# **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

## FORM 8-K

## **CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): November 8, 2004

H&R BLOCK, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**Missouri** 

<u>1-6089</u> <u>44-0607856</u> (State of Incorporation) (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

> 4400 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(816) 753-6900

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

### **ITEM 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure**

On November 8, 2004, the National Association of Securities Dealers (the "NASD") brought charges against H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc. ("HRBFA"), a wholly owned subsidiary of H&R Block, Inc., related to the sale by HRBFA of Enron debentures in 2001. HRBFA disagrees with the NASD's charges and intends to defend them vigorously.

A copy of the press release issued by the Company in response to the NASD's charges is furnished with this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1.

### **ITEM 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit Number Description

Press Release, dated November 8, 2004, entitled "H&R Block Responds to NASD Charges Related to Financial Advisors 99.1 Unit."

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

## H&R BLOCK, INC.

BY: /S/ Bret G. Wilson

Bret G. Wilson Vice President and Secretary

# EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release issued November 8, 2004.



### **News Release**

## **For Further Information**

Dan Grubbs, Media Relations, 816-932-8470 Becky Shulman, Investor Relations, 816-701-4574

## H&R BLOCK RESPONDS TO NASD CHARGES RELATED TO FINANCIAL ADVISORS UNIT

#### FOR RELEASE NOV. 8, 2004

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – H&R Block Inc. (NYSE:HRB) today said it is disappointed the NASD has decided to bring charges against its H&R Block Financial Advisors (HRBFA) business unit related to the sale of Enron bonds in late 2001, a period during which Enron's bonds carried an investment grade rating. H&R Block said it believes the charges will prove unfounded.

"We deeply regret that our clients experienced losses from the devaluation of Enron bonds," said Nick Spaeth, senior vice president and chief legal officer of H&R Block Inc. "However, the lost value was the result of mismanagement and bankruptcy at Enron that later came to light, not the result of actions or omissions on the part of H&R Block Financial Advisors. At the time of sale, these bonds were rated investment grade by the national rating services, and evidence of internal fraud at Enron had yet to be discovered."

The company also pointed out that at the time of the bond sales, Enron was the country's seventh largest corporation whose common stock was widely held and recommended by the research analysts who covered it.

In its communications with the NASD about this issue, which encompassed total sales to HRBFA clients of approximately \$15 million of Enron bonds, the company has made the following points:

• The bonds were obtained from traditional industry sources and offered to clients at then current market prices; and

• HRBFA was not involved in any investment banking or other consultative arrangements involving Enron Corp.

H&R Block said that it disagrees with the NASD's conclusions and believes the company's position will be validated through the NASD hearing process.

H&R Block Response to NASD Charges/page 2

### **About H&R Block:**

H&R Block Inc. (<u>www.hrblock.com</u>) is a diversified company with subsidiaries that deliver tax services and financial advice, investment and mortgage products and services, and business accounting and consulting services. The world's largest tax preparation company, H&R Block in fiscal year 2004 served 21.6 million clients at more than 11,000 retail offices worldwide and with software and online services. H&R Block is the only major tax preparation and financial services company that focuses primarily on helping middle-income Americans achieve their financial objectives. Investment services and securities products are offered through H&R Block Financial Advisors Inc., member NYSE, SIPC. H&R Block Inc is not a registered broker-dealer. H&R Block Mortgage Corp. offers retail mortgage products. Option One Mortgage Corp. offers wholesale mortgage products and a range of mortgage services. RSM McGladrey Inc. serves mid-sized businesses with accounting, tax and consulting services.