

# **EXHIBIT R**

BEFORE THE FINRA  
CASE NO. 20090179845

-----  
In the matter of :  
McGINN SMITH & COMPANY, :  
INC. :  
-----

ORIGINAL

INVESTIGATIVE TESTIMONY OF  
DAVID REES  
WOODBIDGE, NEW JERSEY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.

COURT REPORTERS

(800) 288-3376

www.depo.com

FILE NO.: A30BEC4

REPORTED BY:

MARY G. VAN DINA, C.S.R.

A P P E A R A N C E S:

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
581 Main Street  
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095  
(732) 596-2042

BY: MICHAEL NEWMAN, ESQUIRE  
Senior Regional Counsel

LAW OFFICES OF ISAAC M. ZUCKER, PLLC  
600 Old Country Road  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 385-6699

imzucker@zuckeresq.com  
BY: ISAAC M. ZUCKER, ESQUIRE  
Attorneys for Mr. Rees

ALSO PRESENT:

STEVEN E. ROWEN, Senior Examiner for Financial  
Industry Regulatory Authority

MICHAEL H. PAULSEN, Examination Manager for Financial  
Industry Regulatory Authority

CHRISTOPHER D. RATTINER, Principal Examiner for  
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority

REBECCA SMITH, Principal Senior Examiner for  
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority

1 AFTERNOON SESSION:

2 MR. ROWEN: We're back on the record at  
3 approximately 1:50.

4 Q. Mr. Rees, what is First Line Trust?

5 A. I believe First Line Trust was money  
6 raised to lend to an alarm organization in Nevada or  
7 Utah.

8 Q. So First Line Trust -- what was your  
9 involvement with First Line Trust?

10 A. Again, tracking the funds as they came  
11 in, making sure that the brokers were paid a  
12 commission on their sales of it, recording  
13 transactions as they happened, tracking a loan that  
14 was made to them.

15 Q. And when did you become involved in  
16 First Line Trust?

17 A. Shortly after, I think, they had the  
18 idea to raise money to lend to this company. I'm not  
19 sure of the timeframe.

20 Q. Was it before you started with McGinn  
21 Smith?

22 A. No, no. That was a new venture that  
23 occurred sometime during my tenure there.

24 Q. And who else was involved with First  
25 Line Trust?

1           A.       When you say "involved," in what  
2 capacity?

3           Q.       In management, in investment decisions.

4           A.       The management investment decisions  
5 would have been Dave Smith and Tim McGinn.

6                   I might have been requested to set up a  
7 bank account or something like that but, typically, I  
8 learned about these things after something had  
9 started.

10          Q.       What financial accounts were maintained  
11 for First Line?

12          A.       We would have had an operating account  
13 and that's it. Probably all it really was was a bank  
14 account and some loan receivable.

15          Q.       Who were the signatories on the account?

16          A.       Mr. Smith, Mr. McGinn.

17          Q.       Were you an authorized signatory?

18          A.       No.

19          Q.       How were the books kept for First Line?

20          A.       We tracked that using our Quicken  
21 software.

22          Q.       And that was at 99 Pine Street?

23          A.       Yes.

24          Q.       Were concerns expressed internally about  
25 First Line Trust?

1           A.       There may have been some concern about  
2 them.

3                   I don't recall all the specifics around  
4 the First Line loan. That was really handled by --  
5 Mr. McGinn did most of the legwork and contact with  
6 the people at First Line.

7           Q.       What were the concerns about?

8           A.       The concerns that I recall were that it  
9 was not a very well-managed company, operationally,  
10 just didn't have a good handle on the process to  
11 track alarm billing and collections, things like  
12 that.

13          Q.       Were there concerns about the  
14 profitability of First Line Trust?

15          A.       I don't recall. I know there were some  
16 issues with First Line, about the receiver of the  
17 funds' operations, but I don't know how that rolled  
18 back to the First Line Trust.

19          Q.       Are you aware of the current status of  
20 the First Line Trust?

21          A.       I am not.

22                   MR. RATTINER: How about a First Line  
23 receiver of funds -- what is the current status of  
24 First Line, not the trust, in Utah or Nevada?

25                   THE WITNESS: I have no current

1 knowledge as to the trust or the company.

2 MR. RATTINER: When you were there, were  
3 you aware that First Line filed bankruptcy?

4 THE WITNESS: I don't know that I knew  
5 that they had filed bankruptcy. I knew that maybe  
6 they were considering it, but I didn't really get  
7 involved.

8 MR. RATTINER: At the time when they  
9 filed bankruptcy, would you be notified by Mr. McGinn  
10 or Mr. Smith of that?

11 THE WITNESS: I should have been, yes.

12 MR. RATTINER: Okay. You don't recall  
13 if you were?

14 THE WITNESS: I don't.

15 MR. RATTINER: Do you know if you wrote  
16 off your assets for First Line Trust based upon the  
17 bankruptcy filing?

18 THE WITNESS: I don't recall that  
19 happening, nor do I recall him saying, write it off.

20 MR. RATTINER: Okay.

21 Q. Were there ever any other investments of  
22 First Line Trust?

23 A. I think there with two PPMs, First Line  
24 and First Line Trust '08.

25 I mean, that's my extent of the

1 knowledge of the funding that went on for them.

2 Q. As far as First Line Trust's investments  
3 itself, they invested in -- it loaned money to the  
4 entity called First Line?

5 A. Correct. I believe that's all they did.

6 Q. What is SAI Trust?

7 A. SAI Trust was a trust that raised money  
8 to lend a proceeds to an alarm -- I don't know if  
9 they were a monitoring company or a wholesale  
10 monitoring company out of Chicago, and that one had  
11 been around for -- I think prior to my arrival at  
12 McGinn in 2002.

13 Q. And your involvement in SAI Trust, is  
14 that similar to the other entities we discussed?

15 A. Yes, we would make sure we paid the  
16 investors and see if the company had sent money that  
17 they owed McGinn to us, and then we would pay out the  
18 investors and track it on Quicken.

19 Q. Tracked on Quicken, and what financial  
20 accounts were maintained?

21 A. We would have had just the bank account  
22 that money would have come into from SAI, and we  
23 would have turned around and paid interest to  
24 investors on that one.

25 Q. Who were the authorized signatories on



1 that account?

2 A. David Smith and Tim McGinn. I was not a  
3 signatory.

4 Q. What concerns were expressed internally  
5 about SAI Trust?

6 A. The concerns that Dave and Tim shared  
7 with me were that that alarm business is a very tough  
8 business, and they had debt on their books, and they  
9 were having trouble making their payments back to us.

10 Q. Can you specify what you mean by "that  
11 alarm business."

12 A. The alarm business, I should say.

13 Q. Because Mr. McGinn was intricately  
14 involved in the alarm business. Right?

15 A. He has a extensive knowledge of that  
16 industry, having been the CEO of Integrated Alarm  
17 Services.

18 Q. You said SAI started before you arrived  
19 at McGinn Smith.

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And it has been a continued affiliated  
22 entities that have dealt in alarm companies, either  
23 owning or loaning money to alarm companies. Is that  
24 correct?

25 A. I believe that is correct, yes.

1           Q.       So if the concerns regarding SAI Trust  
2 were about the trust business -- or about the alarm  
3 business in general, were there specific concerns  
4 about SAI internally? Because they didn't stop  
5 getting involved in the alarm business?

6           A.       I don't know the scope of those  
7 conversations, whether it was a business mix at SAI  
8 or other operational issues.

9                    I was not privy to those conversations  
10 about specifically what is it at SAI that's different  
11 than the alarm industry as a whole.

12          Q.       Were there concerns about the  
13 profitability? Was there concerns about the  
14 viability of SAI?

15                   I guess I want to make sure I get an  
16 understanding. You said you were aware of concerns  
17 being voiced, what were they?

18          A.       I don't know if it was profitability or  
19 viability. Obviously, long-term concerns about  
20 profitability could lead to viability, but I don't  
21 know where the concern went from profitability to  
22 viability.

23          Q.       What's the current status of SAI Trust?

24          A.       I don't know, nor do I know about SAI,  
25 the company.

1                   MR. NEWMAN: What was the status at the  
2 time you left?

3                   THE WITNESS: They had a senior lender  
4 that may have called some of their loans, and I  
5 believe Mr. Smith and McGinn were working with either  
6 that senior lender or somebody else to restructure  
7 it.

8                   I can't be more specific than that.

9                   MR. NEWMAN: Okay.

10                  Q.       Were there discussions of writing off  
11 any of the four funds' loans to SAI Trust?

12                  A.       Those would have been decisions made  
13 after Mr. Smith and McGinn had done all of their  
14 analysis and due diligence and examining the  
15 situation.

16                  I do recall that I was told to write  
17 that off specifically.

18                  Q.       What is Alset IP Management. I can  
19 spell it for you as I'm not sure how it's pronounced  
20 or --

21                  A.       Alset was a fund that was created to --  
22 I believe the goal was to go out and purchase  
23 intellectual properties from universities that wanted  
24 to monetize some of their patent work, and then  
25 create a revenue stream for Alset.

1           Q.       Who was involved with Alset IP  
2 Management?

3           A.       A gentleman in our office, Tom  
4 Livingston, and there were other people outside of  
5 our organizations.

6                   I can't remember their names. There  
7 was -- well, I can't remember their names.

8           Q.       Where was it located?

9           A.       I think they -- one of the partners was  
10 in Atlanta. I think there was somebody in Chicago.  
11 They were kind of scattered around.

12          Q.       Were they housed in a location of McGinn  
13 Smith, the broker/dealer main office or branch?

14          A.       Oh, yeah. Yeah, there was a couple of  
15 guys that worked out of New York City in some space  
16 in our building or in our New York City office, but  
17 the main person, I believe, was in Atlanta.

18          Q.       What was your involvement with Alset IP?

19          A.       Really, none. I don't -- I didn't do  
20 the books for them. I didn't record any  
21 transactions.

22                   MR. NEWMAN: Where was that done, the  
23 books?

24                   Where were the financial records  
25 maintained?

1 THE WITNESS: On Alset, I don't know. I  
2 would have recorded loans to Alset.

3 I'm not sure where the accounting was  
4 done. I don't know.

5 MR. NEWMAN: You described this as a  
6 fund, a mutual fund?

7 THE WITNESS: It was not a mutual fund.  
8 It was -- I don't know if, you know, part of my lack  
9 of legal knowledge, but an entity that was going to  
10 raise money and then purchase its intellectual  
11 property from various entities.

12 It wasn't a mutual fund. It was a trust  
13 fund.

14 MR. NEWMAN: Okay. Do you know how much  
15 money they raised?

16 THE WITNESS: Other than money that was  
17 provided through these income fund notes, I don't  
18 believe they raised any.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Was there any kind of  
20 offering memorandum or document that described the  
21 investment in this fund or this entity, Alset?

22 THE WITNESS: It was -- I'm sure there  
23 was some due diligence folders and files that we had,  
24 but as far as offering memoranda, I'm not aware of  
25 any.

1 MR. NEWMAN: Did they ever actually  
2 invest in this intellectual property?

3 THE WITNESS: The goal was to go out and  
4 buy them, and they were not successful in that.

5 MR. NEWMAN: Do you know there was  
6 approximately \$8 million invested by the note  
7 entities in this entity, Alset?

8 THE WITNESS: I knew there were  
9 significant investments in it.

10 MR. NEWMAN: Did it concern you that  
11 that amount of money was invested in an entity that  
12 apparently didn't do anything?

13 THE WITNESS: Mr. Smith was concerned.  
14 I was concerned and, yes, there was some nervousness  
15 around that issue.

16 MR. NEWMAN: And how did you become  
17 aware of that?

18 THE WITNESS: I would be instructed to  
19 wire money to Alset IP up in Georgia, Atlanta,  
20 Georgia location, and after doing that for --  
21 repeatedly, it became apparent that they were having  
22 trouble raising money on their own.

23 MR. NEWMAN: And at what point in time  
24 was that?

25 THE WITNESS: I don't know when it

1 started, 2005, 2006.

2 MR. NEWMAN: Do you know how much they  
3 were trying to raise? Independent of the note  
4 entities, how much money they were trying to raise?

5 THE WITNESS: Supposedly, a lot of  
6 money, a hundred million dollars.

7 MR. NEWMAN: So when you and/or  
8 Mr. Smith became aware of the fact that they were  
9 having difficulty raising money to purchase  
10 intellectual property, was there any discussion about  
11 not investing any further note entity money into this  
12 project?

13 THE WITNESS: Mr. Smith had numerous  
14 conversations with Mr. Livingston concerning his  
15 involvement and the status of their fund-raising  
16 project.

17 I was not privy to a lot of those  
18 conversations.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Were you a party to any of  
20 the conversations?

21 THE WITNESS: No.

22 MR. NEWMAN: So how do you know they  
23 occurred?

24 THE WITNESS: I would see Mr. Livingston  
25 and Mr. Smith go into an office together. I guess

1 I'm assuming that's what those conversations were  
2 about.

3 MR. NEWMAN: And what is  
4 Mr. Livingston's position at McGinn Smith?

5 THE WITNESS: He has since left McGinn  
6 Smith.

7 MR. NEWMAN: When did he leave?

8 THE WITNESS: Five months ago, four  
9 months ago.

10 MR. NEWMAN: At the time you were there,  
11 what was his position?

12 THE WITNESS: He was an executive vice  
13 president. He also owned a 20 percent share of the  
14 company that he purchased from Mr. McGinn.

15 MR. NEWMAN: And do you know what his  
16 equity position was or ownership position was in  
17 Alset?

18 THE WITNESS: I do not know that number.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Did McGinn or Smith have  
20 any ownership position in Alset, either directly or  
21 one of their affiliated companies?

22 THE WITNESS: I don't know, to answer  
23 that question.

24 Q. Are you aware of what the \$8 million was  
25 used for if they never bought the intellectual



1 outside, 10 percent?

2 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't want to guess.

3 MR. NEWMAN: Maybe do it another way.

4 Would you say that the majority of the investments  
5 made by the note entities were made by companies in  
6 which McGinn Smith had a stake or an interest?

7 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say majority,  
8 but I would have to see the books to pinpoint that.

9 Q. What is State Street Hospitality?

10 A. That's a hotel in Albany, New York, a  
11 boutique 74-room hotel that was built -- and I'm not  
12 sure what year it was built, 2005 or 2006, maybe.

13 Q. So State Street Hospitality is the  
14 actual hotel?

15 A. That is -- I believe an operating  
16 company bought a hotel, and I don't know why that  
17 structure was set up, other than -- you know, I don't  
18 do their accounting, but I believe that's the  
19 operating or holding company.

20 Q. Who was involved in State Street  
21 Hospitality?

22 A. Nobody affiliated with McGinn Smith.

23 MR. RATTINER: Who is Gary Smith?

24 THE WITNESS: A person in the Albany  
25 business community that has the last name of Smith,

1 but has years of experience running the Desmond Hotel  
2 in Albany.

3 MR. RATTINER: Unrelated to --

4 THE WITNESS: Unrelated to David Smith.

5 MR. RATTINER: What was the connection  
6 that brought State Street Hospitality to McGinn  
7 Smith?

8 THE WITNESS: I don't know. They were  
9 looking to raise money to do this hotel, and I think  
10 they wanted to keep the money local, and so we ended  
11 up making a pitch for what I think is like -- I think  
12 it's a subordinated loan behind a large bank in town  
13 that put in, I don't know, 8 or \$10 million of their  
14 own capital.

15 Q. Was money ever raised through the  
16 broker/dealer for State Street Hospitality?

17 A. We did raise money, yes, we did. There  
18 is a limited partnership that was set up, 74 State,  
19 LP.

20 Q. 74 State, LP was the entity that  
21 money --

22 A. It was the entity that put money into 74  
23 State either LLC, which is the hotel or the hotel's  
24 operating company. So, yes, there's an equity  
25 interest through the broker/dealer.

1           Q.       Just so I'm clear, customers would have  
2 bought into a private placement called 74 State?

3           A.       LP.

4           Q.       Which is a holding company for the  
5 hotel?

6           A.       No. It's a trust.

7                   MR. PAULSEN: And that trust would have  
8 been invested in State Street Hospitality?

9                   THE WITNESS: I believe that's correct.

10                  MR. PAULSEN: As the operating company?

11                  THE WITNESS: I believe so.

12                  MR. RATTINER: So in this case, we would  
13 have one of the four notes loaning money to 74 State  
14 Street, and we're also doing a separate offering  
15 through the BD, where retail customers would be  
16 buying?

17                  THE WITNESS: A limited partnership  
18 interest.

19                  MR. RATTINER: So were fees paid to the  
20 broker/dealer by State Street Hospitality.

21                  THE WITNESS: To the extent we would  
22 have raised money for them, yes, we would have  
23 received an underwriting fee.

24           Q.       For the 74 State raise?

25           A.       For the 74 State, LP raise.

1 this one here.

2 The next paragraph says, "Additionally,  
3 TAIN may have lent funds to Pacific for Yukik  
4 Schreiber redemption." What was that?

5 THE WITNESS: Pacific Trust was -- I  
6 think it was an alarm deal that was originally  
7 marketed to a group of investors, and Ms. Schreiber  
8 wanted to get her money out of it, and I can't  
9 remember the specifics, and actually, I think that  
10 when the trust matured, I think we forgot about it,  
11 because it was a very small trust, and she wanted to  
12 get her money out, and then we were redeeming her  
13 over a -- through a set schedule of payments over an  
14 eight-or-nine-month period.

15 MR. RATTINER: That sentence goes on to  
16 say that: "They, too, will need a letter of credit  
17 dating back to the date of first funding, again, 12  
18 percent."

19 So this is another one that we're  
20 backdating or recreating, if you will?

21 THE WITNESS: Okay.

22 MR. NEWMAN: A separate form?

23 THE WITNESS: Yes.

24 MR. RATTINER: You also say, "I believe  
25 DOS has a purchase agreement for FIIN's purchase of

1 FEIN."

2 What was your understanding of the  
3 loaning of FIIN's money into FEIN and/or vice-versa?

4 THE WITNESS: My assumption was that  
5 their loan documents had been drawn up.

6 Now, upon review, if they weren't, there  
7 was certainly an effort to put the documents in place  
8 so that there was the -- so that it would match the  
9 transactions that were contemplated at the time.

10 MR. RATTINER: But you don't know what  
11 the intent of -- FIIN's purchase of FEIN, what was  
12 the intent of that? Was it to pay interest?

13 THE WITNESS: No, I don't think FIIN  
14 lent. This wasn't the loan agreement. I don't know  
15 if -- I believe there were old alarm trusts, SPT2, 3,  
16 and 4 which are referenced in the second sentence.

17 MR. RATTINER: Right.

18 THE WITNESS: And my understanding is  
19 that FEIN, at one point, owned SPT2 and 3, and then  
20 sold one of those to FIIN, and I don't know if there  
21 was the necessary documentation that went along with  
22 the original purchase that was contemplated when, I  
23 guess, PT2 -- whatever FEIN or FIIN originally  
24 purchased.

25 MR. RATTINER: What's the economic gain

1 of shuffling between these four notes?

2 THE WITNESS: Certainly, Mr. Smith can  
3 speak to that better than I can, but at the time,  
4 they felt that the SPTs were generating -- were in an  
5 alarm contract pool that was generating recurring  
6 income on a monthly basis, and it would be  
7 advantageous to have some monthly income stream in  
8 one of the income note funds. I don't know why --

9 MR. RATTINER: It was already bought by  
10 one of the income notes, just being transferred to a  
11 different one?

12 THE WITNESS: Sold to a different one,  
13 right. I don't know why it was not purchased  
14 directly by what appears to be FIIN, but I can't  
15 speak to that, other than that was my theory of the  
16 theory behind that.

17 MR. RATTINER: Okay. What prompted this  
18 e-mail?

19 I mean, at the top, we'll see your  
20 initial paragraph that "Dave Smith asked me to pull  
21 the following items together."

22 I believe this is after you left the  
23 firm or right around the same timeframe, obviously.

24 THE WITNESS: There was a concerted  
25 effort to make sure that, you know, we had all the

1 MR. ROWEN: Can I have this marked as  
2 Exhibit 9.

3 (Rees-9, Excel spreadsheet, is received  
4 and marked for identification.)

5 Q. I'm handing you Exhibit 9 in this  
6 matter. This is an Excel spreadsheet of data  
7 imported from the Quicken register report of all  
8 transactions in TDM Cable's DT FAIN registered  
9 account.

10 The staff has deleted totals and any  
11 blank columns. The staff also added the TDM Cable  
12 title at the top and the balance at the bottom.

13 Take a moment to review it and if you  
14 can compare that with the highlighted transactions on  
15 page 2 of Exhibit 7.

16 Based on this document, how was FAIN  
17 paid back for these two loans of \$635,000 and  
18 \$300,000?

19 A. It appears that First Line Trust put  
20 money into TDM Cable, which paid off FAIN and  
21 Verifier Trust also put money in.

22 Q. So it looks like First Line absorbed  
23 most of the debt? First Line along with Verifier  
24 Trust absorbed the debt that was owed to FAIN?

25 A. That seems correct.

1 Q. We discussed First Line Trust earlier.  
2 Right? And you said that that was controlled by  
3 Smith and McGinn or, in fact, investment decisions  
4 were made by Mr. Smith, and the funds were raised  
5 from investors. Correct?

6 A. Yes, and I believe that Mr. McGinn was  
7 also involved with the First Line.

8 Q. And the First Line Trust was -- there  
9 were concerns raised about First Line Trust, correct,  
10 about its ability to pay off its investors based on  
11 First Line's --

12 A. The First Line operating company's  
13 financial acumen.

14 Q. Based on that, does it make sense that  
15 it is absorbing FAIN's debt, absorbing the funds owed  
16 to FAIN by TDM Cable?

17 A. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me as  
18 to how that would -- how that would happen or why it  
19 would happen and the decision around that.

20 Q. Would it make sense to you if you were  
21 to find out that First Line Trust is in default  
22 today?

23 A. It wouldn't surprise me.

24 Q. If we put those pieces together, what  
25 happened in the big picture here?



1           A.       It appears that business decisions that  
2       were made were not very prudent.

3           Q.       Does it seem like decisions were made as  
4       far as which entities were to become in default and  
5       which entities were to remain in business?

6           A.       I don't know if I can draw that  
7       conclusion.

8           Q.       First Line absorbed the debt and is now  
9       out of business, whereas FAIN stayed out of default  
10      for a while and TDM Cable was essentially unaffected,  
11      but it loaned money, based on these proceeds to  
12      Smith, McGinn and Rogers.

13                   Does it sound like Smith, McGinn and  
14      Rogers owe First Line some money, First Line's  
15      investors?

16           A.       I'm sure they can shed more light on the  
17      matter beyond my cursory knowledge of this.

18           Q.       But you should have more knowledge of  
19      the intricacies of these Quicken books and the flow  
20      of money than we. Are we wrong?

21           A.       Your analysis seems to be correct, but  
22      making the assumption that someone was allowed to  
23      fail and somebody was kept whole is, I think, a  
24      judgment call. I'm not making that.

25           Q.       Based on these, and I know you're not

1 aware of whether or not First Line is in default, but  
2 we're saying if, indeed, it is today, can we draw the  
3 line to say First Line Fund, which is now in  
4 default's funds were paid to McGinn, Smith and  
5 Rogers, based on the flow of transactions we've seen?

6 A. You can draw that conclusion by looking  
7 at this, but I assume you'll have an opportunity to  
8 ask those questions to Mr. Smith and McGinn when --

9 Q. Again, I'm asking you, who's got an  
10 intricate knowledge of these books.

11 A. What are you asking me? Are you asking  
12 me to render an opinion that I'm not going to render?

13 MR. RATINER: What was your viewpoint  
14 at the time?

15 You're the one in the Quicken books  
16 making these transactions occur, at the direction of  
17 perhaps someone else.

18 Again, we know that you allude to McGinn  
19 and Smith, and they'll be able to shed more light,  
20 and we believe that to be true, and we believe they'll  
21 be able to shed more light on the intricacies of how  
22 it works.

23 We don't believe that they'll be able to  
24 present more light on Quicken files, which is what  
25 we're presenting here today.

1                   So we're looking for what you were  
2 thinking at the time, when these Quicken files were  
3 transacted.

4                   Here we see that FAIN survives, First  
5 Line and First Trust don't. That may not have been  
6 obvious on 3/28/2007, but things started to turn for  
7 the worse at some point in 2007, early 2008.

8                   So at the time, does it not pop into  
9 your mind that I'm helping FAIN and hurting somebody  
10 else?

11                   What would be the rationale for doing  
12 this transaction this way?

13                   THE WITNESS: That's a logical  
14 conclusion to draw.

15                   MR. RATTINER: Did you draw it?

16                   THE WITNESS: I never really sat back  
17 and looked at who are the winners and losers in this  
18 game, but if I was to look at this now, I would say,  
19 yeah, that is an accurate statement.

20                   MR. RATTINER: Fair enough.

21                   MR. ROWEN: Can I have this marked as  
22 Exhibit 10?

23                   (Rees-10, Excel spreadsheet of MS  
24 Licensing's M & T checking account, is received and  
25 marked for identification.)

1 questions as the financial individual, saying, we  
2 have \$75,000. You're actually having access to these  
3 ledgers, you're creating documents throughout time.  
4 There's no revenues?

5 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I could have  
6 mentioned that to him. I don't recall if his  
7 response was it's good, it's bad, or I'm working on.

8 I mean, within the four funds, there  
9 were a myriad of transactions that needed attention,  
10 so I can't recall specifically if this was good or  
11 bad.

12 Q. Who is RTC?

13 A. RTC -- I believe that was an old alarm  
14 trust that had been around for -- prior to my arrival  
15 at McGinn Smith in 2002.

16 Q. What was your involvement in RTC? Was  
17 it RTC Trust?

18 A. RTC Trust.

19 Q. What was your involvement?

20 A. I don't know if RTC Trust was paying off  
21 its investors. There was a structural deficit in the  
22 trust, and one of the funds was loaning -- had set up  
23 a letter of credit or a loan with RTC Trust, so when  
24 they were ultimately paid off, the residual income  
25 from the trust, since we would have no more

1 investors, would come back to one of the funds that  
2 originally had set up the line of credit with hem.

3 Q. Does that flag something in your mind,  
4 that an entity was not able to pay off its investors,  
5 needed money from one of the four funds, how are the  
6 expectations that it would be able to pay the four  
7 funds, if it wasn't able to meet the initial  
8 projections to pay off its investors?

9 A. The initial RTC payments were principal  
10 and interest to the investors.

11 The goal was, and I thought there were  
12 some models that said if it ran its life with  
13 whatever attrition rate was used, that it would  
14 actually be able to pay back the loaned amounts that  
15 were put into it.

16 Q. Would you see those models?

17 A. I would have seen them.

18 Q. Who creates those models?

19 A. I may have created that one, or it could  
20 have been left over from my prior -- my predecessor.

21 MR. ROWEN: Can I have this marked as  
22 Exhibit 11?

23 (Rees-11, Document, Bates Nos. MGS  
24 0020096 through 100, is received and marked for  
25 identification.)

1 Q. I'm handing you Exhibit 11 in this  
2 matter. Exhibit 11 is a total of five pages. These  
3 were provided to FINRA by McGinn Smith as  
4 documentation of FAIN's use of customer proceeds.

5 The first two pages, stamped MGS 0020096  
6 and 97 are a copy of a registered report of  
7 transactions between FAIN and RTC.

8 The last three pages, stamped MGS  
9 0020098 through MGS 0020100, are copies of a grid  
10 note between FAIN and RTC.

11 Take a moment to review that.

12 A. Okay. Okay.

13 Q. Based on the -- this document shows that  
14 the first loan was made from FAIN in 2006, from FAIN  
15 to RTC, so based on that, do you think it would have  
16 been your predecessor who put together the model?

17 A. No, I could have done that.

18 Q. Based on a model -- would you have put a  
19 model together that involved FAIN loaning RTC money  
20 over a period of 18 months, which is the period we  
21 have in here?

22 A. I believe I had a spreadsheet that  
23 tracked these advances under this note.

24 Q. That would have been part of your  
25 analysis of when they would pay off?

1           A.       When it would have been paid off, the  
2 existing cash flow remaining on the alarm trust and  
3 what then would be paid back to FAIN.

4           Q.       So in total, RTC needed to borrow from  
5 FAIN over \$459,000 in order to pay off principal and  
6 interest to its customers?

7           A.       Correct.

8           Q.       Sorry. To its investors. Excuse me.

9                   How far out would the model have had to  
10 project for \$459,000 to be paid back in principal?

11          A.       Well, at this point, given that it is a  
12 pool of alarm contracts, there is a -- that pool  
13 generates a monthly income stream that could be sold  
14 and would have been -- FAIN would have owned it.

15                   So to answer your question, I don't know  
16 how long the model would have gone out. I don't  
17 recall the ultimate answer, but there's also value in  
18 that income stream, and it could have been sold to  
19 pay down this loan also.

20          Q.       The \$459,000 worth of value that was, at  
21 some point, projected to pay off RTC's investors by.

22                   I'm trying to figure out here, at some  
23 point, RTC miscalculated its revenues and expenses to  
24 the point of being \$459,000 short to its investors.

25                   There was really an expectation that all

1 of that could be made up in time to pay off FAIN's  
2 investors?

3 A. I don't know how many remaining  
4 contracts were left in the RTC Trust.

5 It's a pool of home alarms, so,  
6 certainly, they generate monthly recurring revenue  
7 that, depending on the amount of contracts that are  
8 left in that pool, it would have a certain value.

9 I don't know what the going rate, as far  
10 as a multiple of monthly cash flow is, to say that  
11 that will cover that.

12 If I did an analysis, I don't know what  
13 figures I would have used, but it's not unheard of  
14 for these things to sell at 30 times the monthly cash  
15 flow.

16 Q. Can you take a look at the third page of  
17 the exhibit, the paragraph entitled "Interest"?

18 What does the interest rate show for  
19 this loan, this grid note?

20 A. 12 percent.

21 Q. So by 10/1 of 2007, there was a 12  
22 percent a year interest payable on \$459,000, plus the  
23 principal is to paid back at some point because FAIN  
24 is going to have to pay its investors off at some  
25 point?



1           A.       Correct.

2           Q.       Based on the results, based on the total  
3       payback of this loan represented on page 2, I guess,  
4       what went wrong?

5                   What goes wrong? We don't know the  
6       alarm contracts as well. What goes wrong?

7           A.       I'm not an expert in the alarm business,  
8       and I don't know what that portfolio looks like at  
9       this point.

10          Q.       But you said you put together the  
11       models.

12          A.       And it's -- right, based on a certain  
13       number of expectation of how many contracts you're  
14       going to have, how many you're going to lose.

15                   You know, in the last year and a half,  
16       we went through an incredible crash where people may  
17       decide that , you know what? I don't want to pay my  
18       \$30 a month alarm bill, and at that point, they may  
19       stop paying it.

20                   You know, we anticipate them paying  
21       that, but there are factors certainly beyond the  
22       control of the alarm holder.

23          Q.       By October 1 of 2007 though, there were  
24       already such deficiencies in totaling over \$459,000.  
25       So the expectation was that it would get better than

1 it was in '06/'07?

2 A. I don't -- I can't speak to RTC's  
3 performance and what caused it to run into a  
4 situation like this.

5 Q. I apologize if it's already been  
6 answered, but what would cause RTC to not be able to  
7 pay off its principal and interest?

8 A. Without seeing RTC's financial records  
9 and how the deal was originally structured, I  
10 couldn't tell you that.

11 Q. Would you update the projections, the  
12 analysis that you would have done to project when the  
13 RMR would -- the RMR per month, would you adjust that  
14 based on contracts not being reviewed or going into  
15 default over time?

16 A. We would occasionally get reports  
17 concerning the performing contracts and update that  
18 as necessary.

19 MR. RATTINER: How would you get that?  
20 I mean, a contract would be a hundred houses,  
21 three-year period, \$30 a month?

22 THE WITNESS: Three to five years.

23 MR. RATTINER: And as one person drops  
24 off, now you have 99 contracts, three-year periods,  
25 five-year periods, \$30 a month, you would then

1 revalue your model? To say -- hopefully we're still  
2 positive. At that point, you only lost one, but at  
3 some point, you lose 15, 20, 30, that's when you hit  
4 your deficit?

5 THE WITNESS: That's the alarm business,  
6 managing that attrition.

7 Q. How would you document the attrition,  
8 would you amortize the contracts in thee Quicken  
9 books?

10 A. We would receive reports and look at the  
11 RMR, and see what was deposited into the RTC account  
12 on a monthly basis.

13 Q. Would you subsequently amortize the  
14 alarm contract value in Quicken?

15 A. We -- I don't recall making any  
16 adjustments to the alarm contract value.

17 Q. Would you document the adjustments  
18 somewhere else?

19 A. The alarm contracts were not on First  
20 Advisory's books. They were on RTC's books. So they  
21 were amortized.

22 Q. So they would be amortized in RTC's  
23 books?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Possibly in Quicken, possibly not?

1           A.       Possibly, correct.

2           Q.       Let me ask you, in 2006 to 2007, is that  
3 analysis and that documentation going to reflect that  
4 \$459,000 could be loaned from FAIN to RTC and  
5 reasonably be paid back by the time FAIN needed to  
6 pay back its customers?

7                   THE WITNESS: There was that expectation  
8 that this loan would be paid down to a manageable  
9 level and, if necessary, the contract portfolio could  
10 be sold to somebody in the alarm industry, and then  
11 those proceeds would be available to pay back the  
12 investors.

13          Q.       All right. So we've seen RTC. We've  
14 seen SAI Trust. We've seen First Line not be able to  
15 pay off their investors, and their funds were tied to  
16 the alarm business, whether it be in loans or in  
17 actual contract holding.

18                   What went wrong here, and why is it the  
19 four funds seem to have been hurt by the process?

20          A.       Well, as I said, the economy certainly  
21 tanked out last year, causing a decrease in RMR.

22          Q.       Why did the four funds get involved?

23                   Why would the four funds be loaning RTC  
24 money, loaning SAI money, loaning -- they didn't  
25 directly loan First Line money, but loaning RTC and

1 SAI money to keep alarm trusts afloat, when RMR  
2 returns were down?

3 A. I put together the analysis. I provided  
4 it to Mr. Smith and Mr. McGinn, and, you know, they  
5 make those decisions to do that.

6 MR. NEWMAN: You didn't see any problem  
7 with this practice?

8 THE WITNESS: At the time, the  
9 spreadsheet, I thought, would support the payback.  
10 Now, subsequent -- I don't know when this analysis  
11 was updated subsequently to reflect any change in the  
12 RMR we were receiving that would cause me to revisit  
13 that, but I didn't have one at that time.

14 MR. ROWEN: Let's take a five-minute  
15 break. We'll go off the record.

16 (A brief recess is taken at 4:54 p.m.)

17 MR. ROWEN: We're back on the record at  
18 approximately 5:10.

19 Q. We spoke about fees paid by the four  
20 notes earlier, and I know we spoke about different  
21 types of fees.

22 There was underwriting. There was  
23 management. There was administrative.

24 A. I thought there were three components,  
25 underwriting, management and administrative.

1 you had mentioned that your understanding of the  
2 responsibility as a Series 27 included managing the  
3 books under GAAP, which is Generally Accepted  
4 Accounting Principles.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 MS. SMITH: When we were discussing RTC,  
7 when we were talking about modeling and the fact that  
8 the contracts may have decreased in value, would it  
9 be necessary for you to adjust the books and records  
10 or make an adjustment on the Quicken records in order  
11 to reflect that?

12 THE WITNESS: That's probably something  
13 that should have been done, but was an oversight,  
14 given the myriad of responsibilities that I had.

15 MS. SMITH: Were there ever times with  
16 the other entities, where accruals or any other types  
17 of GAAP type of entries should have been made that  
18 were overlooked?

19 THE WITNESS: We accrued the interest  
20 receivable and the interest payable. You know, Dave  
21 really handled the valuation of the actual assets.

22 We accrued management fees payable.  
23 Those were typically the issues surrounding the  
24 funds, as far as what we had to do for our auditors.

25 MS. SMITH: And what involvement did you