

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:** John Carr
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PR 15-26**ABC Revokes Licenses at Three Central Coast Restaurants**

(Central Coast California) - Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) posted notices of revocation at three restaurants on October 9th and 13th, 2015.

The three restaurants are:

- Roberts, 303 Branch Street, Arroyo Grande
- Roberts, 1218 Pine Street, Paso Robles
- Estrella, 815 12th Street, Paso Robles

All three restaurants are owned and licensed by 541 Spring Street LLC, the managing member and majority owner of which is Robert Clouston.

In early 2014, The San Luis Obispo County District Attorney filed charges against Clouston for allegedly defrauding a ninety-nine year old woman with whom he had entered into a business relationship.

In the complaint it is alleged that Clouston became a trustee in the ownership of a 17 acre parcel of land which they had agreed would be developed and the profits given to charity. The woman's long time residence was part of the parcel.

Reportedly without her knowledge, Clouston transferred the land from the trust they had established and moved it into an LLC that he, alone, controlled. He then allegedly used the 17 acres as collateral for loans totaling half a million dollars and used that cash to operate his three restaurants.

In June of 2014, Robert Clouston pled guilty and was convicted of multiple felony counts of Penal Code Section 368(d), theft from an elderly adult. He was also convicted of Penal Code Section 186.11(A)(3), an enhancement for crimes involving sums in excess of \$100,000.00.

Robert Clouston was sentenced to serve 365 days in the San Luis Obispo County Jail, formal probation and ordered to pay \$327,000.00 in restitution to the ninety-nine year old victim within 30 days of sentencing.

The Department filed accusations on each premises based on the conviction which resulted in the revocation of these licenses.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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