

BrokerCheck Report

BRETT DAVID LEVINSON

CRD# 2644880

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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.

**BRETT D. LEVINSON**

CRD# 2644880

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

IA STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
 16870 WEST BERNARDO DRIVE
 SUITE 150
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92127
 CRD# 793
 Registered with this firm since: 09/25/2015

B STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
 16870 WEST BERNARDO DRIVE
 SUITE 150
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92127
 CRD# 793
 Registered with this firm since: 09/25/2015

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:

- 5 Self-Regulatory Organizations
- 29 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

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

- IA HILLTOP SECURITIES INC.**
 CRD# 6220
 DALLAS, TX
 12/2008 - 10/2015
- B HILLTOP SECURITIES INC.**
 CRD# 6220
 SAN DIEGO, CA
 12/2008 - 10/2015
- IA M. L. STERN & CO, LLC.**
 CRD# 8327
 BEVERLY HILLS, CA
 01/2004 - 12/2008

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
Regulatory Event	1
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 5 SROs and is licensed in 29 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED**

Main Office Address: **501 NORTH BROADWAY
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102**

Firm CRD#: **793**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/25/2015
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/25/2015
B	NYSE American LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Nasdaq PHLX LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/25/2015
B	New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/25/2015

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	10/08/2025
B	Alaska	Agent	Approved	10/21/2015
B	Arizona	Agent	Approved	12/06/2018
B	California	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
IA	California	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	11/15/2021
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	03/06/2024

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	09/21/2022
B	Indiana	Agent	Approved	04/29/2021
B	Iowa	Agent	Approved	03/08/2024
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	03/15/2024
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	10/26/2015
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	09/25/2023
B	Nebraska	Agent	Approved	09/26/2025
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	09/28/2017
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	06/26/2025
B	New York	Agent	Approved	03/30/2018
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	03/05/2024
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	03/08/2016
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	12/02/2020
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	03/06/2024
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	09/16/2016
B	Utah	Agent	Approved	03/25/2024

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	09/25/2015

Branch Office Locations

STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY, INCORPORATED
16870 WEST BERNARDO DRIVE
SUITE 150
SAN DIEGO, CA 92127



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 1 state securities law exam.

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	08/21/1995

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	10/09/1995

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
B 12/2008 - 10/2015	HILLTOP SECURITIES INC.	6220	SAN DIEGO, CA
IA 12/2008 - 10/2015	HILLTOP SECURITIES INC.	6220	SAN DIEGO, CA
IA 01/2004 - 12/2008	M. L. STERN & CO, LLC.	8327	SAN DIEGO, CA
B 08/1995 - 12/2008	M.L. STERN & CO., LLC.	8327	SAN DIEGO, CA

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
09/2015 - Present	Stifel Nicolaus & Co Inc	Financial Advisor	Y	Rancho Bernardo, CA, 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.

No information reported.

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
Regulatory Event	0	1	0
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.

Regulatory - Final

This type of disclosure event may involve (1) a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations; or (2) a revocation or suspension of a broker's authority to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Regulator

Regulatory Action Initiated By: FINRA

Sanction(s) Sought:

Date Initiated: 12/09/2019

Docket/Case Number: [2015047496101](#)

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: Hilltop Securities Inc.

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: Without admitting or denying the findings, Levinson consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that, when changing firms, he improperly disclosed non-public personal information of a customer of his member firm to a third party, and retained non-public personal information of other firm customers after his departure from the firm. The findings stated that the firm maintained written policies and procedures prohibiting the disclosure of nonpublic personal information about customers to unaffiliated third parties. By virtue of his conduct, Levinson caused his firm to violate the SEC's Regulation S-P: Privacy of Consumer Financial Information and Safeguarding Personal Information.

Current Status: Final



Resolution:	Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)
Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?	No
Resolution Date:	12/09/2019
Sanctions Ordered:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s) Suspension
If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise?	No
(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?	



(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or

(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board?

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type:	Suspension
Capacities Affected:	All Capacities
Duration:	30 days
Start Date:	12/23/2019
End Date:	01/21/2020

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1****Monetary Related Sanction:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)**Total Amount:** \$5,000.00**Portion Levied against individual:** \$5,000.00**Payment Plan:****Is Payment Plan Current:****Date Paid by individual:** 01/06/2020**Was any portion of penalty waived?** No**Amount Waived:****Reporting Source:** Broker**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** FINRA**Sanction(s) Sought:****Date Initiated:** 12/09/2019**Docket/Case Number:** [2015047496101](#)**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:** Hilltop Securities Inc.**Product Type:** No Product

Allegations: Without admitting or denying the findings, Levinson consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that in 2015, when changing firms he (1) failed to redact the account short name and account number relative to a single trade correction from a commission blotter that he provided to a third party at the prospective firm, and (2) retained at his home certain customer account statements for several days after his resignation from the firm. The findings stated that: (1) the firm maintained written policies and procedures prohibiting the disclosure of nonpublic personal information about customers to unaffiliated third parties, (2) by virtue of his conduct, Levinson caused his firm to violate the SEC's Regulation S-P: Privacy of Consumer Financial Information and Safeguarding Personal Information, and (3) in causing the firm to violate Reg S-P, Levinson violated FINRA Rule 2010.



Current Status:	Final
Resolution:	Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)
Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?	No
Resolution Date:	12/09/2019
Sanctions Ordered:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s) Suspension
Sanction 1 of 1	
Sanction Type:	Suspension
Capacities Affected:	All Capacities
Duration:	30 Days
Start Date:	12/23/2019
End Date:	01/21/2020
Monetary Sanction 1 of 1	
Monetary Related Sanction:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Total Amount:	\$5,000.00
Portion Levied against individual:	\$5,000.00
Payment Plan:	
Is Payment Plan Current:	
Date Paid by individual:	
Was any portion of penalty waived?	No
Amount Waived:	
Broker Statement	"See Corrective Action Statement at end of AWC."



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 1

Reporting Source:	Broker
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	SOUTHWEST SECURITIES, INC.
Allegations:	CLIENT ALLEGED UNSUITABLE RECOMMENATION WITH RESPECT TO A ROYALTY ENERGY INCOME MUTUAL FUND.
Product Type:	Mutual Fund
Alleged Damages:	\$0.00
Alleged Damages Amount Explanation (if amount not exact):	UNABLE TO DETERMINE BUT BELIEVED TO BE OVER \$5,000.00
Is this an oral complaint?	No
Is this a written complaint?	Yes
Is this an arbitration/CFTC reparation or civil litigation?	No

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	02/23/2015
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Denied
Status Date:	03/03/2015
Settlement Amount:	
Individual Contribution Amount:	
Broker Statement	THE CLIENT TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS TO MAKE THE DECISION TO PURCHASE THE MUTUAL FUND IN QUESTION AND THAT DECISION WAS BASED ON A LONG TERM INVESTMENT PLAN. THE CLIENT WAS GIVEN FULL DISCLOSURE AND THE PROSPECTUS AND SIGNED AN AFFIRMATION



CONFIRMING THIS. THIS FUND INVESTED IN ENERGY AND UNFORTUNATELY THAT SECTOR DEGRADED MONTHS LATER AND THE CLIENT WANTED A REFUND. AS THE FUND WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH THE CLIENT, THE DECISION TO PURCHASE WAS CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT OVER SEVERAL MONTHS, AND THE FIRM AND ITS ASSOCIATES ARE PROHIBITED FROM GUARANTEEING INVESTMENTS, IT IS THE FIRM'S POSITION THAT THIS INVESTMENT WAS SUITABLE FOR THE CLIENT GIVEN STATED OBJECTIVES AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS. CLAIM DENIED.

End of Report



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