

## **ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION**

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### **Houston, Texas Man Pleads Guilty to Securities Fraud**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (June 22, 2015) Robert L. Broussard, District Attorney for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Madison County, Alabama; and Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that on June 11, 2015, Mark E. Rodgers, of Houston, Texas, plead guilty to a count of Fraud in Connection with the Sale of Securities, by employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, before Madison County Circuit Court Judge Dennis O'Dell. Based on a plea agreement, the Court sentenced Rodgers to 10 years' imprisonment, with 5 years' of supervised probation. The plea agreement also calls for Rodgers to pay \$1,339,000 in restitution, along with all court costs and fees. The State of Alabama recommended that Rodgers' sentence run concurrent with his federal sentence. Rodgers pled guilty to federal fraud charges in U.S. District Court, Southern Division, in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 25, 2015. Rodgers will face federal sentencing later this year.

Rodgers' State sentencing stems from an April, 2014 Madison County, Alabama Grand Jury indictment charging him with violations of the Alabama Securities Act. According to the indictment, Rodgers, acting as an officer for Jackson, Mississippi-based Samarion, Inc., illegally offered and sold shares of company stock to Alabama investors without being registered with the Alabama Securities Commission to conduct securities business in the state. The indictment stated that Rodgers, together with co-defendant, Samer N'Ser, misrepresented to investors that his technical product, the "Samaritan Solution" was complete and fully functional to the extent that it would technically foresee or predict when elderly or infirmed individuals were in danger of falling or injuring themselves. Rodgers falsely claimed that he was seeking investors to be able to successfully market the product. An investigation revealed, however, that the product was not complete nor ready to be marketed, and that Rodgers staged a bogus demonstration of its ability to sway investors.

ASC Director, Joseph Borg said, "We are grateful for the invaluable assistance of Greg Davis, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and the Federal Bureau of Inves-

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tigation for seeing that this case came to a successful conclusion. Our partnership in investigating and prosecuting this case clearly shows that we are united in making certain that anyone who financially victimizes our citizens will be dealt with to the fullest extent of the 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.

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

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