

SCOTUS is back, Michael Jordan's NASCAR team filed suit, fake meat won in Europe.



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

October 4, 2024

In a report this week, the Justice Department found that critical understaffing and lack of supervision in Georgia prisons have [given way to a unconstitutional](#) conditions including physical and sexual violence.

One coroner estimated that a male prisoner killed by his cellmate was dead for over two days before staff noticed, [Joe Dodson](#) reports. Another detainee reported being tortured for several days; he suffered stab wounds and a pierced eye.

"Our findings yield a prison system in crisis," U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Buchanan for the Northern District of Georgia said.

It's far from the only state prison system in the department's sights. The DOJ is litigating similar violations in numerous other states including Texas, Alabama and California.

Last week in New York, the department asked a judge to [hold NYC in contempt](#) for failing to comply with a court-ordered monitor's orders to stem "extraordinary violence" in the troubled Rikers Island jail facility, [Josh Russell](#) wrote. Advocates are pushing for a federal takeover of the notorious jail, which is [scheduled to close](#) in 2027.

More Courthouse News below.

— [Nina Pullano](#)



The U.S. Supreme Court is back in action with an upcoming session that looks at an [infamous death penalty case](#), Tennessee's [transgender health care ban](#) and how the Biden administration wants to address the [ghost gun crisis](#).

Get the full docket rundown from Sidebar's [Kelsey Reichmann](#) and [Hillel Aron](#) in "[Constitutional woodchipper: The SCOTUS preview](#)."

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



Austrian activist Max Schrems never disclosed on his Facebook account that he was gay, yet he received targeted ads that indicated use of data obtained outside the platform. Now, the European Union's highest court has [backed his lawsuit against Meta](#), which separately lost a bid this week to dodge shareholder claims that the company lied about [its platforms' harms to children](#). [[Alexandra Brzozowski](#), [Michael Gennaro](#)]

» The Supreme Court agreed to review Mexico's lawsuit seeking to hold U.S. gunmakers [liable for cartel violence](#). The court will also wade into a dispute over two short-term [nuclear waste storage sites](#) planned in Texas and New Mexico. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#), [Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

» Jurors [found two Arizona men guilty](#) of participating in a polygamous child sex abuse ring for three years across multiple states. [[Joe Duhownik](#)]

» Rapper Pras sued his [Fugees bandmate Lauryn Hill](#) over their recently a canceled U.S. tour. [[Josh Russell](#)]

» The EU [sued to stop](#) a law it says serves as a tool for Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's far-right authoritarian government to harass opponents and critics. [[Cain Burdeau](#)]



Europe's high court [threw out France's attempt](#) to ban terms like "veggie steak" and "vegan pork fat." [[Cain Burdeau](#)]

#### **Top 8: What you've been reading**

1. [Fourth Circuit weighs meth user's Second Amendment rights](#)
2. [Biden, Harris throw out ultimatum pitting Second Amendment against gun violence prevention](#)
3. [Fireworks business can't dodge claims over gender-reveal smoke bomb that started wildfire](#)
4. [Supreme Court's 2024 term puts a finger on the scale for the next president](#)
5. [American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology fights compensation gap between nurses and doctors](#)

6. [Tensions simmer between Tillis, White House over Fourth Circuit nominee in Senate](#)
7. [Ohio court orders Hamilton County clerk to rescind public records policy](#)
8. [Supreme Court asked to topple California's ban on gun show sales](#)



Two racing teams — [one partially owned by basketball legend Michael Jordan](#) — claim NASCAR has a monopoly (technically, a monopsony) on the car racing industry. [[Sydney Haulenbeek](#)]

### Rulings on our radar 📡

» **Eastern District of New York:** RICO, conspiracy and Trafficking Victims Protection Act claims [may proceed](#) against two senior leadership members of the NXIVM sex cult, which was based in Albany. A battery claim will proceed against another person who branded women's skin with the cult leader's initials.

» **District of Maine:** In a Good Samaritan ruling, the court dismissed six of seven claims brought by the Maine Maritime Museum against a major U.S. shipyard that dispatched an

allegedly unfit vessel to rescue passengers from the museum's fishing schooner after it was knocked down while carrying visitors.

» **Third Circuit:** A man convicted of carjacking [lost an appellate argument](#) based on the fact that he carried a BB gun, not an actual weapon.

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