

Why are Republican senators drinking milk at work?



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

May 3, 2024

Donald Trump's hush-money trial picked up steam as former White House communications director Hope Hicks [testified about the Trump campaign's damage control](#) after his now-infamous “Access Hollywood” tape leaked a month before the 2016 election.

Prosecutors say Trump, fearful of more bad press, tried to pay adult film actress Stormy Daniels to keep quiet about an extramarital affair and falsified business records to cover it up, [Josh Russell](#) reports.

While Trump's hometown criminal trial continued to dominate headlines — earlier this week, the judge [found Trump in contempt of court](#) for violating a gag order nine times — another major trial in Washington quietly kicked into gear after a six-month hiatus.

At Google's federal antitrust trial, [Justice Department attorneys closed their case](#), accusing the \$1.7 trillion company of [leveraging lucrative deals](#) to make Google the default search engine on Apple, Android and Mozilla devices — making it nearly impossible for other to compete.

It's the largest antitrust case since 2001 and the first in the modern digital age. [Ryan Knappenberger](#), who has [followed the marathon trial](#) since its inception, has the story.

If U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta rules against Google, a second bench trial will determine the appropriate remedy. That could mean injunctions, fines or even forcing the company to sell off problematic parts of its business.

Next: more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



After 40 hours of deliberations, juror deadlock [spurred a mistrial](#) as Abu Ghraib torture survivors sought hold a civilian contractor liable for abuse at the notorious prison. [[Nolan Stout](#)]

» Arizona leaders [repealed](#) the state's 1864 abortion ban after it was [reenacted](#) last month. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]

» New York, Florida and the District of Columbia [joined an antitrust suit](#) challenging the NCAA's control over student-athletes' names, images and likeness deals. [[Gabriel Tynes](#)]

» A Fifth Circuit panel [reversed a \\$1.6 billion judgment](#) against IBM in a licensing and competition dispute with Houston-based software company BMC. [[Cameron Thompson](#)]

» The state of Texas [sued the U.S. Department of Education](#) over its expansion of Title IX protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity. [[Kirk McDaniel](#)]

» Families [testified tearfully](#) at a [Honolulu trial](#) over jet fuel-contaminated water at an Oahu Navy base, saying the leak left illness and lingering fears in its wake. [[Keya Rivera](#)]



The federal government [sued San Francisco](#) saying its stormwater and sewage system discharges billions of gallons of combined sewage annually onto the beaches into the bay. [[Hillel Aron](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. Government offices close as three Southern states memorialize Confederacy
2. Colorado judge sentences serial suer to 12 years in prison
3. Southern California woman admits to \$150 million postal fraud
4. Georgia sheriff who held detainees in restraint chairs for hours loses appeal of criminal conviction
5. Special counsel tells Supreme Court that Donald Trump is not above the rule of law
6. Guenther Steiner sues former Formula One team Haas
7. Stormy Daniels' ex-lawyer recalls shopping affair rumors at hush-money trial
8. First Amendment action filed against Texas court clerks

Got milk?



In a [new feature story](#), reporter [Benjamin S. Weiss](#) explores why Republican senators could be seen sipping milk during a recent meeting and unpacks a long-standing

myth about Senate rules. (Plus: Find out which U.S. senator admitted to Weiss that he too has sipped a cold one, Allison Williams style, while in the upper chamber.)

New rulings on our radar

» **Western District of Texas:** The federal government's lawsuit over Texas' buoy barrier in the Rio Grande is [partially dismissed](#).

» **Texas Supreme Court:** State Covid-19 liability protections [apply retroactively](#) to a former Southern Methodist University student's lawsuit against the school for moving to online classes during the pandemic.

» **Eastern District of New York:** Class action false advertising claims against Cold Stone Creamery's parent company [are dismissed](#), except one concerning pistachio flavored ice cream that doesn't contain the nut.

© 2023 Courthouse News Service
www.courthousenews.com



[Unsubscribe - Unsubscribe Preferences](#)