

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF HEARING OFFICERS**

DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant,

v.

KIM K. KOPACKA
(CRD No. 3153396),

and

BETH A. DEBOUVRE
(CRD No. 3176483),

Respondents.

Disciplinary Proceeding
No. 2016050137503

Hearing Officer–LOM

**ORDER REGARDING RESPONDENTS' MOTION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME TO ANSWER**

The Office of Hearing Officers received a Motion for Extension of Time to Answer ("Motion") on April 4, 2019. The Motion purports to be on behalf of both Respondents in this matter, Kim K. Kopacka and Beth A. Debovre. It is signed, however, only by Respondent Kopacka. The Motion requests an additional 90 days in which to file and serve an Answer. To justify the request, the Motion states that Respondents need additional time to review the allegations against them, and to educate themselves on the relevant FINRA rules and other information. It also states that Respondents are currently seeking counsel to represent them. The current deadline for Respondents to file and serve an Answer is April 22, 2019.

FINRA Rule 9141(a) allows a person to appear on his or her own behalf in a FINRA disciplinary proceeding. FINRA Rule 9141(b) allows a person to be represented by another person, but only if that person is "an attorney at law admitted to practice before the highest court of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States." In order to represent a respondent in a FINRA disciplinary proceeding such as this, an attorney must file and keep current a Notice of Appearance.

Kopacka does not appear to be an attorney. Under Rule 9141(b), she is not qualified to represent DeBouvre. I am treating the Motion as a Motion by Kopacka alone.

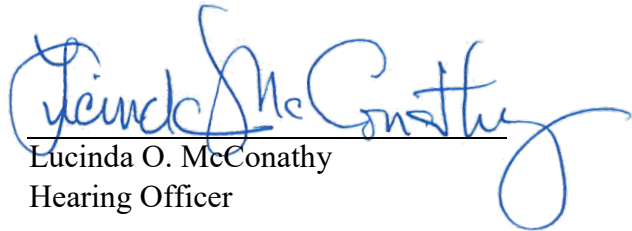
If DeBouvre also wishes an extension of time to file and serve her Answer, she must separately file her motion and serve it on the Department of Enforcement. I direct her to do so no later than Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

PRIOR to the filing of any motion by DeBouvre, however, I direct **BOTH RESPONDENTS** to confer with Enforcement to try and reach an agreement on the due date for Respondents to file and serve their Answers.

With respect to any future motions, Respondents may jointly file one motion, as long as they both sign it. Respondents are advised that prior to filing a motion, they must first confer with Enforcement to try and reach an agreement.

Respondents should review FINRA Rule 9215 for guidance on the format, service, notice, content, and other requirements for filing and serving an Answer.

SO ORDERED.


Lucinda O. McConathy
Hearing Officer

Dated: April 5, 2019

Copies to:

- Kim K. Kopacka (via email and first-class mail)
- Beth A. DeBouvre (via email and first-class mail)
- Joel Kornfeld, Esq. (via email and first-class mail)
- Douglas Ramsey, Esq. (via email)
- Lara C. Thyagarajan, Esq. (via email)