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## **PD Juvenile Defense Team Clears Wrongful Charges for Young Client**

Jacksonville, FL: The Law Offices of Public Defender Matt Shirk provides effective representation to indigent-accused clients. Many clients the office serves are young people charged with criminal behavior. The youthful clients receive dedicated advocacy from the Juvenile team which has been recognized nationally for its work in Juvenile Justice. In late October, two Assistant Public Defenders in the Juvenile Unit won a trial which freed their young client of criminal charges.



At an October 20th bench trial in Duval County Juvenile Court, Assistant Public Defender Lisa Haskins (center) teamed with second chair, APD Jodi Miles (right); prosecutors alleged that the young male client was guilty of violating a dating injunction and criminal mischief. His arrest came earlier in the year when his ex-girlfriend told police that he broke a window at her house. The Defense argued that their client was innocent. APD Haskins brought forth a star witness who appeared by phone from the State of

Ohio and indicated that he was at the home of the Defendant's ex-girlfriend during the incident and that the young man did not break a window or attempt to come over to her house. The Judge found the child Not Guilty.

The Juvenile Unit effectively uses a team approach in most cases. APD Haskins was quick to credit support staff in this trial; she noted that Investigator Denis Sanchez was responsible for locating the remote, star witness and lining up the testimony by phone and Paralegal Nichola Page flawless trial preparation. Director Rob Mason joined Public Defender Matt Shirk in commending the Juvenile Defense team in their latest victory, one of many in Duval County Juvenile courtrooms during 2010.

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