

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Domestic Violence Team convicts 6 defendants

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted six defendants on September 9, 2013, and September 13, 2013. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5170 before The Honorable Lisa C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Leonard Lewis, 34, pled guilty to 1) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bell sentenced Lewis to 57-90 months in prison.

Emerson Whitted, 37, pled guilty to 1) assault on a female, 2) misdemeanor stalking and 3) two counts of violating a domestic violence protective order. Judge Bell sentenced Whitted to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Michael Franklin, 24, pled guilty to being intoxicated and disruptive. Judge Bell sentenced Franklin to 15 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 6 months of unsupervised probation.

Jason Vangastle, 42, pled guilty to disorderly conduct. Judge Bell entered a prayer for judgement continued.

The following two defendants, who were previously convicted in District Court, remanded their cases for sentencing:

Troy McGee, 48, was convicted of assault on a female. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Keith McCleave, 35, was convicted of assault on a female. He was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

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.

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