



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BETHANY BANKER PLEADS GUILTY TO MONEY LAUNDERING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Bethany, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to money laundering at the bank where he was employed.

James H. Krueger, 51, of Bethany, Mo., waived his right to an indictment by a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to a federal information charging him with structuring financial transactions in order to evade federal reporting requirements.

Krueger admitted that he assisted in making nine separate deposits, totaling \$67,870, into an account at Farmers Bank of Northern Missouri between March 4, 1998 and June 10, 1998. **Krueger** was employed as a loan officer at the bank during that time. Graves explained that federal law requires any financial transaction greater than \$10,000 to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. **Krueger** split his deposits into separate transactions, Graves said, in order to evade that federal reporting requirement.

As a result of **Krueger's** guilty plea, he may subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark A. Miller. The case was investigated by the IRS Criminal Investigation.

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