



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FEBRUARY 18, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING
FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing marked the culmination of a case launched under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

John D. Berry, 35, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 22, 2002, **Berry** pleaded guilty to the indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Feb. 26, 2002. **Berry** admitted that on Dec. 22, 2001, he was in possession of a Charter Arms .38 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Berry** has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for forcible rape, a 1988 criminal felony conviction for burglary, and a 1987 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes IV. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 380 defendants, and convictions against 329 of those defendants, including 306 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 277 of the 329 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 52 currently await sentencing hearings.

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