



**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**

1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**

444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**

500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas  
66101

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases are available at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/)

January 29, 2004

## GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that four individuals were indicted on January 28, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **David G. Pflum**, 58, St. Mary's, Kansas, is charged with eight counts of tax evasion from March 31, 1998, through December 31, 1999.

The indictment alleges that Pflum paid employee wages from December 31, 1997, through December 31, 1999, totaling approximately \$363,435 and, during this same period of time, did willfully fail to pay employment taxes totaling approximately \$138,853 to the United States.

If convicted, Pflum faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Pflum is set to make his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kansas, on February 10, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

- ! **Manuel Hernandez-Castellanos**, 29, **Juan Gabriel Baltazar-Hernandez**, 28, and **Israel Lugo-Valencia**, 25, all from Tucson, Arizona, each currently in custody, are each charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 40 kilograms (approximately 90 pounds) of marijuana on January 11, 2004, in Ellis County, Kansas. Hernandez-Castellanos is also charged with one count of illegal re-entry into the United States following a conviction for an aggravated felony. Baltazar-Hernandez is also charged with one count of illegal re-entry into the United States.

–MORE–

If convicted, each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. Hernandez-Castellanos also faces a maximum of twenty years for illegal re-entry following a conviction for an aggravated felony. Baltazar-Hernandez also faces a maximum of ten years for illegal re-entry. The case was investigated by the Ellis County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.