

Report of
Investigation
into
Millville Municipal Court Allegations



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INTRODUCTION

The allegations made by Millville Municipal Court Judge Jason Witcher regarding discrimination against Hispanic/Latino defendants appearing in his courtroom are deeply concerning and warrant a thorough, careful review.

Upon learning of the allegations, the Administrative Office of the Courts initiated an investigation that involved an extensive review of court files and audio recordings of more than 20 court sessions dating back to June 2022. An outside attorney was retained to interview Judge Witcher and other relevant court staff.

The initial allegation stems from comments Judge Witcher made from the bench at a court session on December 5, 2022, and in a newspaper interview published days later. Judge Witcher voiced concern that Hispanic/Latino defendants at that session were being denied the opportunity to appear virtually and instead scheduled for in-person appearances because they had “traditional Spanish surnames.”

To determine the validity of the allegation, the Judiciary first had to categorize defendant surnames as traditional Spanish surnames or not traditional Spanish surnames. The phrase “traditional Spanish surnames” is admittedly imprecise and a subjective determination, and multiple people reviewing the same list of names might reasonably arrive at different conclusions, but the categorization is necessary to properly assess Judge Witcher’s claim. To do this, the Judiciary looked for surnames that could be reasonably recognized as Hispanic/Latino.

For the purposes of efficiency, those defendants will be described in this report as Hispanic/Latino-sounding, consistent with the classification in the U.S. Census.

A review of defendant rosters found Hispanic/Latino individuals were consistently scheduled for both virtual and in-person court sessions and, in fact, were more likely to appear virtually.

Specifically, a review of the more than 2,500 defendants who appeared on all calendars from October 5 through December 14, 2022 found:

- Of 492 defendants categorized as having “Hispanic/Latino-sounding” surnames, 330 defendants were scheduled for virtual sessions and 162 were scheduled for in-person court events.
- More than 94 percent of cases were scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court’s orders.
- The small number of cases that were not confirmed to be scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court’s orders did not disproportionately involve individuals with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames or defendants who require interpreting services.

The statistical findings were further supported in the statements provided by the members of the Millville Municipal Court administrative staff. All six staff members, three of whom are bilingual, stated that Millville Municipal Court appearances are scheduled based on the date provided by law enforcement on tickets. All Millville employees involved with scheduling stated unequivocally that party surname is not considered in scheduling.

One court clerk explained, “That would be too much work if we started going through every single case and picking out cases for in person based on last name. A person’s last name does not play any part in the scheduling of a matter.”

The investigation also considered the statement of Bridgeton Municipal Court Administrator Marie Keith, who assisted the Millville Municipal Court between February 2022 and May 2022. In her statement, Keith concluded that “it seems like cases are being scheduled for in person based on their last name.” Keith also conceded that she did not have “any personal knowledge about anyone scheduling calendars by surname.” The investigation was expanded to cover the period of time in which Keith assisted Millville Municipal Court.

At the December 5 session, Judge Witcher had asked defendants appearing before him if they had been made aware that they had a choice to appear virtually. A review of that session found that 88 percent of cases were scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court’s orders.

The Supreme Court order currently in effect – and in effect on December 5, 2022, when Judge Witcher made his allegations from the bench – still requires litigants involved in more serious cases to appear in person. Parties

are not asked in advance or given a choice as to how they wish to participate in court proceedings, although there is nothing prohibiting a party from contacting the court to make such a request.

The court, not the party, determines whether a matter will be conducted in person or in a virtual format. The initial scheduling by law enforcement also plays a significant factor.

At a later court date in January 2023, Judge Witcher spoke from the bench of his concerns about the disparate impact of the scheduling in Millville Municipal Court. He stated that his in-person court sessions appeared to include a high percentage of Spanish-speaking defendants, while the virtual sessions consisted of mostly non-Latino defendants.

The Judiciary's investigation found that in-person sessions did in fact have a slightly higher percentage of defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames than virtual sessions. Multiple factors within and outside the court's control might contribute to this disparity, beginning with the initial decision made by law enforcement when assigning a date for defendants to appear.

Specifically, the investigation found:

- 17.3 percent of defendants scheduled for virtual sessions had Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames.
- 23.7 percent of defendants scheduled for in-person sessions had Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames.
- More individuals received Spanish language interpreting in person than in virtual court.

Though defendants were more likely to receive interpreting services at in-person sessions, the use of interpreters remained consistently low in Millville, never surpassing a total of seven defendants in a single session from October 5 through December 14, 2022. The lone exception was December 5, 2022, the date Judge Witcher made his allegations, when 22 defendants used the on-site interpreter. Of those 22 defendants, 18 had been rescheduled from the canceled November 21, 2022 court session.

This report outlines several statewide reform measures designed to raise awareness about the availability of interpreting services for both virtual and

in-person court events. As part of those reforms, information about interpreting services will be added (in English and Spanish) to municipal court notices, opening statements delivered before court proceedings, and the municipal courts page of the Judiciary website.

The Judiciary's investigation also highlights the importance of communication between the municipal court judge and court staff in regard to scheduling. All six Millville court employees said in their statements that Judge Witcher did not provide guidance on complying with Supreme Court orders regarding scheduling. Bridgeton's court administrator, in stark contrast, said she regularly communicated with Judge Witcher about court scheduling and that Judge Witcher regularly reviewed the court docket before sessions.

In January and February 2023, Vicinage 15 Municipal Presiding Judge Thomas North met with the administrator for municipal courts in Millville and three neighboring courts to formalize scheduling practices that will enable more people – including more Spanish-speaking defendants – to participate in virtual court sessions. All initial appearances for defendants in those municipalities – even after one or two failures to appear – will be held virtually on an interim basis unless the judge provides contrary direction.

In addition, the city of Millville is exploring options to secure the services of a freelance interpreter for virtual court sessions.

The Judiciary will continue to work with the Division on Civil Rights to identify additional improvements that will ensure the equitable treatment of all who come in contact with the courts.

BACKGROUND

Judge Witcher's Allegation

This investigation examines a series of allegations made by Municipal Court Judge Jason Witcher regarding discriminatory treatment of Hispanic/Latino defendants in the Millville Municipal Court. The allegations are of deep concern, as the equal and equitable treatment of all court users is one of the fundamental principles of the Judicial branch.

Judge Witcher sits as a municipal court judge in Millville, Bridgeton and two other neighboring municipal courts. While presiding over a Millville Municipal Court session on December 5, 2022, Judge Witcher alleged that Hispanic/Latino defendants appearing in his courtroom were being denied the option to participate virtually. After questioning a number of defendants about whether they were given the option to appear virtually, Judge Witcher, speaking from the bench, ended the morning court session by calling it “the most discriminatory event I have been a part of in my entire career.”¹

In a newspaper interview published four days later, on December 9, 2022, Judge Witcher alleged that defendants with “traditional Spanish surnames” were being automatically scheduled for in-person hearings and not virtual.

“To deny these individuals, because they have traditional Spanish surnames, the same access of other people is...a gross violation.”² Judge Witcher said.

In the days following the December 5 hearing, Judge Witcher did not report his concerns to his vicinage assignment judge, the vicinage municipal presiding judge, or any of his supervisors in the Judiciary. Instead, vicinage leaders learned of the allegations the day after the hearing through an outside party and from the media on December 7.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) then launched an investigation, reviewing court calendars dating back to June 2022 and retaining an attorney from an outside law firm to interview Judge Witcher and Vicinage 15 Assignment Judge Benjamin Telsey, and to assist with interviewing other witnesses.

On January 5, 2023, during a virtual court session, Judge Witcher alleged that discriminatory actions against Spanish-speaking individuals within the Millville Municipal Court were continuing. Judge Witcher claimed that his in-person court sessions appeared to include a high percentage of defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames while the virtual sessions did not.

¹ Dec. 5, 2022 Millville Municipal Court Session Tr. at 90; [Appendix 7](#).

² [N.J. municipal court allowing virtual hearings for everyone — except Latinos, judge alleges - nj.com](#).

In an interview with outside counsel from Brown & Connery on January 19, 2023, Judge Witcher stated that he first raised concerns about disparate treatment to Millville Court Administrator Kimberly Hamlyn in September 2022 and then again in October and November of that year. Judge Witcher said he chose not to report his concerns or his observations about scheduling procedures to his supervisors because he did not trust them.

At several points in the interview, Judge Witcher stated that he did not believe the disparate treatment was the result of Judiciary policy or the actions of vicinage or Judiciary leadership.

“It has no connection with the Judiciary’s policy at any level, vicinage or statewide. The issue is squarely based on a scheduling decision that filters Spanish speaking individuals into in-person sessions,”³ Judge Witcher said.

Judge Witcher placed responsibility for what he perceived to be disparate treatment squarely with the Millville municipal court administrator, claiming she scheduled cases that required Spanish-language interpreting services on days when the courts had in-person sessions with a Spanish interpreter available.

“There are no Spanish speakers in virtual court. I mean zero. And then I come to court with an in-person session and that’s where all the Spanish-speaking litigants are,”⁴ Judge Witcher said.

He added, “I look at it as a very clear law school 101 disparate impact situation where you have an internal policy set by the courts administrator. That policy is based on language which because most Spanish-speaking people tend to have Latino surnames or origins, because the interpreter scheduling is such that it’s all scheduled in person, it has a disparate impact, disproportionate impact on people who are Latino.”⁵

³ Judge Witcher Tr. at 90; [Appendix 9](#).

⁴ Judge Witcher Tr. at 42; [Appendix 9](#).

⁵ Judge Witcher Tr. at 15; [Appendix 9](#).

For this report, the AOC examined Judge Witcher’s claim that defendants with “Spanish surnames” were automatically scheduled for in-person hearings, as well as the claim that the scheduling had a disparate impact on the Latino community. This required the Judiciary to categorize defendant surnames as Hispanic/Latino-sounding or not Hispanic/Latino-sounding. The phrase Hispanic/Latino-sounding is imprecise and a subjective determination. The Judiciary does not keep data regarding the ethnicity of defendants appearing in municipal court. While multiple people reviewing the same list of names might reasonably arrive at different conclusions as to which names are Hispanic/Latino-sounding and which are not, the Judiciary’s investigation required a judgment as to which names were Hispanic/Latino-sounding in order to assess Judge Witcher’s claims.

Relevant Judiciary Policies

Appearances in Municipal Court

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Municipal and Superior courts suspended in-person sessions beginning in March 2020. The Supreme Court authorized the resumption of sessions – in a virtual format – in May 2020, and municipal court operations continued primarily in a virtual format throughout 2021.

In November 2021, a new Supreme Court order⁶ permitted the virtual format to continue in municipal court for most cases but required in-person hearings for cases of a more serious nature, such as those involving a reasonable likelihood of a jail term or the loss or suspension of a driver’s license. The order also required in-person appearances for litigants who failed to appear virtually multiple times. The order gave judges limited discretion to adjust whether cases are addressed virtually or in person.

The Supreme Court order⁷ currently in effect – and in effect on December 5, 2022 when Judge Witcher made his allegations from the bench – still requires litigants involved in more serious cases to appear in person for hearings and trials. Parties are not asked in advance, or given a choice, as to how they wish to participate in court proceedings, although there is nothing prohibiting a party from contacting the court to make that request.

⁶ Supreme Court’s Nov. 18, 2021 Order; [Appendix 4](#).

⁷ Supreme Court’s Oct. 27, 2022 Order; [Appendix 5](#).

The court, not the party, determines whether a matter will be conducted in person or in a virtual format. The initial scheduling by law enforcement also plays a significant factor.

Since March 2022, when Covid-19 restrictions began to ease, the Judiciary has required all proceedings to be conducted with the judge physically present in the courtroom to protect the solemnity of court proceedings. The statewide policy applies to all Superior and Municipal Court judges for both virtual and in-person sessions, as well as “hybrid sessions” in which some participants appear virtually and others appear in person.

Use of Interpreters

From July 2022 through the present, the Millville Municipal Court has conducted two court sessions per week, with in-person sessions held every Monday and virtual sessions held every Wednesday.

Interpreting services are provided for all participants for both virtual and in-person court sessions in the Millville Municipal Court. Virtual interpreting services are available and provided through an agency, Language Line, for all sessions, including in-person and virtual sessions. In addition to Language Line, the municipality provides a Spanish-language interpreter who offers on-site services for two Monday (in-person) sessions per month.

Scheduling of Cases

Consistent with statewide practice, local law enforcement provides the date for the initial municipal court appearance. Cases are scheduled as follows in Millville:

- The Millville Municipal Court provides a schedule of potential court dates to law enforcement.
- Police provide a court date on the ticket (summons).
- Law enforcement typically provide an initial Wednesday (virtual) court date. Police on occasion schedule matters for an initial Monday (in-person) court date.

- To create the court calendar, municipal court staff input the court date provided by law enforcement on the ticket. Staff generally do not change the court date unless the matter is scheduled for a holiday or another date when court is not in session. Staff also may adjust a court date if a party requests a change. For example, a party may ask to appear in person due to lack of technology.

Municipal court judges are responsible for overseeing court calendars and for establishing the framework for the scheduling of sessions. The 1983 Municipal Court Procedures Manual⁸ states as follows:

The primary responsibility of the municipal court judge includes the supervision of the actions of court personnel, books of account, dockets and all bank accounts maintained by the court. Each municipal court judge must consider this function paramount insofar as the administration of the court is concerned.

Additional policy and practice materials reiterate this core responsibility, which is a routine focus of training for municipal court judges statewide. That judicial responsibility applies by extension to those municipal court staff who perform the specific tasks required for scheduling.

INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY

As part of the AOC's investigation, more than 10 state court employees spent more than 500 hours reviewing Millville Municipal Court files, listening to audio recordings of court sessions, and interviewing relevant staff to assess the allegation that litigants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames were being scheduled for in-person appearances and not given the opportunity to appear virtually.

The Judiciary also hired outside counsel from the firm of Brown & Connery to interview Vicinage 15 Assignment Judge Benjamin Telsey and Judge Witcher, and to assist with interviews of other key staff members.

Review of case files

⁸ New Jersey Judiciary Municipal Court Procedures Manual, Ch. IX (1983); [Appendix 28](#).

Court staff reviewed the calendars, files, and audio recordings of more than 20 court sessions – both virtual and in person – for the following dates in 2022:

June 13 – In person
June 15 – Virtual
July 11 – In person
July 13 – Virtual
October 5 - Virtual
October 12 - Virtual
October 17 – In person
October 19 – Virtual
October 24 – In person
October 26 – Virtual
October 31 – In person
November 2 – Virtual
November 7 – In person
November 9 – Virtual
November 14 – In person
November 16 – Virtual
November 23 – Virtual
November 28 – In person
November 30 – Virtual
December 5 – In person
December 7 – Virtual
December 12 – In person
December 14 – Virtual

In total, court staff reviewed more than 3,000 cases scheduled for those dates. For each case, staff examined whether an in-person appearance was required, and used Judge Witcher’s approach in reviewing rosters of defendants to assess, based on surname, whether each case involved a Hispanic/Latino defendant.

Interviews

A dozen staff members were interviewed as part of the investigation.

An outside attorney recorded and had transcribed the statements of Judge Witcher and Assignment Judge Telsey. Transcripts of both interviews are attached to the report, except for portions that relate to or are intertwined with personnel matters.

The interviews of seven members of the municipal court staff were memorialized in signed statements. Those members are:

- Kimberly Hamlyn, certified municipal court administrator, Millville Municipal Court
- Amber Oliver, deputy court administrator, Millville Municipal Court
- Amber Gandy, keyboarding clerk, Millville Municipal Court
- Ashley Angel, clerk 1, Millville Municipal Court
- Itzel Torres Velazquez, bilingual clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court
- Luz Esteban Zamora, bilingual clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court
- Marie Keith, certified municipal court administrator, Bridgeton Joint Municipal Court

Interviews also were conducted with Judge Thomas M. North, P.J.M.C., Teri L. Giordano, J.M.C. (Cumberland), Millville Prosecutor Matthew Rooney and Millville Public Defender Brendan Kavanagh but were not recorded.

INTERVIEW SUMMARIES

Interview of Judge Jason Witcher

On December 5, 2022, Judge Witcher publicly raised concerns about perceived differences in scheduling of virtual and in-person court sessions in the Millville Municipal Court, prompting this investigation.

In an interview with Brown & Connery on January 19, 2023, Judge Witcher described his thought process for the December 5, 2022 session.

“As the session proceeded early on, I wanted to preserve the record that what I had previously believed to be the case was, in fact, occurring. So, I began to question clients because I saw in

the courtroom that day a real huge disparity between Latino litigants and everybody else, a huge disparity where almost half my courtroom appeared to be Latino, which is a huge disparity,” Judge Witcher said.⁹

Judge Witcher said he believed a verbal order was given by the Millville court administrator that led to discriminatory scheduling.

“I don’t believe it’s a written policy. It’s a verbal policy which is in some way written based on the schedule that’s been put forth that kind of corroborates the verbal policy by having a schedule set with the two in-court interpreter days,” he said.¹⁰

He later added: “That policy is based on language which because most Spanish-speaking people tend to have Latino surnames or origins, because the interpreter scheduling is such that it’s all scheduled in person, it has a disparate impact, disproportionate impact on people who are Latino. So, people who are Latino and speak Spanish are required to come to those two in-court sessions per month as opposed to having the option of being on video where no interpreter is really scheduled to be there.”¹¹

Judge Witcher said not a single litigant who required Spanish-language interpreting services appeared in virtual court sessions in Millville.¹²

“Over the course of hundreds, probably thousands of cases there was never a circumstance in the virtual court session where Language Line was used for a Spanish interpreter.”¹³

Judge Witcher stated that he did not provide guidance to the Millville court administrator or other administrative staff as to how cases should be scheduled pursuant to the Supreme Court’s November 18, 2021, or October

⁹ Judge Witcher Tr. at 121; [Appendix 9](#).

¹⁰ Judge Witcher Tr. at 20; [Appendix 9](#).

¹¹ Judge Witcher Tr. at 15; [Appendix 9](#).

¹² Judge Witcher Tr. at 51-52; [Appendix 9](#).

¹³ Judge Witcher Tr. at 81; [Appendix 9](#).

27, 2022, orders and “didn’t see the need to do that.”¹⁴ However, he did tell Hamlyn and others on staff to fix the disparity problem, and directed that Millville adopt scheduling practices similar to those of the Bridgeton Municipal Court.

Judge Witcher stated the court administrator, not the judge, is responsible for scheduling practices.

“I have never monitored scheduling in any court anywhere. I don’t think any judge anywhere knows about monitoring or checking scheduling,”¹⁵ Judge Witcher said.

Toward the close of the interview, Judge Witcher reiterated that he did not believe the disparate treatment of Hispanic/Latino citizens extended beyond the Millville Municipal Court.

“I would like to continue to stress that I want it to be clear that this is not a Judiciary policy – an overarching Judiciary policy that is problematic. The Judiciary policies are fair. I’ve been a judge for a long time. These are all issues with the public’s best interest at heart. This issue is only isolated to one particular scheduling problem in Millville. I don’t want there to be any perception by anyone that I am alleging that this is a Judiciary problem and it’s not.”¹⁶

Interview of Vicinage 15 Assignment Judge Benjamin Telsey

Assignment Judge Benjamin Telsey oversees court operations in Vicinage 15, which includes Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties. In that role, Judge Telsey is responsible for 30 to 40 judges, including municipal court and Superior Court judges, and 500 to 600 state court employees.¹⁷

¹⁴ Judge Witcher Tr. at 93; [Appendix 9](#).

¹⁵ Judge Witcher Tr. at 32; [Appendix 9](#).

¹⁶ Judge Witcher Tr. at 194-95; [Appendix 9](#).

¹⁷ Judge Telsey Tr. 6; [Appendix 8](#).

As part of his oversight and leadership of the vicinage, Judge Telsey is responsible for ensuring compliance with Supreme Court orders and Judiciary policies, including those that involve access and fairness for court users.

Judge Telsey explained that the assignment judge and presiding judges ensure that Supreme Court directives and Judiciary policies are distributed to all judges and that education and training are provided as needed. Each judge, he said, is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable policies, including as to case scheduling.

“So judges are ultimately responsible for all scheduling, even though they may not be the one that says I want this case in person on this day. They would have given the direction to their staff who would know how to properly implement that policy. And that applies to municipal courts and the Superior courts.”¹⁸

Judge Telsey added that “when you notice a problem and you need to fix that problem, it’s very important that the judge provide specific direction to staff members as to how to fix it and what it is – and you make it clear to your staff what is expected.”¹⁹

Judge Telsey stated that Judge Witcher did not bring to his attention any concerns about scheduling in the Millville Municipal Court.²⁰ Rather, the Puerto Rican Action Committee alerted him to the judge’s December 5, 2022 statements.²¹ In response, Judge Telsey reached out to the AOC, prompting the Judiciary investigation.

Interview of Kimberly Hamlyn, C.M.C.A. (Millville Municipal Court)

Kimberly Hamlyn is a certified municipal court administrator who serves as the court administrator for the Millville Municipal Court. In that role, she oversees daily court operations.

¹⁸ Judge Telsey Tr. at 33-34; [Appendix 8](#).

¹⁹ Judge Telsey Tr. at 38; [Appendix 8](#).

²⁰ Judge Telsey Tr. at 44; [Appendix 8](#).

²¹ Judge Telsey Tr. at 46; [Appendix 8](#).

According to Hamlyn, “Everyone in the office is scheduling on any given day.”²² Hamlyn said she and Deputy Court Administrator Amber Oliver review the court dockets for accuracy.

Hamlyn indicated that she prepares a monthly calendar with Wednesday court dates set aside for virtual appearances.

Court Administrator Hamlyn stated that Vicinage Municipal Division Manager Ashley Wolk provided guidance on the Supreme Court orders, after which Hamlyn met with staff to review the provisions. Hamlyn stated that the scheduling of cases needing an interpreter did not change after the Supreme Court’s November 18, 2021, or October 27, 2022 orders.

“I have three Spanish speaking employees so they will communicate with the Latino population, and they are to explain if they are scheduled on a virtual date [an interpreter] would be virtual and if scheduled in-person the interpreter on site will help them.”

“We do not move cases from virtual to in person when a litigant requests an interpreter. We schedule cases needing interpreting services for virtual based on the Supreme Court order...”²³

Hamlyn said when cases are scheduled for in person “a person’s last name doesn’t play a part.”

Hamlyn acknowledged that Judge Witcher directed her to meet with Bridgeton Court Administrator Marie Keith about the hybrid scheduling format used in that court. As detailed in her statement, Hamlyn said she scheduled three meetings and Keith was not able to attend any of them. She said Keith cancelled the first meeting and did not join a subsequent Zoom meeting because Judge Witcher indicated he wanted to participate but was unavailable. A third meeting was held on December 9, 2022, but was cancelled by Millville Business Administrator Ray Compari when Keith did not join the call, Hamlyn said.

²² K. Hamlyn Statement; [Appendix 14](#).

²³ K. Hamlyn Statement; [Appendix 14](#).

Other than the direction to replicate Bridgeton scheduling practices, Hamlyn indicated that “[t]he [j]udge never reached out to discuss the [Supreme Court] orders or how we were going to implement them.”

“Judge Witcher plays very little role currently in how things are scheduled...He leaves it up to court staff to schedule the people. He does not provide a date from the bench. He does not ask to review any dockets. He has never conveyed that he wanted to review the dockets or calendars.”²⁴

Interview of Marie Keith, C.M.C.A. (Bridgeton Municipal Court)

Certified Municipal Court Administrator Marie Keith serves as the court administrator for the Bridgeton Municipal Court. In that role, she oversees court operations.

Keith assisted the Millville Municipal Court from February 2022 through the end of May 2022, on an overtime basis, in the evenings. She worked mostly on rescheduling cases.

Keith asserted her belief that “it is possible that the cases could have been being scheduled by surname.”

“Even if there was not malicious intent, it could have been an organizational tactic. It is also entirely possible that the first appearance date is different from the ticket date for different reasons other than the person’s last name. I do not have any personal knowledge about anyone scheduling calendars by surname. I did not schedule the cases based on last name.”²⁵

Keith ultimately concluded that “it seems like cases are being scheduled for in-person based on their last name.”

“Cases involving Spanish names had notes to be scheduled for a Monday when the interpreter was available. It also seemed to me like cases that needed an interpreter and were originally

²⁴ K. Hamlyn Statement; [Appendix 14](#).

²⁵ M. Keith Statement; [Appendix 15](#).

scheduled for virtual court, were then rescheduled for in-person court.”²⁶

Keith said she reported her concerns to Judge Witcher.

“He really didn’t respond. He took it in. I assumed he would talk to them at one point in time. He wanted me to go there and tell them how to run and mirror things.”²⁷

As for case scheduling in Bridgeton, Keith described the process as “a result of communication with Judge Witcher.” Keith added that Judge Witcher regularly reviews the court docket before sessions.

“Judge Witcher and I regularly communicate about court scheduling and work together to improve efficiency and ensure litigants are being accommodated appropriately”²⁸

Interviews of Millville Municipal Court Administrative Staff

Administrative staff in the Millville Municipal Court are responsible for the day-to-day functions of calendaring cases for court sessions. Three of the five members of the staff are bilingual.

The staffers interviewed are:

- Deputy Court Administrator Amber Oliver
- Keyboarding Clerk Amber Gandy
- Ashley Angel, clerk 1, Millville Municipal Court
- Itzel Torres Velazquez, bilingual clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court
- Luz Esteban Zamora, bilingual clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court

All five staff members stated that court cases are scheduled based on the initial court date provided by law enforcement on tickets.²⁹ Each staff

²⁶ M. Keith Statement; [Appendix 15](#).

²⁷ M. Keith Statement; [Appendix 15](#).

²⁸ M. Keith Statement; [Appendix 15](#).

²⁹ Also see statements of A. Angel Statement; [Appendix 10](#): “I go off the date on the ticket that the officer writes when they issue a ticket;” A. Gandy Statement; [Appendix 11](#): “We keep the date that is issued on the ticket, we will

member said the court date provided by law enforcement is maintained regardless of a request for interpreting services.

According to Gandy:

“If a litigant requests an interpreter when they call or come in before the court date, the case is not moved to a different date – whether virtual or in-person. We don’t change the date the police department provides.”³⁰

If there is a need to postpone a court date, staff reschedule for the same type of calendar, i.e., virtual or in person.

According to Torres Velasquez:

“If there is no one else impacted by a postponement, such as cases involving only a defendant and their attorney, I will reschedule the case and grant the postponement request...A request to postpone a Wednesday or virtual case will be rescheduled to a Wednesday or another virtual day. If a request for a postponement or reschedule is made on a case that was scheduled for a Monday, it will be rescheduled to Monday because there was a reason it was scheduled to be in person.”³¹

All five Millville employees, in addition to Hamlyn, stated unequivocally that party surname is not considered in scheduling. According to Oliver, “We do not schedule cases for in-person court based on their last name. Last names of litigants are not involved in any way in scheduling.”³²

Staff also stated that cases are not scheduled for initial appearances or rescheduled for future court dates based on interpreting needs.

stay with whatever court date that is;” I. Torres Velazquez Statement; [Appendix 18](#) “When tickets are received in the court, as a clerk, I schedule the matter according to the date listed on the ticket as created by law enforcement.”

³⁰ A. Gandy Statement; [Appendix 11](#).

³¹ I. Torres Velazquez Statement; [Appendix 18](#).

³² A. Oliver Statement; [Appendix 17](#).

According to Gandy:

“If the interpreting case is scheduled virtually and needs a return date, I still leave them on for virtual and reschedule to a virtual date. I then put a note on the file so that we make sure we pull up language line for interpreter during the virtual hearing.”³³

Angel said in her statement:

“No one has ever instructed me to or shared with me that cases requiring an interpreter should intentionally be scheduled on the days the interpreter is available for in person services.

That would be too much work if we started going through every single case and picking out cases for in person based on last name...A person’s last name does not play any part in the scheduling a matter. No one has ever told me that Spanish looking last names should be scheduled with an interpreter. I have not heard anyone say that in the office.”³⁴

Millville Municipal Court employees indicated that interpreting services are provided for virtual and in-person court sessions, and Language Line is used to provide interpreting services on virtual dates.

All five Millville court employees said in their statements that Judge Witcher did not provide guidance on complying with Supreme Court orders regarding scheduling. In her statement, Zamora said, “I am not aware of Judge Witcher having any role in the scheduling in Millville.”²³

DATA

December 5, 2022, Court Session

When Judge Witcher’s allegations were first made from the Millville Municipal Court bench on December 5, 2022, there were 116 defendants scheduled for the in-person session. Of those 116 defendants, 49 people had what the Judiciary categorized for the purpose of this investigation as a

³³ A. Gandy Statement; [Appendix 11](#).

³⁴ A. Angel Statement; [Appendix 10](#).

Hispanic/Latino-sounding surname, and 22 used the services of the Spanish-language interpreter. The December 5, 2022, calendar included a number of cases previously scheduled for the November 21, 2022, court session, which was cancelled. There were 18 defendants in need of Spanish interpreting services who were rescheduled from November 21, 2022, to December 5, 2022.

A review of the cases of all 116 defendants on the December 5, 2022, calendar found 103 of those defendants (88.8 percent) were appropriately scheduled in person according to the guidelines established by the Supreme Court.

Of those 116 defendants:

- 88 defendants were charged with one or more offenses that involved a reasonable likelihood of a jail sentence or loss or suspension of license.
- 4 defendants who would not otherwise have been in person requested to appear in person.
- 2 defendants were specifically scheduled by law enforcement for the December 5, 2022, court date.
- 9 additional defendants were scheduled in person for case-specific reasons (e.g., failures to appear, disruption during prior virtual appearance, in-person victim, health and safety, trials in absentia) as noted on the attached table.

As to the remaining 13 defendants, they could have been scheduled virtually. The investigation found there were two defendants (Jones and Tomlin) who should not have been scheduled in person. In addition, audio records and case files are unclear as to why another 11 defendants (Aulffo, Clouse, G. Cruz, J. Cruz, Gallo, Hernandez Martir, Lewis, Mendez-Palmas, Mills, Moya-Lara, and Potts) were scheduled in person. Sound recordings from prior court appearances did not clarify the basis for an in-person appearance.

Of those 13 defendants, three required and used Spanish-language interpreting services, and one defendant failed to appear. The errors did not disproportionately affect individuals with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames or defendants who require interpreting services. The same pattern holds true for the remaining calendars (from October 5, 2022, to December 14, 2022) reviewed for the report.

[Appendix 21](#) includes a table of all December 5, 2022 cases, broken down into three categories.

- Defendants scheduled to appear in person because of charges involving a reasonable likelihood of a jail sentence or loss or suspension of license are highlighted in yellow.
- Defendants appropriately scheduled in person for other reasons are unshaded.
- Defendants without a confirmed basis for in-person scheduling are shaded in gray.

Analysis of select December 5, 2022 cases

Many of the defendants who appeared in Millville Municipal Court on December 5, 2022, were asked by Judge Witcher if they had been made aware of the option to participate virtually rather than appearing in person. With few exceptions, those defendants replied that they had not been offered the option to appear virtually.

The Supreme Court in its November 18, 2021, and October 27, 2022, orders did not establish or suggest a process in which parties would be asked whether they preferred to appear for court virtually or in person. Rather, the Supreme Court's orders set out a framework for which cases, in general, would proceed in person and which would proceed virtually.

A review of the audio record and transcript of the December 5, 2022, court session, along with individual case records, shows that the vast majority of defendants who were asked by Judge Witcher if they were given an option to appear virtually had appeared in person consistent with the Supreme Court's orders. Those orders vest the municipal court judge with limited discretion to adjust the format of certain court events; however, absent specific direction from the judge, such matters are appropriately scheduled in person.

Defendant O. Castaneda appeared before Judge Witcher on December 5, 2022, on charges that included a violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 (driving while intoxicated).

JUDGE WITCHER: Did anybody ask you if you wanted to come to court today?

MR. CASTANEDA: No.

JUDGE WITCHER: Did you know you could have done this on video or on the phone?

MR. CASTANEDA: No, I didn't know that.

JUDGE WITCHER: They just had you come here.

MR. CASTANEDA: Yes.

JUDGE WITCHER: You don't know why.

MR. CASTANEDA: No.

JUDGE WITCHER: Did you tell somebody you spoke Spanish and you needed an in-person interpreter?

MR. CASTANEDA: Yes.

WITCHER: You told somebody you wanted to have an interpreter.

MR. CASTANEDA: Yes.

WITCHER: But they didn't tell you, you could have an interpreter on the phone.

MR. CASTANEDA: No.³⁵

DWI involves a reasonable likelihood of a jail term or loss or suspension of license. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders, a defendant charged with DWI generally should appear in person. Based on the seriousness of the charges, and in the absence of specific instructions from the judge, staff appropriately scheduled defendant Castaneda for an in-person appearance.

Judge Witcher asked similar questions of defendant E. Pablo, who was charged with a violation of N.J.S.A. 39:3-10 (driving without a valid license). Based on defendant Pablo's charges, staff appropriately scheduled this case for an in-person session. The in-person format aligns with the Supreme Court's orders.

Defendant J. Rosario was charged with several offenses, including a violation of N.J.S.A. 39:3-40 (driving while license suspended or revoked). Following discussion, the prosecutor agreed to downgrade the most serious charge to

³⁵ Dec. 5, 2022 Millville Municipal Court Session Tr. at 23-24; [Appendix 7](#).

driving with an expired license. Judge Witcher asked the defendant if he requested to appear in person.

JUDGE WITCHER: Did anybody give you the opportunity to be on video Court today or did they make you come here only?

MR. ROSARIO: No, they just made straight --

JUDGE WITCHER: No option at all?

MR. ROSARIO: -- come here. Yeah, no --

JUDGE WITCHER: Did you know there was video Court?

MR. ROSARIO: Nah, I didn't even know it.

JUDGE WITCHER: Nobody --

MR. ROSARIO: I had to come all the way from Atlantic City.³⁶

The scheduling of this matter in person aligns with the Supreme Court's framework for virtual and in-person proceedings.

Defendant M. Hernandez Martir was charged with a variety of traffic tickets, none of which involved a reasonable likelihood of a jail term or loss or suspension of license. As reflected in the attached chart, a review of the audio record and case file revealed no valid basis for her case to be scheduled in person rather than virtually. The scheduling of defendant Hernandez Martir could have been handled virtually.

October 5, 2022, through December 14, 2022

From October 5, 2022, through December 14, 2022, the Millville Municipal Court conducted 19 court sessions: 11 virtual sessions and eight in-person sessions. Judge Witcher presided over most Millville Municipal Court sessions. Municipal Court Judge Terri Giordano covered five sessions (October 17, October 19, November 16, November 23, and November 30, 2022) based on Judge Witcher's unavailability.

Of the in-person court sessions during this period, four Monday sessions included an on-site Spanish language interpreter. Virtual interpreting services were available for all sessions.

A review of the court sessions found:

³⁶ Dec. 5, 2022 Millville Municipal Court Session Tr. at 76-77; [Appendix 7](#).

- 2,593 defendants were scheduled to appear on these 19 court dockets.
- 1,910 defendants were scheduled for virtual sessions.
- 683 defendants were scheduled for in-person sessions.
 - 424 defendants were scheduled for an in-person session when a Spanish-language interpreter was present on-site.
 - 259 defendants were scheduled for in-person sessions when an interpreter was not on-site.
- On all dates (in-person and virtual), interpreting services in Spanish and other languages were available virtually through Language Line.

As reflected in the attached table, in-person sessions had a higher percentage of defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames³⁷:

- 17.3 percent of defendants (330 of 1,910) scheduled for virtual sessions had Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames.³⁸
- 23.7 percent of defendants (162 of 683) scheduled for in-person sessions had Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames. As would be expected, defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames appeared in person twice as frequently on the dates when a Spanish-language interpreter was present on site (29 percent as compared to 15.1 percent).

Factors within and outside the court’s control might contribute to this disparity, including the seriousness of the charge and the initial decision made by law enforcement when assigning a date for defendants to appear.

The investigation also found that defendants who required Spanish language interpreting services were more likely to appear in person than virtually. While Judge Witcher’s claim that no defendants in virtual sessions received

³⁷ Analysis of Oct. 5 – Dec. 14, 2022 Court Dockets; [Appendix 22](#).

³⁸ Analysis of Oct. 5 – Dec. 14, 2022 Court Dockets; [Appendix 22](#).

interpreting services is not correct, the number of defendants who received those services is small.

However, the need for interpreting services was small for both in person and virtual sessions. Even on in-person calendars, for which an on-site Spanish interpreter is present, the number of defendants requiring Spanish-language interpreting in Millville Municipal Court never exceeded seven in a single session from October 5 through December 14, 2022. Notably, the lone exception is December 5, 2022, the date Judge Witcher made his allegations. On that court date, 22 defendants used the on-site interpreter. Of those 22 defendants, 18 had been rescheduled from the canceled November 21, 2022, court session.

FINDINGS

Allegations of Discriminatory Scheduling

- Individuals with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames were consistently scheduled for both virtual and in-person court sessions. Of the 492 defendants identified as having Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames, 330 defendants were scheduled for virtual sessions and 162 were scheduled for in-person court events.
- The investigation found no direct evidence that Millville Municipal Court officials were denying individual defendants the opportunity to appear for court virtually because they had a Hispanic/Latino-sounding surname or a need for interpreting. All Millville employees involved with scheduling stated that party surname is not considered. The only contrary information was the statement of the Bridgeton administrator, Keith, who indicated that “it seems like cases are being scheduled for in person based on their last name” and “it is possible that the cases could have been scheduled by surname,” though she conceded she did not have any “personal knowledge about anyone scheduling calendars by surname.”
- The investigation uncovered no evidence of a written or unwritten scheduling policy in the Millville Municipal Court that discriminates against defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames.

- A review of cases involving more than 2,500 defendants who appeared on all calendars from October 5 through December, 14, 2022, found that 94.5 percent of cases were scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court's orders. This includes cases for which there was discretion as to the format of the proceeding. For the remaining cases, available information is insufficient to determine the basis for the virtual or in-person format.
- A review of the court calendar from December 5, 2022, found 88.8 percent of cases were scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court's orders.

Allegations of Disparate Outcomes in Scheduling

- In-person sessions in Millville Municipal Court had a higher percentage of individuals with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames (23.7 percent) than virtual sessions (17.3 percent.)
- More individuals received Spanish-language interpreting through the on-site Spanish-language interpreter than through virtual services. Few individuals in need of Spanish-language interpreting services received virtual services through Language Line. As noted above, this is explained in part by failures to appear and the provision of interpreting services for private communications with counsel not captured in the court record.
- Even on in-person calendars, for which an on-site Spanish interpreter is present, the number of defendants requiring Spanish-language interpreting in Millville Municipal Court never exceeded seven in a single session from October 5 through December 14, 2022. The lone exception is December 5, 2022, the date Judge Witcher made his allegations. On that court date, 22 defendants used the on-site interpreter. Of those 22 defendants, 18 had been rescheduled from the canceled November 21, 2022, court session.

STATEWIDE REFORMS

The Judiciary's investigation into the allegations raised by Judge Witcher revealed that a higher percentage of defendants with Hispanic/Latino-sounding surnames are scheduled for in-person sessions when an interpreter is available on-site.

The following reforms have been implemented – or will be implemented shortly – to raise awareness about the availability of interpreting services for virtual and in-person court events.

Information on interpreting services has been added to relevant statewide municipal court notices. As depicted below, in February 2023 guidance regarding interpreter services was added to the template for statewide court notices. The new notices ask recipients, in English and Spanish, if they need an interpreter and include a municipal court phone number to request interpreting services before a virtual or in-person appearance.

BETHLEHEM TWP MUNICIPAL COURT 405 MINE RD	CHANGE IN COURT DATE **** NEW COURT DATE - 02/28/2023 04:00 PM **** VIRTUAL COURT HEARING - ROOM VIRT
ASBURY NJ 08802-	NEED AN INTERPRETER? / NECESITA UN INTERPRETE? CALL 908-735-4559
TELEPHONE - 908-735-4559 8:30AM -3:30PM MON - FRI	DATE OF NOTICE - 02/14/2023 NOTICE GENERATED BY - DEFENDANT COPY
THE COURT MATTER(S) LISTED BELOW IS SCHEDULED FOR A VIRTUAL HEARING ON 02/28/2023 AT 04:00 PM. CONTACT THE COURT AT LEAST 7 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR COURT DATE TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON APPEARING BY VIDEO.	
SUMMONS # VIOLATION DATE VIOLATION STATE VS	
E23000 02/13/2023 39:4-97.3 JOSE	
JOSE	
BY ORDER OF THE JUDGE ROBERT L. ALEXANDER	READING PA 19604

Information on interpreting services will be added to opening statements delivered before court proceedings. Municipal court judges statewide will provide information about interpreting services at the beginning of each court session as part of their opening statement. This will provide court users a second opportunity to inform the judge or court staff if interpreting services are needed. Municipal court judges who preside over courts with a substantial

Spanish-speaking population have the option to deliver the information in Spanish as well as English with a [prerecorded video](#).

The municipal courts page on the Judiciary website, njcourts.gov, will be updated to include additional information on interpreting services. The updated webpage will prominently display contact information so court users can request interpreting services from specific courts before appearing for a court proceeding.

Enhanced training for all municipal court judges. All municipal court judges are required to complete updated training on the Judiciary Language Access Plan. This mandatory training will provide an opportunity for judges to review core provisions and recent updates to the language access plan, including new standards regarding video virtual interpreting.

Vicinage assignment judges across the state are in the process of meeting with municipal court judges, court administrators, deputy court administrators, and directors to review judicial and administrative areas of responsibility related to scheduling. The first meeting was held on January 6, 2023, in Vicinage 15. All meetings will be completed by the end of February 2023.

REFORMS FOR MILLVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT

Initial appearances in certain Vicinage 15 municipalities are to be scheduled for a virtual court date.

The Judiciary's investigation highlights the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration between municipal court judges and court administrators, particularly regarding scheduling practices. Given the communication difficulties in Millville, and the concerns raised in this investigation, Vicinage 15 Municipal Presiding Judge Thomas North met with administrators for municipal courts in Millville, Bridgeton-Joint, Carney's Point, and Penns Grove to formalize scheduling practices that will help ensure that judges have a greater ability to ensure that defendants are not steered to in-person proceedings unnecessarily.

A series of steps was memorialized that will enable more people – including more Spanish-speaking defendants – to participate in virtual court sessions.

All initial appearances for defendants will be held virtually, on an interim basis, unless the judge provides contrary direction. To the extent applicable in each municipality, if law enforcement assigns an in-person date, even for a serious offense, staff should reschedule the defendant for a virtual session, unless the judge directs otherwise, or a litigant or attorney contacts the court before the date of the initial appearance and requests an in-person appearance.

If a defendant fails to appear for an initial virtual court session, staff should reschedule the case on another virtual court date, unless the judge provides contrary guidance from the bench and/or issues a warrant. If a defendant fails to appear for a second virtual court session, staff should ask the judge on the record how the case should be rescheduled and follow the judge's guidance.

If the defendant appears for a serious offense and the case is ready for resolution, such as a plea or trial, then in general the case should be rescheduled for an in-person hearing or trial date.

The City of Millville is exploring options to secure the services of a freelance interpreter for virtual sessions.

The freelance interpreter would provide services for some Wednesday virtual court sessions. Such services would be in addition to an on-site Spanish-language interpreter for two of the Monday (in-person) court sessions each month. The availability of a scheduled interpreter during virtual court sessions, in addition to Language Line for all court sessions, should ensure that higher-quality interpreting services are available for court users who appear virtually.

Appendices

Supreme Court Orders

Appx 1. April 20, 2020 Supreme Court Order (consent required for certain matters to proceed virtually)

Appx 2. April 24, 2020 Supreme Court Second COVID-19 Omnibus Order (resumption of Municipal Court sessions in virtual format)

Appx 3. February 22, 2021 Supreme Court Order (refinement of consent requirement for matters to proceed virtually)

Appx 4. November 18, 2021 Supreme Court Order (Future of Court Operations)

Appx 5. October 27, 2022 Supreme Court Order (Future of Court Operations 2.0)

Court Session Transcripts

Appx 6. November 7, 2022

Appx 7. December 5, 2022

Interview Transcripts

Appx 8. Hon. Benjamin Telsey, Assignment Judge, Vicinage 15

Appx 9. Hon. Jason D. Witcher, Municipal Court Judge

Certifications & Signed Statements

Appx 10. Ashley Angel, Clerk 1, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 11. Amber Gandy (1), Keyboarding Clerk, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 12. Amber Gandy (2), Keyboarding Clerk, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 13. Hon. Teri Giordano, Municipal Court Judge

Appx 14. Kimberly Hamlyn, Certified Municipal Court Administrator, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 15. Marie Keith, Certified Municipal Court Administrator, Bridgeton Municipal Court

Appx 16. Hon. Thomas North, Municipal Court Presiding Judge

Appx 17. Amber Oliver, Deputy Municipal Court Administrator, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 18. Itzel Torres Velazquez, Bilingual Clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court

Appx 19. Ashley Wolk, Vicinage 15 Municipal Division Manager

Appx 20. Luz M. Esteban Zamora, Bilingual Clerk 2, Millville Municipal Court

Court Session Data & Analysis

Appx 21. Analysis of December 5, 2022 Millville Municipal Court Session

Appx 22. Analysis of October 5 – December 14, 2022 Court Dockets

Appx 23. Docket Summaries October 5 – December 14, 2022 (combined)

Appx 24. Millville Municipal Court Dockets October 5 – December 14, 2022 (combined)

Judiciary Resources

Appx 25. Judiciary Language Access Plan, Directive #11-22 (September 2022)

Appx 26. Municipal Court Opening Statement (updated February 2023)

Appx 27. Court-Issued Municipal Court Notices (updated February 2023)

Appx 28. 1983 Municipal Court Procedures, Chapter IX

Appx 29. PowerPoint Presentation on Supreme Court's October 27, 2022 Order

APPENDIX21

Millville Municipal Court Sessions- Oct. 5 through Dec. 14, 2022

Session Date	Format Virtual or In-Person	Interpreting On-Site or Remote	Scheduled Defendants	Defendants with Hispanic/Latino Sounding Surnames	Defendants Confirmed Consistent with Supreme Court Orders	
10/5/2022	Virtual	Remote	195	37	189	
10/12/2022	Virtual	Remote	181	32	163	
10/17/2022	In-Person	On-Site	106	21	100	
10/19/2022	Virtual	Remote	212	36	207	
10/24/2022	In-Person	Remote	32	3	29	
10/26/2022	Virtual	Remote	45	5	42	
10/31/2022	In-Person	Remote	111	18	98	
11/2/2022	Virtual	Remote	244	48	244	
11/7/2022	In-Person	On-Site	107	29	102	
11/9/2022	Virtual	Remote	164	25	163	
11/14/2022	In-Person	Remote	21	4	18	
11/16/2022	Virtual	Remote	180	34	174	
11/21/2022	In-Person	CANCELED				
11/23/2022	Virtual	Remote	131	15	129	
11/28/2022	In-Person	Remote	95	14	85	
11/30/2022	Virtual	Remote	139	22	133	
12/5/2022	In-Person	On-Site	116	49	103	
12/7/2022	Virtual	Remote	243	41	228	
12/12/2022	In-Person	On-Site	95	24	95	
12/14/2022	Virtual	Remote	176	35	149	
			Total Defendants:	2593		
				492	2451	

Defendant Name	Offense	Reason for In-Person Appearance	Interpreter Used
Aunzianay Anderson	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
	39:4-98.19		
	39:3-76.2A(D)		
Joyce Andino	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
	39:3-10		
	39:4-144		
	39:3-29A		
Percy Butterworth Jr	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Ozwaldo Castaneda	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
	39:4-96		
	39:4-88b		
	39:4-56		
	39:3-10		
	39:3-29c		
	39:3-74		
Danika Clough	2C:20-11B(l)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Luis Colon	39:3-29c	Date provided by officer at time of issuance	No
Juana Enedella	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
	39:3-10B		
	39:4-88B		
	39:4-96		
	39:3-29C		
Damaris Flores	39:3-66	deft request to be in person	NA
Rigoberto Herrera	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
	39:4-51A.B		
	39:3-47A		
	39:3-40		
	39:3-29A		
	39:3-29B		
	39:3-29C		
	39:4-97		
Lily Kingsland	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:3-66		
Luis Moya-Lara	39:4-97	unclear from record - rescheduled multiple times but not clearly FTA	Yes

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session -Analysis

Leticia Lopez Valwo	39:3-40	serious offense. appearance generally required	Yes
Jerry Lowman	39:4-98.09	Date provided by officer at time of issuance	NA
	39:3-29(
	39:4-97		
Benito Martinez Jr	39:3-40	serious offense • appearance generally required	No
Emanuel Pablo	39:3-10	serious offense • appearance generally required	Yes
Kevin Potts	43-27	unclear from record • rescheduled multiple times but not clearly FTA	No
Tyler Robinson	2C:12-1A(1), 2C:29-3A(S)	serious offense• appearance generally required	No
Dequan Solomon	39:3-40	serious offense- appearance generally required	NA
	39:3-40		

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session - Analysis

Maurice Sooy Jr	39:4-97	deft request to be in person	No
Amber Watson	39:3-40 39:3-10B	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Kevin Dallin	39:3-10 39:8-1 39:3-4 39:8-1	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Maria Hernandez Martir	39:3-29b 39:3-29 39:3-29c	unclear from record	Yes
Richie Lewis	39:3-4	unclear from record	NA
Comcast Cable Com, M Inc	39-28 39-28 39-28 39-28	trial in abstentia	No
3arden State Cabl, Evision L	39-28	trial in abstentia	No
Samuel Agobal Lopez	39:4-98.14 39:3-10 39:3-4	serious offense - aonearance generally required	Yes
Yurlria Angel	2C:20-118(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Mario Ascue	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Christopher Baez	2C:29-3B(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Robert Beutler Jr	39:4-98.14	deft request to be in person	No
	39:3-4 39:6B-2 39:3-40 39:3-40(F)(3)		

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session - Analysis

David Castaneda	39:3-33	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:4-50.19		
	39:4-98.14		
	39:3-40		
	39:4-88B		
39:8-1			
Julio Castanada	39:4-98.14	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
	39:3-10		
Roselena Cisneros	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Kenneth Clark	39:3-4	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:3-33		
	39:6B-2		
	39:3-10		
Tyler Clouse	39:4-97	unclear from record	No
Alcear Cornish	39:3-4	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:6B-2		
	39:3-10		
Olegario Cruz-Cruz	39:3-29	in person based on FTAs	Yes
	39:4-98.14		
Glanerys Cruz	AC 5:70-2.12(F)	unclear from record - rescheduled multiple times but not clearly FTA	Does not appear on log
Yahaira Cruz	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Richard Cuadrado Jr	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:3-33		
	39:3-4		
	39:4-92		
	39:6B-2		
Nahomye Deleon	39:3-4	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:3-40		
Marcos Diaz	39:3-10B	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Patricia Dove	AC 7:9A-3.4(B)	prior virtual appearances scheduled in person	No
Charles Ellison	39:4-144	deft request to be in person	No

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session - Analysis

Robert Frei	2C:34-1.1 8(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Juan Fuentes-Alvarez	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Francisco Gomez-Espinal	39:4-98.19 39:3-10B	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Diter Hernandez Vasquez	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Victor Hernandez-Lopez	39:4-97 39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
April Lawton	4:22-17A(4) 4:22-26A(4) 4:22-26A(5) 4:22-26]	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Deysy Lopez-Huerta	39:3-10 39:4-215	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on
Sherri Malone	2:(20-118(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Ramiro Mendez-Palmas	39:4-97 39:3-29	unclear from record	Yes
Isai Mendez-Perez	39:4-98.19 39:3-40 39:3-29A	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on log
Nancy Mills	39:4-144	unclear from record	No
Ruben Mojica-Diaz	39:4-97 39:3-4 39:4-1298 39:4-85 39:68-2	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Fernando Nalasco-Martinez	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session - Analysis

Dalila Nolasco-Martinez	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Jaysen Redfern JR	39:3-10B	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Tony Rodriguez	2(:20-118(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Jose Rosario	39:3-33	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:3-10A		
	39:3-40		
Stephan Ryan	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Jasmine Sanchez	2C:29-1A	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:4-129B		
	39:4-130		
	39:4-97		
Luis Santiago Jr	39:4-10	scheduled in person based on loud music playing during prior virtual appearance	Does not appear on log
Gelasio Santiago Perez	39:4-98.19	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
	39:3-10		
Faustino Soriano-Lopez	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Court Session - Analysis

Marcos Suarez	39:3-40	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Nazario Tapea	39:3-10	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Daniel Torres	39:3-4	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:3-53A		
	39:6B-2		
Phillip Turner	39:3-29	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:3-40		
Alnaciya Williams	39:4-215	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:3-10		
Brandon Yorke	39:4-88A	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	2C:35-10C, 2C:35-10C, 2C:36-2A, 2C:35-10C		
Dayne Aulffo	39:4-67	unclear from record	No
Jay'vlon Ball	2C:33-2A(1), 2C:29-1A, 2C:29-2A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	2C:12-1A(1)		
Jessica Butcher	39:3-4	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:4-51B		
	39:4-88B		
	39:4-50		
	39:4-96		
Michael Downing	2C:12-1A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Robert Gallo	39:4-98.09	unclear from record	No
Chelsie Humeny	2C:20-118(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Gregory Park	2C:33-4A	Scheduled w/victim	No
	52-13		
	39:4-129B		
	39:4-130		

Millville Municipal Court - Dec. 5, 2022 Coult Session - Analysis

Hector Vazquez-Rivera	2C:20-3A	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Jaknivia Butler	39:4-50 39:3-74 39:4-96	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on Inn
Carlisee Kerr	2C:18-3B, 2C:12-1A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Craig Bergen	39:4-34 2C:12-1A(1) 2C:18-3B 2C:35-10C, 2C:36-2A	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on Inn
David Finlaw	39:68-2 39:4-130 39:6B-2 39:3-33 2C:35-10C 2C:20-118(1), 2C:18-3B 2C:29-1A 2C:20-118(2), 2C:29-1A 2(:20-118(2) 2C:18-3B, 2C:36-2A 2(:20-118(2) 2(:20-118(1) 2(:20-118(1) 2c:20-118(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Tahmira Mackey	2C:20-118(2), 2C:18-3B 2C:20-118(2), 2C:18-3B, 2C:36-2A 2C:20-118(2), 2C:20-3A 2C:20-118(1), 2(:18-38 2C:18-3B, 2C:20-118(2) 2C:29-1A, 2C:20-118(1J, 2C:18-3b 2C:20-118(1), 2C:18-3B 2C:20-118(1), 2C:18-3B 2C:36-2A 2C:18-3B 2C:20-118(1) 2C:20-118(2), 2C:18-3B	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Laquana Reed	4:19-23A(2) 8:8-3A 8:8-8E	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on Inn
Robert Tichaz JR	2C:20-118(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA

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Benjamin Trent	2C:20-3A, 2C:17-3A(1), 2C:18-3A	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Deshaun Green	2C:36-10C, 2C:35-10C, 2C:35-10C, 2C:36-2A 2C:33-2A(1), 2C:29-2A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Michelle Cook	2C:33-4B	in person based on bench warrant	NA
Giovanni Correa-Ocasio	2C:33-4A	in person based on bench warrant	NA
Kyheme Bowser	39:4-50	serious <i>offense</i> - appearance generally required	No
Joquan Carter	2C:18-3B, 2C:29-3B(4)	serious <i>offense</i> - appearance generally required	NA
Anthony Fox	39:4-50.2	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Tishyia Holden	2C:20-118(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Donald Johnson	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA

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CareyJones	2C:20-3A, 2C:17-3A(1)	scheduled In error	No
Lisa Jones	2C:20-11 8(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	2C:20-11 8(1)		
Mary Mead	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Tashon Moore-Lawson	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	NA
Terri Tomlin	39:4-50	deft in compliance with DWI sentencing requirements	NA
Matthew Baldini	2C:35-10C	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:4-50		
	39:4-49.1		
	39:4-98.34		
	39:3-4		
	39:4-888		
39:6B-2			
Lamard Canty	2C:29-2A(1), 2C:29-1A	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Julio Chevez-Montecinos	2C:12-1A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	Yes
Josue Chinnery	2C:12-1A(1), 2C:17-3A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	does not appear on log
Jonathan Cruz	2C:33-4A	unclear from record	No

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Edward Davis	2(:20-118(2), 2C:36-2A	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
Lovsha Dixon	2C:20-118(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Andrew Harris	2C:12-1A(1)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Airto Moore	2(:20-118(2)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Pershail Pearson	4:19-23(A)(2)(A)	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Richard Smith 3rd	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
	39:4-888		
	39:4-96		
Robert Sutton	2C:35-10C,2(:35-10C, 2C:36-24, 2C:33-2.18	serious offense - appearance generally required	No
Jeremy Vicens	39:4-98.19	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:4-888		
	39:4-97		
	39:4-96		
	39:4-96		
	39:3-40		
	39:3-4		
	39:3-33		
	39:3-74		
39:3-35			
Julisa Pender	39:4-50	serious offense - appearance generally required	Does not appear on log
	39:4-50.4A		
	39:4-888		
Mirta Cardona-Ramos	39:4-144	multiple prior virtual appearances with FTA	Yes