



**For Immediate Release**

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**Ohio Division of Securities Issues Summary of  
Division Orders and Enforcement Actions  
March 1-April 30, 2020**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The following administrative orders represent official action taken by the Ohio Division of Securities from March 1-April 30, 2020.

Orders are issued as either a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (NOH) or as a final order. The NOH details allegations by the Division for violations of the Ohio Securities Act and gives the respondent notice of the right to an administrative hearing. NOHs are public records, but do not represent the final determination in a pending matter.

Final orders contain findings by the Division and represent the final disposition of a matter pending before the Division. All final orders of the Division contain appeal rights to common pleas courts within a specific time.

Details of any Division order can be found at:

[https://www.comapps.ohio.gov/secu/secu\\_apps/FinalOrders/](https://www.comapps.ohio.gov/secu/secu_apps/FinalOrders/)

**Division Orders**

**Order No. 20-005**

**March 6, 2020**

Ascension Energy Group, Inc.  
The Sequoia Energy Project, LLLP  
Henderson, Nevada

- Cease and Desist

**Order No. 20-006**

**March 9, 2020**

AIHG USA, Inc.  
Oscar Cook  
Frank Torres  
Melbourne, Florida

- Cease and Desist

**Order No. 20-007**

**March 12, 2020**

Global Wealth Investments, Inc.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Cease and Desist with Consent Agreement

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**Order No. 20-008**

**March 18, 2020**

First Merchant Network  
Henderson, Nevada

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

**Order No. 20-009**

**March 19, 2020**

Christopher R. Barone - CRD No. 2032268  
Cleveland, Ohio

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

**Order No. 20-010**

**March 19, 2020**

Dominic A. Tropiano - CRD No. 7461462  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

**Order No. 20-011**

**March 30, 2020**

Robert T. Dames  
Fatwood LLC  
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

**Order No. 20-012**

**March 30, 2020**

David A. Gollner - CRD No 224763  
Hermitage, Pennsylvania

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

**Order No. 20-013**

**April 29, 2020**

Ronald U. Schultze - CRD No. 2458738  
Fort Loramie, Ohio

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

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### Order No. 20-014

April 29, 2020

Christopher J. Henneforth - CRD No. 3157633

Level Partners Management, Inc. - CRD No. 107072

Gahanna, Ohio

- Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
- Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order
- Notice of Intent to Suspend or Revoke The Ohio Investment Adviser Representative License of Christopher J. Henneforth
- Notice of Intent to Suspend or Revoke Ohio Investment Adviser License of Level Partners Management, Inc.

### Order No. 20-015

April 30, 2020

Leonard John Kuczynski - CRD No. 863341

Independence, Ohio

- Cease and Desist Order with Consent Agreement

## CRIMINAL CASES

### Kenneth M. Brugh – Lake County

Kenneth M. Brugh, 73, was taken into custody in March during a traffic stop in Lake County on an outstanding warrant issued in January. Brugh was indicted by a Lake County grand jury on multiple counts of fraud and theft, following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities. The charges include:

- One count of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, a first-degree felony.
- Two counts of theft from the elderly, one being a second-degree felony and another being a third-degree felony.
- One count of telecommunications fraud, a second-degree felony.
- One count of securities fraud, a third-degree felony.
- One count of aggravated theft, a third-degree felony.

The indictment alleges Brugh solicited multiple Ohio residents and one Florida resident to invest in sham investments based on false and fraudulent information and misappropriated the funds for personal use. This case is being prosecuted by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's Special Prosecution section.

### Brian K. Decker – Wood County

Brian K. Decker, a resident of Staten Island, New York, was sentenced on March 30, 2020, by Judge Mary "Molly" Mack in the Wood County Court of Common Pleas to five years of community control plus 60 additional days in jail and was ordered to pay \$300,000 in restitution to his victim.

If Decker violates conditions of community control, he can be sentenced up to 25½ years in prison and three years community control upon release.

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Decker, 41, pleaded guilty in January to several fraud-related charges for scamming an elderly Ohio resident out of \$376,000. He was convicted of two counts of unlawful securities practices, one count of theft from a protected class, and one count of telecommunications fraud, all second-degree felonies; and failure to appear, a fourth-degree felony, which was a result of Decker failing to appear for his jury trial in July 2019.

Decker was indicted Aug. 16, 2018, following a criminal referral and a joint investigation by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities and the Wood County Sheriff's Office. From Jan. 1, 2016 to March 1, 2017, Decker received the money from an elderly Ohio resident and World War II veteran who invested with Decker for construction projects, based on promises of returns between 12-20 percent. Instead of using the investments for construction projects, the funds were misappropriated by Decker. He accepted a permanent bar from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) on May 8, 2018, and is not licensed by the Division to act as a securities salesperson in Ohio.

The case was presented by Assistant Prosecutor David Romaker Jr. in the office of Wood County Prosecutor Paul Dobson.

Before investing, the Division of Securities encourages potential investors to call the Division's Investor Protection Hotline at 1-877-683-7841 to ask:

- Is the brokerage firm and salesperson licensed to sell securities in Ohio?
- Have any enforcement actions been taken against them?
- Has the security been properly registered with the Division of Securities?

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The Division of Securities is part of the Ohio Department of Commerce. The department is Ohio's chief regulatory agency, focused on promoting prosperity and protecting what matters most to Ohioans. We ensure businesses follow the laws that help them create jobs and keep Ohioans safe. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at [com.ohio.gov](http://com.ohio.gov).

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