

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.state.al.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Edwin Rick Wood of Millbrook, Alabama
sentenced for securities fraud and theft of property**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (March 28, 2005) Honorable Randall V. Houston, District Attorney, 19th Judicial Circuit and Honorable Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, announced today that Edwin Rick Wood of Millbrook, Alabama was sentenced by Circuit Judge John Bush, in Elmore County, to 15 years to serve 3 years of confinement with the Alabama Department of Corrections, followed by 5 years of probation and is required to pay restitution to victims of \$941,295.

Borg said, "The commission in conjunction with local enforcement authorities will continue to aggressively pursue people who cheat citizens of Alabama through securities fraud. We need citizens to do two things to help prevent and convict people who commit securities fraud. First call the Commission and report any suspicious activities. Second, before you invest call the Commission and receive a free securities business background and registration check on people making you an offer for the sale of securities or selling investment advice."

On March 1, 2005, Wood pled guilty to 1 count of securities fraud and 16 counts of Theft of Property. The original indictment for this case was a result of a joint investigation conducted by the Alabama Securities Commission, the District Attorney Houston's office, and the Elmore County Sheriff's office.

Wood fraudulently induced residents from the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee to invest through the sale of oral and written promissory notes. Wood told his investors that their money would be used to further construction projects being performed by his company, Three Hands Construction, LLC.

Wood falsely led investors to believe that he had exclusive rights to government subsidized construction contracts in the cities of Millbrook and Montgomery, Alabama. Wood told his investors that he would pay them interest on the notes ranging from 20% to 40%.

Wood was operating a "Ponzi" scheme to defraud the investors while selling the promissory notes. As a result, the majority of the checks issued by Wood to investors came from money invested by other investors and not profits derived from construction projects.

Contact the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) to thoroughly check out any investment opportunity. Contact ASC for inquiries regarding securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, the registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud, or obtain consumer information:

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If you have questions or require more information contact:

Daniel G. Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager