

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
before the  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
Release No. 84321 / September 28, 2018

Admin. Proc. File No. 3-18432

In the Matter of the Application of  
  
GABRIEL BLOCK  
and  
FIRST STANDARD FINANCIAL COMPANY, LLC  
  
For Review of Action Taken by  
  
FINRA

ORDER DISMISSING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

On March 13, 2018, FINRA denied a membership continuance application filed by First Standard Financial Company, LLC (“FSFC”), a FINRA member firm, to continue in membership while associating with Gabriel Block despite the fact that Block was subject to a statutory disqualification. FSFC and Block (“Applicants”) filed an application for review of the decision with the Commission on April 9, 2018. On April 10, 2018, the Commission’s Office of the Secretary acknowledged receipt of the application for review.

An Order Scheduling Briefs issued on May 14, 2018, directing Applicants to file a brief in support of the application by June 13, 2018.<sup>1</sup> The order also notified Applicants that, pursuant to Rule of Practice 180(c),<sup>2</sup> “failure to file a brief in support of the application may result in dismissal of this review proceeding.”<sup>3</sup> Applicants did not file an opening brief.

On June 18, 2018, the Commission received a notice of withdrawal from Applicants’ attorney. FINRA filed a motion the next day, which it also served on Block and FSFC’s chief compliance officer, to dismiss the application for review as abandoned. FINRA observed that Applicants had neither filed a brief in support of their application for review by the deadline established in the Order Scheduling Briefs nor requested an extension of time to file a brief. FINRA also moved to stay the need to file a response brief while its motion to dismiss was

<sup>1</sup> *Gabriel Block*, Exchange Act Release No. 83231, 2018 WL 2193849, at \*1 (May 14, 2018) (order scheduling briefs).

<sup>2</sup> 17 C.F.R. § 201.180(c).

<sup>3</sup> *Block*, 2018 WL 2193849, at \*2.

pending, and an order was issued on June 27, 2018 extending the time to file a response brief.<sup>4</sup> Even after that order was issued, Applicants still did not file an opening brief.

It appears that Applicants have abandoned their appeal. The Office of the Secretary should have by now received any brief that Applicants intended to timely file. FINRA's motion to dismiss and the order extending the time to file a response brief also put Applicants on notice that their opening brief was not received. Applicants did not file a brief in response to either the motion or the order. Under the circumstances, it is appropriate to dismiss this appeal.<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that this application for review is dismissed.

For the Commission, by the Office of the General Counsel, pursuant to delegated authority.

Brent J. Fields  
Secretary

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<sup>4</sup> *Gabriel Block*, Exchange Act Release No. 83528, 2018 WL 3139635 (June 27, 2018) (order granting extension of time).

<sup>5</sup> *See, e.g., Paul E. Taboada*, Exchange Act Release No. 82970, 2018 WL 1559752 (Mar. 30, 2018) (dismissing application for review where the applicant failed to file a brief in support of his application or in response to FINRA's motion to dismiss); *Wilson Chung*, Exchange Act Release No. 82291, 2017 WL 6334062 (Dec. 11, 2017) (order dismissing application for review).