

SFAB South Region Seat Candidates

Karen Z. Fischer – Chief Compliance Officer, Financial and Operations Principal,
BG Strategic Advisors, LLC

Jim R. Webb – CEO, Cape Securities Inc.

Carrie Wisniewski – President, Bridge Capital Associates, Inc.

Candidate Profile Form—SFAB Election

Candidate Name: Karen Z Fischer

Title: Chief Compliance Officer, Financial and Operations Principal Firm: BG Strategic Advisors, LLC

Candidate Biography and Personal Statement

I, Karen Z. Fischer, have been located in Boca Raton, Florida since 1984 and have twenty-three years of Securities Industry experience. I am a graduate accountant from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. I hold the Series 7, 24, 27, 79 and 99 licenses and have significant hands-on experience as a Financial and Operations Principal and Compliance Officer. Currently, I am registered with six small Broker Dealers and outside consultant to several others. I am completely familiar with and assist firms through the arduous 1017 start up process, CMA applications, supervisory manual updates, Anti Money Laundering procedure manuals, and PCAOB audit issues, among many other compliance and financial functions. On the sales side, I have worked with many clearing firms with customer account issues and firm trading issues. Because of the many different business lines I have and presently work with, I have a unique type of experience. I have probably encountered most lines of business a small firm would be involved in, most compliance issues, and many regulatory issues. My experience is not just dedicated to one firm, but to many different firms, from Mergers and Acquisitions to Trading Houses and most anything in between. I am not shy, and have been a frequent commentator on Membership issues.

I am an active participant in many District functions. Over my twenty-six year career in the Securities Industry, I have had extensive experience interacting directly and frequently with FINRA, the SEC and other Regulators including the FBI and the IRS. As an outside accountant and compliance consultant for several small business broker dealers, I have acquired a wealth of practical knowledge of the different FINRA Districts across the nation and the various State Regulators.

I am completing my final year on the National Adjudicatory Council. As a member of this council I believe I have developed a deep insight into the workings of FINRA's disciplinary process, giving me the ability to be a constructive member of the Small Firm Advisory Board, especially as this Board interacts with FINRA's Board of Governors. I leave this position knowing that small firm issues are tantamount. My experience as an Industry Arbitrator enables me to bring a wealth of knowledge to my clients regarding how to avoid getting into situations that can develop into an arbitration case. Of course, this is not always successful.

I was a member of the District 7 conduct committee, the District 7 focus group, have been a FINRA Industry Arbitrator for almost twenty years, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Independent Broker Dealer Association, an organization committed to FINRA-Membership reform. I am also a State of Florida Certified Mediator. I have also been a key note speaker at trade group industry related seminars, spoken at the DFK Association forum regarding the new PCAOB audit regulations pertaining to small broker dealers. This is a worldwide organization of Independent Accounting Firms and Business Advisors.

Optional Links:

Link to personal website, resume or CV: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/bua31ufz4oyj094/KFResume.pdf?dl=0>

Link to YouTube video:

Candidate Profile Form—SFAB Election

Candidate Name: Jim R. Webb

Title: CEO

Firm: Cape Securities Inc.

Candidate Biography and Personal Statement

Jim Webb is the Chief Executive Officer at Cape Securities, Inc., founded in 1976. He currently holds a 4, 7, 24, 28, 66, securities licenses and is insurance licensed. Webb has been working in the financial industry for over 24 years. Mr. Webb is currently serving on the FINRA District 7 Committee and was recently appointed to the Regulatory Advisory Committee. Jim is excited about his appointment to the RAC as it provides him with opportunities to raise issues, directly with FINRA rule-makers and the Board of Governors, regarding rules and their impact on small firms.

Jim Webb started his career as a financial planner in 1990. In 1993, he began a 14 year career as a wholesaler, which ended with his acquisition of Cape. As a wholesaler, Jim visited thousands of brokers and firms and learned about their business expectations and gained perspective on how FINRA compliance and supervision rules impact the small business firm, both good and bad.

In 2007, He acquired Cape and has been involved in every aspect of the firm as its CEO and President. Cape has grown from three brokers in 2007 to just over hundred brokers at present.

Jim believes that with the massive regulations coming out on almost a daily basis small firms face greater challenges than before, ranging from the increased liability for representative actions in outside business activities to remembering to get a best execution from their only clearing firm. Small firm members often feel they have nowhere to go for assistance and FINRA staff can fail to appreciate the small firm members concerns. Jim favors redirecting FINRA exam team's priorities into educational events, more than a fearful business experience.

Jim believes that where small firms have evidenced good intent to comply with regulations, FINRA should be assisting the member to resolve compliance issues not suggesting that every business misjudgment is a rule violation. Jim fully understands that, there are "criminals" amongst us and that FINRA's enforcement resources would best be used investigating the disingenuous. Jim favors common sense rules and appropriate small member firm rule exemptions that allow small firms to compete and grow.

Jim has already proposed to FINRA a process to have E&O premium cost removed from the net capital calculations, and encouraged a simplified method for firms meeting the proposed 401(k) rollover disclosure requirements. Jim is a passionate advocate on the need to limit public information about representatives and firms on broker check when it is determined that the information is not ultimately substantiated or is so old it is more prejudicial than valuable to the public, such as a case that has been denied or overturned, needs to be removed and disclosures that are 10 years old should be archived.

Jim Webb is asking for you to take a moment and vote to allow him to serve on the FINRA Small Firm Advisory Board so that he may advocate and support the unique interest of small firms.

Optional Links:

Link to personal website, resume or CV: _____

Link to YouTube video: _____

Candidate Profile Form—SFAB Election

Candidate Name: Caroline Wisniewski

Title: President

Firm: Bridge Capital Associates, Inc.

Candidate Biography and Personal Statement

Carrie Wisniewski – BIO for FINRA

Small Firm Association: Bridge Capital Associates, Inc.

Carrie Wisniewski has over 29 years of securities industry experience and maintains several FINRA licenses including 4, 7, 24, 27, 28, 53, 63, 79 and 99. She has earned her MBA degree in Finance and holds numerous industry designations including Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Financial Crimes Specialist, Certified Regulatory Compliance Professional, Certified Securities Compliance Professional, Certified Mergers & Acquisitions Advisor and Certified Financial Planner.

Carrie has been a small business executive since leaving FINRA in 1994. At that time she founded B/D Compliance Associates, Inc. and began offering regulatory compliance consulting services to small broker/dealers. In 2007 she founded Bridge Capital Associates, Inc., an independent contractor model FINRA member specializing in investment banking and M&A transactions. In 2009 she formed SEC Compliance Associates, Inc. to focus on the compliance needs for Registered Investment Advisors, including but not limited to private equity groups and hedge funds. The same year she formed Headstrong Properties LLC, a commercial real estate holding company.

Carrie's career in the securities industry began in 1985 as a registered representative. A few years later she joined the compliance department of Merrill Lynch. She was then employed by the Atlanta District Office of FINRA as a Senior Compliance Examiner. Carrie has recently served on the FINRA District 7 Committee and was a board member of the National Association of Independent Broker/Dealers. She is currently a member of the National Society of Compliance Professionals, where she serves on the Small Broker/Dealer Sub-Committee.

Ms. Wisniewski has proven herself to be an executive with problem solving skills that result in win-win outcomes. Her experiences as both a registered representative and as a regulator have empowered her with keen insight into the unique issues of running a for-profit broker/dealer within an intensely regulated industry. Carrie's primary goal as a member of the Small Firm Advisory Board is to help restore the relationship between small member firms and FINRA to one of mutual respect, trust and integrity. She is also passionate about limiting regulations that create a disproportionate drain on the resources of small broker/dealers without any measurable increase in investor protection.

Optional Links:

Link to personal website, resume or CV: www.carriewisniewski.com

Link to YouTube video: _____