



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

JANUARY 21, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN WITH PRIOR KIDNAPPING CONVICTION SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia man with at least three prior felony criminal convictions, including one for kidnapping, was sentenced today for illegally possessing a loaded gun.

Harold William Pruitt, 32, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 19, 2002, **Pruitt** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Pruitt** admitted that he was in possession of a loaded Colt Police Model .38-caliber revolver on November 28, 2001, in Columbia. Possession of any firearm at that time was illegal, Graves explained, as a result of **Pruitt's** 1988 felony criminal convictions for first-degree burglary, stealing and kidnapping in Boone County.

Pruitt was arrested by Columbia police officers on November 28, 2001, at the Phillips 66 Convenience Store at 501 Nifong Boulevard, after police swept through the neighborhood to investigate a reported disturbance at Rack 'n Roll Billiards, 3919 Providence Road. Officers found the loaded handgun in the waistband of his pants.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Miller. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the 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

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow