



IAPD Report

Richard Vernon Welch

CRD# 4275027

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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

Richard Vernon Welch (CRD# 4275027)

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 **11/12/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	EMPOWER FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	CRD# 13109	11/08/2021
IA	EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC	CRD# 112058	11/17/2025

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **1** SRO(s) and **45** 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	CAPITAL ONE INVESTING, LLC	45744	Brenham, TX	04/13/2015 - 12/04/2017
IA	CAPITAL ONE ADVISORS, LLC	136865	PORT ARTHUR, TX	04/09/2015 - 12/04/2017
IA	AMERIVEST INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC	111514	HOUSTON, TX	03/07/2011 - 04/25/2013

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

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC**
Main Address: 8515 EAST ORCHARD RD 4T2
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111
Firm ID#: 112058

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	11/17/2025

Branch Office Locations

EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC
Deer Park, TX

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **EMPOWER FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**
Main Address: 8515 E ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111
Firm ID#: 13109

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	11/08/2021
B Alabama	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021
B Alaska	Agent	Approved	11/15/2021
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	11/19/2021
B Arkansas	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B California	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Connecticut	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Delaware	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Georgia	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Hawaii	Agent	Approved	03/29/2022
B Idaho	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Illinois	Agent	Approved	12/16/2021
B Indiana	Agent	Approved	11/17/2021
B Iowa	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Kansas	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Kentucky	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021
B Maine	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Michigan	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Minnesota	Agent	Approved	11/15/2021
B Mississippi	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Missouri	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Montana	Agent	Approved	11/26/2021
B Nebraska	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Nevada	Agent	Approved	11/24/2021



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	11/15/2021
B New Jersey	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B New Mexico	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B New York	Agent	Approved	11/21/2021
B North Carolina	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B North Dakota	Agent	Approved	11/15/2021
B Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Oregon	Agent	Approved	11/17/2021
B Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Rhode Island	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021
B South Carolina	Agent	Approved	11/29/2021
B South Dakota	Agent	Approved	11/30/2021
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Texas	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Utah	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021
B Vermont	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	11/09/2021
B Washington	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B West Virginia	Agent	Approved	11/16/2021



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	11/10/2021
B Wyoming	Agent	Approved	11/19/2021

Branch Office Locations

BENEFITSCORP EQUITIES, INC.
Deer Park, TX



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






Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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No information reported.





General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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 General Securities Representative Examination (S7TO)	Series 7TO	11/06/2021
 Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	12/04/2017
 Futures Managed Funds Examination (S31)	Series 31	07/19/2001
 General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	01/26/2001
 Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination (S6)	Series 6	10/02/2000

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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  Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	11/08/2025
 Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	10/29/2021
 Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	02/09/2021



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	04/13/2015 - 12/04/2017	CAPITAL ONE INVESTING, LLC	CRD# 45744	Brenham, TX
IA	04/09/2015 - 12/04/2017	CAPITAL ONE ADVISORS, LLC	CRD# 136865	PORT ARTHUR, TX
IA	03/07/2011 - 04/25/2013	AMERIVEST INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC	CRD# 111514	HOUSTON, TX
IA	03/07/2011 - 04/25/2013	TD AMERITRADE, INC.	CRD# 7870	HOUSTON, TX
B	02/24/2011 - 04/25/2013	TD AMERITRADE, INC.	CRD# 7870	HOUSTON, TX
B	10/27/2010 - 12/22/2010	NATIONWIDE SECURITIES, LLC	CRD# 11173	HOUSTON, TX
B	08/25/2009 - 05/21/2010	PFS INVESTMENTS INC.	CRD# 10111	HOUSTON, TX
B	04/08/2008 - 09/09/2008	MBM SECURITIES, INC.	CRD# 124850	HOUSTON, TX
IA	04/08/2008 - 08/28/2008	MBM ADVISORS INC	CRD# 106507	HOUSTON, TX
IA	10/30/2003 - 03/24/2008	CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	CRD# 5393	HOUSTON, TX
B	10/28/2003 - 03/24/2008	CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	CRD# 5393	HOUSTON, TX
B	06/03/2003 - 09/11/2003	WESTCOTT SECURITIES, LLC	CRD# 45532	HOUSTON, TX
B	03/10/2003 - 06/03/2003	METLIFE SECURITIES INC.	CRD# 14251	SPRINGFIELD, MA
IA	03/10/2003 - 06/03/2003	METLIFE SECURITIES INC.	CRD# 14251	HOUSTON, TX
B	03/10/2003 - 06/03/2003	METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	CRD# 4095	NEW YORK, NY
IA	06/29/2001 - 03/10/2003	MORGAN STANLEY	CRD# 7556	WEBSTER, TX
B	06/29/2001 - 03/10/2003	MORGAN STANLEY DW INC.	CRD# 7556	PURCHASE, NY



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 10/03/2000 - 07/03/2001	H&R BLOCK FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.	CRD# 5979	DETROIT, MI

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
11/2025 - Present	Empower Advisory Group, LLC	Investment Adviser	Y	Greenwood Village, CO, United States
10/2021 - Present	GWFS EQUITIES, INC	REGISTERED REP	Y	GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO, United States
08/2021 - 09/2021	Generational Equity	Sales	N	Austin, TX, United States
08/2020 - 08/2021	Unemployeed	N/A	N	Austin, TX, United States
07/2019 - 08/2020	SolarWinds	Software Sales	N	Austin, TX, United States
06/2018 - 06/2019	Insight	Software Sales	N	Austin, TX, United States
12/2017 - 06/2018	Unemployed	N/A	N	Austin, TX, United States
04/2015 - 12/2017	CAPITAL ONE INVESTING LLC	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	HOUSTON, 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.

No information reported.



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
If charge(s) were brought against an organization over which individual exercised control:	
Organization Name:	
Investment Related Business:	No
Position:	
Formal Charges were brought in:	State Court
Name of Court:	HARRIS COUNTY TX
Location of Court:	HOUSTON, TX
Docket/Case #:	1380312
Charge Date:	03/10/2013
Charge(s) 1 of 1	
Formal Charge(s)/Description:	FELONY DWI WITH A MINOR UNDER 15 YRS. OLD IN THE VEHICLE
No of Counts:	1
Felony or Misdemeanor:	Felony
Plea for each charge:	NOT GUILTY
Disposition of charge:	Dismissed
Current Status:	Final
Status Date:	07/18/2013



Disposition Date: 07/18/2013

Sentence/Penalty: THE CASE WAS DISMISSED.

Broker Statement ON THE EVENING OF 03/10/2013 I WAS PULLED OVER FOR MAKING AN ILLEGAL LEFT TURN WHILE DRIVING MY 5 MONTH OLD SON TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM. AFTER THE POLICE OFFICER ASKED IF I HAD ANYTHING TO DRINK AND I RESPONDED THAT I HAD BEEN BARBEQUING AND HAD A COUPLE OF BEERS HE BECAME AGGRESSIVE WITH HIS INTERROGATION METHODS. THE POLICE OFFICER ALSO SHOWED GREAT SKEPTICISM OF THE IMMEDIATE MEDICAL NEEDS THAT MY SON HAD AND ORDERED ME TO PERFORM A FIELD SOBRIETY TEST. I WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED FOR MY SON AND AGITATED WITH THE TACTICS AND ATTITUDE OF THE POLICE OFFICER. I STATED THAT IF HE INTENDS TO QUESTION ME FURTHER HE NEEDED TO CALL AN EMT FOR MY SON AND I NEEDED A LAWYER BEFORE ANSWERING ANYMORE OF HIS QUESTIONS. AFTER MUCH CONJOINING AND MANY DISRESPECTFUL ALLEGATIONS THE POLICE OFFICER FINALLY ALLOWED THE EMT TO TAKE MY SON TO THE ER WHERE HE WAS LATER ADMITTED FOR [REDACTED]. I WAS ARRESTED FOR A FELONY DWI WITH A CHILD UNDER 15 YRS. OLD IN THE VEHICLE, BOOK AND MY BLOOD WAS DRAWN. I COOPERATED WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND MADE BAIL THE NEXT MORNING. I AM CURRENTLY AWAITING THE RESULTS OF MY BLOOD TEST AND HAVE HIRED A LAW TEAM TO HANDLE THIS UNFORTUNATE EVENT



End of Report

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