



IAPD Report

BLAKE JACKSON CATE JR

CRD# 716303

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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

BLAKE JACKSON CATE JR (CRD# 716303)

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 **10/02/2025**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
IA	SMEAC FINANCIAL, LLC	CRD# 308990	08/25/2020

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **0** SRO(s) and **2** 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	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	19616	BRENTWOOD, TN	10/01/1999 - 09/09/2020
IA	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	19616	BRENTWOOD, TN	10/01/1999 - 09/09/2020
B	FIRST UNION CAPITAL MARKETS CORP.	6124	CHARLOTTE, NC	04/30/1996 - 10/01/1999

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
Customer Dispute	2
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 **2** jurisdiction(s) and **0** SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **SMEAC FINANCIAL, LLC**
Main Address: NOLENSVILLE, TN
Firm ID#: 308990

	Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA	Tennessee	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	08/25/2020
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	08/23/2021

Branch Office Locations

SMEAC FINANCIAL, LLC
NOLENSVILLE, TN



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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B Securities Industry Essentials Examination (SIE)	SIE	10/01/2018
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B General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	09/20/1980
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State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	07/22/1994
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B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (S63)	Series 63	08/08/1988
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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	10/01/1999 - 09/09/2020	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	CRD# 19616	BRENTWOOD, TN
IA	10/01/1999 - 09/09/2020	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	CRD# 19616	BRENTWOOD, TN
B	04/30/1996 - 10/01/1999	FIRST UNION CAPITAL MARKETS CORP.	CRD# 6124	CHARLOTTE, NC
B	09/23/1980 - 04/26/1996	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	CRD# 7691	NEW YORK, 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
08/2020 - Present	SMEAC FINANCIAL, LLC	INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE	Y	NOLENSVILLE, TN, United States
02/2020 - Present	SMEAC FINANCIAL, LLC	OWNER/CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER	Y	NOLENSVILLE, TN, United States
11/2016 - 08/2020	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	REGISTERED REP	Y	BRENTWOOD, TN, United States
05/2009 - 11/2016	WELLS FARGO ADVISORS LLC	REGISTERED REP	Y	BRENTWOOD, TN, 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.

RENTAL PROPERTY; INV RELATED; NASHVILLE, TN; 100% OWNERSHIP WITH SPOUSE; START 2/1/2016; 1 HOUR PER MONTH, 0 DURING TRADING; OWNER, LANDLORD.



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
Customer Dispute	2
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:	Regulator
Regulatory Action Initiated By:	Tennessee Securities Division
Sanction(s) Sought:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Date Initiated:	03/27/2024
Docket/Case Number:	MATTER No.: 25-0000746
URL for Regulatory Action:	https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/securities/consentorders/JM%20Final%20SMEAC_CAT_8.20.25%20(Signed).pdf
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:	SMEAC Financial, L.L.C. (CRD# 308990)
Product Type:	No Product
Allegations:	Respondents failed to maintain required records; failed to maintain required solicitor agreements; failed to maintain written disclosure statements by investment advisers; failed to maintain client agreements; and failed to maintain records of all written communication.
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: 09/25/2025

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$3,000.00

Portion Levied against individual: \$3,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty waived? No

Amount Waived:

Reporting Source: Individual

Regulatory Action Initiated By: Tennessee Securities Division

Sanction(s) Sought: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Date Initiated: 03/27/2024

Docket/Case Number: 25-0000746

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: SMEAC Financial, LLC

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: During a cyclical examination of SMEAC Financial, LLC on or around March 27, 2024, the Tennessee Securities Division found that the firm and its Owner and Chief Compliance Officer (Respondents) to have:

- ?failed to maintain required records, in violation of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(3)(a)8.
- ?failed to maintain required solicitor agreements, in violation of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(c)11.
- ?been in prohibited practices, in violation of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(c)19.(iii).
- ?failed to maintain written disclosure statements by investment advisers, in violation of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.10(2)(a) and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.10(3)(a).
- ?failed to maintain client agreements, in violation of Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(6)(c)20.
- ?failed to maintain records of all written communication, in violation of Tenn. Comp.



R. & Regs. 0780-04-03-.02(3)(a)4.

As a result of the findings, a Consent Order was entered into on September 25, 2025 ordering the Respondents to Comply with the Act and pay a civil penalty to the State of Tennessee in the amount of \$3,000.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Consent

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct? Yes

Resolution Date: 09/25/2025

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Other: Paid penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$3,000.00

Portion Levied against individual: \$3,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty waived? No

Amount Waived:



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 2

Reporting Source: Individual

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: FIRST UNION SECURITIES INC. (CURRENTLY KNOWN AS WACHOVIA SECURITIES INC.)

Allegations: TENNESSEE CLIENT CLAIMS THAT ADVISOR BOUGHT INAPPROPRIATE INVESTMENTS FOR ACCOUNT, WHICH WAS OPENED IN JULY 1999. CLIENT DOES NOT SPECIFY DAMAGES, BUT THEY ARE REASONABLY ESTIMATED TO BE IN EXCESS OF \$5,000.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Alleged Damages: \$5,001.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/21/2002

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 12/06/2002

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Broker Statement CLAIM DENIED. ACCOUNT ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH ACCOUNT'S INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Regulator

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: UNAUTHORIZED TRADING; BRCH OF FIDUCIARY DT; MISREPRESENTATION; SUITABILITY

Product Type:

Alleged Damages: \$426,000.00

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: UNKNOWN - CASE #94-03260

Date Notice/Process Served: 09/01/1994



Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Settled

Disposition Date: 03/13/1996

Disposition Detail: CASE CLOSED,SETTLED/OTHER
 ACTUAL/COMPENSATORY DAMAGES, RELIEF
 REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND
 SEVERALLY; ACTUAL/COMPENSATORY DAMAGES, RELIEF REQUEST IS
 WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY;
 OTHER MONETARY RELIEF, RELIEF REQUEST IS
 WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC,
 AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY; INTEREST, RELIEF REQUEST IS
 WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY;
 PUNITIVE/EXEMPLARY DAMAGES, RELIEF REQUEST IS
 WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY;
 TREBLE DAMAGES, RELIEF REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC,
 AWARD
 AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY; ATTORNEY'S FEES, RELIEF REQUEST
 IS WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY;
 OTHER COSTS, RELIEF REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD
 AMOUNT JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY; OTHER MONETARY RELIEF, RELIEF
 REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN/SETTLED/ETC, AWARD AMOUNT JOINTLY AND
 SEVERALLY

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: CLAIMS FOR UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS,
 EXCESSIVE AND UNAUTHORIZED TRADES. DAMAGES IN THE STATEMENT
 OF
 CLAIM WERE ALLEGED TO BE \$426,000 IN COMPENSATORY DAMAGES,
 PLUS
 DISGORGMENT OF COMMISSION, PUNITIVE DAMAGES, ETC.

Product Type:

Alleged Damages: \$426,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Arbitration/Reparation

Status Date:

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; 94-03260

Date Notice/Process Served: 09/01/1994



Arbitration Pending? No
Disposition: Settled
Disposition Date: 03/13/1996
Monetary Compensation Amount: \$262,500.00
Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00
Firm Statement MATTER WAS SETTLED FOR \$262,500
THE FIRM ELECTED TO SETTLE THIS MATTER FOR
\$262,500 WITHOUT ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND SOLELY TO AVOID THE
COSTS, EXPENSES AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION.

Reporting Source: Individual
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.
Allegations: UNAUTHORIZED TRADING; BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY; MISREPRESENTATION; SUITABILITY DAMAGES OF \$426,000.
Product Type:
Alleged Damages: \$426,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Arbitration/Reparation
Status Date:
Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECURITIES DEALERS, INC.; 94-03260

Date Notice/Process Served: 09/01/1994

Arbitration Pending? No
Disposition: Settled
Disposition Date: 03/13/1996
Monetary Compensation Amount: \$262,500.00
Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement MATTER WAS SETTLED FOR \$262,500
THE FIRM ELECTED TO SETTLED THIS MATTER FOR
\$262,500 WITHOUT ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND SOLELY TO AVOID THE



COSTS, EXPENSES AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION. MR CATE WAS NOT ASKED TO AND DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SETTLEMENT. MR CATE WAS NOT ASKED TO AND DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SETTLEMENT. IN MY 18 YEARS IN THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY AS A BROKER, THIS IS THE ONLY COMPLAINT ON MY RECORD.



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:	Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC.
Termination Type:	Voluntary Resignation
Termination Date:	08/14/2020
Allegations:	The financial advisor entered notes in a firm electronic records system indicating that he had spoken to clients when he had not.
Product Type:	No Product



End of Report

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