

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Misdemeanor Appeals Team convicts impaired driver at trial; 2 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Appeals Team recently tried two defendants, and another two defendants pled guilty. The proceedings were held June 13-17, 2016, in courtroom 5170 before The Honorable Michael E. Beale, Superior Court Judge.

The Misdemeanor Appeals Team prosecutes cases in which the defendant was convicted in District Court and then appealed his or her conviction to Superior Court for a jury trial, as allowed under North Carolina law.

Over the course of the week, prosecutors also made arguments in a case in which the defendant filed a motion to suppress evidence obtained by law enforcement, alleging violations of the defendant's rights. Judge Beale denied the defendant's motion, and the matter will proceed to trial at a later date.

Jennifer Traylor, 32, was tried for driving while impaired. The jury found her *guilty*. Judge Beale sentenced Traylor to 30 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 12 months of unsupervised probation. As a condition of her probation, Traylor must complete 24 hours of community service.

Jason Jenkins, 28, was tried for driving while impaired. The jury returned a *not guilty* verdict.

Sharhonda McCullum, 19, pled guilty to misdemeanor larceny. McCullum was sentenced to 8 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail.

David Adamson, 37, pled guilty to assault and battery. Judge Beale sentenced Adamson to 12 months of supervised probation and authorized a conditional discharge of the offense pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 15A-1341(a4). As conditions of his probation, Adamson must complete anger management classes and have no contact with the victim.

Note: Misdemeanors and infractions are originally prosecuted in district court in North Carolina. In criminal district court, a judge determines guilt, not a jury; this is commonly referred to as a "bench trial." However, defendants have a right to appeal a conviction from the district court to the superior court for a trial de novo. The new trial in superior court must be a jury trial, not a bench trial. In a de novo trial, the jury cannot be informed that a district court judge previously found the defendant guilty; further, a record of any evidence, including testimony, from district court may not be introduced. While the DA's Office prosecutes nearly 225,000 misdemeanors and infractions each year in district court in Mecklenburg County, each defendant is entitled to exercise his/her right to appeal to the superior court. When a misdemeanor or infraction occupies the limited time available in our superior courtrooms, it is the intent of the DA's Office to keep the public informed of the results through news

releases like this one. Due to the volume of misdemeanors and infractions prosecuted in district court each day, reports like this are not possible for all of those cases.

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