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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **INVESTORS, TAKE NOTE: STATE SECURITIES REGULATORS DEVELOP HANDY NOTEPAD THAT CAN AID IN DISPUTES WITH BROKERS**

Boise, Idaho. . . Investors, take note: If you keep good records, you're more likely to prevail in a dispute with your broker. So says Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, who has an easy to use notepad available to investors that they can fill-in while they're on the telephone with their financial professional.

The notepad consists of fifteen 8½" x 11" two-sided sheets that prompt investors to record information such as the date of the broker's call, the nature of the investment, how it was described to them, the broker's name and CRD number.

The CRD number corresponds to the broker's record in the Central Registration Depository, a computer database jointly owned by state regulators and the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). Investors should always check the CRD to see if the broker and his or her firm are registered in Idaho and to determine what, if any, disciplinary history they may have with regulators. To check a broker's CRD record, investors can call the Idaho Securities Bureau at 208/332-8004 or the NASD's public disclosure hotline at 1-800-289-9999.

The notepad is available from the Idaho Securities Bureau. The forms are printed in notepad fashion so investors can get into the habit of making written records of their conversations with their brokers. One two-sided form is available on our web site here.

"Investors who keep good records of their dealings with their brokers have a leg-up in any dispute," says Gee. "While the vast majority of brokers are honest, hard-working professionals, disputes do arise. Plus the kinds of questions the notepad prompts you to ask like, 'What's your CRD number?' could scare away some of the unscrupulous or dishonest brokers. Money you invest represents your financial future, so you need to keep close track of it."

The notepad is a project of NASAA's Investor Education Committee, chaired by Karen Terhune of the Ohio Division of Securities. Says Terhune, "It's practical, easy to use and could end up saving some investors a lot of grief and money."

**REMEMBER -- INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST**