

Election Notice

Notice of SFAC Election and Ballots

Ballot Due Date: November 15, 2018

Executive Summary

The purpose of this *Election Notice* is to notify FINRA small firm members of the distribution of ballots to elect one North Region and one West Region representative to the Small Firm Advisory Committee (SFAC). FINRA small firm members¹ in the North and West Regions as of the close of business on October 15, 2018, are eligible to vote in these elections. All eligible firms are urged to vote in the election of these SFAC members.

Ballots are due by Thursday, November 15, 2018.

The newly elected SFAC members will take office on January 1, 2019.

Listed below are the candidates certified by FINRA's Corporate Secretary as satisfying the requirements for the two regional SFAC seats up for election. Additional information about each candidate is available at www.finra.org/sfac/candidateprofiles.

Questions regarding this *Election Notice* may be directed to:

- ▶ Jennifer Piorko Mitchell, Vice President and Deputy Corporate Secretary, at CorporateSecretary@finra.org or (202) 728-8949; or
- ▶ Chip Jones, Senior Vice President, Member Relations and Education, at (240) 386-4797.

Composition of the SFAC

The SFAC comprises 10 members, as follows:

- ▶ five regional members elected by small firms in the five FINRA regions (one from each region); and
- ▶ five at-large members appointed by FINRA's Board of Governors.

Additionally, the FINRA Board's Small Firm Governors² serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the SFAC.

October 16, 2018

Suggested Routing

- ▶ Executive Representatives
- ▶ Senior Management

The SFAC provides guidance to FINRA staff, particularly regarding the potential impact of proposed regulatory initiatives on FINRA's small firms. The five regional members represent the following geographic regions:

- ▶ **Midwest Region:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin (Districts 4 and 8)
- ▶ **New York Region:** New York (the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and the Bronx, Brooklyn, New York County, Queens and Staten Island) (District 10)
- ▶ **North Region:** Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (except for the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and the five boroughs of New York City), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia (Districts 9 and 11)
- ▶ **South Region:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and the Virgin Islands (Districts 5, 6 and 7)
- ▶ **West Region:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and the former U.S. Trust Territories (Districts 1, 2 and 3)

Candidate Eligibility

As mentioned above, two seats on the SFAC are up for election: a North Region seat and a West Region seat. Any senior member³ of a small firm whose primary place of business and whose firm has its main office (as indicated in FINRA records) in the North or West Region was eligible to have his or her name placed on the SFAC ballot for that region.

The following individuals were certified by FINRA's Corporate Secretary as satisfying requirements for the SFAC seats.

North Region Seat Candidates

- ▶ **Jay Gettenberg** – FINOP, Witherspoon Capital Partners, LLC
- ▶ **Earle Hollister** – Compliance Manager, St. Germain Securities, Inc.

West Region Seat Candidates

- ▶ **Dan Adams** – Enterprise-wide Chief Compliance Officer, Acorns Securities, LLC
- ▶ **Rick Dahl** – Chief Compliance Officer/Executive Vice President, Sorrento Pacific Financial, LLC

Information about each candidate is available at www.finra.org/sfac/candidateprofiles.

Terms of SFAC Members

The successful candidates from the North and West Regions will be the individuals who receive the most votes in their respective Region and will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

Once an individual has completed a full three-year elected term on the SFAC, he or she is ineligible for re-election to the SFAC for another three years.

SFAC members must continue to meet the eligibility criteria at all times during their terms of office. The term of an SFAC member shall terminate immediately upon a determination by the SFAC, by a majority vote of the remaining members, that the member no longer satisfies the eligibility criteria. Additionally, the FINRA Board may remove from the SFAC a member who is unable or fails to discharge the member's duties or violates SFAC policies.

Voting Eligibility

FINRA small firm members in the North and West Regions as of the close of business on October 15, 2018, are eligible to vote for candidates running for the SFAC seat representing the region corresponding to the district to which they are assigned in the Central Registration Depository.®

Ballots and a copy of this *Election Notice* have been mailed to the executive representatives of small firm members in the North and West Regions to elect their SFAC representatives. Eligible firms may vote for only one candidate listed on the ballot.

Voting Methods

Eligible firms can vote by telephone, Internet or U.S. mail. Voting instructions are included in the ballots sent to eligible small firms in the North and West Regions. Ballots are due on Thursday, November 15, 2018.

Information about each candidate is available at www.finra.org/sfac/candidateprofiles.

Endnotes

1. A small firm is defined as a member that employs at least one and no more than 150 registered persons. See Article I (ww) of the FINRA By-Laws.
2. A Small Firm Governor is defined as a member of the FINRA Board elected by small firm members. See Article I (xx) of the FINRA By-Laws.
3. Senior members of firms include owners, chief executive officers, presidents, chief compliance officers, chief operating officers, a firm's FINOP or individuals of comparable status.