

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts cocaine trafficker; another defendant pleads guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A two-week trial recently ended with a guilty verdict that sent a cocaine trafficker to prison, and another defendant pled guilty before his case was called for trial. The defendants were prosecuted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held March 7-18, 2016, before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge.

Ricardo Lee Swain, 42, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by transportation, 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession and 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Prior to trial, the defense filed motions to suppress evidence and to reveal the identity of a confidential informant. After hearing arguments from both the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Foust denied those motions. The jury found Swain *guilty* of trafficking in cocaine by possession. The jury found him *not guilty* of trafficking in cocaine by transportation, and a mistrial was declared on the charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon because the jury could not reach a unanimous decision. Judge Foust sentenced Swain to 35-51 months in prison. In November 2013, members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and a federal task force executed a search warrant on Swain's apartment in the Ballantyne area of Charlotte. Officers arrived as Swain was backing a car out of his garage. Officers searched the car and located 4.5 ounces of cocaine. Officers also searched the apartment and found several more ounces of cocaine and more than \$11,000 in cash.

David Robbins, 48, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Robbins was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

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