

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

Mail Stop 4720

May 9, 2017

<u>Via E-mail</u> Nina Gupta Chief Legal Officer Victory Capital Holdings, Inc. 4900 Tiedeman Road, 4th Floor Brooklyn, OH 44144

Re: Victory Capital Holdings, Inc.

**Draft Registration Statement on Form S-1** 

Submitted April 12, 2017 CIK No. 0001570827

Dear Ms. Gupta:

We have reviewed your draft registration statement and have the following comments. In some of our comments, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure.

Please respond to this letter by providing the requested information and either submitting an amended draft registration statement or publicly filing your registration statement on EDGAR. If you do not believe our comments apply to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing the information you provide in response to these comments and your amended draft registration statement or filed registration statement, we may have additional comments.

#### General

1. Please supplementally provide us with copies of all written communications, as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act, that you, or anyone authorized to do so on your behalf, present to potential investors in reliance on Section 5(d) of the Securities Act, whether or not they retain copies of the communications.

# **Prospectus Summary**

#### Our Business

### Our Franchises, page 4

2. Please refer to the third paragraph under this heading. Please elaborate on your ability and responsibility to monitor your Franchises' investment positions and how this monitoring relates to a Franchises' investment autonomy. For example, it appears that each Franchise develops its own investment mandate – is that mandate developed through your collaboration with each respective CIO, and do you ultimately have to approve these mandates?

# Integrated Distribution, Marketing and Operations

## Retail Sales, page 5

3. Please provide examples of some of the "largest platforms in [y]our retain channel" with which you have development relationships and expand your disclosure to explain whether they represent long-standing relationships. To help provide context related to disclosure about 14 "major" U.S. intermediary platforms and 13 of the "largest" retirement platforms, please include disclosure supporting your funds being recommended and/or your products being approved by these significant market players.

#### Competitive Strengths

## Proven Acquirer with Compelling Proposition, page 7

4. To help investors properly ascertain why "\$7.5 million in one-time expenses as of December 31, 2016 to achieve [expense] synergies" in connection with your acquisition of RS Investments, represents a reasonable expense, please revise to provide the criteria against which you made this assessment.

## Attractive Financial Profile, page 8

5. We note that your average fee rate increased by approximately 11% from 2013 as a result of your focus on products with higher fee rates. Please disclose whether this average fee rate calculation is AUM-weighted or equal-weighted. Please further disclose the degree to which any of your Franchises have decreased fee rates since 2013.

## Our Growth Strategy

## Pursue Disciplines Acquisitions, page 9

6. We note your disclosure that you "have a pipeline of potential acquisition candidates." Please disclose the status of any discussions, agreements, or understandings with these candidates.

## Current Structure and Organization, page 10

7. Please include another diagram outlining the share ownership and voting power of your capital stock following this offering.

## Summary Risk Factors, page 11

8. Please add a bullet point related to your substantial indebtedness or explain why you do not believe this risk to represent a significant challenge. In addition, please revise your "Our substantial indebtedness may expose us to material risks" disclosure on page 32 to state whether or not you are currently in compliance with the financial and operating covenants under your existing credit agreement.

# Summary Consolidated Financial and Other Date, page 17

9. Please revise note 11 on page 19 to clarify why you are adding back the annual incentive compensation paid in excess of the expected pre-incentive earnings pool percentage. Additionally, please tell us whether this adjustment consists entirely of non-cash compensation or whether a portion of this adjustment includes a cash payment.

## Capitalization, page 48

10. We note your capitalization table on page 49 shows the actual amount for Debt (Credit Facility) of \$442,127. Please clarify how this amount was determined. For example, we note per your table of contractual obligations on page 72 that principal payments on borrowings is in the amount of \$438,627 as of December 31, 2016, and your consolidated balance sheet on page F-3 shows the amount of \$418,528 for your long-term debt. Please advise, and consider adding a footnote describing how this amount was derived.

## Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Combined Financial Information, page 52

- 11. Please revise to present historical and pro forma earnings per share data in the pro forma statement of operations.
- 12. Please revise to present the number of shares used to compute per share data in the proforma statement of operations or in the notes.

# Supplemental Non-GAAP Financial Information, page 68

13. It appears that "Adjusted EBITDA" and "Adjusted Net Income" are performance and liquidity measures and appear to exclude cash charges (e.g. acquisition, restructuring and exit costs, debt issuance costs, and as applicable, compensation in excess of expected levels). Please tell us how you considered the guidance in Item 10(e)(1)(ii)(A) of Regulation S-K that prohibits excluding charges or liabilities that required, or will require, cash settlement, or would have required cash settlement absent an ability to settle in another manner from liquidity measures. Refer to Question 103.01 of the Compliance and Disclosure Interpretations for additional guidance.

### **Business**

## Overview, page 77

14. Please disclose the source for the fee comparison of the funds launched in 2011 and 2016 discussed on page 78. Please also support your rankings of ETF issuers discussed on page 83 and to the extent practicable, please update this information as of a more recent date if these rankings have materially changed.

## Our Franchises

# Non-Franchise/Subadvisory Relationships, page 86

15. Please disclose the material terms of your arrangements with the non-franchise/subadvisors.

## Our Products and Investment Performance

## Investment Performance, page 87

- 16. To help investors better assess your outperformance versus a respective benchmark, please address the following:
  - Please identify the benchmarks against which you measure each of your Franchises' performance. If during the course of the 10-year look back you have changed or replaced a benchmark, please explain how that event would have affected specific performance.
  - Please explain whether in your internal performance tracking you have adopted both approaches (i.e., AUM-Weighted and Equal Weighted") in equal measure. If so, please explain the difference between the two, capturing also the pros and the cons of each approach.

• It appears that your strategies' performance by AUM over the ten-, five-, and three-year periods ending December 31, 2016 includes performance by your 11 Franchises prior to them being acquired. Please disclose if you have made any material assumptions reflected in the graphical presentation to account for these Franchises not being consolidated during that period. Please also disclose how the disclosure accounts for strategies and/or products implemented well after December 31, 2006.

# **Executive Compensation**

Compensation of our Named Executive Officers

Narrative to Summary Compensation Table

### Annual Bonus Plan, page 105

- 17. We note you disclose that none of your NEOs received any annual stock bonuses in 2016. Please reconcile this disclosure with your disclosure related to Mr. Brown's employment agreement on page 104, stating that his annual bonus is payable 50% in fully vested equity.
- 18. Similarly, please explain the discrepancy between disclosure that Mr. Brown did not have a target bonus for 2016, with disclosure on page 104 stating that under the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. Brown is eligible for an incentive award with an annual target of \$1.2 million.

## Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity, page F-6

19. We note you disclose a \$2.3 million and \$1.3 million reduction to equity related to "Equity awards modified to liabilities" for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015. We also note a payment of \$4.6 million in 2016 in your statement of cash flows related to these modifications. Please tell us the facts and circumstances related to these modifications, how you accounted for them including the impact to your balance sheet and income statement and the accounting guidance on which you relied. Please ensure your filing includes appropriate information related to these transactions to provide investors with sufficient information to understand your financial results.

## Note 2. Significant Accounting Policies

#### Revenue Recognition

## <u>Investment Management Fees, page F-10</u>

20. We note your disclosure that performance-based investment management fees are accrued only when revenue recognition standards are met, including the amount of revenue being fixed or determinable and collectability being reasonably assured. Please clarify whether your policy requires that the performance period be complete and no longer subject to adjustment prior to recognizing any revenue.

## Recent Accounting Pronouncements, page F-19

- 21. We note your disclosure on page 13 that you have elected to take advantage of the extended transition period for complying with new or revised accounting standards, allowing you to delay the adoption of some accounting standards until those standards would apply to private companies. For each recently issued accounting standard that you elect to take advance of the extended transition period, please also revise to disclose the date that the standard is required to be adopted by a non-emerging growth company, in addition to the date you have disclosed that you will adopt the standard as an emerging growth company.
- 22. We note your disclosure that ASU 2016-09 on stock compensation is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. However, it appears the effective date for a non-emerging growth company is for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. Please advise, or revise.

## Note 12. Equity Method Investment, page F-36

- 23. Please tell us how you determined you had significant influence over operating and financial policies of Cerebellum and that the equity method of accounting was appropriate. Specifically tell us how you considered the put and call options in your accounting determination and provide supporting accounting guidance.
- 24. Please revise to disclose the reasons why the equity method is appropriate for your investment in Cerebellum. Refer to ASC 323-10-50-3-a.2 for guidance.
- 25. To the extent your investment in Cerebellum is material, please disclose summarized financial information of Cerebellum. Refer to ASC 323-10-50-3-c for guidance.

You may contact Michael Volley, Staff Accountant, at (202) 551-3437 or Stephanie L. Sullivan, Senior Technical and Policy Advisor, at (202) 551-3512 if you have questions regarding comments on the financial statements and related matters. Please contact Christopher Dunham, Staff Attorney, at (202) 551-3783 or, in his absence, me at (202) 551-3369 with any other questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Era Anagnosti

Era Anagnosti Legal Branch Chief Office of Financial Services

cc: David K. Boston, Esq.