



## 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 Tom Surtees 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:

- Sylvester Phelan, of Shorter, was tried in Macon County District Court on May 8, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Phelan received a total of \$1,285 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Phelan pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Thomas M. Allen, of Montevallo, was tried in Chilton County District Court on May 23, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Allen received a total of \$12,639 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Allen pled guilty and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$400 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Phillip J. Dancy, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on May 14, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Dancy received a total of \$1,360 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Dancy pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 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.

- Victor Nelms, of Opelika, was tried in Lee County District Court on May 21, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Nelms received a total of \$3,478 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Nelms pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution. He was also fined \$50 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Mary Wilson, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on May 1, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Wilson received a total of \$5,543 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Wilson pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days hard labor, which was suspended for two years, pending behavior of the defendant. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Gerald Causey, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on May 1, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Causey received a total of \$1,808 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

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

- Timothy Constant, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on April 24, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Constant received a total of \$7,072 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Constant pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days hard labor, which was suspended for two years, pending behavior of the defendant. He was also fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Candy Gore, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on May 8, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Gore received a total of \$4,580 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Gore pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, suspended for 90 days, and 24 months of probation. She was also fined \$100 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Quincey Jackson, of Alexander City, was tried in Tallapoosa County District Court on May 7, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Jackson received a total of \$6,086 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Jackson pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution. He was also required to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Demetrius D. Barkley, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on May 6, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Barkley received a total of \$4,059 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Barkley pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“We at the Alabama Department of Labor want people to know that we are aggressively pursuing cases of unemployment compensation fraud,” said Surtees. “Especially in these economic times, we want to make sure that all who are entitled to benefits receive them. But at the same time, we will not allow those who deliberately try to defraud the system to go unpunished. We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes.”

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

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