

NEWS RELEASE

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February 10, 2012

41 defendants convicted of drug crimes in Superior Court

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Beginning Monday, January 30, 2012, and ending Friday, February 3, 2012, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicted 41 defendants in Courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, 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 an active prison sentence of 48-67 months for Hazel Gutierrez, 30, for trafficking in heroin, and 35-42 months for Jesus Perales, 20, 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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