

Election Notice

Notice of SFAB Election and Ballots

Ballot Due Date: November 20, 2017

Executive Summary

The purpose of this *Notice* is to distribute to eligible FINRA small firm members¹ the ballots to elect one North Region and one South Region representative to the Small Firm Advisory Board (SFAB). FINRA small firm members in the North and South Regions as of the close of business on October 19, 2017, are eligible to vote in these elections. All eligible firms are urged to vote in the election of these SFAB members.

The Midwest Region seat is uncontested. Therefore, FINRA will not distribute ballots for the Midwest Region seat.

Ballots are due by Monday, November 20, 2017. The newly elected South region member will take office January 1, 2018. The North Region Representative, who will be elected to fill a partial term, will take office immediately upon election.

Attachment A lists the candidates certified by the Corporate Secretary of FINRA as satisfying the requirements for the three regional SFAB seats up for election. Additional information about each candidate is available at www.finra.org/sfab/candidateprofiles.

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

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

October 20, 2017

Suggested Routing

- ▶ Executive Representatives
- ▶ Senior Management

SFAB Election

Composition of the FINRA Small Firm Advisory Board

The SFAB 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.

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

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)

As mentioned above, three seats on the SFAB are up for election: a South Region seat, a Midwest Region seat and a partial-term seat for the North Region.

Candidate Eligibility

Any senior member of a small firm whose primary place of business and whose firm has its main office (as indicated in FINRA records) in the South, Midwest or North Region is eligible to have his or her name placed on the SFAB ballot for that region. Senior members of firms include owners, chief executive officers, presidents, chief compliance officers, chief operating officers, the firm's FINOP or individuals of comparable status. There may be only one candidate per firm on each ballot. SFAB members must also continue to meet their qualifications for election at all times during their terms of office.

Attachment A lists the candidates certified by the Corporate Secretary of FINRA as satisfying requirements for the SFAB seat. Information about each candidate is available at www.finra.org/sfab/candidateprofiles.

Terms of SFAB Members

The successful candidate from the South Region will be the individual who receives the most votes and will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018. Since the Midwest Region seat is uncontested, FINRA will not distribute ballots and the candidate will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018. The successful candidate from the North Region will be the individual who receives the most votes and will be elected to serve a partial term effective immediately upon election until December 31, 2018.

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

The term of an SFAB member shall terminate immediately upon a determination by the SFAB, 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 SFAB, a member who is unable or fails to discharge the member's duties or violates SFAB policies.

Voting Eligibility

As mentioned above, FINRA small firms are eligible to vote for candidates running for the SFAB seat representing the region corresponding to the district to which they are assigned in the Central Registration Depository®.

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

Voting Methods

Firms can vote by telephone, by the Internet or by U.S. mail. Ballots sent to eligible small firms detail instructions on the submission procedures.

The SFAB provides guidance to FINRA staff, particularly regarding the potential impact of proposed regulatory initiatives on FINRA's small firms. For this reason, it is important that all eligible member firms vote. Ballots are due on Monday, November 20, 2017.

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. In order to be eligible to serve, a Small Firm Governor must be registered with a member that is a small firm and must be an Industry Governor. *See* Article I (xx) of the FINRA By-Laws.

Attachment A: SFAB Candidates

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

North Region Seat Candidates

- **Catherine A. Cucharale** – Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, M. Griffith Investment Services, Inc.
- **John I. Fitzgerald** – Managing Director, Leerink Partners, LLC

South Region Seat Candidates

- **Peter Korotkiy** – President and Chief Operating Officer, TradeStation Securities, Inc.
- **David Jaendl Martin** – Chief Executive Officer, American Global Wealth
- **David D. McNally** – President, McNally Financial Services Corp.
- **Linde Murphy** – Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, M.E. Allison & Co., Inc.

Midwest Region Seat Candidate

- **Robert L. Hamman** – President and CCO, First Asset Financial Inc.

