

## **ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

770 Washington Ave., Suite 570

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Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240

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### **Rancher's Bond Revoked and Arrested Again for Alleged Violations of Alabama Securities Act**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (December 17, 2007) The Honorable Arthur Green, Jr., District Attorney for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Cutoff Division, Jefferson County, Alabama; and, Honorable Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announce the arrest of Jefferson County resident, Ryan O. Rancher, for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act.

On December 12, 2007, Ryan O. Rancher was arrested for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act and was released on a \$40,000 bond. On December 14, Rancher's bond was revoked and he was arrested about 4pm by the Birmingham Police Department for alleged ongoing criminal conduct in Violation of the Alabama Securities Act. He will be held with no bond until a hearing can be scheduled to determine if he is eligible for bond.

On December 12, 2007, ASC Enforcement Agents assisted the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office with the execution of arrest warrants obtained by the ASC against Rancher and his business, Rancher Financial Resources. Rancher was taken into custody, transported to the Jefferson County Jail under a \$40,000 bond and charged with one count of Acting as an Investment Advisor Without a License and Fraud Related to Providing Investment Advice, both Class C felonies under Alabama law. Additionally, Rancher was charged with one count of Theft of Property First Degree, a Class B felony under Alabama law.

A nine-month investigation by the ASC alleged that Rancher was acting in the capacity of an investment advisor, solicited more than \$25,000 from a Birmingham area resident for investment purposes, and did not invest the solicited money. It is also alleged that Rancher failed to disclose to potential investors that he had been previously barred by the ASC from the securities industry in Alabama.

The Director of the ASC encourages anyone who may have invested with Rancher to contact the ASC Enforcement Division immediately at 1-800-222-1253.

Potential investors are also cautioned to thoroughly scrutinize and research any investment opportunity or offer. Contact the ASC with inquiries concerning securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information.

(NOTE: The defendant(s) is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in court).

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

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