

NASD DISPUTE RESOLUTION AWARD
NASD DISPUTE RESOLUTION

CASE: 04-02450

Catherine L. Valenti and Julia L. Ciano, Claimants v. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., Respondent

ATTORNEYS:

For Claimants Catherine L. Valenti and Julia L. Ciano (collectively "Claimants") appeared Wm. Jemison Mims, Jr., Esq., of the firm Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Echsner & Proctor, P.A., Pensacola, FL.

For Respondent Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. ("Respondent") appeared Julie Wilson Portera, Esq., of the firm Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C., Birmingham, AL.

NATURE OF DISPUTE: Customers vs. Member.

DATE FILED: April 7, 2004.

CASE SUMMARY: Claimants alleged that Respondent provided fraudulent analyst reports, which recommended the purchase of, and set target prices for the common stock of companies without any reasonable factual basis. Claimants further alleged that Respondent breached its fiduciary duty, breached its contract, committed fraud, negligence, negligent misrepresentation, and violated Blue Sky Laws.

Claim Data

Claim: \$17,046.00
Punitive: Unspecified
Interest: Unspecified
Attorney Fees: Unspecified
Filing Fees: Unspecified
Other: Unspecified

Award Data

Award: \$.00
Punitive: \$.00
Interest: \$.00
Attorney Fees: \$.00
Filing Fees: \$212.50
Other: \$.00

AWARD: The undersigned arbitrator has decided and determined in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows: 1) The claims of Claimants are dismissed in their entirety. 2) All requests for punitive damages are denied. 3) All requests for interest are denied. 4) All requests for attorney fees are denied. 5) All other relief requests are denied. 6) NASD Dispute Resolution shall retain the \$425.00 filing fee that the Claimants deposited previously. 7) Respondent is liable and shall pay Claimants \$212.50 as reimbursement of one-half of the filing fee.

OTHER FEES: Pursuant to Rule 10333 of the Code, Respondent has paid to NASD Dispute Resolution the \$425.00 Member Surcharge previously invoiced.

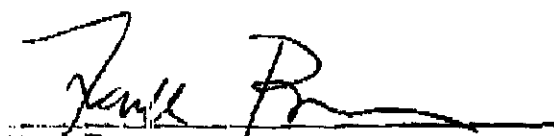
OTHER ISSUES: The Respondent's motion to dismiss the Statement of Claim is granted with prejudice. Thus, the following motions are rendered moot: Respondent's motion to strike, Respondent's motion for an evidentiary final hearing, Claimants' motion to strike Respondent's request for production, and Respondent's motion to compel.

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Award 04-01450

ARBITRATOR
Frank Bremner - Sole Public Arbitrator

AFFIRMATION

I, Frank Bremner, do hereby affirm, upon my oath as arbitrator that I am the individual described herein who executed this instrument, which is my oath and award.


Frank Bremner

1-24-05
Signature Date

January 27, 2005
Date of Service (For NASD-DR office use only)