


NOTICE TO THE BAR

CONCLUSION OF CENTRALIZED CASE MANAGEMENT LITIGATION SEEKING RELIEF IN CERTAIN NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES, NORTH REGIONAL LABORATORY (LITTLE FALLS) DRUG UNIT MATTERS – ADJUDICATED MATTERS

This Notice is to advise that by the attached order dated September 12, 2022 and effective October 1, 2022, the Supreme Court has concluded the centralized case management program for all motions or applications for dismissal or vacation of conviction(s) or other relief, including the possible expungement of such record(s), involving charges, arrests, and convictions in adjudicated matters in which a particular State Police Laboratory technician was the primary laboratory examiner. The Court took this action on the recommendation of Superior Court Judge Edward A. Jerejian, whom the Court earlier had designated as the sole judge to handle these matters.

The Court's order further provides that any new applications for relief in any such matter on or after October 1, 2022 are to be filed in and handled by the court of original jurisdiction, not through the centralized process. The Office of the Attorney General will advise law enforcement to preserve any existing drug evidence in any of the potentially affected matters for one year from the date of the order, so as to allow individuals to file applications for relief to retest the drug evidence, and also will maintain a list of affected cases where the drug evidence is preserved.



Glenn A. Grant
Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: September 12, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

The Court by Order dated April 26, 2016 determined to centralize all litigation seeking relief in adjudicated cases in which a particular State Police Laboratory technician at the Little Falls unit was the primary laboratory examiner, conducted peer review, or conducted administrative review of purported drug evidence. The Court in that Order also designated Superior Court Judge Edward A. Jerejian as the sole judge to handle all motions or applications for dismissal or vacation of conviction(s) or other relief, including the possible expungement of such record(s) involving charges, arrests, and convictions, in those matters.

The Office of the Attorney General having reviewed over 10,000 criminal charges involving over 7,800 cases filed against potentially affected defendants; and

Judge Jerejian having issued 1,215 orders resolving applications filed by the Office of the Public Defender, the Office of the Attorney General, defendants, and private counsel through this centralized process; and

Many of those 10,000 charges having been subject to expungement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:52-6.1 (Marijuana Expungement Statute); and

Judge Jerejian having advised the Court that there is no ongoing need for a centralized process;

It is ORDERED that effective October 1, 2022, any new applications for relief involving the affected cases shall be filed in and be handled by the court of original jurisdiction, rather than through the earlier established centralized process; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of the Attorney General shall maintain a list of affected cases where the drug evidence is preserved and shall advise law enforcement to preserve any existing drug evidence in the affected cases for one year from the date of this order to allow further individuals to file applications for relief.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: September 12, 2022