

NEWS RELEASE

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Drug trafficker convicted at jury trial, gets 14-18 years in prison

During the week of April 11, 2011, the DA's Drug Prosecution Team tried two felony defendants in front of two Mecklenburg County juries. The trials took place in courtrooms 5370 and 5150. In addition to the two jury trials, pre-trial motions were argued in other cases and several defendants entered guilty pleas in lieu of trial.

Julio Cesar Gutierrez Gonzalez, 31, was tried for 1) trafficking in cocaine by possession of 400 grams or more; 2) trafficking in cocaine by possession of 200 grams or more, but less than 400 grams; 3) trafficking in cocaine by transportation of 400 grams or more; 4) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine by possession of 400 grams or more; 5) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine by sale of 200 grams, but less than 400 grams; 6) conspiracy to traffic in cocaine by sale of 400 grams or more; and 7) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the count of trafficking in cocaine by transportation of more than 400 grams or more. Gonzalez was sentenced by The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge, to 175-219 months in prison and fined \$250,000.

Anthony Jones, 40, was tried for 1) sale of marijuana within 1000 feet of a school; 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana within 1000 feet of a school. The jury returned a verdict of *guilty* to the lesser-included count of possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana and not guilty of selling marijuana. Jones was sentenced by The Honorable F. Lane Williamson, Superior Court Judge, to 6-8 months in jail.

Rolando Brown, 30, was tried in January for 1) trafficking in methamphetamine by possession of 400 grams or more; 2) trafficking in methamphetamine by transportation of 400 grams or more; and 3) carrying a concealed weapon. A jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on these charges at his January trial. On April 11, 2011, Brown pled guilty to attempted trafficking in methamphetamine by possession of 28 grams or more, but less than 200 grams. Brown was sentenced to 16-20 months in jail.

Shawn Powell, 23, pled guilty to possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine. Powell was sentenced to 6-8 months in prison, that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation.

Mark Reid, 33, pled guilty to felony possession of cocaine. Reid was sentenced to 9-11 months in prison.

Joseph Lambert, 24, is charged with possession of heroin. Lambert filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence from a search at the scene of arrest. After hearing arguments from the State and the defense, Judge Lewis denied the defendant's motion to suppress, and continued trial to a later date.

Cherelle Griffin, 21, is charged with 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver ecstasy; 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver BZP; and 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana. Griffin filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence from a search at the scene of arrest. Judge Lewis heard arguments from the State and the defense, but has yet to rule on this matter.

Mykel Gaddy, 21, is charged with possession of ecstasy. Gaddy filed a pretrial motion to suppress evidence from a search at the scene of arrest. Judge Lewis heard arguments from the State and the defense, but has yet to rule on this matter.

Don Outing, 53, pled guilty to 1) sale of heroin and 2) two counts of possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin. Outing was sentenced to 15-18 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation, which includes 6 months of electronic house arrest.

Mario Wilson, 21, pled guilty to felony possession of cocaine. Wilson was sentenced to 5-6 months in prison.

Sonchez Drakeford, 20, pled guilty to 1) second degree burglary and 2) felony possession of cocaine. Drakeford was sentenced to 8-10 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 30 months of supervised probation, which includes 6 months of intensive probation.

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