



# COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

## Closing Arguments

*The week in Courthouse News*

December 6, 2024

As holiday shopping hits full swing, many Americans' go-to online gift source is in several hot seats over its dealings with customers.

Amazon [faces a consumer protection lawsuit](#) filed by the District of Columbia attorney general for excluding residents in predominantly Black neighborhoods from its speedy Prime delivery service. In 2022, [Ryan Knappenberger](#) reports, Amazon stopped using its own trucks in two ZIP codes and opted instead to use third parties like UPS and the USPS, which are slower.

Yet the company never told those customers, who continued paying the full subscription fee with fewer benefits, according to the suit. Amazon called the claims "categorically false."

Meanwhile in Arizona, Amazon sought to fend off two separate attorney general lawsuits. In the first, the state AG is going after [the "buy now" feature, saying it tricks customers](#) into thinking that the first deal offered through the site's "buy box" is the best available, counter to state consumer fraud and antitrust laws. [Joe Duhownik](#) reports.

In the second suit, Arizona AG Kris Mayes claims Amazon intentionally [makes it too difficult to cancel Prime memberships](#) by repeatedly asking users if they're sure and sending them to new pages that encourage them to change their minds.

Amazon argues that the controlling state fraud law applies only to sales and ads, not subscription management.

Coming soon, like right now: more Courthouse News.

— [Nina Pullano](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



The highest court of the United Nations [opened hearings on the climate crisis](#), where nearly 100 countries expected to participate in the "most consequential case" in its history — including the United States, which [told judges the Paris agreement is sufficient](#) and further obligations aren't necessary. [[Molly Quell](#)]

» A Washington state appeals court [affirmed a \\$35 million judgment](#) against Meta for violating state campaign finance law. [[Monique Merrill](#)]

» Some Democrats [are not happy with President Joe Biden](#) after he reversed course and [pardoned his son](#), Hunter Biden. [[Benjamin S. Weiss](#), [Jackson Healy](#)]

» Justice Neil Gorsuch [will sit out a review](#) of a proposed Utah oil and gas rail line because of ethical conflicts. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

» The Seventh Circuit put Illinois' [assault weapon and extended ammo magazine bans](#) back in play, while the Fifth Circuit weighs the constitutionality of [disarming people under domestic violence protective orders](#) absent an explicit finding of a credible threat of violence. [[Dave Byrnes](#), [Christina Van Waasbergen](#)]

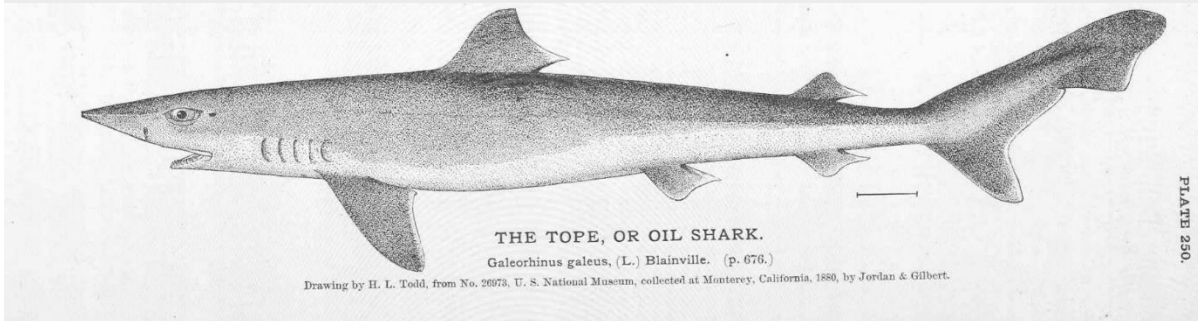


In the words of reporter [Thomas F. Harrison](#): *"One of the country's most famous lawyers told a First Circuit panel Thursday that [the federal law banning marijuana is unconstitutional](#), but the judges seemed to dismiss the argument as little more than a pipe dream."*

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

1. [Fate of Oregon wild horses falls to Ninth Circuit](#)
2. [Iowa claims Biden administration illegally denied access to citizenship records](#)
3. [Former DC police officer exchanged hundreds of messages with Proud Boy leader before 2021 arrest](#)
4. [Wisconsin appeals court reinstates law limiting attorney general's power over settling major lawsuits](#)

5. [Ninth Circuit rejects challenge to Idaho's abortion trafficking ban — with some caveats](#)
6. [North Carolina Republicans blasted for using lame-duck session to wrest control of government](#)
7. [Former Colorado elections clerk appeals contempt charge over iPad in courtroom](#)
8. [California attorney general issues rebuke to Trump immigration plans](#)



Environmental groups [agreed to settle a lawsuit](#) against the National Marine Fisheries Service for missing its deadline to determine if the tope shark, aka the soupfin shark, warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

In other endangered species news: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared that a rare [desert flower that grows only in southwest New Mexico](#) is now endangered. [[Edward Pettersson](#), [Joe Duhownik](#)]

### Rulings on our radar 📡

» **District of Massachusetts:** The Massachusetts town of Rehoboth and its police chief [couldn't dodge claims](#) that three patrol officers pulled over a citizen in retaliation for his comments at a town hearing.

» **Northern District of Alabama:** The court [granted](#) preliminary approval of a \$2.8 billion antitrust settlement against Blue Cross Blue Shield in a case that has been going on for 12 years.

» **Western District of Virginia:** A Black medical patient [can proceed](#) with misconduct claims against his physician, who displayed a Confederate flag in her office and, after he asked her to take it down, accused the patient of hallucinating the flag.

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