

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Con Man Sentenced to 51 Months for Mail Fraud in Federal Court

Montgomery, Alabama (August 25, 2023) – Today, Jesse Morgan Hinson, 36, formerly of Troy, Alabama, was sentenced to 51 months in prison to be followed by a period of three years of supervised release for committing mail fraud. Hinson was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Myron H. Thompson, United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. Judge Thompson ordered that Hinson must serve the remaining 16 months of his state sentence before beginning his 51 months of confinement in federal prison. Judge Thompson instructed Hinson “to get the desire to be a con man under control.” As part of his sentence, Hinson is required to make complete restitution of \$124,000 to 3 Alabama victims. Hinson pled guilty to committing mail fraud in federal court in the Middle District of Alabama on April 11, 2023. A significant fact in this case is that Hinson was devious and conniving enough to conduct a majority of this scheme while incarcerated on previous crimes.

“People need to be aware of the name Jesse Morgan Hinson. He is a true menace to society. He is a habitual con artist that leaves a wake of financial destruction for his victims to deal with,” said Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) Director Amanda Senn. “We are pleased with the sentence. Jesse is exactly where he belongs, behind bars.”

The United States Secret Service and the ASC investigated the case. The case was jointly prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Alabama and the ASC. Assistant United States Attorney Stephen K. Moulton, ASC Director Amanda Senn, and ASC Senior Litigation Counsel Andrew O. Schiff prosecuted the case.

In his plea agreement, Hinson admitted that in March of 2022 he defrauded an individual in Butler County by claiming that he could finance real estate purchases for a 10 percent down payment. This was not true. Hinson obtained approximately \$66,500 from the Butler County victim despite having no ability to finance real estate purchases. None of the proceeds were used for the victim’s benefit. Instead, Hinson used much of these funds to pay personal expenses and to pay the debts of a woman with whom he had a romantic relationship. After the Butler County victim began demanding his money back, Hinson pretended to be a New York Attorney to discourage him from speaking with law enforcement. Hinson, posing as the attorney, falsely claimed that he would be receiving the proceeds of an \$11 million loan. During calls to the victim, Hinson threatened to bankrupt them by opening competing businesses.

Evidence shows that during 2022, Hinson engaged in schemes to defraud multiple victims by falsely representing himself to be a man of great wealth with the ability to conduct profitable real estate transactions. He convinced victims to give him money based on promises of future financial benefits. However, Hinson had no significant assets and intended to take his victims’ money for his own use. Hinson also failed to let his victims know that he had prior convictions for securities fraud, including convictions on Alabama securities fraud charges as recently as March and April of 2022. Hinson was in custody of the Alabama Department of Corrections as of April 30, 2022.

Additionally, in April of 2022 and continuing after his incarceration on April 30 of that year, Hinson, as he admitted during his plea hearing, defrauded two other individuals from Tuscaloosa. Hinson told the victims that he would provide them with the profits from the sale of land that Hinson claimed to own to Auburn University

if the victims would provide money upfront for taxes. During the course of discussions with the Tuscaloosa victims, Hinson had someone make false misrepresentations to the victims claiming that Hinson controlled assets in the range of \$2 to \$3 billion. This claim was also untrue. The Tuscaloosa victims provided multiple payments to Hinson's attorney and to Hinson's girlfriend totaling \$124,028.80.

The ASC cautions investors to thoroughly research any investment opportunity. Call the ASC at 1-800-222-1253 and ask for the registration department to check out persons offering investment opportunities, investment advice for a fee and any products they offer. Contact the ASC to report suspected fraud, inappropriate securities business practices, or to obtain consumer information. Free investor education and fraud prevention materials are available at www.asc.alabama.gov.

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For further information contact 1-800-222-1253 and ask for Shana Proctor.

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