

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug Team's trials, guilty pleas lead to convictions of 5 drug offenders

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – During its most recent trial session, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team convicted five defendants, including a drug trafficker who pled guilty mid-trial. The proceedings were held June 1-5, 2015, before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge.

Jhandy Garcia, 32, was tried for 1) trafficking in marijuana by manufacture, 2) trafficking in marijuana by possession, 3) felony maintaining a dwelling for drug purposes and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. After the State presented its evidence, Garcia pled guilty to attempted trafficking in marijuana by manufacture, attempted trafficking in marijuana by possession, felony maintaining a dwelling for drug purposes and possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Evans sentenced Garcia to a total of 10-30 months in prison. In August 2014, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police discovered a marijuana grow operation with more than 30 mature marijuana plants in Garcia's home.

Lawrence Avery, 30, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia and 3) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. The jury returned verdicts of *not guilty*.

Timothy Johnson, 38, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Evans denied Johnson's motion. He then pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine and 2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Johnson was sentenced to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

The following three defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Larry Avery, 31, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia and 3) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Avery was sentenced to 10-24 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Orlando Davis, 43, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Davis was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Phillip Davis, 27, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Davis was sentenced to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

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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