



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO KC MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO MANUFACTURE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City men pleaded guilty in federal court today to their role in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Richard A. Stewart, 45, and **William R. Barnett**, 38, both of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. this morning to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 15, 2002. Graves noted that three more co-defendants in this case have also pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Stewart** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 10, 2001 and Oct. 7, 2002. **Stewart** admitted that he attempted to manufacture methamphetamine at the home of a co-defendant on Aug. 28, 2002. On that day, **Stewart** admitted, he aided others in the conspiracy to collect and secret the lab components in an effort to avoid detection of the meth lab by law enforcement officers.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Barnett** admitted that he was in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on April 8, 2002.

According to Graves, three more co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. **Tina Dravenstott**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on April 15, 2003. **Wanda J. Wing**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on Feb. 19, 2003. **Robert C. Barnett**, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on Jan. 7, 2003.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Stewart** could be subject to a sentence of not less than 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. The 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 U.S. Probation Office.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Barnett** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. The 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 U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. The case was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force.

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