



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE 100 KILOS OF MARIJUANA IN JASPER COUNTY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Arlington, Texas, man was sentenced today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute mass quantities of marijuana in Jasper County, Mo.

**Antonio Castro**, 42, of Arlington, Texas, was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to five years and 10 months in prison without parole.

On Aug. 28, 2002, **Castro** pleaded guilty to helping arrange shipments of marijuana from Texas to Joplin, Mo. **Castro** admitted that he allowed the use of his Dallas, Texas, residence as a storage location for the marijuana and that he assisted in the distribution of approximately 100 kilograms of marijuana to undercover law enforcement officials on Nov. 25, 2001. He also admitted that he was present when officers arrested co-defendants in the conspiracy who were, at that time, in possession of 88 kilograms of marijuana. A subsequent search of **Castro's** residence revealed additional quantities of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, Graves said.

“As a result of this sentencing and the prosecution of this case, literally tons of marijuana are being kept out of Missouri,” Graves said. “That is the purpose for these types of cases – to keep the drugs out of our area.”

**Castro** is one of four co-defendants originally charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield on May 1, 2002.

**Luciano Martinez-Figueroa**, 34, of Rialto, Calif., was found guilty by a federal jury on Jan. 16, 2003, of one count of conspiring to distribute in excess of 100 kilograms of marijuana and one count of possession with intent to distribute in excess of 100 kilograms of marijuana.

Graves explained that **Martinez-Figueroa** was part of the conspiracy to ship truckloads

of marijuana, originating in Mexico for distribution in Joplin, between September and November 2001. On Oct. 1, 2001, law enforcement officers in Jasper County intercepted a 1996 Kenworth tractor pulling a 1994 Great Dane trailer that was being driven by **Martinez-Figueroa**. The trailer was carrying 41 cardboard boxes of processed marijuana - approximately 455 kilograms - and approximately \$5,000 in United States currency.

On Sept. 6, 2002, **Jamie De La Pena**, 35, from San Marcos, Texas, pleaded guilty to also playing a role in the conspiracy to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. **De La Pena** admitted that he helped arrange for the shipment of marijuana that was intercepted on Oct. 1, 2001.

**De La Pena** also admitted that he traveled to Joplin again on Nov. 25, 2001 and provided undercover law enforcement officers with approximately 100 kilograms of marijuana. On Nov. 28, 2001, law enforcement officers in Dallas seized approximately 88 kilograms of marijuana from **De La Pena**, Graves said.

**Jimmy Jones**, 41, of Seagoville, Texas, is the fourth co-defendant charged in this conspiracy. **Jones** pleaded guilty on Aug. 28, 2002, to helping to arrange the shipments of marijuana from Texas to Joplin.

**Jones** admitted that he acted as a telephone messenger and “go between” for **De La Pena** and others, passing on information about marijuana shipments while he was incarcerated at the federal prison in Seagoville.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Eggert. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration of Springfield, Mo., and Arlington, Texas.

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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  
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