



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

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Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits:

- Justin W. Brooks, of Prattville, was tried in Autauga County District Court on March 3, 2015. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Brooks received a total of \$3,775 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Brooks pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended, and given one year of supervised probation. He was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Billy W. Alewine, of Valley, was tried in Chambers County District Court on February 18, 2014. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Alewine received a total of \$2,052 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Alewine pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jennifer L. Spooner, of Arton, was tried in Dale County District Court on February 23, 2015. An investigation by Labor’s Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Spooner received a total of \$4,210 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Spooner pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended, and given six months of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Randall O. Givan, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on March 3, 2015.

An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Givan received a total of \$3,592 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Givan pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Christopher Pate, of Titus, was tried in Elmore County District Court on February 3, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Pate received a total of \$6,145 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Pate pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$250 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Carmanatica A. Pernell, of Millbrook, was tried in Elmore County District Court on February 3, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Pernell received a total of \$1,608 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Pernell pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. She was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tashia M. Turner, of Millbrook, was tried in Elmore County District Court on February 24, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Turner received a total of \$3,570 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Turner pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for one year pending restitution, and given one year of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Delilah S. Hoskins, of Greensboro, was tried in Hale County District Court on February 10, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hoskins received a total of \$1,574 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hoskins pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for one year pending behavior of the defendant. She was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Latiunna A. Brown, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on June 23, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Brown received a total of \$2,481 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Brown pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of

benefits received illegally.

- Stephanie Holyfield, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on August 11, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Holyfield received a total of \$7,689 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Holyfield pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Daniel H. Burrow, of Opelika, was tried in Lee County District Court on February 17, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Burrow received a total of \$7,487 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Burrow pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Latisha P. Bailey, of Opelika, was tried in Lee County District Court on March 5, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bailey received a total of \$1,866 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Bailey pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally. Further sentencing will be based on her ability to pay restitution.

- Marvin G. Kelley, of Alpine, was tried in Talladega County District Court on March 5, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Kelley received a total of \$7,984 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Kelley pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jerry Edwards, of Alexander City, was tried in Tallapoosa County District Court on February 17, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Edwards received a total of \$5,033 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Edwards pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended, and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

The following individuals were charged with Theft of Property 3rd Degree after violating the

Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law for making false statements on claims for unemployment benefits:

- Douglas C. Evans, Sr., of Gadsden, was tried in Etowah County District Court on January 21, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Evans received a total of \$4,082 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Evans pled guilty and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, which was suspended, and given two years of probation, pending restitution. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

The following individuals were charged with Theft of Property 1st Degree after violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law for making false statements on claims for unemployment benefits:

- Willie Calhoun, of Alpine, was tried in Talladega County District Court on February 10, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Calhoun received a total of \$10,100 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Calhoun pled guilty and was sentenced to 31 months in jail, which was suspended for three years pending restitution, and given three years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$500 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- William K. Eller, of Gadsden, was tried in Etowah County District Court on February 23, 2015. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Eller received a total of \$4,623 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Eller pled guilty and was sentenced to five years in jail, which was suspended, and placed on probation. He was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

"Unemployment compensation benefits can serve as a lifeline to those who truly need them," said Washington. "However, we want to send a message to those who would knowingly defraud the system in order to obtain benefits they aren't entitled to: This is a crime and you will be prosecuted."

"Our investigators are continuously working with local District Attorney Offices in order to identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. I would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to prevent unemployment fraud."

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Alabama Department of Labor by calling 1-800-392-8019.

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <http://www.labor.alabama.gov/nh>.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.