



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN METRO METH CASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two defendants were sentenced in federal court today for their involvement in a metropolitan methamphetamine case. A third defendant was sentenced on Nov. 13, 2003.

Rodney W. Schump, 49, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to eight years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On June 16, 2003, **Schump** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Sept. 21, 2002.

Kevin L. Cowan, 34, of Independence, Mo., also was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to seven years in federal prison without parole.

On March 27, 2003, **Cowan** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2002, and Oct. 17, 2002.

A third co-defendant was sentenced on Nov. 13, 2003, for his involvement in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Stuart R. Bryan, 31, of Raytown, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole. He 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.

Two additional co-defendants have pleaded guilty to their involvement in the methamphetamine conspiracy and await sentencing.

John P. Long, 32, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty on June 17, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine. **Long** also pleaded guilty to a forfeiture count, which requires him to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy. The forfeiture includes \$29,312 in personal property and \$768,000 in cash proceeds that he received in exchange for the distribution of more than 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine.

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.

The case was 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