

Inside: Circuit Court argument roundup



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

November 15, 2024

If President-elect Donald Trump gets his way, the [next leader of the Justice Department](#) will be a man who has minimal experiences as a practicing attorney, was investigated for sex trafficking and [House ethics violations](#), and has promoted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#), [Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

Florida Representative Matt Gaetz has a key advantage, though: He's been a staunch Trump ally.

It's almost too easy to liken Gaetz's appointment as U.S. attorney general to a post from The Onion. But the famed satirical news outlet hit the headlines on its own this week: At a court-ordered auction, it [scooped up the rights to InfoWars](#), the long-running show created by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

The outlet's joint bid with families of the victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook, Connecticut, elementary school shooting brewed amid Jones and his company's bankruptcy proceedings; he faces \$1.5 billion in defamation judgments over his false claims shooting, [Cameron Thompson](#) reports.

The Onion and Everytown for Gun Safety shared their motive in a statement: "The Onion's goal with the acquisition is to end Infowars' relentless barrage of disinformation for the sake of selling supplements and replace it with The Onion's relentless barrage of humor for good."

Below: this week's Courthouse News.

— *Nina Pullano*



The art world isn't limited to museums and galleries anymore. Courthouse walls around the country are lined with works created by the finest artists of the day, representing the justice system as they, and the court, see it. In [Sidebar's latest episode](#), [Amanda Pampuro](#) brings to life how sketch artists capture vivid portraits that transcend photography and document moments of social change.

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



The DOJ's investigation into the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta [revealed disturbing and inhumane conditions](#) resulting in much higher rates of violence than seen nationally.

The majority of the jail's detainees have not been convicted of a crime and are awaiting court dates or are serving short sentences for misdemeanors. [[Megan Butler](#)]

» The European Commission [fined Meta \\$840 million](#) for automatically adding Facebook users to its Marketplace platform. [[Alexandra Brzozowski](#)]

» The National Labor Relations Board declared "[captive audience](#)" meetings for employees unlawful. [[Dave Byrnes](#)]

» Jack Teixeira, the 22-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guard staffer who [posted classified documents to Discord](#), was sentenced to 15 years in prison. [[Thomas F. Harrison](#)]

» Florida's AG claims federal disaster relief officials [denied help to Trump supporters](#) who were affected by recent hurricanes. [[Steve Garrison](#)]

### Argument roundup: US Circuit Courts



Researchers looking into JFK's assassination [reignited a challenge to the National Archives and Records Administration](#) at the Ninth Circuit, accusing the agency of illegally withholding certain records without explanation. [[Monique Merrill](#)]

A well-known YouTuber asked the Second Circuit to uphold a lower court's ruling that [barred the NYPD from arresting him](#) for trespassing after he filmed inside the public precinct lobbies. The same circuit is also [testing qualified immunity for a New York state official](#) sued by the NRA over a plan to urge banks and insurers to stop doing business with the gun rights nonprofit. [[Erik Uebelacker](#)]

The father-son duo behind cheesesteak eatery Tony Luke's, a South Philadelphia staple, told the Third Circuit their tax fraud [prison sentence was too hefty](#). [[Jackson Healy](#)]

And the DC Circuit side-eyed a [Capitol rioter's argument](#) that pepper spray is not a dangerous weapon. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]

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

1. [Ninth Circuit vacates nonprofit denial for Christian university in Arizona](#)
2. [Battle over Oregon dam reaches state Supreme Court](#)
3. [Trump election subversion case all but dead after judge vacates deadlines](#)
4. [As Senate advances Fourth Circuit nominee, Tillis threatens to burn down the house](#)
5. [Sex abuse victims fight to thwart Boy Scouts' \\$2.4 billion bankruptcy payout plan](#)
6. [Sparks fly as justices spar with feds over deportation deadlines](#)
7. [Tony Luke's founder, feds beef over cooked books at cheesesteak restaurant](#)
8. [Ninth Circuit rebuffs challenge to Southern California forest thinning project](#)



Despite extensive video evidence, the 51 men on trial in France for assaulting Gisèle Pelicot [largely contest the rape charges](#) against them. The trial is in its final days of [testimony](#) before deliberations begin. [[Lily Radziemski](#)]

## Rulings on our radar

» **Southern District of New York:** The ACLU [lost a summary judgment motion](#) in a former employee's claim that it retaliated against him and other Black employees for criticizing the group and its leadership.

» **Southern District of New York:** The court [won't reconsider](#) dismissing a manual labor class action against makeup retailer Sephora.

» **District of Nevada:** Hilton [lost a motion](#) to dismiss sex trafficking claims by a woman who says she was commercially trafficked through one of its hotels when she was 16 years old.