

Plus: EU tech law fallout, PA bitcoin mining, Tiger King copyright and more



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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Nearly two years after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a challenge to a widely used abortion pill appeared to fall flat during arguments this week — but that's just one of several efforts brewing to further restrict abortion access in the wake of the *Dobbs* ruling.

Doctors who don't prescribe the pill, [mifepristone](#), claim the FDA hasn't kept accurate data on its adverse effects, leaving emergency room doctors to treat a flood of complications, violating their anti-abortion sensibilities.

While Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas took interest in the restrictions of the Comstock Act, most of [the justices didn't see a prognosis of success](#) for the doctors, Supreme Court reporter [Kelsey Reichmann](#) writes.

“At the very least, to be able to say this happened to them in the past,” Justice Elena Kagan said. “I don’t think you have it for either one of those doctors.”

As high court examines medication abortions (it will rule by the end of June) Kelsey and co-host [Hillel Aron](#) took a deeper dive into abortion rights in [the latest episode of Sidebar](#), including another legal battleground for anti-abortion efforts: fetal personhood.

You probably heard about this recently in relation to the Alabama Supreme Court's ruling that [frozen embryos can be considered children](#) — but the state has been prosecuting child abuse cases involving fetuses for years — and it's not the only one.

For more on the effects of criminal statutes that target pregnancies, listen to "Bitter Pill: Pregnancy and Personhood in a Post-Dobbs America," available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#) and our [website](#).

Stick around for more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



A New York federal judge [sentenced ex-cryptocurrency mogul Sam Bankman-Fried](#) to 25 years in prison for [looting \\$8 billion from FTX customers](#). He also imposed a financial penalty of over \$11 billion. [[Josh Russell](#)]

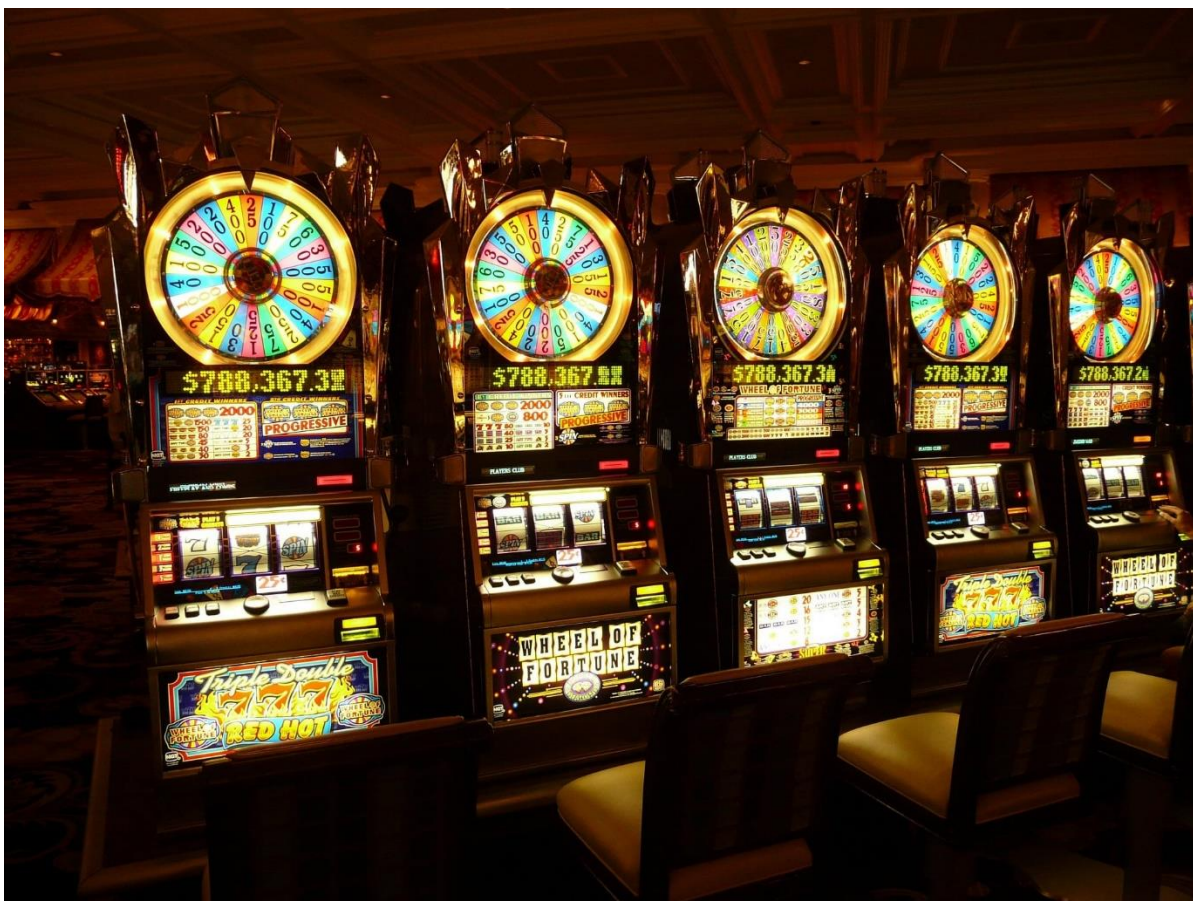
» European Union [regulators are investigating](#) whether Apple, Google and Meta are violating the bloc's tough new rules to combat the anticompetitive practices of Big Tech. [[Cain Burdeau](#)]

France, in parallel, has [formed its own strategy to take on Google](#), fining the company roughly \$272 million for breaching its commitment to pay media outlets for their material. [[Lily Radziemski](#)]

» The Ninth Circuit [revived claims against Apple](#) brought by a class of phishing victims who say the tech giant allowed hackers to place a malicious app disguised as a cryptocurrency wallet in its App Store. [[Natalie Hanson](#)]

» Hunter Biden [asked a federal judge to dismiss the tax-evasion charges](#) brought against him in late 2023, arguing the case is politically motivated. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

» Activists [sued the National Park Service](#) over a program that seeks to remove stray cats from federal parks in and around Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]



A federal judge in San Francisco [ruled that Roblox negligently allowed minors to use in-game currency](#) in online casinos, after parents claimed the popular gaming platform acts as an illegal gambling ring for children. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

Meanwhile in Philadelphia, a bill to dramatically limit installations of casino-style "skill games" [passed the City Council](#) — and was immediately challenged in state court. [\[Jackson Healy\]](#)

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. [SCOTUS won't take up Obama-era suit over president's power to put national monuments on federal land](#)
2. [Fourth Circuit befuddled by Baltimore eviction law that gives landlords their tenants' property](#)
3. [Idaho attorney general's take on abortion referrals lands at Ninth Circuit](#)
4. [Federal judge finds home insurers can be sued for discriminatory risk assessment](#)
5. [Workers should be compensated for waiting at security checks, California Supreme Court says](#)
6. [\[January 2012\] Bipolar Man's Death by Taser Needs Jury Trial](#)
7. [\[January 2018\] KFC Franchisee Loses Fight to Market Chicken as Muslim-Friendly](#)
8. [Judge recommends that Trump attorney John Eastman be disbarred](#)



A Pennsylvania environmental group is [aiming to break new legal ground](#) by using the nation's first-adopted — but rarely used — "green amendment" against the state and a power plant that supplies energy for bitcoin mining. [[Jackson Healy](#)]

ICYMI: New cases and rulings on our radar

» **Prenatal genetic screening:** CHICAGO — A federal court in Illinois [dismissed a negligence claim, but not the fraud claim](#), brought by parents against a genetic screening company that falsely told them their child would not have Down syndrome. Their fraud claim survives the motion to dismiss.

» **Jefferson Starship suit concludes:** SAN FRANCISCO — A federal court in California [granted summary judgment to the 70s psych-rock band Jefferson Starship](#) in a contract lawsuit brought by former guitarist and songwriter Craig Chaquico. He sought an accounting of financial documents, but the court finds in favor of the group's counterclaim: A 1991 agreement allows the deductions the group has taken from Chaquico's royalties.

» **Tiger King copyright case:** DENVER — The 10th Circuit [upheld a lower court’s dismissal of copyright infringement claims](#) for seven of eight video clips used in the Netflix “Tiger King” series. The final clip, footage from a funeral, is not protected by fair use.

— *[Daniel Conrad](#)*

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