

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Misdemeanor Appeals Team convicts 24, including DWI offenders

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Appeals Team convicted 24 defendants in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of April 1-5, 2013. The convictions were for crimes ranging from traffic offenses to driving while impaired charges. The team called cases for trial before The Honorable R. Stuart Albright and The Honorable Marvin P. Pope, Superior Court Judges.

The Misdemeanor Appeals Team prosecutes cases in which the defendant was convicted in District Court and then appealed his or her conviction to Superior Court for a jury trial, as allowed under North Carolina law. The team convicted three defendants at trial, and another 21 defendants pled guilty or were convicted after remanding their cases to District Court. Of the 24 defendants convicted, 20 are DWI offenders.

Andrew Klenk, 29, was tried for driving while impaired. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. Judge Albright sentenced him to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Bennie Hampton, 55, was tried for 1) maintaining a dwelling to keep a controlled substance and 2) possession of marijuana. The jury returned verdicts of *guilty*. Judge Pope sentenced Hampton to 45 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Gregory Hill, 33, was tried for speeding in excess of 15 miles per hour over the speed limit. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty*. Judge Albright sentenced him to 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Kevin Bey, 42, was tried for driving while impaired. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Among the other defendants who were convicted were:

Gregory Beatty, 25, pled guilty to habitual driving while impaired. Judge Albright sentenced him to 15-27 months in prison.

James Campbell, 44, pled guilty to driving while impaired. Judge Albright sentenced him to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Charles Melvin, III, 41, was convicted of driving while impaired when he remanded his case to District Court for sentencing. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Melvin must serve 6 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Archie Townsend, 51, was convicted of driving while impaired when he remanded his case to District Court for sentencing. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending the successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Townsend must serve 6 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Joseph Altobellis, 32, was convicted of driving while impaired when he remanded his case to District Court for sentencing. He was sentenced to 180 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of unsupervised 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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