

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Five habitual felon jury trials conducted in early 2010**

The Habitual Felon Team tried five defendants in three courtrooms in January and February 2010. Details will not be posted about all offenders because they have charges/cases still open.

Laffette Franklin, age 21, was tried for 1) felony larceny and 2) possession of stolen motor vehicle. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. After the jury's verdict, Franklin pled guilty to his status as a habitual felon. Franklin was sentenced by The Honorable Robert F. Johnson, Superior Court Judge, to 110-141 months in prison.

A defendant, whose name is being withheld until all pending charges are resolved, was convicted by a jury of felony property crimes and being a habitual felon. He was sentenced by a superior court judge to 150-189 months in prison.

A defendant, whose name is being withheld until all pending charges are resolved, was tried for felony drug crimes and for being a habitual felon and the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict as to the defendant's guilt. A mistrial was declared.

Vernard Gregory, age 23, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty as to the felony, but guilty to the lesser-included offense of misdemeanor breaking or entering. The Honorable Calvin E. Murphy sentenced Gregory to the maximum allowed punishment for the misdemeanor: 120 days in jail.

Darryl Walker, age 49, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* as to the felony breaking or entering, but *guilty* to the misdemeanor of misdemeanor larceny. The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Walker to the maximum allowed punishment for the misdemeanor: 120 days in jail.

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