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NEWS RELEASE

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INVESTMENT FRAUD ALLEGED AGAINST ADA COUNTY MEN

BOISE, IDAHO -- Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced the filing of a civil securities lawsuit against Philip G. Oleson and David A. Higginbotham. The defendants reside in Ada County and the case was filed in Fourth District Court in Boise, Idaho.

The lawsuit alleges that Oleson and Higginbotham sold unregistered promissory notes, acted as an unlicensed broker-dealer, and violated the anti-fraud provisions of the Idaho Securities Act. The Department estimates the defendants' fraudulent activity resulted in investor losses in excess of \$426,000. Additionally, the complaint alleges that Oleson filed a misleading investment advisory application with the Department of Finance.

More specifically, the lawsuit alleges the Defendants engaged in fraudulent acts, practices or courses of business that operated as a fraud on deceit upon investment clients. The Department alleges that Higginbotham and Oleson represented to prospective investors that the expensive new automobiles each drove were purchased for them by a client as gifts because the Defendants had done a very good job for the client in advising the client on investments. The Department alleges the vehicles were leased by the Defendants and were not gifts from a client. Further, the State alleges that Higginbotham and Oleson failed to advise investors that the promissory notes were not properly registered and falsely advised investors that the notes were collateralized investments that offered low risk with relatively high returns.

The State's lawsuit seeks an order from the court permanently enjoining the defendants from future violations of the securities laws, placing limitations on future business activities, restitution to affected investors, and imposing civil penalties and attorney fees.

The Idaho Department of Finance cautions Idaho residents to make sure that the investments and investment professionals with whom they deal are registered.

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