Appendix

Table A1. Regression Table for Baseline Models

	Ordinary least squares regression				
	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 1c	Model 2	Model 3
Unit of analysis	Charge			Case	
Sample	All hearings	Arraignment hearings	Trials	All cases	All cases
Dependent variable	Dismissal of charge			Fine	Dismissal ratio
Predictor Variable					
Time since session	−0.02***	0.00	−0.03***	−0.43	−0.02***
(in hours)	(0)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.36)	(0.00)
Case Type Controls (vs. Speeding Charge)					
	−0.17***	−0.15***	−0.16***	−39.41***	−0.24***
Insurance offenses	(−0.01)	(−0.04)	(−0.01)	(1.13)	(0.02)
	−0.30***	−0.29***	−0.31***	−15.27***	−0.32***
License offenses	(−0.01)	(−0.03)	(−0.01)	(2.28)	(0.01)
	−0.08***	−0.13***	−0.08***	−16.78*	−0.08***
Moving offenses	(−0.01)	(−0.03)	(−0.01)	(0.92)	(0.01)
	−0.26***	−0.21***	−0.26***	−51.19***	−0.33***
Registration offenses	(−0.01)	(−0.04)	(−0.01)	(2.89)	(0.02)
	−0.30***	−0.21***	−0.29***	−100.70***	−0.36***
Safety offenses	(−0.01)	(−0.04)	(−0.01)	(1.75)	(0.01)
	−0.22***	−0.22*	−0.22***	15.19	−0.21*
Miscellaneous	(−0.05)	(−0.1)	(−0.05)	(60.41)	(0.01)
Other Controls					
	−0.02	0.04	0.02	48.16***	0.03
Attorney	(−0.02)	(−0.02)	(−0.02)	(1.85)	(0.00)
	−0.03***	−0.02	−0.04***	42.42***	−0.02***
Number of charges	(0)	(−0.01)	(0)	(0.98)	(0.00)
	0.18***	0.01	0.16***	−65.77***	0.15***
"Not Guilty" plea	(−0.01)	(−0.02)	(−0.01)	(0.98)	(0.00)
Judge fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Num. obs.	14042	1658	12384	8901	8901
R2	0.12	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.15
Adj. R2	0.12	0.05	0.12	0.04	0.15

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$ Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. Standard errors are clustered by judge. The coefficients of the logistic regression are in log-odds. Speeding offenses are the reference category for all case types.

Robustness Checks

We added a simple difference in means figure for checking the difference in the means of different session timings (Figure A2). Presuming that all other variables are exogenous to the relationship between time and dismissal rates and time, we made a figure of dismissal rates by slot (data aggregated into one-hour slots). As can be seen there is a difference between the cases allocated to each slot. As we can see, early morning charges have a base dismissal rate of 0.2, and then go down to 0.14 later in the morning session. After lunch, the rate spikes to 0.28 before coming drastically down to 0.13. There are very few cases in the 4:00 PM slot, but even those have a lower rate. A t-test confirms that the difference in means is significant in these cases. So visually, even without controls it would seem that as the time from the last break increases, dismissal rates decrease.

We conducted a test of differences between tickets that appear in court and those that do not. The mean fine is $135 for those paid at the window and $179 for those paid post-hearing. A t-test confirms a difference in means, indicating that, on average, people who pay at the window pay lower fines. This is perhaps because people who have higher fines probably also have mandatory hearings. Safety and speeding violations are more
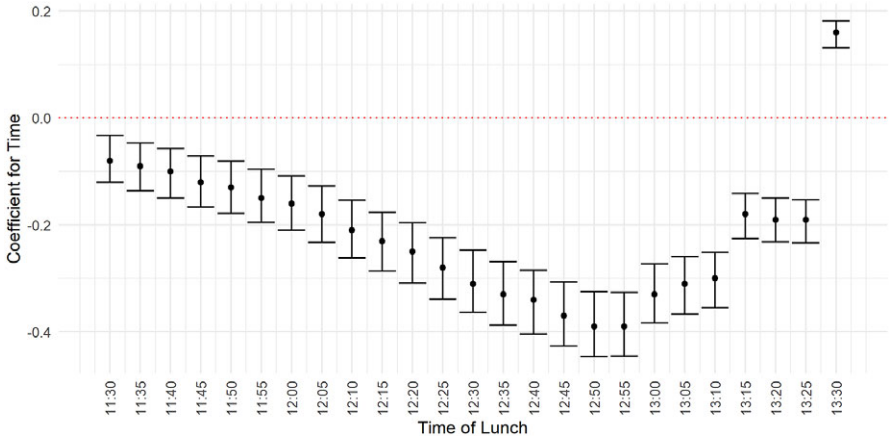
Figure A1. Change in model coefficients for time of hearing on changing lunch break time (in 5-minute increments) from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Note that coefficients are significant and negative until 1:25 PM.

likely to come into the court, probably because they involve multiple charges, whereas moving violations are more likely to be paid at the window. A chi-square test confirms that there is a difference in these proportions.

 To confirm our results were not dependent on our choice of models and variables, we ran several other specifications to ensure robustness. The first set of alternative models consider possible omitted variable bias. We tested models that included age, presence of the ticketed driver, and severity of the offense as measured by statutory maximum fines as controls (Table A2). While some of these were significant predictors of dismissals, none of them changed our main results. The second set of alternative models consider possible interaction effects. For example, it may be argued that our results occurred due to case selection effects. It is possible that cases that are easy to dismiss are listed earlier in a session. While case type is a significant predictor of time of hearing, the highest effect size is only half an hour. In any event, adding a term interacting case-types and time of hearing does not change our results (Table A3). Similarly, interacting judge-level effects and time of hearing does not change our main results (Table A4). Finally, while we confirmed the lunch break time was 1:00 PM with Judge Fleming, we consider the possibility that the lunch break could have occurred at different times. As Figure A1 shows, assuming that lunch begins at any time before 1:30 PM yields similar results. The coefficient for the time since break variable is always significant and negative. It is only at 1:30 PM that the coefficient switches direction, suggesting that lunch indeed ends at 1:30 PM.
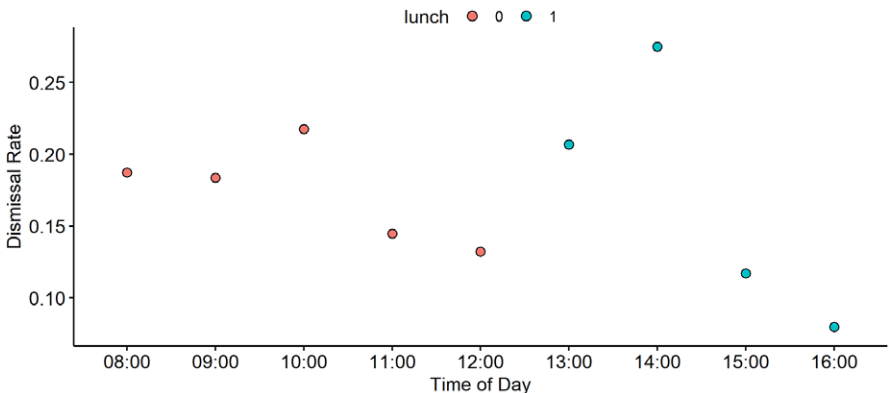
Figure A2. Average dismissal rates by hour of the day. Time of the day binned in hour-long intervals, starting from 7:31 AM till 4:30 PM. Includes both trials and arrangements. The 4:00 PM bin has very few hearings and high SD.

Table A2. Regression Models with Additional Controls

	Ordinary least squares regression			
	Model 1aa	Model 1ca	Model 1cb	Model 1cc
Unit of Analysis	Charge			
Sample Dependent variable	All hearings	Arraignment hearings Dismissal	Trials	All cases Fine
Time since session (hrs)	−0.31***	−0.33***	−0.05	−0.27
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(1.93)
Attorney	0.31**	0.60***	0.26	5.50***
	(0.11)	(0.16)	(0.15)	(10.55)
No. of charges	−0.27***	−0.23***	−0.13	42.28***
	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.08)	(7.78)
Age	0.00	0.00*	0.01*	0.88***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.18)
Accused present	−1.19***	−1.02***	−1.71*	−41.18***
	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.74)	(11.30)
Statutory max. fine	0.01***	0.01***	0.00	0.01
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.03)
"Not Guilty" plea	1.21***			−65.79***
	(0.09)			(8.57)
Trial	−0.87***			
	(0.15)			
Trial x time	1.21***			
	(0.09)			
Judge fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offense fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AIC	9704	10716	1271	
BIC	9843	10834	1349	
Num. obs.	13036	11671	1365	8127
R^2				0.05
Adj. R^2				0.05

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$ Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. The coefficients of the logistic regression are in log-odds. Speeding offenses are the reference category for all case types. Abbreviations: AIC–Akaike information criterion and BIC–Bayesian information criterion.

Table A3. Results of Regression Models Interacting Offenses with Time

	Logistic regression			OLS regression	
	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 1c	Model 3	Model 4
Unit of analysis	Charge			Case	
Sample	All hearings	Arraignment	Trials	All cases	All cases
Dependent variable		Dismissal	Dismissal	Fine	Dismissal ratio
Time since session (hrs)	−0.27***	−0.37***	0.05	−1.97	−0.05***
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(3.24)	(0.01)
Insurance offenses	−0.84***	−0.75***	−0.10	−28.12	−0.28***
	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.39)	(14.50)	(0.03)
License offenses	−2.60***	−2.35***	−1.80***	−19.37*	−0.37***
	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.49)	(8.66)	(0.02)
Moving offenses	−0.18*	−0.14	−0.37	−29.11**	−0.07***
	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.29)	(9.09)	(0.02)
Registration offenses	−1.88***	−1.78***	−1.26**	−45.93***	−0.38***
	(0.13)	(0.13)	(0.48)	(11.11)	(0.02)
Safety offenses	−2.21***	−2.01***	−1.24*	−97.44***	−0.41***
	(0.20)	(0.20)	(0.58)	(14.08)	(0.03)
Miscellaneous	−1.03*	−0.66	−1.19	66.90	−0.24*
	(0.51)	(0.81)	(1.26)	(64.09)	(0.12)
Attorney	0.27**	0.47**	0.20	47.65***	0.05**
	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.13)	(10.08)	(0.02)
Number of charges	−0.26***	−0.23***	−0.14*	42.88***	−0.03***
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.07)	(3.35)	(0.01)
"Not Guilty" plea	1.10***			−63.72***	0.16***
	(0.08)			(8.11)	(0.01)
Trial	−0.91***				
	(0.14)				
Time x trial	0.31***				
	(0.05)				
Time x insurance offense	0.04	0.21*	−0.20	−7.03	0.04**
	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.12)	(7.75)	(0.01)
Time x license offense	0.17*	0.47***	−0.16	4.87	0.04***
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.16)	(5.35)	(0.01)
Time x moving offense	−0.15**	−0.03	−0.09	9.65*	−0.01
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(4.91)	(0.01)
Time x reg. offense	0.14	−0.00	0.07	−3.24	0.05***
	(0.07)	(0.11)	(0.13)	(5.96)	(0.01)
Time x safety offense	0.12	−0.08	0.01	−1.35	0.05***
	(0.10)	(0.16)	(0.16)	(7.14)	(0.01)
Time x misc. offense	−0.18	−0.59	−0.05	−36.35	0.02
	(0.29)	(1.31)	(0.40)	(29.29)	(0.05)
Judge fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AIC	11253	12045	1613		
BIC	11387	12209	1732		
Num. obs.	14556	12885	1681	8875	8906
R^2				0.05	0.16
Adj. R^2				0.05	0.16

*** $p < 0.001$; **$p < 0.01$; *$p < 0.05$ Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. The coefficients of the logistic regression are in log-odds. Speeding offenses are the reference category for all case types. Abbreviations: AIC–Akaike information criterion and BIC–Bayesian information criterion.

Table A4: Results of Regression Models Interacting Judges with Time

	Logistic regression			OLS regression	
	Model 1a	Model 1b	Model 1c	Model 3	Model 4
Unit of analysis	Charge			Case	
Sample	All hearings	Arraignment hearings	Trials	All cases	All cases
Dependent variable		Dismissal	Dismissal	Fine	Dismissal ratio
Time since session (hrs)	0.63	7.92	0.69	−47.81	−0.20
	(1.20)	(103.06)	(0.66)	(150.70)	(0.27)
Judge Grange	0.75	15.58	−0.76	−30.33	0.19
	(1.68)	(212.97)	(1.46)	(154.82)	(0.28)
Judge Largent	1.67	16.58	−17.02	−78.54	0.40
	(1.69)	(212.97)	(4312)	(155.79)	(0.28)
Judge Blanda	2.73	15.95	27.15	−82.55	0.17
	(2.41)	(213.00)	(764.41)	(188.59)	(0.34)
Judge Hutson	0.50	15.29	−1.36	−94.68	0.15
	(1.70)	(212.97)	(1.83)	(156.57)	(0.28)
Attorney	0.24*	0.47**	0.20	49.78***	−0.04*
	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.13)	(10.04)	(0.02)
Number of charges	−0.27***	−0.24***	−0.14*	43.42***	−0.03***
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.26)	(3.35)	(0.01)
"Not Guilty" plea	1.10***			−64.72***	0.16***
	(0.08)			(8.10)	(0.01)
Trial	−0.92***				
	(0.14)				
Trial x time	0.35***				
	(0.05)				
Time x Gruber	−0.98	−8.31	−0.68	46.04	−0.23
	(1.20)	(103.06)	(0.66)	(150.70)	(0.27)
Time x Leverett	−0.83	−8.08	−0.94	91.50	−0.25
	(1.22)	(103.06)	(2731)	(151.98)	(0.28)
Time x Bailey	−2.05	−8.56	−27.55	53.03	0.25
	(1.47)	(103.06)	(630.34)	(153.89)	(0.28)
Time x Hale	−0.57	−7.87		38.49	−0.18
	(1.21)	(103.06)		(150.87)	(0.27)
Offense fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AIC	11253	12038	1604		
BIC	11387	12179	1702		
Num. obs.	14556	12885	1681	8875	8906
R^2				0.05	0.16
Adj. R^2				0.05	0.16

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$ Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. The coefficients of the logistic regression are in log-odds. Judge Fleming is the reference category for all case types. Abbreviations: AIC–Akaike information criterion and BIC–Bayesian information criterion.