

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Cocaine trafficker convicted at trial; 5 other drug offenders plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Drug Team tried two defendants and convicted five other drug offenders who pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. The proceedings were held June 30-July 3, 2014, before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable A. Robinson Hassell, Superior Court Judges. Court was not held on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Brandon Martin, 37, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 3) possession of drug paraphernalia. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Foust sentenced Martin to 35-51 months in prison. In July 2013, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police executed a search warrant at Martin's residence. Officers discovered 77 grams of cocaine and more than \$1,500 cash on the premises.

Bobby Martin, 41, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 4) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Hassell declared a mistrial when the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. The case will be scheduled for re-trial at a later date.

One defendant filed a motion to compel certain information. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Foust denied the defendant's motion. The case will proceed to trial at a later date.

The following five defendants pled guilty:

Jaangelo Dean, 29, pled guilty to selling cocaine. He was sentenced to 10-21 months in prison.

Dewaine Thompson, 56, pled guilty to 1) possession of cocaine, 2) possession of drug paraphernalia and 3) misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Thompson was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Thompson must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

John Cunningham, 23, pled guilty to selling marijuana. Cunningham was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As one of the conditions of his probation, Cunningham must serve 20 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Rajahn Baskerville, 30, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Baskerville was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

John Erwin, 23, pled guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Erwin was sentenced to 12 months of unsupervised probation pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 90-96.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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