

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Release No. 71587 / February 20, 2014

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING
File No. 3-15761

In the Matter of

MICHAEL A. TRIPODI,

Respondent.

ORDER INSTITUTING
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(b) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934,
MAKING FINDINGS, AND IMPOSING
REMEDIAL SANCTIONS

I.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) deems it appropriate and in the public interest that public administrative proceedings be, and hereby are, instituted pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) against Michael A. Tripodi (“Tripodi” or “Respondent”).

II.

In anticipation of the institution of these proceedings, Respondent has submitted an Offer of Settlement (the “Offer”) which the Commission has determined to accept. Solely for the purpose of these proceedings and any other proceedings brought by or on behalf of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, Respondent consents to the Commission’s jurisdiction over him and the subject matter of these proceedings and to the entry of this Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Making Findings, and Imposing Remedial Sanctions (“Order”), as set forth below.

III.

On the basis of this Order and Respondent’s Offer, the Commission finds that:

1. From January 1995 through July 2007, Tripodi was a registered representative associated with Joseph Stevens & Co., Inc., which at the time of his association was a broker-dealer registered with the Commission. Joseph Stevens & Co., Inc. ceased to be registered with the Commission as of August 2008. Tripodi, age 44, is a resident of New Jersey.

2. On July 27, 2011, before the New York Supreme Court in People v. Michael Tripodi, Case No. 02394-2009 (N.Y. Sup. Ct.), Tripodi pleaded guilty to one felony count of attempted enterprise corruption in violation of Penal Law § 110/460.20(1)(a) and one felony count of grand larceny in the third degree in violation of New York Penal Law § 155.35. The grand larceny count to which Tripodi pleaded guilty alleged that, between April 2003 and October 2005, he stole more than three thousand dollars from an individual.

3. On May 21, 2012, at Tripodi's sentencing hearing, the court accepted the sentencing recommendation of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York to allow Tripodi to withdraw his plea as to the attempted enterprise corruption count and to convert his plea as to grand larceny in the third degree to a plea of guilty to the lesser included charge of a misdemeanor count of attempted grand larceny in the fourth degree in violation of New York Penal Law § 110/155.30(1). Tripodi was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay \$186,342 in restitution.

IV.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission deems it appropriate and in the public interest to impose the sanctions agreed to in Respondent Tripodi's Offer.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Section 15(b)(6) of the Exchange Act that Respondent Tripodi be, and hereby is:

barred from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser, municipal securities dealer, municipal advisor, transfer agent, or nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and barred from participating in any offering of a penny stock, including: acting as a promoter, finder, consultant, agent, or other person who engages in activities with a broker, dealer, or issuer for purposes of the issuance or trading in any penny stock, or inducing or attempting to induce the purchase or sale of any penny stock.

Any reapplication for association by the Respondent will be subject to the applicable laws and regulations governing the reentry process, and reentry may be conditioned upon a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the satisfaction of any or all of the following: (a) any disbarment ordered against the Respondent, whether or not the Commission has fully or partially

waived payment of such disgorgement; (b) any arbitration award related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; (c) any self-regulatory organization arbitration award to a customer, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order; and (d) any restitution order by a self-regulatory organization, whether or not related to the conduct that served as the basis for the Commission order.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary