

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.alabama.gov

**California resident, Deshaun Williams, Pleads Guilty to Securities Violations
in Baldwin County, Alabama Circuit Court**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (October 3, 2016) Hallie Dixon, District Attorney for the 28th Judicial Circuit, Baldwin County, Alabama; and Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announced that Deshaun Williams, a California resident, pled guilty to one count of Sale of a Security by an Unregistered Agent, a Class C felony, punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than 10 years, and up to a \$15,000 fine per charge upon conviction. Williams' plea was followed by the State of Alabama recommending a two year sentence and a permanent bar to conduct securities business within, into or from Alabama.

Williams has been incarcerated in Baldwin County, Alabama since March 31, 2016. In January, 2009, Williams and another California resident, together with Richard James Tucker of Fairview, Alabama, who was the CEO of Synergy Finance Group, LLC, an Alabama company, offered multiple unregistered investment contracts in "international trading platforms" to potential investors. Thereafter, Tucker offered the same promises to entice victims to send investment funds to Synergy Finance Group, LLC, promising exorbitant returns. On April 13, 2012, Tucker was convicted of 13 felony counts of securities fraud in Baldwin County, Alabama Circuit Court.

An ASC Enforcement Division investigation also concluded that no investment program pitched by Synergy Finance Group, LLC ever realized a profit for investors. A review of ASC registration records also indicated that Williams was not registered to conduct securities business within, into or from Alabama, as required by the Alabama Securities Act.

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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