

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER, AND CONSENT
NO. 2022075106101**

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

RE: Jermaine K. Benjamin (Respondent)
Former General Securities Representative and Former Investment Company Shares and
Variable Contracts Representative
CRD No. 6152653

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216, Respondent Jermaine K. Benjamin 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 in this AWC.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Respondent accepts and consents to the following findings by FINRA without admitting or denying them:

BACKGROUND

Benjamin first registered with FINRA in 2013 as an Investment Company Shares and Variable Contracts Representative through an association with Pruco Securities, LLC (CRD No. 5685). In 2019, Benjamin also registered as a General Securities Representative through an association with Pruco. On July 2, 2020, Pruco filed a Uniform Termination Notice of Securities Industry Registration (Form U5) stating that Benjamin voluntarily terminated his association with the firm. On May 25, 2022, Pruco filed a Form U5 amendment, disclosing that Pruco had received a written customer complaint alleging “unauthorized transactions and misappropriation/defalcation” by Benjamin while he was associated with Pruco.

Between July 2020 and April 2022, Benjamin was registered with FINRA through an association with another FINRA member. Although Benjamin is not currently associated with a FINRA member, FINRA retains jurisdiction over him pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA’s By-Laws.¹

¹ For more information about the respondent, visit BrokerCheck® at www.finra.org/brokercheck.

OVERVIEW

Benjamin refused to provide documents and information requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. By virtue of this misconduct, Benjamin violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

This matter originated from FINRA's review of the amended Form U5 filed by Pruco.

FINRA Rule 8210(a)(1), in relevant part, requires "a member, person associated with a member, or any other person subject to FINRA's jurisdiction to provide information orally, in writing, or electronically . . . with respect to any matter involved in the investigation, complaint, examination or proceeding." FINRA Rule 8210(c) further provides that "[n]o member or person shall fail to provide information . . . pursuant to this Rule." A failure to comply with a request for information pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210 is also a violation of FINRA Rule 2010, which requires associated persons to "observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade."

On February 14, 2023, in connection with its investigation of the circumstances giving rise to the amended Form U5, FINRA sent a request to Benjamin for the production of documents and information pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. As stated during his counsel's phone call with FINRA on May 22, 2023, and by this agreement, Benjamin acknowledges that he received FINRA's request and will not produce the requested documents and information at any time.

By failing to produce the documents and information as requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, Respondent violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

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

- a bar from associating with any FINRA member in all capacities.

Respondent understands that if he is barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, he 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, he 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 in this AWC shall be effective on a date set by FINRA. A bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

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 him;
- 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 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 its acceptance or rejection.

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 action 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 its subject matter 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 right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party. Nothing in this provision affects Respondent's testimonial obligations in any litigation or other legal proceedings.

Respondent certifies that he has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; Respondent has agreed to the AWC's provisions voluntarily; and no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth in this AWC and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a complaint, has been made to induce him to submit this AWC.

June 1, 2023

Date

Jermaine K. Benjamin

Jermaine K. Benjamin
Respondent

Reviewed by:

Dionne C. Fajardo

Dionne C. Fajardo
Counsel for Respondent
ENGLANDER FISCHER
721 First Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Accepted by FINRA:

June 7, 2023

Date

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



Jena Levin
Counsel
FINRA
Department of Enforcement
55 W. Monroe Street, Suite 2700
Chicago, IL 60603