

BrokerCheck Report

JOSEPH ANDREW COOK

CRD# 4080458

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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:
 - 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.

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.

JOSEPH A. COOK

CRD# 4080458

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

- B** **REALTA EQUITIES, INC.**
 1201 N. ORANGE STREET
 SUITE 729
 WILMINGTON, DE 19801
 CRD# 23769
 Registered with this firm since: 09/08/2023

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
- 1 U.S. state or territory

This broker has passed:

- 3 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** **ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**
 CRD# 44856
 Chicago, IL
 01/2017 - 04/2017
- B** **ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**
 CRD# 44856
 SCHAUMBURG, IL
 01/2015 - 02/2015
- B** **ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC**
 CRD# 44856
 SCHAUMBURG, IL
 11/2008 - 07/2014

**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
Judgment/Lien	2



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 1 U.S. state or territory through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **REALTA EQUITIES, INC.**
Main Office Address: **1201 N. ORANGE STREET
SUITE 300
WILMINGTON, DE 92130**
Firm CRD#: **23769**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	FINRA	Direct Participation Programs	Approved	09/08/2023

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	12/15/2023

Branch Office Locations

REALTA EQUITIES, INC.
1201 N. ORANGE STREET
SUITE 729
WILMINGTON, DE 19801



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 3 principal/supervisory exams, 3 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B General Securities Sales Supervisor - Options Module Examination	Series 9	02/18/2005
B General Securities Sales Supervisor - General Module Examination	Series 10	02/15/2005
B General Securities Principal Examination	Series 24	12/04/2004

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Direct Participation Programs Representative Examination	Series 22TO	09/07/2023
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	02/03/2023
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	02/08/2000

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	09/30/2023
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	04/18/2002

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 01/2017 - 04/2017	ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	44856	Chicago, IL
B 01/2015 - 02/2015	ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	44856	SCHAUMBURG, IL
B 11/2008 - 07/2014	ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC	44856	SCHAUMBURG, IL
B 02/2005 - 11/2008	AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	6363	SCHAUMBURG, IL
B 02/2005 - 07/2006	IDS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	6321	MINNEAPOLIS, MN
B 10/2002 - 01/2005	WESTERN INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES, INC.	39262	PASADENA, CA
B 04/2002 - 09/2002	SANDS BROTHERS & CO., LTD.	26816	NEW YORK, NY
B 08/2001 - 03/2002	GLOBAL CAPITAL SECURITIES CORPORATION	16184	ENGLEWOOD, CO
B 07/2001 - 08/2001	COMPUTERSHARE SECURITIES CORPORATION	107023	CHICAGO, IL
B 02/2000 - 07/2001	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
06/2023 - Present	CONCEPT CAPITAL MARKETS	PRESIDENT	Y	NEWPORT BEACH, CA, United States
04/2021 - Present	COASTAL EQUITIES INC.	CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER	Y	WILMINGTON, DE, United States
07/2014 - Present	VIESTE GROUP, LLC	MANAGER	N	CHICAGO, IL, United States



Registration and Employment History

Employment History, continued

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
01/2020 - 04/2021	GK DEVELOPMENT INC	VP INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	N	BARRINGTON, IL, United States
11/2008 - 10/2018	OLD GROWTH CAPITAL, LLC	VARIOUS	Y	CHICAGO, IL, United States
11/2008 - 04/2017	ARETE WEALTH MANAGEMENT	CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER	Y	CHICAGO, IL, 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) 11/01/2011 JOE COOK IS A MANAGING MEMBER OF GREEN LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES OUT OF 1115 W FULTON MARKET 3RD FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60607. GREEN IS A PRIVATE EQUITY SPONSOR THAT MANAGES ISSUING ENTITIES THAT INVEST IN VARIOUS BUSINESSES FOCUSED ON RENEWABLE ENERGY. GREEN IS THE MANAGER OF GREEN STANDARD RESOURCES MANAGEMENT LLC, WHICH IS THE MANAGER OF GREEN STANDARD RESOURCES LLC. CURRENTLY THERE IS NO COMPENSATION 1-2 HOURS A MONTH DURING NON TRADING HOURS.

(2) 2/25/2013 JOE COOK IS A MANAGING MEMBER OF VIESTE SPE LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES OUT OF 105 W. ADAMS ST. SUITE 2700 CHICAGO, IL 60603. VIESTE SPE OWNS AND MANAGES A RENEWABLE ENERGY AND RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY IN GLENDALE, AZ. CURRENTLY THERE IS NO COMPENSATION.

(3) 07/31/13 JOE COOK IS THE MANAGING MEMBER OF JRC VEG LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES OUT OF 1115 W FULTON MARKET 3RD FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60607. THIS ENTITY PROVIDES CONSULTING SERVICES AND OWNS A 10% INTEREST IN VIESTE ENERGY LLC. THIS ENTITY ALSO OWNS APPROXIMATELY 30% IN VIESTE GROUP, LLC CURRENTLY THERE IS NO COMPENSATION 1-2 HOURS PER MONTH DURING NON TRADING HOURS.

(4) 01/28/15 JOE COOK IS THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF VIESTE GROUP, LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES FROM 1115 W FULTON MARKET 3RD FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60607. MONTHLY COMPENSATION IS ~ \$5,000. VIESTE GROUP IS ALSO THE OWNER OF VIESTE ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC, VIESTE BIOGAS HOLDINGS, LLC AND VIESTE INTERNATIONAL, LLC. 2-4 HOURS PER MONTH DURING NON TRADING HOURS.

(5) 03/2014 JOE COOK IS A MANAGER OF SAIL ENERGY LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES FROM 210 COMMERCE WAY STE 210 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801. SAIL ENERGY LLC IS AN OPERATOR OF HEATING FUELS DISTRIBUTION WWW.SAILENERGY.COM CURRENTLY THERE IS NO COMPENSATION 1-2 HOURS PER MONTH DURING NON TRADING HOURS/BOARD MEETING COULD BE CONDUCTED DURING FIRM TRADING HOURS.

(6) 03/2016 JOE COOK IS A MANAGER OF DGT INVESTORS, LLC. THIS ENTITY OPERATES FROM 1115 W FULTON MARKET 3RD FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60607. DGT INVESTORS LLC IS AN ENTITY THAT HAS INVESTORS THAT OWN A PASSIVE MINORITY INTEREST IN A GOLF HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST BUSINESS; MINORITY MEMBERSHIP UNITS; 1-2 HOURS PER MONTH DURING NON TRADING HOURS.

Registration and Employment History



Other Business Activities, continued

(7) CONCEPT CAPITAL MARKETS; 450 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE STE 250 NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660; WHOLESALE EDUCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALTERNATIVE INVESTEMENTS; WWW.CONCEPTCAPITALMARKETS.COM; PRESIDENT; COMPENSATION AS PARTNER OF THE FIRM; 40 HOURS PER WEEK DURING NORMAL 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
Judgment/Lien	2	N/A	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.

Judgment / Lien

This type of disclosure event involves an unsatisfied and outstanding judgments or liens against the broker.

Disclosure 1 of 2

Reporting Source:	Broker
Judgment/Lien Holder:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Judgment/Lien Amount:	\$24,467.26
Judgment/Lien Type:	Tax
Date Filed with Court:	06/14/2022
Date Individual Learned:	02/23/2023
Type of Court:	N/A
Name of Court:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Location of Court:	KANE COUNTY, IL
Docket/Case #:	2022K031108
Judgment/Lien Outstanding?	Yes

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source:	Broker
Judgment/Lien Holder:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Judgment/Lien Amount:	\$239,748.74
Judgment/Lien Type:	Tax
Date Filed with Court:	10/31/2019
Date Individual Learned:	11/01/2019



Type of Court:	N/A
Name of Court:	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
Location of Court:	KANE COUNTY
Docket/Case #:	2019k054532
Judgment/Lien Outstanding?	Yes

End of Report



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