



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

SECOND OF THREE CONVICTED DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN METH, COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Shawnee, Kan., man was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring with others to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and five kilograms or more of cocaine.

David Wheat, 41, of Shawnee, also known as Uncle Dave, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to nine years in federal prison without parole.

Wheat pleaded guilty to distributing 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and five kilograms or more of cocaine between June 1, 1999, and Oct. 1, 2002.

Wheat is the second defendant to be sentenced in this case and the third to be convicted for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine. All three defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 1, 2002, in Kansas City.

On March 26, 2003, **Timothy Wade Chappell**, 37, of Kansas, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole. **Chappell** also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and five kilograms or more of cocaine between June 1, 1999, and Oct. 1, 2002.

Co-defendant **Lawrence D. Swift**, 41, of Kansas, also has pleaded guilty in this case. **Swift** admitted that he also conspired with others to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and five kilograms or more of cocaine between June 1, 1999, and Oct. 1, 2002. **Swift's** 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.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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