



IAPD Report

RICHARD LOUIS SOARES

CRD# 1105512

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Qualifications	2 - 4
Registration and Employment History	6
Disclosure Information	7



When communicating online or investing with any professional, make sure you know who you're dealing with. [Imposters](#) might link to sites like BrokerCheck from [phishing](#) or similar scam websites, or through [social media](#), trying to steal your personal information or your money.

Please contact FINRA with any concerns.



IAPD Information About Representatives

IAPD offers information on all current-and many former representatives. Investors are strongly encouraged to use IAPD to check the background of representatives before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

What is included in a IAPD report?

IAPD reports for individual representatives include information such as employment history, professional qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards.

It is important to note that the information contained in an IAPD report may include pending actions or allegations that may be contested, unresolved or unproven. In the end, these actions or allegations may be resolved in favor of the representative, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

Where did this information come from?

The information contained in IAPD comes from the Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD) and FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD, (see more on CRD below) and is a combination of:

- information the states require representatives and firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
- information that state regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against representatives.

How current is this information?

Generally, representatives are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in IARD within 30 days.

Need help interpreting this report?

For help understanding how to read this report, please consult NASAA's IAPD Tips page <http://www.nasaa.org/IAPD/IARReports.cfm>

What if I want to check the background of an Individual Broker or Brokerage Firm?

To check the background of an Individual Broker or Brokerage firm, you can search for the firm or individual in IAPD. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in FINRA's BrokerCheck website.

Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?

It is recommended that you learn as much as possible about an individual representative or Investment Adviser firm before deciding to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research individuals and certain firms doing business in your state. The contact information for state securities regulators can be found on the website of the North American Securities Administrators Association <http://www.nasaa.org>



Report Summary

RICHARD LOUIS SOARES (CRD# 1105512)

The report summary provides an overview of the representative's professional background and conduct. The information contained in this report has been provided by the representative, investment adviser and/or securities firms, and/or securities regulators as part of the states' investment adviser registration and licensing process. The information contained in this report was last updated by the representative, a previous employing firm, or a securities regulator on **04/17/2026**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	07/18/2008
IA	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	07/18/2008

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **6** SRO(s) and **4** jurisdiction(s).

Is this representative currently Inactive or Suspended with any regulator? **No**

Note: Not all jurisdictions require IAR registration or may have an exemption from registration.

Additional information including this individual's qualification examinations and professional designations is available in the Detailed Report.

REGISTRATION HISTORY

This representative was previously registered with the following firm(s):

	FIRM	CRD#	LOCATION	REGISTRATION DATES
B	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	8209	SALINAS, CA	04/02/2007 - 07/23/2008
IA	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	8209	SALINAS, CA	04/02/2007 - 07/23/2008
IA	MORGAN STANLEY	7556	SALINAS, CA	08/24/1998 - 04/02/2007

For additional registration and employment history details as reported by the individual, refer to the Registration and Employment History section of the Detailed Report.

DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Disclosure events include certain criminal charges and convictions, formal investigations and disciplinary actions initiated by regulators, customer disputes and arbitrations, and financial disclosures such as bankruptcies and unpaid judgments or liens.

Are there events disclosed about this representative? **Yes**

The following types of events are disclosed about this representative:

Type	Count
Customer Dispute	4



Qualifications

REGISTRATIONS

This section provides the SRO, states and U.S. territories in which the representative is currently registered and licensed, the category of each registration, and the date on which the registration becomes effective. This section also provides, for each firm with which the representative is currently employed, the address of each location where the representative works. This individual is currently registered with 4 jurisdiction(s) and 6 SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**
Main Address: ONE BRYANT PARK
NEW YORK, NY 10036
Firm ID#: 7691

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/14/2014
B Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/14/2014
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/18/2008
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/18/2008
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/18/2008
B FINRA	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/18/2008
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/18/2008
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/18/2008
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/18/2008
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	10/01/2018
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	07/18/2008
B California	Agent	Approved	07/18/2008
IA California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	07/18/2008



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	01/05/2022
B New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	04/19/2022

Branch Office Locations

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED**
200 E FRANKLIN ST
MONTEREY, CA 93940



Qualifications

PASSED INDUSTRY EXAMS

This section includes all industry exams that the representative has passed. Under limited circumstances, a representative may attain registration after receiving an exam waiver based on a combination of exams the representative has passed and qualifying work experience. Likewise a new exam requirement may be grandfathered based on a representative's specific qualifying work experience. Exam waivers and grandfathering are not included below.

This individual has passed 3 principal/supervisory exams, 3 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
General Securities Sales Supervisor - Options Module Examination (S9)	Series 9	01/02/2023
General Securities Sales Supervisor - General Module Examination (S10)	Series 10	01/02/2023
General Securities Sales Supervisor Examination (Options Module & General Module) (S8)	Series 8	02/24/1989

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
National Commodity Futures Examination (S3)	Series 3	08/01/1984
General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	03/19/1983

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	09/14/1995
Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	04/01/1983

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

This section details that the representative has reported **1** professional designation(s).

Certified Financial Planner

This representative holds or did hold **1** professional designation(s) that may have been used to qualify as an Investment Advisor



representative. Please check with the appropriate designation authority for verification that the designation is still in effect. The contact information for these professional designation authorities can be found on the website for the North American Securities Administrators Association at <http://www.nasaa.org>



Registration & Employment History

PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED WITH THE FOLLOWING FIRMS

This representative held registrations with the following firms:

	Registration Dates	Firm Name	ID#	Branch Location
B	04/02/2007 - 07/23/2008	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	CRD# 8209	SALINAS, CA
IA	04/02/2007 - 07/23/2008	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	CRD# 8209	SALINAS, CA
IA	08/24/1998 - 04/02/2007	MORGAN STANLEY	CRD# 7556	SALINAS, CA
B	03/22/1983 - 04/02/2007	MORGAN STANLEY DW INC.	CRD# 7556	SALINAS, CA

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Below is the representative's employment history for up to the last 10 years.

Employment Dates	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
08/2009 - Present	BANK OF AMERICA,NA	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	CARMEL, CA, United States
07/2008 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER AND SMITH, INC.	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	CARMEL, CA, United States

OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the representative regarding other business activities the representative is currently engaged in either as a proprietor, partner, officer, director, employee, trustee, agent, or otherwise. This section does not include non-investment related activity that is exclusively charitable, civic, religious, or fraternal and is recognized as tax exempt.

No information reported.



Disclosure Summary

Disclosure Information

What you should know about reported disclosure events:

(1) Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to IARD, for example:

- A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before an Investment Adviser Representative is required to report a particular criminal event.;
- A customer dispute must involve allegations that an Investment Adviser Representative engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.

(2) Disclosure events in IAPD reports come from different sources:

As mentioned in the "About IAPD" section on page 1 of this report, information contained in IAPD comes from Investment Adviser Representatives, firms and regulators. When more than one of these sources reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the IAPD report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.

(3) There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:

- A disclosure event may have a status of *pending*, *on appeal*, or *final*.
 - A "pending" disclosure event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
 - A disclosure event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
 - A "final" disclosure event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
- A final disclosure event generally has a disposition of *adjudicated*, *settled* or *otherwise resolved*.
 - An "adjudicated" matter includes a disposition by (1) a court of law in a criminal or civil matter, or (2) an administrative panel in an action brought by a regulator that is contested by the party charged with some alleged wrongdoing.
 - A "settled" matter generally represents a disposition wherein the parties involved in a dispute reach an agreement to resolve the matter. Please note that Investment Adviser Representatives and firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory matters for business or other reasons.
 - A "resolved" matter usually includes a disposition wherein no payment is made to the customer or there is no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the Investment Adviser Representative. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

(4) You may wish to contact the Investment Adviser Representatives to obtain further information regarding any of the disclosure events contained in this IAPD report.



DISCLOSURE EVENT DETAILS

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that some items may involve pending actions or allegations that may be contested and have not been resolved or proven. The event may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the Investment Adviser Representative, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to the Investment Adviser Registration Depository. Some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided.

The following types of events are disclosed about this representative:

Type	Count
Customer Dispute	4

Customer Dispute

This section provides information regarding a customer dispute that was reported to the Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD) by the Investment Adviser Representative (IAR), an investment adviser and/or securities firm, and/or a securities regulator. The event may include a consumer-initiated, investment-related complaint, arbitration proceeding or civil suit that contains allegations of sales practice violations against the individual.

The customer dispute may be pending or may have resulted in a civil judgment, arbitration award, monetary settlement, closure without action, withdrawal, dismissal, denial, or other outcome.

Disclosure 1 of 4

Reporting Source:	Individual
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	MERRILL LYNCH PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INCORPORATED
Allegations:	THE CUSTOMER ALLEGES UNAUTHORIZED TRADING, FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS AND MISREPRESENTATION IN JUNE 2011.
Product Type:	Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)
Alleged Damages:	\$113,969.00
Is this an oral complaint?	No
Is this a written complaint?	Yes
Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?	No

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	08/05/2011
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Evolved into Civil litigation (the individual is a named party)
Status Date:	02/16/2012
Settlement Amount:	

Individual Contribution Amount:

Civil Litigation Information



Type of Court: State Court
Name of Court: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
Location of Court: MONTEREY COUNTY, CA
Docket/Case #: M115932
Date Notice/Process Served: 02/16/2012
Litigation Pending? No
Disposition: Settled
Disposition Date: 05/21/2012
Monetary Compensation Amount: \$30,000.00
Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00
Broker Statement THIS MATTER WAS SETTLED IN ORDER TO AVOID THE COST OF LITIGATION. THE FINANCIAL ADVISOR DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT.

Disclosure 2 of 4

Reporting Source: Individual
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MORGAN STANLEY DW INC.
Allegations: ALLEGED UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS IN AUGUST 2000.
Product Type: Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)
Alleged Damages: \$13,600.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/31/2001
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Arbitration/Reparation
Status Date: 09/18/2002

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: NASD CASE NO. 01-05273
Date Notice/Process Served: 10/31/2001
Arbitration Pending? No
Disposition: Settled
Disposition Date: 09/18/2002



Monetary Compensation Amount: \$5,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement I DENY CLAIMANT'S ALLEGATIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

Disclosure 3 of 4

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT HIS MOTHER, WAS TOLD THAT THEIR WERE NO CONTINGENT DEFERRED SALES CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE OF MUTUAL FUNDS IN THE EVENT OF HER DEATH.

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Alleged Damages: \$15,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 04/17/2000

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 05/12/2000

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Broker Statement DENIED WITHOUT MERIT.

Disclosure 4 of 4

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.

Allegations: SECURITIES FRAUD; DECEIT; NEGLIGENCE; PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE; BREACH OF CONTRACT. COMPENSATORY DAMAGES ARE UNSPECIFIED BUT APPEAR TO BE LESS THAN \$20,000. PUNITIVE DAMAGES OF \$500,000 ARE ALSO CLAIMED.

Product Type:

Alleged Damages:

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Litigation

Status Date:



Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Civil Litigation Information

Court Details: C-95-3948 VRW

Date Notice/Process Served: 11/21/1995

Litigation Pending? No

Disposition: Settled

Disposition Date: 09/30/1996

Monetary Compensation Amount: \$17,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement

WITHOUT ADMITTING OF DENYING LIABILITY & SOLELY TO AVOID THE EXPENSE AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION, DEAN WITTER SETTLED THIS CASE FOR A PAYMENT OF \$17,000. I WAS NOT ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SETTLEMENT. I WAS NEVER THE BROKER OF RECORD FOR [CUSTOMER] NOR WAS THERE ANY TYPE OF SALES PRACTICE CLAIM CONCERNING ME. I WAS NAMED SOLELY IN MY CAPACITY AS BRANCH OFFICE MGR.



End of Report

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