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For Immediate Release

April 30, 2010

Public Defender Recognizes April 2010 Winning Defense Teams

Jacksonville, FL: Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk is congratulating his staff for successfully defending justice during the month of April. Assistant Public Defenders took several cases to trial in Duval County and in a number of instances, earned 'Not Guilty' verdicts for their clients.



Felony Court Unit

The State vs. Kenya Jackson reached a verdict on April 15th when a jury acquitted the client of a burglary charge. Lead defense attorney APD James Armstrong (pictured, far right) and second chair APD Razan Farmand (pictured, far left) argued that Mr. Jackson who was identified by an eyewitness as a suspect was in fact not guilty because that eyewitness begrudged him. Mr. Jackson had been dating the eyewitness's granddaughter, but when she birthed another man's baby, Jackson broke up with her. The grandmother did not forgive him following the break-up.

County Court Unit

The State vs. Fernando Rodriguez came to verdict on April 20th. Mr. Rodriguez was charged with possession of marijuana and faced deportation if convicted. However, the Defense, led by APD Matt Lufrano (pictured, far right) with assistance from APD Ron Romeo (pictured, far left) asserted that even though there was a leafy residue on the seat of a vehicle in which Mr. Rodriguez was a passenger, the State could not prove that the substance was marijuana or that it belonged to the client. With the not guilty verdict Mr. Rodriguez can stay in America, work on his citizenship and raise his ten-year-old son.

