



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COLUMBIA, MO., METH COOK PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to a methamphetamine charge.

**Beau T. Leach**, 22, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Leach** admitted that he was in possession of pseudoephedrine knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine on April 28, 2003, in Boone County, Mo.

**Leach** was initially arrested after he was involved in a traffic accident in Columbia on April 28, 2003. At the time of the accident, law enforcement officers noticed a strong smell of chemicals emitting from **Leach's** 1994 Jeep Cherokee. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed various items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine, including a glass jar, Prestone starting fluid, a white propane tank, empty glass jars, coffee filters, a coffee grinder used to crush pseudoephedrine pills, plastic tubing, Rotor Rooter drain cleaner, 10 lithium batteries, digital scales, paint thinner, two walkie talkies, a cooler, five medical syringes, 144 white scored pills and 22 blister packs containing 528 pills.

**Leach** was arrested a second time on Aug. 28, 2003, after he was found in possession of a propane tank, which previously contained anhydrous ammonia, a small amount of methamphetamine and other items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine.

**Leach** was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 5, 2003, in Jefferson City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Leach** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the MUSTANG (Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group) Task Force.

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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  
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