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## ***Indictments Handed Down In Las Cruces Pyramid Scheme***

**LAS CRUCES, N. M.** – Dain Leslie Schult of Austin, Texas, and Joel McKay Hixon of Las Cruces, New Mexico, have been indicted for defrauding New Mexico investors in a pyramid scheme that promised to use investors' money to promote "mom and pop" radio stations.

Schult and Hixon face charges of fraud, securities fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, money laundering and the offer or sale of an unregistered security. In addition, Hixon was charged with sale of a security by an unlicensed agent.

Schult and Hixon were indicted by Grand Jury in the Third Judicial District Court of Dona Ana County.

"New Mexico will not tolerate fraudulent investment schemes of this kind. Our Department will relentlessly pursue those who attempt to defraud New Mexicans," said Mike Unthank Superintendent of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department. "I urge New Mexicans to verify the legitimacy of all investments, with the Securities Division."

Schult and Hixon led their victims to believe that they were using money from investors to pay for securities licenses, pay attorneys and fund the IPO of their stock and then use money from the sale of registered stock to purchase smaller radio stations around the United States and give them Internet access.

A joint investigation by the Securities Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department and Texas State Securities Board revealed that Schult was in fact appropriating investors' money for personal use and to pay commissions to Hixon for his collaboration in the scheme.

This case is being prosecuted by the Securities Division of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department.

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The Securities Division protects New Mexicans from fraud and financial abuse by licensing investment professionals, registration of securities made in the state, offering anti-fraud and educational programs to the public, and investigating fraud and other violations of the state securities laws. To learn more about investment fraud, visit the division's website at [www.RedFlagsNM.com](http://www.RedFlagsNM.com).

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