

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant,

v.

JAMES F. EDDINS II
(CRD No. 5205462),

Respondent.

Expedited Proceeding
No. ARB260004

RCM No. 20260893057

Hearing Officer–LOM

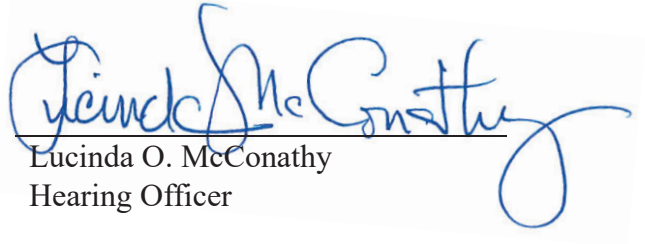
**ORDER INSTRUCTING ENFORCEMENT
TO VERIFY WHETHER THERE IS A PENDING MOTION TO VACATE**

On December 24, 2025, a FINRA arbitration panel issued an arbitration award against Respondent James F. Eddins II, in FINRA Dispute Resolution Services Arbitration Number 25-00712, Kestra Financial, Inc. and Kestra Investment Services, LLC vs. James Francis Eddins II (“Kestra v. Eddins”). FINRA issued a notice of intent to suspend Respondent on January 26, 2026, for his failure to pay the arbitration award. The suspension was to become effective on February 17, 2026, unless Respondent requested a hearing before the Office of Hearing Officers. Respondent filed a timely request for a hearing on February 13, 2026, asserting a bona fide inability to pay the award as a defense against suspension. The request for a hearing stayed the suspension.

On April 17, 2026, at a pre-hearing conference, the parties discussed filings Respondent has made in Alabama state court and in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, one of which may be a motion to vacate related to the arbitration award. I instruct the Department of Enforcement to determine whether there is a currently pending motion to vacate the award in Kestra v. Eddins before any state or federal court and to file and serve a response to this Order accompanied by supporting documentation no later than April 23, 2026. This Order seeks factual verification of any pending motion to vacate, not argument regarding the timeliness of any such motion.

The pre-hearing schedule and hearing date in this matter remain the same as set forth in the Order issued on March 26, 2026, granting a joint motion for continuance.

SO ORDERED.



Lucinda O. McConathy
Hearing Officer

Date: April 21, 2026

Copies to:

James F. Eddins II, Respondent (via OHO Docket Portal)
Ashley Morris, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via OHO Docket Portal)
Michael Manning, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via OHO Docket Portal)
Christopher Perrin, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via OHO Docket Portal)