





**United States Attorney Kenyen R. Brown**

**Southern District of Alabama**

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**Ex-Offender Job Fair**

Kenyen Brown, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, announces that as part of his Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence) initiative, the United States Attorneys Office for the Southern District of Alabama is collaborating with Bishop State Community College to host an ex-offender only job fair on Thursday, June 4th, at 1:00-4:00pm on the Bishop State Baker-Gaines Campus, located at 1365 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in Mobile, AL. Some of the employers participating in the job fair include Ingalls Shipbuilding, Horizon Shipbuilding and other local maritime employers, all of which are desiring to fill a range of positions. Prior experience as a welder is not necessarily required as on-the-job training opportunities may be available.

H&S Management and Holdings is another participating employer seeking to fill positions in its various companies including: air duct cleaning, security, tires and treading, commercial supply, janitorial services, and environmental clean-up. Successful applicants with any employer would be expected to pass and maintain a clean drug screening record.

Job fair participants will also be able to meet with a range of community service providers including Mobile Works and AIDT. All of these community service providers have valuable resources to share with the ex-offender population. As an example, an ex-offender who is not successful in gaining employment at Thursdays job fair may be eligible to receive anywhere from $2,500-$10,000 for vocational training from a Department of Labor grant administered through Mobile Works.

U.S. Attorney Brown said Just in the Southern District of Alabama alone, in the federal system, between the years of 2008-2010, 328 ex-offenders were revoked for violating the terms of their supervised release and sent back to prison. The cost to the American taxpayer to incarcerate those 328 ex-offenders over that three year period amounted to $9.2 million annually. If these same 328 ex-offenders had been successful on supervised release it would have only cost the American taxpayer roughly $1.3 million. Project H.O.P.E. is a restorative initiative with the aim of giving ex-offenders a chance to become contributing citizens while simultaneously affording the greater community with the opportunity to enjoy safer neighborhoods in which to live and a lesser tax burden due to ever increasing incarceration costs. U.S. Attorney Brown added, Statistics compiled by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington D.C., indicate that ex-offender employment is a critical factor in whether recently released federal inmates are successful.”

For more information about the job fair or Project H.O.P.E go to www.ProjectHopeAlabama.com.

**Additional Note:** U.S. Attorney Brown is available for interviews upon request. Call Tommy Loftis at 251-441-5845 to arrange an interview with U.S. Attorney Brown.