

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DA's Drug Prosecution Team convicts four during trial week**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Drug Prosecution Team called cases for trial in three courtrooms during the week of February 13, 2012. The trials were held in courtroom 5130 before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, and courtroom 5370 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Shavon Robinson, 31, was tried for possession of cocaine. The jury found Robinson *guilty* as charged. Judge Lewis sentenced Robinson to 4-5 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

Theodore Falls, 37, was tried for (1) sale of marijuana, (2) delivery of marijuana, and (3) possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana. The trial lasted all week and into the week of February 20, 2012. On Wednesday, February 22, after a day and a half of deliberations, the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Judge Caldwell declared a mistrial.

Aldo Barrios Soto, 38, filed a motion to suppress statements alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Lewis granted the defendant's motion. Based upon this ruling, the State could not proceed to trial on this matter.

Ramond Boyd, 29, filed a motion to suppress evidence alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Bell denied the defendant's motion. The State proceeded to select a jury. During jury selection, several jurors could not come to court due to illness and Judge Bell continued the case.

Joseph Dickenson, 32, filed a motion to dismiss the case and to suppress evidence alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing testimony and arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Lewis denied the defendant's motions. Prior to selecting a jury on Wednesday morning, however, the defendant failed to appear and an order for his arrest was issued.

Three defendants pled guilty before their cases were called for trial:

Robert Gaffney, 47, filed a motion to suppress evidence alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney,

Judge Bell denied the defendant's motion to suppress evidence. Gaffney then pled guilty to (1) possession of cocaine and (2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Bell sentenced Gaffney to 4-5 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

Cherish Williams, 34, filed a motion to suppress evidence alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Bell denied the defendant's motion. Williams then pled guilty to (1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and (2) possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge Bell sentenced Williams to 8-10 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 24 months supervised probation.

Jamie Burke, 24, filed a motion to suppress evidence alleging violations of the defendant's legal rights. After hearing arguments from the defense and the Assistant District Attorney, Judge Bell denied the defendant's motion. Burke then pled guilty to felony possession of marijuana. Judge Bell sentenced Burke to 4-5 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 18 months supervised probation.

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