



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

APRIL 11, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR INTENTION TO DISTRIBUTE MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Texas man was sentenced in federal court today for possessing with an intent to distribute marijuana.

Manuel Sanchez Ochoa, 62, of McAllen, Texas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to five years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 25, 2002, **Ochoa** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 26, 2002, in Kansas City. By pleading guilty, **Ochoa** admitted that on Feb. 18, 2001, he knowingly possessed with an intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

Ochoa was arrested following a routine traffic stop in Kansas, Graves said. At that time, he attempted to elude arrest and continued to drive to Kansas City, Mo. Once stopped and arrested, law enforcement officers found **Ochoa** to be in possession of 10 boxes containing marijuana bricks. The marijuana, discovered in **Ochoa's** vehicle, weighed approximately 220 pounds.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

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