



Surprise Custody Examination

Be Prepared With Trusted and Fair Audits



North Carolina

New York

California

Singapore

www.aifundservices.com



Surprise Custody Examination

To protect investors who entrust their funds and securities to registered investment advisers (RIAs), the SEC adopted amendments to the Custody Rule 206(4)-2 under the Advisers Act of 1940. The Custody Rule contains several provisions and requirements, including an independent examination ("surprise custody examination").

The Custody Rule 206(4)-2

When an adviser is deemed to have custody of a client's funds or securities, the Custody Rule subjects the adviser to the following requirements:

- The adviser must obtain an annual surprise custody examination by a Public Company Accounting Oversight Board- (PCAOB) registered independent accounting firm.
- The adviser must have the custodian who maintains the client's cash and securities send account statements directly to the clients.
- The adviser is required to obtain a report on the internal controls relating to the custody of those assets from a PCAOB-registered independent public accountant (unless an independent custodian maintains the client's assets).
- The examination report must be submitted electronically to the SEC.

Akram & Associates Is Your Trusted Adviser

We will assist you in determining if a surprise custody examination is required. If so, we will perform the examination efficiently, cost-effectively, and according to the Custody Rule's requirements. As a PCAOB registered accounting firm, we possess the expertise you need to meet your organization's ever-changing demands.

Industry Expertise

We have earned a reputation of trust in the marketplace through offering customized service and senior-led involvement. Our partners have more than 20 years experience auditing investment industry clients.

A Service Team You Can Count On

We will be your trusted adviser, a true extension of your team. From the beginning of our partnership, you can count on team continuity as well as a flexible pricing structure that allows for us to support you throughout the year without fear of unknown costs.



We Offer a Full Spectrum of Fund Services

Audit & Assurance

- SOC Examination/Audit
- Cryptocurrency Audit
- Surprise Custody Audit

Consulting Services

- Business Valuation
- Forensic Accounting
- International Financial Reporting Standards
- New Business Formation
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Succession Planning

Tax Services

- Tax Planning
- Tax Preparation
- Tax Issues
- Foreign Bank Account Reports
- Expatriate Tax Services

Types of Clients We Serve

- Hedge, Private Equity, & Venture Capital Funds
- Family Offices
- IT Managed Services/Colocation
- Outsourced Transaction Processors
- Professional Services
- Resellers of Credit Reporting Agencies
- Outsourced Security Operations Centers
- Business Associates of Covered Entities



About Our Experts



Muhammad A. Akram, *Founder and CPA*

Muhammad Akram is a Certified Public Accountant in the state of California (License #114908), New York (License #122344), and North Carolina (Certificate #37968) and leads the Firm's overall practice.

Muhammad earned a Bachelor of Accounting from SKANS School of Accountancy. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and North Carolina Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He has worked with Ernst & Young International, Anchin Block and Anchin LLP, and Rothstein Kass & Co. where he worked on the audit, tax and consulting engagements for onshore and offshore alternative investment funds.

Muhammad has worked with hedge fund and mutual fund administrators and has supervised all aspects of fund accounting and financial reporting assignments. He has also been responsible for advising investment companies on structuring and compliance processes, and for providing consultation on regulatory and tax matters.

Ghias Khan, *CPA and Commercial Practice Leader*

Ghias is a Certified Public Accountant in the state of New York (License # 077913) and leads the Firm's commercial practice.

Ghias earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in Accounting from the State University of New York. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

He has worked with regional and local CPA Firms on audit, review, compilation, tax and consulting engagements for non-public companies in various sectors of manufacturing, apparel, real estate, law firms, retail and wholesale, in addition to employee benefit plans.

Ghias is also integrally involved with developing enhancements and processes to service client requirements and procedures for operational efficiencies. He is responsible for quality control functions in our Firm and reviews every audit job subject to peer review.



Headquartered in North Carolina With a National Presence

Akram & Associates PLLC is a full-service PCOB registered CPA Firm. We are licensed in five states including North Carolina (Reg #33032), New York (ID #110272), Oregon (2709), California (OFR 289), and Georgia (ACF006555).

Recognition

We are proud to serve as a trusted partner to our clients and are humbled by the industry recognition we have received. Akram has been shortlisted for both the HFM US Services Awards and HedgeWeek Americas Awards in 2019, 2020, and 2021.



For more information please contact:

Muhammad A. Akram - CPA and Founding Member
Toll-Free: 844-386-3829 | makram@aifundservices.com



Akram & Associates PLLC © 2023

North Carolina

206 High House Road, Suite 106
Cary, NC 27513

Tel: 844-386-3829
Fax: 919-800-3881

California

260 Newport Centre Drive, Suite 100
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Tel: 949-603-0001
Fax: 949-603-0027

New York

347 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1402
New York, NY 10016

Tel: 646-205-8044

Singapore

68 Circular Road
Unit # 02-01 049422 Singapore

Tel: 65-3105-2000

844-386-3829
aifundservices.com

The information provided in this brochure is being provided with the understanding that it should not be construed as legal, accounting, tax or other professional adviser services. The contents are intended for general informational purposes only and it should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional accounting, tax, legal and other advisers. Before making any decision or taking any action, you should consult your own qualified professional adviser. In no event shall Akram & Associates PLLC, its officers, partners and employees be liable to you or anyone else for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information provided in this article.