

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

**September 16, 2009**

## **Drug Team convicts 44 felons**

Forty-four defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Tuesday, September 8, to Friday, September 11. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable J. Gentry Caudill. The convictions were for crimes that included possessing, selling, and trafficking in illegal drugs. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to Eduardo Zamora's active prison sentence of 70-84 months for trafficking in cocaine. Zamora was also fined \$100,000.

Monday, September 7, was a state holiday and court was closed.

*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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