

Plus: Illicit reptile house in Boston, Arctic ringed seals in Alaska



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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Today marks the 20th issue of Closing Arguments! Thanks to all our readers for helping us grow — and if you're a new subscriber, welcome aboard.

This week the Justice Department [accused Apple trying to create a monopoly on smartphone markets](#).

In a federal lawsuit, the government says the company imposed contractual restrictions on developers, undermined apps and limited functionality with non-Apple products. Attorney General Merrick Garland even flagged the dreaded green bubble that iPhone users see when texting Android-using pals. [[Nolan Stout](#)]

Apple said the DOJ's 88-page lawsuit was “wrong on the facts and the law” and would “hinder our ability to create the kind of technology people expect from Apple.”

The suit — which comes on the heels of EU laws [requiring Apple to allow](#) European users to download apps from outside its app store — summed up its criticism of Apple in a 2022 quote from CEO Tim Cook, who was asked whether Apple would fix iPhone-to-Android messaging.

The questioner complained, “I can’t send my mom certain videos,” to which Cook replied: “Buy your mom an iPhone.”

Keep reading for more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Hours after the Supreme Court [said Texas could enforce](#) its new state deportation law, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals [blocked the law again](#) in a late-night order. Texas and the DOJ then [returned to the Fifth Circuit](#) to argue over whether SB 4 should remain blocked as challenges proceed. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#), [Kirk McDaniel](#)]

» A former NYPD employee [accused New York City Mayor Eric Adams of sexually assaulting her](#) in 1993 when he demanded a quid pro-quo sexual favor in exchange for helping her get a promotion. [[Josh Russell](#)]

» A federal judge [approved a \\$125 million settlement](#) in a class action against the federal government, ordering the reimbursement for eligible users of the Pacer electronic court system. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]

» Sixteen states, led by Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, [took the Biden administration to court](#) over its January ban on issuing new permits to export liquefied natural gas. [[Sabrina Canfield](#)]

» LinkedIn [must face a California class action](#) from LinkedIn Premium subscribers who say the professional networking website runs a monopoly by selling user data to third parties in exchange for anticompetitive agreements. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]



An environmental advocacy group [sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) over its decision last year not to list two species of Joshua trees as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

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. [Supreme Court allows politicians to block constituents from personal accounts](#)

2. [Supreme Court frowns at limiting Biden administration's contact with tech companies](#)
3. [Wisconsin Supreme Court rules against tax exemption for Catholic charities](#)
4. [Federal judge blocks attempt by Trump to dismiss classified-document charges](#)
5. [\[Brief\] Confederate statute to stay](#)
6. [\[Brief\] Jailer to pay for not helping inmate](#)
7. [South Carolina inmate says 'psychopath' defense doomed him to death row](#)
8. [Supreme Court fight over 'and' leaves drug offenders with more prison time](#)



Conservation protections for Alaska's Arctic ringed seals will remain after [a federal judge denied the state's administrative appeal](#) of the National Marine Fisheries Services' decision to keep the seals listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. [[Alanna Mayham](#)]

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

» **Boston bomber jury bias:** BOSTON — The First Circuit [ordered the trial judge presiding](#) over the case of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the Boston Marathon bomber, to investigate whether jury bias was at play during the penalty phase. The panel notes that this will only affect whether he faces the death penalty, and that Tsarnaev will spend the rest of his life in prison regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

» **Court OKs Cali assault rifle ban:** SANTA ANA, Calif. — A federal court in California [upheld the state's ban on assault rifles](#) under the Supreme Court's test established in *Bruen v. New York*. The law has properly “singled out a subset of firearms” that are “dangerous and unusual weapons,” the court concludes.

» **Illicit reptile house:** BOSTON — The Massachusetts Court of Appeals [upheld a cease-and-desist that was issued against a homeowner](#) who runs a reptile breeding facility in his basement, in which he keeps bearded dragons, turtles and insects that are fed to the reptiles. The animals are not agricultural ones, bearded dragons are not customary pets, and even if turtles are customary pets, keeping 60 is not customary — so the zoning authority's order was proper.

— *Daniel Conrad*

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