

# NEWS RELEASE

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**April 23, 2010**

**Trials, motions, and guilty pleas by DA's Drug Team, March 15-19**

The DA's drug prosecution team held court in three courtrooms during the week of March 15 to March 19, 2010. The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal courtroom 5370. The Honorable Calvin Murphy, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal courtroom 5150. The Honorable Robinson Hassell, Superior Court Judge, presided over criminal court 5130.

TRIAL: Reggie Thompson, age 25, was tried before a jury for 1) trafficking in cocaine and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. The jury found Thompson guilty of trafficking in cocaine. Judge Hassell sentenced Thompson to 35-42 months in prison and imposed the mandatory fine of \$50,000.

TRIAL: Minor Fernando-Hernandez, age 22, was tried before a jury for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession and 2) trafficking in cocaine by transportation. The jury found Fernando-Hernandez guilty of trafficking in cocaine by possession and not guilty of trafficking in cocaine by transportation. Judge Caldwell sentenced Fernando-Hernandez to 35-42 months in prison and imposed the mandatory fine of \$50,000.

TRIAL: After the trial of Demetrius Dixon, age 34, began, Dixon pled guilty to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 4) admitted his habitual felon status. Judge Hassell sentenced Dixon to 80-105 months in prison.

Several other defendants pled guilty before their trials began and some pre-trial motions were argued; among them were:

The defense filed a pre-trial motion to suppress the evidence seized from a defendant charged with 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. After arguments from both sides, the judge denied the defendant's motion to suppress. The jury trial will be held at a later date. The defendant's name is being withheld until the completion of that trial.

Garry Jones, age 46, pled guilty to 1) sale of cocaine and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Caldwell sentenced Jones to 12-15 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation. As a condition of probation, Jones will serve an active sentence of 60 days in jail.

David Algood, age 24, pled guilty to felony possession of cocaine. Judge Caldwell sentenced Algood to 4-5 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation.

Samuel Murphy, age 49, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Murphy sentenced Murphy to 8-10 months in prison.

Roberto Alfaro, age 52, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) carrying a concealed weapon and 3) discharge a firearm in the city. Judge Murphy entered a 90-96 judgment against Alfaro for the cocaine offense (*see* N.C.G.S. 90-96). Alfaro was also sentenced to 30 days, suspended for a period of 12 months probation.

Joseph Hassell, age 23, pled guilty to 1) felony possession of marijuana and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Murphy sentenced Hassell to 5-6 months, suspended for a period of 24 months probation.

Vicente Gonzalez, age 37, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Hassell sentenced Gonzalez to 5-6 months, suspended for a period of 36 months probation.

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