



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISSOURI FELON INDICTED FOR FIREARM VIOLATION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Missouri man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Lester Bradley Thompson, 43, of Mt. Grove, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting today in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Thompson** was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun with ammunition on Aug. 2, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Thompson** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for assault on a police officer with a firearm.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in today's indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Mt. Grove, 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