



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

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

JUNE 17, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIFTH AND FINAL CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN METRO METH CASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a fifth and final co-defendant has pleaded guilty in a metropolitan methamphetamine case.

John P. Long, 32, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to conspiracy to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Long was initially charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 6, 2002, in Kansas City. In addition to the conspiracy count of the indictment, **Long** also pleaded guilty to a forfeiture count, which requires him to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy. The forfeiture includes \$29,312 in personal property and \$768,000 in cash proceeds that he received in exchange for the distribution of more than 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Long** may face a sentence of up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a \$4 million fine. 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.

Long is the fifth and final co-defendant to plead guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. All five co-defendants were charged in the same indictment on Nov. 6, 2002.

On June 16, 2003, **Rodney W. Schump**, 49, of Blue Springs, Mo., pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Schump** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Sept. 21, 2002.

Stuart R. Bryan, 31, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty to his involvement in the meth case on May 30, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Bryan** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

Kevin L. Cowan, 34, of Independence, Mo., also pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. He, too, admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

Tiffany Lee Gunnels, 23, of Independence, Mo., was the first defendant to plead guilty in this case. On March 11, 2003, she pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

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

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