

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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California Man Pleads Guilty to Securities Fraud in Limestone County Circuit Court

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (Sept. 27, 2011) Brian C.T. Jones, District Attorney for the 39th Judicial Circuit, Limestone County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announced today that James A. Vita, a Costa Mesa, California resident, pled guilty on Sept. 21, 2011 in Limestone County Circuit Court to a single count of Sale of a Security by an Unregistered Agent. Circuit Court Judge Robert M. Baker imposed a two-year sentence on Vita, suspended, and ordered him to serve five years probation in California. As an additional stipulation, the Court ordered Vita to continue to assist the ASC with an ongoing investigation into alleged securities violations by Brookstone Capital, a California company, which Vita represented as a sales agent. Because of Vita's cooperation with authorities in this case, the Court dropped one additional charge against him and will address restitution issues at a later date.

In 2009, a Limestone County, Alabama Grand Jury indicted Vita on one count of Sale of Securities by an Unregistered Agent and one count of Sale of Unregistered Securities, for his involvement in making "cold calls" to Alabama investors offering interest in Brookstone Biotech Ventures, L.P. According to an investigation by ASC Enforcement Division agents, Vita attempted to raise investor money that purportedly was to be used to acquire equity stock positions in biotech and pharmaceutical enterprises, and that would ultimately return a profit to the investors. The ASC investigation revealed that an Alabama citizen invested approximately \$50,000 in the venture but neither Vita nor the companies he represented were registered to conduct securities business in Alabama, as required by law.

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

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