

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2015045108801**

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

RE: Joseph A. Likens, Respondent
General Securities Representative ("GSR")
CRD No. 3084903

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I, Joseph A. Likens 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

Respondent first became registered with FINRA as a GSR in July 1999 through an association with a FINRA regulated broker-dealer. He remained registered with FINRA as a GSR through that association, and other consecutive associations with five FINRA regulated broker-dealers. In January 2015, he became registered with FINRA as a GSR through an association with FINRA regulated firm LPL Financial LLC ("LPL"). Likens worked in Des Peres, Missouri while associated with LPL. LPL terminated his employment in May 2015. Since his termination from LPL, Likens has not been registered with a FINRA regulated firm.

Likens 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.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Likens has no disciplinary history with the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities agency, FINRA or any other self-regulatory organization.

OVERVIEW

During FINRA's investigation into allegations that Likens may have engaged in private securities transactions, FINRA staff sent requests to Likens for on-the-record testimony pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. Likens has acknowledged that he received FINRA's requests 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, Likens violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In connection with FINRA's investigation into allegations that Likens engaged in private securities transactions (selling away), FINRA sent Likens letters dated August 3 and 22, 2016, requesting his appearance for testimony pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. The letters requested his appearance on September 27, 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri.

As stated in his phone call with FINRA Staff on September 20, 2016, in an email on September 25, 2016 and by this agreement, Likens acknowledges that he received FINRA's request and 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, Respondent violates 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 capacity.

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 prejudice 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, Joseph A. Likens, 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.

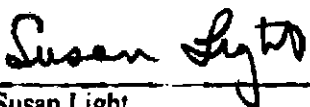
10/30/2016
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Joseph A. Likens, Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

10/31/2016
Date

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


Susan Light
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