

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

\_\_\_\_\_) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: STEVEN KENT ) FILE NO. 1100051  
\_\_\_\_\_) )

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO THE RESPONDENT:

Steven Kent  
(CRD#: 5867299)  
421 N. Malden  
LaGrange Park, Illinois 60526

Steven Kent (CRD#: 5867299)  
C/o Merrill Lynch, Pierce,  
Fenner & Smith Incorporated  
101 S. Tryon Street NC1-002-19-44  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28255

You are hereby notified that pursuant to Section 11.F of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5] (the "Act") and 14 Ill. Adm. Code 130, Subpart K, a public hearing will be held at 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, Illinois 60602, on the 15th day of June, 2011 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter, before James L. Kopecky, Esq., or such other duly designated Hearing Officer of the Secretary of State.

Said hearing will be held to determine whether an Order shall be entered which would deny Steven Kent's (the "Respondent") registration as a salesperson and as an investment adviser representative in the State of Illinois and/or granting such other relief as may be authorized under the Act including but not limited to the imposition of a monetary fine in the maximum amount pursuant to Section 11.E(4) of the Act, payable within ten (10) business days of the entry of the Order.

## Notice of Hearing

2

The grounds for such proposed action are as follows:

1. That on February 16, 2011, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered dealer and a Federal Covered Investment Adviser filed a Form U-4 application for registration of the Respondent as a salesperson and as an investment adviser representative in the State of Illinois pursuant to Section 8 of the Act.
2. That the Respondent owes an outstanding balance regarding tax, penalty and interest in his individual Illinois income tax as of December 31, 1999 in the amount of \$2,961.93.
3. That Section 8.E (1)(o) of the Act provides, inter alia, that the registration of a salesperson and investment adviser representative may be denied if the Secretary of State finds that such salesperson or investment adviser representative has failed to file a return, or to pay the tax, penalty or interest shown in a filed return, or to pay any final assessment of tax, penalty or interest, as required by any tax Act administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue, until such time as the requirements of that tax Act are satisfied.
4. That by virtue of the foregoing, the Respondent's registration as a salesperson and as an investment adviser representative in the State of Illinois is subject to denial pursuant to Section 8.E(1)(o) of the Act.

You are further notified that you are required pursuant to Section 130.1104 of the Rules and Regulations (14 ILL. Adm. Code 130)(the "Rules"), to file an answer to the allegations outlined above within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this Notice. A failure to file an answer within the prescribed time shall be construed as an admission of the allegations contained in the Notice of Hearing.

Furthermore, you may be represented by legal counsel; may present evidence; may cross-examine witnesses and otherwise participate. A failure to so appear shall constitute default, unless any Respondent has upon due notice moved for and obtained a continuance.

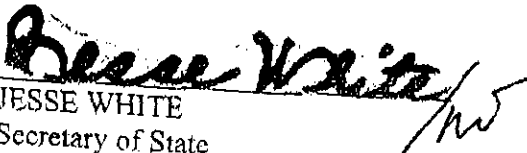
Notice of Hearing

3

A copy of the Rules, promulgated under the Act and pertaining to hearings held by the Office of the Secretary of State, Securities Department, is included with this Notice.

Delivery of Notice to the designated representative of any Respondent constitutes service upon such Respondent.

Dated: This 28<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2011.

  
JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State  
State of Illinois

Attorney for the Secretary of State:  
Daniel A. Tunick  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Illinois Securities Department  
69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: (312) 793-3384

Hearing Officer:  
James L. Kopecky  
203 N. LaSalle 1620  
Chicago, Illinois 60601