

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

November 29, 2017

Jury convicts man in domestic violence sex assault

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who brutally beat his ex-girlfriend and then sexually assaulted her has been sentenced to at least 24 years in prison. The trial of Schanen Duvene Watts, which began November 13, 2017, was held in courtroom 5110 before The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried Watts, 46, for 1) first-degree sexual offense, 2) first-degree rape, 3) assault inflicting serious bodily injury, 4) first-degree kidnapping, 5) felony violation of a domestic violence protective order with a deadly weapon and 6) felonious restraint. On November 21, 2017, the jury found Watts *guilty* of first-degree sexual offense, assault inflicting serious bodily injury and felony violation of a domestic violence protective order with a deadly weapon. The jury found him *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Kuehnert then sentenced Watts to a total of 297-435 months in prison. When he is released from prison, Watts must register as a sex offender for 30 years.



Schanen Watts

In 2016, the victim secured a domestic violence protective order against Watts after she ended her relationship with him. A few months later, Watts found the victim at her workplace, and she agreed to meet him later at a Charlotte park. When she arrived, he questioned her about another man and began to beat her, puncturing one of her lungs and causing severe contusions and lacerations.

Watts then took her to a hotel room. Severely injured, bleeding and drifting in and out of consciousness, the woman laid down. That's when Watts sexually assaulted her. When the woman regained enough strength to seek help, she went to the hotel lobby and asked to use a phone to call police.

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