

## BrokerCheck Report

### JAMES AUGUSTUS BOWERS III

CRD# 5289266

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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).

**JAMES A. BOWERS III**

CRD# 5289266

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

**IA BFC PLANNING, INC.**  
 325 N. Milledge Avenue  
 Athens, GA 30601  
 CRD# 119682  
 Registered with this firm since: 08/06/2019

**B BERTHEL, FISHER & COMPANY FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**  
 325 N. Milledge Avenue  
 Athens, GA 30601  
 CRD# 13609  
 Registered with this firm since: 08/05/2019

**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
- 5 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 BAY FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.**  
 CRD# 130576  
 WALTHAM, MA  
 04/2016 - 08/2019
- IA LPL FINANCIAL LLC**  
 CRD# 6413  
 FORT MILL, SC  
 12/2015 - 08/2019
- B LPL FINANCIAL LLC**  
 CRD# 6413  
 ATHENS, GA  
 12/2015 - 08/2019

**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
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 5 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.**

### Employment 1 of 2

Firm Name: **BERTHEL, FISHER & COMPANY FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**

Main Office Address: **4201 42ND STREET NE  
SUITE 100  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402**

Firm CRD#: **13609**

SRO	Category	Status	Date
<b>B</b> FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	08/05/2019
<b>B</b> FINRA	Operations Professional	Approved	08/05/2019

U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
<b>B</b> Florida	Agent	Approved	11/12/2021
<b>B</b> Georgia	Agent	Approved	08/06/2019
<b>B</b> South Carolina	Agent	Approved	08/09/2019
<b>B</b> Texas	Agent	Approved	05/28/2025
<b>B</b> Wyoming	Agent	Approved	08/13/2019

### Branch Office Locations

**BERTHEL, FISHER & COMPANY FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.**  
325 N. Milledge Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601

### Employment 2 of 2

Firm Name: **BFC PLANNING, INC.**



Broker Qualifications

Employment 2 of 2, continued

Main Office Address: 4201 42ND STREET NE  
SUITE 100  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402  
  
Firm CRD#: 119682

U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
IA Georgia	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	08/06/2019

Branch Office Locations

4201 42ND STREET NE  
SUITE 100  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402

325 N. Milledge Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601



## 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>B</b> Operations Professional Examination	Series 99TO	01/02/2023
<b>B</b> Securities Industry Essentials Examination	SIE	10/01/2018
<b>B</b> General Securities Representative Examination	Series 7	05/28/2008

### State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
<b>B</b> <b>IA</b> Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	06/09/2009
<b>B</b> Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	06/20/2008

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>IA</b> 04/2016 - 08/2019	BAY FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.	130576	Athens, GA
<b>IA</b> 12/2015 - 08/2019	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	ATHENS, GA
<b>B</b> 12/2015 - 08/2019	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	ATHENS, GA
<b>IA</b> 07/2012 - 12/2015	FIRST ALLIED ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.	137888	ATHENS, GA
<b>B</b> 05/2008 - 12/2015	FIRST ALLIED SECURITIES, INC.	32444	ATHENS, GA
<b>IA</b> 06/2009 - 07/2012	FIRST ALLIED SECURITIES, INC.	32444	ATHENS, GA

### 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
08/2019 - Present	BFC Planning, Inc.	INVESTMENT ADVISOR REPRESENTATIVE	Y	Gainesville, GA, United States
08/2019 - Present	Berthel Fisher & Company Financial Services, Inc.	Registered Representative	Y	Gainesville, GA, United States
03/2016 - 08/2019	Bay Financial Advisors, Inc.	INVESTMENT ADVISER REPRESENTATIVE	Y	ATHENS, GA, United States
12/2015 - 08/2019	LPL FINANCIAL, LLC	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	CHAMBLEE, GA, United States
07/2012 - 12/2015	FIRST ALLIED ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.	MASS TRANSFER - INVESTMENT ADVISOR REPRESENTATIVE	Y	CHESTERFIELD, MO, United States





## Registration and Employment History

### Employment History, continued

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
02/2007 - 12/2015	FIRST ALLIED SECURITIES, INC.	REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE	Y	SAN DIEGO, CA, 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.

- 1.Panoramic Wealth Strategies-Y-Gainesville, GA-Financial Advisory-Financial Advisor-08/2019-200-130-Financial Advisory including independent fixed insurance business.
- 2.Eagle 1, LLC-N-Gainesville, GA-Shell Company-Managing Member-11/2003-0-0-Shell Company for payroll services and business expenses.
- 3.Panoramic Wealth Strategies-N-Gainesville, GA-Insurance-Financial Advisor-01/2020-20-10-Provide Life, LTC and Disability insurance.

## 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
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.

### 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

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Firm
<b>Employer Name:</b>	LPL Financial LLC
<b>Termination Type:</b>	Discharged
<b>Termination Date:</b>	07/31/2019
<b>Allegations:</b>	Representative was found to have blank signed documents in office.
<b>Product Type:</b>	No Product

<b>Reporting Source:</b>	Broker
<b>Employer Name:</b>	LPL Financial
<b>Termination Type:</b>	Discharged
<b>Termination Date:</b>	07/31/2019
<b>Allegations:</b>	Violation of firm policy regarding incomplete signed documentation.
<b>Product Type:</b>	No Product

## End of Report



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