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Office of the Maine Attorney General
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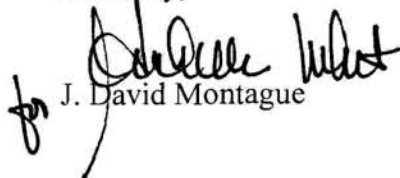
Pursuant to Maine's security breach notification law, we are writing to notify your office that on December 19, 2008, a third-party consulting services firm working on behalf of Merrill Lynch reported that earlier in December, one of their employees was burglarized and severely beaten in his home. The burglars took various items, including a computer, which had on it the names and Social Security numbers of a population of current and former Merrill Lynch Financial Advisors and some applicants for employment who are residents of the state of Maine. The computer did not contain any additional personal or financial information, nor did it contain any client data.

The individual reported the theft to law enforcement authorities, who are investigating the incident. The consulting firm has been doing work for Merrill Lynch for approximately 10 years without incident, and the information was necessary for the work they were doing for us.

We do not have any indication that the information has been or will be improperly used. A letter of notification will be delivered to the Maine residents affected by this incident on or about December 30, 2008.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, at (212) 670-2905.

Sincerely,


for J. David Montague

CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
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OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL