



IAPD Report

JOSEPH GIORGIO ROMANO III

CRD# 4140354

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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

JOSEPH GIORGIO ROMANO III (CRD# 4140354)

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 **11/13/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
IA	FORTEM FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC	CRD# 291662	02/09/2018
B	M. S. HOWELLS & CO.	CRD# 104100	01/03/2024

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **10** 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	PURSHE KAPLAN STERLING INVESTMENTS	35747	Palm Desert, CA	08/25/2016 - 12/31/2023
IA	FORTEM FINANCIAL, LLC	283097	PALM DESERT, CA	07/25/2016 - 02/09/2018
IA	HIGHTOWER ADVISORS, LLC	145323	PALM DESERT, CA	04/29/2011 - 07/15/2016

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

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **M. S. HOWELLS & CO.**
Main Address: 23350 N. PIMA RD.
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255
Firm ID#: 104100

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	01/03/2024
B Alaska	Agent	Approved	01/29/2024
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	01/23/2024
B California	Agent	Approved	01/03/2024
B Colorado	Agent	Approved	01/04/2024
B Florida	Agent	Approved	01/08/2024
B Nevada	Agent	Approved	11/14/2025
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	01/04/2024
B Washington	Agent	Approved	04/12/2024
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	01/03/2024

Branch Office Locations

44801 Village Court
STE 201
Palm Desert, CA 92260

44801 Village Court
STE 201
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Employment 2 of 2



Qualifications

Firm Name: **FORTEM FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC**
Main Address: 44801 VILLAGE COURT #201
PALM DESERT, CA 92260
Firm ID#: 291662

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	02/09/2018
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	07/20/2018

Branch Office Locations

FORTEM FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC
44801 Village Court
Suite 201
Palm Desert, CA 92260



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 1 state securities law exam.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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No information reported.

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
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General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	03/27/2000
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State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	05/08/2000
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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	08/25/2016 - 12/31/2023	PURSHE KAPLAN STERLING INVESTMENTS	CRD# 35747	Palm Desert, CA
IA	07/25/2016 - 02/09/2018	FORTEM FINANCIAL, LLC	CRD# 283097	PALM DESERT, CA
IA	04/29/2011 - 07/15/2016	HIGHTOWER ADVISORS, LLC	CRD# 145323	PALM DESERT, CA
B	04/29/2011 - 07/15/2016	HIGHTOWER SECURITIES, LLC	CRD# 116681	PALM DESERT, CA
IA	05/05/2000 - 05/03/2011	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	INDIAN WELLS, CA
B	03/28/2000 - 05/03/2011	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	INDIAN WELLS, 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
01/2024 - Present	M.S. Howells & Co.	Registered Representative	Y	Scottsdale, AZ, United States
02/2018 - Present	Fortem Financial Group, LLC	Chief Operating Officer	Y	Palm Desert, CA, United States
08/2016 - 12/2023	Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments	Registered Representative	Y	Albany, NY, United States
07/2016 - 02/2018	FORTEM FINANCIAL, LLC	INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE	Y	PALM DESERT, CA, United States
04/2011 - 07/2016	HIGHTOWER ADVISORS, LLC	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	PALM DESERT, CA, United States
04/2011 - 07/2016	HIGHTOWER SECURITIES, LLC	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	PALM DESERT, CA, United States



Registration & Employment History



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. JGR Capital Management, Investment-related- Yes; 48700 Orchard Dr, Indio, CA 92201; Nature- S Corp- Flow through entity for RIA revenue; Position/Title- Owner; Start date- 01.01.2021; Approximately 1 hour per month; 1 hour during trading hours; Description- Sole S-Corp to receive RIA Income
2. JGR Logistics LLC; Non-Investment related; 48700 Orchard Dr, Indio, CA 92201; Nature- Airplane ownership LLC; Position/title- Owner; Start date- 06.01.2016; Approximately 2 hours per month; 1 hour during trading hours; Description- LLC in which plane is owned
3. Desert Classic Charities; Non-Investment related; 78080 Calle Amigo La Quinta, CA 92253; Nature- Raising Money for local charities in the Coachella Valley; Position/Title- Voluntary Board Member; Start date- 1.1.2017; Approximately less than 1 hour per month; less than 1 hour during trading hours; Description- raise money for local charities
4. The Warburton Benefitting St. Jude; Non-Investment related; 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105; Nature- Charity event benefiting St. Jude; Position/Title- Voluntary Board Member- Vice Chairman; Start date- 1.1.2011; Approximately 1 hour per month; 0 hour during trading hours; Description- Charity event benefiting St. Jude once a year
5. Fortem Loans LLC; Non-Investment related; 44801 Village Court STE 201 Palm Desert, CA 92201; Nature- Residential Mortgage Broker; Position/Title- Owner; Start date- 4.1.23; Approximately 2 hour per month; 20 hour during trading hours; Description- Mortgage broker
6. Next Level Doors and Millwork ESOP; Non-Investment related; 82585 Showcase Pkwy STE B-102 Indio, CA 92203; Nature- ESOP in Construction business; Position/Title- Voluntary Board Member; Start date- 9.1.23; Approximately less than 1 hour per year; 0 hour during trading hours; Description- ESOP owned company in the construction business
7. Fortem Financial; Investment related- yes; 44801 Village Court STE 201 Palm Desert, CA 92260; Nature- RIA; Position/Title- President; Start date- 7.16.16; Approximately 160 hours per year; 160 hours during trading hours; Description- Wealth Management
8. Fortem Financial Insurance Services. Not Investment Related. 44801 Village Court, Suite 201, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Insurance. Managing Member. Start 1/1/2017. 1 hour per month. Insurance business done through this company.
9. M.S. Howells & Co.
Broker Dealer
Registered Representative
Since 01/2024
Investment Related



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	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 1

Reporting Source:	Individual
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.
Allegations:	THE CLAIMANT ALLEGES THE FA MADE UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND INVESTMENTS. THE CLAIMANT ALSO ALLEGES THE FA FAILED TO DIVERSIFY HIS ACCOUNT.
Product Type:	Other
Other Product Type(s):	EQUITY-LISTED
Alleged Damages:	\$380,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	08/16/2004
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Arbitration/Reparation
Status Date:	08/16/2004

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.:	NASD DISPUTE RESOLUTION CASE NO. 04-05339
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Date Notice/Process Served:	08/16/2004
Arbitration Pending?	No
Disposition:	Settled
Disposition Date:	08/10/2005
Monetary Compensation Amount:	\$50,000.00
Individual Contribution Amount:	\$0.00
Broker Statement	WE SETTLED THIS MATTER FOR BUSINESS REASNS AND LESS THAN THE COST OF DEFENSE,



End of Report

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