



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10TH CO-DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a 10th co-defendant was sentenced in federal court today for distributing methamphetamine.

Richard B. Coker, 35, address unknown, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 11 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

On March 6, 2003, **Coker** pleaded guilty to possessing pseudoephedrine knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine on Nov. 6, 2002.

Coker is among 10 co-defendants charged in a federal indictment. The other nine co-defendants also have been sentenced for their involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute over 500 grams of methamphetamine.

Eugene L. Joslin, 49, of Kingsville, Mo., was sentenced on Jan. 16, 2002, to two years and one month in federal prison without parole for distributing four to 12 pounds of iodine between January 1998 and August 1999 for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

William E. Howell, 45, also known as Fireman Bill, of Kansas City, was sentenced Jan. 14, 2002, to one year and three months in federal prison without parole for maintaining a residence for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Alicia M. Burks, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced Jan. 14, 2002, to one year and one day in federal prison without parole for possession and intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Roger M. Collins, 44, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced Nov. 1, 2002, to four years

and 10 months in federal prison without parole for his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Charles Z. Wise, 38, of Independence, was sentenced Nov. 5, 2002, to four years and six months in federal prison without parole for his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Jennifer L. Kirby, 38, of Independence, was sentenced Oct. 3, 2002 to two years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for her role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Pauline L. Luciano, 34, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced Nov. 5, 2002 to four years and six months in federal prison without parole for her role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Elizabeth A. Van Buskirk, 32, of Independence, was sentenced Nov. 5, 2002, to five years in federal prison without parole for her role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Patricia Ann Vanmaele, 51, of Blue Springs, was sentenced Jan. 8, 2002, to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole for her role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Powell. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Metropolitan Methamphetamine Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and police departments in Independence, Sugar Creek, Blue Springs and Kansas City, Mo.

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