## FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT NO. 2017053555601

TO: Department of Enforcement

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: Kenneth B. Neuner, Respondent

Former Registered Representative

CRD No. 2719529

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 Kenneth B. Neuner entered the securities industry in 1996 and has held Series 7 and 63 licenses. Neuner was registered with Summit Brokerage Services, Inc. ("Summit" or "the Firm") from September 2016 to March 2017. Summit terminated Neuner's registration on March 14, 2017. Neuner was registered with another FINRA member firm from April to May 2017.

Although Neuner is no longer registered or associated with a FINRA member, he remains subject to FINRA's jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws.

# FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

On March 14, 2017, Summit filed a Form U5 reporting that the Firm had terminated Neuner for unauthorized exercise of discretion. FINRA thereafter began an investigation into the purported misconduct reported in the Form U5. On July 7, 2017, Enforcement staff sent Neuner a request pursuant to FINRA

Rule 8210 to testify on August 23, 2017. On July 7, 2017, Neuner acknowledged that he received the request for testimony, but he did not appear for testimony on August 23, 2017 or ask for his testimony to be rescheduled.

On August 28, 2017, staff sent Neuner another request pursuant to Rule 8210 to testify on September 12, 2017. On September 5, 2017, Neuner emailed staff that he would not appear for testimony on September 12, 2017. In a subsequent telephone conversation with staff on September 14, 2017, Neuner confirmed he would not give testimony at any time in this matter.

As stated in his phone calls on September 5, 2017 and September 14, 2017 and by this agreement, Neuner acknowledges that he has received FINRA's requests for testimony and will not appear for testimony. By refusing to appear for on-the-record testimony as requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, Neuner violates FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

- B. I also consent to the imposition of the following sanctions:
  - A bar from associating with any FINRA member in any capacity.

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 shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

П.

## 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 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 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 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.

 $\frac{09/25/2017}{\text{Date (mm/dd/yyyy)}}$ 

Kenneth B. Neuner, Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

10/11/2017 Date

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

Kevin H. Logan Principal Counsel

FINRA Department of Enforcement 15200 Omega Drive, Suite 300 Rockville, Maryland 20850 (301) 258-8524 (direct phone)