

**ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

770 Washington Ave., Suite 570

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4700

Mail: Post Office Box 304700

Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240

Email: [asc@asc.alabama.gov](mailto:asc@asc.alabama.gov) Website: [www.asc.alabama.gov](http://www.asc.alabama.gov)

**Sylacauga Man Pleads Guilty to Violations of the Alabama Securities Act**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (May 20, 2009) Steven Giddens, District Attorney for the 29th Judicial Circuit, Talladega County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announce that Gary Allen Mitchell, a Sylacauga resident, pled guilty to three counts of Fraud in Connection with the Sale of Securities in Talladega County Circuit Court on May 18, 2009.

As a result of an ASC investigation, Mitchell was indicted by a Talladega County Grand Jury in October 2008, alleging that, doing business as the Meta Company, and also representing The Financial Center, LLC, both located in Sylacauga, Alabama, Mitchell offered and sold promissory notes valued at approximately \$95,000 to an Alabama investor. The indictment alleged that Mitchell misled the investor by concealing and/or misrepresenting the terms and performance of the notes and further failed to disclose excessive commissions and other maintenance fees associated with the offer and sale of the notes.

Subsequently, additional warrants obtained by the ASC charged Mitchell with securities fraud in connection with his role as an investment adviser with Performance Management Group (PMG), a Delaware Corporation formerly domiciled in Sylacauga. Mitchell was charged with raising capital on behalf of PMG from at least four Alabama investors and misleading all investors as to the exact nature and performance of their investment in the company. Further, Mitchell was charged for failing to disclose to an Alabama investor of PMG that some of his money was diverted to purchase Mitchell's home out of foreclosure.

The Court consolidated all fraud charges related to Mitchell's involvement with the three companies into a single plea agreement. The fraud charges are all Class C felonies under Alabama law and Mitchell is scheduled for a sentencing hearing July 29, 2009 in Talladega County Circuit Court.

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, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information.

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

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