

NEWS RELEASE

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26 defendants convicted of property crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team convicted 26 defendants September 29-October 2, 2014. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge. The convictions were for crimes that included breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, obtaining property by false pretenses, and breaking or entering motor vehicles. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to active prison sentences.

Among the convicted defendants were:

Tomonta Simmons, 22, pled guilty to 1) five counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) felony larceny. Simmons was sentenced to 9-20 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,900 in restitution.

Joshua Welch, 20, pled guilty to three counts of felony breaking or entering. Welch was sentenced to 6-17 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.

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