



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

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Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits.

- Timothy Johnsey, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on March 9, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Johnsey received a total of \$1,076.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Johnsey was found guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years. He was also to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Caroline Barron, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on March 14, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Barron received a total of \$3,036.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Barron pled guilty and was sentenced to serve one year in jail, which was suspended for two years. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jeffery Walker, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on February 23, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Walker received a total of \$5,405.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Walker was found guilty and sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years. He was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- KeQuan T. Jimmerson, of Bessemer, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on February 7, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jimmerson received a total of \$9,870.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Jimmerson pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in jail, which was suspended for five years and was also required to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Neoki Gaiter, of Fairfield, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on March 1, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Gaiter received a total of \$3,601.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Gaiter pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years. She was also fined \$100.00 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Robert C. Kelly, of Goodwater, was tried in Coosa County District Court on February 16, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Kelly received a total of \$3,462.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Kelly pled guilty and was sentenced to 120 days in jail, which was suspended pending full restitution. He was also fined \$500.00 and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Olivia Jefferson, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on February 2, 2011. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jefferson received a total of \$1,211.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Jefferson was found guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“We at the Department of Industrial Relations want people to know that we are aggressively pursuing cases of unemployment compensation fraud,” said Surtees. “Especially in these economic times, we want to make sure that all who are entitled to benefits receive them. But at the same time, we will not allow those who deliberately try to defraud the system to go unpunished. We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes.”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Department of Industrial Relations by calling 1-800-392-8019.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.