



NEWS FROM:
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Public Defender's Office County Court Unit Delivers Justice in March

Jacksonville, FL: Clients of the Office of Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk receive quality, effective legal representation. Misdemeanor cases in Duval County are handled by Assistant Public Defenders (APD's) in the County Court Unit. Fourth Judicial Circuit APD's continue to have courtroom success by winning Not Guilty verdicts for their clients.

In March, two separate County Court defense teams earned acquittals for their clients:

The State of Florida vs. Elease Starling went to trial March 10th; APD Matt Lufrano argued that his client who was charged with marijuana possession was innocent because she was wearing borrowed clothing. In this waiver trial, the Judge ruled 'not guilty,' freeing her of the drug charge and enabling Ms. Starling to retain her lease at a drug-free housing project.

On March 17th, a Duval County jury heard *The State of Florida vs. William Easton*. APD De'Anna Hines led the defense team assisted by second chair Rachel Schumont. Their client faced a charge of theft, but the Defense asserted that Mr. Easton was an employee of a fencing company and was simply on the job removing a fence.



(L-R) APD Lufrano, PD Matt Shirk



(L-R) APD Hines, Shirk, APD Schumont
