

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

November 4, 2011

56 defendants convicted of drug crimes in Superior Court

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Beginning October 24, 2011 and ending October 31, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 56 defendants in Courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, and The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judges. The convictions were for crimes that included possessing, selling and trafficking in illegal drugs. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to Marios Bonilla's active prison sentence of 35 to 42 months for trafficking in cocaine.

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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