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Public Defense Teams Get August Courtroom Victories

Jacksonville, FL – Attorneys in the Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk provide zealous advocacy for their indigent clients accused in criminal matters. During August, Mr. Shirk's Assistant Public Defenders in Felony and County Court *Not Guilty* verdicts:



Duval Circuit Court: APD Michael Kalil (right) and second chair Jason Gropper (left) tried *The State vs. Edward Binder* on August 4th in Circuit Court. Their client faced two charges of Sale of Cocaine. Mr. Binder was accused of selling the drug to undercover agents on two occasions in February. However, the Defense argued that their client was at his girlfriend's house on the latter date and PD Investigations produced a supporting witness. In the end, the jury ruled *Not Guilty* because there simply was not enough evidence for a conviction.

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Duval County Court: Another August 4th trial was *The State vs. Rebecca Crawford*. It concluded with a not guilty verdict for the PD client. Ms Crawford was charged with DUI with Damage following a November '09 collision with a parked vehicle. APD Zach Shafer (pictured below, left) was lead defense counsel and APD Donald Jaffe (pictured, right) was second chair; they argued that their client's impairment and disorientation as identifiable in video from the arrest was a result of the accident. The jury concurred and Ms. Crawford was cleared of all charges.



The State vs. Carnell Beckham came to verdict August 20th; APD Tyler Gates (pictured, right) led the Defense for his client who was charged with DUI. The jury concluded there was reasonable doubt that Mr. Beckham was driving under the influence when he approached a guard station at Mayport Naval Base and mistook it for a toll booth. During direct examination, the military officer described the station as, "looks like a toll booth". With no video of the field sobriety exercises, the jury quickly returned a verdict of not guilty. APD Shafer (left) was second chair in this trial.
