FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT NO. 2014039843401

TO: Department of Enforcement

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: Brian Scott Exford (CRD 4547460),

Respondent

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I, Brian Scott Exford ("Exford" or "Respondent"), 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

In November 2002, Exford first became registered with FINRA as an Investment Company Products and Variable Contracts Representative. From August 2009 through October 2012, Exford was registered in the same capacity through FINRA member IBN Financial Services, Inc. ("IBN Financial"). Further, from November 2012 to the present, Exford has been registered in the same capacity through FINRA member firm State Farm VP Management Corp.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

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

<u>OVERVIEW</u>

Exford refused to appear for on-the-record testimony requested by FINRA

pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. Through this conduct, Exford violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In January, 2014, FINRA began investigating whether, while associated with IBN Financial, Exford had engaged in a private securities transaction.

As part of its investigation, on January 13, 2015, FINRA sent a request to Exford's attorney for Exford's on-the-record testimony pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. As stated by his attorney on a telephone call with FINRA staff on January 30, 2015, and by this agreement, Exford acknowledges that he received FINRA's request and that he will not appear for on-the-record testimony at any time.

By refusing to appear for on-the-record testimony as requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, Exford violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

- B. I also consent to the imposition of the following sanctions:
 - a bar from association with any FINRA member in any and 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. Pursuant to FINRA Rule 8313(e), 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:

- 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 ir 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 at 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 (INRA) is not a party.

I certify that I have read and understand all of the provisions of this XWC 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 both herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce me to submit it.

13/03/2015

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Counsel for Respondent

Keidel, We Kor & Conningham, U.P. 925 Westchester Avenue, Suite 400 White Plains, New York 10004

Accepted by LINKA:

Date 3/3/15

Signed on behalf of the

Director of ODA, by delegated authority

Noel C. Downer

Senior Regional Counsel

LINKA Department of Unforcement

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