



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR FRAUD BY CREDIT CARDS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield business owner was sentenced in federal court today for a fraud scheme in which he stole the identities of other persons in order to obtain more than \$24,000 from unauthorized credit cards.

Terry M. Heitman, 44, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Heitman** to pay \$24,438.60 in restitution. **Heitman** owns and operates The Classy Dame women's dress shop in Springfield.

Following his prison term, Graves added, **Heitman** will serve three years of supervised release. The court ordered that, during that time, **Heitman** could not open any checking, savings or credit card accounts and that he could not be self employed or work in any business where he would come into contact with other's credit cards or checks without the Probation Office's permission.

At today's sentencing hearing, Graves said, federal prosecutors argued for an appropriate sentence in light of **Heitman's** nine prior convictions for bad checks, a conviction for stealing, a conviction for receiving stolen property, a conviction for assault and two earlier convictions for false credit cards (for one of which **Heitman** was previously sentenced to three years in federal prison).

On Feb. 24, 2003, **Heitman** pleaded guilty to both counts of an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield on Dec. 18, 2002.

Graves explained that **Heitman** obtained several credit cards in the names of other persons without their knowledge or authorization, and used those cards to obtain property. By

pleading guilty, **Heitman** admitted that he used unauthorized credit cards in Greene County on two separate occasions – between February 26, 1999 and February 17, 2000 and between August 17, 2000 and June 28, 2001.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

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