

In the Courtroom of Judge Clara Moran: A Documented Pattern of Problematic Dispositions, 2020–2026

Problematic Dispositions are those non-merits resolutions where the underlying charges against a defendant remain unresolved, thereby freeing the defendant from physical custody and further criminal prosecution for those charges. In the courtroom of Judge Clara Moran 25 cases were adjudicated at a 40% problematic rate, resulting in 10 problematic cases that included 5 dismissed as incompetent, 3 dismissed for failure to prosecute, 1 State notice of dismissal (*nolle prosequi*), and 1 deferred dismissal.

2020–2021: Early Signals of Recurring Dismissal

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2020 or 2021.

2022–2023: Peak Volume and Same-Day Clusters

In January 2022, Judge Clara Moran dismissed for failure to prosecute the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Tyler Hammond, who had 21 prior cases. Hammond faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) in July 2022.

In July 2022, Judge Clara Moran dismissed as incompetent the Burglary of a Vehicle case against Yoshua Young, who had 9 prior cases. Young faced new charges of Battery upon a Health Care Worker in March 2023.

In October 2022, Judge Clara Moran dismissed as incompetent the Robbery case against Morgan Fuller, who had 18 prior cases. Fuller faced new charges of Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense) in November 2022.

In December 2022, Judge Clara Moran dismissed as incompetent the Aggravated Battery (Deadly Weapon) case against Michael Garcia, who had 13 prior cases. Garcia faced new charges of Criminal Damage to Property (Over \$1000) in November 2023.

In April 2023, Judge Clara Moran dismissed for failure to prosecute the Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon) case against Andres Galvan, who had 12 prior cases. Galvan faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) in May 2023.

In November 2023, Judge Clara Moran dismissed as incompetent the Battery upon a Peace Officer case against Morgan Fuller, who had 28 prior cases. Fuller faced new charges of Criminal Trespass in November 2023.

2024–2026: Continued High-Prior Dismissals and Reoffending

In January 2024, Judge Clara Moran granted deferred dismissal in the Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500) case against Orlando Esquer, who had 24 prior cases. Esquer faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony in June 2024.

In January 2024, Judge Clara Moran dismissed as incompetent the Breaking and Entering case against Rachel Carpenter, who had 13 prior cases. Carpenter faced new charges of Criminal Trespass in February 2024.

In April 2024, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Receiving or Transferring Stolen Motor Vehicles (1st Offense) case against Robert Austin, assigned to Judge Clara Moran at the time, who had 5 prior cases. Austin faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) in August 2024.

In May 2024, Judge Clara Moran dismissed for failure to prosecute the Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon) case against Richard Romero, who had 36 prior cases. Romero faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony in July 2024.

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2025 or 2026.

The pattern of problematic dispositions in the courtroom of Judge Clara Moran includes 5 incompetent findings, 3 dismissals for failure to prosecute, 1 State notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi), and 1 deferred dismissal. High-

prior individuals in these records include Richard Romero (36 priors), Morgan Fuller (priors reaching 28), and Orlando Esquer (24 priors). Repeat name across separate dated dispositions is Morgan Fuller.

Summary of Featured Examples

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Moran	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2022	Tyler Hammond	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Dismissed by Judge Moran for failure to prosecute	21	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) [Jul 2022]
2022	Yoshua Young	Burglary of a Vehicle	Dismissed by Judge Moran as incompetent	9	Battery upon a Health Care Worker [Mar 2023]
2022	Morgan Fuller	Robbery	Dismissed by Judge Moran as incompetent	18	Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (1st Offense) [Nov 2022]
2022	Michael Garcia	Aggravated Battery (Deadly Weapon)	Dismissed by Judge Moran as incompetent	13	Criminal Damage to Property (Over \$1000) [Nov 2023]
2023	Andres Galvan	Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon)	Dismissed by Judge Moran for failure to prosecute	12	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) [May 2023]

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Moran	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2023	Morgan Fuller	Battery upon a Peace Officer	Dismissed by Judge Moran as incompetent	28	Criminal Trespass [Nov 2023]
2024	Orlando Esquer	Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500)	Deferred dismissal by Judge Moran	24	Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony [Jun 2024]
2024	Rachel Carpenter	Breaking and Entering	Dismissed by Judge Moran as incompetent	13	Criminal Trespass [Feb 2024]
2024	Robert Austin	Receiving or Transferring Stolen Motor Vehicles (1st Offense)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	5	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) [Aug 2024]
2024	Richard Romero	Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon)	Dismissed by Judge Moran for failure to prosecute	36	Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony [Jul 2024]