



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON 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 violating a federal firearms law. This case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Isaac J. Coppage, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 20, 2002, **Coppage** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 15, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Coppage** admitted that on July 19, 2002, he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 Special semi-automatic pistol. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Coppage** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1996 criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It 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 and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 401 defendants, and convictions against 340 of those defendants, including 317 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 291 of the 340 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 49 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