

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES ANOTHER CONVICTION FOR CHARGES RELATED TO THEFT AND FRAUDULENT OIL SPILL CLAIMS

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange today announced another felony conviction in a series of prosecutions by the Attorney General's Office, arising from fraudulent claims for compensation related to the BP oil spill.

Brandy Strong, 36, of Mobile, pleaded guilty to first-degree theft of property in Mobile County Circuit Court on February 25. She was sentenced to one year and one day imprisonment, which was suspended for a term of probation for one year. Strong also was ordered to pay court costs.

This conviction concludes a series of prosecutions by the Attorney General's Office that have been pending for fraud involving defendants who created and submitted false documentation to BP claiming they suffered lost income due to the oil spill. Nine defendants previously have been convicted in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

"These convictions should serve as a warning that the State of Alabama will not allow anyone to exploit the oil spill tragedy for their unfair and illegal advantage. Fraudulent claims are a crime that will not be tolerated," said Attorney General Strange. "While this concludes the currently pending prosecutions, we will take additional action if it becomes necessary."

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General James H. Rutter III and Stephanie Billingslea of his Criminal Trials Division and Special Agents of the Attorney General's Investigations Division for their work in bringing these cases to a successful conclusion. He also thanked the Mobile County Sheriff's Office for its assistance in serving warrants. These cases were referred to the Attorney General's Office by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama.

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