

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

OPINION

People ex rel. Larson v. Spano 2025 NY Slip Op 06978

PER CURIAM.

People ex rel. Larson v Spano (2025 NY Slip Op 06978) People ex rel. Larson v Spano 2025 NY Slip Op 06978 Decided on December 16, 2025 Appellate Division, Second Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided on December 16, 2025

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department MARK C. DILLON, J.P.

VALERIE BRATHWAITE NELSON

CARL J. LANDICINO

SUSAN QUIRK, JJ. 2025-14497

[*1]The People of the State of New York, ex rel. Sarina Larson, on behalf of Jared Moore-Searles, petitioner, v Joseph K. Spano, etc., respondent. Susan Cacace, District Attorney, White Plains, NY (Brian R. Pouliot and Raffaelina Gianfrancesco of counsel), for respondent. Clare J. Degnan, White Plains, NY (Sarina Larson pro se of counsel), for petitioner. DECISION & JUDGMENT Writ of habeas corpus in the nature of an application to release Jared Moore-Searles upon his own recognizance or, in the alternative, to reduce bail upon Westchester County Docket Nos. SMZ-72930-25, SMZ-72931-25, SMZ-72932-25, and SMZ-72933-25. ADJUDGED that the writ is sustained, without costs or disbursements, to the extent that a securing order dated October

24, 2025, is reinstated, and the matter is remitted to the County Court, Westchester County, for a new hearing and determination on the application of Jared Moore-Searles for bail reduction pursuant to CPL 530.30, and the writ is otherwise dismissed. On October 24, 2025, after arraignment, the City Court of Yonkers set bail for each of the four felony complaints filed against the principal, Jared Moore-Searles, in the sum of \$5,000 posted in the form of an insurance company bail bond, the sum of \$10,000 posted in the form of a partially secured bond, with the requirement of 10% down, or the sum of \$750 deposited as a cash bail alternative. The principal applied to the County Court, Westchester County, for bail reduction pursuant to CPL 530.30. On November 3, 2025, the County Court, in effect, vacated the securing order dated October 24, 2025, and set bail for each of the principal's four felony complaints in the sum of \$10,000 posted in the form of an insurance company bail bond, the sum of \$20,000 posted in the form of a partially secured bond, with the requirement of 10% down, or the sum of \$1,500 deposited as a cash bail alternative. The petitioner then commenced this proceeding for a writ of habeas corpus in the nature of an application to release the principal upon his own recognizance or, in the alternative, to reduce bail. Pursuant to CPL 530.30(1)(c) and (d), "[w]hen a criminal action is pending in a local criminal court . . . a judge of a superior court holding a term thereof in the county, upon application of a defendant, may order . . . bail when such local criminal court . . . [h]as fixed bail . . . which is excessive; or . . . [h]as set a securing order of release under non-monetary conditions which are more restrictive than necessary to reasonably assure the defendant's return to court." "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" (*id.* § 530.30[1]). "[I]t is a bedrock principle of statutory interpretation that 'the Court's primary consideration is to ascertain and give effect to the intention of the Legislature'" (*Matter of Town of Southampton v New York State Dept. of Env'tl. Conservation* , 39 NY3d 201 , 209, quoting *Matter of Mestecky v City of New York* , 30 NY3d 239 , 243). "'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'" (*Matter of Wohl v Bruen* , 238 AD3d 818 , 821 [internal quotation marks omitted], quoting *Matter of LaLota v New York State Bd. of Elections* , 183 AD3d 785, 788). Here, although a determination pursuant to CPL 530.30 is made de novo (*see People ex rel. Nevins v Brann* , 67 Misc 3d 638 , 648-649 [Sup Ct, Queens County]; *People v Lora* , 51 Misc 3d 493, 496 [Monroe County Ct]), the plain language of CPL 530.30 does not authorize a superior court judge to order bail in a greater amount or more burdensome form than the bail fixed by the local criminal court (*see id.* ; *People v Gruttola* , 72 Misc 2d 295, 296 [Crim Ct, NY County]). Accordingly, the writ is sustained to the extent that the principal is restored to his prior bail status pending a new hearing and determination on his application for bail reduction pursuant to CPL 530.30 (*see People ex rel. Cassar v Toulon* , ____ AD3d ____, ____, 2025 NY Slip Op 06531, *2 ; *People ex rel. Abate v Warden, Eric M. Taylor Ctr.* , 234 AD3d 899 , 900). In light of our

determination, we do not reach the petitioner's remaining contentions. DILLON, J.P., BRATHWAITE NELSON, LANDICINO and QUIRK, JJ., concur. ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court

PER CURIAM.

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application of a defendant, may order . . . bail when such local criminal court . . . [h]as fixed bail . . . which is excessive; or . . . [h]as set a securing order of release under non-monetary conditions which are more restrictive than necessary to reasonably assure the defendant's return to court." "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" (*id.* § 530.30[1]). "[I]t is a bedrock principle of statutory interpretation that 'the Court's primary consideration is to ascertain and give effect to the intention of the Legislature'" (*Matter of Town of Southampton v New York State Dept. of Env'tl. Conservation* , 39 NY3d 201, 209, quoting *Matter of Mestecky v City of New York* , 30 NY3d 239, 243). "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" (*Matter of Wohl v Bruen* , 238 AD3d 818, 821 [internal quotation marks omitted], quoting *Matter of LaLota v New York State Bd. of Elections* , 183 AD3d 785, 788). Here, although a determination pursuant to CPL 530.30 is made de novo (see *People ex rel. Nevins v Brann* , 67 Misc 3d 638, 648-649 [Sup Ct, Queens County]; *People v Lora* , 51 Misc 3d 493, 496 [Monroe County Ct]), the plain language of CPL 530.30 does not authorize a superior court judge to order bail in a greater amount or more burdensome form than the bail fixed by the local criminal court (see *id.* ; *People v Gruttola* , 72 Misc 2d 295, 296 [Crim Ct, NY County]). Accordingly, the writ is sustained to the extent that the principal is restored to his prior bail status pending a new hearing and determination on his application for bail reduction pursuant to CPL 530.30 (see *People ex rel. Cassar v Toulon* , _____ AD3d _____, _____, 2025 NY Slip Op 06531, *2; *People ex rel. Abate v Warden, Eric M. Taylor Ctr.* , 234 AD3d 899, 900). In light of our determination, we do not reach the petitioner's remaining contentions. DILLON, J.P., BRATHWAITE NELSON, LANDICINO and QUIRK, JJ., concur. ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court