

Certification of Ashley Wolk

Summary:

I am the Municipal Division Manager for Vicinage 15 (Cumberland/ Gloucester/ Salem). I have been in that role for more than 7 years. Before being appointed as Municipal Division Manager, I served as an Administrative Specialist 4 in the Municipal Division in Vicinage 15.

In my role, I work with the Vicinage 15 Municipal Courts, including the Municipal Court Judges and administrative staff (Certified Court Administrators, Deputy Court Administrators, and clerical staff).

I provide information about Supreme Court Orders, Judiciary policies, available trainings. I and my staff provide support to the Municipal Courts both as needed and on an ongoing basis. I am always available to answer questions. Municipal Court Judges, CMCA's, clerical staff typically come to me with questions, as do the Municipalities on occasion.

I receive Municipal Court statistics each week, including as to the numbers of people who appear in person and who appear virtually, and forward those to the Municipal Court Services Division in the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In July 2022, Assignment Judge Telsey observed that the Millville Municipal Court was scheduling more in-person appearances than other courts. At that time, in July 2022, I reached out to the Millville Municipal Court and spoke initially with Deputy Court Administrator Amber Oliver. DMCA Oliver advised that cases were being scheduled consistent with the Supreme Court's Order, that is, the November 18, 2021 Order regarding scheduling of in-person and virtual court matters. When CMCA Kimberly Hamlyn returned from vacation, I spoke with her about the in-person appearances, and she advised that cases were being scheduled consistent with the Order. I spot-checked some cases and confirmed that they aligned with the Supreme Court Order.

At this time, in July 2022, the Millville Municipal Court was scheduling trials and other matters in person. Some of those matters had been pending for some time while the Millville Municipal Court was operating in a virtual-only format. Some other Municipal Courts had resumed in-person operations earlier, and I had observed the same uptick in in-person appearances when they

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resumed in-person operations. This happened specifically in CS Regional in Cumberland County.

I had no concerns about particular defendants being scheduled differently from others. My concern was only as to the number of in-person appearances. I was satisfied by the explanation provided by CMCA Hamlyn and my review of the electronic dockets that cases were being appropriately scheduled.

When the Supreme Court issued its November 18, 2021 Order, I distributed the Order by email to the Municipal Court Judges, Court Administrators, and Deputy Court Administrators. I also discussed it at regularly scheduled virtual meetings with Court Administrators, Deputies, and Vicinage Municipal Division staff. I followed this same process of distributing and discussing the Supreme Court's October 27, 2022 Order. I also provided written guidance for Municipal Court staff as to scheduling for in-person and virtual formats consistent with the Supreme Court's Orders.

I am providing this certification voluntarily and of my own free will. I have not been coerced by anyone to make the certification. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I understand that if the foregoing statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: February 10, 2023


Ashley Wolk