

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECURITIES DEPARTMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: STEPHEN AQUILINO ) ) FILE NO. 1100232  
\_\_\_\_\_) )

**CONSENT ORDER OF DENIAL**

TO THE RESPONDENT: Stephen Aquilino  
(CRD #: 2737809)  
2608 Springhaven Drive  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

Stephen Aquilino (CRD #: 2737809)  
C/o Next Financial Group, Inc.  
2500 Wilcrest Drive Suite 620  
Houston, Texas 77042

WHEREAS, Respondent on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011 executed a certain Stipulation to Enter Consent Order of Denial (the "Stipulation"), which hereby is incorporated by reference herein.

WHEREAS, by means of the Stipulation, Respondent has admitted to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State and service of the Notice of Hearing of the Secretary of State, Securities Department dated July 13, 2011 in this proceeding (the "Notice") and Respondent has consented to the entry of this Consent Order of Denial "Consent Order").

WHEREAS, by means of the Stipulation, the Respondent acknowledged, without admitting or denying the truth thereof, that the following allegations contained in the Notice of Hearing shall be adopted as the Secretary of State's Findings of Fact:

1. That on April 25, 2011, Next Financial Group, Inc., a registered dealer, filed a Form U-4 application for registration of the Respondent as a salesperson in the State of Illinois.
2. That on June 6, 2011, a Summary Order of Denial (the "Order") was issued by the Secretary of State denying this application. Pursuant to the terms of the Order, on June 2011 the Respondent requested a hearing

3. That on August 4, 2010 FINRA entered a Letter Of Acceptance, Waiver And Consent (AWC) submitted by the Respondent regarding File No. 2009016272901 which sanctioned the Respondent as follows:
  - a. one month suspension in all capacities; and
  - b. fine in the amount of \$10,000.
4. That the AWC found:

#### OVERVIEW

Respondent signed a customer's name on a variable annuity application and associated forms.

#### FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In July 2005, at the recommendation of Respondent, Customer DL sold an ING Golden Select ESII Variable Annuity and a John Hancock Venture Vantage Variable Annuity to fund the purchase of a Jackson National Life Perspective II Fixed & Variable Annuity for \$156,007 in a Section 1035 Exchange.

In the course of submitting the Jackson National Life annuity application to Jackson National Life for approval, Respondent signed DL's name on the annuity application and on two requests for transfer or exchange of assets forms. Respondent's conduct in signing a customer's signature on an application and other annuity forms violated NASD Conduct Rule 2110.

5. That Section 8.E(1)(j) of the Act provides, inter alia, that the registration of a salesperson may be denied if the Secretary of State finds that such salesperson has been suspended by any self-regulatory organization registered under the Federal 1934 Act or the Federal 1974 Act arising from any fraudulent or deceptive act or a practice in violation of any rule, regulation or standard duly promulgated by the self-regulatory organization.
6. That FINRA is a self-regulatory organization as specified in Section 8.E(1)(j) of the Act.

WHEREAS, by means of the Stipulation Respondent has acknowledged, without admitting or denying the averments, that the following shall be adopted as the Secretary of State's Conclusion of Law:

That by virtue of the foregoing, the Respondent's application for registration as a salesperson in the State of Illinois is subject to denial pursuant to Section 8.E(1)(j) of the Act.

Consent Order of Denial

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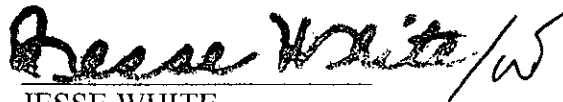
WHEREAS, by means of the Stipulation Respondent has acknowledged and agreed that his application for registration as a salesperson in the State of Illinois shall be denied.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State, by and through his duly authorized representative, has determined that the matter related to the aforesaid formal hearing may be dismissed without further proceedings.

NOW THEREFORE IT SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent Stephen Aquilino's application for registration as a salesperson in the State of Illinois shall be and is DENIED.
2. The formal hearing scheduled on this matter is hereby dismissed without further proceedings.

ENTERED: This 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011.

Handwritten signature of Jesse White in black ink, with a stylized 'W' at the end.

JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State  
State of Illinois

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