

## BrokerCheck Report

**SCOTT BRIAN HINKLE**

CRD# 2878037

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



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or [www.finra.org/brokercheck](http://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).



**SCOTT B. HINKLE**

CRD# 2878037

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

- B** **BENEFIT FUNDING SERVICES, LLC**  
Encinitas, CA  
CRD# 44079  
Registered with this firm since: 03/17/2025

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:

- 1 Self-Regulatory Organization
- 13 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

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

- B** **WORLD EQUITY GROUP, INC.**  
CRD# 29087  
SCHAUMBURG, IL  
08/2024 - 03/2025
- IA** **LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION**  
CRD# 3870  
FORT WAYNE, IN  
08/1999 - 03/2010
- B** **LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION**  
CRD# 3870  
SOLANA BEACH, CA  
01/1998 - 03/2010

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



## 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 1 SRO and is licensed in 13 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.**

### Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **BENEFIT FUNDING SERVICES, LLC**

Main Office Address: **100 SPECTRUM CENTER DRIVE  
SUITE 400  
IRVINE, CA 92618**

Firm CRD#: **44079**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	FINRA	Invest. Co and Variable Contracts	Approved	03/17/2025

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	California	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	04/01/2025
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	04/03/2025
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	04/03/2025
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	04/01/2025
B	North Dakota	Agent	Approved	04/07/2025
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
<div>B</div> Virginia	Agent	Approved	03/17/2025

Branch Office Locations

BENEFIT FUNDING SERVICES, LLC  
Encinitas, CA

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## 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, 3 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>B</b> Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination	Series 6TO	08/19/2024
<b>B</b> Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	08/13/2024
<b>B</b> General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	06/26/1997

### State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
<b>B</b> Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	08/26/2024
<b>IA</b> Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	05/28/1999

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/](http://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>B</b> 08/2024 - 03/2025	WORLD EQUITY GROUP, INC.	29087	SCHAUMBURG, IL
<b>IA</b> 08/1999 - 03/2010	LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	3870	SOLANA BEACH, CA
<b>B</b> 01/1998 - 03/2010	LINCOLN FINANCIAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	3870	SOLANA BEACH, CA
<b>IA</b> 09/1999 - 12/2009	INDEPENDENT ADVISERS GROUP CORP	106684	SOLANA BEACH, CA
<b>B</b> 08/1997 - 11/1997	CENTAURUS FINANCIAL, INC.	30833	ANAHEIM, 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
06/2024 - Present	World Equity Group, Inc.	Regd Rep	Y	Encinitas, CA, United States
01/2022 - Present	Hinkle Insurance Services	Owner	N	Encinitas, CA, United States
10/1997 - 01/2022	WESTHEM GRANT GROUP	MEMBER	N	SOLANA BEACH, 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.

1. OFFERING LIFE SETTLEMENTS THROUGH ADVANCED SETTLEMENTS, INC. AND RUMSON CAPITAL.

GRANT, HINKLE, & JACOBS, INC 462 STEVENS AVENUE, SUITE 302; INSURANCE SALES; INVESTMENT RELATED; OWNER/AGENT; SALES OF FIXED & TRADITIONAL INSURANCE PRODUCTS; 150 HPM, 100 DURING TRADING HRS.

2. Double Check Solutions; Not investment related; 166 Hargraves Dr, Suite C-400 Box 635, Austin, TX, 78737; Nature of OBA: I serve on the Board of Directors of the company and am an individual investor in the company; Posns/Title: Member of the Board of Directors; Start Date:



## Registration and Employment History

### Other Business Activities, continued

09/01/21; Approx. Hrs/Mth for OBA: 2 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during trading Hrs: ZERO; Duties: Serving on the Board of Directors.

3. Hinkle Insurance Services; Not investment related; 1155 Sidonia St, Encinitas, CA, 92024; Nature of OBA: We market and sell life insurance policies to individuals, businesses, companies and non-profit organizations.; Posn/Title: Owner; Start Date: 01/01/2019; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 120 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 30 Hrs; Duties: I own the operating entity and perform daily activities related to the marketing, selling and servicing of life insurance policies.

4. Scott Hinkle, individual insurance agent; Not investment related; 1155 Sidonia St, Encinitas, CA, 92024; Nature of OBA: I sell life insurance and annuities as an agent of various life insurance companies; Posn/Title: Agent; Start Date: 01/01/2019; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 3 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 3 Hrs; Duties: I sell life insurance and annuities as an agent of various life insurance companies.

5. LMA Income Series II LP; Not investment related; 2101 Park Center Dr, #200, Orlando, FL. 32835; Nature of OBA: I assist in marketing the LMA Income Series II LP Fund to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.; Posn/Title: Originator; Start Date: 09/01/24; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 5 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 5 Hrs; Duties: I assist in marketing the LMA Income Series II LP Fund to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.

6. Acumen Insurance Solutions; Not investment related; 445 Marine View Ave, Suite 300; Del Mar, CA 92014; Nature of OBA: Acumen Insurance Solutions is a marketing organization for the selling of insurance products to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations; Posn/Title: Owner; Start Date: 01/01/22; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 120 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 120 Hrs; Duties: I market and sell insurance products to individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.

7. Estate Portfolio Management; Yes investment related; 433 Plaza Real, Suite 275, Boca Raton, FL, 33432; Nature of OBA: Life Settlements Investment; Posn/Title: Referral Source; Start Date: 12/01/24; Approx. No of Hrs/Month for OBA: 5 Hrs; Approx. Hrs/Mth during Trading Hrs: 5 Hrs; Duties: Find clients for their life settlement offerings.

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## 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



## 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

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Broker
<b>Regulatory Action Initiated By:</b>	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
<b>Sanction(s) Sought:</b>	
<b>Other Sanction(s) Sought:</b>	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	05/17/1995
<b>Docket/Case Number:</b>	SAC -7972-AP (AR)
<b>Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:</b>	
<b>Product Type:</b>	
<b>Other Product Type(s):</b>	
<b>Allegations:</b>	WHEN ORIGINALLY APPLYING FOR MY LIFE & DISABILITY SALES LISCENSE, I FAILED TO DISCLOSE THAT I WAS CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR IN 1994.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Final
<b>Resolution:</b>	Decision
<b>Resolution Date:</b>	05/17/1995



<b>Sanctions Ordered:</b>	Monetary/Fine \$100.00
<b>Other Sanctions Ordered:</b>	
<b>Sanction Details:</b>	FINED \$100.00 AND AN EXAMINATION FEE OF \$174.00
<b>Broker Statement</b>	Not Provided

## End of Report



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