

Young Thug's racketeering case makes its way through a revolving door of judges



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

July 19, 2024

Courthouse News was on the ground during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this week as reporters [Benjamin S. Weiss](#) and [Joe Kelly](#) chatted up pundits, delegates and even some Donald Trump fans who left everything behind to travel the country to [sell MAGA merchandise](#).

Trump, who named [Ohio Senator J.D. Vance](#) as his running mate, formally [accepted the party's nomination](#) on Thursday while still wearing a bandage on his ear — less than a week after the attempt on his life at a July 13 Pennsylvania rally.

In the lead-up to that moment, RNC [push for unity](#) among the party was palpable, and [confidence was high](#) throughout the week. Talks centered engaging [younger GOP voters](#), [Second Amendment rights](#), [Latino leadership](#) and Republicans' [commitment to Israel](#).

Lots more Courthouse News up ahead.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez is facing renewed calls from fellow Democrats for his resignation after the longtime leader was [convicted on all counts](#) in his federal bribery trial. [[Josh Russell](#)]

» In a [highly anticipated decision](#), the United Nations' highest court said [Israel's presence](#) in the Palestinian territories is illegal and must end — adding that countries who assist Israel with its illegal activities are also in breach of their obligations. [[Molly Quell](#)]

» Chinese dissident Guo Wengui was [convicted](#) of racketeering and fraud in a \$1 billion scheme. [[Josh Russell](#), [Erik Uebelacker](#)]

» Jurors in Brooklyn found Ozy Media CEO Carlos Watson [guilty](#) of lying to investors about his now-defunct media company's finances. [[Nika Schoonover](#)]

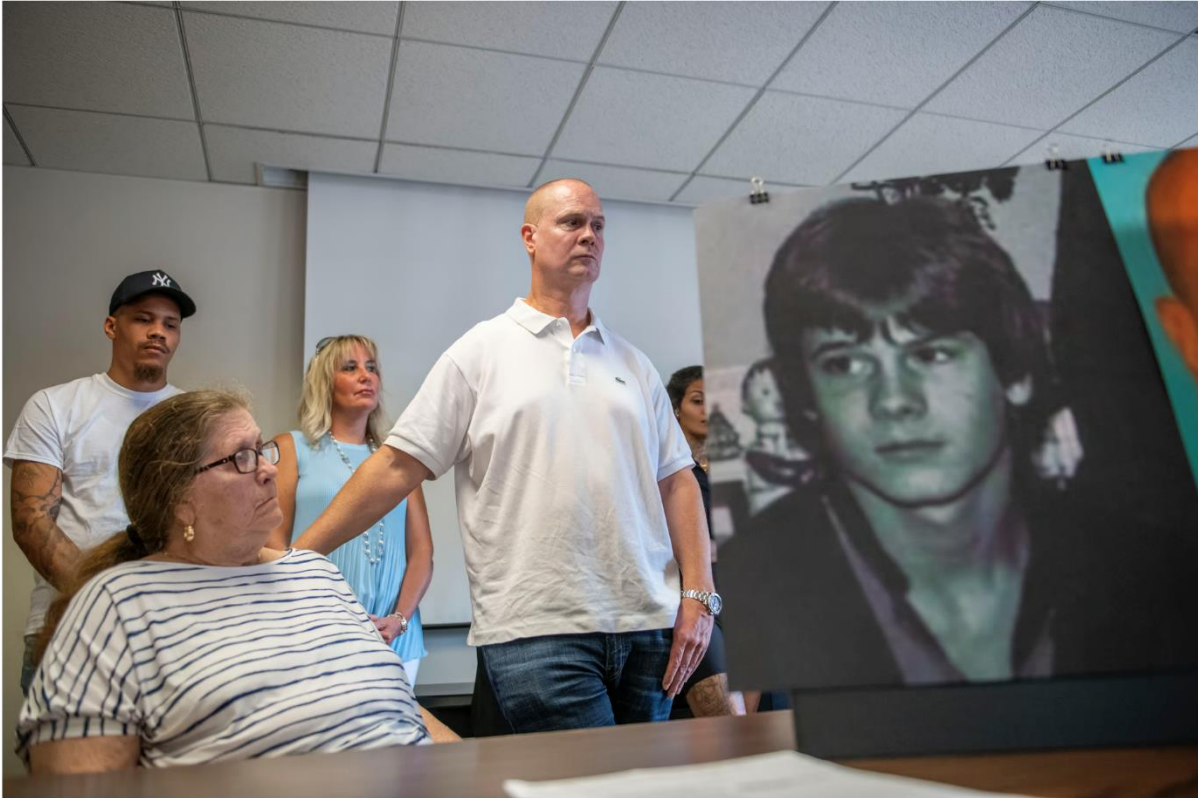
» Two days after Grammy-winning artist Young Thug's racketeering case was [reassigned](#) amid complaints the presiding judge improperly met with prosecutors and a key witness, the new judge on the case [recused herself](#). [[Megan Butler](#)]



The [second phase](#) of the National Rifle Association's NYC trial is underway as the state AG makes a case for court-appointed oversight of the gun group's finances. Former NRA CEO [Wayne LaPierre testified](#) — five months after jurors found he [illicitly spent \\$5.4 million](#) of donor cash on luxury trips, designer suits and other personal expenses, while the NRA's board and executives did nothing to stop him. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [Judge dismisses felony gun possession case against rapper Boosie Badazz](#)
2. [Supreme Court wills Confederate monument protesters to jail despite appeal](#)
3. [Southern California attorney facing disbarment after claims of stealing \\$282 million from clients](#)
4. [DOJ begins dropping Capitol riot obstruction charges following SCOTUS decision](#)
5. [\[September 2016\] Rape allegations refiled against Trump](#)
6. [Chinese dissident Guo Wengui guilty of racketeering, fraud in \\$1 billion scheme](#)
7. [Experts say conservative justices have crowned SCOTUS the decider-in-chief](#)
8. [Judge blasts VA for renting out land meant to house homeless vets](#)



A former FBI informant known as "White Boy Rick" asked the Sixth Circuit to [reinstate his claims](#) that law enforcement violated his civil rights by recruiting him at age 14, leading to his participation in the drug trade, and then abandoning him. [[David Wells](#)]

Rulings on our radar

» **Eighth Circuit:** The court [overturns](#) Minnesota's permit-to-carry law, which requires applicants to be at least 21 years old.

» **Sixth Circuit:** A lower court is [reversed](#) for failing to apply the Tennessee Supreme Court's "harmful to minors" standard in the Adult Entertainment Act when it ruled that the law, which targets drag shows, constituted an unconstitutional, content-based regulation of speech.

» **Northern District of California:** Consumers [can continue](#) a false advertising lawsuit against the maker of Splenda, which claims its sugar alternative has health benefits despite evidence that its primary ingredient, sucralose, might worsen diabetes.



While Sidebar enjoys a summer hiatus, we're highlighting some greatest hits. Like this one [from June 2023](#), which explores movements to change state boundaries — or create new states entirely — to escape the politics and policies of liberal legislatures.

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