

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Drug Prosecution Team Trial Report: Week of February 14

During the week of February 14, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team operated three trial courtrooms where a total of seventeen cases were resolved, including three trials. Among the cases were:

David Lutz, age 55, pled guilty to sale of cocaine. The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge, sentenced him to 29-35 months in prison. *Lutz is also currently serving a prison sentence of approximately 120 months for a felony that occurred in Lincoln County.*

Torrence Peoples, age 32, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Judge Sumner sentenced Peoples to 15-18 months in prison.

Tavaris Crouch, age 33, pled guilty during pre-trial motions. He pled guilty to two counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and was sentenced by The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge, to a total of 18-22 months in prison.

Alfredo Hernandez-Nunez, age 35, pled guilty when his case was called for trial. He pled, as charged, to trafficking in marijuana. Judge Lewis sentenced Hernandez-Nunez to 35-42 months in prison and fined him \$25,000, as mandated by statute.

Antonio Simmons, age 19, was found *not guilty* by a jury for conspiracy to sell marijuana. Simmons, however, remains in custody on other pending felonies.

David Vassell, age 33, was found *not guilty* by a jury for possession of cocaine.

Ramon Ayala-Guardado, age 33, and Eladio Valentins, age 32, were joined for trial for the charges of trafficking in cocaine and conspiracy to traffick in cocaine. After a seven-day trial, the jury found Valentins *not guilty* and was unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to Ayala-Guardado. A mistrial was declared by the judge for Ayala-Guardado and a new trial date has yet to be set.

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