



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FELON FROM SOUTHERN MISSOURI SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARM LAW

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a southern Missouri man was sentenced in federal court for violating federal firearms law.

Matthew Monks, 26, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 2, 2002, **Monks** pleaded guilty to a federal information that charges him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Monks** admitted that he was in possession of a Calico Liberty III 9 mm pistol and ammunition in Texas County, Mo., on Feb. 6, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Monks** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Texas County, a 1996 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Wright County, Mo., and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for escape in Cooper County, Mo.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Texas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's 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

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