

Tung Chan, Securities Commissioner

**Minutes of the
Colorado Securities Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2025**

The meeting was held virtually and in person at 1560 Broadway, Conference Room 1000, Denver, CO 80202. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairperson Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne with a quorum present. Additional Board members in attendance were Philip McDermott, Gary DeWaal, Andrea Genschaw, and by video conference, Nicolas Budor. Former board member Nilsa Mahon also joined. Division of Securities staff members and counsel present in person included Securities Commissioner Tung Chan, Deputy Securities Commissioner Jeffrey Eaby, Chief Examiner Jason Gross, Chief Investigator Jonathan Block, Investor Education and Public Outreach Coordinator Annelise Grygiel, Program Assistant Shiela Gowan, and Assistant Attorney General II Sarah Donahue.

Chairperson Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, meeting. Gary DeWaal moved to approve the minutes and Philip McDermott seconded the motion. The Board members who were present unanimously approved the June 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Chair Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne, opened the floor for the annual election for the board voting for Chair and Vice Chair. Gary DeWaal offered to be Chair. Andrea Genschaw offered to be Vice Chair. Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne offered a motion, and Philip McDermott seconded the motion. Chair Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne put it to a vote and Board members unanimously agreed.

Chairperson Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne invited the Securities Commissioner to present her report on Division activities. The Commissioner provided her report:

- Commissioner Chan thanked Nilsa Mahon for her service on the Board and recognized her dedication, good humor and integrity. The Division presented Nilsa Mahon with a plaque. Nilsa Mahon accepted the plaque and commented on her service as a board member. Nilsa Mahon thanked everyone and left the board meeting.
- Commissioner Chan introduced the newest member of the Securities Advisory Board, Andrea Genschaw from Louisville, who was appointed to the CPA Board

position. Ms. Genschaw gave a brief introduction of her background, and the Division and Board welcomed her.

- Commissioner Chan reminded members that later in the meeting the Attorney General's Office would be conducting an Executive Session for the annual state mandated Board training.
- Commissioner Chan stated this last quarter that the Division has been very busy with the Division of Securities sunset review. Brian Tobias from COPRRR has been working with the Division for about a year' along with working on nine different programs. This is a thorough analysis of every aspect of the Division and there's a report that will be submitted to the legislature at the beginning of October to be vetted and reviewed in the legislative session, which starts in January. It has taken a lot of work from the Division, including Chief Examiner Jason Gross, Chief of Enforcement Jon Block, and especially Deputy Commissioner Jeff Eaby. Commissioner Chan wanted to extend special thanks to all. The Division has also been working on reviewing matters for the special legislative session. There was the Artificial Intelligence (AI) bill, which is still being worked on. There have also been various challenges that have come along with the hiring freeze and budget concerns. It has also been a very busy summer at the federal level regarding the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act, which was signed in June, establishing the framework for stablecoins and what was known as the Clarity Act, which is a restructuring of the regulation of digital assets.

The Commissioner then introduced Chief Examiner Jason Gross to provide an update on the examinations section. His report included the following:

- The Division's state fiscal year began July 1st. The Division conducted 126 examinations in the last fiscal year. The Division goal is completing 110 exams a year including compliance exams. A compliance exam is where the examiners try to examine newly licensed firms within their first two years. Last year there were 81 new Colorado licensed investment adviser firms; 52,000 individual representatives applied over the course of the year.
- A.I. Artificial Intelligence matters. DORA is conducting a pilot program to use A.I. here in our office and various other divisions. Division of Securities is part of the pilot program. A few people in our office, Jeff Eaby and Jason Gross are in the program. Commissioner Chan stated the Division's general position is that our interest is to make sure that whenever A.I. is used by firms that the firm remains responsible at a fiduciary level to their clients.

Generally, we are still at the beginning of the process, and it is hard to anticipate all the ways AI may be used and the challenges it may pose.

- The Division has promoted a member of the staff to Lead Examiner, Robert Fira. The lead examiner is a subject matter expert for examinations and would train employees, and serve as backup for our licensing examiner.
- 2024 was the first year that there was a continuing education requirement for investment adviser representatives. There is a one-year grace period for the representatives to complete their course credits through 2025.

The Commissioner then introduced Chief Investigator Jonathan Block to provide an update on the investigations section. His report included the following:

- The civil trial of local pastor Eli Regalado and his wife for selling \$3.4 million of cryptocurrency to investors was June 7 and it is now September 11, four months later. No decision has been issued yet. It was a bench trial. The Denver District Attorney's office brought a grand jury indictment this summer. On the criminal side, the next hearing should be September 19th.
- In July, the division received a decision in the case called GrowCO, which involved an individual named John McCowan and Wayne Harding. It was marijuana related. The trial of this case started in July 2023 and a decision was made in July of 2025. The court sided with the Division and awarded more than \$16.5 million in a judgement. Both Wayne Harding and John McCowan have appealed.
- The Division investigated another matter involving an individual by the name of Michael Graham and his company named Sebastian Partners. They were recently indicted. Before this indictment the Division had filed a civil action against Michael Graham. He raised a little more than \$1.1 million in a fund, called Gravitas Qualified Opportunity Zone. The money was to be raised to acquire homes, rent them out, or sell them for a profit. Mr. Graham allegedly did not disclose that about 75% of investor funds were then used for other businesses and for his own personal use. In addition, Mr. Graham allegedly transferred title of the properties that were bought using the Gravitas Qualified Opportunity Zone funds into his own name.

- In July there was another indictment of an individual named Jasmine Lavon Gaskins. His company was named JG Capital. It was alleged that while he was in Texas, Mr. Gaskins put out some YouTube videos that attracted the attention of a Colorado resident. Colorado resident paid for a personal meeting with Mr. Gaskins and were persuaded to invest with JG Capital. Mr. Gaskins advised that the investors would get a return of 17% daily and the Colorado resident invested \$105,000; five thousand first and a hundred thousand after that. The investor did not get any return or their principle. At the time he was indicted, Mr. Gaskins was already in custody in Florida on non-securities related, violent crimes. We did not have to worry about reaching out to turn himself in. There is a hearing on January 30th, at which time we hope that he will be allowed by the prison in Florida to attend the court hearing.
- Anthony Jimenez was indicted in July. He raised a couple hundred thousand dollars that he was supposed to trade in cryptocurrency. It did not happen that way and it was alleged that he made a lot of misrepresentations about his background, his prowess, and his history.
- Jason Lobins was indicted for securities fraud after the matter was referred to the Denver District Attorney and a sentencing hearing was held. The judge gave Lobins some credit for the good deeds when he came out of the service but sentenced him to six years in prison and restitution as well.

Executive Session:

- New Board and Continuing Board Member training was conducted by Assistant Attorney General Sarah Donahue during an Executive Session. A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Chair Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne and Gary DeWaal seconded. The Board voted unanimously to move to Executive Session. Division staff exited the Board meeting and returned when the Executive session ended. The Board entered Executive Session at 11 :54 a.m. Board members present were Elizabeth Karpinski Vonne, Philip McDermott, Gary DeWaal and Andrea Genschaw. Board members present by phone included Nicolas Budor. There was a return to the Securities Board Meeting at 12:32 pm.

Other Business: No other business.

Schedule date and time for the next meeting:

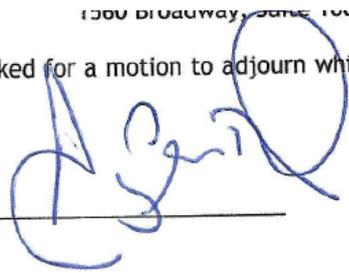
- The next meeting was scheduled to be Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be in person at 1560 Broadway, Suite 100D at the DORA Welcome Center conference room.

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

1560 Broadway, Suite 100D at the DORA Welcome Center conference room

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Chair



Date

12-16-25