

For Immediate Release

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Former Educational Consultant Pleads Guilty to Five Felonies

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Michael Neubig, 52, pleaded guilty Wednesday in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to four counts of theft, all third-degree felonies, and one count of unauthorized use of property, a fourth-degree felony.

Sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 21, 2020, in the courtroom of Judge Stephen L. McIntosh.

Neubig was indicted in October 2018 by a Franklin County grand jury after a joint investigation and criminal referral by the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities.

The conviction stems from the sale of investments in Capture Educational Consulting Services, Inc., a company formed by Neubig and based in New Albany. Capture Educational provided software solutions to school systems that enable them to use data analytics to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of administrative and instructional tasks. The conviction is based on numerous false and misleading statements to investors located in Ohio and California, including several angel fund investment groups, about the financial wellbeing and the number of students using the company's scheduling platform.

Neubig failed to disclose to investors material information about the financial condition of the company, including cash flow shortages, negative bank balances, customer base, and payroll issues. He pled guilty to charges involving three additional victims who were not included in the original indictment.

"Investing in startups and early stage companies can be risky business so make sure you do extra due diligence when you are considering private investments," said Ohio Securities Commissioner Andrea Seidt. "Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions and venture beyond the books to make sure promises of grandeur are backed up by reality. In this case, Mr. Neubig talked a big game that duped investors out of their hard-earned money. It is comforting to see the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office bring justice to his victims."

This case was prosecuted by the Office of the Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien, presented by Jeff Blake and Robert Lang, assistant county prosecutors.

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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