

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Montgomery Man Sentenced for Committing Securities Fraud

Montgomery, Alabama (January 6, 2026) – Azzie Oliver, District Attorney for the 15th Judicial Circuit of Alabama, and Amanda Senn, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), announced that Demetrius Antoine Blankenship, a 40-year-old who at the time of the offense resided in Montgomery, Alabama, was sentenced on January 5th by the Honorable James H. Anderson, Circuit Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit to 10 years imprisonment, split to serve 2 years, suspended, with three-years supervised probation, and was ordered to pay \$95,500 at a rate of \$5,000 per month for Securities Fraud, a Class B felony. Blankenship had pleaded guilty on November 17, 2025.

An investor from Maryland was solicited by Blankenship, who falsely represented that he would use the money to develop hydroponic farming operations in Mississippi and in Shorter, Alabama. Blankenship also misrepresented that he had invested \$170,000 of his own money and partly owned one of the farms. Based on those representations, the investor provided Blankenship with \$103,000, of which Blankenship returned \$7,500. Blankenship converted most of the rest of the investor's funds to his own use through cash withdrawals and payment of personal expenses.

“If you engage in securities fraud, we will track you down, prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law, and pursue every avenue to secure restitution for your victims—while ensuring you face the very real likelihood of prison,” said ASC Director Amanda Senn.

The ASC cautions investors to thoroughly research any investment opportunity. Call the ASC at 1-800-222-1253 and ask 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 Public Affairs.