



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **11 FELONS INDICTED ON FIREARMS VIOLATIONS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that 11 defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury, in separate and unrelated cases, today for being felons in possession of firearms.

\* **Gregland L. Phillips**, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Phillips** was in possession of a Hi-Point 9 mm rifle and a Phoenix Arms .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol on April 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Phillips** has three 2003 criminal felony convictions for robbery, armed criminal action and sexual abuse.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Antonio Barragan**, 24, of Belton, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Barragan** was in possession of a Ruger .38 caliber revolver on May 28, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Barragan** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for burglary and robbery.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and

Firearms.

\* **Michael W. Casey**, 40, of Gladstone, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Casey** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver on Sept. 7, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Casey** has a 1984 and a 1986 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Gladstone, Mo., Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **William J. Dixon**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Dixon** was in possession of a Intratec Tec-9, 9 mm pistol on Aug. 24, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Dixon** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for trafficking, a 2000 criminal felony conviction for trafficking and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Joseph B. Lewis**, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Lewis** was in possession of a Ithaca 20-gauge sawed-off pistol-grip shotgun on Sept. 26, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Lewis** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for fleeing and eluding.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Sylvester B. Washington**, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Washington** was in possession of a Hi-Point 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Oct. 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Washington** has three 1994 criminal felony convictions for murder in the second degree, armed criminal action and unlawful use of a weapon.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Brian G. Parks**, 41, of East Lynn, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Parks** was in possession of a Taurus .38 caliber revolver on June 9, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Parks** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a chemical with intent to create a controlled substance, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. The case was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Cornelius R. Banks**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Banks** was in possession of a Hi-Point .380 caliber handgun on Oct. 24, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Banks** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance and a 2000 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Andy A. Barnes**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Barnes** was in possession of a Sauer J.P. and Sohn 7.65 caliber semi-automatic pistol on May 14, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Barnes** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for stealing and a 2003 criminal felony conviction for assault.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **James T. Dawn**, 47, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Dawn** was in possession of a .32 caliber handgun on Oct. 22, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Dawn** has two 1982 criminal felony convictions for burglary and a 1979 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

\* **Brian A. Taff**, 31, of Martinsville, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of four firearms in an indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Taff** was in possession of an Iver Johnson .22 caliber rifle, a Remington .243 caliber rifle, a Remington .22 caliber rifle and a Winchester .243 caliber rifle on March 27, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Taff** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for non-support.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these 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.

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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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