

INDICTMENT

**MULTI COUNT § 99-7-2
Fraudulent Statements and Representations § 97-7-10 (5 counts)
Obtaining Signature or Valuable Thing with Intent to Defraud § 97-19-39**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF LEFLORE**

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

v.

Cause No. 2022-0083

JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN

In the Circuit Court of Leflore County, Mississippi at the October 2022 term.

THE GRAND JURORS of the State of Mississippi taken from the body of the good and lawful citizens of Leflore County, Mississippi, duly elected, summoned, empaneled, sworn and charged to inquire in and for the aforesaid county, at the term aforesaid, in the name and by the authority of the State of Mississippi, upon their oaths present that:

COUNT I

On or about June 7, 2018, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud the State of Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or representations and make and use a materially false document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or entries, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did make materially false and fraudulent application for a license to operate grain terminals in Leflore County, Mississippi, with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, by altering the 2017 financial audit report prepared by Horne LLP, without their knowledge, by removing the "Emphasis of Matter Regarding Going Concern" paragraph and altering the accompanying financial statements thereby concealing significant financial instability and operating losses which had a material impact on the

decision of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to renew and issue the required license to operate, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-7-10 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COUNT II

On or about July 1, 2019, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud the State of Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or representations and make and use a materially false document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or entries, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did make materially false and fraudulent application for a license to operate grain terminals in Leflore County, Mississippi, with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, by altering the 2018 financial audit report prepared by Horne LLP, without their knowledge, by removing the “Emphasis of Matter Regarding Going Concern” paragraph and altering the accompanying financial statements thereby concealing significant financial instability and operating losses which had a material impact on the decision of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to renew and issue the required license to operate, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-7-10 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COUNT III

On or about July 22, 2020, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud the State of Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or representations and make and use a

materially false document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or entries, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did make materially false and fraudulent application for a license to operate grain terminals in Leflore County, Mississippi, with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, by altering the 2019 financial audit report prepared by Horne LLP, without their knowledge, by removing the “Emphasis of Matter Regarding Going Concern” paragraph and altering the accompanying financial statements thereby concealing significant financial instability and operating losses which had a material impact on the decision of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to renew and issue the required license to operate, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-7-10 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COUNT IV

On or about May 25, 2021, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud the State of Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or representations and make and use a materially false document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or entries, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did make materially false and fraudulent application for a license to operate grain terminals in Leflore County, Mississippi, with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, by altering the 2020 financial audit report prepared by Horne LLP, without their knowledge, by removing the “Emphasis of Matter Regarding Going Concern” paragraph and altering the accompanying financial statements thereby concealing significant financial instability and operating losses which had a material impact on the decision of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to renew and issue the

required license to operate, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-7-10 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COUNT V

On or about on January 31, 2020, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority, make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or representations and make and use a materially false document knowing the same to contain false, fictitious and fraudulent statements or entries, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did cause Community Inspired Capital Development, LLC, his intermediary, and without their knowledge, to a make materially false and fraudulent application for a grant from the Mississippi Development Authority to make capital improvements to his facilities and equipment by causing CICD to submit, along with his application, materially altered 2017, 2018 and 2019 financial audit reports prepared by Horne LLP, without their knowledge, to the Mississippi Development Authority thereby concealing significant financial instability and operating losses which had a material impact on the decision of the Mississippi Development Authority to approve and issue said grant, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-7-10 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COUNT VI

On or about May 26, 2021, through September 29, 2021, in Leflore County, Mississippi, and elsewhere, Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to cheat or defraud another, designedly, by color of false pretense, obtain from any person personal property and valuable thing, with a value of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more, to wit: Defendant, **JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN**, did induce Mississippi

farmers to deliver and store their crops with Express Grain using false and fraudulent representations and thereafter sold and pledged their crops and failed to remit payments to the farmers in an amount exceeding \$50,000,000, against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi, in violation of § 97-19-39 of the Mississippi Code (1972).

COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

The conduct described in each of these counts, Count I through Count VI, is based on two or more acts and transaction connected together constituting parts of a common scheme and plan, all in violation of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and all acts are against the peace and dignity of the State of Mississippi.

Endorsed: A True Bill

LYNN FITCH
Attorney General of Mississippi

By: [Signature]
William C. Lamar
Special Assistant Attorney General

[Signature]
Foreperson of the Grand Jury *sc*

AFFIDAVIT

COMES NOW the undersigned Foreperson of the Grand Jury and makes oath that this indictment presented to this Court was concurred in by twelve (12) or more members of the Grand Jury and at least fifteen (15) members thereof were present during all deliberations.

[Signature]
FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY *sc*

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this, the 29th day of November, 2022.



[Signature]
CIRCUIT CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

v.

CAUSE NO. 2022-0083

JOHN ROBERT COLEMAN

DEFENDANT

CAPIAS

To the Sheriff of said County:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to take John Robert Coleman (DOB 07/24/1976) if to be found in your County, and safely keep him, so that you have his body before this Court, then and there to answer on an indictment found against him on the 29th day of November, 2022, for five counts of Making False Statements to Defraud Government in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 97-7-10 and one count of False Pretenses in violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 97-19-39.

Given under my hand and seal of said Court, and issued this the 29th day of November, 2022.



My Commission Expires Jan. 1, 2024

[Signature]
CIRCUIT CLERK

[Signature]
DEPUTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

FILED

DEC 06 2022

ELMUS STOCKSTILL, CIRCUIT CLERK
BY *[Signature]*, D.C.

I have this day executed the within writ by arresting the within named John Robert Coleman

and placing him in the County Jail
This 6 day of Dec, 2022
[Signature] Sheriff

[Signature] DS

~~I have this day executed the within writ by arresting the within named _____ and placing him in the County Jail this _____ day of _____, _____~~