

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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**Morgan County, Alabama Man Indicted for Alleged Theft, Forgery,
and Securities Fraud**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (August 9, 2018) Scott Anderson, District Attorney for the 8th Judicial Circuit, Morgan County, Alabama; and Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that on August 2, 2018, Gregory Steenson, of Priceville, Alabama, was indicted by a Morgan County Grand Jury, which returned two separate indictments. The first indictment consists of 9 counts of theft and forgery brought by Mr. Anderson's office. The second indictment brought by the ASC consists of five counts alleging violations of the Alabama Securities Act and Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person. Steenson is being held without bond in the Limestone County Jail following a bond revocation hearing today before Circuit Judge Glenn Thompson.

The first indictment brought by District Attorney Scott Anderson, 8th Judicial Circuit, Morgan County, Alabama, charges Steenson with seven counts of Theft of Property, First Degree; each of which are Class B felonies, carrying a range of punishment from two to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$30,000 per charge, upon conviction. Additionally, the indictment charges Steenson with one count of Theft of Property, Second Degree; which is a Class C felony, carrying a range of punishment from one year and one day to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000 per charge, upon conviction. Finally, Steenson was charged with two counts of Forgery, Second Degree; each of which are Class C felonies, carrying a range of punishment from one year and one day to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000 per charge, upon conviction.

The indictment alleges that between April and December 2015, Steenson sold or traded vehicles to eight victims for which he did not hold a legal title. The victims either paid cash to Steenson or traded their vehicle, or a combination of the two, for vehicles for which the victims were unable to obtain titles. Additionally, Steenson allegedly forged the signature of two victims on title applications.

The second indictment brought by the ASC charges Steenson with one count of Sale of Unregistered Securities and one count of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent; each of which are Class C felonies, carrying a range of punishment from one year and one day to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000 per charge, upon conviction. Additionally, the indictment charges Steenson with two counts of Fraud in Connection with the Sale of Securities for making untrue statements of, or omitting to state, material facts to an investor; and for employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud. Each of the securities fraud charges are Class B felonies, carrying a range of punishment from two to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$30,000 per charge, upon conviction. Finally, Steenson was charged with one count of Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person, which is also a Class B felony, carrying a range of punishment from two to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$30,000 per charge, upon conviction.

The indictment alleges that in June 2015, Steenson sold an investment contract and/or participation in any profit sharing agreement, which are defined as securities under the Alabama Securities Act, to at least one victim in Morgan County. The investment contract/profit-sharing agreement was issued by Steenson to finance a quick "flip" of real estate. Steenson allegedly misrepresented to the investor that invested funds would be used to

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purchase real estate in Tennessee, and omitted to tell the investor that the funds would not be used for that purpose. Neither Steenson nor the investment contract/profit-sharing agreement he sold were registered with the ASC, as required by the Alabama Securities Act. The victim was 60 years of age or older at the time of the alleged conduct.

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.

For further information contact Scott Anderson, District Attorney, 8th Judicial Circuit, Morgan County, Alabama, 256-351-4610, or Dan Lord, ASC Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

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