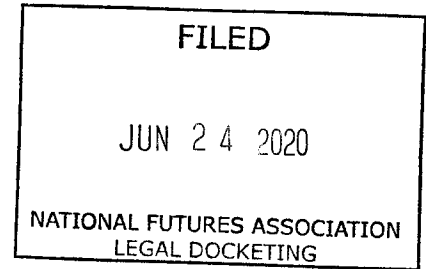


**NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
HEARING PANEL**



In the Matter of:)
)
LONG LEAF TRADING)
GROUP, INC., ET AL.)
(Scott Joseph Gecas, NFA ID #506029))
)
Respondent.)

NFA Case No. 20-BCC-001

DECISION

Having reviewed the Complaint previously issued by the Business Conduct Committee (BCC) in the above-captioned case against Scott Joseph Gecas (Gecas), and having considered the Offer of Settlement (Offer) submitted by Gecas, and having accepted the Offer, the Hearing Panel hereby issues this Decision as to Gecas.

I

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NFA REQUIREMENTS

On February 4, 2020, the BCC issued a Complaint against Gecas, a former NFA Associate and associated person (AP) of Long Leaf Trading Group, Inc. (Long Leaf), a former introducing broker Member of NFA located in Chicago, Illinois. The Complaint alleged that Gecas, while an AP of Long Leaf, made misleading sales solicitations to prospective customers, including two NFA Compliance staff members posing as potential customers, that exaggerated profit potential; failed to explain the fundamentals and risks of options trading; failed to adequately explain the firm's commission and fee charges or how those charges impacted profitability; and failed to disclose that over 95% of Long Leaf's customers lost money. Also, the Complaint

alleged that Gecas engaged in misleading communications with Long Leaf customers that downplayed their losses and concealed the negative impact of Long Leaf's trading strategy on the equity in the customers' accounts to entice them to maintain their accounts with the firm. The Complaint charged Gecas with violations of NFA Compliance Rules 2-2(a), 2-4 and Rule 2-29(a)(1).

II

OFFER OF SETTLEMENT

Without admitting or denying the allegations of the Complaint, Gecas submitted an Offer in which he agreed to settle the charges against him on the following terms:

- a. Gecas agreed to not apply for NFA membership, reapply for NFA associate membership, or act as a principal of an NFA Member for a period of five years, commencing on the effective date of a Decision accepting this Offer.
- b. If, after the expiration of the five-year membership bar referred to above, Gecas applies for NFA membership, reapplies for NFA associate membership, or seeks to become a principal of an NFA Member, then, in any such event, Gecas agreed to pay a fine of \$75,000 to NFA, due and payable at the time of his application for NFA membership status or principal status with an NFA Member.
- c. Gecas agreed and acknowledged that any application by him for NFA membership, associate membership, or principal status with an NFA Member shall not be considered or approved unless and until the above fine has been paid in full.
- d. In the event he again becomes an NFA Member, Associate Member, or a principal of an NFA Member, Gecas further agreed to:
 - i. record all conversations with all existing and potential customers, for a period of one year from the date that he becomes an NFA Member, Associate Member, or a principal of an NFA Member; retain such recordings for a period of one year from the date they

are created; and make the recordings available to NFA upon request;

- ii. not be employed in a supervisory capacity nor act in a supervisory capacity with any NFA Member; and
- iii. not participate in any television interview or radio shows, or use archived television interviews or radio show appearances that involve or discuss commodity interest activities or swap activities as promotional material.

Gecas acknowledged in his Offer that any Decision issued by the Hearing Panel accepting this Offer shall include findings that he committed the violations alleged in the Complaint.

III

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the Offer, the Hearing Panel finds that Gecas violated NFA Compliance Rules 2-2(a), 2-4 and 2-29(a)(1).

IV

PENALTY

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

- a. Gecas shall not apply for NFA membership, reapply for NFA associate membership, or act as a principal of an NFA Member for a period of five years, commencing on the effective date of a Decision accepting this Offer.
- b. If after the expiration of the five-year membership bar referred to above, Gecas applies for NFA membership, reapplies for NFA associate membership, or seeks to become a principal of an NFA Member, then, in any such event, Gecas shall pay a fine of \$75,000 to NFA, due and payable at the time of his application for NFA membership status or principal status with an NFA Member.

- c. No action shall be taken on any future application by Gecas for NFA membership, associate membership, or principal status with an NFA Member unless and until the above fine has been paid in full.
- d. In the event Gecas again becomes an NFA Member, Associate Member, or a principal of an NFA Member, he shall:
 - i. record all conversations with all existing and potential customers, for a period of one year from the date that he becomes an NFA Member, Associate Member, or a principal of an NFA Member; retain such recordings for a period of one year from the date they are created; and make the recordings available to NFA upon request;
 - ii. not be employed in a supervisory capacity nor act in a supervisory capacity with any NFA Member; and
 - iii. not participate in any television interview or radio shows, or use archived television interviews or radio show appearances that involve or discuss commodity interest activities or swap activities as promotional material.

This Decision and Gecas's Offer shall not be used as a sole basis for any other action or proceeding by NFA against Gecas, including any registration matter, except they may be used in an action to enforce the terms thereof or in a subsequent disciplinary action or regulatory action, where they may be considered as evidence in aggravation.

V

INELIGIBILITY

Pursuant to the provisions of Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Regulation 1.63, this Decision and the sanctions imposed herein render Gecas ineligible 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, until the later of five years after the effective date of this Decision, or until he has satisfied all the sanctions and conditions imposed by this Decision.

**NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Date: 06/24/2020

By: *Patricia Dardue*
Chairperson

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