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NEWS RELEASE

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FORMER BOISE STOCKBROKER PERMANENTLY ENJOINED

Boise, Idaho . . . The Idaho Department of Finance today announced that the Honorable Deborah A. Bail, District Judge of the Fourth Judicial Court in Boise, Idaho, entered a judgment of permanent injunction against Louise Martinez Schneider of Boise, Idaho.

The judgment comes in a contested civil enforcement proceeding filed by the State against Ms. Schneider during 1996. The Court's order finds that Schneider violated anti-fraud provisions of the Idaho Securities Act, as well as the securities and sales agent registration provisions. The Court permanently enjoined Schneider from engaging in any acts, practices or omissions, and from making any untrue statements of material facts, that would constitute violations of the Idaho Securities Act. The Court order also prohibits the use of securities registration exemptions by Schneider unless she first receives the written consent of the Director.

The violations found by the Court arose from Schneider's sale of investment interests in an art inventory she controlled. In connection with the offer and sale of these interests, Schneider made untrue statements of material fact and omitted to disclose material facts to investors. The securities offered by Schneider were never registered and Schneider was not licensed to sell securities at the time of one transaction. Schneider was the subject of a previous State administrative action during 1994 on unrelated matters.

The Department advises all individuals to invest only with licensed investment professionals. Investors can check on the registration status of individuals, firms and investment offerings by calling the Department of Finance at (208) 332-8004 or toll-free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.