

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Alabama Securities Commission Secures Fifth Arrest Related to Synergy Finance Group, LLC

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (Apr. 4, 2011) 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 the arrest of a fifth individual allegedly involved with Synergy Finance Group, LLC, a Robertsdale, Alabama company. Arrested was Sam Williams, Jr., an Atlanta, Georgia attorney, on a 17-count indictment resulting from an ASC investigation into alleged illegal securities transactions. Williams was arrested by deputies of the Fulton County, Georgia Sheriff's Department and was later released on \$75,000 bond. As a condition of his release, Williams must surrender to Baldwin County officials before Apr. 20, 2011.

Charges against Williams include five counts of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; one count of Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud; 10 counts of Securities Fraud; and, one count of Theft of Property, 1st Degree. Charges arose from indictments handed down during a September, 2010 session of the Baldwin County Grand Jury, based on an ASC investigation into Williams' association with Richard James Tucker of Baldwin County, who was identified as a principal of Synergy Finance Group, LLC. Tucker was arrested July 18, 2010 and faces trial at a later date in Baldwin County Circuit Court. Also arrested in association with Tucker and Synergy Finance Group, LLC was Michael David Judd of Studio City, California; Paul Liggett of Fenton, Missouri; and, Kirk Patterson of Clovis, California. The three men were arraigned Mar. 18, 2011 in Baldwin County and also face trial at a later date.

The indictment against Williams alleges that he, together with Tucker, Liggett, Judd and Patterson, purportedly operated an advance-fee loan business, self-described as a "multi-billion dollar loan brokerage," and solicited money from U.S. and foreign investors seeking large, non-collateralized loans that involved alleged unlawful securities transactions. ASC records revealed that none of the indicted individuals, nor Synergy Finance Group, LLC, was registered with the Commission to conduct securities business in Alabama or to offer and/or sell securities within, into 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.

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

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