Florida Man Indicted, Arrested for Alleged Alabama Securities Act Violations

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (January 7, 2014) Ellen Brooks, District Attorney for the 15th Judicial Circuit, Montgomery County, Alabama; and Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that Robert Neil Robinson, formerly of Montgomery, AL, whose last known residence was Pensacola, Florida, was arrested January 2, 2014 for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act. Robinson was arrested by the U.S. Marshal’s Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force, in Escambia County, Florida on warrants issued by the Montgomery County Grand Jury. He has waived extradition and is currently being held in Escambia County, Florida awaiting to be transported to Montgomery, AL where he will be held under a $25,000 bond. Robinson’s arrest follows that of co-defendant, Martin Blane, whose last known residence was in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Blane was arrested December 9, 2013 on similar charges.

A November, 2013 Montgomery County Grand Jury indictment alleges that Robinson committed multiple counts of Fraud in Connection With the Sale of Securities, including Omission of Material Facts, and Engaging in a Scheme or Artifice to Defraud. The indictment also alleges that he engaged in the Sale of Unregistered Securities and Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent. The securities fraud charges are Class B felonies under Alabama statutes, punishable by a maximum of 20 years imprisonment and up to a $30,000 fine for each count. The securities registration charges are Class C felonies, punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and up to a $15,000 fine for each count.

The Grand Jury indictment against Robinson resulted from an ASC Enforcement Division investigation that alleged he sold shares of stock to Alabama investors in Eyewonder, an Atlanta, Georgia-based company. The estimated value of the stock sold to Alabama investors exceeded $300,000 and according to the indictment Robinson failed to disclose that he did not own and was not entitled to sell shares of stock in EyeWonder, Inc. ASC records indicated that Robinson was not registered with the ASC to legally offer and/or sell securities into, within, or from Alabama.

The ASC cautions potential investors to thoroughly scrutinize and research any investment opportunity or offer. Contact the ASC with inquiries concerning securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, investment adviser representatives, financial planners, registration status of securities or debt management programs, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information. The ASC provides free investor education and fraud prevention materials in print, on our website and through educational presentations upon request.

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For further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs manager, 334-353-4858.

(NOTE: An arrest or indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt in court).