



**The Chambers of
DANIEL B. SHANES
Chief Judge**

**CIRCUIT COURT
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**18 North County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
847-377-4500**

May 31, 2024

Ms. Patrice Sutton
County Administrator
18 N. County Street, 10th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085

Dear Ms. Sutton,

As you recall, the Illinois Pretrial Fairness Act, first passed by the legislature in January 2021 as part of the State's comprehensive SAFE-T Act, went into effect in September 2023. This brought significant changes to offender supervision and sentencing within the courts. The most significant of these is the elimination of cash bail, which has sharply increased the number of justice-involved individuals placed on pretrial supervision.

In compliance with this legislation, our pretrial investigators complete a Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and a criminal history check on each defendant appearing in the First Appearance Court. That PSA is then further relied upon at each subsequent court date when the court is required to review the conditions of pretrial release for each defendant. The PSA provides the court with crucial data for decision-making regarding appropriate conditions of release and detention. These pretrial investigations must be completed within the aggressive timelines outlined in the legislation. The PSA report uses nine factors to generate scores that attempt to predict three relevant outcomes: failure to appear in court prior to the case's disposition, the probability of additional criminal arrests while on pretrial release, and the likelihood of any violent criminal arrests while on pretrial release.

Since implementing the Pretrial Fairness Act, the number of PSA reports required has significantly risen. Simultaneously, the number of individuals released and assigned to our Pretrial Services section for supervision prior to trial has also significantly increased. The data reflected below shows the increase in the pretrial services workload, including the number of assessments, individuals released to pretrial supervision, and overall caseload numbers.

In sum, the average monthly increase reflects 62 PSA report completions and 63 additional defendants being released to pretrial each month compared to the previous year. This surge in workload has also led to an average increase of 238 defendants per month in our pretrial caseload. In other words, in the wake of this recent legislation, we now consistently supervise more than two hundred more defendants than before the law changed.

I respectfully request that Lake County release to the 19th Circuit the second two pre-trial positions originally outlined in our previous new program request to allow us to adequately comply with the Pretrial Fairness Act. These additional resources are crucial to public safety and the functioning of our criminal justice system.

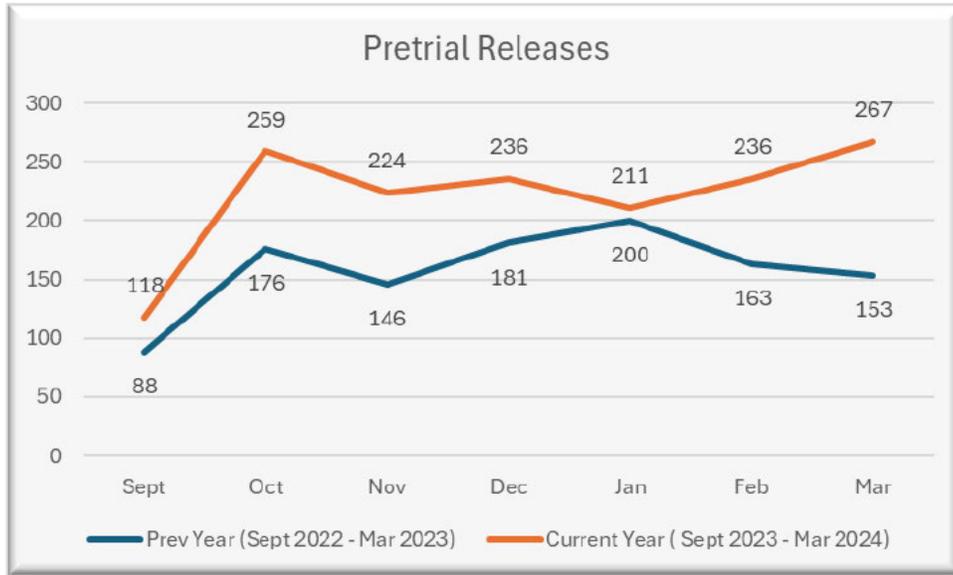
Sincerely



Daniel B. Shanes
Chief Judge

cc: Karl Waldorf, Executive Director, 19th Judicial Circuit
Angela Cooper, Director, Administrative Services, 19th Judicial Circuit





% Increase of Defendants Released on Pretrial

Month	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
% Increase	+ 34%	+ 47%	+ 53%	+ 30%	+ 6%	+ 45%	+ 75%

