



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 7, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FOUR DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN COCAINE, MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to distribute marijuana and cocaine in Columbia, Mo.

**Juan Carlos Rivera**, 29, and **Esteban Rivera**, 22, both of Romeoville, Ill., and **Brian Wheeler**, 23, and **Justin Robert Wells**, 23, both of Columbia, all were charged in Count One of the indictment. Count One alleges the men conspired to distribute at least 100 kilograms of marijuana and 500 grams of cocaine from as early as September 2000 until Nov. 24, 2002 in Columbia.

Count Two of the indictment further charges **Wheeler** with possession of marijuana and cocaine with intent to distribute. Count Three charges **Wells** with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. The case was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Illinois State Highway Patrol, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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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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