



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2014

### 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:

- Frances A. Jackson, of Bay Minette, was tried in Baldwin County District Court on March 17, 2014. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jackson received a total of \$9,515 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

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

- Barry Oden, of Jacksonville, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on March 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Oden received a total of \$1,615 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Oden pled guilty and was sentenced to one year 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.

- Arthur Harris, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on March 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Harris received a total of \$2,972 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Harris pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 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.

- Michael D. Turner, of Marion Junction, was tried in Dallas County District Court on March 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Turner received a total of \$2,600 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Turner pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 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.

- Christopher Braxton, of Newbern, was tried in Hale County District Court on February 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Braxton received a total of \$1,060 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

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

- Ocea Hamilton, Jr., of Greensboro, was tried in Hale County District Court on February 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hamilton received a total of \$1,641 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

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

- Donetta Rollins, of Greensboro, was tried in Hale County District Court on February 3, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Rollins received a total of \$1,188 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Rollins pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for six months pending behavior of the defendant, 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.

- Wilma Winn, of Gallion, was tried in Hale County District Court on March 4, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Winn received a total of \$3,075 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

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

- Eric Taylor, of Letohatchee, was tried in Lowndes County District Court on March 25, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Taylor received a total of \$4,886 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Taylor pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail which was suspended for two years. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Ricky J. Bolding, of Decatur, was tried in Morgan County District Court on March 13, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bolding received a total of \$3,097 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Bolding pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years. He was also fined \$500 and ordered to pay court costs, victim fees, and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Edward B. Clements, of Odenville, was tried in St. Clair County District Court on March 6, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Clements received a total of \$2,532 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

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

- Tiffany N. Ingram, of Pell City, was tried in St. Clair County District Court on March 13, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Ingram received a total of \$2,141 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

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

- Temeschica T. Chatman, of Talladega, was tried in Talladega County District Court on March 6, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Chatman received a total of \$4,528 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Chatman pled guilty and was given one year of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally. Any additional sentence given will be based on Chatman's ability to pay restitution.

- Lloyd Sanders, of Munford, was tried in Talladega County District Court on March 11, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Sanders received a total of \$12,525 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Sanders pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, of which he will serve three

months in the Talladega County Jail, and given 18 months of supervised probation. He was fined \$200 and was 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.*