Dear Sirs:

Options are useful in the hands of retail investors, especially in a self-directed retirement account. They can help offset the cost basis of my purchases over time giving me a real chance to earn back my transaction fees and offset inflation.

For example, if I purchase 100 shares of Johnson & Johnson, I would like to be able to sell an expiring call option against my position in the next 2-3 months. That option premium, and others like it, -- plus the JNJ dividends -- will lower my cost-basis over time and make it more likely for my position to become long-term profitable.

Any one can learn this stuff... I am a jazz pianist and educator.

I strongly OPPOSE any ruling that would restrict my ability to conduct options trading in any of my own accounts.

Feel free to call me if you would like any further information.

All best,

Andy McWain
617-899-8436