

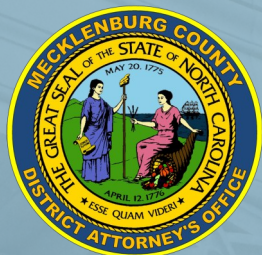
# Year in Review

District Attorney's Office  
26th Prosecutorial District of North Carolina  
Mecklenburg County

2014



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





# A message from DA Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray was elected as District Attorney of Mecklenburg County in 2010 and took office in 2011. Since then, DA Murray has worked to ensure that his office seeks justice for the community. In 2014, he ran unopposed for reelection and will begin his second four-year term in January 2015.



“ My prosecutors are in court every day, fighting for justice on behalf of the people of Mecklenburg County. We’re sending violent felons to prison, convicting child abusers and taking drug dealers off our streets to make this community as safe as possible. ”

**ANDREW MURRAY,**  
District Attorney

My prosecutors worked on the front lines of the criminal justice system in 2014, confronting dangerous offenders in court and seeking justice for those affected by crime. The Homicide Team spent a record amount of time in trial this year, dealing with an old backlog of homicide cases and securing closure for the victims’ families. Guilty verdicts sent numerous sex offenders, armed robbers and other serious offenders to prison. And outside the courtroom, my staff volunteered to teach students about their work.

In this report, you’ll learn more about the ways in which my prosecutors work every day to ensure that Mecklenburg County is a safe place to live, work and raise our families.

I had the opportunity this year to

work at the national level, sharing Mecklenburg County’s accomplishments while also learning about innovative strategies that could be implemented in our community. I participated in roundtable discussions hosted by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys with chief prosecutors of major cities across the United States. In August, I joined 22 prosecutors representing jurisdictions such as Los Angeles and Manhattan to form Prosecutors Against Gun Violence. This non-partisan coalition will work to identify and promote policy solutions to our country’s gun violence crisis.

I’m honored to continue serving the people of Mecklenburg County as their elected District Attorney. Moving forward into my second term, I plan to build on my office’s successes. And as president-elect of the North

Carolina Conference of District Attorneys’ executive committee, I will also seek out legislative changes to help prosecutors across the state better protect our communities.

Our achievements would not be possible without the outstanding work of police and the bravery of victims and witnesses who are willing to testify in court. Please stand with us as we seek justice for our friends, family and neighbors.

Sincerely,

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

# Mission & introduction

The District Attorney’s Office represents the State of North Carolina and prosecutes crimes and traffic offenses that occur in the State’s 26th Prosecutorial District, which covers Mecklenburg County and includes Charlotte, Mint Hill, Matthews, Pineville, Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson.

The office prosecutes more than 9,000 felonies and more than 200,000 misdemeanor and traffic offenses each year.

In every case, the goal of the DA’s Office is to seek justice. Prosecutors must consider all the evidence available in each case and weigh a number

of factors—such as public safety, the strengths and weaknesses of the case, the opportunity for rehabilitation and sentencing laws—in an effort to reach a just result for victims, defendants and the community as a whole.

This annual report is an extension of District Attorney Andrew Murray’s ongoing commitment to openly communicate with the public. The report documents the endeavors of prosecutors, who work on behalf of the people of Mecklenburg County, and also offers insight into initiatives that aim to improve the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system.

“*...The citizen’s safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility.*”

*Robert H. Jackson, Attorney General of the U.S., 1940*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from DA Murray.....1

Mission & introduction.....2

Office organization.....2

Misdemeanor Team.....3

Drug Team.....3

Domestic Violence Team.....4

Raising awareness through radio PSA.....4

Working in the community.....5

Crimes Against Property Team....6

Juvenile Team.....6

New technology saves resources, improves efficiency.....6

Bringing art to the halls of justice.....7

Crimes Against Persons Team.....8

Habitual Felon Team.....8

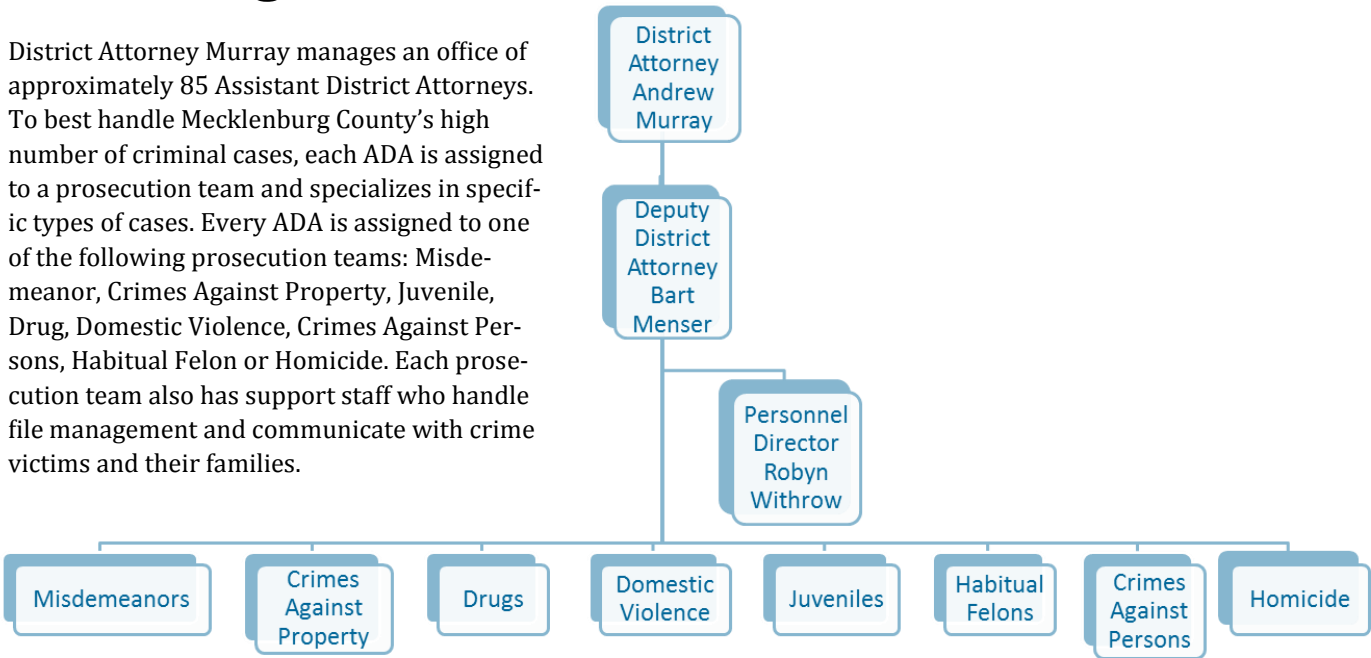
Homicide Team.....9

Seeking justice in 2014.....9

Contact us.....10

## Office organization

District Attorney Murray manages an office of approximately 85 Assistant District Attorneys. To best handle Mecklenburg County’s high number of criminal cases, each ADA is assigned to a prosecution team and specializes in specific types of cases. Every ADA is assigned to one of the following prosecution teams: Misdemeanor, Crimes Against Property, Juvenile, Drug, Domestic Violence, Crimes Against Persons, Habitual Felon or Homicide. Each prosecution team also has support staff who handle file management and communicate with crime victims and their families.





## The Misdemeanor Team

With approximately 200,000 misdemeanors and traffic offenses every year, the District Attorney's Misdemeanor Team has the largest caseload of any prosecution team.

The team works primarily in District Court, prosecuting traffic citations and misdemeanors, but the team also tries cases in Superior Court when a defendant who was found guilty by a District Court judge appeals his or her conviction to Superior Court for a jury trial.

District Attorney Murray has identified the prosecution of driving while impaired cases as a priority in District Court, and the team continued its efforts this year to target impaired drivers who endanger Mecklenburg County streets. These prosecutors placed a special emphasis on those who have repeatedly put the community at risk.

In May, a jury found David Maust guilty of habitual impaired driving, and he was sentenced to 14-26 months in prison. Tuan Dien was sent to prison for 20-33 months after the team convicted him in

August of two counts of habitual impaired driving.

Assistant District Attorneys on this team were recognized this year for their work to prosecute gang members who violated a court-ordered injunction that prohibited members of the Hidden Valley Kings from gathering together. The first of its kind in the state, the injunction ordered that anyone in violation should be charged with a misdemeanor. In May, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Rodney Monroe presented awards to prosecutors who worked on these cases.

In 2014, the team saw continued success in Citizens Court, a program that works to resolve privately-initiated cases through mediation. Held every other week, Citizens Court aims to save court resources by addressing the underlying issues that often lead to privately-initiated charges. The team plans to expand Citizens Court in 2015 by hosting these court sessions every week.



Prosecutors are recognized by CMPD Chief Rodney Monroe for their work with police to prosecute gang members.

*The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Team prosecutes about 200,000 misdemeanors and traffic offenses every year.*

## The Drug Team

The Drug Team prosecutes felony drug offenses ranging from possession of controlled substances up to trafficking in controlled substances. This team targets those who sell or bring drugs into the community while also advocating for treatment for people experiencing drug addictions.

Heroin, a drug that has caused an alarming number of overdoses, continued to be a problem in Mecklenburg County in 2014. The Drug Team spent much of the year prosecuting heroin traffickers.

In March, the team convicted Damien Nash of selling and trafficking in heroin. Nash, who sold black tar heroin to an undercover Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer, was sentenced to 70-93 months in prison. Heroin trafficker Anthony Perez-Fergoso was sent to prison in September for 90-120 months. Police found a hidden compartment in his vehicle that contained 79 packages of heroin.

Drug Team prosecutors work closely with police to better identify and prosecute high-priority and repeat drug offenders. They met with investigators this year to plan a "campaign" to target drug sellers in a troubled area, resulting in the arrest of several individuals, including habitual felons.

Prosecutors on this team also sought out training at a drug investigation conference. Several Assistant District Attorneys attended the conference, hosted by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, to learn from nationally-recognized experts about the organizations that orchestrate drug trafficking.

Recognizing that substance abuse often leads to criminal activity, the Drug Team also works with community partners to end alcohol and drug dependencies by allowing eligible defendants to participate in drug treatment courts.

The Mecklenburg County Supervision,

Treatment, Education and Prevention (STEP) Drug Treatment Courts strive to break the cycle of addiction by enhancing the delivery of treatment services and holding people accountable for compliance with their court-ordered treatment plans.

Participants, who are typically referred to the program at the time of their conviction for drug-related offenses, are supervised by the court. They're subject to random drug screenings, and they complete intensive outpatient treatment and regularly meet with a case manager.

Drug use can lead to a dangerous path of crime, including thefts and even homicides. District Attorney Murray believes drug treatment courts are an important step in not only preventing crimes and saving the criminal justice system time and resources but also in helping people become drug-free, productive members of the community.





Participants in the 2014 Steps for Change Domestic Violence Awareness Walk celebrate as they march through uptown Charlotte. Below: District Attorney Murray records a public service announcement that encourages the public to take a stand against domestic violence.

## The Domestic Violence Team

Created by District Attorney Murray in 2012, the Domestic Violence Team works in both District and Superior Court to prosecute men and women charged with crimes that occur between people in intimate relationships.

The team has a difficult task, often working to address the needs of individual victims while also seeking justice and protecting the community. These prosecutors are trained to handle the sensitive issues that arise in such cases.

After hearing the State's first three witnesses testify at trial in March, Robert McCall decided to plead guilty. He'd attacked his ex-girlfriend when she went outside one morning to warm up her car as she prepared to go to work. McCall cut her throat and stabbed her in the shoulder before fleeing. The victim sought help from a neighbor and survived. Now convicted of attempted first-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, McCall will spend 219-275 months in prison. In October, Kwmaine Rainey was sent to prison for 80-108 months after shooting at his ex-girlfriend's car while she was inside.

The Domestic Violence Team tried 19 cases in Superior Court in 2014, but prosecutors also worked outside the courtroom to end abuse. Assistant District Attorney Jamie Adams, who serves on several task forces to address domestic violence issues, was involved in the planning of a supervised visitation center, which opened in November to provide a safe place where parents in abusive relationships can visit or exchange their children.

In October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the District Attorney's Office hosted the Fourth Annual Steps for Change Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. The event raises funds for Safe Alliance, the nonprofit that operates Mecklenburg County's only shelter for victims of domestic violence. Spearheaded by ADA Adams, this year's event drew more than 120 people who marched through uptown Charlotte.



### RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH RADIO PSA

In 2014, District Attorney Murray had the privilege of partnering with Safe Alliance and the Beasley Broadcast Group (formerly CBS Radio) to create a public service announcement to raise awareness about domestic violence and urge the public to help stop the cycle of abuse.

The "Be Their Hope" public service announcements, which aired in April and October on seven local radio stations, encouraged people to help domestic violence victims by reporting abuse to police and being willing to come to court to help prosecutors seek justice. The message also directed those in need of help to Safe Alliance, a local nonprofit that provides shelter and important services for victims of domestic violence.

"Without your help, the cycle of violence will continue," DA Murray said in the public service announcement. "As Mecklenburg's chief prosecutor, I need you to speak up when you see abuse. That means calling the police, coming to court and taking a stand. Please, stand with me, and be their hope."

In October, the public service announcements also encouraged the public to participate in the Fourth Annual Steps for Change Domestic Violence Awareness Walk.

"My office is so thankful to have Beasley Broadcast Group as a community partner that recognizes the need for awareness surrounding this critical issue," DA Murray. "Together, we can spread our message to a wide audience. Statistically, we know that a majority of listeners have someone in their lives who has been affected by domestic violence. It's time that we all acknowledge domestic violence for what it is: a crime."



# Working in the community

To request a prosecutor to speak at your community meeting or event, please visit the DA's website at [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com).



Assistant District Attorney Sarah Weiner assists a student during a mock trial as part of the District Attorney's Exploring program, which allows high school students to explore potential careers in the criminal justice field. Below: District Attorney Murray and Assistant District Attorney Bill Stetzer speak with a resident of Charlotte's Grier Heights neighborhood during National Night Out.

## Connecting with the public

When District Attorney Murray took office in 2011, one of his first tasks was the creation of the office's Community Liaison Initiative to connect prosecutors with people living in Mecklenburg County. Today, the program continues as part of DA Murray's commitment to keeping an open line of communication between his prosecutors and the people they work to protect.

The initiative involves a group of prosecutors who attend neighborhood and civic organization meetings to talk with people about the criminal justice system and the work of the District Attorney's Office. Prosecutors visited 27 neighborhoods across Mecklenburg County in August as residents celebrated National Night Out, the annual crime prevention program.

Throughout the year, members of the DA's Office also volunteered their time to support local nonprofits and those in need. Two teams of employees from the DA's Office competed in the Pink Lady Fire Truck Pull, an event to help police and firefighters facing cancer or other life-threatening illnesses. In December, staff members volunteered to help Charlotte-Mecklenburg police wrap and sort toys for hundreds of families during the holiday season as part of the police department's Explorer Christmas Project.

## Reaching out to students

When Community School of Davidson students entered the school's theater in April, they discovered a wounded man, evidence of a struggle and bloody footprints left behind by the

perpetrator. They quickly set to work, collecting evidence to help solve the case.

This mock crime scene was created for students by Assistant District Attorney Clayton Jones, a homicide prosecutor who was teaching the students about the importance of a precise and thorough crime scene analysis in solving and prosecuting criminal cases.



"Working with young people is a priority for my office not only because we want them to grow as informed citizens of our community but also because we recognize the importance of allowing students to explore the possibility of someday working as our colleagues in the criminal justice system," DA Murray said in April.

Young men and women interested in criminal law careers meet monthly during the school year as part of the DA's Exploring program, which is organized by the Boy Scouts' Mecklenburg County Council. Prosecutors meet with these students to discuss a variety of law-related topics, and the program culminates in the spring with mock trials in real courtrooms.

During the course of the year, prosecutors visited several high schools to participate in "lunch and learn" programs in which they talked with students about law careers. They also gave tours of the DA's Office to students involved in Court Camp, a program organized by the Trial Court Administrator's Office.



# The Crimes Against Property Team

District Attorney Murray understands how crimes that result in the loss of property, particularly home break-ins, affect families' sense of security in their homes. That's why he has placed an emphasis on targeting defendants charged with residential breaking or entering, as well as offenders who repeatedly commit property crimes.

The Crimes Against Property Team prosecutes crimes such as burglary, felony larceny and breaking or entering a motor vehicle. In 2014, the team worked to utilize state law that identifies habitual breaking or entering status offenders, allowing prosecutors to request longer prison sentences for defendants who continue to harm Mecklenburg County residents and businesses.

One such defendant was Anthony Johnson, who was convicted as a habitual breaking or entering status offender and sent to prison for 30-48 months. He'd broken into a Charlotte school to steal equipment. In June, the team convicted Trevon Short of burglary and larceny and sent him to prison for 38-58 months. The victim in the case awoke to find Short in her home. Short was chased out of the home, taking cash and a credit card along with him.

This team also has members who specialize in prosecuting financial crimes, such as fraud and identity theft. This year, they sent Lisa Dabbs to prison for embezzling

more than \$35,000 from the local pharmacy where she worked. And Chante Sterling spent 2014 in prison after being convicted in January of identity theft, altering court documents and other charges. She'd purchased items with stolen credit cards and used others' personal identifying information to purchase a car and to obtain a loan. After her arrest, she attempted to dismiss her own cases by forging an Assistant District Attorney's name on court documents.

Prosecutors on this team have seen an uptick in the number of cases involving elderly victims who've been financially exploited. In 2015, the team plans to focus on these cases during trial sessions and work to stop people from taking advantage of vulnerable members of the community.



## The Juvenile Team

In North Carolina, defendants are considered adults at age 16 for criminal proceedings. Those who commit a crime and are ages 15 and younger fall under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court. Those cases are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Juvenile Team.

The Juvenile Team prosecutes all crimes committed by juveniles, ranging from larcenies and possession of drugs to sex offenses and even murder. In 2014, the team handled 2,360 juvenile petitions. Prosecutors who work in Juvenile Court strive to hold juveniles accountable for their actions while also intervening in the lives of at-risk youth and connecting them with treatment and community services so that they will not return to the criminal justice system as adult defendants. These prosecutors work with a number of local partnering agencies that help provide juveniles and their families with the resources they need.

The Juvenile Team is actively involved in a number of groups working to prevent juvenile crime and improve resources for young people. This year, Assistant District Attorney Heather Taraska, who leads the Juvenile Team, joined the leadership team of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, a local collaboration that works to reduce disproportionality and disparities in the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Team also participates in a group made up of law enforcement and school officials working to develop a consistent approach in responding to student conduct issues at local schools.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY SAVES RESOURCES, IMPROVES EFFICIENCY

The District Attorney's Office continued in 2014 to seek out innovative ways in which prosecutors and staff can work more efficiently to manage Mecklenburg County's substantial criminal caseload.

In 2013, the office's felony prosecution teams moved to the use of electronic discovery. Previously, the DA's Office provided discovery—all records and evidence related to an investigation—to defense attorneys in paper form, often in huge stacks. Now, staff use the Discovery Automated System, an online program that allows defense attorneys to electronically access all records. The DA's staff has trained Mecklenburg County's public defenders to use the program, and in early 2015, staff will train private attorneys so that nearly all defense attorneys are able to navigate the system, saving significant quantities of paper and resources.

The DA's Office also launched a new initiative in 2014 that will clear space in the office's limited file rooms. Recognizing that the office would run out of file space in less than a year, Mecklenburg County graciously funded a project that involves the scanning of old, closed cases. Rather than throwing away important information, a team of staff members methodically worked to record, pack and send thousands of case files to an off-site vendor. The vendor will scan the materials and then make the files available electronically when requested by staff members.

Although many case files, such as homicides and sex offenses, will remain in the DA's Office, an estimated 30,000 closed files will be scanned.



Cindi Spillman of Ciel Gallery puts finishing touches on the mural covering the walls of the new waiting room for children who testify at trial. Spillman was among several local artists who volunteered to paint the mural.

# Bringing art to the halls of justice

## Showcasing talents of local artists

In January 2014, the District Attorney's Office launched an initiative to showcase local artists' work, transforming the office's lobby into a welcoming environment for visitors and staff.

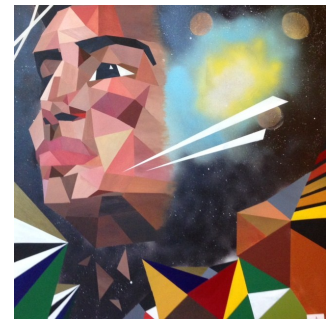
The debut exhibit featured about 35 paintings, mixed media and photography by members of the Charlotte Art League, a nonprofit that assists local artists grow and sell their work while enhancing the visual arts experience in the metro area.

Later, artworks by students and faculty at the Community School of the Arts were displayed. In the fall, the DA's Office hosted a historical exhibit from the Levine Museum of the New South. The exhibit, titled "Courage," tells the story of an African-American community in South Carolina that worked to end separate and unequal schools by filing what would become the first lawsuit in the composite *Brown v. Board of Education* case that ended racially segregated schools in the United States.

## Comforting children

In the spring, the DA's Office partnered with Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center to create a kid-friendly room at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse for children facing the daunting task of testifying in court.

The project was initiated by Assistant District Attorneys who recognized the need to help make children more comfortable when they come to court. For kids, testifying at trial often involves describing traumatic events or even facing their abusers. Typically, to prevent any additional trauma,



Painting by Community School of the Arts student Sarah Jewels-Plassat.

these children stay in a courthouse waiting room until it's time for them to testify.

But the available waiting rooms, with their blank walls, were not inviting or comforting to children.

After partnering with Pat's Place and volunteer artists from Ciel Gallery, one of the waiting rooms soon came to life. The artists were at work for several days, painting rolling hills, colorful villages and a cloud-speckled sky. And thanks to donations from DA's Office staff and the community, the room was outfitted with kid-sized furniture, toys and movies.

By the end of the year, the room had been used multiple times by children who'd witnessed crimes, as well as children who were victims of sexual abuse.

"It takes a lot of courage for a child to tell his story in front of a jury," District Attorney Murray said in April. "We owe it to these children to help them feel safe while they help my prosecutors seek justice and protect others in our community."



## The Crimes Against Persons Team



The Crimes Against Persons Team is tasked with prosecuting some of Mecklenburg County's most violent criminals. The 14 prosecutors on this team handle cases such as robberies, sexual assaults and other felony assaults.

The team worked hard this year to protect the community from dangerous offenders who threaten others' safety. In June, the team sent Brian Chandler to prison for 9-12 years for attacking a cab driver. And in November, a jury found felon Tommy Moses guilty of multiple counts of armed robbery and attempted kidnapping. He was sentenced to 16-22 years in prison.

There are five prosecutors on this team who are dedicated to seeking justice for victims of sexual assault. Two exclusively prosecute sexual assaults of adults, while three prosecute offenders who sexually abuse children. The third prosecutor on the child sex offense unit was added this year in an effort to focus more resources on child abuse cases, which are often complex and involve working with traumatized children.

At a trial that began in February, a Charlotte woman who was sexually assaulted and robbed twice by the same man

showed great courage by testifying against her attacker, Daven Teeter. A jury found Teeter guilty, and he was subsequently sentenced to approximately 47-60 years in prison. Michael Wise was also convicted this year and sentenced to a minimum of 48 years in prison for the statutory rape of a 14-year-old girl with whom he'd been communicating through Facebook. A Cornelius police officer had noticed Wise's van in a local park after hours and discovered Wise with the victim.

This year, the District Attorney's Office has collaborated with investigators and community partners, such as Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center, to combat sexual abuse of children. Crimes Against Persons Team prosecutors organized a training session about child sex abuse cases for local law enforcement. Two Assistant District Attorneys traveled to Arizona with a Pat's Place forensic interviewer and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police to learn from national experts at a multidisciplinary training hosted by the National District Attorneys Association.

The team plans to continue devoting resources to prosecuting sexual assault cases in 2015.

## The Habitual Felon Team

Under North Carolina law, a person with three prior felony convictions who commits another felony crime may be eligible for prosecution as a habitual felon. A habitual felon conviction allows prosecutors to request tougher penalties for repeat offenders—whether they're thieves, drug dealers or violent criminals—who continue to endanger Mecklenburg County.

The Habitual Felon Team focuses on these offenders with a consistent approach by weighing a defendant's criminal history and his or her threat to the community. The team convicted nearly 80 defendants of being habitual felons in 2014.

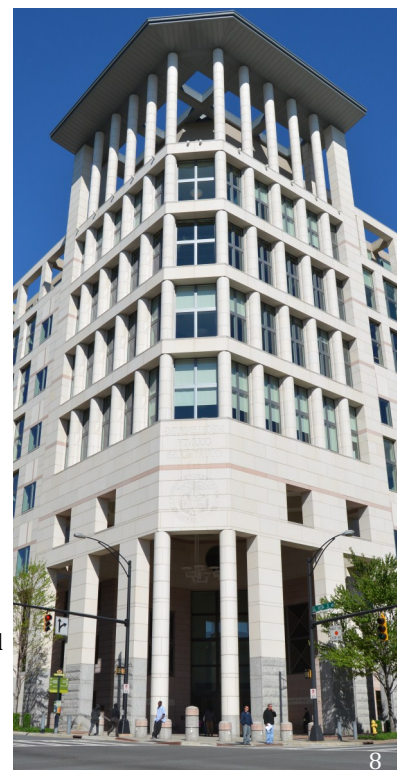
In April, a jury found Steven Stitt guilty of armed robbery and possession of a gun by a convicted felon. After Stitt admitted his status as a habitual felon, he was sentenced to about 10-13 years in prison. Antoine Jackson, who robbed a woman after helping her start her car, pled guilty to robbery and being a habitual felon. He will spend the

next 9-12 years in prison.

Prosecutors on this team target violent felons and felons in illegal possession of guns, but they also handle an array of charges that include drug and property crimes.

Habitual felon William Coleman pled guilty in August to breaking into local businesses and was sentenced to at least eight years in prison.

Amy Robinson, who had prior convictions for obtaining property by false pretenses, reportedly faked her drowning at the South Carolina coast to avoid her trial with the Habitual Felon Team in July. She later turned herself in to police and decided to plead guilty in October to identity theft, forgery, being a habitual felon and several other offenses. She was sentenced to 9-11 years in prison. Robinson forged checks and used information from a friend's checks to spend thousands of dollars from the victim's bank account.





Homicide victims are remembered during a ceremony in their honor at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Below: Assistant District Attorney Bill Stetzer embraces the mother of a homicide victim.

## The Homicide Team

The District Attorney's Homicide Team began 2014 with an ambitious goal: to make an aggressive push to bring justice to victims and closure for their families.

When District Attorney Murray took office in 2011, he found that the high number of pending homicide cases was delaying case resolution. After making significant progress over the course of the next three years, DA Murray announced an initiative in early 2014 that would allow homicide prosecutors to try up to about 20 cases. Every non-capital defendant who'd pled not guilty was scheduled for trial, and the DA's Office secured additional courtrooms and judges from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. Then, the Homicide Team's Assistant District Attorneys partnered with experienced prosecutors on other prosecution teams so that they could work together to tackle more homicide cases.

In 2014, the Homicide Team tried 14 cases. Several defendants, when faced with an imminent trial, opted to plead guilty. The team tried two capital cases, which require more resources and significantly more court time. One such case was that of Justin Hurd, who was found guilty by a jury of murder, kidnapping and arson in the brutal killings of Kevin Young and his girlfriend, Kinshasa Wagstaff, and her niece, Jasmine Hines. The jury decided Hurd should spend the rest of his life in prison.

As a result of the two capital trials and 12 other trials, the Homicide Team spent 36 weeks in trial—a record amount of time in court—and the team achieved its goal of reducing the backlog that had amassed before DA Murray took office. The 2014 trial initiative was part of a successful four-year effort that reduced the number of homicide cases pending trials by about 50 percent.

The innovative ways in which the Homicide Team works with local police were highlighted this year in Police Chief magazine, a publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The article, written by Assistant District Attorney Bill Stetzer, outlines homicide prosecutors' practice of working alongside police at homicide scenes and the "roundtabling" of each case. In this process, the Homicide Team meets with homicide investigators to discuss the evidence available in each case and then decides, as a group, how the case should move forward in court.



## SEEKING JUSTICE IN 2014

Rashawn Mackey was convicted by a jury of murdering Cortney Terrell Bonds and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Justin Hurd received three consecutive sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole after a jury found him guilty of murdering Kevin Young, Kinshasa Wagstaff and Jasmine Hines.

Jacquece Forrest pled guilty to two counts of first-degree murder for the killings of Jennifer Smith and Luc Gonzalez. Forrest was sentenced to two consecutive sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

A jury found Edward Hicks guilty of first-degree murder for the killing of Nakio Terrill Cousart. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

James Currie was sent to prison for the rest of his life after a jury found him guilty of murdering Brooks Crist.

A jury found Eric Cox guilty of second-degree murder, driving while impaired and other offenses for the death of H'Luon Siu. He was sentenced to about 17-22 years in prison.

Joshua Walker was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after a jury found him guilty of murdering David Michael Lofton.

Arthur Givens was sent to prison for the rest of his life after a jury found him guilty of murdering Donald Everett Gist, Jr.





## CONTACT US

Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office  
700 East Trade St.  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Learn more about the DA's Office at [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com)

“Like” us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda)

Follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA