

For Immediate Release
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Ohio Division of Securities Issues Summary of Division Orders and Enforcement Actions Dec. 1-31, 2018

The following administrative orders and enforcement actions represent official action taken by the Ohio Division of Securities from Dec. 1-31, 2018.

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 a 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 period.

Details of any division order can be found at:
https://www.comapps.ohio.gov/secu/secu_apps/FinalOrders/

Division Orders

Order No. 18-031

Dec. 14, 2018

Sullivan Seton Murphy Law, LLC (aka Sullivan Seton Murphy Law Firm)
Cincinnati, Ohio

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

Order No. 18-032

Dec. 14, 2018

Kentucky-Tennessee 50 Wells 500BBLPD Block, LP
Sahara Wealth Advisors

- HP Operations, LLC
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Nashville, Tennessee
Newport Beach, California
- Cease and Desist Order

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Order No. 18-033**Dec. 18, 2018**

Assemblies of God Loan Fund
Springfield, Missouri
-Cease and Desist Order
-Consent Agreement

Enforcement Actions**Lovell Jones**

On Dec. 18, 2018, Lovell Jones pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sale of unregistered securities, a fourth-degree felony, and was sentenced to three years community control by Judge Colleen O'Donnell in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. He also was ordered to pay \$11,000 in restitution.

Jones was indicted in August 2016, along with Mary Hackney of Cook County, Illinois, and Philip Curtis of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 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 \$66,850 in restitution. Curtis pleaded guilty in March 2018 to one count of securities fraud and four counts of theft and was sentenced to five years community control and ordered to pay \$14,850 in restitution.

The original indictment alleged the defendants solicited funds between September 2011 and February 2013 from six residents of Ohio, Kansas and North Carolina to invest with Hackney Consulting Group, Inc. and its affiliated companies. Instead of using the money for investment, the indictment alleged the money was used for personal expenses.

The Ohio Division of Securities investigated the allegations and referred the case for prosecution. The case was prosecuted by the Office of Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and presented by Thomas Allen, assistant prosecuting attorney.

Harold Taylor Simpson

On Dec. 20, 2018, Harold Taylor Simpson, 71, was sentenced by Butler County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh to three years of community control, ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution to his victim and court costs. Simpson could face 18 months in jail if he violates any conditions as part of his sentence.

Simpson was indicted in early October and pleaded guilty in November to one count of Acting as an Unlicensed Investment Adviser, a fourth-degree felony.

The original indictment alleged Simpson induced a New York state resident to invest with him, in part, based on false information about Simpson's experience and securities licensure. Simpson met the investor through the website www.stockmarketmentor.com and presented himself as a successful investor and a fee-paid investment adviser. Simpson does not hold any securities licensure in Ohio.

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This case was prosecuted by Gloria Sigman, assistant prosecuting attorney in the Office of the Butler County Prosecutor Michael T. Gmoser.

John Gregory Schmidt

On Dec. 27, 2018, John Gregory Schmidt, 67, of Bellbrook, was indicted in Montgomery County on 128 felony counts related to securities fraud connected to his work as a financial adviser. The charges include forgery, theft from the elderly or disabled, telecommunications fraud and engaging in fraudulent, manipulative or deceptive conduct as an investment adviser.

Schmidt operated Schmidt Investment Strategies Group in Washington Township, Ohio, while employed by Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network. The indictment alleges that Schmidt misappropriated funds from client accounts and falsified financial statements to cover the theft.

This case was investigated by the Ohio Division of Securities and the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim in these cases is also urged to call the division's Investor Protection Hotline, 1-877-683-7841.

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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