



# News Release

Attorney General Robert E. Cooper, Jr.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATE FILES SUIT AGAINST EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES**

Attorney General Bob Cooper, on behalf of Mary Clement, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, has filed suit against a West Tennessee woman for allegedly misleading the public about the services offered at her four employment agencies.

The lawsuit names Linda McCluskey, the owner of one current agency, Britton James & Associates, and three former agencies known as The Franklin Group of America, Hamilton Clark International, and The Renaissance Group International as the principal of at least four separate employment agencies for allegedly promising to find consumers jobs at exaggerated salary levels, promising "career development, career management, and career transition services" and other related "job placement services."

In addition, she is accused of allegedly charging consumers an up-front fee in violation of the state consumer and employment agency laws. Under the Tennessee Employment Agency Act, an employment agency can collect fees only after the agency has secured a paid position for the employee.

McCluskey's businesses operated from 5100 Poplar Avenue, Suites 2700 and 2121 in Memphis, Tennessee. She advertised on popular job-seeking websites (such as CareerBuilder.com) and through the Internet that they were selectively seeking qualified candidates for jobs with salaries ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. The defendant allegedly told consumers who contacted her companies that they had "contacts" and would place the applicant "in front of the decision makers." In addition to the large salaries, potential clients were told that they could expect a "signing bonus." McCluskey's businesses are accused of allegedly failing to deliver the promised contacts, did not arrange for interviews, and in some cases failed to contact any employers at all.

Among other allegations, McCluskey is accused of using several aliases, allegedly posting identical advertisements on various websites making the same fraudulent representations, in an attempt to garner even more business. To date, more than a dozen people have filed complaints against McCluskey and her various aliases. In September, the Better Business Bureau received more than 120 inquiries into McCluskey's alias "Britton James & Associates."

The State seeks restitution for consumers along with penalties and an injunction to prevent McCluskey or her associates from operating an allegedly fraudulent and misleading "employment agenc[ies]" or engaging in unlawful practices in Tennessee.

"Unfortunately, record high unemployment creates an environment where some try to take advantage of others by giving them false hope with a large price tag and little or nothing in return," Attorney General Cooper said.

Director Clement noted the State continues trying to identify others who have had problems with the defendants. "I urge any consumer who has had a problem with services offered by Linda McCluskey, Britton James & Associates, The Franklin Group of America, Hamilton Clark International or the Renaissance Group International to come forward and contact the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-342-8385 (toll free inside Tennessee) or (615) 741-4737 or online at [www.state.tn.us/consumer](http://www.state.tn.us/consumer)."

For more information on this lawsuit, please visit the Tennessee Attorney General website at <http://tn.gov/attorneygeneral> then click on Office Information and Cases of Interest.