



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON 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 that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for distributing large quantities of cocaine in the Kansas City area.

Robert L. Abbott, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 30 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Abbott** to pay a fine of \$131,500.

On Jan. 23, 2003, **Abbott** was convicted by a federal jury of participating in a conspiracy responsible for the distribution of more than 200 kilograms of cocaine in the metropolitan area. He was charged with the crime in a superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 17, 2002.

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

Graves characterized the cocaine conspiracy as “one of the largest cocaine rings in the region.”

“**Abbott** lived a life of luxury off the substantial profits of his illegal drug trade,” Graves said, “importing cocaine from outside the United States and selling it not only in the Kansas City area, but distributing it in St. Joseph, Mo., Omaha, Neb., and Minneapolis, Minn. 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 four individuals.

Co-defendants **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.

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