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NEWS RELEASE

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**COMMODITY FUTURES OPTIONS INVESTMENT FRAUD ALLEGED
AGAINST COEUR D'ALENE PROMOTER
\$1.3 Million in Refunds Sought For Injured Investors**

Boise, Idaho . . . The Idaho Department of Finance announced today the filing of a lawsuit against Keith Eugene Mitchell of Coeur d'Alene. The complaint alleges that Mitchell violated the registration and anti-fraud provisions of Idaho's Commodity Code. The state's suit seeks a court order permanently enjoining the defendant from further violations of the Idaho Commodity Code, \$1.3 million in investor restitution, \$100,000 in civil penalties as well as attorney fees and costs.

The department alleges that Mitchell solicited investors to invest in commodity futures options beginning in 2007. According to the complaint, Mitchell told investors that by following his investment recommendations, investors would receive an annual return of 36 percent to 60 percent and their losses would be limited to 5 percent of their principal investment. The department alleges that in 2008, when the market moved in a manner incompatible with Mitchell's trading system, investors lost most if not all of their investments.

In part, the complaint alleges that Mitchell:

- Failed to tell investors that in 2003, the Department had ordered him to cease and desist from securities violations and to pay a \$25,000 civil penalty
- Failed to tell investors that he was not properly licensed with the appropriate federal regulators
- Falsely represented to investors that they would earn high investment returns with limited risk

The Idaho Department of Finance cautions all investors to investigate before you invest. Department of Finance press releases and a copy of the civil complaint can be found on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8004 or toll-free at (888) 346-3378.

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