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### **Skillful Defense Leads Duval County Court Jury to Acquittal in Domestic Battery Trial**

Jacksonville, FL: A Duval County man is free of charges in a case where he was accused of domestic battery. Assistant Public Defender Melanie Thompson led the defense with assistance from A.P.D. Matt Lufrano; the team convinced a Duval County Court jury to acquit Pablo Ortiz on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

“The talent we have assembled in our County Court Unit has continually brought us courtroom success,” said Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk. “There are indeed people guilty of committing crimes, and those individuals should face punishment. But there are times, especially in County Court, an accused individual is wrongfully charged and I am extremely proud of my Assistants who are committed to thoroughly representing those who are clearly innocent.”

In the case, The State of Florida vs. Pablo Ortiz, the defense argued that Mr. Ortiz was in an argument with his estranged wife, but he was not guilty of battery. She said she was beaten and dragged through the front door while he said she tripped and fell over the doorstep. A.P.D.’s Thompson and Lufrano convinced the jury that in this classic ‘he said, she said’ situation, there is no reason to believe the accuser over their client. Saying that Mr. Ortiz was protecting his property and ushering her from the house does not make him criminal. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Duval County Court jury found him not guilty.



APD Thompson



APD Lufrano

