

Plus: Don Lemon sues Elon Musk, NJ can't ban AR-15s, PETA wins social media comment suit, and much more



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

August 2, 2024

While the [news cycle](#) is dominated by the [upcoming presidential election](#), one Colorado court is focused on the last one.

Tina Peters' [criminal trial is underway](#) to determine the fate of the ex-county clerk who, with support the “Stop the Steal” movement, leaked voting machine data that she thought proved illegal votes had been counted.

"Belief in the 'Big Lie' about a stolen 2020 election had become a litmus test for Republican Party loyalty — and Peters began to question whether she could really trust the Dominion voting machines in her county," reporter [Amanda Pampuro](#) writes.

Peters doesn't deny copying voting information but says she was trying to prevent it from being erased. In [opening their 10-count case](#), prosecutors focused not on Peters' beliefs but on what they called a "simple case of deceit and fraud."

The government says Peters also leaked data and passwords that were posted on the social media site Telegram — an outcome one [voting systems manager testified](#) made her almost "sick to my stomach."

Trial continues Monday. The week's Courthouse News continues below.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

**Here's what else happened in court this week:**



The South Carolina Supreme Court found the [electric chair and firing squad](#) to be constitutional methods for executing death row inmates amid a national shortage of lethal injection drugs. [[Steve Garrison](#)]

» In a [rare unanimous vote](#), the Senate passed a bill to expand the federal judiciary. [[Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

» A federal judge ruled that New Jersey's AR-15 ban [violates the Second Amendment](#). [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

» Meta [will pay \\$1.4 billion](#) to settle a biometric data privacy rights lawsuit filed by the state of Texas. [[Kirk McDaniel](#)]

» Wells Fargo must face class action claims it [conducted fake job interviews](#) to get around diversity guidelines. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]



Eight people were sentenced to as long as 10 years and four months in state prison for participating in a [series of "smash and grab" robberies](#) at high-end retail stores in Southern California last year. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

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

1. [Judge greenlights AR-15 sales in New Jersey, finding ban unconstitutional](#)
2. [\[September 2016\] Rape allegations refiled against Trump](#)
3. [Federal judge floats sanctions to resolve backlog of Arizona sheriff misconduct complaints](#)
4. [Senate unanimously approves bill adding dozens of new federal judgeships](#)
5. [California 'smash and grab' robbers get up to 10 years in prison](#)
6. [North Carolina senator vows to sink Fourth Circuit nominee in judiciary scrap with White House](#)
7. [North Carolina judge strikes down abortion restriction, upholds 12-week ban on medication abortion](#)
8. [NY judge in Trump civil-fraud case declines to step down after recusal motion](#)

» The D.C. Circuit [sided with PETA](#) and against filters blocking comments about animal testing and cruelty on the National Institutes of Health's Facebook and Instagram pages. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]

» A California federal judge [tossed](#) an unfair competition claim brought by book authors, including comedian Sarah Silverman, against OpenAI. [[Natalie Hanson](#)]

» Former CNN anchor Don Lemon [sued Elon Musk](#) for backing out of a deal for an online interview show on X, formerly Twitter. [[Natalie Hanson](#)]

» Iowa's six-week abortion ban [took effect](#) days after a North Carolina federal judge [upheld a law](#) requiring abortions performed after 12 weeks to be conducted in hospitals. [[Dave Byrnes](#), [Sydney Haulenbeek](#)]



The National Rifle Association [won't face oversight](#) by a court-appointed monitor, but a judge banned former CEO Wayne LaPierre from the NRA for 10 years following the [second phase](#) of a fraud trial in New York. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

## Rulings on our radar 📡

» **Eastern District of New York:** What began as a simple dispute over unpaid wages resulted in the court finding a female clerk liable for [embezzling almost \\$1 million](#) in company funds.

» **Western District of Louisiana:** A former prisoner's lawsuit [will proceed](#) against a Louisiana sheriff who failed to enforce a jail's smoking policy.

» **Virginia Supreme Court:** The court [upholds](#) a man's conviction of possession of child pornography, over his objection on the ground of juror intimidation.

» **Eastern District of New York:** CVS [must evaluate](#) store designs proposed by a wheelchair-using customer who filed an ADA class action over the store's decision to keep items in the middle of its aisles, impeding her access.



While Sidebar enjoys a summer hiatus, we're highlighting some greatest hits. Like [this one from October 2023](#), an effort to cast out the myths and shine a light on how and why witch trials played out across Europe and the United States.

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