



IAPD Report

DAVID CHOU

CRD# 5536004

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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

DAVID CHOU (CRD# 5536004)

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 **10/30/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
B	KOVACK SECURITIES INC.	CRD# 44848	09/26/2025
IA	KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.	CRD# 140808	09/26/2025

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **2 SRO(s)** and **1 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	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	23131	Los Angeles, CA	08/15/2024 - 09/30/2025
IA	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	23131	Los Angeles, CA	06/14/2024 - 09/30/2025
IA	ESSENCE FINANCIAL LLC	326657	IRVINE, CA	07/07/2023 - 11/08/2024

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
Regulatory Event	1
Termination	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 1 jurisdiction(s) and 2 SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **KOVACK SECURITIES INC.**
Main Address: 6451 N. FEDERAL HWY.
SUITE 1201
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308
Firm ID#: 44848

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/26/2025
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/26/2025
B California	Agent	Approved	09/30/2025

Branch Office Locations

RK ADVISORS

Irvine, CA

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.**
Main Address: 6451 N. FEDERAL HWY
SUITE 1201
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308
Firm ID#: 140808

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	09/26/2025

Branch Office Locations

KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.

Irvine, CA



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 2 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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Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	02/18/2014

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	06/15/2021
Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	03/07/2014

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	08/15/2024 - 09/30/2025	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	CRD# 23131	Los Angeles, CA
IA	06/14/2024 - 09/30/2025	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	CRD# 23131	Los Angeles, CA
IA	07/07/2023 - 11/08/2024	ESSENCE FINANCIAL LLC	CRD# 326657	IRVINE, CA
IA	05/28/2024 - 06/14/2024	SECURITIES AMERICA ADVISORS, INC.	CRD# 110518	IRVINE, CA
B	08/08/2016 - 01/13/2023	J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC	CRD# 79	IRVINE, CA
B	02/18/2014 - 07/08/2016	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	CRD# 6627	IRVINE, CA
B	11/11/2008 - 02/19/2009	UVEST FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.	CRD# 13787	CHARLOTTE, NC

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
09/2025 - Present	Kovack Advisors, Inc.	Registered Investment Advisor	Y	Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States
09/2025 - Present	Kovack Securities, Inc.	Registered Representative	Y	Fort Lauderdale, FL, United States
06/2024 - 09/2025	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	Mass Transfer	Y	JERSEY CITY, NJ, United States
06/2024 - 09/2025	OSAIC WEALTH, INC.	Mass Transfer	Y	JERSEY CITY, NJ, United States
05/2024 - 06/2024	Securities America Advisors	IAR	Y	Irvine, CA, United States
05/2024 - 06/2024	Securities America, Inc.	Registered Representative	Y	Irvine, CA, United States
04/2023 - 05/2024	Essence Financial LLC	Managing Partner and Chief Compliance Officer	Y	Irvine, CA, United States
01/2023 - 03/2023	Unemployed	Unemployed	N	Irvine, CA, United States



Registration & Employment History

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Employment Dates	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
06/2016 - 01/2023	JP Morgan Chase	Private Client Banker	Y	Irvine, CA, United States
11/2013 - 06/2016	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	Insurance Agents	Y	Irvine, CA, 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) ESSENCE FINANCIAL LLC - 314 PLACEMARK, IRVINE, CA 92614; NON-INVESTMENT RELATED; INCOME FLOW THROUGH TAXES AND BUSINESS EXPENSES; MANAGER; 5% OF TIME SPENT.

2) SKY VISION LIFE INSURANCE AGENCY - 780 ROOSEVELT, IRVINE, CA 92620; NON-INVESTMENT RELATED; FIXED INSURANCE; LIFE INSURANCE AGENT; 10% OF TIME SPENT.



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
Regulatory Event	1
Termination	1

Regulatory Event

This disclosure event may include a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, a federal regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, or a foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations. This disclosure event may also include a revocation or suspension of an Investment Adviser Representative's authority to act as an attorney, accountant or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Individual

Regulatory Action Initiated By: California Department of Insurance

Sanction(s) Sought: Revocation
Suspension

Date Initiated: 01/13/2020

Docket/Case Number: OBS 3824-A

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: The California Department of Insurance alleges a pattern of repeated and willful disregard for the law which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of an insurance license; and that the Commissioner was not notified of a change in background information as required.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Order

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct? No



Resolution Date: 06/03/2020

Sanctions Ordered: Monetary Penalty other than Fines
Revocation
Other: California State Insurance license was revoked, in lieu thereof, issued a restricted license. ***All restrictions have been removed as of 10/13/2025.***

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Monetary Penalty other than Fines

Total Amount: \$1,000.00

Portion Levied against individual: \$1,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual: 07/29/2020

Was any portion of penalty waived? No

Amount Waived:

Broker Statement In connection with missing a 30-day reporting deadline under CA Insur. Code Sec. 1729.2 in 2015 and 2019, the DOI revoked my insurance license and issued a restricted license allowing me to act as Accident and Health and Life-only agent with variable contracts authority. I am able to petition the DOI to remove the restrictions on my license in May of 2025. I paid a fine of \$1,000 in connection with this matter. The two separate incidents in 2015 and 2019 were unrelated to the provision of investment, or brokerage services. ***All restrictions have been removed as of 10/13/2025.***



Termination

This disclosure event involves a situation where the Investment Adviser Representative voluntarily resigned, was discharged or was permitted to resign after allegations were made that accused the Investment Adviser Representative of violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Firm

Firm Name: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Termination Type: Discharged

Termination Date: 12/16/2022

Allegations: Terminated by affiliate bank. Registered Representative, in the capacity of an affiliate bank employee, was terminated for opening affiliate bank accounts without both customers present and for conduct inconsistent with signature card protocols, resulting in inaccurate affiliate bank books and records. Not related to a client complaint or to the sale of securities.

Product Type: Banking Products (other than CDs)

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Reporting Source: Individual

Firm Name: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Termination Type: Discharged

Termination Date: 12/16/2022

Allegations: Terminated by affiliate bank. Registered Representative, in the capacity of an affiliate bank employee, was terminated for opening affiliate bank accounts without both customers present and for conduct inconsistent with signature card protocols, resulting in inaccurate affiliate bank books and records. Not related to a client complaint or to the sale of securities.

Product Type: Banking Products (other than CDs)



End of Report

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