



COMMISSION NEWS

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

TO: EDITORS, NEWS DIRECTORS
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 31, 2000
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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION SUPPORTS NATIONAL INVESTOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN APRIL

PHOENIX ... Arizona is taking part in a national investor education campaign in the month of April, to help raise financial IQs and protect state residents against the growing problem of securities fraud.

Representatives from the Arizona Corporation Commission-Securities Division will be visiting high schools throughout the state sharing timely information about the importance of saving and investment. "Never has investor education been more important," said Mark Sendrow, Director of the Securities Division. "Today we are a nation of investors. Just a generation ago, less than 20 percent of households were invested in the stock market; today nearly half of all households own stock."

The month-long investor education campaign, dubbed the Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign, is a joint effort of state and federal securities regulators, federal government agencies and private sector organizations. The campaign is now in its third year.

"American investors face a bewildering array of choices. To be successful they need to understand the basics of saving and investing, know how to check out an investment or salesperson and how to protect themselves against possible fraud," said Carl Kunasek, Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

The Arizona Corporation Commission enforces the state's securities laws, licenses or registers brokers and firms and promotes grass-roots investor education programs. "Our complementary system of state, industry

and federal securities regulation has helped make our financial markets the envy of the world by promoting transparency, fair dealing and trust." said Commissioner Jim Irvin.

Nationally, the campaign will be kicked off by a panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington about how financially well or ill-prepared Baby Boomers are for retirement. Statistics indicate that while nearly three-quarters of Americans are saving for retirement, most have little idea of how much money they will need to replace income when they retire. "With Americans living longer than ever, retirement security is a serious national issue," said Commissioner William Mundell. He added: "I am alarmed any time Arizona investors are victimized by investment schemes. I hope that our Commission's support of these educational efforts will raise investors' level of scrutiny."

Director Sendrow advised individuals to do their homework before investing, including checking with the Division for information about investments and the persons selling them. The Securities Division also has a wealth of investor education material at its web site: www.ccsd.cc.state.az.us. The public can also contact the Securities Division at (602) 542-4242, by facsimile at (602) 594-7470, or by E-mail at accsec@ccsd.cc.state.az.us

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