

BrokerCheck Report

Matthew Clary Smith

CRD# 4808337

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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.



Matthew C. Smith

CRD# 4808337

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

- IA

LPL FINANCIAL LLC
350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302
CRD# 6413
Registered with this firm since: 10/08/2024
- B

LPL FINANCIAL LLC
350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302
CRD# 6413
Registered with this firm since: 12/06/2024

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:

- 1 Self-Regulatory Organization
- 3 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

- 0 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):

- IA

FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC.
CRD# 110377
LAKE ST. LOUIS, MO
05/2016 - 10/2024
- B

FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC.
CRD# 32460
SPARTANBURG, SC
05/2016 - 06/2020
- IA

INVESTMENT ADVISORS
CRD# 15708
BIRMINGHAM, AL
04/2012 - 06/2016

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
Regulatory Event	1
Termination	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 1 SRO and is licensed in 3 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **LPL FINANCIAL LLC**

Main Office Address: **1055 LPL WAY
FORT MILL, SC 29715**

Firm CRD#: **6413**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	FINRA	Invest. Co and Variable Contracts	Approved	12/06/2024

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	01/02/2025
IA	South Carolina	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	10/08/2024
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	01/02/2025
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	01/29/2025
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	10/08/2024

Branch Office Locations

LPL FINANCIAL LLC

350 East Saint John Street
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302

LPL FINANCIAL LLC

350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302



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 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
No information reported.		

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination	Series 6TO	12/06/2024
B Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	11/01/2024
B General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	07/08/2004

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	12/27/2024
B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	07/11/2011

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
IA 05/2016 - 10/2024	FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC.	110377	SPARTANBURG, SC
B 05/2016 - 06/2020	FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC.	32460	SPARTANBURG, SC
IA 04/2012 - 06/2016	INVESTMENT ADVISORS	15708	SPARTANBURG, SC
B 04/2012 - 06/2016	PROEQUITIES, INC.	15708	SPARTANBURG, SC
IA 08/2011 - 04/2012	FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC.	110377	SPARTANBURG, SC
B 03/2009 - 04/2012	FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC.	32460	SPARTANBURG, SC
B 05/2006 - 03/2009	NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL INVESTMENT SERVICES, LLC	2881	GREENVILLE, SC
IA 07/2004 - 04/2006	AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	6363	GREENVILLE, SC
B 07/2004 - 04/2006	AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	6363	MINNEAPOLIS, MN
B 07/2004 - 04/2006	IDS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	6321	MINNEAPOLIS, MN

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
10/2024 - Present	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	SPARTANBURG, SC, United States
05/2016 - 10/2024	FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL INC	REGISTERED REP	Y	LAKE ST LOUIS, MO, United States
04/2012 - 05/2016	PROEQUITIES, INC	REGISTERED REP	Y	SPARTANBURG, SC, 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.

- 1) 09/2024 - Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / Insurance Agency / Inv. Related / Spartanburg, SC / Start date 01/01/1999 - 5% Time Spent
 - 2) 09/2024 - Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) - Investment related - At reported business location(s)
 - 3) 09/2024 - Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / Non-Variable Insurance / Inv. Related / Spartanburg, SC / Start date 01/01/1999 - 180 Hrs per month - 5 % Time Spent
 - 4) 09/2024 - MCS Wealth Management, LLC / Business Entity For Tax/Investment Purposes Only / Non Inv. Related / Spartanburg, SC / Start date 12/03/2021 - 180 hrs per month - 100% Time Spent
-

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
Regulatory Event	0	1	0
Termination	N/A	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.

Regulatory - Final

This type of disclosure event may involve (1) a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations; or (2) a revocation or suspension of a broker's authority to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Regulator
Regulatory Action Initiated By:	FINRA
Sanction(s) Sought:	
Date Initiated:	06/20/2017
Docket/Case Number:	2016050244601
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:	ProEquities, Inc.
Product Type:	Mutual Fund
Allegations:	Without admitting or denying the findings, Smith consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that in violation of his member firm's written supervisory procedures (WSPs), he maintained customer-signed but otherwise blank mutual fund investor acknowledgements and universal switch letters for clients, to submit to his firm in connection with mutual fund exchanges. The findings stated that the pre-signed forms were completed and submitted to the firm following the execution of the transactions. The firm did not require these forms to be signed prior to the transactions.
Current Status:	Final
Resolution:	Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)



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:

06/20/2017

Sanctions Ordered:

Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Suspension

If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise?

No

(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?



(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or

(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board?

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type:	Suspension
Capacities Affected:	All capacities
Duration:	three months
Start Date:	07/17/2017
End Date:	10/16/2017

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1****Monetary Related Sanction:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)**Total Amount:** \$5,000.00**Portion Levied against individual:** \$5,000.00**Payment Plan:****Is Payment Plan Current:****Date Paid by individual:** 07/07/2017**Was any portion of penalty waived?** No**Amount Waived:****Reporting Source:** Broker**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** FINANCIA INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY**Sanction(s) Sought:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Suspension**Date Initiated:** 06/20/2017**Docket/Case Number:** [2016050244601](#)**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:** ProEquities, Inc.**Product Type:** No Product**Allegations:** Without admitting or denying the findings, Smith consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that in violation of his member firm's written supervisory procedures (WSPs), he maintained customer-signed but otherwise blank mutual fund investor acknowledgements and universal switch letters for clients, to submit to his firm in connection with mutual fund exchanges. The findings stated that the pre-signed forms were completed and submitted to the firm following the execution of the transactions. The firm did not require these forms to be signed prior to the transactions.**Current Status:** Final**Resolution:** Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)



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:	06/20/2017
Sanctions Ordered:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s) Suspension
Sanction 1 of 1	
Sanction Type:	Suspension
Capacities Affected:	General Securities
Duration:	90 days
Start Date:	07/17/2017
End Date:	10/16/2017
Monetary Sanction 1 of 1	
Monetary Related Sanction:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Total Amount:	\$5,000.00
Portion Levied against individual:	\$5,000.00
Payment Plan:	
Is Payment Plan Current:	
Date Paid by individual:	07/03/2017
Was any portion of penalty waived?	No
Amount Waived:	



Employment Separation After Allegations

This type of disclosure event involves a situation where the broker voluntarily resigned, was discharged, or was permitted to resign after being accused of (1) violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; (2) fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or (3) failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules, or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Firm

Employer Name: PROEQUITIES INC

Termination Type: Discharged

Termination Date: 05/25/2016

Allegations: Firm investigation determined that from approximately late 2012 through April 2016, representative was responsible for having clients sign blank or undated forms and was also responsible (by either engaging in the practice or overseeing office employees who engaged in the practice) for the "whiting out" of dates on forms requiring client signatures in order to reuse the forms. The above practices occurred in more than 40 customer accounts. Representative initially denied knowledge and existence of the practices but later that day admitted to knowing about them.

Product Type: Mutual Fund

Reporting Source: Broker

Employer Name: PRO EQUITIES INC

Termination Type: Discharged

Termination Date: 05/25/2016

Allegations: I WAS TERMINATED BY THE FIRM FOR USE OF PRESIGNED CLIENT SWITCH FORMS

Product Type: Mutual Fund

Broker Statement I WAS TERMINATED BY THE FIRM FOR USE OF PRESIGNED CLIENT SWITCH FORMS. THESE FORMS RELATED TO C-SHARE MUTUAL FUND EXCHANGES AND TRANSACTIONS TO OTHER C-SHARE MUTUAL FUNDS WITHIN THE SAME FUND FAMILY OR OTHER FUND FAMILIES

End of Report



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