

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS RULINGS
Release No. 2601/April 28, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File Nos. 3-16311, 3-16312

In the Matters of

RELIANCE FINANCIAL
ADVISORS, LLC, TIMOTHY
S. DEMBSKI AND WALTER F.
GRENDA, JR.

SCOTT M. STEPHAN

ORDER REGARDING TESTIMONY

The Securities and Exchange Commission instituted these proceedings on December 10, 2014. A hearing is scheduled to begin on May 11, 2015 in New York, New York.

On April 24, 2015, this Office received a letter from R. Scott Atwater, attorney for subpoenaed witnesses John Skop, Thomas R. Krajewski, and William James. Atwater represents that his clients are 75, 68, and 71 years old, respectively, and that traveling from Buffalo, New York, to New York City would be inconvenient for them. Atwater further notes that he feels “compelled” to travel to New York City with his clients to attend the hearing on the dates they will be testifying, and that neither his time nor expenses will be reimbursed by the government. Atwater requests that the examination and cross-examination of his clients take place in Buffalo, New York, or alternatively, that his clients be permitted to testify via video conferencing. That same day, attorney Joanne Schultz sent this Office a letter, similarly requesting that the four subpoenaed witnesses she represents—Anna Barrett, William Haubrick, and Richard and Victoria Blazkewicz—be permitted to testify in Buffalo, New York, or by video conferencing. Schultz similarly points to the fact that her clients are 70, 72 and 62¹, that Mr. Blazkewicz “recently underwent hip replacement surgery,” and notes that her time and expenses to attend the hearing will not be reimbursed.

On April 24, 2015, before receiving Schultz’s letter, I issued an order requiring any responses to Atwater’s requests submitted by April 28, 2015. *Reliance Fin. Advisors, Inc.*, Admin. Proc. Rulings Release No. 2583, 2015 SEC LEXIS 1539. The Division has responded that it is amenable to taking witnesses’ testimony by video for any particular witness who has ailments that

¹ Schultz omits Mrs. Blazkewicz’s age from her request.

make travel particularly onerous. Respondents Dembski, Grenda, and Reliance oppose Atwater's and Schultz's requests.

Except for witness Richard Blazkewicz, Atwater and Schultz have merely alleged inconvenience and have failed to allege the existence of any ailment that would impede their clients' participation in the hearing in New York City. Accordingly, I ORDER that, with the exception of Mr. Blazkewicz, all witnesses testify in person at the hearing scheduled to begin on May 11, 2015. With regard to Mr. Blazkewicz, Schultz is ORDERED to file a declaration by Friday, May 1, 2015, representing that it is against medical advice for Mr. Blazkewicz to attend the hearing in person. Once this declaration has been filed, alternate arrangements shall be made by the parties to accommodate Mr. Blazkewicz's testimony. In the absence of such a declaration, Mr. Blazkewicz shall testify in person.

Jason S. Patil
Administrative Law Judge