

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Five criminals convicted of property offenses; one sex offender imprisoned

The District Attorney's Office convicted five separate defendants last week of committing various property crimes against the citizens of Mecklenburg County. One sex offender was also convicted and received a lengthy prison sentence.

During the week of March 7, 2011, a jury found James Cunningham, 25, *guilty* of felony breaking or entering of a residence. The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Cunningham to 7-9 months in prison.

When called for trial, Denzel Stinson, 19, pled guilty to the following felonies: breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, and conspiracy. All of these charges stemmed from a residential break-in last year. Judge Sumner sentenced Stinson to 6-8 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As part of his probation, Stinson must serve 30 days in the county jail.

A Mecklenburg County jury returned a verdict of *guilty* against John Wallace, 20, for misdemeanor possession of stolen goods. The jury found Wallace *not guilty* of related felony charges. The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Wallace to 15 days in the county jail.

During the course of jury selection, Lee McLaren, 40, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering of a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny. Judge Foust sentenced McLaren to 6-8 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Stephen Judd, 26, also entered a guilty plea when his case was called for trial. Judd pled guilty to misdemeanor larceny, and Judge Foust sentenced him to 20 days in jail. That sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of unsupervised probation.

Finally, Rufus Banks, 42, was found *guilty* by a jury of the felony of failing to register as a sex offender. After being convicted in 1995 of second degree rape, Banks was required by law to maintain a current address with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department. Following the jury's guilty verdict, Judge Sumner sentenced Banks to 39-56 months in prison.

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