



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD ATTORNEY SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING INSURANCE COMPANIES OF MORE THAN \$68,000**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., attorney was sentenced in federal court today for defrauding several insurance companies by embezzling more than \$68,000 from worker's compensation clients.

**Steven Shanholtzer**, 35, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to five years of probation, including four months of home detention and 250 hours of community service. The court also ordered **Shanholtzer** to pay \$69,573 in restitution.

On May 5, 2003, **Shanholtzer** waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal information that charges him with devising a scheme to defraud several insurance companies.

**Shanholtzer**, while acting as an attorney for various insurance companies from February to August 2001, agreed to settle insurance claims with disabled employees who had filed a disability claim with their employer. **Shanholtzer** notified the various insurance companies that he had obtained a settlement of the claim for an amount greater than the settlement amount agreed to with the claimant, Graves said. **Shanholtzer** admitted that, when he received the disability claim settlement checks for an inflated amount from the insurance companies, he forged the signatures of the claimants on the checks and cashed them, keeping a portion of the proceeds for his own use.

**Shanholtzer** also admitted that the total loss to his victims was approximately \$68,573.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

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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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