



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

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Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner 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:

- Pamela D. Slater, of Anniston, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on February 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Slater received a total of \$2,312 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Slater pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Randy Pierson, of Auburn, was tried in Lee County District Court on January 16, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Pierson received a total of \$4,929 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Pierson pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Lenettia R. Grant, of Bay Minette, was tried in Baldwin County District Court on February 24, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Grant received a total of \$3,006 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Grant pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 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.

- Mary Carr-Jones, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on January 21, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Carr-Jones received a total of \$1,275 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Carr-Jones pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution. She was fined and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Candyce K. Brandon, of Columbiana, was tried in Shelby County District Court on February 24, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Brandon received a total of \$2,918 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Brandon pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and was given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Davida J. Hill, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on February 26, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hill received a total of \$3,364 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hill pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Larry Ladon Knight, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on January 27, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Knight received a total of \$1,146 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Knight pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Roderick Jacques Russell, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on February 25, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Russell received a total of \$1,546 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Russell pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- David Labaron Tarvin III, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on February 10, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section

determined that Tarvin received a total of \$1,518 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Tarvin pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail which was suspended for two years pending restitution and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tiffany R. Harris, of Northport, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on January 17, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Harris received a total of \$2,091 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Harris pled guilty and was ordered to 90 days in jail, which was suspended. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Ronnie Cooper, of Opelika, was tried in Lee County District Court on February 4, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Cooper received a total of \$13,907 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Cooper pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Charles Armstrong, of Vance, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on February 19, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Armstrong received a total of \$1,988 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Armstrong pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant, and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Samuel Hedgeman, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on February 19, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hedgeman received a total of \$11,309 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Hedgeman pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Kerry Williams, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on February 26, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Williams received a total of \$3,276 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Williams pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Micah Zimmerman, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on January 23, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Zimmerman received a total of \$1,855 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Zimmerman pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Joseph W. Bloom, of Vincent, was tried in Shelby County District Court on February 10, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bloom received a total of \$5,197 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Bloom pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

The following individuals were charged in Circuit Court:

- James W. Roberts, of Harvest, was charged with Theft of Property in the 2nd degree and was tried in Madison County Circuit Court on January 16, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Roberts received a total of \$6,373 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Roberts pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in jail, which was suspended for two years. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Mamie B. Jones, of Huntsville, was charged with Theft of Property in the 3rd degree and was tried in Madison County Circuit Court on February 10, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jones received a total of \$3,823 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Jones pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years. She was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Beeta N. Robinson, of Atalla, was charged with Theft of Property in the 2nd degree and was tried in Etowah County Circuit Court on February 10, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Robinson received a total of \$2,260 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Robinson pled guilty and was sentenced to 123 months in jail, which was split to serve 12 months. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“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,” said Surtees. “We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. We would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to detect unemployment fraud. ”

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

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <http://www.labor.alabama.gov/nh>.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.