



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 DEFENDANTS INDICTED ON FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that nine defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Roy R. Thornton**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Thornton** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber pistol on Dec. 31, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Thornton** has five 1993 criminal felony convictions for assault on an officer, armed criminal action, unlawful use of a weapon, trafficking and possession of a controlled substance. He also has two 1990 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Bobby D. Crippen**, 25, of Excelsior Springs, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of two firearms in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Crippen** was in possession of an Ithaca 12 gauge sawed-off shotgun and a H&R .22 caliber revolver on Sept. 10, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Crippen** has two 1996 criminal felony convictions for receiving stolen property and two more 1996 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and attempted burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Clay County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Kearney, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David L. Martes**, 28, of Independence, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Martes** was in possession of an Erma-Werke .22 caliber rifle on Dec. 17, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Martes** has two 1996 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Martes was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed on Dec. 18, 2003, in federal court in Kansas City. According to an affidavit filed support of the criminal complaint, **Martes** was arrested after purchasing the firearm, which was listed for sale in a *Thrifty Nickel*.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Kenneth J. Ives**, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and body armor in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ives** was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun and Point Blank Body Armor on Aug. 19, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm, ammunition or body armor. **Ives** has two 1988 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Andre L. Wright**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a two firearms in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Wright** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .32 caliber revolver on Sept. 8, 2003, and a Jennings/Bryco Arms .22 caliber pistol on Sept. 28, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Wright** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for driving while his license was revoked or suspended.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case

was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Frank E. Ellis**, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ellis** was in possession of a Henry Repeating Arms .22 caliber rifle on Dec. 18, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Ellis** has two criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Willie Johnson**, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Johnson** was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm handgun on Dec. 17, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Johnson** was convicted of four counts of stealing and two counts of burglary in 1988.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Gail W. Douglas**, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Douglas** was in possession of an Ivers Johnson breakaway 12 gauge shotgun on Dec. 22, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Douglas** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for drug trafficking, a 1999 criminal felony conviction for two counts of tampering with a motor vehicle, and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for tampering with a motor vehicle.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Abraham P. Gonzalez**, 25, of Mexico, was charged with being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Gonzalez** was in possession of a Ruger .45 caliber pistol on Dec. 29, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any illegal alien to

be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Hasty. The case was investigated Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow