

Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant
Paul Michael Largo

Case Number: 20-02416

vs.

Respondent
Royal Alliance Associates, Inc.

Hearing Site: Jersey City, New Jersey

Awards are rendered by independent arbitrators who are chosen by the parties to issue final, binding decisions. FINRA makes available an arbitration forum—pursuant to rules approved by the SEC—but has no part in deciding the award.

Nature of the Dispute: Associated Person vs. Member

The evidentiary hearing was conducted by videoconference.

REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES

For Claimant Paul Michael Largo: Louis D. Tambaro, Esq., Offit Kurman, Iselin, New Jersey.

For Respondent Royal Alliance Associates, Inc.: James V. Noblett, Esq., Royal Alliance Associates, Inc., Jersey City, New Jersey.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: July 31, 2020.

Corrected Statement of Claim filed on or about: November 30, 2020.

Paul Michael Largo signed the Submission Agreement: July 28, 2020.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: August 11, 2020.

Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. signed the Submission Agreement: August 11, 2020.

CASE SUMMARY

In the Statement of Claim, and Corrected Statement of Claim, Claimant asserted a claim seeking expungement of customer dispute information from registration records maintained by the Central Registration Depository (“CRD”).

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent did not oppose Claimant’s expungement request.

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, and Corrected Statement of Claim, Claimant requested expungement of Occurrence Number 1923848; compensatory damages in the amount of \$1.00 from Respondent; and any and all other relief that the Arbitrator deems just and equitable.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent reserved the right to seek attorneys' fees and arbitration costs, including FINRA member surcharges and/or fees, against Claimant pursuant to indemnity provisions of the Royal Alliance Registered Representative agreement by and between Claimant and Royal Alliance.

At the hearing, Claimant withdrew the request for \$1.00 in damages.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

The Arbitrator acknowledges having read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

On March 31, 2021, Claimant advised that the customers in Occurrence Number 1923848 ("customers") were served with the Statement of Claim and notice of the date and time of the expungement hearing.

The Arbitrator conducted a recorded hearing by videoconference on April 9, 2021, so the parties could present oral argument and evidence on Claimant's request for expungement.

Respondent participated in the expungement hearing and, as stated in the Statement of Answer, did not oppose the request for expungement.

The customers did not participate in the expungement hearing. The Arbitrator found that the customers had notice of the expungement request and hearing.

The Arbitrator reviewed Claimant's BrokerCheck® Report. The Arbitrator noted that a prior arbitration panel or court did not previously rule on expungement of the same occurrence in the CRD.

The Arbitrator also reviewed the settlement documentation related to Occurrence Number 1923848, considered the amount of payment made to any party to the settlement, and considered other relevant terms and conditions of the settlement. The Arbitrator noted that the settlement was not conditioned on any party to the settlement not opposing the expungement request and that Claimant did not contribute to the settlement amount.

In recommending expungement, the Arbitrator relied upon the following documentary or other evidence: pleadings, exhibits, Claimant's testimony, Claimant's BrokerCheck® Report, and the settlement agreement.

AWARD

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

1. The Arbitrator recommends the expungement of all references to Occurrence Number 1923848 from registration records maintained by the CRD for Claimant Paul Michael Largo (CRD Number 2860474) with the understanding that, pursuant to Notice to Members 04-16, Claimant Paul Michael Largo must obtain confirmation from a court of competent jurisdiction before the CRD will execute the expungement directive.

Unless specifically waived in writing by FINRA, parties seeking judicial confirmation of an arbitration award containing expungement relief must name FINRA as an additional party and serve FINRA with all appropriate documents.

Pursuant to Rule 13805 of the Code of Arbitration Procedure (“Code”), the Arbitrator has made the following Rule 2080 affirmative findings of fact:

The claim, allegation, or information is factually impossible or clearly erroneous; and the claim, allegation, or information is false.

The Arbitrator has made the above Rule 2080 findings based on the following reasons:

After an evidentiary hearing during which seven (7) documents were admitted into evidence in addition to the Arbitrator's Exhibits and oral testimony was given by Claimant and upon the Arbitrator's review of his hearing notes and the documentary evidence finds that the claim, allegation and/or information set forth in Occurrence Number 1923848 is clearly erroneous and false. The customers making the claim, allegation and or information were sophisticated investors who knew exactly what they were doing when they were doing it and Claimant did not do anything wrong or improper. To be noted is the fact that the customers making the claim, allegation and or information were duly notified of the hearing and stated in writing that they did not intend to participate.

2. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein are denied.

FEES

Pursuant to the Code, the following fees are assessed:

Filing Fees

FINRA Dispute Resolution Services assessed a filing fee* for each claim:

Initial Claim Filing Fee = \$ 50.00

**The filing fee is made up of a non-refundable and a refundable portion.*

Member Fees

Member fees are assessed to each member firm that is a party in these proceedings or to the member firm that employed the associated person at the time of the events giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Respondent Royal Alliance Associates, Inc. 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, including a pre-hearing conference with the Arbitrator, which lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

Two (2) pre-hearing sessions with a single Arbitrator @ \$50.00/session	= \$	100.00
Pre-Hearing Conferences: November 24, 2020	1 session	
March 2, 2021	1 session	
One (1) hearing session on expungement request @ \$50.00/session	= \$	50.00
Hearing: April 9, 2021	1 session	
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Total Hearing Session Fees	= \$	150.00

The Arbitrator has assessed the total hearing session fees to Claimant.

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

ARBITRATOR

Jay Alan Kranis

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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

Jay Alan Kranis

Jay Alan Kranis
Sole Public Arbitrator

04/17/2021

Signature Date

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April 19, 2021

Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution Services use only)