

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 94488 / March 22, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-20803

In the Matter of

ADRIAN ORTEGA,

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 Adrian Torres Ortega (“Ortega” or “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 paragraphs III.2 and III.4 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. From September 2008 to September 2018, Ortega was associated with a registered broker-dealer. Ortega, 53 years old, is a resident of Surprise, Arizona.

2. On July 25, 2019, Ortega pleaded guilty to one count of forgery, a felony, in violation of Title 13 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Sections 2001 and 2002, and one count of taking the identity of another, a felony, in violation of Title 13 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 2008, before the Superior Court of Arizona, Maricopa County, in Arizona v. Adrian Ortega, Case No. CR2019-005077-001. On September 17, 2019, the Court accepted the plea agreement and sentenced Ortega to a term of supervised probation. The Court also ordered Ortega to pay restitution in the amount of \$20,185.

3. The first count of the criminal indictment to which Ortega pleaded guilty alleged, inter alia, that on May 2, 2018, Ortega, with intent to defraud, knowingly possessed a forged loan application. The second count of the criminal indictment to which Ortega pleaded guilty alleged, inter alia, that on June 14, 2018, Ortega knowingly took personal identifying information of a bank customer without consent, with the intent to obtain or use the identity for an unlawful purpose or to cause loss to a person or entity.

4. October 22, 2020, In the Matter of Adrian Ortega, Docket No. S-21114A-20-0244, the Arizona Corporation Commission entered a final order against Ortega revoking his Arizona securities salesman registration.

IV.

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

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act, that Respondent Ortega be, and hereby is barred from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser, municipal securities dealer, municipal adviser, transfer agent, or nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act Respondent Ortega 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, 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 the Respondent in any action brought by the Commission; (b) any disgorgement amounts ordered against the 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