

BrokerCheck Report

JAMES KEYES WATTS JR

CRD# 1641368

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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.

About BrokerCheck®



BrokerCheck offers information on all current, and many former, registered securities brokers, and all current and former registered securities firms. FINRA strongly encourages investors to use BrokerCheck to check the background of securities brokers and brokerage firms before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

- **What is included in a BrokerCheck report?**

- BrokerCheck reports for individual brokers include information such as employment history, professional qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards. BrokerCheck reports for brokerage firms include information on a firm's profile, history, and operations, as well as many of the same disclosure events mentioned above.
- Please note that the information contained in a BrokerCheck 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 broker or brokerage firm, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

- **Where did this information come from?**

- The information contained in BrokerCheck comes from FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD® and is a combination of:
 - information FINRA and/or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) require brokers and brokerage firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
 - information that regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against firms or brokers.

- **How current is this information?**

- Generally, active brokerage firms and brokers are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in CRD within 30 days. Under most circumstances, information reported by brokerage firms, brokers and regulators is available in BrokerCheck the next business day.

- **What if I want to check the background of an investment adviser firm or investment adviser representative?**

- To check the background of an investment adviser firm or representative, you can search for the firm or individual in BrokerCheck. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) website at <https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>. In the alternative, you may search the IAPD website directly or contact your state securities regulator at <http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/P455414>.

- **Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?**

- FINRA recommends that you learn as much as possible about an investment professional before deciding to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research brokers and investment adviser representatives doing business in your state.

Thank you for using FINRA BrokerCheck.



Using this site/information means that you accept the FINRA BrokerCheck Terms and Conditions. A complete list of Terms and Conditions can be found at brokercheck.finra.org



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or www.finra.org/brokercheck. It provides a glossary of terms and a list of frequently asked questions, as well as additional resources. For more information about FINRA, visit www.finra.org.

**JAMES K. WATTS JR**

CRD# 1641368

Currently employed by and registered with the following Firm(s):

IA WELLS FARGO ADVISORS
 770 TAMALPAIS DR STE 400
 CORTE MADERA, CA 94925
 CRD# 19616
 Registered with this firm since: 12/04/2020

B WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC
 770 TAMALPAIS DR STE 400
 CORTE MADERA, CA 94925
 CRD# 19616
 Registered with this firm since: 12/04/2020

Report Summary for this Broker

This report summary provides an overview of the broker's professional background and conduct. Additional information can be found in the detailed report.

Broker Qualifications**This broker is registered with:**

- 11 Self-Regulatory Organizations
- 39 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

- 1 Principal/Supervisory Exam
- 3 General Industry/Product Exams
- 2 State Securities Law Exams

Registration History**This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):**

- IA MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**
 CRD# 7691
 NEW YORK, NY
 10/2011 - 12/2020
- B MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**
 CRD# 7691
 MILL VALLEY, CA
 09/2011 - 12/2020
- B WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC**
 CRD# 19616
 CORTE MADERA, CA
 01/2011 - 09/2011

Disclosure Events

All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.

Are there events disclosed about this broker? **Yes**

The following types of disclosures have been reported:

Type	Count
Customer Dispute	1

Broker Qualifications



Registrations

This section provides the self-regulatory organizations (SROs) and U.S. states/territories the broker is currently registered and licensed with, the category of each license, and the date on which it became effective. This section also provides, for every brokerage firm with which the broker is currently employed, the address of each branch where the broker works.

This individual is currently registered with 11 SROs and is licensed in 39 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC**

Main Office Address: **ONE NORTH JEFFERSON AVENUE
MAIL CODE: H0004-05E
ST. LOUIS, MO 63103**

Firm CRD#: **19616**

SRO	Category	Status	Date
B Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B FINRA	Invest. Co and Variable Contracts	Approved	12/04/2020
B FINRA	Investment Co./Variable Contracts Prin	Approved	12/04/2020
B NYSE American LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B NYSE Arca, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B NYSE Texas, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B Nasdaq GEMX, LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B Nasdaq ISE, LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B Nasdaq PHLX LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	12/04/2020

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	06/06/2024
B	Alaska	Agent	Approved	12/08/2020
B	Arizona	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Arkansas	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	California	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
IA	California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	12/11/2020
B	Hawaii	Agent	Approved	05/06/2024
B	Idaho	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	10/26/2022
B	Iowa	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Kentucky	Agent	Approved	05/08/2024
B	Louisiana	Agent	Approved	05/08/2024
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	12/08/2020
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	05/06/2024
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	04/28/2021
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	01/24/2022
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	01/26/2021

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	03/16/2023
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	10/23/2023
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	02/04/2022
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	01/25/2022
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	05/16/2023
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	New York	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	01/24/2022
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	01/28/2021
B	Rhode Island	Agent	Approved	07/06/2021
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	10/07/2021
B	South Dakota	Agent	Approved	02/04/2022
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	05/14/2024
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	12/04/2020
B	Utah	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	12/04/2020
B	Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	01/20/2022
B	Wyoming	Agent	Approved	05/09/2024

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

Branch Office Locations

WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC
770 TAMALPAIS DR STE 400
CORTE MADERA, CA 94925



Broker Qualifications

Industry Exams this Broker has Passed

This section includes all securities industry exams that the broker has passed. Under limited circumstances, a broker may attain a registration after receiving an exam waiver based on exams the broker has passed and/or qualifying work experience. Any exam waivers that the broker has received are not included below. A passed exam or exam waiver does not permit a broker to do business without an active SRO or state registration.

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

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal Examination	Series 26	12/08/1995

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	12/19/1996
B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination	Series 6	04/07/1987

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	04/02/1998
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	02/24/1995

Additional information about the above exams or other exams FINRA administers to brokers and other securities professionals can be found at www.finra.org/brokerqualifications/registeredrep/.

Broker Qualifications



Professional Designations

This section details that the representative has reported **0** professional designation(s).

No information reported.



Registration and Employment History

Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following firms:

Registration Dates	Firm Name	CRD#	Branch Location
IA 10/2011 - 12/2020	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	MILL VALLEY, CA
B 09/2011 - 12/2020	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	MILL VALLEY, CA
B 01/2011 - 09/2011	WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC	19616	CORTE MADERA, CA
IA 01/2011 - 09/2011	WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC	19616	CORTE MADERA, CA
IA 05/2001 - 01/2011	WELLS FARGO INVESTMENTS, LLC	10582	CORTE MADERA, CA
B 05/2001 - 01/2011	WELLS FARGO INVESTMENTS, LLC	10582	CORTE MADERA, CA
B 10/1997 - 05/2001	WELLS FARGO SECURITIES INC.	17438	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
B 06/1996 - 10/1997	STEPHENS INC.	3496	LITTLE ROCK, AR
B 04/1987 - 07/1996	EQ FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS, INC.	6627	NEW YORK, NY
B 04/1987 - 07/1996	THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES	4039	NEW YORK, NY

Employment History

This section provides up to 10 years of an individual broker's employment history as reported by the individual broker on the most recently filed Form U4.

Please note that the broker is required to provide this information only while registered with FINRA or a national securities exchange and the information is not updated via Form U4 after the broker ceases to be registered. Therefore, an employment end date of "Present" may not reflect the broker's current employment status.

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
12/2020 - Present	WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC	REGISTERED REP	Y	SAN RAFAEL, CA, United States
10/2011 - 12/2020	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	MILL VALLEY, CA, United States
09/2011 - 12/2020	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	MILL VALLEY, CA, United States

Registration and Employment History



Other Business Activities

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the broker regarding other business activities the broker 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.

WATTS DEVELOPMENT, LLC; NOT INVESTMENT RELATED; ATLANTA,GA; 50% OWNERSHIP; START DATE 01/01/2008; NUMBER OF HOURS PER MONTH 1; NUMBER OF HOURS DURING TRADING 0; HOLDS REAL ESTATE.

RENTAL PROPERTY; INVESTMENT RELATED; ATLANTA,GA; 50% OWNERSHIP; START DATE 01/01/2009; NUMBER OF HOURS PER MONTH 1; NUMBER OF HOURS DURING TRADING 0; OWNER.

Disclosure Events



What you should know about reported disclosure events:

1. All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.
2. **Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to CRD, for example:**
 - A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
 - A customer dispute must involve allegations that a broker engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.
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3. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
 - As mentioned at the beginning of this report, information contained in BrokerCheck comes from brokers, brokerage 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 BrokerCheck report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.
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4. **There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:**
 - A disclosure event may have a status of *pending*, *on appeal*, or *final*.
 - A "pending" event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
 - An event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
 - A "final" event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
 - A final 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 involves an agreement by the parties to resolve the matter. Please note that brokers and brokerage firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory matters for business or other reasons.
 - A "resolved" matter usually involves no payment to the customer and no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the individual broker. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

For your convenience, below is a matrix of the number and status of disclosure events involving this broker. Further information regarding these events can be found in the subsequent pages of this report. You also may wish to contact the broker to obtain further information regarding these events.

	Pending	Final	On Appeal
Customer Dispute	0	1	N/A



Disclosure Event Details

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that a disclosure event may be pending or involve allegations that are contested and have not been resolved or proven. The matter may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the broker, or concluded through a negotiated settlement for certain business reasons (e.g., to maintain customer relationships or to limit the litigation costs associated with disputing the allegations) with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to CRD and therefore some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided to CRD.

Customer Dispute - Settled

This type of disclosure event involves a consumer-initiated, investment-related complaint, arbitration proceeding or civil suit containing allegations of sale practice violations against the broker that resulted in a monetary settlement to the customer.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Allegations: ALLEGED THEY WERE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE 1989 ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY WOULD ALWAYS HAVE A PREMIUM OF \$100.00 A MONTH AND THE THE POLICY WOULD BE MAKING THEM MONEY.

Product Type:

Alleged Damages:

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 04/04/1997

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date:

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Firm Statement THE FIRM AGREED TO CANCEL THE 1989 ISSUE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY AND REINSTATE TWO OLDER FIXED LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES. THE COST OF THE FIRM EXCEEDED \$5,000.00.
Not Provided



Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Allegations: CUSTOMER INDICATED THAT THEY THOUGHT INSURANCE PREMIUMS WOULD NOT INCREASE.

VARIABLE INSURANCE POLICY WAS PURCHASE BY CUSTOMERS APPROX 1989. CUSTOMERS AGREED TO PREMIUM PAYMENT BASED UPON CURRENT AND GUARANTEED INTEREST RATES PLUS CHARGES. EQUITABLE RAISED INSURANCE RATES AND INTEREST RATES DROPPED. POLICY WAS APPROACHING LAPSE STATUS AND EQUITABLE AGREED TO REFUND PREMIUMS.

Product Type: Annuity(ies) - Variable

Other Product Type(s): VARIABLE LIFE INSURANCE

Alleged Damages: \$10,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 04/04/1997

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 07/18/1997

Settlement Amount: \$10,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement FIRM DECIDED TO REFUND PREMIUMS. CLIENT PURCHASED INSURANCE POLICY. EQUITABLE INCREASED INSURANCE COSTS WHILE INTEREST RATES DROPPED FORCING CLIENT TO PAY PREMIUMS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. CLIENT WAS PRESENTED WITH PROSPECTUS FULL ILLUSTRATION AND VERBAL EXPLANATION OF CURRENT AND GUARANTEED CHARGES AND INTEREST ASSUMPTIONS. CLIENT FELT THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY INCREASED PREMIUM. COMPANY REFUNDED PREMIUMS.

End of Report



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