



IAPD Report

STEPHEN RUSSELL STANFORD

CRD# 1686790

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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

STEPHEN RUSSELL STANFORD (CRD# 1686790)

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 **04/04/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	CRD# 44856	12/05/2024
IA	THE PUTNEY FINANCIAL GROUP LLC	CRD# 111639	04/04/2025

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **15** 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
IA	PORTSMOUTH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	13980	FAIRHOPE, AL	07/25/2019 - 12/31/2024
B	PORTSMOUTH FINANCIAL SERVICES	13980	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	03/18/2013 - 12/31/2024
B	EAST / WEST SECURITIES CORP.	157346	BOLIGEE, AL	03/08/2012 - 11/13/2013

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	2
Termination	1



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 **15** jurisdiction(s) and 1 SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **THE PUTNEY FINANCIAL GROUP LLC**
Main Address: 100 SMITH RANCH ROAD
SUITE 110
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
Firm ID#: 111639

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA	California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	04/04/2025

Branch Office Locations

THE PUTNEY FINANCIAL GROUP LLC
Fairhope, AL

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**
Main Address: 1115 W FULTON MARKET
3RD FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60607
Firm ID#: 44856

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	FINRA	General Securities Principal	Approved	12/05/2024
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/05/2024
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	12/12/2024
B	California	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	01/07/2025
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	01/06/2025



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Georgia	Agent	Approved	01/06/2025
B Missouri	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B New Jersey	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B New Mexico	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B New York	Agent	Approved	01/05/2025
B North Carolina	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	01/06/2025
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	01/06/2025
B Texas	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	01/03/2025

Branch Office Locations

Fairhope, AL



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

Principal/Supervisory Exams

	Exam	Category	Date
B	General Securities Principal Examination (S24)	Series 24	11/03/2004

General Industry/Product Exams

	Exam	Category	Date
B	Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
B	Futures Managed Funds Examination (S31)	Series 31	01/30/1996
B	General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	07/18/1987

State Securities Law Exams

	Exam	Category	Date
IA	Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	08/06/2019
B	Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	09/10/1987



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:

	Registration Dates	Firm Name	ID#	Branch Location
IA	07/25/2019 - 12/31/2024	PORTSMOUTH FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	CRD# 13980	FAIRHOPE, AL
B	03/18/2013 - 12/31/2024	PORTSMOUTH FINANCIAL SERVICES	CRD# 13980	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
B	03/08/2012 - 11/13/2013	EAST / WEST SECURITIES CORP.	CRD# 157346	BOLIGEE, AL
B	09/02/2009 - 03/08/2012	WHITE PACIFIC SECURITIES, INC.	CRD# 42505	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
B	08/21/2002 - 09/02/2009	1ST DISCOUNT BROKERAGE, INC.	CRD# 39164	BIRMINGHAM, AL
IA	03/19/2004 - 02/25/2005	1ST DISCOUNT BROKERAGE, INC.	CRD# 39164	BIRMINGHAM, AL
B	01/17/2001 - 08/21/2002	ACUMENT SECURITIES, INC.	CRD# 7661	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
B	08/14/2000 - 01/17/2001	PAINWEBBER INCORPORATED	CRD# 8174	WEEHAWKEN, NJ
B	03/13/1998 - 08/14/2000	J.C. BRADFORD & CO.	CRD# 1287	NEW YORK, NY
B	10/25/1993 - 04/01/1998	SMITH BARNEY INC.	CRD# 7059	NEW YORK, NY
B	05/04/1989 - 11/02/1993	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	NEW YORK, NY
B	07/21/1987 - 11/12/1987	SHERWOOD CAPITAL, INC.	CRD# 10474	

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
04/2025 - Present	The Putney Financial Group	Investment Advisor Representative	Y	San Rafael, CA, United States
11/2023 - Present	Arete Wealth Management	Registered Representative	Y	Chicago, IL, United States



Registration & Employment History



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Employment Dates	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
03/2013 - 12/2024	PORTSMOUTH FINANCIAL SERVICES INC	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	SAN FRANCISCO, 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.

THE NAME STANFORD INVESTMENTS LLC. WILL BE USED TO PROCESS EARNINGS FROM SECURITIES BUSINESS. THE ENTITY DOES NOT PRODUCE ANY BUSINESS. I have 50% ownership

The Putney Financial Group - Registered Investment Advisory firm. Business Phone: 510-672-15,100 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903,

Position: Investment Advisor Rep, Approximate Hours Worked Weekly: 5-10, Start date: 4/2025.



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	2
Termination	1

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 2

Reporting Source:	Individual
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	Portsmouth Financial Services
Allegations:	Unsuitable recommendations, misleading investment advice, failure to conduct due diligence.
Product Type:	Other: GWG L bonds and Preferred Stock
Alleged Damages:	\$60,000.00
Is this an oral complaint?	No
Is this a written complaint?	No
Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?	Yes
Arbitration/Reparation forum or court name and location:	FINRA
Docket/Case #:	23-03410
Filing date of arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation:	11/30/2023

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	12/04/2023
Complaint Pending?	No



Status: Settled

Status Date: 04/16/2024

Settlement Amount: \$25,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement This complaint was resolved by settlement between the Claimant(s) and the named Respondent, Portsmouth Financial Services, Inc. The rep was not named as a respondent in the arbitration and was not required to contribute to the settlement. The Rep continues to deny and refute all allegations of claims in their entirety.

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: PAINWEBBER INC / J.C. BRADFORD

Allegations: CLIENT VERBALLY ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED TRADING IN HER ACCOUNT BY HER FA. TIME PERIOD AND DAMAGES WERE NOT SPECIFIED.

Product Type: Other: NOT SPECIFIED

Alleged Damages: \$0.00

Alleged Damages Amount Explanation (if amount not exact): DAMAGE AMOUNT WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE COMPLAINT

Is this an oral complaint? Yes

Is this a written complaint? No

Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation? No

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/31/1999

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 10/31/2000

Settlement Amount: \$225,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement THE CLIENT WAS CONSULTED PRIOR TO ALL TRADES. I WILL SUBSTANTIALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT. [CUSTOMER] HAD BEEN CLIENT FOR 10 YEARS. IN MARCH 1999, WITH CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS I RECOMMENDED DIVERSIFYING INTO STOCKS. INITIALLY TRADING WAS PROFITABLE. THEN POSITIONS WERE PURCHASED AND HELD DESPITE DECLINING PRICES. CLIENT RECEIVED ALL TRADE CONFIRMATIONS AND ACCOUNT STATEMENTS. IN AUGUST 2000 THE CONSOLIDATION OF JC BRADFORD & PAINWEBBER GENERATED A REPORT ON CLIENT'S ACCOUNT. THE PAINE WEBBER



BRANCH MANAGER TOLD ME TO SET MEETING UP WITH CLIENT. CLIENT STATED TO BM ALL SHE WANTED WAS MUNICIPAL BONDS AND SOUTHERN CO. UPON RETURNING BACK TO OFFICE BM CALLED PW LEGAL DEPT. LEGAL TOLD BM TO SETTLE. THE CUSTOMER NEVER INITIATED A COMPLAINT. THE COMPLAINT WAS INITIATED BY BM/LEGAL. CLIENT RECEIVED SETTLEMENT END OF OTC 2000. I WAS TOLD TO PAY PART OF SETTLEMENT. REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMINATED 10/18/00.



Termination

This disclosure event involves a situation where the Investment Adviser Representative voluntarily resigned, was discharged or was permitted to resign after allegations were made that accused the Investment Adviser Representative of violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Individual
Firm Name:	PAINE WEBBER
Termination Type:	Discharged
Termination Date:	12/18/2000
Allegations:	CLIENT VERBALLY ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED TRADING. UNSUITALBE RECOMMENDATION.
Product Type:	Other
Other Product Types:	STOCKS AND MUTUAL FUNDS
Broker Statement	CLIEND VERBALLY ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED TRADING IN HER ACCOUNT BY HER FA. TIME PERIOD AND DAMAGES WERE NOT SPECIFIED. PRINCIAL PRODUCT TYPE UNSPECIFIED. PAINE WEBBER SETTLED BY CREDITING HER ACCOUNT (10/31/2000).



End of Report

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