

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 95912 / September 26, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-21157

In the Matter of

MICHAEL ROBERT HICKS,

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 Michael Robert Hicks (“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 paragraph 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. Respondent, age 48 and a resident of Fountain Valley, California, was engaged in the business of effecting transactions in, or inducing or attempting to induce the purchase and sale of, securities and received transaction-based compensation. During the period relevant to this action,

Respondent was neither registered with the Commission as either a broker or a dealer nor was he associated with a broker or dealer registered with the Commission.

2. On September 21, 2022, a final judgment was entered by consent against Respondent permanently enjoining him from future violations of Section 15(a)(1) of the Exchange Act in the civil action entitled Securities and Exchange Commission v. Alex Duain Forester, et al., Civil Action Number 2:20-cv-09813-DMG-AFM, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

3. The Commission's complaint alleged that Respondent, using the mails or other means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, effected transactions in, or induced or attempted to induce the purchase and sale of, securities and received commissions while he was not registered with the Commission as a broker or dealer nor while he was associated with an entity registered with the Commission as a broker or dealer.

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED, pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, that Respondent 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

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, Respondent be, and hereby is, 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 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, compliance with the Commission's order and payment of any or all of the following: (a) any disgorgement or civil penalties ordered by a Court against Respondent in any action brought by the Commission; (b) any disgorgement amounts ordered against Respondent for which the Commission waived payment; (c) any arbitration award related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; (d) 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 (e) 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.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary