

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2012

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## AG ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA FOR CLEMENTS IN "TWO-YEAR COLLEGE CORRUPTION CASE"

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange today announced the conviction of Jimmie Clements to Theft of Property in the First Degree. Mr. Clements received a 15 year suspended sentence with 5 years probation. He will pay \$256,000 in restitution to the State of Alabama within 90 days from today as well as court costs, and \$100.00 to the Victim's Compensation Fund. As part of the plea agreement, the companion case against Dana Clements was dismissed.

In December of 2009, Mr. Clements and his wife Dana Clements, were each charged with 2 counts of first degree theft and were released from the Lee County Jail on \$20,000 bail each, according to jail records. At today's plea, the State offered to the Court the following explanation of the crime:

"In June 1996, DC & Associates was designated as the 'exclusive agent' for Southern Union State Community College ("SUSCC") regarding Business and Industry. Jimmie Clements was President of DC & Associates. In 1996, Jimmie Clements, on behalf of DC & Associates, signed an agreement with Michelin North America, Inc. ("Michelin") wherein Michelin would pay \$3,000.00 per month to lease the Industry Training Center on the SUSCC campus. Michelin paid lease payments to DC & Associates which was money that belonged to the State of Alabama. DC & Associates did not give the money to the State.

"In April 2002, Jimmie Clements, on behalf of DC & Associates, and Centec, Inc. ("Centec") reached a similar agreement for \$4,000.00 per month to lease the same building which supplanted the Michelin contract. DC & Associates did not turn over the money to the State of Alabama.

"Jimmie Clements knowingly obtained or exerted unauthorized control over \$256,000.00 from these two contracts which belonged to the State of Alabama in Lee County, Alabama."

"This case is an example of a complete violation of the public trust. The people of our state expect those who steal the public's money to be prosecuted and made to return their ill-gotten gains. I am glad to see Mr. Clements finally brought to justice."



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Attorney General Strange commended those who handled this case, noting in particular Assistant Attorney General Bill Lisenby of the of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division, Assistant Attorney General Stephanie Billingslea of the Attorney General's Criminal Trials Division, District Attorney Richard Minor of the 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, District Attorney Robert Treese of the 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, and Special Agents of the Attorney General's Investigations Division.

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