



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NINTH CO-DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN METH CONSPIRACY

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

Rose L. Fuqua, 42, of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Fuqua** admitted that she participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine between January 2002 and June 3, 2004, in Greene County. **Fuqua** admitted to conspiring to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine.

Under federal statutes, **Fuqua** may 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.

Fuqua is the ninth and final co-defendant to plead guilty in this case.

* **Keith A. Webb**, 30, an inmate at Fulton Correctional Facility, and **Carrol L. Wiles, Jr.**, 28, of Springfield, Mo., each pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy on Jan. 6, 2005. By pleading guilty, they admitted that they also conspired to manufacture and distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine from January 2002 to June 3, 2004, in Greene County. **Webb** and **Wiles** each admitted to conspiring to manufacture and distribute 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine.

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.

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.

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