



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 25, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT BILLS IN BRANSON**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that Chicago man was sentenced in federal court today for passing counterfeit bills in Branson, Mo.

**John G. DeLeon**, 26, of Chicago, Ill., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to one year and eight months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **DeLeon** to pay \$200 in restitution.

On May 31, 2002, **DeLeon** pleaded guilty to possessing counterfeit \$100 bills. A federal grand jury meeting in Springfield indicted him on the charge on Feb. 27, 2002.

By pleading guilty, **DeLeon** admitted to possessing more than \$6,000 in counterfeit bills on Jan. 5, 2002. **DeLeon** was arrested after the Branson, Mo., Police Department was made aware of a man passing the bills at several locations in the Branson area. Officers located **DeLeon** at an area motel and later searched his motel room, which led to the discovery of the counterfeit bills.

This case was investigated by the Branson Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

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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

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)