



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**FEBRUARY 11, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MARSHFIELD FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM VIOLATION AFTER CO-DEFENDANT ADMITS MANUFACTURING MARIJUANA**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Marshfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing a firearm.

**Gene Bass**, 67, of Marshfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Bass** admitted that he was in possession of a Llama .357 caliber handgun and a Remington 870 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun on July 30, 2003, in Webster County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Bass** has two 1983 criminal felony convictions for distribution of marijuana and assault.

**Bass** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 21, 2003, in Springfield. He is the second defendant to plead guilty in this case.

On Oct. 10, 2003, **Anna Romleski**, 39, of Marshfield, pleaded guilty to a second count of the federal indictment. By pleading guilty, **Romleski** admitted that she knowingly and intentionally manufactured marijuana on July 30, 2003, in Webster County.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Bass** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. **Romleski** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. The co-defendants' sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings 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 Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Webster County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)