

# Barbie bandits pay \$2.8K in restitution

## Judge: 'Don't make fun of Barbie dolls'

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Three Lynchburg men may have walked away from a felony case with just misdemeanor convictions Friday, but they may

long have the distinction of being Barbie bandits.

And one of their lawyers learned Judge Mosby Perrow's courtroom is not the place to mock the value of the collectible dolls.

The case stems from the April theft of several of the dolls from a rundown building in the 1600 block of Graves Mill Road. Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said the dolls were being stored there. Attorneys for the men contended they believed the building and the property inside had been abandoned.

Terrell Powell, 54, and Michael Wayne Bryant Jr., 23, had been facing convictions of grand larceny. Joel Bryant, 21, faced an additional charge of obtaining money by false pretenses for trying to pawn some of the dolls.

Defense lawyer Keith Orgera told Perrow Joel Bryant's acts were admittedly foolish, but argued going into what appeared to be an abandoned house to take some Barbie dolls may not have seemed of much magnitude to a 21-year-old man.

Brother Michael Bryant's lawyer's argu-

ment didn't make it as far with the judge.

Gary Straw called the dolls, "the elephant in the room," in an attempt to claim the young men wouldn't have possibly known they were taking what was estimated at between \$1,300 and \$2,800 in Barbies.

"If they didn't have apparent value, they wouldn't have taken them," Perrow retorted.

When Straw again dismissed the worth of the iconic fashion dolls, the judge asked

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