

BrokerCheck Report

JOHN JUSTIN WOODS

CRD# 1949233

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Please be aware that fraudsters may link to BrokerCheck from phishing and similar scam websites, trying to steal your personal information or your money. Make sure you know who you're dealing with when investing, and contact FINRA with any concerns.

For more information read our [investor alert](#) on imposters.

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:

- o 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
- o 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.



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.](http://www.finra.org)

Thank you for using FINRA BrokerCheck.

JOHN J. WOODS

CRD# 1949233

This broker is not currently registered.

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 not currently registered.

This broker has passed:

- 0 Principal/Supervisory Exams
- 2 General Industry/Product Exams
- 2 State Securities Law Exams

Registration History

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

- B** **OPPENHEIMER & CO. INC.**
CRD# 249
ATLANTA, GA
01/2003 - 12/2016
- B** **CIBC WORLD MARKETS CORP.**
CRD# 630
NEW YORK, NY
07/1991 - 01/2003
- B** **LEHMAN BROTHERS INC.**
CRD# 7506
NEW YORK, NY
05/1989 - 07/1991

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
Investigation	1
Civil Event	1
Customer Dispute	1
Termination	1

Investment Adviser Representative Information

The information below represents the individual's record as a broker. For details on this individual's record as an investment adviser representative, visit the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at

<https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>

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 broker is not currently registered.



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.

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
No information reported.		

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	12/31/2016
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	05/20/1989

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	06/02/1993
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	05/26/1989

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
B 01/2003 - 12/2016	OPPENHEIMER & CO. INC.	249	ATLANTA, GA
B 07/1991 - 01/2003	CIBC WORLD MARKETS CORP.	630	NEW YORK, NY
B 05/1989 - 07/1991	LEHMAN BROTHERS INC.	7506	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
12/2018 - Present	Southport Capital	President / CEO	Y	Chattanooga, TN, United States
12/2016 - Present	Chattanooga Lookouts	Owner	N	Chattanooga, TN, United States
01/2003 - 12/2016	FAHNESTOCK & CO. INC.	MASS TRANSFER	Y	ATLANTA, GA, United States

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.

OWNER OF LOOKOUTS BASEBALL TEAM- CHATTANOOGA, TN - 5 HOURS PER MONTH, 0 DURING TRADING HOURS
 TRUSTEE OF WIFE'S LIFE INSURANCE TRUST - 1 HOUR PER YEAR, NO HOURS DURING SECURITIES TRADING HOURS. PAY INSURANCE PREMIUMS.
 FIRENDS CHASTAM PARK FOUNDATION, NOT INVESTMENT RELATED, 5 HOURS PER MONTH, 0 DURING TRADING HOURS.



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:**
 - o A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
 - o 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.
 - o
3. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
 - o 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.
 - o
4. **There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:**
 - o 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.
 - o 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
Civil Event	1	0	0
Customer Dispute	0	1	N/A
Investigation	1	N/A	N/A
Termination	N/A	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.

Civil - Pending

This type of disclosure event involves a pending civil court action that seeks an injunction in connection with any investment-related activity or alleges a violation of any investment-related statute or regulation.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Regulator
Initiated By:	UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Relief Sought:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s) Disgorgement Injunction Monetary Penalty other than Fines Restraining Order Other: Accounting; asset freeze; prevention from destroying and concealing documents
Date Court Action Filed:	08/20/2021
Product Type:	Other: Unspecified Securities
Type of Court:	Federal Court
Name of Court:	United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
Location of Court:	Atlanta, GA
Docket/Case #:	1:21-cv-03413
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the action:	Livingston Group Asset Management Company, Inc. d/b/a Southport Capital
Allegations:	The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), for its complaint against John J. Woods, Livingston Group Asset Management Company d/b/a Southport Capital ("Southport"), and Horizon Private Equity, III, LLC ("Horizon"), alleges that Woods has been running a massive Ponzi scheme for over a decade.



Investors in the Ponzi scheme were owed over \$110,000,000 in principal. There are more than 400 investors, residing in at least 20 different states, who currently hold investments in the Ponzi scheme, which goes by the name Horizon. Many of the victims are elderly retirees who were preyed upon by investment advisers at Southport, a registered investment adviser firm owned and controlled by Woods. The defendants' Ponzi scheme is ongoing and continues to raise money from new investors each month. Woods and other investment adviser representatives at Southport told clients that they would receive returns of 6-7% interest, guaranteed for two to three years, for non-specific investments in a fund called "Horizon Private Equity." Woods and his cohorts at Southport generally told investors that Horizon would earn a return by investing their money in, for example, government bonds, stocks, or small real estate projects; investors were not told that their money would or could be used to pay returns to earlier investors. But that is exactly what the Defendants did, they were only able to pay the guaranteed returns to existing investors by raising and using new investor money. Horizon has not earned any significant profits from legitimate investments; instead a very large percentage of purported "returns" to earlier investors were simply paid out of new investor money. The assets owned by Woods and the entities under his control, including Southport and Horizon, are worth far too little for there to be any realistic prospect that the Ponzi scheme will be able to pay back existing investors their principal, let alone the promised returns. Because the scheme has been going on for so long, and because Woods, Southport, and Horizon did not use any of the typical recordkeeping practices one would expect from a legitimate investment fund, millions of dollars' worth of investor funds are currently unaccounted for. The Defendants have engaged in acts or practices, or aided and abetted, and, unless restrained and enjoined by this court, will continue to engage in acts and practices that constitute and will constitute or will aid, abet and cause violations of Sections 17(a)(1), 17(a)(2), and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"). The Defendants have engaged in acts or practices, or aided and abetted, and, unless restrained and enjoined by this court, will continue to engage in acts and practices that constitute and will constitute, or will aid, abet and cause violations of Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and subsections (a), (b), and (c) of Rule 10b-5 thereunder. The Defendants have engaged in acts or practices, or aided and abetted, and, unless restrained and enjoined by this court, will continue to engage in acts and practices that constitute and will constitute or will aid, abet and cause violations of Sections 206(1), 206(2) and 206(4) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") and Rule 206(4)-8 thereunder.

Current Status: Pending

Limitations or Restrictions in Effect During Appeal: N/A



Investigation

This type of disclosure event involves any ongoing formal investigation by an entity such as a grand jury state or federal agency, self-regulatory organization or foreign regulatory authority. Subpoenas, preliminary or routine regulatory inquiries, and general requests by a regulatory entity for information are not considered investigations and therefore are not included in a BrokerCheck report.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Firm
Initiated By:	UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Notice Date:	08/20/2021
Details:	Mr. Woods is being investigated for an alleged Ponzi scheme.
Is Investigation pending?	Yes



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:	Broker
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	OPPENHEIMER & CO. INC.
Allegations:	CLIENT MADE VERBAL COMPLAINT THAT THERE WERE UNAUTHORIZED TRADES IN HIS ACCOUNT IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2007. NO ALLEGED DAMAGES WERE SPECIFIED AND IT WAS NOT REPORTABLE AT THAT TIME.
Product Type:	Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)
Alleged Damages:	\$0.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	01/16/2008
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Settled
Status Date:	01/16/2008
Settlement Amount:	\$16,822.00
Individual Contribution Amount:	\$16,822.00

Broker Statement	PLEASE NOTE THAT CLIENT HAD PREVIOUSLY SENT AN EMAIL TO THE BRANCH GENERALLY COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS ACCOUNTS PERFORMANCE WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY UNAUTHORIZED TRADES. ALSO, MR. WOODS HANDLES SEVERAL DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS AND MISTAKENLY BELIEVED HE HAD DISCRETION OVER CLIENT'S ACCOUNT.
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Employment Separation After Allegations

This type of disclosure event involves a situation where the broker voluntarily resigned, was discharged, or was permitted to resign after being accused of (1) violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; (2) fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or (3) failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules, or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Firm
Employer Name:	Southport Capital
Termination Type:	Discharged
Termination Date:	08/23/2021
Allegations:	Mr. Mooney is being investigated for an alleged Ponzi scheme.
Product Type:	No Product

End of Report



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