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## **APD Kalil Wins Two ‘Not Guilty’ Verdicts in One Week** *‘Effective representation to clients’ an ongoing priority of PD Shirk*

Jacksonville, FL: Recently promoted from the Juvenile Unit to the County Court Unit in the Office of Fourth Circuit Public Defender Matt Shirk, Assistant Public Defender Michael Kalil demonstrates a keen ability as a trial lawyer. He tried two separate cases during the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> and each of his clients was found to be not guilty.

“Michael has shown a strong aptitude for handling cases in a courtroom,” said Mr. Shirk. “We continue providing our clients with effective representation in all of our units. While he will certainly be missed in Juvenile, Michael Kalil is a tremendous asset to our County Court Unit.”

In his final Juvenile trial that took place on February 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Kalil and Juvenile Division Chief, APD Jenna Love provided their client with an alibi defense in a matter where he was accused of burglary. Three separate witnesses testified that the young man was in Texas when the crime occurred; Judge Davis found him not guilty. Said Kalil, “I held on to this case after leaving Juvenile because I knew my client was innocent and I did not want to see this young person enter the criminal justice system for a crime he did not commit. It becomes a tough cycle to break.”

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Kalil tried *The State vs. Brian Gilbo*. Assisted by second chair APD Jason Gropper, this was a retrial of a client who was charged in July '08 with DUI. A Duval County jury could not make a decision in October, but the new jury found Mr. Gilbo not guilty on Friday because there was simply no evidence of impairment.

APD Michael Kalil began full time employment with the Fourth Circuit Public Defender’s office Juvenile Unit in March of '09 following his service as a Certified Legal Intern in the office. In January 2010, Kalil took a promotion to the County Court Unit. The Jacksonville native earned his law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2008 after completing his undergraduate work at the University of North Florida in 2005.

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(L-R) APD Michael Kalil, Public Defender Matt Shirk, APD Jenna Love



(L-R) APD Michael Kalil, Public Defender Matt Shirk, APD Jason Gropper

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