



IAPD Report

JAMES M STAPLETON

CRD# 5274540

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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

JAMES M STAPLETON (CRD# 5274540)

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 **05/13/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	05/09/2011
IA	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	05/09/2011

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **6** SRO(s) and **53** 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	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	6627	EDISON, NJ	03/15/2010 - 04/28/2011
B	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	6627	EDISON, NJ	10/23/2009 - 04/28/2011
B	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	JERSEY CITY, NJ	03/30/2009 - 07/23/2009

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 **53** jurisdiction(s) and 6 SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**
Main Address: ONE BRYANT PARK
NEW YORK, NY 10036
Firm ID#: 7691

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/16/2014
B Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/16/2014
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/09/2011
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	02/05/2015
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/09/2011
B FINRA	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	02/05/2015
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/09/2011
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	02/05/2015
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/09/2011
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Sales Supervisor	Approved	10/01/2018
B Alabama	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Alaska	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Arizona	Agent	Approved	07/23/2018



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Arkansas	Agent	Approved	07/20/2018
B California	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
IA California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	07/18/2018
B Colorado	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Connecticut	Agent	Approved	10/27/2011
IA Connecticut	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	03/20/2014
B Delaware	Agent	Approved	04/20/2018
B District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	04/18/2018
B Florida	Agent	Approved	10/27/2011
B Georgia	Agent	Approved	07/27/2018
B Hawaii	Agent	Approved	10/24/2018
B Idaho	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B Illinois	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B Indiana	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B Iowa	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Kansas	Agent	Approved	08/08/2018
B Kentucky	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Louisiana	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Maine	Agent	Approved	06/05/2017



Qualifications

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	04/19/2018
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	03/12/2014
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	07/23/2018
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B	Mississippi	Agent	Approved	07/20/2018
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B	Nebraska	Agent	Approved	07/20/2018
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	07/30/2018
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	07/28/2014
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	02/21/2017
IA	New Jersey	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	03/02/2018
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B	New York	Agent	Approved	10/27/2011
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B	North Dakota	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B	Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018



Qualifications

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	04/18/2018
IA Pennsylvania	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	10/08/2024
B Puerto Rico	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Rhode Island	Agent	Approved	10/27/2011
B South Carolina	Agent	Approved	07/21/2018
B South Dakota	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B Tennessee	Agent	Approved	07/20/2018
B Texas	Agent	Approved	07/18/2016
IA Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	07/27/2016
B Utah	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018
B Vermont	Agent	Approved	07/28/2014
B Virgin Islands	Agent	Approved	07/25/2018
B Virginia	Agent	Approved	04/17/2018
B Washington	Agent	Approved	07/20/2018
B West Virginia	Agent	Approved	08/01/2018
B Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	07/19/2018
B Wyoming	Agent	Approved	07/18/2018

Branch Office Locations



Qualifications

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED**
7 ROSZEL RD
PRINCETON, NJ 08540

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED**
1040 STONY HILL RD
YARDLEY, PA 19067

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED**
14 N HARRISON ST
PRINCETON, NJ 08542





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



Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
 General Securities Sales Supervisor - General Module Examination (S10)	Series 10	02/05/2015
 General Securities Sales Supervisor - Options Module Examination (S9)	Series 9	10/09/2014

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
 National Commodity Futures Examination (S3)	Series 3	04/29/2019
 Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
 General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	03/27/2009

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
  Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	03/10/2010

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	03/15/2010 - 04/28/2011	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	CRD# 6627	EDISON, NJ
B	10/23/2009 - 04/28/2011	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	CRD# 6627	EDISON, NJ
B	03/30/2009 - 07/23/2009	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	JERSEY CITY, NJ

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
09/2011 - Present	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.	VP; FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS ADVISOR	Y	BOSTON, MA, United States
04/2011 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	VP; FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS ADVISOR	Y	BOSTON, MA, 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
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:	Firm
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	AXA Advisors, LLC
Allegations:	Client alleges misrepresentation in the purchase of an incentive life insurance policy in 2011
Product Type:	Insurance
Alleged Damages:	\$0.00
Alleged Damages Amount Explanation (if amount not exact):	Client is asking for a return of the money she has left in her account
Is this an oral complaint?	No
Is this a written complaint?	Yes
Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?	No

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	12/12/2016
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Settled
Status Date:	01/24/2017
Settlement Amount:	\$3,284.19



Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Firm Statement The matter was settled. Loss to Firm: \$3,284.19. RR Stapleton's errors and omission carrier did not contribute to the settlement.

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Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: AXA Advisors, LLC

Allegations: Client alleges misrepresentation in the purchase of an incentive life insurance policy in 2011

Product Type: Insurance

Alleged Damages: \$0.00

Alleged Damages Amount Explanation (if amount not exact): Client is asking for a return of the money she has left in her account

Is this an oral complaint? No

Is this a written complaint? Yes

Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation? No

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/12/2016

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 01/24/2017

Settlement Amount: \$3,284.19

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement The matter was settled. Loss to Firm: \$3,284.19. RR Stapleton's errors and omission carrier did not contribute to the settlement.



End of Report

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