## Award FINRA Dispute Resolution

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

<u>Claimant</u> Harold B. Wooten, Executor of the Estate of Glenny B. White Case Number: 14-03531

VS.

Respondent Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Hearing Site: Norfolk, Virginia

Nature of the Dispute: Customer vs. Member

This case was decided by a majority-public panel.

## **REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES**

For Claimant Harold B. Wooten, Executor of the Estate of Glenny B. White: W. Edgar Spivey, Esq., Kaufman & Canoles, P.C., Norfolk, Virginia.

For Respondent Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.: Ronald P. Kane, Esq., Kane & Fischer, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois.

## CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: November 18, 2014. Claimant signed the Submission Agreement: November 17, 2014.

Statement of Answer filed by Respondent on or about: February 23, 2015. Respondent signed the Submission Agreement: February 23, 2015.

## CASE SUMMARY

Claimant asserted the following causes of action: conversion, fraud, breach of fiduciary duties, failure to supervise, embezzlement, misrepresentation, respondeat superior, and omission of facts.

The causes of action relate to unspecified securities.

Unless specifically admitted in its Answer, Respondent denied the allegations made in the Statement of Claim and asserted various affirmative defenses.

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### RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, Claimant requested compensatory damages in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,500,000.00, interest at the legal rate of 6% per annum, and costs and expenses incurred in connection with this matter.

Respondent requested dismissal of the Statement of Claim with prejudice.

### OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

The Arbitrators acknowledge that they have each read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

On or about December 7, 2015 Claimant filed a Motion for Sanctions. Respondent filed an Opposition dated December 11, 2015. After due deliberation, the Panel granted Claimant's Motion at the conclusion of the hearings.

The parties have agreed that the Award in this matter may be executed in counterpart copies or that a handwritten, signed Award may be entered.

## AWARD

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the Panel has decided in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows:

- 1. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant compensatory damages in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant punitive damages in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. The Panel awarded punitive damages pursuant to the following case law: *Mastrobuono v. Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc.* 514 U.S. 52 (1995) and *Giant of Va., Inc. v. Pigg,* 152 S.E.2d 271, 277 (Va. 1967) ("such recklessness or negligence as to evince a conscious disregard of the rights of others").
- 3. Respondent is liable for and shall pay to Claimant \$36,890.00 in sanctions representing attorneys' fees incurred by Claimant as a result of Respondent's failure to cooperate, failure to produce discoverable materials, and knowing violation of the Chairperson's Order dated November 21, 2015.
- 4. Any and all relief not specifically addressed herein is denied.

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## **FEES**

Pursuant to the Code, the following fees are assessed:

#### Filing Fees

FINRA Dispute Resolution assessed a filing fee\* for each claim: Initial Claim Filing Fee

= \$ 1,800.00

\*The filing fee is made up of a non-refundable and a refundable portion.

#### Member Fees

Member fees are assessed to each member firm that is a party in these proceedings or to the member firm that employed the associated person at the time of the events giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge	= \$ 2,800.00
Pre-Hearing Processing Fee	= \$ 750.00
Hearing Processing Fee	= \$ 5,000.00

### Hearing Session Fees and Assessments

The Panel has assessed hearing session fees for each session conducted. A session is any meeting between the parties and the arbitrators, including a pre-hearing conference with the arbitrators, that lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

	sions with a single arbitrator @ \$		= \$ 1,350.00
Pre-hearing conferences:		1 session	
	November 10, 2015	1 session	
	November 13, 2015	1 session	
Two (2) Pre-hearing sessions with the Panel @ \$1,200.00/session			= \$ 2,400.00
Pre-hearing conferences:	May 6, 2015	1 session	
	November 25, 2015	1 session	
Twelve (12) Hearing sessions @ \$1,200.00/session			= \$14,400.00
Hearing Dates:	December 15, 2015	2 sessions	
,	December 16, 2015	2 sessions	
	December 17, 2015	2 sessions	
	December 18, 2015	2 sessions	
	January 6, 2016	2 sessions	
	January 7, 2016	2 sessions	

Total Hearing Session Fees

= \$18,150.00

The Panel has assessed the \$18,150.00 hearing session fees to Respondent.

All balances are payable to FINRA Dispute Resolution and are due upon receipt.

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## **ARBITRATION PANEL**

Michael J. Henke Wesley C. Wilson Ross E. Legum Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

Public Arbitrator

Non-Public Arbitrator

I, the undersigned Arbitrator, do hereby affirm that I am the individual described herein and who executed this instrument which is my award.

# **Concurring Arbitrators' Signatures**

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Michael J. Henke Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

1-16-16

Signature Date

Wesley C. Wilson Public Arbitrator Signature Date

Ross E. Legum Non-Public Arbitrator Signature Date

January 19, 2016

Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution office use only)

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Michael J. Henke Wesley C. Wilson Ross E. Legum

Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

**Public Arbitrator** 

Non-Public Arbitrator

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### **Concurring Arbitrators' Signatures**

Michael J. Henke Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

Allesto

Wesley C. Wilson **Public Arbitrator** 

Ross E. Legum Non-Public Arbitrator Signature Date

1/14/2016 Signature Date

Signature Date

January 19, 2016 Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution office use only)

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Michael J. Henke-Public Arbitrator, Presiding ChairpersonWesley C. Wilson-Public ArbitratorRoss E. Legum-Non-Public Arbitrator

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## **Concurring Arbitrators' Signatures**

Michael J. Henke Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

Wesley C. Wilson Public Arbitrator

Recent

Ross E. Legum Non-Public Arbitrator Signature Date

Signature Date

2016 Signature Date

January 19, 2016

Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution office use only)