



IAPD Report

JAMES MICHAEL MERTENS

CRD# 3059385

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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

JAMES MICHAEL MERTENS (CRD# 3059385)

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 **01/21/2026**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	10/18/2006
IA	FOUNDERS FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, LLC	CRD# 173011	03/16/2024

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **8** 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	INDEPENDENT ADVISOR ALLIANCE, LLC	168267	Cary, NC	01/15/2016 - 03/15/2024
IA	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	OCONOMOWOC, WI	10/18/2006 - 10/06/2020
B	ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO. INCORPORATED	8158	MILWAUKEE, WI	11/29/2000 - 11/06/2006

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



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

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **LPL FINANCIAL LLC**
Main Address: 1055 LPL WAY
FORT MILL, SC 29715
Firm ID#: 6413

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	10/18/2006
B FINRA	General Securities Principal	Approved	01/11/2007
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	10/18/2006
B Colorado	Agent	Approved	12/03/2024
B Iowa	Agent	Approved	01/21/2021
B North Carolina	Agent	Approved	05/21/2009
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	01/06/2025
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	01/22/2026
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	10/18/2006

Branch Office Locations

LPL FINANCIAL LLC
1150 NW MAYNARD RD STE 110
CARY, NC 27513-8709

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **FOUNDERS FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, LLC**
Main Address: 9212 FALLS OF NEUSE RD., SUITE 221
RALEIGH, NC 27615



Qualifications

Firm ID#: 173011

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA	North Carolina	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	03/18/2024
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	03/16/2024

Branch Office Locations

FOUNDERS FINANCIAL ALLIANCE, LLC
1150 NW Maynard Rd STE 110
Cary, NC 27513



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
General Securities Principal Examination (S24)	Series 24	01/10/2007

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	08/15/2000
Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination (S6)	Series 6	06/15/1998

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	09/16/2002
Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	06/18/1998

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

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

Chartered Financial Analyst

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
IA	01/15/2016 - 03/15/2024	INDEPENDENT ADVISOR ALLIANCE, LLC	CRD# 168267	Cary, NC
IA	10/18/2006 - 10/06/2020	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	OCONOMOWOC, WI
B	11/29/2000 - 11/06/2006	ROBERT W. BAIRD & CO. INCORPORATED	CRD# 8158	MILWAUKEE, WI
B	10/13/2000 - 10/20/2000	INVESTORS BROKERAGE SERVICES, INC.	CRD# 4257	ELGIN, IL
B	07/15/1998 - 09/28/1998	FORTIS INVESTORS, INC.	CRD# 421	OAKDALE, MN

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
03/2024 - Present	Founders Financial Alliance, LLC	Investment Adviser Representative	Y	Cary, NC, United States
10/2006 - Present	LPL Financial, LLC (Formerly: LINSICO/PRIVATE LEDGER CORP.)	Registered Representative	Y	CARY, NC, United States
01/2016 - 03/2024	Independent Advisor Alliance	Investment Advisor Representative	Y	CARY, 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.

- (1) 10/18/2006 - JAMES INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT - DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s)
- (2) 03/26/2007 - HIGHLAND CAPITAL BROKERAGE - NON-VARIABLE INSURANCE - DIRECTING INSURANCE BUSINESS THROUGH HIGHLAND CAPITAL BROKERAGE - MILWAUKEE AS A BGA - 5% OF TIME SPENT - CARY, NC
- (3) 05/16/2008 - DU LAC WEALTH SERVICES - DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - 100% OF TIME SPENT
- (4) 05/10/2011 - HIGHLAND CAPITAL BROKERAGE - NON-VARIABLE INSURANCE - DIRECTING INSURANCE BUSINESS THROUGH HIGHLAND CAPITAL BROKERAGE - 5% OF TIME SPENT - CARY, NC



Registration & Employment History



OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

(5) 11/14/2013 - DU LAC PROPERTY LLC - REAL ESTATE RENTAL - BUSINESS OFFICE CONDO FOR DU LAC WEALTH SERVICES - 1% OF TIME SPENT - CARY, NC

(6) 03/01/2024 - Independent Advisor Alliance - Registered Investment Advisor Hybrid - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - Start Date 03/15/2024 - 100 Hours Per Month/ 4 Hours During Trading - I provide investment advisory services through Independent Advisor Alliance, an independent investment advisor firm. I started this business activity in 3/2024. I expect to spend approximately 100 hours per month on this activity. Please see the advisory firm's Form ADV for more information about its address, the nature of its business, its owners, and its service6s at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD>. The firm is separate from and independent of LPL Financial.

(7) 04/24/2024 - Du Lac Wealth Services - Registered Investment Advisor DBA - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - Start Date 03/15/2024 - 100 Hours Per Month/ 4 Hours During Trading - I provide investment advisory services through Independent Advisor Alliance, an independent investment advisor firm. I started this business activity in 4/2024. I expect to spend approximately 160 hours per month on this activity. Please see the advisory firm's Form ADV for more information about its address, the nature of its business, its owners, and its service6s at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD>. The firm is separate from and independent of LPL Financial.

(8) 05/02/2024 - Founders Financial Alliance, LLC - Inv Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - Registered Investment Advisor - Started: 3/15/2024 - 100 Hrs/Mo; 4 Hrs During Trading - I provide investment advisory services through Founders Financial Alliance, an independent investment advisor firm. I started this business activity in 5/2024. I expect to spend approximately 100 hours per month on this activity. Please see the advisory firm's Form ADV for more information about its address, the nature of its business, its owners, and its service6s at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD>. The firm is separate from and independent of LPL Financial.



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

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
Organization Name (if charge(s) were brought against an organization over which individual exercised control):	N/A
Court Details:	IOWA DISTRICT COURT, BLACK HAWK COUNTY, WATERLOO, IOWA
Charge Date:	01/09/1997
Charge Details:	1 COUNT OF MISDEMEANOR, THEFT OF 5TH DEGREE, PLEA OF GUILTY FOR THEFT
Felony?	No
Current Status:	Final
Status Date:	01/24/1997
Disposition Details:	A) CONVICTED B) JAN 24, 1997 C) FINE OF \$50, SURCHARGE OF \$15 AND COURT COSTS OF \$25. PAID ON 01/27/1997
Broker Statement	WHILE ON BREAK IN COLLEGE, I WENT TO EAT AT A LOCAL RESTAURANTE AROUND 2 AM WITH SOME FRIENDS. I THOUGHT A FRIEND WAS PAYING FOR ME SINCE I HAD NO MONEY. I RECEIVED A CALL 3 MONTHS LATER WITH THE CHARGE. I CHOSE TO PAY THE FINE DUE TO DISTANCE FROM COLLEGE OF ABOUT 400 MILES RATHER THAN CONTEST.



End of Report

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