

## BrokerCheck Report

**CHRISTOPHER JOHN RUSSON**

CRD# 5108670

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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](http://brokercheck.finra.org)



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or [www.finra.org/brokercheck](http://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](http://www.finra.org).

**CHRISTOPHER J. RUSSON**

CRD# 5108670

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

**IA MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**  
 1 TOWN CENTER RD  
 BOCA RATON, FL 33486  
 CRD# 7691  
 Registered with this firm since: 09/28/2022

**B MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**  
 1 TOWN CENTER RD  
 BOCA RATON, FL 33486  
 CRD# 7691  
 Registered with this firm since: 09/28/2022

**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
- 20 U.S. states and territories

**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):**

- IA CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC.**  
 CRD# 7059  
 NEW YORK, NY  
 06/2012 - 09/2022
- B CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC.**  
 CRD# 7059  
 PLANTATION, FL  
 06/2012 - 09/2022
- B HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.**  
 CRD# 19585  
 NEW YORK, NY  
 10/2009 - 07/2012

**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	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 6 SROs and is licensed in 20 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 Representative	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Cboe Exchange, Inc.	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/28/2022
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/28/2022
B	New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/28/2022

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	10/03/2022
B	California	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Connecticut	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Delaware	Agent	Approved	09/30/2022
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
IA	Florida	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved - Pending IAR CE	09/29/2022



## Broker Qualifications

### Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Maine	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	New York	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	09/28/2022
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022
B	Wisconsin	Agent	Approved	09/28/2022

### Branch Office Locations

**MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED**  
 1 TOWN CENTER RD  
 BOCA RATON, FL 33486



## 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>B</b> Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
<b>B</b> General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	03/04/2006

### State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
<b>IA</b> Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination	Series 65	05/03/2007
<b>B</b> Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	03/13/2006

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/](http://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>B</b> 06/2012 - 09/2022	CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC.	7059	PLANTATION, FL
<b>IA</b> 06/2012 - 09/2022	CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS INC.	7059	PLANTATION, FL
<b>B</b> 10/2009 - 07/2012	HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.	19585	NEW YORK, NY
<b>IA</b> 10/2009 - 07/2012	HSBC SECURITIES (USA) INC.	19585	NEW YORK, NY
<b>B</b> 04/2008 - 10/2009	CHASE INVESTMENT SERVICES CORP.	25574	NEW YORK, NY
<b>IA</b> 04/2008 - 10/2009	CHASE INVESTMENT SERVICES CORP.	25574	NEW YORK, NY
<b>B</b> 07/2007 - 04/2008	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	GARDEN CITY, NY
<b>IA</b> 07/2007 - 04/2008	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	7691	GARDEN CITY, NY
<b>B</b> 01/2007 - 06/2007	MAXIMUM FINANCIAL INVESTMENT GROUP, INC.	40096	NEW YORK, NY
<b>B</b> 06/2006 - 01/2007	GREAT EASTERN SECURITIES, INC.	2061	SYOSSET, NY
<b>B</b> 03/2006 - 05/2006	COMMERCE ONE FINANCIAL INC.	100340	SYOSSET, 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
01/2023 - Present	Bank of America, N.A.	Financial Advisor - AGP	Y	Boca Raton, FL, United States
09/2022 - Present	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED	Financial Advisor - AGP	Y	BOCA RATON, FL, United States





## Registration and Employment History

### Employment History, continued

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
06/2012 - 09/2022	CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Y	NEW YORK, NY, 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.

Russon Family LLC (holding company for Barbarian Distillery); Not investment-related; Boca Raton, FL; Affiliation started 01/24/2016; Title: Manager; Duties: Marketing Planning. Attain Federal and State Licensing for the distillery; No time is devoted to the business each month during security trading hours; 20 hours are devoted to the business each month outside of security trading hours.

I\*1200388

For profit or not for profit:

Name of outside business organization: Rental Property 1

Investment related: N

Address of business: Delray Beach, Florida, 33446

Nature of business:

Position, title, association: Co-owner with other family members,

Start date of relationship: 3/1/2023

Number of hours devoted: 1 hour(s) Monthly

Number of hours devoted during trading hours: 0

Duties: Rental condo

I\*1153257

For profit or not for profit: Entity For Profit

Name of outside business organization: RESTARTER HOMES LLC

Investment related: N

Address of business: BOCA RATON, Florida, 33428

Nature of business: ["Limited Liability Company"]

Position, title, association: ["Owner"],

Start date of relationship: 4/16/2019

Number of hours devoted: 1 hour(s) Yearly

Number of hours devoted during trading hours: 0

Duties: , INVESTER ONLY

## 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.
  -
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	2	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.

### 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 2

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Broker
<b>Regulatory Action Initiated By:</b>	New York State Department of Financial Services
<b>Sanction(s) Sought:</b>	Monetary Penalty other than Fines
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	09/30/2025
<b>Docket/Case Number:</b>	CSB01509063
<b>Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:</b>	MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH INCORPORATED
<b>Product Type:</b>	No Product
<b>Allegations:</b>	Failure to make required disclosure on application.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Final
<b>Resolution:</b>	Unknown
<b>Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?</b>	No



**Resolution Date:** 11/07/2025  
**Sanctions Ordered:** Monetary Penalty other than Fines

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1**

**Monetary Related Sanction:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

**Total Amount:** \$1,500.00

**Portion Levied against individual:** \$1,500.00

**Payment Plan:**

**Is Payment Plan Current:**

**Date Paid by individual:**

**Was any portion of penalty waived?** No

**Amount Waived:**

**Disclosure 2 of 2**

**Reporting Source:** Regulator  
**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** Florida Office of Financial Regulation  
**Sanction(s) Sought:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)  
**Date Initiated:** 12/16/2016  
**Docket/Case Number:** 68556-SR

**URL for Regulatory Action:**

**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:** Citigroup Global Markets Inc

**Product Type:** No Product

**Allegations:** Conducted investment advisory business from offices within this state without the benefit of lawful registration.

**Current Status:** Final

**Resolution:** 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:** 12/16/2016

**Sanctions Ordered:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1**

**Monetary Related Sanction:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

**Total Amount:** \$7,500.00

**Portion Levied against individual:** \$7,500.00

**Payment Plan:**

**Is Payment Plan Current:**

**Date Paid by individual:** 12/16/2016

**Was any portion of penalty waived?** No

**Amount Waived:**

**Regulator Statement**

On 12/16/2016, the Office of Financial Regulation entered a Final Order adopting the Stipulation and Consent Agreement in the matter of Christopher John Russon. Mr. Russon accepts and agrees to, without a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the finding of the Office. The Office found that Christopher John Russon engaged in investment advisory business from offices within this state without the benefit of lawful registration in the state of Florida pursuant to section 517.12(4), F. S. Mr. Russon agreed to pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$7,500. The Office agreed to approve Christopher John Russon's application as an associated person (RA) with Citigroup Global Markets Inc. effective 12/16/2016.

**Reporting Source:** Broker

**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** Florida Office of Financial Regulation

**Sanction(s) Sought:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)



<b>Date Initiated:</b>	12/16/2016
<b>Docket/Case Number:</b>	68556-SR
<b>Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:</b>	Citigroup Global Markets Inc.
<b>Product Type:</b>	No Product
<b>Allegations:</b>	Registered representative conducted investment advisory business from Florida without being registered as an investment advisor in Florida.
<b>Current Status:</b>	Final
<b>Resolution:</b>	Order
<b>Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?</b>	No
<b>Resolution Date:</b>	12/16/2016
<b>Sanctions Ordered:</b>	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
<b>Monetary Sanction 1 of 1</b>	
<b>Monetary Related Sanction:</b>	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
<b>Total Amount:</b>	\$7,500.00
<b>Portion Levied against individual:</b>	\$7,500.00
<b>Payment Plan:</b>	
<b>Is Payment Plan Current:</b>	
<b>Date Paid by individual:</b>	12/16/2016
<b>Was any portion of penalty waived?</b>	No
<b>Amount Waived:</b>	
<b>Broker Statement</b>	The registered representative was appropriately licensed and qualified to conduct investment advisory business before relocating from NY to FL. Firm's error caused registered representative to conduct unregistered investment advisory business



after relocating to FL for approximately one year. Consequently, the Firm paid the fine levied against registered representative on his behalf, and Florida subsequently approved his investment advisor registration.

## End of Report



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