



NEWS RELEASE

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Colorado Securities Commissioner Agrees to Auction Rate Securities Settlement with Wells Fargo Investments, LLC

Colorado Securities Commissioner Fred Joseph announced today the entry of a Consent Order between the Colorado Division of Securities and Wells Fargo Investments, LLC. Under the terms of the Consent Order, Wells Fargo Investments agreed to offer to buy back \$34.6 million worth of auction rate securities from Colorado investors who purchased auction rate securities through Wells Fargo Investments and found themselves unable to sell their securities in February of 2008 after they had been frozen in the auction rate securities ("ARS") market.

The Consent Order concludes an investigation led by state securities regulators, including the Colorado Division of Securities, into allegations that some of Wells Fargo Investments' agents recommended auction rate securities as liquid, short term investments. As a result, some customers, who needed short-term access to funds, invested in auction rate securities, even though the auction rate securities had long-term maturity dates, or in some cases, no maturity dates. The ARS markets froze in February of 2008, triggering a flood of complaints from investors who could not withdraw money from their accounts. States received complaints from a wide range of investors who suffered significant financial damage because the money they were told was liquid was tied up in the frozen ARS market.

This Consent Order is the eleventh that the Securities Commissioner has finalized. Previous Consent Orders include Deutsche Bank Securities, Citigroup Global Markets, Bank of America Securities, Credit Suisse Securities, JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, RBC Capital Markets, Wachovia Securities, TD Ameritrade, UBS Securities LLC and UBS Financial Services, Inc.

This investigation was part of a larger state-led effort to address problems in connection with the offer and sale of auction rate securities securities. State regulators, including Colorado, are continuing their investigations into possible misconduct by other firms, and have reached agreements to settle with some of these firms.

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.