



THE CHAIR

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2107

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your October 25, 2013 letter that raised questions regarding the expungement of certain information on FINRA's BrokerCheck system, the problem of unpaid arbitration awards, and the migration of broker-dealer personnel with disciplinary histories. The issues you identify are very important ones.

These matters all raise core investor protection concerns and have led over the years to amendments of FINRA rules, reviewed and approved by the Commission, pertaining to expungement and the payment of arbitration awards. I share your belief that these topics continue to warrant serious attention. Since joining the Commission in April, I have had numerous discussions concerning FINRA programs and policies with both my staff and senior representatives of FINRA. More recently, I have directed my staff to report to me on whether there are additional actions that the Commission, either by itself or in conjunction with FINRA, should take to further enhance protection of retail investors from the actions of unscrupulous brokers. In addition, in September the SEC began forming a broker-dealer task force, which will be coordinating the Enforcement Division's work with other regulators across the country to sanction firms that are not appropriately supervising rogue brokers.

Again, I appreciate your bringing your concerns to my attention and your continued interest in addressing matters important to the protection of our nation's investors. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 551-2100, or have your staff contact Tim Henseler, Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 551-2010 if you have any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White
Chair