

BrokerCheck Report

Paula F. De Vos

CRD# 4320748

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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.

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This broker is not currently registered.

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 not currently registered.

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

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

- B** **WELLS FARGO INVESTMENTS, LLC**
CRD# 10582
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
11/2001 - 05/2003
- B** **J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES INC.**
CRD# 18718
NEW YORK, NY
04/2001 - 11/2001

Disclosure Events

This broker has been involved in one or more disclosure events involving certain final criminal matters, regulatory actions, civil judicial proceedings, or arbitrations or civil litigations.

Are there events disclosed about this broker? **Yes**

The following types of disclosures have been reported:

| Type | Count |
|------------------|-------|
| Regulatory Event | 1 |

Investment Adviser Representative Information

The information below represents the individual's record as a broker. For details on this individual's record as an investment adviser representative, visit the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at

<https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>

Broker Qualifications



Registrations

This section provides the self-regulatory organizations (SROs), states and U.S. territories the broker is currently registered and licensed with, the category of each registration, and the date on which the registration became effective. This section also provides, for each firm with which the broker is currently employed, the address of each branch where the broker works.

This broker is not currently registered.



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, 1 general industry/product exam, and 1 state securities law exam.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|--------------------------|----------|------|
| No information reported. | | |

General Industry/Product Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|--|----------|------------|
| B General Securities Representative Examination | Series 7 | 04/11/2001 |

State Securities Law Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|---|-----------|------------|
| B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination | Series 66 | 06/17/2002 |

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 **1** professional designation(s).

Certified Financial Planner

This representative holds or did hold **1** professional designation(s) that may have been used to qualify as an Investment Advisor representative. Please check with the appropriate designation authority for verification that the designation is still in effect. The contact information for these professional designation authorities can be found on the website for the North American Securities Administrators Association at <http://www.nasaa.org>



Registration and Employment History

Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following securities firms:

| Registration Dates | Firm Name | CRD# | Branch Location |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| B 11/2001 - 05/2003 | WELLS FARGO INVESTMENTS, LLC | 10582 | SAN FRANCISCO, CA |
| B 04/2001 - 11/2001 | J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES INC. | 18718 | 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 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 05/2003 - Present | Synergist Wealth Advisors LLC | PRESIDENT | Y | CARMEL, CA, United States |

Disclosure Events



What you should know about reported disclosure events:

- 1. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
 - As mentioned at the beginning of this report, information contained in BrokerCheck comes from brokers, their employing firms, and regulators. When more than one source reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the BrokerCheck report. The different versions are separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.

For your convenience, below is a matrix of the number and status of regulatory 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.

| | Final | On Appeal |
|------------------|-------|-----------|
| Regulatory Event | 1 | 0 |



Disclosure Event Details

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 involves a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations.

Disclosure 1 of 1

| | |
|---|--|
| Reporting Source: | Regulator |
| Regulatory Action Initiated By: | California |
| Sanction(s) Sought: | Cease and Desist Disgorgement Monetary Penalty other than Fines |
| Date Initiated: | 08/18/2020 |
| Docket/Case Number: | 127126 |
| URL for Regulatory Action: | |
| Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: | |
| Product Type: | No Product |
| Allegations: | Respondent violated Corporations Code sections 25238, 25401, and title 10 of the Cal. Code of Regs. section 260.238, subdivisions (h), (j), and (o) of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968. |
| Current Status: | Final |
| Resolution: | Stipulation and Consent |
| Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct? | Yes |
| Resolution Date: | 08/18/2020 |
| Sanctions Ordered: | Cease and Desist |



Disgorgement
 Monetary Penalty other than Fines
 Other: N/A

Monetary Sanction 1 of 3

Monetary Related Sanction: Disgorgement
Total Amount: \$17,048.17
Portion Levied against individual: \$17,048.17
Payment Plan: Subject has one year to refund overcharges.
Is Payment Plan Current: Yes
Date Paid by individual: 07/01/2021
Was any portion of penalty waived? No
Amount Waived:

Monetary Sanction 2 of 3

Monetary Related Sanction: Disgorgement
Total Amount: \$17,048.17
Portion Levied against individual: \$17,048.17
Payment Plan: Subject has one year to refund overcharges.
Is Payment Plan Current:
Date Paid by individual: 07/01/2021
Was any portion of penalty waived? No
Amount Waived:

Monetary Sanction 3 of 3

Monetary Related Sanction: Monetary Penalty other than Fines
Total Amount: \$7,500.00
Portion Levied against individual: \$7,500.00
Payment Plan: 30 days.



Is Payment Plan Current: Yes

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty waived? No

Amount Waived:

Reporting Source: Broker

Regulatory Action Initiated By: California Department of Business Oversight (DBO)

Sanction(s) Sought: Other: Desist and Refrain

Date Initiated: 06/24/2019

Docket/Case Number: NA

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: Synergist Wealth Advisors

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: In August 2020, Synergist entered into Consent Order with the DBO that rescinded the prior D&R Order, superseded & replaced it in all respects. The DBO's position was that a 2016 written communication did not sufficiently inform some clients of changes to the fee structure or payments and written client agreements did not adequately disclose all services provided, terms, and the formula for computing associated financial planning charges. The DBO believed that non-formula charges for financial planning were unreasonable omissions of material facts regarding fees and found that Synergist's use of discounts rendered certain provisions of the firm's agreements indefinite.

Current Status: Final

Resolution: Settlement consent order

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: 08/18/2020



Sanctions Ordered:

Other: With no admission of guilt to allegations, Synergist agreed to pay the Commissioner \$7,500 in investigative costs, offered to refund financial-wealth planning fees, and Desist and Refrain. 5 of 6 impacted clients declined the refund offer.

End of Report



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