

Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant
Matthew Thomas Champion

Case Number: 21-00514

vs.

Respondent
Pruco Securities, LLC.

Hearing Site: Syracuse, New York

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 Matthew Thomas Champion: Dochter Kennedy, MBA, J.D., and Benjamin Winograd, Esq., AdvisorLaw, LLC, Westminster, Colorado.

For Respondent Pruco Securities, LLC.: Jason Snyder, Esq., Paduano & Weintraub, LLP, New York, New York.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: February 25, 2021.

Matthew Thomas Champion signed the Submission Agreement: February 25, 2021.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: April 16, 2021.

Pruco Securities, LLC. signed the Submission Agreement: March 2, 2021.

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 opposed Claimant’s expungement request, denied the allegations made in the Statement of Claim, and asserted various affirmative defenses.

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested expungement of Occurrence Number 1963628;

and any and all other relief that the Panel deems just and equitable.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent requested that the Panel enter an Award as follows: dismissing the Statement of Claim in its entirety; granting Respondent its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with this matter; allocating all forum fees and costs to Claimant; and granting Respondent such other and further relief as the Panel may deem just and proper.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

The Arbitrators acknowledge that they have each read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

The Panel conducted a recorded telephonic hearing on November 4, 2021, so the parties could present oral argument and evidence on Claimant's request for expungement.

The Award in this matter may be executed in counterpart copies.

AWARD

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

1. Claimant's claims are denied in their entirety.
2. Claimant's request for expungement of his registration records maintained by the CRD is denied.
3. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein, including any requests for attorneys' fees, are denied.

FEES

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

Filing Fees

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

Initial Claim Filing Fee = \$ 1,575.00

**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 Pruco Securities, LLC. is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge = \$ 1,900.00

Member Process Fee = \$ 3,750.00

Hearing Session Fees and Assessments

The Panel has assessed hearing session fees for each session conducted. A session is any meeting between the parties and the Arbitrators, including a pre-hearing conference with the Arbitrators, 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 Conferences: July 9, 2021 1 session

One (1) hearing session @ \$1,125.00/session = \$ 1,125.00
Hearing: November 4, 2021 1 session

Total Hearing Session Fees = \$ 2,250.00

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

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

ARBITRATION PANEL

Thomas E. Webb, Jr.	-	Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson
Jim Geiger	-	Public Arbitrator
Francis Xavier Daumen	-	Non-Public Arbitrator

I, the undersigned Arbitrator, do hereby affirm, pursuant to Article 7507 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules, that I am the individual described herein and who executed this instrument, which is my award.

Concurring Arbitrators' Signatures

Thomas E. Webb, Jr.

Thomas E. Webb, Jr.
Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

11/23/2021

Signature Date

Jim Geiger

Jim Geiger
Public Arbitrator

11/20/2021

Signature Date

Francis Xavier Daumen

Francis Xavier Daumen
Non-Public Arbitrator

11/22/2021

Signature Date

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November 23, 2021

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