

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940
Release No. 4402 / May 27, 2016

Admin. Proc. File No. 3-14162

In the Matter of

JOHN W. LAWTON

**ORDER VACATING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STATISTICAL RATING
ORGANIZATION AND MUNICIPAL ADVISOR BARS**

John W. Lawton seeks to vacate an administrative order, dated December 13, 2012 (the "Order"), to the extent that it bars him from association with any nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO") or municipal advisor.¹ The NRSRO and municipal advisor bars at issue were imposed based solely on conduct occurring prior to July 22, 2010, the effective date of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.² Accordingly, in our discretion, we vacate the Order to the extent it prohibits John W. Lawton from associating with any NRSRO or municipal advisor, but otherwise leave the Order unmodified.

By the Commission.

Brent J. Fields
Secretary

¹ See *John W. Lawton*, Advisers Act Release No. 3513, 2012 WL 6208750 (Dec. 13, 2012).

² See *Koch v. SEC*, 793 F.3d 147, 158 (D.C. Cir. 2015).