

# PRESS NOTICE



BILL NETTLES  
UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA

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**April 4, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **RONNIE GENE WILSON ARRESTED ON MAIL FRAUD CHARGES RELATED TO "PONZI" SCHEME**

**Columbia, South Carolina----** United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Ronnie Gene Wilson, age 64, of Easley, South Carolina, was arrested after being charged in a criminal complaint with mail fraud, a violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1341. The maximum penalty Wilson could receive is 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Wilson made his initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Jacquelyn D. Austin. A \$1 million secured bond was imposed.

In an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, it is alleged that Wilson is the President and sole shareholder of Atlantic Bullion and Coin, Inc. ("AB&C") in Easley, South Carolina. One of the investments offered by Wilson through AB&C is a Silver Investment Account wherein the client does not take physical possession of his or her investment, but rather AB&C allegedly holds the client's silver at a Delaware depository. The affidavit avers that Wilson is not actually purchasing a sufficient amount of silver to cover the orders placed by his clients and that investigation reveals no silver is held by Wilson at a Delaware depository. Furthermore, the affidavit states that Wilson is altering client account statements to reflect different prices and numbers of shares from that found in the original order and/or original account statement.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Secret Service and the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office for prosecution.

If the public has any reports or information regarding this case, they should call the Secret Service at (864) 233-1490.

The United States Attorney stated that the charges are merely accusations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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