

SCOTUS released back-to-back rulings on abortion and gun access.



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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Summer break is in full swing everywhere except the U.S. Supreme Court, which turned out two highly anticipated rulings this week, shaping the nation's access to abortion and guns.

The often divided court unanimously [rejected](#) new limits on the so-called abortion pill mifepristone, since the conservative doctors who brought the suit don't prescribe the drug and therefore lacked standing.

The truce didn't last long: The high court's six conservative justices [signed](#) an instantly controversial opinion blocking federal agencies from banning bump stocks, the rapid-fire accessory used in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. The liberal trinity penned a [fiery dissent](#). After the justices overturned the Trump-era policy, President Joe Biden quickly called on [Congress to act](#).

With great rulings comes great scrutiny, and Justice Clarence Thomas finally [disclosed](#) three private jet trips covered by a billionaire with regularly business before the court.

While all eyes are on SCOTUS, the lower courts may be getting help from a Senate bill [promising](#) to hire dozens of new federal judges. Read on to see what current jurists are juggling — from serendipitously timed Pride month lawsuits to questionable moral qualifications for firearms.

— [Amanda Pampuro](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Texas and Montana [teamed up](#) to challenge the Department of Health and Human Services for prohibiting federally funded health care providers from refusing to provide gender-affirming care to transgender patients. Meanwhile a federal judge [struck down](#) Florida's ban on giving such care to minors. [[Kirk McDaniel](#) / [Megan Butler](#)]

» A Christian health care provider and two Catholic parishes [told](#) the Sixth Circuit that their trio of lawsuits challenging Michigan's anti-discrimination law were improperly dismissed. [[David Wells](#)]

» A federal judge in Texas [ruled against](#) the Biden administration's interpretation of Title IX as prohibiting discrimination in education based on sexual orientation and gender identity. [[Cameron Thompson](#)]

» Sorority sisters from the University of Wyoming can't appeal their [dismissed](#) lawsuit against Kappa Kappa Gamma for admitting the organization's first transgender woman, the 10th Circuit found. [[Amanda Pampuro](#)]

» The state of Iowa asked the Eighth Circuit of Appeals to [affirm](#) a law banning sexually explicit books from school libraries that has prompted the removal of 3,400 books including “1984,” “Animal Farm” and “The Portrait of Dorian Gray.” [[Rox Laird](#)]



The NAACP Virginia State Conference [accused](#) a school board of discriminating against Black students after it voted to restore the Confederate names on Stonewall Jackson High School and Ashby Lee Elementary School. [[Joe Dodson](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [Federal judge tosses Biden administration's Title IX guidance aimed at protecting LGBTQ+ students](#)
2. [Macron sends shock waves through France with snap decision to dissolve government](#)
3. [Supreme Court pulls Biden administration into climate lawsuit showdown](#)
4. [Ninth Circuit upholds California's ban on gun show sales](#)
5. [Key witness in Menendez bribery trial says he made senator's wife's car payments for 3 years](#)

6. [Alan Dershowitz asks appeals court to revive his defamation suit against CNN](#)
7. [Rebecca Grossman gets 15 years to life in prison for killing two young boys with her car in Los Angeles](#)
8. [Feds asks for pause on California corrections' facial hair policy](#)



Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg [agreed](#) to appear before Congress to testify about his hush-money case against former President Donald Trump, while the GOP took a [victory lap](#) over Hunter Biden's gun possession verdict. [[Erik Uebelacker](#) / [Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

» A coalition of immigrant rights groups [challenged](#) Biden's executive order that effectively bars most people illegally crossing the southern U.S. border from receiving asylum. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]

» The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [will decide](#) if a federal judge was right to dismiss a lawsuit demanding that the judicial branch halt U.S. aid to Israel as it bombs Gaza. [[Natalie Hanson](#)]

» A key witness in Bob Menendez's bribery trial [said](#) he made car payments for the New Jersey senator's wife for 3 years. [[Josh Russell](#)]

» New York City officials [asked](#) the Second Circuit to support its "good moral character" criteria for gun permits and decision to reject a man without any criminal convictions. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

New rulings on our radar

» **Ohio Court of Appeals:** The Amish operator of a horse-and-buggy that was swerving between lanes — and who had fallen asleep in the buggy after drinking four Twisted Teas — was [properly cited and convicted](#).

» **Northern District of California:** San Francisco officials will face [civil rights claims](#) following a mass arrest of minors during the “Dolores Hill Bomb” skateboarding event.

» **Virginia Court of Appeals:** A man was [properly convicted](#) for being part of a group that surrounded a woman late at night and blocked her escape while she was attacked.



In the past few years, there's been an explosion of nationwide injunctions coming from single-judge divisions in the federal court system. These judges were handpicked by the people filing lawsuits.

From Sidebar's [Kelsey Reichmann](#) and [Kirk McDaniel](#), let's go "[Shopping for the Perfect Court](#)."

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