

NEWS RELEASE

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Four jury trials for habitual felons

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Four habitual felon cases were called for trial during the week of January 23, 2012. The trials were held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, courtroom 5130 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, and courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge.

Eddie Taylor, 49, was tried for 1) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) possessing stolen goods, and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Taylor *guilty* of one count of felony breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, possession of stolen goods, and being a habitual felon. They found Taylor *not guilty* on the other count of breaking or entering. Taylor was sentenced to 146-185 months in prison. Taylor had in excess of forty prior convictions, including twelve felony convictions.

Nathan Brown, 32, was tried for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana, 3) possession of drug paraphernalia, and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Brown *not guilty* of the three felonies; as a result, the trial was unable to proceed so that the jury could consider whether defendant is a habitual felon under North Carolina law.

Andy Gantt, 50, was tried for 1) failure to properly register as a sex offender and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury found Gantt *not guilty* of failing to properly register a sex offender; as a result, the trial was unable to proceed so that the jury could consider whether defendant is a habitual felon under North Carolina law.

Wayne Sanders, 60, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, and 3) being a habitual felon. The jury found Sanders *not guilty* of the two felonies; as a result, the trial was unable to proceed so that the jury could consider whether defendant is a habitual felon under North Carolina law.

Note: A jury is not informed that the defendant is a habitual felon unless and until they find the defendant guilty of a felony offense(s). Once a guilty verdict is returned, the trial moves into a second phase, wherein the presiding judge informs the jury that they will now consider the issue of whether the defendant is, in fact, a habitual felon under North Carolina law.

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