



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLUE SPRINGS MAN FOURTH TO PLEAD GUILTY IN METH CASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a fourth defendant has pleaded guilty in a metropolitan methamphetamine case.

Rodney W. Schump, 49, of Blue Springs, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Schump** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Sept. 21, 2002. He was initially charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 6, 2002, in Kansas City.

Schump is the fourth defendant to plead guilty in this case.

Stuart R. Bryan, 31, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty to his involvement in the meth case on May 30, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Bryan** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

Kevin L. Cowan, 34, of Independence, Mo., also pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. He, too, admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

Tiffany Lee Gunnels, 23, of Independence, Mo., was the first defendant to plead guilty in this case. On March 11, 2003, she pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Schump** may face up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$1 million fine. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City, Mo., Metropolitan Drug Task Force and the Independence, 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