



**ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT AND
ARREST OF COLBERT COUNTY ATTORNEY BILLY UNDERWOOD**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced the indictment* and arrest of Colbert County attorney William J. (“Billy”) Underwood for bribery of a juror. Underwood surrendered at the Colbert County Sheriff’s Office this afternoon and was released on bail pending the resolution of this case.

The Attorney General’s Office sought an indictment of Underwood after an investigation by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. The Attorney General’s Criminal Trials Division presented evidence to a Colbert County grand jury resulting in his indictment* on January 8.

The indictment charges Underwood with offering, conferring or agreeing to confer any pecuniary benefit upon a juror with the intent that the juror’s vote, opinion, decision or other action as a juror will thereby be corruptly influenced in Colbert County. Bribery of a juror is a class C felony.

“Our jury system is the cornerstone to the justice system in our country. My office will always work diligently to ensure that our citizens can be confident that justice will prevail when they go into a courtroom in our state,” said Attorney General Marshall. “Any possible violation of the laws applying to the sanctity of the jury system must always be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law. Whether the alleged offender is an attorney or not, such illegal activity will not be tolerated in our state. Our litigants should never question whether they will be treated fairly when they enter our county courthouses.”

No further information about the investigation or the alleged crime in this case may be released at this time. The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information is urged to contact the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (Russellville Field Office) at (256) 436-1344.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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