

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU**

In the matter of:

Agency No. 343385

ERIC SMITH
CRD# 2894648

Respondent.
_____ /

This 26th day of May, 2021

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE
INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE REGISTRATION**

I. RELEVANT FACTS AND APPLICABLE LAW.

Relevant information and statutory provisions, under the Michigan Uniform Securities Act (2002), 2008 PA 551, as amended, MCL 451.2101 *et seq* ("Securities Act"):

1. Eric Smith (CRD#2894648, "Respondent") is registered as an investment adviser representative associated with Trustee Empowerment & Protection, Inc. (CRD/IARD#108249), a federal covered investment adviser notice-filed in Michigan. Respondent is or was the chairman, chief executive officer, and majority owner of Consulting Services Support Corporation ("CSSC"). CSSC was the holding company and sole owner of CSSC Brokerage Services, Inc. (CRD#141630, "CSSC-BD"), a broker-dealer that was registered under the Securities Act in Michigan until its registration was terminated in or around June of 2018.
2. The Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau ("the Bureau") within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs routinely monitors disclosures about registrant disciplinary matters made through the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's ("FINRA") Central Registration Depository ("CRD").
3. FINRA filed a CRD disclosure related to Respondent and his involvement in a capital raise by CSSC wherein Respondent was alleged to have fraudulently misled investors about the company's financial condition and acted as an unregistered principal for CSSC-BD. The Bureau opened an investigation into Respondent's activities in the securities industry based on FINRA's CRD disclosure filing.
4. The Bureau's investigation developed evidence that Respondent became the subject of a bar from association with any FINRA member at the conclusion of an extended hearing by FINRA. The hearing panel found that Respondent engaged in fraud related

to a 2015 bridge loan offering to investors and that he acted as an unregistered principal for CSSC-BD. Respondent appealed the hearing panel decision to FINRA's National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC"), the body that hears appeals in FINRA matters. The NAC upheld the bar imposed by the hearing panel. Respondent thereafter appealed the NAC decision to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"); Respondent's FINRA bar is effective pending the appeal with the SEC.

5. The Director ("Administrator") of the Bureau has reviewed materials relating to Respondent's bar from association with a self-regulatory organization. The Administrator has determined that it is authorized, appropriate, and in the public interest to revoke Respondent's investment adviser representative registration.
6. Section 412(2) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(2), states:

If the administrator finds that the order is in the public interest and subsection (4) authorizes the action, an order under this act may revoke, suspend, condition, or limit the registration of a registrant and if the registrant is a broker-dealer or investment adviser, of a partner, officer, or director, or a person having a similar status or performing similar functions, or a person directly or indirectly in control of the broker-dealer or investment adviser...

7. Section 412(4) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(4) states in relevant part:

A person may be disciplined under subsections (1) to (3) if any of the following apply to the person:

(e) The person is the subject of an order, issued after notice and opportunity for hearing by any of the following:

(iii) The securities and exchange commission or a self-regulatory organization suspending or expelling the registrant from membership in a self-regulatory organization...

8. Section 412(7) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(7) states:

Except under subsection (6), an order shall not be issued under this section unless all of the following have occurred:

- (a) Appropriate notice has been given to the applicant or registrant.
- (b) Opportunity for hearing has been given to the applicant or registrant.
- (c) Findings of fact and conclusions of law have been made on the record pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

9. The Administrator may revoke Respondent Eric Smith's investment adviser representative registration under section 412(2) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(2), because it is in the public interest and because Respondent is the subject of an order issued by FINRA, a self-regulatory organization, barring him from membership with FINRA, causing the applicability of section 412(4)(e)(iii), MCL 451.2412(4)(e)(iii).

II. ORDER.

The Administrator finds that this ORDER is authorized, appropriate, and in the public interest based on the above-cited facts and law.

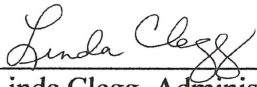
IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. The Administrator intends to revoke the investment adviser representative registration of Eric Smith under section 412(2) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(2), because he is subject to an order from a self-regulatory organization suspending him from membership; he is the subject of a cease and desist order issued by a state; and, because he engaged in dishonest or unethical business practices in the securities industry within the previous 10 years, all of which support the revocation of the investment adviser representative registration under the Michigan Uniform Securities Act (2002), 2008 PA 551, MCL 451.2101 *et seq.*

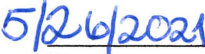
2. In accordance with sections 412(2) and 412(7) of the Securities Act, MCL 451.2412(2) and MCL 451.2412(7): This is notice that the Administrator intends to commence administrative proceedings to revoke Respondent's investment adviser representative registration, and that Respondent has thirty (30) days after the date that this Order is served on Respondent to respond in writing to the enclosed Notice of Opportunity to Show Compliance. If the Administrator timely receives a written request, depending upon the election, the Administrator shall either promptly schedule a compliance conference, or schedule a hearing within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the written request. If you fail to respond to this Notice and Order within the time frame specified, the Administrator shall schedule a hearing. If a hearing is requested or ordered, the Administrator, after notice of and an opportunity for hearing to Respondent, may modify or vacate this Order or extend the Order until final determination.

If Respondent requests a hearing, the request must be in writing and filed with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau, Regulatory Compliance Division, P.O. Box 30018, Lansing, MI 48909, or by email to CSCL-FOIA@michigan.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES, AND COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU



Linda Clegg, Administrator and Director
Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau



Date