



NEWS FROM:
Office of Public Defender
Matt Shirk, Fourth Circuit
www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com

Contact: Matt Bisbee
Public Information Officer
Tel: (904)630-7350
MPB@PD4.COJ.net

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County Court Victory Exemplifies Constitutional Function of Public Defender

Jacksonville, FL: Attorneys in the Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk strive to provide quality, effective representation and advocacy for the indigent-accused in the 4th Judicial Circuit. Assistant Public Defenders represented clients in several jury trials during September and successfully delivered justice.



The September 15th trial *The State vs. John Charles Williams* brought a homeless man before judge and jury. Mr. Williams frequents Hemming Plaza in Downtown Jacksonville where he engages in games of checkers and conversation with others who gather there. During an effort to eradicate the homeless from the downtown park on Independence Day, Mr. Williams was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis and misdemeanor trespassing. Assistant Public Defenders Michael Kalil and Donald Jaffe represented their client and asserted that the July 4th arrest was simply the latest of several arrests of Mr. Williams by the same law enforcement officer who seemingly was singling him out for an

unknown reason. Personnel from the P.D. office including two interns managed to identify a handful of eleventh hour witnesses at Hemming Plaza who would testify that they had seen the officer on several occasions unfairly treat Mr. Williams. The jury ruled 'Not Guilty' for the Defense, thus affording Mr. Williams his Independence Day.
