

## FINAL NOTICE – SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

**Date of issue: 7 February 2003**

### **Steven Jan Zimmer**

The FSA has refused an application for the approval of Mr Zimmer to perform the investment adviser function with a firm of independent financial advisers as it was not satisfied that he was a fit and proper person to perform that function at the firm concerned.

Mr Zimmer was formerly a client asset manager and adviser at a securities house. Mr Zimmer received a final written warning in August 2000 after a client complained that Mr Zimmer had purchased unsuitable stock without obtaining his prior authorisation.

In November 2000, Mr Zimmer assumed responsibility for the management of nine discretionary accounts. These accounts had previously been improperly handled and inappropriately invested. In seeking to rectify the position, Mr Zimmer made unsuitable and imprudent trades in three accounts. The trades resulted in oversized positions being taken in each account; in one account, the investment selected did not match the stated risk profile.

Mr Zimmer received two complaints concerning the conduct of these accounts and, on both occasions, failed to notify his supervisor or the firm's compliance department. Following an investigation, Mr Zimmer was offered the opportunity to resign, which he took.

The FSA considers that, in his handling of customer accounts, Mr Zimmer has contravened the requirements and standards of the regulatory system and has been the subject of justified complaints. The FSA also notes that Mr Zimmer has been asked to resign, and resigned, following an investigation into his conduct as account manager. As the firm making the application has withdrawn its support, the FSA is not satisfied, in the light of his past failings, that Mr Zimmer would have been subject to the appropriate degree of training and supervision. The FSA has therefore determined that it is not satisfied that Mr Zimmer is a fit and proper person to perform the investment adviser function at the applicant firm.

