



NEWS FROM:
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Felony APD Rado a Successful Advocate for Indigent Accused, Nets August Acquittals

Jacksonville, FL: The indigent accused in Northeast Florida are finding quality, effective legal representation in courtrooms throughout the Fourth Judicial Circuit as juries are frequently siding with defense teams put forth by the Law Office of Public Defender Matt Shirk. Several criminal trials have taken place here during the Summer of 2010; two Felony trials thus far in August have featured Assistant Public Defender Tricia Rado as lead defense counsel and in both instances she successfully argued for her clients' innocence.



APD Rado led the defense on *The State vs. Kenneth Marks* and after an August 16th trial, her client was found not guilty. Mr. Marks was charged with Felony Battery, however Ms. Rado asserted that the victim's delayed visit to a hospital and inconsistent accusations about injuries he incurred after a scuffle with Mr. Marks were ill-intentioned and that he was simply seeking prescription drugs. APD Kimberly Sadler sat second chair in this trial.

"Tricia works diligently for her clients and has a true passion for the Constitutional rights we as Americans are afforded," said Public Defender Matt Shirk. "I am thrilled with her recent courtroom success; she is a valuable member of our Felony Defense Unit."



Back on August 3rd, *The State vs. Naji Drayton* came to verdict. Ms. Rado led the defense and APD Nick Thomas (pictured, far left) assisted as second chair. Their client faced a charge of Felony Riot for which he was arrested back in May. He was one of several upset people in a Jacksonville apartment complex who, after a police tazing incident on the property, expressed discontent. Ms. Rado pointed out that the simple words of aggression her client used were protected by the Constitution; no witness said Mr. Drayton displayed anything other than verbal resistance. Ms. Rado noted that PD Paralegal Lori Frank (pictured, far right) and Investigations work were critical to this trial.

APD Tricia Rado was appointed in January 2009 following a term as a volunteer and intern. A Pennsylvania native and graduate of The Florida Coastal School of Law, Ms. Rado is active in the Jacksonville legal community and presently serves the Jacksonville Bar Association Young Lawyer's Section as Government Attorney's Liaison.
