



IAPD Report

STEVE JEROME COTTON

CRD# 4233203

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Qualifications	2 - 4
Registration and Employment History	5 - 6
Disclosure Information	7



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

STEVE JEROME COTTON (CRD# 4233203)

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 **09/09/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	04/13/2006
IA	PRIVATE ADVISOR GROUP, LLC	CRD# 155216	02/01/2019

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **9** 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 FINANCIAL PARTNERS	125112	ADDISON, TX	04/01/2014 - 06/03/2019
IA	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	DALLAS, TX	04/13/2006 - 10/29/2015
IA	A. G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC.	4	DALLAS, TX	05/17/2002 - 04/24/2006

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
Judgment/Lien	2



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 **9** 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	04/13/2006
B California	Agent	Approved	07/24/2015
B Colorado	Agent	Approved	03/11/2011
B Florida	Agent	Approved	07/08/2020
B Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	04/20/2022
B Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	09/23/2025
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	11/16/2017
B Texas	Agent	Approved	04/13/2006
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	10/21/2025
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	01/03/2018

Branch Office Locations

LPL FINANCIAL LLC
15301 SPECTRUM DRIVE SUITE 390
ADDISON, TX 75001

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **PRIVATE ADVISOR GROUP, LLC**



Qualifications

Main Address: 305 MADISON AVENUE
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960

Firm ID#: 155216

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	02/01/2019

Branch Office Locations

PRIVATE ADVISOR GROUP, LLC
15301 Spectrum Drive, Suite 390
Addison, TX 75001



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

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 Futures Managed Funds Examination (S31)	Series 31	10/19/2000
--	-----------	------------

B General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	09/12/2000
---	----------	------------

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
------	----------	------

IA B Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	10/17/2000
---	-----------	------------

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	04/01/2014 - 06/03/2019	INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL PARTNERS	CRD# 125112	ADDISON, TX
IA	04/13/2006 - 10/29/2015	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 6413	DALLAS, TX
IA	05/17/2002 - 04/24/2006	A. G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC.	CRD# 4	DALLAS, TX
B	12/06/2001 - 04/24/2006	A. G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC.	CRD# 4	ST. LOUIS, MO
B	09/13/2000 - 12/04/2001	MORGAN STANLEY DW INC.	CRD# 7556	PURCHASE, NY

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
02/2019 - Present	Private Advisor Group, LLC	Investment Adviser Representative	Y	Addison, TX, United States
04/2006 - Present	LPL FINANCIAL, LLC	Registered Representative	Y	ADDISON, TX, United States
04/2014 - 02/2019	INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL PARTNERS	INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE	Y	ADDISON, TX, 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) 04/07/2014: Cotton Wealth Management Associates, LLC - Non-Variable Insurance DBA - At Reported Business Location(s) - 95% Time Spent - President and financial advisor. INS Types: Life, Health, LTC, Fixed Annuities
- 2) 11/24/2014: Cotton Wealth Management Associates - DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) - Investment Related - 15301 Spectrum Drive, Suite 390, Addison, Texas 75001 - Start 03/31/2014 - 160 Hr/Mo; 8 Hour(s) During Securities Trading
- 3) 2/5/2019 - Private Advisor Group - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - Registered Investment Advisor Hybrid - Started 01/31/2019 - 80 Hours Per Month During Securities Trading - I provide investment advisory services through Private Advisor Group, an independent investment advisor firm. I started this business activity on 2/6/2019. I expect to spend approximately 80 hours/month on this activity. Please see the advisory firms Form ADV for more information about its address, the nature of its business, its owners, and its services at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD>. The firm is separate from and independent of LPL Financial.



Registration & Employment History



OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

4) 6/21/2019 - Private Advisor Group - DBA: (Hybrid) Cotton Wealth Management Associates, LLC - Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - Registered Investment Advisor DBA - Started 02/01/2019 - 200 Hours Per Month/185 Hours During Securities Trading



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
Judgment/Lien	2

Judgment/Lien

This disclosure event involves an unsatisfied and outstanding judgment or lien against the Investment Adviser Representative.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source:	Individual
Judgment/Lien Holder:	IRS
Judgment/Lien Amount:	\$7,517.27
Judgment/Lien Type:	Tax
Date Filed with Court:	10/20/2017
Date Individual Learned:	04/08/2019
Type of Court:	DALLAS COUNTY CLERK-DALLAS
Name of Court:	DALLAS COUNTY CLERK-DALLAS
Location of Court:	DALLAS, TX
Docket/Case #:	201700297197
Judgment/Lien Outstanding?	Yes

Broker Statement

I did not receive notice of the IRS's error and the small second lien to correct their omission. The original IRS tax lien I reported on my U-4 in 2016 was for multiple years, but it appears the IRS made an error and left off 2015 from that. Neither they nor I were aware of the error. I did receive notification on that lien and dutifully reported it on my U-4 within the 30 day period.

When they realized the error of omission they had made, apparently they issued a second tax lien on the small amount for 2015, but I never received notification of this and was unaware of it until your email to me. I was able to confirm what happened on April 8th. This 2015 item was supposed to be included in the original 2016 lien.

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source:	Individual
Judgment/Lien Holder:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE



Judgment/Lien Amount:	\$211,183.88
Judgment/Lien Type:	Tax
Date Filed with Court:	03/24/2016
Date Individual Learned:	04/05/2016
Type of Court:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Name of Court:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Location of Court:	NASHVILLE, TN
Docket/Case #:	204984316
Judgment/Lien Outstanding?	Yes



End of Report

This page is intentionally left blank.