



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2010

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.

- Kilwaa F. Smith, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on February 16, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Smith received a total of \$1,474.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Smith was found guilty and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Keywanee L. Cook, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on February 19, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Cook received a total of \$1,381.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Cook pled guilty and was sentenced to a six month jail sentence, which was suspended for 12 months. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tyesha Lazandra Hall, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on January 26, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hall received a total of \$1,191.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hall was found guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. She was also fined \$150.00 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Glennetra Davis, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on

January 20, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Davis received a total of \$3,996.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

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

- Derek Dewayne Ashley, of Robertsdale, was tried in Baldwin County District Court on February 22, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Ashley received a total of \$1,853.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Ashley was found guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 12 months. He was also fined \$100.00 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Ruby Steele, of Rutledge, was tried in Crenshaw County District Court on January 14, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Steele received a total of \$1,008.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Steele pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for 12 months. She was also ordered to pay 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.