

BrokerCheck Report

JOHN CLINTON CATE

CRD# 3055355

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Broker Qualifications	2 - 5
Registration and Employment History	7
Disclosure Events	8



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.

**JOHN C. CATE**

CRD# 3055355

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

IA MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
 510 E 96TH ST
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240
 CRD# 7691
 Registered with this firm since: 06/03/2011

B MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
 510 E 96TH ST
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240
 CRD# 7691
 Registered with this firm since: 06/03/2011

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:

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

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

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

- B MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY**
 CRD# 149777
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN
 06/2009 - 06/2011
- IA MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY LLC**
 CRD# 149777
 PURCHASE, NY
 06/2009 - 06/2011
- IA MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED**
 CRD# 8209
 NEW YORK, NY
 04/2007 - 06/2009

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	5



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 6 SROs and is licensed in 38 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**

Main Office Address: **ONE BRYANT PARK
NEW YORK, NY 10036**

Firm CRD#: **7691**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/13/2014
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	05/13/2014
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	06/03/2011
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	06/03/2011
B	New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	06/03/2011

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	03/12/2014
B	Arizona	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	California	Agent	Approved	06/07/2011
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
IA	Colorado	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	12/01/2020
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Delaware	Agent	Approved	02/08/2019



Broker Qualifications

Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	07/12/2021
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Hawaii	Agent	Approved	12/13/2017
B	Idaho	Agent	Approved	12/01/2023
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Indiana	Agent	Approved	06/07/2011
IA	Indiana	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	06/08/2011
B	Kansas	Agent	Approved	09/12/2017
B	Kentucky	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Louisiana	Agent	Approved	06/03/2020
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	08/06/2012
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	01/03/2022
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	05/12/2021
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	10/03/2019
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	02/06/2013
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	07/22/2011
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	09/06/2024



Broker Qualifications

Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	New York	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	06/29/2011
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Oklahoma	Agent	Approved	01/12/2022
B	Oregon	Agent	Approved	07/14/2022
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	02/28/2013
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	03/21/2014
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	06/03/2011
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	03/07/2018
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011
B	Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	06/03/2011

Branch Office Locations

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
 510 E 96TH ST
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240



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 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 Futures Managed Funds Examination	Series 31	11/18/2004
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	05/15/1998

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	07/17/1998

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 06/2009 - 06/2011	MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY	149777	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
IA 06/2009 - 06/2011	MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY LLC	149777	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
B 04/2007 - 06/2009	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	8209	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
IA 04/2007 - 06/2009	MORGAN STANLEY & CO. INCORPORATED	8209	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
IA 04/2001 - 04/2007	MORGAN STANLEY	7556	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
B 03/2001 - 04/2007	MORGAN STANLEY DW INC.	7556	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
B 05/1998 - 03/2001	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	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
07/2011 - Present	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	INDIANAPOLIS, IN, United States
06/2011 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	FA	Y	INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 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
Customer Dispute	0	5	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 2

Reporting Source:	Firm
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.
Allegations:	CLAIMANTS ALLEGE UNSUITABLE INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS, BREACH OF CONTRACT, BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, NEGLIGENCE, VIOLATION OF FLORIDA STATUTE 517.301.
Product Type:	Equity - OTC
Alleged Damages:	\$365,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	12/04/2001
Complaint Pending?	No
Status:	Arbitration/Reparation
Status Date:	12/04/2001
Settlement Amount:	
Individual Contribution Amount:	

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.:	NASD #01-05381
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Date Notice/Process Served: 12/04/2001

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Settled

Disposition Date: 01/08/2003

Monetary Compensation Amount: \$40,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Firm Statement CLAIM WAS SETTLED TO AVOID THE EXPENSE AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.

Allegations: CLAIMANTS ALLEGE UNSUITABLE INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS, BREACH OF CONTRACT, BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, NEGLIGENCE, VIOLATION OF FLORIDA STATUTE 517.301.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Alleged Damages: \$365,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/04/2001

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Arbitration/Reparation

Status Date: 12/04/2001

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Arbitration Information

Arbitration/Reparation Claim filed with and Docket/Case No.: NASD #01-05381



Date Notice/Process Served:	12/04/2001
Arbitration Pending?	No
Disposition:	Settled
Disposition Date:	01/08/2003
Monetary Compensation Amount:	\$40,000.00
Individual Contribution Amount:	\$0.00
Broker Statement	CLAIM WAS SETTLED TO AVOID THE EXPENSE AND UNCERTAINTY OF LITIGATION

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source:	Firm
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.
Allegations:	CUSTOMER ALLEGES UNSUITABLE TRADING AND CHARGING COMMISSIONS IN EXCESS OF WHAT WAS REPRESENTED WOULD BE CHARGED.
Product Type:	Equity - OTC
Alleged Damages:	\$400,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received:	05/30/2001
Complaint Pending?	Yes
Settlement Amount:	
Individual Contribution Amount:	
Firm Statement	MATTER UNDER REVIEW.

Reporting Source:	Broker
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint:	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.



Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES UNSUITABLE TRADING AND CHARGING COMMISSIONS IN EXCESS OF WHAT WAS REPRESENTED WOULD BE CHARGED.

Product Type: Equity-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$400,000.00

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: 05/30/2001

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Settled

Status Date: 01/16/2002

Settlement Amount: \$250,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00



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 3

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES FA MADE UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. CUSTOMER ALLEGES UNSPECIFIED DAMAGES.

Product Type: Equity - OTC

Alleged Damages: \$0.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 04/14/2004

Complaint Pending? Yes

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Firm Statement MERRILL LYNCH IS INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATIONS SET FORTH IN THE CUSTOMER'S COMPLAINT.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES FA MADE UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. CUSTOMER ALLEGES UNSPECIFIED DAMAGES.

Product Type: Equity-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$0.00

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: 04/14/2004
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Closed/No Action
Status Date: 12/08/2004
Settlement Amount:
**Individual Contribution
Amount:**

Disclosure 2 of 3

Reporting Source: Firm
**Employing firm when
activities occurred which led
to the complaint:** MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.
Allegations: CUSTOMERS ALLEGE UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO
INVESTMENTS AND USE OF MARGIN.
Product Type: Equity-OTC
Alleged Damages: \$285,000.00
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: 01/31/2002
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Closed/No Action
Status Date: 06/26/2006
Settlement Amount:



Individual Contribution Amount:

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMERS ALLEGE UNSUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO INVESTMENTS AND USE OF MARGIN.

Product Type: Equity-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$285,000.00

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: 01/31/2002

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Closed/No Action

Status Date: 06/26/2006

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Disclosure 3 of 3

Reporting Source: Firm

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT CATE RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS IN 1999 AND 2000.

Product Type: Equity Listed (Common & Preferred Stock)



Other Product Type(s): EQUITIES-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$100,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 02/21/2001

Complaint Pending? Yes

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Firm Statement ALLEGATIONS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW.

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INC.

Allegations: CUSTOMER ALLEGES THAT CATE RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE INVESTMENTS IN 1999 AND 2000.

Product Type: Equity-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$100,000.00

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: 02/21/2001

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Closed/No Action

Status Date: 09/15/2005

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

End of Report



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