January 2, 2020

To: University Career Planning & Placement Officers
From: James Toes, President & CEO, Security Traders Association
Re: Screening Firms for Student Internships with FINRA’s Broker Check and the SEC’s Investor.Gov

Dear Career Planning & Placement Officer,

Security Traders Association (STA)\(^1\) is an organization of securities industry professionals comprised of 24 affiliate organizations in the U.S. and Canada. As an advocate within financial services, STA educates its members and the public on industry issues, and fosters goodwill and high standards of integrity in accord with our founding principle, *Dictum Meum Pactum* – “My Word is My Bond.”

The demand for internships in the financial services industry is great; however, most students lack the knowledge to determine an internship that presents a good opportunity versus one in which they may be exploited. The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness on two (2) effective industry tools for screening firms in the financial services industry. We encourage you, in your role as career development officers, to include them in whatever screening process you currently use, in particular those internships which offer course credit where there is less flexibility for students to quit and firms in fields which are, “hot” or new, such as digital assets.

**FINRA’s Broker Check\(^2\)**

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms conducting business in the U.S. *Broker Check* enables the public to obtain current and historic information, including regulatory actions and violations, on more than 600,000 registered brokers and 4,000 securities firms.

**SEC’s Investor.Gov\(^3\)**

Investor.gov is an online resource designed and run by the SEC’s Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, (OIEA). Among its three (3) mandates, OIEA researches and provides information whether a broker or investment professional is properly licensed to do business.

Please do not hesitate to contact STA or any of our 24 affiliate organizations for more information.

Sincerely yours and proud to be,

James Toes
President & CEO
STA

\(^1\) [https://securitytraders.org/](https://securitytraders.org/)
\(^2\) [https://brokercheck.finra.org/](https://brokercheck.finra.org/)
\(^3\) [https://www.investor.gov/](https://www.investor.gov/)