

**Statement of Anthony Frank D'Agostino**

**Nominee for Director of the Securities Investor**

**Protection Corporation (SIPC)**

**United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**

**14 June 2011**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Anthony (Tony) D'Agostino, and I am honored to be before you today as President Obama's nominee to serve on the SIPC Board of Directors.

I believe I am well qualified to serve on the SIPC board based on my management background in the securities industry and my hands-on experience working in the capital markets.

Prior to joining Wall Street, I served in the United States Navy for 24 years. I started out in the Navy as an enlisted man flying in the H-3 helicopter as a rescue swimmer and anti-submarine warfare specialist. After I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas I received my commission and went on to serve in roles of increasing responsibility, a few examples are: SECNAV-CNO Briefer during Desert Storm, an Admirals Aide and as a Surface Warfare Officer onboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). Since retiring from my career in the armed forces, I have worked in the Capital Markets businesses of Wachovia and UBS. In both organizations, I served in executive roles, which allowed me to closely observe and fully appreciate the intricacies of how these businesses are structured, staffed and operated.

As the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Wachovia's Equity Capital markets platform I directly oversaw and managed internal functions supporting the Equity Capital Markets business including Technology, Compliance, Legal, and Finance. After serving as COO, I went on to build from scratch, the firm's Program and Algorithmic equity trading business. As the architect for that business I became proficient in all aspects of electronic trading. I then went on to build another new venture for Wachovia: I helped build a proprietary Long/Short U.S. Equity Hedge Fund (i.e., a proprietary trading desk) where I focused on portfolio and risk management as well as financial analysis. In that role, I had to study and understand the operational characteristics of hundreds of different companies, in dozens of diverse industry groups. During the 2008 market collapse where 40% losses became the norm, the fund we managed was down only 2.4%. As part of my training to serve in these roles, I was a FINRA Registered Principal and held Series 7, 24, 55 and 63 licenses.

After Wachovia's collapse and takeover by Wells Fargo, our division was shut down. Like so many other Americans, I found myself unemployed for the first time in my life. After nearly one year out of work, I was then recruited by UBS where I am currently serving as the COO of the Global Quantitative Analytics (QA) group. The QA group is responsible for building sophisticated mathematical models, which are used to create, price and evaluate the risk of complex financial products (Derivatives, CDS, CMO, ABS, MBS, etc). I oversee and manage divisions around the world, which include quantitative modeling, trading support, technology, strategy and off-shoring.

Our recent economic challenges have inspired me to once again serve our great country, and I

am very proud that President Obama has asked me to apply my experience in the Navy and in the Capital Markets to address these challenges. I understand the hardships that so many Americans are facing today, and I am dedicated to working with the Board of SIPC to help ensure that investors are protected when broker dealers fail. The unique combination of more than a decade in the trenches of our financial industry and twice that long serving my country in the Navy allow me to bring a wealth of experience, hard work, and accountability to the Securities Investor Protection Corporation Board.

If confirmed as a director of SIPC, I promise the President and this Committee, that I will use my experience to maintain and strengthen SIPC's accountability to the investing public.

In closing, I would like to recognize a few important people in my life. I am pleased to have some of my family with me today: Havilah and Hannah D'Agostino, Dr. Leigh Vinocur, and her son, Max, as well as my friends Matti Kon, Scott Kaimien and Jeff Rassmussen.

In addition to my family and friends with me today, I would like to thank my mentors from over the years that have given me opportunities that a milkman's son from South Jersey never expected: Col Mike Wyly, USMC (retired), Rear Admiral Ed Fahy, USN (retired), Mr. Al Berkley, former President of the NASDAQ and my dear friend Mickey Misera, former Head of Wachovia's Equity Capital Markets business. Mick believed in me and hired me directly from active duty to be his COO; all of my opportunities to work within the financial services industry are due to him.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks, thank you for your attention and consideration. I will be happy to answer your questions.