

Why does Netflix have to cough up \$1.4 million to pay reality TV stars?



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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In a mostly balmy week in Manhattan, [Donald Trump's criminal trial](#) was all Stormy Daniels as the former adult film actress testified about her long-rumored sexual encounter with the former president.

Daniels testified that [she and Trump had sex in 2006](#), months after his youngest son's birth, after meeting at a Lake Tahoe celebrity golf tournament. Prosecutors accuse Trump of [falsifying business records](#) in order to pay Daniels to keep the story quiet a decade later, during his first run for president.

Trump's lawyers [sought to discredit Daniels](#) on cross-examination, at one point asking her, “You have a lot of experience in making phony stories about sex appear to be real, right?”

“That’s not how I would put it,” Daniels said in reply. “The sex in those films, it’s very much real, just like what happened to me in that room.”

[Erik Uebelacker](#) is covering (and often [live-tweeting!](#)) the trial.

Next week, Michael Cohen [will take the stand](#) as a government witness.

In the meantime, the Courthouse News continues.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Sidebar: Real lawsuits of 'Real Housewives'



The same high-octane drama that popularized Bravo's "Real Housewives" franchise plays out offscreen, too, when reality stars fight each other and the network in court.

In the [latest episode](#) of Sidebar, [Hillel Aron](#) and [Amanda Pampuro](#) expose the dark side of reality TV chaos, which has spurred claims of hostile work environments, sexual assault and exploitation.

If you're curious about what makes Bethany Frankel the Gwyneth Paltrow of reality TV, why Andy Cohen is the Vince McMahon of "Real Housewives," or the eye-popping price Jim Beam paid for Skinnygirl Margaritas — you [don't want to miss this one](#).

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Here's what else happened in court this week:



Hunter Biden will stand trial in June on multiple firearms charges after [losing his appeal](#). [\[Jackson Healy\]](#)

» Convicted felons still have Second Amendment rights, the [Ninth Circuit found](#) in a split ruling. [\[Edvard Petterson\]](#)

» In California, a federal judge said Apple's proposed \$490 million investor settlement [needs more work](#). [\[Natalie Hanson\]](#)

» TikTok [filed a lawsuit](#) seeking to block legislation that would ban the app in the U.S. if it's not divested from ByteDance, its Chinese parent company. [\[Ryan Knappenberger\]](#)

» Judges in the [First Circuit](#) and [Fourth Circuit](#) heard constitutional claims from detainees who were held in isolation without proper mental health treatment. [\[Josh Russell, Joe Dodson\]](#)



More than 100 Netflix reality TV cast and crew members led by Jeremy Hartwell from "Love Is Blind" [reached a \\$1.4 million settlement](#) with the streaming service after claiming they were underpaid and denied meal breaks. [[Hillel Aron](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [Ninth Circuit finds that convicted felons also have Second Amendment rights](#)
2. [Supreme Court pumps the brakes on additional hearing requirements for 'innocent owner' claims](#)
3. [First Circuit unsure if Boston can keep the devil at bay](#)
4. [Putin sworn in as Ukraine war drifts toward possible direct conflict between Russia and the West](#)
5. [Jury finds protesters guilty of conspiracy in San Diego antifa case](#)
6. [Southern California woman admits to \\$150 million postal fraud](#)
7. [Medical company that owns dozens of US hospitals files for bankruptcy](#)
8. ['I was ashamed:' Stormy Daniels testifies about having sex with Donald Trump](#)



In a [new science story](#) for Courthouse News, LA-based reporter [Hillel Aron](#) unpacks AI research that carries hefty legal implications: Artificial intelligence systems can lie to humans without first being programmed to do so.

New rulings on our radar

» **Southern District of Texas:** A law firm [may proceed](#) with claims against a lawyer referral service it says diverted prospective clients by buying the top search result position in Google searches of the law firm's business name and other marks.

» **San Francisco Superior Court:** Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile [will pay](#) more than \$10 million to states that sued them over misleading ads, including for "unlimited" data plans.

» **Alabama Supreme Court:** The court [will not rehear](#) the IVF case it considered earlier this year regarding whether frozen embryos have the same state protections as children.

» **Southern District of California:** A class settlement gets [preliminary approval](#) in an antitrust lawsuit between food preparers and big tuna companies like StarKist and Chicken of the Sea.

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