



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

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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August 31, 2004

## PARSONS, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Joseph Riley, 25, Parsons, Kansas, was sentenced on August 30, 2004, by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to ten years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by eight years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Riley entered a guilty plea on June 7, 2004, to one count of distributing five grams (.17 ounce) or more of crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that Riley admitted at his plea that on May 6, 2002, he sold approximately 1/4 ounce of crack cocaine to an undercover KBI agent on Washington Street in Parsons, Kansas, for \$500.00. Riley further admitted that he was a drug dealer and that he had distributed marijuana in the Carthage and Joplin, Missouri, area from November 1999 through February 2000.

Melgren said that Riley was charged along with fifteen others as part of a two and one-half year investigation by the Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force into distribution of crack cocaine in Southeast Kansas.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.