

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

TSD No.: 20-031	
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CONSENT ORDER

The Securities Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance ("Division") and Matthew Lawson ("Respondent") agree to the entry and execution of this Consent Order in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated ("Tenn. Code Ann.") § 48-1-116 of the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980 ("Act"), as amended, and Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 48-1-101 to 48-1-201, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the Department ("Commissioner"). The Commissioner recuses himself from this matter and authorizes the Chief Deputy Commissioner to act as his designee.

I. PARTIES

- 1. Matthew Lawson was previously registered with the Division as an agent and investment adviser representative contracted with Raymond James. His Central Registration Depository number ("CRD #") is 2869619.
- 2. The Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner discharges the administration of the Act pursuant to Tenn. Code. Ann. § 48-1-115.

II. GENERAL STIPULATIONS

3. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is subject to the Chief Deputy

Commissioner's acceptance and has no force and effect until such acceptance is evidenced by the

entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Chief Deputy Commissioner. Entry and

execution of this Consent Order by the Chief Deputy Commissioner shall occur when the Chief

Deputy Commissioner signs and dates this Consent Order.

4. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is in the public interest, necessary

for the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and

provisions of the Act.

5. This Consent Order is executed by the Chief Deputy Commissioner, the Division,

and the Respondent to avoid further administrative action with respect to the findings of fact

described herein. Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Chief Deputy Commissioner,

it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order by the Chief Deputy

Commissioner shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Chief Deputy Commissioner from

further participation or resolution of these proceedings.

6. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude

additional proceedings by the Commissioner and the Chief Deputy Commissioner against the

Respondent for acts and/or omissions not specifically addressed in this Consent Order nor for facts

and/or omissions that do not arise from the facts or transactions herein.

7. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude

proceedings by state government representatives, other than the Commissioner and the Chief

Deputy Commissioner, for acts or omissions addressed specifically in this Consent Order,

violations of law under statutes, rules, or regulations of the State of Tennessee that arise out of the

facts, acts, or omissions contained in this Consent Order, or acts or omissions addressed

specifically herein that result from the execution of this Consent Order.

8. The Respondent waives all further procedural steps and all rights to seek judicial

review of, or otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order, the stipulations and imposition

of discipline contained herein, or the consideration and entry and execution of this Consent Order

by the Chief Deputy Commissioner.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

9. On or about May 7, 2020, Cadaret, Grant, and Co., Inc. submitted to the Division

applications for registrations on behalf of the Respondent to register him as an investment adviser

representative and agent in Tennessee.

10. The Division examined the applications and found that the Respondent was

previously terminated from Raymond James for "... not timely disclos[ing] or seek[ing] approval

of a business loan agreement with a client." As a result, the Division sent correspondence to the

Respondent requesting various details surrounding this event.

11. In response to the Division's inquiries, the Respondent stated that Mr. William

Winchester was the individual who borrowed money from the client and that the Respondent was

not "involved in the solicitation or the origination of the loan . . . nor did [he] participate in

negotiating the terms." Mr. William Winchester corroborated this information; however, the

Respondent was aware of the loan from the client to Mr. Winchester and at no point disclosed the

loan between Mr. Winchester and the client involved to Raymond James.

12. On May 21, 2020, the Division and the Respondent entered into a Tolling

Agreement to assist in the settlement of this matter and to avoid the need for any action against the

Respondent's applications.

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

13. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115(a), the responsibility for the administration of the Act is vested in the Commissioner. The Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner discharges this responsibility pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann.

§ 48-1-115(b).

14. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116 sets forth that the Commissioner may make, promulgate, amend, and rescind such orders as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act upon a finding that such order is in the public interest, necessary for the protection of investors,

and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

15. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-112(a)(2)(G) provides that the Commissioner may by order deny, suspend, or revoke any registration if the Commissioner finds that the agent add/or investment adviser representative"[h]as engaged in dishonest or unethical practices in the

securities business[.]"

16. Tenn. Comp. Rules & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(b)1. states that "borrowing money or securities from a customer" constitutes dishonest or unethical business practices by an agent under Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-112(a)(2)(G).

17. Tenn. Comp. Rules & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(c)24. establishes that "[b]orrowing

money or securities from a client unless the client is a broker-dealer, an affiliate of the investment

adviser, or a financial institution engaged in the business of loaning funds" constitutes dishonest

or unethical practices in the securities business by an investment adviser representative under

Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-112(a)(2)(G).

18. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-112(d) authorizes the Commissioner to, in lieu of or in

addition to a denial, revocation, or suspension of a registration, "... impose a civil penalty in an

amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for all violations for any single transaction,

or in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation if an individual who is

a designated adult is a victim."

19. The Findings of Fact detailed above show that the Respondent engaged in dishonest

and unethical practices in the securities business as an agent and investment adviser representative,

was terminated from Raymond James as a result, and violated Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-112 and

Tenn. Comp. Rules & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(b)1. and 0780-04-03-02(6)(c)24.

20. The Chief Deputy Commissioner, acting as the Commissioner's designee, finds the

following relief appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors.

V. ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, including the Respondent's waiver of the

right to a hearing and appeal under the Act and the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures

Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-101 et seq., and the Respondent's admission to jurisdiction, the Chief

Deputy Commissioner, acting as the Commissioner's designee, finds that the Respondent agrees

to the entry and execution of this Consent Order to settle this matter as evidenced by the

Respondent's signature.

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116, that the Respondent shall:

1. **COMPLY** with the Act, as amended, and all rules promulgated thereunder;

2. BE SUBJECT TO HEIGHTENED SUPERVISION FOR TWO (2) YEARS by

Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc., starting the day after this Consent Order is entered and executed;

3. **PARTICIPATE IN AND COMPLETE** the following four (4) training courses

offered by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") within one (1) year of the Chief

Deputy Commissioner's execution of this Consent Order: Ethical Considerations for Registered

Representatives (EL-ELC170), Ethical Considerations for Registered Representatives (EL-

ELC170), Conflicts of Interest (EL-ELC-242), and Gifts: Understanding Compliance

Responsibilities (EL-ELC167);¹

4. PROVIDE PROOF OF PARTICIPATION IN AND COMPLETION OF THE

FINRA TRAINING COURSES, cited in Paragraph 3. on page 5 of this Consent Order, to April

Odom, Director of Registration for Securities, via e-mail to April.X.Odom@tn.gov. Such proof

of participation in and completion of the FINRA training courses shall be provided to April Odom

within sixty (60) days of completion of each FINRA training course cited in Paragraph 3. on page

5 of this Consent Order above; and

5. PAY A CIVIL PENALTY to the State of Tennessee of fifteen thousand dollars

(\$15,000.00). The payment of such civil penalty shall be made by check payable to the Tennessee

Department of Commerce and Insurance. Page one (1) of this Consent Order must accompany the

payment for reference. Payment shall be remitted within thirty (30) days after the entry and

execution of this Consent Order, as evidenced by the Commissioner's signature, and mailed to the

attention of:

State of Tennessee

Department of Commerce and Insurance

Attn: Virginia Smith Davy Crockett Tower

500 James Robertson Parkway

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

6. The Respondent's failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order, including

the manner and method of payment of the civil penalty described above, shall result in further

administrative disciplinary action, which may include the assessment of additional civil penalties.

¹ FINRA's course can be found here: https://www.finra.org/events-training/e-learning.

7. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order represents the complete and

final resolution of and discharge of all administrative and civil claims, demands, actions, and

causes of action by the Commissioner and the Chief Deputy Commissioner against the Respondent

for violations of the Act with respect to the transactions involved in the above-referenced facts.

However, excluded from and not covered by this paragraph, are any claims by the Division arising

from or relating to the enforcement of the Consent Order provisions contained herein.

8. This Consent Order is in the public interest and the best interests of the Parties. It

represents a settlement of the controversy between the Parties and is for settlement purposes only.

By the signatures affixed below, or in two (2) or more counterparts, the Respondent affirmatively

states the following: the Respondent freely agrees to the entry and execution of this Consent Order;

the Respondent waives the right to a hearing on, or a review of, the matters, the Findings of Fact,

and the Conclusions of Law underlying this Consent Order or the enforcement of this Consent

Order; and the Respondent encountered no threats or promises of any kind by the Chief Deputy

Commissioner, the Division, or any agent or representative thereof.

9. By signing this Consent Order, the Chief Deputy Commissioner, Division, and the

Respondent affirmatively states his agreement to be bound by the terms of this Consent Order and

aver that no promises or offers relating to the circumstances described herein, other than the terms

of settlement as set forth in this Consent Order, are binding upon them.

10. Immediately after this Consent Order is entered and executed, as evidenced by the

the Chief Deputy Commissioner's signature below, Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc.'s applications, to

register the Respondent will be approved.

11. This Consent Order may be executed in two (2) or more counterparts, each of which

shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same document.

The facsimile, email or other electronically delivered signatures of the parties shall be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies shall be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

ENTERED AND EXECUTED this _ 2020. Carter Lawrence (Jun 3, 2020 16:10 CDT) Carter Lawrence, Chief Deputy Commissioner Department of Commerce and Insurance APPROVED FOR ENTRY AND EXECUTION: Elizabeth Bowling Matthew Lawson The Respondent Assistant Commissioner for Securities Department of Commerce and Insurance Virginia Smith Virginia Smith, BPR #31248 President-for Registration-Associate General Counsel and Agent for Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc. Department of Commerce and Insurance Albert L. Johnson Chief Compliance officer Cadaret Grant & Co., Ing

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