



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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APRIL 14, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Note: Audio comments from Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, are available online at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR ARMED BANK ROBBERY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a man, who lived in both Pittsburg, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for the armed robbery of Winterset State Bank.

Damon Beaman, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 23, 2002, **Beaman** was convicted by a federal jury of the armed robbery of Winterset State Bank, 666 Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, Mo., on June 15, 2002.

“During that robbery,” Graves said, “**Beaman** viciously pistol-whipped three bank employees. This is among the most violent bank robberies our office has prosecuted, and today’s sentence reflects the severity of the crime.”

Graves said that two men burst through the east entrance of Winterset State Bank at about 10:50 a.m. on June 15, 2002. The men, who were both wearing pantyhose-type masks and carrying semi-automatic handguns, ran toward the bank tellers, vaulted the teller counter and ordered the tellers to get on the floor. The government argued in court that **Beaman** struck three tellers with a handgun while demanding money and threatening to shoot them. A shot was also fired inside the bank during the robbery.

An anonymous call to the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS hot line identified **Beaman** as the bank robber depicted in the photographs displayed on a television newscast.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt J. Whitworth. It was investigated by Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, Pittsburg, Kan., Police Department and 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