



IAPD Report

SCOTT BRIAN HINKLE

CRD# 2878037

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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

SCOTT BRIAN HINKLE (CRD# 2878037)

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 **07/29/2026**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	J. ALDEN ASSOCIATES, INC.	CRD# 40002	05/27/2026
IA	ALDEN INVESTMENT GROUP	CRD# 317077	05/27/2026

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **50** 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	BENEFIT FUNDING SERVICES, LLC	44079	Encinitas, CA	03/17/2025 - 06/08/2026
B	WORLD EQUITY GROUP, INC.	29087	SCHAUMBURG, IL	08/19/2024 - 03/07/2025
IA	LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	3870	SOLANA BEACH, CA	08/12/1999 - 03/10/2010

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



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

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **J. ALDEN ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Main Address: 37 WEST AVE
SUITE 301
WAYNE, PA 19087

Firm ID#: 40002

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	FINRA	Invest. Co and Variable Contracts	Approved	05/27/2026
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	06/18/2026
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	09/17/2026
B	Alaska	Agent	Approved	06/22/2026
B	Arizona	Agent	Approved	09/23/2026
B	Arkansas	Agent	Approved	09/28/2026
B	California	Agent	Approved	05/27/2026
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	09/19/2026
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Delaware	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026



Qualifications

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	Idaho	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Indiana	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Iowa	Agent	Approved	09/23/2026
B	Kansas	Agent	Approved	09/17/2026
B	Kentucky	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	Louisiana	Agent	Approved	09/17/2026
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	06/16/2026
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	07/31/2026
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	06/25/2026
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Mississippi	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	09/23/2026
B	Nebraska	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026



Qualifications

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	New York	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	North Dakota	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	09/29/2026
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	09/21/2026
B	Rhode Island	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	South Dakota	Agent	Approved	09/17/2026
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Vermont	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Virgin Islands	Agent	Approved	09/22/2026
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	06/17/2026
B	West Virginia	Agent	Approved	09/30/2026
B	Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	09/24/2026



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Wyoming	Agent	Approved	09/18/2026

Branch Office Locations

Encinitas, CA

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: ALDEN INVESTMENT GROUP
Main Address: 37 WEST AVENUE
SUITE 301
WAYNE, PA 19087-3226
Firm ID#: 317077

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	05/27/2026

Branch Office Locations

ALDEN INVESTMENT GROUP
Encinitas, CA



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, 4 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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No information reported.

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B General Securities Representative Examination (S7TO)	Series 7TO	06/18/2026
B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination (S6TO)	Series 6TO	08/19/2024
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	08/13/2024
B General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	06/26/1997

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	08/26/2024
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	05/28/1999



PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

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

Certified Financial Planner

Only professional designations listed in Question 8 of the Form U4 will appear in this section if the appropriate box is checked and verified by the issuing organization at the time of the filing. Learn more about eligible designations at [IARD](#) and [NASAA](#).



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	03/17/2025 - 06/08/2026	BENEFIT FUNDING SERVICES, LLC	CRD# 44079	Encinitas, CA
B	08/19/2024 - 03/07/2025	WORLD EQUITY GROUP, INC.	CRD# 29087	SCHAUMBURG, IL
IA	08/12/1999 - 03/10/2010	LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	CRD# 3870	SOLANA BEACH, CA
B	01/02/1998 - 03/10/2010	LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	CRD# 3870	SOLANA BEACH, CA
IA	09/16/1999 - 12/15/2009	INDEPENDENT ADVISERS GROUP CORP	CRD# 106684	SOLANA BEACH, CA
B	08/27/1997 - 11/13/1997	CENTAURUS FINANCIAL, INC.	CRD# 30833	ANAHEIM, 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
05/2026 - Present	Alden Investment Group	Investment Advisor	Y	Wayne, PA, United States
05/2026 - Present	J. Alden Associates, Inc.	Registered Representative	Y	Wayne, PA, United States
01/2022 - Present	Hinkle Insurance Services	Owner	N	Encinitas, CA, United States
06/2024 - 03/2025	World Equity Group, Inc.	Regd Rep	Y	Encinitas, CA, United States
10/1997 - 01/2022	WESTHEM GRANT GROUP	MEMBER	N	SOLANA BEACH, 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.

1. Double Check Solutions; Not investment related; 166 Hargraves Dr, Suite C-400 Box 635, Austin, TX, 78737; Nature of OBA: I serve on the Board of Directors of the company and am an individual investor in the company; Posns/Title: Member of the Board of Directors; Start Date: 09/01/21; Approx. Hrs/Mth for OBA: 2 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during trading Hrs: ZERO; Duties: Serving on



Registration & Employment History



OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

the Board of Directors.

2. Hinkle Insurance Services; Not investment related; 1155 Sidonia St, Encinitas, CA, 92024; Nature of OBA: We market and sell life insurance policies to individuals, businesses, companies and non-profit organizations.; Posn/Title: Owner; Start Date: 01/01/2019; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 120 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 30 Hrs; Duties: I own the operating entity and perform daily activities related to the marketing, selling and servicing of life insurance policies.

3. Scott Hinkle, individual insurance agent; Not investment related; 1155 Sidonia St, Encinitas, CA, 92024; Nature of OBA: I sell life insurance and annuities as an agent of various life insurance companies; Posn/Title: Agent; Start Date: 01/01/2019; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 3 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 3 Hrs; Duties: I sell life insurance and annuities as an agent of various life insurance companies.

4. Acumen Financial Advantage; Nature of OBA: Acumen Financial Advantage is a marketing organization for the selling of life insurance products to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations; Posn/Title: Owner; Start Date: 01/01/25; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 120 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 120 Hrs; Duties: I market and sell insurance products to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.



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

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

Reporting Source:	Individual
Regulatory Action Initiated By:	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
Sanction(s) Sought:	
Other Sanction(s) Sought:	
Date Initiated:	05/17/1995
Docket/Case Number:	SAC -7972-AP (AR)
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:	
Product Type:	
Other Product Type(s):	
Allegations:	WHEN ORIGINALLY APPLYING FOR MY LIFE & DISABILITY SALES LISCENSE, I FAILED TO DISCLOSE THAT I WAS CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR IN 1994.
Current Status:	Final
Resolution:	Decision
Resolution Date:	05/17/1995
Sanctions Ordered:	Monetary/Fine \$100.00
Other Sanctions Ordered:	
Sanction Details:	FINED \$100.00 AND AN EXAMINATION FEE OF \$174.00
Broker Statement	Not Provided



End of Report

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