



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Closing Arguments

The week in Courthouse News

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In the middle of Donald Trump's first year as president, the anonymous 4Chan user Q emerged, professing to have insider knowledge of the president's "real" plans. Feeding into deep state conspiracy theories, Q claimed to decode the tea leaves for a growing number of faithful followers, explaining how Trump was just pretending to join the swamp to drain it. Some QAnon devotees fell so hard, they drove hundreds of miles to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, believing they needed to save the nation from Joe Biden.

While the J6 rioters received their promised pardons this week, Q is nowhere to be seen, largely because we have come to learn we don't need anyone to decode Trump — he is a man who largely follows through on his wildest utterances and wasted no time this week inking his name across executive orders dreamed up in conservative think tanks, fueling his critics' worst nightmares.

Amid a [headline-worthy](#) cold spell, Trump signed a slew of day one [executive orders](#) withdrawing the nation from the [World Health Organization](#) and the [Paris Climate agreement](#), [designating](#) cartels as foreign terrorists, [declaring](#) a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border, [pausing](#) the TikTok ban for 75 days, freezing all pending regulations and killing the federal government's diversity and inclusion programs. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#), [Benjamin S. Weiss](#), [Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

While the Mexican government [called](#) for calm, lawmakers in the Republican-[controlled](#) U.S. Congress poured gasoline on the fire, [advancing](#) a controversial immigration bill and pressing forward to confirm the president's Cabinet nominees. [[William Savinar](#), [Benjamin S. Weiss](#)]

State attorney generals and [civil rights](#) groups proved ready to [challenge](#) Trump's initial attacks on immigration, trusting the courts can — and will — check the former CEO's ever-growing tests of the executive branch's power. The first of many federal judges to review Trump's wistful orders issued a [speedy](#) injunction reinstating birthright citizenship,

at least for now. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#), [Erik Uebelacker](#), [Monique Merrill](#), [Kendra Leon Barrionuevo](#)]

Americans have long asked for a president who lives up to his campaign pledges, and here he is, promising to lead the nation on a wild, if predictably derailed, bullet train ride through the next four years. Pour yourself a cup of coffee, catch your breath, and read on for the Courthouse News you may have missed this week.

— [Amanda Pampuro](#)

Here's what else happened in court this week:



The full Colorado Supreme Court [declined](#) to free five elderly African elephants housed at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs after determining the state's habeas corpus statute only applies to humans. [[Monique Merrill](#)]

» The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor [sought](#) warrants for two Taliban officials over crimes against humanity stemming from the Islamic group's subjugation of women. [[Molly Quell](#)]

» The Fifth Circuit [debated](#) whether Louisiana can require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every public classroom in the state. [[Gabriel Tynes](#)]

» Whether or not Republicans currently have control of the Minnesota House of Representatives is now in the hands of the state's Supreme Court [following](#) oral arguments over what qualifies as a quorum. [[Mark Wasson](#)]

» The Supreme Court agreed that an Oklahoma woman called a "slut puppy" in court [deserved](#) review of whether unlawful gender stereotyping put her on death row. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

» A repeat robber and viral dirt bike rider [told the](#) Third Circuit he never planned to shoot a pharmacist in a narcotics stick-up. [[Jackson Healy](#)]



The U.S. Navy must face claims that its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, violates the federal Clean Water Act even as it is in the process of defueling and shutting down the massive, underground facility. [[Edvard Pettersson](#)]

Top 8: What you've been reading

1. [Senate Dems demand DOJ, Pentagon turn over info on FBI nominee Kash Patel](#)
2. [Fifth Circuit declares DACA illegal but leaves program in place for current recipients](#)
3. [CNN loses in Florida defamation case](#)
4. [NY attorney general reaches \\$1 billion settlement with defunct cash advance firm over 'predatory' loans](#)
5. [Trump poised to relocate Space Command to Alabama](#)
6. [Ninth Circuit upholds minimum wage requirement for detained immigrant workers](#)
7. [Supreme Court lifts pause on Corporate Transparency Act](#)
8. [Justin Baldoni files \\$400 million suit against Blake Lively, Ryan Reynolds amid 'It Ends With Us' clash](#)



While Colorado cited *Rahimi*, a gun rights group stood on *Bruen* to ask the 10th Circuit to revive its challenge to the Centennial State's [ghost gun prohibition](#) on making and owning unserialized firearms. [[Amanda Pampuro](#)]

Rulings on our radar 📡

» **Eastern District of New York:** A federal judge [recited](#) Sam Foss's poem "The Calf's Path," in awarding more than \$571,500 in fees, costs and expenses after finding the district's ranges for attorney hourly rates excessive even after adjusting for inflation.

» **Northern District of Texas:** A Dallas-area man [charged](#) with selling marijuana when he was actually in possession of legal hemp lost his wrongful arrest lawsuit because he was indicted by a grand jury, therefore shielding the officers from suit.

» **Fourth Circuit:** A driver's lawsuit was rightfully [tossed](#) since police had a reasonable interest in safekeeping his belongings to prevent him from walking past the Pentagon with his guns, a grenade and tactical gear.

» **Eastern District of Louisiana:** Two white managers at a Louisiana dairy distribution firm will face a conspiracy claim brought by a Black delivery driver who says the managers fired him after he reported a manager [promoting](#) their racial slur-spewing friend.



If the state of the nation has you pining for distant pastures, come along on this [Sidebar](#) road trip with [Kirk McDaniel](#) through the world of secession from Greater Idaho to Jefferson, movements shaped by the urban-rural divide as havens for political minorities.

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