

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

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**One of five charged pled guilty to crime relating to Synergy Finance Group, LLC**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (Feb. 23, 2012) Hallie Dixon, District Attorney for the 28th Judicial Circuit, Baldwin County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announced today that Michael David Judd of Studio City, California pled guilty to a crime relating to business associations with Synergy Finance Group before Baldwin County Circuit Court Judge James Reid.

Judd pled guilty to one count of the Sale of Unregistered Securities, a Class C felony. As part of the plea agreement Judd will be allowed to enter a pretrial diversion program which will last 3-5 years; conditions include a payment already made to the court of \$160,000 for victim restitution and he must testify truthfully against his codefendants at trial scheduled for April 9, 2012.

Baldwin County Grand Jury indictments against Michael David Judd of Studio City, California, Paul Liggett of Fenton, Missouri, Kirk Patterson of Clovis, California and Sam Williams, Jr., an Atlanta, Georgia attorney alleged that the men, together with Richard James Tucker, of Baldwin County, were purportedly involved in the operation of an advance fee loan business, and solicited money from U.S. and foreign investors seeking large, non-collateralized loans which involved alleged unlawful securities transactions. ASC records revealed that none of the indicted individuals nor Synergy Finance Group, LLC were registered with the Commission to conduct securities business in Alabama nor to offer and/or sell securities within, into or from Alabama. Tucker of Synergy Finance Group, LLC was arrested by Baldwin County Sheriff's Department deputies and ASC Enforcement Division agents July 8, 2010. Tucker, Liggett, Patterson and Williams are all currently free on bond awaiting trial scheduled for April 9, 2012.

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

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

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