

## **ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

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### **One Alabama, Two Florida Women Indicted for Alabama Securities Act Violations**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (Feb. 3, 2012) Douglas Valeska, District Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Houston County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced today the indictment and arrest of three women in connection with alleged securities violations in Houston County, Alabama. After turning themselves in to Houston County Sheriff's Department deputies on Jan. 19, 2012, arrests were made of Ann Forehand, a Houston County resident, Debra C. Myers, a Lynn Haven, Florida resident and Ashley P. Murcko, a Pensacola, Florida resident. Forehand was charged with a single count each of Sale of Unregistered Securities and Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent. Both Myers and Murcko were charged with two counts each of the same offenses. All three women were subsequently released under \$80,000 bond each.

A Houston County Grand Jury returned indictments against the three women during a December 2011 term. The indictments alleged that the women acted as sales agents representing USA Marketing, a Dothan, Alabama-based company and further acted to solicit individuals to invest money, in the form of investment contracts, in a product line allegedly to be offered and sold by USA Marketing. A review of ASC Registration Division records indicates that none of the three women were registered to offer and/or sell securities in Alabama, as required by law and that the investment instruments they allegedly sold were not registered as required.

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).

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