

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

People ex rel. Larson v. Spano

2025 NY Slip Op 06978 · No. 2025-14497 · Decided December 16, 2025

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Second Department sustained a habeas corpus writ to the extent that it reinstated the principal's prior securing order and remitted the matter for a new hearing on bail reduction under CPL 530.30. The court held that CPL 530.30 does not authorize a superior court to impose bail in a greater amount or more burdensome form than that fixed by the local criminal court.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mark C. Dillon, J.P.; Valerie Brathwaite Nelson, J.; Carl J. Landicino, J.; Susan Quirk, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department
DECIDED	December 16, 2025
DOCKET	2025-14497
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The petitioner commenced a habeas corpus proceeding seeking the release of Jared Moore-Searles on his own recognizance or, alternatively, a reduction of bail after the County Court increased the bail set by the City Court of Yonkers.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The bail determination under CPL 530.30 is made de novo; the court applied de novo review while interpreting the statute according to its plain language.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published appellate decision
PARTIES	The People of the State of New York, ex rel. Sarina Larson, on behalf of Jared Moore-Searles v. Joseph K. Spano

TOPICS

- bail
- habeas corpus
- statutory interpretation
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

bail

habeas corpus

statutory interpretation

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether CPL 530.30 authorizes a superior court judge, on a de novo application to review bail set by a local criminal court, to impose bail in a greater amount or a more burdensome form than the local criminal court imposed.
2. Whether the prior securing order had to be reinstated pending a new hearing and determination on the application for bail reduction.

HOLDINGS

1. CPL 530.30 does not authorize a superior court judge to order bail in a greater amount or in a more burdensome form than the bail fixed by the local criminal court.
2. The October 24, 2025 securing order had to be reinstated pending a new hearing and determination of the application for bail reduction under CPL 530.30.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*“In such case, such superior court judge may vacate the order of such local criminal court and . . . where authorized, fix bail in a lesser amount or in a less burdensome form, . . . the determination for which shall be made in accordance with [CPL] 510.10” (*1)*

*“Since the clearest indicator of legislative intent is the statutory text, the starting point in any case of interpretation must always be the language itself, giving effect to the plain meaning thereof” (*1)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jared Moore-Searles faced four felony complaints. Following arraignment, the City Court of Yonkers set bail at \$5,000 insurance-company bonds, \$10,000 partially secured bonds with 10% down, or a \$750 cash alternative for each complaint. On review under CPL 530.30, the Westchester County Court increased those amounts to \$10,000 insurance-company bonds, \$20,000 partially secured bonds with 10% down, or a \$1,500 cash alternative.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After arraignment on four felony complaints, the City Court of Yonkers set specified bail alternatives on October 24, 2025. On the principal's application under CPL 530.30, the Westchester County Court effectively vacated that securing order and increased the bail amounts and burdens on November 3, 2025. The petitioner then sought habeas relief in the Appellate Division, which reinstated the October 24 securing order and remitted for a new bail-reduction hearing.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Reinstate the October 24, 2025 securing order and remit the matter to the County Court, Westchester County, for a new hearing and determination on Jared Moore-Searles's application for bail reduction pursuant to CPL 530.30.

CASES CITED

- Matter of Town of Southampton v. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 39 NY3d 201, 209
- Matter of Mestecky v. City of New York, 30 NY3d 239, 243
- Matter of Wohl v. Bruen, 238 AD3d 818, 821
- Matter of LaLota v. New York State Board of Elections, 183 AD3d 785, 788
- People ex rel. Nevins v. Brann, 67 Misc 3d 638, 648-649
- People v. Lora, 51 Misc 3d 493, 496
- People v. Gruttola, 72 Misc 2d 295, 296
- People ex rel. Cassar v. Toulon, 2025 NY Slip Op 06531, *2
- People ex rel. Abate v. Warden, Eric M. Taylor Ctr., 234 AD3d 899, 900

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