Rule G-45: Reporting of Information on Municipal Fund Securities

- (a) (d) No change.
- (e) [*Transitional Provision*. Notwithstanding section (a), the first submissions due under the rule, which are for the reporting period ending on June 30, 2015, shall be made by no later than October 28, 2015.] *Transition Provision for ABLE Programs*. Notwithstanding section (a), the first submissions due under the rule by underwriters of primary offerings of interests in programs established and maintained by a state, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, to implement the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (an "ABLE program"), will be for the reporting period ending June 30, 2018.

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Rule G-42: Duties of Non-Solicitor Municipal Advisors

(a) - (f) No change.

---Supplementary Material:

.01 - .11 No change.

.12 529 College Savings Plans, ABLE Programs and Other Municipal Fund Securities. This rule applies equally to municipal advisors to sponsors or trustees of 529 college savings plans, ABLE programs (*i.e.*, a program established and maintained by a state, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, to implement the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014), and other municipal fund securities. All references in this rule to an "official statement" include the [plan] disclosure document for a 529 college savings plan or an ABLE program and the investment circular or information statement for a local government investment pool.

.13 - .15 No change.

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Rule G-44: Supervisory and Compliance Obligations of Municipal Advisors

(a) - (f) No change.

---Supplementary Material:

.01 Municipal Fund Securities. This rule applies equally to municipal advisors to sponsors or trustees of 529 college savings plans, ABLE programs (*i.e.*, a program established and maintained by a state, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, to implement the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014), and other municipal fund securities.

[.01] .02 Written Supervisory Procedures. A municipal advisor's written supervisory procedures shall take into consideration, among other things, the advisor's size; organizational structure; nature and scope of municipal advisory activities; number of offices; the disciplinary and legal history of its associated persons; the likelihood that associated persons may be engaged in relevant outside business activities; and any indicators of irregularities or misconduct (*i.e.*, "red flags"). In the case of a municipal advisor with any associated persons permitted under all applicable law to supervise their own activities, the written supervisory procedures must address the manner in which, in the absence of separate supervisory personnel, such procedures are nevertheless reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable rules.

[.02] <u>.03</u> Small Municipal Advisors. A municipal advisor with few personnel, or even only one associated person, can have a sufficient supervisory system under this rule. The rule allows the designation of one person to be responsible for supervision, and allows the tailoring of written supervisory procedures based on, among other things, an advisor's size.

[.03] <u>.04</u> Appropriate Principal. Designated supervisory principals must be vested with the authority to carry out the supervision for which they are responsible and have sufficient knowledge, experience and training to understand and effectively discharge their responsibilities. They also must have the authority to implement the established written supervisory procedures and take any other action necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. Even if not so designated, whether a person has responsibility for supervision under this rule depends on whether, under the facts and circumstances of a particular case, that person has the requisite degree of responsibility, ability or authority to affect the conduct of the employee whose behavior is at issue.

[.04] .05 Review of Compliance Policies and Supervisory Procedures. The reviews under paragraph (b) of this rule should, at a minimum, consider any compliance matters that arose since the previous review, any changes in the municipal advisory activities of the municipal advisor or its affiliates, and any changes in applicable rules that might suggest a need to revise the written compliance policies or supervisory procedures. Although paragraph (b) specifically requires reviews to be conducted at least annually, municipal advisors should consider the need, in order to comply with all of the other requirements of this rule, for interim reviews.

[.05] .06 Chief Compliance Officer. A chief compliance officer has a unique and integral role in the administration of a municipal advisor's compliance processes. A chief compliance officer is a primary advisor to the municipal advisor on its overall compliance scheme and the policies and procedures that the municipal advisor adopts in order to comply with applicable rules. To fulfill this role, a chief compliance officer should have competence in the process of (1) gaining an understanding of the services and activities that need to be the subject of written compliance policies and written supervisory procedures; (2) identifying the applicable rules and standards of conduct pertaining to such services and activities based on experience and/or consultation with others; (3) developing, or advising other business persons charged with the obligation to develop, policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable rules and standards of conduct; and (4) developing programs to test compliance with the municipal advisor's policies and procedures. It is the intention of this rule to foster regular and significant interaction between senior management and the chief compliance officer may be a principal advisor's comprehensive compliance program. The chief compliance officer may be a principal

of the firm or a non-employee of the firm. If a non-employee, then the person designated as chief compliance officer must have the competence described above and the municipal advisor retains ultimate responsibility for its compliance obligations.

[.06] <u>.07</u> Responsibility for Compliance Functions. The chief compliance officer, and any compliance officers that report to the chief compliance officer, shall have responsibility for and perform the compliance functions contemplated by this rule. Nothing in this rule, however, is intended to limit or discourage the participation by any of the employees of the municipal advisor in any aspect of the municipal advisor's compliance program.

[.07] <u>.08</u> Ability of Chief Compliance Officer to Hold Other Positions. The requirement to designate a chief compliance officer does not preclude that person from holding any other positions within the municipal advisor, including serving in any position in senior management or being designated as a supervisory principal, provided that person can discharge the duties of chief compliance officer in light of all of the responsibilities of any other positions.

[.08] .09 Effect of Annual Certification on Business Line Responsibility. The Board recognizes that supervisors with business line responsibility are accountable for the discharge of a municipal advisor's compliance policies and written supervisory procedures. The signatory to the certification required by this rule is certifying only as to having processes in place to establish, maintain, review, test and modify the municipal advisor's written compliance and supervisory policies and procedures and the execution of this certification and any consultation rendered in connection with such certification does not by itself establish business line responsibility.