

NEWS RELEASE

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2 habitual felons convicted by juries; 3 other defendants plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted two defendants at trial in Superior Court during the week of October 3, 2016. Another three defendants entered guilty pleas. These proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110, 5130 and 5370 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, The Honorable Richard L. Doughton and the Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert.

George Washington Jones, 50, was tried for 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault, 2) assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and 3) being a habitual felon. A jury found Jones *guilty* of felony habitual misdemeanor assault and *not guilty* of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Upon the jury's verdict, Jones admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Boner sentenced Jones to 73-100 months in prison. Some of Jones' prior convictions include possession of cocaine, multiple counts of felony habitual misdemeanor assault and felony possession of marijuana.

Daneloe Sharmaine Drakeford, 37, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana, 3) trafficking in cocaine by possession, 4) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 5) being a habitual felon. A jury found Drakeford *guilty* of possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana and felony possession of marijuana. The jury found him *not guilty* of trafficking in cocaine by possession and possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Upon the jury's verdict, Drakeford admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Drakeford to 58-82 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Drakeford must serve 10 months in prison. Drakeford's prior convictions include possession of cocaine and multiple counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Robert Gregory Brown, 48, was tried for 1) felony habitual misdemeanor larceny and 2) being a habitual felon. A jury found Brown *not guilty* of felony habitual misdemeanor larceny. As a result of the jury's verdict, the State was unable to proceed on the habitual felon charge.

Steven Donald Garmon, 28, pled guilty to 1) safecracking, 2) habitual driving while impaired and 3) being a habitual felon. Judge Boner sentenced Garmon to 38-58 months in prison. Some of Garmon's prior convictions include possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, felony larceny and financial transaction card theft.

Dezonte Sheron White, 35, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Doughton, who heard arguments

from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. White then pled guilty to 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 2) felony possession of marijuana and 3) being a habitual felon. White was sentenced to 33-52 months in prison. White's prior convictions include robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession with the intent to sell or deliver a schedule I controlled substance.

Rico Jermaine Jackson, 37, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Judge Doughton sentenced Jackson to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 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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