NASD OFFICE OF HEARING OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant,

v.

Respondent 1

and

Respondent 2

Respondents.

Disciplinary Proceeding No. EAF0300770001

Hearing Officer - AWH

ORDER PERMITTING EXPERT TESTIMONY

On October 6, 2006, the Department of Enforcement filed a motion seeking leave to offer the expert testimony of Robert M. Axelrod, limited to the anti-money laundering allegations contained in the first cause of the Complaint. The motion included, among other items, a statement of the expert's qualifications and a brief summary of his expected testimony. On October 13, 2006, Respondent 1 filed its opposition to the motion, asserting that the hearing panel is fully competent to evaluate its compliance with anti-money laundering requirements, and that Mr. Axelrod's opinions are based on improper, incomplete, or insufficient grounds.

The motion for leave to offer Mr. Axelrod's expert witness testimony is *granted*. Although not new, the anti-money laundering rules have been in effect only for a few years, and the testimony of an expert will assist the panel to determine facts in issue regarding compliance with those rules. After the testimony is offered, Respondent will

This Order has been published by NASD's Office of Hearing Officers and should be cited as OHO Order 06-49 (EAF0300770001).

have the right to cross-examine the witness and argue the weight the panel may give to

the expert's testimony.

SO ORDERED.

Alan W. Heifetz Hearing Officer

Dated: October 23, 2006