

Some dance to remember / some dance to forget



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

February 23, 2024

Courthouses on both coasts explored the right to rock, '70s style, in music ownership trials involving two of the decade's most iconic bands.

In Los Angeles, four former members of the British rock band Supertramp [faced off at a trial over royalties from their six 1970s and 80s hit albums](#), including their most successful record, "Breakfast in America."

As [Edvard Pettersson](#) reports, three of the ex-bandmates — bass player Dougie Thomson, saxophonist John Helliwell and drummer Bob Siebenberg — accuse the band's main songwriter, singer and guitarist Roger Hodgson, of renegeing on a 1977 agreement that entitled them to a cut of his songwriting royalties.

Meanwhile in the Big Apple, [trial opened against three men prosecutors say stole handwritten lyrics to The Eagles' "Hotel California"](#) and other hits.

Book dealer Glenn Horowitz, former Rock & Roll Hall of Fame curator Craig Inciardi and music collector Edward Kosinski are accused of conspiring to sell around 100 pages of stolen lyric manuscripts belonging to the iconic West Coast rock band, [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports — charges defense attorneys called "patently absurd."

The collection is worth millions of dollars, prosecutors say, with the 13 pages of "Hotel California" alone valued at \$1 million.

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— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



After five days of deliberation, a Manhattan jury on Friday [found the ex-CEO of the National Rifle Association, Wayne LaPierre, engaged in corruption and self-dealing](#) that cost the group \$5.4 million. LaPierre held the position for more than 30 years before resigning, citing health issues, just before trial began. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

» A California federal judge [ruled that Tesla owners can pursue claims](#) accusing Elon Musk's electric vehicle company of deliberately slashing its battery power in its cars via software updates. [[Natalie Hanson](#)]

» Labor Department regulation that takes effect next month [could require many businesses that treat workers as independent contractors to start paying them as employees](#) — although it's still unclear how much of a difference it will make in practice. [[Thomas F. Harrison](#)]

» The Chicago Board of Education [voted unanimously to remove uniformed police officers](#) from 39 public schools across the city. [[Caitlyn Rosen](#)]

» Germany is the [first major European country to legalize recreational weed](#). [[Cain Burdeau](#)]



While Supreme Court Justices Roberts and Thomas [resumed the hot seat](#) over their alternative security detail, the court took up a [Boy Scout victim settlement](#), [gender-affirming care for trans kids](#), [an interstate clean air law](#) and more. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

Sidebar — a podcast from Courthouse News



February may be Cupid's month, but the world of romance isn't all roses. Finding your person the modern way, via the internet, can leave you vulnerable to scammers who trawl dating apps.

From online dating schemes to less-than-up-front labeling on chocolates and pre-mixed mimosas, Sidebar co-host [Amanda Pampuro](#) explores the trickier side of human connection in "[Love is a lie.](#)"

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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. ['Top Gun' actor sues over use of his image in 2022 sequel](#)
2. [Former Supertramp bandmates square off over royalties from hit albums](#)
3. [Judge confirms \\$5 million award to Lindell's 'Prove Mike Wrong' contest winner](#)
4. [Early polling indicates close gubernatorial race in North Carolina](#)
5. [Whitehouse floats congressional intervention for SCOTUS fact-finding adventurism](#)
6. [Asylum-seeking moms claim they were expelled to Mexico a day after giving birth](#)
7. Portion of Washington hydroelectric dam harms salmon, must be removed, federal judge rules
8. [Trial of Rebecca Grossman, accused of killing two boys with her car, comes to a close](#)



In San Francisco, a customer class [got a judge's go-ahead to pursue claims that Simpson Imports is trying to dupe customers](#) into thinking its SMT canned tomatoes are high-end San Marzano tomatoes grown in Italy, when in fact they are lower quality San Merican tomatoes. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

ICYMI: New cases and rulings on our radar

» **Labor board rebukes Home Depot:** WASHINGTON — The National Labor Relations Board [found in favor of a Home Depot employee who was fired](#) for refusing to remove the hand-drawn phrase “Black Lives Matter” from his work apron. The National Labor Relations Act protects employees’ right to conduct “concerted activities” for the purpose of “mutual aid or protection,” and because his wearing the BLM logo was a “logical outgrowth” of prior employee protests about race

discrimination at the business and racial discrimination constituted mutual protection, his behavior was protected under the law.

» **Santos v. Kimmell:** MANHATTAN — Former U.S. Representative George Santos [says Jimmy Kimmel tricked him into recording personalized videos](#) that the late-night host then aired in violation of copyright, including one where Santos congratulated a woman named Brenda for "successfully cloning your beloved schnauzer, Adolf," and another praising a man for eating 6 pounds of loose ground beef in 30 minutes.

» **Jurors' faces:** ALBANY, N.Y. — New York's highest court [affirmed an appellate decision that Covid protocols, namely face masks, didn't violate defendant's right to be present during jury selection](#) and observe prospective jurors' facial expressions and body language. During questioning, jurors could lower their masks and use a clear plastic face shield. Defendant was on trial for vehicular homicide after opened alcoholic beverages were found in his car.

— *Daniel Conrad, Audrey Rodeman*

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