

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felons have jury trials

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Five habitual felon cases were called for trial during the week of February 20, 2012. The trials were held in courtroom 5150, 5370, 5170 and 6370.

Archie Hoskins, 56, was tried for 1) failure to properly register as a sex offender and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty* on both counts. The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Hoskins to 96-125 months in prison. Some of Hoskins' prior convictions include first degree sex offense, kidnapping and felony breaking or entering.

William Brown, 65, was tried for 1) possessing with intent to sell or deliver heroin, 2) felony maintaining a vehicle for use, storage or sale of controlled substances, 3) possessing drug paraphernalia and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Brown *guilty* of possessing with intent to sell or deliver heroin, misdemeanor maintaining a vehicle for use, storage or sale of controlled substances and possessing drug paraphernalia. The State was unable to prove the defendant's habitual felon status. The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Brown to 11-14 months in prison.

Stephen James, 25, was tried for 1) first degree burglary, 2) conspiracy to commit burglary and 3) being a habitual felon. On the third day of trial, the Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge, declared a mistrial when it was discovered that the defense attorney was not qualified, pursuant to the relevant rules, to be appointed to represent indigent clients in serious felony cases. The case will be tried at a later date after qualified counsel is assigned by the Public Defender.

Kenneth King, 29, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge, declared a mistrial after specific juror responses during jury selection resulted in irreparable prejudice to the defendant. The case will be tried at a later date.

Koron Osborne, 44, was called for trial and changed his previous plea of *not guilty* to *guilty* as charged to 1) possessing with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) possessing with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and 3) being a habitual felon. Judge Williamson sentenced Osborne to 66-89 months in prison. Osborne's prior convictions include multiple counts of felony breaking or entering.

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