

Plaintiff Alleges Racial Discrimination Against Nassau County Sheriff's Department

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U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York | Official Website

In a gripping legal battle, an African American former correctional officer has filed a lawsuit against multiple entities within Nassau County, alleging racial discrimination and wrongful termination. The complaint was filed by Javel Welch on December 24, 2025, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York against the County of Nassau, Nassau County Sheriff's Department, and several individuals including Lieutenant Mark Curatolo.

Welch's story unfolds with his employment at the Nassau County Sheriff's Department as a correctional officer—a position he cherished since April 22, 2022. However, his career took a dramatic turn on March 29, 2023, when he was allegedly wrongfully targeted and accused of misconduct based on falsified inmate complaints. Welch claims that he was subjected to unlawful searches and false arrest without probable cause. He recounts being led into an Internal Affairs room under false pretenses where his personal belongings were searched, and his phone confiscated despite being in an area where cell phones were permitted.

The allegations extend to claims of fabricated evidence involving a Bible gifted by Welch's mother. This Bible was purportedly tampered with during the investigation process to falsely incriminate him. Despite inconclusive tests initially showing no contraband presence, Welch was arrested and charged with promoting prison contraband among other charges—charges that were later dismissed due to lack of evidence.

Welch accuses the defendants of racially discriminatory practices and selective enforcement based on race. He points out that white officers accused of similar or more severe misconduct faced no such punitive actions. The lawsuit details instances where Welch's union representation was denied during critical moments of interrogation and search procedures, exacerbating his ordeal.

The plaintiff seeks substantial monetary relief amounting to over five million dollars per count along with compensatory and punitive damages exceeding ten million dollars in total. Additionally, Welch requests injunctive relief to prevent future violations of federal and state laws by the defendants.

Represented by Frederick K. Brewington from the Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington in Hempstead, New York, Welch's case is presided over by Judge Gary Brown under Case ID: CV-25-7081.

Source:

[225cv07081_Welch_v_County_of_Nassau_Complaint_Eastern_District_New_York.pdf](#)