

# NEWS RELEASE

**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**November 3, 2015**

## **4 defendants convicted of domestic violence charges**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Team convicted four defendants in Mecklenburg County Superior Court during the week of October 26, 2015. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Michelle Touchberry, 43, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. Touchberry was sentenced to 29-47 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Touchberry's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probation, Touchberry is required to obtain a substance abuse assessment and comply with any treatment recommendations, as well as complete a certified batterer's intervention program.

Samantha Ciccolella, 28, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering and assault with a deadly weapon. Ciccolella was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Blake Lubbers, 19, pled guilty to violating a domestic violence protective order and assault on a female. Lubbers was sentenced to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail on each conviction, to be run consecutively; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probation, Lubbers was ordered to serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and be subject to electronic monitoring for 6 months upon his release. He is also required to obtain a substance abuse assessment and comply with any treatment recommendations, as well as complete a certified batterer's intervention program.

Jonathan Denton, 28, pled guilty to two counts of assault on a female. Denton was sentenced to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail on each conviction, to be run consecutively; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation. As a condition of probation, Denton is required to complete a certified batterer's intervention program.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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