

NEWS RELEASE

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DA's Crimes Against Property Team tries 4 defendants; 5 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team tried four defendants and convicted five others who pled guilty April 21-25, 2014, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The proceedings were held in courtrooms 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell and The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judges.

James Watts, Jr., 21, was tried for 1) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) assault with a deadly weapon and 4) discharging a weapon into occupied property. The jury found Watts *guilty* as charged. Judge Bell sentenced Watts to 73-100 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 29-44 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Ezekiel Curry, 23, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny. The jury found Curry *guilty* as charged. Judge Boner sentenced Curry to 12-34 months in prison.

Joshua Holmes, 19, was tried for 1) second-degree burglary, 2) felony larceny, 3) felony conspiracy to commit second-degree burglary, 4) assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm and 5) resisting a public officer. The jury returned a verdict of *not guilty* for the charge of assault on a law enforcement officer with firearm, and the jury found Holmes *guilty* of all the remaining charges. Judge Bell sentenced Holmes to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Holmes' successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Holmes must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Charles Thomas, 46, was tried for 1) three counts of felony breaking or entering and 2) two counts of felony larceny. The jury found Thomas *not guilty* of one breaking or entering offense and one larceny offense. Judge Boner declared a mistrial on the remaining charges when the jury could not reach unanimous verdicts.

The following five defendants pled before their cases were called for trial:

Adam Clay, 56, pled to felony habitual larceny. Clay was sentenced 15-27 months in prison.

Danny Costner, 38, pled guilty to four counts of obtaining property by false pretense. He was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison. He was also sentenced to an additional 16-38 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

Sean Allen, 28, pled to attempted second-degree burglary. Allen was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Allen's successful completion of 12 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Allen must serve 15 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Dequann Leak, 25, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. Leak was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Leak's successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Leak must serve 10 days in the Mecklenburg County jail.

Krystal Costner, 24, pled guilty to two counts of obtaining property by false pretense. She was sentenced to 16-38 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation.

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

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