

Washington Court Watch Analysis

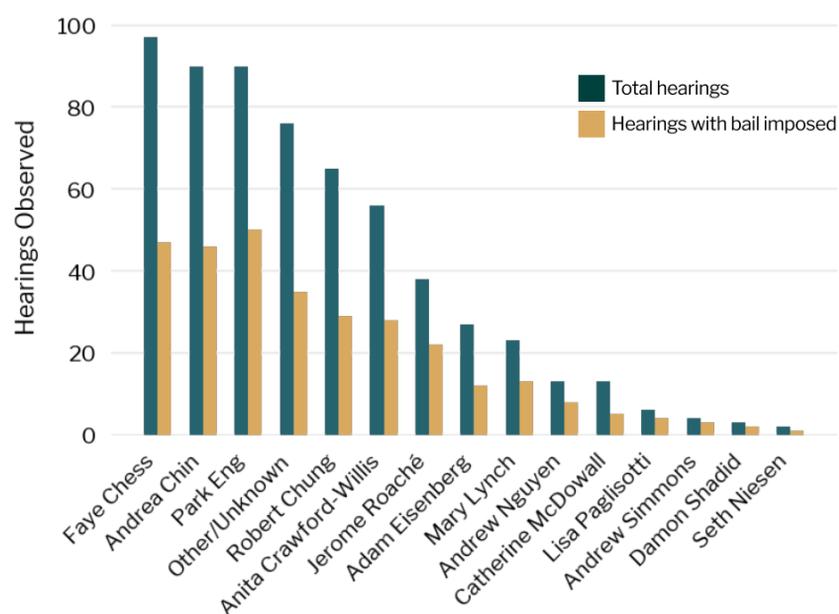
Washington / June 2022

The Northwest Bail Fund Court Watch observed 603 total bail hearings in the Seattle Municipal Court from February 2020 to April 2022, with 50.6% of hearings resulting in some bail amount imposed. In the 2019 Census of Jails, Washington reported 11,710 people confined in local jails, 75% of whom were unconvicted, compared to the national average 65%.

Judge Analysis

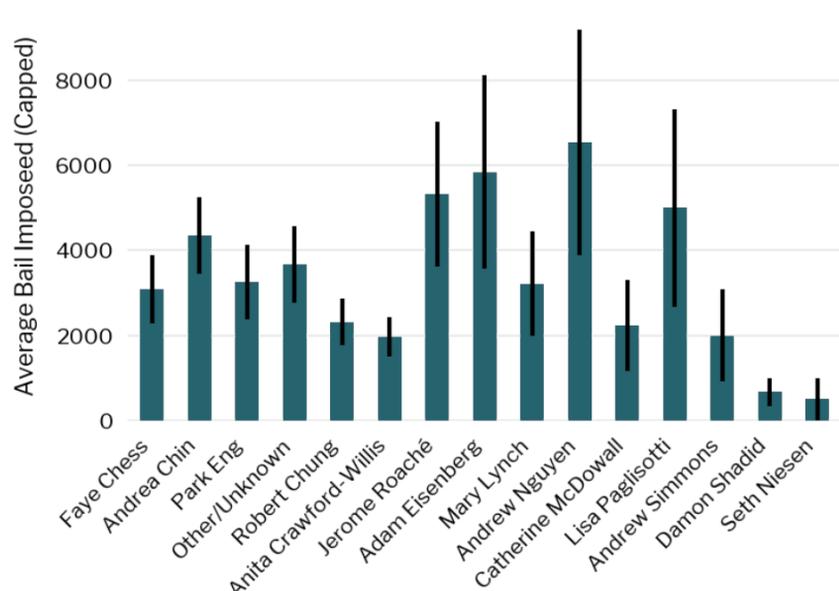
The top three judges observed were Judge Faye Chess with 97 hearings, Judges Andrea Chin and Park Eng both with 90 hearings.

Observed hearings per judge

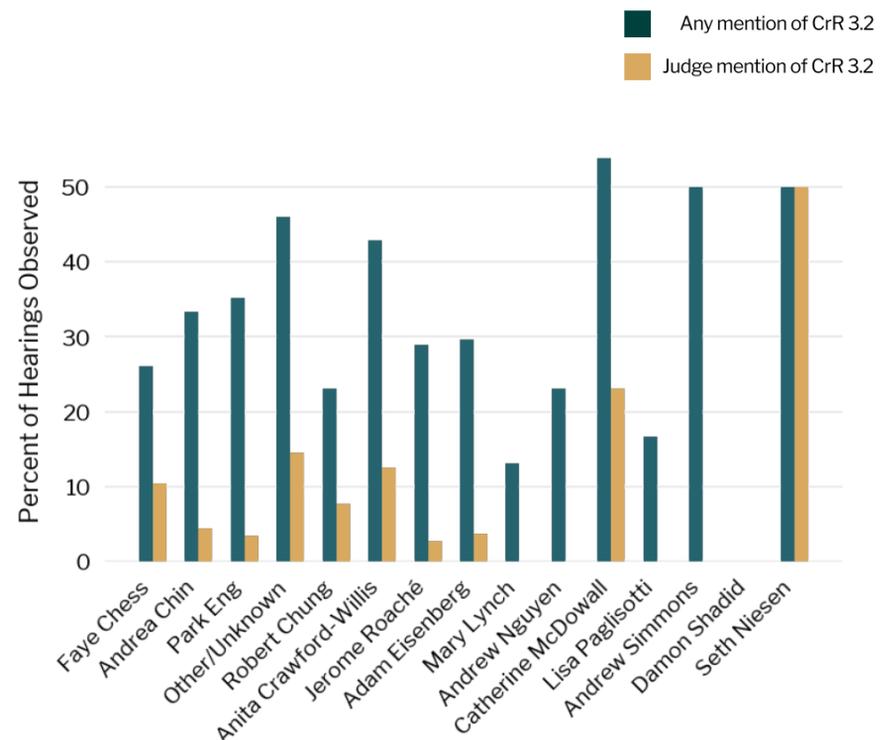


Over all the observed hearings, Judges Robert Chung (\$23K) and Anita Crawford-Willis (\$20K) set bail lower than the three most frequently observed judges, who averaged between \$30-44K. Out of the judges with more than 50 hearings observed, Judge Anita Crawford-Willis personally mentioned Criminal Rule (CrR) 3.2 the most frequently (43% of hearings) and had the most hearings where it was mentioned by the judge, prosecutor, or defense (13% of hearings).

Average bail imposed per judge



Hearings with CrR 3.2 mentions

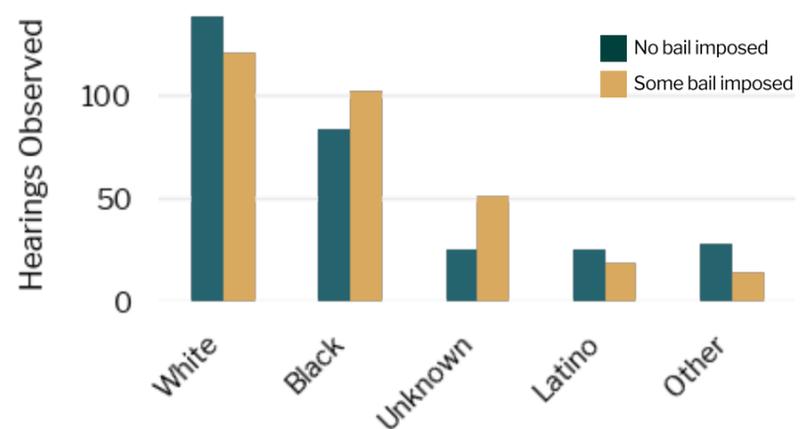


Criminal Rule (CrR) 3.2 mandates the set of reasons, including likelihood of court non-appearance, in which a court can impose conditions on pre-trial release in noncapital cases. However, pretrial detention of any length of time is not associated with increased likelihood of court non-appearance. The rule also mandates the court must consider the accused's financial resources in setting a bond that will reasonably assure appearance.

Perceived Race Analysis

31% of the Court Watch hearings had a defendant that was perceived Black or African American, compared to 4% and 7% of the Washington state and Seattle population, respectively.

Bail imposed per perceived race



The average bail imposed was relatively similar between defendants that were perceived White and Black/African American. Though the 53% of White defendants had no bail imposed compared to only 45% of Black/African American defendants.