

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Embezzler convicted during Crimes Against Property Team trial session

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Break-in offenders and a woman who embezzled more than \$400,000 from her employer were among the four defendants convicted during a recent trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Property Team. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, The Honorable W. Robert Bell and The Honorable Daniel A. Kuehnert, Superior Court Judges, during the week of December 11, 2017.

When called for trial, Angelia Brown, 45, pled guilty to embezzlement greater than \$100,000. Judge Bell sentenced Brown to 58-82 months in prison. Brown was also ordered to pay \$409,048.53 in restitution. Brown worked as an office manager at a dental office in Huntersville. In 2015, the owner of the business discovered Brown had been writing unauthorized checks to herself and taking cash from the office's business account between February 2010 and February 2015. The owner also discovered that Brown had been using the business' credit card to pay for her utilities, gas, personal purchases at stores and vacations, including a trip to Disney World. The total amount of money lost was \$409,048.53.

When called for trial, Carolyn Smith, 51, pled guilty to 1) exploiting an elder adult and 2) identity theft. Judge Evans sentenced Smith to 13-25 months in prison; Judge Evans suspended that sentence pending her successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Smith was also ordered to pay \$11,188.81 in restitution.

Sterlin Melvin, 26, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) felony larceny. The jury found the defendant *not guilty*.

Peter Walker, 29, was tried for 1) felony larceny and 2) felony possession of stolen goods. At the close of the State's evidence, Judge Evans dismissed the charge of felony larceny. The jury found Walker *not guilty* of felony possession of stolen goods.

The State called Chad Broadway, 28, for trial for the charge of uttering a forged instrument. After a jury was selected, the victim in the case indicated she would not be coming to court to participate in the prosecution. The victim did not appear to testify. Without the victim's testimony, the State was unable to proceed. As a result, the charge was dismissed.

Sean Rutherford, 19, pled guilty to felony breaking or entering. Judge Bell sentenced Rutherford to 5-15 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, Rutherford must serve 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail and pay restitution to the victim.

Monorico Shankle-Johnson, 24, pled guilty to 1) breaking or entering a motor vehicle and 2) misdemeanor larceny. Judge Kuehnert sentenced Shankle-Johnson to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. He was also ordered to wear an electronic monitor for 6 months.

*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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