

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

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**Lee County Man Arrested, Charged With Alleged Securities Act Violations**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (April 4, 2012) Robert T. Treese, III, District Attorney for the 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Lee County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announced today the arrest of Thomas Washington Campbell, III, a Salem, Alabama resident, for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act. Campbell turned himself in to the Lee County Sheriff's Department, Mar. 23, 2012, and was arrested based on a Jan., 2012 Lee County Grand Jury indictment alleging 12 total counts, including three counts each of Sale of Unregistered Securities and Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent as well as six counts of Fraud in Connection with the Sale of Securities. He was subsequently released on a \$60,000 bond.

An ASC Enforcement Division investigation determined that since approximately 2005, Campbell, acting as President and Chief Executive Officer of TCA Investment Group, Ltd., fraudulently obtained approximately \$48,000 from more than 50 victims by allegedly representing that he could secure funding for investors seeking alternative financing for real estate development, business projects and other ventures. The scheme that Campbell allegedly ran helped fund the operation of an advance fee loan business wherein he sought out victims online who had been unsuccessful in financing their own projects through traditional means. Campbell allegedly deceived individuals into investing by making fraudulent claims of his previous business successes and his ability to secure financing for his clients. Investors were led to believe that their money was being used for processing and other fees related to securing third party financing and that said fees would be refunded if financing was unsuccessful. The investigation showed that victims who had allegedly been approved for financing did not receive any funds from Campbell and that neither Campbell nor his company are registered to conduct securities business in Alabama, as required by law. The investigation also determined that Campbell allegedly misrepresented to his victims his knowledge, experience, licensing and means to secure financing for them.

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

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