

DIRK KEMPTHORNE Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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COURT ENTERS JUDGMENT AGAINST FLORIDA TELECOM SCHEME

Defendants Promised Profits Could be as High as 4000%

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced that a default judgment was recently entered by Fourth District Judge Darla Williamson against defendants Idaho Big Sky Telecom, Big West Telecom, Nicholas F. Cuneo, Jr, Brandon Clarey, James N. Bramble, and Theodore Levitt. The judgment comes as a result of a civil securities suit filed by the Department in June of 2004.

PLEASE NOTE: <u>Idaho Big Sky Telecom is in no way associated with an internet services company in Emmett, Idaho, that has a similar name</u>. Big West Telecom is a Florida-chartered corporation. Idaho Big Sky Telecom purports to be a Florida general partnership with its principal office located in Hallendale, Florida.

The complaint filed by the Department alleged that the defendants sold unregistered securities to Idaho residents and that they failed to register as securities salesmen in Idaho prior to selling the unregistered securities to Idaho residents. The complaint also alleges that the defendants made untrue statements to prospective purchasers of their securities. The false statements made included that Idaho Big Sky Telecom was properly registered in Idaho as a telecommunications services provider and that purchasers of the securities could anticipate profits as high as 4000%. The defendants represented to Idaho investors that the companies would be providing local, long distance, cellular and internet telephone services to the Idaho Falls and Pocatello areas of eastern Idaho and to areas of Wyoming. The losses sustained by Idaho investors exceed \$100,000.

The Court's judgment finds that the defendants violated the Idaho Securities Act and enjoins them from further violations. The judgment orders the defendants to provide restitution to investors in the amount of \$100,000.00 and provides for penalties against the defendants in the amount of \$990,000.00. The Department was awarded \$5,000 in attorney's fees and \$2,500 in investigative costs.

The Idaho Department of Finance cautions Idaho residents to make sure that the investments and investment professionals with whom they deal are registered to offer securities in Idaho.

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