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Public Defense Team Wins Jacksonville Man Acquittal on Burglary Charge *Shirk notes appreciation for long legal career of retiring Judge Weatherby*

Jacksonville, FL – A Jacksonville man is free of a burglary charge thanks to the work of Assistant Public Defenders Andrea Fourman and John Lorimier who earned his acquittal from a Duval County jury on January 14th. In *The State of Florida vs. Jerry Knight*, authorities arrested Mr. Knight for burglarizing a rural Duval County home in June 2009. They based their case on eyewitness identification and the fact that Mr. Knight was spotted walking near an abandoned van that was believed to have been used by the suspects. However, as lead defense attorney Andrea Fourman pointed out, her client, Mr. Knight was outside his mother’s house during the time of the incident which was supported by his mother’s testimony during the trial.



(L-R) APD Jon Lorimier, Matt Shirk, APD Andrea Fourman

“The role of the Public Defender is essential to ensure that all Americans are entitled their due process,” said Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk. “Andrea Fourman and her second chair Jon Lorimier in this case are two very skilled attorneys who serve Duval County in our Felony Court Unit. I commend them for their work on behalf of Mr. Knight as they pursued the winning defense.”

Also of note in the trial of Jerry Knight is that it was heard in front of retiring Circuit Court Judge Michael Weatherby who leaves the bench on February 1st.

“Judge Weatherby has had a remarkable career in the law,” said Shirk. “It’s been a pleasure working with him over the years both inside the courtroom and out. He has served as a prosecutor, a defense attorney and most recently 22 years as a circuit judge. An attorney can learn a lot from a judge over the course of a trial and it’s too bad that all of my Assistants will not have the opportunity to stand in front of him. We at the Public Defender’s Office wish Judge Weatherby the best in his retirement and thank him for his years of dedicated public service.”
