



*State of North Carolina
Department of the Secretary of State*

ELAINE F. MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF STATE

DON'T LET SCAM ARTISTS MARCH OFF WITH YOUR MONEY!

The Securities Division of the NC Department of the Secretary of State wants 2009 to be **SCAM FREE** for all North Carolinians! Invest in your future, not a scammer's.

The Securities Division is responsible for administering and enforcing the state's securities laws. North Carolina investors may call the Division at (919) 733-3924, or toll-free at (800) 688-4507, to check the registration status or complaint history of any person who buys or sells investment securities or who, for a fee, provides investment advice about securities. Complaints about such persons can be sent to: **Securities Division, NC Department of the Secretary of State, PO Box 29622, Raleigh, NC 27626-0266.**

If an investment sounds too good to be true, it probably is - especially investment opportunities promising or "guaranteeing a quick, higher than average market rate of return. Remember: **All investments carry risk. Anyone promising little or no risk is** foreign currencies market. Be careful not to let your investment decisions be swayed by emotion or by what members of your social or peer group are doing. Other red flag warnings of possible investment fraud include pressure to "act now," claims of "insider information," and schemes involving off-shore banks offering tax-free investing.

The successful investor will take time to research each offering as well as the promoter(s) of the offering. The Securities Division can help. Call the Securities Division before making any investment to verify that both the broker and the investment product are properly registered. Please visit www.sosnc.com for additional investor education information. The Division's Investor Education Specialists are even available to speak to your senior or civic groups.

With these uncertain economic times, now more than ever investors are warned to "Check before you write one!" A quick call to the Securities Division at the above numbers could save your entire retirement fund from being stolen by a con artist.
