ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION Post Office Box 304700 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.alabama.gov

Ozark Man Arrested in Coffee County for Alleged Violations of Alabama Securities Act

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (December 3, 2010) Gary L. McAliley, District Attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit, Coffee County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announce that Sam J. Carroll III, previously a resident of Ozark, AL turned himself in to the Coffee County Sheriff's Office on November 23, 2010 for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act and was subsequently released on a \$60,000 bond.

As a result of an investigation by ASC Enforcement Division agents, a 12-count indictment was returned against Carroll by a Coffee County Grand Jury in November, 2010, alleging the following violations of the Alabama Securities Act: 3 counts of Sale of Unregistered Securities; 3 counts of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; and, 6 counts of Making an Untrue Statement of Material Fact.

The indictment alleges that Carroll acted as an agent for P&C Grocers, Inc. (a chain of "convenient" type grocery stores in SE Alabama and the panhandle of Florida) on or about June 2007 and sold fictitious shares of stock; then used investor's money to pay for personal expenses. It is further alleged that neither Carroll nor the stocks he sold were properly registered as required by the Alabama Securities Act.

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.

(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).

###

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

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

Post Office Box 304700 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4700 Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240 Email: <u>asc@asc.alabama.gov</u> Website: <u>www.asc.alabama.gov</u>