

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 04-17**

(Processing of Bench Warrants)

WHEREAS, the arraignment court in Courtroom C-10 often experiences long breaks during the day when no cases are ready to be called, and an ad hoc committee has recommended a later starting time for commencing the docket call, with the expectation that parties appearing in court will be able to prepare for more timely appearances, and the court will be able to work uninterruptedly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the recommendations of the ad hoc committee, a pilot project will begin on September 7, 2004 during which Courtroom C-10 will begin hearing lock-up cases at 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday; and

WHEREAS, bench warrant returns must ultimately be handled by the judicial officers who issued the warrants, but are now certified to Courtroom C-10 for presentment and scheduling, where they add to an already heavy docket; and

WHEREAS, as part of an effort to facilitate the more effective handling of presentments and arraignments in Courtroom C-10, the ad hoc committee has recommended deferring bench warrant returns until they can be scheduled before the judicial officer who issued the warrant or a designee, particularly for those cases in which defendants are before the court with both new lock-up cases and outstanding bench warrants;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

ORDERED, that except as provided below, defendants arrested on outstanding bench warrants shall be heard by the judicial officers who issued the warrants or their designees on the day they are notified of the arrest; and it is further,

ORDERED, that in cases where the judicial officer or a designee cannot hear a bench warrant case due to courtroom unavailability, marshal unavailability or unavailability of the judicial officer or a designee, the warrant office shall continue the matter to a date set by the judicial officer or his or her chambers, and bond shall remain as specified in the warrant unless the judicial officer specifies otherwise; and it is further,

ORDERED, that in cases where the bench warrant arrest occurs on a Saturday or holiday and the defendant arrives at the courthouse prior to cut-off, the presiding judge in Courtroom C-10 shall hear the bench warrant matter for purposes of scheduling a date for the judicial officer who issued the warrant to hear the case; and it is further,

