

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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72 defendants convicted of drug offenses

Beginning March 28, 2011 and ending April 4, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 72 defendants in Courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges. Convictions were for crimes that included misdemeanor possession of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia that is used to store and ingest drugs, the selling and trafficking of illegal drugs, and the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to David William Reid's prison sentence of 66-89 months in prison. Reid, 29, pled guilty to 1) two counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) attempted trafficking in cocaine, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and 4) being a habitual felon.

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.

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