

Plus: Gun rights groups sued to stop California from imposing an 11% tax on firearm sales to fund gun violence prevention programs.



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

July 5, 2024

Before offices and courtrooms emptied out for the Fourth of July, the Supreme Court set off fireworks of its own when it ruled former presidents have [absolute immunity](#) for official acts, handing Donald Trump a win in his battle to ward off [election subversion charges](#).

The three liberal justices accused the court of making a mockery of the Constitution's promise that no one is above the law. "With fear for our democracy, I dissent," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote.

In light of the ruling, Trump's sentencing in New York was pushed [from July to September](#), [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports.

As it rounded out this term, SCOTUS also [expanded](#) the time frame for businesses to challenge federal government actions, [Kelsey Reichmann](#) reports. This fall, the high court will take up [anti-porn laws and flavored vapes](#). Illinois' [assault weapons ban](#) won't be on the docket, and neither will a challenge to New York concealed carry laws.

The [high court](#) says it's [officially summer](#). But we've got more Courthouse News ahead.

— *Nina Pullano*

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Former New York City mayor, U.S. attorney and Donald Trump insider Rudy Giuliani is now [disbarred](#) in New York. [[Dave Byrnes](#)]

» Microsoft will pay [\\$14 million](#) to settle claims it retaliated against California workers who took protected leave. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

» House Republicans [went to court](#) in an attempt to make the Justice Department turn over audio tapes of President Joe Biden's interviews with special counsel Robert Hur. [[Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

» Philadelphia city workers' union [sued the mayor](#) over a city mandate requiring all municipal workers to return to entirely in-office schedules. [[Jackson Healy](#)]

» Gun rights groups sued to stop California from imposing an [11% tax on firearm sales](#) to fund gun violence prevention programs. [[Sam Ribakoff](#), [Sergio Frez](#)]



The Seventh Circuit [revived a Walmart shopper's lawsuit](#) accusing retail giant of defrauding customers by charging higher prices at checkout than are listed on the shelves. [[Dave Byrnes](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [\[September 2016\] Rape Allegations Refiled Against Trump](#)
2. [Florida judge digs deeper into Trump's FBI search warrant claims over Mar-a-Lago raid](#)
3. [Sackler family immunity shield nixed by Supreme Court, thwarting \\$6 billion opioid settlement](#)
4. [Judge sentences protesters in San Diego antifa case to up to two years in jail](#)
5. [Internet Archive fights to preserve digital libraries in Second Circuit hearing](#)
6. [Former CBS news anchor claims he was replaced over diversity initiatives](#)
7. [Parents of Arizona 'Gilbert Goon' deny responsibility for suspected beating](#)
8. [With immunity ruling, SCOTUS brings Trump's election charges to 'mini-trial' ahead of election](#)



The 10th Circuit found a lower court [miscalculated](#) the double-decade sentence for a Colorado funeral home director who admitted to selling human remains to medical research companies. [[Amanda Pampuro](#)]

Rulings on our radar

» **Western District of Washington:** Amazon [loses](#) a bid to dismiss a class action accusing it of recording customers' calls without permission.

» **Northern District of Georgia:** The state's effort to regulate online sales is [preempted](#) by federal law.

» **Southern District of Indiana:** A state law imposing age restrictions for accessing pornography is likely to be deemed [unconstitutional](#) and can't go into effect while a challenge to it proceeds.



Sidebar's [last episode before summer break](#) delves into the history behind grand, historical courthouses and the innovation of more modern designs, like the "Cube" in Los Angeles, bringing you the thoughts behind the critical evolution in courthouse design.

Join [Amanda Pampuro](#) and [Hillel Aron](#) for "Glass Palaces."

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