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AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTIONS IN COVINGTON COUNTY FOR FILING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS AGAINST PUBLIC OFFICIALS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange today announced the sentencing of two men for filing false documents in Covington County against four Coffee County public officials. William Peter Witwicki, 70, of Coffee County, and Travis Lee Lambert, 64, of Covington County, each were sentenced yesterday to 10 years for all four counts, to run concurrently. A probation hearing is set for July 30.

Witwicki and Lambert were convicted by a jury on March 17 following a two-day trial. The Attorney General’s Criminal Trials Division presented evidence showing that the men filed fraudulent liens against two circuit judges, a sheriff, and a circuit clerk. The fraudulent documents directed these public officials to pay Witwicki \$89.2 million in silver coins. Expert testimony was presented that linked characteristics of the fraudulent documents with the sovereign citizens movement, which advocates using certain phrases to declare their sovereignty and that no state court has jurisdiction over them.

“These actions of these men were an attempt to intimidate and defraud public officials and to interfere with their carrying out their sworn duties,” said Attorney General Strange. “These are serious crimes that warrant a stern penalty. The State of Alabama will not allow so-called ‘sovereign citizens’ to impede our lawful government.”

Witwicki has been held at the Covington County Jail since the conviction, and Lambert remains free on bond pending the outcome of the probation hearing.

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing these cases to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorneys General Ternisha Miles Jones and John Hensley of the Attorney General’s Criminal Trials Division; Paul Hodos, Intelligence Analyst, Counterterrorism Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigations; and Special Agents of the Attorney General’s Investigations Division.

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