

Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant
Honey Badger Investment Securities, LLC

Case Number: 21-00167

vs.

Respondents
Oak Ridge Financial Services Group, Inc.
Sentinel Brokers Company, Inc.

Hearing Site: Los Angeles, California

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. Members

This matter proceeded pursuant to Rule 13800 of the Code of Arbitration Procedure (“Code”).

REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES

For Claimant Honey Badger Investment Securities, LLC (“Claimant”): Joseph J. Lee, Honey Badger Investment Securities, LLC, Irvine, California.

For Respondent Oak Ridge Financial Services Group, Inc. (“Oak Ridge Financial”): Philip T. Colton, Esq., Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

For Respondent Sentinel Brokers Company, Inc. (“Sentinel Brokers”): Joseph Lawless, Sentinel Brokers Company, Inc., Jupiter, Florida.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: January 22, 2021.

Amended Statement of Claim filed on or about: February 11, 2021.

Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: January 22, 2021.

Answer to Amended Statement of Claim filed by Oak Ridge Financial on or about: March 29, 2021.

Oak Ridge Financial signed the Submission Agreement: March 29, 2021.

Sentinel Brokers did not file a Statement of Answer or sign the Submission Agreement.

CASE SUMMARY

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant asserted the following causes of action: misrepresentation and omission of facts. The causes of action relate to a Friendship Village municipal bond.

In the Amended Statement of Claim, Claimant dismissed Sentinel Brokers and reasserted its causes of action against Oak Ridge Financial.

In the Answer to the Amended Statement of Claim, Oak Ridge Financial denied the allegations made in the Amended Statement of Claim and asserted various affirmative defenses.

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim and Amended Statement of Claim, Claimant requested compensatory damages in the amount of \$50,000.00, which includes the market value difference in principal for its trade, accrued interest, and fees associated with filing this claim.

In the Answer to the Amended Statement of Claim, Oak Ridge Financial requested:

1. Dismissal of Claimant's claims with prejudice; and
2. Reimbursement of costs for defending itself, including attorneys' fees, in this arbitration.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

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

The Arbitrator has provided an explanation of the decision in this award. The explanation is for the information of the parties only and is not precedential in nature.

FINDINGS

Information on the bond default was publicly available on the Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA") prior to Claimant's purchase.

AWARD

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

1. Claimant's claims are denied in their entirety.
2. FINRA Dispute Resolution Services shall retain the \$1,450.00 filing fee that Claimant deposited previously.
3. Any and all relief not specifically addressed herein, including requests for attorneys' fees, are denied.

FEES

Pursuant to the Code:

1. Claimant has paid to FINRA Dispute Resolution Services the \$750.00 Member Surcharge and \$1,750.00 Member Process Fee previously invoiced.
2. Oak Ridge Financial has paid to FINRA Dispute Resolution Services the \$750.00 Member Surcharge and \$1,750.00 Member Process Fee previously invoiced.

ARBITRATOR

Marc S. Joseph

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Sole Non-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

Marc S. Joseph

Marc S. Joseph
Sole Non-Public Arbitrator

05/06/2021

Signature Date

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May 06, 2021

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