

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

November 6, 2009

Release #09-089

SCDCA Media Contact: Maria Audas, 803.734.4296

1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC)

Email: [scdca@scconsumer.gov](mailto:scdca@scconsumer.gov)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SC CONSUMERS MAY BE AFFECTED BY ALABAMA COURT RULING

**Columbia, SC.....** The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs is sharing news about an unlicensed credit counseling organization and a recent Alabama court ruling that may affect South Carolina consumers.

SCDCA issued a cease and desist order against Allegro Law Firm, LLC – dba Allegro Law – and its controller, Keith Anderson Nelms on October 6, 2009, after determining that the organization and its employees were providing debt settlement services to South Carolina consumers without first obtaining the required credit counseling licenses from the Department. Allegro Law and Nelms entered into contracts with South Carolina consumers to negotiate with creditors in an attempt to convince them to accept less than what the consumer owed. The Department received complaints against the business detailing exorbitant fees not permitted by the South Carolina Consumer Credit Counseling Act and lack of services provided. Further, Mr. Nelms was not licensed to practice law in this State.

Prior to SCDCA's order, Alabama's Attorney General and the Alabama Securities Commission filed action against the company and Nelms for operating without required licenses and engaging in unfair and deceptive practices. On July 10, 2009, the Circuit Court of Autauga County in Alabama, froze all assets of Allegro Law, LLC and appointed a receiver that is currently handling active contracts between the company and consumers.

South Carolina consumers that currently have a contract or have canceled a contract with Allegro Law, LLC are urged to regularly consult <http://allegrolawreceivership.com> for updated information regarding claims, potential remuneration, and resolution with regard to the Alabama action. For more information, contact the Public Information Division toll-free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at [www.scconsumer.gov](http://www.scconsumer.gov)

-30-

11-06-09/mla

---

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit [www.scconsumer.gov](http://www.scconsumer.gov).

---