

FEB - 5 2009

NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE HEARING PANEL

NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION
LEGAL DOCKETING

In the Matter of:)	
)	
FIRST CHOICE FUTURES AND)	
OPTIONS, INC., ET AL.)	NFA Case No. 08-BCC-013
(NFA ID #307428))	
(Michael M. Ghaemi, NFA ID #255554),)	
)	
Respondent.)	

DECISION

Having reviewed the Complaint issued by the Business Conduct Committee ("BCC") of National Futures Association ("NFA") in the above-captioned case, and having considered the Offer of Settlement ("Offer") submitted by Michael M. Ghaemi ("Ghaemi "), and having accepted his Offer, the Hearing Panel hereby issues this Decision as to Ghaemi.

I

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NFA REQUIREMENTS

On June 30, 2008, the BCC issued a Complaint against First Choice Futures and Options, Inc. ("First Choice"), a former introducing broker Member of NFA located in North Miami, Florida. In addition to First Choice, the Complaint also named several of First Choice's associated persons ("APs"), including Ghaemi.

The Complaint charged Ghaemi with violating NFA Compliance Rules 2-2(a) and 2-29(a)(1) for making a misleading and deceptive sales solicitation to a prospective customer, which exaggerated the profit potential of trading options, and downplayed the substantial risk of loss.

OFFER OF SETTLEMENT

Without admitting or denying the allegations of the Complaint, Ghaemi submitted an Offer to the Hearing Panel in which he agreed as follows:

1. He shall not apply for NFA membership or associate membership or act as a principal of an NFA Member for a period of two years, commencing on the date of a Decision accepting his Offer.
2. If after expiration of the two-year period described above, he is granted NFA membership or associate membership, or becomes a principal of an NFA Member, then in any such event, he shall pay a fine of \$10,000 to NFA, due and payable thirty days after he is granted NFA membership or associate membership, or becomes a principal of an NFA Member.
3. If and when he again becomes an NFA Member or Associate, he shall tape record, for a period of one year, all conversations between him and existing or potential customers; retain these tapes for a period of one year from the date they are created; and make the tapes available to NFA upon request. The one-year taping requirement shall commence on the date that he again becomes an NFA Member or Associate, and continue thereafter for a period of one year. However, for purposes of calculating the end date for the one-year taping requirement, only periods of time when he is registered and actively soliciting customers on a full-time basis shall be counted. In other words, although he is required to tape even during periods when he is only soliciting customers on a part-time basis — any taping done during these periods shall not be counted or credited to him in calculating his one-year taping obligation.
4. In the event that he becomes a principal of an NFA Member, he shall cause all APs of that firm – and any other firm of which he is a principal – to tape record, for a period of one year, all conversations that occur between them and existing or potential customers; retain these tapes for a period of one year from the date they are created; and make the tapes available to NFA upon request. The one-year taping requirement shall apply to each and every firm of which he becomes a principal and commence on the date that he becomes a principal of each firm, respectively. In calculating the one-year taping period as to each firm, only periods of time when he is a principal of that particular firm and that firm is actively soliciting customers shall be counted in such calculation. In any and all events, the taping requirements set forth in this paragraph shall expire on December 31, 2012.

As part of his Offer, Ghaemi also consented to findings that he committed the violations alleged in the Complaint.

III

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the Offer submitted by Ghaemi, the Panel finds that Ghaemi violated NFA Compliance Rules 2-2(a) and 2-29(a)(1) by making a misleading and deceptive sales solicitation to a prospective customer, which exaggerated the profit potential of trading options, and downplayed the substantial risk of loss.

IV

PENALTY

Having considered the matter and having accepted the Offer submitted by Ghaemi, the Hearing Panel orders as follows:

1. Ghaemi shall not apply for NFA membership or associate membership or act as a principal of an NFA Member for a period of two years, commencing on the date of this Decision.
2. If after expiration of the two-year period described above, Ghaemi is granted NFA membership or associate membership, or becomes a principal of an NFA Member, then in any such event, he shall pay a fine of \$10,000 to NFA, due and payable thirty days after he is granted NFA membership or associate membership, or becomes a principal of an NFA Member.
3. If and when Ghaemi again becomes an NFA Member or Associate, he shall tape record, for a period of one year, all conversations between him and existing or potential customers; retain these tapes for a period of one year from the date they are created; and make the tapes available to NFA upon request. The one-year taping requirement shall commence on the date that he again becomes an NFA Member or Associate, and continue thereafter for a period of one year. However, for purposes of calculating the end date for the one-year taping requirement, only periods of time when he is registered and actively soliciting customers on a full-time basis shall be counted. In other words, although he is required to tape even during periods when he is only soliciting customers on a part-time basis —

any taping done during these periods shall not be counted or credited to him in calculating his one-year taping obligation.

4. In the event that Ghaemi becomes a principal of an NFA Member, he shall cause all APs of that firm – and any other firm of which he is a principal – to tape record, for a period of one year, all conversations that occur between them and existing or potential customers; retain these tapes for a period of one year from the date they are created; and make the tapes available to NFA upon request. The one-year taping requirement shall apply to each and every firm of which he becomes a principal and commence on the date that he becomes a principal of each firm, respectively. In calculating the one-year taping period as to each firm, only periods of time when he is a principal of that particular firm and that firm is actively soliciting customers shall be counted in such calculation. In any and all events, the taping requirements set forth in this paragraph shall expire on December 31, 2012.

This Decision accepting Ghaemi's Offer shall operate to bar any future Member Responsibility Action or BCC Complaints against Ghaemi for any conduct occurring, of which NFA had corporate knowledge, up to the date of his Offer; and shall resolve and terminate all complaints, investigations and audits, relative to him, which were received or pending as of the date of his Offer. In addition, Ghaemi's Offer and this Decision shall not be used as a sole basis for any other action or proceeding by NFA against him, including any registration matter, except his Offer and this Decision may be used in an action to enforce their terms or in a subsequent disciplinary action or regulatory action, where they may be considered as disciplinary history and as evidence in aggravation on the issue of sanctions.

V

INELIGIBILITY

Pursuant to the provisions of Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") Regulation 1.63, this Decision and the sanctions imposed herein render

Ghaemi ineligible, for a period of three years or until all of the sanctions and conditions imposed on him have been fulfilled, whichever is later, to serve on a disciplinary committee, arbitration panel, oversight panel or governing board of any self-regulatory organization, as that term is defined in CFTC Regulation 1.63.

**NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION
HEARING PANEL**

Date: 02-05-09

By: 
Chairperson

m/First Choice (Ghaemi Decision, revised)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Nancy Miskovich-Paschen, on oath state that on February 5, 2009, I served copies of the attached Decision, by sending such copies in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, in envelopes addressed as follows:

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and by hand delivery to:

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Chicago, IL 60606


Nancy Miskovich-Paschen

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on this 5th day of February 2009.


Notary Public

