

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury trials for defendants charged with felony drug crimes

CHARLOTTE, NC – The week of May 9, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team prosecuted seven cases in two trial courtrooms. The trials and pleas were held in Courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Timothy S. Kincaid, Superior Court Judge, and in Courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge.

Wendell Lloyd, 34, was tried for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury found Lloyd guilty of the drug charge and Lloyd then admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Kincaid sentenced Lloyd to 82-108 months in prison. Wendell Lloyd has prior convictions that include voluntary manslaughter and possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine.

Monteith Willis, 25, was tried for possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* on this charge. Willis' prior convictions include multiple convictions for fleeing to elude arrest as well as a conviction for carrying a concealed gun.

Jamonte Baker, 29, was tried for 1) felony possession of MDA and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* on the felony drug charge, thus the state could not proceed with the habitual felon phase of the trial. Baker's prior record includes multiple convictions for larceny of motor vehicle and breaking or entering.

Tony Smith, 47, pled guilty before his trial to 1) sell cocaine, 2) deliver cocaine, 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and 4) being a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced him to 135-171 months in prison. Smith has prior convictions that include sell cocaine, possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, and breaking or entering.

Jaymar Christian, 22, pled guilty before his trial to felony possession of MDMA and possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Bridges sentenced him to 6-8 months in prison, suspended for a period of 24 months of supervised probation with the first six months of probation to be intensive supervision. Christian has a prior misdemeanor conviction.

Gerrod Jones, 32, pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Judge Bridges sentenced him pursuant to N.C.G.S. 90-96 and ordered him to complete 24 months of supervised probation.

The state called for trial the case of Kenneth Lowe, age 39. Prior to trial, the defendant made a motion to compel the State to disclose the identity of the confidential informant. After

testimony from officers during the pre-trial hearing, Judge Bridges *denied* the defendant's motion. The defendant made a motion to suppress all evidence obtained by the police as a result of the stop of the defendant. After hearing testimony from officers, Judge Bridges *granted* the defendant's motion in the case. As a result of the evidence being suppressed, the State had no evidence upon which to proceed to trial and present to a jury.

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