



NEWS RELEASE

December 28, 2009

Contact: Fred J. Joseph, Securities Commissioner or Gerald Rome, Deputy Securities Commissioner at (303) 894-2320

Colorado Securities Commissioner Announces Settlement with Stifel Nicolaus in Auction Rate Securities Case

Colorado Securities Commissioner Fred Joseph announced today the terms of a settlement in principle between the Colorado Division of Securities and Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. ("Stifel"). Under the terms of the settlement, Stifel agreed to accelerate its repurchase of auction rate securities from the plan it announced in April of 2009. Stifel has agreed to repurchase the auction rate securities of all of its investors holding less than \$150,000 by December 2010. And every Colorado investor with Stifel will receive at least a partial payout by January 15, 2010. Stifel will also accelerate its final buyback previously scheduled for June 2012, so that all eligible auction rate holders will receive a full buyback no later than the end of 2011. The settlement also requires Stifel to work with a bank affiliate to offer to offer interim loans to customers that need immediate cash, and to hire a securities industry expert to make recommendations on supervision, training, marketing and selling nonconventional products.

The settlement resolves issues filed in an action on October 1, 2009, by the Division of Securities against Stifel. This settlement also affects investors in Missouri and Indiana, as well as Colorado.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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