



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIFTH, SIXTH CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN NORTHERN MISSOURI METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two northern Missouri men have been sentenced in federal court today for their roles in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Wayne J. Gregory, 41, of Worthington, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to 13 years in federal prison without parole.

On March 11, 2003, **Gregory** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002. **Gregory** admitted that he supplied precursor materials, including the ingredient pseudoephedrine, to others for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine, Graves said.

David L. Mullin, 22, of Kirksville, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Mullin also has pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002.

Mullin and **Gregory** are the fifth and sixth co-defendants to be sentenced in this case. A total of seven co-defendants have pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. All the defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2002, in Kansas City.

On July 1, 2003, **Martin L. Robbins**, 28, of Greentop, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to four years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On March 12, 2003, **Robbins** pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture and distribute

methamphetamine. Specifically, **Robbins** admitted that he supplied precursor materials to others for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002.

On June 4, 2003, **Cherie L. Johns**, 46, of Novinger, Mo., was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. She pleaded guilty to her role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine on Feb. 7, 2003.

On May 23, 2003, **Edward W. Robbins**, 52, of Queen City, Mo., was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 18, 2003, **Robbins** pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002.

On May 29, 2003, **Karanda R. Embry**, 22, of Novinger, was sentenced to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for her involvement in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

One other defendant has pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, but has not yet been sentenced.

Jerry E. Hilderman, 39, of Novinger, pleaded guilty on April 16, 2003, to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Hilderman** is subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole. He also may be subject to a fine of up to \$1 million. **Hilderman's** 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 U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the North Missouri Drug Task Force, the Adair County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Putnam County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Schuyler County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Kirksville, Mo., Police Department, the Knox County Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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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