



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

July 12, 2024

Verdict watch began this week for a trio of trials in New York City.

In Manhattan, jurors are deliberating in the fraud case against [New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez](#), who's accused of taking [hundreds of thousands of dollars](#) in bribes, including in [cash](#) and [gold bars](#), in exchange for [political favors](#). The 70-year-old senator accused the government of [relying on "half-truths"](#) to make its case over the two-month trial. [Josh Russell](#) is covering.

Another jury in the same federal courthouse will decide the [\\$1 billion fraud case](#) of MAGA-affiliated Chinese dissident [Guo Wengui](#). Deliberations hit a speed bump on Friday when one juror confessed she had googled Guo's co-defendant; the [juror was dismissed](#) and an alternate took over, [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports.

Across the river in Brooklyn federal court, the fate of a defunct media group's CEO rests in jurors' hands. [Nika Schoonover](#) is following the trial of [Ozy Media's Carlos Watson](#), who's accused of misrepresenting the company's profitability to investors.

Watson [testified in his own defense](#) and denied he partook in a [bizarre 2021 phone call](#) with Goldman Sachs, during which his co-founder reportedly [used a voice modifier](#) to impersonate a YouTube executive.

There's plenty more Courthouse News while we wait.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



The Manhattan district attorney is seeking to file [more criminal charges](#) against disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein ahead of his retrial. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

- » A married couple [sued](#) the Federal Election Commission, arguing its small donor disclosure rules violate their First Amendment rights. [[Dave Byrnes](#)]
- » Democrat Senator Jon Ossoff [singlehandedly tanked](#) a committee vote to confirm a federal court nominee. [[Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]
- » Thousands of prisoners in Britain are set to be released early as the system [nears capacity](#). [[Dominic Glover](#)]
- » Mexico's President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum is adding to [her cabinet](#). [[William Savinar](#)]



Protesters were [denied a bid](#) to march along their preferred route at the Republican National Convention next week. [[Joe Kelly](#)]

#### Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [\[September 2016\] Rape allegations refiled against Trump](#)
2. [California Supreme Court reverses Public Utilities Commission on water surcharges](#)
3. [Kratom company can't dodge lawsuit over undisclosed addiction risk](#)
4. [\[February 2024\] Judges frustrated as Scientology head David Miscavige dodges summons](#)
5. [Internet Archive fights to preserve digital libraries in Second Circuit hearing](#)
6. [Ocasio-Cortez unveils articles of impeachment against Justices Thomas, Alito](#)
7. [Many Trump voters back Senate Democrats, making the chamber a toss-up in the fall](#)

8. [Roberts renews grip on high court, for better or worse](#)



The NRA is gearing up for the [next phase](#) of its legal battle in New York, five months after a jury found its former CEO Wayne LaPierre misappropriated [\\$5.4 million](#) of donor funds for [personal use](#). The gun-rights group faces the possibility of further penalties, including the appointment of an independent monitor. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

**Rulings on our radar** 

» **District of Vermont:** Ben & Jerry's [beat a class claim](#) that at least one of its suppliers employs migrant child labor in the production of milk.

» **Western District of Louisiana:** The U.S. Postal Service [won dismissal](#) of a motorist's \$1.5 million negligence suit over a crash involving a postal worker who blew through a red light.

» **Massachusetts Appeals Court:** A painter who walked around his client's home masturbating and looking into her surveillance cameras [can't be prosecuted](#) for open and gross lewdness.

» **Southern District of California:** Two parents' lawsuit accusing Roblox of misleading them about the strength of its safety filters is [dismissed](#).



While Sidebar enjoys a summer hiatus, we're highlighting some greatest hits. Like "Sour Grapes" [from September 2023](#), which explores former Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's bitter fight over their once beloved wine label Miraval.

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