

**Expungement Award
FINRA Dispute Resolution Services**

In the Matter of the Arbitration Between:

Claimants

Donald M. Bizub
Bradley C. Kaiser

Case Number: 24-02313

vs.

Respondent

Western International Securities, Inc.

Hearing Site: Los Angeles, California

Awards are rendered by independent arbitrators who are appointed pursuant to Rule 13806 of the Code of Arbitration Procedure (“Code”) to issue final, binding decisions. FINRA makes available an arbitration forum—pursuant to rules approved by the SEC—but has no part in deciding the award.

Nature of the Dispute: Associated Persons vs. Member

The expungement hearing was conducted by videoconference.

REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES

For Claimants Donald M. Bizub (“Bizub”) and Bradley C. Kaiser (“Kaiser” collectively, “Claimants”): Andrew P. Danza, Esq., Markun Zusman & Compton LLP, Encino, California.

Respondent Western International Securities, Inc. (“Respondent”) did not enter an appearance.

CASE INFORMATION

Statement of Claim filed on or about: October 25, 2024.

Bizub signed the Submission Agreement: October 25, 2024.

Kaiser signed the Submission Agreement: October 25, 2024.

Respondent did not file a Statement of Answer or sign the Submission Agreement.

CASE SUMMARY

In the Statement of Claim, Claimants asserted a claim seeking expungement of customer dispute information from registration records maintained by the Central Registration Depository (“CRD”).

RELIEF REQUESTED

In the Statement of Claim, Bizub (CRD Number 1600090) and Kaiser (CRD Number 2523397) requested:

1. Expungement of Bizub's and Kaiser's respective CRD records (Occurrence Numbers 2189529 and 2189532); and
2. Such other and further relief to Claimants as it deems just and proper under the circumstances.

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AND DECIDED

The Arbitrators acknowledge that they have each read the pleadings and other materials filed by the parties.

Respondent did not file a properly executed Submission Agreement but is required to submit to arbitration pursuant to the Code and is bound by the determination of the Panel on all issues submitted.

On February 11, 2025, Claimants advised that the customer in Occurrence Numbers 2189529 and 2189532 ("Customer") was served with a copy of the Statement of Claim within 10 days of filing the Statement of Claim and provided proof of service.

On February 11, 2025, Claimants filed proof of service for the Statement of Claim and copies of all documents provided by Claimants to the Customer, and copies of all communications sent to the Customer and responses received from the Customer.

On March 24, 2025, the authorized representative of the state securities regulator for the State of California submitted a written statement and did not oppose the expungement requests.

The Panel conducted a recorded hearing by videoconference on April 28, 2025, so the parties could present oral argument and evidence on Claimants' request for expungement. Claimants appeared by videoconference at the expungement hearing. Respondent did not appear at the expungement hearing.

The Customer did not appear at the expungement hearing.

The authorized representative of the state securities regulator for the State of California appeared at the expungement hearing by videoconference and did not oppose the expungement request.

The Panel noted Claimants' representations that a prior arbitration panel or court has not previously ruled on expungement of the same occurrences in the CRD.

The Panel reviewed the settlement documentation related to Occurrence Numbers 2189529 and 2189532, considered the amount of payment made to any party to the settlement, and considered other relevant terms and conditions of the settlement. The Panel noted that the settlement was not conditioned on any party to the settlement not opposing the expungement request and that Claimants did not contribute to the settlement amount.

The Panel relied upon the following documentary or other evidence: Claimants' Statement of Claim; Claimants' exhibits; Claimants' testimonies; and the state securities regulator for the State

of California's non-opposition during the expungement hearing and previously filed supporting documentation.

AWARD

After considering the pleadings, the testimony and evidence presented at the expungement hearing, the Panel has decided in full and final resolution of the issues submitted for determination as follows:

1. The Panel awards the expungement of all references to Occurrence Number 2189529 from registration records maintained by the CRD for Claimant Donald Michael Bizub (CRD Number 1600090) with the understanding that, pursuant to Rule 2080, Claimant Donald Michael Bizub must obtain confirmation from a court of competent jurisdiction before the CRD will execute the expungement directive.

The Panel awards the expungement of all references to Occurrence Number 2189532 from registration records maintained by the CRD for Claimant Bradley Clifford Kaiser (CRD Number 2523397) with the understanding that, pursuant to Rule 2080, Claimant Bradley Clifford Kaiser must obtain confirmation from a court of competent jurisdiction before the CRD will execute the expungement directive.

Unless specifically waived in writing by FINRA, parties seeking judicial confirmation of an arbitration award containing expungement relief must name FINRA as an additional party and serve FINRA with all appropriate documents.

Pursuant to Rule 13805 of the Code, the Panel has made the following affirmative findings of fact:

The claim, allegation, or information is factually impossible or clearly erroneous.

The registered person was not involved in the alleged investment-related sales practice violation, forgery, theft, misappropriation, or conversion of funds.

The claim, allegation, or information is false.

The Panel has made the above findings based on the following reasons:

The parties requesting expungement were C-suite executives holding the roles of CEO (Bizub) and CCO (Kaiser) of Respondent Western International Securities, Inc. when the actions leading to the Customer's complaints against one of Respondent's registered representatives ("reps"), Mr. Christopher Kennedy, occurred. Respondent had approximately 400 reps at the time. Neither of the individuals were involved with the daily actions of the accused rep nor did either participate in the settlement in their individual capacities or contribute to the payment of any settlement funds. Bizub and Kaiser both testified that they were not responsible for supervising Mr. Kennedy, any of Mr. Kennedy's trade and investment transactions, or his branch office.

2. Any and all claims for relief not specifically addressed herein are denied.

FEES

Pursuant to the Code, the following fees are assessed:

Filing Fees

FINRA Dispute Resolution Services assessed a filing fee* for each claim:

Initial Filing Fee	=\$ 1,600.00
Initial Filing Fee	=\$ 1,600.00

**The filing fee is made up of a non-refundable and a refundable portion.*

Member Fees

Member fees are assessed to each member firm that is a party in these proceedings or to the member firm(s) that employed the associated person(s) at the time of the event(s) giving rise to the dispute. Accordingly, as a party, Respondent is assessed the following:

Member Surcharge	=\$ 2,000.00
Member Process Fee	=\$ 3,850.00

Hearing Session Fees and Assessments

The Panel has assessed hearing session fees for each session conducted. A session is any meeting between the parties and the Arbitrator(s), including a pre-hearing conference with the Arbitrator(s), which lasts four (4) hours or less. Fees associated with these proceedings are:

One (1) pre-hearing session with the Panel @ \$1,150.00/session	=\$ 1,150.00
Pre-Hearing Conference: February 5, 2025 1 session	
One (1) hearing session on expungement request @ \$1,150.00/session	=\$ 1,150.00
Hearing: April 28, 2025 1 session	
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Total Hearing Session Fees	=\$ 2,300.00

The Panel has assessed \$1,150.00 hearing session fees to Bizub.

The Panel has assessed \$1,150.00 hearing session fees to Kaiser.

All balances are payable to FINRA Dispute Resolution Services and are due upon receipt.

ARBITRATION PANEL

Darryl C. Wilson	-	Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson
Mary Elizabeth Skelnik	-	Public Arbitrator
Jay Alan Kranis	-	Public Arbitrator

I, the undersigned Arbitrator, do hereby affirm that I am the individual described herein and who executed this instrument, which is my award.

Concurring Arbitrators' Signatures

Darryl C. Wilson

Darryl C. Wilson
Public Arbitrator, Presiding Chairperson

05/09/2025

Signature Date

Mary Elizabeth Skelnik

Mary Elizabeth Skelnik
Public Arbitrator

05/08/2025

Signature Date

Jay Alan Kranis

Jay Alan Kranis
Public Arbitrator

05/08/2025

Signature Date

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May 12, 2025

Date of Service (For FINRA Dispute Resolution Services use only)