

BrokerCheck Report

Melissa Marie Gaines

CRD# 4423718

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Broker Qualifications	2 - 3
Registration and Employment History	5
Disclosure Events	6



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.

Melissa M. Gaines

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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
- 2 General Industry/Product Exams
- 2 State Securities Law Exams

Registration History

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

B **EDWARD JONES**
 CRD# 250
 CRESCENT SPRINGS, KY
 09/2001 - 02/2025

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	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) 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 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, 2 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 Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	08/31/2001

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	01/17/2007
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	09/06/2001

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 09/2001 - 02/2025	EDWARD JONES	250	CRESCENT SPRINGS, KY

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
07/2001 - Present	EDWARD JONES	INVESTMENT REPRESENTATIVE	Y	ST. LOUIS, MO, 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.

Rental Property
 Crescent Springs, KY
 Start date: 6/1/2005
 Owner
 Hours per week: 1
 Hours during trading: 0
 Landlord

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	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.

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 1

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: EDWARD JONES

Allegations: 6/08-1/09; THE CLIENT STATES THE FA RECOMMENDED HE TRADE IN DRYSHIPS. THE CLIENT STATES THE FA ENCOURAGED HIM TO USE HIS MARGIN ACCOUNT TO TRADE IN THIS STOCK. THE CLIENT STATES THE FA DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO LIQUIDATE WHEN THE VALUE BEGAN TO DECLINE. THE CLIENT STATES HE RELIED ON THE FA AND HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE DRY-BULK SHIPPING SECTOR. THE CLIENT STATES THE FA TOLD HIM SHE MADE \$200,000 IN THIS STOCK AND GUARANTEED HE WOULD MAKE MONEY. THE CLIENT STATES HE WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE RISKS AND THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF THE SECTOR. HE STATES HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO BUY MORE. THE CLIENT STATES HE LOST IN EXCESS OF \$266,000 AND WOULD LIKE TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THE LOSSES.

Product Type: Equity-OTC

Alleged Damages: \$266,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 02/09/2009

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Evolved into Arbitration/CFTC reparation (the individual is a named party)

Status Date: 03/30/2009

**Settlement Amount:****Individual Contribution Amount:****Arbitration Information**

Arbitration/CFTC reparation claim filed with (FINRA, AAA, CFTC, etc.): FINRA

Docket/Case #: 09-05544

Date Notice/Process Served: 10/05/2009

Arbitration Pending? No

Disposition: Settled

Disposition Date: 10/04/2010

Monetary Compensation Amount: \$60,000.00

Individual Contribution Amount: \$0.00

Broker Statement

ON 6/17/08, THE CLIENT PURCHASED SHARES OF DUKE REALTY ON MARGIN; THE INITIAL PURCHASE ON MARGIN TOTALED \$189,467.40. THE CLIENT ALSO PURCHASED VALERO AND MORE DUKE REALTY SETTLING ON 06/03/08. IN AUGUST 2008, THE CLIENT PURCHASED SHARES OF PFE, FR, NM, AND DRYs ON MARGIN; THE CLIENT SOLD DRE AND VLO TO REDUCE THE MARGIN BALANCE. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THERE WERE MULTIPLE BUYS AND SELLS OF THE SECURITIES LISTED ABOVE AND OTHER SECURITIES ON MARGIN FROM THE TIME THE MARGIN ACCOUNT WAS CREATED IN JUNE 2008 UNTIL FEBRUARY 2009. THE FA INDICATES SHE EXPLAINED THE RISKS OF DRYs; SHE STATED SHE INFORMED HIM IT WAS A VOLATILE STOCK. THE FA STATED SHE DID NOT GUARANTEE THE SECURITY WOULD MAKE MONEY. SHE ALSO STATES SHE DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO USE THE MARGIN ACCOUNT TO PURCHASE ANY SECURITIES. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THE CLIENT INFORMED THE FA WHEN HE FIRST BEGAN TRADING ON MARGIN HE WANTED TO MAKE MONEY BY TRADING ON MARGIN. ACCORDING TO THE FA, SHE DID DISCUSS HER CONCERNS REGARDING DRYs AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS ON AUGUST 21, 2008; SHE WAS INFORMED BY THE CLIENT THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE EARNINGS AND WANTED TO HOLD THE STOCK. OUR RECORDS INDICATE HE CONTINUED TO BUY SHARES OF DRYs AFTER THE SECOND QUARTER EARNINGS WERE RELEASED. IT APPEARS THE CLIENT WAS INFORMED OF THE RISKS



OF USING THE MARGIN ACCOUNT, AS WELL AS THE RISKS OF DRYs. THE SECURITIES PURCHASED IN THE ACCOUNT, INCLUDING DRYs, APPEAR TO BE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ACCOUNT OBJECTIVES. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SECURITY IN THE ACCOUNT, THE VALUE OF THE SECURITY IS ATTRIBUTED TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL AND MARKET FLUCTUATION, WHICH IS A RISK ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTING. IN LIGHT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE CLIENT'S REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE MARKET LOSSES IS RESPECTFULLY DENIED.***ARBITRATION: SETTLED FOR \$60,000, PLUS 1/2 OF THE FINRA ARBITRATION FEES (\$1,125.00).

End of Report



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