

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MAIL: POST OFFICE BOX 304700
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.alabama.gov

INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST

Alabama Securities Commission Offers Extensive Background Information on Stockbrokers and Investment Advisers

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (May 6, 2009) – The Madoff Ponzi scheme and other high-profile breaches of trust by financial professionals are strong reminders of the need to check the background of financial professionals before you trust them with your money, Alabama Securities Commission said today.

“Information is an investor’s best defense against investment fraud,” said Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission. “The information you need to make an informed choice about who you entrust with your money is right at your fingertips. Our office should be your first call for detailed background information about your stockbroker or investment adviser. And the time to make that call is before you turn over any money.”

Alabama Securities Commission offers investors extensive employment, disciplinary and registration information about their stockbroker or investment adviser. As an investor, you can request a public report of background information on any stockbroker, brokerage firm, investment adviser and investment adviser firm registered to do business in the state.

To receive background information about a stockbroker, call the Alabama Securities Commission at 1-800-222-1253 and ask for all materials from the Central Registration Depository (CRD) about that individual. For similar information about an investment adviser, ask for all materials from the Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD). These computerized national databases contain licensing and registration information on more than 650,000 stockbrokers and over 260,000 investment advisers. You can also receive information on their employment, examination and disciplinary histories, civil judgments, arbitration decisions, criminal convictions or indictments, bankruptcies, as well as pending complaints, disciplinary actions, arbitration and civil proceedings.

“This information is easy to obtain, and state securities regulators want to help you to make informed decisions before you invest your hard-earned dollars,” Borg said. “While the vast majority of the stockbrokers, brokerage firms, investment advisers and investment adviser firms are honest and reputable, it pays to remember that just like

many other professions, there are those individuals and firms who are not. If you suspect that something is wrong, the sooner you call us, the better. Your call also might help prevent others from being harmed by a fraudulent scheme.ö

#####

Contact the ASC with inquiries concerning securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information. ASC provides free investor education and fraud prevention materials in print and on our website. The ASC also makes educational presentations upon request. Call 1-800-222-1253; Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov; Website: www.asc.alabama.gov .

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

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION
770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570
MAIL: POST OFFICE BOX 304700
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240
Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.alabama.gov