



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BRANSON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Branson, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiring to distribute methamphetamine in Taney County.

**Sean L. Davis**, 28, Branson, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Sept. 15, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Davis** admitted that he received supplies of methamphetamine, which he redistributed to others in southwest Missouri.

On June 4, 2003, co-defendant **Howard A. Neustel**, 33, of Kirbyville, Mo., pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

As a result of his guilty plea, **Davis** could be subject to a statutory minimum sentence of at least 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. **Davis'** sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. The case was investigated by COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team) and the Branson, Mo., Police Department, with assistance from the sheriff's departments of Taney County and Greene County, Mo., and San Bernardino, Calif., the Santa Barbara Drug TaskForce and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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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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