



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAURA COURTNEY PLEADS GUILTY, SENTENCED FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENT TO FEDERAL AGENTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that **Laura Lynn Courtney**, the wife of former Kansas City pharmacist Robert Ray Courtney, pleaded guilty today and was sentenced for making a false statement to federal agents during their investigation into her husband's drug dilution scheme.

Laura Lynn Courtney, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to a federal information charging her with making a false statement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration – Office of Criminal Investigations, for the purpose of influencing the investigation of those agencies into the assets owned and controlled by Robert R. Courtney. The court sentenced **Laura Courtney** to one day of probation.

Graves explained that on Aug. 15, 2001 – the day after a federal criminal complaint was filed that charged him with diluting cancer medications – Robert R. Courtney delivered a bag containing over \$160,000 in cash to his father, Robert L. Courtney, who then delivered the bag to **Laura Courtney** the same day. A temporary restraining order was issued on Aug. 22, 2001, which seized and froze several million dollars worth of assets owned and controlled by Robert R. Courtney, who was indicted by a federal grand jury on Aug. 23, 2001.

On Aug. 31, 2001, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration – Office of Criminal Investigations interviewed **Laura Courtney**, asking if she had any knowledge of Robert L. Courtney recently holding a large sum of cash for, or at the request of, Robert R. Courtney. **Laura Courtney** denied having any knowledge of that, Graves said, although she knew that a large sum of cash had been delivered to her by Robert L. Courtney at the direction of her husband.

On Dec. 5, 2002, Robert R. Courtney was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison without parole and ordered to pay restitution of \$10,452,109.67 to his victims, plus a fine of \$25,000.

“Based on the extensive federal investigation, we have concluded that **Laura Courtney** had no direct involvement in any illegal business scheme operated by Robert Ray Courtney,” Graves said. “**Laura Courtney** had no prior knowledge of her husband’s illegal drug dilution conduct. The extent of her criminal wrongdoing is limited to the false statement she made to federal law enforcement officers, for which she has been convicted and sentenced today.”

The \$168,838.50 in cash that was the subject of that false statement has been transferred to the restitution fund for Robert R. Courtney’s victims.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Porter. Civil aspects of the case were handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Lay. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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