

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Crimes Against Persons Team's trial, pleas lead to 5 convictions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried one defendant and convicted four others who entered guilty pleas May 18-29, 2015. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust and The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judges. Over the course of the two-week period, the team also made arguments in regards to several motions filed by defendants. Court was not held on May 25, 2015, in observance of Memorial Day.

Curtis Bernard Stewart, 38, was tried for 1) first-degree rape, 2) assault by strangulation, 3) assault on a female, 4) misdemeanor breaking or entering and 5) communicating threats. The jury found him *guilty* of assault on a female and *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Foust sentenced Stewart to 150 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

Demetrick Smith, 22, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Archie denied the motion. Smith then pled guilty to 1) attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Smith was sentenced to 67-93 months in prison. Smith was also sentenced to an additional 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Smith's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Liza Blanco, 48, pled guilty to 1) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Blanco was sentenced to 40-60 months in prison.

Kwame Crawford, 24, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. Crawford also admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probationary sentence for a previous conviction. Crawford was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison.

Randall Adams, 26, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Archie denied the motion after hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney. Adams then pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Two other defendants filed motions to suppress certain evidence seized or obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of their legal rights. In one case, Judge Archie granted the

defendant's motion, and the State then dismissed the case. Judge Archie denied the motion in the other case, and that matter 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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