



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA WOMAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for distributing crack cocaine.

Deidrea Lachelle Scott, also known as Deidrea Lachelle Freelon, 34, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole for distributing crack cocaine on Oct. 17, 2000, in Boone County, Mo.

On May 16, 2003, **Scott** pleaded guilty to distributing crack cocaine in Columbia. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she distributed cocaine on Oct. 17, 2000, in Boone County, Mo.

Scott was initially charged with distributing crack cocaine in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 8, 2002, in Jefferson City. She was arrested following a round-up of arrest warrants served by the MUSTANG Task Force (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group) on Dec. 17, 2002.

Scott's case grew out of a large-scale investigation into a scheme to distribute large quantities of powder and crack cocaine and launder drug money in mid-Missouri. More than 20 defendants have been convicted as a result of the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by MUSTANG, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force comprised of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, and municipal police departments in Columbia, Booneville, Fulton, and Jefferson City.

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