

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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## **50 criminals plead guilty to property crimes**

CHARLOTTE, NC – Last week, the District Attorney's Office convicted fifty defendants of committing property crimes against the citizens of Mecklenburg County.

The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis was the presiding Superior Court Judge for the arraignments of these defendants during the week of Monday, May 16, 2011, in courtroom 5350.

Among the notable convictions were the following:

Jermaine Lewis, 31, pled guilty to: (1) felony breaking or entering, and (2) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 80-105 months in prison.

Aaron Ratliff, 22, pled guilty to: (1) two counts of felony breaking or entering, (2) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering, and (3) one count of felony possession of stolen goods. Ratliff was sentenced to 12-16 months in prison.

Patrick Morgan, 42, pled guilty to: (1) four counts of larceny after breaking or entering, and (2) one count of possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Lewis sentenced Morgan to 8-10 months in prison and ordered him to pay nearly \$25,000 in restitution to the victims.

Jose Castro, 18, pled guilty to: (1) three counts of felony breaking or entering, (2) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering, and (3) two counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle. Castro was sentenced to 8-10 months in prison.

Carlito Garcia, 18, pled guilty to: (1) felony breaking or entering and (2) larceny after breaking or entering. Garcia was sentenced to 8-10 months in prison. This sentence will not begin until Garcia finishes serving his sentence in a separate breaking or entering from Rowan County.

Cody Briggs, 20, pled guilty to: (1) felony breaking or entering and (2) larceny after breaking or entering. Briggs was sentenced to 8-10 months in prison.

Carlter Owens, 19, pled guilty to: (1) felony breaking or entering, and (2) larceny after breaking or entering. Judge Lewis sentenced Owens to 8-10 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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