



For Immediate Release
Oct. 16, 2020

Contact:
Dan Orzano, 614-644-9530
Daniel.Orzano@com.state.oh.us

Warren County Resident Pleads Guilty to Securities Fraud and Money Laundering

Crimes involved theft of more \$1.8 million from two Meigs County victims

(POMEROY, Ohio) – A Warren County man pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges related to the theft of more than \$1.8 million from two Meigs County residents.

Aaron S. Pitman pleaded guilty to one count of securities fraud and one count of misrepresentations in the sale of securities, both first-degree felonies, and four counts of money laundering, all third-degree felonies.

He agreed to pay \$300,000 to the victim in the case on or before sentencing, which is scheduled for Dec. 16.

The plea comes after a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities and the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, in which Pitman, a Mason resident, and George "Roderick" Hammons, of Denver, Colorado, were indicted in June 2019 by a Meigs County grand jury for crimes related to theft of more than \$1.8 million from two Meigs County victims between Sept. 16, 2013, and July 21, 2014.

Pitman solicited two Meigs County residents to invest in several businesses engaged in the purchase and development of website domains. Pitman laundered investor money through accounts held in the name of a business owned and operated by Hammons, and money then was funneled to various businesses and personal accounts maintained by Hammons and Pitman.

This case was prosecuted by the office of Meigs County Prosecutor James Stanley.

Before investing, the Division of Securities encourages potential investors to call the Division's Investor Protection Hotline at 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?

###

*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*

Connect with us!



com.ohio.gov/secu



Department
of Commerce

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Sheryl Maxfield, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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 www.com.ohio.gov.

Connect with us!



com.ohio.gov/secu