



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 DEFENDANTS INDICTED ON FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that 11 defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition.

* **Hassan A. Grace**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Grace** was in possession of a Ruger .45 caliber revolver on Sept. 13, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Grace** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 2001 criminal felony conviction for trafficking and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Michael D. Woolridge**, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Woolridge** was in possession of 30 rounds of PMC .38 caliber ammunition on Dec. 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Woolridge** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Joshua Walker**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Walker** was in possession of a Charter Arms Bulldog .44 caliber revolver on Dec. 7, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Walker** has four criminal felony convictions for tampering with a motor vehicle from 1999, 1994 and 1993.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Brian M. Ebey**, 46, of Springfield, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ebey** was in possession of a J.C. Higgins 12 gauge shotgun on May 14, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Ebey** has a 1978 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Aaron T. Fant**, 34, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Fant** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Dec. 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Fant** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Maurice E. Lindsey**, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Lindsey** was in possession of an Arminius .357 caliber pistol on Nov. 21, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Lindsey** has a total of 10 criminal felony

convictions for burglary, stealing, motor vehicle theft and receiving stolen property ranging from 1980 to 1998.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Walter Triplett**, 47, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Triplett** was in possession of an Armi Tanfoglio Giuseppe .25 caliber pistol on Oct. 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Triplett** has a 1975 criminal felony conviction for manslaughter.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **John R. Landers**, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Landers** was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm pistol on Oct. 22, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Landers** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Warrensburg, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Sylvester L. Addison**, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Addison** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson Model Highway Patrolman on Nov. 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Addison** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for robbery and armed criminal action and a 1983 criminal felony conviction for stealing from another person.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Alex W. Martinez**, 26, who has no permanent address, was charged with being a felon

in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Martinez** was in possession of a Fabrique Nationale, Browning Arms .380 caliber handgun on Dec. 5, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Martinez** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Ronald H. Fortner**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of two firearms in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Fortner** was in possession of a Browning Arms Co., 9 mm semi-automatic machine pistol and a Cobray 9 mm semi-automatic machine pistol on Dec. 1, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Fortner** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

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