



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EIGHT CO-DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that eight co-defendants have pleaded guilty in federal court to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in Greene County, Mo., and violating federal firearms laws.

**Keith A. Webb**, 30, an inmate at Fulton Correctional Facility, and **Carrol L. Wiles, Jr.**, 28, of Springfield, Mo., each pleaded guilty this morning in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr.

By pleading guilty today, **Webb** and **Wiles** admitted that they participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County from January 2002 to June 3, 2004. **Webb** and **Wiles** each admitted to conspiring to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine.

Under federal statutes, **Webb** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. **Wiles** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

**Webb** and **Wiles** are among eight co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to charges contained in an Aug. 12, 2004, federal indictment.

\* **Steven T. Moad**, 27, of Springfield, pleaded guilty on Jan. 5, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. **Moad** admitted that he conspired to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine. He also agreed to

forfeit to the government \$3,275, which was proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, **Moad** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

\* **Jerry D. Wright**, 28, of Seymour, Mo., pleaded guilty on Jan. 4, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, **Wright** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

\* **Ernest H. Fuqua**, 40, of Springfield, pleaded guilty on Jan. 4, 2005, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. **Fuqua** admitted that he conspired to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine. He also agreed to forfeit to the government \$5,219, which was proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, **Fuqua** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

\* **Spikie Dean Powers**, 42, of Fair Grove, Mo., pleaded guilty on Dec. 20, 2004, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, **Powers** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

\* **Jackie L. Riddle**, 31, of Bois D'Arc, Mo., pleaded guilty on Nov. 30, 2004, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. **Riddle** admitted that he conspired to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine, and that he was in possession of four rifles, two shotguns, and ammunition while using and addicted to methamphetamine. **Riddle** also agreed to forfeit to the government \$16,986, which was proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, **Riddle** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

\* **Lloyd R. Colvard, Jr.**, 33, of Pleasant Hope, Mo., pleaded guilty on Nov. 24, 2004, to participating in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine and to being a felon in possession of firearms. **Colvard** admitted that he conspired to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine. **Colvard** also admitted that he was in possession of four shotguns, two handguns, and two revolvers on different occasions between

April 11, 2003, and Jan. 3, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearms or ammunition. **Colvard** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for distribution of a controlled substance in Greene County. Under federal statutes, **Colvard** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team) and the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

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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  
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