

# NEWS RELEASE

---

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**March 8, 2016**

## **9 defendants convicted of domestic violence crimes**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted nine defendants in Mecklenburg County Superior Court on March 2, 2016. The defendants entered guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Marshe-Reki Payne, 34, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) being a habitual felon. Payne was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison.

Brandon Langdon, 32, pled guilty to assault inflicting serious bodily injury. Langdon was sentenced to 31-47 months in prison.

Timothy Downs, 41, pled guilty to 1) assault by strangulation and 2) delivery of cocaine. Downs was sentenced to 12-14 months in prison.

Brian Simmons, 34, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Simmons was sentenced to 29-47 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Simmons must serve 10 months in prison, complete a certified intervention program for batterers and pay \$9,021.11 in restitution to the victim.

Phillip Lewis, 35, pled guilty to violating a domestic violence protective order. Lewis was sentenced to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

*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).*

// End //