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

RE: Jesus Rodriguez (Respondent)  
Former General Securities Representative  
CRD No. 4888685

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216, Respondent Jesus Rodriguez submits 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 Respondent alleging violations based on the same factual findings described in this AWC.

I. ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

A. Respondent accepts and consents to the following findings by FINRA without admitting or denying them:

BACKGROUND

Rodriguez first became registered with FINRA in 2005. In June 2009, he registered through Morgan Stanley as a General Securities Representative. On September 3, 2021, Morgan Stanley filed a Form U5 in which it disclosed that Rodriguez had voluntarily resigned a month earlier following “[a]llegations regarding registered representative’s use of client line of credit for his personal benefit.” Although Rodriguez is not currently associated with a FINRA member, FINRA retains jurisdiction over him pursuant to Article V, Section 4(a) of FINRA’s By-Laws.¹

OVERVIEW

Rodriguez refused to provide information and documents requested by FINRA pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, in violation of FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

This matter originated from FINRA’s investigation of the Form U5 filed by Morgan Stanley.

¹ For more information about the respondent, visit BrokerCheck® at www.finra.org/brokercheck.
FINRA Rule 8210(a)(1) states, in relevant part, that FINRA may require associated persons “to provide information … in writing … with respect to any matter involved in the investigation.” FINRA Rule 8210(c) further states that no “person shall fail to provide information … pursuant to this Rule.” A failure to comply with FINRA Rule 8210 is also a violation of FINRA Rule 2010, which requires associated persons to observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade in the conduct of their business.

On October 8, 2021 and October 15, 2021, FINRA sent requests to Rodriguez for the production of information and documents pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. As stated in his counsel’s email to FINRA on November 5, 2021, and by this agreement, Rodriguez acknowledges that he received FINRA’s requests and will not produce the information or documents requested. Accordingly, Rodriguez violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

B. Respondent also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

- a bar from associating with any FINRA member in all capacities.

Respondent understands that if he is barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, he becomes 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, he 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 in this AWC shall be effective on a date set by FINRA. A bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under FINRA’s Code of Procedure:

A. To have a complaint issued specifying the allegations against him;

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, Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudgment 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 its acceptance or rejection.

Respondent further specifically and voluntarily waives 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

Respondent understands 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 Respondent; and

C. If accepted:

1. this AWC will become part of Respondent’s permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future action brought by FINRA or any other regulator against Respondent;

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 its subject matter in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and

4. Respondent 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. Respondent 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 Respondent’s testimonial obligations or right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.
Respondent certifies that he has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; Respondent has agreed to the AWC’s provisions voluntarily; and no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth in this AWC and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a complaint, has been made to induce him to submit this AWC.

11/23/2021
Date

Jesus Rodriguez
Respondent

Reviewed by:

Kevin Galbraith, Esq.
Counsel for Respondent
The Galbraith Law Firm LLC
Three Waterline Square
635 West 59th Street, Suite 1005
New York, NY 10019

Accepted by FINRA:

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

11/29/21
Date

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