



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAURIE FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Laurie, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing two firearms.

Manuel Earl Gatewood, 34, of Laurie, was sentenced before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to three years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 16, 2004, **Gatewood** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of two firearms. By pleading guilty, **Gatewood** admitted that he was in possession of an Arms Corp. 12-gauge shotgun and a New Haven Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on March 6, 2004, in Camden County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Gatewood** has a 2001 and 2002 criminal felony conviction for forgery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Camdenton, Mo., Police Department, the Camden County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Osage Beach, Mo., Police Department and the Laurie, Mo., Police 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