

NEWS RELEASE

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47 defendants convicted of drug crimes in Superior Court

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Beginning November 28, 2011, and ending December, 5, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted forty-seven defendants in Courtroom 5350 before The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judge, and The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge. 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 Humberto Ocampo's active prison sentence of 70-84 months for trafficking in heroin and Jose Ruiz-Ruiz's active prison sentence of 45-54 months for attempted trafficking and 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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