



For Immediate Release

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**Ohio Division of Securities Issues Summary of
Division Orders for January 2021**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The following administrative orders represent official action taken by the Ohio Division of Securities from Jan. 1-31, 2021.

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. 21-001

Jan. 14, 2021

Gene Rodriguez

Powell, Ohio

- Cease and Desist

Criminal Cases

State v. Kenneth Brugh

Case No. 19CR001382

Lake County Court of Common Pleas

On Jan. 4, 2021, a Lake County man was sentenced for his role in soliciting multiple Ohio residents and one Florida resident to invest \$186,675 in a fraudulent investment scheme.

Lake County Judge Eugene Lucci sentenced Kenneth M. Brugh to 150 days in jail, plus five years of community control and 200 hours of community service after completing incarceration. He also was ordered to pay restitution of \$186,675 to the five victims, and pay the costs of prosecution, confinement, supervision, treatment and court costs.

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Brugh pleaded guilty in November of 2020 to attempted securities fraud and theft, both fourth-degree felonies, for soliciting the funds based on false and fraudulent information. Brugh instead used the money for his personal expenses.

He was indicted in January 2020 by a Lake County grand jury following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities.

This case was prosecuted by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, and presented by Assistant Attorney General Christian Sticken with the Special Prosecutions Unit.

State v. Raymond Sarrocco
Case No. 21 CR I 01 0008
Delaware County Court of Common Pleas

Raymond D. Sarrocco, 64, was indicted Jan. 8, 2021, by a Delaware County grand jury on one count of securities fraud, one count of selling unregistered securities, and one count of telecommunications fraud, all third-degree felonies. Sarrocco also was indicted on one count of theft, a fourth-degree felony.

In the previous case, Sarrocco was sentenced to 45 days in the Delaware County Jail plus ordered to repay the victim. Sarrocco also was sentenced to four years of community control, 100 hours of community service and ordered to not use the internet. In that case, Sarrocco used Craigslist to solicit \$1,500 from an elderly Nevada resident for an investment but instead used the funds to cover personal expenses.

The indictment follows a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities. This case is being prosecuted by the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office of Melissa Schiffel.

State v. Katrina Seiter
Case No. 2020-CR-0518
Greene County Court of Common Pleas

On Jan. 13, 2021, Katrina Seiter (aka Katrina Farmer), 56, of Bellbrook, entered a no-contest plea to selling unregistered securities and making false representations in the sale of securities, both third-degree felonies, issued by her company, A Voice 4 U, LLC.

Between April 2011 and August 2015, Seiter solicited investments in her business totaling \$238,220.51 from 11 households. She co-mingled the investment funds with her personal money and funds from another business. The investment money was used for Seiter's personal expenses, including approximately \$83,000 on psychics.

Seiter is scheduled for sentencing on Feb. 10, 2021, by Judge Michael Buckwalter. The case was prosecuted by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General David Yost, and presented by Brad Tammaro with the Special Prosecutions Unit.

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State v. Aaron Pitman
Case No. 19-CR=139
Meigs County Court of Common Pleas

A Warren County man was sentenced Jan. 28, 2021, for his role in soliciting two Meigs County residents to invest more than \$1 million in several businesses.

Meigs County Judge Linda Warner sentenced Aaron Pitman to 90 days in the Meigs County jail followed by five years of community control. As part of a plea agreement, Pitman was ordered to pay \$300,000 in restitution to one of the victims. If he violates conditions of community control, he could serve 10 years in prison.

Pitman pleaded guilty in October 2020 to one count of securities fraud and one count of misrepresentation in the sale of securities, both first-degree felonies, and four counts of money laundering, all third-degree felonies. He was indicted by a Meigs County grand jury in June 2019 after a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities and the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

On Dec. 14, 2020, the Ohio Division of Securities issued an administrative order against Pitman, with consent, which included a lifetime ban on the sale of securities, as defined in the order.

Pitman, a Mason resident, 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 George "Roderick" Hammons, of Denver, Colorado. The money then was funneled to various businesses and personal accounts maintained by Hammons and Pitman.

Hammons was indicted with Pitman for his role in the scheme. He pleaded guilty to money laundering and was sentenced Feb. 25 to five years of community control and ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution.

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

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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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