

For Immediate Release

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Franklin County Man Sentenced for Securities Fraud

Crimes included securities fraud of \$250,000 from an Ohio investor

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Benson Jean-Louis, 36, was sentenced today by Judge William Woods in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to 24 months in prison for securities fraud. The sentence is suspended based on successful completion of five years of community control.

At sentencing, Jean-Louis provided \$31,400 in partial restitution to the victim, having made another \$2,000 payment prior to sentencing. He was ordered to pay an additional \$216,600 restitution in monthly payments as a term of his community control.

Jean-Louis pleaded guilty in December 2019 to securities fraud, a third-degree felony. The indictment, handed down in September 2018, alleged from November 2015 through Dec. 31, 2015, Jean-Louis solicited an individual to invest \$250,000 with him in a trading platform based on false information about Jean-Louis' experience and securities license. The indictment further alleged Jean-Louis misappropriated a portion of the investment funds for his own use. Jean-Louis did not hold any securities license in Ohio.

This case was prosecuted by the Office of the Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and presented by Robert Lang, assistant prosecuting attorney.

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?

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