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News Release

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Brandon felon indicted for possessing 12-gauge shotgun, .22-caliber rifle

A felon from the west-central community of Brandon, Minnesota, was recently indicted in federal court in Minneapolis for allegedly possessing two firearms on June 29, 2010. Jeffrey Allen Stoltz, age 48, was charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Stoltz made his initial appearance earlier today in federal court.

The indictment alleges that on June 29, Stoltz possessed a 12-gauge shotgun and a .22-caliber rifle. A Douglas County complaint states that on November 16, 2010, Stoltz was stopped by police for a traffic violation on State Highway 55, east of Lowry, Minnesota. The vehicle had been seen by authorities leaving a residence that was under surveillance as part of a narcotics' investigation. Officers found a digital scale and \$741 in cash on Stoltz, and he was immediately arrested by the Pope County Sheriff's Office for providing a false name. Then, during the execution of a search warrant on the vehicle he was driving, police found two receipts from an Alexandria pawn shop that showed Stoltz had pawned the guns on June 29.

Because Stoltz was previously convicted of at least one felony, he is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms at any time. His prior convictions include third-degree burglary (Chippewa County in 1989 and Stearns County in 1993), first-degree burglary (Benton County in 2003), fleeing a peace officer (Douglas County in 2003), and being a felon in possession of a firearm (Douglas County in 2003). Moreover, since many of his prior felony convictions are for violent crimes, he is now subject at sentencing to the federal armed career criminal statute, which mandates a minimum of 15 years in federal prison if convicted in the current case. Stoltz faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the West Central Minnesota Narcotics Task Force, the Pope County Sheriff's Office, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and the United

States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clifford B. Wardlaw.

Note, this case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative launched by the U.S. Justice Department in 2001 to promote a multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime in America. PSN provides resources to strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention partnerships that are working to make our streets and communities safer.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.