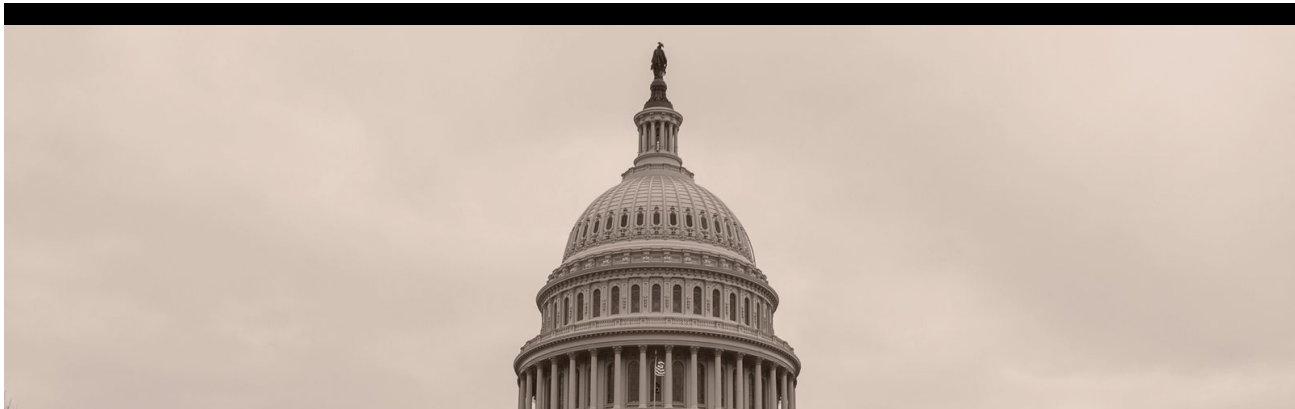


Former President Donald Trump has been inundated with legal challenges while leading the pack for the Republican presidential nomination, and with the 2024 election less than 11 months away. Aside from four criminal indictments, the former president is also battling at least 11 consequential lawsuits, most of which stem from his efforts to challenge the results of the 2020 election.





President Trump faces four charges: one count of obstructing the government, one count of conspiracy to do the same, one count of conspiracy to defraud the government, and one count of conspiracy to violate the voting rights of Americans.

Facts of the Case

President Trump mounted a vigorous effort to challenge the results of the 2020 election. He has asserted that victory was stolen from him through fraud and other illegalities.

He and his lawyers pursued several strategies for challenging the election, including filing lawsuits, attempting to convince state and federal officials to launch investigations, arranging alternative electors in several states, rallying supporters, and suggesting the vice president had the power to reject electoral votes from states where fraud was alleged to have tainted the results. None of these pursuits succeeded in overturning the election.

The prosecutors for this case claim the former president also bears responsibility for a riot that occurred during the Jan. 6, 2021, "Stop the Steal" rally at the U.S. Capitol that disrupted the counting of electoral votes by Congress for several hours. They argue that President Trump encouraged the riot by calling for the rally and then telling the massive crowd that had gathered for his speech: "We fight. We fight like hell. And if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore."

President Trump's lawyers have argued he used the word "fight" in the sense of a political fight. The allegedly incriminating words came at the end of his hour-long speech, while the riot was started by a smaller group of people about 15 minutes before the speech concluded.

Earlier in the speech, the president also exhorted his supporters in the crowd to go to the Capitol and "peacefully and patriotically" make their voices heard.

President Trump's lawyers have tried to have the charges dismissed, so far

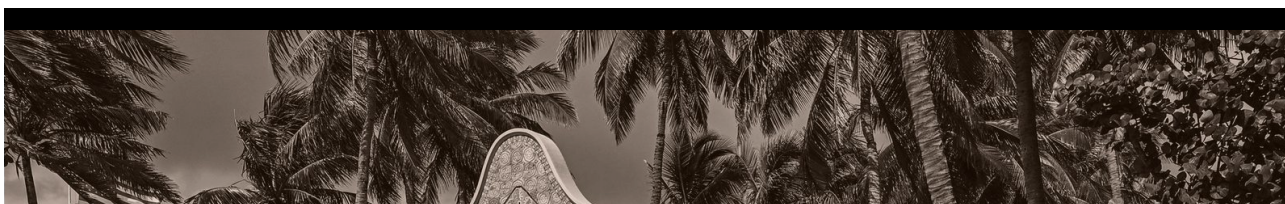
unsuccessfully, for encroaching on his constitutional free speech and due process rights and violating presidential privilege, as well as for malicious prosecution and for improperly stretching the law.

Several legal experts told The Epoch Times that President Trump's best chance to have the charges tossed is at the Supreme Court. At the D.C. Court of Appeals, the possibility is mixed at best, while at the D.C. District Court, his chances are slim.

The judge overseeing the case, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, previously made statements suggesting that she believes that President Trump should have been jailed for his 2020 election challenge and that the Jan. 6 riot was an "insurrection." She issued an extensive gag order to bar President Trump from discussing the case in public.

The appeals court circumscribed Judge Chutkan's order, saying that it breached the defendant's First Amendment rights. While President Trump hasn't appealed the order further to the Supreme Court, he did appeal Judge Chutkan's denial of his motion to dismiss the case on grounds of presidential immunity. The prosecutors have asked for the appeal to be expedited, and President Trump has opposed that request. Other motions to dismiss that have been rejected or may still be tossed by Judge Chutkan aren't immediately appealable and will need to wait until the case concludes in the district court.

On Dec. 11, the prosecutors asked the Supreme Court to rule on the issue of presidential immunity, a move that could potentially accelerate the case. On Dec. 12, Judge Chutkan granted President Trump's request to put the case on hold while the appeal of the immunity issue is pending.





President Trump is accused of violating the Espionage Act through unauthorized possession of national defense information, as well as conspiring to obstruct justice and making false statements.

Facts of the Case

As President Trump was leaving office, his staff packed his belongings at the White House and had them shipped to his residence at the Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. Some of the boxes were filled with documents, photos, newspaper clippings, and other materials.

Under the Presidential Records Act of 1978, former presidents are only allowed to keep personal items from their time in office, not originals of official documents, which should be handed over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The agency has demanded that President Trump hand over all official documents in his possession. When he turned over 15 boxes in January 2022, NARA found documents marked “classified” in them and referred the matter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate.

The Presidential Records Act, however, doesn’t provide any enforcement mechanism, and rarely has anybody even tried to enforce it. A federal judge ruled in 2012 that if a president decides that some item is “personal,” there’s no way to force him to hand it over.

On May 11, 2022, the DOJ obtained a subpoena that compelled President Trump to turn over all documents with

classification markings, including electronic files, located at Mar-a-Lago.

Some defense lawyers and former prosecutors have argued that President Trump should have challenged the subpoena as overbroad. The subpoena didn’t specify whether it covered only originals or also copies and whether it covered obviously declassified documents. There are millions of declassified documents online that still have visible classification markings.

President Trump apparently didn’t search all his possessions for any such documents, but rather had one of his lawyers search some of the boxes brought over from the White House.

The prosecutors allege that President Trump instructed Mr. Nauta to move boxes out of a storage room at Mar-a-Lago so that they couldn’t be reviewed by the lawyer.

In July, prosecutors added more charges, alleging that President Trump asked Mr. De Oliveira to have security camera footage deleted after the DOJ subpoenaed some of the footage in June 2022. They allege the footage showed Mr. Nauta moving boxes in and out of the storage room. The updated indictment doesn’t mention direct evidence that President Trump made the request, but rather cites Mr. De Oliveira’s claim that he did. President Trump has denied making such a request.





Co-defendants

Rudy Giuliani	<i>former lawyer to President Trump, former mayor of New York, and former federal prosecutor</i>
John Eastman	<i>former law professor at Chapman University who advised the Trump campaign on strategies to reverse the election results</i>
Mark Meadows	<i>former chief of staff to President Trump and former congressman</i>
Kenneth Chesebro	<i>lawyer who advised the Trump campaign and helped to orchestrate the alternate electors strategy</i>
Jeffrey Clark	<i>former DOJ official who tried to convince DOJ leadership to back President Trump's election fraud claims</i>
Jenna Ellis	<i>former lawyer to the Trump campaign</i>
Ray Smith	<i>former lawyer to President Trump</i>
Robert Cheeley	<i>former lawyer to the Trump campaign who helped to organize the alternate slate of electors</i>
Michael Roman	<i>GOP strategist and former Trump campaign official who helped to organize the alternate slate of electors</i>
David Shafer	<i>former Republican elector</i>
Shawn Still	<i>Georgia state senator and former Republican elector</i>
Stephen Lee	<i>Illinois pastor</i>
Harrison Floyd	<i>head of Black Voices for Trump</i>
Trevian Kutti	<i>former publicist for Kanye West</i>
Sidney Powell	<i>lawyer and former federal prosecutor who challenged the 2020 election results in several states</i>
Cathleen Latham	<i>former Republican elector</i>
Scott Hall	<i>bail bondsman</i>

President Trump is accused of a conspiracy to engage in racketeering activity, including soliciting public officers to violate their oaths of office, making false statements to public employees, and conspiring to impersonate a public officer, to commit forgery, to make false statements, and to file false documents.

Facts of the Case

After the 2020 election, President Trump and his surrogates alleged that various illegalities tainted the results in Georgia. They attempted to persuade state officials and lawmakers to investigate the allegations and decertify the election. They arranged alternate Republican electors who could have been counted by Congress in the event that the election challenge was successful. Prosecutors allege all these efforts were part of a vast criminal conspiracy.

In a separate prong of the case, several Trump supporters who arranged a forensic examination of election machines and equipment in Coffee County, Georgia, now face charges of election fraud and several computer crimes for allegedly lacking authorization to copy data from the equipment.

Four of the 19 defendants have pleaded guilty: Mr. Hall, Ms. Powell, Mr. Chesebro, and Ms. Ellis.

Lawyers for President Trump and several other co-defendants have argued some of those charged should be dismissed because the indictment was "deficient." They have also asked for the indictment to be dismissed for violating the defendants' First Amendment rights. Fulton County Superior Court Judge McAfee gave the prosecutors until Jan. 2, 2024, to respond to the arguments.

Co-defendants Mr. Meadows, Mr. Clark, Ms. Latham, Mr. Shafer, and Mr. Still are trying to have the case removed to a federal court. Their requests were denied, and they have appealed to the appeals court for the 11th Circuit. The court will hear oral arguments for Mr. Meadows's appeal on Dec. 15. The others are due to submit briefs in their appeals on Dec. 19.



President Trump has been charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records. Mr. Bragg classified the alleged crimes as felonies because they were allegedly committed in pursuit of another crime. In the indictment, Mr. Bragg didn't identify which crime, later saying state law didn't require him to.

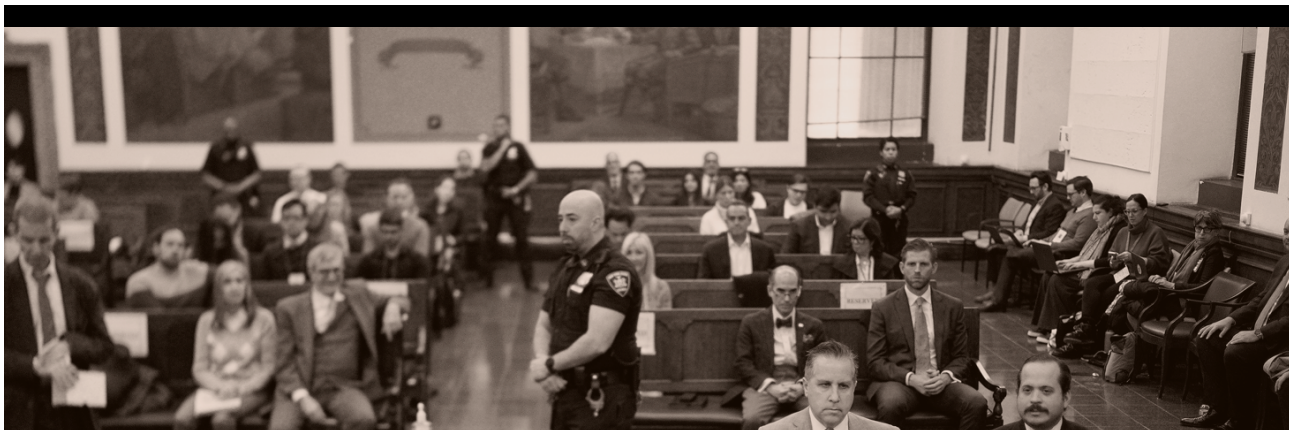
Facts of the Case

Ahead of the 2016 election, adult performer Stephanie Clifford was approached by Michael Cohen—then a lawyer for presidential candidate Trump—with an offer of payment if she kept to herself a story she tried to sell to a tabloid magazine years prior alleging she had had a brief affair with Mr. Trump in 2006. She accepted the offer of \$130,000 after failing to sell the story to media outlets for larger sums. The

Daily Mail reported. The Trump Organization then reimbursed Mr. Cohen for the payment.

Mr. Bragg alleges that marking the reimbursement payments to Mr. Cohen as legal expenses in the company's books amounted to falsifying business records.

President Trump's lawyers have been trying to have the case dismissed or removed to a federal court.





Co-defendants

Donald Trump Jr.	Executive vice president of the Trump Organization
Eric Trump	Executive vice president of the Trump Organization
Ivanka Trump	Former executive vice president for development and acquisitions at the Trump Organization [Dismissed]
Allen Weisselberg	Former chief financial officer of the Trump Organization
Jeffrey McConney	Former senior vice president and controller of the Trump Organization
Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust	The legal owner of entities constituting the Trump Organization
Other entities affiliated with the Trump Organization	

Above: (L–R) Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump, Allen Weisselberg, Jeffrey McConney

President Trump was accused of defrauding New York lenders and insurers by inflating the value of his assets on financial statements. Ms. James sued him for persistent and repeated fraud, falsifying business records, conspiracy to falsify business records, issuing false financial statements, conspiracy to falsify financial statements, insurance fraud, and conspiracy to commit insurance fraud.

Facts of the Case

While applying for loans and insurance, President Trump's company, the Trump Organization, prepared statements of financial condition (SFCs) that included self-valuations of his assets. The prosecutors have claimed that those valuations were too high, pointing to the existence of significantly lower appraisals for the various properties. The defense has argued that the original valuations were appropriate and, in fact, conservative.

On Sept. 26, Justice Engoron issued a pretrial summary judgment on the first cause of action, finding President Trump liable for fraud. He ruled the Trump Organization dissolved without specifying what was to happen to the company's assets. That ruling was put on hold by an appeals court for the duration of the appeal.

Based on the remaining six counts, Ms. James is seeking penalties of about \$250 million, as well as to ban President Trump and his family members from holding executive positions in the state.

The defense has relied heavily on expert witnesses who've argued that no fraud occurred and that at least some of the properties were undervalued on the SFCs.

New York University accounting professor Eli Bartov testified for the defense that he couldn't find a single accounting rule violated by the SFCs.

A former executive from Deutsche Bank, which Ms. James claims was defrauded by the Trump Organization, testified that the bank had courted President Trump's business and did its own analyses of his assets before approving a loan.

Justice Engoron said he expects to issue a final ruling in the case by the end of January.





President Trump is accused of causing physical and emotional harm to Capitol Police officers and lawmakers by rallying his supporters to protest on Jan. 6, 2021, and causing them to riot.

Altogether, 14 Capitol Police officers, 12 current or former members of Congress, and one domestic partner of a deceased Capitol Police officer have filed eight lawsuits against President Trump and various other defendants, including Mr. Giuliani, Proud Boys, and Oath Keepers.

Lawyers for President Trump and for some of the other defendants have sought to have the suits dismissed for failure to state a claim, lack of standing or jurisdiction, and First Amendment encroachment.

Judge Mehta has dismissed some of the counts but has let the suits proceed. He

also dismissed all claims against Mr. Straka, Mr. Stone, Mr. Giuliani, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Trump Jr., largely on the grounds that their actions were protected by the First Amendment.

Lawyers also argued it fell within President Trump’s official duties to ensure that claims of election fraud were investigated and that he was therefore immune from liability for his actions.

Judge Mehta disagreed, ruling that the relevant actions of the 45th president “entirely concern his efforts to remain in office for a second term” and don’t fall within the “outer perimeter” of his official responsibilities. The D.C. Circuit Court sided with the judge on Dec. 1, allowing the lawsuits to proceed. President Trump is likely to appeal the civil suit immunity issue to the Supreme Court.



Co-defendants

Donald Trump Jr.	<i>[Dismissed]</i>
Rudy Giuliani	<i>Former lawyer to President Trump, former mayor of New York, and former federal prosecutor [Dismissed]</i>
Brandon Straka	<i>Political activist and founder of the WalkAway movement [Dismissed]</i>
Ali Alexander	<i>Political organizer and leader of Stop the Steal [Dismissed]</i>
Mo Brooks	<i>Lawyer and former congressman from Alabama [Dismissed]</i>
Roger Stone	<i>Political strategist who has at times advised President Trump [Dismissed]</i>
Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.	<i>President Trump’s official 2020 campaign organization, which later changed its name to Make America Great Again PAC</i>
Stop the Steal LLC	<i>An organization started by Ali Alexander</i>



Plaintiffs

James Blassingame	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Sidney Hemby	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Marcus Moore	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Bobby Tabron	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
DeDivine Carter	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Briana Kirkland	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Conrad Smith	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Danny McElroy	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Byron Evans	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Governor Latson	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Melissa Marshall	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Michael Fortune	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Jason DeRoche	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Reginald Cleveland	<i>Officer, Capitol Police</i>
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.)	
Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.)	<i>[Dismissed; Mr. Thompson left the suit upon his appointment to chair the congressional Jan. 6 committee.]</i>
Karen Bass	<i>Mayor of Los Angeles, former Democrat congresswoman from California</i>
Rep. Stephen Cohen (D-Tenn.)	
Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas)	
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.)	
Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.)	
Rep. Marcia Kaptur (D-Ohio)	
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)	
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)	
Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.)	
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.)	
Sandra Garza	<i>Former domestic partner and executor of the will of Brian Sicknick, a Capitol Police officer who died of a stroke the day after the Jan. 6 riot, during which he was sprayed with bear mace</i>

Above: (L–R) Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), Karen Bass, Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas)

Above Right: (L–R) Donald Trump Jr., Rudy Giuliani, Brandon Straka, Mo Brooks, Roger Stone, Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrio

Oath Keepers	<i>A militia organization largely of current and former law enforcement and military members who believe the federal government is violating the rights of Americans</i>
Proud Boys	<i>A self-proclaimed fraternal organization for those devoted to Western civilization</i>
Proud Boys International LLC	<i>A governing entity for Proud Boys that was shut down on Feb. 10, 2021</i>
Warboys LLC	<i>An entity started in July 2020 by Enrique Tarrio</i>
Enrique Tarrio	<i>Former leader of Proud Boys sentenced to 22 years in prison for multiple felonies including seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding</i>
Ethan Nordean	<i>A former leader of Proud Boys sentenced to 18 years in prison for multiple felonies including seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding</i>
Joseph Biggs	<i>A former leader of Proud Boys sentenced to 17 years in prison for multiple felonies including seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding</i>
Zachary Rehl	<i>A former leader of Proud Boys sentenced to 15 years in prison for multiple felonies including seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding</i>
Charles Donohoe	<i>A former leader of Proud Boys who pleaded guilty to obstructing an official proceeding and assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers. He hasn't been sentenced since he's still cooperating with authorities, which could reduce his sentence.</i>
Dominic Pezzola	<i>A member of Proud Boys sentenced to 10 years in prison for multiple felonies, including obstruction of an official proceeding</i>
Stewart Rhodes	<i>The founder of Oath Keepers, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison for multiple felonies including seditious conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding</i>
Thomas Caldwell	<i>A participant in the Jan. 6 protest who was found guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding and tampering with documents or proceedings, but was acquitted of seditious conspiracy [Sentence pending]</i>
Jessica Watkins	<i>A member of Oath Keepers and head of one of its subgroups, who was sentenced to 8 1/2 years in prison for multiple felonies, including obstruction of an official proceeding and conspiracy to do so</i>
Kelly Meggs	<i>A member of Oath Keepers who was sentenced to 12 years in prison for multiple felonies, including seditious conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding</i>
Alan Hostetter	<i>Former police chief in La Habra, Calif., and participant in the Jan. 6 protest, who was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison for multiple felonies including obstruction of an official proceeding and conspiracy to do so</i>
Russell Taylor	<i>A participant in the Jan. 6 protest who pleaded guilty to conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding [Sentence pending]</i>
Eric Scott Warner	<i>A member of the Three Percenters militia group who was found guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding [Sentence pending]</i>
Felipe Antonio Martinez	<i>A member of the Three Percenters militia group who was found guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding [Sentence pending]</i>
Derek Kinnison	<i>A member of the Three Percenters militia group who was found guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding [Sentence pending]</i>
Ronald Mele	<i>A member of the Three Percenters militia group who was found guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding [Sentence pending]</i>
Julian Khater	<i>A participant in the Jan. 6 riot who admitted to spraying Officer Sicknick with bear spray</i>
George Tanios	<i>A participant in the Jan. 6 riot who admitted to giving the bear spray to Mr. Khater</i>





President Trump is accused of defaming E. Jean Carroll by claiming she made up a story about him sexually assaulting her.

Facts of the Case

Ms. Carroll, a columnist specializing in giving advice to women, claimed in her 2019 book that Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in the mid-1990s.

President Trump denied the allegations, denied knowing Ms. Carroll, and said she made up the story to sell her book.

She then sued him for defamation in New York. President Trump's DOJ issued a certification that making the comments at issue was within the "scope of his office or employment" and had the case removed to a federal court. Under the Westfall Act, the government can substitute itself for its employees in civil suits stemming from actions within the

bounds of their duties. In 2021, the Biden administration withdrew the certification and the DOJ withdrew itself from the case.

President Trump sued Ms. Carroll, saying she defamed him by accusing him of rape even after a civil court jury ruled he wasn't liable for raping her.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan dismissed President Trump's defamation claim on Aug. 7, saying that the jury did find the former president liable for sexually assaulting Ms. Carroll in a manner that would be colloquially considered rape, even if it didn't fulfill the legal definition of rape in the state of New York. President Trump appealed the dismissal.





President Trump is accused of sexually assaulting Ms. Carroll.

Facts of the Case

Ms. Carroll sued President Trump for allegedly raping her in a dressing room at the Bergdorf Goodman department store in Manhattan sometime between the fall of 1995 and the spring of 1996. Ms. Carroll couldn't recall when exactly the incident occurred, but described it in detail and presented as witnesses two of her friends, who said they recalled her confiding in them shortly after the incident.

Ms. Carroll filed the suit in 2022 after New York legislators passed a bill that gave victims of certain sexual offenses a one-year window to file civil lawsuits against alleged offenders.

A jury in May concluded that President Trump sexually abused Ms. Carroll but didn't rape her. It awarded her \$5 million in damages, including \$3 million for defamation, stating that President Trump defamed her by accusing her of making up her story in order to sell her book.

President Trump appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

Judge Kaplan previously rejected President Trump's request for a new trial and reduced damages.

Illustration by The Epoch Times, all photos by Getty Images, Shutterstock, The Epoch Times, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts via AP, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, U.S. House Office of Photography/House Creative Services, Anthony Crider/CC BY-SA 4.0, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, New York County Supreme Court, U.S. District Court for the Southern District Of New York, Superior Court of Fulton County

31 Comments

Policies and Regulations

C

Write a comment...

Settings • Sort by Best ▾

C

CM K | 12 hours ago

Total BS cases from liberal kangaroo courts. The only thing in common is how much Trump hate each respective judge and jury had for Trump. The Trump rape case is especially egregious. No way Trump would have anything to do with the women. Especially at a department store dressing room. All the cases should be tossed on appeal.

REPLY SHARE +10

D

David Livelli | 13 hours ago

He truly has zero legal challenges. The reason is quite simple, none of the "cases" against him have merit! EVERY single one of them is made up total BS that would never have been brought if he was not running again. They have even admitted if he quits it will go away... If Biden admits what he did, do the legal ramifications go away?

REPLY SHARE +9



Salmonella: No. 1 Cause of Death in Everyday Food, Treatment Dilemmas



Israeli Gun Ownership Surges After Hamas Terror Attack