



## Investor Newsletter

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March 2015

### INVESTOR RESOURCES

#### The New FINRA.org



FINRA has redesigned its site to make it easier and quicker for you to find the tools and information you need—such as investor resources like

[BrokerCheck](#). Watch this brief [video](#) to learn more about the changes, including:

- a cleaner and more intuitive design;
- streamlined navigation; and
- enhanced search capabilities.

The new site is also mobile-friendly, so it's easier to use on a tablet and smartphone.



#### Check the Background of Your Investment Professional

We go online to research everything from restaurants to hotels to movies. You should be sure to research your investment professional, too. Before handing over your hard-earned money, use BrokerCheck. It's a free tool from FINRA that helps you check out the professional background of brokers, investment advisers and firms. Watch this brief [video](#) to learn more.



#### 5 Things You Should Know About Tax Refund Loans

As tax season speeds into high gear, put the brakes on "fast refunds" that come in the form of refund anticipation loans, or RALs. They're a costly option thousands of taxpayers take, often without realizing just how expensive—and probably unnecessary—they really are. Here are [five things](#) you should know about RALs, including alternatives that are cheaper and less risky.

### RECENT ALERT

[E-Cigarette Stock Scams: New Smoking Technology Could Light Up Pump-and-Dump Scams](#)

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### OUR STORY



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### TOP TOOLS

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[Fund Analyzer](#)

[Risk Meter](#)

[Scam Meter](#)



NEARLY **2/3**  
of victims reported  
experiencing at least  
one non-financial  
cost of fraud to a  
serious degree.

**FINRA  
FOUNDATION  
Non-  
Traditional  
Costs of  
Financial  
Fraud**  
The FINRA  
Foundation's

new research report, [Non-Traditional Costs of Financial Fraud](#), offers an in-depth look at financial fraud from the victim's perspective—how victims experienced the incident, their reactions to the fraud and the potential psychological and emotional consequences. An interesting insight from this research is that nearly half of victims blame themselves for the fraud—an indication of the far-reaching effects of financial fraud on the lives of its victims.

[529 College Savings Plan  
Expense Analyzer](#)

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**KEY LINKS**

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**FINRA NEWS**

**3/12/15** — [FINRA Sanctions Brookville Capital Partners \\$1.5 Million and Bars President Anthony Lodati for Fraud](#)

**3/2/15** — [FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Fellowship Application Period Open From March 2 to April 17](#)

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