



**NEWS FROM:**  
**Office of Public Defender**  
**Matt Shirk, Fourth Circuit**  
[www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com](http://www.MattShirkPublicDefender.com)

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

---

---

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2010

### **County Court Unit Successful in April; APD Gates Leads Two Winning Defense Teams**

Jacksonville, FL: In the ongoing pursuit of justice for the indigent accused in Northeast Florida, Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk is lauding his staff attorneys for continued, diligent legal work on behalf of their clients. The Public Defender's Office experienced success in April; the County Court Unit of the office and Assistant Public Defender Tyler Gates earned two Not Guilty verdicts for their clients in April.



In her first trial as an APD, Coral Messina (pictured, far left) sat second chair to lead defense attorney Tyler Gates (right) in *The State vs. Joshua Wall* who faced a charge of DUI. Mr. Wall said he drank two beers hours prior to the arrest but was not impaired. The State was not able to produce video of the arrest or a breathalyzer reading to prove impairment. The Duval County jury ruled 'Not Guilty' for Mr. Wall on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

APD Gates (far right) led another victorious defense team in April. *The State vs. Adrian Serrano* was a case where the client was charged with Domestic Battery. The Judge issued a Judgement of Acquittal to relieve Mr. Serrano of that charge. The jury subsequently, after hearing the assertion from the defense that the victim was in fact the aggressor, ruled 'Not Guilty' for Mr. Serrano of a misdemeanor battery charge. The verdict was issued on April 1<sup>st</sup>; APD Gates was assisted by County Court Unit APD Matt Lufrano (far left).

