

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG LUTHER STRANGE ANNOUNCES FELONY ETHICS CONVICTION OF FORMER ELMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JOE FAULK

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the conviction today of former Elmore County Commissioner Joe Faulk for a felony ethics law violation. Faulk pleaded guilty this afternoon in Elmore County Circuit Court to intentionally using his office for personal gain. A date for sentencing is not set.

Faulk was arrested October 25 following a complaint and an arrest warrant. According to a plea agreement, he agreed to resign from his office, to plead guilty to the felony ethics violation, and to cooperate with the State in its ongoing criminal investigation into related matters. No further information is available regarding the matter of any additional investigation.

“The facts are clear that this defendant abused his public trust by using his position as an Elmore County Commissioner for his own financial gain,” said Attorney General Strange. “As a public servant, he betrayed his obligation to honor the best interests of citizens and not to use his office for personal enrichment.”

The plea agreement stipulates the circumstances of Faulk’s crime as follows: While serving as an Elmore County Commissioner in 2011, Faulk entered into a contract with Coast2Coast, a company that distributes pharmacy discount cards and which is a subsidiary of Financial Marketing Concepts Inc. of Florida. Faulk was to assist in acquiring marketing contracts with county commissions across Alabama, in return for a commission each time a customer used the card to fill a prescription. Faulk subsequently promoted the program to other county commissions without disclosing his personal financial interest, and facilitated the company’s dealings with county commissions.

In particular, one month after he entered into the contract, as an Elmore County Commissioner, Faulk participated in the Commission’s consideration and voted to enter a county contract with Coast2Coast, without disclosing his prospective financial interest to his fellow commissioners.

Faulk received commissions from his Coast2Coast contract totaling \$63,651 between October 2011 and July 2016. The contract has since been terminated. He resigned from the Commission on Nov. 14.

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorney General Kyle Beckman and Special Agents of his Special Prosecutions Division.

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