

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jury finds habitual felon guilty of embezzling; 3 others also convicted

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A habitual felon who embezzled money from her employer is among the two defendants convicted by juries during the most recent trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team. The team also convicted another two defendants who pled guilty. The proceedings were held during the week of August 8, 2016, in courtrooms 5110, 5150 and 5370 before The Honorable Michael D. Duncan, The Honorable Anderson D. Cromer and The Honorable Jerry Cash Martin, Superior Court Judges.

Andrea Deneen Crowder, 42, was tried for 1) embezzlement, 2) larceny by employee, 3) corporate malfeasance and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Crowder *guilty* as charged. Upon the jury's verdict, Crowder admitted her status as a habitual felon. Judge Duncan sentenced Crowder to 111-146 months in prison. In mid-2013, Crowder was employed at a Charlotte bakery as part of a prison work release program. Over the course of three months, Crowder skimmed cash from daily sales and falsified entries into company sales ledgers. Some of Crowder's prior convictions include multiple counts of obtaining property by false pretenses.

Tavaris Demell Crouch, 38, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) maintaining a dwelling or place for the use, storage or sale of cocaine, 3) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 4) possession of drug paraphernalia and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* of possession of drug paraphernalia and *not guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Cromer sentenced Crouch to 120 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail. The state was unable to proceed on the habitual felon charge as a result of the jury's verdicts for the felony charges.

Calvin Steven Brooks, 31, filed a motion to suppress certain evidence utilized by law enforcement, alleging violations of his legal rights. Judge Martin, who heard arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, denied the motion. Brooks then pled guilty to 1) selling cocaine 2) delivering cocaine, 3) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 4) selling marijuana, 5) delivering marijuana, 6) possession with the intent to sell or deliver marijuana, 7) felony speeding to elude arrest, 8) communicating threats and 9) being a habitual felon. Brooks was sentenced to 75-102 months in prison. Some of Brooks' prior convictions include possession of cocaine, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury and a federal weapons violation.

Karen Michelle LeBlanc, 44, pled guilty to 1) 12 counts of financial transaction card theft and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Duncan sentenced LeBlanc to 50-72 months in prison. LeBlanc's prior convictions include multiple counts of forgery and identity theft.

*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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