

**Award**  
**FINRA Dispute Resolution Services**

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In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant

Michael Robinette Jeppson

Case Number: 20-02584

vs.

Respondent

Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.

Hearing Site: Los Angeles, California

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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

**REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES**

For Claimant Michael Robinette Jeppson (“Claimant”): David Harrison, Esq., The Law Offices of David Harrison, P.C., Beverly Hills, California.

For Respondent Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. (“Respondent”): Adam M. Kauff, Esq., Kauff Laton Miller LLP, New York, New York.

**CASE INFORMATION**

Statement of Claim filed on or about: August 11, 2020.

Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: August 11, 2020.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: October 1, 2020.

Respondent signed the Submission Agreement: October 1, 2020.

**CASE SUMMARY**

In the 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 request for expungement from Claimant’s CRD records.

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested:

1. Expungement of Occurrence Number 381251 from his CRD records pursuant to FINRA Rule 2080; and
2. Compensatory damages in the amount of \$1.00 from Respondent.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent requested that the Arbitrator deny Claimant's request for an award of damages in its entirety.

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 February 2, 2021, Claimant advised that the customer in Occurrence Number 381251 ("Customer") was served with the Statement of Claim and notice of the date and time of the expungement hearing.

The Arbitrator conducted a recorded, telephonic hearing on March 15, 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 Customer did not participate in the expungement hearing. The Arbitrator found that the Customer 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 noted that the disputes related to Occurrence Number 381251 was not settled and, therefore, there was no settlement document to review.

In recommending expungement, the Arbitrator relied upon the following documentary or other evidence: Claimant's Statement of Claim; Claimant's Submission Agreement; Respondent's Statement of Answer — Statement of Non-Opposition; Respondent's Submission Agreement; Claimant's notice to the Customer, dated February 2, 2021; Claimant's proof of delivery; Claimant's BrokerCheck® Report; Claimant's exhibits; and the closing binder.

### **AWARD**

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the expungement hearing, 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 381251 from registration records maintained by the CRD for Claimant Michael Robinette Jeppson (CRD Number 1418378) with the understanding that, pursuant to Notice to Members 04-16,

Claimant Michael Robinette Jeppson 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 finding of fact:

The claim, allegation, or information is false.

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

Even though the Customer alleged that two corporate bonds purchased in her account were unsuitable and not in accordance with her stated investment objectives, the Arbitrator finds that the portfolio overall was profitable. Two particular bonds out of ten were not profitable; however, this does not constitute unsuitability. The bonds met the Customer’s objectives and they were not objected to until the Customer liquidated her account and there was a loss.

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(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, including a pre-hearing conference with the Arbitrator, which lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

One (1) pre-hearing session with a single Arbitrator @ \$50.00/session = \$ 50.00  
Pre-Hearing Conference: November 23, 2020 1 session

One (1) hearing session on expungement request @ \$50.00/session	= \$	50.00
Hearing:                                  March 15, 2021                                  1 session		
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Total Hearing Session Fees	= \$	100.00

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**

Robert E. Jenks

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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**

***Robert E. Jenks***

Robert E. Jenks  
Sole Public Arbitrator

**03/23/2021**

Signature Date

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March 23, 2021

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