

NEWS RELEASE

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Four habitual felons go to trial

Tuesday, June 1, through Friday, June 4, 2010, the DA's Habitual Felon Team conducted four trials in courtrooms 5150 and 5130. (Note: Monday, May 31, the courthouse was closed in observance of Memorial Day.) The Honorable Timothy L. Patti, Superior Court Judge, presided over courtroom 5150 and The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge, presided over courtroom 5130.

The four habitual felons tried before a jury were:

Rushard Richardson, age 33, was tried for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the lesser-included felony of possession of cocaine. Richardson admitted his status as a habitual felon and was sentenced by Judge Evans to 132-168 months in prison. Richardson's prior convictions include two counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, six counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and, among several other misdemeanors, two counts of assault on a female.

Lewis Braxton, age 37, was tried earlier this year and the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict and a mistrial was declared. The State re-tried Braxton on his charges of 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* to the possession charge and, thus, the habitual felon phase of the trial could not take place.

Brian Grier, age 50, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 2) misdemeanor possession of stolen goods, 3) misdemeanor larceny, and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* as charged. Grier admitted his status as a habitual felon and was sentenced by Judge Evans to 130-165 months in prison. Grier's criminal history includes forty felony breaking or entering convictions and twenty-two felony larceny after breaking or entering convictions.

Eddricco Brown, age 30, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to the possession charge, and, thus, the habitual felon phase of the trial could not take place. Judge Evans declared a mistrial.

The following defendants pled guilty before their trials started:

Orlando Moore, age 30, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering and was sentenced to 19-23 months in prison.

Wayne Carrothers, age 29, pled guilty to 1) selling cocaine and 2) possessing cocaine with the intent to sell or deliver it. Carrothers was sentenced to 24-30 months in prison.

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