



For Immediate Release

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**Ohio Division of Securities Issues Summary of
Division Orders and Enforcement Actions
May 1-Aug. 31, 2020**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The following administrative orders represent official action taken by the Ohio Division of Securities from May 1-Aug. 31, 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/

Division Orders

Order No. 20-016

May 12, 2020

Bannerbit.com

Limassol, Cyprus

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

Order No. 20-017

May 20, 2020

- Cannon Operating Company, LLC

Garland, TX

- William G. Baker

Royse City, TX

- John F. Griffin

Dallas, TX

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

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Order No. 20-018

May 20, 2020

Dominic A. Tropiano

CRD No. 4761462

Shaker Heights, Ohio

- Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-019

May 20, 2020

Robert T. Dames

Fatwood LLC

Cincinnati, OH

- Cease and Desist with Consent

Order No. 20-020

May 27, 2020

David A. Gollner

CRD No. 224763

Hermitage, PA

- Cease and Desist with Consent Agreement

Order No. 20-021

June 8, 2020

Wesleyan Investment Foundation

Craig A. Dunn

Fishers, IN

- Cease and Desist Order with Consent Agreement

Order No. 20-022

June 11, 2020

Corona Billionaire

Corona Millionaire

Austin, TX

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

Order No. 20-023

June 11, 2020

Ronald U. Schulze

CRD No. 2458738

Fort Loramie, Ohio

- Cease and Desist Order

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Order No. 20-024

June 11, 2020

Mark Baxter aka Mark Morrow
Springfield, PA
Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-025

June 25, 2020

Corona Fever
Charlestown, Nevis

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

Order No. 20-026

July 9, 2020

First Merchant Network
Henderson, NV

- Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-027

July 16, 2020

Jason H. Watts
Computational Analytics, LLC
Chillicothe, Ohio

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

Order No. 20-027

July 23, 2020

William G. Baker
Cannon Operating Company, LLC
Springfield, PA

- Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-028

July 16, 2020

- Elbert Lamont Hardiman, Jr.
CRD No. 2051382
- Hardiman investment Management, Inc.
CRD No. 169891
Pickerington, Ohio

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

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Order No. 20-029

Aug. 13, 2020

Nathaniel Boyd
Geneva, Ohio

- Cease and Desist Order with Consent Agreement

Order No. 20-030

Aug. 13, 2020

Bannetbit.com
Limassol, Cyprus

- Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-031

Aug. 17, 2020

- Redmond, W. LLC
- Willie Redmond
Dayton, Ohio

- Cease and Desist Order

Order No. 20-032

Aug. 20, 2020

Jason H. Watts
Computational Analytics, LLC
Chillicothe, Ohio

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

CRIMINAL CASES

Nicolas Pupino – Mahoning County

Nicolas Pupino, 83, pleaded no contest on June 23, 2020, to securities fraud, a fifth-degree felony, and forgery, a third-degree felony, in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Anthony Donofrio sentenced Pupino to six months of electronically monitored house arrest. At sentencing, Pupino paid \$55,474.14, the amount of the theft, minus amounts previously repaid, for restitution to his victim.

Pupino was indicted by a Mahoning County grand jury in December 2019 following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities.

The indictment alleged Pupino solicited an elderly person to invest more than \$99,000 by telling her the funds would be invested into accounts with known insurance companies, which would generate funds to pay future nursing-home expenses or to pass to her beneficiaries upon her death. Instead of forwarding the investment funds to the insurance companies, Pupino deposited the funds into his personal bank account. Pupino also added his own name to the payee line of investment checks after they were signed by the victim so he could deposit them into his own account.

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This case was prosecuted by the Office of the Mahoning County Prosecutor Paul J. Gains, and presented by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Martin S. Hume.

Robert White – Clermont County

On July 1, 2020, Robert White, 73, of Hamersville, Ohio, was taken into custody immediately after his sentencing, which also saw Clermont County Court of Common Pleas Judge Victor Haddad order restitution to the 82 victims in excess of \$1.2 million. White was also ordered to pay court costs and could serve three years of post-release control after released from prison.

White pleaded guilty in January to six third-degree felony counts of making false representations in the sale of securities. He was indicted by a Clermont County grand jury in February 2019 after an investigation by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities and the Union Township Police Department.

This case was prosecuted by the Office of the Clermont County Prosecutor D. Vincent Faris and presented by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Darren Miller.

Jeffrey Hall – Franklin County

Jeffrey B. Hall, 57, was sentenced Aug. 20, 2020, to four years in prison for defrauding 11 people. Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Dan Hawkins also ordered Hall to pay \$1,211,608 in restitution to his victims.

Hall, of Zanesville, pleaded guilty in February to multiple counts of fraud, including:

- one count of securities fraud, a second-degree felony,
- three counts of unlicensed sales of securities, two of which are third-degree felonies and the other a fourth-degree felony, and
- one count of telecommunications fraud, a third-degree felony.

He was indicted by a Franklin County grand jury in July 2017 for operating as an unlicensed securities dealer by trading in the accounts of the 11 investors after his securities license had lapsed, causing massive losses.

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.

Michael Neubig – Franklin County

Michael Neubig, 52, was sentenced on Aug. 21, 2020, to 90 months in prison for theft and unauthorized use of property and ordered to repay his victims \$2,248,523.23. Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Stephen L. McIntosh suspended the sentence in lieu of Neubig serving three years of community control. Judge McIntosh also ordered Neubig to serve seven days each during the weeks of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas in the Franklin County jail.

Neubig pleaded guilty in June to four counts of theft, all third-degree felonies, and one count of unauthorized use of property, a fourth-degree felony. He 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.

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The fraud involved the sale of investments in Capture Educational Consulting Services, Inc., a New Albany-based company formed by Neubig. 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. Neubig made numerous false and misleading statements to investors located in Ohio and California, including several angel fund investment groups, about the financial wellbeing of the company 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 pleaded guilty to charges involving three additional victims who were not included in the original indictment.

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.

Raymond Sarrocco – Delaware County

On Aug. 28, 2020, a Delaware County man was sentenced for soliciting \$1,500 from an elderly Nevada resident for an investment but instead used the funds to cover personal expenses.

Raymond D. Sarrocco, 64, was sentenced to 45 days in the Delaware County Jail by Judge James Shuck, unless he makes full restitution of \$1,500 in cash to his victim by Sept. 14. If he makes the full payment by the required date, he will serve 30 days in jail. If he is unable to make the payment, he must pay minimum monthly installments of \$100 starting in November and serve 45 days in jail.

Sarrocco pleaded guilty Aug. 4 to one count of deception from a person in a protected class, a fifth-degree felony. He was indicted by a Delaware County grand jury in April 2019 following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities. He used Craigslist to solicit the funds to invest in CMPG III, Ltd. based on representations the funds would be used to invest in short-term stock trades and other securities.

Judge Shuck also sentenced Sarrocco to four years of community control, 100 hours of community service and was ordered not to use the internet. If he is unable to fulfill all the terms of his sentence, he could serve a 12-month jail term.

This case was prosecuted by Christopher Ballard, assistant prosecuting attorney, in the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office of Melissa Schiffel.

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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.

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