



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC FELON CONVICTED AT BENCH TRIAL RECEIVES 19-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Charles A. Woods, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 28, 2002, **Woods** was found guilty in a bench trial of being a felon in possession of a firearm, ammunition and a firearm with an altered importer's and manufacturer's serial number. **Woods** was found guilty of possessing a Bersa .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol and 11 rounds of ammunition on January 17, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Woods** has two criminal felony convictions for attempted burglary, two criminal felony convictions for burglary and one two-count criminal felony conviction for robbery.

Woods was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on Jan. 17, 2002, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 12, 2002, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and

local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution.

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