



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND JURY INDICTS FOUR INDIVIDUALS IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that four defendants from Springfield and Kansas City were indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

Vaughn Wattree, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., and **Wilberforce A. Cousins**, 30, **Brandon K. Scott**, 27, and **Misty D. Russell**, 22, all of Springfield, were charged in a nine-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield on Sept. 12, 2003. The indictment was unsealed and made public upon the arrest and initial court appearance of the defendants.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that each of the defendants conspired to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between January 2003, and Aug. 29, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Scott** distributed cocaine on July 18, 2003, and July 29, 2003, respectively, in Greene County.

Counts Four and Five of the federal indictment allege that **Russell** distributed cocaine on Aug. 11, 2003, and Aug. 15, 2003, respectively, in Greene County.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Russell** and **Cousins** aided and abetted each other in distributing cocaine on Aug. 19, 2003, in Greene County.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Wattree** possessed with intent to distribute in excess of 500 grams of cocaine on Aug. 29, 2003, in Jackson County, Mo.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Wattree** was in possession of a firearm

during and in relation to a drug offense. The indictment alleges that **Wattree** possessed a Smith and Wesson .57 caliber revolver while conspiring to distribute in excess of 500 grams of cocaine on Aug. 29, 2003, in Jackson County.

Count Nine of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Cousins** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of his involvement in the conspiracy, including approximately \$12,306.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber-Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team (COMET).

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