



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PROJECT CEASEFIRE**  
**TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED**  
**FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two defendants were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of firearms. The cases mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Keevon U. Mitchell**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Whipple Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On June 19, 2003, **Mitchell** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .40 caliber pistol on Dec. 19, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mitchell** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for trafficking and possession of a controlled substance and two 2002 criminal felony convictions for delivery of a controlled substance and trafficking.

**Mitchell** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 7, 2003, in Kansas City.

\* **Charles V. Evans**, 48, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to one year and three months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On June 20, 2003, **Evans** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Charter Arms .38 caliber revolver on Dec. 8, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession

of any firearm or ammunition. **Evans** has a 1981 criminal felony conviction for attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud.

**Evans** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2003, in Kansas City.

These cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. They were investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

### **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.

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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)

