

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

November 18, 2011

DA's Office convicts drug offenders

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted eleven defendants during the week of November 7, 2011 in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The Honorable Robert F. Johnson, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of Alamance County, presided in courtroom 5150 and The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge in Mecklenburg County, presided in courtroom 5130. Since November 11, 2011 was a state holiday, courts were closed.

Akeem Bailey, 22, was tried in courtroom 5130 for 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) sale of cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* on both charges. Judge Lewis sentenced Bailey to 24-29 months in prison.

The case of Jesus Salas-Luis, 35, was called for trial in courtroom 5150 on the charges of 1) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. During jury selection, Salas-Luis entered a guilty plea to both charges. Judge Johnson sentenced Salas-Luis to 76-92 months in prison.

Malik Franklin, 24, filed a motion to suppress evidence seized by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Lewis denied the defendant's motion. Franklin then pled guilty to 1) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine by transportation, 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession and 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Lewis sentenced Franklin to 35-42 months in prison.

Dominique Townes, 31, filed a motion to suppress evidence seized by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Lewis denied the defendant's motion. Townes then pled guilty to 1) felony possession of marijuana and 2) carrying a concealed weapon. Judge Lewis sentenced Townes to 4-5 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

Demontrey King, 19, filed a motion to dismiss the charges filed against him, alleging violations of his legal rights because evidence was destroyed. After hearing testimony and

arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Johnson denied the defendant's motion. The case will proceed to a jury trial at a later date.

Seven defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to Calvin Baker's active prison sentence of 35 to 42 months for his plea to three counts of trafficking in cocaine, and Gilberto Rios Hernandez's active prison sentence of 28-34 months for his plea to 1) attempt to traffic in heroin and 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin.

// End //

