

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury finds man guilty in misdemeanor appeal trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Appeals Team recently tried two defendants in Superior Court, and a motion was heard in another matter. Three additional defendants remanded their cases to District Court for sentencing. The proceedings were held September 16-20, 2019, and September 30-October 4, 2019, before The Honorable W. Todd Pomeroy and The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judges.

The Misdemeanor Appeals Team prosecutes cases in which the defendant was convicted in District Court, and then appeals his or her conviction to Superior Court for a jury trial as allowed under North Carolina law.

Gerrard White, 23, was tried for 1) assault on a female and 2) misdemeanor violation of a domestic violence protective order. A jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Hoover sentenced White to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation.

Camille Leary, 28, was tried for misdemeanor child abuse. A jury returned a verdict of *not guilty*.

Jasmine Wall, 28, pled guilty to unlawful concealment of goods. Judge Hoover sentenced Wall to 20 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 12 months of unsupervised probation.

Note: Misdemeanors and infractions are originally prosecuted in district court in North Carolina. In criminal district court, a judge determines guilt, not a jury; this is commonly referred to as a "bench trial." However, defendants have a right to appeal a conviction from the district court to the superior court for a trial de novo. The new trial in superior court must be a jury trial, not a bench trial. In a de novo trial, the jury cannot be informed that a district court judge previously found the defendant guilty; further, a record of any evidence, including testimony, from district court may not be introduced. While the DA's Office prosecutes nearly 225,000 misdemeanors and infractions each year in district court in Mecklenburg County, each defendant is entitled to exercise his/her right to appeal to the superior court. When a misdemeanor or infraction occupies the limited time available in our superior courtrooms, it the intent of the DA's Office to keep the public informed of the results through news releases like this one. Due to the volume of misdemeanors and infractions prosecuted in district court each day, reports like this are not possible for all of those cases.

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