

New River Justice Court (Fallon)
March 13, 2025

Judge: Benjamin Trotter

Prosecutors: Chelsea Sanford, Pricilla Baker, Lane Mills

Summary of Observation Visit

No. of scheduled cases for indigent defendants: 7

No. of cases where defendant is in custody: 4

No. of cases where defendant is out of custody: 3

No. of cases being handled by Public Defender Jacob Sommer: 3

In custody: 1

Out of custody: 2

Cases continued for in custody: 1

Cases continued for out of custody: 0

No. of cases being handled by Alternate Public Defender Wright

Noel: 3

In custody: 1

Out of custody: 2

Cases continued for in custody: 1

Cases continued for out of custody: 0

No. of cases being handled by attorney Hampton Young: 1

In custody: 1

Cases continued for in custody: 1

Observation Checklist from Davis Monitor

(1) Did the attorneys have a substantive, confidential meeting with each client before court (If you know or can tell from observation): Yes.

(2) Did the attorneys argue for pretrial release/OR, or for reasonable bail: Not applicable.

(3) Did the court require the defendant(s) to reimburse the entity for representation: No.

(4) Did the attorneys counsel each client to refrain from waiving trial rights until the attorney completed investigation of the case (If you know): Not applicable.

(5) Did the attorneys appear to have counseled clients to refrain from waiving any rights at arraignment: Yes.

(6) Did the attorneys appear to know their client's cases and to be prepared: Yes.

(7) Did the attorneys appear to adequately advise clients of the consequences of accepting a guilty plea or going to trial, including any collateral consequences: Yes.

(8) Do the attorneys appear to have sustainable workloads: Yes.

(9) Overall, do the attorneys appear to be providing effective representation of their clients: Yes.

Monitor's Request in 12th Report of the Monitor (Page 12)

In the 12th Report of the Monitor, the Monitor indicated on page 12 that it would be helpful to have clear metrics to apply to court observation and issues of remote appearances. The Monitor posed four (4) questions that if answered would be helpful to the Monitor. The following are the questions together with answers to assist the Monitor.

(1) Did the attorneys show up: Yes.

(2) Did the attorneys have their files: Yes.

(3) Did the attorneys appear to know information about the clients and there cases in addition to what was presented by the prosecutors: Yes.

(4) In any sentencing hearing, did the attorney for the defendant present mitigating information or elaboration on the pre-sentencing report: There were no pre-sentencing reports.

Additional Information and/or Comments