

GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

WEEKLY AGENCY REPORT

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

WEEK ENDING February 4, 2016

Successes for Week Ending February 4, 2016

1. Licensing and Registration

- Division of Securities
 - Applications Received: 1,274
 - Applications Approved: 1,195
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 9

- Division of Consumer Finance
 - Applications Received: 619
 - Applications Approved: 634
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 16

- Division of Financial Institutions
 - Applications Received: 1
 - Applications Approved: 0
 - Applications Denied/Withdrawn: 0

2. Regulatory Sanctions

Permanent Bar and \$27,500 Fine Against an Associated Person

On January 29, 2016, the Division of Securities entered a final order against Valentino Infante permanently barring him from registration with the OFR, after he failed to request a hearing. The final order follows an administrative complaint, which alleged Valentino Infante failed to observe standards of commercial honor and principles of trade by engaging in private securities transaction and outside business activities without providing prior written notice to his employing broker dealer firm. A \$27,500 administrative fine was assessed.

3. Enforcement Results

Jacksonville Duo Sentenced for Roles in Ponzi Scheme

On February 1, 2016, defendants Chawalit Wongkhiao and Joshua Carrol Gilliland were sentenced in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville to serve 55 and 15 month prison terms, respectively, for their roles in a foreign currency trading scam which operated from March 2012 until July 2014. Both men were previously convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in relation to the scam. The duo were indicted in March 2015, based on an OFR investigation developed in cooperation with the FBI, IRS Criminal Investigation, Jacksonville Beach Police Department and U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition to the

prison sentences, both men were sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay \$1.2 million in restitution to victims. Wongkhiao and Gilliland, while doing business as Allied Markets, LLC solicited money from at least four investors for purported investments in foreign currency exchange (Forex) transactions. Based on promises of guaranteed returns of between 7 and 10 percent annually, investors purchased more than \$1 million in investment contracts from the men. According to those investors, Gilliland and Wongkhiao represented that investment returns would come from profits generated through foreign currency trading. The investigation revealed, however, that the two men only invested about one-fifth of investors' funds in Forex transactions. A large portion of the funds was instead used for personal expenses or withdrawn by the men in the form of cash. The two also used funds acquired from more recent investors to pay returns to earlier investors in typical Ponzi fashion. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Jacksonville prosecuted the case. A separate OFR final order was entered against Gilliland, Wongkhiao and Allied Markets, LLC on April 20, 2015, for violations of Chapter 517, F.S. Each of the respondents was ordered to pay \$100,000 in fines and permanently barred from making application for licensure under Chapter 517, F.S.

New Issues

1. Communications and Outreach Activities

On January 28, 2016, a member of the Division of Financial Institutions participated in a regulator panel discussion at the Florida Bankers Association Safety and Soundness Seminar in Miami.

On January 29, 2016, a member of the Division of Financial Institutions participated in a regulator panel discussion at the Florida Bankers Association Safety and Soundness Seminar in Tampa.

On February 2, 2016, the OFR released a consumer alert on consumer protection from financial fraud.

[Consumer Alert: Protect Yourself Against Financial Fraud](#)