



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

January 19, 2024

This week Donald Trump's courtroom outbursts prompted a scolding from the judge overseeing the New York City civil trial against him.

If that sounds like a sentence you've read before, perhaps in this very newsletter, there's a good reason: Just days after the NY AG's fraud case against him wrapped up (ruling forthcoming) the former president was [back at a Manhattan defense table](#) as he fights a second federal defamation lawsuit brought by writer E. Jean Carroll.

The longtime advice columnist, who sued Trump for defamation after he denied sexually assaulting her decades ago, [told jurors this week that Trump's 2019 denial soured her good name](#) and unleashed an avalanche of hateful, violent attacks from Trump's supporters. [[Josh Russell](#)]

"To have the president of the United States, one of the most powerful persons on Earth, calling me a liar for three days, and saying I'm a liar 26 times — I counted them — it ended the world that I had been living, and I entered a new world," [Carroll told jurors](#). "Now I'm known as a liar, a fraud and whackjob."

During Carroll's testimony, Trump's audible complaints that he was on the receiving end of a "witch hunt" and a "con job" earned him a talking-to by U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan, who told Trump he may have to boot him from the courtroom "because you just can't control yourself in this circumstance apparently."

In response, Trump taunted "I would love that," to which the Clinton-appointed judge replied, "I know you would."

TBD whether Trump will testify in his defense when trial resumes next week.

Much more Courthouse News to follow.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

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**Here's what else happened in court this week:**



A federal judge in Boston [blocked JetBlue Airways' proposed \\$3.8 billion acquisition](#) of Spirit Airlines, marking the [second time in eight months](#) that JetBlue has lost an antitrust case brought by the Biden administration. [[Thomas F. Harrison](#), [Kelsey Jukam](#)]

» Alec Baldwin [faces a new indictment in New Mexico](#) over the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film "Rust" in 2021. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]

» Supporters of youth tackle football scored a win as California Governor Gavin Newsom [said he wouldn't sign a bill banning the sport](#) for kids younger than 12. [[Alan Riquelmy](#)]

» In a case filed by Courthouse News, a federal judge ordered New Mexico courts to make new pleadings available to the public as they are received across the virtual counter. [[Bill Girdner](#)]



A Los Angeles County judge [is likely to advance actor Leah Remini's defamation and harassment lawsuit](#) against the Church of Scientology (albeit with some claims dismissed). [[Hillel Aron](#)]

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#### 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. [Notorious arcade gamer Billy Mitchell settles suit over Donkey Kong world record](#)
2. [Longtime NRA exec admits entering into million-dollar contract with girlfriend at New York trial](#)
3. [Federal judge dumps pyramid scheme lawsuit against Trump](#)
4. [Rapper Boosie Badazz asks court to allow contact with fiancée again](#)
5. [Judge's nixing of Iowa gender-balance law could be the beginning](#)
6. [Leah Remini suit against Church of Scientology likely to survive, trimmed](#)
7. [White House concerned over Ethiopia-Somaliland agreement](#)
8. [US magistrate judge advises dismissal of lawsuits over feds' response to Portland protests](#)



A Virginia lawmaker [introduced a bill aimed at reducing the feral cat population](#). Advocates are split on the most humane and efficient method of doing so. [[Joe Dodson](#)]

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

» **Zuckerberg deposition:** TEXARKANA, Texas — An appeals court in Texas [denied mandamus relief as requested by Meta Platforms](#), which wanted to overturn an order

compelling the “apex deposition” of Mark Zuckerberg in a suit brought by the state alleging Meta’s use of facial recognition technology violates Texas law. Texas has shown that Zuckerberg has “unique or superior personal knowledge of discoverable information.”

» **Section 8 discrimination:** ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Court of Appeals [upheld a Minneapolis ordinance that bans landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants](#) on the basis of their receipt of public assistance, i.e. Section 8 housing vouchers. The ordinance is neither preempted by a state anti-discrimination law, nor does it constitute an unconstitutional taking.

» **Leukemia from sunscreen:** CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A federal court in North Carolina [denied Neutrogena and Johnson & Johnson’s motion to dismiss claims](#) brought by the father of a child who died of acute myeloid leukemia after regular, long-term use of their sunscreen products. The parent has adequately alleged that regular application of their sunscreens, which contain the cancer-linked chemical benzene, is linked to his child’s death.

— [Daniel Conrad](#)

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