

# AIDIKOFF, UHL & BAKHTIARI

9454 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

SUITE 303

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212

WWW.SECURITIESARBITRATION.COM

PHONE (310) 274-0666

FAX (310) 859-0513

PHILIP M. AIDIKOFF  
ROBERT A. UHL<sup>§</sup>  
RYAN K. BAKHTIARI\*<sup>†</sup><sup>◇</sup>  
KATRINA M. BOICE<sup>°</sup>

OF COUNSEL  
DAVID HARRISON\*  
DAVID G. SPIVAK

\*ALSO ADMITTED NEW YORK  
†ALSO ADMITTED DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
◇ALSO ADMITTED TEXAS  
°ADMITTED IDAHO ONLY  
§RETIRED FROM FIRM

July 2, 2014

**Via Email Only**  
**rule-comments@sec.gov**

Office of the Secretary  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20549-1090

**Re: SR-FINRA-2014-026**  
**Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Code of Arbitration Procedure for Customer Disputes and the Code of Arbitration Procedure for Industry Disputes to Increase Arbitrator Honoraria and Increase Certain Arbitration Fees**

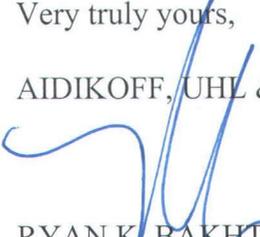
To the Office of the Secretary:

I am a partner at Aidikoff, Uhl and Bakhtiari, a law firm devoted to the representation of individuals and institutions in disputes with Wall Street and the financial service industry. I am a former President of the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association (PIABA) and the current Chairman of FINRA's National Arbitration and Mediation Committee (NAMC).

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Securities and Exchange Commission with comments on the above referenced rule proposal. The proposed rule represents the first arbitrator honoraria increase since 1999. The honoraria raise is fair and will not materially affect aggrieved public investors that file claims in the Finra forum. Public customers that allege losses of less than \$500,000 will not see any change to their filing fee, while customers that allege losses between \$500,000.01 and \$1,000,000 will see a modest \$150 increase. Although Finra arbitrators will not be raised to market rates, the proposed rule is an important step in assisting Finra in recruiting and maintaining the best possible pool of arbitrators. I urge the Commission to approve the proposed rule on an expedited basis.

Very truly yours,

AIDIKOFF, UHL & BAKHTIARI

  
RYAN K. BAKHTIARI  
[rkb@aublaw.com](mailto:rkb@aublaw.com)