

BrokerCheck Report

Eric J Watson

CRD# 4669691

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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.



Eric J. Watson

CRD# 4669691

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

IA MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
1111 E MAIN ST
RICHMOND, VA 23219
CRD# 7691
Registered with this firm since: 07/11/2024

B MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
1111 E MAIN ST
RICHMOND, VA 23219
CRD# 7691
Registered with this firm since: 07/10/2024

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
- 14 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

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

- B TRUIST INVESTMENT SERVICES, INC.**
CRD# 17499
RICHMOND, VA
02/2021 - 12/2023
- B BB&T SECURITIES, LLC**
CRD# 142785
RICHMOND, VA
02/2021 - 06/2021
- B BB&T SECURITIES, LLC**
CRD# 142785
RICHMOND, VA
01/2013 - 02/2021

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
Criminal	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 6 SROs and is licensed in 14 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 Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	FINRA	General Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B	FINRA	Investment Banking Principal	Approved	07/10/2024

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

SRO	Category	Status	Date
B FINRA	Investment Banking Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B FINRA	Municipal Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B FINRA	Municipal Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B FINRA	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B FINRA	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B Nasdaq Stock Market	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B Nasdaq Stock Market	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	Municipal Securities Principal	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	Municipal Securities Representative	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	Securities Trader	Approved	07/10/2024
B New York Stock Exchange	Securities Trader Principal	Approved	07/10/2024

U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B Delaware	Agent	Approved	08/01/2024
B District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B Florida	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B Kentucky	Agent	Approved	07/29/2024
B Maryland	Agent	Approved	08/01/2024

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B	New York	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	08/07/2024
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	07/24/2025
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	07/25/2024
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	08/02/2024
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	07/11/2024
IA	Virginia	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	07/11/2024
B	West Virginia	Agent	Approved	07/30/2024

Branch Office Locations

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
 1111 E MAIN ST
 RICHMOND, VA 23219



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 2 principal/supervisory exams, 5 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Municipal Securities Principal Examination	Series 53	07/03/2019
B General Securities Principal Examination	Series 24	03/07/2011

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Investment Banking Registered Representative Examination	Series 79TO	01/02/2023
B Municipal Securities Representative Examination	Series 52TO	01/02/2023
B Securities Trader Exam	Series 57TO	01/07/2019
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	09/10/2003

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	05/16/2024
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	12/16/2003

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 02/2021 - 12/2023	TRUIST INVESTMENT SERVICES, INC.	17499	RICHMOND, VA
B 02/2021 - 06/2021	BB&T SECURITIES, LLC	142785	RICHMOND, VA
B 01/2013 - 02/2021	BB&T SECURITIES, LLC	142785	RICHMOND, VA
B 06/2010 - 01/2013	SCOTT & STRINGFELLOW, LLC	6255	RICHMOND, VA
B 09/2003 - 06/2010	DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC.	2525	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
08/2024 - Present	Bank of America, N.A.	FSA - Merrill	Y	Richmond, VA, United States
06/2024 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	FSA - Merrill	Y	Richmond, VA, United States
02/2023 - Present	RICHMOND HOCKEY OFFICIATING PROGRAM	Ice Hockey Official	N	RICHMOND, VA, United States
02/2021 - 12/2023	TRUIST INVESTMENT SERVICES, INC.	Mass Transfer	Y	RICHMOND, VA, United States
01/2013 - 12/2023	BB&T SECURITIES, LLC	Mass Transfer	Y	RICHMOND, VA, United States
06/2010 - 06/2023	SCOTT & STRINGFELLOW, LLC (Truist Investment Services)	Managing Director (Head of Wealth Syndicate)	Y	RICHMOND, VA, United States
08/2007 - 05/2016	Seton Hall University	Student	N	South Orange, NJ, United States

Registration and Employment History



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.

I*1901267, Entity Type, Entity for Profit, Name of OBA: Richmond Hockey Officials Program, Address: Richmond, VA, 23235, Investment Related: No, Position, Title, Association: Consultant/Independent Contractor, Employee Start Date: 08/01/2024, No Hours: 8hrs/Mo, No Hours during trading: 0, Duties: I will referee ice hockey games to help ensure a safe and fair playing environment for all participants in youth leagues, adult leagues, and charity games in the greater Richmond area.

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
Criminal	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.

Criminal - Final Disposition

This type of disclosure event involves a criminal charge against the broker that has resulted in a conviction, acquittal, dismissal, or plea. The criminal matter may pertain to any felony or certain misdemeanor offenses, including bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, fraud, and wrongful taking of property.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Broker
If charge(s) were brought against an organization over which broker exercised control:	
Organization Name:	
Investment Related Business:	No
Broker's Position:	
Formal Charges were brought in:	COUNTY
Name of Court:	HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Location of Court:	FLORIDA
Docket/Case #:	98-CM-013950-A
Charge Date:	11/02/1997
Charge(s) 1 of 1	
Formal Charge(s)/Description:	OBTAIN PROPERTY FOR WORTHLESS
No of Counts:	1



Felony or Misdemeanor:	Misdemeanor
Plea for each charge:	NOT GUILTY
Disposition of charge:	Dismissed
Current Status:	Final
Status Date:	01/31/2007
Disposition Date:	01/31/2007
Sentence/Penalty:	DISMISSED
Broker Statement	In March 2016, after research, I became aware of a charge relating to NSF check of \$21.00 dating back to 1997, request for payment sent to former address and never personally received. Charges were later dismissed.

End of Report



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