

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual felons convicted and sent to prison this week after jury trials

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team called eight cases for trial the week of October 10, 2011. The trials were held in courtroom 5130 before the Honorable F. Lane Williamson, courtroom 5150 before the Honorable Laura J. Bridges, courtroom 5370 before the Honorable Richard D. Boner, courtroom 6130 before the Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, and courtroom 6150 before the Honorable Timothy S. Kincaid.

Cornelius Smith, 46, was tried for 1) conspiring to sell cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Smith was found *guilty* and admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Williamson sentenced Smith to 72-96 months in prison.

Zavier Chisholm, 50, was tried for 1) possession of drug paraphernalia, 2) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 3) possession with intent to sell or deliver a counterfeit controlled substance, and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Chisholm *guilty* as charged. Judge Boner sentenced Chisholm to 101-131 months in prison.

Kelly Douglas, 31, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) possession of burglary tools, and 4) being a habitual felon. Douglas was found *guilty* of felony breaking or entering and misdemeanor larceny, *not guilty* of possessing burglary tools, and he admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Evans sentenced Douglas to 80-105 months in prison.

Darryl Hester, 49, was tried for 1) felony larceny and 2) being a habitual felon. The jury found him *guilty* of larceny and Hester admitted his status as a habitual felon. Judge Boner sentenced Hester to 84-110 months in prison.

Tad Navey, 35, was tried for 1) larceny of a motor vehicle, 2) possession of a stolen vehicle, 3) fleeing to elude arrest, and 4) being a habitual felon. The jury found Navey *guilty* of larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, and fleeing to elude arrest. Navey admitted his status as a habitual felon and was sentenced by Judge Williamson to 108-139 months in prison.

Ernesto Claxton, 53, was tried for 1) felony breaking or entering, 2) larceny after breaking or entering, 3) possession of stolen goods, 4) possession of burglary tools, and 5) being a habitual felon. The jury found Claxton *guilty* of felony breaking or entering, larceny after breaking or entering, and possession of burglary tools. The jury found Claxton *not guilty* of possession of stolen goods and of being a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced Claxton to 39-47 months in prison.

Kenneth King, 28, was tried for 1) felony possession of cocaine, 2) possession of marijuana, 3) resisting a public officer, 4) injury to property and 5) being a habitual felon. A mistrial was declared by Judge Kincaid after a statement was made by a witness during testimony that Judge Kincaid later ruled was too prejudicial for the jury to have heard. The case will be re-scheduled for trial in front of a new jury.

Archie Hoskins, 56, was called for trial. After a lunch break during jury selection, Hoskins failed to return to the courthouse. An order for his arrest was issued by Judge Kincaid.

Prior to trial, Eric Williams, 41, pled guilty, as charged, to 1) possession with intent to sell or deliver cocaine and 2) being a habitual felon. Judge Bridges sentenced Williams to 50-69 months in prison.

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