



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD FELON INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

David Ritchie, 40, of Springfield, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting today in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Ritchie** was in possession of a KG 9mm semi-automatic assault weapon on Feb. 11, 2003, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm. **Ritchie** has two criminal felony convictions for auto theft in 1987 and assault in 1994.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in today's indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Springfield, 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