



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

### 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, or Theft of Property, Second Degree.

- Corrie McGee, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on June 29, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that McGee received a total of \$1,760.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

McGee was found guilty and fined \$50.00 and sentenced to one year in the county jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Christopher D. Roberts, of Dolomite, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on June 29, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Roberts received a total of \$1,803.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Roberts pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, to run concurrent with another sentence for unrelated charges. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Michael Webb, of Bessemer, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on June 29, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Webb received a total of \$4,397.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

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

- Connie Trawick, of Huntsville, was tried in the Madison County Circuit Court on June 22, 2009. He was charged with Theft of Property, Second Degree. An investigation by Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Trawick received a total of \$2,354.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Trawick pled guilty, and was sentenced to a two year jail term, which was suspended for three years, and 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.*