



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THREE DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas men and a Missouri man were indicted by a federal grand jury today in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

**John L. McMurray**, 44, of Kansas City, Mo.; **William Brandt**, 31, of Topeka, Kan.; and **Ronald Andra McMurray**, 41, of Topeka, Kan.; were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **John** and **Ronald McMurray** are brothers.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine between Aug. 19, 2002 and Feb. 20, 2003.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **John McMurray** possessed with the intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

According to Graves, today's grand jury indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint filed in federal court in Kansas City on Feb. 21, 2003.

**John McMurray** was arrested after a search warrant was executed at his residence at 2221 Oakley, Kansas City, Mo., on Feb. 20, 2003. According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, law enforcement officers conducting the search found seven bricks wrapped in black tape and four clear plastic vacuum-sealed packages containing a total of approximately 12 kilograms of cocaine, as well as \$19,720 in U.S. currency.

**Brandt** was arrested by a Kansas State trooper the same day, shortly after he left **John McMurray's** residence. While conducting a search of **Brandt's** vehicle, says the affidavit, the trooper found a sack containing approximately 2.7 kilograms of cocaine. **Brandt** was allegedly paid \$500 to drive from Topeka to Kansas City to pick up the cocaine, then deliver it to **Ronald**

**McMurray** after returning to Topeka.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Connelly. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas State Highway Patrol, and the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department.

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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  
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