

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 81732 / September 27, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-18222

In the Matter of

LOUIS J. SPINA,

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 Louis J. Spina (“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, Respondent admits the Commission’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings, and the findings contained in Section III.2 below, and 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. Spina was a registered representative licensed by FINRA, associated with T3 Trading Group, LLC from September 2013 through November 2013, and with Echotrade

LLC from June 2010 through September 2013, each registered with the Commission as a broker-dealer, and also the sole owner of LJS Trading, LLC, a non-registered business that purported to offer investment services. Respondent, 60 years old, resided in Miami Beach, Florida.

2. In November 2014, Spina pled guilty to one count of wire fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey (Trenton). *United States v. Louis J. Spina*, Case No. 3:14-CR-00665-AET-1 (District of New Jersey). In June 2015, Spina was sentenced to a prison term of 79 months followed by three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$12,717,700.48.

3. In connection with that plea, Spina admitted that between August 2010 and November 2013, Spina engaged in a scheme to defraud and used his position to solicit and induce LJS Trading investors to provide money to him for the purpose of investing in LJS Trading's trading activities. Spina collected approximately \$20 million from LJS Trading's investors, but only transferred approximately \$9.5 million of those investor funds to the Echotrade or T3 Trading Group accounts for investment purposes. He used the remaining approximately \$10.5 million to pay LJS Trading investors' monthly interest payments, to return portions of some investors' principals, and to fund his own personal bank account, which he used to pay for his personal expenses, including car purchases/payments, luxury apartment rental payments, and an approximately \$400,000 donation to a private university. Spina made several false representations to the LJS Trading investors and ultimately took through his fraud schemes a total of \$12,717,700.48 from 36 investors.

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, that Respondent Spina 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 Spina 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 the 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, the satisfaction of any or all of the following: (a) any disgorgement ordered against the Respondent, whether or not the Commission has fully or partially waived payment of such disgorgement; (b) any arbitration award related to the

conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; (c) 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 (d) 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.

Brent J. Fields
Secretary