



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 23, 2003**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PHARMACIST SENTENCED FOR WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS WITHOUT A LICENSE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City pharmacist was sentenced today for the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs without a license. This case, Graves added, is the product of the same undercover investigation that led to successful prosecutions in several earlier cases.

**Clarence Herschel Winer**, 70, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to three years of probation, including six months of home detention and 600 hours of community service. The court also imposed a fine of \$100,000, which exceeds the level set forth in the federal sentencing guidelines. **Winer** agreed to surrender his licenses to practice pharmacy in both Missouri and Kansas. **Winer** formerly operated Bryan's Pharmacy, which is no longer in business, at 6724 Troost in Kansas City, Mo.

On Sept. 27, 2002, **Winer** waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal information charging him with the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs without a license. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Winer** admitted that between 1996 and 2001 he purchased prescription drugs in bulk from someone that he knew did not hold a wholesale distribution license. **Winer** further admitted that he did so with the intent to resell the drugs to retail customers without disclosing he had obtained the drugs unlawfully for profit. The list of drugs includes Zocor, Prilosec, Lipitor, Zithromax, Prevacid, and Prozac. Graves estimated the value of the drugs received by **Winer** was between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

“This is the last in a series of prosecutions based on the undercover investigation of prescription drugs stolen from the University of Colorado hospital,” Graves said.

Graves explained that the prosecution of **Winer** is directly related to the prosecutions of **Steuart Smith**, who stole prescription drugs from the University of Colorado hospital; **Aram Paraghamian**, a Denver resident who bought the stolen drugs from Smith and arranged for their

delivery to Kansas City; and **Gary Ravis**, another former Kansas City area pharmacist who bought the stolen drugs on the black market. Those cases stemmed from the criminal investigation of former Kansas City pharmacist **Robert Ray Courtney**.

“**Winer** is a pharmacist who, like **Ravis**, purchased prescription drugs from an illegitimate source and then resold them to the public,” Graves said. “The prosecution of **Winer** is a product of the same undercover investigation that led to the earlier prosecutions of **Ravis**, **Smith**, and **Paraghamian**.”

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Porter. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration.

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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)