

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Jury convicts defendant of felony assault; 2 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried two defendants and convicted two others who entered guilty pleas during the week of June 15, 2015. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Jeffrey P. Hunt and The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judges.

Sam Clonts, III, 27, was tried for assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury. The jury found Clonts *guilty* as charged. Judge Hunt sentenced Clonts to 65-90 months in prison.

Darryl Walker, 20, was tried for malicious conduct by a prisoner. The jury found him *not guilty*.

After a jury was summoned for the trial of Talib Muhammad, 37, the defendant pled guilty to two counts of statutory rape. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Muhammad to 144-233 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Muhammad must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.

Brian Buchanan, 26, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Kuehnert denied the motion. Then, Buchanan pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) misdemeanor possession of marijuana and 3) carrying a concealed weapon. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Buchanan to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Buchanan's successful completion of 36 months of supervised 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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