



Creating an Initial Appearance Court in Clark County, Nevada

*Lessons Learned from the Safety and Justice
Challenge*

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Contents

Acknowledgments	v
Creating an Initial Appearance Court in Clark County, Nevada	1
Case Study Methodology	3
Interviews	3
Document Review	4
Institute for State and Local Governance Data Analysis	4
Background on Clark County	4
Local Context	5
Jail Population Characteristics	6
Local Jail Population Reduction Efforts	10
The Initial Appearance Court	11
Goals	11
Cases	13
Judicial Oversight and Staffing Structure	14
The Court's Process and Release Decisions	14
Frequency and Scheduling	16
Volume and Capacity	17
Processing Speed and Legal Requirements	17
Pretrial Services	17
Partnerships and Collaboration	19
Changes to the Court's Workflow and Design	19
Implementation Challenges	21
High Case Volume and Rapid Turnaround Times	21
Consistency in the Use of Judicial Discretion	22
Keeping People Connected to Support After Release	23
Operational Challenges for Staffing and Scheduling	23
Perceived Impacts and Successes	24
Defendants Spend Less Time in Jail Before Seeing a Judge	24
Bail Determinations Are More Individualized	25
Defendants Can Be Connected to Services Early On	25
Interagency Collaboration Around the Court Is Strong	26
Lessons Learned	27
Conclusion	28
Notes	30

References	31
About the Authors	32
Statement of Independence	33

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Creating an Initial Appearance Court in Clark County, Nevada

In the United States in 2024, there were more than 7.9 million admissions to local jails (Zheng 2025). After a person is booked into jail following an arrest, they must have an initial court appearance where a judge decides whether to release them pretrial, informs them of their pending charges, and advises them of their rights (Magnuson et al. 2025).¹ Because the Constitution does not have specific requirements for initial court appearances, state laws differ on how quickly these appearances must occur after an arrest. Some states set specific deadlines, such as requiring that a person be seen by a judge within 24 or 48 hours, whereas others use more subjective standards, such as that a person be seen “without unnecessary delay” or “promptly.” Depending on what time of day an arrest occurs and whether it occurs on a weekend or holiday, the timeline for an initial appearance may be extended (NCSL 2023).

Despite their presumed innocence before trial, people can spend anywhere from a few hours to, in some jurisdictions, several weeks or even months in jail waiting for their initial appearance without having the opportunity to learn about their legal protections, meet with their lawyer, or be considered for pretrial release (Metzger et al. 2021). Even a day or two in jail can lead to significant consequences for individuals and families, including wage loss, job loss, eviction, property loss, legal debt, and child custody issues (Metzger et al. 2021).² A study of two pretrial programs in San Francisco found that 7 percent of people held in pretrial detention for one to three days and 30 percent of people held for four to seven days reported losing their jobs (Smith 2022).

There are notable racial disparities in the effects of pretrial detention on people’s lives. The same study of pretrial programs in San Francisco found that 64 percent of Black people who missed work because of pretrial detention lost their jobs, compared with 36 percent of white people, in part because of Black people’s longer average periods of detention. And the effects of pretrial detention on employment persist, with people who lost their jobs during detention reporting struggling to maintain stable employment immediately after release and three years later (Smith 2022).

People can lose public benefits like SNAP, TANF, and disability benefits because of prolonged pretrial detention and often have to reapply for them upon release, creating gaps in access to essential services (Bazon Center for Mental Health Law 2006). People held in pretrial detention receive less in tax-related public benefits, including earned income tax credit and unemployment insurance benefits,

than released defendants (Dobbie et al. 2018). Pretrial detention is also associated with a 420 percent greater likelihood of becoming homeless than being released during the pretrial period (Bergin et al. 2022). Because of arrest records and jail stays, landlords may deny rental applications, people may lose their public housing, and people's family members may refuse to let them stay with them. For parents, even short jail stays can result in changes in custody or their children being placed in the foster care system. And upon release, parents who were detained pretrial are less likely to be granted custody of their children from foster care (Holsinger and Holsinger 2018).

Delays in initial appearance can contribute to worse case outcomes owing to investigation delays, including delays in gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and processing forensic data. People who are held in pretrial detention for long periods are more likely to be convicted and to receive longer sentences (Metzger et al. 2021). Even short periods of pretrial detention are associated with higher recidivism rates (Holsinger and Holsinger 2018).

Although national-level data on initial appearance are limited, local data suggest a significant share of people accused of crimes are released upon initial appearance. For example, following bail reform in Cook County, Illinois, more than half of defendants were released pretrial without monetary bond (Stemen and Olson 2020).³ At a system level, long periods of pretrial detention before initial appearance contribute to high jail incarceration rates; speedy initial appearances can help reduce unnecessary jail time and save jurisdictions' financial resources.

Moreover, during or after an initial court appearance, prosecutors may decide not to file charges, such as for insufficient evidence, lack of cooperation from the victim, lack of probable cause, or procedural errors or rights violations by the police (Nicholson Goetz and Otis 2024). Prolonged pretrial detention before initial appearance thus subjects people who will never be convicted of a crime not only to jail time but to the social and economic collateral consequences of incarceration.

In almost half of jurisdictions, people attend their initial appearance without a lawyer present. When defense attorneys are involved in cases at early stages, they can meet with their client before their first hearing to answer questions and gather information about the client's circumstances and the case. These early-stage engagements enable attorneys to advocate for less restrictive pretrial release conditions (Justice System Partners 2025). Research suggests having defense attorneys involved before and during initial appearances can reduce the use of monetary bail, monetary bail amounts, the number of pretrial release conditions set, and the use of pretrial detention (Justice System Partners 2025; Morgan et al. 2024).

In 2018, to reduce its pretrial jail population and the amount of time defendants were spending in jail before seeing a judge (and thereby prevent disruptions to employment, housing, and family stability), Clark County, Nevada, designed and implemented the Initial Appearance Court, which provides defendants with timely access to judicial review of criminal charges and individualized bail hearings. In this case study, we describe the design and implementation of the Initial Appearance Court and discuss challenges, successes, and impacts perceived by criminal justice system stakeholders involved with the court and broader Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) efforts in Clark County. We conclude with recommendations and lessons learned from the Initial Appearance Court that may be helpful for other jurisdictions wanting to design and implement similar models.

Case Study Methodology

We drew on three key sources in developing this case study: semistructured interviews with stakeholders from Clark County involved in the Initial Appearance Court and SJC activities, documentation related to Clark County's SJC efforts, and jail population data collected from SJC sites by the Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG).

BOX 1

The Safety and Justice Challenge Implementation Case Studies

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation launched the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) in 2015 to address the misuse and overuse of jails, a main driver of incarceration in America. The network of cities, counties, and states participating in the SJC are working to rethink local justice systems with strategies that are intended to be data-driven, equity-focused, and community-informed, and that safely reduce jail populations, eliminate ineffective and unfair practices, and reduce racial disparities. This case study is part of a series that examines how SJC network jurisdictions that received significant, sustained grant investment in comprehensive system reform worked to change the way that they use jails, in order to provide practical insights to other localities seeking to realize similar reform ambitions.

Interviews

Between May and June 2025, we conducted one-hour virtual interviews with 12 stakeholders from Clark County who were involved in the Initial Appearance Court or broader SJC initiatives. These

stakeholders represented a diverse set of agencies, including Las Vegas Justice Court, the Clark County District Attorney's Office, county offices, the Clark County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), the Clark County Public Defender's Office, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Interviewees held leadership and professional roles including judges, public defenders, commissioners, and program administrators, with experience in their fields ranging from 8 months to 23 years.

In the interviews we gathered information on participants' professional backgrounds and roles related to the Initial Appearance Court and SJC initiatives in Clark County; local priorities and local challenges around reducing the jail population; the design, implementation, and operation of the Initial Appearance Court; perceptions of the court's effectiveness and impact; challenges, successes, and recommendations; and strategies for sustaining the court. Following data collection, we transcribed and uploaded the interviews to NVivo, a qualitative analysis software, where we conducted thematic analysis to identify patterns and trends in stakeholders' responses.

Document Review

We requested a range of materials related to the Initial Appearance Court and Clark County's SJC initiatives from the stakeholders we interviewed and the SJC. These materials included an administrative order from the Las Vegas Justice Court describing the policy used for releasing people on their own recognizance without a pretrial hearing. We also received documentation submitted by Clark County to the SJC, such as annual progress reports and funding proposals describing the goals and activities of Clark County's SJC work, including the Initial Appearance Court.

Institute for State and Local Governance Data Analysis

The Institute for State and Local Governance supplied cleaned and processed jail trend data for Clark County from November 2017 to October 2025. Using these data, we applied descriptive statistics to examine patterns in the county's jail population. Unless noted otherwise, all jail trend data for SJC sites were provided by ISLG.

Background on Clark County

Clark County is located in the southern part of Nevada and is the most populous county in the state, with a population of nearly 2.4 million. Las Vegas is the county's largest city and attracts millions of

tourists each year. In Clark County, 66 percent of the population is white, 14 percent is Black, 12 percent is Asian, and 33 percent identifies as Hispanic or Latino.⁴ Approximately 13 percent of residents live below the poverty level, higher than the national poverty rate of 10.6 percent (Census 2025). According to the latest point-in-time estimates, the county's homeless population recently reached a 10-year high of nearly 8,000 homeless residents.⁵

Local Context

As the home of Las Vegas, Clark County averages over 43 million tourists a year.⁶ Because of this, Clark County's criminal legal system regularly processes people who are not local residents. For people who do not live in the county, even short delays in initial appearance can create additional hardships like missed travel and difficulties returning to Clark County for future court dates, in addition to the employment and caregiving disruptions that affect all defendants, including locals. In addition, over the past several years, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the county has increased, and the adoption of ordinances that criminalize sleeping and camping in public places in both Clark County and the City of Las Vegas has contributed to increases in arrests among this population.⁷

A recurring and deeply rooted challenge in Clark County is the intersection of homelessness and criminal legal system involvement. Stakeholders we spoke with shared that many people without stable housing are incarcerated for low-level offenses such as trespassing or unsafe camping, which are often described as “crimes of necessity,” particularly in the resort corridor in Las Vegas, where informal communities of unhoused individuals have developed. One stakeholder highlighted the importance of identifying diversion options and alternatives to jail for these populations.

Stakeholders we spoke with viewed homelessness and housing instability as central drivers of pretrial detention in Clark County. People without stable housing face heightened barriers to meeting court obligations, which increases the likelihood of failures to appear and noncompliance with release conditions. These challenges intersect with limited access to behavioral health and substance use treatment in Clark County, creating a cycle where unmet needs lead to deeper involvement in the criminal legal system. When treatment options are scarce or difficult to access, people with complex needs remain in custody, even when community-based alternatives would be more appropriate.

The state of Nevada faces a severe affordable housing shortage: only 17 rental properties are considered affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level. Many neighborhoods throughout the state have enough rental properties for their populations, but they are often too expensive for low-income households. Despite

recent increases in the minimum wage, a worker making minimum wage would need to work 2.3 full-time jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent (a US Department of Housing and Urban Development benchmark for the cost of modest rental housing).⁸

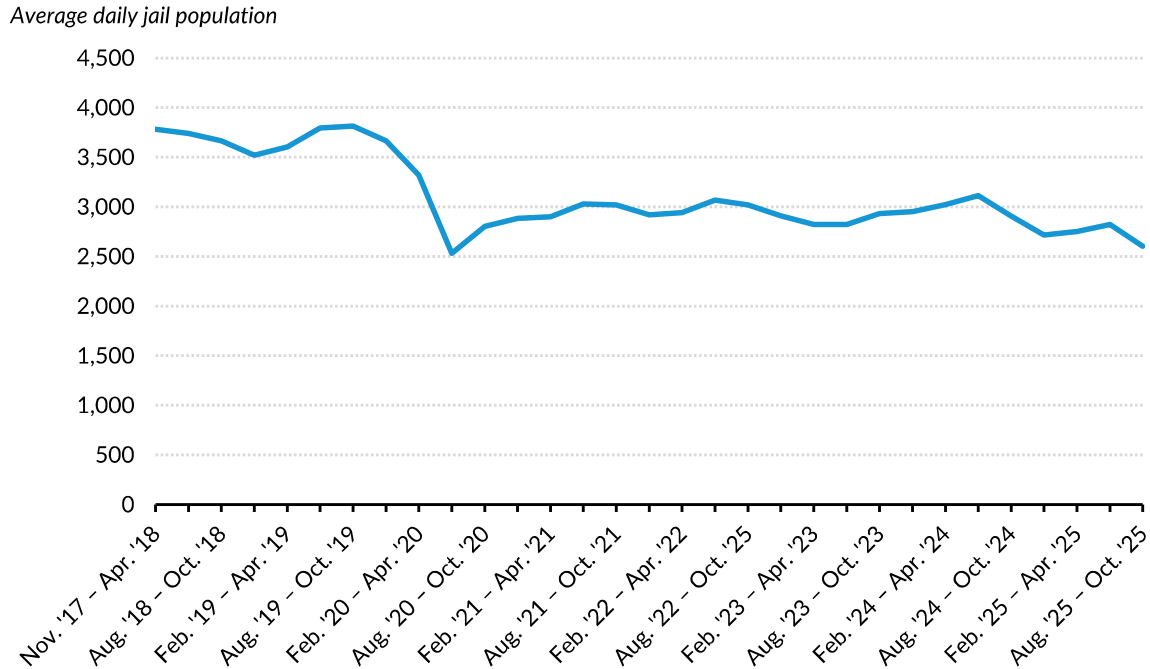
Moreover, despite recent reforms, systemic obstacles continue to prevent many defendants from securing pretrial release. Interviewees noted that courts and judges persist in using monetary bail and that their use of pretrial risk assessment tools is inconsistent. As stakeholders noted, even modest bail amounts are often unaffordable for defendants, particularly those experiencing homelessness, resulting in prolonged pretrial detention for low-level offenses.

Jail Population Characteristics

Below we present characteristics of the Clark County jail population, including its average daily population (ADP), average daily pretrial population, and jail bookings. Figure 1 shows Clark County's average daily jail population during its SJC participation. Since joining the SJC in 2017, Clark County has seen a 31 percent decline in its ADP. In 2017, the ADP was 3,780, and the latest data from ISLG show it fell to 2,603 by October 2025. The lowest ADP recorded for the county during the initiative was 2,531 in mid-2020, amid the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIGURE 1
Clark County's Average Daily Jail Population Fell 31 Percent During Its Safety and Justice Challenge Participation

November 2017–October 2025



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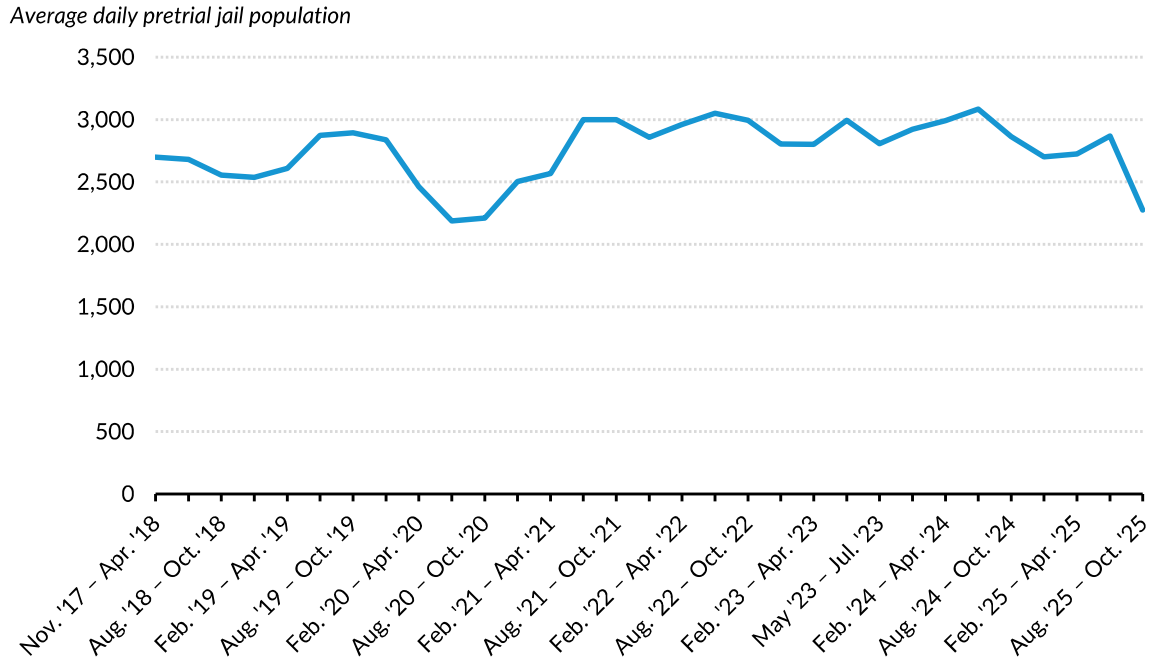
Source: Analysis by the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance. Data were shared by ISLG with the Urban research team; not publicly available.

Figure 2 shows the average daily pretrial jail population. As of October 2025, 87 percent of the county's jail population was being held pretrial. At the start of the SJC, its pretrial jail population was 2,700, and it had fallen to 2,276 as of October 2025. This 16 percent decline is lower than the decline in the overall jail population.

FIGURE 2

Clark County's Average Daily Pretrial Jail Population Fell 16 Percent During Its SJC Participation

November 2017–October 2025



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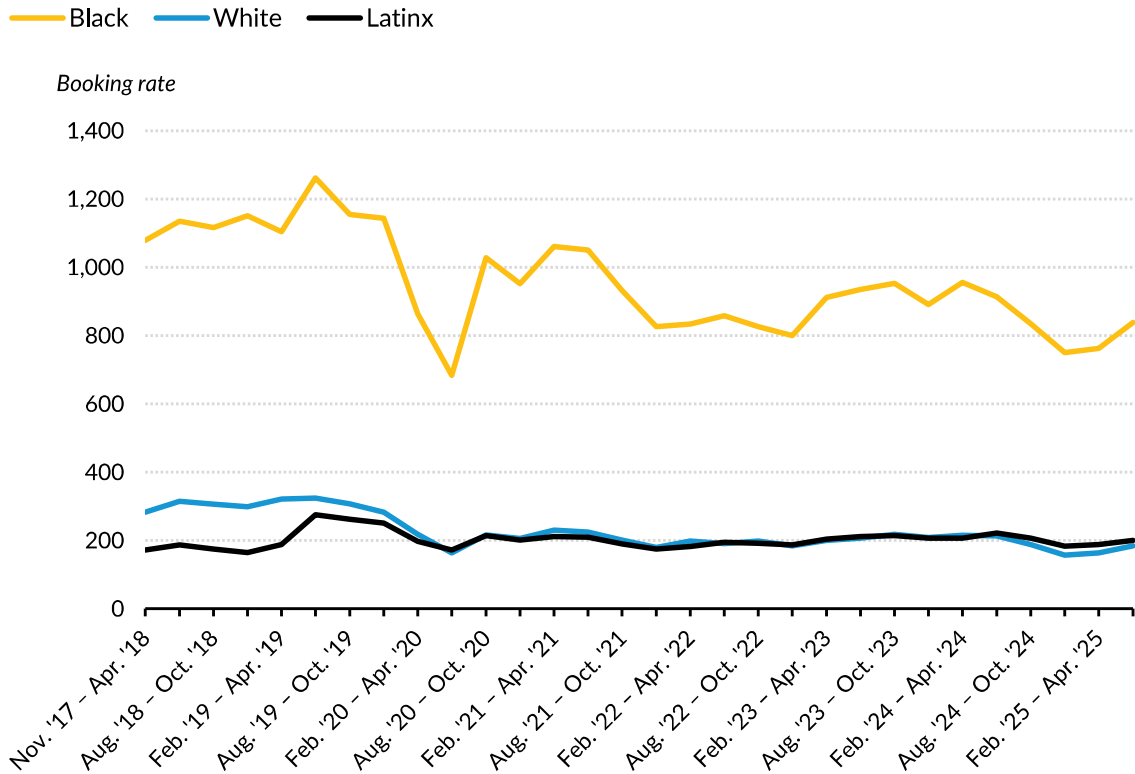
Source: Analysis by the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance. Data were shared by ISLG with the Urban research team; not publicly available.

There are racial disparities in Clark County's booking rates, with Black people booked at almost four times the rate of white people (figure 3). Across all racial groups, the county's booking rates fluctuated during the initiative, and the most sizable decline since 2017 was among Black people, whose booking rate fell by 22 percent.

FIGURE 3

Clark County's Jail Booking Rates Fell Most Among Black People During Its Safety and Justice Challenge Participation

November 2017–October 2025



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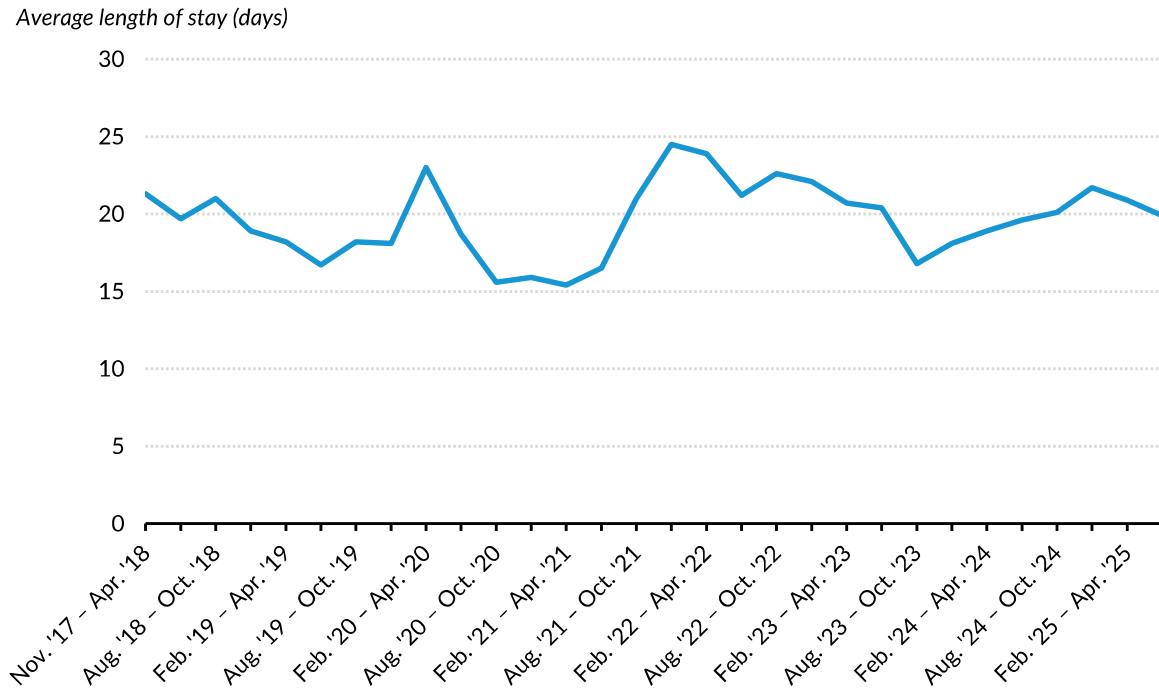
Source: Analysis by the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance. Data were shared by ISLG with the Urban research team; not publicly available.

When Clark County joined the Safety and Justice Challenge, pretrial detention and long jail stays were main drivers of its jail population. In 2017, 16 percent of low- and moderate-risk defendants in the county were held in the jail for longer than three days, spending an average of 58 days in custody. Almost 8 percent of defendants detained pretrial remained in custody for over a year. At that time, many people held in the Clark County jail suffered from substance abuse disorders and/or mental illness, with an estimated 35 percent of the jail population on medication for mental illness.⁹ Figure 4 shows the trends in the average length of stay during Clark County's SJC involvement. From 2017 to 2025, the county saw a 9 percent decline in the average length of stay.

FIGURE 4

Clark County's Average Length of Stay in Jail Declined 9 Percent During Its Safety and Justice Challenge Participation

November 2017–October 2025



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Source: Analysis by the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance. Data were shared by ISLG with the Urban research team; not publicly available.

Local Jail Population Reduction Efforts

During its Safety and Justice Challenge involvement, Clark County implemented a number of criminal legal system reforms designed to improve equity and strengthen public safety. These included several strategies to improve case processing for pretrial defendants, such as the following:

- introducing a new prosecutor case screening process
- hiring staff to process video evidence in the district attorney's office to reduce backlogs and expedite the delivery of discovery for in-custody cases
- placing a social worker in the jail to help defendants understand the pretrial release conditions imposed at initial appearance and reduce noncompliance with those conditions

- hiring a social worker in the Clark County Public Defender's Office to assess clients and develop case plans
- adopting a policy in the district court requiring probation violations to be reviewed within 10 days of filing to expedite processing of probation violations
- implementing graduated sanctions in the probation department to help reduce the number of sanctions applied
- creating a CJCC director position to help lead the county's criminal legal system initiatives
- conducting an evaluation of the CJCC

In addition, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the county implemented the Walk Through Booking Process with Needs Assessment and Outreach, which was designed to engage people who were frequently cycling in and out of the jail at booking and assess their needs. If someone was eligible for release, they were connected with community-based services based on their needs to expedite their timely release and improve their likelihood of success in the community.

The Initial Appearance Court

Created in 2018 in Clark County as a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council initiative, the Initial Appearance Court serves as the first point of judicial review following arrest and ensures everyone arrested is brought before a judge within 24 hours. The court is held twice a day, seven days a week, including holidays. It was created to minimize case delays resulting in continuances, limit the time people spend in pretrial detention before a judge makes a pretrial release or bail determination, and streamline case processing. Before it was created, judges conducted probable cause reviews in chambers and defendants could spend up to 72 hours in jail before their initial appearance, and prosecutorial screenings only happened during weekdays. Probable cause reviews now occur during initial appearance in open court with district attorneys, public defenders, and defendants present, and prosecutorial screenings occur before each initial appearance court session.

Goals

According to stakeholders the Initial Appearance Court has three goals: help defendants get timely access to justice, improve efficiency and reduce the jail population while maintaining community safety, and ensure defendants appear in court.

Bringing people before a judge as quickly as possible following their arrest to assess individual detention and release considerations is the primary purpose of the court. Lengthy periods between arrest and initial appearance can significantly affect people's lives, as one stakeholder described:

“A lot of clients who have to end up staying in custody due to the fact that they are either detained or they have a bail that they can't afford have significant collateral consequences to their life. Losing a job, maybe missing a rent payment, missing a mortgage payment, there are so many things that can happen from just missing a couple of days of work or maybe losing your children because you can't care for them, or you don't have any family members that can care for them. It is really essential to try to get people back to their everyday lives.”

Another core part of ensuring equitable and speedy access to justice for defendants is ensuring all defendants have access to public defenders during their initial hearings. Stakeholders described this as a key consideration when the Initial Appearance Court was being designed. As one stakeholder noted, “When you walk into initial appearance court, a lot of times clients do not know what’s going on at all. It was critical that the public defender was available to everybody.” Having public defenders present during initial appearance can improve case outcomes for defendants and reduce uncertainty about the legal process.

During the design of the Initial Appearance Court, CJCC members sought to make Clark County's criminal legal system more efficient by minimizing the unnecessary use of jail, particularly in cases where community safety could be maintained through alternative measures. Central to this objective was reducing avoidable pretrial detention, thereby contributing to a safe and responsible reduction in the jail population. One stakeholder described this goal:

“I think the intended outcomes are to be able to keep the people in jail that need to be in jail, and then release the people that are at a higher probability of returning back to court, and/or have a lower risk to public safety. By doing that, you can reduce the jail population and help to move people more quickly through the system.”

In addition to reducing the consequences of jail incarceration for people's day-to-day lives and long-term stability, reducing the jail population saves taxpayers money, which according to stakeholders is another goal of the Initial Appearance Court.

Lastly, stakeholders noted the need to balance the above goals with ensuring people make it to their court appearances. Judges' use of various pretrial conditions and careful assessment of release considerations during initial appearance can improve future court appearance rates while avoiding unnecessary use of pretrial jail time.

Cases

Clark County's Initial Appearance Court handles nearly all types of criminal charges, from misdemeanors to felonies, except for more serious crimes, such as murder, which are referred to a specialized homicide team in the district attorney's office. In 2023 the Eighth Amended Administrative Order 18-04 went into effect, authorizing Las Vegas Justice Court Pre-Trial Services to release eligible individuals on their own recognizance without an initial hearing when statutory and risk-based criteria are met, using the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment (NPRA). Most misdemeanors qualify, with domestic violence, DUI with prior offenses, and protection-order violations excluded. People charged with nonviolent gross misdemeanors and felonies may be released only if they score as low risk on the NPRA, while people charged with certain drug and fraud offenses may be released if they score as low or moderate risk. Own-recognizance release is prohibited for serious crimes (e.g., category A felonies, firearms, sexual offenses, attempted murder) and for people with active cases, warrants, or supervision status. Cases that require more judicial review are assigned to the Initial Appearance Court. Stakeholders shared that most people arrested for misdemeanors are released under Administrative Order 18-04, meaning they are released from police custody without ever being assigned to the Initial Appearance Court.

Stakeholders said relatively few cases are denied at the Initial Appearance Court, and that the number differs depending on the scheduled cases. The main reason is that the district attorney's office screens and determines the strength of each case before an Initial Appearance Court hearing. Each day, following these screenings, the state provides a list of which cases they are dropping, and those individuals are released from custody. The district attorney's office also provides a list of cases for which they are requesting more time to gather evidence before proceeding with charges; those individuals are also released until the district attorney decides to file charges. As one stakeholder described,

“Prior to Initial Appearance Court, clients would sit for days before knowing what was happening, and ... sometimes, their cases ended up being denied. It was just unnecessary to keep them that long.”

The case screening process before initial appearance, combined with the 24-window for the hearing to take place, helps prevent people from spending a long time in jail only to have their cases denied.

Some stakeholders had observed variation in case denials before the Initial Appearance Court, which could reflect differences in interpretation or application of screening criteria. This suggests that

discretionary decisionmaking at the screening stage may contribute to differences in case outcomes and pretrial detention experiences for individuals with similar cases.

Judicial Oversight and Staffing Structure

The Initial Appearance Court is staffed by elected justices of the peace Monday through Thursday and by appointed commissioners (previously referred to as hearing masters) Friday through Sunday. This staffing model ensures continuous judicial oversight while balancing workloads across the week. The commissioners work four 10-hour shifts, covering Friday through Monday, while the justices of the peace work Tuesday through Thursday. This rotation allows the court to maintain its 365-day schedule without overburdening individual judicial officers and ensures staff are available to conduct hearings.

The court also includes a full team of legal and corrections professionals. Present at each session are public defenders, district attorneys, court staff, pretrial services staff, marshals, and corrections officers. The presence of a public defender is especially important, as it ensures defendants do not stand alone and that additional context can be provided to the court beyond what pretrial services may have gathered.

The Court's Process and Release Decisions

The Initial Appearance Court process has three parts: pretrial services collects information about the defendant, the district attorney's office screens the case and determines whether to charge, and the judge reviews the case for probable cause incorporating risk assessment scores.

Pretrial services first determines whether people who have been arrested and taken into police custody qualify for administrative release or must appear in Initial Appearance Court. They do this by interviewing them, reviewing the temporary custody orders from the jail, collecting financial affidavits, and administering the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment.

Before each session the district attorney's office reviews the arrest report and any related evidence for each case and determines whether to proceed with the initial appearance for that case. This helps prevent weak cases from entering the system. During the Initial Appearance Court session, the judge conducts a probable cause review to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to certify the charges. If no probable cause is found, the judge will announce that on the record and explain to the person that they are being released.

If probable cause is found, the judge will move forward with hearing bail arguments from the prosecution and defense, which will inform decisions about release. These arguments are based on information collected by pretrial services, which includes the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment scores.

Created in 2015, the NPRA is an evidence-based instrument used to evaluate defendants' risk of failing to appear and recidivating and thereby inform pretrial release decisions. Its primary purpose is to ensure judges are making release decisions that will lead to fair and consistent outcomes (Austin and Allen 2016). The tool considers several factors to produce a person's risk score, such as pending pretrial cases, age at first arrest, prior misdemeanor, felony, or violent arrests, failures to appear in the past 24 months, employment and housing status, substance use history, and whether they have a verified cell phone. Based on these factors, the tool produces a score for individual level of risk. The lower the score, the less risk a person is assessed to have.

Stakeholders in Clark County said the NPRA is widely acknowledged as a guidance tool rather than a definitive decisionmaker about release conditions. Judges use it alongside other information, such as the allegations in the arrest reports, prosecutorial input, and information from pretrial services' interviews with defendants. Stakeholders believe the NPRA has shifted the landscape of pretrial advocacy, especially in arguments against monetary bail, which is a driving factor in pretrial detention, as a defendant's financial circumstances may prevent them from posting bail. One stakeholder said that "when you have a low pretrial risk assessment score, you have an opportunity to really hammer why that person should be released ... without monetary bail."

The stakeholders we spoke with expressed concern about the limitations of the NPRA. For example, when someone who has been arrested for an alleged offense is unavailable or refuses to be interviewed, there may not be enough information about them to produce an accurate score, which can affect a judge's release decision. One stakeholder explained that "this information isn't always 100 percent accurate because some of the information has to be provided by the client.... Sometimes the clients refuse. Sometimes the clients are in disciplinary holding cells."

Others said the NPRA scores can be misleading, especially in cases involving serious charges or long gaps in criminal histories owing to incarceration. One stakeholder explained this issue with reference to one case, underscoring that the NPRA score must be considered alongside additional context: "They went to prison for 10 years ... they're fresh out of prison, and they're showing a low risk. They have no criminal record other than they're being charged now with some very significant charges against minors."

Concerns were raised about potential bias in the NPRA, especially regarding socioeconomic status. For example, one stakeholder explained that the NPRA treated cell phone ownership as a predictor of whether a person would appear at their next court hearing: “There was a point when whether the person had a cell phone or not garnered certain points ... it was determined it's not fair because a person that is indigent ... shouldn't be penalized.”

Another stakeholder reflected on the historical overpolicing of certain communities in Clark County and how that may affect a person's arrest history and NPRA score: “A lot of communities have heavier policing ... that can elevate somebody's arrest history even though charges were not ultimately filed.”

In addition to the NPRA score, courts must follow relevant Nevada Revised Statutes when setting bail amounts that defendants cannot afford, resulting in pretrial detention. *Valdez-Jimenez v. Eighth Judicial District Court* was a turning point in shaping bail amounts, hearing standards, and timelines. The case addressed whether bail set above a defendant's ability to pay, resulting in pretrial detention, violated due process. The Nevada Supreme Court clarified that bail may only be imposed where it is necessary to reasonably ensure the defendant's appearance at court proceedings or to reasonably protect the community. If a defendant remains in custody after arrest, they are (1) entitled to an individualized hearing, where (2) the State must prove by clear and convincing evidence that bail, rather than less restrictive conditions, is necessary to ensure the defendant's appearance at future court proceedings or to protect the safety of the community, and (3) the district court must also state its findings and reasons for the bail decision on the record. This case reinforced the importance of timely hearings for bail.

“If a person sits in jail over 48 hours, the rest of their life can start going downhill ... it can be a snowball/domino effect.”

—Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

Frequency and Scheduling

The Las Vegas Justice Court Initial Appearance Court operates twice daily year-round, including weekends and holidays. This level of consistency is a defining feature of the court's design and is considered unique in Nevada according to the stakeholders we spoke with. Even on major holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, the court typically holds at least one session unless case volume is too low. This uninterrupted schedule ensures prompt processing of arrests, eliminating delays that were common before the court was created.

Sessions occur at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and which one defendants attend depends on their booking time: defendants booked between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. appear in the morning; those booked between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. are scheduled for the afternoon. This system ensures defendants are processed efficiently and within statutory time frames, while balancing the caseload across both sessions. Although the afternoon sessions occasionally extend beyond traditional working hours, they typically remain within the bounds of the workday.

The Initial Appearance Court is physically connected to the jail and is located in the Regional Justice Center, which houses Las Vegas Justice Court departments. This enables efficient transfer of defendants from the jail to court, which minimizes delays in initial appearances.

Volume and Capacity

The Initial Appearance Court manages a high volume of cases daily, with the morning session capped at approximately 30 to 40 people. Once the morning cap is reached, overflow defendants are moved to the uncapped afternoon session, ensuring they are still seen the same day. This design prevents delays and avoids pushing cases to the next day, which was a common issue before the Initial Appearance Court was created.

Processing Speed and Legal Requirements

Defendants are typically seen within 8 to 24 hours of arrest, which is significantly faster than the 48-hour requirement mandated by Nevada law. The Initial Appearance Court's design ensures people are not held unnecessarily, reducing the time they spend in pretrial detention and minimizing disruptions to their personal lives. The system also allows for individualized bail hearings to occur quickly.

“We are unique in Clark County where we are seeing people within 12 to 24 hours and they're having a meaningful pretrial release hearing.”

—Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

Pretrial Services

Depending on the court's decisions on bail and release, judges in Clark County order defendants to a variety of pretrial services at Initial Appearance Court. Some may be released on their own recognizance, either because of the judge's discretion in the case or an applicable administrative order requiring their release. Others may be required to post surety bond or cash bail to be released. For

people who are released without posting bail, Clark County has several services for pretrial support and compliance that are assigned individually or in combination based on a person’s risk profile. The first level of services is the Pretrial Compliance Unit (PCU), which is a tiered pretrial program administered by court compliance officers (CCOs) who work in the Pretrial Services Division. This unit provides different levels of monitoring based on need (table 1).

TABLE 1
Levels of Monitoring in the Clark County Pretrial Compliance Unit

	Check-ins (app or in-person)	Compliance mechanism
Level 1	Monthly: 1 scheduled per month	AIR Check-In app
Level 2	Biweekly: 1 scheduled, 1 random per month	AIR Check-In app or AIR mobile phone
Level 3	Weekly: 2 scheduled, 2 random per month	AIR Check-In app or AIR mobile phone
Level 4	Weekly: 2 scheduled, 2 random per month	AIR mobile phone + AIR Connect, Bluetooth AIR GPS monitoring

Sources: Stakeholder interviews; “Pretrial Services,” Las Vegas Justice Court, accessed February 23, 2026, https://www.lasvegasjusticecourt.us/divisions/pretrial_services/index.php.

Note: AIR = Alternative Incarceration Resources.

If people ordered to the PCU do not have phones, court compliance officers issue them one so they can receive court date reminders and check in with the Pretrial Services Division using the Alternative Incarceration Resources (AIR) Check-In app. In addition to the requirements shown in table 1, all defendants ordered to the PCU are required to report to it within 48 hours of release. They are also required to check in with the PCU after each court hearing. During these check-ins, a person’s location can be determined by the Pretrial Services Division.¹⁰

Judges may assign higher-risk defendants to Clark County’s electronic monitoring program, which is run by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. For lower-risk defendants, the higher levels of the PCU program have replaced low-level monitoring that was previously provided by the police department. The medium level of electronic monitoring requires defendants to wear an ankle monitor at all times, but they are otherwise allowed to continue their daily routines. Defendants at this level may also be assigned a curfew. The high level of electronic monitoring places more significant restrictions on people’s movements. Defendants under this level of supervision are required to stay in their residence at all times when not attending work, doctors’ appointments, or meetings with their lawyers.¹¹

Beyond the PCU and electronic monitoring requirements, a judge may impose additional special conditions based on the circumstances of the case. For example, they may order a defendant to avoid making contact with an alleged victim, going to the location of the alleged crime, or consuming drugs or alcohol. Defendants may also be ordered to additional services, such as SCRAM, an external provider offering drug and alcohol monitoring.

Court compliance officers monitor defendants released on the PCU's activities across all of these pretrial services. If someone is found to be in violation of the conditions of their release, the officers can put the case back on the calendar for the judge to review the violations and reassess conditions.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The implementation of the Initial Appearance Court has required collaboration between stakeholders across Clark County's criminal legal system. Particularly important has been the community navigators team, a branch of Clark County's Social Services Department. When defendants are released from pretrial detention, they meet with community navigators who can then connect them with resources related to transitional and long-term housing, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment. Navigators also work with external partners (such as Vegas Stronger, an organization providing medically assisted substance use treatment) to provide warm handoffs to services defendants may need.

Changes to the Court's Workflow and Design

The implementation of the Initial Appearance Court resulted in several changes to the court's workflow, including to staffing and scheduling, court processes, and the original court design.

Staffing and Scheduling

The court shifted from a standard five-day-a-week schedule to a seven-day-a-week schedule with hearings held twice a day. This required clerks, judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and other staff to adapt to weekend schedules and extended hours. Initially, this transition was met with some hesitancy, as limited staffing resulted in some having to work overtime. Early implementation of the court also involved deciding whether to take some judges away from their regular criminal calendars to staff the court. When this decision was made, court staff had to find pro tempore judges to cover the other court schedules. But the county's support for the Initial Appearance Court eventually enabled them to hire additional permanent staff for the court, which made later implementation much

more efficient and meant fewer staff needed to work long hours. One stakeholder noted that as initial appearance courts began being implemented in courts outside of the Las Vegas Justice Court and North Las Vegas Justice Court, many neighboring small counties faced even more difficulty ensuring defendants were seen by a judge within 48 hours.

“We have Las Vegas Clark County, which is very central, very high density, but we have lots of rural areas that use the same core system. Having them in a small town work on weekends and on Fridays was very difficult for them. They have it right now but that was a burden for them because ... they have a part-time judge and a part-time clerk ... and they just were not prepared to deal with this 24-hour turnaround.”

—Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

It is therefore important for jurisdictions looking to implement similar initial appearance court models to consider their staffing constraints and proximity to available pro tempore judges when determining how frequently hearings can realistically be held.

Court Processes

Implementing the Initial Appearance Court in Clark County also necessitated process changes. More detailed planning and completing case reviews electronically, rather than on paper, ensured that judges and staff were where they needed to be for initial appearance court. Agencies also had to change how they processed bookings and paperwork: stakeholders had to prioritize getting required documents to the court before court sessions for defendants who would be seen by a judge during those sessions. Before launching the court, stakeholders also had to decide whether the hearings would be open to the public, ultimately deciding they would be. It took a while to make all of these decisions and for people to adjust to the changes that came with the court.

During early implementation, the court and the police department needed to adapt to better coordinate transporting defendants to court. For the police department, this required keeping defendants in a central location until after the hearing.

Clark County took steps to streamline the Initial Appearance Court process after initial implementation. When the program first started, all misdemeanors went in front of the court. But stakeholders realized that releasing people arrested for low-level misdemeanors and asking them to come back to the court later would ensure efficient use of Initial Appearance Court resources without reducing public safety. Another small tweak that improved efficiency was having judges read their custody determinations on the record instead of requiring them to fill out a form with the information.

Broader system changes have also affected how the Initial Appearance Court operates. And the criteria for administrative own-recognition releases have also changed, increasing the number of people released upon initial appearance and the number bypassing the court entirely. In addition, Clark County recently replaced its Intensive Supervision Unit with the Pretrial Compliance Unit; the former required defendants to scan their hands at the jail periodically and put significantly more burden on defendants than the current system.

Implementation Challenges

Challenges with the Initial Appearance Court model that stakeholders shared include the high volume of cases and rapid turnaround times, the role of judicial discretion, keeping people connected to support after their release, and operational considerations related to staffing and scheduling the court.

High Case Volume and Rapid Turnaround Times

Large caseloads and compressed timelines are a primary operational challenge for the Initial Appearance Court model in Clark County. The court's design emphasizes efficiency, but stakeholders said it comes at a cost because there is limited time to gather and review critical information about defendants and their alleged offenses before making custody and release decisions. As one stakeholder explained, "At times, the challenge is simply the volume of cases. There are occasions when 20, 30, or even 40 individuals appear on an initial appearance calendar, leaving only a matter of hours to review each case and make informed decisions that impact both the individuals involved and the broader community."

This emphasis on speed creates practical challenges for attorneys, prosecutors, and judges. Large daily dockets reduce the time available for defense counsel to interview clients, for prosecutors to verify facts, and for magistrates to review arrest reports and background checks. When judges must pause mid-session to read multipage arrest reports, the entire calendar for the court session slows down. For example, one stakeholder explained that "if I have to stop on four of them and read the arrest report, which sometimes is multipages, so I can then have a robust pretrial release hearing, it delays things."

Rapid turnaround times can result in incomplete information being considered at the initial appearance stage, particularly when police arrest reports or body camera footage are submitted late or background information about defendants is not available to inform the Nevada Pretrial Risk

Assessment. Defendants being absent for medical, processing, or behavioral reasons further complicates scheduling, as individualized hearings must be rescheduled without creating backlog.

Although stakeholders praised the Initial Appearance Court's ability to accelerate access to a judge, they acknowledged that speed introduces tradeoffs that must be managed carefully to ensure fair and accurate pretrial decisionmaking.

Consistency in the Use of Judicial Discretion

While the Initial Appearance Court model standardizes the pretrial process and the amount of time until a defendant can appear before a judge, stakeholders noted that outcomes for pretrial detention or release and bail determinations can differ widely depending on which judge is presiding. As one stakeholder explained, "I have concerns and worry about consistency. We do have one judge that will be down there in IA court, and it's usually for a year or two, but you see different judges' philosophies come in."

This rotation of judges, often on one- to two-year assignments, comes with variability in how they approach decisions, with some judges applying more restrictive standards and others more inclined toward release. Even seemingly small shifts in judicial decisionmaking patterns can produce downstream systemwide impacts given Clark County's high case volume. As another stakeholder framed the issue, "You want a fair and balanced judge in there because if you just have a judge that's putting bail on everybody, what are we doing?"

Stakeholders also reported that the recommendations from the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment tool are not consistently used or heeded by judges. One stakeholder suggested introducing a process to ensure accountability in decisionmaking: "If you are going to give the judges a tool that they're going to look at, then maybe if the recommendation is consistent based on the numbers and based on the evidence and based on the data, then we can start figuring out whether we are really following those recommendations or not."

Stakeholders expressed concern that inconsistency in judicial decisionmaking, particularly when judges rotate through the Initial Appearance Court, compromises fairness and undermines the reliability of the risk assessment tool. While the Initial Appearance Court was designed to promote speed and individualized decisions, stakeholders questioned whether these goals were consistently realized across judges with differing philosophies on pretrial detention, release, and bail determinations. Clark County has not implemented mechanisms for monitoring consistency in judicial

pretrial decisionmaking, with some stakeholders suggesting that stronger oversight and clearer expectations for judicial practice are needed to ensure the Initial Appearance Court fulfills its mission.

It is important to note that balancing consistency and individualized decisionmaking requires clear, evidence-based guidelines that promote equitable treatment while preserving flexibility for case-specific factors. Standardized tools and statutory criteria help ensure that similarly situated defendants receive comparable outcomes, whereas judicial discretion allows consideration of unique circumstances that may warrant tailored release decisions.

Keeping People Connected to Support After Release

While the Initial Appearance Court accelerates release decisions for some defendants, many may leave custody without ongoing supports or legal representation. One stakeholder expressed concern that for “clients who may get out of custody ... I’m worried that they have no resources once they’re out.” Public defenders are provisionally appointed during Initial Appearance Court but are often removed from the case afterward, leaving a period when defendants may lack legal counsel and a pathway to supports.

Stakeholders saw potential value in embedding social workers in the Initial Appearance Court to connect people to long-term support related to housing, substance use treatment, or other services, but acknowledged resource constraints. The limited stabilizing services for defendants postrelease beyond the Initial Appearance Court’s offerings have potential consequences for people who need additional supports to ensure they appear at their next court hearing. Without early linkage to supports, such as housing or transportation, defendants face a higher risk of noncompliance with release conditions, which may lead to pretrial detention even after a judge has granted pretrial release.

Operational Challenges for Staffing and Scheduling

Respondents repeatedly identified staffing and scheduling as major operational challenges for the Initial Appearance Court. The court’s design, involving high-volume dockets, seven-day coverage, and rapid turnaround times, creates heavy demand on staff and strains coordination across jurisdictions. Stakeholders frequently mentioned staffing shortages and capacity constraints, particularly in rural areas of the county that struggle to match urban resource levels.

“One of the challenges I think for us has just been making sure that we have it staffed ... hearings occur seven days a week, every day of the year, including holidays.”

—Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

Some offices have adopted four 10-hour shifts to ensure sufficient staff coverage while others have hired juridical commissioners for weekends and created on-call rotations for judges. In addition, court personnel are unionized, and the process of staffing the Initial Appearance Court required months of negotiation and adaptation.

Cross-jurisdiction coordination adds another layer of difficulty. For courts sharing remote or virtual initial appearance coverage, such as North Las Vegas and Henderson, synchronizing availability among judges, prosecutors, and public defenders was a recurring challenge.

Perceived Impacts and Successes

Stakeholders shared a number of perceived impacts and successes associated with the implementation of the Initial Appearance Court, including the rapid access to a judge after arrest that it provides defendants, its individualized bail determinations, the opportunities it provides for early linkage to services, and strengthened interagency collaboration.

Defendants Spend Less Time in Jail Before Seeing a Judge

The Initial Appearance Court has dramatically reduced the time people spend in jail before seeing a judge. Previously, people arrested late in the week could wait up to five days for judicial review of their case in a court hearing, leading to serious disruptions to employment, housing, and family responsibilities.

“If somebody has a fragile living situation or is contingent on a job, and even a couple of days of missed wages—that can be very destabilizing for people.”

—Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

Now, many are released within hours, preserving their stability and preventing the cascading harm of short jail stays. The Initial Appearance Court streamlined judicial review, which made the system more efficient and balanced workloads: the court’s rhythm and staffing changes (for example, moving some staff to four 10-hour schedules) helped practitioners manage dockets and reduced downstream burdens, allowing them to resolve initial custody questions promptly and move on to subsequent responsibilities.

Bail Determinations Are More Individualized

Stakeholders consistently highlighted how the Initial Appearance Court enabled more individualized custody and bail decisions. Rather than defaulting to preset bail schedules, the court created a process where judges can consider case-specific factors early in a case. This also allows for additional context when making decisions about how release could affect community safety. As one stakeholder explained,

“Getting out ... as quickly as possible, is of course helping with ... barriers that people are facing. Naturally speaking, those are going to be success stories It's not always just about getting folks out, but it's keeping folks in that should stay in and having that community safety and those individualized custody determination hearings happening more quickly where individualized bail is set instead of just standard bail, I think those are all great things that are now happening.”

This expedited timeline forces early assessment of each defendant's circumstances, such as criminal history, flight risk, ties to community, housing, and behavioral health. Judges can therefore impose conditions tailored to the individual rather than applying a one-size-fits-all bail amount. One stakeholder explained, “These teams provide judges with timely, collated information—such as NPRA responses, housing status, and mental health indicators—so custody decisions can incorporate noncustodial supports like supervised release or service referrals.” This approach ensures that those who pose minimal risk are released promptly, while those who need to be detained are assessed with more nuance.

In sum, faster, individualized custody determinations lead to fewer unnecessary days in jail for those who can be safely released with the supports they need, more appropriate detention for those posing higher risk, and earlier linkage to services that reduce recidivism. As one respondent summarized, the Initial Appearance Court's success lies in “having that community safety and those individualized custody determination hearings happening more quickly where individualized bail is set instead of just standard bail.”

Defendants Can Be Connected to Services Early On

The fast pace of the Initial Appearance Court can leave defendants confused about their release conditions. Embedding court compliance officers directly in the courtroom has helped bridge this gap. And the court creates a brief but critical window to identify needs that inform custody or release planning. For example, the stakeholders we spoke with described how the intake process flags defendants' immediate needs and challenges.

“We are starting to look at identifying people that need more support when they’re in that jail initially If the defendant says on the [Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment], ‘I’m homeless,’ now we’re getting somebody in the jail that says, ‘Okay, let’s go get that person on the housing queue.’”

–Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

This proactive approach not only informs judicial decisions about release but serves as an opportunity to connect defendants to services that can help stabilize them in the near term postrelease.

Interagency Collaboration Around the Court Is Strong

The stakeholders we spoke with repeatedly highlighted collaboration as a cornerstone of the Initial Appearance Court’s success in Clark County. More specifically, they attributed its success to early and ongoing coordination among multiple entities, including county officials, prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, judges, jail administrators, and law enforcement.

“We brought all the stakeholders together; we brought the county government, the county officials that hold the purse strings, public defenders, private lawyers, prosecutors, judges, jail people, obviously the police The collaborative effort is what made this come about.”

–Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

Clark County’s Criminal Justice Coordinating Council played a pivotal role in formalizing these partnerships and offered stakeholders regular opportunities to meet to discuss the design and implementation of the Initial Appearance Court and Clark County’s other SJC reform efforts.

“I think that was the first major success of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. We’ve kept on riding that success for a long time and it gives us hope like when we start new projects. It’s good because it’s a good place for all the justice stakeholders to come together and work on things.”

–Stakeholder from Clark County, Nevada

The benefits of these relationships extended beyond the routine operations of the Initial Appearance Court to established direct connections across agencies that help defense attorneys address their clients’ urgent needs. One defense attorney shared,

“I had a client who needed to be out. He was in jail and I needed to get a temporary release so that he could go see his mom who was on her deathbed and I was able to accomplish that

because I knew who to call and who to talk to. I just don't know that a decade ago I would've been able to make that happen."

This example illustrates how strengthened collaborations paved the way for direct relationships that shortened decision chains and enabled rapid responses that would have been far more difficult under the previously siloed partnerships.

Lessons Learned

Throughout the development and implementation of the Initial Appearance Court, Clark County has learned valuable lessons from its efforts to accelerate access to judicial review and reduce the pretrial jail population. We discuss four key lessons below.

Timely judicial review can maintain defendants' stability and reduce jail populations. The Initial Appearance Court model reduced the time people spent in jail after arrest before seeing a judge from several days to within 24 hours, which is faster than Nevada's 48-hour mandate. This expedited review helps prevent collateral consequences of pretrial detention, such as disruptions to employment, housing, and family stability. Clark County made intentional design choices during the development of the Initial Appearance Court to make this possible. For example, the model incorporated sufficient court staffing for weekend and holiday coverage, morning and afternoon dockets aligned with jail booking windows, and physical proximity to the jail to accelerate access to a judge within 24 hours of arrest. Rapid access to a judge can reduce the pretrial jail population because it provides an opportunity early in a person's case to identify whether they can be safely released into the community while awaiting trial or whether they should remain in pretrial detention.

Judicial discretion matters. Despite a standardized process for conducting probable cause reviews, pretrial detention and bail determinations differ depending on the presiding judge's philosophy because Initial Appearance Court assignments rotate. In Clark County, stakeholders noted that judges use the NPRA, which guides their pretrial release decisions, inconsistently, and similar concerns arose regarding bail amount determinations. This highlighted the need for formal guidelines and accountability mechanisms to ensure uniform decisionmaking among judges while providing the flexibility to override decisions based on the factors in a case. Developing shared decision frameworks that integrate both evidence-based practices and legislative mandates can promote informed, transparent, and consistent outcomes for pretrial release and bail amounts regardless of which judge presides.

Questions about legal ambiguities must be resolved during the design stage. Clark County faced early questions about when the right to counsel attaches to an individual arrested with a crime, whether the Initial Appearance Court should be open to the public, and how to handle the absence of formal charges filed at the time of initial appearance. These questions prompted outreach to law schools and other jurisdictions with similar models, which revealed a lack of consensus and forced Clark County to reach its own decisions about a defendant's rights at an initial appearance. The process highlighted the critical role of cross-agency collaboration during the design phase, ensuring that all key players had an opportunity to weigh in on the decisions and incorporate best practices and lessons learned from similar initial appearance court models.

The Initial Appearance Court model embeds acute support for defendants. Placing court compliance officers directly in the Initial Appearance Court sessions meant defendants got immediate guidance about their release conditions and the court process. The fast pace of the court can leave defendants confused and overwhelmed about the conditions of their release, such as accessing court-mandated services and appearing at their next court hearing. Identifying defendants' needs, such as housing or behavioral health needs, at intake can facilitate initial warm handoffs to services while ensuring defendants comply with their conditions of release. Although concerns remain about the long-term availability of critical services for people reentering the community in Clark County, the county has an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with service providers to ensure sustained support for defendants.

Conclusion

Clark County's Initial Appearance Court illustrates the benefits of accelerating case processing by implementing a court model that ensures rapid judicial review after an arrest, individualized bail determinations, and early connection to services to support defendants and their compliance with release conditions. Key successes include balancing the speed of initial appearance with due process and prioritizing defendants' constitutional rights, holding individualized bail determinations, minimizing collateral harms of unnecessary pretrial detention, offering early linkage to support and services that play a role in custody and release outcomes, and collaboration among stakeholders and agencies involved in the Initial Appearance Court. Clark County also faced hurdles when designing and implementing the court, such as high case volumes and legislative mandates requiring rapid turnaround times for initial appearances, the role of judicial discretion and inconsistency in bail and

release decisions, limited long-term support for people postrelease, and operational challenges related to calendaring and staffing the court sessions.

Looking ahead, Clark County's experience designing and implementing the Initial Appearance Court suggests three priorities for the county: (1) continue prioritizing collaboration between agencies to strengthen coordination and ensure the Initial Appearance Court's staff and operations can continue to accommodate high case volumes and rapid turnaround; (2) implement uniform judicial guidance for bail determinations and decisions based on NPRA scores so judges can make fair and evidence-based decisions; and (3) build partnerships and pathways to long-term services to support defendants' stability throughout the life of their case to ensure they appear at court hearings and comply with the conditions of their release.

Notes

- ¹ “When Does a First Appearance Take Place in Your State?,” National Conference of State Legislatures, last updated February 20, 2023, <https://www.ncsl.org/civil-and-criminal-justice/when-does-a-first-appearance-take-place-in-your-state>.
- ² Brian Nam-Sonenstein, “Research Roundup: Evidence That a Single Day in Jail Causes Immediate and Long-Lasting Harms,” Prison Policy Initiative, August 6, 2024, https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/08/06/short_jail_stays/.
- ³ “‘Bail reform’ worked in Cook County; Now, pass the Pretrial Fairness Act and end money bond for everyone in Illinois,” Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, December 4, 2020, <https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2020/12/04/bail-reform-works-pass-pretrial-fairness-act/>.
- ⁴ “QuickFacts: Clark County, Nevada,” US Census Bureau, accessed February 23, 2026, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/clarkcountynevada/PST045224>.
- ⁵ Greg Haas, “Clark County Homeless Census Shows 20% Increase in a Single Year,” 8 News Now, last updated September 7, 2024, <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/clark-county-homeless-census-shows-20-increase-in-a-single-year/>.
- ⁶ “About Clark County,” Clark County, Nevada, accessed February 23, 2026, https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/residents/about_clark_county/.
- ⁷ Erik Neumann, “Clark County Point-in Time Count Shows Homelessness Increased in 2025, Oregon Public Broadcasting, July 18, 2025, <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/07/18/clark-county-washington-homelessness-point-in-time-count-housing/>; “Clark County, Nevada,” Safety and Justice Challenge, last updated December 16, 2025, <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/our-network/clark-county-nv/>.
- ⁸ “2025 Nevada Housing Profile,” National Low Income Housing Coalition, October 31, 2025, available at <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/nevada>.
- ⁹ “Clark County, Nevada,” Safety and Justice Challenge.
- ¹⁰ “Pretrial Services,” Las Vegas Justice Court, accessed February 23, 2026, https://www.lasvegasjusticecourt.us/divisions/pretrial_services/index.php.
- ¹¹ “Pretrial Services,” Las Vegas Justice Court.

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