



# COMMISSION NEWS

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION, 1200 W. WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

TO: EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS  
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MESA INVESTMENT GROUP BILKS \$8.5 MILLION FROM INVESTORS

PHOENIX – The Arizona Corporation Commission issued a default order against two individuals and a Mesa company for fraudulently offering and selling unregistered investment contracts and using investor funds for their own personal expenses. The Commission ordered the following respondents to return \$8.5 million to investors and to pay \$250,000 in penalties:

- Brixon Group, Ltd. of Mesa
- Joseph Wayne McCool of Mesa, 58
- Donald John Manning of Mesa, 66

The Commission found that from about January 2000 to 2003, the respondents offered and sold investment contracts called “Capital Private Placement Agreements” to at least 128 investors, many of whom live in Arizona. None of the respondents were registered to sell securities nor had the proper exemption to offer or sell securities in Arizona. Moreover, McCool failed to disclose to investors that he was imprisoned for the criminal convictions of wire fraud and conspiracy to traffic in counterfeit goods.

The investment contracts stipulated that investor funds would be privately placed in high-yield insurance portfolio investments with a promised monthly return of 10 percent. McCool and Manning assured investors that their principal was secured by an insurance policy. The Commission found that some of the investors received monthly interest payments for about two years, but none of the original investor funds were insured. Respondents also used investor funds for personal expenses, for office expenses, salaries, attorney fees and other undesignated

distributions, failing to disclose these expenditures to the investors.

Additionally, respondents solicited investors to roll their 401K or IRA accounts into self-directed accounts at Resource Trust Corporation, promising a monthly return of five percent with assurances that the principal would be insured. The Commission found that the respondents withdrew the principal and transferred it to a Brixon Group partnership. Investors lost their principal, which was not insured, and did not receive any interest payments.

Not included in the Commission's default order is another respondent, Cameron Guy Campbell who is a 45-year-old California attorney. Mr. Campbell has requested a Commission hearing regarding this matter and it is scheduled for February 6, 2006.

### **Caution for Investors**

Entrusting your money with someone for investment purposes, while expecting a profit through the efforts of others, may involve a security and sales agents/dealers subject to registration. **VERIFY BEFORE YOU BUY!** Call the Securities Division, (602) 542-4242, toll free (866) VERIFY-9. The Division's investor education web site also has helpful information at [www.azinvestor.gov](http://www.azinvestor.gov).

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