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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

TO: Mark Russell Shawzin
Axxiom Forex Advisors
2457 Barry Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90064

DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER
(For violations of sections 29535 and 29536 of the Corporations Code)

The Commissioner of Business Oversight finds that:

1. At all relevant times, Axxiom Forex Advisors (“AFA”) is, or was, an entity whose legal status is unknown. AFA maintains a website at <http://axxiomtrading.com>. AFA claims on its website that it “offers its clients the most efficient investment structure to maximize the potential of their capital, and, access top-performing institutional FX asset managers....”

2. At all relevant times, Mark Russell Shawzin (“Shawzin”) is an individual whose business address is located at 2457 Barry Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90064. Shawzin has operated various forex trading firms using different aliases including; Axxiom Forex Group; Brewer Investment Group; FX Quant Advisors, LLC; Matador Trading Systems, LLC; Protrade Capital Group, LLC; Protrade Capital Management, LLC; Pacific Futures Group; and Protrade FX.Com. Shawzin conducted business out of different business locations including; 1948 Malcolm Ave., Apt. 301, Los Angeles, California 90025; and 11660 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste. 815, Los Angeles, California 90064. Shawzin maintains a “LinkedIn” website at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-shawzin-377b252>.

3. A screen shot of Shawzin’s LinkedIn website dated December 21, 2015 contains a profile of Shawzin that describes his affiliation with AFA and another entity, Market Wining Strategies. Shawzin’s LinkedIn website lists his title as: “Managing Director / Head Trader, Market Winning Strategies, May 2015 – Present (8 months).” Shawzin describes himself as “a top

1 performing asset manager,” and claims to have purportedly successfully traded “stocks, commodities,
2 18 currency pairs, gold, silver, oil, indices and forex for 30+ years.”

3 4. Shawzin describes AFA as his firm stating that AF connects investors with “... elite,
4 top performing institutional level Manager's and traders via a Metatrader/PAMM trading platform at
5 our designated broker firms....”

6 5. Beginning in or about December 2012 and thereafter, Shawzin and AFA engaged in a
7 trade or business or otherwise acted as commodity merchants without being registered or temporarily
8 licensed with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission or being exempt from the registration by
9 virtue of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 1 et seq.) or of a CFTC rule in violation of
10 Corporations Code section 29535.

11 6. On or about December 12, 2012, Shawzin and AFA engaged in a trade or business or
12 acted as commodity merchants by offering to trade or trading commodities in the form of foreign
13 currency on behalf of at least one California investor, raising at least \$10,000.00. Shawzin
14 represented to the investor that he was engaged in trading foreign currency on behalf of his clients.
15 Shawzin claimed that he only received 25% of the profits from the trading, and did not charge broker
16 fees or receive other compensation.

17 7. The investor deposited \$10,000.00 with a purported brokerage firm identified as
18 “Forex,” before authorizing Shawzin to trade in the foreign exchange market on his behalf.
19 Following his investment, the investor became suspicious of the level of trading activity Shawzin was
20 conducting on his account. On or about January 23, 2012, the investor discovered that Shawzin was
21 receiving compensation based on the volume of trade he made.

22 8. Shawzin and AFA were not registered to engage in the trade or business or otherwise
23 to act as commodity merchants and no exemption applies.

24 9. In connection with trading in commodities in the form of foreign currency, Shawzin
25 and AFA willfully made the following untrue statements to the investor:

- 26 a. Failing to inform the investor that in or about March 24, 1997, the Securities and
27 Exchange Commission entered an Order permanently enjoining Shawzin from
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1 engaging in insider trading in securities in violation of the Securities Exchange Act
2 of 1934;

3 b. Failing to inform the investor that he was not licensed to trade in foreign
4 exchange; and

5 c. Misrepresenting to the investor that he did not receive compensation from the
6 brokerage firm in connection the trading, when in fact he did.

7 10. Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the
8 opinion that Shawzin and AFA engaged in a trade or business or otherwise acted as commodity
9 merchants without being registered or temporarily licensed with the Commodity Futures Trading
10 Commission, or being exempt from the registration by virtue of the Commodity Exchange Act (7
11 U.S.C. Sec. 1 et seq.) or of a CFTC rule in violation of Corporations Code section 29535.

12 11. The Commissioner of Business Oversight is also of the opinion that Shawzin and
13 AFA, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of, the offer to sell, the offer to
14 purchase, the offer to enter into, or the entry into, a commodity, commodity contract, or commodity
15 option, willfully made untrue statements of material fact and omitted to state material facts necessary
16 in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not
17 misleading in violation of Corporations Code section 29536.

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12. Pursuant to Corporations Code section 29542, Mark Russell Shawzin and Axxiom Forex Advisors are hereby ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in any activity that constitutes a violation of Corporations Code sections 29535 and 29536 unless and until the activity will not be in violation of any provision of this law or any rule or order under this law.

This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of investors and consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the California Commodity Law of 1990.

Dated: May 11, 2016
Los Angeles, California

JAN LYNN OWEN
Commissioner of Business Oversight

By _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner
Enforcement Division