

BY U/ATOBITT



CITADEL HAS NO CLOTHES

PUBLISHED MARCH 14, 2021 U/ATOBITT

TL;DR - Citadel Securities has been fined 58 times for violating FINRA, REGSHO & SEC regulations. Several instances are documented as 'willful' naked shorting. In Dec 2020 they reported an increase in their short position of 127.57% YOY, and I'm calling bullsh*t on their shenanigans.

I've been digging into the financial statements of Citadel Securities between 2018 and 2020. Primarily because Citadel Securities *actually* has a set of published financial statements as opposed to the 13Fs filed by Citadel Advisors.

First... Citadel is a conglomerate.. they have a hand in literally every pocket of the financial world. Citadel Advisors LLC is managing \$384,926,232,238 in market securities as of December 2020...

Yes, seriously- \$384,926,232,238

\$295,347,948,000 of that is split into options (calls & puts), while \$78,979,887,238 (20.52%) is allocated to actual, *physical*, shares (or so they say). The rest is convertible debt securities.

The value of those options can change dramatically in a short amount of time, so Citadel invests in several "trading practices" which allow them to

stay ahead of the average 'Fidelity Active Trader Pro'. Robinhood actually sells this data (option price, expiration date, ticker symbol, everything) to Citadel from it's users. Those commission fees you're not paying for? yeah.... think again.. Check out <u>Robinhoods 606 Form</u> to see how much Citadel paid them in Q4 2020.. F*CK Robhinhood.

Anyway, another example is Citadel's high-frequency trading. They actually profit *between* the national ask-bid prices and scrape pennies off millions of transactions... I'm going to show you several instances where Citadel received a 'slap on the wrist' from FINRA for doing this, but not just yet.

Now.... the "totally, 100% legit, nothing-to-see-here, independent*"* branch of Citadel Advisors is Citadel Securities- the Market Maker Making Manipulated Markets. The whole purpose of the DTCC is to serve as an third party between brokers and customers (check out <u>this video</u> for more on DTCC corruption). I'll bring up the DTCC again, soon.

Anyway, Citadel Advisors uses their own subsidiary (Citadel Securities) to support their very "unique" style of trading. For some reason, the SEC and FINRA have allowed this, but not without citing them for 58 'REGULATORY EVENTS'.

So that got me thinking.... "WTF is Citadel actually putting out there for the public to see?" Truthfully, not much... a 12-page annual report called a 'statement of financial condition'.

Statement of Financial Condition in 2018.

CITADEL SECURITIES LLC

Statement of Financial Condition

(Expressed in U.S. dollars in millions)

ASSETS

| AGETO | As of Dec | cember 31, 2018 | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Assets: | | | |
| Cash | \$ | 617 | |
| Securities owned, at fair value | | 30,237 | |
| Securities borrowed | | 1,861 | |
| Securities purchased under agreements to resell | 93 | | |
| Receivable from brokers and dealers | 84 | | |
| Receivable from clearing organizations and custodians | 3 | | |
| Interest receivable | | | |
| Other assets | 5 | | |
| Exchange memberships and trading rights (fair value \$21) (Note 2) | 2 | | |
| Dividends receivable | | 16 | |
| Total assets | \$ | 34,932 | |

LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S CAPITAL

| Liabilities: | |
|--|--------------|
| Securities sold, not yet purchased, at fair value | \$ 22,357 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 7,663 |
| Payable to brokers, dealers, and clearing organizations | 2,764 |
| Payable to affiliates | 66 |
| Payable for liquidity and order flow | 64 |
| Exchange, clearance, and regulatory fees payable | 29 |
| Interest payable | 23 |
| Other liabilities | 18 |
| Securities loaned | 17 |
| Dividends payable | 8 |
| Total liabilities before subordinated loans and accrued interest | 33,009 |
| Subordinated loans and accrued interest | 357 |
| Total liabilities | 33,366 |
| Member's capital | 1,566 |
| Total liabilities and member's capital | \$ 34,932 |

The highlighted section above represents *securities sold, but not yet purchased, at fair value* for \$22,357,000,000. This is a liability because Citadel is responsible for paying back the securities they borrowed and sold. If you're thinking *"that sounds a lot like a short",* you're correct. Citadel Securities shorted \$22 big ones (that's billion) in 2018.

CITADEL SECURITIES LLC

Statement of Financial Condition

(Expressed in U.S. dollars in millions)

ASSETS

| | As of Dec | ember 31, 2019 | |
|--|-----------|----------------|--|
| Assets: | | | |
| Cash | \$ | 438 | |
| Securities owned, at fair value | | 28,634 | |
| Securities borrowed | | 3,070 | |
| Receivable from brokers and dealers | 1,19 | | |
| Receivable from clearing organizations and custodian | | 556 | |
| Securities purchased under agreements to resell | | | |
| Other assets | | | |
| Interest receivable | 7 | | |
| Dividends receivable | | 14 | |
| Total assets | \$ | 34,346 | |

LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S CAPITAL

| Liabilities: | |
|---|--------------|
| Securities sold, not yet purchased, at fair value | \$ 25,270 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 6,352 |
| Payable to brokers, dealers, and clearing organizations | 387 |
| Loans payable to affiliate | 391 |
| Payable to affiliates | 88 |
| Payable for liquidity and order flow | 88 |
| Securities loaned | 46 |
| Exchange, clearance, and regulatory fees payable | 31 |
| Other liabilities | 37 |
| Total liabilities | 32,690 |
| Member's capital | 1,656 |
| Total liabilities and member's capital | \$ 34,346 |

2020 starts to get REALLY interesting...

Throughout the COVID pandemic, we all heard the stories of brick-andmortars going bankrupt. It was becoming *VERY* profitable to bet against the continuity of these companies, so big f*cks like Citadel decided to up their portfolio... by **127.57%**. CITADEL SECURITIES LLC

Statement of Financial Condition

(Expressed in U.S. dollars in millions)

| ASS | ETS |
|------|-----|
| 1.00 | |

| | As of December 31, 202 | | |
|--|------------------------|--------|--|
| Assets: | | | |
| Cash | \$ | 523 | |
| Securities owned, at fair value | 66.7 | | |
| Securities borrowed | 1,6 | | |
| Receivable from brokers and dealers | 84 | | |
| Receivable from clearing organizations and custodian | 64 | | |
| Securities purchased under agreements to resell | 49 | | |
| Other assets | 16 | | |
| Total assets | \$ | 71,004 | |

LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S CAPITAL

| Liabilities: | |
|---|--------------|
| Securities sold, not yet purchased, at fair value | \$ 57,506 |
| Securities sold under agreements to repurchase | 4,472 |
| Payable to brokers, dealers, and clearing organizations | 2,847 |
| Loans and interest payable to affiliate | 1,653 |
| Securities loaned | 867 |
| Other liabilities | 342 |
| Payable to affiliates | 168 |
| Total liabilities | 67,855 |
| Member's capital | 3,149 |
| Total liabilities and member's capital | \$ 71,004 |

That's right. Citadel Securities upped their short position to **\$57,506,000,000** in 2020.

We've all heard Jimmy Cramer's bedtime stories: "It's important to create a narrative in your favor so that your short position helps drive those businesses into bankruptcy." Personally, I'm convinced that most of the media hype throughout COVID was an example of this, but I digress.

EDIT: Credit to u/JohnnyGrey for the deeper-dive, here..

Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

| (\$ in millions) Investment liabilities | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | ng and ateral | | Total |
|--|---------|-------|---------|---|------------------|---|--------|
| Equity securities ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 9. | 18 S | 1 | s | - | s | 9,719 |
| U.S. government securities ⁽¹⁾ | | 51 | 41 | 1 | | | 5,592 |
| Corporate debt securities ⁽¹⁾ | | | 295 | | <u> </u> | | 295 |
| Non-U.S. government securities(1) | | 1 | 16 | | | | 17 |
| U.S. agency securities ⁽¹⁾ | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Total investment liabilities | 15, | 70 | 354 | | - | | 15,624 |
| Derivative liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Options ⁽¹⁾ | 9. | 52 | 94 | | | | 9,646 |
| Futures ⁽²⁾ | | 28 | | | | | 28 |
| Forwards ⁽²⁾ | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Gross derivative liabilities | 9, | 80 | 96 | | | | 9,676 |
| Netting ⁽³⁾ | | 19) | (2) | | (8) | | (29) |
| Total derivative liabilities | 9, | 61 | 94 | | (8) | | 9,647 |
| Total | \$ 24. | 31 \$ | 448 | S | (8) | S | 25,271 |

LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

| | 1. | Level 1 Lev | | | Netting and | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------|----|---------|-------------|--------|----|--------|--|
| (\$ in millions) | Le | vel 1 | 1 | _evel 2 | Coll | ateral | | Total | |
| Trading liabilities | | | | | | | | | |
| Equity securities | S | 14,601 | \$ | 6 | \$ | | \$ | 14,607 | |
| U.S. government securities | | 10,417 | | 26 | | - | | 10,443 | |
| Corporate debt securities | | _ | | 58 | | | | 58 | |
| Non-U.S. government securities | | 1 | | 6 | | - | | 7 | |
| U.S. agency securities | | | | 4 | | | | 4 | |
| Total investment liabilities | | 25,019 | | 100 | | - | | 25,119 | |
| Derivative liabilities | | | | | | | - | | |
| Options | | 32,384 | | 2 | | - | ~ | 32,386 | |
| Futures | | 92 | | | | - | | 92 | |
| Swaps | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Warrants | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Gross derivative liabilities | | 32,477 | | 3 | | | | 32,480 | |
| Netting | | (24) | | (1) | | (68) | | (93) | |
| Total derivative liabilities | | 32,453 | | 2 | | (68) | | 32,387 | |
| Total | s | 57,472 | S | 102 | \$ | (68) | \$ | 57,506 | |

Out of the \$32,236,000,000 increase in shorts during 2020, \$22,740,000,000 (70.5%) were increases in financial derivatives (options)...

Anyway, Citadel shorted another \$32,236,000,000 in 2020 and rolled into 2021 with some PHAT \$TACK\$. Now it's time for a quick accounting lesson; this is where you're going to sh*ted the bed.

You see the highlighted section below? Citadel (and other companies reporting highly liquid securities) uses 'Fair Value' accounting to measure the amount that goes on their balance sheet (including liabilities like short positions). The cash that Citadel received (asset) was accounted for when the security was sold, but the liability (short) needs to be recorded at the CURRENT MARKET PRICE for those securities while they remain on the balance sheet..

CITADEL SECURITIES LLC

Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

Organization

Citadel Securities LLC (the "Company"), a Delaware limited liability company, is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as a broker and dealer, and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") and Securities Investor Protection Corporation. CSHC US LLC ("CSHC"), an affiliate, is the sole member of the Company.

CALC IV LP ("CAL4"), an affiliate, is the manager of the Company. The Company has entered into a portfolio management agreement with CSUS (Hong Kong) Limited ("CS-HK"), an affiliate, whereby the

Securities Owned and Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased The Company's securities owned and securities sold, not yet purchased are recorded at fair value. Securities transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Securities owned are held at various global financial institutions and at the DTCC. As of December 31, 2020, securities owned of approximately \$63.86 billion, have been pledged as collateral to counterparties on contract terms which permit the counterparties to sell or repledge these securities to others.

Derivative Contracts

Derivative financial instruments are referred to as off-balance sheet instruments because neither their notional amounts nor the underlying reference instruments are reported as securities owned or securities sold, not yet purchased on the statement of financial condition. Rather,

At the end of 2020, the 'Fair Value' of their short positions were \$57 billion.

At the end of 2021, however, Citadel will need to adjust the value of those liabilities to their CURRENT market value... Since we don't know the domestic allocation of their short portfolio, you can only imagine the sh*tsunami that's coming for them..

Take \$GME for example....

We <u>KNOW</u> that Citadel "had" a short position in \$GME along with Melvin Capital... Can you imagine the damage that <u>r/wallstreetbets</u> has done to the other stonks in their portfolio? If Melvin lost 53% in January from this, there's no telling what the current 'Fair Value' of those shorts are..

I trust a wet fart more than Citadel, Melvin, and Point 72. <u>Here's</u> <u>why</u>.

This is a FINRA report published in early 2021. It cites 58 regulatory violations and 1 arbitration. After explaining how Ken Griffin basically controls the world through the tentacles of the Citadel octopus, it lists detailed cases and fines that were usually *'neither admitted or denied, but promptly paid'* by Citadel Securities.

Let me shed some light on a *FEW*:

1. INACCURATE REPORTING OF SHORT SALE INDICATOR. FIRM ALSO FAILED TO HAVE A SUPERVISORY SYSTEM IN PLACE TO COMPLY WITH FINRA RULES REQUIRING USE OF SHORT SALE INDICATORS. **DATE INITIATED 11/13/2020 - \$180,000 FINE**

2 TRADING AHEAD OF ACTIVE CUSTOMER ORDERS IMPLEMENTED CONTROLS THAT REMOVED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MOSTLY-LARGER CUSTOMER ORDERS FROM LOGICS... TRADING SYSTEM INTENTIONALLY CREATING DELAYS BETWEEN MARKET MAKERS' TRANSACTIONS WHILE THE UNRESPONSIVE PARTY UPDATED PRICE QUOTES NO SUPERVISORY SYSTEM IN PLACE TO PREVENT THIS. DATE **INITIATED 7/16/2020 - \$700,000 FINE**

3. FAILED TO CLOSE OUT A FAILURE TO DELIVER POSITION; EFFECTED SHORT SALES. DATE INITIATED 2/14/2020 - \$10,000 FINE 4. BETWEEN JUNE 12, 2013 - OCTOBER 17 2017 (YEAH, OVER 4 YEARS) THE FIRM PRINCIPALLY EXECUTED BETWEEN 248 AND 7,698 BUY ORDERS DURING A CIRCUIT BREAKER EVENT; FAILED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN SUPERVISORY PROCEDURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE. INITIATED 1/22/2020 -\$15,000 FINE

5. ON OR ABOUT 11/16/2017, CITADEL SECURITIES TENDERED 34,299 SHARES IN EXCESS OF IT'S NET LONG POSITION (naked short); DATE INITIATED 8/21/2019 - \$30,000 FINE

6. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ON 12/10/2018: FAILURE TO SUBMIT COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DATA TO COMMISSION BLUESHEET ("EBS") REQUESTS. (BASICALLY FAILED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF TRANSACTIONS TO THE SEC). BETWEEN NOV 2012 AND AUG 2016, CITADEL SECURITIES PROVIDED 2,774 EBS STATEMENTS, ALL OF WHICH CONTAINED DEFICIENT INFORMATION RESULTING IN INCORRECT TRADE EXECUTION TIME DATA ON 80 MILLION TRADES. DATE INITIATED 12/10/2018 - \$3,500,000 FINE

7. TENDERED SHARES FOR THE PARTIAL TENDER OFFER IN EXCESS OF ITS NET LONG POSITION (more naked shorting); FAILED TO ESTABLISH SUPERVISORY PROCEDURES TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES. **INITIATED 3/22/2018 - \$35,000 FINE** 8. IN MORE THAN 200,000 INSTANCES BETWEEN JULY 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 2016, FIRM FAILED TO EXECUTE AND MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS, TWO-SIDED TRADING INTEREST WITHIN THE DESIGNATED PERCENTAGE (scraping pennies between bid-ask) ABOVE AND BELOW THE NATIONAL BEST BID OFFER.... INITIATED 10/13/2017 - \$80,000 FINE

9. ANOTHER CEASE AND DESIST FOR MAJOR MARKET MANIPULATION BETWEEN 2007 - 2010. INITIATED 1/13/2017 -\$22,668,268 FINE

Quite frankly, I'm tired of typing them. There are **STILL 49** violations, and most are BIG fines.

Naked shorts, failure to provide documentation to SEC, short selling on trade halts..... is this starting to sound familiar? When <u>r/wallstreetbets</u> started exposing the truth, they lost the advantage. Now that the DD is coming out about this sh*t, they're getting desperate.

Let's look at some recent events that occurred with trading halts in \$GME. On March 10 2021 (Mar10 Day) we watched the stock rise until 12:30pm when an *unbelievable* drop triggered at least 4 circuit breaker events (probably more but I walked away for a bit).



Price drop of 40% in about 25 minutes

Now... I do not believe retail traders did this.. most importantly, the market was totally frozen for the majority of that 25 minutes. Even if people were putting in orders to sell, there were just as many people trying to buy the dip.

The volume of shares flooding the market- at the same exact time- was premeditated. I can say that with confidence because several media outlets (mainly MarketWatch) published articles WHILE this was happening, after nearly a week of radio-silence. MarketWatch even predicted the decline of 40% before the entire drop had occurred. When Redditors reached out to ask WTF was going on, the authors set their Twitter accounts to private... slimy. as. f*ck.

"But wait.... didn't example # 4 say that Citadel was fined \$15,000 for selling shorts during circuit breaker events!?"

Yup! and here are **TWO** more instances:

1. CITADEL SECURITIES LLC EFFECTED TRANSACTIONS DURING NUMEROUS TRADING HALTS..

| Disclosure 40 of 58 | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Reporting Source: | Regulator | |
| Current Status: | Final | |
| Allegations: | FINRA RULE 5260, NASD RULE 3340 - CITADEL SECURITIES LLC EFFECTED TRANSACTIONS DURING NUMEROUS TRADING HALTS. IN EACH INSTANCE, THE FIRM EFFECTED A TRANSACTION IN A SECURITY WHILE A TRADING HALT WAS IN EFFECT FOR SUCH SECURITY. THE FIRM EFFECTED TRANSACTIONS IN A SECURITY WHILE A TRADING PAUSE WAS IN EFFECT WITH RESPECT TO THE SECURITY. | |
| Initiated By: | FINRA | |
| ©2021 FINRA. All rights reserved. | Report about CITADEL SECURITIES LLC | 134 |
| www.finra.org/brokercheck | | User Guidance |
| | | FINCA |
| Date Initiated: | 12/23/2013 | |
| Docket/Case Number: | 2011029287501 | |
| | | |
| | | |

2: And another...

www.finra.org/brokercheck



Reporting Source: Current Status: Allegations:

Initiated By: Date Initiated: Docket/Case Number: Final NASD RULE 3340 - CITADEL SECURITIES LLC EFFECTED TRANSACTIONS IN SECURITIES WHILE A TRADING HALT WAS IN EFFECT WITH RESPECT TO EACH OF THE SECURITIES. FINRA 09/20/2011 2007011847101

Think Citadel is alone in all of this? Think again... It's actually been termed- "flash crash".

\$12,500,000 fine for Merrill Lynch in 2016..

\$7,000,000 for <u>Goldman</u>...

Regulator

\$12,000,000 for Knight Capital...

\$5,000,000 for Latour Trading...

\$2,440,000 for <u>Wedbush</u>...

PEAK-A-BOO, I SEE YOU! \$4,000,000 for MORGAN STANLEY

I can't tell who was responsible for the flash crash in \$GME last Wednesday; I don't think anyone can. However, to suggest that it wasn't market manipulation is laughable. The media and hedge funds are tighter than your wife and her boyfriend, so spending time on this issue is a waste.

But what we can do is look at the steps they're taking to prepare for this sh*tsunami. So let's summarize everything up to this point, shall we?

1. Citadel has been cited for 58 separate incidents, several of which were for naked shorting and circuit breaker flash-crashes

2. The short shares reported on Citadel's balance sheet as of December 2020 were up **127% YOY**

3. The price of several heavily-shorted stocks has skyrocketed since Jan 2021

4. Citadel uses 'Fair Value' accounting and needs to reconcile the value of their short positions to this new market price. The higher the price goes, the more expensive it becomes for them to HODL

We know that Citadel is on the hook for \$57,000,000,000 in shorts, but at least they're HODLing onto some physical shares as assets, right?.... RIGHT??

This should soothe that smooth ape brain of yours...

CITADEL SECURITIES LLC

Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

NOTE 1

Organization

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"UHHHHHH ACTUALLY, THE DTCC & FRIENDS OWN OUR PHYSICAL SHARES".....

Well that's just terrific, because the DTCC just implemented <u>SRCC</u> <u>801</u> which means they **DON'T** have your f*cking shares... I've seriously never seen so much finger pointing and ass-covering in my LIFE....

I know this post was long, but the story can't go untold.

The pressure being placed on hedge funds to deliver has never been higher and the sh*t storm of corruption is coming to a head. Unfortunately, the dirty tricks & FUD will continue until this boil ruptures. There are several catalysts coming up, but no one truly knows when the MOAB will blow.

However, desperate times call for desperate measures and we have never seen so much happening at once. For all of these reasons and more: **Diamond. F*cking. Hands.** "As an industry, we have a responsibility to manage risk in a way that is prudent."

KEN GRIFFIN, CEO OF CITADEL