

Also: Lizzie Borden. Also also, Closing Arguments' 1st birthday!



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

October 25, 2024

Amid the season synonymous with fear, several courtrooms this week explored the idea of what makes us feel safe.

In New York City, polarizing perspectives on how to keep the subway secure are front and center at the trial against Daniel Penny, the ex-Marine [charged with manslaughter](#) for putting an erratic busker in a fatal chokehold last year. Nearly every juror raised their hand when asked if they'd heard of the case, [Erik Uebelacker](#) reports, and those empaneled soon will decide if Penny acted as a good Samaritan or racist vigilante.

A shocking trial in France grappled with "ordinary" instances of rape and the [stigma surrounding sexual assault](#) as Gisèle Pelicot faced dozens of [men accused of raping her](#) while she was unconscious in a decadelong scheme orchestrated by her husband. [Lily Radziemski](#) reports from Avignon.

Pelicot has attended the entire trial. In response to those who comment on her courage, she clarified: "It's not bravery, it's will and determination to change society."

And school districts looking to protect children from the harms of social media [advanced their case against Meta](#), which must face at least some claims that it's liable for children's purported addiction to Facebook and Instagram. [Edvard Pettersson](#) covered the federal ruling.

Stay safe, and scroll on for more Courthouse News.

— [*Nina Pullano*](#)

P.S. This issue marks the first anniversary of our weekly newsletter! We really appreciate your continued readership. Enjoying Closing Arguments? Forward it to a friend so they can subscribe and join the courthouse conversation.



Lizzie Borden took an axe... or did she? The latest episode of Sidebar brings you back to 1892, inside the courtroom for America's first trial of the century.

Thirty-two-year-old Borden stood accused of brutally killing her father and stepmother. What followed was a legal spectacle set against the backdrop of yellow journalism and a nation gripped by details of a crime among the affluent, complete with an all-star cast of attorneys.

From Hillel Aron and Amanda Pampuro, it's "[The trial of Lizzie Borden.](#)"

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Here's what else happened in court this week:



While Seventh Circuit judges heard the [Satanic Temple's challenge](#) to Indiana's near-total abortion ban, an Ohio court [struck down](#) that state's "heartbeat" ban. [[David Wells](#), [Kevin Koeniger](#)]

» Harvey Weinstein will have to [face a new sex crime charge](#) at his highly anticipated 2025 retrial after a New York judge consolidated the two pending cases. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

» The Central Park Five [sued Donald Trump](#) over his false statements about their case during the September presidential debate. [[Jackson Healy](#)]

» Texas [claims in a lawsuit](#) that the Biden administration is unlawfully withholding information on the citizenship status of registered voters. [[Christina van Waasbergen](#)]

» Boeing machinists [voted to reject](#) a new contract offer and continue their strike, which has lasted for more than six weeks. [[Monique Merrill](#)]



Los Angeles' district attorney called for [Erik and Lyle Menendez](#), who killed their parents in 1989, to be resentenced — a move that will likely lead to the brothers' release from prison. [[Hillel Aron](#)]

Top 8: What you've been reading

1. [Ninth Circuit tosses Michael Avenatti's 14-year sentence for stealing from clients](#)
2. [After 40 years at Portland school, Vaux's swifts take flight](#)
3. [High court passes on guns, agency authority as dust settles from blockbuster rulings](#)
4. [Biden plans to use billions in seized Russian assets to fund Ukraine aid](#)
5. [Connecticut's Sandy Hook AR-15 ban prompts grammatical debate in Second Circuit](#)
6. [Witness recounts secret affair with Georgia woman accused of killing lawyer husband](#)
7. [Jury awards American Airlines \\$9.4 million from website behind 'skiplagging' hack](#)
8. [Key immunity dossier unsealed in Trump's election subversion case](#)



Conservationists [asked the Ninth Circuit](#) to vacate the U.S. Forest Service's approval of forest thinning in Southern California. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

Rulings on our radar

» **Southern District of New York:** The FTC successfully [blocked a merger](#) that would have combined six major fashion brands including Coach, Kate Spade and Michael Kors under one owner.

» **District of Utah:** A Harley Davidson dealership [won summary judgment](#) over environmental groups' Noise Control Act claim.

» **Alameda County Superior Court:** Walmart [will pay \\$7.5 million](#) to California and must stop illegally disposing of hazardous and medical waste in municipal landfills across the state.

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