



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN CRACK CASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiring to distribute crack cocaine.

George R. Britton, Jr., 30, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. By pleading guilty, Britton admitted that he arranged by telephone to receive crack cocaine while he was incarcerated at the Western Missouri Reception and Diagnostic Center in St. Joseph, Mo. He admitted that he conspired with other to have the transactions occur between Oct. 1, 2001, and Nov. 7, 2001. He was indicted on the charge by a federal grand jury on Oct. 2, 2002, in Kansas City.

Britton is the second co-defendant in this case to plead guilty.

Keena E. Owsley, 24, of Kansas City, also pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright on March 4, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Owsley** admitted that to maintaining a residence for the purpose of distributing crack cocaine. **Britton** admitted that **Owsley** also distributed cocaine to his direction and disposed of the proceeds from those sales at his direction.

As a result of pleading guilty, the defendants may be sentenced up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$2 million fine. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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