



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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It's hard to remember a time Donald Trump didn't dominate the news cycle. And yet this year still managed to stand out from the rest, as the former president's legal troubles came to a head in courthouses across the country.

His myriad legal troubles take center stage in the [year-end episode of our podcast, Sidebar](#).

Featuring a panel of Courthouse News journalists who've spent weeks of our lives unwinding Trump's criminal and civil cases, the team breaks down 2023 — from the Stormy Daniels hush money charges that made Trump the first-ever indicted president, to the classified docs stashed at Mar-a-Lago, to the Georgia indictment accusing Trump of trying to overturn the 2020 election.

As the Sidebar team will tell you, though, it wasn't all about Trump. Cryptocurrency mogul Sam Bankman-Fried, South Carolina lawyer Alex Murdaugh and the former staff of Backpage.com all spent some time in the legal limelight. Remember them? You will once you listen to [Sidebar: Big bold beautiful 2023 recap](#).

Btw, Sidebar's now on break until January, so it's the perfect time to catch up on old episodes. And if you like what you hear, hit subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#).

Stay tuned for more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Hunter Biden [faces a new federal indictment](#): Prosecutors in Los Angeles charged the president's son with failing to pay taxes on millions of dollars in income he received working for a Ukrainian natural gas conglomerate and a Chinese private equity fund. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

» A Texas judge [allowed a woman to get an abortion](#), ending a nonviable pregnancy to protect her health, as AG Ken Paxton warned of legal action in a state where [private citizens can sue providers](#) for performing an abortion (and anyone else for aiding and abetting the procedure). [[Kirk McDaniel](#)]

» SCOTUS [opted not to limit plaintiffs' options for bringing disability lawsuits](#) after a Florida woman who has sued more than 600 hotels dropped her pending ADA "tester" case against a hotel in Maine, where she never intended to stay. [[Megan Butler](#), [Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

» A onetime U.S. Olympic snowboarder was [sentenced to six months in prison](#) for obstructing a federal investigation into an airplane crash he deliberately arranged for a YouTube video. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]



Former students and parents of a Tucson, Arizona, school district [argued at the Ninth Circuit that the district still hasn't complied](#) with a nearly half-century-old desegregation order — even after a judge two years ago relaxed the standards set in the original order. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

From across the Courthouse News website, including news from Capitol Hill, state legislative decisions and major research developments.

1. [Massachusetts court stumped as to whether Second Amendment protects switchblades](#)
2. [Sackler immunity shield cracks at Supreme Court](#)
3. [Second Circuit sends fight against NY concealed carry training back to starting gate](#)
4. [Nurse fired after leaving surgery could get job back](#)
5. [Wisconsin judge declares 1849 law does not apply to consensual abortions](#)
6. [Bipolar Man's Death by Taser Needs Jury Trial](#)
7. [Mobile home lot owners accused of rent-fixing conspiracy](#)

8. [Alleged Chris Brown Says Rihanna Gave Him STD](#)



Vans is [likely to succeed in its legal fight against MSCHF](#) over the Brooklyn-based novelty shop's Wavy Baby shoes, a collab with rapper Tyga that Vans argues ripped off, not satirized, its iconic “Old Skool” skater sneakers. [[Nika Schoonover](#)]

[ICYMI: New cases and rulings on our radar](#)

» **Border barrier battle:** NEW ORLEANS — The Fifth Circuit [issued a temporary administrative stay](#) in an ongoing dispute between Texas and the Biden administration concerning Border Patrol agents’ occasional cutting of the state’s razor wire barrier near the border. The lower court had written the practice was conducted in situations where officers needed to render emergency assistance to migrants in the river, and to apprehend and detain suspects.

» **YETI bootlegs:** AUSTIN, Texas — A federal court in Texas [allowed YETI Coolers’ lawsuit to proceed against a materials recycling company](#), which failed to destroy and recycle YETI-branded jackets, backpacks and tote bags that were manufactured but never taken to market, yet wound

up in the hands of resellers and were sold illegally across the U.S. The Texas company has a legitimate interest in getting relief in the state where its products were illegally sold.

» **Ford to pay for asbestos death:** WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — A federal court in North Carolina [declined to order a new trial](#) after Ford lost to a widow who lost her husband to mesothelioma, which developed because he was exposed to asbestos during his 40 years of working as a tractor-trailer mechanic. She is awarded \$275,000 in back pay plus prejudgment interest to the tune of nearly \$67,000.

— [Daniel Conrad](#)

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