



## IAPD Report

# STEVEN FRANKLIN BRANDT

CRD# 2323730

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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

### STEVEN FRANKLIN BRANDT (CRD# 2323730)

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 **06/14/2022**.

### CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
IA	ACORN FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.	CRD# 116763	12/08/2017

### QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **0** SRO(s) and **2** 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	THE STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, INC.	126514	Alexandria, VA	12/01/2017 - 01/15/2019
IA	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	ALEXANDRIA, VA	11/08/2016 - 12/05/2017
B	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	ALEXANDRIA, VA	07/25/2016 - 12/05/2017

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
Regulatory Event	1
Customer Dispute	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 **2** jurisdiction(s) and **0** SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

#### Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **ACORN FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.**

Main Address: 1900 CAMPUS COMMONS DRIVE  
SUITE 600  
RESTON, VA 20191

Firm ID#: 116763

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	07/11/2019
IA Virginia	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	12/08/2017

#### Branch Office Locations

##### **ACORN FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.**

1521 King St  
Alexandria, VA 22314



## 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 0 principal/supervisory exams, 2 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.**

#### Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
No information reported.		

#### General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
B General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	11/12/1993

#### State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	11/04/2016
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	03/05/1993

### 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
B	12/01/2017 - 01/15/2019	THE STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, INC.	CRD# 126514	Alexandria, VA
IA	11/08/2016 - 12/05/2017	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	ALEXANDRIA, VA
B	07/25/2016 - 12/05/2017	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	ALEXANDRIA, VA
B	01/01/2004 - 07/26/2016	CETERA ADVISORS LLC	CRD# 10299	ALEXANDRIA, VA
B	11/24/1993 - 01/01/2004	IFG NETWORK SECURITIES, INC.	CRD# 19948	ATLANTA, GA

### 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
12/2017 - Present	ACORN FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.	INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE	Y	Alexandria, VA, United States
11/2017 - Present	THE STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, INC.	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	ATLANTA, GA, United States
07/2016 - 12/2017	LPL FINANCIAL, LLC	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	Fort Mill, SC, United States
07/2004 - 07/2016	CETERA ADVISORS LLC	REGISTERED REP	Y	DENVER, CO, United States
03/2000 - 07/2016	BRANDT & ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SERVICES	D/B/A/	N	ALEXANDRIA, VA, 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.

BW CAPITAL - investment related; 1521 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; holding company for future business purposes; Partner; 03/2017; 0 hours devoted to activity; no current duties as business is not currently in use.

PARTNER; PATH TO AUM LLC; INVESTMENT RELATED: YES; 1521 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA VA 22314 USA; PERSONAL CLOSED INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AMONG 3 LICENSED REPRESENTATIVES WITH NO OTHER PARTIES



## Registration & Employment History

### OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE; INVESTMENT MEMBER - MAINTAIN ALIGNMENT WITH INVESTED INVESTMENT STRATEGIES; START DATE: 2022-05-19; HOURS PER MONTH DEVOTED TO BUSINESS DURING TRADING HOURS: 0.5; HOURS PER MONTH DEVOTED TO BUSINESS OUTSIDE TRAINING HOURS: 0; PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL YEARLY COMPENSATION EXPECTED TO BE DERIVED FROM THE BUSINESS: 0.



## 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
Regulatory Event	1
Customer Dispute	1

### Regulatory Event

This disclosure event may include a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, a federal regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, or a foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations. This disclosure event may also include a revocation or suspension of an Investment Adviser Representative's authority to act as an attorney, accountant or federal contractor.

#### Disclosure 1 of 1

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Regulator
<b>Regulatory Action Initiated By:</b>	VIRGINIA - STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION DIVISION OF SECURITIES
<b>Sanction(s) Sought:</b>	
<b>Other Sanction(s) Sought:</b>	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	04/26/1999
<b>Docket/Case Number:</b>	SEC990026
<b>Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:</b>	
<b>Product Type:</b>	
<b>Other Product Type(s):</b>	
<b>Allegations:</b>	DIVISION ALLEGED THAT DEFENDANT IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 13.1-504 (II) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, UNLAWFULLY TRANSACTED BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AS AN UNREGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR REPRESENTATIVE BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 15, 1995 AND FEBRUARY 15, 1999.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Final
<b>Resolution:</b>	Consent
<b>Resolution Date:</b>	04/26/1999
<b>Sanctions Ordered:</b>	Monetary/Fine \$500.00

**Other Sanctions Ordered:**

**Sanction Details:** WITHOUT ADMITTING OR DENYING THE ALLEGATIONS DEFENDANT AGREED TO PAY A MONETARY PENALTY OF \$500.00 PLUS THE COST OF INVESTIGATION.

**Regulator Statement** CONTACT: HAZEL STEWART, SENIOR BROKER-DEALER EXAMINER, 804-371-9685.

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**Reporting Source:** Individual

**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, EX REL, STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

**Sanction(s) Sought:**

**Other Sanction(s) Sought:**

**Date Initiated:** 04/26/1999

**Docket/Case Number:** SEC990026

**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:**

**Product Type:**

**Other Product Type(s):**

**Allegations:** DURING A ROUTINE EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICANT'S BRANCH OFFICE, IT WAS FOUND THAT HIS REGISTRATION AS A REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE (AR) HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH HE HELD HIMSELF OUT TO THE PUBLIC AS AN AR, AND HAD ONE CLIENT IN VIRGINIA.

**Current Status:** Final

**Resolution:** Consent

**Resolution Date:** 04/26/1999

**Sanctions Ordered:** Monetary/Fine \$500.00

**Other Sanctions Ordered:**

**Sanction Details:** THE STATE LEVIED A FINE OF \$500 AND REQUIRED THE APPLICANT TO ENTER INTO A CONSENT ORDER. HOWEVER, ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS HAD OCCURRED IN THE PROCESSING OF THE APPLICANT'S REGISTRATION ON THE PART OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISER FIRM. THEREFORE, THE INVESTMENT ADVISER, NOT THE INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE, PAID THE FINE. APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY REGISTERED AS AN INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.

**Broker Statement**

Not Provided



## 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 1

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Regulator
<b>Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:</b>	Cetera Advisors LLC
<b>Allegations:</b>	Steven Brandt was a subject of the customer's complaint against his member firm that asserted the following causes of action: unsuitable investments and investment strategy, failure of duty to provide information, failure to supervise, vicarious liability, breach of contract, violations of securities regulatory rules, common law claims, and violations of Maryland Securities Law.
<b>Product Type:</b>	Other: unspecified securities
<b>Alleged Damages:</b>	\$50,000.00

### Arbitration Information

<b>Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.:</b>	<a href="#">FINRA - CASE #18-02210</a>
<b>Date Notice/Process Served:</b>	06/13/2018
<b>Arbitration Pending?</b>	No
<b>Disposition:</b>	Award
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	10/17/2018
<b>Disposition Detail:</b>	Steven Brandt was a subject of the customer's complaint alleging Brandt and his firm, Cetera Advisors LLC, caused sales practice violations. Brandt's member firm is liable for and shall pay to the Claimant compensatory damages in the amount of \$43,500.00 plus interest at the legal rate from 30 days after the date of this award until the award is paid in full.

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<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Firm
<b>Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:</b>	Cetera Advisors LLC
<b>Allegations:</b>	Unsuitable investment, breach of contract, and violation of security rules for FINRA and State of Maryland.
<b>Product Type:</b>	Direct Investment-DPP & LP Interests
<b>Alleged Damages:</b>	\$50,000.00
<b>Is this an oral complaint?</b>	No
<b>Is this a written complaint?</b>	Yes



**Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?**

Yes

**Arbitration/Reparation forum or court name and location:**

FINRA Arbitration

**Docket/Case #:**

18-02210

**Filing date of arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation:**

06/13/2018

### Customer Complaint Information

**Date Complaint Received:** 06/20/2018

**Complaint Pending?** No

**Status:** Arbitration Award/Monetary Judgment (for claimants/plaintiffs)

**Status Date:** 10/17/2018

**Settlement Amount:** \$43,500.00

**Individual Contribution Amount:** \$0.00

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**Reporting Source:** Individual

**Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:** Cetera Advisors LLC

**Allegations:** Unsuitable investment, breach of contract, and violation of security rules for FINRA and State of Maryland.

**Product Type:** Direct Investment-DPP & LP Interests

**Alleged Damages:** \$50,000.00

**Is this an oral complaint?** No

**Is this a written complaint?** Yes

**Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?** Yes

**Arbitration/Reparation forum or court name and location:** FINRA Arbitration

**Docket/Case #:** 18-02210

**Filing date of arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation:** 06/13/2018

### Customer Complaint Information

**Date Complaint Received:** 07/09/2018

**Complaint Pending?** No

**Status:** Arbitration Award/Monetary Judgment (for claimants/plaintiffs)

**Status Date:** 10/17/2018

**Settlement Amount:** \$43,500.00



**Individual Contribution** \$0.00  
**Amount:**



## End of Report

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