

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Hamersville Man Arraigned on Alleged Securities Fraud and Money Laundering**

A Hamersville man pleaded not guilty to several charges of securities fraud and money laundering Wednesday following an indictment earlier this week by a Clermont County grand jury.

Robert White, 72, was arraigned Wednesday on six counts of securities fraud, six counts of misrepresentation in the sale of securities, and 12 counts of money laundering, all third-degree felonies. White was also charged with engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, a first-degree felony.

White pleaded not guilty to each charge and was released on a \$300,000 recognizance bond. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Feb. 19.

The indictment, issued Tuesday, stems from a criminal referral after an investigation by the Ohio Division of Securities and the Union Township Police Department.

The indictment alleges White solicited his tax accounting firm clients and others to invest in Platinum Franchising, LLC, a new tax franchise business, based on promises of significant returns. White allegedly converted those investments to his own personal use, used them to pay back prior investors, and used them to pay for ongoing expenses of his existing business, Robert L. White and Associates, Inc., located in Cincinnati. The offering was not registered with the division for sale in Ohio. White's CPA license was revoked in 2015.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim in this case can call the division's Investor Protection Hotline at 1-877-683-7841.

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

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