



NEWS RELEASE

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ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

TWO FELONS PLEAD GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two felons pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, to illegally possessing firearms. Today's guilty pleas are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Marcel Small**, 39, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Small** admitted that he was in possession of a Glock .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Nov. 2, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Small** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for robbery and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

Small was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 16, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Small** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Mark A. Post**, 29, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K.

Laughrey this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Post** admitted that he was in possession of an Iver Johnson .22-caliber revolver on Oct. 7, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Post has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for stealing a motor vehicle.

Post was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 18, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Post** could be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Lafayette County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 761 defendants, and convictions against 647 of those defendants, including 615 who pleaded guilty and 32 who were convicted at trial. A total of 596 of the 647 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 51 currently await sentencing hearings.

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