

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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NOVEMBER 7, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND JURY INDICTS COLUMBIA, FULTON MEN FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating a federal firearms law.

* **Ronald Byrd Hudson**, 36, of Columbia, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hudson** was in possession of a Hawes .25 caliber handgun on Sept. 25, 2003, in Boone County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hudson** has a 1984 criminal felony conviction for robbery, 1986 criminal felony convictions for stealing and auto theft, 1987 criminal felony convictions for stealing and auto theft and a 1996 criminal felony conviction for auto theft, all in St. Louis County, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David Lee Gompf**, 50, of Fulton, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Gompf** was in possession of a Hi-Point 9mm rifle with ammunition on June 11, 2003, in Camden County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Gompf** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Laclede County, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Camden County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the 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