



IAPD Report

JOHN JOSEPH BRIENZA

CRD# 1652520

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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

JOHN JOSEPH BRIENZA (CRD# 1652520)

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 **03/17/2026**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	04/29/1987
IA	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	01/20/1989

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **6** SRO(s) and **53** 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
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No information reported.

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
Criminal	1
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 **53** 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	03/03/1991
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/15/2004
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	04/29/1987
B FINRA	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/02/2004
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/12/2006
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	07/12/2006
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	04/29/1987
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	10/01/2018
B Alabama	Agent	Approved	07/06/1992
B Alaska	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	09/24/2014



Qualifications

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	Arkansas	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B	California	Agent	Approved	11/16/1989
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	01/06/2010
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	04/15/1988
B	Delaware	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	07/09/2010
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	03/13/1989
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	10/19/1994
B	Hawaii	Agent	Approved	11/18/2011
B	Idaho	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	08/24/2005
B	Indiana	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B	Iowa	Agent	Approved	06/22/2010
B	Kansas	Agent	Approved	06/25/2010
B	Kentucky	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B	Louisiana	Agent	Approved	07/01/2010
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	06/06/1991
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	06/25/2010



Qualifications

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	07/15/2010
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	06/22/2010
B	Mississippi	Agent	Approved	06/22/2010
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	08/26/2002
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B	Nebraska	Agent	Approved	01/25/2008
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	09/12/2005
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	06/24/2010
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	12/14/2007
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B	New York	Agent	Approved	04/13/1992
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	02/18/1988
IA	North Carolina	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	12/03/2002
B	North Dakota	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	11/07/2000
B	Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	07/13/2010
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	05/06/1998
B	Puerto Rico	Agent	Approved	11/23/2011



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Rhode Island	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B South Carolina	Agent	Approved	07/13/1994
B South Dakota	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B Texas	Agent	Approved	01/20/1989
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	01/20/1989
B Utah	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B Vermont	Agent	Approved	06/25/2010
B Virgin Islands	Agent	Approved	11/18/2011
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	04/21/1988
B Washington	Agent	Approved	06/18/2010
B West Virginia	Agent	Approved	06/23/2010
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010
B Wyoming	Agent	Approved	06/21/2010

Branch Office Locations

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED**
6000 FAIRVIEW RD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28210





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 2 principal/supervisory exams, 3 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.



Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
 General Securities Sales Supervisor - General Module Examination (S10)	Series 10	06/30/2004
 General Securities Sales Supervisor - Options Module Examination (S9)	Series 9	06/17/2004

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
 Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
 Futures Managed Funds Examination (S31)	Series 31	03/24/2014
 General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	04/25/1987

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
 Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	07/02/2002
 Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	02/16/1988

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

This section details that the representative has reported **0** professional designation(s).

No information reported.



Registration & Employment History

PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED WITH THE FOLLOWING FIRMS

This representative held registrations with the following firms:

[Redacted area]

No information reported.

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
12/2009 - Present	BANK OF AMERICA, NA	Senior Financial Advisor	Y	CHARLOTTE, NC, United States
07/1985 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH LIFE AGENCY	Senior Financial Advisor	N	PLAINSBORO, NJ, United States
07/1985 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	Senior Financial Advisor	Y	CHARLOTTE, NC, 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
Criminal	1
Customer Dispute	4

Criminal

This disclosure event involves a criminal charge against the Investment Adviser Representative that has resulted in a dismissal, plea, acquittal or conviction. The criminal matter may relate to any felony or certain misdemeanor offenses (e.g., bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, fraud, wrongful taking of property).

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Individual
Formal Charges were brought in:	State Court
Name of Court:	PRINCETON MUNICIPAL COURT
Location of Court:	PRINCETON, NJ
Docket/Case #:	SC 510
Charge Date:	10/19/1987
Charge(s) 1 of 1	
Formal Charge(s)/Description:	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
No of Counts:	1
Felony or Misdemeanor:	Felony
Plea for each charge:	N/A
Disposition of charge:	Dismissed
Current Status:	Final
Status Date:	06/01/1988
Disposition Date:	06/01/1988
Sentence/Penalty:	N/A



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 unsuitable investment recommendations from 2013 until 2019.

Product Type: Mutual Fund
Other: Open-end - include Money Funds

Alleged Damages: \$32,437.14

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: 11/08/2019

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 12/12/2019

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Disclosure 2 of 4

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMERS ALLEGE FA MADE UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS.

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Alleged Damages: \$60,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 02/28/2005

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied



Status Date: 04/11/2005

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Broker Statement UPON INVESTIGATION THE COMPLAINT WAS FOUND TO BE WITHOUT MERIT AND WAS DENIED.

Disclosure 3 of 4

Reporting Source: Regulator

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, FAILURE TO DISCLOSE, AND SUITABILITY.

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Other Product Type(s): STOCKS.

Alleged Damages: \$267,045.00

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: [NASD - CASE #03-01583](#)

Date Notice/Process Served: 03/04/2003

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Award

Disposition Date: 05/14/2004

Disposition Detail: RESPONDENTS ARE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE TO AND SHALL PAY TO CLAIMANT COMPENSATORY DAMAGES OF \$267,045.00, PLUS SIMPLE INTEREST.

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Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.

Allegations: CLAIMANT ALLEGED UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS.

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Alleged Damages: \$267,045.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 03/19/2003

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Arbitration/Reparation

Status Date: 03/19/2003



Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: [NASD ARBITRATION NO.:03-01583](#)

Date Notice/Process Served: 03/19/2003

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Award to Customer

Disposition Date: 05/14/2004

Monetary Compensation Amount: \$301,636.47

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Disclosure 4 of 4

Reporting Source: Regulator

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH PIERCE FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: NEGLIGENCE; BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY; UNSUITABILITY; CHURNING; EXCESSIVE TRADING; FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION AND OMISSION OF FACTS; UNAUTHORIZED TRADING

Product Type: Other

Other Product Type(s): STOCKS,HIGH YIELD BONDS, LONG-TERM CORPORATE BONDS,EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS,BOND MUTUAL FUNDS

Alleged Damages: \$563,000.00

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: [NASD - CASE #00-03134](#)

Date Notice/Process Served: 07/20/2000

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Award

Disposition Date: 09/14/2001

Disposition Detail: RESPONDENT BRIENZA IS JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE AND SHALL PAY TO CLAIMANT COMPENSATORY DAMAGES OF \$36,000, PLUS INTEREST

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH

Allegations: CUSTOMER SEEKS DAMAGES FOR THE CAPITAL GAINS TAXES SHE



INCURRED WHEN CERTAIN SECURITIES WERE SOLD FOR A PROFIT. CUSTOMER ALSO ALLEGES THAT CERTAIN BOND FUND INVESTMENTS WERE UNSUITBALE.

Product Type: Other
Other Product Type(s): BOND FUNDS
EQUITIES
Alleged Damages: \$800,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 07/12/1999
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Arbitration/Reparation
Status Date: 08/04/2000
Settlement Amount: \$0.00
Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: [\[CUSTOMER\] V. MERRILL LYNCH, ET AL. AND JOHN JOSEPH BRIENZA NASD-DR CASE NO. 00-03134](#)
Date Notice/Process Served: 08/04/2000
Arbitration Pending? No
Disposition: Award to Customer
Disposition Date: 09/14/2001
Monetary Compensation Amount: \$42,524.75
Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00



End of Report

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