

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

**August 10, 2009**

## **Crimes Against Property Team convicts 51 felons**

Fifty-one defendants pled guilty to felonies in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative courtroom 5350 from Monday, August 3, to Friday, August 7. The convictions were for crimes including residential breaking or entering, commercial breaking or entering, larceny of motor vehicles, breaking and entering a motor vehicle and fraud. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to Thomas Vernon James' active prison sentence of 91-119 months for residential breaking or entering and for being a habitual felon.

*Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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