

Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant

Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.

Case Number: 20-03641

vs.

Respondent

Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha

Hearing Site: Washington, D.C.

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: Member vs. Associated Person

REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES

For Claimant Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.: Erin MacAvoy, Esq., Alonso, Andalkar & Facher, P.C., New York, New York.

Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha did not enter an appearance.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: October 26, 2020.

Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. signed the Submission Agreement: October 26, 2020.

Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha did not file a Statement of Answer or sign the Submission Agreement.

CASE SUMMARY

Claimant asserted the following cause of action: breach of contract.

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested an award for compensatory damages in the amount of \$123,833.33, plus interest; all costs, fees, and disbursements of this action, including attorneys' fees; and such other and further relief as this Panel may deem just, proper, and equitable.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

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

Respondent did not file a properly executed Submission Agreement but is required to submit to arbitration pursuant to the Code of Arbitration Procedure ("Code") and is bound by the determination of the Arbitrator on all issues submitted.

Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha did not file a Statement of Answer. On March 16, 2021, Claimant opted to proceed against Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha pursuant to Rule 13801 of the Code of Arbitration Procedure (the "Code"). The Arbitrator determined that Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha was served with the Claim Notification letter dated October 27, 2020 by FedEx, as evidenced by the FedEx tracking information available online; the Overdue Notice (including the Statement of Claim) dated December 21, 2020 by regular and certified mail, as evidenced by the USPS tracking information available online; and the Panel Notice Letter dated January 19, 2021 by regular mail.

The Claim Notification letter notified Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha that FINRA rules require parties to use the online DR Portal on a mandatory basis (except pro se investors) and that failure to register for the DR Portal will prevent the submission of pleadings, selection of arbitrators, and receipt of notification relating to case information and deadlines. Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha failed to register for the DR Portal.

The Arbitrator determined that Respondent Omer Mohamed Ali-Taha is, therefore, bound by the Arbitrator's ruling and determination.

AWARD

After considering the pleadings, and any party submissions, the Arbitrator has decided in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows:

1. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant the sum of \$123,833.33 in compensatory damages.
2. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant the sum of \$5,818.93 in interest.
3. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant the sum of \$32,075.50 in attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Release.
4. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant \$300.00 to reimburse Claimant for the paper decision fee previously paid to FINRA Dispute Resolution Services.
5. 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	=\$ 2,125.00
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**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 event giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Respondent Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge	=\$ 1,700.00
Member Process Fee	=\$ 3,250.00

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 the Panel @ \$1,125.00/session	=\$ 1,125.00
Pre-Hearing Conference: February 19, 2021 1 session	

Decision on the papers:	=\$ 300.00
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Total Hearing Session Fees	=\$ 1,425.00
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The Arbitrator has assessed \$300.00 of the paper decision fees to Claimant.

The Arbitrator has assessed \$1,125.00 hearing session fees to Respondent.

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

ARBITRATOR

Geoffrey A. Drucker

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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

Geoffrey A. Drucker

Geoffrey A. Drucker
Sole Public Arbitrator

04/12/2021

Signature Date

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April 13, 2021

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