



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN MISSOURI CO-DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Novinger, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for her role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Cherie L. Johns, 46, of Novinger, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 7, 2003, Johns pleaded guilty to her role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002. She was one of seven defendants indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2002.

Two other defendants also has been sentenced for his involvement in the conspiracy and four others have pleaded guilty.

On May 23, 2003, **Edward W. Robbins**, 52, of Queen City, Mo., was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 18, 2003, **Robbins** pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002.

Karanda R. Embry, 22, of Novinger, was sentenced to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for her involvement in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Jerry E. Hilderman, 39, of Novinger, pleaded guilty on April 16, 2003, to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Martin L. Robbins, 28, of Greentop, Mo., pleaded guilty on March 12, 2003, to

conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Specifically, **Robbins** admitted that he supplied precursor materials to others for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Co-defendant **Wayne J. Gregory**, 41, of Worthington, Mo., pleaded guilty on March 11, 2003. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Gregory** admitted that between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002, he, too, conspired with others to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. **Gregory** admitted that he also supplied precursor materials, including the ingredient pseudoephedrine, to others for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine.

David L. Mullin, 22, of Kirksville, Mo., also has pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

As a result of pleading guilty, the remaining four co-defendants are subject to sentences of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole. They also may be subject to fines of up to \$1 million. The co-defendant's sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the North Missouri Drug Task Force, the Adair County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Putnam County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Schuyler County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Kirksville, Mo., Police Department, the Knox County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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