



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

OCTOBER 22, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIXTH CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN COUNTERFEIT CHECK SCHEME

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a sixth co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today to his involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture and pass counterfeit checks.

Jeremy R. Riley, 25, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to his role in a conspiracy to manufacture counterfeit checks and pass those checks at various businesses between May 1, 2001, and March 31, 2003, in Missouri and Kansas.

Several other co-defendants also have pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy to manufacture and pass approximately \$50,000 in counterfeit checks in the metropolitan area.

William J. Yeokum, 22, of Kansas City, **Jeremiah D. Kout**, 26, of Kansas City, **Christopher R. Larabee**, 24, of Independence, Mo., **Kelly A. Owens**, 37, of Raytown, Mo., and **David W. Foster**, 29, of Kansas City, each have pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy.

All of the defendants were originally charged in a 14-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 14, 2003, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, the defendants admitted that they participated in a conspiracy to prepare, possess and cash counterfeit checks that bore captioning and bank routing numbers for legitimate banks, individuals and businesses. The defendants used false identification material to match payee and other information on the counterfeit checks, in order to cash the checks. The checks were cashed at banks and retail stores with the defendants sharing the cash proceeds and property obtained through this fraud scheme.

Owens admitted that she prepared – and caused to be prepared and possessed – counterfeit checks and false identification documents. Between May 1 and Aug. 31, 2002, a co-conspirator – while employed at Butternut Bread Store in Raytown – allegedly provided retail customer names, addresses, Social Security numbers, driver’s license numbers and bank account information to **Owens** for the purpose of manufacturing counterfeit checks.

Between Jan. 4 and Jan. 22, 2003, **Riley** was in possession of counterfeit checks, identification documents, and computer equipment and software utilized to manufacture counterfeit checks.

Between Dec. 1, 2002, and Jan. 8, 2003, **Larabee** and **Kout** possessed and negotiated counterfeit checks provided to them by Owens.

On May 1, 2001, and March 31, 2003, **Owens** manufactured counterfeit personal and business checks. **Owens** allegedly provided those counterfeit checks to **Yoekum** and **Foster**, who passed or negotiated the counterfeit checks at various businesses in Missouri and Kansas.

On Aug. 15, 2002, **Owens** possessed counterfeit checks, Kansas driver’s licenses, a laminator and other materials utilized to manufacture counterfeit checks and false identification documents.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service; the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department; the Raytown, Mo., Police Department; the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff’s Department; the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department; the Holton, Kan., Police Department; the Shawnee, Kan., Police Department; the Blue Springs, Mo., Police Department; the Grandview, Mo., Police Department; the Harrisonville, Mo., Police Department; the Cass county, Mo., Sheriff’s Office; and the North Kansas City, Mo., Police 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

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow