

## Stephen Kohn

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**From:** Stephen Kohn <sakohn7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 13, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] ; [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Richard S. Botkin - CRD #15711729  
**Attachments:** Hugh\_Hewitt\_070617.pdf

Dear [Redacted],

On Monday morning, July 10, 2017, you and I spoke of my concern about Richard Botkin, CRD #15711729, and the AWC to which he recently entered into.

I have been reviewing the circumstances of his "violation" and I find, as did "Enforcement" that he was, technically in violation of, I believe, FINRA 3280. (Private Securities Transactions of an Associated Person)

However, I do believe that there is reason to address the penalty meted out and accepted in Mr. Botkin's AWC and call for a review of same before the NAC.

1. Richard Botkin has made the following OBA disclosures:
  - a. Allegiant Giving. A non-profit geared towards assisting returning military members, members of the Board of Directors, assisting with the functioning of the organization. Disclosed 06/30/13.
  - b. Ride the Thunder Productions. An LLC formed to promote a movie based on his book about the Vietnam War. Disclosed 11/10/12
  - c. Author. Non-profit geared towards assisting returning military veterans. Member of the Board of Directors. Hoping to co-author a book about a friend and client that details his life story. Disclosed 06/01/10
2. Having read the AWC, I'm concerned that the fine and suspension imposed on Mr. Botkin is excessive and unwarranted and raises the following questions.
  - a. Did Mr. Botkin knowingly and intentionally violate 3280?
  - b. Did Mr. Botkin personally invest in this venture?
  - c. Did Mr. Botkin personally benefit financially from this movie venture?
  - d. Have any investors filed any claims or assertions about Mr. Botkin or their support of the production of this movie?
3. I attach an unsolicited email from Hugh Hewitt in support of Mr. Botkin's character.

[Redacted], being fully aware of the financial and emotional stress inherent in appealing an Enforcement decision, I completely understand Mr. Botkin's entering into an AWC as the path of least resistance to being able to continue his humanitarian work and career path albeit with a four month hiccup.

I am asking for review because I feel the penalties are excessive and keeping with my continued, passionate assertion that the Sanction Guidelines are just that; GUIDELINES and not mandates. I feel the penalties meted out are draconian and considering that there has been no harm to anyone, we should look at them and make an adjustment; reduce his suspension to one month as opposed to three and earmark his "fine" to be a donation to [Allegiant Giving](#) to further support its work to combat child sex trafficking, globally. Additionally, this would be viewed as a benevolent gesture to support Mr. Botkin's missionary work, providing dental and medical services to the needy in Cambodia.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen

**Stephen Kohn**

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