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North Carolina Man Pleads Guilty, Sentenced for Securities Fraud and Theft

Philip Curtis of Chapel Hill, North Carolina pleaded guilty today to one count of securities fraud and four counts of theft, and was sentenced to five years community control by Judge Colleen O'Donnell in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. He also was ordered to pay \$14,850 in restitution to five victims.

Curtis originally was indicted in August 2016, along with Mary Hackney of Cook County, Illinois, and Lovell Jones of Franklin County. Hackney pleaded guilty to one count of misrepresentation in the sale of securities and five counts of theft in September 2017, and was sentenced to four years and 11 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$66,850. A warrant for failure to appear in court is outstanding for Jones.

Curtis solicited five individuals who invested in Hackney's company – Hackney Consulting Group, Inc., doing business as HCG and HCG-770 – previously located in Columbus. Curtis retained a portion of the investments for himself and forwarded the remainder to Hackney Consulting Group, Inc. and its affiliated companies. The indictment alleged that the investment funds were used for personal expenses between September 2011 and February 2013.

If you have information about the location of Lovell Jones, contact the Ohio Division of Securities at 800-788-1194.

The case is being prosecuted by the office of Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and presented by Thomas Allen, assistant prosecuting attorney.

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