



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN CONVICTED IN ONE OF THE KC METRO AREA'S LARGEST COCAINE RINGS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City man has been convicted by a federal jury for distributing large quantities of cocaine in the Kansas City area.

**Robert L. Abbott**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty on Jan. 23, 2003, of participating in a conspiracy responsible for the distribution of nearly 200 kilograms of cocaine in the metropolitan area. He was initially charged with the crime in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 11, 2001.

**Abbott** was found guilty of both counts of the indictment charging him as a conspirator in the cocaine ring.

Following **Abbott's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated about 40 minutes before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey, ending a trial that began Jan. 21, 2003.

“This amounts to one of the largest cocaine rings in the region,” Graves said. “**Abbott** was purchasing cocaine for about \$17,000 per kilogram and reselling it for up to \$22,000 per kilogram. When the entire 200 kilograms is considered, **Abbott** had a hand in the distribution of more than \$2 million worth of cocaine in the metropolitan area.”

The charges against **Abbott** were included in an indictment containing a total of four counts against five individuals.

Co-defendants **Artis Jones**, 30, **Loren Harris**, 41, and **Donovan C. Law, Sr.**, 41, all of Kansas City, have already pleaded guilty to federal charges related to their involvement in the cocaine conspiracy. Co-defendant **Juan Antonio Guevara**, 30, a citizen of Mexico who had

been living in Lee's Summit, Mo., currently is a fugitive from justice.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lajuana M. Counts and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Oliver. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)