

Plus: The \$25 million cryptocurrency scheme that took just 12 seconds to pull off, allegedly.



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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The criminal trial against Donald Trump picked up even more steam as ex-attorney Michael Cohen took the stand, [admitting to lies](#) he told as Trump's longtime lawyer-fixer, including in the scheme at hand: a plan to buy the silence of adult film star [Stormy Daniels](#).

Before last year's [indictment](#) made Trump the first-ever U.S. president to face criminal charges, Cohen got in big trouble over his work for Trump.

He pleaded guilty in 2018 to [lying to Congress](#) about a Moscow real estate deal, and served [time behind bars](#) — yet when the FBI raided his home, he said, Trump [left him high and dry](#).

As the steadfast [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports from the Manhattan courthouse, right-wing figures have shown up to support Trump at trial, including U.S. Representatives Lauren Boebert and Matt Gaetz, former 2024 presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and House Speaker Mike Johnson.

But Trump wasn't the only politician sitting for an East Coast criminal trial this week.

Keep scrolling to see who else is in the hot seat (and for lots more Courthouse News).

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Trial [kicked off against](#) New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez, who's accused a quid pro quo exchange for gold bars, luxury cars and sham paychecks. [[Josh Russell](#)]

» The man convicted of breaking into former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home and fracturing her husband Paul's skull with a hammer [will serve 30 years in prison](#). [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

» McKinsey and Co. [must face charges](#) over its role in the opioid crisis, specifically for the effects of the drugs on pregnant women and their children. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

» Two brothers [were indicted in Manhattan federal court](#) on accusations they executed a scheme to steal \$25 million in cryptocurrency in just 12 seconds. [[Nika Schoonover](#)]

» Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes sued Amazon, accusing it of deceptive and unfair business practices. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]



Brad Pitt's lawyers [asked a Los Angeles judge](#) to compel his ex-wife and fellow star Angelina Jolie to produce a trove of nondisclosure agreements she has signed in the past. [[Hillel Aron](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [Ninth Circuit finds that convicted felons also have Second Amendment rights](#)
2. ['Love Is Blind' cast member reaches \\$1.4 million settlement with Netflix in class action over unpaid wages](#)
3. [Supreme Court pumps the brakes on additional hearing requirements for 'innocent owner' claims](#)
4. [Biden Justice Department, rights groups sue Iowa over new law making illegal immigration a state crime](#)
5. [Michael Cohen testimony takes a vulgar turn during cross-examination at Trump's criminal trial](#)

6. [Biden invokes executive privilege to block release of special counsel recordings](#)
7. [Michael Cohen: Trump hush-money scheme was 'all about the campaign'](#)
8. [Putin sworn in as Ukraine war drifts toward possible direct conflict between Russia and the West](#)



Seventy years ago, a unanimous Supreme Court moved to define America's values in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In a new [analysis piece for Courthouse News](#), SCOTUS reporter [Kelsey Reichmann](#) talks to legal experts — including a professor who once clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall — about how *Brown's* legacy squares with the current bench's rejection of affirmative action.

New rulings on our radar 🗞️

» **Eastern District of Pennsylvania:** A state lawmaker [must face claims](#) under the Telephone Consumers Protection Act after a resident on the "Do Not Call" registry says he received five robocalls from the official.

» **Northern District of Illinois:** Nevada doctors [can be added](#) as defendants to the bellweather complaint against Abbott Laboratories over its tainted baby formula.

» **Ninth Circuit:** The court [won't rehear](#) a nonprofit's request to stop a land exchange allowing copper mining on land sacred to Apache tribes.

» **Texas Court of Appeals:** The "grossly excessive" \$222 million judgment granted to the widow of a worker killed in a steam accident at a Kansas coal-fired power plant [has been vacated](#).



It's hard not to get sucked into the eye-popping fights that popularized reality TV shows like the "Real Housewives." But the off-screen drama can be just as juicy.

From Sidebar's [Hillel Aron](#) and [Amanda Pampuro](#), it's "[Real lawsuits of 'Real Housewives.'](#)"

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