

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

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## Juries convict 3 defendants of property crimes; 2 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In Mecklenburg County Superior Court trials during the week of February 13, 2017, juries convicted three defendants of property crimes such as breaking or entering and larceny from a merchant. These defendants, as well as two additional defendants who entered guilty pleas, were prosecuted by the District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, and The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judges.

Karon Mills, 29, was tried for 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 2) felony possession of a schedule IV controlled substance and 3) misdemeanor larceny. The jury found Mills *guilty* as charged. Judge Caldwell sentenced him to a total of 12-34 months and an additional 45 days in prison; those sentences were suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Mills must serve 24 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Nicola Giles, 40, was tried for 1) larceny from a merchant, 2) felony conspiracy and 3) misdemeanor larceny. The jury found Giles *guilty* as charged. Judge Poovey sentenced her to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

Ahnia Nicks, 17, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) felony conspiracy. The jury found Nicks *guilty* of felony breaking or entering and larceny after breaking or entering. The jury found her *not guilty* of the conspiracy offense. Judge Poovey sentenced Nicks to 4-14 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months of supervised probation.

When Dequan Blakeney, 24, was called for trial, he pled guilty as charged to 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. Judge Poovey sentenced Blakeney to 30-45 months in prison. In October 2011, the victim returned to his residence to find that a rear kitchen window had been broken and his home had been ransacked. The victim discovered that an Apple iPod nano, a digital camera and a laptop were missing. He also noticed that a 42-inch television had been moved from the entertainment system and placed on the floor in the kitchen. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department crime scene officers were called to process the scene, and they found blood on the interior window sill where the suspect had entered the home. In February 2014, DNA testing confirmed that the blood was Blakeney's.

Matthew Schmidt, 35, pled guilty to felony larceny. Judge Poovey sentenced him to 9-20 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Schmidt must pay \$500 in restitution to the victim.

Another defendant filed a motion to suppress certain evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and an Assistant District Attorney, Judge Caldwell denied the motion. The case will be scheduled for trial at a later date.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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