

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 66162 / January 17, 2012

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-14698

In the Matter of

Charles Mark Hall,

Respondent.

**ORDER INSTITUTING ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION
15(b) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934, MAKING FINDINGS, AND
IMPOSING REMEDIAL SANCTIONS**

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) against Charles Mark Hall (“Hall” or “Respondent”).

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the “Offer”) which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, and without admitting or denying the findings herein, except as to the Commission’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.2 below, which are admitted, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions (“Order”), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent’s Offer, the Commission finds that

1. Hall, 52 years old and formerly a resident of Smithfield, North Carolina, was a registered representative between August 1999 and December 2003 of a broker dealer registered

with the Commission. Between December 2003 and August 2009, Hall was a registered representative of a different broker dealer registered with the Commission.

2. On May 5, 2011, the General Court Of Justice, Superior Court Division, Johnston County, North Carolina entered judgments against Hall after Hall pleaded guilty to twelve counts of embezzlement by an insurance agent, one count of embezzlement of property received by virtue of office or employment, and two counts of exploiting the trust of a disabled/elderly person in violation of N.C.G.S. §58-2-162, §14-90, and §14-112(B) in North Carolina v. Hall, Charles Mark, Case Nos. 09CRS005803, 09CRS005804, 09CRS006447, 09CRS006448, 09CRS006449, 09CRS006450, 09CRS006451, 09CRS006452, 09CRS006453, 09CRS006454, 09CRS006455, 09CRS006456, 09CRS006457, 09CRS006458, and 09CRS006459. Hall was sentenced to two 60-to-81 months prison terms to run consecutively, work release at the discretion of the North Carolina Department of Corrections, and ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$2,840,594.56.

3. The counts of the criminal indictments to which Hall pleaded guilty alleged, inter alia, that from November 2001 to August 2009, Hall knowingly and willfully devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and misappropriate approximately \$2.2 million from customers' accounts by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and omissions.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondent Hall's Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, that Respondent Hall be, and hereby is barred from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser, municipal securities dealer, municipal advisor, transfer agent, or nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and

barred from participating in any offering of a penny stock, including: acting as a promoter, finder, consultant, agent or other person who engages in activities with a broker, dealer or issuer for purposes of the issuance or trading in any penny stock, or inducing or attempting to induce the purchase or sale of any penny stock.

Any reapplication for association by the Respondent will be subject to the applicable laws and regulations governing the reentry process, and reentry may be conditioned upon a number of

factors, including, but not limited to, the satisfaction of any or all of the following: (a) any disgorgement ordered against the Respondent, whether or not the Commission has fully or partially waived payment of such disgorgement; (b) any arbitration award related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; (c) any self-regulatory organization arbitration award to a customer, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; and (d) any restitution order by a self-regulatory organization, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary