CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC. CASE HISTORY 47717

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER BOARD OF STANDARDS, INC. WASHINGTON D.C.

In the Matter of Todd L. Luft,

Respondent.

CFP Board Case No. 2025-67102 April 21, 2025

INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER

Counsel to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission ("DEC Counsel") of Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board") issues this order imposing an automatic interim suspension on Respondent under Article 2.1.b. of CFP Board's *Procedural Rules*.

On March 6, 2025, CFP Board Enforcement Counsel filed a Notice of Grounds for an Automatic Interim Suspension Order under Article 2.1.b., citing Respondent's suspension by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) on February 19, 2025 for failing to comply with an arbitration award issued against him in the FINRA Dispute Resolution forum. The award attached to the Notice directs Respondent to pay more than \$500,000 to his former firm for failing to meet his obligations under certain promissory notes after his employment with the firm ended.

Under Article 2.1.b.3 of the *Procedural Rules*, DEC Counsel may deliver an Interim Suspension Order if Respondent is the subject of Professional Discipline, as defined in Article 7.2, resulting in a revocation, bar, or equivalent sanction. Article 7.2 defines "Professional Discipline" as "a record from a (a) federal, state, local, or foreign governmental agency, (b) self-regulatory organization, (c) other regulatory authority, or (d) court of civil jurisdiction imposing discipline upon Respondent."

The suspension imposed on Respondent by FINRA, a self-regulatory organization, is Professional Discipline equivalent to a revocation or bar, as it prohibits Respondent from associating with a FINRA member for an indefinite period of time.

Respondent's CFP® certification and right to use the CFP Board certification marks are suspended effective immediately. The CFP Board certification marks include the CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®, CFR and CFFP marks.

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Term of Interim Suspension Order. Under Article 2.1.d., this Interim Suspension Order will remain in place until: (1) the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission ("DEC") or, if an appeal is filed, the Appeals Commission, issues a final order addressing the conduct at issue in the Interim Suspension Order; (2) Enforcement Counsel dismisses the investigation of the conduct at issue in the Interim Suspension Order and either: (i) Respondent files and DEC Counsel grants a Petition to Vacate the Interim Suspension under Article 2.4 or (ii) Enforcement Counsel files and DEC Counsel grants a Motion to Terminate the Interim Suspension under Article 9.1; (3) Respondent fails to file timely a Petition for Reinstatement After Interim Suspension Order and DEC Counsel grants

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Enforcement Counsel's Motion for an Administrative Order; (4) Respondent fails to satisfy the requirements of Article 2.3 and DEC Counsel grants Enforcement Counsel's Motion for an Administrative Order; or (5) the DEC grants a Petition for Reinstatement After Interim Suspension Order filed by Respondent and Respondent has completed all requirements for CFP® certification.

<u>Publication</u>. An Interim Suspension is considered a form of public sanction by CFP Board and will be published in a press release in accordance with Articles 2.2 and 17.7 of the *Procedural Rules*. Respondent is required to submit to CFP Board Enforcement Counsel evidence that he is in compliance with the Interim Suspension Order and a statement of assurance and proof of compliance in accordance with Article 11.3 of the *Procedural Rules* within 45 calendar days from the date of this Order, or by **June 5, 2025**. The evidence should be emailed to <u>discipline@cfpboard.org</u>. If Respondent fails to satisfy these requirements, then Enforcement Counsel may declare Respondent in default and move for an Administrative Order under Article 4.2.

Issued by:

Counsel to the Disciplinary and Ethics Commission

April 21, 2025