

BrokerCheck Report

KENNETH STEVEN YERMAK

CRD# 2623048

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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.

**KENNETH S. YERMAK**

CRD# 2623048

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

IA KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.
 6451 N. FEDERAL HWY
 SUITE 1201
 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308
 CRD# 140808
 Registered with this firm since: 02/01/2011

B KOVACK SECURITIES INC.
 Lakewood Ranch, FL
 CRD# 44848
 Registered with this firm since: 01/11/2011

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:**

- 2 Self-Regulatory Organizations
- 6 U.S. states and territories

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):**

- IA CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.**
 CRD# 5393
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 06/2002 - 11/2010
- B CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.**
 CRD# 5393
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
 06/2002 - 11/2010
- IA AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.**
 CRD# 6363
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN
 12/1997 - 06/2002

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	3



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 2 SROs and is licensed in 6 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.**
 Main Office Address: **6451 N. FEDERAL HWY
 SUITE 1201
 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308**
 Firm CRD#: **140808**

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
IA	Florida	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	02/04/2011
IA	Ohio	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	02/01/2011
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	02/02/2011

Branch Office Locations

6451 N. FEDERAL HWY
 SUITE 1201
 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308

Lakewood Ranch, FL

Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **KOVACK SECURITIES INC.**
 Main Office Address: **6451 N. FEDERAL HWY.
 SUITE 1201
 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33308**
 Firm CRD#: **44848**



Broker Qualifications

Employment 2 of 2, continued

SRO	Category	Status	Date
B FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	01/11/2011
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	01/11/2011

U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B California	Agent	Approved	12/21/2012
B Florida	Agent	Approved	01/14/2011
B Illinois	Agent	Approved	04/05/2021
B Nevada	Agent	Approved	03/27/2023
B Ohio	Agent	Approved	05/06/2011
B Texas	Agent	Approved	11/14/2011

Branch Office Locations

KOVACK SECURITIES INC.

Lakewood Ranch, FL

KOVACK SECURITIES INC.

226 South East 12th Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



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 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	10/01/2018
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	07/06/1995

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	08/31/2007
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	07/26/1995

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 06/2002 - 11/2010	CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	5393	FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
B 06/2002 - 11/2010	CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	5393	FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
IA 12/1997 - 06/2002	AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.	6363	CORAL SPRINGS, FL
B 11/1996 - 06/2002	AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS INC.	6363	MINNEAPOLIS, MN
B 11/1996 - 06/2002	IDS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	6321	MINNEAPOLIS, MN
B 07/1995 - 09/1995	L.C. WEGARD & CO., INC.	3722	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
01/2011 - Present	KOVACK ADVISORS, INC.	INVESTMENT ADVISOR REP	Y	FT LAUD., FL, United States
01/2011 - Present	KOVACK SECURITIES, INC.	REGISTERED REP	Y	FT. LAUD., FL, 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.

- 1) DBA: YERMAK FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC. - 226 SOUTH EAST 12TH AVENUE FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301; FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES; INVESTMENT RELATED; PRESIDENT/FINANCIAL ADVISOR; PROVIDE FINANCIAL ADVICE; 80% OF TIME SPENT
- 2) FIXED INSURANCE - 226 SOUTH EAST 12TH AVENUE FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301; FIXED INSURANCE; NON INVESTMENT RELATED; FINANCIAL ADVISOR; SELL FIXED INSURANCE; 1% OF TIME SPENT

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.
 -
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.
 -
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	3	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:	Regulator
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.
Allegations:	VIOLETION OF INDUSTRY RULES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE "KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER" STANDARD AND FINRA'S CUSTOMER SUITABILITY STANDARD (RULE 2310) AS WELL AS FINRA RULES 3010 AND 2110; VIOLATION OF DUTY OF CARE; NEGLIGENCE; BREACH OF CONTRACT; BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY; COMMON LAW FRAUD;
Product Type:	Mutual Fund Other: EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND, AND OTHER INVESTMENTS
Alleged Damages:	\$250,000.00

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.:	FINRA - CASE #12-03658
Date Notice/Process Served:	10/16/2012
Arbitration Pending?	No
Disposition:	Settled
Disposition Date:	02/20/2014
Disposition Detail:	KENNETH YERMAK WAS A SUBJECT OF THE CUSTOMER'S STATEMENT OF CLAIM FOR THIS ARBITRATION ALLEGING THAT HE WITH HIS MEMBER FIRM



CONTRIBUTED TO THE SALES PRACTICE VIOLATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 20, 2014, THE PARTIES FILED A NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS AND THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS ASSERTED IN THIS MATTER.

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: CHARLES SCHWAB & CO, INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THE REPRESENTATIVE MADE AN UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR PURCHASES IN HER IRA ACCOUNT IN JUNE 2008.

Product Type: Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)

Alleged Damages: \$250,000.00

Is this an oral complaint? No

Is this a written complaint? Yes

Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation? Yes

Arbitration/Reparation forum or court name and location: FINRA

Docket/Case #: 12-03658

Filing date of arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation: 10/16/2012

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/31/2012

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 02/20/2014

Settlement Amount: \$40,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Firm Statement THE FIRM SETTLED THE CLAIMS TO AVOID THE COST AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION, WITH NO ADMISSION OF WRONGDOING AND NO



MONETARY CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THE REPRESENTATIVE MADE AN UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR PURCHASES IN HER IRA ACCOUNT IN JUNE 2008.

Product Type: Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)

Alleged Damages: \$250,000.00

Is this an oral complaint? No

Is this a written complaint? Yes

Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation? Yes

Arbitration/Reparation forum or court name and location: FINRA

Docket/Case #: 12-03658

Filing date of arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation: 10/16/2012

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 10/31/2012

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 02/20/2014

Settlement Amount: \$40,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement REPRESENTATIVE WAS NOT NAMED AS A RESPONDENT IN THIS COMPLAINT. ALL RECOMMENDATIONS AND RISKS WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH THE CLIENT PRIOR TO THE TRANSACTIONS. LOSSES WERE A RESULT OF UNFORESEEABLE MARKET CONDITIONS. CLIENT CONTINUED HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR



APPROXIMATELY 2 YEARS AFTER THESE ALLEGED LOSSES OCCURRED.
THE FIRM SETTLED THE CLAIMS TO AVOID THE COST AND UNCERTAINTY
OF LITIGATION, WITH NO ADMISSION OF WRONGDOING AND NO
MONETARY CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE



Customer Dispute - Closed-No Action / Withdrawn / Dismissed / Denied

This type of disclosure event involves (1) a consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the individual broker that was dismissed, withdrawn, or denied; or (2) a consumer-initiated, investment-related written complaint containing allegations that the broker engaged in sales practice violations resulting in compensatory damages of at least \$5,000, forgery, theft, or misappropriation, or conversion of funds or securities, which was closed without action, withdrawn, or denied.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Allegations: THE CLIENTS ALLEGED THAT THE ADVISOR MISREPRESENTED THE AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE HUSBAND'S LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.

Product Type: Other

Other Product Type(s): IDS LIFE INSURANCE

Alleged Damages: \$23,002.19

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 08/14/2003

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 10/29/2003

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Firm Statement BASED ON THE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE CLIENT'S INSURANCE POLICY WE DETERMINED THAT THE CLIENTS RECEIVED ADEQUATE DISCLOSURE WITH REGARD TO POLICY PREMIUMS AND OTHER PRODUCT FEATURES.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS



Allegations: THE CLIENTS ALLEGED THAT THE ADVISOR MISREPRESENTED THE AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE HUSBAND'S LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.

Product Type: Other

Other Product Type(s): IDS LIFE INSURANCE

Alleged Damages: \$23,002.19

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 08/14/2003

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 10/29/2003

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Allegations: THE CLIENTS' ATTORNEY COMPLAINED THROUGH THE SEC THAT THE INVESTMENTS THEY PURCHASED FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS WERE UNSUITABLE GIVEN THEIR AGE AND RISK TOLERANCE. THEY ALSO QUESTIONED THE TRANSFER FROM ONE CLASS OF MUTUAL FUNDS TO ANOTHER. NO SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR DAMAGES WAS MADE, HOWEVER, THEY CITED THE VALUE OF THEIR PORTFOLIO PRIOR TO INVESTING AT AEFA AND AFTERWARDS AND IT HAD DECLINED BY APPROXIMATELY \$190000.00

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Alleged Damages: \$190,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 01/14/2002

Complaint Pending? No



Status: Denied

Status Date: 04/17/2002

Settlement Amount:

**Individual Contribution
Amount:**

Broker Statement

THE FIRM FOUND THE CLIENTS RECEIVED FULL AND FAIR DISCLOSURE OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED TO THE MUTUAL FUNDS THEY HAD PURCHASED AS EVIDENCED BY THIER SIGNATURES ON THE APPROPRIATE FORMS AND THEIR RECEIPT OF THE RESPECTIVE PROSPECTUSES. IT APPEARED THE CLIENTS COMPLAINT WAS RELATED TO THE DOWNTURN IN THE MARKET. THERE WERE NUMEROUS MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CLIENTS AND THEIR ADVISOR TO REVIEW THEIR SITUATION AND EXPLAIN THEIR INVESTMENTS. FURHTER, WHEN THE CLIENTS AGREED TO TRANSFER THEIR MUTUAL FUNDS FROM ONE CLASS TO ANOTHER, THEY INCURRED NO FRONT-END OR BACK-END SALES CHARGES AS A RESULT.

End of Report



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