



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JULY 22, 2003**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THREE MORE PLEAD GUILTY TO METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that three more defendants have pleaded guilty to their role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

**Darcy E. Harris**, 38, of Stockton, Mo., and **Tommy R. Smith**, 28, of Sibley, Mo., both pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon.

**Harris** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. **Harris** has been arrested in conjunction with three separate seizures of operational methamphetamine laboratories related to the federal indictment, Graves said. **Harris** admitted that she manufactured methamphetamine, provided chemicals for methamphetamine manufacturing, and sold methamphetamine.

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

**Smith** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Smith** admitted that he was operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in a hotel room rented at the Super 8 Motel in Grandview, Mo., on Nov. 12, 2002.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Smith** may be subject to a sentence of at least five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$2 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing

hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

**Sean C. Postpichal**, 27, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner on July 21, 2003, to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999 and Feb. 25, 2003.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Postpichal** admitted that he had been arrested in conjunction with five separate seizures of operational methamphetamine laboratories.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Postpichal** may be subject to a sentence of at least 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

A fourth co-defendant has already pleaded guilty to an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2003.

**David J. Hoerl, Jr.**, 38, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty on June 25, 2003, to maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing and storing methamphetamine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeff Valenti and Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

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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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