

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

**March 28, 2018**

## **Special Victims Team convicts 16 defendants**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team convicted 16 defendants over the course of two weeks in Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas March 5-16, 2018, in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Robert Alexander, 45, pled guilty to second-degree rape. Judge Bell sentenced Alexander to 67-141 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Alexander must register as a sex offender for 30 years. In September 2017, Alexander approached a woman near Clanton Road in Charlotte and sexually assaulted her.

Marty Elliott, 50, pled guilty to 1) assault by strangulation and 2) felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Judge Bell sentenced Elliott to 40-66 months in prison. In July 2017, Elliott held his girlfriend against her will at an apartment, where he threatened, punched and strangled her. Hospital personnel and law enforcement observed abrasions to the victim's neck and body and bruising about the victim's face and body consistent with being assaulted and strangled. Elliott had previously been convicted of assault offenses.

Damian Phillips, 24, pled guilty to 1) two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury and 2) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Bell sentenced Phillips to 38-55 months in prison.

Claudio Cabrera, 43, pled guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. Judge Bell sentenced Cabrera to 32-58 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Cabrera must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Adres Mawad, 19, pled guilty to 1) two counts of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor and 2) two counts of taking indecent liberties with a child. Judge Bell sentenced Mawad to 31-98 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Mawad must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Matthew Pierce, 24, pled guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. Judge Bell sentenced Pierce to 30-54 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Pierce must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Gustavo Tejada, 35, pled guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. Judge Bell sentenced Tejada to 13-16 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Tejada must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Jeffrey Henke, 52, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Judge Bell sentenced Henke to 9-20 months in prison.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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