

## BrokerCheck Report

### MATTHEW GARY BARKS

CRD# 6372903

<b><u>Section Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page(s)</u></b>
Report Summary	1
Broker Qualifications	2 - 3
Registration and Employment History	5
Disclosure Events	6



Please be aware that fraudsters may link to BrokerCheck from phishing and similar scam websites, trying to steal your personal information or your money. Make sure you know who you're dealing with when investing, and contact FINRA with any concerns.

For more information read our [investor alert](#) on imposters.

## About BrokerCheck®

BrokerCheck offers information on all current, and many former, registered securities brokers, and all current and former registered securities firms. FINRA strongly encourages investors to use BrokerCheck to check the background of securities brokers and brokerage firms before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

- **What is included in a BrokerCheck report?**

- BrokerCheck reports for individual brokers include information such as employment history, professional qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards. BrokerCheck reports for brokerage firms include information on a firm's profile, history, and operations, as well as many of the same disclosure events mentioned above.
- Please note that the information contained in a BrokerCheck report may include pending actions or allegations that may be contested, unresolved or unproven. In the end, these actions or allegations may be resolved in favor of the broker or brokerage firm, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

- **Where did this information come from?**

- The information contained in BrokerCheck comes from FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD® and is a combination of:
  - information FINRA and/or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) require brokers and brokerage firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
  - information that regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against firms or brokers.

- **How current is this information?**

- Generally, active brokerage firms and brokers are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in CRD within 30 days. Under most circumstances, information reported by brokerage firms, brokers and regulators is available in BrokerCheck the next business day.

- **What if I want to check the background of an investment adviser firm or investment adviser representative?**

- To check the background of an investment adviser firm or representative, you can search for the firm or individual in BrokerCheck. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) website at <https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>. In the alternative, you may search the IAPD website directly or contact your state securities regulator at <http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/P455414>.

- **Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?**

- FINRA recommends that you learn as much as possible about an investment professional before deciding to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research brokers and investment adviser representatives doing business in your state.

Thank you for using FINRA BrokerCheck.



Using this site/information means that you accept the FINRA BrokerCheck Terms and Conditions. A complete list of Terms and Conditions can be found at

[brokercheck.finra.org](http://brokercheck.finra.org)



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or [www.finra.org/brokercheck](http://www.finra.org/brokercheck). It provides a glossary of terms and a list of frequently asked questions, as well as additional resources.

[For more information about FINRA, visit www.finra.org.](http://www.finra.org)

**MATTHEW G. BARKS**

CRD# 6372903

This broker is not currently registered.

**Report Summary for this Broker**

This report summary provides an overview of the broker's professional background and conduct. Additional information can be found in the detailed report.

**Broker Qualifications**

**This broker is not currently registered.**

**This broker has passed:**

- 0 Principal/Supervisory Exams
- 2 General Industry/Product Exams
- 1 State Securities Law Exam

**Registration History**

**This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):**

- B** **PARK AVENUE SECURITIES LLC**  
CRD# 46173  
NEW YORK, NY  
04/2018 - 04/2021
- B** **THE O.N. EQUITY SALES COMPANY**  
CRD# 2936  
CINCINNATI, OH  
03/2017 - 08/2017

**Disclosure Events**

All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.

Are there events disclosed about this broker? **Yes**

**The following types of disclosures have been reported:**

Type	Count
Regulatory Event	1
Customer Dispute	2
Termination	1

## Broker Qualifications



### Registrations

This section provides the self-regulatory organizations (SROs) and U.S. states/territories the broker is currently registered and licensed with, the category of each license, and the date on which it became effective. This section also provides, for every brokerage firm with which the broker is currently employed, the address of each branch where the broker works.

This broker is not currently registered.



## Broker Qualifications

### Industry Exams this Broker has Passed

This section includes all securities industry exams that the broker has passed. Under limited circumstances, a broker may attain a registration after receiving an exam waiver based on exams the broker has passed and/or qualifying work experience. Any exam waivers that the broker has received are not included below.

**This individual has passed 0 principal/supervisory exams, 2 general industry/product exams, and 1 state securities law exam.**

### Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
No information reported.		

### General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
<b>B</b> Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
<b>B</b> Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination	Series 6	03/15/2017

### State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
<b>B</b> Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	07/14/2017

Additional information about the above exams or other exams FINRA administers to brokers and other securities professionals can be found at [www.finra.org/brokerqualifications/registeredrep/](http://www.finra.org/brokerqualifications/registeredrep/).



## Broker Qualifications

### Professional Designations

This section details that the representative has reported **0** professional designation(s).

No information reported.



## Registration and Employment History

### Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following firms:

Registration Dates	Firm Name	CRD#	Branch Location
<b>B</b> 04/2018 - 04/2021	PARK AVENUE SECURITIES LLC	46173	NEW YORK, NY
<b>B</b> 03/2017 - 08/2017	THE O.N. EQUITY SALES COMPANY	2936	CINCINNATI, OH

### Employment History

This section provides up to 10 years of an individual broker's employment history as reported by the individual broker on the most recently filed Form U4.

**Please note that the broker is required to provide this information only while registered with FINRA or a national securities exchange and the information is not updated via Form U4 after the broker ceases to be registered. Therefore, an employment end date of "Present" may not reflect the broker's current employment status.**

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
04/2018 - Present	PARK AVENUE SECURITIES	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	PADUCAH, KY, United States
08/2017 - Present	GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE CO OF AMERICA	AGENT	N	PADUCAH, KY, United States
11/2016 - 08/2017	The O.N. Equity Sales Company	Registered Representative	Y	Cincinnati, OH, United States
04/2016 - 08/2017	Ohio National Financial Services	Agent	N	Cincinnati, OH, United States
08/2015 - 02/2016	MML INVESTORS SERVICES	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	PADUCAH, KY, United States
10/2013 - 02/2016	MASS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	AGENT	Y	PADUCAH, KY, United States
02/2010 - 10/2013	NESTLE	SALES REP	N	PADUCAH, KY, United States

### Other Business Activities

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the broker regarding other business activities the broker is currently engaged in either as a proprietor, partner, officer, director, employee, trustee, agent or otherwise. This section does not include non-investment related activity that is exclusively charitable, civic, religious or fraternal and is recognized as tax exempt.

No information reported.



## Disclosure Events

### What you should know about reported disclosure events:

1. All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.
2. **Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to CRD, for example:**
  - A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
  - A customer dispute must involve allegations that a broker engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.
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3. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
  - As mentioned at the beginning of this report, information contained in BrokerCheck comes from brokers, brokerage firms and regulators. When more than one of these sources reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the BrokerCheck report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.
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4. **There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:**
  - A disclosure event may have a status of *pending*, *on appeal*, or *final*.
    - A "pending" event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
    - An event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
    - A "final" event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
  - A final event generally has a disposition of *adjudicated*, *settled* or *otherwise resolved*.
    - An "adjudicated" matter includes a disposition by (1) a court of law in a criminal or civil matter, or (2) an administrative panel in an action brought by a regulator that is contested by the party charged with some alleged wrongdoing.
    - A "settled" matter generally involves an agreement by the parties to resolve the matter. Please note that brokers and brokerage firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory matters for business or other reasons.
    - A "resolved" matter usually involves no payment to the customer and no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the individual broker. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

For your convenience, below is a matrix of the number and status of disclosure events involving this broker. Further information regarding these events can be found in the subsequent pages of this report. You also may wish to contact the broker to obtain further information regarding these events.

	Pending	Final	On Appeal
Regulatory Event	0	1	0
Customer Dispute	0	2	N/A
Termination	N/A	1	N/A





## Disclosure Event Details

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that a disclosure event may be pending or involve allegations that are contested and have not been resolved or proven. The matter may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the broker, or concluded through a negotiated settlement for certain business reasons (e.g., to maintain customer relationships or to limit the litigation costs associated with disputing the allegations) with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to CRD and therefore some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided to CRD.

### Regulatory - Final

This type of disclosure event may involve (1) a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations; or (2) a revocation or suspension of a broker's authority to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor.

#### Disclosure 1 of 1

**Reporting Source:** Regulator

**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** FINRA

**Sanction(s) Sought:**

**Date Initiated:** 01/19/2023

**Docket/Case Number:** [2021070740701](#)

**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:** n/a

**Product Type:** No Product

**Allegations:** Without admitting or denying the findings, Barks consented to the sanction and to the entry of findings that he refused to appear for on-the-record testimony requested by FINRA in connection with its investigation into the circumstances giving rise to the Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration (Form U5) filed by his member firm. The findings stated that the Form U5 disclosed that the firm had discharged Barks after the firm identified several customer signature irregularities on policy and account documents.

**Current Status:** Final

**Resolution:** Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)

**Does the order constitute a** No



**final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?**

**Resolution Date:** 01/19/2023

**Sanctions Ordered:** Bar (Permanent)

**If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise?**

No

**(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?**



**(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or**

**(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board?**

**Sanction 1 of 1**

<b>Sanction Type:</b>	Bar (Permanent)
<b>Capacities Affected:</b>	All Capacities
<b>Duration:</b>	Indefinite
<b>Start Date:</b>	01/19/2023
<b>End Date:</b>	





## Customer Dispute - Settled

This type of disclosure event involves (1) a consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the individual broker that was dismissed, withdrawn, or denied; or (2) a consumer-initiated, investment-related written complaint

### Disclosure 1 of 1

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Broker
<b>Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:</b>	Park Avenue Securities, LLC
<b>Allegations:</b>	Client alleges registered representative, without her knowledge and consent, filled out her traditional fixed life insurance application and falsified her signatures.
<b>Product Type:</b>	Insurance
<b>Alleged Damages:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Alleged Damages Amount Explanation (if amount not exact):</b>	THE FIRM HAS MADE A GOOD FAITH DETERMINATION THAT THE DAMAGES FROM THE ALLEGED CONDUCT WOULD BE GREATER THAN \$5,000.
<b>Is this an oral complaint?</b>	No
<b>Is this a written complaint?</b>	Yes
<b>Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?</b>	No

### Customer Complaint Information

<b>Date Complaint Received:</b>	06/19/2018
<b>Complaint Pending?</b>	No
<b>Status:</b>	Settled
<b>Status Date:</b>	09/20/2018
<b>Settlement Amount:</b>	\$4,124.60
<b>Individual Contribution Amount:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Broker Statement</b>	Without admitting fault or liability, Guardian agreed to a settlement with the client.



## Customer Dispute - Closed-No Action / Withdrawn / Dismissed / Denied

This type of disclosure event involves (1) a consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the individual broker that was dismissed, withdrawn, or denied; or (2) a consumer-initiated, investment-related written complaint containing allegations that the broker engaged in sales practice violations resulting in compensatory damages of at least \$5,000, forgery, theft, or misappropriation, or conversion of funds or securities, which was closed without action, withdrawn, or denied.

### Disclosure 1 of 1

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Broker
<b>Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:</b>	Park Avenue Securities LLC
<b>Allegations:</b>	The customer alleged his signatures on variable annuity authorization forms, dated October 30, 2020, were forged. The variable annuity was free looked in January 2021 by Allianz Insurance Company, and the customer was refunded \$25,000.
<b>Product Type:</b>	Annuity-Variable
<b>Alleged Damages:</b>	\$25,000.00
<b>Is this an oral complaint?</b>	No
<b>Is this a written complaint?</b>	Yes
<b>Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?</b>	No

### Customer Complaint Information

<b>Date Complaint Received:</b>	02/15/2021
<b>Complaint Pending?</b>	No
<b>Status:</b>	Closed/No Action
<b>Status Date:</b>	01/08/2021
<b>Settlement Amount:</b>	
<b>Individual Contribution Amount:</b>	



## Employment Separation After Allegations

This type of disclosure event involves a situation where the broker voluntarily resigned, was discharged, or was permitted to resign after being accused of (1) violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; (2) fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or (3) failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules, or industry standards of conduct.

### Disclosure 1 of 1

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Firm
<b>Employer Name:</b>	Park Avenue Securities LLC
<b>Termination Type:</b>	Discharged
<b>Termination Date:</b>	04/09/2021
<b>Allegations:</b>	The RR was terminated after the Firm identified several customer signature irregularities on policy and account documents
<b>Product Type:</b>	Annuity-Variable Insurance

## End of Report



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