

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

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## Crimes Against Persons Team convicts 3 at trial; another pleads guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team convicted three defendants at trial, as well as another defendant who pled guilty, March 17-25, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Michael Brian Wise, 44, was tried for 1) statutory rape and 2) two counts of statutory sex offense. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Caldwell then sentenced him to three consecutive sentences of 192-291 months in prison, totaling a minimum of 48 years in prison. Upon release from prison, Wise must register as a sex offender. [Click here](#) for more information about the case.

Cumar Howard, 27, was tried for 1) five counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) felony flee to elude and 4) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Lisa C. Bell dismissed the charge of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The jury found Howard *guilty* of all remaining charges. Judge Bell then sentenced Howard to a total of 185-256 months in prison. In December 2011, the five male victims were painting a home on Hurston Circle in Charlotte when Howard and Jamonte Baker approached in a car. Armed with handguns, Howard and Baker got out of the car and forced the victims to their knees before demanding their wallets. When Howard and Baker fled in their car, the victims got the vehicle's tag number and called police, allowing officers to track the vehicle. Baker was previously convicted at [trial in November 2013](#) and sentenced to 240-321 months in prison.

Samuel Marsh, 54, was tried for 1) felony hit and run causing injury and 2) misdemeanor hit and run. The jury found him *guilty* of two counts of misdemeanor hit and run. Judge W. Robert Bell sentenced Marsh to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Marsh's driver's license will be suspended for 12 months.

Caleb Neal, 43, pled guilty to 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) second-degree kidnapping. Neal was sentenced to 44-65 months in prison.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda)*

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