



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

October 18, 2024

As prosecutors in Georgia [charged the 14-year-old suspect](#) in last month's deadly mass shooting — along with the boy's father who, [Megan Butler](#) reports, gave him the gun as a gift — another court explored the aftermath of a school shooting that shook the country nearly 12 years ago.

Gun advocates asked the Second Circuit this week [to overturn the semiautomatic weapon ban](#) Connecticut passed in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting, which left 26 people dead, most of them young children.

Judges puzzled over whether AR-15s are considered "dangerous and unusual" weapons ripe for restrictions under Supreme Court precedent, [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports. The advocates argued there is nothing "unusual" about the semiautomatic weapon since it's one of the most popular firearms Americans own. But the circuit judges asked why they shouldn't adopt a lower court's finding that the definition can include weapons that are "unusually dangerous."

Meanwhile the suspect in a more recent high-profile shooting with a semiautomatic rifle, targeting former President Donald Trump at his Florida golf course last month, [asked his Trump-appointed judge](#) to recuse herself. U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, who's also overseeing Trump's document case in Florida, "owes her lifetime appointment to the alleged victim in this criminal case," Ryan Routh argued. Uebelacker reporting again.

This as Trump's own federal criminal case was heating up in Washington, where the judge [unsealed four exhibits](#) supporting prosecutors' attempt to revive election subversion charges against Trump. [Ryan Knappenberger](#) reports.

The four-volume dossier ran just shy of 2,000 pages, and though large swaths are still sealed or redacted, the reveals included evidence from congressional interviews and excerpts from former Vice President Mike Pence’s book “So Help Me God.”

Head to our [website](#) for [further reading](#) (and plenty of it).

But first, more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Mark Robinson, the Republican lieutenant governor of North Carolina, sued CNN for reporting that he made [disturbing posts on pornography forums](#) over a decade ago. [[Sydney Haulenbeek](#)]

» Canadian snowboarder Ryan Wedding, who competed at the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002, [faces three murder counts](#) along with drug trafficking charges. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

» In Alabama, a mortgage lender accused of [redlining predominantly Black neighborhoods](#) around Birmingham settled the DOJ claims for \$10 million. [[Gabriel Tynes](#)]

» The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a law that [restores convicted felons' voting rights](#) as soon as they complete their sentences. [[Edvard Petterson](#)]

» More than 20 family members of the Menendez brothers [asked the LA district attorney](#) to release the pair from prison. [[Hillel Aron](#)]

» Robert Telles, the former Las Vegas politician found guilty of fatally stabbing an investigative reporter outside of his home, [will face at least 28 years](#) in prison. [[Monique Merrill](#)]



Democrats in Congress heaped pressure on the Biden administration to [hold arms shipments to Israel](#) after disturbing images surfaced from an Israeli attack at a hospital facility in central Gaza. [[Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

Top 8: What you've been reading

1. [Rep. Boebert's son pleads guilty to felony after spending spree](#)
2. [Nurse association fights compensation gap between nurses, doctors](#)

3. [Witness recounts secret affair with Georgia woman accused of killing lawyer husband](#)
4. [Colorado rests case challenging Kroger, Albertsons merger](#)
5. [Connecticut's Sandy Hook AR-15 ban prompts grammatical debate in Second Circuit](#)
6. [Third Circuit warms to gun ownership by nonviolent felons](#)
7. [Following new precedent, appeals court raises eyebrows at DACA ruling](#)
8. [Gorsuch's ties to oil billionaire reignite calls for court oversight](#)



Online fraud is the fastest-growing property crime in Brazil. An increasing number of Brazilians are suing banks, WhatsApp owner Meta and telecom companies [to recover money lost in scams](#). [Marília Marasciulo]

Rulings on our radar 📡

» **Northern District of California:** Lyft [agreed to pay](#) \$700,000 in attorneys fees to shareholders who sued the company over its response to sexual and physical assault of passengers by drivers.

» **Northern District of Illinois:** The former general counsel for real estate giant Cushman & Wakefield [lost his defamation claims](#) against a legal reporter for Law.com.

» **Western District of Washington:** A union [beat](#) Alaska Airlines' attempt to vacate its decision to reinstate an aircraft maintenance technician who tested positive for marijuana.

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