

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Drug Team convicts 1 at trial; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted one defendant at trial, as well as three others who pled guilty before their cases were called for trial, March 3-7, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. Over the course of the week, the team also made arguments in regards to motions filed by two defendants. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, The Honorable Richard D. Boner and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Bryan Clark, 45, was tried for possession of cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. Judge Poovey sentenced Clark to 6-8 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Two defendants filed motions to suppress evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of the defendants' legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from both the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Poovey denied the defendants' motions in each case. The cases will proceed to trial at a later date.

The following three defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Alex Pearson, 22, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 2) felony possession of marijuana. Pearson was sentenced to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Pearson must serve 6 months in the Mecklenburg County jail. Pearson also admitted to violating his probation for a previous conviction and was sentenced to 23-37 months in prison. These sentences are to be served consecutively.

Quanswalo Lawrence, 28, pled guilty to attempted trafficking in cocaine by possession. Lawrence was sentenced to 12-24 months in prison.

Kevin Rice, 45, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Rice was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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