

Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimant

Monique Michelle Morrison

Case Number: 21-01736

vs.

Respondent

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

Hearing Site: San Francisco, 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: Associated Person vs. Member

REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES

For Claimant Monique Michelle Morrison (“Claimant”): Samantha Pastor, Esq., HLBS Law, Westminster, Colorado.

For Respondent Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“Respondent”): Julie L. Taylor, Esq., Keesal, Young & Logan, San Francisco, California.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: July 8, 2021.

Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: July 8, 2021.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: September 15, 2021.

Respondent signed the Submission Agreement: September 13, 2021.

CASE SUMMARY

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant asserted a claim alleging that the Form U5 filed by Respondent, as part of the registration records maintained by the Central Registration Depository (“CRD”), is defamatory in nature.

Unless specifically admitted in the Statement of Answer, Respondent denied the allegations made in the Statement of Claim and asserted various affirmative defenses.

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested:

1. Expungement of the Form U5 amendments corresponding with Occurrence Number 2122247, and those relevant portions of the Form U4, from Claimant's CRD records on the basis that the statement is defamatory in nature and tends to mislead, to include:
 - a. amendment of the Reason for Termination entry in Section 3 of Claimant's Form U5 to read "Voluntary;"
 - b. expungement of the Termination Explanation from Claimant's Form U5;
 - c. amendment of the answer to question 7F(1) on Claimant's Form U5, from a "Yes" response to "No;"
 - d. expungement of the Termination Disclosure Detail (U5) from the CRD; and
 - e. deletion of the Termination Disclosure Reporting Page accompanying Occurrence Number 2122247;
2. An award of damages in the amount of \$1.00 from Respondent; and
3. Any other relief as the Arbitrator deems just and equitable.

In the Statement of Answer, Respondent requested:

1. Claimant's claims be dismissed in their entirety;
2. Costs incurred in defending this action; and
3. Any and all other appropriate relief.

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

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

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

AWARD

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the 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 the Reason for Termination and Termination Explanation in Section 3 of Monique Michelle Morrison's (CRD Number 5109948) Form U5 filed by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. on April 14, 2021 and maintained by the Central Registration Depository ("CRD"). The Reason for Termination shall be changed to "Voluntary" and the Termination Explanation shall be deleted in its entirety and appear blank. This directive shall apply to all references to the Reason for Termination and Termination Explanation.

The Arbitrator further recommends the expungement of all references to Occurrence Number 2122247 from the registration records maintained by the CRD for Monique Michelle Morrison. Any "Yes" answers should be changed to "No," as applicable.

The Arbitrator recommends expungement based on the defamatory nature of the information. The above recommendations are made with the understanding that the registration records are not automatically amended. Monique Michelle Morrison must forward

a copy of this Award to FINRA's Credentialing, Registration, Education and Disclosure Department for review.

2. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein 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	= \$	50.00
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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(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
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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 3, 2021	1 session	

Two (2) hearing sessions @ \$50.00/session	= \$	100.00
Hearings: February 22, 2022	2 sessions	

Total Hearing Session Fees	= \$	150.00
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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

Helen Marinak Blohm

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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

Helen Marinak Blohm

Helen Marinak Blohm
Sole Public Arbitrator

03/09/2022

Signature Date

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March 09, 2022

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