



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KANSAS CITY MAN SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced today for a federal firearm violation.

Herbert Harris, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs to six years in federal prison without parole.

On June 28, 2002, **Harris** was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was convicted in a bench trial before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs of being in possession of a semi-automatic pistol on or about Oct. 16, 2001. **Harris** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for second-degree murder, a 1992 criminal felony conviction for distribution of a controlled substance, and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a convicted felon to own or possess any firearm or ammunition..

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 380 defendants, and convictions against 329 of those defendants, including 306 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 276 of the 329 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 53 currently await sentencing hearings.

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