

NEWS RELEASE

Peter S. Gilchrist, III
District Attorney

December 22, 2009

Drug Team convicts 40 felons

Forty defendants pled guilty to felony drug crimes in Mecklenburg County Superior Court from Monday, December 14, to Friday, December 18. The defendants entered their pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans. 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 Damien Gonzalez's active prison sentence of 70-84 months for trafficking in cocaine. Gonzalez was also fined \$100,000.

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.

// End //