

Sex Assault, Robbery, B&E Convictions Overturned for Avery Man by Court of Appeals

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The convictions of an Avery County man have been overturned by the North Carolina Court of Appeals this afternoon and he may soon be a free man. The three-judge panel issued their opinions in the case of Paul Brantley Lewis, convicted in a December 2001 sexual assault and break-in counts after a woman's home was broken into by two men. The case has been appealed three times since Lewis' first conviction in 2003 on counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony breaking and entering, and a first degree sexual assault, but the judges found favor with three arguments of the defense in granting the previously-dismissed motion to dismiss all charges for lack of evidence. With that decision, Lewis could be soon a released from custody.