

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Edwin Rick Wood of Millbrook, Alabama
pled guilty to securities fraud and theft of property**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (March 1, 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 pled guilty in Elmore County before Circuit Judge John Bush to 1 count of securities fraud and 16 counts of Theft of Property 1. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled on March 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Borg said, "If an investment sounds too good to be true it probably is. When someone offers high returns like 20-40% this should be a red flag to check out the investment and person making the offer."

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:

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