# Award FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:	
Claimant	Case Number:
VS.	
Respondent Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC	Hearing Site: San Francisco, California
Nature of the Dispute: Associated Person vs. I	Member

## **REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES**

For Claimant ("Claimant"): Dochtor Kennedy, J.D. and MBA and Harris Freedman, Esq., AdvisorLaw, LLC, Westminster, Colorado.

For Respondent Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC ("Respondent"): Geoffrey Beckham, Esq., Wells Fargo Law Department, San Francisco, California.

#### **CASE INFORMATION**

Statement of Claim filed on or about: June 19, 2018. Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: June 19, 2018.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: August 15, 2018. Respondent signed the Submission Agreement: August 15, 2018.

## CASE SUMMARY

Claimant asserted a claim seeking expungement of a customer complaint, occurrence number ("Underlying Complaint") from her the Central Registration Depository ("CRD") record.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent denied any allegation of wrongdoing and advised that it will defer to the Arbitrator on the sole topic of expungement.

## **RELIEF REQUESTED**

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested:

1. Expungement of the Underlying Claim from her CRD record pursuant to FINRA Rule 2080(b)(1)(A) as the claim, allegation, or information is factually impossible

or clearly erroneous;

- 2. Expungement of the Underlying Claim from her CRD record pursuant to FINRA Rule 2080(b)(1)(C) as the claim, allegation, or information is false;
- 3. Compensatory damages in the amount of \$1.00 from the Respondent; and
- 4. Any and all other relief that the Arbitrator deems just and equitable.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent requested:

- 1. The request for \$1.00 in damages be denied; and
- 2. Claimant be assessed all forum and hearing fees in connection with this matter, pursuant to FINRA Rule 13805(d).

At the hearing, Claimant withdrew her request for \$1.00 in compensatory damages from Respondent.

## OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

The Arbitrator acknowledges that he has read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

The Arbitrator conducted a recorded telephonic hearing on January 8, 2019 so the parties could present oral argument and evidence on Claimant's request for expungement.

The parties present at the hearing have agreed that a handwritten, signed Award may be entered.

#### **AWARD**

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the Arbitrator has decided in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows:

- 1. Claimant's request for expungement of occurrence number CRD records is denied.
- 2. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein are denied.

#### **FEES**

Pursuant to the Code of Arbitration Procedure, the following fees are assessed:

#### Filing Fees

FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution assessed a filing fee\* for each claim:

Initial Claim Filing Fee

=\$ 50.00

<sup>\*</sup>The filing fee is made up of a non-refundable and a refundable portion.

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#### **Member Fees**

Member fees are assessed to each member firm that is a party in these proceedings or to the member firm(s) that employed the associated person(s) at the time of the event(s) giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Respondent is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge

=\$ 150.00

# **Hearing Session Fees and Assessments**

The Arbitrator has assessed hearing session fees for each session conducted. A session is any meeting between the parties and the arbitrator(s), including a pre-hearing conference with the arbitrator(s), that lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

One (1) pre-hearing session Pre-hearing conference:	<u> </u>	@ \$50.00/session 1 session	=\$50.00	
One (1) hearing session of	n expungement request	@ \$50.00/session	=\$50.00	

Hearing Date: January 8, 2019 1 session

Total Hearing Session Fees =\$100.00

The Arbitrator has assessed \$100.00 of the hearing session fees to Claimant.

All balances are payable to FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution and are due upon receipt.

# **ARBITRATOR**

Herb Schwartz

Sole Public Arbitrator

I, the undersigned Arbitrator, do hereby affirm that I am the individual described herein and who executed this instrument which is my award.

# **Arbitrator's Signature**

Herb Schwartz

Sole Public Arbitrator

Signature Date

January 23, 2019

Date of Service (For FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution office use only)