

In the Courtroom of Judge Jennifer Wernersbach: 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 Jennifer Wernersbach 12 cases were adjudicated at a 50% problematic rate, resulting in 6 problematic cases that included 2 dismissed as incompetent, 0 dismissed for failure to prosecute, 3 State notices 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.

In August 2021, Judge Jennifer Wernersbach granted deferred dismissal in the Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon) case against Robert Rion, who had 22 prior cases. Rion faced new charges of Burglary of a Vehicle in September 2021.

2022–2023: Peak Volume and Same-Day Clusters

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2022.

In January 2023, Judge Jennifer Wernersbach dismissed as incompetent the Battery upon a Peace Officer case against David Abalos, who had 41 prior cases. Abalos faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony in July 2023.

In February 2023, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (*nolle prosequi*) in the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Orlando Esquer, assigned to Judge Jennifer Wernersbach at the time, who had 22 prior cases. Esquer faced new charges of Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500) in March 2023.

In April 2023, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Phillip Beckom, assigned to Judge Jennifer Wernersbach at the time, who had 15 prior cases. Beckom faced new charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) in May 2023.

2024–2026: Continued High-Prior Dismissals and Reoffending

No problematic dispositions were found for this courtroom in 2024.

In November 2025, the prosecutor filed a notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi) in the Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) case against Nathaniel Nunez, assigned to Judge Jennifer Wernersbach at the time, who had 34 prior cases. Nunez faced new charges of Criminal Trespass in December 2025.

In March 2026, Judge Jennifer Wernersbach dismissed as incompetent the Breaking and Entering case against Steven Hamilton, who had 25 prior cases.

The pattern of problematic dispositions in the courtroom of Judge Jennifer Wernersbach includes 2 incompetent findings, 3 State notices of dismissal (nolle prosequi), and 1 deferred dismissal. High-prior individuals in these records include David Abalos (41 priors), Nathaniel Nunez (34 priors), and Steven Hamilton (25 priors).

Summary of Featured Examples

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Wernersbach	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2021	Robert Rion	Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon)	Deferred dismissal by Judge Wernersbach	22	Burglary of a Vehicle [Sep 2021]

Period	Offender	Key Charge(s)	Disposition by Judge Wernersbach	Priors	Notable Subsequent Charge(s)
2023	David Abalos	Battery upon a Peace Officer	Dismissed by Judge Wernersbach as incompetent	41	Possession of a Controlled Substance – Felony [Jul 2023]
2023	Orlando Esquer	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	22	Shoplifting (Over \$500 but not more than \$2,500) [Mar 2023]
2023	Phillip Beckom	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	15	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) [May 2023]
2025	Nathaniel Nunez	Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony)	Notice of dismissal (nolle prosequi)	34	Criminal Trespass [Dec 2025]
2026	Steven Hamilton	Breaking and Entering	Dismissed by Judge Wernersbach as incompetent	25	[No subsequent listed]