



# Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

## News Release

For Immediate Release: November 17, 2009

### Alabamians Charged with Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that the following individuals were successfully prosecuted for violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law. They were charged with making false statements in claims for unemployment benefits:

- Adaryll Smith, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on October 29, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Smith received a total of \$1,150.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Smith was found guilty and sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for 18 months. He was ordered to pay a fine, court costs, and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Anthony Caver, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on October 21, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Caver received a total of \$2,186.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Caver was found guilty and sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Lakeria Hawkins, of Talladega, was tried in Talladega County District Court on October 7, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hawkins received a total of \$2,523.00 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hawkins pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended for 30 days. She was ordered to pay a fine of \$50, court costs, and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Steven D. McCants, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on November 17, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit

Payment Control Section determined that McCants received a total of \$2,043.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

McCants was found guilty and sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was fined \$250 and also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Archie Joe Chatman, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on October 26, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Chatman received a total of \$1,105.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Chatman was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months, which was suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Calvin Ellis Boggs, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on October 8, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Boggs received a total of \$2,094.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Boggs was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended for 12 months. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Stephanie Jeanette Brown, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on October 29 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Brown received a total of \$1,273.00 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled.

Brown was placed on good behavior and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally before March 31, 2010.

- Nicole Marie Thomas, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on November 3, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Thomas received a total of \$2,808.00 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled.

Thomas was found guilty and sentenced one year in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. She was also ordered to pay a fine, 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.*