



My Name:	Court Date:
Courthouse:	Department:
Judge Name:	Times entered and left court:

Court Watch LA Session Guide

Case Observation Information

- From which government entity was the prosecutor? (City Attorney, District Attorney)
- Who is the defense attorney? (Public defender, Private attorney)
- Based on your observation & information presented during the hearing, what was the perceived race of the defendant? Choose all that apply: Black/African American, Latine, Indigenous/American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian, White, Multi-racial/BIPOC/not white
- Based on your observation & information presented during the hearing, what was the gender identity of the defendant? Transgender Male, Cisgender Male, Transgender Female, Cisgender Female, Gender non-conforming (e.g. Nonbinary, Two Spirit)
- Did the defendant speak English? (Yes/No)
- Was the defendant deaf or hard-of-hearing? (Yes/No)
- If the defendant did not speak English, or was deaf or hard-of-hearing, was there a court interpreter present? (Yes/No)

Defendant's Case Information

- Defendant's Name, Case Number
- Is the defendant in custody? (Y/N)
- Was the defendant present in court? (Y/N)
- Did they have a bench warrant? (Y/N)
- Did the defendant get diversion? (Y/N)
- Did the defense make an argument related to the defendant's mental competence to stand trial? (Y/N)
- Did they plead guilty? (Y/N)
- Did the defendant enter a plea before being granted diversion? (Y/N - If yes, please explain.)
- What kind of charges is the defendant facing?
- What were the arguments for or against diversion?
- If there was a bench warrant, how old was the warrant?
- Did the prosecutor make specific arguments about whether there was probable cause to bring the charge(s)?

Bail

- Which category of release/review was the defendant assigned? Categories: CR (Cite &

Release) | BR (Book & Release) | MR (Magistrate Review) | Cash bail | Hold, no bail • Did the judge set bail as a condition of release? (Y/N)

- If the judge set bail, what was the dollar amount?
- Was the defendant able to afford to pay the bail or post bond? (Y/N)



- Did the judge consider the defendant's ability to pay (Humphrey)? (Y/N) • Did the judge provide an explanation for setting the bail to a specified dollar amount? (Y/N - if yes, please explain.)
- Was electronic monitoring imposed as a condition of pretrial release? (Y/N)
- Did the judge order preventative detention (no bail)? (Y/N)
- Were there other conditions of release imposed on the defendant? (examples include narcotics anonymous, anger management, stay away orders, etc.)
- Did the judge provide an explanation for why pretrial conditions of release were imposed? (Y/N - If yes, please explain.)
- What arguments did the defense make regarding bail and pretrial release? • What arguments did the prosecution make regarding bail and pretrial release?

Other Observations

- Was the defendant ordered to pay a fine or fee? (Y/N)
- If so, how much were they ordered to pay?
- If the defendant was ordered to pay court fines, fees, or restitution, was the defendant able to afford to pay it? (Y/N)
- Did the prosecutor waive fees for defendants who were unable to pay? (Y/N) • Did anyone in court mention the implementation of the new Los Angeles County bail schedule? (Y/N)
- Did the judge, prosecutor, or defense mention a risk assessment score? (Y/N - if yes, please explain.)
- Did the judge set a date for subsequent hearings? (Y/N) If yes, when?
- Did the judge, prosecutor, or defense mention making a reasonable accommodation for the defendant because of a disability? (Y/N - If yes, please explain.)
- If the defendant is deaf or hard of hearing, was there a delay or rescheduling because there was not an interpreter in court? (Y/N - if yes, please explain.)
- In your opinion, did the judge show bias towards anyone, including the person facing charges, on the basis of economic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status? (Y/N - please add context if possible.)
- In your opinion, did the judge show bias in favor of the prosecution or defense? (Y/N - If yes, please explain.)

Notes: Let us know any other important takeaways from the case you observed.