

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office**  
**C. Samuel Sutter**  
**District Attorney**

**Press Release**  
**October 23, 2007**

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today the opening of a new pretrial motion session at the Fall River Superior Court beginning tomorrow.

District Attorney Sutter said this additional court session, which is slated to run through the end of the year, will help his office reduce a backlog of cases he inherited from the previous administration.

The hearings at the new motion session will include evidentiary suppression hearings, non-evidentiary motions to suppress, motions to dismiss hearings and other pretrial evidentiary hearings.

The new motion session was granted by Chief Superior Court Justice Barbara Rouse and Regional Administrative Justice E. Susan Garsh after District Attorney Sutter met with them several times to make the request for an extra session.

District Attorney Sutter thanked the two Superior Court judges for their leadership on this issue.

"From the moment I sat down with Chief Justice Rouse and Judge Garsh during the transition period last fall, it was obvious to me that they had a firm grasp of the problems that had developed as a result of the dramatic increase in Superior Court cases during the last year of the Walsh Administration," Sutter said. "The system was bursting at the seams when I came into office, but through the management of my First Assistant District Attorneys Thomas Quinn and Bill McCauley, we have already significantly reduced the backlog. Due to the vision exhibited by Judge Rouse and Judge Garsh, I expect the backlog to be further reduced by the end of this year."

The Superior Court caseload swelled from 380 cases in late 2005 to 587 by the beginning of 2007. That caseload, through a new Superior Court management style, has already been reduced to 460 during Sutter's first nine months in office, and will be further reduced thanks to the motion session in Fall River Superior Court.

"We've made a lot of progress in just nine months, but I felt strongly that more had to be done to bring the Superior Court caseload down to a more manageable level," Sutter said. "That is why I pushed so hard for this new motion session, and that is why I am so grateful to Chief Justice Rouse for agreeing with me about the need for an extra court session."

Superior Court Judge Lloyd Macdonald has been appointed to preside over the new motion session.

District Attorney Sutter has tapped his office's Chief of the District Court Support Staff, Nancy DeMello, to oversee the new Superior Court motion session. Her duties will include scheduling the motion hearings, contacting witnesses to assure their attendance, working with defense attorneys to avoid scheduling conflicts, and acting as a liaison between the District Attorney's Office and the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

"This is a wonderful week for Bristol County. We broke ground on a new courthouse in Fall River and are now announcing a new motion session to speed up the court process so that victims and their families can have closure sooner than in the past," Sutter said. "The people of Bristol County are indebted to Chief Justice Rouse for her leadership and vision."

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