



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(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

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JURY CONVICTS LEAVENWORTH MAN ON GUN CHARGES, THREATS AGAINST WITNESS

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that Stephan T. Bishop, 54, Leavenworth, was convicted on charges of illegally possessing a firearm and threatening a witness via emails and phone calls.

The verdict was delivered Dec. 30, 2004 following a trial before U.S. District Court Judge John W. Lungstrum. A jury found Bishop guilty on one count of illegally possessing a firearm after a felony conviction, three counts of using intimidation to try to keep a witness from testifying and three counts of threatening to use physical force to keep a witness from testifying.

According to evidence presented at trial, Bishop possessed a Hi-Point 9 mm pistol and ammunition on April 3, 2004. He was prohibited from possessing a firearm because of a 1985 conviction on felony charges of aggravated assault and aggravated burglary. Evidence showed he made three attempts to intimidate a witness, Emily Black, on June 26, 2004, July 11, 2004 and July 15, 2004; and three threats of physical violence against Black, on July 17, 2004, Aug. 9, 2004 and Aug. 10, 2004.

Bishop faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison without parole on each count. He is scheduled to be sentenced March 28, 2005. Melgren commended the work of the Gardner Police Department, the Lenexa Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead, who prosecuted the case.

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