

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team trials, pleas lead to 5 defendants' convictions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team tried three cases, and three other defendants entered guilty pleas May 8-15, 2015. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis and The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judges.

Tdarrien Montinell Mackin, 33, was tried for 1) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 2) sale of cocaine, 3) delivering cocaine and 4) conspiring to sell cocaine. A jury found Mackin *guilty* of possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, sale of cocaine and conspiring to sell cocaine. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the remaining charge. Judge Sumner sentenced Mackin to 12-24 months in prison.

Jakatra Wamara Bell, 35, was tried for 1) possession of cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. A jury found Bell *guilty* of possession of cocaine. At the close of all evidence in the habitual felon phase of the trial, Judge Lewis dismissed the habitual felon charge. Judge Lewis sentenced Bell to 10-21 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Bell's successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation and completion of the Mecklenburg County drug treatment program.

Another defendant was called for trial before Judge Sumner. When the jury heard testimony that had previously been ruled inadmissible, Judge Sumner declared a mistrial. The case will be scheduled for retrial at a later date.

Autrail Dortch Lewis, 22, pled guilty as charged to 1) first-degree burglary, 2) two counts of felony breaking or entering, 3) two counts of larceny after breaking or entering, 4) two counts of felony possession of stolen goods, 5) two counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle, 6) two counts of misdemeanor larceny and 7) being a habitual felon. Judge Bell sentenced Lewis to 77-105 months in prison. Some of Lewis' prior convictions include breaking or entering a motor vehicle, attempted felony larceny and attempted felony breaking or entering.

Johnny Bernard Bowden, 34, pled guilty to two counts of felony breaking or entering. Judge Sumner sentenced Bowden to 12-24 months in prison.

Kevin Carter, 35, pled guilty to possession of cocaine. Carter was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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