



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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DECEMBER 15, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO., MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF ECSTASY, DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for distributing cocaine and possessing with intent to distribute ecstaSy.

Dustin Joseph Watts, 23, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to one year and one day in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 10, 2003, **Watts** pleaded guilty to distribution of cocaine and possession with intent to distribute ecstasy charges. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he sold 7.09 grams of cocaine for \$350 on Aug. 18, 2000. He also admitted that he sold 3.33 grams of cocaine and 96 hits of LSD for \$460 on Aug. 21, 2000. Finally, **Watts** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute 53 ecstaSy pills on Aug. 27, 2000, after he had been arrested for littering and possession of alcohol by a minor.

Watts was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 9, 2001, in Jefferson City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Columbia, 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

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