



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 14, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CEASEFIRE UPDATE:  
**KC FELON PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL FIREARMS CASE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty today being a felon in possession of a firearm, in the continuing Project Ceasefire anti-crime initiative.

**Marcus D. Watson**, 36, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Watson** was originally charged in an indictment filed on Nov. 5, 2002.

By pleading guilty, **Watson** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol on Feb. 28, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a convicted felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Watson** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for promoting prostitution in New Mexico.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 377 defendants, and convictions against 322 of those defendants, including 299 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 275 of the 321 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 46 currently await sentencing hearings.

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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 [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)