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Veteran APD Carter Earns Client a Deserved Second Chance *Felony/County Court Units have trial success in May*

Jacksonville, FL: When a repeat offender faces new criminal charges, it is often very difficult for that individual with a record to win a trial in front of a jury; however in the case *The State vs. Keita Williams* which came to verdict in Duval County on May 3, 2010, the defense presented by Assistant Public Defender Nate Carter was too strong for the jury to convict Mr. Williams.



“Nate does an outstanding job representing our clients in Repeat Offender Court, arguably one of the most difficult divisions in the court system,” said Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk. “His defense before the jury was well prepared and very thorough. I’m thrilled that he won this verdict; Mr. Williams was clearly innocent and now receives that second chance that is often too hard to obtain for those who have a previous conviction.”

In this case, APD Carter’s client faced a charge of felony battery/causing permanent disfigurement. Mr. Williams was arrested in October following a fight with a woman. She said she was struck by Williams who caused her permanent scarring, however the defense asserted that she was intoxicated and caused herself the injuries she suffered.

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The County Court Unit in the Public Defender’s Office also earned a client an acquittal. APD Matt Lufrano with help from Zachary Shafer tried *The State vs. Kendall King* who faced a charge of Driving Under the Influence stemming from a 2009 arrest. In testimony, the arresting officer said that Mr. King performed his field tests well but was issued the DUI when he recited the ABC’s as a song rather than speaking them. The Defense seized upon that testimony stating that his field performance was sound evidence which clearly showed the client was not impaired. The jury ruled not guilty in favor of Mr. King on May 6th.



“Matt Lufrano has done an incredible job on behalf of our clients charged with misdemeanors in County Court,” said Shirk. “His hard work on each case, his persistence for justice for his clients, his unique and effective courtroom disposition and in this case his second chair Zach Shafer proved to be the winning combination for Mr. King. Congratulations to all!”
