

**Upper Marlboro, MD**  
**District Court Trial Session**  
**August 12, 2022**

There were 23 cases today. 10 were continued or postponed; 6 were nolle prossed; 3 had bench warrants issued; 2 had jury trials prayed; 1 was statted; 1 was indicted; and there was one jury trial which ended in a verdict of not guilty. Judge Aarons presided, Stanford Fraser was the public defender, and Ms. Cook was the ASA.

Many cases were simply continued, and the ASA offered no better reason for the requests for continuance than that the evidence had not yet been gathered. As PD Fraser pointed out in the case of Mr. J, his client had been HWOB since April 9 and continuing this case caused real hardship. ASA Cook's reason for the continuance request was that the two witnesses for the state had not received subpoenas for their presence and were at work today. At that point, PD Fraser asked the judge to release his client on his own recognizance, given the fact that he had already spent more than four months in jail. Judge Aarons refused, saying that this was the first request for a continuance and he would grant it, but that it would be the last continuance in this case. This is how he handled all requests for continuance, no matter the reason: "It's the first time the state has requested a continuance, so I'll grant it; but this will be the last."

Private Attorney Lucey from the Jezic & Moyses firm represented Mr. J, who was charged last August 28 with a handgun in a vehicle. ASA Cook asked for a continuance. Attorney Lucey objected, saying that his client had been on probation that was set to expire this spring, but it had been extended for one year because of this charge, and he wished to have the case resolved. ASA Cook replied that her office had not yet received the body camera footage and cruiser camera footage. Judge Aarons asked Cook when her office had requested that camera evidence. "On August 8," she replied. "Why last week?" asked the judge. "I have no representation," she replied. Over the objections of Attorney Lucey, Judge Aarons postponed the case. This was typical of today's cases. About a third of them were over a year old and many were postponed because the state said it needed more time to get evidence which it had only just requested.