



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Gerald C. Benito
District Attorney

Daniel E. Flynn
Assistant District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

June 05, 2008

**THREE PUBLIC DEFENDERS CHARGED FOLLOWING
ARRESTS FOR DRUNK IN PUBLIC**

District Attorney Jerry Benito announced today that he has filed charges against 4 individuals related to an incident that started at the Club 151 in Redding on April 26, 2008. Three of those charged are criminal defense attorneys that work at the Public Defender's Office. Public Defenders are criminal defense attorneys that work for the county and represent those who cannot afford an attorney but are charged with crimes.

Amy Babbitts, is charged with being drunk in public and 2 counts of obstructing or delaying an officer. Michael Borges, is charged with being drunk in public and 3 counts of obstructing or delaying an officer. Joe Ahart is charged with being drunk in public and disturbing the peace. Joe Ahart's arrest occurred at the Denny's restaurant near Bechelli Lane and Cypress in Redding. In addition to the three criminal defense attorneys, Peter Ahart, brother of Joe Ahart, has been charged with being drunk in public and urinating in public. All of the offenses charged (except the urinating in public which is an infraction) are misdemeanors that carry up to 6 months in jail and fines of up to \$1,000. However, typically sentences for such offenses under these circumstances involve probation, fines and very little jail time, if any.

Because the three criminal defense attorneys are employed by the county as Public Defenders, they could face additional consequences unrelated to the criminal prosecution. For information about any job related consequences, contact Public Defender Neal Pereira at 245-7598. In addition, because the 3 are attorneys, their activities are reported to the State Bar of California for possible sanctions.

For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.