION"

Disclosure 2 of 2

Broker Statement

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led

to the complaint:



Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT ON 4/10/02 HE GAVE RR INSTRUCTIONS TO

LIQUIDATE POSITIONS IN THE REFERENCED ANNUITIES.RR INDICATES THAT THE CUSTOMER DID NOT GIVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT RR CAUSED THE DELAY OF THE TRANSFER OF THE REFERENCED ANNUITIES TO ANOTHER INSITUTION, RESULTING IN

FURTHER LOSS.RR INDICATES THAT HE PROMPTLY PROVIDED CUSTOMER

WITH INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TRANSFER, AND THAT THE CUSTOMER DID NOT ON THE INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER,

THEREBY CAUSING THE DELAY. CUSTOMER ALLEGES COMPENSATORY

DAMAGES BASED ON VALUE OF THE ANNUTIES AS OF 4/10/02.

Product Type: Annuity(ies) - Variable

Alleged Damages: \$24,932.50

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/30/2002

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 02/04/2003

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution

Amount:

Broker Statement AFTER COMPLETING ITS REVIEW, THE FIRM DETERMINED THAT THE

CUSTOMER'S ALLEGATIONS APPEAR TO BE WITHOUT MERIT.



Employment Separation After Allegations

This type of disclosure event involves a situation where the broker voluntarily resigned, was discharged, or was permitted to resign after being accused of (1) violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; (2) fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or (3) failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules, or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 4

Reporting Source: Firm

Employer Name: CoreCap Investments, Inc.

Termination Type: Discharged

Termination Date: 01/20/2017

Allegations: Failure to report outside business activity and violations of firm policies relating to

transactions with clients.

Product Type: No Product

Firm Statement Romer obtained loans from three clients for the stated purpose of starting a

business; he was instructed to return the funds and not to engage in the business. To the firm's knowledge, no funds have been returned as of the date of this filing.

Disclosure 2 of 4

Reporting Source: Firm

Employer Name: COMERICA SECURITIES, INC.

Termination Type: Permitted to Resign

Termination Date: 12/01/2005

Allegations: CUSTOMER COMPLAINT WAS RECEIVED ALLEGING: FAILURE TO FOLLOW

INSTRUCTIONS IN THAT THE CUSTOMER AUTHORIZED THE USE OF ONLY

\$200,000 AS THE INVESTMENT AMOUNT; FAILURE TO FOLLOW

INSTRUCTIONS IN THAT THE RR DID NOT PLACE A STOP LOSS ORDER; AND, THAT THE RR DID NOT MANAGE THE ACCOUNT ACCORDING TO THE

CUSTOMER'S INVESTMENT GOALS.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Other Product Types:

Reporting Source: Broker

Employer Name: COMERICA SECURITIES



Termination Type: Permitted to Resign

Termination Date: 12/01/2005

Allegations: FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THAT CUSTOMER AUTHORIZED

THE USE OF ONLY \$ 200,000 AS INVESTMENT AMOUNT, RR DID NOT PLACE A STOP LOSS ORDER, RR DIDN'T MANAGE ACCOUNT PER CUSTOMER'S

INVESTMENT GOALS.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Other Product Types:

Broker Statement LEONARD AND COMPANY IS CONDUCTING AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ALLEGATIONS, AND HAS, BASED ON PRIOR

HISTORY, IMPLEMENTED A HEIGHTENED SUPERVISION PLAN.

Disclosure 3 of 4

Reporting Source: Broker

Employer Name: INDEPENDENCE ONE BROKERAGE SERVICES, INC.

Termination Type: Voluntary Resignation

Termination Date: 11/08/1995

Allegations: INTERNAL INVESTIGATION ALLEGED I BORROWED AND/OR LENT MONEY

FROM/TO CUSTOMER IN VIOLATION OF WRITTEN B/D POLICY. I

VOLUNTARILY RESIGNED PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION BEING CONCLUDED.

Product Type: Other

Other Product Types:

Broker Statement I PURCHASED HOME ON LAND CONTRACT FROM PERSON PRIOR TO HIM

BEING A CUSTOMER OF THE FIRM AND 2 YEARS PRIOR TO MY BEING EMPLOYED BY THE FIRM.I WAS MAKING PAYMENTS ON THE PRE-EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION FOR APPRX THE 4 YEARS PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION.I VOLUNTARILY RESIGNED FROM FIRM TO PURSUE BETTER OFFER.RESIGNATION WAS NOT RELATED TO THESE FALSE

ALLEGATIONS. FIRM ASSURED ME THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AT TIME I

RESIGNED THAT WOULD AFFECT MY FORM U-5.

Disclosure 4 of 4

Reporting Source: Broker

Employer Name: NAT CITY INVESTMENTS, INC.



Termination Type: Permitted to Resign

Termination Date: 10/11/1998

Allegations: NONE

UNAUTHORIZED OPTION TRADES

Product Type:

Other Product Types:

Broker Statement PERMITTED TO RESIGN

NAT CITY INVESTMENTS SETTLED CUSTOMER COMPLAINT

WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT. MY ATTORNEY AND MY

ASSISTANT

AND I ARRIVED ON 10/10/98 IN CLEVELAND TO SHOW PHONE RECORDS AND STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE TO INVESTIGATE, BUT NAT CITY HAD ALREADY SETTLED WITH CUSTOMER. THEY DID NOT WANT TO HEAR OR

SEE

ANY MORE INFORMATION. IT WAS AT THIS TIME MY ATTORNEY AND I DECIDED TO TERMINATE MY EMPLOYMENT WITH NAT CITY. THE

FOLLOWING

MORNING I FAXED MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO NAT CITY.



Financial - Final

This type of disclosure event involves a bankruptcy, compromise with one or more creditors, or Securities Investor Protection Corporation liquidation involving the broker or an organization/brokerage firm the broker controlled that occurred within the last 10 years.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source: Broker

Action Type: Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy: Chapter 13

Action Date: 08/01/2014

Organization Investment-

Related?

No

Type of Court: Federal Court

Name of Court: US BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Location of Court: SOUTHERN DIVISION - DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Docket/Case #: 14-52571-TJT

Action Pending? No

Disposition: Dismissed

Disposition Date: 08/19/2014

Broker Statement CASE WAS FILED ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL IN RELATION TO SEEKING A

MORTGAGE LOAN MODIFICATION. DISMISSED ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL

WHEN BANK BEGAN TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION.

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Broker

Action Type: Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy: Chapter 13

Action Date: 08/21/2014

Organization Investment-

Related?

Type of Court: Federal Court

Name of Court: US BANKRUPTCY COURT



Location of Court: EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION, DETROIT, MI

Docket/Case #: 14-53514-TJT

Action Pending? No

Disposition: Dismissed

Disposition Date: 09/05/2014

Broker Statement CASE WAS FILED ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL IN RELATION TO SEEKING A

MORTGAGE LOAN MODIFICATION. DISMISSED ON ADVICE OF COUNSEL

WHEN BANK BEGAN TO CONSIDER MODIFICATION



Judgment / Lien

This type of disclosure event involves an unsatisfied and outstanding judgments or liens against the broker.

Disclosure 1 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker

Judgment/Lien Holder: State of Michigan

Judgment/Lien Amount: \$4,466.56

Judgment/Lien Type: Tax

Date Filed with Court: 03/17/2015

Date Individual Learned: 09/29/2016

Type of Court: County Court

Name of Court: Macomb County, Michigan
Location of Court: Macomb County, Michigan

Docket/Case #: 32416

Judgment/Lien Outstanding? Yes

Broker Statement Registrant is working with counsel to dispute the lien and resolve on a final

amount, if any.

Disclosure 2 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker

Judgment/Lien Holder: STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Judgment/Lien Amount: \$18,683.00

Judgment/Lien Type: Tax

Date Filed with Court:08/29/2011Date Individual Learned:09/01/2011

Type of Court: State Court

Name of Court: MACOMB COUNTY MICHIGAN
Location of Court: MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Docket/Case #: 1689305,1656545, 1909655

Judgment/Lien Outstanding? Yes



Broker Statement MR. ROMER SIGNED AND SUBMITTED U-4 CHANGES ON THESE LIENS AND

BELIEVED THAT HIS THEN BROKER-DEALER HAD FILED THEM TIMELY. The liens originally consisted of \$1027 (8/30/2011), \$3553 (02/26/2008) and a balance due on a third lien. Each was satisfied by the \$18683 specified in Item 1 above.

Disclosure 3 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker

Judgment/Lien Holder: INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE/DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Judgment/Lien Amount: \$160,633.56

Judgment/Lien Type: Tax

Date Filed with Court: 01/17/2011

Date Individual Learned: 01/17/2011

Type of Court: Federal Court

Name of Court: INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES

Location of Court: CINCINNATI, OHIO

Judgment/Lien Outstanding? Yes

Broker Statement THE DISPUTE OVER THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF TAXES CONTINUES AND THE

IRS WILL NOT ADJUST THE AMOUNT OWING UNTIL THAT DISPUTE IS RESOLVED. The amounts in this dispute began with an IRS claim that \$53589 was owed on a tax return. When that was challenged, the IRS revised the claim to \$198335. The amount in Item 1 above is the amount that continues in dispute.

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User Guidance

End of Report



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