

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2016051772601**

TO: Department of Enforcement
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: Jaime R. Rodriguez, Respondent
General Securities Representative
CRD No. 5128530

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I submit this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, FINRA will not bring any future actions against me alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. I hereby accept and consent, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:

BACKGROUND

Respondent Jaime R. Rodriguez ("Rodriguez") first became associated with a FINRA member firm in 2006. On December 6, 2010, Rodriguez became associated with HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. ("HSBC") as an Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative. Additionally, on October 15, 2013, Rodriguez became associated with HSBC as a General Securities Representative. On July 21, 2014, HSBC filed a Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration ("Form U5"), disclosing that Rodriguez was voluntarily terminated on July 14, 2014. Between September 2014 through April 2017, Rodriguez was associated with additional FINRA member firms. The most recent member firm filed a Form U5 on April 26, 2017 disclosing that Rodriguez had been terminated on April 10, 2017.

Rodriguez is not currently registered with FINRA or associated with a FINRA member firm, but remains subject to FINRA's jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA By-Laws.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Rodriguez does not have any disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

During the period of October 2012 through December 2013, while associated with HSBC, Rodriguez converted approximately \$200,000 from an elderly and legally blind customer and used these funds to purchase two apartments in Rodriguez' name. By converting the funds to which he was not entitled, Rodriguez violated FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

Rule 2010 requires associated persons to "observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade." Conversion is an intentional and unauthorized taking of and/or exercise of ownership over property by one who neither owns the property nor is entitled to possess it. Acts of conversion violate FINRA Rule 2010.

While associated with HSBC, Rodriguez was also a Premier Relationship Manager and a Branch Relationship Banker at an affiliated bank (the "Bank"). In approximately December 2010, KF, an elderly and legally blind customer of HSBC and the Bank, met Rodriguez at a Bank branch and Rodriguez became a Premier Relationship Manager for KF. Shortly after meeting KF, Rodriguez began helping KF with grocery shopping and other errands.

In August 2012, when KF's lease on his apartment was terminated, Rodriguez offered KF assistance with locating and purchasing a residence. In October 2012, Rodriguez purchased an apartment for approximately \$70,000 in the Bronx, New York using KF's funds. The apartment was supposed to be purchased in KF's name. Unbeknownst to KF, Rodriguez was the sole beneficial owner of the apartment. KF was not able to see or read the documents due to his disability. Through these actions, Rodriguez converted KF's funds.

Although Rodriguez legally owned the apartment, KF moved into the apartment and lived there for several years. In December 2012, Rodriguez recommended that KF open a joint bank account with Rodriguez so Rodriguez could assist KF with paying his bills. The joint banking account was opened at a non-affiliated bank with an initial opening balance of approximately \$42,000. The joint bank account was funded exclusively by KF and reached a balance as high as approximately \$153,000 in September 2013. The funds in the joint bank account were intended to be used solely for the benefit of KF and were only to be withdrawn with KF's permission.

In 2013, after a grocery store within walking distance of the apartment where KF was residing closed, Rodriguez recommended that KF purchase a second apartment. In December 2013, Rodriguez purchased a second apartment in Yonkers, New York for approximately \$130,000 using KF's funds from the joint banking account. The apartment was supposed to be purchased in KF's name. Unbeknownst to KF, Rodriguez was the sole beneficial owner of the apartment. KF was not able to see or read the documents due to his disability. KF did not reside in this apartment. Rather, without KF's authorization or consent, Rodriguez began renting the apartment to tenants and collected and retained the rent. Through these actions, Rodriguez converted KF's funds.

Accordingly, by virtue of the foregoing, Rodriguez violated FINRA Rule 2010.

B. I also consent to the imposition of the following sanctions:

A bar from association with any FINRA member in all capacities.

I understand that if I am barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, I become subject to a statutory disqualification as that term is defined in Article III, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, incorporating Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, I may not be associated with any FINRA member in any capacity, including clerical or ministerial functions, during the period of the bar or suspension (see FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311).

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff. A bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

I specifically and voluntarily waive the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against me;
- B. To be notified of the Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and
- D. To appeal any such decision to the National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC") and

then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, I specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim bias or prejudice of the Chief Legal Officer, the NAC, or any member of the NAC, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

I further specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

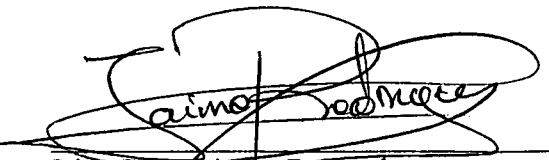
I understand that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against me; and
- C. If accepted:
 - 1. this AWC will become part of my permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against me;
 - 2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313;
 - 3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and
 - 4. I may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. I may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, that is

inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects my: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.

I certify that I have read and understand all of the provisions of this AWC and have been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that I understand and acknowledge that FINRA does not represent or advise me and I cannot rely on FINRA or FINRA staff members for legal advice; that I have agreed to its provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce me to submit it.

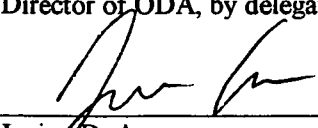
08/07/17
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Jaime R. Rodriguez, Respondent

Accepted by FINRA

8/28/17
Date

Signed on behalf of the
Director of ODA, by delegated authority


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