

**For Immediate Release**  
June 19, 2019

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

## **Warren County Resident and Colorado Resident Indicted in Securities Fraud, Theft, and Money Laundering Scheme**

*George Hammons and Aaron Pitman charged with crimes involving theft of more \$1.8 million from two Meigs County victims*

(POMEROY, Ohio) – Following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce’s Division of Securities and the Ohio Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Aaron S. Pitman, 31, of Mason, Ohio, and George “Roderick” Hammons, 78, of Denver, Colorado, were indicted Tuesday 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 was indicted on 11 felony charges, including:

- Two counts of misrepresentation in the sale of securities, both first-degree felonies
- Two counts of securities fraud, both first-degree felonies
- One count of selling securities without a license, a first-degree felony
- Two counts of theft, both second-degree felonies
- Four counts of money laundering, all third-degree felonies

Hammons was indicted on six felony charges, including:

- Four counts of money laundering, all third-degree felonies
- One count of receiving stolen property, a third-degree felony
- One count of receiving stolen property, a fourth-degree felony

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

Arrest warrants have been issued for both men.

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

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

Connect with us!



[com.ohio.gov/secu](http://com.ohio.gov/secu)



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?

# # #

Connect with us!



[com.ohio.gov/secu](http://com.ohio.gov/secu)