

Plus: surfers scrutinized, birds rebounding and Dreamers discouraged



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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Google isn't just the name of a tech company—the very word has become synonymous with online search. This week, a federal judge slammed the tech giant in a landmark antitrust verdict [challenging](#) this dominance. ([Steve Garrison](#))

The [286-pager](#) follows a [10-week bench](#) trial that kicked off around Google's 25th anniversary and represents a major victory for those seeking to curb Big Tech's influence in the digital sphere. ([Ryan Knappenberger](#))

Meta convinced a federal judge to [cut down](#) class action privacy claims in a suit accusing the social media mogul of collecting people's banking information through H&R Block. The former Facebook [continues to fight](#) a separate RICO action coinciding with a [congressional report](#) ([Natalie Hansen](#)).

With a Twitter shareholder suit [still standing](#), Elon Musk's court calendar continues to fill up. The X CEO [fired off](#) a new lawsuit against OpenAI, a company he helped form in 2015, with the promise of competing against Google for the betterment of humanity. Now Musk claims the creator of ChatGPT has "betrayed" him in putting shareholder profits before people ([Michael Gennaro](#)).

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— [Amanda Pampuro](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



A civil trial began over one of America's most notorious surf gangs, the [Lunada Bay Boys](#), and the wealthy city that is accused of looking the other way while the Bay Boys [jealously guarded their turf](#). [[Hillel Aron/Edvard Petterson](#)]

» The family of a French diver who died when the Titan submersible [depressurized during a voyage](#) to the Titanic wreckage last year filed a \$50 million wrongful death lawsuit. [Monique Merrill]

» A Maui resort agreed to mitigate the harmful effects of its outdoor lighting to protect the endangered Hawaiian petrel. [[Michael Gennaro](#)]

» A Federal judge in Montana ordered Fish and Wildlife to rethink protecting the Arctic grayling fish. [Monique Merrill]

» A federal judge declined to block the U.S. Forest Service from selling 13 unowned horses found in a Texas auction. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]



Fifteen red states launched an effort to stop the Biden administration's Obamacare expansion to cover Dreamers. [[Andrew Nelson](#)]

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. [[Column](#)] [Give them what they want](#)
2. [First Circuit upholds gun ban for nonviolent felons](#)
3. [Senate unanimously approves bill adding dozens of new federal judgeships](#)
4. [A common skincare ingredient could help humans regrow knee cartilage](#)
5. [Surfer recounts hostile reception by territorial locals at affluent Southern California enclave](#)
6. [[September 2016](#)] [Rape allegations refiled against Trump](#)
7. [Newsom sends California National Guard attorneys to prosecute Alameda County cases](#)

8. [North Carolina father arrested over son's drugs can sue cops who withheld evidence, appeals court rules](#)

» The Green Party and Libertarian Party of Texas tell the Fifth Circuit the Lonestar State's requirements make [appearing on the ballot](#) costly and difficult. [Sabrina Canfield]

» Arizona dropped election subversion charges against former Donald Trump attorney Jenna Ellis in exchange for her cooperation in prosecuting the remaining 17 defendants. [Joe Duhownik]

» A long-running challenge to Indiana's campaign financing rules returns to the District Court of Southern Indiana, following a Seventh Circuit panel's ruling in favor of a SuperPAC. [[Dave Byrnes](#)]

» A former Colorado clerk and recorder [launched her defense](#) against state charges related to a 2021 leak of voting machine data. [[Amanda Pampuro](#)]



A Fourth Circuit en banc panel [declared Maryland's assault weapons](#) ban constitutionally sound, teeing up a potential Supreme Court challenge. [[Joe Dodson](#)]

Rulings on our radar

» **Fourth Circuit:** A Black minister held on a \$5 million bond after helping community members file complaints against the police department was [arrested without probable cause](#).

» **Second Circuit:** A report produced by Congress on the CIA's post-9/11 detention and interrogation program is [not covered](#) by the federal freedom of information law.

» **Eastern District of Missouri:** The Price-Anderson Act excludes workplace injuries and therefore [does not cover](#) a former lab tech who processed uranium for the Manhattan Project.

» **Eastern District of New York:** The majority of the public [would understand that](#), though "mimosa" is in the name, the Vizzy seltzer beverage would not contain champagne.



While Sidebar enjoys the last throes of a summer hiatus, we're highlighting some greatest hits. Like this one from September 2022, in which [we try to answer three questions](#): Can someone's art be used against them to build a criminal case? Does this infringe on the artists' First Amendment rights? And why is it that only Black rappers seem to be targeted?

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