

Market losses? Have you experienced excessive losses in the recent stock market decline? Some losses could be the result of negligence or fraud. Fishman Haygood is here to help.

Because the overall market has performed well over the past several years, a great deal of investor losses and broker misconduct has gone undetected. Many investors have lost money in the recent decline of the market due to COVID-19, but for some investors, negligence or other misconduct on the part of a broker or financial advisor has caused excessive and unnecessary losses that could have been prevented.

For example, many investors have recently learned that their portfolios were not properly diversified given their age, cash needs, risk tolerance, sophistication, and other factors. Some investors learned that their investments were over-concentrated in stocks, or over-concentrated in one sector of stocks, such as having all energy-related investments. Worse, others learned that they were inappropriately engaging in the use of margin in their accounts (borrowing money from the broker-dealer to buy even more securities). When the market suffered large declines earlier this year, many investors received “margin calls,” and their securities were sold to pay back their loans. These unfortunate investors will not be able to participate fully in the market recovery because they no longer own those securities. This can be devastating for investors, particularly those investors who depend on their accounts to generate income for them in their retirement years.

If you have experienced investment losses that do not appear to be in line with the overall market decline, there could be a number of reasons (some innocent and others not). When you are reviewing your investment accounts, look for a lack of diversification, excessive and unnecessary trading, mutual fund “switching,” overconcentration in one stock or in one sector of the market (such as having all energy-related investments), the sale of unsuitable investments, the sale of high commission products, the sale of a flawed product, misappropriation, or outright fraud. You may also have been improperly sold illiquid investments (such as non-traded REITs, other real estate related investments, oil & gas ventures, promissory note programs, or investments in private start-up companies) that you cannot access or sell right now when you need the money the most.

Fishman Haygood’s team of investment fraud lawyers represent investors who have suffered investment losses in claims against their brokers or financial advisors and the firms employing/supervising them. If you believe that you may have suffered financial losses due to the misconduct of a financial professional, we may be able to help. Our lawyers will review your investments, analyze your specific situation, and provide you with our opinion as to whether or not you may have a viable claim, free of charge.

If we determine that you may have a viable claim, our highly skilled lawyers will focus on pursuing your rights so that you can focus on the many other matters at hand during these challenging times. We will not charge you for our work unless we are successful in obtaining a settlement or recovery. We work on a contingency fee basis which means that when you hire us, you agree that our fee will be a percentage of the amount that we are able to recover for you. But if we are not successful in getting you compensation for your losses, you pay nothing.

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