

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

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS RULINGS
Release No. 1914/October 17, 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-16156

In the Matter of

BLAKE RICHARDS

ORDER

The Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) commenced this proceeding on September 23, 2014, with an Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings (OIP) pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 203(f) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. A hearing is scheduled to commence on October 24, 2014.

On October 7, 2014, the Division of Enforcement filed a Status Report on Service of Process on Respondent Richards (Status Report), which represents and attaches email correspondence showing that Respondent's counsel accepted service of the OIP on behalf of Respondent on October 2, 2014. Based on the Status Report and information provided by the Commission's Office of the Secretary, I find that Respondent was served with the OIP on October 2, 2014, in compliance with 17 C.F.R. § 201.141(a)(2)(i). Respondent's answer is due on October 22, 2014. *See* OIP at 3; 17 C.F.R. § 201.220(b).

It is ORDERED that the hearing is postponed, and the parties are ORDERED to hold an initial prehearing conference without the hearing officer by October 24, 2014, to discuss each numbered item in Rule 221(c), 17 C.F.R. § 201.221(c), including the date by which each item will be accomplished. By October 31, 2014, the parties shall file a joint prehearing conference statement, which addresses each numbered item in Rule 221(c), and includes proposed due dates where applicable.¹ Based on this prehearing conference statement, a subsequent prehearing conference with the hearing officer shall be scheduled if appropriate. The parties are also asked to email alj@sec.gov courtesy copies of any filings in this proceeding going forward.

Jason S. Patil
Administrative Law Judge

¹ The parties may denote that an item is "not applicable" in their filing.