

From: DOJ D gests
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weekend D gest
To: DoJ-D gests3 Rendon
Sent: May 8, 2022 1:56 PM (UTC-04:00)

**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
May 8, 2022
2:00 PM EST**

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US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

The Hill: **GOP calls for SCOTUS probe set off alarm bells**, Rebecca Beitsch, May 8, 2022, 10:33 AM
Calls from high-ranking Republicans for the Department of Justice to launch its own investigation into the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion are alarming those who say DOJ would be blurring the separation of powers in pursuit of something that may not even be a crime. [...] Since then 21 House Republicans have sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding DOJ and FBI involvement, saying the leaker may have violated a law that prohibits removing records belonging to a judicial officer and that “an immediate criminal investigation is clearly warranted.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: **New York subway shooting suspect indicted on terrorism charge**, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 8:18 PM

A U.S. grand jury on Saturday indicted a man for terrorism and other charges stemming from an April 12 gunfire and smoke bomb attack that injured 23 people on the New York City subway. The indictment in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York charged Frank James, 62, with a terrorist attack and other violence against a mass transportation system plus a count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. If convicted on the terrorism charge James could be sentenced to life in prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [New York Post](#), [Politico](#)

AP: **Oklahoma man pleads guilty to role in Capitol breach**, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 3:18 PM

An Oklahoma man pleaded guilty on Friday to a felony charge related to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, according to federal authorities. Jerry Ryals, 27, from Fort Gibson, pleaded guilty in federal court in Washington, D.C. to a charge of civil disorder, said the U.S. Attorney’s Office. for the District of Columbia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: **U.S. Targets Russian Media, Bank Executives With New Sanctions**, Ken Thomas, May. 8, 2022, 12:00 PM

The Biden administration announced new sanctions targeting Russian state-controlled media and banking executives, a ban on Americans providing accounting and management-consulting services and new export controls targeting the country’s industrial sector. A senior administration official on Sunday said the package would seek to clamp down on advertising dollars flowing into three Russian television stations, bar U.S. consulting firms from providing services to Russian companies seeking to evade sanctions and limit Russia’s access to industrial engines, motors and bulldozers. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: **Seizing an Oligarch’s Assets Is One Thing. Giving Them to Ukraine Is Another.**, Matthew Goldstein, May 8, 2022, 5:00 AM

The U.S. government was so pleased with its swift seizure of a Russian oligarch’s 255-foot yacht on the Mediterranean island of Majorca last month that it posted a video on YouTube of the moment F.B.I. agents and Spanish authorities clambered up the gangplank. The \$90 million yacht owned by Viktor Vekselberg, called the

Tango, was the government's first big prize in a campaign against billionaires with close ties to the Kremlin. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: Judge spares Clinton camp in Sussmann ruling, Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, May 7, 2022, 9:24 PM

A federal judge has turned down a request from Special Counsel John Durham for a ruling that a lawyer facing trial on a false statement charge was part of a wide-ranging "joint venture" involving Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, Democratic operatives, private investigation firm Fusion GPS and various technology researchers. The decision issued Saturday afternoon by U.S. District Court Judge Christopher Cooper limits evidence and testimony prosecutors can offer against attorney Michael Sussmann at a jury trial set to get underway later this month. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

WSJ: Investigation of Jan. 6 Capitol Attack Enters New Phase, Scott Patterson, May. 8, 2022, 8:00 AM
Congressional investigators are preparing to open a new, public phase of their probe into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, as they attempt to make a case that former President Donald Trump and people involved with his campaign motivated some rioters who took part in the violence. The House select committee investigating the attack has focused on two separate but overlapping chains of events: the planning and execution of the rally by Trump supporters in their attempt to overturn the result of the presidential election and the ensuing storming of the building itself. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Jan. 6 committee drops request for select trove of documents from Trump lawyer, Caroline Vakil, May 7, 2022, 4:38 PM

Lawyers for the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot said on Friday they would be dropping efforts to have close to 14,000 pages of documents they originally sought from conservative lawyer John Eastman. The House select panel's legal team said in court filings that after receiving 15,616 pages of documents from Eastman and a consolidated log highlighting 20,110 pages identified as being covered by attorney-client privilege, the committee would be dropping their requests to have 13,929 pages of documents handed over. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Former employee sentenced for embezzling from Abenaki group, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 2:30 PM

The former director of a federal grant program for the Abenaki Self Help Association Inc. has been sentenced to eight months in prison for embezzling tens of thousands of dollars in federal funds from the tribal group, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Louise Larivee, 63, of Swanton, also was ordered on Friday to pay \$96,700 in restitution, the U.S. attorney's office said. She had pleaded guilty to a charge of federal program embezzlement on the third day of her jury trial in November, federal prosecutors said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: Cerebral Receives Subpoena From Federal Prosecutors, Rolfe Winkler, May 7, 2022, 4:46 PM
Cerebral Inc., the online mental-health company, said on Saturday it has been subpoenaed by federal prosecutors as part of an investigation into possible violations of the Controlled Substances Act. Cerebral, one of a group of telehealth startups that have sprung up to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, said the grand jury subpoena was received on Wednesday from the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Suspected Brooklyn subway shooter indicted on two federal counts, including terror charge, Sonia Moghe, May 7, 2022, 8:09 PM

Frank James, the man accused of opening fire on a Brooklyn subway last month, has been indicted on two federal counts. According to an indictment filed Friday, James was indicted on one count of terrorist attack and other violence against a mass transportation system and one count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [NY Post](#)

Daily Inter Lake (Kalispell, MT): Prosecutors: Kalispell woman helped launder money from fraud schemes, Derrick Perkins, May 8, 2022, 2:00 AM (EDT)

A Kalispell woman accused of transferring dirty money over the course of five years was arraigned on multiple laundering charges in federal court on May 4. Theresa Anne Chabot, 57, faces charges of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business, conspiracy to commit money laundering, 17 counts of money laundering promotion and 11 counts of money laundering spending. She pleaded not guilty to the 30-count indictment before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kathleen DeSoto in Missoula on May 4. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Honolulu, HI): Ex-Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell's chief of staff testifies before federal grand jury, Peter Boylan, May 8, 2022, 7:02 AM (EDT)

The chief of staff to former Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell testified as a witness before a federal grand jury Thursday, a month after receiving a subpoena as part of an ongoing public corruption investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Pioneer (Big Rapids, MI): Ex-official pleads guilty to attempted witness tampering., Unattributed, May 8, 2022, 8:39 PM (EDT)

A former commissioner of revenue for a Virginia county has pleaded guilty to attempted witness tampering, and his son pleaded guilty to a related charge of heroin distribution, prosecutors said. Larry Vernon Snow, 73, pleaded guilty on Friday to a charge related to efforts to harass and dissuade a confidential informant from cooperating in a federal investigation of both himself and his son, and to prevent the confidential informant from aiding law enforcement in other investigations, said a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Southtown (Chicago, IL): Suburban woman gets 1-year prison sentence for embezzling from student group, Mike Nolan, May 7, 2022, 4:00 PM (EDT)

A Frankfort woman was sentenced to a year in federal prison after pleading guilty to embezzling more than \$650,000 from a national student organization working to improve minority representation in the pharmacy industry, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago. Carmita Coleman, 50, was also ordered Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly to pay more than \$490,000 in restitution, but Coleman and her husband in February filed for bankruptcy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Statesman Journal (Salem, OR): Salem man arrested for allegedly tweeting threats to kill Robinhood employees, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 4:02 PM (EDT)

A Salem man is accused of making threats over social media to harm and kill employees of the financial investment app Robinhood and their families as payback for his financial losses. Christopher David Michalski, who runs a business in Salem selling gourmet mushrooms, was arrested May 5, as originally reported by The Daily Beast and The Oregonian. According to a federal affidavit unsealed Thursday, the FBI began investigating after receiving a complaint in mid-April from the director of Threat Assessment and Risk Intelligence at Robinhood Markets, Inc., headquartered in California. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Standard (Celina, OH): More details in Auglaize murder case, William Kincaid, May 7, 2022, 3:23 PM (EDT)

Three people facing federal charges in the murder of Timothy Hovanec, 36, remain incarcerated following a detention hearing Friday morning in the U.S. District Court's Northern District of Ohio in Toledo. Anita Green, 61, executive director of the Auglaize County Farm Service Agency, Wapakoneta; Green's daughter Amanda Hovanec, 35, Wapakoneta; and Anthony Theodorou, 34, South Africa, all were charged with aggravated murder in the death of Timothy Hovanec, who last resided in Herndon, Virginia, according to an Auglaize County Sheriff's Office news release last week. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WV News (Clarksburg, WV): Californian gets nearly 16 years in fed prison for multi-state drug ring's crimes in West Virginia, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 2:41 PM

A Californian has been sentenced to a total of 15 $\frac{2}{3}$ years in federal prison for his role in a multi-state drug conspiracy that encompassed the Southwest and West Coast along with the Mountain State. Sixto Marquez was sentenced Friday in Clarksburg by U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Kleeh, who also imposed a 3-year term of supervised release to begin once Marquez is released from prison. [\[Continue\]](#)

WTOP-FM (Washington, D.C.): Silver Spring dentist pleads guilty to mail and health care fraud, DOJ says, Julie Gallagher, May 8, 2022, 10:36 AM

A dentist from Silver Spring, Maryland, pleaded guilty Wednesday for conspiracy to commit mail fraud and health care fraud — he'll pay back more than \$1.2 million as part of the plea deal, according to the Department of Justice. Edward T. Buford III, 70, is accused of devising and executing a plan to defraud Medicaid in D.C., according to a news release from the department. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): Maryland Man Sentenced To Prison For Producing Child Porn, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 10:58 PM

A federal judge has sentenced a Maryland man to 20 years in prison and a lifetime of supervised release for production of child pornography, according to a prosecutor. U.S. Attorney Erek L. Barron said in a news release that Johnny William Kyte, 62, of Elkton, was sentenced on Friday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTOP-FM (Washington, D.C.): Md. Air Force lieutenant sentenced to 11 yrs in prison for child pornography charges, Jessica Kronzer, May 7, 2022, 9:48 PM

A U.S. Air Force officer from Waldorf, Maryland, will be serving time in federal prison after pleading guilty to recording and producing child pornography, including videos taken with hidden cameras in multiple homes. The defendant, 36-year-old 1st Lt. Jason Ort, was sentenced to 11 years in federal prison and 15 years of supervised release on Thursday, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Ort will also be required to register as a sex offender where he lives, works and any schools that he attends after he's released from prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): Ark. man sentenced to 60 years for aggravated sexual abuse, producing child porn, Justin Trobaugh, May 7, 2022, 6:26 PM (EDT)

A Rogers man was sentenced on May 6 to 60 years in prison without the possibility of parole on one count of production of child pornography and one count of aggravated sexual abuse of a minor. A news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Arkansas says court documents show in July 2020, Rogers Police Department received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding a Snapchat user that was uploading child sexual abuse material. The release says the investigation led police to Michael Henderson LeClair, 34, of Rogers. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KLAS-CBS (Las Vegas, NV): Tijuana drug lord requests humanitarian release from U.S. prison, Salvador Rivera, May 7, 2022, 4:48 PM (EDT)

Benjamin Arellano Felix, the one-time leader of the infamous Arellano Felix drug cartel based in Tijuana, is asking a California judge to let him out of prison only 10 years into his prison term for humanitarian and

compassionate reasons. In April 2012, Arellano Felix was sentenced to 25 years behind bars after agreeing to a plea bargain. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 million fine to the U.S. government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Axios: Amazon violated federal law with anti-union meetings, labor board says, Jacob Knutson, May 7, 2022, 1:15 PM

The National Labor Relations Board prosecutors determined that Amazon violated federal labor law by holding mandatory anti-union meetings at a warehouse where workers were weighing whether to unionize, Bloomberg reports. Why it matters: The National Labor Relations Board regional office in Brooklyn told Bloomberg that it will issue a complaint against the company if it does not agree to a settlement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Cerebral Receives Grand Jury Subpoena From U.S. Attorney, Caleb Melby and Polly Mosendz, May 7, 2022, 12:30 PM

Cerebral Inc., the SoftBank-backed mental healthcare startup, is being investigated for possible violations of the Controlled Substances Act, a spokeswoman said in an emailed statement Saturday. "To be clear, at this time, no regulatory or law enforcement authority has accused Cerebral of violating any law," the spokeswoman said. "Cerebral intends to fully cooperate with the investigation." Cerebral received a grand jury subpoena from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York on the evening of May 4, the spokeswoman said. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [WSJ](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Border patrol: Human smuggler knew passengers couldn't swim, Unattributed, May 8, 2022, 12:05 PM

Federal authorities say a boat operator knew his passengers could not swim when he abandoned six Indian nationals on a sinking boat during a failed smuggling attempt across the frigid St. Lawrence River into northern New York. Brian Lazore, a U.S. citizen, was ordered held without bail last week on smuggling charges. His defense attorney, Gabrielle DiBella, told The Associated Press that Lazore is "presumed to be innocent until proven guilty." [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: Buying a designer handbag for Mother's Day? Watch out for counterfeits, U.S. Customs officials warn, Tori B. Powell, May 7, 2022, 8:09 PM

United States Customs and Border Protection warned consumers of scammers selling counterfeit designer products ahead of Mother's Day. According to the agency, handbags, wallets, apparel, footwear and jewelry are among items at the highest risk of being counterfeited. "Still haven't decided what to get mom for Mother's Day? Don't just pick the first internet search because you may be ordering knockoff earrings," CBP Chicago tweeted. [[CBS](#)]

The Guardian: Clothes, shoes, passports: migrants forced to dump possessions at US-Mexico wall, Melissa del Bosque, May 8, 2022, 8:01 AM (EDT)

In Yuma, south-west Arizona, just a short distance from a gap in the 30-foot-high border barrier between the US and Mexico, Fernando "Fernie" Quiroz collects piles of shoes, shoelaces and clothing from the dirt road and carries them to a large red dumpster already overflowing with personal belongings. Every day, hundreds of people arrive at gaps in this stretch of border wall to request political asylum from uniformed federal border agents who stand waiting under a rudimentary metal shade structure in the Sonoran desert heat. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: **Mayorkas's tough week on Capitol Hill**, Anna Giaritelli, May 08, 2022, 6:00 AM
Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas had a difficult week. In appearances on Capitol Hill and in television interviews this week, Mayorkas struggled to answer questions about the border crisis. He now faces greater skepticism from lawmakers just two weeks from when the pandemic health policy Title 42 is set to expire, pending a court order, which is expected to worsen the migration problem. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Breitbart](#)

The Daily Beast: **Feds Dump Cash Into 'Hot Gulag' Immigrant Detention Center**, William Bredderman, May 7, 2022, 11:27 PM

As a logistical and political dilemma looms on the southern border, the Biden administration is plowing hundreds of millions of dollars into a long-distressed Texas immigrant detention facility—and, in turn, handing over a huge pay day to a contractor with a history of alleged abuses against detainees and staff. Port Isabel Detention Center covers more than 375 acres in the lower Rio Grande Valley, about an hour's drive north of downtown Matamorros, Mexico. Visitors have described the coastal area as among the most remote places in the Lone Star State—a place where birds from the neighboring Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge are a more frequent sight on the road than cars. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Republic (Phoenix, AZ): **CBP to disband Border Patrol units accused of cover-ups in Arizona**, Laura Daniella Sepulveda, May 8, 2022, 8:15 AM (EDT)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued a memo last week announcing that Border Patrol Critical Incident Teams, which have been accused of covering up official wrongdoing, will no longer be used in the processing of critical incidents involving CBP agents starting in October.

The announcement comes months after congressional Democrats urged the Government Accountability Office in a letter to investigate the use of the critical incident teams to process critical incident scenes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, NM): **One less barrier: Migrants in Juárez wait for an end to Title 42**, Reyes Mata III, May 8, 2022, 12:16 AM (EDT)

The Biden administration is poised later this month to end Title 42 – the policy allowing U.S. border officials to quickly eject from this country any migrating person due to the pandemic. And while the plan to end Title 42 is encountering fierce legal challenges, migrants are optimistic the administration will prevail and that there will be one less barrier for them. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, NY): **Customs and Border Protection in Champlain seizes counterfeit Stanley Cup rings**, Blaine Lavoie, May 7, 2022, 9:15 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 10 counterfeit Stanley Cup championship rings at the Champlain Port of Entry cargo facility due to trademark violations. Earlier in April, a shipment that was selected then later seized after an examination determined the contents to be counterfeit Detroit Red Wings Stanley Cup rings from 1936. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHDH-TV (Boston, MA): **Colombian fugitive wanted for murder arrested in Belmont, Mass after 27 years on the run**, Bryan Lambert, May 8, 2022, 11:23 PM

A Colombian fugitive convicted in the shooting death of his wife and attempted murder of his daughter in 1994 was arrested in Belmont on April 13, authorities said. William Hernando Usma Acosta, 61, had been residing in Belmont under the alias Carlos Alberto Rendon, according to a statement from United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHIO-CBS (Dayton, OH): **Customs agents seize \$1.4 million in cocaine from custom-built compartment**, Kelli Dugan, May 7, 2022, 2:46 PM (EDT)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at California's Calexico commercial facility intercepted more than 100 pounds of cocaine Thursday, concealed in a custom-built compartment of a trailer. According to a news release, a 22-year-old Mexican citizen driving a commercial truck attempted entry to the United States, but further inspection revealed the specialty compartment built into the trailer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KOKI-Fox \(Tulsa, OK\)](#)

ANTITRUST

engadget: **Hitting the Books: US regulators are losing the fight against Big Tech**, Andrew Tarantola, May 8, 2022, 10:00 AM

Today's technology landscape is dominated by a small cadre of massive corporations with the likes of Meta, Amazon and Google snapping up fledgling startups before they can grow into potential competitors, ignoring labor laws that don't suit their immediate needs, and generally operating like the dystopian corpro-villains Johnny Mnemonic warned us about. Traditionally, state regulation has acted as a gentle brake against American industries' more problematic tendencies, however the speed at which modern computing and communications technologies advance has overwhelmed the government's capacity to, well, govern them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: **Apple Keeps Its Tap-to-Pay Feature to Itself to Protect Revenue**, Mark Gurman, May 8, 2022, 9:45 AM

After facing mounting antitrust scrutiny in recent years—from both App Store developers and government regulators—Apple Inc. has started to loosen up. Two years ago, the company began letting users choose third-party web browser or email apps as their system default. That means when you click a link in Messages, you can have those launch in Chrome instead of Safari. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Newsweek: **Vicky White in Hotel Before Helping Casey White Escape Jail Shown in Video**, Andrew Stanton, May 7, 2022, 7:02 PM (EDT)

Newly released surveillance footage shows Vicky White in the hotel she stayed in the night before she helped capital murder suspect Casey White escape from jail as authorities continue searching for the pair. [...] The U.S. Marshals Service is offering a \$10,000 reward for the arrest of Casey White and a \$5,000 award for the arrest of Vicky White (the two are unrelated). [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Daily Beast](#)

Bitcoin News: **Lazarus Is Tracking Crypto Traders and Executives**, Nick Marinoff, May 7, 2022, 5:00 PM
Among the law enforcement agencies that have discovered this new activity from Lazarus are CISA, the US Treasury Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). All three organizations are now banding together as a means of warning crypto firms and their executives and telling them what they need to do to keep themselves and their exchanges safe from intruders. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Insider: **The FBI has found incriminating evidence aboard a \$325 million superyacht seized in Fiji**, Sam Tabahriti, May 8, 2022, 3:31 AM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation found evidence incriminating the owner of a superyacht that was seized by Fijian authorities on Thursday, reports say. The US requested the seizure of Suleiman Kerimov's \$325 million superyacht, which the FBI and Fijian law enforcement worked together to achieve. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle (Cheyenne, WY): **U.S. marshals find kidnapped child**, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 8:03 PM (EDT)

U.S. marshals and Gillette Police Department officers on Friday afternoon found a child kidnapped from Alaska earlier this spring. The recovery follows arrest of the non-custodial mother in Gillette, according to a U.S. Marshalls Service announcement Friday. “The child unfortunately was not located at the time of the arrest.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, NM): FBI looking for woman suspected of robbing Grants bank, Elise Kaplan, May 7, 2022, 7:45 PM (EDT)

The FBI and the Grants Police Department are looking for a woman they’ve dubbed “the red shoe robber” who is suspected of holding up a bank Saturday late morning. Frank Fisher, an FBI spokesman, said around 11:30 a.m. the woman entered the Wells Fargo at 201 North 1st Street. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Deadline Detroit (Detroit, MI): Captured Detroit Rapper 42 Dugg Claimed He Was 'Sovereign Citizen' Above The Law, Unattributed, May 07, 2022, 5:27 PM (EDT)

Detroit rapper 42 Dugg's three weeks eluding a relatively light federal prison sentence ended in his capture Wednesday in Ypsilanti and could result in far stiffer penalties, The Detroit News reports. [...] Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives agents were monitoring his movements after obtaining a search warrant allowing them to track the location of his cellphone. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOLO-ABC/CW (Reno, NV): Authorities arrest a man in Truckee on child sex charges from Alaska, Steve Timko, May. 7, 2022, 7:52 PM (EDT)

Authorities arrested a man from Alaska on Thursday in Truckee on four counts of sexually abusing a minor. Authorities arrested a man from Alaska on Thursday in Truckee on four counts of sexually abusing a minor. David Keith Swendiman, 54, of Girdwood, Alaska, was living in Truckee as a transient when he was arrested, the California Highway Patrol reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WAVE-NBC (Louisville, KY): Two K-9 officers, who are also birth sisters, got a chance to see each other again after serving hundreds of miles apart., Dustin Vogt, May. 7, 2022, 6:07 PM (EDT)

Two K-9 officers, who are also birth sisters, got a chance to see each other again after serving hundreds of miles apart. ATF K-9 Officer Hilton, serving as a explosives detection K-9 in Columbus, Ohio, met up with her sister, Nashville ATF K-9 Officer Corey at Churchill Downs on Saturday, according to ATF Louisville. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVE-NBC (El Dorado, AR): FBI Director Wray visits New Orleans Field Office, addressing violent crime, Nick Sommer, May 7, 2022, 4:48 PM (EDT)

On May 5, 2022, FBI Director Christopher Wray visited the FBI’s New Orleans Field Office and met with Special Agent in Charge Douglas A. Williams, Jr., and other field office personnel. He also met with local law enforcement partners and members of the media to affirm the FBI’s continued commitment to help stem violent crime in the area. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WNTZ-Fox (Alexandria, LA): Sextortion cases targeting children spiked in Louisiana amid pandemic, Anum Siddiqui, May 7, 2022, 4:00 PM (EDT)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating an uptick of sextortion schemes targeting children in Louisiana. The FBI has seen an uptick in these crimes particularly in Monroe, Alexandria, and Shreveport. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KNWA-NBC (Fayetteville, AR): US Marshals arrest murder suspect in Fort Smith, news release, Elena Ramirez, May 7, 2022, 2:44 PM (EDT)

In the late hours of May 5, the U.S. Marshals Service Western District of Arkansas and the Fort Smith Police Department arrested 18-year-old Xavier Lopez in Fort Smith, according to a news release. Lopez was wanted

by Buchanan County, Missouri for 2nd-degree murder and unlawful use of a weapon. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

WaPo: [OPINION] Opinion The Supreme Court's anti-democratic actions extend far beyond Roe, E.J. Dionne, JR, May 8, 2022, 8:00 AM

If the Supreme Court adopts the substance of Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s draft ruling ending the constitutional right to abortion, the conservative majority's radicalism will deepen the crisis of American democracy and further divide an already torn country. There is an irony to this since, in principle, the Alito opinion is all about democracy. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: Supreme Court abortion leak investigation and the curious case of Clarence Thomas and Co., Rex Huppke, May 8, 2022, 6:00 AM

I was glad to hear U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts launched an investigation into who leaked a draft opinion on abortion rights, and while I don't claim to be an expert on leaks or investigations or court credibility, I wonder if he might also want to look into how the wife of another justice might have supported an attempt to overthrow the government. Just throwing that out there in hopes of being helpful. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: Supreme Court Leak Inquiry Exposes Gray Area of Press Protections, Jeremy W. Peters, May 8, 2022, 5:00 AM

There is a well-established but uneven pattern in American law that applies to government secrets and the journalists who uncover them. The First Amendment generally protects the publication of a leak, but not the leaker. An authority no less than the Supreme Court has made it this way. In 1971, as the justices prepared to rule that the government could not prevent The New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers — one of the biggest leak cases in history — the source of that leak, Daniel Ellsberg, was indicted by a federal grand jury for theft. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: How the future of Roe is testing Roberts's clout on Supreme Court, Robert Barnes, Carol D. Leonnig and Ann E. Marimow, May 7, 2022, 7:27 PM

The explosive leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would overturn Roe v. Wade not only focused the nation on the magnitude of the change facing abortion rights, it also signaled the rise of a rightward-moving court that is testing the power of fellow conservative Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. As the country awaits a final decision, the intense deliberations inside a court closed to the public and shaken by revelations of its private negotiations appears to be not between the court's right and left, but among the six conservative justices, including Roberts, in the court's supermajority. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Supreme Court's majority vote to overturn Roe remains intact: Report, Michael Lee, May 8, 2022, 1:04 PM

The five-vote majority needed in the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey remains intact months after Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's leaked draft majority opinion was written, according to a report. The leaked draft majority opinion penned by Alito is dated February 10 and has almost certainly changed multiple times in the almost three months since it was written, but three conservative sources close to the Court say that the votes supporting the decision remain unchanged, according to reporting from the Washington Post. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Abortion-Rights Protest Targets Homes of Kavanaugh, Roberts, Greg Stohr, May 7, 2022, 9:56 PM

About 100 protesters took the battle over abortion rights to the homes of two conservative U.S. Supreme Court justices Saturday night, five days after a leaked draft opinion suggested the court is poised to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. Bearing signs and chanting slogans, the group marched from Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house in Chevy Chase, Maryland, to Chief Justice John Roberts' residence about a half mile away. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: [ANALYSIS] Why Contempt May Be Apt Punishment For High Court Leaker, Michael Zuckerman, May 7, 2022, 12:58 PM

The race is on to identify who leaked the draft opinion overruling Roe v. Wade. Describing this leak as "a singular and egregious breach" of trust, U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts has jumped to action. He almost immediately ordered the court's marshal to launch an investigation into the source of the leak. What happens next is unclear. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

AP: Armored car company settles suit over \$1M pot sale seizures, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 3:30 PM

A Pennsylvania armored car company has settled its lawsuit that accused the San Bernardino County sheriff of illegally seizing over \$1 million in cash it was transporting from medical marijuana businesses. [...] Although California is one of 37 states that allow medical use of marijuana and one of 18 that legalized its recreational use, the drug remains illegal under federal law. [...] The company previously reached an agreement in which participating federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration, agreed to return the money. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

OPIOID CRISIS

Fox Business: Walgreens agrees to pay Florida \$683 million in opioid case, Lawrence Richard, May 8, 2022, 12:30 AM

Walgreens has settled with the state of Florida in a lawsuit where the state argued the pharmacy chain contributed to the opioid epidemic, officials announced. Attorney General Ashley Moody announced the settlement Thursday where she said Walgreens has agreed to pay \$683 million to help assist community efforts to fight back against opioid addiction and abuse, which often leads to fatal overdoses, the Tampa Bay Times reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ADMINISTRATION

WSJ: Biden at Center of Fight Over Abortion After Career of Reservations, Catherine Lucey and Ken Thomas, May 7, 2022, 2:25 PM

As a young senator, Joe Biden said he felt the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that gave women the right to have an abortion had gone too far. He briefly supported a constitutional amendment that would let states overturn the ruling. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: White House warns of Covid surges in the winter, Hannah Farrow, May 8, 2022, 11:07 AM

Covid cases surged during the last two winters and are likely to again this year — unless the country can prepare and act, White House Covid-19 response coordinator Ashish Jha said Sunday morning. "If we don't get ahead of this thing, we'll have a lot of waning immunity, this virus continues to evolve and we may see a pretty sizable wave of infections, hospitalizations and deaths this fall and winter," Jha said on ABC's "This Week."

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Insider: Joe Biden's new proposal to sell off seized assets belonging to sanctioned oligarchs seems unattainable, experts say, Sam Tabahriti, Dominick Reuter, and Hannah Towey, May 8, 2022, 7:10 AM

A new executive order from President Joe Biden would grant the US wider authority to speed up the sale of assets seized from sanctioned Russian oligarchs and use the proceeds to support Ukraine as it fends off the Russian invasion. Assets currently under US control include cash in US bank accounts, as well as a \$90 million, 255-foot yacht belonging to Viktor Vekselberg, which was captured earlier this month in Spain. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KNSD-CBS (San Diego, CA): New White House Plan to Address Meth Crisis in San Diego, Jackie Crea, May 8, 2022, 2:39 AM (EDT)

Saturday, President Biden sent the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy to San Diego to announce a new plan to crack down on the methamphetamine crisis. The Biden-Harris administration's plan will increase and enhance further collaboration between San Diego County's existing Meth Strike Team (Health and Human Services Agency), itself a collection of local agencies, and the ONDCP's San Diego & Imperial Beach regional branch called the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WROC-CBS (Rochester, NY): Biden can't sell off seized Russian yachts and central bank assets to help aid Ukraine, Paul B. Stephan, John C. Jeffries Jr., and David H. Ibbeken, May 7, 2022, 8:41 PM EDT

The Biden administration wants to sell off the yachts, homes and other luxury assets it has seized from Russian oligarchs and use those proceeds to support reparations for Ukraine. As part of his proposal for the latest aid package to Ukraine, President Joe Biden is asking lawmakers for the authority to formally confiscate the assets of sanctioned oligarchs to pay to "remedy the harm Russia caused ... and help build Ukraine." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with Whit Johnson

CBS: Weekend News with Adriana Diaz

NBC: Nightly News with Jose Diaz-Balart did not air due to the Kentucky Derby

- All women, children, and older adults have been evacuated from the Mariupol Azovstal Steel plant. The intensified attacks display Russian President Vladimir Putin's frame of mind, which he doesn't believe he can afford to lose as Victory Day approaches. The US announced a \$150 Million military aid package, and First Lady Jill Biden met with Ukrainian refugees in Romania. [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)
- Surveillance images of Vicky White checking out of a hotel the morning of Casey White's escape. The US Marshall's service has offered a \$25K reward for information leading to capturing escaped murder suspect Casey White and Vicky White, a corrections officer who allegedly helped him escape. [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)
- Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas stated, "We can't be an institution that can be bullied into giving you just the outcomes you want," at the 11th Circuit Judicial Conference. Americans are voicing solid and conflicting opinions on the leaked draft, even as the Biden Administration announced a free 24-hour mental health hotline for pregnant women and new moms who need help. [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)

- In Afghanistan, the Taliban has required all women to cover up from head to toe in public, ordering them only to show their eyes and using whole body burkas. Hardline leaders are restoring similar restrictions to when they last held power. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- In the Southwest, 2 to 3 days of consistent wind with the extreme drought, with heat building up to over 100 degrees, putting millions at risk for fire danger. At least 170 homes have been destroyed along with 265+ square miles over the last month in the area. President Biden has declared New Mexico a disaster ordering federal aid for recovery. In the Northeast, coastal flooding and wind alerts will hit the area on Mother's Day. [[ABC](#)]
- An investigation is being conducted on the deaths of three American tourists and the hospitalization of another at the Sandals Emerald Bay Resort in the Bahamas. Environmental health scientists, physicians, and others are investigating to ensure there was no public health hazard. [[ABC](#)]
- More than 100 pediatric cases of a rare hepatitis outbreak have been noted. Health care providers tell parents to be on the alert as they continue to determine what is driving the increase in cases. [[ABC](#)]
- A federal grand jury has indicted Frank James on one count of terrorist attacks and other violence against a mass transportation system and one count of discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. James was accused of opening fire on a Brooklyn subway last month, which he had planned for months. [[ABC](#)]
- The Biden Administration predicts 100 million new COVID cases Nationwide, affecting 30% of the US population. COVID cases are up 52%, and hospitalizations have risen 21% in the last two weeks. So, the White House is requesting \$22 Billion in COVID Relief Funding from Congress. [[CBS](#)]
- In a deadly explosion at the historic Hotel Saratoga in Havana, Cuba, the death toll has risen, with at least 26 people killed and more than 60 hospitalized. [[CBS](#)]
- Washington D.C. police are searching for suspects in a brazen drive-by shooting in District Heights, Maryland. Multiple shooters opened fire, wounding two boys. [[CBS](#)]
- Country music legend Mickey Gilley has died at 86 y/o. Gilley's music pushed country music into the mainstream. [[CBS](#)]

SUNDAY MORNING TALK SHOWS

ABC This Week with Martha Raddatz

- This Week began with coverage of the Supreme Court leak of draft opinion, indicating that a majority of

the justices intend to overturn Roe v. Wade. ABC senior national correspondent Terry Moran, chief legal analyst Dan Abrams, and NPR legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg joined Raddatz to discuss the implication of overturning the legal precedent leaving millions of women without access to safe abortions. [[Watch-1](#), [Watch-2](#)]

- Then, Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar joined the program to examine calls that the Democratic Party no longer endorse pro-life candidates, Senate Democrats' efforts to codify Roe v. Wade into law, and how lawmakers intend to protect abortion rights. [[Watch](#)]
- Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson joined Raddatz to weigh in on the abortion debate. Hutchinson said Sunday that he opposes a national ban on abortion because it would take away the authority of a state like his that is poised to immediately ban abortion if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. [[Watch](#)]
- Senior foreign correspondent Ian Pannell reports from Kharkiv, Ukraine, on the ongoing war in Ukraine. ABC News Moscow reporter Patrick Reeve joined Raddatz and discussed Russia's preparations to commemorate V-Day and analysts' forecast that Russian President Vladimir Putin will use the holiday to expand its offensive in Ukraine. [[Watch](#)]
- White House Covid-19 response coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha joined This Week to warn that similarly to how covid cases surged during the last two winters, infections are likely to rise again this year — unless the country can prepare and act. “If we don’t get ahead of this thing, we’ll have a lot of waning immunity, this virus continues to evolve, and we may see a pretty sizable wave of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths this fall and winter,” Jha said on ABC’s “This Week.” Jha said that Congress needs to provide resources, specifically \$22.5 billion, a number that will help with a dwindling vaccine supply. [[Watch](#)]

CBS Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan

- Face the Nation began with Brennan House Speaker Nancy Pelosi discussing her visit to Ukraine and the urgent assistance needed by Ukraine; the fight for abortion rights; the urgency of the upcoming elections; other issues that may be affected based on the overturning of Roe v. Wade; bipartisanship legislation to enshrine Roe v. Wade; the Republican campaign to appoint Judges who would overturn Roe v. Wade; and the need to respect the rule of law. [[Watch](#)]

NBC Meet the Press with Chuck Todd

- A Special Edition of Meet the Press began with Todd reviewing the leaked draft decision overturning Roe v. Wade. Todd stated this Special Edition of Meet the Press would cover the real-world fallout and the political fallout of the draft decision and the Supreme Court itself. [[Watch](#)]
- Governor Jonathon Tate Reeves (R-MS) discussed the trigger laws in Mississippi that would ban abortions once Roe is overturned; the issue of birth control in regards to trigger laws; whether overturning Roe takes away a woman’s right to control her body; protecting the rights of unborn children; ensuring expectant women and their babies have resources available to them; and the rights of an unborn child. [[Watch](#)]

- Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (D) discussed Michigan's 1931's abortion ban law which would go into effect if Roe v. Wade was overturned; her plans to not enforce the 1931 law but not being able to prevent others from enforcing the law; the chilling effect of the law on physicians conducting surgical procedures; attempts to clarify or wipe out the State law; and the codifying abortion rights. [\[Watch\]](#)

FOX News Sunday with Chris Wallace

- Fox News Sunday began with coverage of the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion overturning Roe v. Wade, as protestors have begun demonstrating outside the homes of conservative Supreme Court justices and Senate Democrats' efforts to codify Roe v. Wade in law. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Trey Yingst reports from Khiv on the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine as Russia prepares to commemorate Victory Day. [\[Watch\]](#)
- South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham joined the program to discuss the Russia-Ukraine War and Roe V. Wade. Graham said there can't be a negotiated peace because Ukraine will never yield territory to Russia — and because the international community needs to hold Russian President Vladimir Putin accountable for war crimes. Graham said Putin is eager "to rewrite the map of Europe." Afterward, Sen. Graham described the 1973 Supreme Court precedent Roe v. Wade "created a constitutional right that didn't exist" when justices ruled Americans have a right to privacy and legalized abortion in the U.S. Graham on Sunday said Roe v. Wade has long shut out debate on abortion rights and prevented challenges to limiting abortions. [\[Watch\]](#)

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- "Embattled Ukraine Soldiers in Mariupol Say They Will Fight to the End" [\[WSJ\]](#)
- "Jill Biden and Justin Trudeau Go to Ukraine in Show of West's Resolve" [\[NYT\]](#), [\[WaPo\]](#), [\[LAT\]](#)
- "A 49-year crusade: Inside the movement to overturn Roe v. Wade" [\[WaPo\]](#)
- "Even with Roe vs. Wade in place, low-income women struggle to get abortions in Texas" [\[LAT\]](#)

END

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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
May 7, 2022
2:00 PM EST**

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US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Fox: GOP lawmakers demand Garland prepare to protect churches as protesters target services, Timothy H.J. Nerozzi, May 7, 2022, 10:27 AM (EDT)

Two Republican lawmakers are pressing the Justice Department to take more seriously threats made against churches after a draft opinion from the Supreme Court threatened to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Texas Rep. Chip Roy and Utah Sen. Mike Lee sent a letter Saturday to Attorney General Merrick Garland asking him to marshal resources necessary to protect churches under threat of vandalism and disruptive protest. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Reinvigorated DOJ Is Strong Incentive For Police Reforms, Virginia Bruner, Christina Egan and Ayana Brown, May 6, 2022, 5:41 PM

A little more than a year into President Joe Biden's administration, and the U.S. Department of Justice is fully back in the business of investigating law enforcement agencies. On March 28, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco announced the proposed DOJ budget for fiscal year 2023 to include \$3.5 billion for civil rights. [[Continue Reading](#)]

National Law Review: DOJ and EPA Announce New Enforcement Strategy to Advance Environmental Justice, Lynn L. Bergeson and Carla N. Hutton, May 6, 2022, 5:11 PM (EDT)

On May 5, 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a series of actions intended to secure environmental justice for all Americans. In addition to

launching a new Office of Environmental Justice within DOJ, Attorney General Garland also announced a new comprehensive environmental justice enforcement strategy to guide DOJ's work and an interim final rule that will restore the use of supplemental environmental projects (SEP) in appropriate circumstances. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Augusta Free Press (Waynesboro VA): DOJ announces new initiative to advance the cause of environmental justice, Unattributed, May. 7, 2022, 10:01 AM

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan announced this week the launch of a new Office of Environmental Justice within the Justice Department. Garland also announced a new comprehensive environmental justice enforcement strategy to guide the Justice Department's work and issued an Interim Final Rule that will restore the use of supplemental environmental projects in appropriate circumstances. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Philadelphia Tribune: Justice Dept. boosts focus on environmental cases that harm the poor, David Nakamura, May 7, 2022, 9:14 AM

The Justice Department is ramping up enforcement of environmental cases that officials say disproportionately harm poor and marginalized communities, creating an office to help coordinate investigations and expanding the breadth of litigation against companies and local or state governments that appear to violate federal laws or commit civil infractions. Appearing at a joint news conference Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan said their agencies would work together on the initiative. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRC-NBC (Washington, D.C.): Members of Congress Ask DOJ to Reopen Park Police Shooting Case, Paul Wagner, May 6, 2022, 7:06 PM

Seven members of Congress are asking U.S. Attorney Gen. Merrick Garland to reopen the investigation into the U.S. Park Police shooting of Bijan Ghaisar, a driver killed in Fairfax County in 2017. Lawmakers cite statements made in a civil suit as the reason the case should get another look. They argue Garland has already reversed decisions made by the previous administration and should do so in this case. "We further understand that the department is now in possession of sworn deposition testimony [...] that may cast new light on the events of that tragic evening," the letter dated May 4 says. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

Boston Globe: US Attorney Rachael Rollins recused from case against Newton District Court judge, Samantha J. Gross and Shelley Murphy, May 7, 2022, 2:47 AM

US Attorney Rachael Rollins has been recused from prosecuting a high-profile case against a Newton District Court judge who was indicted in 2019 for helping an undocumented immigrant evade a federal agent who had come to the courthouse to detain him. Shelley M. Joseph was charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of a federal proceeding after she helped a Dominican national flee from the back entrance of the Newton courthouse in April 2018. In February, a federal appeals court declined to dismiss the charges against Joseph and a now-retired court officer who was also charged, ruling that their appeal was premature since they have not gone to trial. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Standard-Examiner (Ogden, UT): Weber State grad is the new US Attorney in Utah, Mark Shenefelt, May 6, 2022, 3:41 PM (EDT)

A Weber State University graduate is the new U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah, nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the Senate. Trina A. Higgins was sworn in on Thursday. She is the first woman to be presidentially appointed to the top federal law enforcement position in Utah, according to a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

DOJ PROGRAMS

Law360: **DOJ-Led Initiative Outlines Metrics For Justice Data Collection**, Sarah Martinson, May 6, 2022, 8:01 PM

An initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice recently unveiled a set of more than 40 metrics covering the entire criminal legal system, from law enforcement to community supervision, that states can report online to provide policymakers with more current data about their justice systems. The Justice Counts initiative, led by the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Office of Justice Programs as well as the Council of State Governments Justice Center, aims to provide policymakers with more timely justice data so they can make informed decisions about their criminal legal systems. [[Continue Reading](#)]

News 12 Brooklyn (Brooklyn, NY): **Rockland County bus drivers train to keep kids physically, mentally safe through new BOCES program**, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 5:27 PM

Bus drivers in Rockland County are getting new training that aims to keep kids physically and mentally safe. [...] The new effort to equip bus staff with this knowledge is part of a \$1 million federal Stop School Violence grant Rockland BOCES received from the Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: **Oklahoma man pleads guilty to role in Capitol breach**, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 8:45 PM

An Oklahoma man pleaded guilty on Friday to a felony charge related to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, according to federal authorities. Jerry Ryals, 27, from Fort Gibson, pleaded guilty in federal court in Washington, D.C. to a charge of civil disorder, said the U.S. Attorney's Office. for the District of Columbia. Ryals, an apprentice electrician, illegally walked through or stayed in several areas of the Capitol building, taking photos and videos after being told to go outside. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **Two plead guilty for assaulting ex-police officer Fanone during 2021 U.S. Capitol riot**, Sarah N. Lynch, May 6, 2022, 6:23 PM

Two men pleaded guilty this week for their roles in assaulting former Metropolitan Police officer Michael Fanone, who was beaten and electrocuted with a taser during the January 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol in Washington by throngs of former President Donald Trump's supporters. On Friday, defendant Albuquerque Cospir Head, 42, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson in a federal court in Washington to assaulting or impeding a police officer. In the hearing, he acknowledged he was responsible for pulling Fanone into the crowd. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **Georgia official rules U.S. Representative Greene can seek reelection**, Jan Wolfe, May 6, 2022, 6:21 PM

U.S. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene should be allowed to run for reelection, Georgia's secretary of state ruled on Friday, rejecting arguments by a group of voters that her comments about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol made her unfit for federal office. Georgia's Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger issued a final decision upholding the findings of Charles Beaudrot Jr., an administrative law judge in Atlanta. Free Speech for People, the group spearheading the legal challenge, vowed to appeal the decision to the Georgia Superior Court. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [LAT](#), [NYT](#), [The Hill](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: **Guantánamo Detainee Refuses to Testify for Accused U.S.S. Cole Bomber**, Carol Rosenberg, May 6, 2022, 7:00 PM

A Yemeni prisoner at Guantánamo Bay who was cleared for release nearly a year ago scolded an Army judge on Friday and refused to testify in the U.S.S. Cole bombing case, fearing he would place himself in jeopardy after 20 years of U.S. detention. "I am not here for you to take what you want from me, then throw me in the

trash,” Abdulsalam al-Hela, who is in his 50s, said in his first appearance at the war court. “I have been waiting 20 years for justice.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: Jan. 6 Prosecutors Impose Plea-Deal Deadline on Oath Keepers Charged in Riot, Alexa Corse and Aruna Viswanatha, May 6, 2022 4:07 PM

Federal prosecutors investigating the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol imposed a Friday deadline for alleged members of the Oath Keepers militia to enter plea negotiations ahead of a scheduled summer trial, telling the defendants they could face life in prison if convicted. Nine members of the group are fighting seditious conspiracy charges, the most serious brought in the investigation to date, for their alleged efforts to storm the Capitol in early 2021 and prepare for violence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Jim Jordan condemns FBI for alleged plans to fire Jan. 6 protesters, Chloe Folmar, May 7, 2022, 10:56 AM

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) on Friday published a letter condemning the FBI for suspending the security clearances of employees who engaged nonviolently in protests on Jan. 6, saying that it was the first step in firing the employees. House representatives learned of the FBI’s plans from whistleblowers who were present at Jan. 6 protests. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Capitol ‘Caveman’ Sentenced to 8 Months Over Jan. 6 Attack, Erik Larson, May 6, 2022, 3:46 PM

A New Yorker who dressed as a caveman while breaching the U.S. Capitol was sentenced to eight months in prison on charges of civil disorder and theft of government property. Aaron Mostofsky, 35, was sentenced Friday in federal court in Washington. He pleaded guilty in February to stealing a Capitol Police riot shield and armored vest and joining a mob of Donald Trump supporters who stormed the building on Jan. 6, 2021, to stop the certification of Joe Biden’s election as president. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WNBC-NBC \(New York, NY\)](#)

Fox Business: Putin's alleged \$700M superyacht seized in Italy, Caitlin McFall, May 7, 2022, 10:53 AM
Italian officials seized a \$700 million luxury yacht with ties to the Russian government, Rome's ministry of finance announced Friday. Italian authorities scrambled to investigate the nearly 460-foot superyacht known as the Scheherazade, which was dry-docked in the Tuscan port of Marina di Carrara as concerns mounted the Kremlin-linked vessel would set out to Italian waters shortly. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Colonial Pipeline was cyber wake-up call; Ukraine war is escalator, Ines Kagubare, May 7, 2022, 10:31 AM

One year ago, the Colonial Pipeline was hit by a disruptive ransomware attack forcing it to shut down operations for nearly a week. The incident, which caused gas shortages in several states as fuel prices spiked, was a major wake-up call for critical industries to start taking cyber threats seriously and invest more in cybersecurity. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: Jan. 6 defendant, who prosecutors say chased Officer Goodman, has cooperated with committee, Kyle Cheney, May 7, 2022, 10:21 AM

Greg Rubenacker, who joined the Jan. 6 mob that chased Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, has become the first known defendant facing assault charges to cooperate with lawmakers investigating the attack, court filings reveal. In a memo pleading for leniency from Judge Beryl Howell, Rubenacker says he spent “several hours” interviewing with Jan. 6 select committee investigators, although he doesn’t indicate when. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Insider (New York, NY): The FBI found crucial evidence aboard a \$325 million superyacht seized in Fiji, which incriminated its oligarch owner Suleiman Kerimov, a report says, Sam Tabahrity, May 7, 2022, 9:43 AM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation found evidence incriminating the owner of a superyacht that was seized by Fijian authorities on Thursday, reports say. Australia’s ABC News first reported the story. The US requested the seizure of Suleiman Kerimov’s \$325 million superyacht, which the FBI and Fijian law

enforcement worked together to achieve. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPHO-CBS (Phoenix, AZ): Arizona man dressed in gladiator costume during Jan. 6 riot sentenced, Dani Birzer, May 6, 2022, 7:26 PM (EDT)

An Cottonwood man dressed as Captain Moroni from the Book of Mormon during the Jan. 6 Capitol riot learned his punishment. On Friday, Nathan Wayne Entrekin was sentenced to 45 days in jail, 36 months of probation, and 60 hours of community service after entering a guilty plea to one of his five charges--parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Man pleads guilty to stealing \$1.8M from Maryland company, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 11:30 AM

A man has pleaded guilty to the theft of more than \$1.8 million from the Maryland company where he worked, according to a federal prosecutor. Duane G. Larmore, 47, of Salisbury, Maryland, pleaded guilty on Friday to wire fraud conspiracy and to aggravated identity theft, said U.S. Attorney Ereik Barron in a news release. Larmore's plea agreement said that from mid-September 2016 through about March 2020, Larmore conspired with others to steal more than \$1.8 million from Shore Appliance Connection, where he was an employee in charge of maintaining the books and records. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Prosecutors say man in US illegally lured teen into sex acts, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 11:00 AM

A Mexican man who was living in the United States illegally has been sentenced to serve 10 years in federal prison for luring a teenager into sexual activity. Alejandro Pedroza-Romero, who's also known as Zuleyka Luna and Alex Luna, was sentenced Monday after pleading guilty to coercion and enticement, federal prosecutors said in a news release. After he serves his prison term, he'll be subject to deportation. "Alejandro Pedroza-Romero flaunted the sovereignty of the United States by illegally entering, and then preyed on vulnerable victims on American soil," U.S. Attorney David Estes said in the release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. DOJ says two mayors in Puerto Rico arrested and charged with taking bribes, Kanishka Singh, May 6, 2022, 3:47 PM

The mayors of two municipalities in Puerto Rico were arrested on public corruption charges, the U.S. Justice Department said on Friday, confirming an earlier media report that caused Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi to demand for their resignations. The arrests took place on Thursday over the mayors' alleged engagement in "conspiracy, soliciting bribes, and extortion," the Justice Department said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

WaPo: A witness helped end a gang's 'reign of terror.' It cost him his life., Justin Jovenal and Rachel Weiner, May 7, 2022, 10:00 AM

The Reccless Tigers gang built one of Northern Virginia's largest drug rings by settling scores and silencing enemies through beatings, firebombings and the killing of a government witness, prosecutor Carina Cuellar said in court. She called it a "reign of terror." On the eve of a major federal racketeering trial for four Tigers that started in April in Alexandria, the prosecutor said a gang leader brazenly plotted against one final target: the trial itself. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Tampa Electric Admits OSHA Breach Led to Death of Five Workers, Bruce Rolfsen, May 6, 2022, 3:21 PM

The deaths of five workers at a Tampa Electric Co. power plant led the company Friday to plead guilty in federal court to the criminal violation of an OSHA rule. The plea agreement between Tampa Electric and the U.S. Department of Justice recommends a judge impose the maximum fine allowed of \$500,000. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Law Against Illicit Sexual Conduct by Americans Abroad Upheld, Bernie Pazanowski, May 6, 2022, 10:44 AM

A Kentucky man's conviction for sexually abusing two girls under 10 years old in Cambodia was upheld by the

Sixth Circuit, despite the defendant's contention Congress didn't have the power to pass the law under which he was charged. Micky Rife was a teacher in Phnom Penh when two of his students accused him of sexual assault. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Complex: Prosecutors Say 42 Dugg Claimed He Was Sovereign Citizen Immune to Federal Laws, Joshua Espinoza, May 6, 2022, 10:30 PM

We now have more details on the extensive manhunt for 42 Dugg. The 27-year-old rapper legal name Dion Hayes was arrested in on Wednesday after he failed to surrender to a federal prison camp, where he was expected to serve a six-month sentence on gun-related charges. Dugg was reportedly apprehended at a Detroit airport, after he exited a private plane that had come from Memphis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Financial Adviser Gets Sentence Trimmed In Oil Bribery Case, Carolina Bolado, May 6, 2022, 8:12 PM

A Miami financial adviser who aided a bribery scheme that funneled millions to Ecuadorian oil officials to secure contracts for a private company will be released from prison soon after a Florida federal judge on Friday agreed to shorten his sentence because of his cooperation with prosecutors. In a hearing in Miami, U.S. District Judge Marcia G. Cooke gave Frank Chatburn Ripalda time served, allowing him to be released from prison in a few days rather than June 1 as scheduled, according to Chatburn's attorney Howard Srebnick. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Crypto Mining Corp. CEO Indicted In \$62M Fraud Scheme, Max Jaeger, May 6, 2022, 4:38 PM

A crypto mining promoter shafted investors out of \$62 million in a yearslong scheme that was all glitter and no gold, according to twin criminal and civil cases the federal government announced Friday. Luiz Capuci Jr., 44, allegedly traveled the world telling would-be investors in his MCC International Corp. that he would use their money to fund a sophisticated bitcoin mining operation bolstered by an army of human and robot currency traders, according to the indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): Geddes man from Iraq sentenced to 4 years for lying about membership in Iran-backed militia, Anne Hayes, May 7, 2022, 12:05 PM

A Geddes man with Iraqi citizenship was sentenced Friday to four years in federal prison for lying to immigration officials regarding his connection to an Iran-backed militia while applying for a green card, federal prosecutors said. Chasib Hafedh Saadoon Al Fawadi, 36, was convicted of making false statements on a U.S. immigration application for permanent residence and making false statements to U.S. immigration officials during an oral interview for permanent residency, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Eric Robert Rudolph appeals sentence for deadly Birmingham abortion clinic, Olympic bombings, Ivana Hryniw, May 7, 2022, 8:00 AM (EDT)

While the nation is focused on the U.S. Supreme Court possibly overturning the landmark abortion rights decision in Roe v. Wade, the man convicted in the deadly bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic 24 years ago is asking to be set free. Eric Robert Rudolph, who is serving a life sentence in a federal super maximum prison for the deadly bombings at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and a Birmingham abortion clinic, has asked a federal appeals court to undo his plea deal and sentence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hot Springs Sentinel-Record (Hot Springs, AR): Judge sentences 'sexual predator' to 30 years, Steven Mross, May 7, 2022, 5:04 AM (EDT)

Calling him a "sexual predator," a U.S. District Court judge sentenced a Hot Springs man to 30 years in prison without the possibility of parole on child porn charges Thursday, in excess of the recommended maximum determined by a presentencing report. Bradley Richard Fields, 40, had pleaded guilty on June 18, 2020, to one count of sexual exploitation of a minor via the production of child pornography and one count of distribution of child pornography. A sentencing hearing was held Thursday morning at the conclusion of which Judge Susan O. Hickey sentenced Fields to 20 years on the first count and 10 years on the second count, to run consecutively for a total of 30 years, followed by supervised release for the rest of his life. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***New York Post*: NJ doc who dubbed himself the ‘El Chapo of Opioids’ sentenced to 6 years in prison**, Patrick Reilly, May 6, 2022, 9:53 PM

A New Jersey doctor who dubbed himself as the “Candy Man” and the “El Chapo of Opioids” was sentenced Thursday to six years in federal prison for writing scripts for patients who didn’t need them, some of whom he never even saw. Robert Delagente, 48, pleaded guilty in February 2020 to distribution of controlled dangerous substances, conspiracy to distribute them and falsifying medical records while acting as a pill-mill doctor at North Jersey Family Medicine in Oakland. He’s been sentenced to an additional three years of supervised release in addition to prison time, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for New Jersey announced on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***St. Paul Pioneer Press (Saint Paul MN)*: St. Cloud bar owner pleads guilty to burning down business to defraud insurer**, Kristi Belcamino, May 6, 2022, 9:36 PM (EDT)

The owner of a St. Cloud, Minn., bar that went up in flames in February 2020 has pleaded guilty to intentionally setting his business on fire as part of a scheme to obtain insurance money, U.S. Attorney Andrew M. Luger’s office announced this week. According to court documents, Andrew Welsh, 42, owner and operator of the Press Bar and Parlor at 502 St. Germain Street, used gasoline to set a fire in his office located in the basement of the bar. The fire eventually spread and resulted in the total destruction of the building as well as other losses, according to Luger. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***Lansing State Journal (Lansing, MI)*: Driver charged with stealing more than \$1M from mid-Michigan banks, credit unions**, Ken Palmer, May 6, 2022, 8:39 PM (EDT)

A former Brink’s Inc. driver accused of stealing more than \$1 million from seven financial institutions over six weeks last year told a company official he didn’t know why he took the cash and returned most of it to the company, court records said. The thefts from automated teller machines began Nov. 15 and ended Dec. 28, the last day Reginald Carman reported for work as a Brink’s driver, an FBI agent wrote in support of criminal charges in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***The Oregonian (Portland, OR)*: Woofin Palooza owner pleads guilty to federal fraud, mislabeling animal prescription drugs**, Maxine Bernstein, May 6, 2022, 7:11 PM (EDT)

One of the founders of Woofin Palooza, which advertised itself as a pet rescue and adoption organization in Oregon’s Multnomah and Columbia counties, pleaded guilty Friday to scamming more than 280 customers by concealing that the animals up for adoption had medical and behavioral problems. Tori Lynn Head, 26, pleaded guilty to two charges, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and dispensing animal drugs without proper labeling. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***The Standard-Examiner (Ogden, UT)*: Weber County man faces 5-plus years in prison for child pornography case**, Mark Shenfelt, May 6, 2022, 6:45 PM (EDT)

One of two Weber County men accused of producing and distributing child pornography has pleaded guilty to a charge that could draw a sentence of five to 20 years in federal prison. In documents filed in U.S. District Court on Tuesday, Dyllan Gabbard, 30, agreed to plead guilty to distribution of child pornography, with federal prosecutors dropping counts of production of child pornography and possession of child pornography. The plea documents said the charge Gabbard admits to carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of five years; the maximum is 20 years. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***The Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC)*: Garysburg man sentenced 72 months for crack cocaine, possessing firearm**, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 6:24 PM

Calvin McKinley Hughes, 39, of Garysburg, was sentenced Friday to 72 months in prison for possessing crack cocaine with intent to distribute and for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Hughes pled guilty to the charges on Jan. 4. According to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice, court records and statements made during hearings on Aug. 11, 2018, revealed a Northampton County Sheriff’s Office detective was on patrol in Garysburg when he observed a black Chrysler sedan stopped in the middle of Maple Street, near the intersection of Peach Street. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Herald: **Saugus woman who stole her uncle's life savings sentenced to prison**, Flint McColgan, May 6, 2022, 5:53 PM

A woman tasked with helping care for her elderly uncle instead robbed him blind, but she won't make much use of any riches behind bars. Jayne Carbone, 54, of Saugus, was sentenced in federal court in Boston Friday by Judge Richard Stearns to four and a half years 54 months in prison and ordered to pay back the \$493,279 she defrauded her uncle out of. Carbone was the caretaker for her uncle for more than a decade, beginning in 2007 and ending in 2018. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): **Convicted Parma drug dealer charged in Medina County man's fentanyl overdose death**, Adam Ferrise, May 6, 2022, 5:29 PM (EDT)

A convicted heroin dealer already serving a federal prison sentence is accused of dealing fentanyl to a Medina County man who died after overdosing on the drug. Johnathan Bella, 28, was charged Friday with distributing fentanyl with a sentencing enhancement for causing someone's death. Bella was charged via a bill of information, instead of a grand jury, which typically indicates a person is willing to plead guilty to the charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): **Duo sentenced in Cleveland for \$24 million federal coronavirus relief fund scheme**, Adam Ferrise, May 6, 2022, 3:52 PM (EDT)

A judge sentenced two Florida men to years in federal prison for leading a conspiracy to submit dozens of fake loan applications for \$24 million in federal coronavirus relief funds. U.S. District Judge Pamela Barker sentenced Philip Augustin to 6.5 years in prison and James Stote, of Hollywood, Florida, one of Augustin's partners, to 10 years in prison. Stote, 56, was ordered to pay \$10.1 million in restitution and forfeit \$1.1 million from his bank account, four Rolex watches and jewelry valued at more than \$40,000 that FBI agents seized from his home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Staten Island Advance (Staten Island, NY): **S.I. business owner on hook for \$90K and jail time in COVID-19 PPE sales scheme**, Frank Donnelly, May 6, 2022, 3:31 PM

When the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic struck the country over two years ago, a Staten Island businessman saw his chance to make some quick cash, federal prosecutors said. Kevin Jay Lipsitz, 63, stocked up on personal protective equipment (PPE), including thousands of surgical masks and N-95 face and KN-95 filtering face-piece respirators and sold them at "large markups" through his online business, said Brooklyn federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bluebonnet News (Liberty, TX): **Cleveland couple pleads guilty to wire fraud violations, agree to pay \$3.2 million in restitution**, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 3:31 PM (EDT)

A Cleveland, Texas, man and woman have pleaded guilty to wire fraud violations in the Eastern District of Texas, announced U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston today. Clifton Pape, 47, and Sally Jung, 59, have each pleaded guilty to wire fraud violations before U.S. Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bethesda Magazine (Bethesda, MD): **Germantown man pleads guilty to distributing fentanyl after woman died of overdose**, Dan Schere, May 6, 2022, 3:27 PM

A Germantown man pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Greenbelt to distribution of fentanyl, following the 2020 death of a woman from an overdose, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced. Enitan Mouroukeji Agbi, 38, pleaded guilty to distribution of fentanyl, according to a press release. According to Agbi's guilty plea, the victim called Agbi to obtain heroin and fentanyl on Aug. 10, 2020, and the two planned to meet at a hotel in Gaithersburg where Agbi was staying. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Belleville News-Democrat (Belleville, IL): **East St. Louis man sentenced to federal prison after child pornography, gun conviction**, Devese Ursery, May 6, 2022, 1:21 PM (EDT)

An East St. Louis man was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for child pornography and gun charges. Dinish L. Watson, 26, was sentenced in the U.S. Court for the Southern District of Illinois for production of child pornography and felony possession of a firearm. He will also serve a five-year term of supervised release following his release from prison, according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTEN-ABC (Albany, NY): Massachusetts man charged for attempting to meet minor, Richard Roman, May 7, 2022, 9:09 AM

A Massachusetts man has been charged with traveling to meet a minor for sex in New York. On Thursday, United States Attorney Carla B. Freedman said, Martin Connearney, 32, of Lenox is accused of traveling across state lines attempting to engage in a sexual act with a child. According to a criminal complaint, between April 6 and May 4, 2022, Connearney exchanged text messages with an individual in which he had expressed his interest in sexual contact with a child. Connearney discussed plans with this person and agreed to travel from Massachusetts to meet at a prearranged location in New York. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRIC-ABC (Richmond, VA): Not Guilty, Sentenced to Life: Court hears Terrence Richardson's innocence claim, Dean Mirshahi, May 6, 2022, 11:06 PM

The attorney for Terrence Richardson and Ferrone Claiborne, two men serving life in prison despite being acquitted of murdering a Virginia police officer, told an appeals court they were "framed" and that authorities did not share evidence pointing to another suspect when investigating the case more than 20 years ago. The attorney general's office disputed those claims Friday, arguing there is no evidence proving misconduct by investigators and that Richardson's innocence petition should be rejected. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WOWT-NBC (Omaha, NE): Federal court sentences two Californians to a year and a day in prison for sex trafficking conspiracy, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 10:55 PM (EDT)

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska reported sentencing updates throughout the week from drug trafficking, possession of firearms, and more. U.S. Attorney Jan Sharp's office in Omaha reminds the public that there is no parole in the federal system. Kevin Watson, 43, of Omaha, was sentenced Thursday to seven years for distribution and possession of child pornography. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOKI-Fox (Tulsa, OK): Sand Springs man convicted of enticement of a child, other sex crimes, Dana Nickel, May 6, 2022, 10:53 PM (EDT)

A federal jury found a Sand Springs man guilty Friday for sending hundreds of sexually explicit messages to a male minor and for touching the child in a sexual manner, announced U.S. Attorney Clint Johnson. Jeremy Nicholas Botonis, 44, was convicted of one count of coercion and enticement of a child and one count of abusive sexual contact in Indian Country. "Jeremy Botonis was a predator lying in wait. He gained the trust of a vulnerable child then exploited the child for his own sexual gratification," said U.S. Attorney Clint Johnson. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTRK-ABC (Houston, TX): GOP operative told U.S. Attorney of conspiracy, plan to 'arrest' AC repairman, Ted Oberg, May 6, 2022, 9:03 PM (EDT)

A new court filing this afternoon shows the Republican operative charged in a bizarre voter fraud investigation knew about the plan to crash into what turned out to be an innocent air conditioning repairman. In October 2020, Dr. Steven Hotze funded The Liberty Center, a group to investigate voter fraud. According to court records, Mark Aguirre, a private investigator working for that group, surveilled and then ran his car into an AC repairman's truck, believing it was carrying thousands of fraudulent mail ballots. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Pleasanton, CA): Ex-Pleasanton Resident Found Guilty Of COVID Relief Fund Theft: Feds, Gideon Rubin, May 6, 2022, 6:46 PM (EDT)

A former Pleasanton resident has pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with COVID-19 relief fund theft, prosecutors said. Javed Wahab, 53, pleaded guilty Thursday to theft of government property in connection with a scheme to steal funds designed to aid medical providers in the treatment of patients suffering from COVID-19, authorities said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KECI-NBC (Missoula, MT): Missoula man pleads guilty to drug trafficking, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 6:04 PM (EDT)

A Missoula man pleaded guilty to meth and fentanyl trafficking and could face 15 years to life in prison and a total of \$10, 250,000 in fines, as well as five years of supervised release. Carlos Guatimea Aguirre, 35, will be sentenced Aug. 24.[...] A Missoula man today admitted to drug trafficking and firearm crimes after law

enforcement seized more than seven pounds of meth from his residence and vehicle, fentanyl and a handgun, U.S. Attorney Leif M. Johnson said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WNEP-ABC (Scranton, PA): Schuylkill County man sentenced for child porn, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 4:20 PM

A man from Schuylkill County was sentenced in federal court on Thursday for possession of child porn. Officials say Jason Herman of Pine Grove was found to have over 670 images and multiple videos of the sexual abuse of children under the age of 12. Because of a prior child porn conviction, Herman received a federal sentence of a mandatory 10 years behind bars followed by ten years on supervised release.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Arlington, VA): Arlington Man Pleads Guilty To Scheme With Puerto Rican Super PAC, Mark Hand, May 6, 2022, 2:54 PM

An Arlington man pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court for scheming to lie to the Federal Election Commission about the true identifies of donors to a super PAC for which he served as president and treasurer. Joseph Fuentes-Fernandez, 62, and the super PAC, Salvemos a Puerto Rico, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph Laplante to one count of scheming to falsify and conceal material facts.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): After woman overdosed on fentanyl, Germantown man pleads guilty, Brielle Ashford, May 6, 2022, 1:12 PM

A Germantown man has pleaded guilty to the distribution of fentanyl that ultimately led to a woman's overdose, a release from the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office said. Enitan Mouroukeji Agbi, 38, also known as Anton Agbi and "Tone," according to police, admitted that he was a user and distributor of opioid drugs. He admitted to meeting with the victim and even watching her use his drugs while he was present, according to the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

Reuters: U.S. judge dismisses Trump's lawsuit challenging his Twitter ban, Jan Wolfe, May 6, 2022, 5:36 PM

A U.S. judge on Friday dismissed former President Donald Trump's lawsuit against Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) that challenged his suspension from the platform. In a written ruling, U.S. District Judge James Donato in San Francisco rejected Trump's argument that Twitter violated his right to freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [NYT](#), [The Hill](#)

NYT: A federal court clears the way for Florida's restrictive voting law., Michael Wines, May 6, 2022, 3:48 PM

A federal appeals court cleared the way on Friday for a restrictive new voting law in Florida to take effect, saying that a lower court order blocking parts of the law had been issued too close to the state's scheduled primary elections in August. The court also erased a lower-court requirement that the state seek the court's approval for further changes in election laws, a process known as "preclearance" that courts can impose on states with a history of racial discrimination. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

Montgomery Advertiser (Montgomery, AL): Federal judge leaves open possibility Alabama transgender medicine law could go into effect, Brian Lyman, May 6, 2022, 8:21 PM (EDT)

A federal judge Friday afternoon floated the possibility that state law making medication for transgender youth illegal could go into effect on Sunday without a ruling on a motion from families of transgender youth and physicians seeking to block the law. But U.S. District Judge Liles C. Burke said he and his staff would be "doing nothing else" until a ruling on an injunction came down. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WBMA-ABC \(Birmingham, AL\)](#)

Huntsville Item (Huntsville, TX): DoJ: Pa. courts not protected by constitution from ADA

enforcement, Eric Scicchitano, May 6, 2022, 5:07 PM (EDT)

The U.S. Department of Justice disputes assertions by the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that its civil lawsuit alleging state courts violated the Americans with Disabilities Act is invalid. The Department of Justice filed suit in February against the Unified Judicial System (UJS) on allegations that court officials in Jefferson and Northumberland counties violated the civil rights of three people with opioid use disorder.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

LAT: There's a lot at stake for the CDC in the mask mandate appeal, Julie Appleby, May 6, 2022, 1:19 PM (EDT)

The definition of "sanitation." An old court case that involves an underwear manufacturer. Whether people had a fair chance to express their opinions about wearing masks on planes. These disparate factors are in the spotlight as the Biden administration challenges a U.S. District Court ruling that overturned a federal mask mandate on public transportation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ, Tax Watchdog Urge 3rd Circ. To Revive Hospice FCA Suit, Bill Wichert, May 6, 2022, 7:44 PM

The government and a tax fraud advocacy group called on the Third Circuit on Friday to revive a False Claims Act suit alleging a hospice provider sought Medicare payments for ineligible... [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: US Asks Court Not To Pause Tax Probe Summons Case, Emlyn Cameron, May 6, 2022, 5:11 PM

A Florida federal court shouldn't grant an insurance company that the Internal Revenue Service is investigating for possible tax shelter promotion penalties an additional six months to prepare for a hearing, the U.S. government said Friday. The court shouldn't push the deadline for Captive Alternatives LLC to show why it shouldn't have to comply with an IRS summons back half a year from the current date of May 24, the government said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

D Magazine (Dallas, TX): Hearing Aid Company to Pay \$34 Million to Resolve Federal False Claims Act Allegation, Will Maddox, May 6, 2022, 11:00 AM (EDT)

Medical device company Eargo has agreed to pay \$34.37 million to resolve a federal false claims accusation. Eargo denies the government's allegations, and the payment is not an admission of liability for the alleged behavior. Eargo is a public company based in San Jose, California, that makes rechargeable and nearly invisible hearing aids. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Tampa Electric pleads guilty to OSHA violations in deadly power plant explosion, Claire Farrow, May 6, 2022, 6:21 PM

It's been nearly five years since five workers lost their lives and another was seriously burned by molten slag in a terrible industrial explosion at the Tampa Electric Company's Big Bend Power Station electrical power plant. And, it's been just about as long since TECO was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Now, TECO has submitted a plea agreement in federal court, stating the company was guilty of violating OSHA standards that resulted in the five deaths. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Less immigrant labor in US contributing to prices hikes, Nicholas Riccardi, May 7, 2022, 10:08 PM

Just 10 miles from the Rio Grande, Mike Helle's farm is so short of immigrant workers that he's replaced 450 acres of labor-intensive leafy greens with crops that can be harvested by machinery. [...] After immigration to the United States tapered off during the Trump administration then ground to a near complete halt for 18 months during the coronavirus pandemic the country is waking up to a labor shortage partly fueled by that slowdown. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: Customs and Border Protection Will Disband Secretive ‘Critical Incident Teams’, Eileen Sullivan, May 6, 2022, 5:45 PM

The Biden administration will disband secretive teams within the U.S. Border Patrol by the end of September, after their role in internal investigations came under scrutiny earlier this year. The “critical incident teams,” which have been around for decades, have multiple responsibilities, including collecting evidence for Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Professional Responsibility, which handles most inquiries into agent misconduct. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Customs seized over \$10 million worth of counterfeit Rolex watches, Zoe Sottile, May 7, 2022, 1:00 AM

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Indianapolis seized two shipments of counterfeit Rolex watches on April 27 and 29. The fake luxury watches would have had a total value of \$10.1 million if real, according to a news release from CBP. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Time: Border Patrol Agents Will No Longer Be Able to Investigate Themselves, Jasmine Aguilera, May 6, 2022, 5:42 PM

United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a memo Friday ending a controversial Border Patrol oversight team charged with investigating incidents involving border enforcement personnel. Instead, investigations will be turned over to the Office of Professional Responsibility, a different department that, while still within CBP, is specifically charged with agency oversight. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Albuquerque Journal, (Albuquerque, NM): Border flub cost US GDP hundreds of millions, Jerry Pacheco, May 7, 2022, 11:53 AM (EDT)

On May 23, the federal government is slated to revoke Title 42, which allows it to immediately deport to Mexico immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S. due to the pandemic. In response, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered secondary inspections by Texas Department of Public Safety on northbound cargo shipments into Texas, which is in addition to the routine inspections that Customs and Border Protection conduct on northbound commercial vehicles entering the U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Herald (Boston, MA): Judge Shelley Joseph takes on Trump, ICE as Rachael Rollins recused from case, Joe Dwinell, May 7, 2022, 10:14 AM

Judge Shelley Joseph is gunning for ICE and former President Donald Trump in her no-holds-barred bid to stay out of jail. In a federal court filing, prosecutors say Joseph “is on a fishing expedition” in demanding communications during the Trump administration. The jurist in line for a 12% pay hike as she collects \$184,000 while on suspension faces a federal obstruction of justice charge after being accused of aiding an illegal immigrant’s escape from an immigration agent in her Newton district courtroom in 2018. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Boston Globe \(Boston, MA\)](#)

WBAP-Westwood One/Fox (Fort Worth, TX): Border Patrol Agent Charged With Assault Of Juvenile, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 11:06 AM (EDT)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says one of its Texas agents has been arrested, and charged with assaulting and mistreating a juvenile in custody. The agency says the agent was based in the Del Rio area along the border with Mexico. It neither named the agent nor described the alleged assault. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WESH-NBC (Daytona Beach, FL): Protesters rally for immigration reform after days of long Orlando ICE office lines, Anika Hope, May 6, 2022, 10:25 PM

Friday, protesters in Orlando pushed for a change to immigration policy. The rally of about 20 people came after lines of people crowded outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Orlando and across the country. Many seeking asylums, work visas and citizenship, said they could hardly get an appointment because the staff is overrun. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

The National Interest: **FTC Cracks Down on Internet Provider for ‘Lying’ to Customers**, Stephen Silver, May 6, 2022, 11:45 PM

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced Tuesday that it had proposed an order to prevent one cable company from lying about its Internet speeds. The FTC is seeking to prohibit Frontier from “tricking consumers about its slow internet service and [require them] to support its speed claims.” Back in May of 2021, the FTC announced a lawsuit against Frontier, alleging that the company did not deliver the speeds that it promised its customers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Frontier Inks \$69M Deal With FTC Over Internet Speed Claims**, Hailey Konnath, May 6, 2022, 9:38 PM

Frontier Communications has agreed to a deal worth up to \$69 million to put to rest the Federal Trade Commission's allegations the telecom company misled consumers about the speed of its DSL internet service, according to a proposed order filed in California federal court Thursday. The FTC asked the court to approve the proposed order for a permanent injunction blocking Frontier from lying to customers about its internet speeds, noting Frontier has agreed to the terms of its proposed order as part of a settlement reached in March. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Law360: **Ex-CEO Accused Of \$2B Tax Fraud Scheme Sues IRS For Docs**, Theresa Schliep, May 6, 2022, 6:18 PM

A former software executive accused of a \$2 billion tax fraud scheme sued the IRS Friday to obtain documents on liens and assessments made against him, saying the agency has many... [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Fed. Circ. Rejects Excise Tax Refund For Tobacco Importer**, David Hansen, May 6, 2022, 4:39 PM

An importer will not recover \$500,000 it paid in excise taxes on foreign tobacco products after the Federal Circuit rejected its appeal in a decision Friday. The court did not state... [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Fox: **Alabamians report seeing Vicky White at adult store before manhunt**, Audrey Conklin, May 7, 2022, 11:59 AM

Some Alabamians have reported seeing fugitive correctional officer Vicky White visiting an adult store before she disappeared with escaped Lauderdale County prisoner Casey Cole White. [...] Investigators received a tip around 11 p.m. Thursday about a vehicle matching the description of the 2007 Ford Edge and have since been able to confirm the SUV is the same one used by Vicky White and Casey Cole White after their April 29 disappearance, the U.S. Marshal Service announced Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Insider: **The FBI found crucial evidence aboard a \$325 million superyacht seized in Fiji, which incriminated its oligarch owner Suleiman Kerimov, a report says**, Sam Tabahriti, May 7, 2022, 9:30 AM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation found evidence incriminating the owner of a superyacht that was seized by Fijian authorities on Thursday, reports say. Australia's ABC News first reported the story. The US requested the seizure of Suleiman Kerimov's \$325 million superyacht, which the FBI and Fijian law enforcement worked together to achieve. [[Continue Reading](#)]

National Review (New York, NY): **FBI Strips Employees of Security Clearances for Attending Trump's January 6 Rally**, Arjun Singh, May 6, 2022 2:16 PM

The FBI allegedly has been stripping employees of security clearances for attending then-president Donald

Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally on January 6, 2021. The claims were made public in a letter by Congressman Jim Jordan (R., Ohio), the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, to FBI director Christopher Wray, first obtained by the New York Post. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WYFF-NBC (Greenville, SC): Upstate murder suspect arrested by U.S. Marshals in New York, Unattributed, May 7, 2022, 10:04 AM

A man wanted for a 2019 murder in the Upstate has been arrested by U.S. Marshals in New York. The Fountain Inn Police Department says it obtained arrest warrants for Miguel Otero, 21, for murder, armed robbery and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPEC-CBS (West Palm Beach, FL): Police: Friends told to lie for suspect in deadly hit-and-run, May 7, 2022, 5:46 AM

Two friends of a man charged in a fatal hit-and-run crash in Palm Beach Gardens told investigators they were asked to lie for the suspect. Travis LeBlanc, 33, is facing a charge of vehicular manslaughter in the death of motorcyclist, John Michael Valiquette. [...] The 68-year-old man died more than a month later, on April 28. U.S. Marshals arrested LeBlanc the very next day. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: Supreme Court leak shakes trust in one more American pillar, Calvin Woodward and Hannah Fingerhut, May 7, 2022, 10:03 AM

Is there a new American motto: In nothing we trust? By lots of measures, most in the U.S. lack much confidence in large institutions and have for years. Congress? Two big thumbs down. The presidency? Ehh. Americans are also distrustful of big business, unions, public schools and organized religion. Indeed, they hold abysmal views of the functioning of democracy itself. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: What GOP-nominated justices said about Roe to Senate panel, Kevin Freking, May 7, 2022, 9:26 AM

In one form or another, every Supreme Court nominee is asked during Senate hearings about his or her views of the Roe v. Wade abortion rights ruling that has stood for a half century. Now, a draft opinion obtained by Politico suggests that a majority of the court is prepared to strike down the landmark 1973 decision, leaving it to the states to determine a woman's ability to get an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: After abortion leak, Justice Thomas warns Supreme Court can't be 'bullied', Rich McKay, May 6, 2022, 6:25 PM

Following protests sparked by the leak of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision indicating the justices are poised to overturn the constitutional right to abortion, Justice Clarence Thomas said on Friday that the court cannot be "bullied." The leak set off a political firestorm, with abortion-rights supporters staging rallies outside the courthouse and at locations around the United States, as well as an internal crisis at the nation's top judicial body where an investigation into the source of the unprecedented disclosure is underway. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: What Dred Scott teaches us about the draft abortion ruling, Rachel Sheldon, May 7, 2022, 6:00 AM

Since Politico's bombshell revelation on Monday of a leaked draft opinion by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, media outlets around the country have been scrambling to contextualize what seems like an unprecedented moment for the Supreme Court. The leak arrived in a highly charged political atmosphere, and if the court issues the same opinion in a few weeks, Dobbs would affect the many thousands of people who seek abortions each year. As a result, both proponents and opponents of legal abortion have summoned another landmark case for comparison: Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857), which held that Black Americans could not be citizens of the United States, and that Congress could not legislate on the issue of slavery in the federal territories. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: [OPINION] Marilyn Monroe v. Samuel Alito, Maureen Dowd, May 7, 2022, 11:00 AM

I was watching Vogue's live feed as Kim Kardashian tried to walk the red carpet at the Met Gala in her skintight, flesh-tone dress, gallantly helped up the stairs by Pete Davidson. I flashed back to Marilyn Monroe on another May night in Gotham, doing similar mincing steps in a similar shimmering dress she was sewn into, when she suspired "Happy Birthday" to J.F.K. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Clarence Thomas says he worries respect for institutions is eroding, Robert Barnes, May 6, 2022, 8:23 PM

Justice Clarence Thomas said Friday that the judiciary is threatened if people are unwilling to "live with outcomes we don't agree with" and that recent events at the Supreme Court might be "one symptom of that." Thomas, speaking to judges and lawyers at the 11th Circuit Judicial Conference, did not speak directly about the leak of a draft opinion that would overturn Roe v. Wade, a colossal breach of the court's procedures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Battle Over Abortion Threatens to Deepen America's Divide, Peter Baker, May 6, 2022, 8:00 PM

For years, the United States has been drifting further apart, less a single country than an uncomfortable marriage of vastly disparate cultural and political entities, a Red America and a Blue America with starkly different realities on masks and vaccines, gun rights and voting rights, Donald J. Trump and the legitimacy of the 2020 election. Now the chasm may open even wider. [[Continue](#)]

CNN: Thomas says government institutions shouldn't be 'bullied' following leak of draft opinion on abortion, Ariane de Vogue, May 7, 2022, 9:21 AM

Justice Clarence Thomas, following the leak of a draft majority opinion overturning Roe v. Wade, said Friday that government institutions shouldn't be "bullied" into delivering what some see as the preferred outcome. "The events of earlier this week is one symptom of that," Thomas said. He added that "you cannot have a free society" without stable institutions. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

CNN: With an unprecedented leak, Roberts appears suddenly ineffectual, Joan Biskupic, May 6, 2022, 3:07 PM

The chief justice of the United States is only as powerful as the individual who wears the title and his times. At this moment in his Supreme Court stewardship, John Roberts appears suddenly ineffectual. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: John Roberts: Supreme Court draft leak 'absolutely appalling', Timothy H.J. Nerozzi, Shannon Bream, and Bill Mears, May 6, 2022, 11:34 AM

Chief Justice John Roberts called the leak of a drafted court opinion overturning Roe v. Wade "absolutely appalling" in a talk Thursday. The justice went on to dismiss any question that the leak would affect the Supreme Court's final decision. "A leak of this stature is absolutely appalling," Roberts said. "If the person behind it thinks that it will affect our work, that's just foolish." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

The Hill: Justice Thomas on SCOTUS decisions: People need to 'live with outcomes we don't agree with', Rachel Scully, May 7, 2022, 7:56 AM

Justice Clarence Thomas said people must "live with outcomes we don't agree with" or the judiciary would be threatened, citing recent Supreme Court events as "one symptom of that." While speaking to judges and lawyers at the 11th Circuit Judicial Conference in Atlanta on Friday, Thomas said he was growing concerned about declining respect for governmental institutions and the rule of law. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Abortion Opinion Author Alito Cancels Appearance After Leak (1), Greg Stohr, May 6, 2022, 6:10 PM

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito canceled plans to attend a judicial conference in Tennessee just days after his draft opinion to eliminate the constitutional right to abortion was leaked to the public, according to a law professor at the event. In brief remarks recorded on video, Alito told attendees at the Nashville conference on Friday that he had been looking forward to attending in person, but that it had become impractical to do so, according to Josh Blackman, a professor at South Texas College of Law. The justice didn't explain why, Blackman said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: **[OPINION] Sophistry at the Supreme Court**, Ken M. Levy and Jody Lynee Madeira, May 6, 2022, 8:30 AM

The draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* infamously decides that pregnant females' 49-year-old right to obtain an abortion no longer will be constitutionally protected. Writing for the five-justice majority, Justice Samuel Alito offers two reasons for this conclusion: The Constitution does not explicitly protect the right to abortion, and the right to obtain an abortion is neither "deeply rooted in [our] history and tradition" nor "essential to our Nation's 'scheme of ordered liberty.'" Contrary to Justice Alito, however, a right may be constitutionally protected even if is not explicitly stated in the Constitution, not "deeply rooted in [our] history and tradition," and not "essential to our Nation's 'scheme of ordered liberty.'" [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Bloomberg Law: **Tribal Creditor Bound by Bankruptcy Stay, First Circuit Rules**, James Nani, May 6, 2022, 6:39 PM

A Native American tribe's subsidiary is bound to the bankruptcy code's automatic stay because the code "unequivocally strips tribes" of their sovereign immunity, the First Circuit ruled in a case of first impression. Debtor Brian Coughlin can enforce the bankruptcy code's automatic stay against a subsidiary of creditor Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit ruled Friday in a 2-1 opinion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: **Law Profs Back Rehearing Bid Over Alaska Land Swap**, Caleb SymonsI, May 6, 2022, 5:52 PM

A group of law professors wants the Ninth Circuit to reconsider a split panel's decision in March allowing a controversial land swap between a Native Alaskan village and the U.S. government,... [[Continue Reading](#)]

Juneau Empire (Juneau, AK): **Hundreds gather for missing and murdered Indigenous people**, Michael S. Lockett, May 6, 2022, 8:46 PM (EDT)

Adorned with red handprints across their mouths and carrying signs bearing the faces of the missing, hundreds gathered Thursday afternoon at the Alaska State Capitol. [...] Local officials and Alaska Native dignitaries spoke before a solemn crowd as wind played with flags bearing the red hand symbolizing the missing and murdered Indigenous persons awareness movement. The rally expanded the scope to violence against all Indigenous people and was held on Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. [...] Sears entered the job leading the MMIP initiative, funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant, in early April. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Olean Times Herald (Olean, New York): **Seneca Mothers observe Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Day**, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 1:35 PM

Mothers of the Seneca Nation observed National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Day on the Cattaraugus Territory Thursday. President Joseph Biden signed a proclamation declaring May 5 as Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day. [...] Figures from the Department of Justice reports on violence against Native women are jarring: American Indian and Alaska Native women experience higher rates of domestic violence and sexual assault than any other population of women in the U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

NYT: With Legalized Pot in the Air, a Federal Trial Riles Advocates, JoAnna Daemmrich and Campbell Robertson, May 6, 2022, 8:07 PM

In his closing arguments to the jury on Friday afternoon, an assistant U.S. attorney, Anatoly Smolkin, declared what U.S. v. Jonathan Wall was not about. "This is not a case about marijuana possession," he said. "This is a case about a drug conspiracy," about an operation that shipped "massive amounts" of weed across the country in return for "enormous money." [[Continue Reading](#)]

KCRW-NPR (Santa Monica, CA): Gun rights v. med marijuana rights: You can have both, argues lawsuit, Matt Guilhm, May 6, 2022,

While California lawmakers are looking to further curb people's access to guns, an effort by a Florida official to loosen federal regulations may have an impact for gun owners in California and across the nation, especially those who rely on medical marijuana. A lawsuit has been filed against the federal government over its policies that bar medical marijuana patients from owning a gun. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Reuters: Biden touts manufacturing, union jobs in battleground Ohio, Jeff Mason and Steve Holland, May 6, 2022, 6:46 PM

President Joe Biden boasted on Friday of a U.S. manufacturing surge and introduced a new small business program in the key swing state of Ohio during his sixth visit there as president. Biden was buoyed by strong numbers earlier in the day that showed the U.S. added 428,000 jobs in April, more than expected and the 12th straight month of job gains in excess of 400,000. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Biden announces new \$150 million weapons package for Ukraine, Idrees Ali, Patricia Zengerle and Mike Stone, May 6, 2022, 5:58 PM

U.S. President Joe Biden signed a new \$150 million weapons package for Ukraine on Friday, providing additional artillery munitions, radar and other equipment in the latest in a series of transfers to help Kyiv repel Russia's invasion. "Today, the United States is continuing our strong support for the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their country against Russia's ongoing aggression," Biden said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

Reuters: Biden to nominate Pecoske to serve new term as TSA chief, David Shepardson. May 6, 2022. 4:57 PM

U.S. President Joe Biden intends to nominate David Pecoske to serve another term as head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the White House said on Friday. Pecoske was first nominated by former President Donald Trump in 2017. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Biden should give ASEAN leaders face time to improve ties, says Cambodian minister, David Brunnstrom and Simon Lewis, May 6, 2022, 4:53 PM

U.S. President Joe Biden should spend more time with Southeast Asian leaders during a summit in Washington next week if his administration is serious about elevating U.S. ties with the region, where China holds significant sway, a senior Cambodian official told Reuters on Friday. No individual meetings were currently planned between the region's leaders and Biden when the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meets with him as a bloc for talks on May 12 and 13, said Kao Kim Hourn, a minister and close adviser to Cambodia's long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: White House says report that U.S. intelligence aided Ukraine is not accurate, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 1:16 PM

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday a media report that U.S. intelligence aided Ukraine to take out Russian generals is not accurate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Biden will attend a summit for ASEAN leaders on May 13, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 12:56 PM
White House press secretary Jen Psaki said President Joe Biden will attend a summit for leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the U.S. State Department on Friday, May 13. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: The White House, warning of a fall surge, plans for how to provide vaccines if there's no more Covid aid., Sheryl Gay Stolberg, May 6, 2022, 5:50 PM

The White House is stepping up its warnings about a coronavirus surge this fall and winter, and is making contingency plans for how it will provide vaccines to the American public if Congress does not allocate more money for the Covid-19 response, according to a senior administration official. With prospects for a fresh round of emergency coronavirus aid appearing shaky on Capitol Hill, administration officials met this week with key senators — including two leading Republicans — to press their case. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

CNN: Biden keeps his focus on countering China amid economic worries, Kate Sullivan and Sam Fossom, May 6, 2022, 5:29 PM

President Joe Biden returned to a familiar punching bag on Friday, focusing his message on countering China as he aims to convince Americans his economic plans are working despite some of the worst inflation the US has seen in decades. In a visit to Hamilton, Ohio, Biden urged Congress to pass a bill aimed at countering China's economic influence and touted April's jobs report, which showed the economy added 428,000 jobs last month. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Biden presses Congress on innovation: 'Pass the damn bill', Alex Gangitanom May 6, 2022, 4:12 PM

President Biden on Friday called on Congress to pass a bipartisan innovation bill while stressing steps his administration is taking to lower inflation and combat rising prices on everything from gas to rent. "Pass the damn bill and send it to me. If we do, it's going to help bring down prices, bring home jobs and power America's manufacturing comeback. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: Friday, May 7, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Cuban officials say a deadly explosion at the historic Hotel Saratoga in Havana, Cuba, has killed at least 22 people and left more than 60 hospitalized. According to Cuba's president, the explosion was caused by a gas leak. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Russian forces are stepping up their assault on the Mariupol Azovstal Steel plant, where a band of Ukrainians is making their last stand even as President Biden announced a \$150 Million Ukraine Security Package. First Lady Jill Biden is traveling to Europe to view the refugee crisis firsthand, as the Pentagon confirmed intel shared by the US helped Ukraine sink the Russian flagship Moskva. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Labor Department's April jobs report shows that the economy added 428K new jobs and the unemployment rate at 3.6%. However, rising inflation and interest rates continue to be competing forces in the economy, with the markets falling for the second straight day with all three indexes dropping, with the NASDAQ dropping the most. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Biden Administration projects 100 million new COVID cases, up to 30% of the US population

based on modeling. As a result, the Administration is requesting \$22 Billion in COVID Relief Funding from Congress for testing, treatment, and to prepare for a surge. In addition, the CDC is investigating a rise in rare severe pediatric hepatitis, possibly due to COVID or adenovirus. In 7 months, more than 100 cases have been documented, with five deaths and some children requiring liver transplants.

[\[ABC, NBC\]](#)

- There are severe weather storms, damaging winds, and tornado watches in 9 states stretching from Florida to West Virginia. Rounds of heavy rain, gusty winds, and chilly temperatures are predicted in the eastern part of the nation for Mother's Day. [\[ABC, NBC\]](#)
- The White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha predicts waning immunity and COVID being contagious contribute to the potential rising number of COVID infections. Dr. Jha also discussed adenovirus and the possible etiology of the increasing cases of severe pediatric hepatitis while encouraging immunization. [\[ABC\]](#)
- Authorities found the getaway car for escaped murder suspect Casey White and Vicky White, a corrections officer who allegedly helped him escape. After Vicky withdrew \$90K from her bank accounts, the two have money to spend. [\[ABC\]](#)
- In a portion of an interview with 60 Minutes, Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper discusses his new book "A Sacred Oath." Esper states that former President Trump asked him in 2020 about launching missiles into Mexico to "destroy the drug labs" and kill cartels. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The WNBA is starting its 26th Season without Brittney Griner. Griner was arrested in February at a Moscow airport and accused of smuggling significant amounts of a narcotic substance. The State Department has classified Griner as wrongfully detained in Russia. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The series Modern Mom featured Austin Kerig, a military wife with five children who have experienced a limitation of care available to her special needs daughter Melanie. As a result, Kerig has created a nonprofit to help military families to navigate the complicated system of obtaining care for special needs children. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The leak of the Supreme Court Opinion is putting a spotlight on the challenges some women face in getting an abortion. Red states limit abortion access, with some states only having one health center offering abortion services. [\[NBC\]](#)
- A small plane taking off from Houston's Hobby Airport at 2:17 p.m. went down about a minute later. No injuries were reported after the plane attempted an emergency landing about five miles from the airport in southeast Houston, crashing through the backyard fences of several homes. [\[NBC\]](#)

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- "Consumers Have Spearheaded Recovery, but Data Signal a Potential Change" [\[WSJ\]](#)
- "Ukraine Pushes Russians Back From Kharkiv Before Key Holiday" [\[NYT\]](#)
- "As war grinds on, the definition of victory remains murky" [\[WaPo\]](#)
- "Civilians evacuated from Mariupol plant; Ukraine says it's mounting counteroffensive elsewhere" [\[LAT\]](#)

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From: The Washington Post
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Post Most: Outside Kavanaugh's home, a neighbor rallies for abortion rights
To: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Sent: May 7, 2022 12:29 PM (UTC-04:00)



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(Michae S. Wi iamson/The Washington Post)

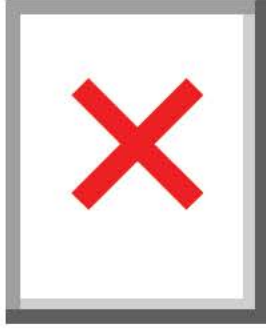
Outside Kavanaugh’s home, a neighbor rallies for abortion rights

With *Roe v. Wade* on the line, Lacie Wooten-Holway — who has had an abortion and is a survivor of sexual assault — is protesting outside the home of her neighbor, Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

By Ellie Silverman • [Read more »](#)

Clarence Thomas says he worries respect for institutions is eroding

By Robert Barnes • [Read more »](#)



As Russia prepares to mark annual Victory Day, Ukrainians reject defeat

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Coronavirus wave this fall could infect 100 million, administration warns

By Yasmeeen Abutaleb and Joel Achenbach • [Read more »](#)

Send a message on Roe v. Wade with your ballot

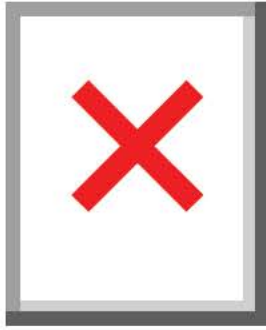
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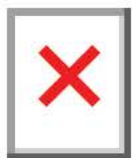
These LGBTQ lawmakers want to make their states a refuge for trans kids

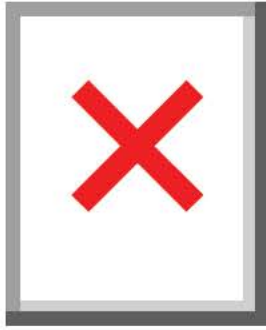
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In battered Kharkiv, cold, dark basements are the last safe refuge

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GOP donor described botched vote fraud probe in recording, prosecutors say

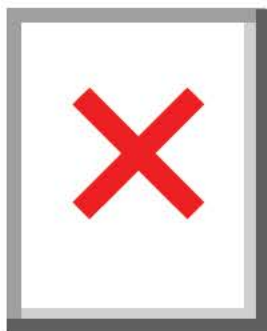
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Here's what Roe v. Wade activism looks like in era of NFTs and Web 3

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A glaring omission from Trump's Pennsylvania rally speech: Abortion

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You should work out on your next long flight. Here's how.

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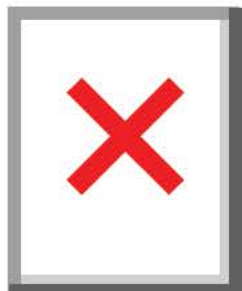
Ukraine lays out peace-talk demands as the West braces for escalation

By Liz Sly, Karoun Demirjian, Timothy Bella and Ellen Francis • [Read more »](#)

Why I spend my Saturday mornings at the Russian Embassy

Opinion • By John Rosiak • [Read more »](#)

Weekend reads



(Hokyoung Kim for The Washington Post)

After 1 million deaths, covid leaves millions more forever changed

Researchers put the true toll of the pandemic at 9 million Americans — the number of spouses, parents, siblings and children who carry on with a gaping hole in their lives.

By Marc Fisher, Lizzie Johnson, Christine Spolar and Nick Aspinwall • [Read more »](#)

At 80, Bob Dylan finally gets a museum

By Annie Gowen • [Read more »](#)

Wanda Maximoff is back. LGBTQ fans have been waiting.

By Chris Vazquez • [Read more »](#)



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From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated AM Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (OAG)
Sent: May 6, 2022 7:54 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: May 6, 2022 at 7:44:32 AM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b)(6) "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b)(6) "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b)(6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b)(6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b)(6), "Dickerson, Julie (OAG)" (b)(6), "Schedule, DAG (SMO)" <DAG.Schedule@usdoj.gov>, "Carlin, John P. (ODAG)" (b)(6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

WaPo: Justice Dept. boosts focus on environmental cases that harm the poor, David Nakamura and Darryl Fears, May 5, 2022

The Justice Department is ramping up enforcement of environmental cases that officials say disproportionately harm poor and marginalized communities, creating an office to help coordinate investigations and expanding the breadth of litigation against companies and local or state governments that appear to violate federal laws or commit civil infractions. Appearing at a joint news conference Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland and EPA Administrator Michael Regan said their agencies would work together on the initiative. It aims to build on an executive order issued by President Biden days after his inauguration that called for an "all of government" approach to environmental justice. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#), [KDRV-ABC \(Medford, OR\)](#), [Law360](#), [MSNBC](#), [NBC](#), [Newsmax](#), [Nexstar](#), [Reuters](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#), [WSJ](#), [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#)

AP: US announces seizure of superyacht owned by Russian oligarch, Eric Tucker, May 5, 2022, 2:54 PM

A superyacht that American authorities say is owned by a Russian oligarch previously sanctioned for alleged money laundering has been seized by law enforcement in Fiji, the U.S. Justice Department announced Thursday. A judge in Fiji earlier in the week permitted U.S. authorities to seize the yacht Amadea — worth \$325 million — but also put his order temporarily on hold while defense lawyers mounted a challenge. The Justice Department said authorities in Fiji, acting at the request of the United States, have now served a search warrant freezing the yacht, which had earlier been prevented from leaving the South Pacific nation. American officials say the 348-foot vessel belongs to Suleiman Kerimov, an economist and former Russian politician who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury

Department in 2018 and has faced further censure from Canada, Europe, Britain and other nations after Russia invaded Ukraine. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Insider](#), [Law.com](#), [NBC](#), [NY Post](#), [Reuters](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: Garland: Escaped murder suspect, guard ‘extremely dangerous’, Michael Balsamo, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday that an escaped murder suspect and jail officer who aided him are “regarded as extremely dangerous” and the U.S. Marshals Service has taken over leading the search for the two fugitives. Law enforcement officials in Alabama have been looking for Casey White, who was awaiting trial on a capital murder case, and Vicky White, a jail official, since they vanished after leaving the Lauderdale County Detention Center last week. The two are not related, but had a “special relationship,” authorities said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [KSAZ-Fox](#), [USA Today](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

WaPo: U.S. provided intelligence that helped Ukraine sink Russian warship, Shane Harris, Paul Sonne, Dan Lamothe and Michael Birnbaum, May 5, 2022, 6:24 PM

The United States provided Ukraine with intelligence that helped Kyiv attack and sink the flagship of Russia’s Black Sea fleet, the Moskva, in one of the most dramatic battlefield successes of the 71-day old war, according to people familiar with the matter. The missile strike by Ukrainian forces in April, an extraordinary embarrassment for the Kremlin that deprived Russia of a key vessel in its military campaign, may not have been possible without the U.S. assistance, these people said, underscoring how deeply Washington has become enmeshed in Ukraine’s fight against Russia. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NYT](#)

NYT: Colombian Cartel Leader Faces Drug Charges After Extradition to New York, Troy Closson, May 5, 2022, 5:33 PM

The announcement of his extradition in Colombia on Wednesday followed those of several other paramilitary leaders — in addition to hundreds of other Colombians — to the United States over the past two decades. But some Colombians view the extraditions as a hindrance to reconciliation after decades of internecine conflict. Mr. Úsuga, 50, led the Clan del Golfo, a Colombian drug cartel that uses violence and intimidation to control drug-trafficking routes and expand its territory, according to federal prosecutors in Brooklyn. Breon S. Peace, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, described him at a news conference Thursday as “one of the most dangerous, most wanted drug kingpins in the world,” to whom “murder was meaningless and violence the ultimate currency.” [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Guardian](#), [NY Post](#), [WLS-ABC \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WSJ](#)

Forbes: Biden Signs Bill To Create Cybercrime Reporting System, Edward Segal, May 5, 2022, 12:09 PM

President Joe Biden today signed the Better Cybercrime Metrics Act into law. The measure, which received bipartisan Congressional support, represents the latest step by the federal government to help beef up various aspects of the country’s cyber defenses. The new law establishes requirements to improve the collection of data related to cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

Reuters: Illinois professor convicted of failing to report Chinese bank account, Nate Raymond, May 5, 2022, 8:26 PM

An Illinois mathematics professor has been convicted of failing to disclose a foreign bank account but was cleared of concealing his ties to China while seeking federal grant funding in the latest trial to result from a Trump-era crackdown on Chinese influence within U.S. research. A federal jury in Benton, Illinois, on Wednesday found Southern Illinois University – Carbondale professor Mingqing Xiao guilty on four counts, largely charges that he failed to disclose a Chinese bank account on his 2017 to 2019 tax returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

JAN. 6

AP: Giuliani withdraws from interview with Jan. 6 committee, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 12:00 AM

A spokesman for the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol says Rudy Giuliani, who led Donald Trump’s court efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, has withdrawn from an interview that was scheduled to take place Friday. Committee spokesman Tim Mulvey released a statement to multiple media outlets Thursday night saying: “Mr. Giuliani had agreed to participate in a transcribed interview with the Select Committee. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Insider](#), [Newsweek](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [NY Post](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [The Week](#)

WaPo: Rioter admits to assaulting D.C. officer Mike Fanone on Jan. 6, Rachel Weiner, May 5, 2022, 6:33 PM

An Iowa man who brought his teenage son to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, admitted he was among a group that assaulted D.C. police officer Michael Fanone, who suffered a heart attack and traumatic brain injury defending Congress from the pro-Trump mob. Kyle Young, 38, pleaded guilty Thursday in D.C. federal court to one count of assaulting a police officer, which carries a sentence of up to eight years in prison; prosecutors say the guidelines call for at least five. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Des Moines Register](#), [KCCI-CBS \(Des Moines, IA\)](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

NYT: New Evidence Undercuts Jan. 6 Instigator Conspiracy Theory, Alan Feuer, May 5, 2022, 4:00 PM

Prominent Republicans — including former President Donald J. Trump — have for months promoted a conspiracy theory that an Arizona man named Ray Epps was a federal informant who helped to instigate the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The claims, made in congressional hearing rooms, on Fox News and at Mr. Trump’s political rallies, have largely been based on a video taken just before violence erupted at the Capitol, showing Mr. Epps at the barricades outside the building whispering into the ear of a man named Ryan Samsel. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [ANALYSIS] Who did the Oath Keepers call on Jan. 6 as they tried to reach Trump?, Philip Bump, May 5, 2022, 11:11 PM

One of the central questions surrounding the attempt to derail the certifying of electoral votes at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, is how and where the political effort — raising procedural objections to the votes in hopes of pushing the fight back to states — might have overlapped with the violent one. It’s clear that there was at least some opportunistic overlap; as the Capitol was being overrun by rioters supporting President Donald Trump, he and his allies were attempting to encourage further delays to the process. But was there anything more robust? [[Continue Reading](#)]

Insider: **"Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio doesn't think he'll get a fair trial in DC,"**

Laura Italiano and C. Ryan Barber, May 5, 2022, 01:42 PM

Former Proud Boys national leader Enrique Tarrio is asking for a venue change, arguing in a new court filing that Washington, DC residents are prejudiced against Capitol attack defendants. In arguing that he couldn't get a fair jury in DC, Tarrio's filing cites a poll conducted on behalf of two Oath Keepers also charged in the attack on the Capitol, Thomas Caldwell and Connie Meggs [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: **Feds want to seize LA mega-mansion in corruption case**, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 9:00 PM

The federal government wants to seize a mega-mansion in an exclusive area of Los Angeles that it claims was purchased with millions in bribe money paid to the former finance minister of Armenia and his sons, it was announced Thursday. A complaint filed Monday in federal court seeks the forfeiture of the 33,652-square-foot (3,126-square-meter) mansion in Holmby Hills. According to the U.S. Department of Justice complaint, the home was purchased for \$14.4 million in 2011 by a trust on behalf of Gagik Khachatryan and his two sons, who are all facing criminal charges in Armenia. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [City News Service](#)

Bloomberg: **Puerto Rico Governor Demands Mayors Resign After Arrest Report**, Jim Wyss, May 5, 2022, 9:13 AM

Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi demanded two mayors resign after a newspaper reported their arrest on public corruption charges, saying the case represented another "hard blow to public trust." "I have been firm with these types of cases and this time is not the exception," Pierluisi said in a statement Thursday. "I demand the immediate resignation of both mayors arrested today and I expect the full weight of the law to fall on them." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGXA-Fox/ABC (Macon, GA): **13 sentenced in midstate cocaine, pill, marijuana trafficking ring**, Brandon McGouirk, May 5, 2022, 4:00 PM

Thirteen have been sentenced to terms of up to 15 years in prison after an investigation that targeted a Middle Georgia drug trafficking conspiracy. They were indicted last February under Operation Breaking the Bond, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation centered in the Macon-Bibb County area, according to U.S. Attorney, David H. Estes. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WFXL-Fox \(Albany, GA\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

CBS: **Orange County man federally indicted for making online threats at Merriam-Webster over gender term definitions**, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 5:58 PM

An Orange County man was federally indicted Thursday for a series of online threats targeted at Merriam-Webster's Dictionary after the company opted to change the definitions of gender specific terms. Rossmoor resident Jeremy David Hanson, 34, was arrested and charged in late April, after an investigation from several law enforcement agencies including the FBI found that he had made threats not only to the well-known dictionary company, but to several other brands. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPSD-NBC (Paducah, KY): **Man charged with 2021 Cape Girardeau church arson now faces federal charges**, Leanne Fuller, May 5, 2022, 8:00 PM

A man accused of setting fire to a Cape Girardeau, Missouri, church in 2021 now faces

federal hate crime and arson charges stemming from the incident. The Justice Department says 46-year-old Christopher Scott Pritchard is charged with "intentionally obstructing parishioners of the church in the enjoyment of their free exercise of religious beliefs and using fire to commit a federal felony." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOLR-CBS \(Springfield, MO\), Patch \(Across MO\)](#)

CIVIL LAW

Reuters: Kohl's, Walmart to pay \$5.5 mln over bamboo product allegations,

Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 10:34 AM

Kohl's Corp. and Walmart Inc. have agreed to pay a combined \$5.5 million penalty to settle allegations they deceptively marketed products made of bamboo that instead contained other materials, the U.S. Department of Justice said on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSTU-Fox \(Salt Lake City, UT\), MarketWatch, WAFB-CBS \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: DHS disinformation board's work, plans remain a mystery, Amanda Seitz and Nomaan Merchant, May 5, 2022, 10:00 AM

There is little credible information about the new Disinformation Governance Board. And that has made it an instant target for criticism. The board, part of the Department of Homeland Security, was announced last week. But DHS has released few details on how the board will function and what powers it will have. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was attacked again Wednesday by Republican members of Congress who have already called for the board to be disbanded. Some civil liberties advocates also worry the group could violate freedom of speech. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Biden official: Title 42 end will lead to fewer border crossings, Nick Miroff, May 5, 2022, 4:58 PM

A Department of Homeland Security senior official told a Senate panel Thursday that the record number of migrants crossing the southern border would decrease if the Biden administration is allowed to go forward with its plan to lift the Title 42 public health restrictions on May 23. Blas Nuñez-Neto, acting assistant secretary for border and immigration policy at DHS, said in response to questions from Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) that the administration will resume criminal prosecutions and rapid deportations to restore the "consequence delivery" model U.S. Customs and Border Protection has long used as its primary border management tool. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: US Coast Guard repatriates 84 Cuban migrants in Florida, seizes 168 pounds of marijuana in Texas, Adam Sabes, May 5, 2022, 7:32 PM

The U.S. Coast Guard repatriated 84 people to Cuba and seized 168 pounds of marijuana in Texas in separate operations last week. A boat with the Coast Guard Station South Padre Island observed three people with bundles on their backs attempting to swim across the Brownsville Ship Channel on April 29 at 5 a.m. The men were then taken into custody by the U.S. Coast Guard officials and were transferred to personnel with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KNTV-NBC (San Jose, CA): Suspect in San Jose Kidnapping Had Previously Been Deported 3 Times, Damian Trujillo, May 5, 2022, 6:00 PM

The key suspect in last week's kidnapping of a 3-month-old baby boy in San Jose had previously been deported to El Salvador three times, NBC Bay Area has learned. U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) told NBC Bay Area that 43-year-old Yesenia Ramirez had been deported once in 2018 and twice in 2019. She spent 10 days in a Texas jail in 2019 for illegal entry into the United States, ICE said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: 'Nothing unlawful' about defense pact in chicken antitrust case - U.S. judge, Mike Scarcella, May 5, 2022, 4:07 PM

A Chicago federal judge on Wednesday refused to undo an agreement among certain chicken producers addressing price-fixing liability, saying provisions in the pact did not limit the ability of antitrust plaintiffs' lawyers to pursue and recover damages at trial. U.S. District Judge Thomas Durkin in a ruling said he found "nothing unlawful" about the agreement signed in 2020 by about a dozen defendants, including Tyson Foods Inc and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. He said the coordination in a judgment sharing deal "provides incentives" for defendants to reach agreements with plaintiffs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Law360](#)

Bloomberg: Musk Faces FTC Antitrust Review on Twitter Alongside Stock Probe, Leak Nylen, May 5, 2022, 4:11 PM

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is reviewing Elon Musk's \$44 billion Twitter Inc. takeover, a person familiar with the deal said, setting up a deadline in the next month for the agency to decide whether to conduct an in-depth review of the transaction. Under U.S. merger law, Musk is required to notify the FTC and the Justice Department of the transaction and wait at least 30 days before closing to allow an investigation into potential antitrust concerns. The FTC can ask for additional information, issuing what's known as a second request, which would further delay closing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Reuters](#)

Bloomberg Law: [ANALYSIS] Can DOJ Lead a Rethink on Abuses by Dominant Firms?, Eleanor Tyler, May 5, 2022, 10:08 AM

The U.S. government hasn't successfully challenged a monopoly for quite some time—but that doesn't mean that the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission are giving up on anticompetitive unilateral conduct. At an April 21 keynote address at the University of Chicago, DOJ Antitrust Division chief Jonathan Kanter spelled out a "five point plan" for renewed antitrust enforcement. Two of the five points were explicitly about unilateral conduct by dominant firms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Biden's ATF pick endorsed by ex-Justice Department officials, Michael Balsamo, May 5, 2022, 11:00 AM

More than 140 former Justice Department officials, including two past attorneys general, are throwing their support behind President Joe Biden's nominee to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The ex-officials, who worked for both Democratic and Republican presidents, are urging congressional leaders to quickly confirm Steve Dettelbach to the post. Their endorsement comes on the heels of support from several law enforcement organizations, including the Major County Sheriffs of America. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [PBS](#), [NBC](#)

CNN: Law enforcement officials warn of potential violence in DC and nationwide in wake of Supreme Court draft opinion, Whitney Wild, May 6, 2022, 1:00 AM

Law enforcement officials in Washington, DC, are bracing for potential security risks posed by reactions to the leaked draft Supreme Court majority opinion that would strike down Roe v. Wade. An alert generated Thursday by US Capitol Police and reviewed by CNN warned

about far-right calls for violence against a religious group planning an upcoming protest in support of abortion rights at the court. Late Wednesday night, teams began installing an 8-foot-tall, non-scalable fence around parts of the Supreme Court building, and Thursday night, crews set up concrete Jersey barriers blocking the street in front of the court -- a sign that officials are worried that protests, which have so far been peaceful, could turn less so. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Booth Newspapers (Grand Rapids, MI): **'Major drug distribution organization dismantled' as seven more charged in trafficking conspiracy**, Cole Waterman, May 5, 2022, 3:37 PM

With a flurry of search warrants executed this morning, seven more Saginaw County residents have been federally charged for their alleged roles in a large-scale drug trafficking operation with ties to Mexico. Strikingly, the alleged conspiracy involved the numerous participants discussing their illicit business over the phone, on lines tapped by federal authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTNV-ABC (Ames, IA): **FBI offers religious leaders active shooter training in Urbandale**, Jon Diaz, May 6, 2022, 12:27 AM

New Hope Assembly of God in Urbandale is usually a place of worship. On Thursday, it was also where the FBI took center stage for active shooter training. Fifty Iowans from various places of worship across central Iowa took part in the training which included hands-on experience with things like applying a tourniquet and confronting an active shooter. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WWL-CBS (New Orleans, LA): **Leader of FBI meets with New Orleans authorities over growing violent crime**, Meg Farris, May 5, 2022, 7:13 PM

The country's top FBI Agent, Director Christopher Wray began by acknowledging what all of us here are seeing and experiencing first hand. "I know top of mind for everyone is the disturbing uptick that we've seen in gun crime and gang violence in communities all across the country. There is no question. No question that the violent crime problem in this country is real and it's been growing," said Wray. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

NBC: **Skinheads allegedly killed his son in prison. Is the government accountable?**, Erik Ortiz, May 5, 2022, 12:52 PM

In early March 2020, an ambulance delivered Matthew Phillips, a federal inmate in western Illinois, to a hospital in Iowa, where he clung to life battered beyond recognition. A prison chaplain had summoned his parents in Texas to his bedside. [] Killings in prison are relatively rare: From 2001 to 2019, fewer than 3 percent of all deaths in federal prison were the result of homicide, according to Justice Department data. But at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson, where Matthew Phillips was serving his sentence, his death was the first of seven reported over the last two years, with at least three others involving inmates killed by prisoners and one resulting from a suicide, according to local news reports that cite the Federal Bureau of Prisons and an inmate's family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Republic: **Arizona won't disclose expiration date of death penalty drugs, federal public defenders seek answers**, Jimmy Jenkins, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM

The Arizona Department of Corrections is prohibited from using expired execution drugs, but attorneys for death row prisoner Clarence Dixon say the department has not given them an expiration date of the compounded pentobarbital intended for his execution next week. "This

is especially concerning because ADCRR's compounding pharmacist has already made errors in calculating the expiration date of the execution drug," said Jen Moreno, an assistant public defender representing Dixon. He is scheduled to be executed May 11. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVU-Fox (Oakland, CA): 25 Dublin prison employees under investigation for sex, drug, lying abuses, Lisa Fernandez, May 5, 2022, 3:44 PM

A total of 25 employees at the federal all-women's prison in Dublin are under investigation for a range of abuses that allege inappropriate sex, use of drugs and falsifying records, according to a Freedom of Information Act request obtained by KTVU. Of those, only three of the investigations were focused on managers, raising serious questions with John Kostelnik, the Western region vice president for the correctional workers union. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Longtime federal prosecutor confirmed, sworn in as Utah's US Attorney, Jacob Scholl, May 5, 2022, 5:22 PM

Utah has a new top law enforcement official at the federal level. Trina A. Higgins was sworn in as Utah's new U.S. Attorney on Wednesday, a week after she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the position, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. President Joe Biden announced his nomination of Higgins in January. With her official confirmation and swearing in, Higgins becomes the first woman to be presidentially appointed and U.S. Senate confirmed to lead the Utah U.S. Attorney's Office, according to the news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXMI-Fox (Grand Rapids, MI): U.S. attorney for Michigan's western district sworn in, Megan Viecelli, May 5, 2022, 2:05 PM

Mark A. Totten was sworn in as the United States attorney for the Western District of Michigan on Thursday. President Biden nominated Totten last November and the U.S. Senate confirmed him in April. Thursday, Chief U.S. District Judge Robert J. Jonker administered the oath of office at the federal courthouse in Grand Rapids. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): Sandra J. Stewart remains as U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, Simone Gibson, May 5, 2022, 12:39 PM

On Thursday, the United State Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama announced the reappointment of Sandra J. Stewart. The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama reappointed Sandra J. Stewart, enabling her to continue serving as the U.S. Attorney for the district. On April 22, 2022, Chief United States District Judge Emily C. Marks conducted the oath of office, and Stewart's appointment became effective on April 25, 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: It's Chief Justice Roberts' Court, but does he still lead?, Jessica Gresko, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM

John Roberts is heading a Supreme Court in crisis. The chief justice has already ordered an investigation of the leak this week of a draft opinion suggesting the court could be poised to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case legalizing abortion nationwide. What comes next could further test Roberts' leadership of a court where his vote already appears less crucial in determining the outcome in contentious cases. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#)

[Law](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [WaPo](#)

Reuters: Supreme Court set to resolve impasse over U.S. discovery in international arbitration, Rachel B. Goldman, David A. Shargel and David J. Ball, May 5, 2022, 11:38 AM
The future of discovery in private international arbitration is in the Supreme Court's hands following oral argument last month in two consolidated cases concerning the interpretation of 28 U.S.C. § 1782. A relatively arcane provision that has recently attracted headlines, section 1782 authorizes federal district courts to order broad production of documents and testimony from a person or entity within the U.S. "for use in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Lifting the curtain on SCOTUS with a POLITICO reporter who broke the Roe story, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 5:00 AM

This week on Playbook Deep Dive, POLITICO's Peter Canellos talks with our own Josh Gerstein, who broke this week's massive news that the Supreme Court's conservative majority has drafted an opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This is the first time in modern history that the public has seen a Supreme Court draft decision while a case was still pending. The draft opinion, if it holds, would be the culmination of half a century of legal conservatives organizing around the idea that *Roe* was wrongly decided and needed to be reversed. No one can be sure what will follow and where it will lead. [[Continue Reading](#)]

SCOTUSblog: How the leak might have happened, Tom Goldstein, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM
Among the debates generated by the leak of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion in *Dobbs* is whether the leaker was conservative or liberal. The leak will ultimately pale in importance to the court's decision once it is issued; the ruling will directly affect the lives and rights of tens of millions of people. But in the meantime, the motives of the leaker are an important topic because they help explain why an institution that zealously guards its secrets suddenly seems porous. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: US panel to focus on Native American missing, slain cases, Susan Montoya Bryan and Felicia Fonseca, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

Nearly 40 law enforcement officials, tribal leaders, social workers and survivors of violence have been named to a federal commission tasked with helping improve how the government addresses a decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced Thursday. The committee's creation means that for the first time, the voices guiding the Interior and Justice departments in the effort will include people most affected by the epidemic, said Haaland, the first Native American to lead a cabinet department. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [KPNX-NBC \(Phoenix, AZ\)](#), [KXTV-ABC \(Sacramento, CA\)](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#)

KFSM-CBS (Fort Smith, AR): Cherokee Nation hires criminal investigator to work Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cases, Kaitlyn Bond, May 5, 2022, 4:37 PM
The Cherokee Nation announced it has hired a criminal investigator to solely work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases. The tribe selected investigator Perry Proctor, who spent the past year at the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service assigned to MMIP cases, is a former OSBI cold-case detective, Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs investigator and has worked in law enforcement since 1976. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Senate to vote next week on protecting abortion rights, Farnousch Amiri, May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Senate will vote next week on legislation that would codify abortion rights into federal law as Democrats mount their response to the Supreme Court's leaked draft decision that would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. The procedural vote, scheduled for Wednesday, will mostly be symbolic and once again show the limits of the Democratic majority in the 50-50 Senate. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., does not have the necessary 60 votes to overcome a Republican filibuster and move ahead with the bill, which means the effort is certain to fail. But he said members of both parties need to go on record about where they stand. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CBS](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)

NY Post: Biden sued for 'colluding' with Big Tech to suppress free speech on Hunter laptop, COVID: report, Patrick Reilly, May 5, 2022, 8:04 PM

Two Republican-led states have reportedly filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden and other top administration officials, alleging they "pressured and colluded" with Big Tech companies to squash The Post's Hunter Biden laptop story and censor information related to COVID-19's lab origins. The lawsuit, filed Thursday by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt and Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, accuses top government officials of conspiring to suppress information with social media giants Meta, Twitter and YouTube "under the guise of combating misinformation," Fox News reported. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: MAY 5, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- While protests continue to spread across the country in response to the leaked draft decision regarding federal abortion rights, there's growing concern about potential violence leading up to the official ruling and the safety of the justices themselves. "Once you allow this kind of extreme power to take hold, you have no idea who they will come for next," Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The FDA has announced it's limiting the use of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine to adults who cannot get any other COVID shot because of a rare but potentially life-threatening risk of blood clots. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Dow, Nasdaq and S&P all plummeted today, with investors worried that the Federal Reserve's plan to fight inflation will slow the economy. The sell-off came just one day after the Fed raised interest rates, and the best trading day in two years. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Red Cross has confirmed a third rescue operation is underway in Ukraine to help the remaining civilians trapped inside that besieged steel plant in Mariupol. Meanwhile, officials say around 10,000 Russian troops have moved on from Mariupol and are now heading north. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper tells about a tense standoff in the Oval Office about a "ridiculous" plan to send 250,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. [[CBS](#)]
- The United States provided Ukraine with intelligence that helped Kyiv attack and sink the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, the Moskva, in one of the most dramatic battlefield successes of the 71-day old war, according to people familiar with the matter. [[CBS](#)]

From: DOJ Digests
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
To: DOJ-Digests@Rendon
Sent: May 6, 2022 6:55 AM (UTC-04:00)

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
May 6, 2022
7:00 AM EST**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: MAY 6, 2022

DOJ



No scheduled events.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Biden to crack down on polluters in poor, minority areas, Matthew Daly, May 5, 2022, 6:00 PM
Following through on a campaign promise, the Biden administration on Thursday announced a wide-ranging enforcement strategy aimed at holding industrial polluters accountable for damage done to poor and minority communities. The strategy includes creation of an Office of Environmental Justice within the Justice Department to focus on “fenceline communities” that have been exposed to air and water pollution from chemical plants, refineries and other industrial sites. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#), [KDRV-ABC \(Medford, OR\)](#), [Law360](#), [MSNBC](#), [NBC](#), [Newsmax](#), [Nexstar](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#), [WSJ](#), [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#)

AP: Garland: Escaped murder suspect, guard ‘extremely dangerous’, Michael Balsamo, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM
Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday that an escaped murder suspect and jail officer who aided him are “regarded as extremely dangerous” and the U.S. Marshals Service has taken over leading the search for the two fugitives. Law enforcement officials in Alabama have been looking for Casey White, who was awaiting trial on a capital murder case, and Vicky White, a jail official, since they vanished after leaving the Lauderdale County Detention Center last week. The two are not related, but had a “special relationship,” authorities said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [KSAZ-Fox](#), [USA Today](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

AP: US panel to focus on Native American missing, slain cases, Susan Montoya Bryan and Felicia Fonseca, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

Nearly 40 law enforcement officials, tribal leaders, social workers and survivors of violence have been named to a federal commission tasked with helping improve how the government addresses a decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives, U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced Thursday. The committee's creation means that for the first time, the voices guiding the Interior and Justice departments in the effort will include people most affected by the epidemic, said Haaland, the first Native American to lead a cabinet department. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Axios](#), [KPNX-NBC \(Phoenix, AZ\)](#), [KXTV-ABC \(Sacramento, CA\)](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#)

UPI: DOJ is using all its tools to fight gun crime, AG Merrick Garland tells police chiefs, Doug Cunningham, May 5, 2022, 4:10 PM

The Justice Department is committed to using every tool to support local and state efforts to fight gun crime, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland told police chiefs gathered for a forum on gun violence in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. Speaking at the headquarters of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Garland said the DOJ has finalized a rule on "ghost guns," saying parts kits that can readily be converted into assembled firearms will now be treated as what they are: firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Recount: Attorney General Merrick Garland responds to the Supreme Court potentially overturning Roe v. Wade., Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 1:54 PM

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland responded to questions about the Supreme Court potentially overturning Roe v. Wade, while speaking at a press conference today. He went on to say that the justice department has been committed to defending the right to abortion. Garland argued that the department was an amicus in the Dobbs v Jackson case and that the Solicitor General argued on behalf of the United States in the case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US ATTORNEYS

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Longtime federal prosecutor confirmed, sworn in as Utah's US Attorney, Jacob Scholl, May 5, 2022, 5:22 PM

Utah has a new top law enforcement official at the federal level. Trina A. Higgins was sworn in as Utah's new U.S. Attorney on Wednesday, a week after she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the position, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. President Joe Biden announced his nomination of Higgins in January. With her official confirmation and swearing in, Higgins becomes the first woman to be presidentially appointed and U.S. Senate confirmed to lead the Utah U.S. Attorney's Office, according to the news release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WXMI-Fox (Grand Rapids, MI): U.S. attorney for Michigan's western district sworn in, Megan Viecelli, May 5, 2022, 2:05 PM

Mark A. Totten was sworn in as the United States attorney for the Western District of Michigan on Thursday. President Biden nominated Totten last November and the U.S. Senate confirmed him in April. Thursday, Chief U.S. District Judge Robert J. Jonker administered the oath of office at the federal courthouse in Grand Rapids. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): Sandra J. Stewart remains as U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, Simone Gibson, May 5, 2022, 12:39 PM

On Thursday, the United State Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama announced the reappointment of Sandra J. Stewart. The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

reappointed Sandra J. Stewart, enabling her to continue serving as the U.S. Attorney for the district. On April 22, 2022, Chief United States District Judge Emily C. Marks conducted the oath of office, and Stewart's appointment became effective on April 25, 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: Illinois professor convicted of failing to report Chinese bank account, Nate Raymond, May 5, 2022, 8:26 PM

An Illinois mathematics professor has been convicted of failing to disclose a foreign bank account but was cleared of concealing his ties to China while seeking federal grant funding in the latest trial to result from a Trump-era crackdown on Chinese influence within U.S. research. A federal jury in Benton, Illinois, on Wednesday found Southern Illinois University – Carbondale professor Mingqing Xiao guilty on four counts, largely charges that he failed to disclose a Chinese bank account on his 2017 to 2019 tax returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

AP: Central Iowa Man Charged in US Capitol Insurrection, David Pitt, May 5, 2022, 4:52 PM

A 41-year-old central Iowa man was arrested Wednesday on federal charges alleging that he took part in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building. Chad Heathcote, of Adel, is charged with two federal felonies: entering and remaining in a restricted building with intent to impede or disrupt an official proceeding and disorderly or disruptive conduct in the Capitol. Court records don't indicate whether he has an attorney. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KASI-AM \(Ames, IA\)](#), [KWVL-NBC/CW \(Waterloo, IA\)](#)

AP: US announces seizure of superyacht owned by Russian oligarch, Eric Tucker, May 5, 2022, 2:54 PM

A superyacht that American authorities say is owned by a Russian oligarch previously sanctioned for alleged money laundering has been seized by law enforcement in Fiji, the U.S. Justice Department announced Thursday. A judge in Fiji earlier in the week permitted U.S. authorities to seize the yacht Amadea — worth \$325 million — but also put his order temporarily on hold while defense lawyers mounted a challenge. The Justice Department said authorities in Fiji, acting at the request of the United States, have now served a search warrant freezing the yacht, which had earlier been prevented from leaving the South Pacific nation. American officials say the 348-foot vessel belongs to Suleiman Kerimov, an economist and former Russian politician who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department in 2018 and has faced further censure from Canada, Europe, Britain and other nations after Russia invaded Ukraine. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Insider](#), [Law.com](#), [NBC](#), [NY Post](#), [Reuters](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#)

WaPo: Rioter admits to assaulting D.C. officer Mike Fanone on Jan. 6, Rachel Weiner, May 5, 2022, 6:33 PM

An Iowa man who brought his teenage son to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, admitted he was among a group that assaulted D.C. police officer Michael Fanone, who suffered a heart attack and traumatic brain injury defending Congress from the pro-Trump mob. Kyle Young, 38, pleaded guilty Thursday in D.C. federal court to one count of assaulting a police officer, which carries a sentence of up to eight years in prison; prosecutors say the guidelines call for at least five. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Des Moines Register](#), [KCCI-CBS \(Des Moines, IA\)](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

WaPo: U.S. provided intelligence that helped Ukraine sink Russian warship, Shane Harris, Paul Sonne, Dan Lamothe and Michael Birnbaum, May 5, 2022, 6:24 PM

The United States provided Ukraine with intelligence that helped Kyiv attack and sink the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, the Moskva, in one of the most dramatic battlefield successes of the 71-day old war, according to people familiar with the matter. The missile strike by Ukrainian forces in April, an extraordinary

embarrassment for the Kremlin that deprived Russia of a key vessel in its military campaign, may not have been possible without the U.S. assistance, these people said, underscoring how deeply Washington has become enmeshed in Ukraine's fight against Russia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [AP](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NYT](#)

NYT New Evidence Undercuts Jan. 6 Instigator Conspiracy Theory, Alan Feuer, May 5, 2022, 4 00 PM
Prominent Republicans — including former President Donald J. Trump — have for months promoted a conspiracy theory that an Arizona man named Ray Epps was a federal informant who helped to instigate the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The claims, made in congressional hearing rooms, on Fox News and at Mr. Trump's political rallies, have largely been based on a video taken just before violence erupted at the Capitol, showing Mr. Epps at the barricades outside the building whispering into the ear of a man named Ryan Samsel. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: [ANALYSIS] Who did the Oath Keepers call on Jan. 6 as they tried to reach Trump?, Philip Bump, May 5, 2022, 11:11 PM

One of the central questions surrounding the attempt to derail the certifying of electoral votes at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, is how and where the political effort — raising procedural objections to the votes in hopes of pushing the fight back to states — might have overlapped with the violent one. It's clear that there was at least some opportunistic overlap; as the Capitol was being overrun by rioters supporting President Donald Trump, he and his allies were attempting to encourage further delays to the process. But was there anything more robust? [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Insider: "Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío doesn't think he'll get a fair trial in DC," Laura Italiano and C. Ryan Barber, May 5, 2022, 01:42 PM

Former Proud Boys national leader Enrique Tarrío is asking for a venue change, arguing in a new court filing that Washington, DC residents are prejudiced against Capitol attack defendants. In arguing that he couldn't get a fair jury in DC, Tarrío's filing cites a poll conducted on behalf of two Oath Keepers also charged in the attack on the Capitol, Thomas Caldwell and Connie Meggs [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Forbes: Biden Signs Bill To Create Cybercrime Reporting System, Edward Segal, May 5, 2022, 12:09 PM

President Joe Biden today signed the Better Cybercrime Metrics Act into law. The measure, which received bipartisan Congressional support, represents the latest step by the federal government to help beef up various aspects of the country's cyber defenses. The new law establishes requirements to improve the collection of data related to cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Hill](#)

Bharat Express News: Maryville man charged with assault after prominent videos showed him during Jan. 6 uprising, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

A 33-year-old Maryville resident has been charged with assaulting a law enforcement officer during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Edward Kelley was arrested in Knoxville on Thursday and charged with assaulting, resisting or obstructing officers, civil disturbance, destruction of government property and related offences. He was scheduled to make his first appearance Thursday afternoon in the Eastern District of Tennessee, according to court records. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Knoxville News Sentinel \(Knoxville, TN\)](#), [KTSM-NBC \(El Paso, TX\)](#), [WATE-ABC \(Knoxville, TN\)](#), [WBIR-NBC \(Knoxville, TN\)](#)

WSMV-NBC (Nashville, TN): Knoxville man arrested for assaulting officer at Jan. 6 Capitol Riot, Kelly Ann Krueger and Camruinn Morgan-Rumsey, May 5, 2022, 3:58 PM

A Knoxville man was arrested in connection to the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot, according to officials with the U.S. Department of Justice. Edward Kelley was interviewed by the FBI in June of 2021 and told investigators that he went to D.C. to attend a rally for Former President Donald Trump before he walked around the United States

Capitol Building, an FBI report said. He told investigators that he did not go inside the building, according to the report. [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: Giuliani withdraws from interview with Jan. 6 committee, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 12:00 AM

A spokesman for the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol says Rudy Giuliani, who led Donald Trump's court efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, has withdrawn from an interview that was scheduled to take place Friday. Committee spokesman Tim Mulvey released a statement to multiple media outlets Thursday night saying: "Mr. Giuliani had agreed to participate in a transcribed interview with the Select Committee. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Insider](#), [Newsweek](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [NY Post](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [The Week](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Feds want to seize LA mega-mansion in corruption case, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 9:00 PM

The federal government wants to seize a mega-mansion in an exclusive area of Los Angeles that it claims was purchased with millions in bribe money paid to the former finance minister of Armenia and his sons, it was announced Thursday. A complaint filed Monday in federal court seeks the forfeiture of the 33,652-square-foot (3,126-square-meter) mansion in Holmby Hills. According to the U.S. Department of Justice complaint, the home was purchased for \$14.4 million in 2011 by a trust on behalf of Gagik Khachatryan and his two sons, who are all facing criminal charges in Armenia. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [City News Service](#), [Epoch Times](#)

NYT: Colombian Cartel Leader Faces Drug Charges After Extradition to New York, Troy Closson, May 5, 2022, 5:33 PM

The announcement of his extradition in Colombia on Wednesday followed those of several other paramilitary leaders — in addition to hundreds of other Colombians — to the United States over the past two decades. But some Colombians view the extraditions as a hindrance to reconciliation after decades of internecine conflict. Mr. Úsuga, 50, led the Clan del Golfo, a Colombian drug cartel that uses violence and intimidation to control drug-trafficking routes and expand its territory, according to federal prosecutors in Brooklyn. Breon S. Peace, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, described him at a news conference Thursday as "one of the most dangerous, most wanted drug kingpins in the world," to whom "murder was meaningless and violence the ultimate currency." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Guardian](#), [NY Post](#), [WLS-ABC \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WSJ](#)

Bloomberg: Puerto Rico Governor Demands Mayors Resign After Arrest Report, Jim Wyss, May 5, 2022, 9:13 AM

Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi demanded two mayors resign after a newspaper reported their arrest on public corruption charges, saying the case represented another "hard blow to public trust." "I have been firm with these types of cases and this time is not the exception," Pierluisi said in a statement Thursday. "I demand the immediate resignation of both mayors arrested today and I expect the full weight of the law to fall on them." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: Claims that Kaiser Permanente defrauded the feds will move forward, Matthew Renda, May 5, 2022, 12:10 AM

A federal judge allowed some claims that the largest non-profit healthcare defrauded Medicare by encouraging physicians to exaggerate patient conditions in order to goose reimbursements, but the majority of the claims

were denied. U.S. District Court Judge Edward Chen said that plaintiffs plausibly alleged that Kaiser Permanente knew through the audit process that doctors were improperly diagnosing certain conditions but let the errors persist for financial gain. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA): **Virginia Beach duo sentenced for fentanyl trafficking**, Caitlyn Burchett, May 5, 2022, 8:58 PM

A Virginia Beach man was sentenced to 20 years in prison and his female co-conspirator received 3½ years for drug trafficking after the pair were found with 14,000 fentanyl tablets. Marcus Hughes, 32, was sentenced to two decades behind bars on April 29. Deshowna Corprew, 30, was sentenced to 44 months Thursday for her role in the crimes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Mercury News (San José, CA): **Two charged federally in Bakersfield animal-fighting venture**, Nate Gartrell, May 5, 2022, 6:01 PM

A Brentwood woman who fired her attorneys and continued to adamantly maintain her innocence after being convicted of fraud was sentenced Thursday to 81 months in federal prison, prosecutors announced. Jehoadan Wilson, 42, of Brentwood, wrote in court records that “I have never committed any crime regardless of what the record reports,” and that going through the court process exposed her to the “hypocrisy” of “fake trials” and “fake juries.” Wilson was convicted of involvement in multiple tax fraud schemes that caused roughly \$902,000 in losses to victims, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

New Jersey Advance Media: **Man on supervised release for conspiring to sell cocaine admits selling cocaine again, feds say**, Chris Sheldon, May 5, 2022, 5:56 PM

A man who was on supervised federal release for a cocaine distribution charge from a decade ago admitted to the same crime Thursday for a new arrest, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey announced. Lavinston Lamar, 40, of Bridgeton, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to distribute cocaine and to violating the conditions of his supervised release, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(West Deptford, NJ\)](#)

Business Observer: **Sarasota man guilty of running \$80M Ponzi scheme from Longboat Key firm**, Louis Llovio, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

A federal jury has found the former head of a Longboat Key financial firm guilty of running an \$80 million Ponzi scheme and using the proceeds to fund a luxurious lifestyle. Michael J. DaCorta, 57, was convicted May 4 after a 13-day trial. He faces more than 30 years in prison. DaCorta, according to testimony during the trial, ran Oasis International Group Limited, which was at 444 Gulf of Mexico Drive. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WWSB-ABC \(Sarasota, FL\)](#)

Republican (Springfield, MA): **US Postal Service employee Juan Murillo charged with stealing money from mail**, Heather Morrison, May 5, 2022, 3:44 PM

A U.S. Postal Service employee from Massachusetts has been indicted in connection with stealing money from the mail, according to U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins’ office. Juan Murillo, 32, of Lynn, was indicted on one count of theft of mail by an employee of the U.S. Postal Service. Around Sept. 23, 2021 officials said Murillo stole money from the mail while he was an employee of the postal service, according to the indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Former South Hills pharmacist gets 1 year in federal prison for fraud, drug charges**, Paula Reed Ward, May 5, 2022, 2:50 PM

A former South Hills pharmacist who struggled with opioid addiction for decades will serve one year in federal prison after pleading guilty last year to fraud and drug offenses. Timothy W. Forester, 46, of Venetia was sentenced Thursday by Senior U.S. District Judge David S. Cercone on counts including health care fraud

conspiracy, misbranding drugs and obtaining controlled substances by fraud. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Two charged federally in Bakersfield animal-fighting venture, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 12:39 PM

Two Mexican nationals living in Bakersfield were charged by a grand jury Thursday in separate indictments in conjunction with an animal-fighting venture, according to Department of Justice officials. Jorge Calderon-Campos, 41, and Horacio Ortega-Martinez, 35, were charged with unlawful possession of animals for an animal-fighting venture. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KGET-NBC \(Bakersfield, CA\)](#)

WRTV-ABC (Indianapolis, IN): Indianapolis man to serve 30 years in federal prison for sexual exploitation of a child, Lucas Gonzalez, May 5, 2022, 6:51 PM

An Indianapolis man will serve 30 years in federal prison after an investigation found he exchanged money for sexually explicit photos of an underage girl and engaged in sexual conduct with her. Gerald Hoye, 43, pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of a child which was uncovered through a U.S. Secret Service investigation, according to the office of Zachary A. Myers, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WISH-CW \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

KARE-NBC (Minneapolis, MN): St. Cloud bar owner pleads guilty to arson, stemming from 2020 fire, Samantha Fischer, May 5, 2022, 6:33 PM

The owner of a St. Cloud bar pleaded guilty to arson Thursday, after investigators determined he was responsible for setting fire to his business in order to collect insurance money. Andrew Charles Welsh, 42, was arrested in December 2020 with a federal grand jury indictment, alleging arson, use of fire to commit a federal felony and wire fraud, following the total destruction of his business, the Press Bar and Parlor in February of 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KSTP-ABC \(Saint Paul, MN\)](#)

WATE-ABC (Knoxville, TN): Maryville man sentenced to 9 years in prison for child porn distribution, Hannah Moore, May 5, 2022, 5:32 PM

A Maryville man has been sentenced to just over nine years in prison for distributing and possessing child pornography. Bradley Todd Dixon, 37, will serve 109 months in federal prison and following his imprisonment, he will be supervised by the United States Probation Office for 15 years. He will also be required to register with the state sex offender registry in any state in which he lives, works, or attends school. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WCCO-CBS (Minneapolis, MN): 2 Men Face Federal Charges In Rosedale Center Armed Carjacking, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 5:03 PM

Two men face federal criminal charges for their alleged role in an armed carjacking at Rosedale Center in February. Leon Kismet Bell, 48, was charged with one count of carjacking, while Jack Mitchell Piche, 22, was charged with aiding and abetting a carjacking. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WITI-Fox (Milwaukee, WI): Appleton man sentenced 15 years prison for Ponzi scheme, Devin Willems, May 5, 2022, 4:56 PM

Robert Narvett of Appleton was sentenced on Wednesday, May 4 to 15 years in prison for wire fraud and money laundering. The judge also handed down another three years of supervised release. Narvett, 57, was indicted by a federal grand jury in March 2021 and pleaded guilty to wire fraud and money laundering on January 21, 2022. The judge found that Narvett defrauded nearly 70 different victims, including his family, friends, and neighbors of over \$2 million and that he engaged in the scheme for over a decade. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KTTV-Fox \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

WVNS-CBS/Fox (Lewisburg, WV): Pound of meth lands WV man in prison for 8 years, Harper Emch, May 5, 2022, 4:52 PM

A Bluefield man was sentenced Thursday, May 5, 2022, to eight years and one month in prison, for the distribution of a pound of methamphetamine. According to court documents and statements made in court, Eric Lee Flack, 43, admitted that on July 28, 2020, he sold an entire pound of meth for \$5,600 to a man who turned out to be an undercover informant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGXA-Fox/ABC (Macon, GA): 13 sentenced in midstate cocaine, pill, marijuana trafficking ring, Brandon McGouirk, May 5, 2022, 4:00 PM

Thirteen have been sentenced to terms of up to 15 years in prison after an investigation that targeted a Middle Georgia drug trafficking conspiracy. They were indicted last February under Operation Breaking the Bond, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation centered in the Macon-Bibb County area, according to U.S. Attorney, David H. Estes. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFXL-Fox \(Albany, GA\)](#)

WVNS-CBS/Fox (Lewisburg, WV): McDowell County man sentenced to more than 22 years in prison for child pornography, Seth McVey, May 5, 2022, 3:36 PM

Today, May 5, a McDowell County man was sentenced by Senior United States District Judge David A. Faber to more than 22 years in prison for production of child pornography. According to court documents and statements made in court, Timothy Edwards, 25, of Yaeger, admitted that from April 2020 through February 2021 he engaged in sexual abuse of a 12-year-old girl. Edward produced multiple sexually explicit videos of himself with the minor and had the minor produce videos for him as well. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WMAR-ABC (Baltimore, MD): Waldorf First Lieutenant sentenced to 11 years in prison on child pornography charges, Rushaad Hayward, May 5, 2022, 3:07 PM

A U.S. Judge sentenced 36-year-old First Lieutenant, Jason Daniel Ort, to 11 years in federal prison for transportation of child pornography. The Waldorf native recorded videos using a hidden camera in a bathroom and had other images in his possession as well. The judge ordered that when Ort is released from prison, he must register as a sex offender. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Marple Newtown, PA): Broomall Man Sentenced For 4 Bank Robberies, Max Bennett, May 5, 2022, 2:54 PM

A Broomall man convicted of four bank robberies in about a week's time was hit with a prison sentence Wednesday. United States Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams said Michael George, 31, of Broomall, was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$4,790 in both forfeiture and restitution for committing four bank robberies over the course of about a week in March 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFLD-Fox (Chicago, IL): Illinois college dean took over \$650k from student group, used money for beach vacations, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 2:07 PM

A former college dean and professor has been sentenced to a year in federal prison for embezzling more than \$650,000 from a national student organization working to improve representation of minorities in the pharmaceutical industry. While serving as the student association's executive director, Carmita Coleman withdrew cash and checks from the group's bank accounts for her own personal benefit, prosecutors said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Patch \(Frankfurt, IL\)](#)

WHTM-ABC (Harrisburg, PA): Lebanon man sentenced for pandemic unemployment fraud, Lauren Rude, May 5, 2022, 1:48 PM

A Lebanon man has been sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for claiming Pandemic Unemployment Assistance despite being employed at the time. Luis Mercado, 44, was employed as a poultry inspector with the United States Department of Agriculture when he falsely claimed he was unemployed due to the pandemic. He received benefits on the false claims and received, after reaffirming his unemployment status on a weekly

basis, a total of \$37,555. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Voice (Bergen County, NJ): Feds: Bergen Pill Mill Doc Who Called Himself 'El Chapo Of Opioids' Gets 6 Years, No Parole, Jerry DeMarco, May 5, 2022, 1:26 PM

A Bergen County doctor who called himself the “El Chapo of Opioids” was sentenced to six years in federal prison for doling out pain killers like candy and fudging medical records to cover it up. Robert Delagente, 48, of Oakland, must serve out the entire plea-bargained sentence approved by a federal judge in Newark on Thursday, May 5, because there’s no parole in the federal prison system. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (West Haven, CT): West Haven Man, His Mother Trafficked Cocaine Through US Mail: Feds, Elynn Santiago, May 5, 2022, 12:33 PM

A West Haven man and his mother, a New Haven man, and a woman in Puerto Rico are facing federal cocaine trafficking offenses, according to federal investigators and prosecutors. It's alleged the cocaine was shipped via the U.S. Postal Service between Puerto Rico and Connecticut. A grand jury in New Haven returned an indictment Thursday after an investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division, the Acting U.S. Attorney for Connecticut said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WTIC-Fox \(Hartford, CT\)](#)

WFRV-CBS (Green Bay, WI): CFO of a Wisconsin business accused of running multi-million-dollar scheme, Devin Willems, May 5, 2022, 12:22 PM

A woman from Hartford is looking at a possible 60 years in prison after allegedly laundering money and a running wire fraud scheme. According to authorities, 61-year-old Vicki Berka is facing two charges of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering. The scheme reportedly started around July 14, 2014, and lasted until at least September 26, 2017. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

CBS: Orange County man federally indicted for making online threats at Merriam-Webster over gender term definitions, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 5:58 PM

An Orange County man was federally indicted Thursday for a series of online threats targeted at Merriam-Webster's Dictionary after the company opted to change the definitions of gender specific terms. Rossmoor resident Jeremy David Hanson, 34, was arrested and charged in late April, after an investigation from several law enforcement agencies including the FBI found that he had made threats not only to the well-known dictionary company, but to several other brands. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WPSD-NBC (Paducah, KY): Man charged with 2021 Cape Girardeau church arson now faces federal charges, Leanne Fuller, May 5, 2022, 8:00 PM

A man accused of setting fire to a Cape Girardeau, Missouri, church in 2021 now faces federal hate crime and arson charges stemming from the incident. The Justice Department says 46-year-old Christopher Scott Pritchard is charged with "intentionally obstructing parishioners of the church in the enjoyment of their free exercise of religious beliefs and using fire to commit a federal felony." [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KOLR-CBS \(Springfield, MO\)](#), [Patch \(Across MO\)](#)

CIVIL LAW

Reuters: Kohl's, Walmart to pay \$5.5 mln over bamboo product allegations, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 10:34 AM

Kohl's Corp (KSS.N) and Walmart Inc (WMT.N) have agreed to pay a combined \$5.5 million penalty to settle allegations they deceptively marketed products made of bamboo that instead contained other materials, the

U.S. Department of Justice said on Thursday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KSTU-Fox \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [MarketWatch](#), [WAFB-CBS \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#)

MarketWatch: Fishy scheme that led to theft of \$830K worth of lobster, shrimp and ribeye lands scammer in prison for 10 years, Lukas I. Alpert, May 6, 2022, 12:17 AM

This fishy scheme has landed a seafood scammer a 10-year term upriver. A one-time aspiring chef-turned fraudster has been sentenced to a decade behind bars for using stolen bank information from Rhode Island restaurants to buy \$830,000 worth of lobster, shrimp and steaks which he then resold, sometimes to the businesses he had just ripped off. Paul Diogenes, 50, had spent most of his life around restaurants, but 20 years ago began a spate of frauds involving phony checks and selling stolen goods, federal prosecutors said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: DHS disinformation board's work, plans remain a mystery, Amanda Seitz and Nomaan Merchant, May 5, 2022, 10:00 AM

There is little credible information about the new Disinformation Governance Board. And that has made it an instant target for criticism. The board, part of the Department of Homeland Security, was announced last week. But DHS has released few details on how the board will function and what powers it will have. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was attacked again Wednesday by Republican members of Congress who have already called for the board to be disbanded. Some civil liberties advocates also worry the group could violate freedom of speech. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: 'Replacement theory' fuels extremists and shooters. Now a top Border Patrol agent is spreading it, Will Carless, May 6, 2022, 5:03 AM

Last month, Brandon Judd, who is a Border Patrol agent and the president of the National Border Patrol Council, a union representing more than 18,000 border patrol agents, sat for an interview with Fox News anchor Bill Hemmer. Wearing a black polo shirt bearing the crest of his union, the shaven-headed Judd stared intently into the camera as Hemmer asked him why he thinks President Joe Biden has allowed "Virtually an open border." With a shake of his head, Judd responded: [...] [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: Biden official: Title 42 end will lead to fewer border crossings, Nick Miroff, May 5, 2022, 4:58 PM

A Department of Homeland Security senior official told a Senate panel Thursday that the record number of migrants crossing the southern border would decrease if the Biden administration is allowed to go forward with its plan to lift the Title 42 public health restrictions on May 23. Blas Nuñez-Neto, acting assistant secretary for border and immigration policy at DHS, said in response to questions from Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) that the administration will resume criminal prosecutions and rapid deportations to restore the "consequence delivery" model U.S. Customs and Border Protection has long used as its primary border management tool. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: US Coast Guard repatriates 84 Cuban migrants in Florida, seizes 168 pounds of marijuana in Texas, Adam Sabes, May 5, 2022, 7:32 PM

The U.S. Coast Guard repatriated 84 people to Cuba and seized 168 pounds of marijuana in Texas in separate operations last week. A boat with the Coast Guard Station South Padre Island observed three people with bundles on their backs attempting to swim across the Brownsville Ship Channel on April 29 at 5 a.m. The men were then taken into custody by the U.S. Coast Guard officials and were transferred to personnel with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **9th Circ. Says BIA Must Rethink Gay Nigerian's Torture Claim**, Rae Varona, May 5, 2022, 8:23 PM

The Board of Immigration Appeals must reconsider its denial of a Nigerian man's request for protection against torture after the Ninth Circuit ruled that the man had presented enough evidence to show he faced persecution for being gay. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **White House blew off public input on policy extending work permits for illegal immigrants**, Stephen Dinan, May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Biden administration cut corners in its rush to announce new rules extending work permits for foreigners in the U.S., including many illegal immigrants, and the divergence from standard procedures could imperil the legality of the policy. Not only did Homeland Security dispense with the usual notice-and-comment period for new regulations, but the White House Office of Management and Budget, which gives final approval to rules, blew off a required meeting with stakeholders, according to would-be attendees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Protester Gets Costs Only Despite Win In ICE Lease Dispute**, Daniel Wilson, May 5, 2022, 6:25 PM

A Court of Federal Claims judge has ruled in a "virtually unique" dispute that despite a protester succeeding in its challenge to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility lease, it could only recover costs because ICE was poised to move in. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Migrants' ICE Ambush Suit Against Grower Nixed After Deals**, Alyssa Aquino, May 5, 2022, 4:48 PM

A Michigan federal court formally ended a lawsuit following two settlements between a greenhouse employer and migrant workers who claimed they were lured into an immigration raid in a Walmart parking lot after they protested not getting paid. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **Democrats blast Biden over looming border surge**, Stephen Dinan, May 5, 2022, 4:00 PM

Democrats lashed out at administration officials Thursday, saying there's no indication that Homeland Security is ready to handle the massive surge of illegal immigrants that experts say is coming. Two weeks of appearances by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and other department experts have done little to quell those fears. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Cherry Hill Courier-Post (Camden County, NJ): **Rebel leader with alleged history of war crimes came to South Jersey illegally, feds say**, Jim Walsh, May 5, 2022, 4:17 PM

A South Jersey man from Liberia is accused of hiding his past as a rebel leader in order to gain entrance to the United States. Laye Sekou Camara 43, allegedly served as a general and used child soldiers for a group that fought in a civil war that began in Liberia in 1999, federal authorities say. The Mays Landing man concealed his role in the conflict when applying for visas to the United States in 2011 and 2012, according to the U.S. Attorney General's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Spectrum News: **Orlando ICE office encouraging appointments to help curb long lines**, Ashleigh Mills, May 5, 2022, 3:21 PM

As more people continue to wait in line daily outside Orlando's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office, the focus has turned to encouraging them to make appointments. The United States in March released over 65,000 migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border, with orders for them to report to facilities like Orlando's, where some people are camping out to get an appointment to get their documentation processed. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAN-NBC (Austin, TX): **Title 42 exceptions allow groups of asylum-seekers to enter California**,

Salvador Rivera, May 5, 2022, 7:51 PM

Without much fanfare, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has been allowing a few asylum-seekers to enter the U.S. through the San Ysidro Port of Entry after providing the migrants with Title 42 exceptions. Immigration attorney Erika Pinheiro says that since late April, about 350 have been given access north of the border.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KNTV-NBC (San Jose, CA): Suspect in San Jose Kidnapping Had Previously Been Deported 3 Times, Damian Trujillo, May 5, 2022, 6:00 PM

The key suspect in last week's kidnapping of a 3-month-old baby boy in San Jose had previously been deported to El Salvador three times, NBC Bay Area has learned. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) told NBC Bay Area that 43-year-old Yesenia Ramirez had been deported once in 2018 and twice in 2019. She spent 10 days in a Texas jail in 2019 for illegal entry into the United States, ICE said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Temecula, CA): Driver Hauling 40 Lbs Of Fentanyl, Heroin On I-15 Caught In Temecula, Ashley Ludwig, May 5, 2022, 4:04 PM

A Mexican citizen found hauling 40 pounds of mixed narcotics northbound on the I-15 Freeway was arrested near the Temecula Border Patrol checkpoint, the San Diego Sector Border Patrol agency reported this week. On Monday, at 7 a.m., agents pulled over the driver of a "suspicious-looking" 2012 Ford Focus near Temecula. Upon searching, agents discovered 15 packages of drugs hidden within a concealed compartment in the dashboard of the car behind the radio, a spokesperson for U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBW-CBS (Topeka, KS): Moran questions DHS about ICE contract wasting \$17 million in taxpayer funds, Sarah Motter, May 5, 2022, 4:02 PM

Senator Moran has led his colleagues to question DHS about an ICE contract that wasted \$17 million in taxpayer funds on empty hotel rooms for undocumented immigrants. U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) says he and Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) have led five of their colleagues to question Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about an Office of Inspector General report which outlined the misuse of taxpayer money to acquire housing to accommodate undocumented immigrants. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Ellicott City, MD): \$5M Lawsuit Filed Against Howard County By Immigrant After 2020 Arrest, Kristin Danley-Greiner, May 5, 2022, 1:46 PM

William Garcia Trejo, a Salvadoran man living in Maryland, has filed a \$5 million lawsuit against Howard County. Trejo claims that a 2020 arrest for minor traffic violations that led to him being transferred into the custody of U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement was a violation of his constitutional rights because he was held without legal justification. "Mr. Trejo was illegally turned over to ICE by Howard County, which had a long record of mistreating immigrant detainees," Trejo's lawyer Timothy Maloney said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: 'Nothing unlawful' about defense pact in chicken antitrust case - U.S. judge, Mike Scarcella, May 5, 2022, 4:07 PM

A Chicago federal judge on Wednesday refused to undo an agreement among certain chicken producers addressing price-fixing liability, saying provisions in the pact did not limit the ability of antitrust plaintiffs' lawyers to pursue and recover damages at trial. U.S. District Judge Thomas Durkin in a ruling said he found "nothing unlawful" about the agreement signed in 2020 by about a dozen defendants, including Tyson Foods Inc and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. He said the coordination in a judgment sharing deal "provides incentives" for defendants to reach agreements with plaintiffs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Law360](#)

Bloomberg: Musk Faces FTC Antitrust Review on Twitter Alongside Stock Probe, Leak Nysten, May 5, 2022, 4:11 PM

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is reviewing Elon Musk's \$44 billion Twitter Inc. takeover, a person familiar with the deal said, setting up a deadline in the next month for the agency to decide whether to conduct an in-depth review of the transaction. Under U.S. merger law, Musk is required to notify the FTC and the Justice Department of the transaction and wait at least 30 days before closing to allow an investigation into potential antitrust concerns. The FTC can ask for additional information, issuing what's known as a second request, which would further delay closing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Reuters](#)

Law360: Feds Defend Biglari's \$1.3M Penalty Over Cracker Barrel Stock, Khorri Atkinson, May 5, 2022, 7:57 PM

The Federal Trade Commission has defended a recent agreement allowing Biglari Holdings Inc. to pay a \$1.3 million penalty to escape claims that it flouted federal law by buying two batches of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store stock without properly notifying the agency. In an April 29 D. C. federal court filing defending the agreement announced last December, the FTC said a sole public comment the government received regarding the proposed final judgment was not enough to justify changing course. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: [ANALYSIS] Can DOJ Lead a Rethink on Abuses by Dominant Firms?, Eleanor Tyler, May 5, 2022, 10:08 AM

The U.S. government hasn't successfully challenged a monopoly for quite some time—but that doesn't mean that the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission are giving up on anticompetitive unilateral conduct. At an April 21 keynote address at the University of Chicago, DOJ Antitrust Division chief Jonathan Kanter spelled out a "five point plan" for renewed antitrust enforcement. Two of the five points were explicitly about unilateral conduct by dominant firms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Law360: Seattle Tells 9th Circ. To Keep Tribe's Dam Suit In Fed. Court, Caleb Symons, May 5, 2022, 8:19 PM

Seattle officials are urging the Ninth Circuit not to revive a local tribe's lawsuit challenging the use of a hydroelectric dam on the Skagit River, arguing that a district court judge correctly found the case belongs in federal court before dismissing it late last year. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Feds Can't Justify Oil And Gas Royalty Rule, 10th Circ. Told, Keith Goldberg, May 5, 2022, 5:50 PM

The federal government's justification for an Obama-era rule changing how royalties on federal and tribal oil and gas leases are calculated effectively gives it unlimited and unprecedented discretion over royalty valuation, the American Petroleum Institute told the Tenth Circuit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

Pioneer Press (Saint Paul, MN): St. Paul businesswoman with 'tough life' gets 15 months in prison for cheating IRS out of \$1M, Josh Verges, May 5, 2022, 3:15 PM

The owner of a former St. Paul staffing agency who cost the U.S. government \$1.02 million in tax revenue by paying employees in cash was sentenced Thursday to 15 months in prison. Shoua Isabelle Yang, 45, was indicted in April 2021 for filing false tax returns from 2015 through 2018 while operating AtWork Staffing on Rice Street. The grand jury alleged she failed to withhold and pay income and payroll taxes on behalf of the

people she hired to work for her clients. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: DEA Marijuana Application Process in Violation of Congressional Mandate, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 11:00 PM

MMJ conglomerate is asking the federal court for an emergency intervention with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in its quest to grow pharmaceutical-grade marijuana for use in clinical trials into treatments for Multiple Sclerosis and Huntington's Disease. MMJ BioPharma Cultivation Inc.; MMJ International Holdings Corp.; and MMJ BioPharma Labs Inc. - companies dedicated to developing cannabinoid-derived medical treatments - filed an emergency federal court motion to compel the DEA to act on its applications for bulk manufacturing and importing of specific strains of marijuana, arguing that the DEA is in violation of the Congressional mandate of 90 days. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Biden's ATF pick endorsed by ex-Justice Department officials, Michael Balsamo, May 5, 2022, 11:00 AM

More than 140 former Justice Department officials, including two past attorneys general, are throwing their support behind President Joe Biden's nominee to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The ex-officials, who worked for both Democratic and Republican presidents, are urging congressional leaders to quickly confirm Steve Dettelbach to the post. Their endorsement comes on the heels of support from several law enforcement organizations, including the Major County Sheriffs of America. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [PBS](#), [NBC](#)

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] Lack of a federal privacy law opens the door to dystopia, Editorial Board, May 5, 2022, 1:59 PM

Imagine every one of us could be located using only a photograph, or identified based on the way we walk — that our fingerprints could be scanned from afar, and our productivity assessed remotely as we work. This might sound like a dystopia, but at least one technological juggernaut thinks the vision will sell. The Post has reported on a pitch deck disseminated by Clearview AI, a facial recognition company that has contracts with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the military. The New York Times discovered in 2020 that local police departments were relying on the trove of more than 3 billion photos the under-the-radar business had scraped from the Internet to find potential suspects. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Law enforcement officials warn of potential violence in DC and nationwide in wake of Supreme Court draft opinion, Whitney Wild, May 6, 2022, 1:00 AM

Law enforcement officials in Washington, DC, are bracing for potential security risks posed by reactions to the leaked draft Supreme Court majority opinion that would strike down Roe v. Wade. An alert generated Thursday by US Capitol Police and reviewed by CNN warned about far-right calls for violence against a religious group planning an upcoming protest in support of abortion rights at the court. Late Wednesday night, teams began installing an 8-foot-tall, non-scalable fence around parts of the Supreme Court building, and Thursday night, crews set up concrete Jersey barriers blocking the street in front of the court -- a sign that officials are worried that protests, which have so far been peaceful, could turn less so. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hartford City News Times (Hartford, CT): FBI assists local police department in search for fugitive, Mike Clark, May 5, 2022, 6:00 PM

The FBI said it is assisting the Calumet City Police Department in the search for a man charged with attempted murder. Tyrese Hill was charged with attempted first degree murder in the Circuit Court of Cook County on April 4 and a state warrant was issued for his arrest, the FBI said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Globe: Three arrested after investigation into North Shore drug trafficking organization, officials say, Mat Yan, May 5, 2022, 3:56 PM

Three people were arrested, and hundreds of pills, several pounds of marijuana, two loaded firearms, and ammunition were seized Thursday morning as part of an investigation led by the state attorney general's office into a North Shore drug trafficking organization, according to a statement from State Police Thursday. State Police troopers, Lynn police, and members of a DEA task force executed a search warrant at 11 Broad St. in Lynn Thursday morning, according to the statement. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Booth Newspapers (Grand Rapids, MI): 'Major drug distribution organization dismantled' as seven more charged in trafficking conspiracy, Cole Waterman, May 5, 2022, 3:37 PM

With a flurry of search warrants executed this morning, seven more Saginaw County residents have been federally charged for their alleged roles in a large-scale drug trafficking operation with ties to Mexico. Strikingly, the alleged conspiracy involved the numerous participants discussing their illicit business over the phone, on lines tapped by federal authorities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTNV-ABC (Ames, IA): FBI offers religious leaders active shooter training in Urbandale, Jon Diaz, May 6, 2022, 12:27 AM

New Hope Assembly of God in Urbandale is usually a place of worship. On Thursday, it was also where the FBI took center stage for active shooter training. Fifty Iowans from various places of worship across central Iowa took part in the training which included hands-on experience with things like applying a tourniquet and confronting an active shooter. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KLAS-CBS (Las Vegas, NV): I-Team: New special agent joins Las Vegas FBI office, Vanessa Murphy, May 5, 2022, 12:20 PM

A new special agent in charge of the Las Vegas Federal Bureau of Investigation office has been named. Spencer Evans spoke with 8 News Now regarding his new role in southern Nevada. "The FBI will be working with a variety of partners, both on the law enforcement side and on the election commission side, both at the state and federal levels back at FBI Headquarters and at every field office to make sure that elections are fair and open and safe," Evans said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KRCR-ABC (Redding, CA): What you need to know about the card skimmers found in Redding ATMs, Mason Carroll, May 5, 2022, 11:30 PM

Financial security is no laughing matter and people rely on credit card security, but Redding Police Department says they've found technology at multiple ATM that could put your card information at risk. [...] He said they are working with the FBI on the case as well as other agencies up and down the state to put a stop to card skimmers, but what's tricky about this case is you can't detect them until someone uses them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTNV-ABC (Las Vegas, NV): FBI warning about 'sextortion' of young children, Jeremy Chen, May 5, 2022, 9:37 PM

A warning for parents and their children who go online. The FBI is sounding the alarm to parents about "sextortion" schemes targeting teen children, particularly young boys. It's a crime the agency says is on the rise to potentially take your money or worse. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTEN-ABC (Albany, NY): FBI conducting ongoing investigation near Housatonic River, Courtney Ward, May 5, 2022, 9:01 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was seen working near the Housatonic River on Thursday. Officials said investigators were on scene in connection to an ongoing investigation. The FBI said their Evidence Response

Team is searching for specific evidence, and there is no threat to public safety. Law enforcement was seen digging up a field. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBFF-Fox (Baltimore, MD): Maryland's Most Wanted | Thelonious Monk Jr., Alexa Ashwell, May 5, 2022, 8:15 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service is searching for a Baltimore man accused in both an attempted home invasion and an attempted murder. Thelonious Monk Jr., 21, has three warrants for his arrest, including a violation of probation. Monk is accused of entering the home of his ex-girlfriend and threatening her and her family in September 2021, investigators said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WEAU-NBC (Eau Claire, WI): ATF National Response Team undergoes annual training at Volk Field, Alex Loroff, May 5, 2022, 7:44 PM

A nationally known fire and explosion investigation team is having its annual training session in Wisconsin. For more than 40 years, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has operated a specialized team to respond to large scale fires and explosions across the country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOKI-Fox (Tulsa, OK): Inside a DEA special lab where drugs are tested daily, Sierra Fox, May 5, 2022, 7:37 PM

FOX 5 DC is getting an exclusive look at a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) special lab. It's the first time a news crew has been allowed inside in years. The chemists who work there risk their lives to solve the mysteries of dangerous drugs daily. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVL-CBS (New Orleans, LA): Leader of FBI meets with New Orleans authorities over growing violent crime, Meg Farris, May 5, 2022, 7:13 PM

The country's top FBI Agent, Director Christopher Wray began by acknowledging what all of us here are seeing and experiencing first hand. "I know top of mind for everyone is the disturbing uptick that we've seen in gun crime and gang violence in communities all across the country 47 there is no question. No question that the violent crime problem in this country is real and it's been growing," said Wray. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJW-Fox (Cleveland, OH): Decoding hidden, dangerous messages in teens' emojis, hashtags, Suzanne Stratford, May 5, 2022, 7:11 PM

You see the text messages and hear the slang, but do you really understand what your teenager is saying? From sex-related emojis to self-harm hashtags and drugs, here's a look what parents should know so they don't get lost in translation. What started out as quick messaging is now a secret code. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Lamorinda, CA): Contra Costa Deputies Collect 547 Pounds Of Meds At Take-Back Event, Susan C. Schena, May 5, 2022, 6:25 PM

At a drug take-back event held last weekend as part of a DEA nationwide effort, the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office collected 587 pounds of unused and expired medications, officials said. "Thank you to everyone who participated in the take-back day on Saturday," deputies said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#)

WRGB-CBS (Schenectady, NY): FBI, Police in Massachusetts searching field in Sheffield, Briana Supardi, May 5, 2022, 5:00 PM

In western Massachusetts, police and FBI agents were conducting a search along the Housatonic River in Sheffield on Thursday. A spokesperson with the FBI tells CBS6 it's connected to an ongoing investigation and that they're looking for specific evidence. She adds that there is no threat to public safety. Law enforcement agencies gathered at a parking area off North Main St. along the Housatonic River. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOKI-Fox (Tulsa, OK): **ATF agents execute search warrant at a home in south Tulsa**, Alex Loroff, May 5, 2022, 1:56 PM

Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives carried a search warrant at a home in south Tulsa Thursday morning. The home is near 83rd Street and Florence Avenue. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

NYT: **[OPINION] I've Been Incarcerated for 21 Years. I Wish the Judge Could See Who I Am Today**, John Lennon, May 5, 2022, 8:00 AM

In 2017, I was sitting in on a Columbia University course at Sing Sing. I heard that Elias Alcantara, a former White House aide in the Obama administration, was supposed to talk to the class, and I had a question. Mr. Alcantara, who was then a senior fellow at the Center for Justice at Columbia, was 31. He told us his story: how he was born and raised in the Bronx, navigated the neighborhood, made it to college, then went to the White House. I imagined it was inspiring for some of my peers who looked like him, a first-generation American with parents from the Dominican Republic, to picture Mr. Alcantara, as I was, working alongside President Barack Obama. He fielded a few light questions. Then I asked mine: Why in eight years couldn't President Obama get meaningful criminal justice reform passed? [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: **Skinheads allegedly killed his son in prison. Is the government accountable?**, Erik Ortiz, May 5, 2022, 12:52 PM

In early March 2020, an ambulance delivered Matthew Phillips, a federal inmate in western Illinois, to a hospital in Iowa, where he clung to life battered beyond recognition. A prison chaplain had summoned his parents in Texas to his bedside. [] Killings in prison are relatively rare: From 2001 to 2019, fewer than 3 percent of all deaths in federal prison were the result of homicide, according to Justice Department data. But at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson, where Matthew Phillips was serving his sentence, his death was the first of seven reported over the last two years, with at least three others involving inmates killed by prisoners and one resulting from a suicide, according to local news reports that cite the Federal Bureau of Prisons and an inmate's family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Republic: **Arizona won't disclose expiration date of death penalty drugs, federal public defenders seek answers**, Jimmy Jenkins, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM

The Arizona Department of Corrections is prohibited from using expired execution drugs, but attorneys for death row prisoner Clarence Dixon say the department has not given them an expiration date of the compounded pentobarbital intended for his execution next week. "This is especially concerning because ADCRR's compounding pharmacist has already made errors in calculating the expiration date of the execution drug," said Jen Moreno, an assistant public defender representing Dixon. He is scheduled to be executed May 11. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVU-Fox (Oakland, CA): **25 Dublin prison employees under investigation for sex, drug, lying abuses**, Lisa Fernandez, May 5, 2022, 3:44 PM

A total of 25 employees at the federal all-women's prison in Dublin are under investigation for a range of abuses that allege inappropriate sex, use of drugs and falsifying records, according to a Freedom of Information Act request obtained by KTVU. Of those, only three of the investigations were focused on managers, raising serious questions with John Kostelnik, the Western region vice president for the correctional workers union. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: It's Chief Justice Roberts' Court, but does he still lead?, Jessica Gresko, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM
John Roberts is heading a Supreme Court in crisis. The chief justice has already ordered an investigation of the leak this week of a draft opinion suggesting the court could be poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 case legalizing abortion nationwide. What comes next could further test Roberts' leadership of a court where his vote already appears less crucial in determining the outcome in contentious cases. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [WaPo](#)

Reuters: Supreme Court set to resolve impasse over U.S. discovery in international arbitration, Rachel B. Goldman, David A. Shargel and David J. Ball, May 5, 2022, 11:38 AM
The future of discovery in private international arbitration is in the Supreme Court's hands following oral argument last month in two consolidated cases concerning the interpretation of 28 U.S.C. § 1782. A relatively arcane provision that has recently attracted headlines, section 1782 authorizes federal district courts to order broad production of documents and testimony from a person or entity within the U.S. "for use in a proceeding in a foreign or international tribunal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT, The Daily: [AUDIO] Anti-Abortion Activists on a Post-Roe Future, May 6, 2022, 6:00 AM
Since the leak of the Supreme Court opinion on overturning the constitutional right to abortion, both sides of the fight have been scrambling. Today, in the first of two parts, we speak to anti-abortion activists such as Michael Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life, about what comes next. "It's been a whirlwind," he said. "We're in uncharted territory." [[Listen](#)]

WSJ: [EDITORIAL] Did Supreme Court Nominees Lie to Congress?, Editorial Board, May 5, 2022, 6:50 PM
One media narrative congealing after this week's Supreme Court leak is that President Trump's nominees lied to Congress by claiming they wouldn't overturn the abortion precedent of *Roe v. Wade*. So allow us to check the tape—and explain why respecting past decisions doesn't bind the Court to stand by serious constitutional errors. Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer accused "several" of the "conservative Justices" of having "lied to the U.S. Senate, ripped up the Constitution and defiled both precedent and the Supreme Court's reputation," among other modest claims in a statement after Politico published a draft opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Reuters](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Abortion & Socioeconomics, Jobs Report, Northern Ireland Elections, May 6, 2022, 5:46 AM
Abortion access could become illegal or restricted in about half of all US states if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* (1:08). The US jobs report shows labor demands are high and people looking for work have many openings available to them *Wade* (4:52). And, Sinn Fein seeks to become the first Irish nationalist party to lead Northern Ireland's government *Wade* (8:39). [[Listen](#)]

Politico: Lifting the curtain on SCOTUS with a POLITICO reporter who broke the Roe story, Unattributed, May 6, 2022, 5:00 AM
This week on Playbook Deep Dive, POLITICO's Peter Canellos talks with our own Josh Gerstein, who broke this week's massive news that the Supreme Court's conservative majority has drafted an opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This is the first time in modern history that the public has seen a Supreme Court draft decision while a case was still pending. The draft opinion, if it holds, would be the culmination of half a century of legal conservatives organizing around the idea that *Roe* was wrongly decided and needed to be reversed. No one can be sure what will follow and where it will lead. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Guardian: Samuel Alito: the abrasive justice taking abortion rights back to the 17th century, Ed Pilkington, May 6, 2022, 2:30 AM

For a member of one of the most august and venerable institutions in American public life, Samuel Alito has provoked an astonishing outpouring of jarring adjectives this week. “Appalling and heinous” – Vanity Fair; “acidic and extreme” – Slate; “dreadful and repugnant” – the Washington Post; “scathing and dismissive” – Los Angeles Times. The strong words were directed at the draft ruling written by Alito and leaked to Politico that, barring a possible but unlikely change of heart by any of Alito’s conservative peers on the US supreme court, will eviscerate federal abortion rights in America. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: **SCOTUS Draft Opinion Leak Is a Breach of Legal Ethics**, Richard W. Painter, May 5, 2022, 3:00 AM

Richard W. Painter, a University of Minnesota Law School professor and former chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, explains the ethical violations involved with the release of the draft opinion from the U.S. Supreme Court potentially overturning Roe v. Wade. The recent leak of a draft opinion by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito that apparently would overrule Roe v. Wade is a game changer for the Supreme Court’s deliberative processes. Until now, justices have deliberated and exchanged draft opinions in private. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Red States Tell High Court Biden Can’t Legislate Carbon Costs**, Clark Mindock, May 5, 2022, 2:48 PM

Ten Republican-led states have told the U.S. Supreme Court that the Biden administration's effort to consider the social cost of carbon in rulemaking amounts to an "unconstitutional workaround" to regulate greenhouse gas emissions without congressional authorization. [[Continue Reading](#)]

SCOTUSblog: **How the leak might have happened**, Tom Goldstein, May 5, 2022, 7:07 PM

Among the debates generated by the leak of Justice Samuel Alito’s opinion in Dobbs is whether the leaker was conservative or liberal. The leak will ultimately pale in importance to the court’s decision once it is issued; the ruling will directly affect the lives and rights of tens of millions of people. But in the meantime, the motives of the leaker are an important topic because they help explain why an institution that zealously guards its secrets suddenly seems porous. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: **Former tribal leader convicted in casino bribery case**, Philipp Marcelo, May 5, 2022, 9:30 PM

A former leader of a Massachusetts Native American tribe was convicted Thursday of bribery and extortion charges related to the tribe’s long-planned casino project, federal prosecutors said. But Cedric Cromwell, former leader of the Mashpee Wampanoag, was cleared by the federal jury in Boston of some charges, including one count of extortion and a count of bribery conspiracy, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

Law360: **Tribal Chair, Architect Guilty On Some Counts In Bribe Case**, Brian Dowling, May 5, 2022, 3:06 PM

A Massachusetts federal jury convicted the former Mashpee Wampanoag chairman and an architect of some bribery and extortion charges Thursday over an alleged scheme to protect the design firm's multimillion-dollar contract for the tribe's \$1 billion casino development. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KVAL-CBS (Eugene, OR): **'If a case is not reported or in databases, it's hard to know if that case exists'**, Olivia Young, May 5, 2022, 9:30 PM

Homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native women, according to the Urban Indian Health Institute. But it's difficult to track how many indigenous persons go missing or are murdered each year. Advocates and

law enforcement say the first step to fixing the discrepancy is awareness. May 5 is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Awareness Day. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFSM-CBS (Fort Smith, AR): Cherokee Nation hires criminal investigator to work Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cases, Kaitlyn Bond, May 5, 2022, 4:37 PM

The Cherokee Nation announced it has hired a criminal investigator to solely work on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases. The tribe selected investigator Perry Proctor, who spent the past year at the Cherokee Nation Marshal Service assigned to MMIP cases, is a former OSBI cold-case detective, Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs investigator and has worked in law enforcement since 1976. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Cincinnati Enquirer (Cincinnati, OH): [OPINION] Medical marijuana is a game of constitutional chicken Gov. Andy Beshear can win, Jim Higdon, May 5, 2022, 10:00 PM

Gov. Andy Beshear is the first governor in the history of Kentucky to call for legalizing cannabis. Following the failure of the Kentucky legislature to pass a medical marijuana bill last month, the governor has asked the public for input on what he can do by executive order. It's about time that political leaders in Kentucky prioritize this issue to legalize cannabis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRGB-CBS (Schenectady, NY): NY approves 36 more farms to grow recreational marijuana, Briana Supardi, May 5, 2022, 9:00 PM

It's another step forward for New York State's recreational pot industry. On Thursday, state cannabis regulators have approved and issued an additional set of cultivation licenses for businesses. An additional 36 farms across the state were given the green light to start growing recreational marijuana. It comes just a couple weeks after the state approved the first 52 applications last month. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Senate to vote next week on protecting abortion rights, Farnousch Amiri, May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Senate will vote next week on legislation that would codify abortion rights into federal law as Democrats mount their response to the Supreme Court's leaked draft decision that would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. The procedural vote, scheduled for Wednesday, will mostly be symbolic and once again show the limits of the Democratic majority in the 50-50 Senate. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., does not have the necessary 60 votes to overcome a Republican filibuster and move ahead with the bill, which means the effort is certain to fail. But he said members of both parties need to go on record about where they stand. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CBS](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)

Reuters: U.S. Senate panel passes bill to pressure OPEC oil cartel, Unattributed, May 5, 2022, 9:49 AM

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee passed a bill on Thursday known as "NOPEC" that could open OPEC oil producers to U.S. lawsuits over price collusion. The bill, which passed the committee by a tally of 17 to 4, would have to pass the full Senate and House and be signed by President Joe Biden to become law. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

NY Post: Biden sued for 'colluding' with Big Tech to suppress free speech on Hunter laptop, COVID: report, Patrick Reilly, May 5, 2022, 8:04 PM

Two Republican-led states have reportedly filed a lawsuit against President Joe Biden and other top

administration officials, alleging they “pressured and colluded” with Big Tech companies to squash The Post’s Hunter Biden laptop story and censor information related to COVID-19’s lab origins. The lawsuit, filed Thursday by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt and Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, accuses top government officials of conspiring to suppress information with social media giants Meta, Twitter and YouTube “under the guise of combating misinformation,” Fox News reported. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): Z Deirdre Byrne, May 5, 2022, 6:17 PM

Seven members of Congress, six of whom are from the DMV area, are calling on U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to reopen an investigation into a police shooting on Nov. 17, 2017 that left Bijan Ghaisar dead at 25-years-old. A federal judge dismissed criminal charges against the two U.S. Park Police officers accused of killing Ghaisar, Alejandro Amaya and Lucas Vinyard, in October 2021. The former Virginia attorney general, Mark Herring, as well as Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano appealed the decision to the Four Circuit Court of Appeals. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: MAY 5, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- While protests continue to spread across the country in response to the leaked draft decision regarding federal abortion rights, there’s growing concern about potential violence leading up to the official ruling and the safety of the justices themselves. "Once you allow this kind of extreme power to take hold, you have no idea who they will come for next," Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The FDA has announced it’s limiting the use of Johnson & Johnson’s single-dose vaccine to adults who cannot get any other COVID shot because of a rare but potentially life-threatening risk of blood clots. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Dow, Nasdaq and S&P all plummeted today, with investors worried that the Federal Reserve’s plan to fight inflation will slow the economy. The sell-off came just one day after the Fed raised interest rates, and the best trading day in two years. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Red Cross has confirmed a third rescue operation is underway in Ukraine to help the remaining civilians trapped inside that besieged steel plant in Mariupol. Meanwhile, officials say around 10,000 Russian troops have moved on from Mariupol and are now heading north. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The south is facing the threat of severe storms for the second day in a row as tornadoes damaged homes and buildings from Texas to Oklahoma last night. More warnings have been posted across the region again tonight. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- There was another deadly attack in Israel as the country celebrated its independence day. At least three people were killed and four were wounded in a stabbing attack near Tel Aviv, the latest in a recent string

of violence between Israelis and Palestinians. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]

- Former Defense Secretary Mark Esper tells about a tense standoff in the Oval Office about a "ridiculous" plan to send 250,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. [[CBS](#)]
- The United States provided Ukraine with intelligence that helped Kyiv attack and sink the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, the Moskva, in one of the most dramatic battlefield successes of the 71-day old war, according to people familiar with the matter. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "U.S. provided intelligence to help sink Russian warship" [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [LAT](#)]
- "Ukraine Launches Offensive Against Russia in Northeast" [[NYT](#)]
- "U.S. Job Growth Was Sturdy in April, Economists Say" [[WSJ](#)]
- "The War in Ukraine, as Seen on Russian TV" [[NYT](#)]

END

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By Olivier Knox

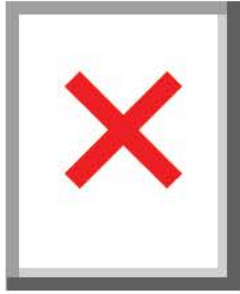
with research by Caroline Anders

Welcome to The Daily 202! Tell your friends to [sign up here](#). On this day in 1821, former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile on the island of St. Helena. He was 51.



The big idea

The U.S. isn't the only country where Ukraine is an issue in domestic politics. Let's go abroad!



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson attend a news briefing on April 9 in Kyiv, Ukraine. (Ukrainian Presidential Press Service via Reuters)

The Daily 202 looked in late March at the prospects the war in Ukraine could provide a lasting “rally-’round-the-flag” effect for **President Biden** and concluded it probably wouldn’t, in large part because such polling bumps tend to be brief, quickly eclipsed by voters’ domestic worries.

For pete’s sake, **President Barack Obama** got just a six-point bounce from the raid that killed **Osama bin Laden** — and even that melted away in six weeks.

We shouldn’t neglect that Biden’s job approval ratings have crept up. But maybe polarized America isn’t the best proving ground on which to test how Ukraine is reshaping politics in major Western democracies. **Let’s look abroad!**

First stop, the United Kingdom, where **Prime Minister Boris Johnson** has gone all-out to show public support for Ukraine in the face of Russia’s expanded war, now in its third month. Today’s the day for local elections in England, Scotland and Wales. Results start coming in Friday.

Johnson, who visited Kyiv back in April, has provided Ukrainian forces hundreds of millions of pounds of weapons, including antitank weapons and armored vehicles. On Tuesday, he poured on the praise in a virtual address to Ukraine’s parliament.

“Ukraine will win, Ukraine will be free,” the victors in a war of “good vs evil,” he said, and Ukrainian soldiers have “fought with the energy and courage of lions.”



As my colleagues William Booth and Karla Adam reported Wednesday, Johnson got multiple standing ovations, Ukrainians are renaming streets and landmarks for him, **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** has promised his country “will always be grateful to Boris and Britain.”

- “But while the prime minister continues to tweet photos of himself walking with Zelensky through Kyiv last month, he isn’t being hailed as much of a hero back in Britain. **His Conservative Party is expected to take a big hit in local elections across the country on Thursday, in what’s seen at least partly as a referendum on Johnson,**” William and Karla reported.

British voters still number **covid** among their worries, though it's lost the top spot to **inflation**, which "has risen to 7 percent, its highest rate in more than three decades." (That should sound familiar. This is, after all, a global phenomenon.)

"But how the government handled the pandemic remains a looming issue, and these elections are the first chance for voters across the country to have their say since the Partygate scandal first broke in the fall." (The scandal involves "a dozen boozy bashes that took place during strict coronavirus lockdowns.") **Labour has an eight-point polling edge over Johnson's Conservatives.**

We may know as early as late Thursday, Washington time, how it shakes out.

ACROSS THE CHANNEL

How about France?

French **President Emmanuel Macron**'s April 24 victory offers a more complex lesson. He beat far-right candidate Marine Le Pen easily, 58.5 percent to 41.5 percent to be the first incumbent French president to get a second term in 20 years.

But she posted her best-ever result and narrowed the gap from when he beat her in 2017, 66.1 percent to 33.9 percent. Moreover 28.2 percent of French voters abstained, the highest number since 1969.

Ukraine featured prominently in the campaign. In a hard-fought debate, Macron memorably told Le Pen she could not criticize Russian **President Vladimir Putin** because he was her "banker," a reference to her party borrowing millions from a Russian institution. And Le Pen played down decades of warm remarks about Putin.



How much did Ukraine sway French voters? It's a little hard to say, because the usual dynamic in the decisive second round of presidential voting is what's called the "barrage," in which parties across the spectrum line up behind the candidate whose last name is not Le Pen.

If history is any guide, that'll happen again in the legislative elections on **June 12 and June 19**, when France picks the 577 members of its lower chamber, the Assemblée Nationale.

Macron's party is expected to win a majority — every winning French presidential candidate has done so for two decades — and go on to pick a new prime minister and cabinet.

- While French voters are more focused on inflation, notably high energy prices, as well as profound anger at the political system writ large, **Macron did mention the war in his election-night remarks**, a victory speech that also served as a call to arms ahead of the legislative elections.

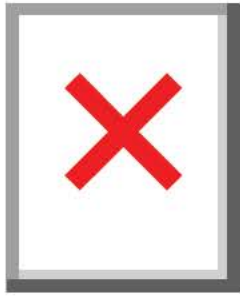
“The war in Ukraine reminds us that we are going through tragic times, in which France must speak with a clear voice and build up its strength,” he said.

Both the U.K. local elections and French legislative elections are, by their nature, more likely to focus on domestic concerns than on Ukraine. The war may have transformed relations between Russia and the United States and its allies, but it’s too soon to say what it has done to politics at home.



What’s happening now

Romney says Trump ‘very likely’ to be GOP nominee in 2024 if he runs



Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) eaves the chamber during a series of votes at the Capito on Wednesday. (J. Scott App ewhite/AP)

“Sen. **Mitt Romney** (R-Utah), hardly a cheerleader for Donald Trump, conceded in an interview published Thursday that the former president is ‘very likely’ to become the GOP White House nominee in 2024 if he decides to run,” John Wagner and Mariana Alfaro report for **Post Politics Now**.

“It’s hard to imagine anything that would derail his support,” Romney, the party’s presidential nominee in 2012, told Politico. “So if he wants to become the nominee in ‘24, I think he’s very likely to achieve that.”

Louisiana Republicans advance bill that would charge abortion as homicide

“The legislation, which passed through a committee on a 7-to-2 vote, goes one step further than other antiabortion bans that have gained momentum in recent years, which focus on punishing abortion providers and others who help facilitate the procedure,” [Caroline Kitchener reports](#).

Musk lines up \$7.1 billion in investor financing for Twitter bid

“Oracle co-founder **Larry Ellison**, Sequoia Capital, Binance and 16 others have collectively chipped in more than \$7.1 billion in financing toward **Elon Musk**’s planned takeover of Twitter, according to a security filing,” [Taylor Telford and Douglas MacMillan report](#).

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Mariupol steel plant situation ‘critical’

“The situation at the embattled Mariupol steel plant is ‘critical’ as the last Ukrainian fighters in the port city face ‘constant storming’ by Russian forces, despite Moscow’s promises for a cease-fire, a police chief inside Azovstal Steel and Iron Works told *The Washington Post*,” [David L. Stern, Adela Suliman, Bryan Pietsch, Rachel Pannett, Annabelle Timsit and Ellen Francis report](#).

More key updates:

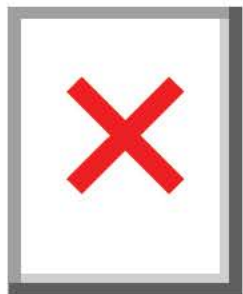
- [Russia spotlights new ‘curator’ for separatist regions in Ukraine’s east](#)
- [The New York Times: U.S. intelligence is helping Ukraine kill Russian generals, officials say](#)
- [Belarus president, Russia’s ally, didn’t expect war in Ukraine to ‘drag on’](#)

[Follow our live coverage of the war here](#)



Lunchtime reads from The Post

Oligarch's effort to broker peace falters even as it shields him from sanctions



The Azovsta steel plant in Mariupol, where hundreds of Ukrainians have huddled against a Russian siege. (Alexander Ermochenko/Reuters)

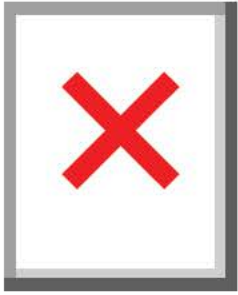
“**[Roman] Abramovich**, who built a fortune in Russian oil and owns England’s Chelsea soccer club, is now entering his third month serving as mediator between the Kremlin and Kyiv,” Greg Miller and Shira Rubin report.

“**So far, that arrangement has worked out better for Abramovich than the people of Ukraine, according to U.S. officials and experts.** Peace talks have foundered amid ongoing attacks and mounting evidence of Russian atrocities. And yet Abramovich’s involvement has shielded him from the barrage of sanctions the United States has unleashed on other Russian elites, U.S. officials said.”

Draft abortion opinion puts new spotlight on confirmation hearings

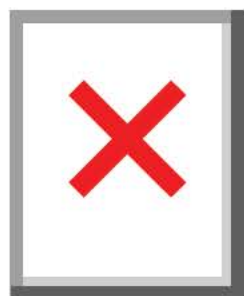
“That apparent contrast between [Kavanaugh's] testimony before senators and his current reported willingness to overturn the landmark decision legalizing abortion access is **prompting fresh scrutiny of the Supreme Court confirmation process, in which nominees say as little as possible and senators are left to parse their language on how they would rule,**” Seung Min Kim reports.

- “It is not just the increasingly predictable and evasive answers of nominees that are prodding some senators to conclude that Supreme Court hearings have become empty theater. **More and more, the confirmation votes themselves seem a foregone conclusion,** with senators hewing to the party line and many using their allotted time to launch political broadsides rather than seek information.”



... and beyond

A Biden-Trump rematch is increasingly likely. But neither side wants to move first.



President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden participate in the final Presidential debate on the campus of Belmont University on Oct. 22, 2020, in Nashville. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

“As each camp gears up for a rematch of the bitterly contested 2020 contest, there remains a small hiccup: Neither is inclined to take the plunge first,” [Politico's Jonathan Lemire and Meredith McGraw report](#).

“It’s a game of political chicken that — as described by more than a half dozen advisers to the two men — has largely frozen the field among Democrats and Republicans alike, raising questions about the future health of two parties being led by a pair of candidates who, by that Election Day, would have long ago celebrated their 75th birthdays.”

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito argued abortion isn’t an economic issue. Is that true?

“[Alito’s] argument doesn’t account for the significant limitations of the protections he lists and the persisting truth that the United States holds some of the worst records in the world in terms of pregnancy and birth-related workplace benefits, experts say. Some of the elements Alito describes in the opinion are still a work in progress. In other cases, they are leaving out some of the most vulnerable Americans,” [the 19th's Chabeli Carrazana reports](#).

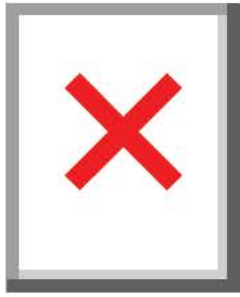
✘ **The latest on covid**

Nearly 15 million deaths related to covid-19, WHO estimates

“The coronavirus pandemic led to nearly 15 million excess deaths worldwide, according to a new estimate by the World Health Organization, including people who died from covid-19 and others who died from indirect causes such as health care shortages as the virus surged and overwhelmed hospitals,” [Katie Shepherd reports](#).

✘ **The Biden agenda**

Biden administration launches plan to refill emergency oil reserve



President Biden cheers with team members during the we come of Team USA to the White House on Wednesday.
(Eve yn Hockstein/Reuters)

“The Biden administration plans to seek bids this fall to buy 60 million barrels of crude oil as the first step in a years-long process aimed at replenishing America’s shrinking emergency oil reserve,” an Energy Department official told **CNN's** Matt Egan.

Fed, Biden administration float new lending rules for lower-income areas

“Top U.S. banking regulators are poised to overhaul how banks lend hundreds of billions of dollars annually in lower-income communities, after scrapping a Trump-era revamp that had divided regulators and industry officials,” the **WSJ**'s Andrew Ackerman reports.

Biden approves disaster declaration for wildfire-hit New Mexico

“Biden on Wednesday approved a disaster declaration for parts of drought-parched New Mexico hit by wildfires and ordered federal aid be made available for recovery efforts, the White House said,” **Reuters**'s Eric Beech and Andrew Hay report.

Biden: MAGA is the ‘most extreme political organization’ in recent U.S. history

“President Joe Biden on Wednesday escalated his rhetorical attacks on the Republican Party and rebuked former President Donald Trump’s enduring grip on the GOP,” **Politico**'s Quint Forgey reports.

With Roe under threat, Biden is an unlikely abortion rights champion

“For President Biden, the threat to the landmark Roe decision represents a singular challenge as he attempts to put aside a long history of evident discomfort with the issue of abortion to transform himself into a champion of the constitutional right that may soon be erased from the law books,” the **New York Times**'s Peter Baker reports.

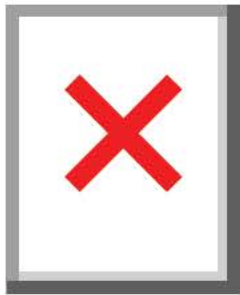
White House scrambles for ways to protect abortion

“In marathon meetings and phone calls among White House officials, government lawyers, outside advisers and federal agency officials, a sobering reality settled in: **There’s little the White House can do that will fundamentally alter a post-Roe landscape.** While officials have spent months planning for the possibility the court would overturn the landmark ruling, the leaked document caught the White House off guard,” Yasmeen Abutaleb and Tyler Pager report.



“Trigger” laws, visualized

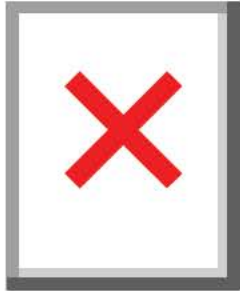
“Red states have been preparing for when the Supreme Court might end abortion protections in the United States. In more than a dozen states, most abortions could be banned immediately by trigger laws already in place.” [Here’s how that works.](#)





Hot on the left

Of course the Constitution has nothing to say about abortion



Non-sca ab e fencing was insta ed overnight around the Supreme Court Bui ding amid ongoing abortion rights demonstrations in Washington, D.C. (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

It doesn't have anything to say about women either, Jill Lepore writes for the **New Yorker**.

“As it happens, there is also nothing at all in that document, which sets out fundamental law, about pregnancy, uterus, vaginas, fetuses, placentas, menstrual blood, breasts, or breast milk ... Most consequentially, **there is nothing in that document—or in the circumstances under which it was written—that suggests its authors imagined women as part of the political community embraced by the phrase ‘We the People.’**”

“There were no women among the delegates to the Constitutional Convention. There were no women among the hundreds of people who participated in ratifying conventions in the states. There were no women judges. There were no women legislators. At the time, women could neither hold office nor run for office, and, except in New Jersey, and then only fleetingly, women could not vote. **Legally, most women did not exist as persons.**”

✘ **Hot on the right**

Republicans, on cusp of abortion win, seek to change the subject

“Few Republicans have openly celebrated, even though Justice **Samuel A. Alito Jr.’s** opinion would, if adopted by the court, fulfill what is perhaps the conservative movement’s single most enduring policy goal,” Mike DeBonis reports.

“Instead, many GOP lawmakers — including Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** of Kentucky, an architect of a conservative revolution in the federal courts — said they were more concerned about the leak and its implications than the substance of the opinion. **Many ascribed the subdued reaction to mere wariness over celebrating a decision that has not actually been handed down.**”

“Several other Republicans said **they saw no advantage in engaging in the debate over abortion rights that Democrats have been eager to spark in recent days.**”

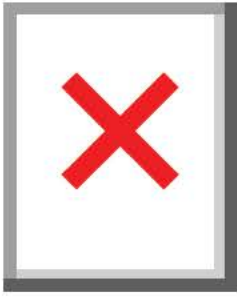
✘ **Today in Washington**

At 4:15 p.m., the Bidens will host a Cinco de Mayo celebration with **Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller de López Obrador**, the wife of the president of Mexico.

✘ **In closing**

Long live the Postal Museum





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From: Heather Cox Richardson from Letters from an American
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 4, 2022
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: May 5, 2022 2:50 AM (UTC-04:00)

May 4, 2022

Heather Cox Richardson May 5

The uproar over the leaked draft of the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* continues. You can tell just how furious the reaction has been by the fact that establishment Republicans are desperately trying to turn the public conversation to the question of who leaked the document. They are baselessly blaming the opposition to the decision — a *Newsmax* host blamed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who hasn't even taken her seat yet — for the leak, although observers point out that the leak seems more likely to have come from a hard-core right-wing antiabortion activist, since it will make it very hard for any of those justices currently in the majority to soften their stance.

The draft decision takes a sweepingly broad position against *Roe v. Wade*, declaring that the Fourteenth Amendment cannot protect the right to abortion because such a right is not “deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition.” This opens the door to similar attacks on constitutional rights previously established by the Supreme Court: the right to use birth control, marry regardless of race and gender lines, and engage in sexual intimacy between consenting adults.

Republican lawmakers are downplaying the reach of the apparent decision, avoiding the question of whether gay rights are next on the chopping block. Bryan Metzger of *Business Insider* asked “nearly a dozen” Republican senators whether they think the draft decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* threatens the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision recognizing the right to same-sex marriage, and whether they supported overturning the *Obergefell* decision. Metzger wrote: “None gave a clear yes or no answer, and several outright declined to comment.” A year ago, seventy percent of Americans supported gay marriage.

The popularity of civil rights might not matter much: law professors Melissa Murray and Leah Litman noted in the *Washington Post* that “[p]erhaps the most stunning feature of the opinion is that its indignant tone and aggressive reasoning make clear how empowered this conservative majority believes itself to be.”

Indeed, right-wing commentators are emboldened by the apparent success of their drive to take away the constitutional right to abortion. The Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice in the Louisiana legislature today reported favorably on a fetal personhood bill that protects “human life, created in the image of God...equally...from fertilization to natural death,” meaning that abortion is homicide and prosecutors can charge patients with murder.

Right-wing commentators today called for the court to end recognition of the right to gay marriage, and Texas governor Greg Abbott said that Texas might challenge the 1982 *Plyler v. Doe* decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the state could not withhold state funds to educate undocumented immigrant children from local school districts. “I think we will resurrect that case and challenge this issue again,” Abbott told a talk show host, “because the expenses are extraordinary and the times are different than when *Plyler versus Doe* was issued many decades ago.”

The draft decision has been a clarifying moment for the country. *Washington Post* columnist Jennifer Rubin told journalists to stop referring to the convulsions in the country today as “culture wars,” as if they were “a battle between two sides over hemlines or movie ratings.” Instead, she wrote, “This is religious tyranny...in which the right seeks to break through all restraints on government power in an effort to establish a society that aligns with a minority view of America as a White, Christian country.”

When reporters asked him about the draft, President Joe Biden said: “This MAGA crowd is really the most extreme political organization that’s existed in American history.”

Today documents from the Department of Justice revealed that on the evening of January 6th, after the rioters had left the Capitol, Stewart Rhodes, the leader of the right-wing Oath Keepers militia group, begged an individual who was in contact with then-president Trump to authorize his and similar groups to stop the transfer of power with force. The group had quick reaction force (QRF) teams, firearms, and combat gear stashed outside the city to use if called upon.

The individual refused to put Rhodes into direct contact with Trump, but the person appears to have been within the president’s inner circle, bringing the investigation closer to Trump. That night, court documents recorded, “Rhodes continued to discuss the need to prepare for a larger fight against the government akin to the American Revolutionary

War.” (There seem to be an awful lot of references to 1776 around January 6, don’t there?)

Yet another leaked tape from House minority leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), in which he said that “what the president did is atrocious and totally wrong,” showed that immediately after the insurrection, even Republicans realized that Trump had gone too far, and their hope was simply to move him offstage and get people to focus on moving forward. The party quickly snapped back to his side, though, when it became clear that his base wouldn’t abandon him.

”One of the most stunning and sad things in my view that has happened since January 6 has been the realization that the vast majority of...my party, when the chips were down and the time of testing came, they didn’t do the right thing,” Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY), one of the two Republicans to sit on the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol, said today.

The events of January 6 did not prompt many leading supporters to break from the Republican Party, but this attempt to erase our rights and establish a state religion might spark a political realignment.

This moment seems to echo the days after the 1857 Dred Scott v Sandford decision took away voters’ ability to stop the spread of human enslavement. Like the draft decision we have seen this week, that decision was clearly political and drew on appallingly bad history to reach a conclusion that gave extraordinary power to the country’s wealthiest men. Horace Greeley, the prominent editor of the *New York Daily Tribune*, wrote that the Dred Scott decision was “entitled to just so much moral weight as would be the judgment of a majority of those congregated in any Washington bar-room.”

Three months later, the Illinois Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln for senator. With his acceptance speech, he began the process of reclaiming equality as the central principle of the United States by giving his famous House Divided speech in which he warned that there was a plan afoot to spread enslavement across the entire country.

In the present, not only are the streets full of protesters, but also the three Republican governors in New England—Charlie Baker (MA), Chris Sununu (NH), and Phil Scott (VT)—have all said they will protect abortion rights in their states. Levi Strauss & Company, the clothing manufacturer, today called on business leaders to protect the

health and well-being of their employees, defending the reproductive rights that have enabled women to participate more fully in the economy in the past 50 years.

The world has changed since the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Levi Strauss noted that today, 58% of its workforce is female. And as Rebecca Solnit pointed out in *The Guardian*, the various groups now under attack form a broad coalition. “It doesn’t really matter if they’re coming for you, because they’re coming for us,” she wrote. And “[u]s these days means pretty much everyone who’s not a straight white Christian man with rightwing politics.”

Justice Samuel Alito, the author of the draft opinion, has canceled a public appearance tomorrow. And tonight, according to Washington, D.C., journalist Lindsay Watts, security officials have begun to install non-scalable fencing around the Supreme Court.

Notes:

<https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1259299>

 **Mark Joseph Stern**
@mjs_DC

Here is Louisiana’s new fetal personhood bill—which House Republicans just voted out of committee 7–2—making abortion a crime of homicide “from the moment of fertilization” and allowing prosecutors to charge patients with murder.

May 5th 2022

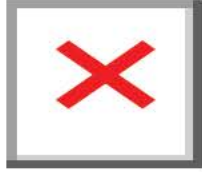
2,771 Retweets 3,724 Likes

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/05/04/justice-alito-leaked-supreme-court-abortion-ruling-way-beyond-roe/>



ك **Lindsay Watts**
@LindsayAWatts

Tall, non-scalable fencing about to go up around Supreme Court. Crews are starting on the back end. There are just a few protesters in front of the court right now. [@fox5dc](#)



May 5th 2022

112 Retweets 132 Likes

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2022/05/04/gov-greg-abbott-supreme-court-case-requiring-education-undocumented-children/9652463002/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/04/us/roe-v-wade-supreme-court-abortion#in-new-england-republican-governors-vow-to-support-abortion-rights>

ك **Eli Stokols**
@EliStokols

BIDEN: "The bottom line is the deficit went up every year under my predecessor before the pandemic and during the pandemic and it's gone

down both years since I've been here. Period.”

May 4th 2022

6,454 Retweets **26,697** Likes

<https://www.businessinsider.com/republican-senators-scotus-same-sex-marriage-abortion-obergefell-2022-5>



Robert Costa
@costareports

"One of the most stunning and sad things in my view that has happened since Jan. 6 has been the realization that the vast majority of... my party, when the chips were down and the time of testing came, they didn't do the right thing." @Liz Cheney tonight, per @cristina corujo

May 5th 2022

566 Retweets **2,676** Likes

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/05/04/culture-wars-diminishes-danger/>

<https://www.axios.com/2022/05/04/biden-maga-crowd-extreme>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/press-release/file/1499056/download>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/04/trump-oath-keepers-capitol-attack>

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/04/politics/mccarthy-audio-25th-amendment-biden/index.html>

<https://www.levistrauss.com/2022/05/04/protecting-reproductive-rights-a-business-imperative/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/03/heres-how-americans-can->

[fight-back-to-protect-abortion-rights](#)

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From: Mike A en
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Axios PM: Sky-high record
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: May 4, 2022 4:37 PM (UTC-04:00)



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P R E S E N T E D B Y A M A Z O N



By Mike A en · May 04, 2022

Good Wednesday. Today's PM — edited by Justin Green — is 473 words, a 2-minute read.

Situational awareness: Atmospheric CO2 levels averaged 420 parts per million in April for the first time since observations began in 1958, [Axios Generate co-author Andrew Freedman reports](#).

- **Why it matters:** Studies show current levels are higher than any time in [as long as 4.5 million years](#).

1 big thing: Fed activation

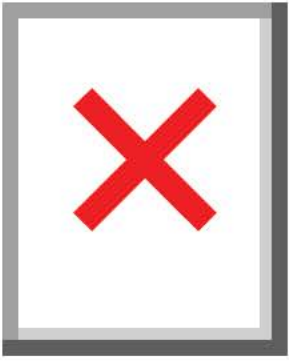


Photo: Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

The Fed enacted its steepest interest rate increase since May 2000 today, with monetary tightening on the way, *Axios chief economics reporter Neil Irwin reports*.

- **But the S&P 500 had its best day in two years**, the N.Y. Times [reports](#), a sign of how much doom and gloom was baked in before the meeting.

□ **Chair Jerome Powell** said, "Inflation is much too high and we understand the hardship it is causing," adding that the Fed is moving "expeditiously" to bring it down.

- **The Fed will shrink its holdings** of securities acquired under its quantitative easing program by up to \$47.5 billion per month through August and \$95 billion after that by not replacing bonds that mature.

Between the lines: Financial markets are pricing in multiple half-point rate increases this year, resulting in the interest rate target reaching around 2.8% by the end of 2022.

- **Wall Street's sigh of relief:** Steeper rate increases, such as a 0.75 percentage point rise, are not currently on the table, Powell said.



2. Legislators to watch

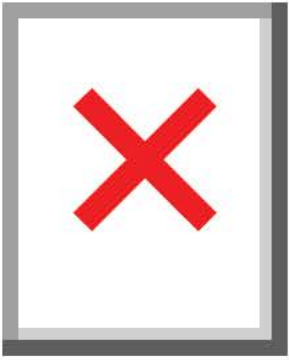


Photo Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

If the Supreme Court does overturn Roe v. Wade and send decisions on abortion rights back to the states, it would usher in a new era of power, influence and visibility for statewide politicians across the country.

Axios Local identified four Democratic women legislators as people to watch:

1. **Jen Jordan**, Georgia state representative and attorney general candidate.
2. **Mallory McMorrow**, Michigan state senator.
3. **Louise Lucas**, Virginia Senate president pro tempore
4. **Nikki Fried**, Florida agriculture commissioner and gubernatorial candidate.

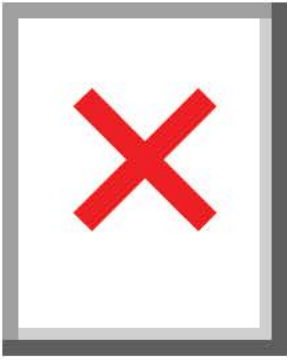
Go deeper.

- Sign up for Axios Local, now publishing daily newsletters in 16 cities across the U.S., with nine more coming later this year.



A M E S S A G E F R O M A M A Z O N

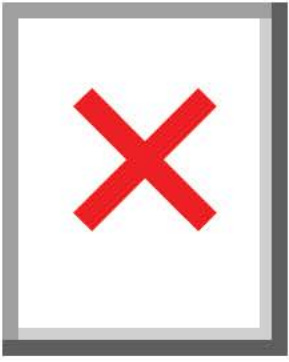
Amazon supports new parents easing back to work on their own terms



Amazon's Ramp Back program helps new-parent employees through the challenge of returning to work. It provides parents with flexible and part-time options to fit their schedule.

The takeaway: "It was really nice to come back and only work 20 hours a week," said hourly employee Elizabeth.

3. Biden blasts MAGA



President Biden speaks on the economy today. Photo: A ex Wong/Getty Images

President Biden called MAGA followers "the most extreme political organization that's existed in American history," *Axios' Herb Scribner reports*.

- "This is about a lot more than abortion," Biden said before asking what "the next things that are going to be attacked" might be.
- "What happens if you have states change the law saying that children who are LGBTQ can't be in classrooms with other children? Is that legit under the way the decision is written?"

[See the video.](#)

Secretary of State Tony Blinken tested positive for COVID – with mild symptoms – and will reschedule a speech tomorrow on the Biden administration's China policy. He is not considered a close contact with Biden, per the State Department.



4. Parting shot

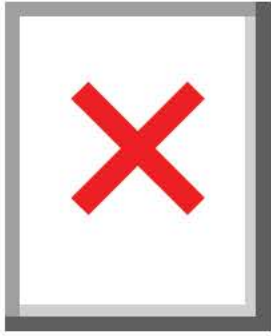
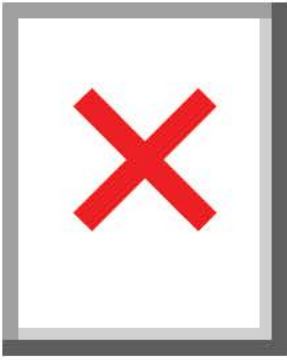


Photo: Evelyn Hockstein/Reuters

THE MESSAGE FROM AMAZON The Supreme Court is reflected on the sunglasses of Hannah Fuller, 25, during a protest yesterday on the Supreme Court's Alito draft leak.

Only 23% of working Americans have access to paid parental leave



The bigger problem is that number is even worse for hourly and low-income workers. Since 2015, Amazon has offered hourly employees up to 20 weeks of fully paid leave.

“For us, 20 weeks was very comforting,” said Brisa, an Amazon employee and new parent.



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Sent: May 4, 2022 7:36 AM (UTC-04:00)



The Early Edition



Wednesday, May 4, 2022



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RUSSIA, UKRAINE - FIGHTING

At least three Russian missiles hit electrical substations around the western Ukrainian city of Lviv close to the Polish border yesterday. Parts of the city are without power and water in the wake of what was thought to be an attack on Ukraine's rail network. These were the first Russian missile strikes in western Ukraine in more than a week. Joe Inwood reports for [BBC News](#).

Russia said today that it had fired two Kalibr cruise missiles at Ukrainian targets from a submarine in the Black Sea, and reiterated a warning that it would seek to hit shipments of NATO weapons to Ukraine. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told a conference of defense ministry officials that Russia would seek to destroy convoys of arms shipments to Ukraine from Western countries, which in recent weeks have stepped up these supplies. "We view any transport of the North Atlantic Alliance arriving on the territory of the country with weapons or materials destined to the Ukrainian army as a target to be destroyed," he said. [Reuters](#) reports.

A Russian attack appeared to target a coke plant in Avdiivk, in the eastern region of Donetsk yesterday killing at least 10 people and injuring 15 others, a local leader has said. Metinvest — the country's largest steel firm — confirmed the attack and said Russian troops fired on a busload of its workers just after their shift ended. Metinvest also owns the embattled steel plant in Mariupol. Reis Thebault and Rachel Pannett report for the [Washington Post](#).

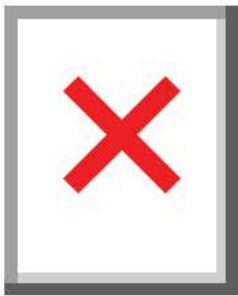
The bodies of 290 civilians have been recovered in the town of Irpin, outside of Kyiv, since the withdrawal of Russian forces, Irpin Mayor Oleksandr Markushin said yesterday. In a statement on Facebook, Markushin said 185 of the dead have been identified, the majority of whom were men. The cause of death was "shrapnel and gunshot wounds." Katharina Krebs reports for [CNN](#).

Belarus, a close Russian ally and Ukraine's neighbour to its north, has started large-scale military drills - a potential cause for alarm in Ukraine. The Belarusian defense ministry said the drills involved testing its army vehicles for combat readiness, but added that the exercise didn't pose a threat to neighbours. [BBC News](#) reports.

Moldova sees no imminent threat of unrest spilling over from the war in Ukraine despite “provocations” by pro-Russian separatists in recent days, President Maia Sandu has said. However, the country has been making contingency plans for “pessimistic scenarios” she added. Peter Graff and Alexander Tanas report for [Reuters](#).

The U.N. said yesterday that it has recorded the deaths of more than 3,000 Ukrainian civilians since the beginning of the Russian invasion, adding that the true figure is believed to be “considerably higher.” The number of deaths has jumped by more than 1,000 in less than a month, as the U.N.'s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported the killings of almost 2,000 civilians in the conflict as of mid-April. Lexi Lonas reports for [The Hill](#).

Russian forces have lost more lives in Ukraine than in four years in Chechnya, a Russian soldier said in an audio clip that Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) claims was an intercepted communication between the soldier and his friend. In the audio, the Russian soldier expressed discontent that the elite members of RosGvardia, Putin's National Guard, and OMON, the Special Police Force, have left Ukraine. Mitchell McCluskey reports for [CNN](#).



RUSSIA, UKRAINE - MARIUPOL

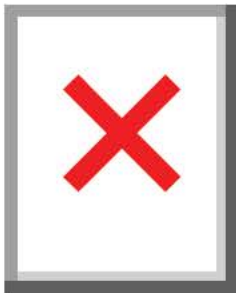
101 civilians were evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol yesterday, with many of them reaching Ukraine controlled

Zaporizhzhia, according to Osnat Lubrani, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine. A further 58 people joined the convoy in a town on the outskirts of Mariupol. Some evacuees decided not to proceed towards Zaporizhzhia with the convoy, Lubrani said. Joseph Campell and Alessandra Prentice report for [Reuters](#).

Russian forces began storming the steel mill containing the last pocket of resistance in Mariupol yesterday, Ukrainian defenders have said. "We'll do everything that's possible to repel the assault, but we're calling for urgent measures to evacuate the civilians that remain inside the plant and to bring them out safely," Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, said in a Telegram post. He added that throughout the night, the plant was hit with naval artillery fire and airstrikes. Two civilian women were killed and 10 civilians wounded, he said. Cara Anna and Yesica Fisch report for [AP](#).

More than 500 wounded people are still inside the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, 200 of which are in critical condition, one of the remaining defendants inside the plant has said. The defender, Mykhailo Vershynin, added that the health of the wounded was worsening due to a lack of medical assistance and unsanitary conditions. [BBC News](#) reports.

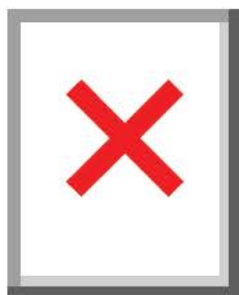
Russian forces have deported almost 40,000 people from Mariupol to Russia or the breakaway Donetsk People's Republic, Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boichenko said during a briefing at the Ukraine-Ukrinform media center yesterday. Russian military "takes the local population to the outskirts of Russia, to the Far East, or to Siberia and there they use them for various jobs," Boichenko said, adding that Mariupol residents are issued a certificate of resettlement and are involved in "humiliating work." Katharina Krebs reports for [CNN](#).



The E.U. has proposed a ban on imports of Russian crude oil within six months and on refined oil products from the country by year-end, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday. The bloc is also set to impose sanctions on high-ranking Russian military officials involved in alleged war crimes and the siege of Mariupol. Further to this, the E.U.'s executive body is proposing to take Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, and two other Russian banks off the Swift financial-messaging system. There are also plans to ban three Russian state-owned broadcasters from the E.U.. Laurence Norman reports for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

Hungary and Slovakia will be able to continue buying Russian crude oil until the end of 2023 under existing contracts, an E.U. source has said, benefitting from exemptions from an oil embargo proposed by the European Commission. In a bid to convince reluctant countries not to veto the proposal, Brussels has proposed a longer period to implement the embargo for Hungary and Slovakia, the source said. Francesco Guarascio reports for [Reuters](#).

Europe will continue buying Russian oil via third countries once E.U. countries introduce an embargo, senior Russian MP Vladimir Dzhubarov has predicted. Dzhubarov told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency Europe's leaders "have gone a little crazy". "You will still buy it, only through third countries. Our oil is the same, only more expensive," he added. [BBC News](#) reports.



RUSSIA, UKRAINE - U.S. RESPONSE

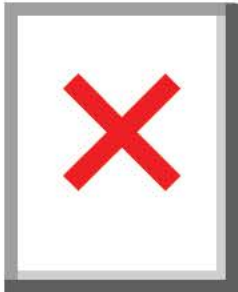
The CIA has published [instructions](#) for how Russians can covertly volunteer information using an encrypted conduit to the agency's website. The hope is to attract intelligence — and potentially gain more access to official Russian secrets — from disaffected people who have been trying to contact the CIA since the war began, officials said. Shane Harris report for the [Washington Post](#).

President Biden visited the Lockheed Martin Corp. plant in Troy, Ala., yesterday where the defense company is hunting for workers to assemble Javelin antitank missiles for Ukraine. Lockheed's search for workers highlights a challenge in America's response to supporting Ukraine and its allies: U.S. defense contractors want to boost weapons production, but finding workers for their arms factories isn't easy with unemployment levels at a 50-year low. Doug Cameron reports for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

Biden has asked Congress to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make it easier for highly educated Russians to obtain visas to work in the U.S., according to a section of the administration's Ukraine supplemental budget requested submitted to lawmakers last week. The request, if enacted, would allow Russians with a masters or doctoral degree in the fields of science, technology, engineering or math to apply for a visa without first obtaining an employer sponsor in the U.S.. Natasha Bertrande reports for [CNN](#).

Pentagon officials have praised Ukraine's use of weapons supplied by the U.S and its allies as European leaders signaled fresh support for the country amid continued Russian attacks. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a group of U.S. senators that several hundred Ukrainian troops have been pulled out of the country to be trained on how to use new weapons systems sent by Washington. Karoun Demirjian, Cate Cadell, Louisa Loveluck and Hannah Allam report for the [Washington Post](#).

Speaking to lawmakers at a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing yesterday Milley said that the world is witnessing "the greatest threat to peace and security of Europe and perhaps the world" in decades due to the invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. is "at a very critical and historic geo-strategic inflection point," where the U.S. military must "maintain readiness and modernize for the future" at the same time, he added. Ellie Kaufman reports for [CNN](#).

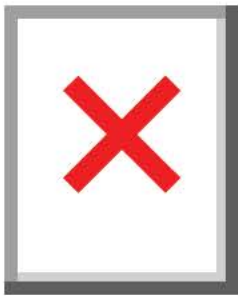


Russian President Vladimir Putin put the West on notice yesterday that he could terminate exports and deals, the Kremlin's toughest response yet to the sanctions burden imposed by the U.S. and its allies. Putin signed a broad decree yesterday which forbade the export of products and raw materials to people and entities on a sanctions list that he instructed the government to draw up within 10 days. Such a list would carry the ability to upend supply chains and business dealings as Putin pleases. Guy Faulconbridge reports for [Reuters](#).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged global companies to exit Russia, saying that entities that remain in the country are “directly supporting that war machine, the terrorist Russian Federation war machine.” Speaking via videolink at The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council Summit in London, Zelenskyy also said that the role of companies was as important as the role of countries. James Marson and Peter Sidel report for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

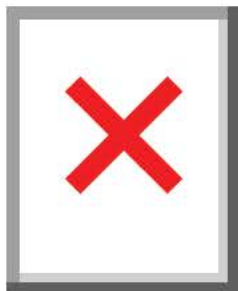
Admiral Sir Antony Radakin, chief of the British defense staff, yesterday criticised the Kremlin's military campaign in Ukraine as characterised by “shocking intelligence failures” and “arrogance.” Addressing the Wall Street Journal CEO Council summit in London, Radakin said “their decision making rarely improves, and their decision making gets worse. We have been surprised at the way Russia has gone about this.” Jon Henley reports for the [Guardian](#).

Pope Francis has asked for a meeting in Moscow with Putin to try and stop the war in Ukraine but has not received a reply. The pope also told Italy's Corriere Della Sera newspaper that Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church, who has given the war his full-throated backing, "cannot become Putin's altar boy." Philip Pulella and Francesca Piscioneri report for [Reuters](#).



On the day Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine, he called a meeting with a group of Russia’s wealthiest businessmen, telling them the invasion was a “necessary measure” and warning of the economic sanctions they would probably face. Yet despite their ties to Putin and standing within Russia, documents show that many of those who attended the meeting had been moving their wealth out of the country for years. Peter Whoriskey reports for the [Washington Post](#).

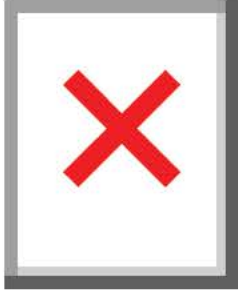
Four humanitarian corridors for civilians seeking to flee fighting are planned for today, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk has said in a [Telegram post](#). The routes will link towns in the south and east that are under Russian attack to Zaporizhzhia, a Ukrainian-held city. Andrew Jeong reports for the [Washington Post](#).



OTHER U.S. RELATIONS

CIA Director William Burns made an unannounced trip to Saudi Arabia last month to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, U.S. and Saudi officials have said. The visit, which took place in mid-April, was part of a push by the Biden administration to repair ties with a key Middle East security partner. Stephen Kalin, Summer Said, and Warren P. Strobel report for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

The U.S. State Department has now classified WNBA player Brittney Griner as wrongfully detained in Russia and her case is now being handled by the office of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA). The SPEHA office leads and coordinates the government’s diplomatic efforts aimed at securing the release of Americans wrongfully detained abroad. They played a major role in securing the release of Trevor Reed from Russia last week. Jennifer Hansler reports for [CNN](#).



OTHER GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Korea fired a ballistic missile off its east coast today, Tokyo and Seoul officials have said, a weapons launch that comes just days before a more hard-line South Korean president takes office. The missile was fired at 12:03 p.m. local time from the Sunan area, which is on the outskirts of Pyongyang and near the country's main international airport, South Korea's military said. Makoto Oniki, Japan's vice defense minister, called the behavior absolutely unacceptable, whilst South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launch was a grave threat that undermines peace. Timothy W. Martin reports for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

State-backed hackers from Russia and China are increasing their efforts to target critical infrastructure in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, according to the latest cyber threat [update](#) from Google. The hackers are "using the war (in Ukraine) as a lure in phishing and malware campaigns" as they attempt to target critical sectors including telecommunications, manufacturing and the oil and gas industry, the update said. Rebecca Klar, Chris Mills Rodrigo and Ines Kagubare report for [The Hill](#).



OTHER DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

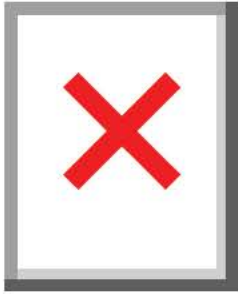
Former acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf intervened to delay the release of an intelligence report flagging Russian involvement in the 2020 election, while other DHS officials sought to “blunt” the focus on the country in the report, according to a new [report](#) from the DHS’s Office of Inspector General. The report, released yesterday, concluded that DHS’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) wrongly let politics interfere with the dissemination of the report, which documented a Russian disinformation campaign surrounding President Biden’s mental acuity. Rebecca Beitsch reports for [The Hill](#).

The Supreme Court yesterday confirmed that a leaked draft ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was authentic but not final, even as the disclosure triggered political upheaval with potentially broad electoral and legal consequences. Protesters gathered outside the court, chanting loudly enough for members of Congress to hear at the Capitol across the street. Democrats led by President Biden vowed to make abortion rights a defining issue of the fall midterm elections. Republicans accused liberals of orchestrating the leak to intimidate the court while Chief Justice John Roberts ordered an investigation. Peter Baker reports for the [New York Times](#).

The U.N. secretary-general believes that women’s rights are “fundamental” to pursuing gender equality, according to a spokesperson speaking about the U.N. chief’s response to the possible overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, refused to “speculate what will happen” with regard to the overturning of the landmark Supreme Court case. He did, however, say that the U.N. chief believes that sexual and reproductive health and rights are “foundational” to women’s equality and empowerment. Monique Beals reports for [The Hill](#).

Republican lawmakers in both chambers have introduced legislation to block the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from

rolling out its new Disinformation Governance Board. The board was designed to coordinate DHS's disinformation efforts on topics as varied as migration, natural disasters and plots by foreign actors while offering oversight to ensure civil liberties and free speech are protected. However, since its rollout last week, Republicans have criticised the board as a way to police speech. Rebecca Beitsch reports for [The Hill](#).



COVID-19

COVID-19 has infected over 81.51 million people and has now killed over 994,748 people in the United States, according to [data](#) compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Globally, there have been over 514.949 million confirmed coronavirus cases and over 6.24 million deaths. Sergio Hernandez, Sean O'Key, Amanda Watts, Byron Manley and Henrik Pettersson report for [CNN](#).

A map and analysis of the vaccine roll out across the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

A map and analysis of all confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

U.S. and worldwide maps tracking the spread of the pandemic are available at the [Washington Post](#).

A state-by-state guide to lockdown measures and reopenings is provided by the [New York Times](#).



ICYMI: Yesterday on *Just Security*

[The Beginning of the End for Criminal Defamation in the Americas? The El Universo Case](#)
by Justice Manuel José Cepeda Espinosa and Dario Milo

[The Prohibition on Indiscriminate Attacks: The US Position vs. the DoD Law of War Manual](#)
by Brian Finucane

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From: Heather Cox Richardson from Letters from an American
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 3, 2022
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: May 4, 2022 3:13 AM (UTC-04:00)

May 3, 2022

Heather Cox Richardson May 4

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan’s team made a conscious effort to bring evangelicals and social conservatives into the voting base of the Republican Party. The Republicans’ tax cuts and deregulation had not created the prosperity party leaders had promised, and they were keenly aware that their policies might well not survive the upcoming 1986 midterm elections. To find new voters, they turned to religious groups that had previously shunned politics.

“Traditional Republican business groups can provide the resources,” political operative Grover Norquist explained, “but these groups can provide the votes.” To keep that base riled up, the Republican Party swung behind efforts to take away women’s constitutional right to abortion, which the Supreme Court had recognized by a vote of 7 2 in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and then reaffirmed in 1992 in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

Although even as recently as last week, only about 28% of Americans wanted *Roe v. Wade* overturned, Republicans continued to promise their base that they would see that decision destroyed. Indeed, the recognition that evangelical voters would turn out to win a Supreme Court seat might have been one of the reasons then Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell refused to hold hearings for then-president Barack Obama’s nominee for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland. Leaving that seat empty was a tangible prize to turn those voters out behind Donald Trump, whose personal history of divorces and sexual assault was not necessarily attractive to evangelicals, in 2016.

But, politically, the Republicans could not actually do what they promised: not only is *Roe v. Wade* popular, but also it recognizes a constitutional right that Americans have assumed for almost 50 years. The Supreme Court has never taken away a constitutional right, and politicians rightly feared what would happen if they attacked that fundamental right.

Last night, a leaked draft of a Supreme Court decision, written by Justice Samuel Alito,

revealed that the court likely intends to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, taking away a woman's constitutional right to reproductive choice. In the decision, Alito declared that what Americans want doesn't matter: "We cannot allow our decisions to be affected by any extraneous influences such as concern about the public's reaction to our work," he wrote.

The dog has caught the car.

Democrats are outraged; so are the many Republican voters who dismissed Democratic alarms about the antiabortion justices Trump was putting on the court because they believed Republican assurances that the Supreme Court justices nominated by Republican presidents and confirmed with Republican votes would honor precedent and leave *Roe v. Wade* alone. Today, clips of nomination hearings circulated in which Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas, and even Samuel Alito — the presumed majority in favor of overturning *Roe v. Wade* — assured the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that they considered *Roe v. Wade* and the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision upholding *Roe* settled law and had no agenda to challenge them.

Those statements were made under oath by those seeking confirmation to our highest judicial body, and they now appear to have been misleading, at best. In addition, the decision itself is full of right-wing talking points and such poor history that historians have spent the day explaining the actual history of abortion in the United States. This sloppiness suggests that the decision — should it be handed down in its current state — is politically motivated. And in a Pew poll conducted in February, 84% of Americans said they believed that justices should not bring their political views into their decision making.

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) provided key votes for Trump's nominees and are now on the defensive. Collins publicly defended her votes for both Gorsuch and Kavanaugh around the time of their confirmation, saying she did not believe they would overturn *Roe*. She noted that Gorsuch was a co-author of "a whole book" on the importance of precedent, and that she had "full confidence" that Kavanaugh would not try to overturn *Roe*. Murkowski voted to confirm Gorsuch and Barrett.

Collins today said: "If this leaked draft opinion is the final decision and this reporting is accurate, it would be completely inconsistent with what Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh said in their hearings and in our meetings in my office." Like Collins, Murkowski noted that the final decision could change, but "if it goes in the direction that

this leaked copy has indicated, I will just tell you that it rocks my confidence in the court right now.” The draft is not going in “the direction that I believed that the court would take based on statements that have been made about Roe being settled and being precedent.”

Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin suggested that the Senate Judiciary Committee should hold hearings on whether the justices lied in their confirmation hearings, and call Senators Collins and Murkowski as witnesses.

This apparent shift from what they had promised is a searing blow at the legitimacy of the Supreme Court, which was already staggering under the reality that three of the current justices were nominated by Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote and then tried to destroy our democracy; two were nominated by George W. Bush, who also lost the popular vote in his first term; and one other is married to someone who supported the January 6 insurrection and yet refused to recuse himself from at least one case in which she might be implicated.

Today, Republicans tried to turn this story into one about the leak of the draft document, which is indeed a rare occurrence (although not unprecedented), rather than the decision itself. Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) blamed the leaker for attacking the legitimacy of the court, although McConnell’s refusal in 2016 to hold hearings for Obama’s Supreme Court nominee on the grounds that eight months was too close to an election to confirm a justice before shoving Barrett through in October 2020 when balloting was already underway arguably did more to undermine the court’s legitimacy. Echoing him, one commentator said the draft leak was worse than the January 6 insurrection.

But while McConnell and the right wing are implying that a liberal justice’s office leaked the draft, there is no evidence either way. Observers note, in fact, that the leak would help the right wing more than the dissenters, since it would likely lock in votes. Those trying to blame the liberal justices did not comment on an apparent leak from Chief Justice Roberts’s office that suggested he wanted a more moderate decision. Jennifer Rubin suggested calling the bluff of those blaming the liberal justices: she proposed agreeing that whichever office leaked the draft ought to recuse from the final decision.

Republican politicians have largely stayed silent on the draft decision itself today, but the reaction of Nevada Republican Adam Laxalt, who is running for Senate, suggested

the pretzel Republican politicians are going to tie themselves into in order to play to the base without alienating the majority. Laxalt issued a statement on Twitter that said the leaked draft represented a “historic victory for the sanctity of life,” but also said that since abortion is legal in Nevada, “no matter the Court’s ultimate decision on Roe, it is currently settled law in our state.”

Democrats, though, are not only defending the constitutional right recognized by Roe v. Wade, but also calling attention to the draft’s statement that the Fourteenth Amendment under which the Supreme Court has protected civil rights since the 1950s can cover only rights that are “deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition.”

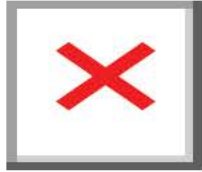
It seems likely that the right-wing justices, who are demonstrating their radicalism by overturning a 50-year precedent, are prepared to undermine a wide range of constitutional rights on the grounds however inaccurate that those rights are not deeply rooted in the justices’ own version of this nation’s history and tradition.

Protesters turned out in front of the Supreme Court and across the country today vowing that women will not go backward. As actress Ashley Nicole Black tweeted: “There s a particular slap to the face of being told we can vote for abortion rights, by the court that gutted voting rights.”

Notes:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/03/most-americans-say-supreme-court-should-uphold-roe-post-abc-poll-finds/>





May 4th 2022

2,087 Retweets **6,812** Likes



Jennifer 'I stand with Ukraine' Rubin
@JRubinBlogger

Senate judiciary needs to hold hearings on whether justices lied. Call Collins and Murkowski as witnesses

May 3rd 2022

3,709 Retweets **17,407** Likes

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/02/02/publics-views-of-supreme-court-turned-more-negative-before-news-of-breyers-retirement/>

Acyn
@Acyn

Collins in 2018: I had a very long discussion with Justice Gorsuch and he pointed out to me that he is a coauthor of a whole book on precedent



May 3rd 2022

353 Retweets 976 Likes

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/05/the-scotus-leak-is-good-actually.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/03/murkowski-collins-roe-abortion-opinion/>

Manu Raju
@mkraju

Sen. Warren on the fact that the draft opinion was leaked.

“Really? You think the whole issue is about a leak?” she told me. “This is about five extremist justices ... at least two of them swore up and down

that they cared about the rule of law and Roe v Wade is settled law.”

May 3rd 2022

11,014 Retweets 74,163 Likes

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/12/03/supreme-court-conservatives-lied/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/05/03/originalists-misreading-constitution-silence-abortion/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-03/mcconnell-calls-leaked-abortion-draft-decision-stunning-breach>

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/02/supreme-court-abortion-draft-opinion-00029473>

👤 **Maggie Haberman**
@maggieNYT

This is a bonkers night. A leak of the draft opinion and then a leak about the likely dissent.

Mike Valerio @ValerioCNN

□ (CNN) — Roberts does NOT want to completely overturn Roe v Wade, meaning he apparently would be dissenting from Alito's draft opinion, likely w the court's 3 liberals, sources tell CNN.

Roberts is willing, however, to uphold MS law banning abortion at 15 weeks, CNN learned.

May 3rd 2022

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<https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2022/05/04/1096525936/see-protests-grow-across-the-country-as-the-supreme-court-deals-with-roe-v-wade>

 **Ashley Nicole Black**
@ashleyn1cole

There's a particular slap to the face of being told we can vote for abortion rights, by the court that gutted voting rights.

May 3rd 2022

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From: DOJ Digests
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
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Sent: May 3, 2022 6:50 AM (UTC-04:00)

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
May 3, 2022
7:00 AM EST**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: MAY 3, 2022

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 10:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: An Ethical Judiciary: Transparency and Accountability for 21st Century Courts.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

The Hill: **Lawmakers press DOJ on alleged abuses with Equitable Sharing Program**, Mychael Schnell, May 2, 2022, 4:46 PM

A bipartisan pair of lawmakers is pressing the Department of Justice (DOJ) for information on efforts to combat alleged abuses connected to the Equitable Sharing Program, which allows state and local law enforcement agencies to work with federal agencies and receive proceeds from forfeited property. In the letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland first reported by The Hill, Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) and Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) said they are worried that some law enforcement may be seizing assets from people who are not convicted or who

are not actually facing criminal charges. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

HuffPost: Senator Brian Schatz Presses Merrick Garland On Clemency For Leonard Peltier, Jennifer Bendery, May 2, 2022, 1:38 PM

The U.S. attorney general had a pretty weak response. But it sure sounds like he's reading HuffPost's coverage of the case. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Tuesday unexpectedly pressed Attorney General Merrick Garland on clemency for Leonard Peltier, the Native American rights activist who has been in prison for 46 years without any evidence that he committed a crime. "What is your position on clemency for Leonard Peltier?" Schatz asked Garland, who was testifying before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee about President Joe Biden's 2023 budget request for the Justice Department. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

National Law Journal: The Present and Future of White-Collar Prosecutions in a Post-COVID-19 World, G. Zachary Terwilliger, May 2, 2022, 10:40 AM

Consider another paradox of the post-COVID world: The pandemic that initially disrupted federal prosecution of corporations has now heightened potential exposure in a number of areas. This is especially the case for those organizations that took advantage of government aid or today struggle to navigate snarled global supply chains. [...] Here, shortly after Attorney General Merrick Garland took office in 2021, the Justice Department warned that anyone using the global pandemic to "scam and steal from hardworking Americans" would be found and prosecuted. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Tampa Bay Times: Department of Justice investigates Tampa police's crime-free housing program, Christopher O'Donnell, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating a controversial Tampa Police Department program in which officers alerted landlords when their tenants were arrested and urged they be evicted. The Justice Department informed the city of the investigation in a letter sent Dec. 21 to Tampa Mayor Jane Castor. The investigation is focused on whether the Crime-Free Multi Housing program violated the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race and other protected categories. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

DOJ AWARDS

KNBN-NBC (Rapid City, SD): 2022 Crime Victims' Service Award honors local recipient, Melissa Cline, May 2, 2022, 3:30 PM

Linda Stambaugh, from Newell, S.D. was honored with the Volunteer for Victims Award from the Office for Victims of Crime. In a press Release from the United States Department of Justice, Stambaugh, a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), is being recognized for her extraordinary and selfless efforts in the lives of crime victims. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

DOJ GRANTS

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): Grant helps in the purchase of body cams for Onslow County deputies, Dave Jordan, May 2, 2022, 8:14 PM

Another law enforcement agency in the east will soon be getting body cameras that they say will help with transparency. The Onslow County Sheriff's Office was awarded a more than \$129,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice for their body-worn camera policy and implementation program to be spread over three years. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WVIT-NBC (New Britain, CT): \$26 Million Federal Grant Aims to Combat Hate Crimes in the State, Jolie

Sherman, May 2, 2022, 8:00 PM

Lawmakers are acting after a Massachusetts-based neo-Nazi group started distributing hateful flyers around Connecticut. The flyer, created by the New England Nationalist Social Club, describes themselves as “a pro-white, street-oriented fraternity dedicated to raising authentic resistance to the enemies of our people in the New England area.” [...] The bill includes \$26 million in federal funding, and \$21 million is expected to go to the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service to assist communities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: Maine native guilty after Capitol riot, another arrested, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM

A Maine native has pleaded guilty to a second charge related to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Also Monday, the FBI arrested a Maine resident for charges stemming from the riot. The Maine native who pleaded guilty was former Minot resident Mitch Simon, who told a judge on April 29 that he used a metal bicycle rack outside the Capitol to push police officers who were trying to control the crowd. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: NYPD veteran convicted of assaulting officer in Capitol riot, Michael Kunzelman, May 2, 2022, 4:00 PM

A federal jury on Monday convicted a New York Police Department veteran of assaulting an officer during the U.S. Capitol riot, rejecting his claim that he was defending himself when he tackled the officer and grabbed his gas mask. Thomas Webster, a 20-year NYPD veteran, was the first Capitol riot defendant to be tried on an assault charge and the first to present a jury with a self-defense argument. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [Business Insider](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Daily Voice \(Westchester County, NY\)](#), [Forbes](#), [Insider](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#),

Reuters: Swiss scientist convicted of scheme to steal GSK trade secrets, Nate Raymond, May 2, 2022, 2:06 PM

A Swiss scientist has been convicted on charges that he conspired with his sister to steal trade secrets from the drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline to benefit biopharmaceutical companies they established, including one the Chinese government financed. A federal jury in Philadelphia on Friday found Gongda Xue, a former scientist at the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research in Switzerland, guilty of conspiracy, trade secrets theft and wire fraud charges, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

AP: Trump election probe special grand jury to be seated, Katie Brumback, May 2, 2022, 11:30 AM

Potential grand jurors are scheduled to arrive at the Fulton County courthouse in Atlanta on Monday for the seating of a special grand jury in the investigation into whether former President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to influence the 2020 election in Georgia. The investigation has been underway since early last year, and Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis earlier this year requested a special grand jury to help it along. In a letter to the chief judge of the county Superior Court, she noted that the special grand jury would be able to issue subpoenas to people who have refused to cooperate otherwise. The chief judge ordered the special grand jury to be seated for a period of up to a year, beginning Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [USA Today](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Want to contact the CIA from Russia? Agency points to darknet, Nomaan Merchant, May 2, 2022, 10:00 AM

The CIA says Russians disaffected by Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine may be trying to get in touch with U.S. intelligence and it wants them to go to the darknet. The agency on Monday began a new push to promote its presence on a part of the internet accessible only through specialized tools that provide more

anonymity. The CIA has a darknet site that has the same features as its regular homepage but accessible only through the Tor internet browser, which has encryption features not available on most regular browsers.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CBS](#)

WaPo: Slight majority say Trump should be charged with crime over Jan. 6 role, poll finds, Jacqueline Alemany and Scott Clement, May 3, 2022 6:00 AM

Sixteen months after the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol, a slight majority of Americans say former president Donald Trump should be charged with a crime for urging his supporters to march to the building on Jan. 6, 2021, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll. The poll finds 52 percent saying Trump should be charged and 42 percent saying he should not. Opinions are very similar to a Post-ABC poll taken one week after the attack, when 54 percent said Trump should be charged for inciting the attack and 43 percent opposed charges. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: 'Elephant in the room': Police grapple with charges against officers in Jan. 6 Capitol attack, Bart Jansen, May 3, 2022, 5:03 AM

Off-duty police officer Thomas Robertson confronted officers defending the Capitol Jan. 6 carrying a large wooden stick and he entered the historic building amid a mob of rioters. Robertson, 49, of Ferrum, Virginia, was convicted at trial this month of six charges, including felonies for obstructing Congress and interfering with law enforcement. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: U.S. Agencies Saw Risk of Violence Before Capitol Riot, GAO Says, Chris Strohm, May 2, 2022, 1:28 PM

At least 10 federal agencies were aware of the potential for criminal activity in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, including at least two that identified the U.S. Capitol as a target for an attack, according to a congressional report. The FBI, Homeland Security Department and U.S. Capitol Police -- among other agencies -- obtained and shared social media posts and other publicly available information prior to the Capitol riot, when a mob of supporters of former President Donald Trump launched a deadly attack to stop the election certification of Joe Biden, the Government Accountability Office said Monday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: The Trump 2024 puzzle is about to get some answers, Stephen Collinson, May 3, 2022, 4:00 AM

One of the most fateful questions in politics is about to start getting some answers. It revolves around this: How long will ex-President Donald Trump continue to exert his mystical magic over the Republican Party, spell doom in the hearts of Americans who fear his return to power and retain his hold on America's psyche? A series of Trump interventions in Republican primaries ahead of the midterm elections, and several investigations into Trump's attempt to steal the 2020 election will reach critical points during the next few weeks and months and could help shape the ex-President's path. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Feds tracked potential for election violence as far back as August 2020, Whitney Wild, May 2, 2022, 5:34 PM

Federal law enforcement tracked the potential for election-related violence as far back as August 2020, which is earlier than previously known, according to a government report released Monday. The Government Accountability Office said in its report that federal agencies had tracked the potential violence on social media and other websites. Furthermore, the agencies produced dozens of internal reports prior to the January 6, 2021, insurrection warning that protesters may seek to attack the US Capitol, use improvised weapons and potentially be armed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NBC: Former Marine who kicked officer on Jan. 6 sentenced to more than 2 years in prison, Ryan J. Reilly, May 2, 2022, 3:38 PM

A military veteran from Georgia who attacked police officers at the U.S. Capitol as part of a pro-Trump mob

trying to overturn the 2020 election results was sentenced to more than two years in federal prison Monday. Kevin Creek, 47, a former Marine, was sentenced to 27 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Dabney L. Friedrich for assaulting officers on Jan. 6. Creek was arrested in June and pleaded guilty in December, when he admitted to striking a Washington police officer in the hand, pushing a Capitol Police officer and kicking the same officer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), [WSAV-NBC/CW \(Savannah, GA\)](#), [WXIA-NBC \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Toquerville man sentenced for his role in Jan. 6 Capitol riot,

Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 6:54 PM

A Washington D.C. federal judge sentenced a Toquerville man Monday for his role in the Jan. 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol. Willard Jake Peart, of Toquerville, was previously charged with knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGME-CBS (Portland, ME): Jefferson man charged in connection with Jan. 6 riot at US Capitol,

Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM

Another Mainer has been charged as the FBI continues to round up suspects in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. The FBI says 35-year-old Joshua Colgan was arrested Monday. Colgan is facing numerous charges stemming from his alleged participation in the January 6 Capitol riots in 2021.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: Jan. 6 panel wants answers from GOP's Brooks, Biggs, Jackson, Farnoush Amiri and Mary Clare

Jalonick, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM

Three more House Republicans received requests Monday to voluntarily appear before the congressional committee investigating the U.S. Capitol insurrection and answer questions about their involvement in the effort to overturn Donald Trump's 2020 election loss. The committee sent letters to GOP Reps. Mo Brooks of Alabama, Andy Biggs of Arizona and Ronny Jackson of Texas — three members of the ultra-right House Freedom Caucus that have in recent years aligned themselves with Trump. Jackson quickly ruled out cooperating. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Business Insider](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Guardian](#), [KFDX-NBC \(Wichita Falls, TX\)](#), [KVII-ABC \(Amarillo, TX\)](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Newsweek](#), [MSNBC](#), [NPR](#), [NYT](#), [Político](#), [Reuters](#), [Roll Call](#), [UPI](#), [Vice](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

Bloomberg: GOP Loses Bid to Block Jan. 6 Committee's Demand for Email Data, Eric Larsson, May 2, 2022, 10:26 PM

A judge handed a victory to lawmakers probing the Jan. 6 insurrection by upholding a House subpoena for [Salesforce.com](#) Inc. data tied to the GOP's "inflammatory" mass-email campaign after the 2020 presidential election. The ruling late Sunday by U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly in Washington also held that the House select committee investigating the Capitol riot is valid despite Speaker Nancy Pelosi rejecting recommendations by Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy for Republican members to sit on the committee.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Man charged federally in fires in downtown Friday Harbor, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 7:30 PM

Authorities say they have filed a federal arson charge against a man accused of setting a fire that destroyed or damaged several businesses in downtown Friday Harbor, on San Juan Island, shortly before the summer

tourist season. The fire the night of April 6 seriously damaged or destroyed the Crystal Seas Kayaking building, a Windermere Real Estate office, and the building housing Crow's Nest Coffee and Herb's Tavern. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KING-NBC \(Seattle, WA\)](#)

AP: Alaska Nazi prison gang members convicted in grisly death, Mark Thiessen, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM
Five people affiliated with a Nazi prison gang, including one who legally changed his name to Filthy Fuhrer, have been convicted in the grisly death of a member whose gang tattoo was cut off his rib cage with a hot knife before he was shot and his body was burned, a federal jury in Alaska decided Monday. Fuhrer, 45, the gang leader who legally changed his name from Timothy Lobdell, and the others were convicted of murder, racketeering, kidnapping and assault charges. All face a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole on the murder charge when they are sentenced in federal court in Anchorage. Sentencing hearings are scheduled for October. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTUU-NBC \(Anchorage, AK\)](#)

AP: Man pleads guilty in crewmember killing on LA-bound ship, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 3:34 PM
A crewman who stabbed to death his supervisor on a container ship heading to Los Angeles pleaded guilty Monday to a federal charge that carries a potential life sentence, prosecutors said. Michael Dequito Monegro, 43, of the Philippines, entered a plea to committing an act of violence against someone aboard a ship that is likely to endanger the vessel's safe navigation, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He is scheduled to be sentenced in September. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CT Insider: Feds found 11,000 bags of fentanyl in Waterbury man's storage facility, Liz Hardaway, May 2, 2022, 10:00 PM
A Waterbury man faces up to 50 years in prison after police found 11,000 bags of fentanyl, 99 grams of heroin and firearms in his storage unit, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

My News LA: SoCal Man Pleads Guilty in \$6M Real Estate Scam, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 10:00 PM
A Southern California man who worked with his sister to operate a \$6 million real estate fraud scam in which homes were listed for sale without the owners' consent and would-be buyers were bilked out of money pleaded guilty Monday to a federal charge. Adolfo Schoneke, 44, of Torrance, entered his plea to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTTV-Fox \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

Valley News Group (Victorville, CA): Hesperia man charged in 16-year fraud scheme against his employer, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 7:00 PM
A 56-year-old Hesperia man has agreed to plead guilty to embezzling over \$1.2 million from his employer over a 16-year period, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Darrell Pike was charged and has agreed to plead guilty to one count of mail fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CT Insider: Feds: Man sentenced after theft ring stole \$4 million worth of cars, phones, ATMs from N.Y., CT, Liz Hardaway, May 2, 2022, 5:42 PM
A man was sentenced to more than four years in prison Monday for his role in a theft ring that stole more than \$4 million worth of cars, phones and ATMs in dozens of burglaries across Connecticut and New York, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Miami Herald: Passenger accused of opening plane door, assaulting attendant going to prison, feds say, Cassandre Coyer, May 2, 2022, 5:10 PM
A passenger accused of assaulting a flight attendant and attempting to open the cabin door during a United Airlines flight has been sentenced to prison, federal prosecutors said. Kameron C. Stone, from Fairfax, Virginia was sentenced to one year in prison on charges of "interfering with flight crew and assault by striking and

wounding in special aircraft jurisdiction,” according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Florida. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: Hudson County Man Sentenced to 22 Years for Distributing Drugs in Prison, Resulting in Inmate Overdose, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 4:32 PM

A Hudson County man was sentenced today to 22 years in prison for his role in trafficking heroin and fentanyl into a New Jersey state prison, resulting in the overdose of one of the inmates, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced. According to U.S. Attorney Sellinger, Noel Salgado, aka “Kuko,” 41, was previously convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin and fentanyl and distribution and possession with intent to distribute heroin and fentanyl, which resulted in serious bodily injury. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Blade (Toledo, OH): Michigan man sentenced to 22½ years for distributing images of child sexual abuse, Dana Nickel, May 2, 2022, 4:13 PM

A Michigan man, arrested in Toledo in 2020, recently was sentenced by a federal judge to 22½ years in prison for producing and distributing images of child sexual abuse involving a 6-month-old, the U.S. Justice Department announced Monday. John David Lewis, 28, of Allen Park, Mich., pleaded guilty to three child pornography charges after he was caught by undercover federal agents in June, 2020, the Justice Department said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Middletown Press: Feds: Hartford man sentenced to 27 years in prison for producing child sex abuse imagery, Liz Hardaway, May 2, 2022, 3:00 PM

A Hartford man will serve 27 years in prison after he distributed images of him sexually abusing a young girl, federal prosecutors said Monday. A federal judge in Bridgeport sentenced Ronald Daniel, 52, to 324 months in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release, according to Leonard Boyle, the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bakersfield Californian: Bakersfield man gets 5 years for federal weapons charge, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Bakersfield man was sentenced for a federal weapons charge Monday, according to a Department of Justice news release. Jesus B. Cordero, 26, of Bakersfield, was sentenced to five years and 10 months in prison for possession of ammunition after sustaining a domestic violence conviction. At approximately midnight on Sept. 5, 2020, law enforcement officers stopped Cordero for traffic infractions while he was driving in Bakersfield, according to court documents. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KERO-ABC \(Bakersfield, CA\)](#)

Hartford Courant: Bristol woman pleads guilty to ‘straw’ gun purchases, Edmund H. Mahony, May 2, 2022, 12:59 PM

A Bristol woman has pleaded guilty in federal court to breaking the law by buying guns that ended up in the possession of others, federal prosecutors said. Leah Boucher, 30, pleaded guilty to the charge of making a false statement to a firearms dealer in connection with one of the purchases. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WCSH-NBC (Portland, ME): Married couple facing federal indictment for fraud schemes, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 10:33 PM

A Presque Isle man was sentenced to 18 years in prison for conspiring to bring methamphetamine from Georgia to Aroostook County to sell. Robert Poliero, 58, was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court. Prosecutors said between July 2018 and May 2019, Poliero traveled to Georgia at least twice to buy methamphetamine and, on at least one occasion, brought the drugs back to Aroostook County to sell. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KURV-Fox (Edinburg, TX): **“Suicide Squad” Drug Smugglers Enter Guilty Pleas In McAllen Federal Court**, J Salinas, May 2, 2022, 9:25 PM

Federal prosecutors in McAllen have secured guilty pleas from two members of a drug smuggling trio that called itself the Suicide Squad. Both suspects had been caught last August trying to sneak large amounts of Mexican heroin and fentanyl past a Border Patrol checkpoint. In each case, a drug-sniffing dog detected the narcotics in the batteries of the suspect’s vehicles — drugs that would have sold on the street for more than \$1.6 million. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBOY-NBC/ABC (Clarksburg, WV): **Randolph County man admits to federal meth charge**, Aaron Williams, May 2, 2022, 6:59 PM

A Randolph County man has admitted to a federal drug charge, United States Attorney William Ihlenfeld announced. Richard Connally, 33 of Montrose, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of “Possession with Intent to Distribute at Least Fifty Grams of Methamphetamine.” Connally admitted to having more than 50 grams of methamphetamine in October 2019 in Randolph County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTTN (Trenton, MO): **Missouri man sentenced to 5 years in prison for unlawful possession of a firearm after domestic dispute**, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 6:19 PM

United States District Court Judge Matthew T. Schelp sentenced Marlin Tobius, Jr., to 65 months in federal prison. Tobius previously pleaded guilty to unlawfully possessing firearms, which police uncovered while responding to a domestic-violence incident. According to the plea agreement, on October 21, 2020, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department received a domestic disturbance call from a woman who reported that her boyfriend had pointed a gun at her and threatened to kill her. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): **2 West Seneca women arrested for allegedly selling Oxycodone**, Renee Ferrentino, May 2, 2022, 5:43 PM

The United States Attorney’s Office Western District of New York announced Monday that two women from West Seneca were arrested for allegedly selling Oxycodone. The U.S. Attorney’s Office said Renee Ferrentino, 48, and Kiara Hurd, 20, were arrested on criminal complaints of possession with the intent to distribute Oxycodone and conspiracy to distribute Oxycodone. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFXG-Fox (Augusta, GA): **Augusta man sentenced to 42 months for child sexual abuse material**, J. Bryan Randall, May 2, 2022, 5:30 PM

An Augusta man has been sentenced to 42 months in federal prison for possessing child sexual abuse material. Twenty-three-year-old Robert Paul Synenberg pleaded guilty in court and now faces 3 1/2 years behind bars. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall also ordered Synenberg to pay a \$1,000 fine, to register as a sex offender, and to serve twenty years of supervised release after completion of his prison term. There is no parole in the federal system. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRMG-AM (Tulsa, OK): **Ottawa County man sentenced for sexually abusing a child**, Dana Nickel, May 2, 2022, 5:17 PM

An Ottawa County man who contacted authorities to confess to sexually abusing a minor was sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison, according to U.S. Attorney Clint Johnson. Jeremy Brandon Lawhorn, 39, also received 10 years of supervised release for sexually abusing a minor in Indian Country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): **Fort Gordon soldier in training confesses to distributing child pornography**, Simone Gibson, May 2, 2022, 5:03 PM

A U.S. Army soldier in training at Fort Gordon awaits sentencing after confessing to distributing child pornography. Joshua Gamble, 29, of Fort Gordon, Georgia, pleaded guilty to the distribution of child

pornography, announced U.S. Attorney David H. Estes. "Our vigilant law enforcement partners continue to identify and intercept online predators who engage in online exploitation of children," said U.S. Attorney Estes. "We will be unrelenting in pursuing those who would victimize the most vulnerable among us." [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFXG-Fox \(Augusta, GA\)](#), [WRDW-CBS \(Augusta, GA\)](#)

WMAR-ABC (Baltimore, MD): Married couple facing federal indictment for fraud schemes, Rushaad Hayward, May 2, 2022, 5:00 PM

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging 39-year-old Andrews Oduro Brown and 43-year-old Charmaine Miesha Brown, for conspiracies to commit passport fraud and wire fraud, aggravated identity theft and making false statements in a bankruptcy proceeding. Oduro was a Ghanaian national who entered the United States in May 2013. He got married in January 2014 and in 2021 obtained permanent resident status through the marriage. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTBC-Fox (Austin, TX): San Antonio man sentenced for straw purchase scheme, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 4:59 PM

A San Antonio man was sentenced to 87 months in prison for aiding and abetting false statements in connection with firearm purchases. According to court documents, between March and June 2018, 43-year-old Charles Anthony Lecara, aka "Eric," "Bloodhound," conspired with others to purchase firearms by making false statements and representations to firearm dealers. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WOWK-CBS (Huntington, WV): Huntington man pleads guilty to possessing 499 fentanyl pills, Amanda Barber, May 2, 2022, 4:37 PM

A Huntington man pleaded guilty on Monday to possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. According to court statements and documents, Bobby James Mitchell, 41, intended to sell 499 pills containing about 54 grams of fentanyl. Mitchell admitted that police found the drugs during a December 11 traffic stop on Interstate 64 in Hurricane. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBNG-CBS/CW (Binghamton, NY): Vestal man pleads guilty to possession of child porn, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 4:32 PM

The United States Department of Justice announced Nicholas Donafrio, 42, of Vestal pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography Monday. The DOJ said Donafrio's sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 6, 2022. He is facing up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the charge. He is also facing a term of supervised release of between five years to life. Donafrio will also have to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison, the DOJ said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WNCN-CBS (Goldsboro, NC): Feds: 2 NC men get prison for roles in \$2M fake billing scheme, Joedy McCreary, May 2, 2022, 4:11 PM

Two North Carolina men will serve prison time for their role in a fake billing scheme that bilked a Raleigh roofing company out of nearly \$2 million. The U.S. Department of Justice said Robert Andrew Helms of Indian Trail and William Russell Davis on Monday were both sentenced to a year and a day in prison along with three years of supervised release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KGET-NBC (Bakersfield, CA): Bakersfield man pleads guilty to drug trafficking charges, Miabelle Salzano, May 2, 2022, 3:50 PM

A Bakersfield man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and fentanyl on Monday. David Delgado Gonzalez, 38, allegedly conspired with several people, including co-defendant and Arvin resident Omar Alberto Navarro, to bring methamphetamine from Mexico to California, unload it from "load cars," store it and sell and distribute it between September 2020 and March 2021, according to court documents. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KERO-ABC \(Bakersfield, CA\)](#)

WMBF-NBC (Myrtle Beach, SC): **Darlington man sentenced to 12 years for drug charges**, Braley Dodson, May 2, 2022, 3:46 PM

A Darlington man is set to spend more than 12 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to drug charges, according to an announcement Monday afternoon from the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina. Cory McNeal was arrested on April 17, 2020, by a Florence County deputy, who noticed a marijuana odor in McNeal's car, according to the announcement. A search of the car found a gun, a digital scale, .44 grams of cocaine, 3.36 grams of crack cocaine, 4.44 grams of marijuana, 10 grams of fentanyl, 21.61 grams of heroin, 97 tablets containing 23.25 grams of methamphetamine and another 5.04 grams of methamphetamine.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WMBF-NBC (Myrtle Beach, SC): **Florence man sentenced to 5+ years in federal prison on gun charge**, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 3:55 PM

A Florence County man was sentenced to over five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition as a convicted felon. According to court documents, on May 1, 2020, a deputy with the Florence County Sheriff's Office conducting a routine traffic stop noticed an odor of marijuana coming from the car. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOKI-Fox (Tulsa, OK): **Bixby man charged with making homemade bombs**, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 2:47 PM

A Bixby man was arrested and charged in federal court for making a homemade bomb, after an explosive that he allegedly built was found at a traffic stop. A news release from the Department of Justice said 24-year-old Joe Allen Forest is charged by Criminal Complaint for unlawful manufacture of a destructive device. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KJRH-NBC \(Tulsa, OK\)](#)

KGUN-ABC (Tucson, AZ): **Former insurance agent pleads guilty to defrauding a client of more than \$1 million**, Bivian Contreras, May 2, 2022, 2:39 PM

A former insurance agent pled guilty last week to defrauding an elderly annuity client of more than \$1,300,000. The 49-year-old, Koreasa M. Williams, was charged with two counts of wire fraud, each of which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for July 5, 2022, before United States District Judge Jennifer G. Zippis. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KVIA-ABC (El Paso, TX): **Las Cruces man pleads guilty to producing child pornography**, David Gonzalez, May 2, 2022, 1:50 PM

A 28-year-old man has pleaded guilty to production of child pornography. According to federal investigators, on May 7, 2021, Sean Patrick Fosler recorded a video of an eight-year-old child engaged in sexually explicit conduct. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTEN-ABC (Albany, NY): **Modena man sentenced to 10+ years for child porn**, Harrison Gereau, May 2, 2022, 1:30 PM

Anthony Hadden, 29, of Modena, was sentenced on April 29 to over ten years in prison for possessing, distributing, receiving, and transporting child pornography. As part of his guilty plea, Hadden admitted that between December 14, 2017, and January 9, 2018, he distributed and received images and videos of child pornography through a group messaging app on his phone. His phone also had several files on it showing child pornography. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Judge lets Tulsa Race Massacre reparations lawsuit proceed, Ken Miller, May 2, 2022, 8:04 PM
An Oklahoma judge ruled Monday that a lawsuit seeking reparations for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre can proceed, bringing new hope for some measure of justice for three survivors of the deadly racist rampage who are now over 100 years old and were in the courtroom for the decision. Tulsa County District Court Judge Caroline Wall ruled against a motion to dismiss the suit filed by civil rights attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons in 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: California couple gets federal prison in forced labor case, Don Thompson, May 2, 2022, 5:51 PM
A Northern California couple was sentenced Monday to several years each in federal prison for conspiring to force a Guatemalan relative and her two daughters to perform long hours of physically demanding work every day of the week for little or no pay. Nery Martinez Vasquez was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison and Maura Martinez to three years in prison after pleading guilty in August. They were each fined \$25,000 and ordered to pay \$300,000 in restitution. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Sacramento Bee](#)

AP: Report calls out abuse of social media by Minneapolis police, Steve Karnowski, May 2, 2022, 12:00 PM

Among the scathing findings of an investigation launched after the police killing of George Floyd is that Minneapolis police used covert or bogus social media accounts to monitor Black individuals and groups despite having no clear public safety rationale for doing so. The report released Wednesday by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights echoes numerous past revelations that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have sometimes illegally secretly surveilled prominent people and communities of color even though they weren't involved in any criminal activity. Overall, the two-year investigation found that the Minneapolis Police Department engaged in a pattern of race discrimination for at least a decade, including stopping and arresting Black people at a higher rate than white people, more frequent use of force on people of color and a department culture that tolerated racist language. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Abortion Rights to Reshape Election With Roe Precedent at Risk, Steven T. Dennis and Mike Dorning, May 2, 2022, 12:24 PM

Abortion rights suddenly emerged as an issue that could reshape the battle between Democrats and Republicans for control of Congress, following a report that conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court were poised to strike down the half-century-old Roe v. Wade precedent. Politico reported Monday night that it had obtained the initial draft majority opinion, signed by Justice Samuel Alito, that overturns the landmark 1973 Roe ruling that made the choice to seek an abortion a constitutional right for women nationwide. Such a decision would hand Republicans a long-sought victory yet could galvanize Democrats who've been bracing for the prospect of losing their House and Senate majorities this November. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Trucker Convoy Members Sue D.C. Alleging First Amendment Rights Violated, Patricia McKnight, May 2, 2022, 8:20 PM

Truckers who sought to travel to Washington, D.C., to protest COVID-19 mask mandates and vaccine requirements are suing the city, claiming police violated their First Amendment rights by blocking their entry into the city. A trucker group called the People's Conoy set out in March to drive to the nation's capital, clogging D.C. streets to protest government COVID-19 mandates they believe were unconstitutional. However, district police set up blockades to divert the convoy from downtown D.C. Sixteen people who took part in the trucker protest are suing the city for stopping them from gathering downtown. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

MSNBC: DOJ just took biggest step yet to counter GOP's anti-trans agenda, Ja'han Jones, May 2, 2022, 2:32 PM

The Department of Justice filed a lawsuit Friday seeking to block an Alabama law that prohibits gender-

affirming care for transgender children. “All people, including transgender youth, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect,” the DOJ said in its complaint. “And the Fourteenth Amendment demands that Alabama not ‘deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.’” [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Reuters: Amazon unit to pay \$5.8 mln for insulin overbilling, Brendan Pierson, May 2, 2022, 5:51 PM
[Amazon.com](#) Inc's online pharmacy subsidiary PillPack has agreed to pay \$5.79 million to the federal government, 30 states and the District of Columbia to resolve claims that it overcharged government health insurance programs by dispensing more insulin injector pens than patients needed. Under the civil settlement, announced by federal prosecutors on Monday, PillPack LLC admitted that it had dispensed and billed for more insulin pens than patients should have received. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Trump election probe special grand jury selected in Atlanta, Kate Brumback, May 2, 2022, 1:00 PM
A special grand jury was selected Monday for the investigation into whether former President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to influence the 2020 election in Georgia. The investigation has been underway since early last year, and Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis took this unusual step of requesting the special grand jury to help it along. She noted in a letter to the chief judge that the special grand jury would be able to issue subpoenas to people who have refused to cooperate otherwise. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#)

WaPo: U.S. judge upholds legality of charging D.C. gun cases in federal court, Spencer S. Hsu, May 2, 2022, 7:23 PM

A federal judge on Monday upheld the legality of a Trump-era policy of charging certain gun crimes in federal court, saying it did not violate the District's Home Rule Act or the authority of D.C. Superior Court. Two District men convicted under the “felon-in-possession” initiative had challenged the policy, which was announced in 2019, arguing that federal prosecutors had usurped D.C. authorities' power to enforce similar local laws by “categorically” prosecuting certain charges federally. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Delaware Business Now: Sparrow Run landlords agree to \$430,000 settlement over claim of inflated rent for subsidized housing, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 12:00 PM

Goodfish Enterprises, LLC; Reliant Property Management Company; and Christopher Lukacs have agreed to pay \$430,000 to resolve allegations during their participation in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), commonly known as “Section 8.” the settlement came with no admission of liability. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Scores wait in Florida heat for days outside ICE facility, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 2:00 PM
Scores of recently arrived migrants on Monday waited for an appointment with federal immigration officials outside an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in central Florida, continuing days of delays by federal workers in processing them for their required check-ins. During the past week, as many as 250 people, including children, have been waiting each day outside the ICE facility in Orlando for an appointment with immigration officials, sometimes sleeping in cars and tents while they bide their time. They have brought umbrellas and tents for protection against the Florida sun and heat. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [WESH-NBC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WOFL-Fox \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

Law360: 6th Circ. Affirms Cuban Man's Meth Possession Guilty Plea, Dave Simpson, May 2, 2022, 9:31

PM

The Sixth Circuit affirmed Monday the guilty plea of a Cuban man who was arrested for possessing methamphetamine with intent to distribute and sentenced to 16 years in prison, rejecting his argument that the district court made a crucial mistake by failing to warn him that the plea made him deportable. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Judge Trims \$100M EB-5 Case But Allows Breach Claims, Alyssa Aquino, May 2, 2022, 7:08 PM

A Florida federal has judge trimmed immigrant investors' \$100 million fraud suit against a developer but allowed them to proceed with the bulk of the case claims that the developer illegally subordinated their interests in a waterfront development. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: NLRB Vows to Keep Information From Immigration Authorities, Robert Iafolla, May 2, 2022, 10:45 AM

The National Labor Relations Board's legal arm launched a new policy to make sure immigrant workers have "safe and dignified access" to the agency's processes for safeguarding workers' rights under federal labor law. NLRB regional staffers should give witnesses a fact sheet available in English and Spanish explaining that the agency isn't involved in enforcing immigration laws and won't share information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or other immigration authorities, the general counsel's office directed in a memo released Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tucson Sentinel: 2nd member of gun-smuggling duo sentenced to 12 years in prison, Paul Ingram, May 2, 2022, 5:41 PM

A 25-year-old man was sentenced to 12 years in prison Monday by a federal judge in Tucson after he pleaded guilty to straw-purchasing dozens of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition and smuggling them into Mexico, as well as trafficking fentanyl into the United States. Pedro Adan Sevilla, a resident of Phoenix, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott H. Rash following a plea agreement, in which he admitted to purchasing dozens of firearms and ammunition with a co-conspirator, and smuggling them into Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): Border Patrol seizes 460 counterfeit Rolex watches, Chris Williams, May 2, 2022, 5:52 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said agents in Cincinnati seized two shipments of counterfeit Rolex watches last week.

Officers said the shipments contained 460 watches that were arriving from Hong Kong en route to Brooklyn, New York. They credited the discovery on intelligence gathering and a past history of fraudulent shipments from the vendor. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

WaPo: Spirit Airlines rejects JetBlue's buyout bid, citing approval concerns, Ian Duncan, May 2, 2022, 4:31 PM

The board of Spirit Airlines rejected a \$3.6 billion takeover bid by rival JetBlue Airways on Monday, saying it would continue to pursue a merger with Frontier Airlines. The board concluded that the JetBlue bid was not a better deal and could face difficulties getting approved by the Justice Department's antitrust division. "The Board determined that the JetBlue proposal involves an unacceptable level of closing risk that would be assumed by Spirit stockholders," Mac Gardner, Spirit's board chairman, said in a statement. "We believe that our pending merger with Frontier will start an exciting new chapter for Spirit." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:**

[Law360](#), [USA Today](#), [CNBC](#)

Bloomberg: Former JPMorgan Trader Must Serve 8 Months for Price-Fixing Scheme, Francesca Maglione, May 2, 2022, 1:19 PM

A former JPMorgan Chase & Co. currency trader must spend eight months behind bars after a federal appeals court on Monday refused to overturn his sentence for plotting to manipulate European, Middle Eastern and African currencies. A New York jury in 2019 convicted Akshay Aiyer of conspiring with traders at other banks to rig bids and fix prices in currency markets, and he was sentenced in 2020. His lawyers appealed, claiming the judge failed to consider evidence showing that the illegal trading lacked anticompetitive effects. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Apple faces E.U. antitrust charges over Apple Pay, Adam Satariano, May 2, 2022, 10:00 AM
European Union regulators said on Monday that Apple had broken antitrust laws by unfairly undercutting companies whose payment services competed with Apple Pay, in the latest crackdown by European authorities on the world's largest tech companies. Apple has abused its dominance in consumer electronics by not giving PayPal and others access technology in the iPhone and Apple Watch that lets people make a purchase with a quick tap, according to a preliminary judgment announced by the European Commission, the European Union's executive body. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Restore FTC's Consumer Refund Power, Cantwell to Urge in Bill, Andrea Vittorio, May 2, 2022, 4:25 PM

Sen. Maria Cantwell plans to introduce legislation this week to restore the Federal Trade Commission's ability to seek monetary awards for consumers in court, the lawmaker's office told Bloomberg Law. The bill would bring back an authority that the U.S. Supreme Court curtailed last year that lets the FTC return money to consumers who were subject to scams, fraud, or other forms of deception. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: DOJ urges court to reconsider dismissal of DC's Amazon antitrust case, Rebecca Klar, May 2, 2022, 12:50 PM

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is urging a Washington, D.C., superior court to reconsider its decision to dismiss an antitrust case against Amazon brought by D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine (D). "If left uncorrected, the Court's ruling could jeopardize the enforcement of antitrust law by improperly raising the bar on plaintiffs challenging anticompetitive contractual restraints in the District of Columbia," the DOJ attorneys wrote in a Thursday filing in support of Racine's push for the court to reconsider its March dismissal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Law360: U.S., North Dakota Sue Pipeline Cos. Over River Oil Spills, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, May 2, 2022, 8:46 PM

Two crude oil pipeline companies failed to take adequate preventive measures that were recommended to them before ruptures spilled thousands of gallons of oil into rivers in Montana and North Dakota, the federal government and North Dakota said in a lawsuit filed Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: BP Unit Owes More In Smelting Site Cleanup, 9th Circ. Told, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, May 2, 2022, 4:00 PM

A Montana federal judge's decision to charge a BP unit with less than half the \$12.3 million cost of cleaning up a former aluminum smelting site was "infected" with "egregious mistakes" and should be reversed, a Glencore PLC unit told the Ninth Circuit Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

NJ Metro Breaking News: Edison Man Admits Filing False Tax Returns, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 6:19 PM

A Middlesex County, New Jersey man today admitted to filing a false tax return on behalf of his company, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger, Acting Assistant Attorney General David A. Hubbert, and Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General Stuart M. Goldberg announced. Federal officials said Mr. Gabriel M. Ferrari, 64, of Edison, New Jersey, pleaded guilty by videoconference before U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler to Count Four of an indictment that charged him with subscribing to a false tax return. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WSJ: Manhunt for Alabama Inmate Charged With Murder, Corrections Officer Continues, Joseph De Avila, May 2, 2022, 2:22 PM

Police in Alabama issued an arrest warrant for a veteran corrections officer who they say helped a man accused of murder escape custody. Casey White, 38 years old, was charged in 2020 with two counts of capital murder in connection to the 2015 stabbing death of a 58-year-old woman and was awaiting trial, according to law-enforcement officials. Vicky White, an assistant director of corrections at the Lauderdale County Sheriff's office, left the jail in Florence, Ala., with Mr. White on Friday morning to head to court, they said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [NBC](#), [WHNT-CBS \(Huntsville, AL\)](#)

Axios: Seattle area fraudsters on the lam after skipping sentencing hearing, Lewis Kamb, May 2, 2022, 7:00 PM

A federal judge in Seattle has issued arrest warrants for a Washington couple convicted last year of bilking more than 3,000 customers of over \$30 million through an online precious metals firm after they failed to show up to their sentencing hearing Friday. The FBI, which issued wanted posters for the couple, believes they fled their Auburn, Wash., home last week, but still may be in south King County or possibly California. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCPQ-Fox \(Seattle, WA\)](#)

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Tampa 'Crime Free Multi-Housing' program under investigation by the DOJ, Hannah Dineen, May 2, 2022, 11:22 PM

The Tampa Police Department's "Crime Free Multi-Housing" program is under investigation by the Department of Justice. The program, which was replaced by Tampa S.A.F.E (Safety Awareness for Everyone) in December 2021, had police alerting landlords to crimes allegedly committed by their tenants. The DOJ probe follows a lengthy Tampa Bay Times investigation that found officers encouraged landlords to evict tenants including ones whose charges were ultimately dropped. The Times also reported how the program primarily impacted predominantly Black and Brown communities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDAF-Fox (Kansas City, MO): Daughter of Angela Green has hope in investigation, competing for Miss Kansas, Sherae Honeycutt, May 2, 2022, 10:58 PM

The Prairie Village Police Department along with the FBI want to find Angela Green. Green, 51, was last seen in June 2019 but wasn't reported missing until months later when her daughter realized she wasn't dead. Ellie Green, Angela's daughter, says her father told her in 2019 her mother died of a stroke in a hospital and asked her not to tell their extended family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSAZ-Fox (Phoenix, AZ): 'It is more terrifying now than I've ever seen': DEA agents needed amid spike in meth, fentanyl trafficking, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 8:30 PM

We hear too often about the number of drugs, specifically, meth and fentanyl, flooding into our country, and it's reaching record levels. Because of this, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is looking to hire thousands of new agents across the country and is hoping to get the upper hand in the war against drugs and help save lives. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSOC-ABC (Charlotte, NC): Decoded: DEA releases 'Emoji Drug Code' to warn parents about drug deals on social media, John Paul, May 2, 2022, 8:07 PM

Law enforcement recommends that parents monitor their children's social media activity for emojis that are secretly used for buying and selling drugs. The Drug Enforcement Administration said kids are using emojis for dealing drugs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPIX-CW (New York, NY): Exclusive: New DEA leader focused on fentanyl and rising opioid crisis, Jennifer Bislam, May 2, 2022, 7:32 PM

In his first interview since taking over as the New York DEA's new Special Agent in Charge, Frank Tarentino told PIX11, the agency is focused on fentanyl laced-drugs in our area. "Thirty-three kilograms of fentanyl was seized last week that's 16 million doses twice the amount of people that live in the city of New York," he said Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMBC-ABC (Kansas City, MO): Fake prescription pain pills seized in Kansas and Missouri end up in Chicago DEA lab, Matt Flener, May 2, 2022, 7:22 PM

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration is seizing more fake prescription pain pills in both Kansas and Missouri. Those pills often end up inside a Chicago laboratory as evidence in federal court cases, with 30 forensic chemists working to support federal prosecutors and law enforcement to stop drug dealers. KMBC 9 Investigates recently received exclusive access to the lab to see the growing amount of fake prescription pills seized by federal agents. Often, those pills are laced with the deadly drug fentanyl. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGAL-NBC (Lancaster, PA): 14 guns stolen from Trop Gun Shop in Lancaster County, Anne Shannon, May 2, 2022, 6:06 PM

Police in Lancaster County say they're trying to identify the burglars who broke into a gun shop over the weekend and stole 14 guns. [...] Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Chuck Tobias at ctobias@nwrpd.org or 717-689-5598 ext. 131 or email Agent Ryan Kovach with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at ryan.kovach@atf.gov. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Concord, NH): FBI, Detectives Expand Concord Homicide Case Canvass, Tony Schinella, May 2, 2022, 4:39 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and Concord police canvassed East Concord on Monday, speaking to residents and asking about security cameras to gather more evidence in the Stephen and Djeswende Reid homicide investigation. The couple, who moved a few years ago from Burlington, Vermont, to Concord to retire, was killed in a double-shooting on the Marsh Loop Trail on April 21. Since that time, investigators have been analyzing dozens of tips and leads an effort to solve the crimes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Fremont, CA): Fremont PD Collects 130 Pounds Of Meds At Drug Take-Back Event, Susan C. Schena, May 2, 2022, 3:16 PM

At the Drug Take-Back event held this weekend in Fremont, the police collected 130 pounds of unused and expired medications, officials said. "We truly appreciate your effort in disposing of unused prescriptions," the Fremont Police Department said. Residents were invited to safely and anonymously drop off their unneeded prescription drugs, along with e-cigarette and vaping devices, on Saturday at the Fremont Elks Lodge, as part of a nationwide DEA campaign to prevent unused medications from finding their way into the wrong hands, according to authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Missouri execution would be just fifth this year in the US, Jim Salter, May 3, 2022, 6:18 AM

A man whose death sentence for killing a Missouri couple while robbing their home was overturned three times was scheduled to be executed on Tuesday. Carman Deck, 56, would be just the fifth U.S. inmate to be executed this year if his lethal injection goes ahead. His hopes for a reprieve were all but dashed on Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court turned aside an appeal and Republican Gov. Mike Parson declined Deck's clemency request, though he could file new appeals. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Tennessee pauses executions, will review lethal injections, Travis Loller and Rebecca Reynolds, May 2, 2022, 10:00 AM

Gov. Bill Lee paused executions in Tennessee for the rest of the year on Monday after revealing that the state had failed to ensure its lethal injection drugs were properly tested. The oversight forced Lee to abruptly halt the execution of Oscar Smith an hour before he was to die last month. [...] Smith's attorneys had called for a moratorium on executions and independent review of the problems last week. In a Monday statement, Federal Public Defender Kelley Henry said the Republican governor's decision shows "great leadership." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#)

US SUPREME COURT

AP: Report: Draft opinion suggests high court could overturn Roe, Mark Sherman and Zeke Miller, May 3, 2022, 1:00 AM

A draft opinion suggests the U.S. Supreme Court could be poised to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade case that legalized abortion nationwide, according to a Politico report released Monday. A decision to overrule Roe would lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states and could have huge ramifications for this year's elections. But it's unclear if the draft represents the court's final word on the matter — opinions often change in ways big and small in the drafting process. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Bloomberg-2](#), [BuzzFeed](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Fox](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), [HuffPost](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Newsweek](#), [NPR](#), [NYT](#), [NYT-2](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters-2](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [WaPo-2](#), [WSJ](#)

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court to weigh whether wife liable in bankruptcy for husband's fraud, Maria Chutchian, May 2, 2022, 6:09 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a case to determine whether an individual in bankruptcy is liable for her business partner's and husband's fraud, even if she was unaware of her partner's actions. California resident Kate Bartenwerfer has asked the high court to overturn a decision from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' August holding that she can't use bankruptcy to escape a judgment stemming from fraudulent omissions her husband made in selling their house. The pair were business partners in addition to being married, having initially bought the house with the intention of flipping it, according to court papers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court to weigh private lawsuits over federal nursing home rules, Brendan Pierson, May 2, 2022, 2:16 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case over whether state-owned nursing homes can face private lawsuits accusing them of violating Medicare and Medicaid rules on patient care. The court on Monday granted a petition to hear the case from the Health and Hospital Corp of Marion County, Indiana and a nursing home it operates, Valparaiso Care and Rehabilitation. They are asking the court to overturn an appeals court ruling that

allowed a lawsuit on behalf of a nursing home resident. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court to decide when highly paid workers deserve overtime pay, Daniel Wiessner, May 2, 2022, 1:55 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday agreed to decide whether a supervisor of offshore oil rig workers is entitled to overtime pay under federal law even though he earns more than \$200,000 a year, with potentially costly implications for the oil and gas industry and other employers. The justices granted certiorari to Helix Energy Solutions Group Inc, which says the employee, Michael Hewitt, qualifies as a "highly compensated executive" who is exempt from overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Supreme Court rules against Boston in Christian flag case, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 1:00 PM

A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Monday that Boston violated the free speech rights of a conservative activist when it refused his request to fly a Christian flag on a flagpole outside City Hall. Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the court that the city discriminated against the activist, Harold Shurtleff, because of his "religious viewpoint," even though it had routinely approved applications for the use of one of the three flagpoles outside City Hall that fly the U.S., Massachusetts and Boston flags. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Supreme Court won't hear Lundergan illegal contribution case, Unattributed, May 2, 2022, 11:00 AM

The Supreme Court is leaving in place the illegal campaign contributions conviction of Kentucky businessman and former Democratic Party chief, Jerry Lundergan. The high court on Monday turned away Lundergan's appeal of his conviction. As is typical, the justices did not say why they rejected his case. Lundergan and a codefendant were convicted in 2019 of orchestrating a scheme to funnel illegal contributions to the failed 2014 U.S. Senate campaign of Lundergan's daughter, Alison Lundergan Grimes. Grimes attempted unsuccessfully to unseat Republican Mitch McConnell. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: Who is Justice Samuel A. Alito? What to know about the Bush-nominated Supreme Court justice, Orlando Mayorquin, May 2, 2022, 11:33 PM

President George W. Bush nominated Associate Justice Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court in October 2005. Alito was confirmed by the Senate 58-42, with most Republicans and four Democrats backing him. After more than 15 years, Alito has proven himself a consistent conservative voice on the court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: What to know about John Roberts, chief justice of the United States, Orlando Mayorquin, May 2, 2022, 11:22 PM

A slew of surprising decisions in recent years had at one point established Chief Justice John Roberts as the court's swing vote. Roberts drew criticism from Republicans for being the deciding vote in 2012 to uphold Obamacare and siding with the court's liberal wing to uphold President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy for "Dreamers." But ever since President Donald Trump nominated Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the high court in 2020, conservatives have enjoyed a 6-3 advantage. Among the conservative justices, Roberts is no longer needed to achieve the five votes required for a majority. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: [EDITORIAL] The Supreme Court Hoists a Christian Flag, Editorial Board, May 2, 2022, 6:36 PM

Say what you will about the current Supreme Court, and many critics are never happy, but the Roberts Court has been sonorous on religious liberty. The Justices provided another bell-ringer Monday in a 9-0 decision. Hundreds of times, the city of Boston has let private groups hoist their flags for a few hours in the square outside City Hall. It denied zero requests until it refused an applicant asking to fly a Christian flag with a cross. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upheld its denial, saying Boston "engages in government

speech when it raises a third-party flag,” and lifting a Christian banner “could signal the City’s embrace of that religion.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: [ANALYSIS] Supreme Court abortion bombshell suggests a staggering change in American life, Stephen Collinson, May 3, 2022, 4:25 AM

A draft Supreme Court opinion suggesting the conservative majority may be about to outlaw the constitutional right to an abortion hit like a political lightning bolt Monday night. The draft opinion, obtained and authenticated by Politico, heralds what would be a massive victory for the conservative movement decades in the making. It set off immediate condemnation and calls for action from leading liberal and medical groups and Democratic leaders, as well as protests outside the Supreme Court building. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: [EXCLUSIVE] Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion shows, Josh Gerstein and Alexander Ward, May 2, 2022, 8:32 PM

The Supreme Court has voted to strike down the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, according to an initial draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito circulated inside the court and obtained by POLITICO. The draft opinion is a full-throated, unflinching repudiation of the 1973 decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of abortion rights and a subsequent 1992 decision Planned Parenthood v. Casey that largely maintained the right. “Roe was egregiously wrong from the start,” Alito writes. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)
See also: [Politico-2](#)

SCOTUSblog: Justices add new cases on bankruptcy, overtime pay, and federal civil rights claims, Amy Howe, May 2, 2022, 4:08 PM

The Supreme Court on Monday added three new merits cases to its docket for the 2022-23 term. On a list of orders from the justices’ private conference last week, the justices also called for the views of the U.S. solicitor general in two cases, and they declined to take up a pair of cases involving the differential tax treatment of billboards that advertise services that do not have a connection to the site where they are located. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: Upper Skagit Urges 9th Circ. To Back Its Fishing Rights Win, Joyce Hanson, May 2, 2022, 7:58 PM

The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe has slammed the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe's claims to fishing rights on the Skagit River, urging the Ninth Circuit to affirm a lower court ruling that cited a landmark 1974 decision saying Sauk-Suiattle's "usual and accustomed" fishing places did not include the river. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Yakama Still Can't Back Up CERCLA Claims, Wash. City Says, Andrew Westney, May 2, 2022, 7:09 PM

A Washington city has urged a federal judge to dismiss the Yakama Nation's suit seeking to recoup costs under federal Superfund law for cleaning up a former municipal-run landfill, saying the tribe still hasn't shown the city's actions led the tribe to incur those costs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Tribes Still Barred From Reviving Recognition Bids, BIA Says, Caleb Symons, May 2, 2022, 6:09 PM

The U.S. government is maintaining a decades-old policy that bars Native American tribes from seeking formal recognition once their initial request is denied, officials say, even after two federal judges blasted that rule as arbitrary and "draconian." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Bloomberg: Amid Federal Delays, Can Marijuana Companies Break Their Slump?, Matthew Townsend and Tiffany Kary, May 2, 2022, 7:00 AM

This week, Matthew Townsend and Tiffany Kary look at some positive signs for the cannabis industry that's still waiting for movement from the federal government. Is pot in a 'regulatory recession'? More U.S. states are headed toward allowing the sale of recreational cannabis, including New Jersey this month, giving some analysts hope that the swoon hitting publicly traded pot companies may come to an end. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

AP: Biden meets with parents of missing journalist Austin Tice, Eric Tucker, May 4, 2022, 7:52 PM

President Joe Biden met Monday with the parents of American journalist Austin Tice, who was abducted in Syria nearly 10 years ago, the White House said. "During their meeting, the President reiterated his commitment to continue to work through all available avenues to secure Austin's long overdue return to his family," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement summarizing the meeting with Marc and Debra Tice. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

CONGRESS

Reuters: COVID threatens new U.S. Senate delays for Biden's Fed, FTC nominees, David Morgan, May 2, 2022, 1:21 PM

An effort by U.S. Senate Democrats to move forward on President Joe Biden's nominees for the Federal Reserve and Federal Trade Commission appeared headed for a second week of delay on Monday, after another Democratic lawmaker tested positive for COVID-19. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Democrats denounce leaked Supreme Court draft ruling nixing Roe v. Wade, Mychael Schnell, May 2, 2022, 11:35 PM

Democrats on Monday night slammed the leaked Supreme Court majority ruling overturning Roe v. Wade, criticizing the decision as an attack on women's rights across the country. Politico on Monday published a draft ruling for the case examining a Mississippi law that prohibits virtually all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The 67-page document, written by Justice Samuel Alito, determines that the landmark 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade and the 1992 decision in Planned Parenthood v. Casey do not have grounds in the Constitution. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [HuffPost](#)

Daily Caller: Senate Democrat Reviewed Questions With DOJ Witnesses Before Hearings, Emails Reveal, Michael Ginsberg, May 2, 2022, 6:42 PM

A top aide to Sen. Jon Ossoff shared questions for pre-approval with a Department of Justice (DOJ) staffer that the Georgia Democrat would ask Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke at Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, emails released by the DOJ pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reveal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Detroit News (Detroit, MI): Whitmer says she'll 'fight like hell' for abortion access in Michigan after court leak, Melissa Nann Burke, Hayley Harding, May 2, 2022, 11:11 PM

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said her work challenging Michigan's 1931 ban on abortion in state court is "more important than ever" after a leaked draft opinion showed the U.S. Supreme Court initially has voted to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. "I'll fight like hell to protect abortion access in Michigan," the Democratic governor tweeted late Monday in response to the news. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: MAY 2, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Russia resumed pulverizing the Mariupol steel mill that has become the last stronghold of resistance in the bombed-out city, Ukrainian fighters said Monday, after a brief cease-fire over the weekend allowed the first evacuation of civilians from the plant. Meanwhile, a senior U.S. official warned that Russia is planning to annex large portions of eastern Ukraine this month and recognize the southern city of Kherson as an independent republic. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The sheriff of Lauderdale County, Ala. issued an arrest warrant for a missing corrections officer who was last seen when she said she was taking a murder suspect for a mental health evaluation and neither of them arrived. Officer Vicky White faces charges for facilitating the escape of the inmate. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A federal jury convicted a former New York City officer of assaulting an officer during the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Thomas Webster was the first Capitol riot defendant tried on an assault charge and the first to claim self-defense to a jury. The House Select Committee sent letters to Republican Congressmen Mo Brooks, Andy Biggs and Ronny Jackson, former President Trump's doctor, asking for their cooperation in interviews regarding the January 6th insurrection. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Though a week ago, the U.S. recorded a "pandemic low" for hospitalizations, a recent climb in Covid infections is starting to raise concerns. The CDC is urging residents that are in 56 "high risk" counties to mask up. Two-thirds of those areas are in New York state. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Large wildfires grow across New Mexico, forcing thousands to evacuate. Two fires that merged into one giant blaze torched over 100,000 acres. Now 4 million people in four states are under red flag warnings or fire watches. [[NBC](#)]
- Ohio primary voters are heading to the polls in the first test of former President Donald Trump's influence on the 2022 midterms. [[CBS](#)]
- Edsaul Mendoza, a former Philadelphia cop, has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the shooting of 12-year-old Thomas "TJ" Siderio in March. [[ABC](#)]
- A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Monday that Boston violated the free speech rights of a conservative activist when it refused his request to fly a Christian flag on a flagpole outside City Hall. [[ABC](#)]
-

The U.S. Navy is relocating 260 sailors off the U.S.S. George Washington after a rise in crew suicides. The deaths are being investigated. [\[ABC\]](#)

- The last three known survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre are seeking reparations from the city. Tulsa is asking the judge to dismiss the lawsuit. [\[CBS\]](#)

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Draft Shows Supreme Court Would Overturn Roe v. Wade” [\[WSJ\]](#), [\[NYT\]](#), [\[WaPo\]](#), [\[LAT\]](#)
- “Ukrainian Civilians Describe Desperate Efforts to Flee Bombed-Out Mariupol” [\[WSJ\]](#), [\[NYT\]](#), [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “Russia planning to annex new areas of Ukraine, U.S. finds” [\[NYT\]](#), [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “Covid updates: Vice President Harris tested negative for the coronavirus and has been cleared to return to work.” [\[NYT\]](#), [\[LAT\]](#)

END

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From: Heather Cox Richardson from Letters from an American
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 2, 2022
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: May 3, 2022 2:54 AM (UTC-04:00)

May 2, 2022

Heather Cox Richardson May 3

Tonight, news broke of a leaked draft of what appears to be Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's majority decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision establishing access to abortion as a constitutional right.

That news is an alarm like the 1857 *Dred Scott v. Sandford* decision declaring both that Black Americans had no rights that a white man was bound to respect and that Congress had no power to prohibit human enslavement in the territories. The *Dred Scott* decision left the question of enslavement not to the national majority, which wanted to prohibit it from western lands, but to state and territorial legislatures that limited voting to white men.

According to law professor and legal commentator Neal Katyal, the draft appears to be genuine and shows that in a preliminary vote, a majority of the court agreed to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It takes a hard-line position, saying that states can criminalize abortion with no exceptions for rape and incest. This is a draft and could change before actually being handed down, but it has already stirred a backlash. As soon as the draft hit Politico, which published it, security put up fences around the Supreme Court in expectation of protesters and counterprotesters.

We are in a weird moment, in which Democrats are trying to shore up democracy while Republicans are actively working to undermine it. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued a statement after the draft leaked, calling the draft "one of the worst and most damaging decisions in modern history." They noted that the justices lied to senators to get confirmed, saying they considered *Roe v. Wade* settled law, and are now if the draft is confirmed stripping away from American women a constitutional right they have held for 50 years.

"The party of Lincoln and Eisenhower has now completely devolved into the party of Trump," Pelosi and Schumer wrote. "Every Republican Senator who supported Senator McConnell and voted for Trump Justices pretending that this day would never come will now have to explain themselves to the American people."

Democrats are also shoring up Democracy abroad. Yesterday we learned that on Saturday, a congressional delegation led by Speaker Pelosi visited Kyiv, Ukraine, and met with President Volodymyr Zelensky and other Ukrainian officials. Their goal, the delegation later said, was to “send an unmistakable and resounding message to the entire world: America stands firmly with Ukraine.”

The delegation consisted entirely of Democrats, although Jason Crow (D-CO), who was on the trip, told *NPR* that Pelosi invited Republicans, but they “were unable to join.” So the delegation included Crow, Bill Keating (D-MA), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), and Adam Schiff (D-CA). It was on the ground for about three hours.

Pelosi is the highest-ranking U.S. official to meet with Zelensky in person since the Russian invasion began on February 24, 2022. Zelensky shared a video of the visit. The clip begins with the delegation walking toward Zelensky and his team. After introductions, the party walks up the stairs and into the presidential office. The clip cuts to formal photos and then a conversation around a conference table including Pelosi’s statement: “We...are visiting you to say thank you for your fight for freedom, that we re on a frontier of freedom and that your fight is a fight for everyone. And so our commitment is to be there for you until the fight is done.”

After the conversation, which Pelosi later said focused on security, assistance, and the eventual rebuilding of Ukraine, Zelensky awarded to Pelosi the Order of Princess Olga, a civil honor given to women who have achieved significant distinction in their chosen field. “When we return to the United States, we will do so further informed, deeply inspired and ready to do what is needed to help the Ukrainian people as they defend democracy for their nation and for the world,” the delegation later said.

While the Democrats are staking out their position as defenders of democracy, associates of the former president are under increasing scrutiny for their role in overturning it.

Last night, a federal judge a Trump appointee rejected a plea from the Republican National Committee (RNC) to block its mass-marketing vendor from releasing materials to the January 6 committee. The committee had subpoenaed the material on February 23 as it looked into how the Republicans used the Big Lie for fundraising. For example, in the middle of the January 6 attack, the RNC sent an email telling supporters to “FIGHT BACK,” because “This is our LAST CHANCE.”

Today, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S.

Capitol requested that Representatives Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Mo Brooks (R-AL), and Ronny Jackson (R-TX) cooperate with the committee voluntarily to fill in what they say are some of the remaining blanks in the story of former president Trump's effort to overturn the 2022 election.

The committee outlined for Biggs what it already knows: he participated in planning meetings for January 6, including the plan for then vice president Mike Pence to refuse to count the electoral votes that elected Democrat Joe Biden president. Provocateur Ali Alexander has said publicly that he, Biggs, and two other representatives came up with the idea of bringing protesters to Washington, D.C., to stop the counting of the electoral votes. The committee has information that Biggs tried to persuade state officials to overturn the election.

And, finally, "recent information from former White House personnel has identified an effort by certain House Republicans after January 6th to seek a presidential pardon for activities taken in connection with President Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election." Biggs was apparently part of those discussions. The committee asked Biggs to clarify why he thought he needed a pardon.

The committee's letter to Brooks focused mostly on his recent statements that Trump continues to talk about "rescinding" the 2020 election. On March 23, for example, Brooks released a statement saying: President Trump asked me to rescind the 2020 elections, immediately remove Joe Biden from the White House, immediately put President Trump back in the White House, and hold a new special election for the presidency."

The committee wrote: "[T]he Committee is examining a series of efforts by President Trump to abandon his solemn duty to support and defend our Constitution. The exchange you have disclosed with the former President is directly relevant to the subject of our inquiry, and it appears to provide additional evidence of President Trump's intent to restore himself to power through unlawful means."

In its letter to Jackson, the committee focused first on the recently released encrypted messages between the leader of the Oath Keepers, Stewart Rhodes, and members of the organization asking them to act as his personal security guards. One of those messages suggested that Jackson had "critical data to protect."

The committee noted that individual Oath Keepers have been charged with seditious conspiracy, and appeared to believe their actions would threaten the lives of members of Congress. The committee asked Jackson: "Why would these individuals have an interest

in your specific location? Why would they believe you “have critical data to protect?” Why would they direct their members to protect your personal safety? With whom did you speak by cell phone that day?”

Apparently unwilling to subpoena their own colleagues, which would open up a huge can of worms if the Republicans retake control of the House of Representatives, the committee said it was a “patriotic duty” to cooperate, and asked their colleagues “to join the hundreds of individuals who have shared information with the Select Committee.”

Jackson has already answered. “I will not participate in the illegitimate Committee’s ruthless crusade against President Trump and his allies,” he said in a statement.

And so here we are. A minority, placed in control of the U.S. Supreme Court by a president who received a minority of the popular vote and then, when he lost reelection, tried to overturn our democracy, is explicitly taking away a constitutional right that has been protected for fifty years. Its attack on federal protection of civil rights applies not just to abortion, but to all the protections put in place since World War II: the right to use birth control, marry whomever you wish, live in desegregated spaces, and so on.

The draft opinion says the state legislatures are the true heart of our democracy and that they alone should determine abortion laws in the states. But Republican-dominated legislatures have also curtailed the right to vote. When Democrats in Congress tried to protect voting rights, Senate Republicans killed it with the filibuster.

Tonight’s news is an alarm like the 1857 *Dred Scott* decision, which gave a few white men who controlled state legislatures power over the American majority.

Notes:



Hugo Lowell
@hugolowell

New: House Republican Ronny Jackson refuses to tell Jan. 6 committee how the Oath Keepers knew he needed protection from them as the Capitol attack unfolded: “I will not participate in the illegitimate Committee’s ruthless crusade against President Trump and his allies.”

May 2nd 2022

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<https://january6th.house.gov/sites/democrats.january6th.house.gov/files/2022-5-2.BGT%20and%20LC%20letter%20to%20Andy%20Biggs.pdf>

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<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/01/politics/pelosi-zelensky-kyiv-ukraine-intl/index.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/01/1095839377/u-s-congressional-delegations-meets-with-ukrainian-leaders-in-kyiv>

 **Neal Katyal**
@neal_katyal

THREAD My Thoughts on [@politico](#) story saying the Court voted to say Roe v. Wade is fully overruled.

I've quickly scanned the draft opinion and it appears legitimate. This means there was a preliminary vote to fully overrule Roe V Wade and that a majority of the Court agreed.

May 3rd 2022

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/05/02/rnc-jan6-salesforce-fundraising-lawsuit/>



Harry Litman

@harrylitman

Rejecting First Am arg, fed district court rules RNC's mass mailing vendor has to turn over emails to 1/6 committee. Emails sent by the RNC and the Trump campaign using the vendor spread false claims that 2020 election was fraudulent or stolen.

May 2nd 2022

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From: The Washington Post
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The 5-Minute Fix: How does the middle regain its voice in American politics?
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: December 3, 2021 4:34 PM (UTC-05:00)



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By **Amber Phillips**
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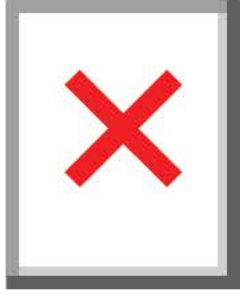
It's Friday of a very busy week in politics — a majority-conservative Supreme Court signaled that it's [willing to let states curtail abortion rights](#); Congress [narrowly](#)

avoided government shutdown; and now there's a looming battle (again) over how to raise the debt ceiling so the U.S. doesn't plunge into another recession. Let's take your questions. [Ask me something anytime.](#)

Has the Supreme Court ever overturned a long-standing ruling because of new justices?

Yes! says Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School. "The court has overturned itself many times, and of course it never explicitly says it's because its composition changed, but that is the most logical explanation."

A good example is the 2010 Citizens United case, which opened the spigot for money in politics. That ruling went directly against two previous court decisions. What changed? "Justice O'Connor retired and she was replaced by Justice Alito, who is more hostile to campaign finance restrictions than she was," Levinson said.



Antiabortion and abortion rights advocate protest outside the Supreme Court on Wednesday. (Me ina Mara/The Washington Post)

Why does Congress wait until the last minute to do critical things like pass the budget or raise the debt limit?

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It's one of the most frustrating aspects of Congress, right? Members fight and fight right up to a big deadline, lurching markets and our stomachs. Some members view the urgency of a deadline as a chance to demand things the other party would never otherwise agree to. In the case of funding the government by midnight Friday, Senate Republicans were torn between wanting to avoid a shutdown and wanting to stick it to President Biden's testing-or-vaccine mandate, since [that's what their base demanded](#). They relented at the last minute.

More broadly, the hyper-partisanship of Congress these days doesn't lend itself to compromise, which is what would need to happen to get big items done in a timely manner.



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) is on the leading edge of partisan politics. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

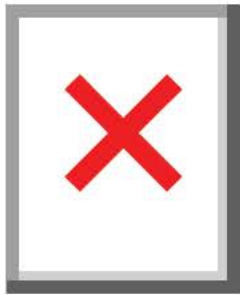
What's the latest on the defamation lawsuits against Trump allies by Dominion Voting?

In January, the company that runs voting machines used across the country — Dominion Voting Systems — filed a billion-dollar lawsuit against Trump lawyers such as Rudy Giuliani for baselessly claiming that the machines were hacked to toss the election to Biden. Such claims got thrown out of court, and these lawyers were fined for suggesting things so wildly conspiratorial.

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Anyway, the defamation lawsuits are ongoing. Dominion [also recently sued Fox](#).



A Dominion voting machine, which was not hacked in the 2020 election. (John Bazemore/AP)

Restoring confidence in elections is probably going to require more than jst

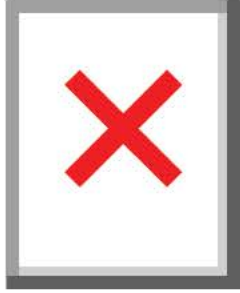
lawsuits, but rather a wholesale commitment from *both* parties. “We are in a really tenuous moment, where there is a crisis of confidence in elections despite the fact that 2020 was largely well run and results were legitimate,” said David Levine, an elections expert at the German Marshall Fund.

What’s the viability of a compromise in Congress to restrict gun rights?

Little to none. After four students were shot and killed in a Michigan high school this week, there was barely a ripple in Congress about it. That’s not to say lawmakers didn’t care, but even among Democrats, this just isn’t a priority right now. There are too many other things they’re trying to do, like pass Biden’s social safety net bill, or address voting rights, or avoid a default.

Republicans seem to have mostly given up on finding compromise on gun rights; one of their only senators to pursue this in a high-profile manner, Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-Pa.), is retiring this year.

Of those who disapprove of Biden’s handling of the pandemic, what percentage thinks the government should do more, and what percentage thinks the government should do less?



It seems to be more weighted toward the latter: Of roughly half the country that disapproves of the way he's handling the pandemic in [a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll](#), 85 percent said they're concerned he's increasing the size and role of government. The poll didn't ask specifically about his vaccine requirements, but it's safe to assume people were thinking of that. That requirement, by the way, is held up in courts and not in effect.

How does the middle regain its voice in the national conversation?

This is a Good Question, and I don't really have an answer; only more bad news about this.

Much of America seems to be in the middle of the political spectrum on major issues

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Parents of Michigan school shooting suspect charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter

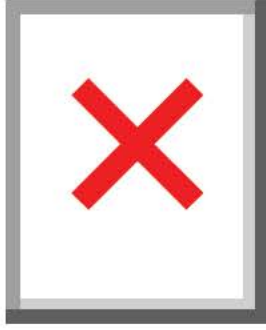
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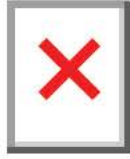


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From: The Washington Post
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To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: December 1, 2021 4:36 PM (UTC-05:00)



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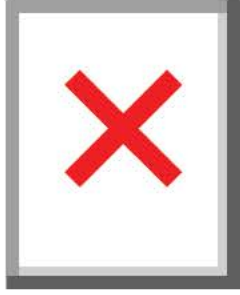
By **Amber Phillips**
[Email](#)

We're reading the tea leaves here, but it looks like the United States could be in for a sea change on abortion rights.

Based on [today's arguments](#) before the Supreme Court about Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban, a majority of justices on the conservative-leaning court appear open to trimming or eliminating the existing right to an abortion during the first half of pregnancy. The justices probably won't rule until next summer.

There is no federal law protecting abortion rights, but the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling and another 1992 ruling affirmed that women can legally get an abortion until about 24 weeks. Here are three takeaways from one of the biggest days on the Supreme Court in years; [I write about this in more depth here](#).

1. Four justices seem ready to overturn abortion protections



Protesters for and against abortion rights in front of the Supreme Court. (Matt McCain/The Washington Post)

That would be Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and two nominated by former president Donald Trump: Amy Coney Barrett and Brett M. Kavanaugh. “Why should this court be the arbiter rather than Congress, the state legislatures, state

supreme courts, the people being able to resolve this,” Kavanaugh asked, suggesting he’s in favor of letting states regulate abortion as they please.

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The court only needs five votes to overturn long-standing abortion protections; it looks like they’re pretty close to having that.

2. The court could decide on a middle ground to allow abortion bans earlier in pregnancies

Anything short of the court striking down Mississippi’s ban in full would be a loss for abortion-rights supporters.

Two of the GOP-appointed justices seemed open to letting *Roe v. Wade* stand, thus protecting a woman’s right to abortion, but allowing states to ban abortion earlier — perhaps months before the current standard of viability (when a fetus can live outside the womb).

“Why would 15 weeks be an appropriate line?” asked Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., in a telling question. A Trump appointee, Neil M. Gorsuch, asked similar questions.

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But Justice Elena Kagan, appointed by a Democratic president, argued that for 50 years, the right to abortion before viability has been “part of the fabric of women’s existence in this country.”

If the justices allow some or all of the 15-week Mississippi law to stand, strict abortion bans could become reality in as much of half of the country. About a dozen states have trigger laws that would ban abortion immediately if *Roe v. Wade* were knocked down; more would greatly restrict it.



3. Republicans seem poised to achieve a sought-after political goal

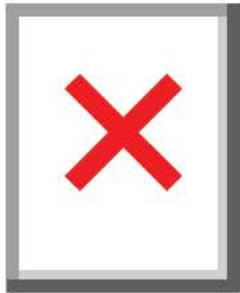
The battle over abortion is one of the oldest and hottest fights in modern politics. Conservatives are *this close* to winning it. And that's in large part because of their gamble in supporting Trump.

He was not, shall we say, the typical buttoned-up candidate that evangelical Christians tend to support. But he promised to be the most antiabortion president in history, and he delivered by taking advantage of three openings on the Supreme Court to appoint justices who seem willing to uproot long-standing abortion protections.

But did these Republicans go too far in pushing — and now maybe getting —

abortion outlawed in a significant portion of the nation? [Polls show](#) nearly six in 10 Americans are just fine with *Roe v. Wade*. Conservatives getting what they want [could actually rally the left](#) to vote in next year's midterm elections, where Republicans are rightly optimistic about their chances to take back Congress. "For decades, the GOP has pushed this goal, but it was mostly a hypothetical — something few believed would actually come to fruition," writes The Post's Aaron Blake.

Trump tested positive for coronavirus and went about his regular duties



Trump may have known he had tested positive for coronavirus at this debate. (Me in a Mara/The Washington Post)

That's what Trump's former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, says. Meadows wrote a book about his time in the administration, which The Guardian got an early copy of

today.

As president, Trump was tested daily, or more. Meadows writes that Trump tested positive after a potential superspreader event nominating Justice Amy Coney Barrett in September. But then he got another negative test and took that as liberty to go about his regular life.

In the meantime, [Trump went to](#):

-
- A presidential debate with Biden.
 - A meeting with Gold Star families.
 - Fundraisers and rallies, all largely maskless.
 - Briefings with reporters, where at least one [thinks](#) Trump probably gave covid to him.

In fact, Trump left in his trail a number of coronavirus infections from events he attended during this time. It wasn't until nearly a week later he announced he had tested positive, which was shortly before he flew in a helicopter to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. If his symptoms had been less serious, would the president have tried to hide his coronavirus infection completely?

Finally on this, [The Post's Felicia Sonmez reports](#): "Asked Wednesday whether the former president put him at risk, Biden said, 'I don't think about the former president.'"

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How Mississippi ended up with one abortion clinic and why it matters

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From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated AM Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: October 4, 2021 7:29 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: October 4, 2021 at 7:13:31 AM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b)(6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b)(6), "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b)(6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b)(6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b)(6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b)(6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b)(6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: Ex-Facebook manager alleges social network fed Capitol riot, David Bauder and Michael Liedtke, October 3, 2021, 10:00 PM

A data scientist who was revealed Sunday as the Facebook whistleblower says that whenever there was a conflict between the public good and what benefited the company, the social media giant would choose its own interests. Frances Haugen was identified in a "60 Minutes" interview Sunday as the woman who anonymously filed complaints with federal law enforcement that the company's own research shows how it magnifies hate and misinformation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: New emergency cyber regulations lay out 'urgently needed' rules for pipelines but draw mixed reviews, Aaron Schaffer and Ellen Nakashima, October 3, 2021, 2:34 PM

The government in July issued emergency rules to strengthen the cybersecurity of the nation's most important energy pipelines in a bid to prevent a repeat of the Colonial Pipeline shutdown earlier this year that sparked massive fuel shortages and gasoline panic-buying. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRC-NBC (Washington, DC): Washington Adventist University Hit By Ransomware Attack, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 8:30 PM

Washington Adventist University (WAU) said it experienced a ransomware attack Saturday and that its Wi-Fi and internet access from the campus would not be available until further notice. The private university in Takoma Park, Maryland, said data may have been exposed but did not provide more details. The school is working with the Montgomery County Cyber Taskforce and the FBI to resolve the attack. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

WPTV-NBC (West Palm Beach, FL): Trump's attorneys ask federal judge to restore his Twitter account, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 4:40 PM

Former president Donald Trump has asked a federal judge to restore his Twitter account. On Friday, Donald Trump's attorneys filed a motion in the U.S. District court in Miami, seeking a preliminary injunction against Twitter, saying the social media company is censoring Trump in violation of his first amendment rights. Twitter banned the former president from their services after his followers violently stormed the Capitol building on January 6, citing concerns that he would incite further violence. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTVT-CBS \(Fort Worth, TX\)](#)

WXIA-NBC (Atlanta, GA): Parents sue Cobb County Schools, alleging violation of children's disability rights with insufficient COVID protocols, Jonathan Raymond, October 3, 2021, 4:27 PM

A group of parents have filed suit against Cobb County Schools, alleging the district is violating their children's disability rights through insufficient COVID protocols. The federal lawsuit, filed Friday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, argues the children are being discriminated against in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Cincinnati Enquirer: Judge refuses to dismiss lawsuit claiming city tax break program discriminates against minorities, Dan Horn, October 3, 2021, 9:54 PM

A federal judge ruled Friday that a group of Black Cincinnati homeowners can go forward with a lawsuit accusing the city of running a discriminatory tax break program. The lawsuit, filed last year in U.S. District Court, claims Cincinnati is more segregated and its Black residents are poorer because of the way the city hands out tax abatements to homeowners who fix up their properties. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WaPo: U.S. Navy hit by another international bribery scandal, Craig Whitlock, October 3, 2021, 4:46 PM

Federal agents are investigating a new U.S. Navy corruption case that has strong echoes of the Fat Leonard scandal, with a defense contractor facing accusations that he delivered cash bribes and bilked the Navy out of at least \$50 million to service its ships in foreign ports, according to recently unsealed court records. The Justice Department is trying to extradite the contractor — Frank Rafaraci, chief executive of Multinational Logistics Services, or MLS — from Malta, the Mediterranean island where he was arrested last week after an international manhunt. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WWTW (Cadillac, MI): The FBI Prevents Possible Attack Against The University Of Michigan, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 9:22 PM

The FBI says someone posted a threat on a Russian-operated confessions website targeting the University of Michigan. The threat alleged someone was planning to shoot every woman they saw on campus on Monday. The threat caught the attention of Michigan State Police and campus authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WFRV-CBS \(Green Bay, WI\)](#), [WILX-NBC \(Onondaga, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#)

CNN: The influx of guns is 'ground zero for violence' at the end of a bloody summer in Chicago, Omar Jimenez and Priya Krishnakumar, October 3, 2021, 3:20 PM

1,606 people were shot in a single three-month summer period in Chicago. That's the population equivalent to many American small towns. [...] According to the 2020 Uniform Crime Report released in late September by the FBI, 76% of homicides nationwide were committed with a firearm. But in Chicago, guns play an even larger role -- fatal shootings accounted for 90% of all homicides last year. So far this year, they make up 94% of Chicago's homicides. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Hiker claims he saw Brian Laundrie near Appalachian Trail, Audrey Conklin, October 3, 2021, 2:00 PM

A Florida man hiking the Appalachian Trail claims he saw Brian Laundrie driving in a white pickup truck around 12:30 a.m. ET on Saturday in Tennessee near the North Carolina border. Dennis Davis, who spoke to a number of news outlets on Saturday including Fox News Digital twice, said it didn't at first register that the driver may have been Laundrie, but after the encounter, he looked up photos of the fugitive wanted on debit card fraud charges, and he then felt convinced enough to call in the sighting to FBI twice, as well as 911 operators in Tennessee and North Carolina. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Caller](#), [KSAT-ABC \(San Antonio, TX\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WWMT-CBS/CW \(Kalamazoo, MI\)](#)

KTSM-NBC (El Paso, TX): El Paso DEA: Fentanyl smuggled across the border at historically high levels, Christina Aguayo, October 4, 2021, 2:23 AM

According to Kyle Williamson, the former Special Agent in charge for the El Paso Drug Enforcement Agency, the demand for Opioids in the United States is alarmingly high and overdose deaths from those drugs are once again on the rise. One of the biggest reasons, Williamson said, is because of the massive increase of Fentanyl coming across the southern border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRCG-CBS (Jefferson City, MO): Woman missing for months as cannibalism rumors swirl; image of partially nude caged woman found, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 10:33 PM

As bizarre rumors of cannibalistic behavior and multiple murder victims flooded social media Saturday, authorities had confirmed little about a missing woman and two suspects now under arrest in South Central Missouri. Federal authorities ramped up their search for 33-year-old Cassidy Rainwater. Investigators said two men held Rainwater in a cage on Moon Valley Road near Lebanon. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Cincinnati Enquirer: Federal prosecutors not seeking death penalty in killing of former Dayton detective, Quinlan Bentley, October 3, 2021, 7:26 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio isn't pursuing the death penalty for a man accused of killing a former Dayton, Ohio, police detective, according to court documents filed on Friday. Nathan Goddard Jr. is facing nine counts, including deliberately killing a U.S. officer; discharging a gun resulting in death in relation to a drug-trafficking crime; and conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, marijuana and cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

DOJ AWARDS

WHIO-AM (Dayton, OH): DOJ awards more than \$1 million to prison substance abuse programs, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 7:06 PM

The state and local governments are receiving funding to develop and implement substance abuse treatment programs in Ohio's correctional facilities. The Department of Justice

awarded a \$1,058,326 grant to the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: What's old is new again: Justices back at court for new term, Mark Sherman and Jessica Gresko, October 4, 2021, 12:30 AM

The Supreme Court is beginning a momentous new term with a return to familiar surroundings, the mahogany and marble courtroom that the justices abandoned more than 18 months ago because of the coronavirus pandemic. Abortion, guns and religion all are on the agenda for a court with a rightward tilt, including three justices appointed by President Donald Trump. The justices will meet in person for arguments Monday, although Justice Brett Kavanaugh will participate remotely from his home after testing positive for COVID-19 late last week. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [Fox](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: On eve of huge Supreme Court term, a prayer from on high, Ian Shapira, October 3, 2021, 6:28 PM

If any government entity needs thoughts and prayers these fractious days, the Supreme Court might be the most deserving. On Sunday, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. was the sole member of the Supreme Court to join hundreds of other Washingtonians at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle for the Red Mass, a ceremony typically held on the Sunday before the first Monday in October, the opening of the high court's term. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: [OPINION] McConnell's Supreme Court, Jeffrey Toobin, October 4, 2021, 12:06 AM
Amy Coney Barrett, who was confirmed to the Supreme Court a year ago, gave a speech a few weeks ago in which she said the justices were not "partisan hacks." Justice Barrett did this at the University of Louisville, at the 30th anniversary celebration of a center named in honor of Mitch McConnell, Republican minority leader in the US Senate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: [EDITORIAL] Supreme surgery: Don't expand the high court; do permanently shift to live audio of arguments, Editorial Board, October 4, 2021, 4:10 AM
When a Supreme Court with a conservative supermajority begins its new term today, hearing arguments in person again (sans COVID-positive Brett Kavanaugh) for the first time since the pandemic began, it will consider cases defining constitutional rights for the 21st century. We'll have plenty to say in the coming weeks about gun safety in New York, abortion in Mississippi and more. The topic today is not the court's rulings, but its shape and process. [[Continue Reading](#)]

SCOTUSblog: Justices to consider appropriate standard for harmless-error review of state convictions in federal habeas proceedings, Eve Brensike Primus, October 3, 2021, 1:26 PM

In *Brown v. Davenport*, the justices will grapple once again with how a provision in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 affects state prisoners' access to federal habeas corpus review. This case, which will be argued on Tuesday, addresses the standard of review that federal habeas courts should use when assessing state courts' prior determinations that constitutional trial errors were harmless. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

KTUL-ABC (Tulsa, OK): Two dozen federal prosecutors take oath in Northern District

of Oklahoma, Callie Morris, October 3, 2021, 10:50 PM

Twenty-four federal prosecutors who joined the U.S. Attorney's Office within the last year were sworn-in by Chief U.S. District Judge Heil on Wednesday. The prosecutors were hired from across the country to help with the increase in federal cases since the Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Politico: **Jan. 6 panel braces for collision with Trump**, Kyle Cheney, October 4, 2021, 4:42 AM

The congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol is steeling itself for its first encounter with an immovable object — Donald Trump. Some aspects of its work are proceeding smoothly. The panel has held its first closed-door transcribed interviews with willing witnesses, according to sources familiar with those efforts, and new ones are scheduled for this week. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: **[OPINION] Chuck Grassley favors term limits. Just not for himself**, Art Cullen, October 3, 2021, 3:28 PM

Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) was first elected to the state legislature in 1958, when I was 1 year old and Fidel Castro's beard was just filling in. Now I'm on Social Security, Castro is dead, and Grassley is running for another six-year Senate term. You might think 42 years in the Senate is enough. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: **Schumer spooked by scourge of ghost guns in NYC**, Clayton Guse, October 3, 2021, 8:21 PM

An incoming policy change by the Biden administration ought to help stymie the growing problem of "ghost guns" in New York City, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said Sunday. Schumer pointed to a Sunday cover story by the Daily News revealing how the barely legal firearms — sold in pieces, with no serial number, and which do not require a background check — to push the feds to implement a crackdown. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Staten Island Advance \(Staten Island, NY\)](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: OCTOBER 3, 2021

- US officials are quietly preparing for what they think could be the biggest surge in traffic at the southern border in decades if a Covid restriction that has blocked most migrants for almost two years is lifted Thursday. [[ABC](#)]
- Officials and clean-up crews in California are trying to limit the damage from a major offshore oil spill just south of Los Angeles. The oil has spoiled beaches, killed wildlife and threatens local wetlands. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Nearly 67% of adults in America are fully vaccinated, but states and cities across the country are scrambling to prepare for worker shortages as some protest the vaccine mandate. Only about one-third of the world's population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with developing countries lagging far behind. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden will travel to Michigan Tuesday in an effort to build support for the infrastructure bill and the spending measure as some house Democrats say they're willing to negotiate. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Supreme Court justices will take up some of the most divisive issues in America when they start their term on Monday, deciding cases on abortion, gun rights and religion. The first Women's March of the Biden administration has headed straight for

the steps of the US Supreme Court as part of nationwide protests demanding continued access to abortion. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]

- The Chinese military flew 16 warplanes over waters south of Taiwan on Sunday as the United States expressed concern about what it called China's "provocative military action" near the self-governing island that China claims. [[CBS](#)]
- At least five civilians were killed in a bomb blast at the entrance to a Kabul mosque Sunday, a Taliban official said, describing the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since US forces left at the end of August. [[ABC](#)]
- The body of 19-year-old college student Miya Marcano, who went missing more than a week ago, was found near an Orlando apartment complex, Orange County's sheriff said Saturday. A medical examiner has not yet confirmed the identity. [[ABC](#)]

From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: FW: Abbreviated Weekend Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: October 3, 2021 5:15 PM (UTC-04:00)

From: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) (b)(6)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; Heinzelman, Kate (OAG) (b)(6);
Seidman, Ricki (OAG) (b)(6); Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG) (b)(6);
(b)(6); Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG) (b)(6); Visser, Tim (OAG)
(b)(6); Reich, Mitchell (OAG) (b)(6)
Subject: Abbreviated Weekend Clips

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Back on the Bench, the Supreme Court Faces a Blockbuster Term” [\[NYT\]](#)
- “Billions Hidden Beyond Reach: How the global elite hide their wealth in a secretive system” [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “Democrats Weigh Cutting Programs or Reducing Scope to Trim \$3.5 Trillion Bill” [\[WSJ\]](#)
- “Massive oil spill sends crude onto Orange County beaches, killing birds, marine life” [\[LAT\]](#)

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Biden administration urges judge to block Texas abortion law, Paul J. Weber, October 1, 2021, 4:00 PM

The Biden administration on Friday urged a federal judge to block the nation’s most restrictive abortion law, which has banned most abortions in Texas since early September and sent women racing to get care beyond the borders of the second-most populous state. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, did not say when he would rule following a nearly three-hour hearing in Austin. At least one Texas abortion provider said it stood ready to resume offering services if the law known as Senate Bill 8 is temporarily shelved. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [BuzzFeed](#), [Dallas Morning News](#), [Forbes](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [NBC](#), [NPR](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WSJ](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Times-1](#), [Washington Times-2](#), [KVUE-ABC \(Austin, TX\)](#)

CBS Evening News, October 1, 2021: For the first time in 6 years, the DEA has sent out an urgent warning about Fentanyl laced pills on the streets. The pills have caused a spike in the number of overdoses. Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco said the pills look like real drugs and, “. . . are being marketed to teenagers. [\[Watch\]](#)

Reuters: U.S. deputy atty general orders federal prosecutors to cooperate with local police to protect crime victims, Sarah N. Lynch, October 1, 2021, 5:54 PM

U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco on Friday ordered federal prosecutors to share tips and better coordinate with local law enforcement about ongoing violent or sex abuse crimes, particularly against minor children, even if they do not intend to pursue federal charges. The U.S. government “must be mindful of our duty to promote public safety when there may be an ongoing risk of violence or harm to victims,” Monaco wrote in an Oct. 1 memo to federal prosecutors. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Hill](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#)

WSJ: Justice Department Firms Up Criminal Division Leadership Ranks, Dylan Tokar, October 1, 2021, 2:21 PM

The U.S. Justice Department on Friday took steps to solidify the leadership ranks of its criminal division

and fraud section under an assistant attorney general selected by President Biden, promoting several career prosecutors to serve in key positions overseeing the agency's investigation of complex white-collar crimes. Lisa Miller will serve as acting deputy assistant attorney general for the criminal division, overseeing the fraud and appellate sections, a Justice Department spokesman said. Ms. Miller replaces Daniel Kahn, who left the department Wednesday to join the law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [OPINION] U.S.-Mexico ties are already tense. Why is López Obrador trying to make things worse?, León Krauze, October 1, 2021, 2:16 PM

Next week, Mexican government officials will host a high-level U.S. government delegation for a series of meetings aimed at formulating a new binational security strategy. According to Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard, the conference — which will include Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Attorney General Merrick Garland — should mark the beginning of the end of the Merida Initiative, the plan that has directed cooperation on security and transnational crime over the past decade and a half. “This is a new era . . . of mutual respect,” Ebrard said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Global: [EDITORIAL] The Department of Justice must be tougher on law enforcement, The Editorial Board, October 3, 2021, 4:00 AM

Over a year after George Floyd's murder sparked massive nationwide protests against racism and rampant police violence, Congress finally gave an answer on whether it could rise to the occasion, and it was a resounding no. Despite the fact that both Democratic and Republican members of Congress showed up at Black Lives Matter rallies to express their support for the movement — and despite their many speeches and empty gestures, like wearing kente cloths while kneeling on the Capitol floor — any hope of passing federal police reform legislation this year is effectively dead now that bipartisan police bill negotiations have officially collapsed. So with Congress unable to step up to the plate, President Biden and Attorney General Merrick Garland must double down and be more aggressive in their push to reform law enforcement agencies across the country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. charges Canadian man, alleging he's an Islamic State fighter, propagandist, Unattributed, October 2, 2021, 2:03 PM EDT

U.S. prosecutors on Saturday said they charged a Saudi-born Canadian man for aiding the Islamic State militant group, alleging he tossed grenades in battle and worked with propagandists who publicized the beheading of hostages including U.S. journalist James Foley. The Department of Justice described the man, identified as Mohammed Khalifa, as a "leading figure" in the English-language media unit of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIS. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [NYT](#), [NPR](#), [The Hill](#), [WTEN-ABC \(Albany, NY\)](#)

Fox: US citizen guilty of conspiring with North Korea: DOJ, Brooke Crothers, October 3, 2021, 6:45 AM

A U.S. citizen has pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide cryptocurrency services to North Korea, the Department of Justice announced this week. Virgil Griffith, 38, pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) by providing services to North Korea, including technical advice about using cryptocurrency and blockchain technology to evade sanctions, the U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of New York said in an announcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Judge questions whether Jan. 6 rioters are treated unfairly, Colleen Long and Michael Kunzelman, October 1, 2021, 4:32 PM

Rejecting the recommendation of prosecutors, a federal judge sentenced a Jan. 6 rioter to probation on Friday and suggested that the Justice Department was being too hard on those who broke into the

Capitol compared to the people arrested during anti-racism protests following George Floyd's murder. U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden questioned why federal prosecutors had not brought more cases against those accused in 2020 summertime protests, reading out statistics on riot cases in the nation's capital that were not prosecuted. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [CNN](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pittsburgh, PA): Leniency probably not in the cards for many who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, Torsten Ove, October 3, 2021, 12:00 AM

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, a no-nonsense North Charleroi native who presides in Washington, D.C., and sometimes hears cases in Pittsburgh, made national news last month when he ripped a Capitol rioter for having "disgraced this country in the eyes of the world." He told Anthony Mariotto, of Ft. Pierce, Fla., during a plea hearing that he often traveled overseas to advise foreign governments on legal issues. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: For years, the voice behind ISIS propaganda was a mystery. Now a Canadian faces criminal charges. Rachel Weiner, October 1, 2021, 1:00 PM

A Canadian who U.S. prosecutors allege is behind influential English-language propaganda videos for the Islamic State has been brought to Virginia to be prosecuted. Mohammed Khalifa, 38, was captured by Kurdish forces in Syria in 2019. At that point, according to prosecutors, he had been with the Islamic State for six years. He started as a fighter, according to court documents, before becoming involved in the translation and dissemination of English-language propaganda. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: U.S. prosecutors ask judge to sentence men accused of plotting 'race war' ahead of Va. gun rally as domestic terrorists, Katie Mettler, October 1, 2021, 11:34 PM

Federal prosecutors have requested that two members of The Base, a white-supremacist group, be sentenced as domestic terrorists after investigators accused them of planning to sow violence at the Virginia Capitol and assassinate the state's speaker of the house. On Thursday night, the U.S. attorney's office in Maryland filed a 45-page memo asking Judge Theodore Chuang to send the men to prison for 25 years each, followed by three years of supervised release — a punishment that factors in the government's proposed terrorism enhancement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [ANALYSIS] Ransomware attack might have caused another death, Joseph Marks, October 1, 2021, 7:07 AM

A ransomware attack against an Alabama hospital may have led to a baby's death in 2019, one of the first known cases where a cyberattack had life-or-death consequences. The baby, Nicko Silar, was born with her umbilical cord wrapped around her neck and constricting her airway, causing severe brain damage, as the Wall Street Journal's Kevin Poulsen, Robert McMillan and Melanie Evans report. She died nine months later. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: Texas man who wanted to blow up Amazon data center sentenced to 10 years, Phil Helsel, October 1, 2021, 11:22 PM

A Texas man who wanted to blow up an Amazon data center to disrupt the internet and upset "the oligarchy" was sentenced to 10 years in prison Friday, federal prosecutors said. The attempted attack in Virginia never occurred, and Seth Aaron Pendley, 28, was communicating with an undercover FBI agent instead of an explosives supplier, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, D.C\)](#), [Dallas Morning News](#), [Times Record News \(Wichita Falls, TX\)](#)

WaPo: Former Special Forces soldier and onetime congressional candidate arrested in Capitol riot case, Derek Hawkins, October 2, 2021, 2:55 PM

Congress was days away from certifying the 2020 election results when Jeremy Brown, a retired Special Forces soldier and onetime Congressional candidate, offered others a ride to the U.S. Capitol in

an RV he dubbed “GROUND FORCE ONE.” “Plenty of Gun Ports left to fill,” he wrote on encrypted chat app Signal, according to federal court documents. “We can pick you up.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Death penalty won't be sought in Ohio police officer's death, Unattributed, October 3, 2021, 10:56 AM

Federal prosecutors have decided against seeking the death penalty against a man charged in the shooting death of an Ohio police officer almost two years ago. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland notified the court and defendant Nathan Goddard that the United States “will not seek a sentence of death” in the slaying of Dayton police detective and Drug Enforcement Administration task force officer Jorge DelRio, the Dayton Daily News reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHIO-COX \(Dayton, OH\)](#)

Columbus Dispatch (Columbus, OH): Officers in corruption probe have much in common with those they arrested, Theodore Decker, October 3, 2021, 6:01 AM

In early 2020, a man named Oswaldo Pedraza-Vasquez was arrested on charges that he was moving large amounts of drugs through town. [...] This week, Kotchkoski, 33, and another narcotics officer, Marco Merino, 44, were arrested by the FBI following a drug investigation. Merino and Kotchkoski are charged with dealing 7.5 kilograms of fentanyl, and Merino with taking bribes to help protect deliveries of cocaine, according to criminal complaints filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

KAIT-ABC/NBC/CW (Jonesboro, AR): Housing Authority settles sexual harassment lawsuit with Justice Department, feds say, Unattributed, October 1, 2021, 10:54 PM (EDT)

An area housing authority must pay \$70,000 to settle a lawsuit that alleged a former employee sexually harassed a housing authority applicant, violating federal law, federal authorities said Friday. The suit involves the White River Regional Housing Authority, based in Melbourne, and a former employee, Duane Johnson, officials said. In a media release, the Justice Department alleged that the housing authority and Johnson violated the Fair Housing Act. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTLO-Telemundo \(Mountain Home, AR\)](#)

KXXV-ABC (Waco, TX): Justice Department argues Texas ban on school mask mandates violates disabled students' rights, Brian Lopez, October 1, 2021, 10:41 PM

Texas families of children with disabilities who have filed a lawsuit challenging Gov. Greg Abbott's ban on mask mandates in schools now have the federal government in their corner.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a formal statement in support of the federal lawsuit filed in August by the advocacy group Disability Rights Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Women's March targets Supreme Court, with abortion on line, Ellen Knickmeyer, October 2, 2021,

The first Women's March of the Biden administration headed straight for the steps of the Supreme Court on Saturday, part of nationwide protests that drew thousands to Washington to demand continued access to abortion in a year when conservative lawmakers and judges have put it in jeopardy.

Demonstrators filled the streets surrounding the court, shouting “My body, my choice” and cheering loudly to the beat of drums. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Law360: DC Judge Rescues 7,395 Diversity Visas From Expiration, Alyssa Aquino, October 1, 2021, 4:04 PM

A Washington, D.C., federal judge ordered the Biden administration to save 7,395 diversity visas past their expiration and hold them for a group of visa lottery winners whose applications weren't prioritized for visa processing. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta issued his order late Thursday, hours before the fiscal year ended and the vast majority of green cards allocated through the Diversity Visa Lottery, for fiscal year 2021 were set to expire unused. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, TX): **After delay, Texas to begin releasing migrants held in violation of state law under Gov. Greg Abbott's border crackdown**, Jolie McCullough, October 1, 2021, 5:48 PM

Three days after a state district judge ordered the immediate release of more than 240 migrants imprisoned in violation of state law, the Texas prison system finally received the paperwork Friday to begin letting the men out of custody on no-cost bonds. Prison officials expect to turn the men, arrested under Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative, over to federal immigration authorities to either be detained again, deported or released into the United States pending asylum hearings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: **[OPINION] Biden Is Holding as Many Immigrants in Private Prisons as Trump**, Eunice Cho, October 3, 2021, 8:00 AM

As a candidate, President Biden pledged to stop using private detention centers. "The federal government should not use private facilities for any detention, including detention of undocumented immigrants," then-candidate Biden said, and in April of this year, President Biden again announced that there should be "no private prisons, period" when addressing protesters who demanded the end to immigrant detention. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTSM-NBC (El Paso, TX): **U.S. Border Patrol Agents disrupt multiple smuggling schemes in the past week**, Nicole Lopez, October 2, 2021, 10:42 PM (EDT)

El Paso Border Patrol Agents working in Southern New Mexico and parts of West Texas said they had a "busy week", disrupting multiple smuggling schemes and apprehending a Mexican national convicted of assault with a deadly weapon. Border Patrol agents working in Las Cruces help out New Mexico State Police Officers in stopping a vehicle with nine migrants – some of which were not wearing seat belts- on Sunday, September 26, CBP officials said in a release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFTL-NBC (Palm Beach, FL): **Passenger jumps onto wing of American Airlines plane after landing at MIA**, Evelyn Romo, October 2, 2021, 3:51 PM

A passenger on American Airlines Flight 920 jumped onto the wing of the plane as it approached its gate at the Miami International Airport. According to officials, the plane was arriving from Cali, Colombia when a man opened the emergency exit door of the jet and jumped onto the wing as it approached the gate. Once at the gate, U.S. Customs and Border Protection took the man, identified as 33-year-old Christian Segura. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

CNN: **More than 230 people arrested in Nebraska anti-gang operation dubbed 'K.O.'**, Alaa Elassar, October 3, 2021, 5:02 AM

A multi-agency law enforcement operation in Nebraska resulted in the arrest of 231 people, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "K.O." focused on reducing and dismantling gang activity in the Omaha metro region, Marshals said Monday in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Bloomberg Wealth: **Russian Billionaire Oleg Tinkov to Pay \$500 Million for U.S. Tax Fraud**, Malathi

Nayak, October 1, 2021, 3:44 PM

TCS Group's billionaire founder Oleg Tinkov agreed to pay more than \$500 million and pleaded guilty in a 2013 U.S. fraud case that accused him of concealing assets to evade paying taxes, the Justice Department said. Tinkov, 53, hid \$1 billion in assets and income when he renounced his U.S. citizenship following TCS Group's initial public offering, according to an indictment unsealed last year. After his was arrested in February 2020 in London, he was contesting extradition to the U.S. while undergoing treatment for leukemia. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Forbes](#), [Law360](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Alabama lawmakers OK plan to build prisons with virus cash, Kim Chandler, October 1, 2021, 3:59 PM

Amid a national debate over the use of pandemic relief funds, Alabama lawmakers swiftly approved a plan Friday to tap \$400 million from the American Rescue Plan to help build two super-size prisons, brushing off criticism from congressional Democrats that the money was not intended for such projects. The Alabama Legislature gave final approval to the \$1.3 billion prison construction plan, and to a separate bill to steer \$400 million of the state's \$2.1 billion from the rescue funds to pay for it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: A look at high court's top cases in new term starting Monday, Unattributed, October 2, 2021, 10:36 PM

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health (19-1392) is a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the Supreme Court's major decisions over the last half-century that guarantee a woman's right to an abortion nationwide. Lower courts blocked Mississippi's ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, but a more conservative Supreme Court has agreed to review those rulings. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#), [WSJ](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: Supreme Court justice axes appeal of NYC school vaccine plan, Unattributed, October 1, 2021, 6:39 PM

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Friday denied an emergency appeal from a group of teachers to block New York City's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for public school teachers and other staff from going into effect. The teachers had filed for the injunction with Sotomayor on Thursday, in an effort to keep the mandate from going into effect Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

OPIOID CRISIS

WaPo: Major pharmacies face first federal trial over role in nation's opioid crisis, Meryl Kornfield, October 3, 2021, 8:00 AM

In a span of eight years, 10 pharmacies dispensed nearly 49 million prescription pain pills in two counties near Cleveland — enough to provide about a dozen doses to each man, woman and child who lived there every 12 months. Now Lake and Trumbull counties are set to face off against four of the nation's largest chain pharmacies in a federal trial that could serve as a litmus test for thousands of cities and counties looking to hold them accountable for their role in the nation's opioid crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: OCTOBER 2, 2021

- Thousands of people marched in rallies across the country to protest Texas's laws on abortions. The

largest march was in Washington, D.C. where protesters marched to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court starts a new term this week and in December will be hearing a pivotal case on abortion rights, testing Roe v. Wade. [[CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- About 700,429 Americans have died from COVID, one of the highest COVID death tolls in the world, despite the population having access to COVID vaccinations. In the last 2 weeks the number of cases and deaths have decreased by 27% and 5%, respectively, with the majority of cases attributed to the unvaccinated. Vaccinations continue to be encouraged. Merck's states it is on pace for Molnupiravir to be submitted for Emergency Use Authorization. [[CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: OCTOBER 1, 2021

- A school shooting occurred on Friday, with the gunman shot through a locked, glass door at YES Prep Southwest Secondary. Principal Eric Espinoza who was shot from behind was taken to a hospital and was expected to be released Friday. The 25 year-old former student quickly surrendered to police after the shooting. [[ABC](#)]
- Newly released police body camera footage reveals the domestic incident between Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie. Officers separated the two for the night, putting Brian in a hotel and Gabby sleeping in their white van, neither pressing charges. An independent investigation is taking place on how the police handled this call. [[ABC](#)]
- The CDC Director noted that on average more than 8K people are still being hospitalized with COVID each day. Overcrowding in hospitals has caused a delayed in the treatment and care for some patients. The delay in medical care has caused the deterioration of patient's health and created a crisis. [[NBC](#)]

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Protecting Our Democracy's Frontline Workers, sked FINAL

August 4, 2022 12:46PM ET

TRANSCRIPT

August 03, 2022

COMMITTEE HEARING

SEN. RICHARD J. DURBIN, D-ILL.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY'S
FRONTLINE WORKERS

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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY'S
FRONTLINE WORKERS

AUGUST 3, 2022

SPEAKERS:

SEN. RICHARD J. DURBIN, D-ILL., CHAIR

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, D-CALIF.

SEN. PATRICK J. LEAHY, D-VT.

SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, D-R.I.

SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR, D-MINN.

SEN. CHRIS COONS, D-DEL.

SEN. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, D-CONN.

SEN. MAZIE K. HIRONO, D-HAWAII

SEN. CORY BOOKER, D-N.J.

SEN. JON OSSOFF, D-GA.

SEN. ALEX PADILLA, D-CALIF.

SEN. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, R-IOWA, RANKING MEMBER

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM, R-S.C.

SEN. JOHN CORNYN, R-TEXAS

SEN. MIKE LEE, R-UTAH

SEN. TED CRUZ, R-TEXAS

SEN. THOM TILLIS, R-N.C.

SEN. BEN SASSE, R-NEB.

SEN. JOHN KENNEDY, R-LA.

SEN. JOSH HAWLEY, R-MO.

SEN. MARSHA BLACKBURN, R-TENN.

SEN. TOM COTTON, R-ARK.

WITNESSES:

THE HONORABLE KENNETH A. POLITE, JR., ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KIM WYMAN, SENIOR ELECTION SECURITY ADVISOR, CYBERSECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

THE HONORABLE JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE, MICHIGAN

THE HONORABLE MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER, SECRETARY OF STATE, NEW
MEXICO

AMY COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
ELECTION DIRECTORS (NASED)

MATT CRANE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO COUNTY CLERKS
ASSOCIATION

D. MICHAEL HURST, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, SOUTHERN
DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

RAFAEL MANGUAL, NICK OHNELL FELLOW, MANHATTAN INSTITUTE

JASON C. JOHNSON, FORMER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BALTIMORE POLICE
DEPARTMENT

DURBIN: This hearing will come to order. Today the Judiciary Committee is holding first ever hearing on a growing danger to our democracy -- threats against election workers.

In a recent survey, one out of every six election officials reported receiving threats because their jobs are on the front lines of democracy. Many of these threats were inspired by false claims of fraud surrounding the last election, claims that culminated in President Trump's big lie.

Last summer, the Department of Justice launched a task force to investigate the unprecedented threats that elected workers across America are facing. This morning, for the first time, the department will testify about the progress that has been made by the task force since it was formed.

We will also hear from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, which plays an indispensable role in securing our election. We will hear from public officials who have received death threats because of their efforts to protect our voting.

Before we begin, I want to play a video to put this in perspective.

(START OF VIDEO)

(UNKNOWN): Donald Trump launching an assault integrity of the election, unleashing a barrage of false claims of fraud and corruption without evidence.

DONALD TRUMP: We were winning, and then our numbers started miraculously getting whittled away. In secret, we have so much evidence, so much proof.

(UNKNOWN): Donald Trump Jr. and other allies threatened to turn the president's base against Republicans who do not rush to the president's defense.

DONALD TRUMP JR.: Fight each and every one of these battles to the death.

(UNKNOWN): The threats and the lies are also having a detrimental effect on poll workers, on regular everyday citizens.

DONALD TRUMP: That Ruby Freeman that -- she's a vote scammer.

(UNKNOWN): But those are not suitcases. 11Alive has confirmed they are the standard ballot containers used by Fulton County.

(UNKNOWN): I mean he ruined these women's lives.

(UNKNOWN): Describes in a lawsuit how she left her home of 20 years hours before a mob of angry Trump supporters surrounded her home.

RUBY FREEMAN: Do you know how it feels to have the president of the United States to target you?

SHAYE MOSS: I felt like it was all my fault, like, if I would have never decided to be an elections worker -- people are lying and spreading rumors and lies and attacking my mom.

(UNKNOWN): As disturbing as that is, it is just one part of the Trump-fueled intimidation effort that's been waged against Freeman and against election workers like her.

(UNKNOWN): They had assault rifles.

(UNKNOWN): A pipe bomb.

(UNKNOWN): you are going to get what's coming to you.

(UNKNOWN): They threatened my life.

(UNKNOWN): You couldn't go anywhere without the police officers.

(UNKNOWN): We had officers on the roof of our building.

(UNKNOWN): We had go bags ready for my family and my children.

(UNKNOWN): In places like Arizona...

(UNKNOWN): We are coming for you. We will find you.

(UNKNOWN): In Wisconsin...

(UNKNOWN): And we're going to hang you.

(UNKNOWN): From Georgia...

(UNKNOWN): Do you hear the anger in my voice? We're ready to (inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): And Minnesota...

(UNKNOWN): Probably going to be executed for treason.

GABRIEL STERLING: This has to stop. This is elections. This is the backbone of democracy and all of you who have not said a damn word are complicit in this. Someone's going to get hurt. Someone's going to get shot. Someone's going to get killed.

(END OF VIDEO)

DURBIN: We have discussed the issue of violence in the past. There has been a consensus on this committee -- and I hope it continues in the Congress -- that there is no place for violence whatsoever in our constitutional system of government, neither on the right nor on the left.

I want to tell the story of Ruby Freeman. Thanks to the January 6 committee, many Americans know her story. A 62-year-old grandmother in Fulton County, Georgia, she and her daughter, Shaye Moss, are two of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who worked the polls on election day 2020.

Soon after election day, they found themselves at the center of the big lie when Presidential Counsel Rudy Giuliani promoted a viral video that Giuliani claims showed Ms. Freeman and Ms. Moss counting illegal ballots. In reality, Giuliani's claim was false. The only thing Ms. Freeman and Ms. Moss were guilty of was performing their civic duty diligently, faithfully, legally.

The Republican-led Georgia's Secretary of State's Office and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation immediately refuted Rudy Giuliani's lie. But the damage had already been done. For months, the former president's allies and the right-wing media echo chamber relentlessly slandered Ms. Freeman and her daughter. They received hundreds of threatening racist message and phone calls.

Ms. Freeman was repeatedly harassed and threatened at her home which, she fled shortly before January 6 after the FBI warned her that they could no longer protect her. Ms. Moss left her job at the Fulton County Registration and Elections Department where she had proudly served for nearly a decade. And just last week, court documents indicated that Ms. Freeman and Ms. Moss' names were written on a pad of paper labeled "Death list," which was found in the home of a member of the Oath Keepers who is charged with seditious conspiracy in connection with the January 6 attack.

Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss are not alone. Despite administering with the former president's own administration called, quote, "the most secure election in American history," election workers throughout the country of both political parties -- both -- have been forced to take extraordinary steps to protect themselves and their families. Many of these election workers have spent their own money installing elaborate home security systems. Others, like one county clerk in Colorado, have begun to wear a bulletproof vest to work.

Over the past several months, my office has heard from individual election workers who shared their stories of violent threats. Many of them have submitted statements for our hearing. These threats are taking a disastrous toll on our democracy. According to a recent survey, roughly one in five election officials plans on leaving their job ahead of the next presidential election. This mass exodus coincides with an ongoing organized effort by big lie promoters to secure jobs administering elections across our country. We saw it last night in the Republican primary in Arizona.

Our democracy cannot survive if we allow harassment and intimidation of election officials to become the new norm. As we look ahead to this year's election, fewer than a hundred days away, I hope we learned the lessons from the last election.

The former president's plot to overturn the election wreaked havoc on America. We saw that personally here in the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Public servants like Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss are living with the consequences of this big lie every day of their lives.

I look forward to learning more about the steps the Justice Department insists and are (ph) taking to protect election officials in the months leading up to this election. And I hope every member of this committee will join me in condemning the threats that those officials continue to face.

With that, I turn to Ranking Member Grassley for his opening.

GRASSLEY: Okay. Thank you, Chairman Durbin.

Our hearing today is on threats against election workers. Threats of violence are never acceptable -- any threat of violence. Violence is a very major problem in America today with rates of violent crime skyrocketing across the country. Not since the 1990s have we seen these levels of murder, assault, carjacking, robbery, attacks on police, and other violent crimes.

To start -- the start of this violent crime wave began in 2020 as police nationwide were pulled off the streets. A study from the Council of Criminal Justice showed that murders in major cities in 2021 were 44 percent more than in 2019. So far this year, major cities of Baltimore, Los Angeles, Philadelphia Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and New York City are already worse than in 2021.

The baseline is rising. Higher rates of violent crime are becoming the new norm. Some of the main causes of this rise in violent crime are anti-police rhetoric, deep policing efforts, progressive prosecution, bail reform, defund-the-police movements. We've talked about the crisis faced by law enforcement officers last week in this very committee in our hearing about attacks on police. This crisis in policing is happening at the same time that progressive prosecutors refuse to hold violent criminals accountable for their crimes.

Witness after witness in this committee has told us that bail reform helps to release violent criminals who then can go commit more crimes. You -- we all heard about the horrible story that occurred at Waukesha, Wisconsin when a man drove into the parade of people, killing six people and wounding many more. He was out on bail for a violent crime. He should never have been free. But a progressive prosecutor and lax laws allowed him to get out and kill all those people.

Research is clear that a huge amount of violent crime in any city is committed by a very small number of repeat offenders. Just think -- if police and prosecutors can focus on those offenders they can improve, the situation very significantly.

But because of the difficulties at the state level in terms of understaffed police departments, progressive prosecutors who turn a blind eye to violent crime, and state legislatures who often soften criminal laws and implement bail reform, states don't seem to be solving this problem nor are they able and capable of doing it all alone. Federal support is necessary. Congress must treat violent crime as a very top priority.

For this reason, last week I introduced Combating Violent and Dangerous Crime Act. The bill contains common-sense proposals to reduce the spike in violent crime in the nation, proposals that would expand federal prosecution options for offenses like murder, carjacking, bank robbery, you know, assault on police. All of my fellow Republicans on this committee have co-sponsored this bill, and I thank them for doing it.

The Department of Justice should also be treating violent crime as a top priority. But that's not what we're seeing from this Department of Justice. In the summer of 2020 under the Trump administration, the Department of Justice conducted Operation Legend which was targeted towards prosecuting violent criminals in places in America that had the worst rate of violent crime. This effort was a supplement to the overstretched state and local law enforcement and court systems which simply could not deal with the surge in violent crimes that they were seeing.

But whenever a question about violent crime comes up, the Department of Justice only wants to talk about gun control, not punishing criminals who commit violent crime. I wrote a letter to the Department of Justice on February 14, 2022 to ask the department to answer this misguided and politicized approach to law enforcement.

Now we are here on the subject of this hearing. More than a year ago, the Department of Justice formed a task force on threats to election workers. It appears that only four cases have been announced as a result of this task force effort. Now that's after more than a year's work. Just four. And there have been no charge -- acts of violence against election workers. These prosecutions may be very worthy. But the existence of a full DOJ task force is confusing.

Compared to Operation Legend, which resulted in about 1,500 prosecutions for crimes involving drugs, guns, and violence -- all that in less than six months -- in light of Garland's past focus on intimidating parents who were concerned about school boards, I fear that there is a political element to the decision to focus on this area. This administration doesn't want to talk about the field policies at Democratic cities where crime is spiking up.

But a law enforcement agency like the Department of Justice should not be participating in those sorts of politics. The Department of Justice is the highest law enforcement agency in America. It must focus its priorities on challenges facing America today. That means addressing violent crime. If we can only reduce the homicide numbers to where they were before the defund-the-police movement, we could save as many as 6,000 lives per year because that's how much it has spiked up in the last two years. Yet there is no murder surge task force, no task force for combating the 20-year high in police killings, no carjacking task force, certainly no task force for the threats and arsons against crisis pregnancy centers and churches in the wake of the Dobbs decision.

The Department of Justice is not choosing what to convene task forces on by levels of violence. They are choosing a political message, I believe. And that will have a real consequence on the safety and lives of many Americans.

I yield.

DURBIN: Thank you, Senator Grassley.

In the current Congress, this judiciary committee has held hearings on law enforcement officer safety, mass shootings, domestic terrorism, protecting children from gun violence, carjackings, hate crimes, reducing violence in Chicago, violence against women, and more, including multiple oversight hearings of law enforcement agencies. We have another oversight hearing tomorrow with the director of the FBI scheduled.

The subject of this hearing is threats to election workers. We have two panels. In the first panel, we welcome the Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite. Assistant Attorney General Polite is a longtime federal prosecutor who oversees the Justice Department's Criminal Division, including the Election Threats Task Force.

We also welcome Kim Wyman, senior election security advisor at CISA, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Prior to CISA, Ms. Wyman, a Republican, served for nearly a decade as Washington's elected secretary of state. So she certainly knows this field very well. We welcome her.

I'm going to ask them both to be sworn in. They will then be given five minutes each for opening statements and then round a question from the senators up to five minutes each and then our second panel will be recognized.

If you would please stand. If you raise your right hand -- do you swear and affirm the testimony you are about to give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? Let the record reflect both witness answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Polite, I'm going to allow you to start. Well, make sure -- make sure your mic is hot.

POLITE: Good morning, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee. Thank you for inviting the United States Department of Justice to appear before you today to discuss election threats. Again, my name is Kenneth Polite, and I'm the assistant attorney general of the department's Criminal Division testifying today on behalf of the department.

The Department of Justice is committed to addressing threats to the state and local election community. The courageous and dedicated men and women who are responsible for administering the most fundamental aspect of our democracy, our elections, should not face threats for merely doing their jobs. These victims, often volunteers, are people from across our country and across the political spectrum. These are people we have sworn to protect.

Through direct engagement with the election community, training of our federal state and local law enforcement agents, grant funding for enhanced election security, and federal criminal investigation and prosecution of election-related threats where appropriate, the department is working intently to prepare and protect our election officials and their staff as we approach the 2022 midterm elections.

Last June, the department launched the Election Threats Task Force to combat the sharp rise in reports of threats received by the election community during and following the 2020 election cycle. Comprised of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity and Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Sections, the Civil Rights Division's Voting and Criminal Sections, and the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section as well as the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the task force unites the foremost subject matter experts across the government who have deep experience with election-related issues.

Over the past year, the task force has proactively engaged with the election community to hear directly from election officials and workers regarding the types of threatening communications that they receive, the challenges such communications pose to election administration, and their greatest concerns and needs with respect to combating physical threats. These conversations are critical to positioning the task force to effectively address threats to the election community and to identify and respond to trends in this area.

In response to the expressed needs of the election community, the task force has shared information about the types of communications that election officials and workers have reported nationwide, as shown on our screen today, the legal standards that apply and how determinations are made on whether to open a criminal investigation as well as common investigative steps undertaken in these matters. The task force has also provided detailed guidance to the election community on best practices for memorializing threats, and reporting such communication to the FBI has encouraged broad reporting and has provided contact information for each of the 56 FBI election crime coordinators and field offices throughout the country.

The task force is committed to reviewing and assessing all reported threatening and harassing communications directed at the election community to identify where federal criminal prosecution is both appropriate and permissible. Although the vast majority of communications directed at election workers, offensive though they may be, will not constitute true threats subject to federal criminal prosecution due to the robust protections afforded to political speech by the First Amendment, we are committed to following the facts and the law.

Political considerations do not and should not play any role in any prosecutorial decision made by the department. Threats to the election community remain a national public safety issue requiring a national response regardless of politics. The trauma experienced in this community is profound and unprecedented. The department is committed to investigating and prosecuting violations of federal law against those who administer and safeguard our electoral system. I want to assure you that our attention to ensuring the safety and security of those in the election community will not wane. And through these collective efforts, we hope to continue to mitigate and deter threats. We look forward to continuing this work as long as that threat persists.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to discuss the ongoing work of the department. I would be pleased to respond to your questions.

DURBIN: Thanks, General Polite.

Kim Wyman, senior election security advisor at CISA and 10-year secretary of state in Washington, please?

WYMAN: Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency or CISA.

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone -- got like six words in before the emotion of the video got me; I'm sorry -- are the cornerstone of American democracy. Over the course of nearly three decades, I had the opportunity to work in elections at the state and local level, and I strive to make sure that that principle was upheld.

Prior to joining CISA, I was blessed to have spent 30 years in Washington State elections. And I began in the early 1990s. My biggest fear was crying in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, by the way. I just have to start there when I was appointed Thurston County election director and I learned elections from the ground up.

In 2001, I was appointed and elected as Thurston County auditor, which allowed me to make policies that improved elections administration and voter registration. And in 2012, I was elected as Washington secretary of state, the second woman to serve in that capacity. And in that capacity, I served for about a decade, and I was able to leave in November to become the senior election security adviser at CISA.

Overseeing over 150 elections and serving as the chief election officer at both the state and local level has enabled me to understand the roles and responsibilities of election officials and witnessed firsthand the challenges that they face. This experience has prepared me to help shape CISA's services and resources to make them more impactful for election officials and voters across the country and make our democracy more resilient. My written statement provides more detailed information about CISA and our mission.

But I want to start my remarks today by providing a basic overview of how we support the election community. Our mission at CISA is to ensure the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure. In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security designated election infrastructure as critical infrastructure, which allowed Department of Homeland Security to prioritize federal assistance to the election subsector.

CISA's election-focused mission is to ensure that state and local election officials and their private sector partners have the necessary information and tools to successfully manage risk and build resiliency in the nation's election infrastructure. Our support to the election community is bolstered by the work of our federal partners in the intelligence community, in federal law enforcement, and other agencies like the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and the U.S. Postal Service. Collectively, we have brought incredible resources to bear to support state and local election officials and take a whole-of-government approach to election security.

As we approach the 2022 midterms, we at CISA have identified five main priorities. First, CISA remains committed to sharing actionable information with election officials about threats and risks to election infrastructure alongside our intelligence community and federal law enforcement partners. Second, we are providing guidance, services, and expertise to help election officials secure voter registration systems and information.

Third, we are redoubling our efforts to promote cyber hygiene practices specifically focused on smaller and mid-sized jurisdictions around the country that oftentimes have difficulty making cyber security investments but which are so critical to the election ecosystem. Fourth, CISA is expanding efforts aimed at building up Americans' resilience against foreign influence campaigns that threaten election infrastructure security and seek to undermine public confidence in our elections.

Finally, in partnership with the Department of Justice and the broader national security and law enforcement community, we are expanding services and resources that help keep election officials and their voters safe. From our no-cost services, incident response coordination, training and exercise packages, and broader information sharing, it's my hope that we can continue to provide meaningful assistance to our state and local election partners to prepare them for this future election cycles.

The public's confidence in their election and the faith they place in our democratic institutions rest upon the ability to conduct free and fair elections. At CISA, ensuring the security of our election infrastructure is of the highest priority. We shall remain transparent and agile in our vigorous efforts to address new and evolving threats.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify today, and I look forward to your questions.

DURBIN: Thank you, Ms. Wyman and Mr. Polite.

So I'm going to start with Ms. Wyman. I'm probably mispronouncing her name, but Lori Augino...

WYMAN: Yes.

DURBIN: Is that correct?

WYMAN: That's correct.

DURBIN: She is the director of Washington State's elections. Is that correct?

WYMAN: She was. Yes.

DURBIN: She was. Following the 2020 election, the email and home addresses of Lori Augino were published on a website called Enemies of the People along with a photo of her face in crosshairs.

WYMAN: Yes, sir.

DURBIN: The website, which amplified the former president's stolen election claims, was subsequently linked to Iran. Ms. Wyman, I know that Ms. Augino is your former colleague. I'm sorry she experienced these threats. How big a problem is doxing, which is the general category -- what I just described? And what is CISA doing to help state and local election officials guard against the release of their personal information online?

WYMAN: Doxing is a -- is a problem, and it is across the election community. I apologize, senator, for getting emotional. Thank you. It was unnerving, as you can tell, when my elections director's information was put out. That's part of why I joined CISA, to be honest. It's to provide state and local election officials with resources that they don't have.

In terms of doxing, we are working with the Department of Justice and law enforcement partners certainly to get election officials to report incidents like getting their personal information put out on the Internet and mainly building -- trying to build the resilience by helping election officials to have plans and be mindful of what they have out on the Internet.

DURBIN: It's hard enough to get people to work on election day, isn't it?

WYMAN: Yes.

DURBIN: I found that finding (ph) precinct committee -- Precinct 54 in Springfield Illinois to sit there for 12 hours maybe or longer...

WYMAN: Yes.

DURBIN: ... and to get paid a decent sum of money but certainly not a ransom or a reward for their effort. And now to have these kinds of threats against people and even threats that endanger their lives, it's got to be even more difficult to recruit people, is it not?

WYMAN: I am hearing from my colleagues across the country that they are having difficulty finding election workers. Yes.

DURBIN: So, Mr. Polite, back to your testimony for a minute. You talked about the number of cases of being prosecuted. Senator Grassley did as well. I was told five. Senator Grassley referred to four. you have said how difficult it is to really make a case even when we have the evidence that we described this morning. Tell me the dilemma we face here. People don't want to work supervising elections and follow the law if they're going to be harassed and intimidated. I don't want them to be harassed and intimidated, but it's happening. So what is your task force doing about it?

POLITE: Senator, first of all, let me just say I certainly share -- the department shares the concerns related to the election community that have been raised in the video from Ms. Freeman in particular. It's very powerful testimony. The number of cases that the task force has charged to date is five. In addition, there have been a number of state prosecutions. I believe the numbers three at the state level.

What I can tell you is that the task force over the last year has been committed and, in fact, conducted a review of every referral of a harassing and offensive communication that enters (ph) have received. That number is over 1,000. And as I mentioned in my opening comments, senator, the overwhelming majority of those communications -- although they are certainly harassing, they are certainly disturbing, in many cases, the overwhelming majority of cases -- they will not satisfy the legal standard that the First Amendment provides for proving a true threat, that is, a serious threat of unlawful violence.

DURBIN: What about doxing? Is there anything that you are considering that will protect people like this Washington State director of elections from this kind of harassment and intimidation online?

POLITE: Certainly, senator. And, again, part of this work of the task force is certainly leaning in on enforcement as a tool. But it cannot be the only tool that we are utilizing. It's part of the reason why we have lifted up potential grant funding for election community officials to provide security as necessary. Doxing, as you said, is certainly a very serious issue. And one of the -- one of the aspects of the task force's work is in addition to that assessment of each case for potential criminal prosecution, it is also assessed for whether there is an imminent threat of physical violence.

DURBIN: Well, let me ask you before you go further -- and I just have 15 seconds left.

POLITE: Certainly.

DURBIN: When we do a survey of election officials, most of them don't know you exist. What kind of communication are you sending out that might alert them to the possibility that you are there if needed?

POLITE: This has been a tremendous amount of outreach to the election community, senator. Just recently, as recently as Monday, I was on a video call with over 600 members of the election community. That is the third such outreach I have done. The task force itself has been involved in outreach to conferences, state and local prosecutors, state and local law enforcement, members of the election community such as national associations. And, in fact, I will be speaking at the National Association of Election Officials' annual conference at the end of this year -- end of this month.

DURBIN: I am going to close my questioning by saying that Senator Grassley has raised an important question. Aren't there more important things you could focus on? But if we lose the integrity of our election system that is so fundamental to our democracy, you know, I don't know if we even have a Senate Judiciary Committee when it's all said and done.

We've got to really look at the basics. And the basics say protect your democracy and protect the people who, by and large, are not making a fortune but are volunteering their time many -- in many instances to make this election process work. And for them to be intimidated to the point where they drop out of the picture or, God forbid, there are some results that don't reflect reality, that, to me, is fundamental to our democracy.

I thank you both.

Senator Grassley?

GRASSLEY: I am going to take off from where the chairman just left off with the point of view that I think is very important, that when we have violence against election officials it's probably pretty closely tied to a lot of problems we have within our society, including what you have heard most in my opening statement about the rise in crime and what we are doing about it and are we doing enough about it.

Now I have a big long lead in to my first question that I am going to summarize because you heard a lot of what I would be repeating now in my opening statement. But, in that opening statement, I referred to the Operation Legend, Project Safe Neighborhoods. Now one of the websites of the Department of Justice said in regard to Project Safe Neighborhood the fundamental goal of this work is not to increase the number of arrests or prosecutions as if they were an end in themselves. And I think we've seen what the change in philosophy of prosecutions and letting people out have done.

So it is very important to combat election violence. But why is it not just as important as my first question to create a task force dedicated to leverage federal resources against the historic murder rates? Mr. Polite?

POLITE: Senator, I welcome this question, so thank you very much for raising it. My decision to become a prosecutor in the very first place was motivated to fight violent crime. Like many of us I have a family that suffered the loss of a loved one due to violent crime. My father and brother of both law enforcement. So a lot of the issues that you are raising are very personal for me.

We have a lot of prosecutor prosecutorial priorities within the Department of Justice and within the Criminal Division. Violent crime is at the very top of that. Today we are here to talk about one category of violent crime. But when we talk about violent crime that we are seeing in our in our streets and across our country that remains, at the top of the department's priorities as well.

GRASSLEY: But not as top as creating a task force for like there is for crime in -- against election officials, evidently.

POLITE: Senator, respectfully, I would disagree with that. There have been a number of strike forces that have been established and announced by Attorney General Garland in some of the cities across this country that have reflected the highest rates of increases of violent crime. That is in partnership with ATF. That is focused on deterring and addressing violent crime that is being perpetrated by the most culpable individuals in those respective jurisdictions.

GRASSLEY: Let me follow on where you just left off. Attorney General Garland made statements to this committee indicating that the Department of Justice had formed a task force on, quote, "safety of federal prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, judges, members of Congress," end of quote, back in March of 2021.

It's not mentioned in any public-facing statement by the Department of Justice, and neither my staff nor the Congressional Research Service has been able to confirm it exists. Does his task force exist? And will the department -- or will the department create a dedicated task force to leveraging federal resources to combat the murder of police officers? And if the task force does exist, where do we find that information?

POLITE: Senator, thank you very much for that question. I can certainly get more details to you related to the task force itself. What I can tell you though is the impetus behind that task force -- protecting our law enforcement personnel across this country. It remains a high priority for me, for the division, and for all of the department. It is not limited to just the work of some particular task force. It is, in fact, the work of the entire department and our U.S. attorneys and law enforcement partners on a day-to-day basis.

GRASSLEY: So far, the department has been unwilling to prosecute those who intimidate Supreme Court justices in their homes even if the federal statute forbids this behavior. Will you change course and prosecute those who intimidated the justices?

POLITE: Senator, again, another example of a very high priority, another example of violence in our community addressed against anyone regardless of their title of status remains a priority for the department. Just recently, the District of Maryland's U.S. Attorney's Office, in fact, charged one of the individuals that was involved in unlawful serious threatening conduct at the home of one of our Supreme Court justices. In addition, our attorney general has met with law enforcement -- federal law enforcement and has, in fact, charged the U.S. Marshals with providing additional security for all of our Supreme Court justices.

GRASSLEY: Can I ask one more question, my last one? And more directly towards this hearing, what resources in terms of agencies supporting number of staff and funding have been directed to the Elections Threat Task Force as a result of this use of scarce federal resources? How many individuals have been prosecuted for acts of physical violence against the election officials?

POLITE: Thank you very much for the question, senator. We have charged five cases as part of the task force. As to any ongoing investigations, I can't comment as to the existence or non-existence of additional investigation.

GRASSLEY: Did that involve violence -- criminal violence against the people?

POLITE: Those five cases all involve serious threats of unlawful violence.

GRASSLEY: Okay.

DURBIN: Senator Feinstein?

FEINSTEIN: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman.

In my home state of California, I didn't believe this, but election workers in Shasta County have reported increased threats to their safety and well-being. They have received threats that have alluded to the lynching or shooting of election workers. And on election day they discovered that a camera had been planted near the election office to monitor the movements of election workers travelling to and from the office, putting at risk important personal information like the type of car they drive and their license plate number.

So I'd like to ask Assistant Attorney General Polite how have the Justice Department -- how has the Justice Department and the Election Threats Task Force coordinated with states to protect election officials in both ongoing primary elections and the general election later this year?

POLITE: Thank you very much for the question, senator. As you have highlighted through your question, coordination with our state and local partners is absolutely vital. Oftentimes, we still see that the communications from members of the public and members of the election community first go not to federal officials but to those state and local officials, those that they have worked with and have established relationships with.

Our outreach to those state and local officials as a result has been quite robust. It has included training for a number of those individuals on how to best report as quickly as possible those communications up to our task force so that they can be assessed for both physical threats as well as for potential prosecution.

FEINSTEIN: So you are taking this seriously as a real concern and, hopefully, can keep us advised of your progress?

POLITE: Absolutely, senator.

FEINSTEIN: Thank you very much.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Senator Tillis?

TILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, both, for being here.

We several months ago convened a working bipartisan working group on things that we needed to do on election laws here. We have one that's on the Electoral Count Act another. One that's referred to as the Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act is something that I think is necessary for us to increase penalties for people. I think in your case the task force reviewed about 1,000 cases. I think there were about 11 percent -- 100 or so -- that were above the threshold that you could potentially seek prosecution. Mr. Polite, do you think it's important for us to up the ante in terms of the penalties for people who are ultimately found guilty?

POLITE: Thank you, senator. And you were correct related to the statistics that you cited earlier. I am familiar with some of the legislative proposals that you referenced. I think any leverage that we can gain in terms of increasing facing the potential deterrence value of charges of enforcement actions here is absolutely critical. And so I certainly look forward to working with you in this committee on those proposals.

TILLIS: Yes, Mr. Polite. I think it'd be very helpful. Since we have now introduced the legislation, it would be very helpful to get an official position from the DOJ on exactly whether or not we have gotten it right or there are other things says we work through the process that we should take a look at. I would appreciate that feedback.

POLITE: I'll commit to that, senator. Thank you.

TILLIS: Ms. Wyman, thank you for being here and for your service. I don't necessarily think that the challenges we have here know any ideology. I think that there are people that cross the line on both sides or at either end of the political spectrum. In your experience, would you agree with that? Based on your experience, would you agree with that?

WYMAN: Generally, yes, sir.

TILLIS: Yes. I've been a victim of doxing. I've been a victim of death threats. As a matter of fact, I just got one over the last week, actually. He was so intent he called up twice and said he was going to kill me. This is just unacceptable behavior. And for the election workers, I think that we have to do more. So what specifically is CISA doing -- I had a -- one question is how many -- can you give me an idea -- we have talked about the cases that the Department of Justice and the task force are looking at. Can you talk to me about how many cases you have been called on to assist with election workers who have been victims of harassment?

WYMAN: How many cases CISA has been called on? I'm not aware of that -- that we're part of that.

TILLIS: Okay. What sorts of resources are you able to provide?

WYMAN: Well, we have cyber security and physical protective security advisers out throughout the country as part of CISA. And they are working directly with state and local election officials to help them not only harden their cyber security defenses but really focus on the physical security of their election offices, their polling locations, ballot storage facilities.

And so we are working to give them resources like physical security assessments that our protective security advisers can come on site, walk through an election office, and give them ideas of ways that they can make it more secure. We have guidance documents like insider threat documents and our guidance and physical security checklist to just really help them proactively think of where the vulnerabilities might be and how they can mitigate them.

TILLIS: Mr. Polite, can you give me an idea of the 11 percent of the -- well, actually, have any of those been brought to trial?

POLITE: Nine (ph) have been brought to trial, senator. One has led to a conviction to date.

TILLIS: One has led to a conviction. The other...

POLITE: Others remain open.

TILLIS: You mentioned that you have the challenge of -- where it's just mean but free speech, which is probably what 89 -- or 89 percent of the cases were. But can you give me a characterization of some of the cases that you may ultimately bring to trial of the 100 or so?

POLITE: Certainly, senator. I welcome that. And, again, these are very disturbing, disturbing types of threats that were made. For example, when we talk about the Georgia case against defendant Chad Stark, this was a Craigslist post targeting several Georgia officials and local law enforcement where he said that he was threatening to end the lives of these traders and take back our country by force, threatened to exterminate these people, and he threatened to put a bullet behind their ears. And, again, this is a case that involves victims from across the political spectrum. That sounds like he's a colleague that left me a voice -- to the voicemail threats just over the last week or so. I hope that they all get convicted and serve time. And I hope that we pass the Election Security and Protection Act so that we can double the damage. Thank you for your testimony.

POLITE: Thank you, senator.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Tillis.

Senator Whitehouse?

WHITEHOUSE: Thank you, Chairman Durbin.

And thank you, both, for being here.

Mr. Polite, we are going to hear testimony in the next panel from Michigan secretary of state that, and I quote, "an unprecedented wave of continuous unrelenting harassment and threats has" -- and I'm quoting again -- "that the threats are a direct extension of the efforts to spread false information about the security and accuracy of our elections."

We are going to hear -- I know from the pre-filed testimony of the secretary of state of New Mexico that the conspiracies about our voting and election systems have gripped a certain portion of the electorate and have caused people to take action. And we are going to hear from the executive director of the Colorado County Clerks Association that the deeply held belief among some that our elections are not secure nor accurate has manifested itself as harassment and outright threats on lives.

What -- how does DOJ see the linkage between the deliberate campaign of lies about the recent election and violence and threats against election workers?

POLITE: Thank you, senator. Again, our focus is on serious threats of unlawful violence. We are sworn to protect our First Amendment rights of our communities. And so political speech is not our focus at all. It is when these threats constitute serious threats of violence. That becomes the focus of the work of the Election Threats Task Force.

WHITEHOUSE: Are false and fraudulent speech ordinarily subject to legal consequences, whether civil or criminal?

POLITE: They could, potentially, senator. But, again, the focus of the task force itself is on serious threats of unlawful violence.

WHITEHOUSE: Indeed, a campaign of lies by the tobacco industry was put to an end by the Department of Justice in a civil proceeding years ago, was it not?

POLITE: I believe your recollection is correct, senator.

WHITEHOUSE: That prosecution or that civil case was successful. The Department of Justice won. That successful judgment was upheld by the district -- sorry -- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the United States Supreme Court denied cert. There was nothing unconstitutional about the department's action against that campaign of lies, was there?

POLITE: Senator -- and I take your question to highlight the fact that there are a number of potential tools that we should be bringing to bear to address these types of communications, these serious threats of unlawful violence in our communities.

WHITEHOUSE: What if there were a plan to propagate a fraudulent lie for the purpose of inciting threats to the larger end of compromising America's election integrity? Would that pattern of facts be beyond the reach of the United States Department of Justice?

POLITE: Senator, I cannot speak to the existence of any potential investigations. It's tough for me to (inaudible).

WHITEHOUSE: I'm not asking you to.

POLITE: Yes.

WHITEHOUSE: I'm asking you basically a legal question, which is, if you had a plan that was designed to propagate a fraudulent lie that had the intention of inciting threats against election officials so as to interfere with the sanctity of American elections, as a matter of law, would that be beyond the reach of the Department of Justice?

POLITE: Senator, we would certainly take that type of an allegation very seriously. It's a hypothetical, but I can tell you in that circumstance, as we do with all of our cases, we would follow the facts and the law as appropriate.

WHITEHOUSE: Well, we draft laws here and this is the Judiciary Committee. So if there is a gap of some kind in American law that would prevent us from defending our elections in that way, from defending our election workers in that way, and for defending against persistent and deliberate fraud in that way, I would ask you to bring that gap to our attention.

POLITE: Certainly, senator. I certainly look forward to working with you on those potential proposals, including gaps in terms of resources related to providing security resources for this election community.

WHITEHOUSE: Yes. Because if there is a plan, it's a slightly different thing than if it's just random speech, isn't it?

POLITE: A planned conspiracy, certainly, would be different from the substance of underlying conduct. Yes, that's correct, senator.

WHITEHOUSE: Thank you, chairman.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Whitehouse.

Senator Blackburn?

BLACKBURN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, all, for being with us.

And I think the chairman is right when he says there is no place for violence in our society. And that is a point that we can all agree on, and we should agree on that.

Ms. Wyman, it sounds like that you all are putting a tremendous amount of your resources into helping to train, provide guidance, to do assessments for election commissions. Is that correct?

WYMAN: That is correct.

BLACKBURN: And do you have a dollar amount on that line item?

WYMAN: I'm sorry.

BLACKBURN: Dollar amount.

WYMAN: On the total budget, I do not know. I can tell you that the Election Security Resilience Team that I work with has a \$13.2-million budget in the president's budget.

BLACKBURN: Okay. I would love to have that number...

WYMAN: I can get that for you.

BLACKBURN: ... that you are spending with that local training. I think that would be interesting to see. Back in the '80s when my kids were little, I served on an election commission. And I always found it very insightful to be on my county's election commission.

Mr. Polite, looking at all these resources that are being put into election security, I would be interested to see what the Criminal Division is doing to help train law enforcement on how to deal with the violations that we have seen against Supreme Court justices and what you all are doing there. I found it very interesting with tracking General Garland's task forces that there does not seem to be one that deals with these groups like Jane's Revenge that have gone after the justices at their homes. And that is a violation of federal law and they should be held to account for that. But that does not seem to be on the priority list.

And I also have not seen any kind of work from the Criminal Division that they are going after many of these same groups who have chosen to attack crisis pregnancy centers or churches. And I think there have been 82 violent attacks against crisis pregnancy centers and churches since Roe v. Wade -- that decision in the Dobbs case. Am I missing something? Have you all stood one up and have just not made it public? Or is this not a priority?

POLITE: Senator, thank you again for the question. The fact of the matter is it doesn't require a task force...

BLACKBURN: Okay.

POLITE: ... for us to be -- for these types of cases to be priorities for us. What I can tell you, as I mentioned previously, is that very recently, one of our U.S. Attorney's Offices in Maryland, in fact, charged a defendant with unlawful conduct at the home of one of our Supreme Court justices. I know that our attorney general cares deeply about the security of us all, particularly those who are in public service like yourself and our Supreme Court justices. It's part of the reason why he has leaned in with all...

BLACKBURN: Okay.

POLITE: ... of our law enforcement to increase special security.

BLACKBURN: And I heard you say that earlier. It is just we look at the task forces that are there. So, then, what we have to do is say why is the lack of attention on some of these recent attacks against justices, these recent attacks against crisis pregnancy centers and churches -- why is that not something that you all talk about is a priority for your division?

It seems as if there is one set that you are prioritizing and there is another set that you are saying is not of equal importance. And if you don't treat them equally, if you don't -- if you have got a task force for one but not another, then the perception is that these crimes against the churches and the crisis pregnancy centers -- that these are not important to you. We look at what is happening with drugs in our communities. Are you all putting resources into training local law enforcement about how to deal with these drug cartels?

In Tennessee, I was speaking with some of our sheriffs last week. I was in seven different counties on Friday. One of their main issues is that open southern border and the fentanyl that is making it to their streets. And they can't believe DOJ knows these cartels have set up hubs on U.S. soil and they are running these drugs, they are running these gangs, they are running these sex trafficking that is abusing women and children, but they don't go after those.

So I would just ask you to please take back equal treatment and recognition -- what is happening to our justices; what is happening to our life centers, our churches, our crisis pregnancy centers; what is happening in our communities with the impact of drugs -- that affects people every single day and it is equally important and deserves the attention of DOJ and the AG.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

POLITE: Senator, could I just briefly respond?

Senator, again, all of the types of matters that you raise are high priorities not just for the Criminal Division but for our Civil Rights Division and our Civil Divisions. Particularly, on the issue of cartel traffic -- cartel activity in the state of Tennessee, I can tell you that the Criminal Division's Organized Crime and Gang Section has been quite active with all of the U.S. Attorney's Offices in prosecuting and convicting very serious offenders that are members of organized crime organizations in your state.

DURBIN: Senator Hirono?

HIRONO: Ms. Wyman, I agree with you that free and fair elections are the hallmark of American democracy. So I thank the chairman for focusing today's hearing on elections integrity. In fact, we've had a primary elections in certain states and I note that there are already some winners in the primaries who are saying that if they don't win the general election it will be because the election has been rigged. That creates an environment that is totally not conducive to election integrity, not to mention what happened in the conspiracy regarding what happened on January 6 and the -- all of the information that the January 6 committee is bringing to light.

Mr. Polite, this chart that I have -- this is from you. Does this represent the thousand or so referrals that have come to the DOJ relating to threats against election workers?

POLITE: Senator, thank you for the question. The table that you have in front of you was produced in response to the request for additional data by the election community. It reflects some details related to the types of workers that have been targeted by some of these communications, be they state or local or vendors. And then the other table here reflects the mode in which those communications were actually transmitted, and you can see the percentages there.

HIRONO: So it doesn't tell us what kinds of threats have been launched or sent to these various kinds of workers?

POLITE: The types of threats...

HIRONO: I'm sorry. The number -- it doesn't tell us what the number is of the kinds of threats?

POLITE: Yes, senator. This table doesn't reflect that. What I can share with you, again, is that we have received over 1,000 referrals of harassing, offensive communications. And each and every one of those referrals has been reviewed by the task force for potential prosecution.

HIRONO: We have thousands and thousands of election workers all throughout our country. And, yes, there are -- there has been a rise and all kinds of threats -- verbal, emails -- all kinds of threats against our election workers. So the thousand referrals sounds like a very small number. What does it take for the DOJ to get a referral?

POLITE: Senator, the typical path for a referral is two different ways. One, we have had very robust outreach to the election community itself, providing to that community the contact information for both the FBI as well as for the U.S. Attorney's Offices in their respective jurisdictions, and individuals can make those referrals directly there.

In addition, when they have instead directed those referrals to state or local law enforcement, we have outreach and we have trained with those state and local law enforcement partners that they should promptly refer those communications to the FBI for evaluation.

HIRONO: Yes. Well, the point I'm making is by the time that these referrals get to the FBI or to the DOJ, you pretty much have to -- it has to be a pretty serious a threat, doesn't it? So it doesn't account for all the kinds of harassing phone calls, being accosted on the street, I said -- or it does not -- those kinds of incidents do not result in referrals to the FBI or the DOJ -- I would think not.

POLITE: It's a -- it's a fair point, senator. What I can tell you -- like in any area of criminal investigations, under-reporting is always a concern.

HIRONO: Yes.

POLITE: But what we have tried to do is to encourage the election community to come forward with any type of harassing or offensive communication regardless of what they evaluate it being (ph).

HIRONO: I think that's very important because when I worked on the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, I made it really clear that we -- what we want reported is not just the crimes -- so what would arise to crimes -- but it has to be hate incidents. And there probably are a lot of incidents that ought to be reported so that we have a pretty good -- a much more accurate sense of what kinds of environments our election workers are working in.

Ms. Wyman, you mentioned that there is a whole-of-government effort that is required for election security. So is part of that to just provide information to the public that harassing election workers is not okay? Is that part of what you see as a mission for what you do?

WYMAN: Thank you for the question, senator. We really focus on managing risk and giving guidance to election officials. But, certainly, these are conversations we're having across the country with local and state election officials, making them aware of the task force and how to report incidents to law enforcement.

HIRONO: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I do have one specific question from Ms. Wyman.

You note in your testimony that 93 percent of all ballots are cast on paper. Do you think it's very important for all states to have paper ballots?

WYMAN: CISA has issued guidance that we -- I think it's a good -- a good security measure and a good check and balance. Yes.

HIRONO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Thank you, Senator Hirono.

Senator Lee?

LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thanks to you for being here to answer our questions.

Mr. Polite, I'd like to start with you, if that's okay.

POLITE: Yes, sir.

LEE: In your written testimony, you referenced to, quote, "mounting and persistent threats to the safety of election officials and workers across the country," and you described this, I believe, as the -- as the justification for the creation -- for the Election Threats Task Force just over a year ago.

He also explained that the vast majority of the complaints are not crimes because of what you described as robust -- the robust protections of the First Amendment. This is, in fact, the way our system operates. There are things that people say that people may or may not like but they are usually protected. If they're just speaking words and those words themselves don't amount to threats or other criminal conduct, they may be First Amendment -- protected by the First Amendment.

You also have described the fact that -- it appears from your briefing that since the inception of the task force, you have gotten about 1,000 complaints. Is that right?

POLITE: That's correct, senator.

LEE: A thousand complaints. And, as I understand, it was just over a hundred of those 1,000 -- so about 1 in 10 of those that were deemed worthy of investigation. Is that also correct?

POLITE: That's correct, senator.

LEE: And of those 100 -- out of 1,000 that have been investigated, how many of those have been prosecuted by your office?

POLITE: To date, senator, we have prosecuted five defendants.

LEE: Five defendants. Of those five defendants, one, as I understand it, was a prosecution that had begun previously or outside the scope of the task force. Is that also accurate?

POLITE: I believe you may be referring to the Michigan charge, which was the first one charged by the Department of Justice.

LEE: Yes.

POLITE: That's correct.

LEE: So you've have got five prosecuted over -- out of 1,000 complaints and 100 investigated. What efforts are being made to ensure that your investigations aren't having an undue effect on the -- on the chilling of First Amendment protected activity?

POLITE: Thank you, senator. And, again, we certainly embrace the scope of our First Amendment protections and the political speech as you were outlining earlier. It's part of the reason why the work of the task force has been so significant. It has involved reviewing each and every one of those communications to see if it actually satisfy the very high bar that's set by our courts for those constitutional parameters.

LEE: Okay. I'm glad to hear you are doing. It makes a lot of sense. Of those prosecutions, the five that you mentioned -- how many of those involved actual physical acts of violence where contact was made as opposed to threatening language?

POLITE: Of those five, senator, all involved serious threats of unlawful violence.

LEE: Was there one that had involved physical contact and somebody had actually used force, or all five of them threats of physical violence?

POLITE: All threats, senator.

LEE: Of those prosecutions, how many of them could have been brought under state law? I mean I assume from those that I read through -- I read through the briefings of each of those, as you submitted in your written testimony. It appears to me each one of those probably involves multiple violations of law. Some of them involved multiple violations of federal law. I would imagine each of them probably would have amounted to a violation of state laws. Is that -- is that fair to say?

POLITE: It's quite possible, senator. That's not uncommon that there is oftentimes conduct that could be prosecuted in multiple jurisdictions, federal or state.

LEE: Right. So, in going through this, it just makes me wonder what exactly amounts to the mounting and persistent threats that the department felt compelled to create a task force specifically for this where in a year you have got -- gotten 1,000 complaints, 100 worthy of investigation, five worthy of prosecutions when especially it appeared to me on the face of it each of those cases -- if they wouldn't also have been things that could have and would have been prosecuted under state law in the absence of federal action, they probably are the sorts of things that would have been prosecuted in the normal course of business at the federal level in appropriate cases. And so it makes me wonder whether the task force is necessary or necessary relative to other things.

The concern here is not that they are doing this task force. The concern is whether that task force could take away other priorities for other crimes. Has the Department of Justice created a task force, for example, on unprovoked attacks on police officers?

POLITE: Again, senator, I think the fact that the Election Threats Task Force exists -- part of its fundamental role is coordination with state and local law enforcement officials. A number of those cases have also been charged by state jurisdictions as well.

LEE: I understand. I do worry about that. I mean we had 25 unprovoked attacks on law enforcement officers in 2021, up from just two the year before; 133 ambush attacks on police -- were attacked relative to the previous year in which 60 officers were shot in these attacks.

As far as federal crimes against members of the judiciary, under Section 1507 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, federal law prohibits picketing or parading outside of a court or a judge's residence, quote, "with the intent of interfering with obstructing or impeding the administration of justice or with the intent of influencing any judge, juror, witness, or court officer." Protesters outside the justices' homes since the May 2 leak of the draft opinion in the Dobbs case have not been shy about their intent to intimidate and otherwise influence Supreme Court justices, particularly those listed -- those believed to be likely to join the draft majority opinion that was leaked. To my knowledge not a single charge has been brought under Section 1507.

You mentioned in your testimony United States versus Caitlyn Jones (ph), which I agree is a disturbing case that needed to be prosecuted. Are you aware of similarly disgusting and also much more persistent attacks on Justice Kavanaugh's wife and children? And what about similar threats against Justice Barrett and her and her children? And all of us -- to say nothing of the fact that we had an assassination attempt on Justice Kavanaugh's life -- we shouldn't have to have an assassination attempt to understand the gravity of these threats against members of the judiciary.

But, meanwhile you, have got groups like Ruth Sent Us and Jane's Revenge who are openly publishing the addresses of these justices, in some cases apparently distributing information about their children, where they go to school, resulting in threats and attacks on them.

My point here is that I hope within the department you are being fair. I would ask within the department that you are looking out for how many of those cases are being investigated and prosecuted. And if you have got a task force for this conduct, a task force receiving 1,000 complaints, 100 investigations resulting in a total of five prosecutions, I would hope that you would have us a few to look at violations of 18 USC Section 1507. Thank you.

POLITE: Senator, if I may respond very quickly?

DURBIN: Yes.

POLITE: Senator, the prioritization of threats against anyone, particularly those who are in public service, is absolutely vital for us. What I can tell you is that our attorney general has announced additional resources from our Marshall Service in order to protect our Supreme Court justices. In addition, very recently, our U.S. Attorney's Office in the district of Maryland has charged the defendant related to unlawful conduct that was being conducted in front of the home of one of those Supreme Court justices. So we don't operate purely through task forces in terms of the priorities of our division or our department.

DURBIN: Senator Ossoff.

OSSOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to begin -- and thank you, Mr. Polite, Ms. Wyman, for your testimony -- just by noting how weak and unpersuasive I find the arguments being offered here today to try to muddy the waters or suggest that -- for the federal government in the Department of Justice the protection of our electoral processes institutions and workers is not a vital mission and core essential to the functioning of our democracy absolutely worthy of high-level attention from the department.

And the Department of Justice, Mr. Chairman, has the ability to protect the federal judiciary, to protect high-level federal officials, to go after organized crime and violent crime, and to coordinate the robust protection of our nation's electoral processes. And I find it necessary, having heard some of this commentary from our colleagues today, to remind my colleagues of what happened in Georgia, where amidst Donald Trump's endless barrage of lies, some of them amplified by members of this body, as he sought to hold on to power by any means necessary, Republican election officials in Georgia were warning that it constituted a threat to the lives of election workers.

The House committee heard a couple weeks ago from two election workers in Georgia who described the threats of lynchings that they received for doing their jobs to carry out free and fair elections in this country. So I -- you know, I am astounded, Mr. Chairman, that our colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee have decided with the opportunity to hear from two senior officials about what they're doing to protect the integrity of our election processes are instead diminishing the threat or suggesting that this isn't an appropriate use of federal resources.

Now, with that said, I'd like to ask you, Mr. Polite, about what specific steps you are taking to ensure that the facilities and personnel who will be administering elections in my state of Georgia and other states across the country where there has been an elevated level of threat against election workers and facilities -- to ensure that these midterms are carried out in a way that ensures the will of the American people is manifest no matter whether that will favors one part or the other at the ballot box without violence or threats of violence disrupting the process

POLITE: Thank you, senator. And I am mindful that one of the charges -- charged cases for us relates to the conduct in your state of Georgia against defendant Chad Stark. I cited earlier some of the very disturbing threats made by the defendant against a number of election officials that span the political spectrum in your state, including language such as -- that he threatened to put a bullet behind the ears of a number of these officials.

What I can tell you is that the Election Threats Task Force is taking these this conduct very seriously. Our outreach to the election officials community has been extensive. It has been robust. It has been ongoing. It will continue to be amplified. I myself will be conducting additional outreach directly to the National Association of Election Officials at the very end of this month.

What we have lifted up to them are best practices related to how to -- how to best memorialize threats that they receive and how best to report those threats going forward. In addition, we have lifted up additional resources that are available to them, be it Byrne JAG Dollars or Helping Americans Vote Act grant dollars that can be used to help protect election officials and their staff in their facilities as we prepare for the next election cycle.

OSSOFF: Thank you. I introduced last year the Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act to strengthen the laws that protect the facilities and personnel critical to free and fair elections in the United States. Can you comment on the importance from your perspective, ensuring that not just those personnel who are working the polls either in a staff or a voluntary basis but also the facilities -- and that includes Ms. Wyman, from your perspective, the software, hardware, digital infrastructure -- but that the facilities are protected from threats of physical violence, of hacking, and so on? From you, please, briefly, Mr. Polite, and then in closing, you, Ms. Wyman. Thank you.

POLITE: All significant priorities, senator. And, again, I'm familiar with the proposed legislation, and we look forward to working with your committee on that.

OSSOFF: Thank you. Ms. Wyman?

WYMAN: And, senator, thank you for the question. That is exactly what -- the work we are doing with election officials across the country. It is helping them with guidance and tools to not only secure their cyber infrastructure but to have protective security advisers come on site and walk through facilities to make sure they are secure, having incident response plans in place so that they know how to respond if there is a threat of violence or something in a polling location or election office and then -- and then really just doing last mile products where we are targeting local election officials that are medium- and small-sized jurisdictions to have incident response plans that they can have, you know, phone numbers and contacts at the desk of each staff member. So we are working very hard to prepare them for the upcoming elections.

OSSOFF: Thank you, both.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Senator Blumenthal?

BLUMENTHAL: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Your chart reflects the threats to election workers that come from social media -- 26 percent here. The Brennan Center actually has reported that 95 percent of election officials blame social media companies for allowing their platforms to peddle outright lies and conspiracy theories and other kinds of threats. Nearly two and three election officials said that this false information makes their job more dangerous.

First, let me thank you, both, for your excellent work on this issue and your dedication to protecting those election workers and then to ask you how severe you regard the threat posed by this misinformation, disinformation, malinformation -- MDM -- on social media and what can be done about it.

POLITE: Thank you, senator. As the chart reflects, social media platforms have been a significant method of communication of transmitting these types of communications. It's part of the reason why the task force -- in addition to its outreach to the election community as well as our state and local law enforcement partners, it has included outreach to a number of those social media operators for their assistance, for their support. This is the types of cases that cannot be done in isolation. We also need the assistance of those social media platforms quite frequently in detecting and reporting these communications going forward.

BLUMENTHAL: Ms. Wyman?

WYMAN: Yes. At CISA, you know, we really have a risk management-based approach. And so what we try to do is first build resilience within the American public, making them aware that malign actors use mis-, dis-, and malinformation to try to undermine people's confidence in our elections and to try to, quite frankly, put Americans against each other and sow discord.

So we create products that try to illustrate how those tools are used against Americans. And we also work with our state and local partners to create resources to give election officials ways to mitigate that.

BLUMENTHAL: Do you think that social media is doing enough on its own to stop the misuse of its platforms?

WYMAN: Again, we work with them to manage the risk and make them aware of what we are seeing in the election community and the social media companies use their own rules and terms of service to mitigate it.

BLUMENTHAL: But they have huge resources. Are they doing enough?

WYMAN: I don't know that there is ever going to be enough that we can do. I have been in this this profession for 30 years and I have never seen this level of feedback, if you will, about an election this far after an election that is targeting election officials in the way that that has been since 2020. So I am not sure that that there is enough that anyone can do.

BLUMENTHAL: General Polite?

POLITE: I agree with my colleague, senator. There is more to be done by all of us, frankly, including the number of those social media platforms in assisting us and detecting and, ultimately, transmitting these types of very threatening and disturbing communications to law enforcement as quickly as possible.

BLUMENTHAL: Well, I know that you are reluctant to pass judgment on social media companies. But part of the encouragement they need is for public officials to speak up and urge them to do more. And, clearly, as you have observed, there is more that they can and should do. They have the resources, the access, the knowledge, and the power to do more. And the American public and -- including law enforcement officials like yourself -- urging them to do more, indeed demanding them to do more, I think is part of the solution. So I would perhaps encourage you to be -- and the Department of Justice to be more robust in what you are requesting of them.

POLITE: Thank you, senator. And, again, we have had significant outreach -- very direct conversations -- with a number of those companies. My commitment to you is that that outreach and that level of communication with them will continue to be a priority for the task force.

BLUMENTHAL: Thank you.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Blumenthal.

Senator Padilla?

PADILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I want to begin by just echoing some of the comments made a few minutes ago by Senator Ossoff and just the disgust I feel at some of our colleagues, including members of this committee, and their efforts to minimize, if not outright dismiss, the significance and the magnitude of the threats to our democracy that we are discussing here today.

But in the spirit of the second part of Senator Ossoff's message to make sure we are maximizing the time and the talents of the witnesses before us, let me proceed to my questions. There's really two areas that I want to get to in this first panel. The first is for Mr. Polite.

POLITE: Yes, sir.

PADILLA: Now, in an era where election workers rightfully fear that they are under increased threat from election deniers and others who may wish them harm, it's critical that the federal government demonstrate that it stands ready to respond to the election community's concerns. And doing that, as you have heard from others, requires an adequate allocation of resources to the problem.

And when I was serving as secretary of state for California one of the things, that became a normal practice was making rounds at all the fusion centers in the state. In a state as big as California, there is more than one or two to make sure that it's not just federal agencies and state agencies that are coordinating but across state agencies and across federal agencies.

My question is specific to U.S. Attorney's Offices. In each of the U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country and in each of the FBI field offices, is there an assistant U.S. attorney and a special agent assigned specifically to the task of either responding to or coordinating a response to concerns raised about election threats?

POLITE: Yes, senator. This is not an issue, this is not a problem that we can solve exclusively from Washington, D.C. It requires coordination with state and local officials. And it certainly requires coordination with each of our U.S. Attorney's Offices and our FBI field offices.

What we have in each U.S. Attorney's Office is what is called a district election officer that is a trained specialized prosecutor on these types of election-related crimes. And then in each of the 56 FBI field offices, there is also an election crimes coordinator, again, a specialized agent focused on these types of offenses.

PADILLA: That's great to hear and for the public to hear. As a follow-up to that question, whether it's in each of these offices or in each of the task forces, national or local, are the individuals involved specifically assigned to this elections threat-related work or are they taking this election threat-related work in addition to other duties and responsibilities?

POLITE: It is -- it is oftentimes -- I would say, in the overwhelming majority of these cases, these U.S. Attorney's Offices have additional -- these U.S. attorneys officials have an additional collateral responsibilities within the office. Their focus is on election-related crimes broadly defined. So they are members of this Election Threats Task Force. But any related -- election-related offense that may come forward and be referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for investigation or prosecution -- those U.S. attorneys -- those AUSAs are oftentimes involved as well.

PADILLA: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Wyman, good to see you again.

WYMAN: You as well.

PADILLA: As you know, I previously served as California's secretary of state and, therefore, the California's chief elections officer. And I, along with you learned, that CISA was a critical partner in helping us achieve a successful election that allowed, you know -- I'm going to brag a little bit here -- in California more Californians participating in 2020 than in any election previously. And they did so safely when they went to cast their ballot. And that's what I really hope that this sort of collaboration between CISA and state and local elections partners is continuing to do.

I am sure you benefited when you were Washington secretary of state. But now you are on the other side of the table. And so can you describe from this point of view CISA's level of engagement with state and local officials, including on the issue of addressing and responding to election threats and whether there's any barriers to collaboration that this committee and Congress can help address?

WYMAN: Thank you, senator, for the -- for that question. And, by the way, Washington also had a very high turnout in 2020 -- highest record turnout, not that we are competitive.

CISA really is focusing on trying to, first and foremost, make election officials at the state and local level aware of the work that Department of Justice is doing in this space and aware of the services that that are available not only by our agency but other federal agencies. And we are doing this by going out to election conferences, working with our protective service advisers and cyber security advisers located across the country, you know, in fusion centers often and really just trying to get that word out so that election officials know not only to report immediate threats because that -- as the senator earlier mentioned, that's part of the problem. It's reporting all of the threats that are out there but also knowing that they can work with state and local -- or state and federal law enforcement partners to secure their election system and people.

PADILLA: If there is anything else this committee or Congress can do to be of assistance, please don't hesitate, including, as Senator Blumenthal mentioned, additional resources.

WYMAN: Okay. Thank you.

PADILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Padilla.

Senator Cruz?

CRUZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome to the witnesses.

POLITE: Thank you, senator.

CRUZ: Mr. Polite...

POLITE: Yes, senator.

CRUZ: ... I am highly concerned that this Department of Justice is politicizing the enforcement of justice. You have discussed how there is a priority focused on elections. And I recognize that there is a political focus on that, although, as you have told this committee, out of 1,000 complaints, it produced a total of five prosecutions, none of which involved violence and all of the five were based on threats. Serious threats of violence should be investigated should be prosecuted.

However, in the weeks after the Dobbs opinion was leaked, pregnancy centers in Portland, Oregon; Manassas, Virginia; Austin, Texas; and Frederick, Maryland were targeted and vandalized. Violent extremist group Jane's Revenge took credit for firebombings of crisis pregnancy centers in Madison, Wisconsin; in Amherst, New York; in Buffalo, New York; in Des Moines, Iowa; and in Gresham, Oregon.

More recently, centers in North Carolina and in Washington D.C. -- just 500 yards from where you are sitting right now -- were covered with red paint, we're egged, and were graffitied by pro-abortion radicals. As of July 22, there have been at least 82 violent attacks against pro-life institutions, including churches and crisis pregnancy centers.

Despite these very real threats and violent attacks against pregnancy centers, DOJ instead on July 12 set up a special, quote, "Reproductive Rights Task Force" not to protect pregnancy centers but, instead, to advocate the political agenda of this administration of expanding unlimited abortion on demand. I have zero doubt that if pro-life supporters were vandalizing and firebombing abortion critics across the country, DOJ would declare it a national emergency and you might had well send out the National Guard.

But because your politics and the politics of the agency you work with happen to agree with the vandals, there has been no task force there has been no priority. Why is that?

POLITE: Senator, respectfully, I believe we agree that politics cannot and should not play any role in the investigative and prosecutorial decisions of the Department of Justice. We take very seriously any incidence of violence that occur within this country. I can tell you that those incidents that you are reflecting upon -- if they are ultimately being considered by the Department of Justice, they will be taken...

CRUZ: Hold on a second. If they are being considered? You don't know sitting here today if they are being considered?

POLITE: Senator, a number of these incidents are priorities in the focus not just of the Criminal Division but of the Civil Division as well as our Civil Rights Division.

CRUZ: Is there a task force?

POLITE: Senator, it doesn't take a task for it -- to have a priority...

CRUZ: Have any case...

POLITE: ... of combatting violence across this country.

CRUZ: Have any cases been brought?

POLITE: Senator, I cannot comment on the existence of any current or pending investigations at this time.

CRUZ: Well, you are here commenting on the existence of -- when it meets the political priorities of the White House. All right. Let me ask you a different question.

POLITE: Yes, senator.

CRUZ: Simultaneously while violent terrorists are threatening pregnancy centers, we also have had protesters at the homes of Supreme Court justices night after night after night. Now I believe protesting at someone's home where your spouse sleeps, where your children sleeps is inherently threatening. It is designed to be threatening. And we know the violent rhetoric with the encouragement of Democratic members of Congress resulted in at least one deranged individual traveling from California to Maryland to attempt to murder Justice Kavanaugh.

Now, as it so happens, Congress has addressed this issue. It's past 18 USC Section 1507 making it a crime to protest at the home of a Supreme Court justice while a case is pending. Night after night after night, these protesters committed federal crimes on national television. Why has the Department of Justice refused to enforce 18 USC Section 1507?

POLITE: Senator, very recently, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maryland, in fact, has prosecuted a defendant for unlawful conduct in front of the home of one of our Supreme Court justices.

CRUZ: So one person?

POLITE: To date, there has been one prosecution.

CRUZ: And what about the hundreds of others, all of whom have violated the law. On the face of it, it's not complicated. The law is very clear. Why does the Department of Justice pick and choose which laws to enforce -- which criminal laws to enforce? And why does it seem to exactly follow the pattern of the partisan preferences of the Biden White House?

POLITE: Again, senator, politics shouldn't play and does not play any role in our prosecutorial decisions. What I will also add is that our attorney general has increased the U.S. Marshal Services resources that it brought to bear to protect the Supreme Court justices.

CRUZ: But why has there been only one prosecution under Section 1507? Why have there not been any others?

POLITE: Senator...

CRUZ: Does the department believe the law is unconstitutional? And if not, why are you refusing to enforce it?

POLITE: Respectfully, senator, I disagree that we have chosen not to enforce it. Again, there has been one prosecution of (inaudible).

CRUZ: Out of hundreds. What about the rest of the hundreds?

POLITE: Senator, again, I cannot comment on the current status of potential investigations in this area.

CRUZ: Final question. Was the one prosecution you referenced a 1507 prosecution, or was it something else?

POLITE: I don't believe it was under that statute.

CRUZ: So you haven't brought a single one?

POLITE: Again, I believe the conduct itself was the focus of the prosecution that (inaudible).

CRUZ: Well, I think you need to follow the law.

DURBIN: There are no further senators seeking questions.

Political violence in furtherance of any cause is unacceptable. I condemn all violence and threats of violence in the strongest possible terms regardless of whether it comes from the right or the left, whether it targets election workers, judges, law enforcement officers, or other public officials.

Unfortunately, abortion providers and reproductive health care clinics have long been the target of violence, threats, harassment, and intimidation. According to the FBI, actors motivated by anti-choice beliefs have historically perpetuated the most lethal attacks and also commit the majority of non-violent criminal violations when it comes to attacks involving reproductive rights. Assaults directed at abortion clinic staff and patients increased 128 percent in 2021 compared to 2020, according to a report from the National Abortion Federation.

Beyond the surge of assaults outside of clinics, the study also documented a 600-percent increase in stalking, 63-percent increase in burglary, 54-percent increase in vandalism, 163-percent increase in hoax devices or suspicious packages, 80-percent increase in bomb threats, 128-percent increase in invasions, including instances in which protesters forcefully entered clinics, and an increase in hate mail, harassing phone calls, and death threats. We know the FBI is investigating attacks and threats of violence following the overturning of Roe versus Wade and is working with local law enforcement. We need to take seriously all these violent threats.

And I might add that this committee has passed legislation, sent it to the floor, which would provide additional resources to protect all federal judges after a terrible incident occurred in New Jersey. That measure has been on the floor for weeks at a time. It is being held up by one senator from the Republican side. That is a fact. We are trying our best to put the resources to protect our judges. We need cooperation on both sides of the aisle to achieve that.

And I'll close by saying as important as all of these issues of violence are, the nature and purpose of this hearing was to address the undermining of the integrity of America's election system. I happen to think that's fundamental, too, and it goes to the heart of our constitutional form of government.

I now thank the panel for their testimony. You may receive some written questions. I hope you will respond to them in a timely way. Thank you very much.

I ask the staff to set up the second panel for their testimony as well.

I am going to start reading the biographies of our members on the second panel so that we can keep moving this along, starting with Jocelyn Benson, Michigan's 43rd secretary of state, expert on election law, civil rights law, education law, previously dean of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit.

Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico's 26th secretary of state -- before her 2016 election as secretary of state, she served for nearly a decade as county clerk in New Mexico

Amy Cohen, executive director of NASED, the National Association of State Election Directors, a professional organization representing nonpartisan officials who administer elections.

Matt Crane -- Matt is the executive director of the Colorado County Clerks Association. He is a Republican. He served as election administrator in Colorado for 21 years, including serving for 2013 through 2018 as the elected clerk and recorder for Arapahoe County.

I now turn to Senator Grassley to introduce his witnesses.

GRASSLEY: Mike Hurst served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi 2017 to '21. He was unanimously confirmed. Previously, he served eight years as an assistant U.S. attorney and director at the Mississippi Justice Institute and general counsel at the Mississippi Center for Public Policy. As U.S. attorney, Mr. Hurst increased prosecutions in his district by 178 percent. He launched Project EJECT under the Department of Justice, Project Safe Neighborhood initiative to help reduce violent crime. He is now a partner at Phelps Dunbar.

Rafael Mangual is a Nick Ohnell fellow and head of research for the Policing and Public Safety Initiative at the (inaudible) and a contributing editor of City Journal. He has written articles on criminal justice for many publications -- Wall Street Journal, Atlantic, New York Post, New York Times, Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer. His book came out last week with the title "Criminal (In)justice: What the Push for Decarceration and Depolicing Gets Wrong and Who It Hurts Most."

Jason Johnson served as deputy commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department from 2016 to '18. Before that, he was a police officer at Prince George's County 18 years, reaching the rank of major. He also served as assistant commander of Special Investigation Division and commander of the Office of Legal Affairs and Internal Affairs Division. He is currently the president of Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund.

Mr. Mangual, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Johnson, we thank you very much for your service and testifying today.

DURBIN: If you will all please rise for the oath. Do you swear and affirm the testimony you are about to give before this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? Let the record reflect that the panel has answered in the affirmative, and so now they are permitted to speak.

And we start with Ms. Benson.

BENSON: Thank you (inaudible).

DURBIN: Make sure your microphone is on.

BENSON: Thank you, Chairperson Durbin.

DURBIN: You have five minutes.

BENSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chairperson Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee.

As Michigan's chief election officer, my responsibility is to ensure our elections are accessible, safe, secure, and that the results are an accurate reflection of the will of the people. This is not a partisan role. And despite it being an elected position, it's not a political role. But it is a role that increasingly forces us -- Republicans, democrats, or independents -- to endure threats, harassment, false and malicious attacks on our character and integrity, and sometimes even violence.

I'm here today because we need your help. We cannot have a secure democracy if we do not protect the security of the people who administer our elections. And right now, we are facing an unprecedented wave of continuous, unrelenting harassment and threats. Enduring these threats creates a near-constant strain of anxiety and stress on our work. The status quo is unsustainable and unacceptable.

I have experienced these threats firsthand. One night -- one night in December 2020, I was about to put my son to bed when dozens of individuals descended upon our home. Growing in numbers over the course of an hour, they stood outside my front door, waking my neighbors, shouting obscenities and graphic threats into bull horns. To this day these images and this memory of that evening still haunts me.

This was not the first nor was it the last time. Sometime, a group of people showed up at my home or threatened me, my staff, or many of the hundreds of local election officials in our state. As a result, there is an omnipresent feeling of anxiety and dread that permeates our daily lives and those of our families.

Not long ago my son, standing in our driveway, picked up a stick, turned to me, and said, "Don't worry, mom. If the bad guys come again, I'll get them with this." He is six years old.

Some of these incidents have been reported and drawn media attention. Many have not. From Rochester Hills clerk Tina Barton -- she received a voicemail filled with explicit language threatening her family. Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey was sent photos of a dead body with a message to imagine that body as her daughter. Other clerks beyond Michigan have told countless more stories -- local officials from political parties of both sides enduring threats to their families and their staff.

These threats are not limited to personal attacks. They also involve harassment and attempts to criminalize the basic work of local election officials. We are threatened with arrest for simply doing our jobs, for educating citizens about their right to vote. Or we are inundated with burdensome and often nonsensical unnecessary demands for information and access to secure election equipment. As a result, one in three election officials report feeling unsafe on a regular basis and more than half fear for the safety of their colleagues in future elections.

And this is why we need your help. I am grateful that a group of your colleagues have reached bipartisan agreement on reforms to the Electoral Count Act. But that is not enough. Imposing stronger penalties on those who would threaten or harm anyone involved in election administration is an important step as is extending the same protections for the personal information of election officials that has been considered or extended to federal judges.

The bottom line is we need you to act because many states like Michigan are failing to do what is necessary to protect us. For months, local election officials and I have pleaded with Michigan lawmakers to set aside money to protect us even after threats of violence and sometimes death are levied at us and our families. Despite months of specific requests and a budget surplus, they have failed to offer anything to protect us. So you as national leaders can do something to demonstrate that you are willing not just to protect all of us but protect democracy.

Like many of my colleagues, I have spent my career defending and protecting the right to vote of every eligible citizen. That commitment has never wavered and it will not waver now. But we need you to share that commitment with us. We need you to stand with us to pass new protections -- additional protections -- now before it's too late.

DURBIN: Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Hurst?

HURST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, other distinguished members of this committee, I appreciate the invitation to testify today on this very important topic.

As the former United States attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi as well as a line federal prosecutor for almost a decade before, including a stint as the district election officer, I hope to be able to provide some insights to this committee on this subject -- protecting our democracy's frontline workers.

Now, from the outset, let me say unequivocally that no one should be threatened. But if someone is threatened, law enforcement should respond appropriately, investigate such threats, and bring those to justice who have violated our criminal laws.

That being said, as American citizens, we must question whether our Department of Justice should be focusing its precious time and finite resources on threats against election workers when, in my opinion, there exists a much more dire and pressing crisis affecting the American public. And that is the rising violent crime surging throughout our country.

Considering that the Department of Justice's task force created just over a year ago to address threats to election officials has produced only five cases and over 1,000 referrals, it has to be asked why this issue is such priority for this department considering that over the past two years in 2020 and 2021, we have seen more than 6,000 additional people murdered in the United States when compared to 2019.

But there is hope. The Department of Justice has provided much needed leadership in the past in reducing violent crime and can do so again today. After decades of declining crime rates, our nation began to see an uptick in violent crime in 2015. In 2017, then Attorney General Jeff Sessions and later Attorney General William Barr began implementing policies and initiatives to tackle violent crime head on, including a reinvigorated Project Safe Neighborhoods program, Project Guardian, and Operation Legend, among others. Because of the leadership by DOJ and the successful implementation of these and many of the programs, the nation experienced three consecutive years from 2017 to 2019 of declining violent crime.

First, let me mention Project Safe Neighborhoods. That's an initiative which brings together all levels of law enforcement, prosecutors, community leaders, and other stakeholders in order to identify, address, and reduce violent crime in individual communities and led by our U.S. Attorney's Offices throughout the nation.

Shortly after being sworn in as a United States attorney, I launched in the city of Jackson, Mississippi our new PSN initiative called Project EJECT, which stood for Empower Jackson Expel Crime Together. By focusing not just on prosecuting violent criminals but also teaching prevention in our schools, conducting outreach in our communities, and holding re-entry fairs to help reduce recidivism among offenders, we began to make a real difference in Jackson. In the first year Project EJECT was implemented, Jackson experienced a 7-percent reduction in overall violent crime, which meant that approximately 108 people did not become victims of violent crime that year.

Sadly, Jackson has recently experienced a resurgence in violent crime, becoming the murder capital of America in 2021 when it had 155 homicides, the highest murder rate per capita in the nation, more than three times higher than Chicago's, Mr. Chairman, which had the most murders overall in 2021.

Another effective strategy previously implemented by DOJ is Operation Legend mentioned by -- mentioned by Ranking Member Grassley. Launched in July of 2020 in Kansas City, Missouri, it temporarily temporarily reassigned and surged federal law enforcement officers into cities that were experiencing significant and worsening violent crime. In the first six months of its operation in over nine cities, DOJ arrested more than 6,000 violent criminals, including almost 500 murder suspects, seized more than 2,600 firearms, confiscated kilograms of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin and more than \$11 million in drug and other illicit proceeds. In the cities where it was implemented, Operation Legend quickly and effectively reduced violent crime.

Let me conclude by saying that the most important role of government is to protect its citizens and DOJ can once again lead in this arena. However, the department must quickly re-prioritize its goals, redirect its resources to proven programs that have reduced violent crime and saved lives, and expeditiously act in order to prevent the next person from becoming a victim of violent crime. By working with local and state law enforcement as well as our citizens and other stakeholders, DOJ can once again reduce violent crime and make a real positive difference in the people's lives in our communities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Thank you, Mr. Hurst.

Ms. Oliver?

OLIVER: Good morning, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee. Thank you for having me here today to discuss and for organizing this hearing on how we can protect our nation's election administrators.

Election administration in the United States is conducted at the state, county, and local levels by civil servants and volunteers who do their duty every day for the good of our democracy. This work is vital to how we elect our leaders and how we organize our way of life.

But its legitimacy is being threatened. Election administration might seem somewhat simple from the voter's perspective -- you register, fill out a ballot a couple times a year, view the results, and that's pretty much it. Conducting elections, however, is a complex, continual process with highly technical components that ensure accuracy and results in overall security. These technical aspects, like software for vote tabulation machines, the distribution of secured ballot drop boxes, or the use of mailed ballots, have become the foundation of false narratives that call into question the integrity of our entire democratic process.

Our nation's election workers have been caught in the crossfire and have themselves become the targets of harassment and threats. Lies and misinformation about how America's elections are run and about the people who run them have proliferated to an unprecedented degree since 2020. Among a significant portion of the country, the continuous drumbeat of these lies has created an atmosphere of distrust in our elections and in our election officials.

Of course, the wild conspiracy theories about our elections that began with the big lie of 2020 are not true and no one has ever produced a credible shred of evidence to support them. But the consequences of these lies have real-world impacts especially for those of us who are election officials.

A recent poll of 600 election officials found that more than half were concerned about their colleagues' safety, with nearly one in three saying they know a colleague who has quit because of safety concerns. For people who believe their government is corrupt and their leaders are not legitimate, threats of physical violence and acts of imitation (ph) have sadly begun to seem like acceptable responses.

In New Mexico, the conspiracies about our voting and election systems have caused certain individuals to act on those wild theories. During the 2020 election cycle, I was doxed, my life was threatened, and had to leave my home for weeks under state police protection. My office has since utilized services for both me and my members -- excuse me -- and members of my staff that prevent doxing by scrubbing personal identifying information from the Internet. Since 2020 my office has experienced social media trolling, aggrieved emails and calls, and other communications that parrot the misinformation circulating nationwide.

More recently, since our June primary election, my office has experienced pointed and specific threats serious enough to be referred to law enforcement. In June, for example, there were both threatening phone calls and emails against me that were referred to the FBI for investigation.

These threats came after my office began directly combating election misinformation through a new website and shortly after a nationally publicized situation in Otero County, New Mexico where the county commission, motivated by the same misinformation we are seeing around the country, initially refused to certify the primary election results, almost causing a breakdown in the democratic process in our state. My office had to then sue the commission in our state Supreme Court to compel them just to perform their simple legal duty.

Growing distrust about our election system leads to other -- to either apathy or indignation, both of which are detrimental to our entire system of government. For the election officials and volunteer poll workers that our elections depend on, I fear that threats and harassment will cause them so much stress and uncertainty that they will simply give up the work. For voters, I fear that the flood of misinformation will compel them to lose trust in the system and they will no longer participate in our democracy.

Federal and state law enforcement agencies are taking these threats seriously and are diligently investigating them. And for that, we are very thankful. We must show the public that threats against election officials will not be tolerated.

However, legal action is the last line of defense. We will not stop such threats until the lies stop; the rhetoric gets ratcheted down; and elected officials, the media, political parties, and others find better ways to come together and educate the public about the realities of how our elections are conducted and secured. The federal government can help states and election workers by providing resources to be used in the protection of election offices and personnel -- for example, personal information protection like the kind my office is employing to protect myself and our staff.

I hope my testimony today is helpful for the committee and your future work. Thank you again, and I look forward to your questions.

DURBIN: Thank you, Ms. Oliver.

Mr. Mangual -- did I pronounce it correctly?

MANGUAL: You did, senator. Thank you.

DURBIN: Please proceed.

MANGUAL: Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee, I'd like to begin by thanking you all for the invitation to address this distinguished body.

I'm going to focus my testimony today on what I believe to be an incredibly important issue that warrants a robust federal response. And that issue is the recent rise of serious violent crime.

After peaking in the early 1990s, serious violent crimes like murder, aggravated assault, and robbery declined sharply, gains that held at the national level through the mid-2010s. As I have written elsewhere what has become to be known as the great crime decline represents one of the greatest achievements in urban American history. The decline absolutely transformed my home city of New York into one of the safest, most dynamic urban centers in the world. Many cities across America saw similar transformations.

Unfortunately, those gains seem to be at risk. In 2015 and '16 homicides increased by 10.8 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively. And after leveling off for a few years, the nation's homicide rate spiked in 2020 by 30 percent, which Pew reported was the single largest one-year spike since at least 1905 and possibly ever. But a comprehensive national account -- while a comprehensive national account has not yet been released, indications are that the national homicide rate increased again in 2021.

Now, while 2020 saw the largest homicide spike on record, overall index crimes and aggregation of eight serious crime categories tracked by the FBI were down, seemingly creating a divergence between homicides specifically in crime generally. However, it is important to note that overall crime measures might have actually masked what was a more serious problem, thanks to the pandemic-driven changes in people's routine activities that caused them to spend more time at home and less time in public spaces. Indeed, some analysts found that when controlling for the amount of time people actually spent outside, the data in some cities revealed that one's risk of being victimized actually went up in 2020 even in the crime categories that saw -- that saw overall decreases.

Analyzing foot traffic, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and the Naval -- the Naval Postgraduate School found that, quote, "people in public spaces were 15 to 30 percent more likely to be robbed or assaulted." In each of the cities analyzed in that study, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago index offenses are now up substantially through the first half of July.

Now, some in the media have cautioned against making too much of recently elevated crime levels by highlighting that while serious violence did indeed spike in 2020 and remains elevated, things were much worse in the early 1990s. And this is true on a national level. But it's not true for many of America's major cities.

Philadelphia; Louisville; Indianapolis; Columbus; Austin; Tucson; St. Paul; Portland; Albuquerque; Toledo; Baton Rouge; Rochester, New York; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Milwaukee; and Memphis, Tennessee -- all set homicide records in 2021. Others logged their highest homicide tally since at least 1990 in 2020. And that list includes Cincinnati, Trenton, Kansas City, Jacksonville, Denver, Cleveland, Jackson, Wichita, Greensboro, Lansing, and Colorado Springs.

St. Louis set a new record for a homicide rate in 2020. And Shreveport, Louisiana; Baltimore, Maryland; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Tulsa, Oklahoma all came dangerously close to their all-time homicide records in 2020. As I wrote in The Wall Street Journal, last year Chicago, Seattle, and Fort Worth, Texas would all have to go back 25 years to see homicide tallies comparable to what they were seeing then.

Now, as troubling as the statistics I've mentioned thus far may sound, national and city-wide rates mask an important reality that we should all consider when discussing the issue of serious violent crime, which is that victimization is hyper-concentrated both geographically and demographically, which means that the very -- that a very small slice of our country is bearing the brunt of what is among our biggest social problems.

To illustrate this point, consider the following. In a given year somewhere in the range of two percent of U.S. counties see somewhere in the range of 50 percent of U.S. murders while 60 of U.S. counties don't see a single murder. While the national homicide rate for 2019 was approximately five per 100,000 the rate for the 10 most dangerous community areas in the city of Chicago that year was more than 60 per 100,000. In West Garfield Park, it was a staggering 131 per 100,000.

In my home city of New York, around 5 percent of street segments see about 50 percent of all crime and about 4 percent of street segments see 50 percent of all violent crimes. This trend is referred to in the criminological literature as the law of crime concentration. It has been observed in cities around the world. Demographically in New York, a minimum of 95 percent of all shooting victims are either black or Hispanic every single year, for which we have data going back to at least 2008. They do not make up anywhere near 95 percent of the population.

In Chicago, a recent study of gun violence by the University of Chicago Crime Lab found that blacks constituted 80 percent of homicide victims despite constituting just 29 percent of the city's population. And when homicide spiked in 2020, the share of the white -- of white homicide victims actually declined while the share of black and Hispanic victims increased.

Now, as crime -- as concentrated this crime is, the perpetration of serious crime is even more concentrated. Studies show that around 1 percent of the population can commit as much as 60 of the violent crime.

Now, we live in the world with limited resources and, as such, governments must be strategic when deciding whether and, if so, how much of its resources to dedicate to particular problems. What I'd like to suggest to this committee is that the problem of violent crime concentrated as it is in low-income minority communities in and around the United States should be near the top of that list of problems that the U.S. Department of Justice should seek to help control.

Thank you.

DURBIN: Thank you.

Ms. Cohen?

COHEN: Thank you, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee. I appreciate being asked to participate in this important conversation.

I'm the executive director of the National Association of State Election Directors. We're a nonpartisan, non-profit membership association for the state and territorial officials whose primary responsibility is the administration of elections. Our members are in all 50 states, D.C., and the five U.S. territories. In the 40 states where a secretary of state or lieutenant governor is the chief election official, NASED's member works for the chief election official. And in the other 10 states, D.C., and five territories, NASED's member is the chief election official.

No NASED members are elected. Our members are public servants who oversee the implementation of election systems, laws, and policies and work with local election officials. NASED does not issue best practices or guidance, and we do not take positions on federal or state legislation or on federal or state election policy.

In my written testimony, I cover NASED members' experiences with threats in the DOJ task force since its creation in June 2021. I'll focus now on our experience with the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program announced in January 2022.

NASED does not have a position on federal funding for election administration. But when discussing the challenges facing election officials, we have to talk about funding. We've heard from many of our members that their already-stretched budgets cannot accommodate the significant physical threats to both personnel and election materials. Presumably, this is more acute at the local level. Neither NASED nor most of our members were familiar with the Byrne JAG program before the announcement earlier this year.

Funding for each state and territory is determined by a set formula, and there is a different formula for local jurisdictions. The fiscal '21 funding was not awarded to the states and territories until the end of September '21. Each state -- once each state or territory receives funds, each of them determines how that funding will be allocated within their jurisdiction within the bounds of the program. Relevant in-state stakeholder groups must go through a state-specific application process and address state-specific priorities. Some prefer to use these funds for tangible goods while others prefer using them on staff costs such as overtime for law enforcement.

For 56 states and territories, there are 56 different approaches to distributing these funds to stakeholders who can include law enforcement, drug treatment programs, and criminal diversion programs, and forensic labs, among many others. What's common across all 56 is that these applications are only open for a limited time.

By the time DOJ announced on January 26 that election officials were eligible for the Byrne JAG program and by the time election officials were briefed on the specifics of the program by grant administrators on February 8, many application windows were closing or already closed. There was not enough time to build the necessary relationships and complete applications. The promised funding earmarked for physical security was not actually available to us. Some election officials will also struggle to access the fiscal '22 funds because of the timing and demands of the election calendar.

To add insult to injury, the grant administrators clarified that election officials have always been eligible to access the Byrne JAG funding, that is, the guidance issued to the state-administering agencies by DOJ in January did not add election officials to the stakeholder list. It clarified that election officials have always been stakeholders.

This was news to us. The federal grant program that election officials are the most familiar with is the Help America Vote Act funding. For those grants, election officials provide a high-level budget during our application process but have the flexibility to modify the budget and direct funds within the bounds of the law and guidance issued by the Election Assistance Commission. This allows election offices to use those funds to address emerging issues that may not have been contemplated during the application process.

The Byrne JAG program offers no such flexibility to election offices. The only approved usage for funds is the usage described in the funding application. If you ask most election offices in December 2019 whether they would want a law enforcement presence at their office in November 2020 or if they were concerned about doxing, the answer would have been utter confusion. We are always fighting the ghosts of the last election, so it's nearly impossible to predict where overtime might be necessary or where other physical security-related needs may arise.

A few states have had success securing reverted funds from the fiscal '21 Byrne JAG funding or promises for reverted funding from the fiscal '21 grant. This is a positive development. But hoping other stakeholders return money is not a predictable or sustainable way to fund serious security efforts.

In general, while NASED appreciates the focus on election officials work and the threats faced by our community, the result of the increased attention has been an unfocused response with limited practical improvement. NASED members and their staff are proud to help Americans cast their ballots. But working in election administration over the last few years has been challenging.

I've often said that when a person takes a job with law enforcement even, if they're not a field agent, they know that at some time they could be called upon to put their life on the line in the course of their duties. Those people make a choice to go into a line of work that could cost them their lives.

Election officials did not make that choice. Until recently, this was not a field you went into thinking it could cost you your life. And now that it is, we need a whole-of-government response to ensure the safety of our community.

DURBIN: Thank you for your testimony.

Mr. Johnson?

JOHNSON: Thank you, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member...

DURBIN: Would you make sure your microphone is on? Thank you.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, for the opportunity to testify before this committee today.

My name is Jason Johnson. I'm the president of Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund and served as a law enforcement officer for more than two decades, including as deputy commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department.

There is a deadly issue facing the country -- an epidemic of violent crime. Last year, there were 23,000 murders, 87 percent by firearms. This alarming increase in violence is not due to an epidemic of gun trafficking nor proliferation of illegal firearms. While those must be addressed, the vast majority of the violent crimes involving firearms are by persons illegally possessing an otherwise legal gun. It is the who, not the what, that is at the root of this epidemic.

Gun offenders are the most likely to reoffend and especially more likely to commit violence. Between 2016 and 2018, half of Baltimore's homicide suspects had been previously arrested for a violent crime and 43 percent for a gun crime. One-third were on parole and probation at the time of the killing.

While police make such criminals a priority, they aren't getting much jail time. In Baltimore in 2016, a quarter of gun cases charged were later dropped. Those who were convicted received an average of 15 percent of the sentence they may have received.

These justice system failures have deadly consequences. On Memorial Day 2016, a repeat violent offender named David Warren opened fire on a crowded holiday cookout, injuring five people. Warren had separate attempted murder charges dropped in 2010 and in 2012 and was later convicted of armed robbery but only received 10 months of incarceration. In 2015, Warren was caught illegally carrying a gun and dealing drugs. He should have been sent away for decades, but the charges were again dropped and he was free to commit a mass shooting.

This June, Wicomico County, Maryland sheriff's deputy Glenn Hilliard attempted to apprehend a fugitive, Austin Davidson, who had allegedly shot and killed -- who allegedly shot and killed Deputy Hilliard. Davidson was convicted of armed robbery in 2019 but received a three-year suspended sentence. He should not have been free to murder Deputy Hilliard.

The weapon crimes alone would have netted each offender decades in prison if federal prosecutors had intervened and taken those criminals off the streets. The federal government should build upon proven and effective crime fighting strategies that give law enforcement purpose and show real results in tackling violence.

Project Safe Neighborhoods, which provides grant funding and collaboration between federal prosecutors and state and local law enforcement to tackle violent crime, needs to be laser focused on apprehending and prosecuting high-priority violent and firearm offenders.

It's also vitally important to restore the morale of our law enforcement professionals. Anti-police sentiment and policies have demoralized, debilitated, and, in some cases, defunded law enforcement on a scale never before seen. Nearly every survey of law enforcement officers evinces a morale crisis, which has been the greatest in areas where leaders have signaled antagonism toward law enforcement.

Where defund the police has become the official policy, the police exodus has reached crisis levels with more than one out of 10 officer positions currently vacant in Austin, Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis. This is amplified by progressive prosecutors such as Baltimore's Marilyn Mosby, who prefer to prosecute police officers than criminals in many cases. Voters rejected her approach when she was defeated in last month's primary election.

Now, many police are fleeing a profession. Our result found a 14-percent increase in retirements from June 2020 to April 2021, a 24-percent increase in resignations across 10 major police departments. Efforts to defund and debilitate the police have demoralized them. Law enforcement activity plummeted amid growing anti-police sentiment just as homicide was spiking.

Cities that cut police budgets often saw the greatest declines in active policing and largest increase in murder. To stem the tide of violence, Congress must show law enforcement they have their back. Greater penalties for those who assault and kill law enforcement; more resources for crime fighting; and aid in recruiting, training, and retaining quality police officers are key to winning the battle against violent crime.

Policing is a noble profession with a vital mission. America needs to empower and support its law enforcement if we hope to tackle this wave of violence and restore public safety and trust. Thank you.

DURBIN: Mr. Crane?

CRANE: Good afternoon, Chairman Durbin...

DURBIN: Good afternoon.

CRANE: ... Ranking Member Grassley, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today to participate in this important conversation.

My name is Matt Crane, and I am the executive director of the Colorado County Clerks Association. I have worked in election administration for 22 years in Colorado, including serving five years as the elected clerk and recorder in Arapahoe County. I also worked on election integrity issues nationally. I have made the safe and accurate administration of our most sacred right to vote my life's work. I'm also a conservative Republican.

The Colorado County Clerks Association consists of 64 county clerks, including Democratic, Republican, and unaffiliated officials. Our counties range in size from 450,000 active voters to 700. Our aim as an association is to focus on the education and professional development of our members and to advance mutually agreed upon policy goals such as accessible and secure elections.

I want to begin by saying the topic that we are discussing here today is not new in our nation's history. Far too often, when a candidate loses an election, the candidate and their supporters cry foul and question the system with no actual proof of anything nefarious.

However, in my 22 years of work on elections, I've never seen anything that comes close to the reckless claims that have happened on this scale and in the well-funded and coordinated way it's happening today. In our current reality, it seems facts no longer matter regardless of how much accurate information is presented.

And now, political bad actors have seen the financial and political value of spreading mis- and disinformation. That makes the dissemination and amplification of that fraudulent information. It means it's only growing.

One of the outcomes of this unprecedented attack on our election system is that it's radicalizing people in a way that we haven't seen before. The deeply held belief among some that our elections are not secure nor accurate has manifested itself as harassment, doxing, and outright threats on the lives of some of our election administrators. And as Secretary Benson and Secretary Oliver said, this includes threats against spouses and children as well.

In a survey I conducted among our 64 county clerks in late 2021, about a quarter of them reported for fortifying their offices in some way, whether that was with the addition of tinted bulletproof glass, more security around office access doors, or other enhancements. Many of these clerks received inputs about what to do from their county sheriff, who was also investigating threats against them. More clerks in my state would also want to make further security enhancements but lack the financial resources to do so.

These emerging and pervasive threats to election workers and the clerks that oversee the work that are following -- excuse me -- these emerging and pervasive threats to election workers and the clerks that oversee that work are following the heaviest on Republican clerks right now. Many, if not all of them, have seen an uptick in everything from concerning emails to actual physical threats.

In one publicized case, we have even seen a county clerk taken in by the lies. In this case, currently under state indictment and ongoing federal investigation, clerk Tina Peters of Mesa County violated her oath of office and provided internal images of her voting system to an unknown number of outside entities.

Contrary to the narrative of some, this security breach has only increased the threat to our election systems, and it's dramatically decreased the integrity of our elections. This breach has also led to an increase in the intimidation, harassment, and threats to other election official officials in Colorado who, unlike the Mesa clerk, refuse to violate the public trust and the law.

As we think about what we can do to keep our election workers safe, it's vitally important that we remember that a typical county clerk's office exists solely to serve the public and they do a lot more than elections. Deed recording, driver's licensing activities, voter registration -- all of these activities require direct contact with the public at open counters. While clerks are doing all they can to ensure their staffs that stay safe, we cannot change the nature of the work they do for their communities.

In Colorado, we've committed ourselves to maintaining an open, transparent operation of our elections as well. Colorado has long been considered one of the best examples of secure voting in the country. We pride ourselves in having found the right balance between access so that all can exercise their right to vote and security so that all can trust in the outcomes of these elections.

But even in our exceptional state, developed over decades by state and local election officials from both political parties, we are feeling the impacts of the insistence -- of the insistence on conspiracy over facts. This leads to two things I have to ask of you today.

The first request is that you take the federal funding that is currently available and make it easier for a local election official to learn about and easier for them to receive. The current system is not transparent about where funds are available nor are the funds easy to apply for. These grants should be allocated directly to local government officials. Passing the fence through the states creates additional delays for counties to access these funds. It may also allow states to reallocate funds from local jurisdictions.

In Colorado, CISA regional staff have done an amazing job working with counties to conduct physical assert security assessments of our facilities. These assessments analyze facilities to help security vulnerabilities and provide recommendations regarding how to mitigate those vulnerabilities. These assessments are invaluable in helping election officials better understand the security risks they face. However, most clerks in my state have a report they can never hope to implement because they lack the resources to pay for recommended mitigations as well as resources to be constantly chasing and securing grants.

The second request I have, and perhaps the most important -- we are here today because of a lie. And, quite frankly, we are here today because of an absence of leadership from elected officials at the federal level and at the state level to step up and tell the truth and support election officials.

I urge you to stand with us and tell the truth and support what we do. This support can be shown in many ways. Take a tour of your election facility in your state. Call your local election official if you have a concern. Avoid amplifying unproven or false rhetoric.

Our constitutional republic must rely on an election process free of politics. True freedom and liberty come from self-determination. A person's vote is a key pillar of that. When people lie about our election processes, it negatively impacts voter participation, as we saw in the 2021 Georgia senate runoff elections. This betrays our ideals of self-determination and an active and engaged citizenry.

Americans throughout our history have fought and died for our sacred right to vote. We dishonor their memory when we allow politics and disinformation to undermine this process. If we don't make a commitment to stop fanning the flames of conspiracy for political gain, it will have implications that reach much further than the next election cycle and much further than we can possibly imagine.

And to be clear, this issue does not just belong to one political party. We have seen candidates from both major political parties refuse to accept defeat. And that harms our voting institutions. Again, I urge you to stand with the 8,000-plus state and local election officials across the country who are telling the truth, honoring the oaths of office, and serving their citizens by running accessible, transparent, and secure elections.

I'm going to close by thanking you for taking the time to have this important conversation today. I believe it strikes at the very heart of the democracy we have now and will have a decade from now. The decisions we make about today and moving forward will have real implications for our nation. Thank you, sir.

DURBIN: Mr. Crane and to all the panel, but Mr. Crane in particular, thank you.

CRANE: Thank you.

DURBIN: Thanks for being here today. And thanks for what you just said because there might be people who watch this hearing and can't figure out what in the hell is going on here. Why won't any Republican witness our senator talk about the issue that was the subject matter of this hearing? Why won't they get into the reality of the threats that county clerks and election officials are facing across the United States?

And the answer is very clear and simple and obvious. Because it means saying that the big lie is a lie. It means saying that stop the steal campaign has gotten out of hand. It means we've got to face the reality that there is one person who continue to inspire this violence and hatred against election officials across the United States. And they can't do it politically. They just can't do it. So they change the subject.

We have some great witnesses here who have nothing to do with the topic at hand. Mr. Hurst, thank you for coming. Thank you for your service as U.S. attorney. Mr. Mangual, thank you for your research. And Mr. Johnson, thank you for all your work in Baltimore. Great. Violent crime has been a subject of 10 hearings. It may be the subject of 10 more. It's not the subject of this hearing.

We are trying to get down to the bottom line here. What's happening to our election system? Why is Ms. Benson's six-year-old son standing in the driveway saying he's going to defend her with a stick? Because this woman's life has been threatened. Why? What crime did she commit? What did she do wrong? You participated in election machinery, administered an office for an election, and to stop the steal folks are out after you. Right? It has changed your life, hasn't it? And that's what we wanted to talk about today.

Ms. Oliver, you really said it, too, as well. You face it. I take a look at what happened to you. You had to go into hiding for a period of time in late 2020 after your photo, home address, and other personal information was published on a website entitled Enemies of the People. Did you ever think that's what you were signing up for when you ran for secretary of state?

OLIVER: No, Mr. Chair.

DURBIN: No. And no one should.

And I take a look at Ms. Cohen. Your testimony just goes on for pages and it's well documented. I guess it must reflect the fact that you went to Georgetown. It's well documented, and it makes a point. Harassment has been around for a long time but not at this level. This is a new level. Right?

COHEN: Yes. Absolutely.

DURBIN: Well, Mr. Crane, that's the point we are getting to here. Thank you for what you do as a Republican county clerk in Colorado, representing that organization, I should say. And thanks to all of you for what you are doing. And the fact that my Republican colleagues don't want to talk about this is really troubling to me because it's at the heart of our democracy.

We won't have the debate about this president, next president, presidents beyond if we don't have a trustworthy voting system, Mr. Hurst. And that's what this hearing was all about. They brought you in here for another reason, I know, though I would just want to make one point, and you made it very effectively. I'm always having to answer for violent crime in Chicago. Well, it's a terrible situation. And I've talked to the police. I've talked to everybody I can think of. I'll do all I can.

But violent crime and particularly deadly crime is taking place in a lot of cities, large and small. The towns Rockford and East St. Louis -- my hometown of East St. Louis has a worse crime rate than city of Chicago. As you mentioned, in some respects, so does Jackson, Mississippi. Most law enforcement, when it comes to criminal law, is state and local. About 90 percent of the enforcement is. So we can do a better job at the federal level. But everybody has to get on the same page.

I'm just going to close by saying thank you all for being here. I think this hearing gets to the heart of whether we are going to have an election process we can trust in America. And for us to reach that point members have to step up on both sides and say the big lie is a lie. Stop the steal has to stop. We've got to have a conversation at the highest levels of our government -- Democrats and Republicans -- about an election system we can trust. I believe we can do that. But people have to come out of the shadows and stop changing the subject.

Senator Grassley?

GRASSLEY: I'm not offended by anything you said about the direction we've taken on our side of the aisle or -- some of your other colleagues have made reference to it as well. But I've been trying to make the point that when you have since the summer of 2020 the massive increase in crime that we've had in this country, the massive -- well, in all the -- in all the crime -- and I've gone through those statistics. I don't have to go in again. But when people get the idea you can just break any law, some of that is obviously going to carry over into how people treat other people, whether it's election officials or anybody else. And I know you don't accept that argument, but that's the point that I'm trying to make.

Mr. Hurst, when you were U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Mississippi, you had to deal with one of the highest violent crime rates in the country, particularly the city of Jackson. At the same time, you worked with Project Safe Neighborhood initiative in the Department of Justice to help get many violent criminals off the streets. Now, under the present Department of Justice, the stated goal of the project is, quote, "not to increase the number of arrests or prosecutions."

Again, to emphasize the points I'm trying to make, if you are going to just tell people you aren't going to arrest them for certain crimes, this just enhances everybody -- freedom -- I can get away with anything. How did cooperation through dedicated initiatives help to address violent crime in Mississippi?

HURST: Thank you, Ranking Member Grassley. I almost gave you a promotion to chairman there. Sorry. Ranking member, when the Department of Justice leads initiatives, it matters. Specifically with Project EJECT under the Project Safe Neighborhood's banner, when we started running that program, we started hearing recordings in jail of inmates saying, "The Feds are in town. The Feds are enforcing the law." "It's a whole different ball game" is what the criminals were saying when the federal government and federal law enforcement got involved.

With Project EJECT, we not only had ATF participating, as General Polite said earlier. We had FBI, we had DEA, we had local and state. We had everyone at the table. So when DOJ steps up, when DOJ leads, when DOJ makes it a priority to really go after and take violent crime head on, what we see is a reduction in violent crime. Criminals respond to accountability. Criminals respond to consequences. And right now, we are not seeing a lot of consequences.

GRASSLEY: Mr. Mangual, research indicates that the large percentage of violent crime is committed by a few repeat offenders. And so, if you target them, you might substantially reduce crime rate. What does this mean for law enforcement? How might federal agencies use this knowledge to address violent crime? And if you get violent crime down, maybe we will have less crime against election officials.

MANGUAL: Thank you, senator. Well, what it means for law enforcement is that if the federal government can bring more resources to bear, it can help local agencies with the use of big data to identify who the highest risks are in their communities. There is research, for example, from the Educational Fund to stop gun violence which found that in Oakland just 0.1 percent of the population was responsible for the majority of the city's homicides.

When you can identify who those people are and bring serious cases against them and make those cases and take them off the street, particularly through federal prosecution, you can get seriously large incapacitation benefits that then spare the community of the offenses that those individuals would have otherwise committed. Research shows that when precision policing is engaged in, it can produce -- it can produce very, very large gains in the form of violent crime reductions.

GRASSLEY: Mr. Johnson, what difference would it make for Baltimore -- specifically the target repeat offenders and keep them locked up?

JOHNSON: Well, senator, we understand -- and you said yourself that the majority of violent crime is committed by a relatively small number of people. So if we can bring to bear technology and technical assistance resources of the federal government to identify who those individuals are, bring manpower resources to actually apprehend those people, and then seek accountability through the federal courts, we can effectively remove them from the street, incapacitate them so that they are not committing any more acts of violence.

In state court as of now in in cities like Baltimore, criminal defendants, violent criminal defendants and individuals illegally carrying firearms are -- many of their cases are being dropped and still others -- or even -- and those that are convicted are serving small fractions of their sentence.

GRASSLEY: Thanks, Senator Grassley.

Senator Whitehouse?

WHITEHOUSE: Thanks, chairman.

Those of you who have election integrity responsibilities in your testimony that I related to Mr. Polite have made the case that there is a link between the large and fraudulent scheme to spread lies about the election and the threats and harassment that you and your colleagues have experienced. And I think that's a very important point that you made. I want to highlight it and I want to thank you for it.

I also want to flag that this is -- appears to be happening not just at random. There seems to be organizational support for this and. I'll bring up a group called the Conservative Partnership Institute that has been described as a dark money MAGA hub and a full-service shop for pro-Trump Republicans. And this group is part of a network of at this point it's been determined 11 other groups that all are highly closely associated with one another, sharing addresses, sharing staff on each other's incorporation papers. And, also, it involves a lot of the refugees from the Trump election insurrection effort.

So you have Jeffrey Clark at one of these groups, the -- hard for me to see it and the camera as well -- the Center for Preserving America. And as we all know, his role was bad enough that the FBI did a raid at his home to seize his electronics. Kash Patel was at the Department of Defense. And we just know that on its way out, the Trump defense department wiped the phones of individuals who might have been texting about the January 6 insurrection effort.

You have got Mark Meadows, who participated in the pressuring of Georgia officials and has now ceased cooperation with the January 6 panel.

You have got Stephen Miller, who likely wrote president Trump's speech January 6 inciting the mob to go to the Capitol and attack their nation's Capitol.

And you have the Lawyer Cleta Mitchell, who was on the phone with Trump for the Georgia call to the secretary of state where Trump pressured the Georgia secretary of state to go out and find the right number of votes to flip the election. And the likely coordination of that effort with Jeffrey Clark's effort out of the Department of Justice is pretty obvious.

So this is not happening in a vacuum. In fact, it's not even happening. It's being done. And the sooner we can draw attention to those who are doing it and why it's being done, the better.

In essence this is a giant pea and shell game with a dozen shells that can be pushed out to engage with the media or to engage politically but all -- it would appear commonly controlled all with funders who are kept secret and all with murky relationships with one another and with the efforts to lead an insurrection against the popular vote in the last election.

And where it comes to bear in this hearing is particularly with respect to Cleta Mitchell and her Election Integrity Network. Because if what we are seeing is a deliberate strategy of fraudulent lying designed to whip up earnest and sincere popular antagonism -- and, by the way, if you are an American and you think that your American democracy has been stolen from you, that is something to get mad about. So that's the lie that you are propagating. You have got a vulnerable population of people who don't want to believe that that happened and who would be angry if you can convince them that that happened.

And then you turn them loose on the election officials. And guess what? If you can drive election officials out of their jobs, if you can drive election volunteers away from the polls, you then have vacancies, vacancies that Cleta Mitchell is training to fill right now to pursue the interference with American elections that the January 6 riot kicked off.

There is nothing about this, Mr. Chairman, that is random. And I hope that there will be investigations that are done either civilly or otherwise to connect these obvious dots, that there is a fraudulent lie, that it is deliberately propagated, that the propagation of that lie is intended to cause harassment and threats to election officials, which, in turn, is designed to cause vacancies in the legitimate election official ranks that can then be filled with never -- election denier cohorts.

And I see a lot of heads nodding as I've been going through this. I apologize not to be able to ask a question given the shortness of time. But we have a thing in the Senate Judiciary Committee called a question for the record. So I invite the officials who have knowledge of this to respond to this in whatever way you please, and we can make your answers to that question for the record a part of the proceedings. If I may ask that, and Mr. Chairman?

DURBIN: Without objection. And thank you, Senator Whitehouse.

And now, Senator Hirono.

HIRONO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I've listened to my Republican colleagues question the first panel and, yes, they are attempting to minimize the very real attacks on the integrity of our elections and the threats and harassment of election workers causing, I would say, probably thousands of them to say, "Forget it. I am not volunteering." Basically, that's what it is -- volunteering to be an election worker and be exposed to these kinds of attacks.

So basically, you know, the MAGA Republicans have weaponized the position of election workers by supporting -- to the extent these officials are already elected, by supporting election officials who believe in the big lie and other conspiracy theories. And let us not forget that it is a big lie that led to a violent insurrection on January 6 which, by the way, did not just happen spontaneously. We can see by the work of the House January 6 committee that the planning for this insurrection have been going on for quite a while.

And so we have the violent insurrection of January 6 with a big lie and the former president impelling them. And then we have the dozens of voter suppression bills -- laws that have been enacted by Republican legislatures all across the country. And the fact that Congress has not been able to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act or do other things that will actually protect the integrity of our elections and we have a Supreme Court -- let's not forget our Supreme Court that has made it even tougher to enable the Department of Justice to prosecute some of these more obvious voter suppression laws under what is left of the Voting Rights Act because this Supreme Court has basically created even more ways that these kinds of voter suppression laws can be held constitutional.

So we are in an environment where, yes, our democracy is at stake. And here we are focusing on election integrity and we are listening to our colleagues talk about how important it is to go after violent crime. Yes, it is. Yes. And how about going after the massive gun violence in our country? How about focusing on some of that? But we are not.

But, in the meantime, I want to thank all of you who have testified today who are election workers -- secretaries of New Mexico and Michigan.

When I was the lieutenant governor of the state of Hawaii, we did not have a secretary of state. The lieutenant governor was the elections person. And one of the first things I did because the lieutenant governor is in an elected position and I believe the election should be run in a totally nonpartisan way -- one of the first things I did as lieutenant governor to eliminate the election functions from the office of lieutenant governor -- and we created an Office of Elections.

After every election prior to this action being taken by the state legislature and removing the election function from -- at that point my office, after every election the lieutenant governor would be sued. And these suits never got anywhere. But because it was, you know -- it was done by an elected person, then there are always those who thought that the outcomes could be challenged as somehow being tainted by political considerations.

So I commend all of you for putting yourself forward. And, in fact, I'd like to ask the -- Secretary Benson why did you decide to become secretary of state of Michigan -- as Michigan's chief election officer with everything that's going on around elections?

BENSON: Thank you for that question, senator. I'm here today wearing a bracelet of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I wear it with me all the time to remind me of the sacrifices made so that we could live in a democracy where the one person, one vote promise in our Constitution is a reality for everyone. I started my career in Alabama working to investigate hate groups and hate crimes throughout the country and came to the conclusion that the only way we could ensure that every voice was heard in our country is to have a democracy that is led by people who are dedicated to making that promise true for everyone.

State secretaries of state live that every day. We serve as guardians of the democratic process, whether we be Democrat, Republican, or independent. We make decisions daily that are geared towards increasing the security of our process and the accessibility of it. So that's why I wanted this job. And you'll find that my story is not that different from my colleague in New Mexico who, similarly, was an election administrator who simply wanted to do her job to make sure elections are safe and secure for all. And the tens of thousands election workers around the country can share that story. And so I'm proud to stand among these individuals, many of whom on the local level face threats without security details and other protections. But they are the true heroes of our democracy.

HIRONO: Thank you.

And I also commend the secretary of the elections in New Mexico.

Thank you. I'm out of time, Mr. Chairman.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Hirono.

Senator Klobuchar?

KLOBUCHAR: Let Senator Padilla, who is been gallantly going back and forth between our two hearings -- he can -- he can go first. I'll go next.

DURBIN: Senator Padilla?

PADILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you, Senator Klobuchar. Catch your breath. This is, in some -- in some ways a continuation of the Rules Committee hearing happening today as well.

You know, for six years as this committee has heard me say time and again, I had the honor of serving as California's secretary of state. And at that time we're able to drive the success of three elections, including in 2020 where we ensured that more Californians participated in the electoral process than they ever had before -- record registration; record turnout; smooth, safe, accessible election.

Now that work would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of not just state elections professionals and volunteers but so many at the local level as well. Successful elections only happened because of the dedicated hardworking patriotic staff that are willing to go above and beyond to ensure that Americans could participate in the political process.

But as the testimony here today has so incredibly highlighted, our election workers now face extraordinary threats and harassment just for doing the most basic essential work of our democracy -- helping people cast their ballot. I am grateful that they continue to show up for work despite these additional hardships. But I am also extremely concerned that unless we address this problem head on, not ignore it, not sweep it under the rug -- unless we address it head on, fewer and fewer people will choose to serve as election workers.

So my first question is for the two secretaries of state, my former colleague, Secretary Benson, and Secretary Oliver. Can you expand on how the ordinary work of our election workers is so extraordinarily important to our democratic process and how the recent rise in threats is affecting recruitment and retention of workers?

OLIVER: Thank you, Senator Padilla, my former colleague and friend. I appreciate the question. I don't think folks realize how much goes into planning and executing an election and how many individuals - - what I like to emphasize is the fact that we have a citizen-run democracy in the United States.

And although this is my profession and my colleague's profession, the people on the ground on election day during early voting checking off and processing absentee ballots -- those are volunteers. Those are individuals. Those are friends and family of both political parties, of all political parties, and no political party from around our communities and in our communities. These are the individuals who come back year after year who believe it's their civic duty. Without them, we simply do not have a democracy and we won't have a democratic process.

And to the points that have been made here today so eloquently by my colleagues, we are on the verge of not having that process anymore because we are not going to have enough committed citizen individuals if these threats and the big lie that is driving them continues.

BENSON: And I'll just add to that. The other side of this, you know -- in Michigan, we just held a primary election yesterday, and I went around and thanked election workers throughout the day. And what I actually saw was another piece of the story, which is, at the same time, while these threats are real and the loss of so much institutional history is real, we are also seeing a number of individuals -- Republicans, Democrats, and independents -- well-intentioned citizens standing up to say, "I want to serve." We are seeing individuals -- in fact, 6,000 individuals in Michigan signed up to serve as new election workers in yesterday's election.

And so I have a lot of hope actually that, through this moment, if citizens observe these challenges and simply seek out the truth and step up with us to serve and protect our democracy, we can actually emerge from this moment with a stronger, healthier, and more robust democracy than ever before. But that, ultimately, will be determined by the citizens of our country itself, who will determine whether to stand with us in this moment in furtherance of the truth in our democracy or not.

PADILLA: And to be abundantly clear, there's a problem that I laid out -- a danger, a threat -- does it hurt Democratic voters? Republican voters? All voters?

OLIVER: In fact, senator, you know, the recent situation in Otero County, New Mexico -- not only did the big lie push the county commission in that county so far as to actually take an initial vote to not certify the election process. It would have disenfranchised 7,300 voters in that county, the vast majority of whom are Republicans. All of the candidates with maybe two exceptions on the ballot that would have been disqualified from the general election would have been Republican candidates. So we are fighting to save the vote for every voter regardless of party.

PADILLA: I appreciate that.

And Mr. Chair, with your indulgence, I have one more question that ties the discussion happening in Rules Committee and the need to reform the Electoral Count Act to this topic here in Judiciary Committee. You know, in discussing the increasing threats that election workers face simply for doing their jobs, I think it's important that we understand why we are facing these threats in the first place because, to this day, nearly two full years after the November 2020 election, people who should know better continue to spread lies and disinformation about the election. They continue to claim without any shred of evidence that there was massive fraud and irregularities in the ballot counts. There wasn't. They continue to refuse to acknowledge that Joe Biden won the 2020 election. He did.

So these lies aren't just innocuous political rhetoric. They are dangerous statements that have the effect of riling people up, undermining faith in our democracy, and putting real people from election workers to candidates for office in harm's way. And I'm not even talking about the deadly insurrection that took place here in the nation's Capitol.

So my final question -- Secretary Benson, I think you are perfect to respond here. Can you walk the committee through the link between the big lie and the increase in election threats that we have seen since the 2020 election?

BENSON: Yes. I think we have to recognize that while we've talked a lot today about challenges, threats facing public officials generally, there is a particular nuance here. It's critically important that those attacking us are motivated by lies and misinformation that they have been told by people they trust. In fact -- I mean there are members of the U.S. Senate, some of whom are on this committee, who knowingly spread falsehoods about the security of our elections with zero evidence, factual basis.

And, you know, today I hope they hear me when I say that, in doing so, they are hurting us. They are hurting our democracy. We are professional election administrators. We work every day to ensure that every voter, regardless of where they live or who they vote for, can participate in choosing their leaders and holding them accountable.

And when many of those leaders then turn around and spread or amplify conspiracy theories about the security or accuracy of our elections that have been proven false by multiple sources, they then put our lives in danger. They put the lives of our kids and our loved ones in danger. So I hope that members of this body and others hear that -- hear that from us today and they put an end to it because that is what is going to have to happen in order for, ultimately, these threats to stop.

PADILLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

DURBIN: Thanks, Senator Padilla.

Senator Klobuchar?

KLOBUCHAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Secretary Benson, we've worked together. I appreciate you coming before the Rules Committee. And I think, you know, we've done some really important work there and are about to do some very important work on the Electoral Count Act. That hearing couldn't have gone better, just so you all know. While you were testifying here, that was going over there and it was a very bipartisan and we are very -- and a very positive hearing with every single witness agreeing, including the Republican witnesses, that we should reform the act and basically on the structure of those reforms.

So I'll start with you, Secretary Benson. In December of 2020, approximately two dozen armed protesters accused you of ignoring voter fraud in the 2020 election. They surrounded your house chanting, "Stop the steal" as you prepared, as I understand, to watch a Christmas movie with your four-year-old son.

In one video updated to social media, at least one person could be heard shouting "You're murderers" within earshot of your child's bedroom. Could you describe the toll that those kinds of intimidation tactics have taken on you and your family?

BENSON: Yes. Thank you, Senator Klobuchar, really for your leadership of bringing people together to move things forward. And I hope we'll see more bipartisan leadership as well on many of the other things we need to do to improve and protect our democracy. So I'm grateful for your leadership on that.

You know, I signed up for this work knowing that, oftentimes, defending democracy means being able to and willing to stay on the front lines and face down threats and challenges. Indeed, that's what many heroes throughout the history of our country have done. We certainly, though, don't expect them in the dark of night to come to the doorstep of our homes.

I certainly didn't expect as a mom to have to explain to my kid what the noise was and even -- again, that was an a very well-known incident; it was not the only incident outside my home -- and to have to teach my son that standing up for what's right often does require us to handle threats like these, threats to our lives. It creates an air of anxiety and stress that no child and no parent should have to endure. And to know that this is happening because of a lie, because of lies about our democracy makes it particularly pernicious and painful.

But, again, the last thing I'll say is that evening, for me, I also knew they weren't protesting me. Those individuals were protesting the will of the people in our state. And as the secretary of state of Michigan, I'll proudly defend the will of the people every day and stand up to do it again and again. So thank you again.

KLOBUCHAR: Thank you.

Secretary Toulouse Oliver, good to see you again. And thank you for your -- I know you were -- served a term also as the head of the secretaries of state nationally, got to work with my great secretary of state, Steve Simon. I won't mention our voter turnout rate is the highest in the country, but I just did. And I want to thank you.

Following the 2020 election, your personal information was published. You had to leave your home under police protection for weeks. In the years since, you and other members of your office have had to use services to remove personal information from the Internet. And as recently as this past June, you received threatening phone calls that had to be referred to the FBI.

We know election workers like yourself and like the people that work for you in every state in this country are necessary to the functioning of our democracy. It's never acceptable for anyone to use violence or threats of violence to advance political goals. Could you talk about how these threats have made it harder for not just you but your staff to do their jobs?

OLIVER: Yes. And thank you, senator. Thanks for always being such a wonderful partner and advocate in working with election officials across the board. You know, I had not the same situation as Secretary Benson. But, you know, like Secretary Benson, this has had a deep and profound impact on me and my personal life and on my staff. And I think it's the staff, I think it's the state election officials and then, of course, you know, the folks that are really on the front lines -- our county clerks, our, you know, local election administrators and their family and their staff, those poll workers that are out in the field -- that literally just, you know, come in to do their jobs, leave their partisan hat at the door, that are being most deeply affected.

I was just at our state county clerk meeting prior to our general election that we do. We do it before every statewide election in New Mexico, having very important moving conversations primarily, actually, this time with county clerks from across party lines to me that are experiencing the impacts most deeply in their counties, that are wondering if they can keep going on, that are talking about retirement, that are wondering if they are going to run for reelection because the daily pressure and stress and serious concern that they are dealing with is making them wonder if they can continue. And so, you know, I know that's just a microcosm of the macrocosm of what we are experiencing as election officials at all levels.

KLOBUCHAR: Thank you.

Mr. Crane, I missed your statement because I was doing this other hearing, but my staff told me you did a great job. And I thought this question just kind of playing off with -- the secretary of state talked about turnover. This came out in a hearing we had, including from the Kentucky secretary of state -- Republican secretary of state just about how it was hard to retain volunteers and staff and how perhaps a federal law -- and Senator Durbin and I have talked about -- could address these threats and could help in terms of recruiting and retaining workers if they knew that their safety was protected. Do you want to elaborate?

CRANE: Sure. Thank you, senator. It has been a big -- it has been a big concern, as my colleagues here have said. It's interesting, you know, we hear when we talk about as officials -- you know, we signed up for this. We know -- Secretary Benson so eloquently talked about that.

Election judges, though -- Secretary Oliver said this -- they are the ones -- it's a -- it's our church members. It's our Elks Lodge members. It's the PTA. These are the people that are actually conducting the elections. And we have seen an increase in threats and intimidation to election workers, too, where we are seeing our counties in Colorado where people are trying to get the information -- the names, and addresses, and telephone numbers -- of these citizen election workers so that they can put pressure on them and intimidate them. And it has had a chilling effect on their willingness to participate.

However, like Secretary Benson, now I think we see people getting their second wind, finding resolve, and saying, "We are not going to let this get to us. We are going to stand in the breach and we're going to do this and we're going to defend democracy." And I think we're starting to see more and more in that.

And that's why during my comments earlier, we are here in large part because of failure of leadership. If people would just stand up and tell the truth on both sides of the aisle, we'd be much better off. And when we can look around and see that we are all together in this, I think the way that we can move forward together and continue to run successful elections and elections that our citizens can be proud of and have confidence in -- but we need people to step up and lead. And if they don't want to lead, then get behind us. We will lead because that's what we've been doing for two years.

KLOBUCHAR: Well, I really appreciate those remarks just because I think it's very important for Republicans to stand up in addition to Democrats. And you are doing that today and we have seen that in the January 6 hearings over in the House. And we've seen people -- Democrats and Republicans -- talk about what's happened to them. I was just thinking about those poll workers in Georgia, the mother and daughter pair where the mom, Ms. Ruby, was always so proud to wear the T-shirt that said "Lady Ruby" and she couldn't even wear it anymore because she'd been singled out by the President of the United States. And those stories are heartfelt.

Al Schmidt, the former Republican commissioner -- election commissioner in Philadelphia who's not in his job now but -- you know three kids -- he had to move out of his house. And having both sides come and speak out -- that's what's going to make the difference. And I liked what you said.

So thank you, all of you. We look forward to working with you.

I see, Mr. Chair, Norm Eisen is there -- who just did a great job testifying before the Rules Committee. We can do two things at once. And he came by to see you.

So thank you very much.

DURBIN: Thank you, Senator Klobuchar. And thanks for your work in the Rules Committee, which is parallel to this conversation which we've had for three hours today.

This is the first hearing we have ever had in this committee on threats against election workers. I'm sorry we had to have it. I wish it had been more bipartisan. But I appreciate those members who did attend and participate in it.

We've got to solve this problem together. I don't know who the winner will be in the next election. Nobody does. It really is up to the American people. It's up to us to create a process that's credible so that the result, when it's announced, is accepted. That's the only way a democracy can prevail. There are some who did not accept the 2020 result and we're paying a heavy price for it.

Mr. Crane, going back to your point, both parties have to come together to make sure that in the future we do have a credible outcome and stand by it if we want to preserve this democracy. And that's our first obligation.

So thank you all for your testimony. There may be a question for the record sent to you. If you receive one, please respond to it as quickly as possible so we can complete the record. But thanks for your patience today.

END

Aug 04, 2022 12:46 ET .EOF

House Judiciary Committee hearing Oversight of the Department of Justice National Security Division, sked FINAL

July 29, 2022 9:58AM ET

TRANSCRIPT

July 28, 2022

COMMITTEE HEARING

REP. JERROLD NADLER, D-N.Y.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

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HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

JULY 28, 2022

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REP. BURGESS OWENS, R-UTAH

WITNESSES:

MATTHEW G. OLSEN, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NADLER: The House Committee on the Judiciary will come to order.

Without objection to chair is authorized to declare recesses of the committee at any time.

We welcome everyone to this morning's hearing on oversight of the Department of Justice National Security Division.

Before we begin I'd like to remind members that we have established an email address and distribution list dedicated to circulating exhibits, motions, or other written materials, that members might want to offer as part of our hearing today. If you'd like to submit materials please send them to the email address that has been previously distributed to your offices and we will circulate the materials to members and staff as quickly as we can.

I know recognize myself in opening statement.

The National Security Division or NSD was established within the Department of Justice in 2006 with the purpose of creating a Center for Intelligence, National Security, and Counterterrorism that would streamline interactions between federal prosecutors, main justice, and the intelligence community. The Division operates on the front lines of major challenges facing our country including the rise of domestic terrorism, Cyber espionage, and threats from foreign governments. Leading the Division today is Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen. We're pleased to welcome you to the committee, Mr. Olsen, and to hear your perspective on the difficult task ahead of you.

NSD was created in the years after the September 11th attacks. It has its roots in what we used to call the United States government's war on terror. And indeed the Division is integral to the fight to keep our country safe from terrorist threats.

Today the NSD faces the uncomfortable necessity of internal transformation because the threat -- the face of terrorism has changed. The greatest threat to American safety is no longer extremism in far-off lands, and we can no longer dismiss the threat as coming from other people, from other cultures. The threat today is from within. It is right at home in our communities, in our -- and on our social media feeds. We even see it from time to time on our cable news networks. It has taken root in the rhetoric of certain political leaders and none of us can afford to turn a blind eye to the growing danger. The new face of domestic terrorism is far-right extremism which is growing exponentially in the United States.

Attorney General Garland told our colleagues in the Senate just over a year ago that the greatest threat -- the greatest domestic threat facing the United States is from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, quote, "specifically those who advocate for the superiority of the white race," close quote.

White supremacists, extremist militia members, and other violent far-right extremists who are responsible for 66 percent of all domestic terror plots in 2020. And of the 30 fatalities from terrorism in 2021, 28 were at the hands of radicalized far-right attackers.

If the numbers do not convince you we can put the imminence of the threat in practical terms. One Republican candidate for Senate has aligned his campaign with the website that promoted the hateful screeds of the shooter at the Tree of Life Synagogue. His campaign adviser has said that Jews are not welcome in their political movement and will not be welcome in the Christian Nationalist country
CICILLINE: hope to build.

Across the country anyone hoping to attend the Turning Point USA Conference in Tampa first had to march past a well-organized demonstration of neo-Nazis who also appear to have a preferred candidate for office.

With the easy availability of weapons of war in this country, the distance from xenophobic messaging to hateful thoughts, and from hateful thoughts to terrorist actions has never been shorter. An 18-year old-radicalized over social media can walk into a pawnshop and leave with an AR-15 that same day. Far-right extremists and White supremacist terror groups present not only a significant threat to the lives of Americans but also relatedly an unprecedented challenge for the National Security Division.

I applaud the Attorney General for the creation of DOJ's Domestic Terrorism Unit this past January which will be specifically dedicated to responding to the increasing threats posed by domestic terrorists. But to be clear the Department already has the resources and structures in place to fight domestic terrorism.

But I hope to hear from Mr. Olsen today is how the Department will focus these resources where CICILLINE: are needed most on the growing threat of violent-white nationalism and far-right extremism.

In addition to advancing the fight against domestic terrorism there are also many other important challenges facing the National Security Division as it works to keep us safe. For example, I am interested in hearing how the Division is navigating threats posed by hostile actors targeting our system of government. As this committee recently learned the Federal Court System faced an incredibly significant and sophisticated cybersecurity breach one which has since had lingering impacts on the Department and other agencies.

While the concentration of national security matters within a single division ostensibly allows DOJ and the Executive Branch overall to respond more effectively to threats facing the United States it also presents enhanced opportunities for abuse. That is why I am looking forward to hearing how the Division is reforming the government's FISA processes to allay our longstanding concerns about the querying of the Section 702 database to acquire Americans information.

I'm also interested to hear how the NSD is responding to the Inspector General's concerns regarding the Division's compliance with the Woods Procedures which require agents to document support for all factual assertions contained in FISA applications.

NSD is at the epicenter of programs and policy areas that both engender intense debate and are where the federal government has historically fallen short when it comes to protecting civil liberties, ranging from the warrantless surveillance of American citizens to the unfair targeting of Black and Brown communities, the sweeping collection of private data and communications, the ill conceived China Initiative, politically motivated investigations of the press and members of Congress and much more.

NSD has at times found itself on the wrong end of the battle between civil liberties and security. I hope that the Division will commit to forging a new path that strikes the proper balance. Protecting our citizens from those seeking to do them harm is of paramount concern to the NSD but is also a difficult task requiring those at the helm to balance our security with our liberty. This nuance speaks to the heart of the values that are essential to this nation and it is your responsibility as the Division's leader to protect the ideals along with the people.

Thank you for being here today, Mr. Olsen. I look forward to your testimony.

I now recognize the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Jordan, for his opening statement.

JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Olsen, welcome.

In America we shouldn't need to say that parents speaking out about their children's education aren't domestic terrorists or that those raising concerns about the radical direction the left is trying to take this country are not domestic terrorists or that Trump supporters aren't domestic terror but apparently we do because the Biden administration is bound and determined to demonize anyone and everyone not in lockstep with their far-left agenda.

Last September the Biden White House colluded, colluded with the National School Boards Association to orchestrate a letter to President Biden that portrayed concerned parents speaking out at school board meetings, as security threats. The letter urged the president to use the Patriot Act to go after America's moms and dads.

Just five days later the Attorney General issued a memorandum directing the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Offices to address, a quote, "disturbing spike in harassment intimidation and threats of violence at school board meetings." And if you remember when we had the Attorney General in front of this committee, we asked him about where did CICILLINE: get this -- where did CICILLINE: learn about this harassment, this disturbing spike in intimidation, where do CICILLINE: learn about it. And his response was from the school board letter that CICILLINE: helped coordinate and put together to send to the White House.

The press release that accompanied that memorandum said that Mr. Olsen's Division, the National Security Division, would be involved in a department-wide effort to target parents. That's right. The Division that is supposed to be prosecuting terrorists, protecting us from terrorists, the kind CICILLINE: want to hijack buildings -- excuse me hijacked planes and bring down buildings, decided that a priority of this Division of the FBI is parents at school board meetings.

You know, guess what? We find out that this whole situation was coordinated. That's right. Like I said earlier, the NSBA letter was a pretext for the memorandum. The letter was instigated by the White House. Documents released by the National School Boards Association show that the White House knew that the letter would urge the administration to invoke the Patriot Act. And the White House raised no objections.

In fact the National School Boards Association admitted that President Biden telephoned the then NSBA President to say that he was appreciative of the letter. When this all came to light and America's parents rightly became outraged, the National School Boards Association apologized for its action. The NSBA wrote to its members, quote, "We regret and apologize for the letter." That's a lot more than the Attorney General or the Biden administration has done because as far as we know the memorandum is still in place.

That's right. As far as we know the Attorney General's directive to the National Security Division to target moms and dads remains in place. And if this was it, if it was just a political stunt that would be bad enough but it's actually much worse. Because of whistleblowers who came forward we know that the FBI created a threat tag specifically targeting parents, a designation specifically targeting moms and dads. And we know that the FBI opened over two dozen investigations into parents merely because CICILLINE: stood up to speak on behalf of their children.

We sent countless letters to the DOJ trying to get answers but have gotten virtually nothing back in response. I'm sure we will have some pointed questions for Mr. Olsen today. And I hope that he is prepared to give us answers on our -- the answers our constituents deserve.

We also hope he is prepared to talk about the Department of Justice's refusal to address people trying to intimidate Supreme Court Justices at their homes and their children's schools. And we have great concerns about the terrorist attacks targeting pro-life facilities and groups around the country. This year there have been dozens of attacks on these facilities but the Biden administration seems preoccupied with other politically charged investigations.

We'd also like to know why the DOJ is ignoring all the facts coming to light regarding the business dealings and illegal activities of Hunter Biden. In fact a troubling pattern has come to light recently that indicates the Biden Justice Department seems more focused on politics than it is on fighting crime. And don't forget this is the Division of the Department of Justice that we entrust with immense surveillance powers.

The Chairman mentioned, his reference to FISA but the National Security Division is the Office of Intelligence. This office is responsible for preparing and filing all applications pursuant to FISA as well as appearing before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. Of course we all know about the FISA abuses over the past several years and how the Department of Justice and the FBI misused FISA to target the campaign of President Trump.

Mr. Olsen has been entrusted with a great deal of responsibility. It's our hope that today he's come prepared to answer a great deal of questions this committee has about the Department of Justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

NADLER: Thank you, Mr. Jordan.

Without objection all the opening statements will be included in the record.

I will now introduce today's witness. Matthew Olsen, is the Assistant Attorney General for National Security. In that capacity he leads the Department of Justice's mission to combat terrorism, espionage, cybercrime, and other threats to the national security. From 2011 to 2014. Mr. Olsen served as the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. Prior to leading NCTC, he was the General Counsel for the National Security Agency. For 18 years Mr. Olsen worked at the Justice -- Department of Justice as a career attorney and in a number of leadership positions including as an Associate Deputy Attorney General for National Security and Special Counselor to the Attorney General.

In 2006 he helped establish the National Security Division and served as the first career Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security. Mr. Olsen began his public service career as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and later held positions as a Federal Prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and Special Counsel to the Director of the FBI supporting the post-9/11 transformation of the FBI. Previously Mr. Olsen clerked for Judge Norma Holloway Johnson in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He graduated from Harvard Law School and the University of Virginia.

We welcome our distinguished witness. We thank him for participating today.

I will begin by swearing you in. I ask that you rise and raise your right hand.

Do you swear or affirm under the penalty -- under penalty of perjury that the testimony you're about to give is true and correct to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief, so help you God.

OLSEN: I do.

Let the record show that the witness has answered in the affirmative.

Thank you. And you -- please be seated.

Please note that your written statement will be entered into the record in its entirety. Accordingly I ask that you summarize your testimony in five minutes. To help you stay within that time there is a timing light on your table, when the light switches from green to yellow, you have a minute to conclude your testimony. When the light turns red -- it signals your five minutes have expired.

Mr. Olsen, you may begin.

OLSEN: Thank you, Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, members of the committee. I very much appreciate the opportunity to be here today to testify about the important work of the Justice Department on National Security.

As you know, -- as you noted Chairman, Congress created the National Guard division in 2006. The goal was to unify and prioritize DOJ's national security efforts. The National Security Division has a wide range of responsibilities. You've touched on them. We prosecute terrorists and spies. We protect the nation against cyberattacks. We enforce export controls and sanctions laws. We provide legal and policy support to intelligence operations and oversight. And we review foreign investments in U.S. companies for national security risks.

This morning I would like to focus my opening statement on one of our top priorities and that's counterterrorism. The country faces a persistent and dynamic threat from terrorism. This threat encompasses both foreign terrorist groups that seek to carry out attacks against the United States, as well as domestic violent extremists who are often mobilized to violence by racism and anti-government ideologies. International terrorism poses a continuing and evolving threat to the U.S. both at home and abroad. We keep an unwavering focus on violent jihadist groups and we play an integral role in the broader all-of-government effort to defend against these threats.

At the same time the Department of Justice is committed to tackling the alarming threat at home from domestic violent extremism. Domestic violent extremists are individuals in the United States who seek to commit violent criminal acts in furtherance of domestic, social, or political goals. For example, we have seen a growing threat from those who are motivated by racism. We also see an increase in threats from extremists who espouse anti-government or anti-authority ideologies, and who often target those who participate in civil life such as elected officials, police officers, and health care workers.

There is no doubt that these threats are on the rise. The number of FBI investigations over the past two years has more than doubled, of domestic violent extremists. The January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol stands apart. The Department's investigation is the single largest domestic terrorism investigation in the nation's history. To date that investigation has led to the arrest of more than 860 individuals. Many of these defendants have been charged with very serious crimes. CICILLINE: include seditious conspiracy, obstruction of Congress, and assaults on police officers.

We are committed to holding accountable those who engaged in violence and other illegal acts and to bringing to justice anyone who unlawfully tried to overturn the election. We are upholding our oath to defend the Constitution against those who tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.

Our national security mission requires that we protect these fundamental pillars of our democracy. We work to protect not just our democratic institutions but also our citizens and communities from the terrible costs inflicted by terrorism and violent extremism. The tragedies in Buffalo, and Pittsburgh, El Paso, Charlottesville, and elsewhere, are seared in our memories. We must be clear that law enforcement faces very stark challenges when it comes to domestic extremism. Violent extremists are too often able to radicalize online quickly, easily acquire military-grade weapons, and target valuable -- vulnerable locations such as public gatherings, places of worship, and shopping centers, these are places that are very difficult to defend.

The National Security Division plays a critical role in countering these threats. We lead and support terrorism investigations and prosecutions, working with our partners at the FBI, and with U.S. Attorneys' Offices around the country.

We recently established as you noted a dedicated, Domestic Terrorism Unit. The goal is to oversee and coordinate these cases across the Department and around the country. Our Domestic Terrorism Unit works very closely with the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice which has prosecuted some of the most heinous terrorist attacks in recent years using our Federal Hate Crime statutes.

Having spent 18 years myself as a career Department of Justice Attorney and Prosecutor, I know that our workforce is committed to the Constitution, and to ensuring equal and impartial justice. We prosecute cases based on the facts and the law, without regard to ideology and politics. Our national strength comes from our founding values. These include the rule of law, freedom of speech, and freedom of association. And we will uphold these values as we safeguard the American people from threats to our safety, and to our national security.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to testify today. And I look forward to answering the -- answering the committee's questions.

NADLER: Thank you for your testimony.

We will now proceed under the five-minute rule with questions.

I will recognize myself for five minutes.

On January 6th, 2021, the Administrative Office of the Courts released the public statement about a cybersecurity breach dating back to early 2020 unrelated to SolarWinds. However it was only in March of this year that the committee first learned the startling breadth and scope of the court's document -- of the Courts Document Management System security failure and perhaps even more concerning is the disturbing impact the security breach had on pending civil and criminal litigation as well as an ongoing national security or intelligence matters.

Understanding that this is an unclassified setting, what types of cases are investigations or U.S. attorney's offices were impacted the most by this breach and how many of those cases and investigations are within your Division?

OLSEN: Chairman, Let me begin by just saying that the threat we face from cyber-enabled attacks, whether that's to the government and the public sector including Congress, and to the private sector, is one of the most significant threats we face as a country to our national security.

For the National Security Division we are focused on nation-state attacks. And those attacks can come from countries like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. While I can't speak directly to the nature of the ongoing investigation of the types of threats that you've -- you've mentioned regarding the effort to compromise the public judicial dockets. This is of course a significant concern for us given the nature of the information that is often held by the courts.

NADLER: Have any cases of investigations within the NSD been materially impacted prolonged or dismissed because of the court's breach?

OLSEN: I can't think of anything in particular that's been affected in the way that you describe although I would want to double check on that. We are very concerned and we're working -- I can assure you based on my own personal experience that we are working very closely with the judicial conference, and judges around the country, to address this issue.

NADLER: Thank you. Has a Court -- has the Department or NSD audited your own systems to ensure that you are not compromised by the same three hostile foreign actors who attacked the Document Management System.

OLSEN: It's a -- it's an ongoing effort to ensure the protection of our systems for the exact same reason but I would say that the challenge when it comes to the sophisticated nation-state type activity that we see in Cyber, the challenge is significant and it's very difficult to ever be in a position to say that any system is a hundred percent safe when it comes to sophisticated nation states that seek to obtain persistent access to these systems.

NADLER: The Department's 2022 Comprehensive Cyber Review concluded that DOJ, quote, "needs to consider carefully what that it collects both the lawfulness of the sources and the veracity of the data itself," close quote. As we heard last week during our Digital Dragnets hearing, unreliable or unverified data often purchased through commercially available third-party sources can lead to incorrect identification, wrongful arrests, and costly litigation for innocent parties. Under the Brady Rule, prosecutors have a constitutional duty to disclose potentially exculpatory information -- evidence but when prosecutors rely on information purchased by law enforcement this is often not the case. What is the Department's policy on sharing exculpatory evidence with defendants when that information was acquired through purchases from data brokers, apps, social media platforms, or other third-party commercial sources?

OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, as a -- as a former Federal Prosecutor myself I can assure you that the obligation under the Constitution to provide exculpatory evidence to the accused under the Brady Rule is one that is taken extremely seriously. It applies across the board to any information that the government has in its possession regardless of the source. And so I would -- well I haven't looked at that policy recently, I know that that's a -- that general obligation applies across the board to federal prosecutors.

NADLER: And I assume you will promise to keep us updated on the investigation of the court's breach?

OLSEN: Absolutely. Absolutely. We stand ready to come to Congress to talk about that at any time.

NADLER: Thank you very much.

Mr. Jordan?

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Biggs.

NADLER: Mr. Biggs?

BIGGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair --Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Olsen, the Foreign Agents Registration Act or FARA which requires those representing foreign principals to register with DOJ is a law administered by your Office, the National Security Division. Is that fair?

OLSEN: That is correct, sir. Yes.

BIGGS: I have behind me an email from 2016 during the Obama-Biden administration between Hunter Biden and Miguel Aleman, the son of a Mexican billionaire and grandson of the former Mexican President. The first lines say we are arriving late tonight on Air Force Two to Mexico City. We'll be there for Thursday. I'm attending meeting with the President -- and meeting President Nieto with dad.. Highlighted is -- are the comments, we have been talking about business deals, and partnerships for seven years. I have brought every single person you've ever asked me to bring to the effing (ph) White House and the Vice President's house and the inauguration. I've delivered on every single thing you've ever asked.

In this email, Hunter Biden acknowledges his attendance at a meeting between Mexican President Nieto, and then Vice President Biden. Discusses business deals and partnerships with a wealthy and politically connected Mexican family. References, access, provided to Mexican businessmen at the White House and Vice President's house. As he states he had already delivered on every single thing you've ever asked. Did this email or does this email raise concerns that Hunter Biden might have acted contrary to FARA since it appears he never registered to represent foreign principals?

I'm not familiar with the email that you're referring to. What I can tell you is that, it is a fundamental principle of the Justice Department and consistent with my almost 20-year career that we follow the facts in the law in every without (inaudible)...

BIGGS: So you're not...

OLSEN: ... (inaudible) politics...

BIGGS: ... familiar...

OLSEN: ... or ideology.

BIGGS: ... you're not familiar with this email here?

OLSEN: I am not.

BIGGS: Next up, we're going to show you a picture of Vice President Joe Biden, and Hunter Biden, Miguel Aleman, his father, and Carlos Slim, one of the richest men in the world, in 2015 while Joe Biden was Vice President.

This picture seems to conflict with President Biden's statement that he has never met with his son's business associates. Much of the information regarding Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings has come from the laptop that was abandoned by Hunter Biden and labeled by the media as misinformation as well as by 51 former intelligence officers, in a weird letter dated October 19, 2020, which I will submit for the record.

This week we learned FBI whistleblowers have come forward and reported the FBI committed to widespread effort within the FBI to downplay or discredit negative information about Hunter Biden. Are you familiar with that reporting?

OLSEN: No. I'm not.

BIGGS: Okay. So has any investigation of Hunter Biden by your office been influenced by the work, product, or actions taken by FBI Agent Timothy Thiebaud (ph)?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment on any investigation that may or may not be ongoing. What I can assure you is that we follow the facts and evidence and we apply the law and the principles of federal prosecution in every single case without regard to ideology or politics.

BIGGS: So you are unaware because you're aware of the reporting. So you're unaware of any efforts within the Department of Justice to label derogatory information on Hunter Biden as disinformation?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment on any potential ongoing investigation.

BIGGS: Okay. According to reports Border Patrol has apprehended at least 50 illegal aliens at the Southwest border in Fiscal Year '22, 2022. And the Office of Field Operations has encountered at least 50 aliens on a terror watch list at ports of entry in the fiscal year. The CBP consult with National Security Division when CICILLINE: encounter an illegal alien who's -- who's on a terrorist watch list.

OLSEN: The National Security Division was actually created to work with other agencies whether that's agencies whether that...

BIGGS: Did...

OLSEN: ... the intelligence...

BIGGS: ... DJ...

OLSEN: ... community or agencies...

BIGGS: ... the CBP...

OLSEN: ... across the government including agencies in the Department...

BIGGS: ... so this...

OLSEN: ... of Honan Security.

BIGGS: ... yes or no. This is not hard. The CBP give you information when CICILLINE: find someone who's on the terrorist watch list, when CICILLINE: encounter them at the border. Do CICILLINE: -- do CICILLINE: give that information to you?

OLSEN: I can't speak as I sit here to any particular situation or circumstance. What I can tell you is that the whole point of...

BIGGS: I'm not asking...

OLSEN: ... working (inaudible)...

BIGGS: ... about the circumstances. Is the process is that CICILLINE: report to you. So you have a hundred known encounters of people on a terrorist watch list. I assume one would think it's coming to you. I'm asking about the process not a specific case.

OLSEN: ... So in general Congressman, the way this situation -- the system works is that the FBI investigates the crimes...

BIGGS: Okay.

OLSEN: ... that we...

BIGGS: So here we go.

OLSEN: ... process so...

BIGGS: Let's -- let's get...

OLSEN: ... it may well...

BIGGS: ... to this specific case.

OLSEN: ... that that information goes between...

BIGGS: Let's get to the specific...

OLSEN: ... EDP (ph) and...

BIGGS: ... case (inaudible).

OLSEN: ... the FBI. But I don't...

BIGGS: I'm reclaiming in my time.

OLSEN: ... have any specific information...

BIGGS: Are you familiar...

OLSEN: ... about that (inaudible).

BIGGS: ... with the name Issam Bazzi (ph)?

OLSEN: I'm sorry.

BIGGS: Are you familiar with the name Issam Bazzi (ph)?

OLSEN: No.

BIGGS: Okay. He's a Lebanese-born Venezuelan national listed on the FBI's terror watch list who was released into the United States after crossing the border illegally.

According to reports the FBI recommend keeping him in custody but ICE headquarters intervened and released him because of a concern that he might catch COVID-19 because he was overweight.

So far there's been more than 500,000 known, got away entered the country illegally. How many can you extrapolate are on the terrorist watch list? And if you've done any assessment according to the national security risk...

NADLER: The time of the gentleman has expired.

The witness may answer the question.

OLSEN: I'm not familiar with that. No.

NADLER: Ms. Lofgren?

Mr. BIGGS: Mr. Chairman?

LOFGREN: Thank you very much.

Mr. -- thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I -- I'd like to explore Section 702 with you as I'm sure you're aware in his November 2020 Recertification FISA Court Judge Boasberg, found that the FBI employees had improperly searched Americans emails that were collected without a warrant and were unrelated to foreign intelligence information. And then the ODNI Annual Statistical Transparency Report released in April of 2022, found that the FBI searched its 702 Surveillance Repository, quote, "using the identifiers of Americans like their names, phone numbers, and addresses," nearly 3.4 million times between December 2020 and November 2021. This is nearly triple the number reported from 2020.

Although the ODNI only reported 376 warrants issued for wiretaps or physical searches of individuals in 2021 it found two 232,000-plus name targets of FISA Section 702 warrantless searches.

Now during your confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee you told the senators that restoring and maintaining trust in the FISA process was a critical priority for you. And I was glad to hear that. Since you have assumed your role as Assistant Attorney General, what have you done to prevent warrantless improper backdoor searches of Americans data conducted under Section 702?

OLSEN: Thank you, Congressman for the opportunity to talk about FISA, in particular Section 702. As you noted when I was confirmed last year, I indicated that a priority for the Department of Justice and for me at the National Security Division was to ensure that Congress and the American people have confidence in our use of intelligence tools such as FISA.

FISA was passed first in 1978. As you know, it has proven to be an indispensable tool to go after spies, and terrorists, and hackers. And it remains so. And in fact Section 702 part of FISA was designed to collect information about non-U.S. persons, non-U.S. citizens and persons who are outside the United States. And it has proven to be essential to protecting our national security since it was first passed in 2008.

The issues that you cite are ones that are of concern. The compliance of the FBI in particular with the way in which it searches through the Section 707 data that is lawfully collected. The FBI with the Department of Justice has undertaken a series of steps over the past year to improve compliance by -- through a system of systems changes and trainings. And I have been part of that effort to answer your question directly, in my eight months in office.

We are looking forward to improving the compliance record of the Department -- the Department of Justice and the FBI when it comes to Section 702. But I can assure you that it remains a priority and it is part of the broader really comprehensive system of oversight that takes place when it comes to foreign intelligence collection, that includes Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Judiciary.

LOFGREN: Well if I may just follow up, we have had reassurances over the years and yet the performance continues to be poor and it's been poor under both Democratic and Republican administrations. So the -- we have considered imposing a warrant requirement for queries of non-Americans. And I guess I'm thinking that is a probably a necessity unless we can get some further definitive control of the warrantless search of Americans using the 702 database. This is a misuse.

I -- we agree. I mean we want to catch the spies and the foreign bad actors but to use that database for warrantless searches of Americans is simply improper. And yet it continues. How can we get assurances and when will we get our next report from you about the controls that you've discussed?

OLSEN: As you know, Section 702 expires at the end of next year. We are engaged in a concerted effort to be prepared to brief Congress at any time, brief you, your staff, about the controls that are in place.

I assure -- the way that Section 702 works, if I may, it is information collected targeting non-U.S. persons overseas. It is lawfully collected. What the FBI has been able to do is to search that data to find connections. So it's not a warrantless search of Americans. It is a search of data that was collected targeting people who are outside the United States, who are not U.S. citizens. But I expect...

LOFGREN: If I may...

OLSEN: ... (inaudible)...

LOFGREN: ... that -- if I may, sir, that is contrary to the report that we got from ODNI and from the FISA Court. So I think -- my time has expired...

SCANLON (Presiding): Yes.

LOFGREN: ... but we need to get to the bottom of this.

And Mr. Chairman...

SCANLON: The gentlewoman's time...

LOFGREN: ... I...

SCANLON: ... has expired.

LOFGREN: ... yield back.

SCANLON: Thank you.

Mr. Massie, is recognized for five minutes.

MASSIE: I yield to my friend from Florida, Mr. Gaetz.

GAETZ: Is Hunter Biden a national security threat?

OLSEN: It's not a question that would come up before me, Congressman. (inaudible)...

GAETZ: You're the head of the National Security Division so it seems sort of on the nose.

OLSEN: ... it's not in my practice or experience to identify individuals...

GAETZ: Not in my purview. We've heard...

OLSEN: ... and to label any...

GAETZ: ... that before.

OLSEN: ... individual, an American citizen, or any individual as a national security threat.

GAETZ: Well you would certainly concede that if the adult offspring of the president of the United States or the vice president were compromised that would be a national security threat, right?

OLSEN: We speak through our filings in court. And we speak through our actions in an open court. So I would...

GAETZ: Well how -- speak...

OLSEN: ... remain (ph) (inaudible)...

GAETZ: ... to this. Where's the laptop?

OLSEN: ... in that position.

GAETZ: Do you know, where Hunter Biden's laptop is?

OLSEN: Again I'm not going to talk about any potential ongoing...

GAETZ: Just do you...

OLSEN: ... investigation...

GAETZ: ... know where it is?

OLSEN: ... as I sit here .

GAETZ: Do you know, where it is?

OLSEN: I'm not going to talk about any ongoing...

GAETZ: You...

OLSEN: ... investigation as...

GAETZ: ... you come here and you tell us...

OLSEN: ... as I sit here.

GAETZ: ... you follow the facts in the law but you can't even follow a laptop that you guys have had for three years.

OLSEN: We follow the facts in the law and we speak in open court about our (inaudible).

GAETZ: But you aren't speaking about this but you know, who is speaking about it, the whistleblowers from the FBI have gone to Senator Grassley and said that you guys purposefully take any information that is -- that is derogatory about Hunter Biden and you go and rathole it so that you never have to speak about it in any circumstance.

But the good news is you're not the only ones with that laptop. So Patrick Ho was convicted of bribing government officials in Africa and he gave a million bucks to Hunter Biden. Are you familiar with that?

OLSEN: I'm not going to speak about any ongoing investigation. I can assure...

GAETZ: Is that an ongoing...

OLSEN: ... I can assure you that...

GAETZ: ... is that an ongoing investigation?

OLSEN: ... I can -- I'm not going to...

GAETZ: Patrick...

OLSEN: ... I'm not...

GAETZ: ... Ho bribe?

OLSEN: ... going to speak about any potential ongoing...

GAETZ: But don't you see...

OLSEN: ... investigation.

GAETZ: ... that that degrades the country's like belief in you guys, when you have whistleblowers saying that you're purposefully rat holing this information and then you come here and say you won't talk about it.

I mean you know, inside Hunter Biden's multi-million dollar deals with a Chinese energy company, Washington Post, Matt Viser. Chinese elite paid \$31 million to Hunter and the Bidens, Peter Schweizer, in the New York Post. Hunter Biden's business partner called Joe Biden the big guy in panic messages. Do you guys call Joe Biden the big guy at the Department of Justice?

OLSEN: So I think it's important to understand why we don't speak about cases outside of the courtroom. If you...

GAETZ: By the way...

OLSEN: ... do that...

GAETZ: ... by the way the -- I...

OLSEN: ... if I may

GAETZ: ... already know why.

OLSEN: ... sir? If I may answer...

GAETZ: You know,...

OLSEN: ... the question?

GAETZ: ... you know,...

OLSEN: ... May I answer...

GAETZ: ... you know, why you don't...

OLSEN: ... answer the question.

GAETZ: ... speak about it? Because it's about Hunter Biden. You guys have no problem leaking about other stuff, right? But you got no problem going out and tagging parents at school board meetings as a national security threat.

But when all of the facts and all of the law before you regarding the corruption of Hunter Biden, you don't want to speak to that at all. And it's precisely why you've got folks that are talking to Senator Grassley about it.

Bohai Harvest, so 10 days after Vice President Biden takes Hunter Biden to China, 10 days after this long toiling venture of Hunter Biden that can't get off the ground, 10 days after CICILLINE: go, he automatically gets approved so -- for a deal in China with Bohai Harvest. Like have you guys looked into that?

OLSEN: I'm not going to talk about any ongoing investigations.

GAETZ: But you know, who also is talking? Tony Bobulinski. Tony Bobulinski told the world that Joe Biden was cut in on a CCP energy deal that was orchestrated by Hunter Biden. Like Have you guys talked to Tony Bobulinski?

OLSEN: Again we don't talk about ongoing investigations in settings such as this.

So Joe Biden -- well okay, we -- how about this, will you commit to a classified briefing on these matters.

OLSEN: I'd certainly be happy to talk to you or any member of the committee about matters of national security.

GAETZ: Okay. Well...

OLSEN: But I don't talk about...

GAETZ: ... is this a matter of national security?

OLSEN: ... I do not talk -- we do not talk outside of courtrooms about ongoing investigations.

GAETZ: Well is there an ongoing investigation of the Annual Fund Dinner that happened where Joe Biden was Vice President of United States and Hunter Biden holds his fund's annual dinner at the Chinese embassy.

And -- bought in order to do that, in order to get the Chinese embassy to roll out the red carpet for Biden and to raise money for his fund, he had to go to the embassy 30 minutes before and have a one-on-one meeting with the Chinese ambassador. Do you think it's possible that that meeting might have jeopardized national security? I'm not going to comment about any potential or ongoing investigation. Well here's -- here's the thing. It's pretty easy to see that Hunter Biden is compromised. It's possible that that meeting might have jeopardized national security. I'm not going to comment about any potential or ongoing investigation. Well here's the thing. It's pretty easy to see that Hunter Biden is compromised. I think every American knows that's a threat to national security. I think we're watching a crime spree in progress that Hunter Biden is orchestrating. And one has to wonder like what are the Chinese getting for the tens of millions of dollars that (inaudible) cutting the Biden family in on? What is the Chinese Communist Party getting as a result of cutting in 10 percent for the big guy? And it just I just happen to notice that like you guys canceled the China initiative that President Trump put in place where you focus talent on those things.

You know, Jim Biden said to Tony Bobulinski that the reason (inaudible) able to get away with this corruption is plausible deniability. And that is precisely the plausible deniability that you are that you are animating and exemplifying today. And you know what winter is coming, we're going to be in the majority and then you're going to have to answer these questions for the country.

I yield back.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

For what purpose...

SELENA: Madam Chair?

SCANLON: ... does Mr. Cicilline seek recognition?

SELENA: I have several unanimous consent requests.

My first unanimous consent request is the Ranking Member made reference to a Department of Justice whistleblower memo and grossly mischaracterized it's content. So I'd ask unanimous consent that I'd be permitted to read the memo into the record.

SCANLON: So ordered.

(UNKNOWN): I objected.

SELENA: You object to it?

(UNKNOWN): Get your own five minutes (ph) . Yes. (inaudible)

SELENA: You object to reading into the record the memo that was -- okay if...

(UNKNOWN): Not allowed if it's not on your time (ph).

SCANLON: Unanimous is heard (ph).

SELENA: Then I ask unanimous consent that the document that the Republicans were afraid to have to be read aloud be introduced into the record.

(UNKNOWN): Without objection,

SCANLON: Without objection.

SELENA: I have unanimous consent requests that a document, a PolitiFact head -- with a heading, "No. The federal government isn't using the Patriot Act to treat parents...

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair.

SELENA: ... like domestic terrorists be introduced...

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair, the unanimous consent...

SELENA: ... be introduced into the record.

(UNKNOWN): ... Madam Chair, point of order.

Unanimous consent. It's limited to describing the document...

SELENA: Which I am doing...

(UNKNOWN): ... (inaudible)...

SELENA: ... right now. I have...

(UNKNOWN): ... no one is objecting to the...

SELENA: I have the floor. And the document...

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible) the gentleman's (inaudible)...

SCANLON: Hold on guys.

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible).

SCANLON: Okay.

SELENA: I'm asking...

SCANLON: (inaudible)...

SELENA: ... unanimous consent that the document...

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible)...

SELENA: ... entitled, "No. The federal government isn't using the Patriot Act to treat parents like domestic terrorists," made a part of the record.

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible).

SCANLON: Without objection.

SELENA: I have a unanimous consent request that a document entitled, "McCarthy's False Claims that Garland called parents terrorists," be made a part of the record.

SCANLON: So ordered. Without objection.

SELENA: A document entitled, "Attorney General Never Called Concerned Parents Domestic Terrorists," be made a part of the record.

SCANLON: Without objection.

SELENA: And finally a fact check, that Kevin McCarthy -- that reads, "Kevin McCarthy keeps repeating false claim that Attorney General called parents terrorists for wanting to attend school board meetings," be made part of the record.

SCANLON: Without objection.

SELENA: I have unanimous consent request that my Republican colleagues read these documents and stop making a false claim.

SCANLON: Good luck with that. That's (inaudible)...

GOHMERT: The gentleman...

SELENA: On a point of order. A point of order.

GOHMERT: has just impugned our integrity.

SELENA: Point of order.

GOHMERT: I would demand that his words be taken down...

SELENA: I demand that the (inaudible)...

GOHMERT: ... he is not allowed under the rules to impugn false statements by this side. And as far as PolitiFact and some of those, CICILLINE: couldn't...

SCANLON: ... Okay.

(UNKNOWN): ... find the truth with both hands.

SCANLON: That's -- that's a separate allegation.

(UNKNOWN): You know, but I would like the -- I would like the gentlelady's words to be taken down.

SELENA: I'll ask -- Yes.

SCANLON: Okay.

(UNKNOWN): Well I'll ask...

SCANLON: The gentle lady from Texas...

(UNKNOWN): words to be taken down.

SCANLON: The chair...

SELENA: No. No. Your words...

(UNKNOWN): I'd like the rules...

SELENA: ... to be taken down...

(UNKNOWN): ... (inaudible).

SELENA: ... like the chair.

(UNKNOWN): Committee will suspend

SCANLON: The Committee -- the Committee will suspend.

(UNKNOWN): I'm sorry (inaudible).

BIGGS: Yes. In response to Mr. Cicilline's comments, the gentlelady said, "Good luck with that." I think that impugns the Republican side. I think that is actually totally inappropriate. And if we're going to -- if we're going to start letting people out of order just throw in -- throw in documents, man, I've got about 20 sitting right here.

SCANLON: I'll withdraw the comment.

BIGGS: Thank you.

SCANLON: And now we'd like to recognize Ms. Jackson Lee.

(UNKNOWN): Well we've got to have a ruling on my request that the gentleman's words be taken down.

(UNKNOWN): Where he said we made false statements.

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible).

RASKIN: Madam Chair?

SCANLON: Yes, Mr. Raskin.

RASKIN: As I understand that the gentleman's point, he said that -- the gentleman from Rhode Island had impugned his false statements and perhaps the gentleman from Rhode Island would just say he does not impugn his false statements.

SELENA: I don't think Mr. Gohmert made any statements. I think the report were repeating or -- reporting to this committee the headlines of five documents that said those claims are false. Those are what the documents say. I'm not going to change the words of the documents and

And I'm not impugning them. I'm simply putting into the record those documents that in fact refute the claim.

GOHMERT: The gentleman said that the Ranking Member grossly mischaracterized the statements and...

SELENA: It's not a breach of decorum. I think it is an accurate...

GOHMERT: Yes. It is.

SELENA: ... statement.

GOHMERT: Well it's (inaudible)...

SELENA: Well in my opinion he grossly mischaracterized the contents of the DOJ memo. That's absolutely appropriate.

GOHMERT: It impugns intention.

SELENA: No it does not impugn. This isn't anybody's intention.

GOHMERT: You've gotten so used to making statements that are outside the rules of decorum that you don't even recognize when you do. You can't just constantly malign people on this side of the aisle.

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair are you prepared to rule?

Madam Chair?

Madam Chair?

SCANLON: Can the gentleman from Rhode Island rephrase to make clear that this is a difference of opinion with respect to...

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair?

SELENA: Well I certainly (inaudible) to the extent that (inaudible) thought (inaudible) were my words were an opinion. (inaudible) were responding to statements made and (inaudible) rejected those statements in written documents. It's not impugning any (inaudible) in this hearing.

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair.

SELENA: But I don't think that our rules require me to accept assertions without challenging them. That's exactly what a committee process is about. And I am not going to limit my right to challenge claims that are made appropriately which I believe I did.

GOHMERT: That is outside the bounds for any member to just take over time and start impugning other people making false statements...

SELENA: I don't think there was anybody...

GOHMERT: ... mischaracterized...

SELENA: ... impugning anybody. I think we're challenging...

GOHMERT: ... the unanimous...

SELENA: ... the claims that were made.

GOHMERT: ... request...

SELENA: I'd ask that the chair makes a the decision.

GOHMERT: ... allows... SELENA: I'm not going to...

GOHMERT: ... a request for unanimous consent. It doesn't allow you to start mischaracterizing what you allege are mischaracterizations.

SCANLON: Yes, Mr. Jordan?

JORDAN: Well let's just get to the facts.

The facts are the White House coordinated with...

(UNKNOWN): okay. (inaudible)...

JORDAN: ... the School Boards Association (inaudible)...

(UNKNOWN): No. If we're going to have an argument about the facts. I welcome that.

SCANLON: A request...

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Jordan.

SCANLON: ... is on floor.

JORDAN: He stated something just not accurate. I got the letter right (inaudible)

SCANLON: Mr. Jordan, you're not.

JORDAN: Not. Oh, I want to impugn...

SCANLON: All right. Fine.

Are we ready?

(UNKNOWN): Yes. (inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible) rule on this.

(UNKNOWN): As soon as CICILLINE: (inaudible)...

(UNKNOWN): Is not going to do it sir.

SCANLON: In the opinion of the chair the words did not impugn the members on the other side.

(UNKNOWN): Madam Chair, you're (ph) going to repeal the rule?

(UNKNOWN): Repeal the ruling (inaudible).

(UNKNOWN): A motion to table.

SCANLON: A motion to table.

(UNKNOWN): Motion tabled

SCANLON: Right.

Okay. We'll get the clerk.

The clerk will call the roll.

CLERK: Mr. Nadler?

SCANLON: And just so everyone's clear after the exchanges, this is a vote on the motion to table.

Ms. Lofgren?

Ms. Jackson Lee?

JACKSON LEE: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Jackson Lee votes, aye.

Mr. Cohen?

Mr. Johnson of Georgia?

Mr. Johnson of Georgia votes, aye.

Mr. Deutsch?

Ms. Bass?

Mr. Jeffries?

JEFFRIES: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. Jeffries votes, aye.

Mr. Cicilline ?

CICILLINE: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. SELENA: votes, aye.

Mr. Lieu?

SWALWELL: Swalwell is an, aye

CLERK: Mr. Swalwell votes, aye.

Mr. Raskin?

RASKIN: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. Raskin votes, aye.

Ms. Jayapal?

Ms. Demings?

DEMINGS: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Demings votes, aye.

Mr. Correa?

CORREA: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. Correa votes, aye

Ms. Scanlon?

SCANLON: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Scanlon votes, aye.

Ms. Garcia?

Mr. Neguse?

Ms. McBath?

Mr. Stanton?

STANTON: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. Stanton votes, aye.

Ms. Dean?

Ms. Escobar?

Ms. Escobar?

ESCOBAR: How did the Chairman vote?

SCANLON: Aye.

ESCOBAR: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Escobar votes, aye.

Mr. Jones?

Ms. Ross?

ROSS: Ross votes, aye.

CLERK: Ms. Ross votes, aye.

Ms. Bush?

Mr. Jordan?

JORDAN: No.

CLERK: Mr. Jordan votes, no.

Mr. Chabot?

Mr. Gohmert?

GOHMERT: No.

CLERK: Mr. Gohmert votes, no.

Mr. Issa?

ISSA: Mr. Issa votes, no.

CLERK: Mr. Issa votes, no.

Mr. Buck?

BUCK: No.

CLERK: Mr. Buck votes, no.

Mr. Gaetz?

GAETZ: No.

CLERK: Mr. Gaetz votes, no.

Mr. Johnson of Louisiana?

JOHNSON M: No.

CLERK: Mr. Johnson of Louisiana votes, no.

Mr. Biggs?

BIGGS: No.

CLERK: Mr. Biggs votes, no.

Mr. McClintock?

MCCLINTOCK: No.

CLERK: Mr. McClintock votes, no.

Mr. Steube?

STEUBE: No.

CLERK: Mr. Steube votes, no.

Mr. Tiffany?

TIFFANY: No.

CLERK: Mr. Tiffany votes, no.

Mr. Massie?

CLERK: Mr. Massie votes, no.

Mr. Roy?

ROY: No.

CLERK: Mr. Roy votes, no.

Mr. Bishop?

BISHOP: No.

CLERK: Mr. Bishop votes, no.

Ms. Fischbach?

FISCHBACH: No.

CLERK: Ms. Fischbach votes, no.

Ms. Spartz?

Mr. Fitzgerald?

FITZGERALD: No.

CLERK: Mr. Fitzgerald votes, no.

Mr. Bentz?

BENTZ: No.

CLERK: Mr. Bentz votes, no.

Mr. Owens?

LOFGREN: How is Lofgren recorded?

CLERK: Ms. Lofgren, you're not recorded.

GARCIA: Madam...

LOFGREN: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Lofgren votes, aye.

Ms. Garcia, you are not recorded.

GARCIA: Garcia votes, aye.

CLERK: Ms. Garcia votes, aye.

DEAN: How am I recorded, Dean?

CLERK: Ms. Dean, you are not...

LIEU: Madam Chair...

CLERK: ... recorded.

LIEU: ... how am I recorded?

DEAN: Aye.

CLERK: Ms. Dean votes, aye.

Mr. Lieu, you're not recorded.

LIEU: Lieu votes, aye.

CLERK: Mr. Lieu votes, aye.

CHABOT: Chabot, how am I recorded?

CLERK: Mr. Chabot, you are not recorded.

CHABOT: No.

CLERK: Mr. Chabot votes, no.

DEUTSCH: Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

CLERK: Mr. Deutsch, you are not recorded.

DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK: Mr. Deutsch votes, aye.

SCANLON: Has Ms. Jayapal been recorded?

CLERK: Ms. Jayapal is not recorded;

JAYAPAL: Jayapal votes, aye.

CLERK: Ms. Jayapal votes, aye.

JOHNSON H: Madam Chair, how am I recorded?

Mr. Johnson, you are recorded as aye.

JOHNSON H: Thank you.

SCANLON: The clerk will report.

CLERK: Madam Chair, there are 18 ayes and 17 nos.

SCANLON: The motion to table is agreed to.

The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for five minutes.

JACKSON LEE: Welcome. Let me...

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible) minutes (ph).

JACKSON LEE: ... let me try and thank the -- we're dealing with the clock right now. Thank you. It's going up -- which way is it going?

Hello (ph). Did you restore the clock?

(UNKNOWN): Yes. I did it twice, already.

(UNKNOWN): (inaudible).

JACKSON LEE: Thank you.

This may be another long hearing. I don't know what your timeframe is but let me first of all indicate that this idea of national security should be a bipartisan issue. And I knew as I woke up this morning that the family member of the president would be center point. I wonder why the insurrection in January 6th is not center point.

But let me have my line of questioning in specific areas. First I want to say that I would be interested and I think it's going to be very important for us to know how many cases have been impacted by the federal courts breach. I don't pose that as a question. I pose that as a serious concern that this committee needs to have. And I would expect your preparation and for us to be able to get that information as quickly as possible in a setting that would be appropriate. But this is a dangerous set of circumstances that has now been publicly announced and we need to know how many and how many were dismissed. So I wanted to get that on the record.

Then I wanted to make sure that we pose the question, nearly 3.4 million warrantless searches for American identifiers is an astronomical number. Are you confident that none of these queries were as Judge Boasberg, described designed to retrieve evidence of crime that is not foreign intelligence information. This relates to obviously our FISA concerns. I was here for the Patriot Act, here for its reform. The Judiciary Committee did it. If you can give brief answers because I have a series of other questions. Thank you.

OLSEN: Sure. If I may very briefly just to remark that in my experience having served under a number of different administrations now security is a bipartisan concern.

On the -- on the number of queries that you referenced that was a significant jump over the prior year. We've looked closely at that number of 3 million queries. The vast -- more than half of that number I believe is attributable to one search involving a cyber incident where we were looking for potential victims of a -- of a Cyber incident.

So I'm -- I'm happy to come back and give you more details on that in a classified setting. But that's the basic answer to that question.

JACKSON LEE: Well you know, how concerning it is that Americans will be subjected to that kind of invasion. I want to go on record for opposing it. We will need to get a briefing as quickly as possible.

Let me also pursue this issue dealing with Incel, and the rise, the horrific rise of domestic terrorism in this country. For me it is overwhelming but it is true. In January 2022, DOJ announced the creation of a Domestic Terrorism Unit to fight homegrown extremism. What quickly does this new Unit demonstrate about DOJ's strategy for countering White supremacy and can we -- can you briefly talk about the threat from far-right extremists who also misrepresent the truth? And I think that is an important point and that draws in recruits. Would you comment briefly please on that unit and that recruiting concept of telling an untruth and getting people to join you?

OLSEN: Well the Domestic Terrorism Unit that we announced in January and stood up officially in May consists of a number of prosecutors as well as policy oriented attorneys to make sure that we are taking a consistent approach across the country when it comes to domestic violent extremism and cases involving domestic terrorism, which run the gamut.

We follow the evidence and the law and we -- we take on the issue of domestic terrorism without regard to politics or ideology. We have seen a rise, particularly in lethal attacks by individuals motivated by racism as well as individuals motivated by antigovernment or anti-authority ideology.

JACKSON LEE: What does the unit do?

OLSEN: The unit is a -- was within our broader counterterrorism section. It oversees and coordinates domestic terrorism prosecutions and investigations that are typically carried out by U.S. Attorney's offices around the country. The goal is to make sure that we're handling these cases on a consistent basis. It also is charged with ensuring that we are looking at violence and acts of violence and not looking at protected speech.

JACKSON LEE: Obviously. Let me move quickly to info and this is egregious, horrific, deadly. The perpetrators of the crime in Uvalde, Oxford, Michigan and UC Santa Barbara, were in cell proponents, and that is the hatred of women, gender, misogyny, extremism, mixed in with the toxicity of race. This National Threat Assessment Center released a study on the growing terrorism threat from men who call themselves anti-feminist or involuntary celibates and draw motivation for violence from the inability to develop relationships with women. The study highlight the specific threat.

And so, my question is, if you can finish the question, which is your focus on that?

OLSEN: So, we're focused on all manner of ideologically focused or directed violence. Certainly the -- the issue the instances you mentioned, some of them are under investigation, obviously, I can't talk about ongoing investigations. But the challenge generally is that individuals with a mix of ideologies are easily radicalized online and have access to significant and powerful weapons.

SCANLON: The gentlelady's time has expired.

The gentleman from California is recognized.

ISSA: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Olsen, in the 22 years that I've -- I've sat down there and now up here on the dais, I saw the creation of your organization, the creation of sub organizations, and like a few of us at the top of the dais, I remember why you were formed. 911 created the mandate. We were concerned about domestic activities leading to attacks on the United States, but primarily foreign motivated. It does seem to me just a commentary that we're straying further and further from your mission.

I do think that it is important that you follow the facts where they lead and that you go after a terrorist. I myself had an attempt to bomb my office, which was an act of domestic terrorism. Members of this body on both sides have been shot and nearly killed by people who objected to our positions. So, I'm not saying to get rid of them, but I am concerned that what we fund, what we promote, and what your responsibility is, is to keep the homeland safe and disproportionately, that's based on foreign actors linked to us actors.

And to that extent, I have a specific question today that is of deep concern. On June 6, a Venezuelan flagged plane landed in Buenos Aires. It had five Iranians and 14 Venezuelan crew. They were in fact IRGC officials. Other crew members had ties to terrorism. The plane was owned by a designated -- U.S.-designated airline that had in fact been seen and proven to be ferrying weapons into Syria from Iran. It was designated to be connected to Hezbollah. All of this is undeniable.

The plane itself, its tail number is designated by the United States in the past. As a result, six weeks ago, a federal judge in Argentina referred an MLAT to your organization and to date has not had a response. This is normally a 24-hour turnaround, because in order to hold these people, in order to have the information, in order to fight the war on terror and terrorism, they need your cooperation. Are you familiar with this case?

OLSEN: I am generally familiar with the case. Yes, Congressman.

ISSA: Can you explain why both myself and a U.S. senator do not have an answer along with the Argentinians which should have come in 24 hours?

OLSEN: This is an ongoing matter. I can't talk about the specifics. I am happy to take this question back and get back to you with any information I can further provide.

ISSA: Myself, Senator Ernst, and others would appreciate that. But let me just say that we find it conspicuous that Iran seems not to be getting the kind of scrutiny, particularly considering the connection to Hezbollah, considering the threat to Israel, the threat to United States, the threat to our allies in South and Central America, that this should have been a high priority. And yes, I would like an answer.

But I would like to know, here today in the remaining time, what -- what you believe the appropriate turnaround time is for this kind of a request, particularly with proven terrorist activities in the hands of a friendly foreign government?

OLSEN: I will tell you that we take very seriously the threat from Iran, the cuts force the IRGC --

ISSA: No, no, no, if I can pause you for a moment. We took it seriously under the Trump administration. We took it seriously when we were fighting Iran. Currently, there are negotiations to essentially normalize relations with Iran going on at the highest level of this government. So, the scrutiny I have now is, why is it taking beyond the 24 hours? And tell me it's serious, tell me why it is not 24 hours, and what are you going to do to get back to the historic turnaround time to work with our allies when confronted with terrorists?

OLSEN: I simply can't speak to the particulars of that request.

ISSA: I'll take every other case. Are we going to get 24-hour turnaround time in other cases? Or are we going to consistently not get it when there are policy issues at the very top that would seem to have you not want to go after the IRGC for their conducting of terrorist activities that endanger us, Israel, and other allies?

OLSEN: Sir, I can absolutely assure you that political considerations do not affect --

ISSA: You can assure me but you haven't. If you can assure me, Mr. Olsen, but you haven't done it here today.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. Johnson of Georgia is recognized.

H. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you to this witness for your appearance today.

And sir, I'd like to ask you, does the FBI target parents at school board meetings who are protesting against mass mandates, critical race theory or any other subject and they do not threaten violence? Does the FBI have a system where it investigates these parents who are lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights?

OLSEN: Sir, the answer is no. The FBI, the Department of Justice investigates crimes, violence and threats of violence. It does not -- in fact, it is prohibited from opening investigations based solely on First Amendment protected activities. Sir, there is no targeting of anyone for exercising their -- their First Amendment rights. And in fact, that was made clear by the Attorney General, and is consistent with my experience over 20 years that the Justice Department.

H. JOHNSON: Has the FBI seen a rise in threats against local school board officials that are threatening violence?

OLSEN: Sir, my understanding is that there's been a general rise in threats against individuals who serve in positions such as school boards, but also other local and state elected officials as well as law enforcement. And that this concern about the rise in threats of violence, criminal activity, involving people who serve in positions of civic life, is a growing concern for the Department of Justice as it is for state and local police departments and prosecutors around the country.

H. JOHNSON: And does the FBI and the Justice Department coordinate with local and state governments when there are threats of violence against school -- school board officials?

OLSEN: Yes. In fact, that partnership -- that partnership between federal law enforcement and federal prosecutors, but particularly on the law enforcement side, between the federal side and the state and locals is at the heart of the effort to ensure that people who serve in positions of public trust at every level are not subject to threats of violence. And at the same time, that individuals who seek to speak out at open hearings, whether in a school board or a city council hearing, that those rights are protected as well.

H. JOHNSON: Thank you. Do -- do you find that the United States, excuse me, has been targeted with disinformation from both foreign and domestic sources, and that this disinformation affects parents at local school board meetings, it affects member of members of Congress with respect to disinformation, about Hunter Biden? Should there be any -- do you find that disinformation has caused people to react in ways that are problematic?

OLSEN: I can't speak to particular instances of disinformation or misinformation and how it may affect individuals in particular matters. But what I can tell you is that the intelligence community for the United States does believe and has assessed that the spread of information particularly over social media has increased the reach and the speed of that reach of violent content. And it has increased the speed at which individuals may become radicalized and mobilized to violence. And -- and that is where we are focused, is where individuals are moved to commit acts of violence or threats of violence, criminal acts, that we therefore can investigate and prosecute.

H. JOHNSON: Has this disinformation been a factor in the rise of the terrorist threat from far right, nationalists, domestic far right nationalist who are also racists?

OLSEN: In my view, Congressman, the challenge of disinformation and misinformation is agnostic. We saw this challenge when it came to the use by ISIS of propaganda to try to recruit and mobilize people to violence in the United States and it's true when it comes to domestic violent extremists as well who may be moved to become radicalized based on misinformation and disinformation that they may consume over social media from other sources.

H. JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for being diligent in the protecting of the security of the American people.

And with that, I yield back.

SCANLON: Thank you.

Mr. Jordan of Ohio is recognized for five minutes.

JORDAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Olsen, are you juicing the numbers?

OLSEN: I'm not sure what you're referring to.

JORDAN: You talked all about your opening statement about the number of domestic terrorism threats. We've had multiple whistleblowers come to our office and tell us that they're being pressured to categorize cases as domestic terrorist threats that aren't. And I'm just wondering, because it was -- it was the opening of your statement, most of your statement, you talked about this new office you field. Are you juicing the numbers?

OLSEN: Sir, I'm not aware of the -- the references you're making to the whistleblowers. What I can tell you is --

JORDAN: Well, I'm well aware of them.

OLSEN: -- that the intelligence community has assessed that the threat we face from --

JORDAN: Who is --

OLSEN: -- domestic violent extremism is elevated, and that's consistent with what I --

JORDAN: Who is Timothy Thibault?

OLSEN: I'm sorry, I don't know that name.

JORDAN: You don't know that name? Mr. Grassley does. Mr. Grassley cited in his letter. Mr. Gates bottom up in his -- his five minutes of questioning. Mr. Thibault's the guy who's suppressed information that was verifiable about Hunter Biden in 2020. You don't -- you don't know who this individual is?

OLSEN: I'm sorry. I don't know who that is.

JORDAN: You know what's also interesting about this individual? He's the guy that the whistleblower has told us is pressuring them to re-categorize the cases, as domestic terrorism cases. You don't know anything about it.

OLSEN: I do not.

JORDAN: I would I guess that maybe stands to reason. I find that -- I find that interesting. How many more parents has the Department of Justice investigated?

OLSEN: The Justice Department, the FBI investigate individuals who commit acts of violence or threats of violence --

JORDAN: I'm talking relative to the school board issue, how many more parents have you investigated? We know of 20 -- some over two dozen, because again, we've had other whistleblowers come forward and tell us about that. I mean, the number, it's almost like it's a -- it's a well-worn trail of FBI agents coming as whistleblowers to our office, because so many things that they're concerned about going on at the Justice Department. So, we know over two dozen. I want to know how many more have you done since we sent that letter two months ago to the Justice Department.

OLSEN: Sir, we don't investigate anyone based on their status as a parent or not a parent. We would investigate and prosecute --

JORDAN: You investigate based on the threat tag edu officials, the designation. How many more than the 20 some we know about already, how many more have been investigated because they have that threat tag associated with their name?

OLSEN: I don't believe that anyone's been investigated because they have a threat tag and I can't -- I can't speak to that --

JORDAN: How else would you identify them? That was -- that was the FBI memo threat tag on their name edu officials and they've been investigated. And again, we know of over two dozen of them.

OLSEN: I don't have specific information about that.

JORDAN: All right. You were on the press release when the -- when the Attorney General issued his memorandum on October 4, 2021. The National Security Division was mentioned on this press release that went out that day. Here's what the press release says. "According to the Attorney General's memorandum, the Justice Department will launch a series of additional efforts to include the creation of a task force."

Has that task force been created?

OLSEN: I believe that it has, yes.

JORDAN: You believe or has it?

OLSEN: I believe that it has, yes.

JORDAN: Who is on it?

OLSEN: Sir, a number of components across the Justice Department --

JORDAN: No, who's on the task force?

OLSEN: A number of components are represented on the task force from the criminal division to the Civil Division.

JORDAN: Well, components don't serve on task force, people do. Who are the people on the task force?

OLSEN: A number of representatives of those components are -- serve on the task force.

JORDAN: Do you serve on it?

OLSEN: I am not a member of the task force. I've not been to any meetings. Sir, there are a number of representatives across the department who form that task force.

JORDAN: Who from the NSD is on the task force?

OLSEN: I don't have any information about who particularly is on the task force from -- from my --

JORDAN: This was a big press release. This was the biggest story in the news last fall and the National Security Division is one of the "components" on the task force and you can't -- you've never been to a task force meeting, and you don't know who from your division is?

OLSEN: Correct.

JORDAN: Are you guys embarrassed about this whole -- looking into the school board's going after moms and dads? Is this an embarrassment? I mean, the National School Board Association pulled back their letter they said they apologized for it, they regret that it did. A bunch of states have pulled out of the organization. I'm just wondering if that's the same attitude you guys now have? Frankly, that'd be good if you did.

OLSEN: I think we take very seriously that anyone who serves in civic life deserves to be safe. And anyone who serves on a school board, on a city council, in any position of public trust, they should not be the subject of threats of violence or violence. And that's the point of this effort is to work with particularly those people to ensure --

JORDAN: Yes, parents should be -- should feel safe that they can speak their mind about their kids' education and not be harassed for doing so. We've sent you 103 letters, 584 specific requests over the last nine months, I have a whole stack of them here. Have you collected any of the information we've asked for? Have you collected that information?

OLSEN: I'm aware that there have been requests, I don't know the status of the response to those requests. I'm certainly willing to take that matter --

JORDAN: We know the status of the response. You've basically given us the finger and said we're not going to -- we're not going to give you a -- we got to like two letters with like a half a paragraph on each letter. I just want to know if you've actually collected the information. We know you're not going to give it to us because we've seen that over the last nine months. Have you collected any of it?

OLSEN: I'm not sure what -- sir, I'm not sure what you mean by collected any of the information --

JORDAN: 584 specific requests about correspondence, emails, communication between the Justice Department, the White House and Department of Education, we've asked for the information. I'm just asking, have you even started to collect it?

OLSEN: I'm certainly willing to take that question back to our office of legislation --

JORDAN: Well, I think it's interesting you don't know the answer to it. So, it tells me --

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for five minutes.

CICILLINE: Thank you. And I want to thank you Assistant Attorney John Olsen for being here today.

One of the more dire threats we're seeing to our national security is coming from within our borders. In recent years, we've seen a rise in domestic terrorism and hate crimes across the country. And in fact, an analysis by the Center for Strategic and International Studies showed that domestic terrorism in 2020 was at the highest level in nearly three decades. Since 2005, right-wing extremists have been involved in 267 domestic terror plots or attacks and responsible for 91 deaths according to the Senate, this has included countless racially motivated attacks and mass shootings and killings, including earlier this year in Buffalo, New York and El Paso, Texas in 2019 and at the Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, and too many other places to name instilling great fear and even insecurity among the American people.

The National Security Division and your work is incredibly important to the defense of the homeland, not only from foreign threats, but from domestic ones as well, which brings me to my first question. Attorney General Garland and Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas have both testified that the greatest domestic threat facing the United States comes from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, specifically those who advocate for the superiority of the white race.

How has the DOJ modified its intelligence and prosecution apparatus since the beginning of the Biden administration to prioritize terrorist activity by white supremacist, white nationalist, and antigovernment groups in the United States responsible for the kind of violence I just described?

OLSEN: Sure. Look, the -- the -- we are threat-driven at the National Security Division and across the Justice Department. So, we respond to the nature of the threats that we see and the way the FBI and the rest of the intelligence community characterizes those threats. They include threats from international terrorist groups like Al Qaeda and ISIS, but increasingly we've become concerned about groups that are based in the United States. Those groups run the gamut in terms of ideology and mix of ideology --

CICILLINE: But I guess my question is, what -- why has the DOJ struggled to investigate and prosecute these threats?

OLSEN: So, I would -- what I would say for our part, what we did in at the National Security Division was to establish a specialized unit within our counterterrorism section this year to focus on domestic terrorist threats and to make sure that: 1) we gave the data because that's a challenge to understand the nature of the threat. To make sure that we have prosecutors dedicated to that effort, and also to make sure that we are focusing on violence and not First Amendment-protected activities.

Because, of course, one of the concerns is that an individual may espouse hateful rhetoric, racist rhetoric, antigovernment rhetoric and that's protected by the First Amendment. Our concern is when that -- those views crossover into criminal acts such as acts of violence.

CICILLINE: I want to ask you a question about a piece of legislation, the American Innovation and Choice Online Act. This is bipartisan legislation that promotes competition, innovation and consumer choice online. In its letter of support, a very strong letter of support, the Department of Justice explained that the gatekeeper power of dominant platforms threatens our economic leadership and resiliency, and that by reining in this power, our legislation will help promote America's dynamism and competitiveness.

Some opponents of the bill have falsely claimed it could harm our national security, or that the legislation has not been properly vetted for national security considerations. But isn't it true that the Justice Department's support of this bill reflects the entire department's views including those of the National Security Division? And as head of the National Security Division, do you have any national security concerns about the legislation?

OLSEN: Yes, I'm certainly aware of the legislation and -- and also that we have at the department have submitted a views letter in support of the bill. And that views letter reflects the input of my division, the National Security Division. I also know that the bill contains a number of provisions that are designed to address the types of concerns that were raised about and -- are being raised about national security. And I look forward to working if there are additional changes that need to be made to address any -- any -- any additional national security concerns.

CICILLINE: Thank you. And finally, terrorism in the form of mass shootings has become increasingly prevalent the United States. 2021 saw nearly 700 mass shootings the most sense, the Gun Violence Archive began tracking them in 2014. Does the DOJ view these attacks as part of a broader domestic extremist terrorism problem? And how does the DOJ incorporate the prevention of mass shooting into its national security work if it does at all?

OLSEN: So, the -- the challenge of mass shootings tragic, as we've seen, spans across the Department of Justice, right, the Criminal Division, the Civil Rights Division, and the National Security Division. When we have instances of -- of mass shooting, that -- that's motivated by political views or ideology that falls into the category of domestic terrorism, that might be something -- that would be something the National Security Division works on. We often work in coordination with the Civil Rights Division, because it has the jurisdiction over hate crime statutes, and many of these cases are prosecuted through hate crimes.

What I can say, which I think is obvious is that easy access to military-grade weapons increases the likelihood that individuals who are extremists and hold extremist views and seek to carry out acts of violence are able to do so on a -- on a more significant scale.

CICILLINE: Thank you, I yield back.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time --

Thank you.

Mr. Johnson of Louisiana is recognized for five minutes.

M. JOHNSON: Thank you.

Mr. Olsen, over here. It's ironic to hear my colleagues today talk about disinformation because there's a lot of it being shared from the other side of the aisle. Let me reset the table here on the documented facts what exactly we know about this whole school boards issue. As activist groups on the left continue to push their agenda on America's children last year, parents across the country began to speak out. They came to the school board meetings. They express their views on critical race theory and mass mandates and controversial curriculum. That's the First Amendment right.

But as more parents spoke out, the National School Boards Association and the Biden administration colluded, that's a specifically used term for a reason, to create a justification to use federal law enforcement tools to silence those parents who are becoming a real problem for the agenda. As part of this collusion, the NSBA, the National School Boards Association, sent a now famous letter to the White House dated September 29, 2001 (sic), urging the Biden administration to use the heavy hand of federal law enforcement, including the Patriot Act, to target those moms and dads and chill their protected First Amendment rights.

The White House not only colluded with the NSBA to craft the substance of that letter, but following the letter, President Biden called the then NSBA President to say he was quote, "appreciative of their letter" and invited her to visit the Oval Office. The NSBA letter stated, quote, "malice, violence and threats is against school officials" quoting "could be the equivalent of a form of domestic terrorism or hate crimes," unquote. We didn't make that up. This is all documented.

The NSBA on May 20 of this year released a report. It had to commission a report because 20 of its organizations, its state school board association is pulled out and disavowed the NSBA over all this nonsense. So, they commissioned a report to examine the events surrounding that September 29 letter to President Biden. The report offered all of us and all the American people who were paying attention new evidence of exactly how the Justice Department coordinated with the White House to target parents.

The report found that the first communications, the first communications between NSBA and the White House occurred on September 9, almost a month prior to all this, and that the Biden White House closely coordinated with the NSBA on its letter to President Biden. This is the NSBA's information, not Republicans in Congress. Contrary to Attorney General Garland's sworn testimony to this Committee, sir, whistleblower information now shows that the Justice Department and its components quickly operationalized his directive.

And on October 20, the day before AH Garland's congressional testimony, the FBI Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division sent an email referencing Garland's October 4 directive, and notifying FBI personnel about a new threat tag created to apply to school board investigations. We know the threat tag is edu officials. We're not making this up, sir. The whistleblowers have confirmed at all. And that threat tag has been used in almost every region of the country relating to all types of educational settings.

I don't want to misquote you, but you are under oath. And I believe that just a few moments ago, you testified, quote, "no one has been investigated because of the edu officials' threat tag." Did I misquote you?

OLSEN: No one has been investigated solely because of a threat tag. I will tell you that people are investigated because of acts of violence or threats of violence. That's why people are investigated.

M. JOHNSON: All right. And so, it's your testimony today that parents, moms, dads who went to school boards, engaged in violence to sufficient to -- to trigger investigation?

OLSEN: I don't have specific information on number of cases --

M. JOHNSON: Of course, you don't. Of course. You don't know that number? You can't tell us the number of cases. Why is that sensitive?

OLSEN: I don't -- I don't know the number of cases. What I can tell you is --

M. JOHNSON: Hold on. Wait a minute. You're the director. How do you not know the number of cases? Isn't this an important thing? You've testified here how important it is. You don't know the number?

OLSEN: If I -- if I -- if I may. So, the National Security Division would only handle a matter if it is a matter that falls within the crimes that we are responsible for prosecuting. There may be cases that are being handled by other divisions in the department.

M. JOHNSON: Okay. How many -- how many is your division handling?

OLSEN: I'm not aware of any that the National Security Division is handling.

M. JOHNSON: Tell me about the threat tag EDU officials. What was its purpose?

OLSEN: I think I would -- I would suggest directing that question to the FBI.

M. JOHNSON: That's so convenient, because when they're here, they pointed the finger elsewhere. Let me just say this, look, moms and dads voicing their concerns at school board meetings are not domestic terrorists, and for the White House to suggest as much or collude with anybody who does is absolutely outrageous. It's one of the glaring examples, and the reasons why millions of American people now believe that the U.S. Department of Justice has been weaponized for political purposes.

And you and I both know the real threat to that is the rapid erosion of faith that our citizens have in our system of justice itself, in our institutions. It's at record lows right now. We cannot maintain a constitutional republic if people don't trust the system of justice and the fairness of the system. And targeting citizens for expressing their outrage over curricula is not an appropriate use of your resources.

We're going to get down to the bottom of this when we get the majority here in a few months and we need you back here under oath, because I think there's a lot more answers you're going to have to provide.

I yield back.

OLSEN: Can -- if I may respond to your -- I absolutely agree. It is essential that we maintain the trust of the American people and that they understand that we follow the rule of law and that we investigate crimes without regard to politics and ideology. Allegations that the FBI is silencing parents is reckless and false.

M. JOHNSON: That's not what the facts show and that's not what the whistleblower say.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for five minutes.

JEFFRIES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

To be clear, the Department of Justice has not been weaponized. What's been weaponized is a radical, right-wing, runaway illegitimate Supreme Court majority taking away long-held freedoms from the American people. That's what's been weaponized.

Mr. Olsen, Attorney General Garland testified that the greatest domestic threat facing the United States comes from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists. Do you agree with that statement?

OLSEN: Look, I agree that -- I can't say which type of ideology, because -- because there's a mix of ideologies that often formed the domestic terrorism threat. I do think that the rise in domestic terrorism from a range of ideologies is a significant concern.

JEFFRIES: So, in recent years, we've seen a significant uptick in violent attacks and many cases perpetrated by white supremacist. According to a 2020 report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, white supremacist conducted 67% of terrorist plots and attacks in the United States. Is that figure consistent with what you've seen in terms of the rise of domestic terrorist attacks?

OLSEN: I don't know that exact report. I do -- I do know that our intelligence community has said that the most significant number of attacks come from two sets of ideologies; racially motivated and antigovernment. And those are the two that are most likely to result in lethal attacks.

JEFFRIES: Has there been any understanding as to why we've seen sort of a rise in organized, racially motivated domestic terrorist activity?

OLSEN: I think there are studies to look at the potentially many factors that -- that give rise to this threat. I would note that it's not new. It goes back, obviously, to the beginning of the country. In fact, the Department of Justice was founded in part to take on the KKK. So, it's not a new challenge, but it is one that has increased in recent years.

JEFFRIES: It's not a new challenge, certainly, but it's newly resonant and that's a very troubling development.

What role does social media play in the ability to sort of radicalize, potentially hundreds of thousands if not millions of Americans with respect to this violent extremism that we're seeing increase in its resonance?

OLSEN: I think it's a significant challenge, Congressman. I think the intelligence agencies that look at this -- look at this have assessed that the way social media works, it can accelerate an individual's move from being radicalized to even mobilizing to violence because of the exposure to online content, that -- that can happen at such a quick pace, so that individuals are radicalized quickly and often radicalized in ways that are difficult to detect because they're consuming this content by themselves or in very small groups.

JEFFRIES: Now with respect to the January 6 attack, am I correct that there were several white supremacist organizations like the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys that seemingly played a prominent role in the horrific events of that fateful day?

OLSEN: I mean, there's no doubt that individuals who identify themselves as members of those groups that you mentioned, Oath Keepers and Proud Boys, were present, and many of them have been charged in indictments here in Washington, DC, including two separate indictments that charge the crime of seditious conspiracy.

JEFFRIES: Is it also fair to say that the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys are increasingly targeting people within law enforcement or former law enforcement personnel, or in some cases, people within the military or former military personnel?

OLSEN: Certainly do look at whether individuals within these groups espouse those types of ideologies. Look we're looking at individuals, some of them identify -- self-identify as being members of those groups, but we don't look at those groups as groups. We look at individuals who may in fact conspire with other individuals who are self-identified as members of those groups to see if they've committed criminal acts, and that's how we look at those cases.

JEFFRIES: And given this rise in racially motivated violent extremism, how is the Department of Justice or your particular division working with state and local law enforcement officials to try to prevent, to the best extent possible, things like the massacre at Mother Emanuel Church, or the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue, or most recently, the massacre at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York?

OLSEN: It's really important question, because when it comes to this type of violence, it's almost certainly going to be the state and local first responders who are going to be first on the scene and in many cases, they will ultimately prosecute these cases. So, the partnership between the FBI and State and local police, as well as at the prosecutorial level is critical to addressing this challenge. We do training, the FBI is often in a support role from an investigative standpoint, sometimes in a primary role. Some of these cases are ultimately prosecuted in federal court based on federal charges, but many, many cases are -- are prosecuted in state court. So, we need to make sure that we're all playing at the same level.

JEFFRIES: Thank you.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for five minutes.

BUCK: I thank the Chair.

Mr. Olsen, I was honored to serve as a career prosecutor with the Department of Justice at the U.S. Attorney's Office primarily, or the time at Main justice for 15 years. I understand what you're saying about revealing information about ongoing investigations. I understand what you're saying about the year or at least I understand your reticence in answering some of the questions. But I think it would comfort the American people and I had some prepared questions and I'm going to someday hopefully get answers to those questions.

But I think it would comfort the American people to know that you get it. I now have the honor of listening over and over practically every weekend to constituents who are afraid that the federal government is getting into an area that it shouldn't get into. State and local officials can handle protests, threats, violent acts, and they're fairly rare when you look at all of the school board meetings that are going on across this country. It would be comforting for all of us to hear that you understand that it is not a federal issue.

Antifa is a federal issue, white nationalism is. I hope you -- you eradicate white nationalism in this country. I think everybody on this side of the aisle, and that side of the aisle would agree on that. I hope that -- that there are no Nazis left in the United States, who would commit a violent act now that there's people that believe things, we don't go after him for their beliefs. But anybody who would commit a violent act because of white supremacist beliefs or white nationalist beliefs, by all means, look at that at a national level because it is of a national scope.

But school board meetings and the threats against school board meetings, it concerns a lot of us greatly, that there is actually a tag that's associated with that. And I give you an opportunity to answer that. I'd like to ask a couple of other questions, too.

OLSEN: I really appreciate that because I think I agree completely with everything you just said. For the -- by and large, what we're talking about when it comes to threats of violence directed against state and local officials, school board members, those are matters that are going to be handled by state and local prosecutors and law enforcement, and they always have been, and they will -- they must, I think continue to be.

There is a role for the federal government, certainly with the national level cases you're talking about and whether we're talking about racially motivated violence, domestic violent extremism. There may be a case at the state and local level that -- the rare case that rises. But I do think you're right, that that's -- that's where I -- look, I'm a parent of three children, my son is sitting behind me. I've been to school board meetings. I've spoken, much to his dismay, at school board meetings. I understand that parents absolutely have a right to be involved and should be involved in speaking up and disagreeing vociferously at times with the decisions that are being made at the local level.

And absolutely, we are committed, I personally am committed, the National Security Division is committed to protecting the rights of parents, citizens, to speak out to voice their concerns, even if we don't agree. We really need to draw that line between that free speech that we cherish and violence and that's the line that we draw. And I also agree, we need to be thoughtful about the role that the federal government plays, and to play an appropriate role, often in partnership in support of state and local law enforcement.

BUCK: And I appreciate you saying that, and I think it does comfort the American people that -- that a leader says that. And I want to make sure your son understands that he should be very proud of his father's service to our country.

I want to ask though, there's another area that concerns me and another area that I continue to hear concern from my constituents. And that is that the riots on January 6 in the United States Capitol were horrific. They were intended to disrupt a legitimate government function and -- and they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The riots that occurred throughout our country in the summer of 2020 were horrific, they were damaging, and the American -- many of the American people in my district, and granted this is a fairly rural district and a fairly conservative district, but many of those people expressed concerns that there is not a parity between the attention that was given to those that committed crimes on January 6, and those that committed crimes throughout the summer of 2020.

And furthermore, as part of that analysis, the crimes that were committed on -- throughout the summer of 2020 appeared to be coordinated. And I'd like to ask you very specifically, can you tell this Committee that George Soros was not behind -- and his money was not behind directly or indirectly, the Antifa activities that occurred in the summer of 2020?

OLSEN: Yes, certainly, any of the work I've done, I've never seen any suggestion of that. However, that's not really something that I would look at in terms of the cases that we handle in the National Security Division. So, but I do agree with you that we need to look and we are looking even handedly across the board, whether we're talking about crimes committed during the riots and destruction of the summer of 2020, and the horrific attack on the Capitol on January 6, and using the tools that we have.

The reality is that the thousands of arrests that occurred in the summer of 2020, most of those were handled by state and local as they should have been. The difference, of course, in some ways that I think it counts for the attention paid on January 6, beyond the nature of that attack and the significance of it, is that most of those crimes are federal crimes, if not all because of the -- the target was the Capitol.

So, I do think that accounts for some of the difference in view when it comes to the role of the federal government, but the fundamental point that you make I completely agree with. We need to be apolitical in how we handle these cases and we need to look across the board and be driven by the nature of the threats we face.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. Swalwell, from California is recognized for five minutes.

SWALWELL: Thank you.

Mr. Olsen, my Republican colleagues have said over and over that school board of violence is, quote, "fairly rare." A Reuters story on February 15, 2022, begins with, "The letter came to the home of Brenda Sheridan, a Loudoun County Virginia School Board Member addressed to one of her adult children. It threatened to kill them both unless she left the board. It's too bad that your mother is an ugly communist whore, said the hand-scrawled note, which the family read just after Christmas. If she doesn't quit or resign before the end of the year, we will kill her, but first, we will kill you."

The story goes on to document over 220 Examples of such violent intimidation. And I'd like to enter that under unanimous consent into the record.

SCANLON: Without objection.

SWALWELL: Now, Mr. Olsen, what concerns me is that you are being questioned by a lot who has become more comfortable with violence than voting, that has associated itself more with chaos than community. But do you agree that what I just described to you is something that law enforcement should be concerned about and that law enforcement should investigate?

OLSEN: Absolutely. Anyone who serves in a position, such as school board members should be free from the fear of threats of violence or acts of violence. Absolutely.

SWALWELL: And I'm the son of a school board member myself and as someone who signed up to serve for the same reason I think you've signed up to serve, do you also agree that if a parent goes and peacefully but very passionately, describes their own beliefs about their child's curriculum, that that person should not be investigated?

OLSEN: Of course, it's protected by our First Amendment.

SWALWELL: And I have to say, I'm not surprised that there are so many acts that are hardly fairly rare of violence, because in this building, America's leaders are stoking that violence. So, many of my colleagues now on their social media, they love to hold their assault rifle and threaten the president to come and get it. They love to use their social media accounts have threatened to kill the Speaker of the House. That has happened. They have used their social media accounts to depict themselves in animate as killing the President of the United States.

So, it not surprised me that people in their community would go to a school board meeting and act the way that I just described. And I'm grateful that you're investigating people who would threaten violence. And I'm also grateful that you are not investigating people who have legitimate concerns about their children's curriculum. And also I just have to debunk the Soros nonsense. Thank you for clarifying that. That's a part of a longstanding anti-Semitic trope that we see from the other side that goes after George Soros, that goes after Michael Bloomberg and any Jewish individual who contributes to campaigns to suggest that they support and fund violence.

And it's incomparable to take the violence that occurred during protests of the summer of 2020 and what happened in this Capitol, the largest crime ever investigated as far as the number of individuals investigated, indicted, sentenced. So thank you for that.

I want to ask you just briefly about the antitrust legislation that my colleague Mr. Cicilline referenced. And my concern, and the concern of others on this Committee is that if we were to have side loading, so to take Apple's store, for example, and require them to take on apps from anywhere, essentially take a curated App Store and allow it to be a flea market where anyone can come in and sell their apps on the platform. There are concerns about security, whether the Chinese would flood the App Store with their own apps that could vacuum up U.S. consumer data and send it back to Beijing, not only making our privacy affected, but also any people in the intelligence community, or Russia using the platform to flood it with apps that could sow disinformation, whether it's our own elections or its campaign in Ukraine.

Would you be willing, Mr. Olsen, to listen to evidence from other parts of the intelligence community, if they have new concerns that came out after the letter that your agency sent as -- as it relates to the antitrust legislation?

OLSEN: Yes. As we had the chance to talk about --

SWALWELL: I'm sorry, I meant the Department of Justice.

OLSEN: Yes. Yes. As this -- as this legislation moved through the process, we did have the opportunity to comment on it. And I do think some of the provisions that were incorporated, addressed national security concerns, but of course, if there are additional issues or concerns that are raised, particularly by our intelligence community, it'll be incumbent on us in the Justice Department and elsewhere to take those seriously.

SWALWELL: Great. Thank you.

I yield back.

SCANLON: Thank you.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes.

GOHMERT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Listen. Had there been any FISA orders or warrants obtained that assist in the investigation of what happened to January 6?

OLSEN: I think you can appreciate, Congressman, I'm not in a position to talk about any matters that occurred before the FISA court involving the implementation of the --

GOHMERT: Well, the only way that we can have oversight to -- to discern whether or not that we should ever allow FISA to continue is if we find out what's been going on. And I was here, beginning January of '05, we talked to lots of people from the Justice Department, we were assured nothing but foreign matters were going before the FISA court. So, imagine the shock, when we saw this order from the FISA Court, which basically, -- well, not basically, it says that all call detail records created by Verizon for communication between the United States and abroad, there's the foreign, or wholly within the United States, including local telephone calls, all had to be turned over.

And as I understand there are still orders similar to that that have a big net. And once that information goes into the database of your department of the DOJ of the NSA, then there are thousands of people that can access that and have accessed that and done searches. So, the question, when you have something that we're told is wholly domestic, that it's the domestic threat that's so serious, it is an important question to know whether you're using something called FISA where the F stands for foreign to go after American citizens?

Because that I can tell you, when I was here back in '06 and '08, we were taking these matters up. If people had known how badly that was being abused, there were people back then on both sides of the aisle, who would have said, "Wait a minute. This is just being abused so much". So, that's why it's a fair question to know in general, not specific cases. Is the FISA court, has it been used to get orders to investigate January 6?

OLSEN: Again, I'm not familiar with the order that you referred to a moment ago.

GOHMERT: Well, it was leaked, I think was WikiLeaks and that's what was so shocking to so many of us. And look at the abuses that occurred during the Bush administration, the Obama administration, there were some in the Trump administration, and I feel sure it's still going on. We need to know the extent of that.

Well, let me ask you about a case in Kilgore, Texas. A lady there working for private oil company got a text from her nephew. He had been looking through the FBI pictures and said, "Do you recognize anybody in this picture?" And it looks similar to her and she did, "LOL, gee, that looks like me. Don't turn me in." A couple of days later, two FBI agents show up at our place of business demanding to know where she was on January 6 using Kilgore, Texas. And then they threatened her boss that he could go to prison for covering for her.

Is there any order from any court that allows the DOJ or the NSA to monitor text messages of American citizens?

OLSEN: Obviously, there are court orders, whether they come from federal courts, not the FISA court or the federal FISA court, that authorized pursuant to law, search warrants and surveillance --

GOHMERT: Yes, but search warrants under the Fourth Amendment have to describe with particularity the things to be searched or seized and that's not happening. That has not been happening. And so, when you have no probable cause to go after somebody in Kilgore, Texas, then we'd heard about, oh, gee, there's software to look for specific words that allow you to go after anybody that hasn't committed crimes, we really need to know how widespread that is. Can you give us an answer? Is that being used?

OLSEN: It's just really important to point out, sir, that the way the law works is that the federal judge, a federal FISA Court judge will only approve an order based on probable cause, that an individual is an agent of a foreign power.

GOHMERT: Mr. Olsen, we have proof that's a lie.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time has expired.

GOHMERT: It has not been followed.

SCANLON: Mr. Raskin is recognized for five minutes.

RASKIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Welcome, sir. Thank you for your testimony.

Dangerous, extremists jacked up on racist and anti-Semitic propaganda, like the white replacement theory, have committed massacres in Buffalo, in El Paso, at the Tree of Life cinema -- synagogue, rather, the -- the Mother Emanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina. The American people are obviously very upset about this explosion of gun violence by dangerous extremists. And a number of the extremist groups also participated significantly in the violent insurrection against our government on January 6, 2021.

And I'm wondering about the internal structure of the Department of Justice, and how it has worked to try to address this threat in the country. I know that after 911, the Department redefined its mission and priorities to focus on counterterrorism and this included the formation of the Antiterrorism Advisory Council and the National Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Have these existing structures created in the wake of 911 been adapted to address white supremacist, violent radicalization and this new domestic terror threat? Or are there other structures that you have innovated in order to respond to it?

OLSEN: I think it's a really important question, Congressman. I do believe that we are adapting. I mean, the National Security Division, as others have pointed out and you note, it was -- it was formed in 2006, largely to consolidate the department's national security structures to focus on the international threat from Al Qaeda in particular. We have evolved over time, we have built the ability to go after cyberattacks and cyber actors, for example, and we've increased our ability there. We have a fairer unit to go after transparency.

The question you raise about domestic terrorism, we -- this year, I established a domestic terrorism unit within our counterterrorism section to increase our focus on the types of threats we face from domestic violent extremists. I think in addition, I have formed with the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Kristen Clark, an ongoing partnership, because so many of the attacks that you mentioned, whether it's Buffalo, or Charleston, or El Paso, these are not only domestic, violent, extremist attacks, but they are also hate crimes.

And we have learned over the years that our hate crimes are our most effective federal criminal tool to go after those. And in support of each other in partnership, a partnership that maybe wasn't an obvious one 15 years ago between the National Security Division and the Civil Rights Division has proven to be very effective, and making sure that prosecutors on both sides are bringing all of our resources and expertise to bear on the growing problem that we face, as you noted in your question.

So, I think we're evolving. We're working with, again, with the FBI, which has a domestic terrorism operation section to focus on this threat. But look, there's more we can do, and we are going to be continued to be driven by the nature of the threats we face.

RASKIN: Well, I appreciate that because violent far-right terrorism is striking all over the country in churches, in mosques, in synagogues and movie theaters at Walmart's and grocery stores. Of the 30 domestic terror fatalities last year, CSIS found that 28 of them resulted from far-right terrorist attacks, to the very the vast majority, nearly all of them.

You previously testified that the number of FBI investigations of suspects accused of domestic extremism had more than doubled since the spring of 2020. Has this jump in the number of investigations led to an increase in actual indictments and prosecutions, if you're excluding for the moment the January 6 prosecutions?

OLSEN: So, it -- I don't have a specific number on that, Congressman, because I -- that number, that jump, that doubling does include the January 6 cases and, of course, there we have over 800 arrests of individuals. Not all of them are characterized as domestic violent extremists, to be clear, but many are and those are -- and those -- those do account for at least a significant portion of that jump from -- over the past two years in the number of investigations.

RASKIN: Okay. And are there any other proactive measures you're taking to try to address this threat?

OLSEN: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Say again, sir?

RASKIN: Are there proactive measures that DOJ is taking to address the threat and far-right terrorism?

OLSEN: Absolutely. In fact, a part of the challenge is that we have not historically done a good job of categorizing and -- and capturing the numbers so just the data collection. Because many of these cases are -- are actually prosecuted at the state and local level, or by federal U.S. Attorney's offices around the country. So, we are getting better at trying to just capture that data. That's one proactive aspect of this threat, as well as training that we're doing around the country.

SCANLON: The gentleman's time --

RASKIN: Thank you, sir. I yield back.

SCANLON: Thank you.

The gentleman from Ohio. Mr. Chabot, is recognized for five minutes.

CHABOT: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Attorney General, every riot or act of violence or threat thereof taking place anywhere in this nation whoever's responsible for it is unconscionable, and we on this side Republicans, we reject it, we condemn it. As elected members of Congress, we must do our part and call out acts of violence, just not those that fit a particular partisan narrative, we need to reject them all. Democrats unfortunately, have been very focused on the rhetoric that led up to the riots on January 6, and yet for the most part, they've been silent when similar language and tactics are used by their supporters.

Following the unprecedented leak of the Supreme Court's draft decision in Dobbs Democrats ignored the threats of violence, including an assassination attempt on a Supreme Court justice. In addition to pro-abortion activists, they have -- these abortion activists have targeted Supreme Court justice, fanatics professing pro-abortion views have targeted destroyed and vandalized dozens and dozens of prolife facilities and churches to further a political cause.

Arguably, the incendiary rhetoric used by some on the radical left has only encouraged that violence against those facilities and those justices and is putting lives at risk. Members of Congress must condemn not condone violence in furtherance of a political agenda. Look no further than Senator Chuck Schumer who took to the steps of the Supreme Court in 2020 when the court was considering a Louisiana prolife law and said quote, "I want to tell you, Gorsuch, I want to tell you Kavanaugh, you have released the whirlwind and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions." That's what Chuck Schumer said, the Democratic head over in the Senate.

Assistant Attorney General Olsen, is that the kind of rhetoric it's helpful in trying to avert abortion-related violent extremism?

OLSEN: I completely agree with you, Congressman, that this is not a partisan issue. Everyone who serves in a position of public trust, certainly, at the very top are the members of our Supreme Court, deserve to be safe, and we have taken very seriously the threats of violence and violence. And in fact, we have -- we are prosecuting an individual with attempted assassination of Justice Kavanaugh. We've provided support and protection through the Marshal Service to the Supreme Court. We have supported legislation to increase that support. We take that extremely seriously.

Similarly, you mentioned the attacks on pregnancy resource centers and prolife centers and groups, also not a partisan issue. Violence, threats of violence, absolutely not acceptable. The FBI has opened a series of cases involving those attacks or threats against those resource centers, some of them opened as domestic violent, extremist cases. So, this is not a partisan issue for the Justice Department.

CHABOT: You absolutely need to do that because we've got facilities there where these organizations are trying to help women in need, and they're being attacked and it's outrageous. As we saw in June, the radical pro-abortion group, Ruth Sent Us, the same organization that originally posted the addresses of the six conservative justices, published the name of Justice Amy Coley -- Conen -- excuse me, Amy Coney Barrett's church, and the school her children attend, the very school that her young children attend encouraging protesters to quote, "voice your anger."

Is that the kind of rhetoric helpful that's when trying to avert abortion-related violent extremism?

OLSEN: I think again, we look at acts of violence and threats of violence that violate the criminal law. It -- it is an -- an unfortunate fact of our civic life that there is strong language, reprehensible language on both sides.

CHABOT: Well, I assume you would -- you would condemn putting up a Supreme Court justice's children's -- what school they go to, what church they attend. You don't condone doing that sort of thing, do you?

OLSEN: I -- I -- I -- I may -- I may personally find certain comments or statements reprehensible or not acceptable, but in my role at the National Security Division, we look at threats of violence and we prosecute those at the same time that we protect Americans' rights to enjoy their First Amendment rights.

CHABOT: Let me ask you this: Another leftist, ShutDownDC, offered bounties -- bounties to D.C. industry workers, waiters, et cetera, for reporting confirmed sightings of conservative justices, and additional money if the justices were still at the establishment 30 minutes after the initial report. Is offering bounties for sightings of justices helpful when we're trying to avert violent extremism?

OLSEN: So again, our goal is to investigate and prosecute crimes, threats of violence and violence. It is one of our cherished protections that people can speak out and -- under the First Amendment and -- and do so in ways that, obviously, many people, if not most, don't agree with. That's part of what it means to be an American.

CHABOT: Well, they're putting a lot of lives in danger...

SCANLON: The gentleman's time is expired.

CHABOT: ... and I know my time's expired, so I yield back.

SCANLON: Thank you.

The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for five minutes.

DEMINGS: Thank you so much, and thank you, Attorney General Olsen, for your service. We appreciate your testimony here today. Just please confirm that your job is to prevent, disrupt, investigate and prosecute all forms of terrorism, is that correct?

OLSEN: That is correct.

DEMINGS: And does that include both foreign and domestic?

OLSEN: It does.

DEMINGS: And are you committed to protecting, in your work, the constitutional rights and civil -- civil liberties of all Americans?

OLSEN: I am.

DEMINGS: Regardless of the color of their skin, their gender, sexual orientation, religion?

OLSEN: Yes.

DEMINGS: You know, as a former law enforcement officer, contrary to some of my colleagues who really like to pick and choose who they want to prosecute based on political party, or if it serves their political agenda by any lie -- not lie -- I mean by any means necessary. But Mr. Olsen, I can assure you that I am committed to holding all violators of the law accountable, and I do believe that those who are most dangerous, those who are most engaged in the most heinous behavior should be held accountable first.

We've heard a lot of talk about the school board. You know, as a parent who has attended school board meetings, like you, parents are supposed to be involved in what's happening with their children in school. But you know, and -- and -- and I can tell you, I've never seen any parental behavior that evens comes close, even as a law enforcement officer, to the violent, deadly behavior that we all were subjected to on January 6th. However, my colleagues seldom talk about that unless it's in an effort to explain their inaction, or it is an effort to explain why they should ignore subpoenas. Matter of fact, my colleagues on the other side said, "If you did not know better, you would think it was a normal tourist visit." Well, it certainly was not that. Nor do they talk a whole lot about Uvalde or Buffalo or Pulse Nightclub that is in my district, bomb threats against HBCUs, synagogues.

Mr. Olsen, you talked about the unit that you have formed within your department that will investigate domestic terrorism. Could you just talk a little bit more about that? Or it -- staffing, resources -- where are we? Are you able to meet the goals of that unit? Or what do you still need from Congress to help you to be able to fulfill that mission?

OLSEN: So that -- that -- I really appreciate this opportunity, right? We formed that unit with the existing attorneys that we had within the Counterterrorism section, so it's starting small, but we're going to grow it and -- to meet the threat.

What I can tell you as I -- as I said in my opening, when we look at the threat across the board, whether it comes from violence against public officials at the state and local level all the way to attacks like what we saw in Buffalo, but in particular, the January 6th attack stands apart. It represents now the single-largest domestic terrorism investigation in the nation's history: more than 800 arrests, hundreds of those for felonies. The -- I think it's important as we talk about the range of threats that we be clear-eyed and understand the threat that that attack posed to American democracy, as individuals involved in that attack sought to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.

And that's why our unit, our organization and -- and our Security Division is joined in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office here in -- in Washington, D.C. and the Criminal Division of the Justice Department to make sure that we have all the resources to bring to bear on what amounts to one of the most wide-ranging investigations in history, which really reflects the significance and gravity of that day and the days leading up to it. (inaudible)...

DEMINGS: You would really think that the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives would be really concerned about the most wide-ranging investigation that involved trying to not certify a free and fair election. That is not the case, as all of America who's been watching knows today.

I want to very quickly ask you, you made a statement to a question from Congresswoman Jackson Lee earlier about the millions of 702 queries that likely resulted in a search for victims of a cyber breach. Mr. Olsen, was that the -- related to the court's cyber breach?

OLSEN: I -- I don't think I can talk about it in this setting, the reason for those searches. I can tell you that it was related to a cyber -- an -- an -- an investigation of a cyber attack.

DEMINGS: OK, alright, so that's something that we can in another setting for more information?

OLSEN: Absolutely, happy to talk about this with you and -- and others on the committee in a classified setting.

DEMINGS: My time is up, but thank you again for doing God's work. We appreciate you.

OLSEN: Thank you.

SCANLON: We now have two votes on the House floor, therefore, the committee will recess until immediately after the last vote. The committee stands in recess.

(RECESS)

CORREA: Committee will now come to order. I'll now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. McClintock, for five minutes of questions.

Mr. McClintock.

MCCLINTOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Olsen, is it illegal under federal law to picket or parade in front of a justice's residence with the intent to influence or intimidate their decisions?

OLSEN: Hard for to answer a question in the hypothetical, Congressman.

MCCLINTOCK: Well, let me read you the statute then. "Whoever with the intent of interfering with, obstructing, or impeding the administration of justice, or with the intent of influencing any judge, juror, witness, or court officer in the discharge of his duty, pickets or parades in or near a building housing a court of the United States or in or near a building or residence occupied or used by such a judge, juror, witness, or court officer, or with such intent uses any sound (ph), truck (ph), or similar device" (INAUDIBLE) "shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

Is that news to you? This is the first time you've ever heard of that statute?

OLSEN: No, I am -- I am aware...

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: Well, then I ask for a little more candor in your answers to my questions. Why is that law not being enforced?

OLSEN: That law will be enforced, like all federal laws, based on the evidence that we are able to obtain in the application...

MCCLINTOCK: We are watching -- we are watching videos...

OLSEN: ... of the law.

MCCLINTOCK: ... of this occurring quite regularly in front of justices' residence. Why is it not being prosecuted?

OLSEN: we prosecute the laws based on the evidence and facts that we're able to obtain in every particular case...

MCCLINTOCK: Yes, you've said that multiple times. That's not an answer to the question. Your department has put enormous resources into investigating and prosecuting the disruption of our January 6th Joint Session of Congress. How does this compare with the resources and investigating and prosecuting threats and intimidation of members of the Supreme Court?

OLSEN: I will tell you that with respect just to the concerns that I think are serious with that are -- involve threats of violence and against members of the Supreme Court that we're...

MCCLINTOCK: No. Are you putting the same efforts...

OLSEN: ... prosecuting...

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: Are you putting the same effort and resources in prosecuting the intimidation...

OLSEN: ... Kavanaugh (ph), attempted assassination. And we are adding security to -- through the Marshal Service, to the members of the Supreme Court...

MCCLINTOCK: How do those resources compare with what you've put in to the riots on January 6th?

OLSEN: I think that's apples and oranges. It's very hard to say, you know, one event...

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: In a sense I think you're right.

OLSEN: ... we're applying the resources necessary to address the threat in that case and in another case...

MCCLINTOCK: The electoral count...

OLSEN: ... we're applying the resources commensurate with the threat in that case.

MCCLINTOCK: The electoral count resumed the moment the last of these yahoos was kicked out of this building. The would-be assassin of Justice Kavanaugh made it very clear that by killing a conservative Supreme Court justice or two he could single-handedly change the majority of the court. And unfortunately I think that equation is correct. Do you consider that as grave a threat to the constitutional order as a lunatic wearing buffalo horns entering this building?

OLSEN: With respect to Justice Kavanaugh, that was a very serious crime and an individual has being charged with attempted assassination.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: Well, you have refused to -- to prosecute the multiple demonstrations that are in violation of federal law that have been occurring in front of Supreme Court justices' homes. And then you're shocked, just shocked that an assassin shows up at his doorstep. I find that astonishing, for an officer given the trust that you have been given by the United States government. By failing to enforce the laws that protect the safety of Supreme Court justices, aren't you, in effect, sending an open season message to -- to extremists across the country?

OLSEN: We're enforcing the laws based on the facts and the evidence in every case. And in fact, as I've said, we have charged an individual with attempted assassination involving Justice Kavanaugh. We've added security for the justices. We've supported legislation to add security to the justices.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: And turned a blind eye to the laws and turned a blind eye to the laws that protect those justices in their homes. I find that shocking.

OLSEN: I categorically reject the characterization of our actions as turning a blind eye.

MCCLINTOCK: There are no actions, Mr. Olsen.

OLSEN: I categorically reject that.

MCCLINTOCK: There is total inaction when it comes to enforcing that law that you originally pretended you hadn't even heard of.

How big a threat do the Mexican crime cartels and affiliated gangs pose to the security and safety of the American people?

OLSEN: The threat from cartels is certainly a criminal threat. I would...

We've had 900,000 got-aways because the Border Patrol has been completely overwhelmed by this mass migration along our southern border. We know that there were 5,000 or more terrorists released from (INAUDIBLE) detention facility when this administration unconditionally surrendered to the Taliban. How many of those terrorists do you imagine are among the 900,000 got-aways that that we were unable to intercept? We know that we were able to intercept 60.

OLSEN: So I would want to verify the veracity of your assertions before responding to that question.

MCCLINTOCK: Well, here -- here is my fear. I think you're tracking down and prosecuting...

(OFF-MIKE)

CORREA: Time. But if the witness wishes to answer the question.

OLSEN: No. I just have no basis to ascertain the truth of those assertions. So I would want to verify that before trying to answer that question.

MCCLINTOCK: I'm sorry, do you question the reports of 900,000...

CORREA: Thank you very much.

MCCLINTOCK: ... got-aways?

CORREA: Mr. McClintock, thank you very much.

I'd like to recognize myself for five minutes of questions.

Mr. Olsen, sir, first of all, let me thank you for your service. You've got a tough job, defense of our country, our citizens. You have to play 100 percent defense. You can't let them score in any way, form, or manner.

If I can, let me turn to cyber a little bit, cybersecurity. Question: At what point does a cyber attack on our nation constitute a declaration of war? We recently had an attack on our federal court system, brazen, unbelievable. It's a rhetorical question.

OLSEN: Yeah.

CORREA: I don't think you can give me an answer to that, but the point is made, which is cyber is an attack on our nation, and it's a deadly attack in many ways. I presume you're concerned with the increasing cyber attacks, threats from Russia and China and other actors.

OLSEN: Yes, absolutely.

CORREA: This committee recently considered legislation that requires American companies to open their hardware and software to third parties, which could allow some of these actors, China, Russia and others, to have additional access to U.S. consumer data. Doesn't this pose a cybersecurity risk?

OLSEN: So the -- the cyber threat is a vast and -- and complicated one. At the (inaudible) Division, we're focused on nation-state-type attacks, particularly, as you mentioned, sir, China and Russia. China actually probably is the most significant actor when it comes to China --- cyber-enabled espionage. It is a challenge for both the government, public sector and the private sector, and it's one that we are very focused on at the Justice Department in terms of investigating and prosecuting, but we're part of a broad, all-of-government approach that includes Homeland Security and -- and the intelligence community.

CORREA: You have essentially said that we are seeing nation-states and their proxies increase their cyber-enabled means in ways that threaten our democracy and our -- our economic institutions. Wouldn't forcing these platforms open allow the bad actors to have increased access into our systems?

OLSEN: So this -- I think it's incumbent on the government -- that includes the Justice Department and Homeland Security, as well as the intelligence community, to work with the private sector, in particular, the large technology companies to make sure that we have a joint effort to address these types of...

CORREA: Do these large companies have a competitive edge, a -- a magic potion here to work with you hand-in-hand to defend our nation from cyber?

OLSEN: I -- I -- my experience has been that -- that the large companies, large technology companies are very open to working with the government when it comes to improving the govern -- the -- the -- the nation's cybersecurity. (inaudible)...

CORREA: They're open to it, but they have a vested interest, a business interest to make sure they also play 100 percent defense.

OLSEN: I think -- I think we have a -- we have -- our interests are aligned in many ways when it comes to cybersecurity, that is our interest -- the interests of the private sector and the government.

CORREA: Mr. Olsen, I understand that the executive branch has been reviewing these tech antitrust legislation that I was talking about, and you've been part of this review, it's my understanding?

OLSEN: I'm sorry. The -- the review of the -- that the (inaudible)...

CORREA: The antitrust legislation.

OLSEN: Yes. Yes, sir, absolutely. The -- my division was part of the department's review of that legislation.

CORREA: And we've seen concerns raised by former national security experts on both sides concerning these antitrust bills. Is it fair to say that if you have concerns, you will provide this committee with that information at the right time?

OLSEN: Yes, we have provided a -- a -- a letter from the Justice Department in support of the legislation. I'm prepared to continue to -- to work on that with this committee if there are additional concerns that need to be addressed.

CORREA: You'll -- but you will bring some of those concerns if they are there to this committee?

OLSEN: Yes, I continue to work this committee and others in Congress on this issue.

CORREA: I'd like to submit a letter, without objections, for the record, titled "Open Letter from Former Defense Intelligence, Homeland Security, Cyber Officials Calling for National Security Review of Congressional Tech Legislation", without objection.

CORREA: And let me just say that, again, cyber is the new warfare. We are in a state of war in cyber, and I think it's important that your voice be a clear one when it comes to some of this legislation. This legislation primarily applies to American companies, yet a lot of the foreign firms -- Huawei, TikTok, many, many others do not seem to fall under the purview of this legislation. And I believe it's important that before we go off and go after our own firms, that we make sure that we're not doing unintentional harms to our national defense when it comes to cyber.

OLSEN: I understand.

CORREA: I'm out of time. With that being said...

(GAVEL)

(UNKNOWN): (OFF MIKE) Well, we -- we need to just -- the committee needs to -- just to suspend for a moment for technical (inaudible).

CORREA: The committee needs to take a moment to address technical issues.

(UNKNOWN): (OFF MIKE) The committee will suspend.

CORREA: Committee will suspend.

(RECESS)

CORREA: Committee will now come to order. I'll now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. McClintock, for five minutes of questions.

Mr. McClintock.

MCCLINTOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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OLSEN: With respect to Justice Kavanaugh, that was a very serious crime and an individual has being charged with attempted assassination.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: Well, you have refused to -- to prosecute the multiple demonstrations that are in violation of federal law that have been occurring in front of Supreme Court justices' homes. And then you're shocked, just shocked that an assassin shows up at his doorstep. I find that astonishing, for an officer given the trust that you have been given by the United States government. By failing to enforce the laws that protect the safety of Supreme Court justices, aren't you, in effect, sending an open season message to -- to extremists across the country?

OLSEN: We're enforcing the laws based on the facts and the evidence in every case. And in fact, as I've said, we have charged an individual with attempted assassination involving Justice Kavanaugh. We've added security for the justices. We've supported legislation to add security to the justices.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCLINTOCK: And turned a blind eye to the laws and turned a blind eye to the laws that protect those justices in their homes. I find that shocking.

OLSEN: I categorically reject the characterization of our actions as turning a blind eye.

MCCLINTOCK: There are no actions, Mr. Olsen.

OLSEN: I categorically reject that.

MCCLINTOCK: There is total inaction when it comes to enforcing that law that you originally pretended you hadn't even heard of.

How big a threat do the Mexican crime cartels and affiliated gangs pose to the security and safety of the American people?

OLSEN: The threat from cartels is certainly a criminal threat. I would...

We've had 900,000 got-aways because the Border Patrol has been completely overwhelmed by this mass migration along our southern border. We know that there were 5,000 or more terrorists released from (INAUDIBLE) detention facility when this administration unconditionally surrendered to the Taliban. How many of those terrorists do you imagine are among the 900,000 got-aways that that we were unable to intercept? We know that we were able to intercept 60.

OLSEN: So I would want to verify the veracity of your assertions before responding to that question.

MCCLINTOCK: Well, here -- here is my fear. I think you're tracking down and prosecuting...

(OFF-MIKE)

CORREA: Time. But if the witness wishes to answer the question.

OLSEN: No. I just have no basis to ascertain the truth of those assertions. So I would want to verify that before trying to answer that question.

MCCLINTOCK: I'm sorry, do you question the reports of 900,000...

CORREA: Thank you very much.

MCCLINTOCK: ... got-aways?

CORREA: Mr. McClintock, thank you very much.

I'd like to recognize myself for five minutes of questions.

Mr. Olsen, sir, first of all, let me thank you for your service. You've got a tough job, defense of our country, our citizens. You have to play 100 percent defense. You can't let them score in any way, form, or manner.

If I can, let me turn to cyber a little bit, cybersecurity. Question: At what point does a cyber attack on our nation constitute a declaration of war? We recently had an attack on our federal court system, brazen, unbelievable. It's a rhetorical question.

OLSEN: Yeah.

CORREA: I don't think you can give me an answer to that, but the point is made, which is cyber is an attack on our nation, and it's a deadly attack in many ways. I presume you're concerned with the increasing cyber attacks, threats from Russia and China and other actors.

OLSEN: Yes, absolutely.

CORREA: This committee recently considered legislation that requires American companies to open their hardware and software to third parties, which could allow some of these actors, China, Russia and others, to have additional access to U.S. consumer data. Doesn't this pose a cybersecurity risk?

OLSEN: So the -- the cyber threat is a vast and -- and complicated one. At the (inaudible) Division, we're focused on nation-state-type attacks, particularly, as you mentioned, sir, China and Russia. China actually probably is the most significant actor when it comes to China --- cyber-enabled espionage. It is a challenge for both the government, public sector and the private sector, and it's one that we are very focused on at the Justice Department in terms of investigating and prosecuting, but we're part of a broad, all-of-government approach that includes Homeland Security and -- and the intelligence community.

CORREA: You have essentially said that we are seeing nation-states and their proxies increase their cyber-enabled means in ways that threaten our democracy and our -- our economic institutions. Wouldn't forcing these platforms open allow the bad actors to have increased access into our systems?

OLSEN: So this -- I think it's incumbent on the government -- that includes the Justice Department and Homeland Security, as well as the intelligence community, to work with the private sector, in particular, the large technology companies to make sure that we have a joint effort to address these types of...

CORREA: Do these large companies have a competitive edge, a -- a magic potion here to work with you hand-in-hand to defend our nation from cyber?

OLSEN: I -- I -- my experience has been that -- that the large companies, large technology companies are very open to working with the government when it comes to improving the govern -- the -- the -- the nation's cybersecurity. (inaudible)...

CORREA: They're open to it, but they have a vested interest, a business interest to make sure they also play 100 percent defense.

OLSEN: I think -- I think we have a -- we have -- our interests are aligned in many ways when it comes to cybersecurity, that is our interest -- the interests of the private sector and the government.

CORREA: Mr. Olsen, I understand that the executive branch has been reviewing these tech antitrust legislation that I was talking about, and you've been part of this review, it's my understanding?

OLSEN: I'm sorry. The -- the review of the -- that the (inaudible)...

CORREA: The antitrust legislation.

OLSEN: Yes. Yes, sir, absolutely. The -- my division was part of the department's review of that legislation.

CORREA: And we've seen concerns raised by former national security experts on both sides concerning these antitrust bills. Is it fair to say that if you have concerns, you will provide this committee with that information at the right time?

OLSEN: Yes, we have provided a -- a -- a letter from the Justice Department in support of the legislation. I'm prepared to continue to -- to work on that with this committee if there are additional concerns that need to be addressed.

CORREA: You'll -- but you will bring some of those concerns if they are there to this committee?

OLSEN: Yes, I continue to work this committee and others in Congress on this issue.

CORREA: I'd like to submit a letter, without objections, for the record, titled "Open Letter from Former Defense Intelligence, Homeland Security, Cyber Officials Calling for National Security Review of Congressional Tech Legislation", without objection.

And let me just say that, again, cyber is the new warfare. We are in a state of war in cyber, and I think it's important that your voice be a clear one when it comes to some of this legislation. This legislation primarily applies to American companies, yet a lot of the foreign firms -- Huawei, TikTok, many, many others do not seem to fall under the purview of this legislation. And I believe it's important that before we go off and go after our own firms, that we make sure that we're not doing unintentional harms to our national defense when it comes to cyber.

OLSEN: I understand.

CORREA: I'm out of time. With that being said...

(GAVEL)

(UNKNOWN): (OFF MIKE) Well, we -- we need to just -- the committee needs to -- just to suspend for a moment for technical (inaudible).

CORREA: The committee needs to take a moment to address technical issues.

(UNKNOWN): (OFF MIKE) The committee will suspend.

CORREA: Committee will suspend.

(RECESS)

CORREA: Committee now (INAUDIBLE) -- resumes, I should say.

And, Mr. Bishop, you are called for five minutes of questioning, sir.

BISHOP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Assistant Attorney General Olsen, in April, in one of the DoJ's highest profile domestic terrorism cases, a federal jury appears to have found that the FBI entrapped people in a matter involved in an alleged plot to kidnap the governor of Michigan. The jury acquitted two defendants and hung on to others. Are you familiar with that case, sir?

OLSEN: Yes sir. I am familiar with that particular prosecution.

BISHOP: All right. You've emphasized the importance of the DoJ's domestic terrorism mission, or of that risk central to the national security mission.

OLSEN: Yes.

BISHOP: Is that case a fair representation of how DoJ is handling domestic terrorism matters?

OLSEN: I would include that case among many others that are part of our efforts to ensure that people who serve in public office are safe.

BISHOP: I think the importance is undeniable. The question is whether that's what FBI is doing. Let me -- let's go on a little further. The evidence that the jury heard, mostly in text messages and testimony of agents and informants of the FBI, was that the FBI did not discover an existing scheme and take the plot -- you know, collect evidence and take down plotters. Instead, the FBI appears to have contrived the plot, used its informants to draw people into the plot, and provided logistical and financial support to what was in effect an FBI operation. And on a board behind me details just some of the resources that were devoted to the op.

You had a lead informant, a guy named "Big Dan," who is paid \$54,000 over six months to pretend to lead a fake militia to recruit really disadvantaged and unstable men from a Facebook discussion group. Sort of the -- well, one of them was living in the cellar of a vacuum repair shop. FBI paid travel expenses for people involved, food, even alcoholic beverages to take the targeted folks to a militia conference out of state. There were more than a dozen FBI informants involved in the process, undercover FBI agent -- several of them, one of whom taught -- purported to teach how to make a bomb, and used a bomb video produced by the FBI.

At one point, according to The New York Times, there was a nighttime surveillance at Governor Whitmer's vacation cabin and four of the participants were informants, including "Big Dan," or undercover agents. At one point when the group was sort of falling apart in August, 2020, the FBI handler congratulated "Big Dan," said, quote: "Look at you, bringing people together." Congratulated him for breathing new life into the plot.

Not as well-known, the same FBI agent, Jason Chambers, coached "Big Dan" in a parallel scheme to recruit folks into a contrived plot against former Virginia Governor Northam. And at one point he's asked by "Big Dan" how to couch the plan to one of the recruits, and Chambers wrote, quote: "The mission is to kill the governor, specifically."

So I -- again, now that's the evidence I understand from the trial. Don't know that it's a complete sampling of it, Mr. Attorney General. But is that the kind of conduct that DoJ and FBI are engaged in in pursuing domestic terrorism matters?

OLSEN: So I'm sure you can appreciate that case, as you know, involves defendants charged with kidnapping the governor of Michigan. It's an ongoing case. The judge has ordered a retrial. And that retrial is set. Given that it's an ongoing case, I simply can't comment on any of the questions you've asked.

BISHOP: Well, it's not ongoing as to two defendants. They've been acquitted by a jury. I understand that DoJ has decided to re-try two other defendants. But the evidence is what the evidence has been. That has been public. There has been media stories written about it across the ideological spectrum. It's not like this is some kind of right-wing, you know, notion. Don't those revelations impair the credibility of the FBI, which you said earlier was -- it's very important?

OLSEN: Again, that case is -- the judge has ordered that that case be re-tried. It's an ongoing matter and I can't comment further.

BISHOP: How many FBI informants, agents, respectively, were involved in that operation?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment about that particular case.

BISHOP: How much did the FBI spend on it?

OLSEN: It's an ongoing case. It's set for a re-trial. So I'm not going to comment on it.

BISHOP: The -- the alleged Whitmer plot was announced October 7th, 2020, within a month before the U.S. presidential election. How come that timing for the FBI's announcement of this plot?

OLSEN: That's an ongoing case. I'm not going to comment on it. I can tell you that in every case we follow the facts and the evidence and the law. And we do so without regard to politics or ideology.

BISHOP: The FBI has got a notorious history on exactly that kind of thing. And you have no comment about that, exposure of that during the month before the presidential election, of the propriety of doing so?

(UNKNOWN): Gentleman's time has expired.

The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania is recognized.

BISHOP: Well, let him answer the question. Usually that's the practice is he gets to answer the question that I posed.

(UNKNOWN): Did you have a question?

BISHOP: Yes, I did ask a question.

(UNKNOWN): OK. Yes. You may answer the question.

OLSEN: That's an ongoing case. It's set for re-trial. The judge has set it for re-trial. So I'm not going to comment further.

(UNKNOWN): Thank you. Now the gentleman's time has expired, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania is recognized.

SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Olsen, for appearing today to speak to the Department of Justice's work on a number of matters involving our national security. As you indicated in your testimony, domestic violent extremists are one of the most significant and a growing threat that America and the Department of Justice must grapple with. As these individuals often radicalize online and are motivated by a mix of ideologies and grievances.

In recent years domestic terrorists have directed hate-fueled threats and deadly attacks at institutions including predominantly Black churches, Sikh temples, and synagogues. Racially-motivated extremists have gunned down shoppers at stores in El Paso and Buffalo. And we've seen a rise in political violence directed against elected officials and other public servants, including election workers and school officials.

Domestic disinformation and domestic extremism often go hand-in-hand. And we've seen the perverse conspiracy theories and disinformation that motivate far right extremists being spread precisely to sow hate within our communities and that they can spiral into acts of violence. They also work to undermine our foundational institutions, including our elections.

Conspiracy theories and hate-filled ideologies have migrated from the fringes of American society into public discourse and political propaganda through the efforts of both foreign adversaries and domestic political opportunists. The plain truth is that words matter. And while the First Amendment gives broad protection to free speech, elected officials and other leaders abuse the public trust and their responsibility to their constituents when they embrace and amplify disinformation, whether that disinformation concerns lies about election results, anti-government conspiracy theories, or thinly veiled attacks on religious minorities or other marginalized groups.

So can you discuss a little bit how disinformation on social media is used in extremist recruitment?

OLSEN: Yes. The challenge that we face with individuals who consume rhetoric or, you know, hateful content online is that that information is so easily available to individuals who may be alone, who act very small groups, and compared to decades ago or even, you know, several years ago, there is more of that content online. And it tends to accelerate someone who may be inclined to believe in this information, accelerate them on the path toward becoming radicalized. And, again, ultimately the concern we have is that that individual or group may become mobilized to carry out acts of violence that violate federal law.

And, you know, much of that conduct is protected under the First Amendment, the speech itself. But identifying that line, especially when it happens in private, online, identifying when someone has crossed that line from free speech to planning a violent attack, for example, which is not protected, can be very difficult for the FBI and other and investigative agencies. And I think that's one of the challenges we face.

SCANLON: So that is my question. What can Congress do, other than individual members taking care not to repeat or amplify disinformation to support the Department of Justice's efforts to disrupt radicalization?

OLSEN: Well, I think hearings like today that focus on this issue are helpful. I -- I think we've asked for and obtained resources from Congress, particularly around the January 6th attack. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., which has done an admirable job in leading that effort has been able to increase its ranks to go after, based on funding from Congress. And I think as well the work of the Select Committee has done an exceptional job shining a light on the events of January 6th and the days leading up to that day so that the American people have a better understanding of what was at stake in an effort to prevent the peaceful transfer of power, which is a pillar of our democracy.

MORE

SCANLON: Thank you. You've been quite clear that politics doesn't play a role in the Department of Justice's decisions to investigate or charge criminal conduct. Is it fair to say that a person's parental status also doesn't play a role in DoJ's decision to investigate or charge potential criminal conduct, such as threats of violence directed against school officials or their families?

OLSEN: Of course.

SCANLON: OK. I have no further questions. I yield back.

OLSEN: Thank you.

DEAN: The gentlewoman yields.

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Roy, is now recognized.

ROY: I thank the chair.

Has the Department of Justice prosecuted a single case against individuals demonstrating the residence of Supreme Court justices in violation of USC 1507?

OLSEN: I'm not aware that there's been a case brought under that particular statute.

ROY: So the answer is no. Does the purposeful movement of human beings and dangerous narcotics to the tune of 107,000 dead Americans across our border by armed and organized cartels pose a danger to the national security of the United States?

OLSEN: Sir, I'm not familiar with the facts that you're referring to.

ROY: You're not familiar with cartels and their involvement with 107,000 dead Americans that are related to fentanyl. You don't believe -- you can't comment on whether that poses a danger to the national security of the United States?

OLSEN: I'm not familiar with the facts that you're referring to. I will say that there's no doubt that the movement of illegal drugs across our borders poses a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Americans.

ROY: What about threats to Border Patrol agents such as signs displayed on the Rio Grande threatening to kill Border Patrol, or gunfire on the streets of Texas? Would that pose a national security threat to the United States?

OLSEN: You know -- I -- I -- I don't know specifically what you're referring to but obviously acts of violence directed at our law enforcement, Federal or state is a significant concern and one that we take very seriously.

ROY: A question before by one of my colleagues about known got-aways. He said 500,000, how about simply the 389,000 known got-aways that the attorney general actually testified under oath here in the House of Representatives, accepting that fact. The attorney general testified, I'm sorry that might have been the secretary of Homeland Security testified under oath. Knowing that, known got-aways pose a danger to the national security of the United States?

OLSEN: I'm not familiar with the facts that you're referring to...

ROY: The secretary of Homeland Security testified to this body. Assuming that fact, would you accept that as posing a danger to the national security of the United States?

OLSEN: I'm comfortable talking about cases that we are bringing or that we have brought that are a matter of public record where we've proven cases in court. I would prefer not to comment on hypotheticals.

ROY: Which poses a greater to the American national security, cartels or parents at school board meetings?

OLSEN: I mean, look, in groups violent gangs that move drugs or are involved in acts of violence are significant threats.

ROY: They pose a greater danger to the United States than do parents at school board meetings?

OLSEN: I would certainly have to agree with that. I would agree that in -- as a general proposition, being a parent myself...

ROY: Thank you for that.

OLSEN: ... gangs and violent groups pose a greater threat to the American people...

ROY: I thank you for that candor.

OLSEN: ... that's a serious question.

ROY: Is the Department of Justice still operating under the memorandum issued by the Attorney General Merrick Garland on October 4th, 2021, in which he said, "Disturbing" -- quote, "Disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation and threats of violence to school boards." Are they still operating under that memorandum?

OLSEN: The attorney general's guidance from last fall is...

ROY: ... continues in effect.

OLSEN: Yes sir.

ROY: In a press release that -- that was issued, Justice Department addresses violent threats against school officials and teachers. Your division is mentioned. Why?

OLSEN: So -- the National Security Division is part of a broader array of -- of components of the Justice Department to have part of that effort to ensure that people who serve on local school boards or other, you know, bodies...

ROY: Do you think parents at school boards rises to the level of the National Security Division at the Department of Justice?

OLSEN: I certainly think it's possible that there could be a threat or -- or an act of violence against somebody in -- in local office, whether it's city council or school board that might reflect a -- a domestic violence extremist...

ROY: So -- so you're saying yes. It is appropriate to use the Patriot Act against parents?

OLSEN: So, the Patriot Act is a variety of tools. I -- I can't talk about it in the abstract.

ROY: Did the National School -- did the National School Board Association recommend the use of the Patriot Act and describe the actions of parents at school boards to the equivalent to domestic terrorism proceeding the memo issued by the Department of Justice?

OLSEN: I don't know.

ROY: You don't know.

OLSEN: I don't know.

ROY: You don't know that there was a memorandum put out by the National School Board Association referring to domestic terrorism and the use of the Patriot Act prior to the attorney general of the United States issuing a memorandum directly targeting and focusing on school boards. You don't know?

OLSEN: I've heard you and other members of this -- of this committee make reference to that today.

ROY: You're the head of the National Security Division in which it's mentioned in a press release. That goes out and you don't know. You don't know. You're testifying under oath here before us, that you don't know anything about that?

OLSEN: I've heard of that letter. I don't know exactly what it says.

ROY: Do you support the tagging of alleged threats involving schools or school boards as edu (ph) officials as was made public via a whistleblower?

OLSEN: So, I think how the FBI characterizes its cases is a question that's better posed to the FBI.

ROY: One last question on a different topic. I sent a letter on July 11th requesting the Department of Justice conduct a thorough review of the LIV Golf Limited and its potential violation of FARA, with respect to the billion dollars that the Saudi Arabians have pumped into targeting the PGA Tour. Believing that that is a, quote, "Great thing for the image of Saudi Arabia," or, quote, "An incredible investment for Saudi Arabia" that would seem to require some FARA registrations. I'm unaware of those registrations occurring and in asking my question. Would you respond to that letter that we sent the Department of Justice and brief members on that issue?

OLSEN: I'll take that question back to our Leg Affairs office. Yes.

DEAN: And the gentleman's time has expired. The gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Garcia is recognized for five minutes.

GARCIA: Thank you Madam Chair and I want to thank Chairman Nadler for convening this very critical hearing. A tax on minority communities and individuals are becoming an existential threat to our democracy and our nation. White supremacists have worked their way into our government institutions. Some would say they have the Republican in a chokehold. Some would also suggest that Congressional enablers welcome their violence with encouragement and enthusiasm. They call insurrection as patriots and defenders of freedom. They criticize (inaudible) conditions when they've had a blind eye to the massive incarceration of black and brown -- brown people in our country disproportionately.

My Republican colleagues refusal to combat instances of domestic terrorism motivated by racism, violates my -- my -- my constituents civil rights and liberties to live without free -- fear of retaliation against their identities (ph). Texas is not immune to the increasing rate of hate crimes since 2016. The shooting in El Paso, Texas on August of 2019 was motivated by anti-Latino and anti-immigrant sentiments, harbored by the perpetrator of the shooting. Anti-Hispanic hatred is an inherent part of white supremacy ideology. The shooter claimed the attack was a justified response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas. He eluded to the great replacement, a conspiracy theory central to white nationalist ideology. These racist ideas are not (inaudible) anomaly but rather the most extreme outgrowth of a white supremacist political culture. That racism anti-Hispanic sentiment, anti-Semitism and homophobia remain pressing problems to the United States in a reflective in 2019 hate crime increases.

Congress must find ways to address the relationship between anti-immigrant rhetoric and domestic terrorism to prevent future acts of domestic terrorism. It is also critical for our friends across the aisle to collaborate with Democrats and put -- put people over -- over politics and put -- put all of this terrorism behind us and be about protecting our democracy. Sir, I wanted to ask you the question about the interrelationship and the connectedness of all this and I know much has been said about some of the pro-abortion extremists. But I want to just say that -- that according to -- to the latest reports I've seen, anti-abortion extremists have been responsible for at least 11 murders, 26 attempted murders, 42 bombings, 194 arsons and thousands of incidents of criminal activity directed at abortion providers since 1977, including thousands and thousands of trespassing charges, criminal mischief, vandalism. I mean, the list goes on. It's pages and pages of all of this.

I think it said, 2,024 trespassing charges and it also talks about the connection between the anti-abortion extremists and the January 6th insurrectionists. That they overlap and that one of the convicted arsonists, an anti-abortion extremist live streamed from outside the Capitol on January 6th. Another one was a frequent protester at -- at abortion clinics, entered the Capitol and was later charged and the list goes on. So what is interconnect -- interconnectedness between the -- the extremists? I mean, do they do all acts of terror domestically or -- or is there some that lean more toward hate crimes against Hispanics and blacks and some towards the abortion clinics?

OLSEN: It's -- it's -- it's an interesting question because what we have seen, and the intelligence community has -- has made this assessment that violent extremists are often motivated by a mix of ideologies and don't necessarily fit neatly into one category or another. There's -- they -- they may consume a variety of -- of content, for example, online that feeds into a -- a world view that causes them to become radicalized and ultimately move to violence. But it's sometimes difficult to pinpoint a particular ideology or particular viewpoint, but what I do know from the -- from the data is that individuals who are motivated by racial animus and individuals motivated by anti-government views account for the greatest number of legal attacks in the U.S. in recent years.

But the FBI seeks, when it identifies a case as a domestic violence extremist case to categorize it as one category or another but -- but as my conversations with the experts has -- has suggested to me, it's very difficult in some cases to pinpoint a particular ideology. The fundamental point for us at the Justice Department is that we prosecute acts of violence and threats of violence without regard to ideology or politics.

DEAN: Gentlewoman's time has expired.

GARCIA: Madam Chair, I also ask unanimous consent to enter into the record the 2021 violence and disruption statistics prepared by the National Abortion Federation. Also three articles that I won't read all the titles, but I will -- but they all are related to hate crimes and President Biden's funding of the police and other issues related to this hearing today.

DEAN: Without objection. The gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Bentz is recognized.

BENTZ: Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you Mr. Olsen for being here today. Is the -- is your department purchasing data from third parties and using that data for investigatory purposes?

OLSEN: Sir, the National Security Division, what I lead, does not engage in purchasing data. So the answer to your question in terms of the work that I do is no, we're not involved in purchasing...

BENTZ: What about other aspects -- other agencies, parts of the department?

OLSEN: So, I can't speak across the board an answer to that question Congressman. You know, I can say in general that, you know, in terms of carrying out it's National Security Division. The investigative agencies within the Justice Department, the FBI and others, operate under a series of rules and laws that protect American citizen's privacy...

BENTZ: They're -- they're purchasing data and they're -- they're trying to follow the law while they do it. I've heard and to quote Secretary Mayorkas speaking to the Aspen Security Forum just -- just last week. He said, look, the border is secure. Do you agree the border is -- that our border is secure?

OLSEN: I'm not familiar with his -- his remarks at that conference.

BENTZ: Well, take it from me, I'm quoting. This is his -- this is his remark. I simply want to know if you agree, is our southern border secure.

OLSEN: Sir, I would defer to the secretary of Homeland Security in his judgment on that question.

BENTZ: So that means your department has nothing to do with the border. Is that what you're saying?

OLSEN: We certainly are involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes around the borders of -- of the country, but in terms of the overall border security I...

BENTZ: ... given the incredible number of folks coming across and the number of prosecutions. You perhaps would surmise or maybe guess or hint at, the fact that the southern border is not secure. You wouldn't be down there if it was, is that correct?

OLSEN: We certainly are involved in making sure that individuals who violate Federal law are investigated and prosecuted.

BENTZ: And there's a bunch of them. Let's go -- there's a great deal of hyperbole about what's our greatest threat. We hear a lot about domestic violence, but I've read that the FBI thinks that China's the greatest threat. Who is the greatest threat in your opinion? Or is that -- is that just the wrong way to approach this?

OLSEN: Honestly sir, I -- I think that's probably the wrong question to ask. I think we have a number of significant threats and we need to make sure that our efforts and authorities and resources are aligned, commensurate with the threats we face.

BENTZ: On October 21st, the attorney general appeared before this committee and I asked him if he would please focus on a situation occurring down in my state Oregon, southern Oregon where we've had a very significant number of very, very large, excuse me, extremely wealthy cartels from all around the world, moving into and start raising incredible amounts of marijuana. The numbers are in the billions of dollars retail value, that which is being raised in southern Oregon, and I asked the attorney general if he would please help. If he would please send additional folks to Oregon to try to stop what is -- what's going on and part of it involves the theft of immense amounts of water.

We're in an incredible drought and we have these cartels, people might laugh at that out here where there's nothing but water, but not back where I'm from. And then -- and then the fact that people are carrying AK-47s into grocery stores, the fact that there are people being locked into their homes as cartels move huge amounts of marijuana out of the state. What's your department doing to try to head off this threat?

OLSEN: Sir, I -- I -- what you described sounds extremely concerning. I don't have, obviously, first hand knowledge and, in fact, the National Security Division, you know, typically wouldn't be involved in what -- what you're describing which sounds like a -- what would be handled by our criminal division. In terms of drug or weapons violations, so I would probably have to ask the criminal division or legislation -- legislation affairs office to respond to that question.

BENTZ: I think it's safe to say that the cartels are making billions of dollars and using that in turn to bring in all kinds of drugs that are killing up to upwards of 100,000 people a year. You would think that that would fit within your mission statement which I have right here in front of me, which is to protect the United States, carry out the departments highest priority, protect and defend the United States against the full range of national security threats. This would appear to me to be one. Would you disagree?

OLSEN: I can -- I mean -- I think the way we've divided up responsibility within the Justice Department is that the -- our Federal narcotics laws and weapons laws are by in large enforced by other parts of the Justice Department.

BENTZ: Well, would you be so kind as to reach out to those other parts and tell them that we in Oregon need help, and -- and the situation in my opinion is one that rises to a national level given the fact that that marijuana is being sold right on the streets here in Washington, D.C. And thank you again for being here and look forward to you helping us out here in Oregon.

OLSEN: Understood thank you.

BENTZ: I yield back.

DEAN: The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Stanton is recognized for five minutes.

STANTON: Thank you very much Madam Chair and thank you Mr. Olsen for your service at the Department of Justice, and for answering the committees questions today. Throughout this Congress, this committee has made it priority to examine the Federal government's surveillance and data collection practices, and protecting the due process rights of all Americans has been paramount in our work. One particular area of concern has been the DOJ's use of non-disclosure orders or NDOs. These court ordered NDOs prevent technology service providers like Google, Apple or Verizon from notifying their customers that the government has seized their personal records or emails from the provider.

And during a hearing before this committee in June of last year, executives from some of our nation's largest tech companies testified that they received thousands of these NDOs from the DOJ every year. In fact, leaders from Microsoft indicated that they receive seven to 10 of these gag orders every single day. While the use of these secrecy orders may be justifiable on national security merits, the volume and frequency with which the NDOs are utilized raises concerns about their misuse or their overuse. And the fact that journalists and members of Congress were swept up in investigations involving NDOs, potentially implicating First Amendment liberties and separation of powers, calls for additional scrutiny into these processes. In response I joined a bipartisan group of my colleagues from this committee in introducing the NDO Fairness Act to provide more guardrails around the use of NDOs.

Including by raising the legal standard to a strict scrutiny analysis, establishing a 30 day limit on NDOs effectiveness requiring notice be given to customers 72 hours after the expiration of the NDO, and allowing providers to contest the gag orders in court. I was please that this much oversight bill passed through the House of Representatives in June, I hope the Senate will take it up very soon. So Mr. Olsen, I'd like to ask you some questions about 18 USC 2705(b) and the DOJ's use of the NDOs. Prior to this committee's examination of the issue in subsequent passage of the NDO Fairness Act, had the department considered changing 2705(b) policies to prevent the overuse of gag orders by DOJ prosecutors?

OLSEN: Mr. Congressman, I'm not aware of prior policy or consideration around the -- the use of non-disclosure orders and if I may, I can tell you that as a former Federal prosecutor they -- they can be, non-disclosure orders, can be an appropriate and important part of a criminal investigation. To preserve the integrity of the investigation, they are subject to constraints. Time limits, they must be issued by a judge. They typically would only be appropriate in cases where we are seeking to protect someone's life or to protect against the destruction of evidence. I am aware that there are concerns about their over use. I'm aware of those concerns and because they do impose restrictions on third parties, but I do think there are constraints that apply to their use.

STANTON: On May 27th 2022, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco released a memo providing a prosecutorial clarity on 270(b) (sic) procedures. The memo includes reminders that, quote, "A protective order should be sought only after a prosecutor in a case in fact specific analysis" unquote, and, quote, "A prosecutor must provide a court with -- with sufficient facts to permit the court to conduct the same case in fact specific analysis," unquote. Why do you believe DOJ prosecutors were required to have this reminder?

OLSEN: I -- I'm not exactly sure what was the reason for the deputy attorney general's memo, but I do -- I do find the -- the language you read to be appropriate and consistent with my experience that non-disclosure orders should be issued only based on the particular facts. In a -- in a case where such an order would be justified, again, to protect against, you know, danger to a -- a witness for example or to the -- against the destruction of evidence.

STANTON: In June 2021, executives from tech companies and communications providers testified to this committee that there was merely a, quote, "rubber stamp process," unquote, for obtaining these gag orders in court. Have DOJ prosecutors been treating 2705(b) requests as rubber stamp process, as the providers allege?

OLSEN: Sir, I can't speak generally to how prosecutors around the country are using those orders. I -- I do agree very much with the -- the -- the policy from the deputy attorney general that they should be viewed and used only on a case by case basis, where the circumstances warrant.

STANTON: OK. Last thing Mr. Olsen, will you commit to conducting a review of the National Security Division's usage of 2705(b) order?

OLSEN: So, if I may I would like to consider how we would respond to that question and get back to you.

STANTON: OK. Look forward to hearing your response soon. Thank you. I yield back.

DEAN: The gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Fitzgerald is recognized for five minutes.

FITZGERALD: Thank you Madam Chair. Mr. Olsen, in your opening statement, it kind of surprised me that you called the January 6th investigation the largest in the history of the National Security Division. I'm -- I'm just surprised that you led with that in your opening statement. Would you again, state for the record what you're investigating as a division and the scope of the investigation?

OLSEN: Sir, with respect to January 6th, in particular?

FITZGERALD: Yes.

OLSEN: I mean, the reason I said the -- that -- that investigation stands apart as the largest domestic terrorism investigation in U.S. history. The FBI has characterized that investigation and opened as a domestic terrorism investigation. It is as the attorney general has said, the most wide-ranging investigation in U.S. history. The numbers speak for themselves, over 850 people have been arrested. Many, if not most of those for felonies. It -- it includes serious charges, very serious charges involving assault on police officers, obstruction of Congress, seditious conspiracy. So the -- it has touched on every state, in terms of the FBI field offices in every state, in terms of the U.S. attorneys offices around the country that are involved. So by several measures, in scale and significance, the significance being that it involved an effort to prevent the peaceful transfer of power, which is one of the pillars of our democracy. By all of those measures, I feel justified in describing it as a -- as a -- as an investigation that stands apart in our history.

FITZGERALD: So you yourself, said the division investigates, quote, "threats of violence." What threats was the division -- division aware of on the days that led up to January 6th?

OLSEN: So, I -- I think there's, you know, I -- I don't know exactly how to respond to the question of what threats the National Security Division of aware of, because I wasn't at the National Security Division at the time. I came into the office later. I do think there was information...

FITZGERALD: You're aware of what the investigation includes at this point I'm sure. Right?

OLSEN: Absolutely. Again, we're working on that case in partnership with the...

FITZGERALD: Would you say that DOJ and the FBI failed to anticipate the threats of January 6th or failed to prepare for the threat?

OLSEN: I think the -- the level of violence speaks for itself. You know, I think we always want to learn to do better when it comes to anticipating something that, I think we didn't necessarily anticipate in terms of the level of violence that occurred in -- in -- in the run-up to January 6th. So we always need to continue to learn from that.

FITZGERALD: Yes, do better might be soft-selling it here. Has there been any coordination between the DOJ and the House of Representatives January 6th committee?

OLSEN: I'm aware of our request from the Department of Justice for access to transcripts from the select committee. But other than that, the answer is no there -- these are two separate investigations. One by Congress and -- and another by a co-equal branch of government, that's the Executive Branch and both of us have a job to do and they're different and we're continuing to do that.

FITZGERALD: There are news reports stating that DOJ is considering more charges related to January 6th. But rather than violent acts these charges are based on speech or verbal communications rather than any of the violence or the threats that were experienced on that day. Is -- is this accurate? Is this actually happening as we sit here today?

OLSEN: So, the Department of Justice does not conduct its investigations in public and that's for a couple reasons. One is to protect those who may be within the scope of the investigation or with those that may be ultimately accused as well to protect the integrity of the investigation. So I'm not going to talk about the -- the trajectory or the direction of -- of the ongoing investigation into the events of January 6th and the days leading up to it.

FITZGERALD: Well, you made some comments earlier based on questions asked by Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Raskin that -- that were, you know, inside what you're actually investigating. That's why I just asked it. Let me just move on. Is what Speaker Pelosi knew regarding potential threats in her preparations or lack thereof, something that is off the table or is that something that could be investigated as well by DOJ?

OLSEN: So again, I'm not going to discuss anything about that ongoing investigation. What I can tell you is, it's our obligation at the Justice Department to uphold the rule of law, the rule of law is what distinguishes us from dictatorships and autocracies. An essential tenant of the rule of law is that no one, no matter their status, is above the law and we will continue to pursue the facts and the evidence and apply the law in the course of our investigation of the January 6th attack.

FITZGERALD: In my final 30 seconds, I just like to go back to my colleague from Rhode Island, pointing out that President Biden's DOJ has endorsed the American Online Innovation and Choice Act. Even after the revisions, several national security officials have raised concerns that the bill could limit U.S. tech companies ability to fight cyber threats and other national security risks. Are you aware if the Department of Defense or any intelligence agencies outside the DOJ were consulted prior to acting assisting attorney general. One, sending the letters of support on the American Online Innovation and Choice Act?

OLSEN: It would be normal order for legislation to go through a process that involved a number of different departments and agencies. I know that we were consulted and I know that also when the Department of Justice came out in favor of that legislation, and that national security risks we felt in the National Security Division were addressed by the legislation in the -- in the particular changes that were adopted.

DEAN: Gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize myself for five minutes. Assistant Attorney General Olsen, thank you very much for your service to our country and of course for your testimony here today. As you shared in your testimony, you, in part, are tasked with addressing the most pressing -- pressing national security issues of the day. And I believe that the online and microphone vitriol that so commonly targets women and girls is a most troubling issue. For example, in Uvalde, there were so many signs while the Uvalde shooting, the deadliest school shooting in a decade came as a shock to the nation. Girls and women who talked with the murderer, who's name I will not keep saying. Online, they saw the signs. The women described him as cryptic, demeaning, scary. After he sent angry messages and photos of guns, when the women didn't respond how he wanted he sometimes threatened to rape or kidnap them.

Then laughed it off as a joke, I don't think rape is funny. I don't think threats of kidnapping are funny. This man had a public digital footprint available months before he killed, slaughtered, massacred 19 children and two of their teachers. He had a history, an online profile of harassment and violent threats, and some members of this very committee choose to stand in public and use the microphone with misogynistic statements as recently as this weekend. So how can an 18 year old, who shared so much hate online, going back to the shooter now to these girls do so without punishment or raising an alarm. What can your division tell us?

OLSEN: Well, let me say first of all, I share your outrage at the unspeakable tragedy that occurred in Uvalde and unfortunately has occurred too often in other parts of our country. The challenge that I think we face, as a country, in particular law enforcement faces is that individuals who may have mental illnesses or may otherwise be easily persuaded by the availability of online content, are able to radicalize often by themselves or in small groups. It's very hard for law enforcement to see that before it happens. In fact, I think we rely very much on families, educators, communities to be able to report that information to law enforcement so there is an opportunity to intervene.

But again, we've seen too often that that has not happened. You combine that fact with the fact that individuals in this country have access to military grade weapons and that they are typically choosing to attack vulnerable locations like schools, shopping malls. And you have a series of factors that contribute to very dangerous situation that unfortunately we've seen play out over and over again has resulted in mass shootings and tragedies like we saw in Uvalde.

DEAN: Can I ask you, has your department, noticed, collected data to show an increase in the rise of terrorism and violence inspired by misogyny?

OLSEN: I can't say that I can point to misogyny as a particular viewpoint that has -- that is a theme or a thread that I can see throughout the -- the data. Certainly, what we do know, I think supports your perspective that it can be a range of viewpoints, some of it informed by hatred of people from certain countries, or of certain races, mixed with, you know, viewpoints that are hard to understand. But it's a mix of ideologies that often contributes to an individuals radicalization and ultimately taking steps to carry out acts of violence.

DEAN: I appreciate that and I would say the shooter, of course, was not in a position of power. But those in a position of power, I think have an obligation to use their words very carefully so as not to inspire others to attack women or to mock women. I want to go real quickly if I may to Philadelphia. My home city, I'm from suburban Philadelphia. The most recent data from 2020 details 63 people were reported as victims of hate crimes. A 320 percent increase from 2019, less we forget we are still trying to find all the extremists who storm the Capitol. I thank you for your efforts in that and I think any member of Congress and anyone who has any evidence who's coming forward with that detail. Can you talk about the increase, maybe even specific to my city, maybe not, but the increase in hate crimes across the country?

OLSEN: Yes, and -- and what we have seen is many of the acts that we characterize as domestic terrorism are also hate crimes. Buffalo being the most significant, recent example. That case is being prosecuted as a hate crime, that individual was motivated by racial -- racism. The -- there are other matters, there are hate crimes that aren't necessarily acts of domestic terrorism and those hate crimes are prosecuted by our civil rights division which has a whole section of criminal prosecutors devoted to prosecuting violations of civil rights, in particular hate crimes. And so, I -- I -- I guess I would refer your question to us to take back and we can bring back more information about hate crimes in particular.

DEAN: I appreciate that. I apologize I went over. Mr. Tiffany you are recognized for five minutes.

TIFFANY: Yes. Thank you. I'll be interested if your son wants to get a job in the National Security Division when he reached adulthood. You commented about the rule of law sets us apart, and it's great concern that my constituents have -- many of them come up to me now, average people, good citizens of America and they say, why do we have a two tier justice system in America. And one of those -- part of the reason they say that is Russia collusion proved to be the biggest hoax perhaps in the history of the United States. Do you think it's acceptable to have an executive law enforcement agency actively engage in sabotaging a political candidate? Think Comey, Strzok, Paige, McCabe.

OLSEN: The Justice Department, it's been my experience having been there for 20 years, 18 years, almost 20 years of -- of time as a career prosecutor and attorney. That in every case, we prosecute cases based on the facts and the law and there's not a motivation evolving politics or ideology.

TIFFANY: We know what the truth is now. That it was a hoax. Does that embarrass you as someone who has served in this position of great trust of the American people. Does that embarrass you that you had four people in upper leadership, (inaudible) with leadership, does that embarrass you that we had those people in that position?

OLSEN: As -- as a career prosecutor, my experience consistently -- consistently has been that we take action based on facts, evidence and the law and we do not act in the Justice Department based on ideology or politics.

TIFFANY: The department, clearly they did. The department appointed Susan Hennessey to a senior position with the National Security Division. She's been outspoken and partisan critic. For example, she extensively commented on the FBI investigation into the allegation that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia during which she, quote, "relentlessly hyped Russian collusion allegations." Ms. Hennessey vouched that Christopher Steele, author of the dossier, filled with political opposition research and Russian disinformation, was a person who's work intelligence professionals take seriously. Are you aware of that statement by Ms. Hennessey?

OLSEN: So, I'm -- I'm not going to comment on any members of the workforce...

TIFFANY: Ms. Hennessey was also a vocal critic of the U.S. Attorney's John Durham's investigation into the targeting of the Trump campaign and transition team. Even calling the investigation partisan silliness, are you aware of that statement?

OLSEN: So, I'm not going to comment about any of the particular...

TIFFANY: She works for you. Are you aware of that statement?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment on the work of anyone in my division in particular. What I can tell you is that I hold everyone to the highest standards of legal capability and ethics and I include Ms. Hennessey...

TIFFANY: OK. You bring up the issue of ethics. Do you agree that because this investigation is ongoing and in her new role Ms. Hennessey (inaudible) her supervisory functions over this investigation, her previous statements serious undercuts any perception of impartiality?

OLSEN: It's my responsibility as the head of the National Security Division to ensure that everyone in the division follows the rules and those include the rules of ethics and I will -- and I'm confident that. And I'm also confident that...

TIFFANY: Ms. Hennessey deleted tens of thousands of statements on her Twitter account prior to announcing her new position working for your division. Are you aware of that?

OLSEN: I'm absolutely confident in the capabilities and the integrity of Ms. Hennessey.

TIFFANY: Do you agree that erasing her past controversial statements about national security matters and hide her political bias raises concerns about a department employee? I mean would you be concerned -- take Ms. Hennessey's name off -- off from the conversation here and it is a generic person. Would that concern you as someone hiring these people?

OLSEN: I'm confident...

TIFFANY: Tens of thousands of Twitter posts that are anti -- anti-president?

OLSEN: I'm confident in the integrity of the workforce at the National Security Division. I was there when we started the National Security Division in 2006. I spent three years as a senior career official there. I returned there in 2021. I have utmost confidence in the excellence and the integrity of that workforce.

TIFFANY: So you're not going to remove her. Has Ms. Hennessey recused herself from the Durham investigation?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment on any particular member...

TIFFANY: Has Ms. Hennessey received authorization to access any aspect of the Durham investigation?

OLSEN: Not going to comment on any particular members of my workforce as I will repeat. I have the utmost confidence in the overall integrity...

TIFFANY: So can we find out as -- as an oversight authority in the Congress of the United States, can we find out if she is exercising that authority? You're not going to tell me here today. Do I have a way to be able to find out if she's going to squelch the Durham investigation?

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment on specific members of the workforce. I can tell you I have the utmost confidence in every single person who works within the National Security Division.

DEAN: Gentleman's time has expired. The chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Ms. Ross. You've got five minutes.

ROSS: Thank you Madam Chair and thank you Attorney General Olsen for joining us today. I'm going to shift focus and ask you to answer some questions about cybersecurity that you haven't been asked yet. In North Carolina, our attorney general recently announced that 2021 saw a record number of reported data breaches, which have effected more than 2.4 million North Carolinians. My district has felt the impact ransomware attacks on a multi-state infrastructure operation cause, such as the 2021 attack on the Colonial Pipe -- Pipeline. Following this attack, more than 70 percent of Raleigh gas stations ran out of fuel, leaving my constituents with limited transit options. As you know, Colonial Pipeline paid a ransom to get its systems back online. In June 2021, DOJ directed Federal prosecutors to coordinate ransomware investigations with the new Ransomware and Digital Taskforce.

Soon after, DOJ was able to work with the IRS and the ports to call back \$2.3 million of a \$4.4 million ransom payment paid by Colonial Pipeline to a group using Dark Side ransomware. While this attack was heralded as a great success, no similar actions that we know of have been taken in the intervening years since that success. Is the Colonial Pipeline operation indicative of a new strategy of interagency assistance on behalf of the U.S. government, or was it just a one off situation because of -- of how great the impact was?

OLSEN: I -- I do think the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack was -- constituted a bit of a wake-up call because of the nature of the attack on a portion of our critical infrastructure Congresswoman. It -- we are engaged in the Justice Department in a concerted effort to -- to address the challenge of ransomware which has increased significantly in the past several years. But, you know, what we see is cyber attacks as I think you -- you -- you appreciate, that -- that span the -- the range of threats to our national security from ransomware to efforts to steal our -- our secret information to efforts to steal our -- our trade secrets, efforts to interfere with our political process through disinformation, and even efforts to -- to debilitate our critical infrastructure. So cyber enabled attacks across the board are a significant concern. In the National Security Division, particularly focus on those attacks that emanate from nation states and for that we are most concerned about China and Russia and also Iran and North Korea.

ROSS: Well, in addition to the nation states, we do have these rogue actors sometimes encouraged or enabled by nation states. And because of the nature of block chain payments, when the recipient of the block -- of the payment is anonymous, the trail of payment is -- could be easier to follow. Why is it difficult to simply intercept all cryptocurrency payments made to ransomware gangs?

OLSEN: So I appreciate very much, you have -- you seem to have a deep understanding of this challenge. And -- and for one, I -- I totally agree that in some cases it's hard to discern and -- and or -- distinguish between criminal groups and nation states because of the ways in which certain nations might enable or support the work of criminal hacking groups. When it comes to the recovery of crypto payments for ransomware, the challenge there is that these groups are, you know, by nature seek to hide -- hide their steps and it can make it difficult to identify the movement of -- of money that's paid in ransom. I -- I would note that we did announce, the department announced last year, about a year ago, that we have seized 85 percent of the bitcoins that Colonial Pipeline had paid as a ransom to the hacking group Dark Side.

And we were able to track it and recover that significant portion of that in that case, but that's not always going to be true because these group, again, by their nature seek to hide their tracks.

ROSS: Thank you Madam Chair and I yield back.

DEAN: The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman from Utah, Mr. Owens is recognized for five minutes.

OWENS: Thank you Madam Chair. I yield my time to the gentleman from Ohio, Ranking Member Jordan.

JORDAN: Thank -- I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Olsen, what's the number of DOJ employees who have access to 702 FISA acquired data?

OLSEN: I don't know the exact number and I -- and I -- and it's important to note when I -- I -- I assume your question includes the FBI as DOJ employees. Because primarily that's department -- that's FBI agents and analysts who have access to that data. But I don't have the exact number for you, sir.

JORDAN: Give me -- give an estimate of who can query that database?

OLSEN: Again, I don't have a number, even an estimate on the numbers.

What I can tell you is that every single (inaudible) that can query the 702 database has to be trained and certified in order to have access to that data.

JORDAN: When we got a briefing on December 2nd of last year, Melissa MacTough I think works in your division, told us it could be as high as 10,000 people and we were, like, shocked. We didn't expect it to be one but we certainly didn't expect it to be thousands. So as the head of the National Security Division, she works for you. She's a lawyer in the National Security Division. She told us it could be -- she was one of the briefers, the attorneys there. I don't know if she's the one that said it but she was in the briefing. We, kind of like, know what -- what that number really is because we're getting ready to -- we've got a FISA reauthorization coming up soon and I think this thing has all kinds of problems. So, you sure you don't have an estimate?

OLSEN: I don't although if that was the number that was given to you during that briefing. I'm aware of that briefing that you received and -- and to get a readout from that briefing. I -- so I'm assuming that was accurate.

JORDAN: It's frightening -- it's frightening if it's that high. It truly is. One of the questions we got today was from the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Biggs and he asked you the 42 individuals that the Homeland Security has identified, illegal migrants coming across the border who are on the terrorist watch list. He asked you a question, does ICE inform you as the head of the National Security Division about that information when they get it? And you indicated you didn't know, is that right?

OLSEN: Well, I think is question was about CBP not ICE but it was about whether that information flowed to the National Security Division. And my response is that information, I -- I would assume if it's threat information it would go to the FBI, which is the investigative arm that would have -- potentially have authority to -- to investigate...

JORDAN: By definition it would be threat, I mean, there's on the national -- they're on the terrorism watch list. So, I mean, it would be going straight to you from -- from ICE or -- or Custom and Borders but I think it would go straight to you. I'm just...

OLSEN: We're the lawyers -- we're the lawyers that prosecute these cases but we certainly do work hand-in-hand with the FBI. And if that information came to the FBI and there was a basis to open an -- an investigation, we would be the lawyers that would be involved in working with the FBI and investigating and...

JORDAN: I understand -- I understand what's supposed to happen. I'm asking, is it -- is it happening and when -- and frankly when you couple that with the response that we got from Secretary Mayorkas that day when asking what's the status of these folks. He sat right where you sit and testified and his answer was I don't know. So he didn't know the status of those when he came in front of the judiciary committee, even though it had been widely reported in the press. And what you're saying is that you don't know if it actually gets that -- that information gets to the National Security Division. I think -- I find that troubling.

I'm going to yield remaining two minutes to my friend from Florida, if that's all right.

GAETZ: Did anyone at the National Security Division encourage L3 to purchase Pegasus?

OLSEN: So I -- I'm not aware of, you know, anything about that matter. So I -- I don't know...

GAETZ: Oh you are, because people who work with you have come and briefed us on it. And I'm citing, of course here, the New York Times article, defense firm said U.S. spies backed it's bid for Pegasus software maker -- spy ware. So Pegasus is the most exquisite spying software in the world. It's zero (inaudible). It can get at people's phones. It's been used to target politicians, journalists, dissidents in some places and here you have L3 saying that they were encouraged to go buy it from the national security apparatus. It's very important under oath for you to tell me whether any of those people were at the National Security Division.

OLSEN: You know, I'm sure you can appreciate. I don't have any information about the public reporting. I'm aware of public reporting relating to that, but I don't have any other information.

GAETZ: No, so what you're saying -- is that a yes or is that a no? Because we'll find out eventually.

OLSEN: I'm not going to comment any further.

GAETZ: Wait a second, whether or not our own government used a private company as a cut-out to go buy spying software that deprives people's rights, and what you're saying I'm not going to get a yes out of you and I'm not going to get a no out of you because you're just not going to tell -- you don't think the American people deserve to know that?

OLSEN: I'm just not aware the facts that you're asserting.

GAETZ: You know what Pegasus...

OLSEN: I'm not aware of the facts that you're asserting.

GAETZ: You know what Pegasus is?

OLSEN: Yes, I've -- I've definitely heard of it.

GAETZ: So you should be able to tell me about anyone who -- who works at the National Security Division was out there trying to goose some private company to go buy it for you guys to use. Did you or did you not?

OLSEN: So, I'm not aware of any facts that relate to the -- your question.

GAETZ: I think you are.

DEAN: Mr. Owens time has expired. The gentleman from Florida Mr. Gaetz is now recognized for five minutes.

GAETZ: There is a secret at the Perkins Law Firm that is maintained by the Department of Justice. Has any information flowed through that secret workspace to the National Security Division?

OLSEN: I'm not familiar with the -- the premise of your question. In other words, I'm not familiar with the facts that you've (inaudible) in your question.

GAETZ: So -- so are you -- so you're not aware of the workspace that the Department of Justice maintains at the Perkins Law Firm.

OLSEN: Correct.

GAETZ: And you're not -- and you can't tell me whether or not the National Security Division has ever received information that has flown through the law firm that is functionally the legal wing of the Democratic party.

OLSEN: Correct.

GAETZ: And -- I -- I just keep going back to the plausible deniability from the Biden family and speaking of the Biden family, since our last conversation, Mr. Olsen, a -- a remarkable piece came out in Fox News entitled Joe Biden met with at least 14 of Hunter's business associates while Vice-President. Now, I -- I know you're not going to answer any question about Hunter Biden with the ongoing investigation answer that you've given me previously, but is Joe Biden compromised?

OLSEN: So I should be clear, you know, I'm not going to comment on that question because I do not comment on any matter that may or may not be a matter of -- of investigation. To the extent my comment previously were construed as confirming an investigation, that would be a mistake. I'm neither confirming an investigation nor -- nor -- and nor am I denying an investigation. I'm simply saying -- I'm not commenting on any potential investigation.

GAETZ: Do you think the American people deserve to know whether or not the First Family is compromised?

OLSEN: We speak through our filings in court at the Justice Department. We do not make allegations without going to court...

GAETZ: You know, yesterday, you all spoke through some leaks. Right? Recently you had Lester Holt interviewing Attorney General Garland and Lester Holt asked him a lot of questions about whether or not President Trump was being investigated for January 6th. And just like you, AG Garland was, you know, repeating the premises of prosecutorial pathways and then low and behold the same day, you -- the Department of Justice didn't speak dirty (ph) filings. They went and leaked to the Washington Post they're investigating President Trump. So it seems like when it's the Biden family, you all are all buttoned up with all of your propriety about not -- not talking about these things. But when it's a Republican, when it's President Trump, you all love to go have your authorized leaks. Here's my question to you. Are you aware of an authorize leak the Washington Post the same day as AG Garland sat down with Lester Holt?

OLSEN: No.

GAETZ: And -- and -- and you think as you sit here, as the representative of the National Security Division before the House Judiciary Committee, that we aren't owed an answer as to whether or not the Biden family is compromised? (Inaudible) -- we deserve that.

OLSEN: We speak through our filings in court and that's part of the rule of law. It's designed to protect the rights of anyone who may be accused and it's designed to protect the integrity of investigation as a central pillar of the Justice Department...

GAETZ: It's one you violate all the time. I mean, even Mr. Horowitz, the Obama appointed Inspector General has given us report after report of what Department of Justice employees are off getting tickets to baseball games and fancy dinners with the reporters in exchange for giving them information. So can you at least acknowledge that you don't live up to that pillar with -- with great precision?

OLSEN: We speak through what we say in court. We protect the integrity of our investigation...

GAETZ: What you say in court -- what you say to the Washington Post, what Jim Comey leaks to his professor buddy, what's -- what's, kind of, said between, you know, people at a baseball game where you guys are getting special treats and special treatment from the media. I mean, and so -- like -- on, you see the political bias. We are living in a time where the American people have the lowest perception and belief in the integrity of the Justice Department since your inception. And it's not because we're asking tough questions, it's because you sit here and stonewall us and don't give us answers. I mean, just in this series of questions, you won't tell me whether or not our own government was out there trying to operate through a cut-out to buy software that spies on Americans illegally and improperly.

You won't tell me whether or not the legal wing of the Democratic party was passing you information that was actually opposition research, then to be recategorized and repackaged as national security information, and you won't tell me whether the president of the United States is compromised, when we know he's lying. I mean, like -- like, Joe Biden came out and said repeatedly that he never talked to Hunter Biden about business, and here you have 14 documented meetings. So, like, are you guys ever going to investigate this or is it just going to be -- is it just going to be what Mr. (Inaudible) said, what Mr. Grassley said and that is that you guys are basically political skills.

Look, this is what Mr. Grassley said. If these allegations are true and accurate, the Justice Department and FBI are and have been institutionally to their very core to the point of which the United States Congress and the American people who have no confidence in the equal application of the law. Can't you see that's -- that's what your behavior is continuing to -- to just metastasize?

OLSEN: So we don't conduct our investigations in public and we don't...

GAETZ: You leaked them to try to smear people.

DEAN: The gentleman's time has expired. You may answer the question.

OLSEN: We take care the assertions we make about facts are based on facts and evidence and are not reckless and false.

(CROSSTALK)

DEAN: The gentleman's time has expired.

GAETZ: You're refusing not to investigate it because it's the Bidens.

DEAN: The gentleman's time has expired.

OLSEN: We take care to make sure that our assertions and we make in court are based on the facts and the truth and in the pursuit of justice. That's our solemn obligation and that's one that I'm...

GAETZ: Plausible deniability. Plausible deniability.

DEAN: Mr. Olsen, please turn your mic off.

OLSEN: Basing our investigations on the facts and the law in the pursuit of justice is our solemn obligation. It's one I take seriously and it's one I have taken seriously for over 20 years. I continue to oversee the National Security Division that we will continue to do that.

DEAN: This concludes today's hearing. Thank (ph) Mr. Olsen and your entire team of public servants for your faithful service to our country in the pursuit of the rule of law and pursuit of justice.

JORDAN: Good job, Matt.

DEAN: Without objection, members will have five legislative days to submit additional written questions for the witness or additional materials for the record.

Without objection, the hearing is adjourned.

END

Jul 29, 2022 09:58 ET .EOF

From: Davis, Va orie A (OLP)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
To: OLP-ALL (JMD)
Sent: August 4, 2022 8:18 AM (UTC-04:00)

Good morning,

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
August 4, 2022
8:18AM EST**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: AUGUST 4, 2022

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 9:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Executive Business Meeting.
- 10:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Reuters: **U.S. Justice to seek to dismiss Texas lawsuit against guidance on emergency care law**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:27 PM

The U.S. Justice Department plans to file a motion to dismiss a Texas lawsuit challenging guidance from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department on an emergency care law known as EMTALA, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **EXPLAINER: Does health care law protect emergency abortion?**, Lindsay Whitehurst, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

The Biden administration has filed its first legal challenge to a state abortion ban since the end of *Roe v. Wade*, arguing Idaho's restrictive abortion law leaves doctors facing criminal penalties for providing abortion-related medical care to women in life-threatening medical situations. The Justice Department may have a strong argument in the Idaho case filed under federal health care law, but even if they win it wouldn't allow full access to abortion there, legal experts said. It could, though, give doctors more latitude to provide an abortion in an emergency or a situation that could become one. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: **A Focus on Victims' Rights Leads to Investor Payouts in Credit Suisse Case**, Dylan Tokar, August 4, 2022, 5:30 AM

When the U.S. Justice Department said earlier this year it would place an increased emphasis on compensating the victims of white-collar crime, lawyers for Credit Suisse Group AG had already taken steps to ensure their client was complying with the new policy. The Swiss bank in October signed a deal with U.S. and U.K. authorities to resolve investigations into a \$2 billion fraud and money-laundering scheme centered on a tuna-fishing project in Mozambique. As part of that agreement, the bank agreed to pay restitution to a group of investment firms, pension funds and money managers that helped finance the project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Guardian: **[OPINION] Time is running out. The Department of Justice must indict and convict Trump**, Laurence H Tribe and Dennis Aftergut, August 4, 2022, 6:22 AM

On Tuesday CNN reported that key January 6 texts have been erased by officials of Donald Trump's defense department in addition to homeland security and the Secret Service. Not even a clueless Hamlet could avoid smelling "something rotten in the state of Denmark". With the growing list of deletions, there is a whole new criminal conspiracy to investigate: one to destroy evidence of the grave federal crimes already under investigation. Nothing so focuses the prosecutorial mind or underscores the need to accelerate a criminal investigation as evidence that the investigation's target may have plotted to erase the proof of his wrongdoing that is needed to hold him accountable. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR: **[AUDIO] Justice Department files a lawsuit against Idaho's restrictive abortion law**, Carrie Johnson, August 4, 2022, 5:12 AM

In its first legal challenge over reproductive rights since *Roe v Wade* was overturned, the Justice Department is suing Idaho over a near total abortion ban. [[Listen](#)]

Guardian: **Justice department urged to investigate deletion of January 6 texts by Pentagon**, Martin Pengelly, August 3, 2022, 9:00 PM

The US attorney general, Merrick Garland, has been asked to investigate yet another deletion of text messages and other communications by senior officials on 6 January 2021, this time by the Pentagon. American Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog group, revealed the shock deletion on Tuesday, having discovered it through freedom of information requests to the Department of Defense. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: **Lawmakers spar over Justice Department priorities during hearing on threats against election workers**, Kerry Pickett, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee sparred Wednesday over the Justice

Department's priorities during a hearing on the Biden administration's efforts to protect election workers from harassment and threats in the wake of the 2020 presidential election. Republicans including Sen. Mike Lee of Utah said a Justice task force has little to show for its investigations spurred by voter anger over the election, while failing to devote similar resources to protecting conservative Supreme Court justices from demonstrators. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

WWLP-NBC/CW (Springfield, MA): **New hotline available for Massachusetts residents to report hate crimes**, Nick DeGray, August 3, 2022, 6:47 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday a new hotline for Massachusetts residents to report hate-based incidents. Residents can call 1-83-END-H8-NOW (1-833-634-8669) and are encouraged to leave their contact information but may also remain anonymous. The hotline is available in English, Spanish, Cantonese and French at this time. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Massachusetts\)](#), [WCVB-ABC \(Boston, MA\)](#)

WTOV-NBC/Fox (Steubenville, OH): **Federal indictments returned, leaders praise community, ask for continued help**, Gianna Dapra, August 3, 2022, 3:20 PM

U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld held a news conference on Wednesday to discuss significance of drug and firearm cases in the area. Ihlenfeld and local law enforcement from Ohio County, Wheeling Police, Belmont County, and Pennsylvania State Troopers were on hand to talk about four recent federal grand jury indictments. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: **[ANALYSIS] Beyond yachts and planes - U.S. turns to foreign agent laws to curb Russian influence**, Luc Cohen, August 4, 2022, 6:13 AM

In the five months since the U.S. Department of Justice launched a task force to seize Russian oligarchs' assets to pressure Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, prosecutors also have targeted something less tangible: Russia's influence. Prosecutors in that period have charged five Russians with acting on the Kremlin's behalf without registering as foreign agents, as the Justice Department broadly ramps up enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) and a related law known by its code number, 951. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **Federal gun charges for 2 accused of plotting July 4 attack**, Denise Lavoie, August 3, 2022, 10:00 PM

A judge dismissed state gun charges Wednesday against two men who police said planned a Fourth of July mass shooting in Virginia's capital after charges were filed against the men in federal court. Neither man has been charged specifically with planning a mass shooting. Julio Alvarado-Dubon and Rolman Balcarcel-Bavagas, both Guatemalan immigrants, were charged in state court last month with possession of a firearm by a non-U.S. citizen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **U.S. Homeland Security watchdog broke ethics rules in previous job, report says**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 9:25 PM

U.S. Homeland Security Department Inspector General Joseph Cuffari, who has been embroiled in controversy over the investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, violated ethics rules in a previous government job, according to a Justice Department report issued in 2013. Cuffari was investigated by the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) when he served as a special agent in the OIG's Tucson office. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: **Chicago-area July 4 parade attack suspect pleads not guilty**, Kathleen Foody and Michael

Tarm, August 3, 2022, 6:00 PM

The man accused of killing seven people and wounding dozens more in a shooting at an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago pleaded not guilty on Wednesday, a week after prosecutors announced he faces 117 felony counts in the attack. Robert E. Crimo III appeared for a brief hearing Wednesday in Lake County's circuit court to enter a formal plea to the charges — 21 counts of first-degree murder, 48 counts of attempted murder and 48 counts of aggravated battery representing those killed and wounded during the parade in Highland Park. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Reuters](#)

WaPo: Homeland Security watchdog previously accused of misleading investigators, report says, Lisa Rein, Carol D. Leonnig and Maria Sacchetti, August 3, 2022, 11:41 PM

The Homeland Security watchdog now under scrutiny for his handling of deleted Secret Service text messages from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol previously was accused of misleading federal investigators and running "afoul" of ethics regulations while he was in charge of a Justice Department inspector general field office in Tucson, according to a newly disclosed government report. In the 2013 report from the Justice Department's inspector general, which was never publicly released, investigators said they did "not believe" Joseph V. Cuffari's explanation for why he failed to inform his supervisors — against federal rules — about his testimony in a lawsuit brought by a federal prisoner. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Man accused of leaving loaded gun on Capitol grounds during Jan. 6 riot, Rachel Weiner, August 3, 2022, 7:13 PM

A Missouri man left a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, according to prosecutors. Jerod Thomas Bargar, 36, of Centralia, Mo., was arrested Wednesday; he is one of a small group of people accused of illegally carrying guns during the riot that forced a delay in certifying the results of the 2020 election. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOMU-NBC/CW \(Columbia, MO\)](#), [KRCG-CBS \(Jefferson City, MO\)](#)

NYT: Trump Lawyer Proposed Challenging Georgia Senate Elections in Search of Fraud, Maggie Haberman and Luke Broadwater, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

John Eastman, the conservative lawyer whose plan to block congressional certification of the 2020 election failed in spectacular fashion on Jan. 6, 2021, sent an email two weeks later arguing that pro-Trump forces should sue to keep searching for the supposed election fraud he acknowledged they had failed to find. On Jan. 20, 2021, hours after President Biden's inauguration, Mr. Eastman emailed Rudolph W. Giuliani, former President Donald J. Trump's personal lawyer, proposing that they challenge the outcome of the runoff elections in Georgia for two Senate seats that had been won on Jan. 5 by Democrats. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Yahoo: Exclusive: Trump allies launch effort to recall Fulton County DA Fani Willis, Michael Isikoff, August 3, 2022, 5:43 PM

Donald Trump's allies in Georgia are mounting a campaign to recall Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis over her investigation into the then president's attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election and are seeking to recruit high-dollar donors to fund it, according to sources familiar with the effort. The organizers of the campaign concede that the obstacles to a successful recall in Georgia are high, making the chances of getting a recall vote on the ballot before Willis makes her decision on whether to indict Trump and his associates remote at best. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR: The U.S. has sanctioned Vladimir Putin's long-rumored romantic partner, Jason Breslow, August 3, 2022, 5:06 PM

The U.S. has brought sanctions against the former Olympic gymnast who is long-rumored to be the romantic partner of Russian President Vladimir Putin — adding the person known as "Russia's most flexible woman" to the growing list of individuals to face financial penalties in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Alina Kabaeva, 39, has been romantically linked to Putin, 69, for more than a decade

and is thought to have had at least three children with him. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: **Giuliani unlikely to face charges in federal lobbying case: Report**, Ryan King, August 3, 2022, 3:25 PM

Rudy Giuliani is reportedly unlikely to face federal charges in the federal investigation of his business activity in Ukraine. Federal prosecutors have been investigating Giuliani for nearly two years to determine whether he illegally lobbied the Trump administration in favor of Ukrainian officials who had been collaborating with him in his quest to dig up dirt on the Biden family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: **John Durham takes the reins ahead of trial of Steele dossier source**, Jerry Dunleavy, August 3, 2022, 2:46 PM

John Durham is taking the reins as the trial against the main source for Christopher Steele's dossier draws near after the special counsel's investigation was dealt a blow with a "not guilty" verdict earlier this year. Russian national Igor Danchenko was charged last year with five counts of making false statements to the FBI. Durham says the comments were about the information Danchenko provided to British ex-spy Steele for the dossier. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: **Kansas man with 'just minimal' legal training to represent himself in Capitol riot case**, Judy L. Thomas, August 3, 2022, 8:59 AM

A Kansas man facing eight charges in the Capitol riot — including allegedly trying to force open a door inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office suite — will be allowed to represent himself in the case, a federal judge has ruled. William Pope, of Topeka, told U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras at a hearing Tuesday that he wanted to waive his constitutional right to counsel and proceed on his own. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): **Illinois man wants to withdraw guilty plea in Capitol riot case**, Jordan Fischer, August 3, 2022, 4:39 PM

An Illinois man who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of parading last month asked a judge this week to let him withdraw that plea and instead take his case to trial. Athanasios Zoyganeles, 44, pleaded guilty last month to one count of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. The charge is a petty misdemeanor offense that has, in some cases, resulted in probation-only sentences for other Jan. 6 defendants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: **Trump ally Navarro sued for alleged unofficial email account**, Michael Balsamo, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

The Justice Department filed suit Wednesday against Peter Navarro, claiming the former adviser to Donald Trump used an unofficial email account while working in the White House and wrongfully retained presidential records. The lawsuit in federal court in Washington claims Navarro used at least one "non-official" email account — a ProtonMail account — to send and receive emails. The legal action comes just weeks after Navarro was indicted on criminal charges after refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Daily Beast](#), [The Hill](#), [Law360](#), [National Law Journal](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: **Democrat Seeks Inspector General Inquiry Into Pentagon's Missing Jan. 6 Texts**, Luke Broadwater, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM

The No. 2 Senate Democrat on Wednesday called for an inspector general investigation into missing text messages from top Defense Department officials in the Trump administration related to the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. Senator Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he

was sending a letter to Sean O'Donnell, the Defense Department's inspector general, seeking an investigation into the disappearance of text messages from the phones of at least five former Trump administration officials, including Christopher C. Miller, the acting defense secretary; Kash Patel, the Pentagon's chief of staff; and Ryan D. McCarthy, the Army secretary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [OPINION] Trump faces new danger in DOJ's surprise subpoena of Pat Cipollone, Greg Sargent, August 3, 2022, 11:37 AM

Donald Trump may announce a 2024 presidential bid before the midterm elections because he reportedly believes this could help him elude Jan. 6-related prosecution. If he's a candidate, goes this thinking, any criminal investigation into him would appear hopelessly tainted. But if Trump thinks he's in fearsome control of events, of the calendar and of the public discourse around his legal vulnerabilities — an aura that's central to his appeal to supporters — a confluence of new developments should sorely test that confidence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: Federal grand jury subpoenas former Trump White House counsel Pat Cipollone in DOJ Jan. 6 inquiry, Kevin Johnson, David Jackson, August 3, 2022, 11:19 PM

Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating the Capitol attack and the campaign to overturn the 2020 election, a person familiar with the matter said Wednesday. The Justice Department's action involving Cipollone comes after the former White House official testified last month before the House committee in its separate examination of the Jan. 6, 2021 attack. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#), [MSNBC](#), [MSNBC-2](#), [NBC](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#), [WSJ](#)

CNN: [ANALYSIS] Latest subpoenas suggest DOJ probe could be aiming squarely at Trump, Stephen Collinson, August 4, 2022, 12:02 AM

"This is probably bad ... for former President Trump." With dry understatement, Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, one of two Republicans on the House select committee investigating the insurrection, summed up on CNN on Wednesday a significant turn in the Department of Justice probe into the mob attack on the US Capitol and the effort to overturn the 2020 election. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: [VIDEO] What Toobin says is a 'big deal' development in the Jan. 6 criminal probe, Anderson Cooper, August 3, 2022, 10:00 PM

CNN's chief legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin tells Anderson Cooper about the scale of the Department of Justice's January 6 criminal probe, and the significance of new subpoenas in the investigation. [[Watch](#)]

CNN: FIRST ON CNN: Former Deputy White House counsel subpoenaed in January 6 probe, Katelyn Polantz and Pamela Brown, August 3, 2022, 4:57 PM

The former deputy counsel to President Donald Trump has been subpoenaed in the federal criminal probe of the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, two sources familiar with the matter tell CNN. Patrick Philbin was subpoenaed for testimony and documents, according to one of the sources. Philbin worked in the White House counsel's office under Pat Cipollone, who also was also subpoenaed for documents and testimony, according to sources. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Trump faces uphill fight on executive privilege in DOJ probe, Kyle Cheney, Josh Gerstein and Betsy Woodruff Swan, August 3, 2022, 8:51 PM

Donald Trump's camp has yet to say whether he'll try to use executive privilege to disrupt the Justice Department's grand jury investigation into attempts to overturn the 2020 election. But if he does, it could be a very short fight. A series of court rulings prompted by Trump's effort to stymie the House Jan. 6 select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol sharply rejected Trump's bid to wield the power as a former president. In fact, the Supreme Court agreed that Trump's effort to assert privilege would have failed even if he were the sitting president, effectively granting the committee access to Trump's White House papers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [FiveThirtyEight](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

Bloomberg: **Sneakerhead Accused of Running Huge Air Jordan Ponzi Scheme**, Misyrlena Egkolfopoulou, August 3, 2022, 9:40 PM

For years, he seemed like a wizard of Niketown – a Lamborghini-loving sneakerhead who made millions peddling rare Air Jordans at crazy low prices. [...] That, in a nutshell, is how authorities characterize Michael Malekzadeh, of Eugene, Oregon. Prosecutors say Malekzadeh, 39, and his Zadeh Kicks LLC swindled thousands of people across the nation in a multimillion-dollar scam involving nubuck and leather, rather than stocks and bonds. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KATU-ABC \(Portland, OR\)](#), [KEZI-ABC \(Eugene, OR\)](#), [KOIN-CBS \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Trumbull Times: **Bridgeport man sentenced for laundering money in romance, lottery scams, prosecutors say**, Liz Hardaway, August 3, 2022, 9:08 PM

A Bridgeport man was sentenced to more than two years in prison Wednesday for laundering money obtained from lottery and romance schemes, according to federal prosecutors. U.S. Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery said the schemes defrauded mostly elderly victims across the country of millions of dollars. Stanley Pierre, 35, of Bridgeport, used his personal bank accounts, and established business bank accounts, to launder these funds. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): **Cicero man admits to possessing over 400 child porn photos, videos**, Anne Hayes, August 3, 2022, 8:45 PM

A Cicero man pled guilty in federal court to receipt of child pornography Wednesday, federal prosecutors said. As part of his guilty plea, Brian White, 67, admitted to downloading over 400 images and videos depicting child pornography in around six months. according to a news release from the United States Attorney's Office Northern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The York Dispatch (York County, PA): **Lincoln Charter School principal to plead guilty in federal theft case**, Aimee Ambrose, August 3, 2022, 8:07 PM

The apparently now-former head of Lincoln Charter School allegedly misused federal education funds. He's the second administrator from the school to face federal accusations of theft in the past two years. Leonard Hart, 50, of Mount Wolf, was charged with theft of federal funds in a case filed in U.S. District Court in Harrisburg on Tuesday following an FBI investigation. A plea agreement was also filed, showing he would admit to the charge and waive indictment by a grand jury. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Patriot-News \(Harrisburg, PA\)](#), [WGAL-NBC \(Lancaster, PA\)](#), [WPMT-Fox \(York, PA\)](#)

The Times (Shreveport, LA): **Shreveport man sentenced to 40 years in prison for mailman's murder**, Makenzie Boucher, August 3, 2022, 6:45 PM

A 33-year-old Shreveport man was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday for shooting and killing a U.S. postal worker as he delivered mail. Michael Jarred Gentry was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks Jr. of Shreveport. Gentry pleaded guilty March 21 to second-degree murder in the killing of 52-year-old Antonio Williams. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSLA-CBS \(Shreveport, LA\)](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Churchill man gets 10-year jail sentence on drugs, gun charges**, Joe Napsha, August 3, 2022, 5:45 PM

A Churchill man was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison Wednesday on firearms and drug violations and five years probation, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh. Maurice Miller, 35, had pleaded guilty on April 4 in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh to the accusations that he was part of a conspiracy to distribute at least a kilogram of heroin, at least 10 ounces of crack cocaine, more than 100 grams of acetyl fentanyl and valeryl fentanyl, and at least 400 grams or more of fentanyl. [[Continue](#)]

[Reading\]](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Verona woman sentenced to federal prison for her role with the HDS drug trafficking gang, Michael DiVittorio, August 3, 2022, 5:32 PM

A Verona woman authorities said was involved in drug trafficking has been sentenced in federal court to 10 months in prison after being convicted of federal drug charges. Prosecutors said Shania Wilson, 40, was involved with the Hustlas Don't Sleep drug trafficking gang. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Bridgeport, CT): Bridgeport Man Pleads Guilty To Living Under Assumed Name For 20 Years, Alfred Branch, August 3, 2022, 6:26 PM

A 55-year-old citizen of St. Lucia, who last resided in Bridgeport, pleaded guilty Tuesday to offenses related to his acquiring federal documents under an assumed identity, United States Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery announced. Adrian Joseph pleaded guilty to one count of use of a passport secured by a false statement before U.S. District Judge Sarah A. L. Merriam in Bridgeport. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Norfolk, VA): Man, Woman Convicted Of Operating Virginia Meth House, AJ Goldbloom, August 3, 2022, 4:34 PM

A Norfolk man and woman were both convicted on Wednesday, August 3, of operating a meth house, officials said. Along with firearms, Vicente Andres, 61, and Margaret Sutton, 51, stored and sold meth and marijuana in a house on Danwood Drive, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [WAVY-NBC \(Portsmouth, VA\)](#), [WTKR-CBS \(Norfolk, VA\)](#)

Patch (New Haven, CT): New Haven Man, 27, Gets 5-Year Prison For Firearm Possession: Feds, Ellyn Santiago, August 3, 2022, 4:13 PM

A 27-year-old New Haven man was sentenced to serve five years in federal prison on a firearm conviction, according to the U.S. Attorney. Tyrone Brown pleaded guilty in April to illegally possessing a gun, namely a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol found by cops in a court-ordered search of his Stevens Street home in August 2021, US Attorney for Connecticut, Vanessa Roberts Avery said.. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Falls Church, VA): Falls Church Woman Sentenced For Spending Funds Intended For DC School, Emily Leayman, August 3, 2022, 2:18 PM

A Falls Church woman who served as a former principal at a DC school received a prison sentence for embezzling funds intended for students. Bridget Coates, 49, of Falls Church, pleaded guilty in April to one charge of wire fraud for embezzling at least \$175,000 in funds. Coates, the former principal at St. Thomas More Catholic School in southeast DC, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Coates must also pay \$175,000 in restitution to the Archdiocese of Washington and the same amount in a forfeiture money judgment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Voice \(Alexandria, VA\)](#), [WJLA-ABC \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTOP-FM \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): Feds accuse Akron man of laundering drug money, fraudulently obtaining coronavirus-relief money to buy a Tesla, Adam Ferrise, August 3, 2022, 1:53 PM

An Akron man was charged Wednesday with laundering drug money through a \$325,000 home purchase and with fraudulently obtaining a small-business loan from the federal government's coronavirus relief funds to buy a Tesla. Nicholas R. Crawford, 41, is charged in federal court in Akron with money laundering, wire fraud, theft of government funds and engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from unlawful activity. The allegations were contained in a 26-count indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHBQ-Fox \(Memphis, TN\)](#)

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Athens educator sentenced to 5 1/2 years for virtual school fraud, Trisha Powell Crain, August 3, 2022, 1:17 PM

A former Athens City school administrator convicted in a virtual school scheme that defrauded Alabama public schools of up to \$10 million was sentenced Wednesday to serve 66 months in federal prison, and must pay \$1.3 million in restitution. William Richard “Rick” Carter in March was found guilty of conspiracy, four counts of wire fraud and two counts of identity theft and faced up to 20 years in prison, with a mandatory consecutive two-year sentence on each of two cases of aggravated identity theft. He must report to prison Oct. 5. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WAFF-NBC \(Huntsville, AL\)](#)

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): **Alabama man pleads guilty to shooting police K9, gun charge**, Paul Gattis, August 3, 2022, 11:21 AM

An Alabama man pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Mississippi to shooting a police K9 as well as illegal possession of a firearm. Richard J. McGuire, 44 of Mobile, entered the guilty plea in U.S. District Court in Gulfport. McGuire pleaded guilty to “animal crushing” – causing serious bodily injury to a K9 police dog, according to the indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WJTV-CBS \(Jackson, MS\)](#), [WLOX-ABC/CBS \(Biloxi, MS\)](#), [WXXV-Fox/NBC/CW \(Gulfport, MS\)](#)

WMGT-NBC (Macon, GA): **Georgia man sentenced for supplying meth to Monroe County drug dealer**, Clayton Poulcott, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

A Georgia man was sentenced to federal prison Wednesday, after he admitted to supplying a large quantity of methamphetamine to a Monroe County drug dealer. 63-year-old Frank Settambino, was sentenced to 90 months followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDEL-AM (Wilmington, DE): **Wilmington man sentenced to five years for drug-related gun conviction**, Sean Greene, August 3, 2022, 10:24 PM

A Wilmington man was sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of possessing a gun during drug trafficking. 34-year-old Jeremy Johnson was arrested by Wilmington Police Department after being observed making a drug transaction near a car, which was found to have two firearms, 68 grams of cocaine, oxycodone pills, and three digital scales, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): **Domestic abuser sentenced 2 years in federal prison for illegal firearm possession**, Tony Brunenkant, August 3, 2022, 9:39 PM

After pleading guilty to being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, Anthony Hughes, 37, of Indianapolis, was sentenced Wednesday to two years in federal prison. During a January 2020 traffic stop, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police officers discovered a firearm that Hughes admitted to owning. Hughes is prohibited from firearm possession due to a being a repeat domestic abuser with multiple incidents involving a woman and a child. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTRF-CBS/ABC (Wheeling, WV): **“Enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman and child in the Northern Panhandle”**, Colin Roose, Dan Mayeres, August 3, 2022, 9:01 PM

Months of investigation from local agencies have paid off, as massive amounts of deadly drugs are off Ohio County’s streets. U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld announced four high-profile drug cases that now face indictment from a grand jury. Solomon Watters of Cleveland, along with his co-conspirator Chelsea Banks of Wheeling, allegedly planned to distribute more than a kilogram of fentanyl in Ohio County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCHS-ABC (Charleston, WV): **Logan County woman pleaded guilty to fraudulent claims of COVID relief funds**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 8:30 PM

A Logan County woman pleaded guilty to defrauding the Paycheck Protection Program Wednesday. Alexis Ransom, 24, admitted to federal wire fraud after taking more than \$42,000 in COVID relief funds through three separate PPP loans from March to August 2021, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of West Virginia. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Murder suspect of Millcreek mother convicted of stolen firearm charges, Michael Houck, August 3, 2022, 7:17 PM

A convicted felon and suspect of the murder of 57-year-old Millcreek mother Linda Nemelka was found guilty of stolen firearm charges on Sunday. After a four-day trial, James Dekota Brunson, 25, of Orem, Utah was found guilty of possession of firearms and ammunition as a convicted felon and possession of stolen firearms, according to Utah's Department of Justice. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KRIS-NBC (Corpus Christi, TX): Shoot out between rival drug dealers leads to hefty prison sentence, Shane Rackley, August 3, 2022, 6:37 PM

A 26-year-old Corpus Christi man was sentenced to twenty-five years in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute narcotics and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. In May of 2019, police responded to reports of gunfire between rival drug dealers at the home of Jonathan Rodriguez. According to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, crack cocaine and meth were found in the home. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KWWL-NBC/CW (Waterloo, IA): Previously deported woman living in Cedar Falls sentenced after using fraudulent Social Security Card, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 6:30 PM

A Guatemalan woman illegally living in Cedar Falls after being deported has been sentenced for using someone else's Social Security card to get employment. Maria Julia Diaz-Ventura, 34, was sentenced to almost four months in federal prison after pleading guilty in May to illegally reentering into the US after being deported in 2017 and using a fraudulent ID. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WIAT-CBS (Birmingham, AL): Birmingham man sentenced to 25 years for sex trafficking and exploitation of a minor, Monica Nakashima, August 3, 2022, 6:26 PM

A Birmingham man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison on federal charges of sex trafficking a teenage girl Wednesday. Jeremy Lynn Alexander, 36, was sentenced to 300 months in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release for sex trafficking a minor and sexual exploitation of children. This conviction will require Alexander to register as a sex offender in accordance with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WBMA-ABC \(Birmingham, AL\)](#)

WLWT-NBC (Cincinnati, OH): Cincinnati man sentenced in sex trafficking sting involving 16-year-old girl, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 5:27 PM

A Cincinnati man will spend eight years in federal prison for his part in a sex trafficking ring. An undercover operation conducted by Blue Ash Police and FBI officials led to the arrest of 35-year-old Doyenn Clayborne in October 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WCPO-ABC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#), [WKRC-CBS \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

WSYR-ABC (Syracuse, NY): California man sent to federal prison for traveling to Syracuse intending to engage in sexual conduct with a child, Reegan Domagala, August 3, 2022, 5:08 PM

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, a 35-year-old man from Los Angeles, California, Edward Mercado was sentenced to 7 years in federal prison for traveling to New York to try and engage in illicit sexual conduct with a 10-year-old child. In Mercado's previous guilty plea from May 2021 through June 2021, he had many telephone and text conversations that included sexually explicit content with an undercover officer posing as the mother of a 10-year-old girl. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WPLG-ABC (Miami, FL): Feds: Miami doc's \$38M health care fraud scheme paid for condos, cars; now he's going to prison, Chris Gothner, August 3, 2022, 5:03 PM

A Miami physician's six-year, \$38 million health care fraud scheme paid for luxury cars and beachfront condominiums, prosecutors say. But 63-year-old Armando Valdes won't be doing any driving where he'll be living next—and the accommodations are sure to be a step down. That's because on Tuesday, a

judge sentenced him to five years in federal prison after a guilty plea earlier this year. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): Muscogee County Sheriff: Man arrested with ‘enough fentanyl to kill every citizen in Muscogee County’ pleads guilty, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 3:56 PM

A Columbus man arrested in January, following a search warrant conducted at his home, has pleaded guilty in federal court. This week, Michael Schlarman, age 31, pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of fentanyl with the intent to distribute in the court of U.S. District Judge Clay Land. According to Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman, the Jan. 26, 2022 search of Schlarman’s Wagner Drive home was conducted by the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office, DEA, FBI, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOAY-ABC (Oak Hill, WV): Jury finds Logan County man guilty of child pornography crime, Brandy Lawrence, August 3, 2022, 2:20 PM

A federal jury convicted Raymond Dugan, 55, of accessing with the intent to view prepubescent child pornography. A forensic analysis of Dugan’s computer found that the defendant used a dark web browser to access over 1,000 images of child pornography. Dugan is scheduled to be sentenced on October 27. The defendant faces the maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and must register as a sex offender. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KCAU-ABC (Sioux City, IA): Whiting man federally sentenced for child pornography, Ariel Pokett, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Siouland man received a prison sentence on Tuesday due to receiving child pornography. According to a release from the United States Attorney’s Office, Dason Ku, 42, of Whiting, pleaded guilty after he admitted during his plea hearing to receiving visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBOI-CBS (Boise, ID): Boise man sentenced for possession of child pornography, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Boise man was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography. 51-year-old Justin Yount had been reported by a witness saying she had seen child pornography on his laptop. The witness gave the laptop to the Boise Police Department, who obtained a search warrant for Yount’s residence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISC-CBS (Madison, WI): Dane County residents indicted by federal grand jury over gun purchase, Kyle Jones, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A pair of Dane County residents were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday on charges related to a firearm purchase. Taylor Kratochwill-Loomis, 21, of DeForest is charged with two counts of making false statements, and Deontrae McIntosh, 18, of Sun Prairie is charged with two counts of causing her to make false statements. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WKOW-ABC \(Madison, WI\)](#)

WSET-ABC (Lynchburg, VA): Harrisonburg man pleads guilty to bank robbery, Robert Locklear, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

Charles Hood faces 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to a bank robbery in which he stole over \$15,000 in cash, according to the Harrisonburg Police Department. According to court documents, Hood walked into First Citizen Bank on University Blvd. in Harrisonburg on January 4, 2022. Wearing a dark mask, sunglasses, a wig and brown work boots, he approached a bank manager and inquired about opening an account, HPD says. From there Hood instructed the manager and tellers to load a makeshift bag with cash, brandishing what they thought was a gun but turned out to be a BB gun. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHSV-ABC \(Harrisonburg, VA\)](#)

KCAU-ABC (Sioux City, IA): Sioux City resident sentenced for sex crime against child, Laila

Freeman, August 3, 2022, 12:26 PM

A man who lived in Siouxland has been sentenced for a sexual assault crime against a child. The U.S. Department of Justice said in a release that Juan Pablo Hernandez, 44, of El Salvador but residing in Sioux City, pleaded guilty on March 10 to aggravated sexual abuse of a child. The release reported Hernandez admitted to driving from South Sioux City to Sioux City with a minor to sexually assault them as well as take sexual photos of the victim. The minor was under the age of 12. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KICD-AM (Spencer, IA): **Hartley Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Weapons Charge**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 11:28 AM

A Hartley man has pled guilty to illegally owning a firearm as a felon in Sioux City Federal District Court. 34 year old Joe Ripka was arrested in December after a traffic stop in Cherokee County. Ripka had been pulled over for having no license plates on his vehicle. During the stop he reportedly showed signs of impairment and deputies brought in a K9 which signaled the presence of a substance in the car. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: **Idaho's top court latest in red state to weigh abortion ban**, Rebecca Boone and Geoff Mulvihill, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM

It's likely that virtually all abortions will be banned eventually in deeply conservative Idaho, along with most other Republican-dominated states, but there are still battles to play out in court and maybe the legislature as abortion rights advocates continue to try to resist what could be inevitable. Wednesday, lawyers for a doctor, a regional Planned Parenthood affiliate and the state government went before the Idaho's state Supreme Court for arguments over whether a series of bans can be enforced this month. Even if the advocates prevail, state lawmakers could adopt new bans. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **Suit: Police chasing white suspect wrongly arrest Black [sic] man**, Alanna Durkin Richer, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

A suburban Boston police officer who was pursuing a white suspect pinned a 20-year-old Black man to the ground as he was walking home and placed a knee on the man's neck despite having no evidence that he was involved in any crime, according to a federal civil rights lawsuit filed Wednesday. [...] The lawsuit filed in Boston federal court alleges that police violated Johnson's constitutional rights when they stopped him, searched him, handcuffed him and placed him in the back of a cruiser before releasing him with no charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT, The Daily: **[AUDIO] How to Interpret the Kansas Referendum on Abortion**, August 4, 2022, 6:00 AM

Kansas this week became the first U.S. state since the fall of Roe v. Wade to put the question of abortion directly to the electorate. The result was resounding. Voters chose overwhelmingly to preserve abortion rights, an outcome that could have important political reverberations for the rest of the country. [[Listen](#)]

Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, MD): **U.S. Justice Department is investigating UMBC's Title IX compliance and response to sexual misconduct**, Darcy Costello, August 4, 2022, 6:00 AM

The U.S. Department of Justice is conducting a civil rights investigation into the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's compliance with federal Title IX rules barring gender discrimination. University officials confirmed the investigation this week and said the school was notified about it in November 2020. The probe is "still underway," UMBC's general counsel said in an emailed statement to The Baltimore Sun, though no timeline for findings has been provided. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: **Federal judge throws out some claims in protracted fight over Texas voting**

restrictions, Stephen Paulsen, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

In a limited order this week, a federal judge threw out some civil rights and discrimination claims brought as part of a complex and ongoing legal dispute over strict new voting rules in Texas. The lawsuit filed last year alleges that the rules violate the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act by restricting voter assistance and making it easier for “partisan poll watchers to intimidate voters and poll workers.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Law360: NJ Contractor Charged Over Deadly Wall Collapse, Elliot Weld, August 3, 2022, 6:47 PM
Federal prosecutors on Wednesday charged a New Jersey contractor with willfully violating Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, accusing the company and its director of negligence when a wall at one of the firm’s construction sites collapsed in 2017, leading to a worker’s death. A criminal information filed in Manhattan federal court alleges that contracting company Onekey LLC and its director, Fibar O’Neill, built a temporary wall on the construction site without the approval of an engineer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUTR-ABC (Utica, NY): North Country Neurology ordered to pay \$850K for ‘improper,’ ‘reckless’ billing, Isabella Colello, August 3, 2022, 11:13 AM
North Country Neurology, P.C., located in Watertown has been ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars by the United States Attorney’s Office. U.S. States Attorney Carla B. Freedman confirmed on August 3 that North Country Neurology agreed to pay \$850,000 for was it admitted was “improper” and “reckless” billing to the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: White House frustrated as Washington mayor seeks troops to help handle migrants, Ted Hesson, August 3, 2022, 10:41 PM
Thousands of migrants bused to Washington in recent months by Republican governors of states on the U.S.-Mexico border have caused tensions between the White House and the Democratic mayor of the U.S. capital city, four U.S. officials told Reuters. Last week, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser called on President Joe Biden, a fellow Democrat, to mobilize the National Guard to provide aid and shelter for migrants arriving after long trips from Texas and Arizona. White House officials and Washington-area volunteers helping migrants are voicing frustration, saying the aid is unnecessary and the request, which became public last week, plays into the hands of Biden’s Republican critics. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Immigrants are not getting Social Security numbers at the U.S. border, Josh Kelety, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM
CLAIM: U.S. Border Patrol agents are giving Social Security numbers to immigrants who cross the border into the U.S. without authorization. AP’S ASSESSMENT: False. Border Patrol does not give Social Security numbers to immigrants who cross the border, nor does it have the authority to, a spokesperson for the agency told The Associated Press. Immigrants living in the U.S. illegally aren’t eligible for Social Security numbers unless they meet certain criteria, experts say. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Border officials investigating claims Sikh turbans were confiscated, Nick Miroff, August 3, 2022, 3:37 PM
U.S. authorities are investigating complaints that the religious rights of dozens of Sikh asylum seekers were violated recently when their turbans were confiscated by Border Patrol agents in the Yuma, Ariz., area, officials said Wednesday. The American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sent a letter Monday to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus saying the organization since June has

documented almost 50 cases in which agents confiscated turbans, denouncing the seizures as “ongoing, serious religious-freedom violations.” [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [The Hill](#), [NBC](#)

Fox: Houston task force busts catalytic converter theft ring with \$12M in stolen goods, and guns, Bradford Betz, August 3, 2022, 3:50 PM

Houston authorities apprehended six individuals last week in connection with a crime ring that had nearly \$12 million worth of stolen catalytic converters, firearms and a Challenger Hellcat. The monthslong investigation stemmed from the death of Harris County Sheriff’s Deputy Darren Almendarez, who was shot while trying to stop thieves from stealing his catalytic converter, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Biden Ordered To Revisit Visa Apps Nixed In Trump Travel Ban, Alyssa Aquino, August 3, 2022, 5:35 PM

A California federal judge ordered the Biden administration to revisit the tens of thousands of visa applications that were denied under Trump-era travel restrictions, finding that targeted foreigners were still bruised from the travel ban, long after their revocation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Senators Urge Biden To Ramp Up Refugee Admissions, Nicole Rosenthal, August 3, 2022, 5:21 PM

Thirty Democratic senators urged the Biden administration to immediately increase the target refugee admissions and take proactive steps to admit a higher number of refugees in the next fiscal year, emphasizing the need to assist refugees fleeing war and persecution. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Post: 40 illegally caught sharks seized off Texas coast, Mexican fishermen arrested, MaryAnn Martinez, August 3, 2022, 6:55 PM

Four Mexican fishermen were busted off the coast of Texas while they were illegally fishing for sharks, said the US Coast Guard. The Coast Guard received a tip Tuesday from Customs and Border Protection personnel that a Mexican fishing boat, known as a lancha, was illegally fishing in US waters near Corpus Christi. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times: Laredo CBP officers arrest capital murder suspect, Cesar Rodriguez, August 3, 2022, 2:04 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested a teen wanted for capital murder in Dallas County, according to authorities. Daniela Barrientos Echeverria, 18, arrived on July 20 at the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge as a bus passenger. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WNBC-NBC (New York, NY): Asylum Seekers Going to NY Given Fake Addresses, ‘Emojis’ Mocking Effort to Flee Violence, Melissa Russo, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

The federal government is sending asylum seekers from Texas to New York City with sometimes questionable paperwork — and Catholic Charities says one example in particular illustrates the allegedly “disgusting treatment” of migrants at the border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFOX-Fox (El Paso, TX): CBP officers seize 73 pounds of hard drugs at El Paso area ports of entry last week, Fallon Fischer, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at El Paso area ports of entry seized 73 pounds of various hard drugs over the last week. On July 25, CBP officers working at the Paso Del Norte border crossing intercepted 14.77 pounds of cocaine from a 36-year-old woman from Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KYMA-NBC (Yuma, AZ): Border Patrol agents questioned for trashing migrants’ personal documents, Faith Rodriguez, August 3, 2022, 1:48 PM

Representative Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) has led 22 members of Congress to send a letter to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner (CBP) Chris Magnus and Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Tae D. Johnson regarding the confiscation and discarding of personal documents of migrants by CBP agents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): \$2.6M in narcotics seized at Texas-Mexico border, Annie Gimbel, August 3, 2022, 10:48 AM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted narcotics in two separate enforcement actions with a combined estimated street value of \$2,669,899. "These significant drug seizures are the direct result of our officers' dedication and vigilance in securing our borders and our streets, and communities are safer for it," said Port Director Tater Ortiz, Brownsville Port of Entry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Tyson Foods ignoring subpoena for meat price gouging probe, NY attorney general says, Jonathan Stempel, August 3, 2022, 3:48 PM

Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N), one of the largest U.S. meat producers, is refusing to comply with a subpoena for a civil probe into possible price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic, New York's attorney general said on Wednesday. Letitia James, the attorney general, asked a state judge in Manhattan to require Tyson to turn over materials including contractual terms, prices, and profit margins for its sales of meat to New York retailers from December 2019 to April 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

WaPo: Phil Mickelson, 10 other LIV golfers, file antitrust suit against PGA Tour, Matt Bonesteel, August 3, 2022, 4:44 PM

Eleven golfers from the fledgling LIV Golf Invitational Series filed a federal antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour, arguing that their careers were hurt when the Tour suspended them after they joined the Saudi-funded organization. The move has been expected since LIV emerged this year to challenge the PGA Tour's professional golf supremacy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

Bloomberg: FTC Under Khan Faulted by Watchdog on Hiring Unpaid Experts, Leah Nylen, August 3, 2022, 1:15 PM

The US Federal Trade Commission under Chair Lina Khan has stepped up the use of unpaid experts and consultants without clear guidelines on their job responsibilities or transparency into how they were selected, the agency's watchdog found. The FTC's Inspector General said in an audit posted Wednesday that the agency, in the late Trump administration and extending into President Joe Biden's term, had recruited nine unpaid experts or consultants creating potential legal and compliance risks, including conflicts of interest. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: DOJ Gains Early Sway in Private Antitrust Law With More Briefs, Dan Papszun, August 4, 2022, 4:00 AM

The DOJ's antitrust division is leaning on legal briefs to influence competition law even when it lacks the time and resources to join private litigation as a party. In deploying statements of interest in private cases—such as challenges to no-poach pacts between employers—division head Jonathan Kanter is focusing on clarifying the law while laying the groundwork for potential future major cases, according to former DOJ staff and antitrust lawyers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Judge Backs Axing Amazon, Publishers E-Book Antitrust Suit, Lauren Berg, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

A New York federal judge on Wednesday recommended tossing a proposed class action accusing

Amazon and the country's five largest book publishers of secretly fixing digital book prices, saying the e-book buyers haven't plausibly alleged the existence of a conspiracy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: UnitedHealth Judge Probes Health Tech Co.'s Data Safeguards, Bryan Koenig, August 3, 2022, 9:59 PM

The D.C. federal judge slated to decide the fate of UnitedHealth Group's proposed \$13.8 billion acquisition of Change Healthcare pressed a Change executive on Wednesday to explain whether internal safeguards can prevent data abuses that the U.S. Department of Justice is worried about. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Judge Queries Simon & Schuster CEO On Bidding For Books, Matthew Perlman, August 3, 2022, 8:55 PM

A D.C. federal judge peppered Simon & Schuster's CEO with questions about the frequency of competitive bidding for book acquisitions during testimony Wednesday on the government's bid to stop Penguin Random House from purchasing the rival publishing house. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

Bloomberg Law: Meta Asks Court to Force Snap to Hand Over Data in FTC Fight, Tina Davis, August 3, 2022, 5:49 PM

Meta Platforms Inc. is asking a judge to force Snap Inc. to hand over data it says is needed to help the Facebook owner defend against a US government antitrust lawsuit. In a filing with a federal court in California, Meta said Snap should turn over information it says can help refute the Federal Trade Commission's contention that it has a monopoly in "personal social networking services." Meta said it served its subpoena on Snap more than five months ago. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: La. Real Estate Board Says FTC Decision Moots Antitrust Row, Grace Dixon, August 3, 2022, 4:58 PM

A state appraisers board urged a Louisiana federal judge to toss claims that the regulator broke federal antitrust laws, arguing that the suit from a Pittsburgh-based real estate company is moot following a deal with the Federal Trade Commission barring the board from setting appraisers' fees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): FTC says Opendoor must pay \$62 million after cheating homesellers, Heather Sullivan, August 3, 2022, 6:23 PM

The Federal Trade Commission says online homebuyer Opendoor must pay \$62 million to settle charges that it cheated homesellers out of thousands of dollars. iBuying is a growing industry in real estate, letting people buy and sell homes quickly and easily through online platforms. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

AP: EPA announces flights to look for methane in Permian Basin, Michael Biesecker and Helen Wieffering, August 3, 2022, 9:00 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency says it will conduct helicopter overflights to look for methane "super emitters" in the nation's largest oil and gas producing region. EPA's Region 6 headquarters in Dallas, Texas, issued a news release about a new enforcement effort in the Permian Basin on Monday, saying the flights would occur within the next two weeks.. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: 200 Enviros, Indigenous Groups Back Stronger NEPA Rules, Caleb Symons, August 3, 2022, 9:24 PM

Two hundred conservation, Native and religious organizations urged the U.S. Senate this week to reject a Republican-backed resolution against new environmental rules proposed by the Biden administration, saying the measure would "undermine core provisions" of the National Environmental Policy Act.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

Law360: **GAO Says IRS Should Improve Data For Outreach Evaluations**, Emlyn Cameron, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Internal Revenue Service should bolster its outreach evaluations with more data for determining how effective the agency is at reaching small businesses and businesses with owners from diverse backgrounds, the Government [...] [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Republican (Springfield, MA): **Boris Shadari of Swampscott ordered to pay nearly \$500,000, serve 30 months in prison for tax scheme targeting Greater Boston Congolese community**, Kiernan Dunlop, August 3, 2022, 4:34 PM

Boris Shadari of Swampscott was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$500,000 in restitution Tuesday for a tax scheme targeting fellow members of the Greater Boston Congolese community, according to United States Attorney Rachel Rollins. The tax scheme started back in 2012, according to a statment from Rollins's office, when Shadari and a co-conspirator, Christian Zynga, portrayed Shadari as a tax professional to the Congolese community of Greater Boston. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Daily Voice \(Essex County, MA\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Reuters: **FBI returns electronic devices to former Trump attorney Giuliani -lawyer**, Sarah N. Lynch, August 3, 2022, 3:41 PM

FBI agents recently returned the cell phones and other electronic devices they had seized from Donald Trump's former attorney Rudy Giuliani, in a possible sign the investigation into whether he failed to register as a foreign agent of Ukraine could be winding down, his attorney said on Wednesday. Robert Costello, Giuliani's lawyer, told Reuters he has not been officially notified yet whether federal prosecutors in Manhattan are closing the investigation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Beast: **How a Dem Congressional Staffer Faked Being an FBI Agent and Became a Fugitive**, Jose Pagliery, August 4, 2022, 4:32 AM

A young congressional staffer for Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) was quietly fired last year after he faked being an FBI agent and led cops on a chase through the capital, resulting in a weeks-long nationwide manhunt. It took four different law enforcement agencies three months to eventually catch up with the staffer 500 miles away. And it was only after a Secret Service agent managed to track down the online shops that sold the staffer mock "federal agent" gear and a bogus license plate for his fake police car—decked out with a siren and flashing lights—that authorities were able to arrest him. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Post: **[OPINION] 5 questions FBI chief Wray must answer before the Senate Judiciary Committee**, Adriana Cohen, August 3, 2022, 7:02 PM

In response to whistleblowers alerting Congress of disturbing political bias and other misconduct at the FBI, Director Christopher Wray will testify Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Here are a few questions the American people deserve answers to. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KSTP-ABC (Saint Paul, MN): **Minnesota FBI director warns of increased cyber attacks against individuals**, Jay Kolls, August 4, 2022, 12:30 AM

Minnesota FBI Special Agent in Charge, Michael Paul, told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS cybercrime in Minnesota is growing at a "tremendous rate." According to the FBI, there were more than 6,000 victims of cybercrimes across the state in 2021, which is a 50% increase since 2019. The total financial losses

for businesses and individuals was \$82.5 million. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KETV-ABC (Omaha, NE): FBI diversity recruiting event draws different backgrounds to apply,

Sarah Fili, August 4, 2022, 12:11 AM

Omaha's FBI field office is pushing for diversity among new recruits. It said a wide-ranging knowledge of different cultures can help them in investigations. "We are far more effective when the members of our community look at us and see themselves in our employees," said FBI Special Agent Michele Stevenson. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCJB-ABC/CW (Gainesville, FL): Drug ring busted in Putnam County, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 11:52 PM

Eleven members of a drug trafficking organization are headed to federal prison. Putnam County sheriff's deputies say 30-year-old Alejandro Alvarado distributed the drugs through a network of people who helped him. [...] FBI and DEA agents worked with local agencies for almost two years on this case.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

WISN-ABC (Milwaukee, WI): FBI suspects Racine man of hacking Ring doorbells for 'swatting',

Derrick Rose, August 3, 2022, 10:29 PM

When a Racine man phoned in fake bomb threats and an active shooter at a Kentucky high school last year, he was already on the radar of federal agents in a broader FBI investigation into "swatting" incidents in several states, court records show. According to a federal search warrant filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, which was unsealed Wednesday, Kya Nelson had already been involved in swatting incidents in California, Florida and Alabama in the months before the Kentucky case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI looking for "Bling Ring Bandit" accused of robbing

Albuquerque bank, Jordan Honeycutt, August 3, 2022, 10:14 PM

The FBI and Albuquerque Police Department are asking for help identifying the "Bling Ring Bandit" who they say robbed the First Convenience Bank inside a Walmart on Coors near Rio Bravo Blvd. SW.

Officials say the man, just after 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, handed the bank teller a demand note, received money, and left the bank. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): FBI offers \$25,000 reward for man who shot at federal agent in

Columbus, Elizabeth White, August 3, 2022, 8:35 PM

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest of Joshua Johnathon Luke Brown. Brown is wanted for his alleged involvement in the firing of multiple rounds at an FBI Agent in Columbus, Georgia, on July 28, 2022. He is considered armed and dangerous. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [WPEC-CBS \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WRBL-CBS \(Columbus, GA\)-2](#), [WTVM \(Columbus, GA\)](#)

WOWT-NBC (Omaha, NE): Omaha DEA push to educate students, parents about drugs that look

like cereal, Brian Mastre, August 3, 2022, 7:50 PM

Drugs that look like cereal. It's not a mistake. Clearly, young people are the targets. With students returning to school in a matter of days for some districts, the Drug Enforcement Agency in Omaha is urging parents to have hard conversations with their children about the fake pills on the street. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KETV-ABC (Omaha, NE): 'Room for improvement:' FBI holds recruitment event to boost diversity

among agents, Waverle Monroe, August 3, 2022, 7:33 PM

The FBI is holding a Diversity Agent Recruitment, hoping to increase the amount of diversity among its field offices. Special Agent Michele Stevenson said out of all FBI employees, 45 percent are female and 27 percent are diverse. At the University of Nebraska, Omaha, the number of students interested in a

criminal justice degree is going up, but that doesn't mean they want to be in law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVTM-NBC (Birmingham, AL): Wisconsin homicide suspect captured in Helena by U.S. Marshals, Alabama law enforcement, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 7:17 PM

A man wanted for murder in Wisconsin was captured in Helena, Alabama by U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement on Wednesday. Helena Police Chief Brad Flynn confirmed Caleb Anderson was taken into custody on Highway 95 at Gobblers Knob Wednesday afternoon. Anderson was named the suspect in a "suspicious death" at a Green Bay home Tuesday morning, according to Green Bay police. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBJ-ABC/CBS (Jackson, TN): Jackson man arrested in connection to mass overdose event on I-40, Tristyn Fletcher, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

The US Marshals Service says a Jackson man has been indicted and arrested for second-degree murder. Marshals say that 30-year-old Antravious Thomas was indicted following an investigation into a mass overdose event on Interstate 40 in early March. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTBC-Fox (Austin, TX): South Austin murder suspect captured in Colorado, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:12 PM

A man wanted for a murder in South Austin has been captured by US Marshals in Colorado. 19-year-old John W. Bagwell is charged with first-degree murder for the May 23 shooting of 36-year-old Jose Aguirre-Castellanos in South Austin. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTTN (Trenton, MO): U. S. Marshals now offering \$5000 reward for Kirksville man wanted for murder, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

U. S. Marshals are offering an award for a Kirksville man wanted for murder. A post on the Adair County Sheriff's Office Facebook page is offering a reward for 38-year-old Jesse Rongey of up to \$5,000. He has been wanted since July 22nd. Multiple law enforcement agencies have been searching the Youngstown Trail area since July 29th after a possible sighting of Rongey. The Thousand Hills State Park's Facebook page indicates the park has been closed until further notice. [[Continue Reading](#)].

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Board recommends clemency for Oklahoma death row inmate, Ken Miller, August 3, 2022, 5:00 PM

The Oklahoma Board of Pardon and Parole on Wednesday voted to recommend clemency for a death row inmate who has admitted to beating to death a friend and co-worker who refused to loan him \$50 to buy cocaine. The board voted 3-2 to recommend Gov. Kevin Stitt grant clemency to James Coddington, 50, who was convicted and sentenced to die for killing 73-year-old Albert Hale inside Hale's home in Choctaw in 1997. Coddington beat Hale on the head at least three times with a hammer. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOKH-Fox \(Oklahoma, OK\)](#), [Oklahoman](#)

Tennessean: Federal appeals court overturns Clarksville man's death sentence, sends case back down, Mariah Timms, August 3, 2022, 6:07 PM

A Clarksville man's death sentence was overturned by a new federal appeals court decision Wednesday. His convictions stand, but the case will head back to the trial court level for a new sentencing phase. William Glenn Rogers, 60, was convicted of the 1996 rape and murder of a 9-year-old Clarksville girl. A jury sentenced him to death on the charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGW-NBC (Portland, OR): Guards at Sheridan federal prison facing abuse allegations, Conrad Wilson, August 3, 2022, 1:21 PM

A growing number of people incarcerated at the Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution sent urgent notes to their attorneys last week complaining of guards from other federal facilities coming in to toss their cells and indiscriminately beat people. Several sources complained of food taken, papers torn up and brutal beatings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg: **Supreme Court to Hear Harvard Affirmative-Action Case This Fall**, Greg Stohr, August 3, 2022, 11:05 AM

The US Supreme Court scheduled arguments for Oct. 31 in clashes over affirmative action policies at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina, a pair of cases that could abolish the use of race in college admissions. The justices are hearing arguments separately in the two cases. The newest justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, isn't taking part in the Harvard case, having recently completed a six-year stint on the university's board of overseers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#)

Politico: **[OPINION] How Ruth Bader Ginsburg Will Have The Last Laugh on Samuel Alito**, John Harris, August 4, 2022, 4:30 AM

Justice Samuel Alito, in drafting *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, said he and the other justices who joined him in ending a constitutional right to abortion had no ability to foresee what the political implications would be. Even if they could know, he added, justices have "no authority to let that knowledge influence our decision." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Dallas Morning News: **Oral arguments in two cases with Texas connections scheduled for fall Supreme Court term**, Rebekah Alvey, August 3, 2022, 6:25 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court released a schedule of 13 cases it will hear in its new term from October through November, including a case involving DNA testing in Texas and a Fort Worth couple's attempts to adopt Native American children, challenging the Indian Child Welfare Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: **Blue Cross Gets Partial Win In Tribe's Health Care Fraud Suit**, Joyce Hanson, August 3, 2022, 9:55 PM

A federal judge has partly granted Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's bid to escape a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians lawsuit claiming the insurer committed health care fraud by breaking a promise to give the tribe discounts on treatment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Alaska Native Co. Asks 9th Circ. Not To Revisit Land Swap**, Andrew Westney, August 3, 2022, 8:56 PM

Alaska Native village company King Cove Corp. has urged the full Ninth Circuit to reject a bid by conservation groups to rehear a split circuit panel's ruling clearing the way for a land swap between the village and the federal government for a potential road, saying a Trump administration official amply justified his decision to greenlight the project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: **Wichita State Professor's Race, Sex Discrimination Case Advances**, Annelise Gilbert, August 3, 2022, 5:06 PM

A Native American Wichita State professor who says she faced persistent race, sex, and religious-based harassment and discrimination following a special university appointment is poised to have 12 of her legal claims heard by a jury, while 15 others were tossed by a Kansas federal court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: **California Bills To Legalize Psychedelics Possession, Allow Interstate Marijuana Commerce And More Teed Up For Key Hurdle Next Week**, Kyle Jaeger, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

California bills to legalize psychedelics possession, create the infrastructure to allow interstate marijuana commerce, prohibit localities from banning medical cannabis delivery services and impose new labeling requirements for cannabis products are all teed up for consideration in a key Assembly committee next week. The Assembly Appropriations Committee placed all four of those proposals, as well as a litany of unrelated measures, on its suspense file on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Marijuana Moment: **State Lawmakers Across The U.S. Call For Federal Marijuana Legalization And Banking Reform In Revised Resolution**, Kyle Jaeger, August 3, 2022, 12:30 PM

The non-partisan National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has voted to adopt a revised policy directive that expresses support for federal marijuana descheduling and cannabis banking reform amid the state-level legalization movement. The measure, which builds on an existing directive that NCSL passed in 2018, was approved at the organization's 2022 legislative summit on a voice vote on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: **What federal marijuana legalization would mean for state tax revenues**, Zachary Halaschak, August 3, 2022, 7:00 AM

Senate legislation to deregulate marijuana could give a boost to states that have legalized and taxed the drug and dedicated the revenues to social programs. Last week, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), alongside Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), introduced the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act, which would end the federal marijuana prohibition by removing cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act and leave marijuana laws to states to legislate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

KABC-ABC (Los Angeles, CA): **Bill allowing safe injection sites in Los Angeles heads to governor's desk**, Carlos Granda, August 3, 2022, 12:40 PM

A bold plan to provide places for people to use illegal drugs making its way through the California legislature. The bill would allow supervised injection sites. Los Angeles is one of the three cities being considered for the pilot program and the bill is heading to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk. The idea, according to proponents, is to provide a place where people could use drugs safely. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

NBC: **Biden signs executive order aimed at helping women travel for abortion**, Lauren Egan, August 3, 2022, 3:43 PM

President Joe Biden signed an executive order Wednesday aimed at helping women cross state borders to obtain abortions, his second order since the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to the procedure. The order directs the Department of Health and Human Services to "consider" allowing Medicaid funds to be used to assist people traveling between states to get abortions. The order also directs HHS to ensure that health care providers comply with federal anti-discrimination laws so women receive "medically necessary care without delay." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [LAT](#), [Week](#)

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. Senate panel seeks legislative path to avoid repeat of Jan. 6 violence, Rose Horowitz and David Morgan, August 3, 2022, 8:21 PM

A U.S. Senate panel on Wednesday took up proposals to reform federal election law, aiming to avoid a repeat of the violence of Jan. 6, 2021, when Donald Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in an effort to overturn his election defeat. The Senate Rules Committee is reviewing two legislative proposals to craft a bill to reform the 1887 Electoral Count Act, which the former president and his allies sought to use to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Examiner](#)

Fox: Sen. Cruz grills DOJ official on lack of prosecutions for protesters at Supreme Court justices' homes, Andrew Mark Miller, August 3, 2022, 8:53 PM

Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz grilled a top Justice Department official Wednesday over the lack of arrests made by law enforcement while protesters were demonstrating outside the homes of Supreme Court justices earlier this year. "Congress has addressed this issue. It passed 18 USC 1507 making it a crime to protest at the home of a Supreme Court Justice while a case is pending," Cruz told Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite, Jr. during a Judiciary Committee hearing on Wednesday. "Night after night after night, these protesters committed federal crimes on national television. Why has the Justice Department refused to enforce 18 USC 1507?" [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: AUGUST 3, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with Linsay Davis

CBS: Weekend News with Major Garrett

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Democrats displayed a newfound sense of optimism about the election-year political climate Wednesday after voters in traditionally conservative Kansas overwhelmingly backed a measure protecting abortion rights. At the White House, President Joe Biden hailed the vote in Kansas as the direct result of outrage at the Supreme Court's decision in June to repeal a woman's constitutional right to obtain an abortion. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- China is ramping up its military drills in response to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's historic trip to Taiwan. This is China's first live-fire exercises off Taiwan since 1996. Beijing sent fighter jets across a critical dividing line between Taiwan and the mainland, according to Taiwan and a senior U.S. official, raising U.S. fears that either side could miscalculate. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Pat Cipollone, former White House counsel to former President Trump, has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury for their investigation into the January 6 Capitol riot. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Infowars host Alex Jones took the stand for the second time in his defamation trial where he faces \$150 million in damages for falsely telling his audience that the Sandy Hook mass shooting was a hoax. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Rep. Jackie Walorski and three other people died in a fatal car crash Wednesday, according to the sheriff's office of Elkhart County, Ind. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Many Republicans who support former President Donald Trump's false claims of widespread 2020 election fraud are winning primaries, with some advancing to positions where they could influence running future elections if voters put them in office this fall. [[CBS](#)]
- The accused gunman in the mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, pleaded not guilty. He is charged with killing seven people and wounding dozens more. [[ABC](#)]
- The Justice Department on Wednesday sued former Donald Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro in an effort to force him to turn over emails from his tenure in the White House. [[ABC](#)]
- The U.N.'s nuclear chief said the war in Ukraine has left the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

"completely out of control." [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "China Fires Missiles Around Taiwan After Pelosi Visit" [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [LAT](#)]
- "Russia's Shortfalls Create an Opportunity for Ukraine, Western Officials Say" [[NYT](#)]
- "How abortion rights organizers won in Kansas: Horse parades and canvassing" [[WaPo](#), [LAT](#)]
- "Speculators Exit Agricultural Markets, Intensifying Crop Selloff" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
August 4, 2022
7:00 AM EST**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: AUGUST 4, 2022

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 9:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Executive Business Meeting.
- 10:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Reuters: **U.S. Justice to seek to dismiss Texas lawsuit against guidance on emergency care law**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:27 PM

The U.S. Justice Department plans to file a motion to dismiss a Texas lawsuit challenging guidance from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department on an emergency care law known as EMTALA, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: **EXPLAINER: Does health care law protect emergency abortion?**, Lindsay Whitehurst, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

The Biden administration has filed its first legal challenge to a state abortion ban since the end of *Roe v. Wade*, arguing Idaho's restrictive abortion law leaves doctors facing criminal penalties for providing abortion-related medical care to women in life-threatening medical situations. The Justice Department may have a strong argument in the Idaho case filed under federal health care law, but even if they win it wouldn't allow full access to abortion there, legal experts said. It could, though, give doctors more latitude to provide an abortion in an emergency or a situation that could become one. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: **A Focus on Victims' Rights Leads to Investor Payouts in Credit Suisse Case**, Dylan Tokar, August 4, 2022, 5:30 AM

When the U.S. Justice Department said earlier this year it would place an increased emphasis on compensating the victims of white-collar crime, lawyers for Credit Suisse Group AG had already taken steps to ensure their client was complying with the new policy. The Swiss bank in October signed a deal with U.S. and U.K. authorities to resolve investigations into a \$2 billion fraud and money-laundering scheme centered on a tuna-fishing project in Mozambique. As part of that agreement, the bank agreed to pay restitution to a group of investment firms, pension funds and money managers that helped finance the project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Guardian: **[OPINION] Time is running out. The Department of Justice must indict and convict Trump**, Laurence H Tribe and Dennis Aftergut, August 4, 2022, 6:22 AM

On Tuesday CNN reported that key January 6 texts have been erased by officials of Donald Trump's defense department in addition to homeland security and the Secret Service. Not even a clueless Hamlet could avoid smelling "something rotten in the state of Denmark". With the growing list of deletions, there is a whole new criminal conspiracy to investigate: one to destroy evidence of the grave federal crimes already under investigation. Nothing so focuses the prosecutorial mind or underscores the need to accelerate a criminal investigation as evidence that the investigation's target may have plotted to erase the proof of his wrongdoing that is needed to hold him accountable. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR: [AUDIO] Justice Department files a lawsuit against Idaho's restrictive abortion law, Carrie Johnson, August 4, 2022, 5:12 AM

In its first legal challenge over reproductive rights since Roe v Wade was overturned, the Justice Department is suing Idaho over a near total abortion ban. [\[Listen\]](#)

Guardian: Justice department urged to investigate deletion of January 6 texts by Pentagon, Martin Pengelly, August 3, 2022, 9:00 PM

The US attorney general, Merrick Garland, has been asked to investigate yet another deletion of text messages and other communications by senior officials on 6 January 2021, this time by the Pentagon. American Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog group, revealed the shock deletion on Tuesday, having discovered it through freedom of information requests to the Department of Defense. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Times: Lawmakers spar over Justice Department priorities during hearing on threats against election workers, Kerry Pickett, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee sparred Wednesday over the Justice Department's priorities during a hearing on the Biden administration's efforts to protect election workers from harassment and threats in the wake of the 2020 presidential election. Republicans including Sen. Mike Lee of Utah said a Justice task force has little to show for its investigations spurred by voter anger over the election, while failing to devote similar resources to protecting conservative Supreme Court justices from demonstrators. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US ATTORNEYS

WWLP-NBC/CW (Springfield, MA): New hotline available for Massachusetts residents to report hate crimes, Nick DeGray, August 3, 2022, 6:47 PM

The U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday a new hotline for Massachusetts residents to report hate-based incidents. Residents can call 1-83-END-H8-NOW (1-833-634-8669) and are encouraged to leave their contact information but may also remain anonymous. The hotline is available in English, Spanish, Cantonese and French at this time. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Patch \(Massachusetts\)](#), [WCVB-ABC \(Boston, MA\)](#)

WTOV-NBC/Fox (Steubenville, OH): Federal indictments returned, leaders praise community, ask for continued help, Gianna Dapra, August 3, 2022, 3:20 PM

U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld held a news conference on Wednesday to discuss significance of drug and firearm cases in the area. Ihlenfeld and local law enforcement from Ohio County, Wheeling Police, Belmont County, and Pennsylvania State Troopers were on hand to talk about four recent federal grand jury indictments. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: [ANALYSIS] Beyond yachts and planes - U.S. turns to foreign agent laws to curb Russian influence, Luc Cohen, August 4, 2022, 6:13 AM

In the five months since the U.S. Department of Justice launched a task force to seize Russian oligarchs' assets to pressure Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, prosecutors also have targeted something less tangible: Russia's influence. Prosecutors in that period have charged five Russians with acting on the Kremlin's behalf without registering as foreign agents, as the Justice Department broadly ramps up enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act

(FARA) and a related law known by its code number, 951. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Federal gun charges for 2 accused of plotting July 4 attack, Denise Lavoie, August 3, 2022, 10:00 PM

A judge dismissed state gun charges Wednesday against two men who police said planned a Fourth of July mass shooting in Virginia's capital after charges were filed against the men in federal court. Neither man has been charged specifically with planning a mass shooting. Julio Alvarado-Dubon and Rolman Balcarcel-Bavagas, both Guatemalan immigrants, were charged in state court last month with possession of a firearm by a non-U.S. citizen. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: U.S. Homeland Security watchdog broke ethics rules in previous job, report says, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 9:25 PM

U.S. Homeland Security Department Inspector General Joseph Cuffari, who has been embroiled in controversy over the investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, violated ethics rules in a previous government job, according to a Justice Department report issued in 2013. Cuffari was investigated by the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) when he served as a special agent in the OIG's Tucson office. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Axios](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: Chicago-area July 4 parade attack suspect pleads not guilty, Kathleen Foody and Michael Tarm, August 3, 2022, 6:00 PM

The man accused of killing seven people and wounding dozens more in a shooting at an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago pleaded not guilty on Wednesday, a week after prosecutors announced he faces 117 felony counts in the attack. Robert E. Crimo III appeared for a brief hearing Wednesday in Lake County's circuit court to enter a formal plea to the charges 21 counts of first-degree murder, 48 counts of attempted murder and 48 counts of aggravated battery representing those killed and wounded during the parade in Highland Park. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Reuters](#)

WaPo: Homeland Security watchdog previously accused of misleading investigators, report says, Lisa Rein, Carol D. Leonnig and Maria Sacchetti, August 3, 2022, 11:41 PM

The Homeland Security watchdog now under scrutiny for his handling of deleted Secret Service text messages from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol previously was accused of misleading federal investigators and running "afoul" of ethics regulations while he was in charge of a Justice Department inspector general field office in Tucson, according to a newly disclosed government report. In the 2013 report from the Justice Department's inspector general, which was never publicly released, investigators said they did "not believe" Joseph V. Cuffari's explanation for why he failed to inform his supervisors against federal rules about his testimony in a lawsuit brought by a federal prisoner. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: Man accused of leaving loaded gun on Capitol grounds during Jan. 6 riot, Rachel Weiner, August 3, 2022, 7:13 PM

A Missouri man left a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, according to prosecutors. Jerod Thomas Bargar, 36, of Centralia, Mo., was arrested Wednesday; he is one of a small group of people accused of illegally carrying guns during the riot that forced a delay in certifying the results of the 2020 election. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KOMU-NBC/CW \(Columbia, MO\)](#), [KRCG-CBS \(Jefferson City, MO\)](#)

NYT: Trump Lawyer Proposed Challenging Georgia Senate Elections in Search of Fraud, Maggie Haberman and Luke Broadwater, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

John Eastman, the conservative lawyer whose plan to block congressional certification of the 2020 election failed in spectacular fashion on Jan. 6, 2021, sent an email two weeks later arguing that pro-Trump forces should sue to keep searching for the supposed election fraud he acknowledged they had failed to find. On Jan. 20, 2021, hours after President Biden's inauguration, Mr. Eastman emailed Rudolph W. Giuliani, former President Donald J. Trump's personal lawyer, proposing that they challenge the outcome of the runoff elections in Georgia for two Senate seats that had been won on Jan. 5 by Democrats. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Yahoo: Exclusive: Trump allies launch effort to recall Fulton County DA Fani Willis, Michael Isikoff, August 3, 2022, 5:43 PM

Donald Trump's allies in Georgia are mounting a campaign to recall Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis over her investigation into the then president's attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election and are seeking to recruit high-dollar donors to fund it, according to sources familiar with the effort. The organizers of the campaign concede that the obstacles to a successful recall in Georgia are high, making the chances of getting a recall vote on the ballot before Willis makes her decision on whether to indict Trump and his associates remote at best. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR: The U.S. has sanctioned Vladimir Putin's long-rumored romantic partner, Jason Breslow, August 3, 2022, 5:06 PM

The U.S. has brought sanctions against the former Olympic gymnast who is long-rumored to be the romantic partner of Russian President Vladimir Putin adding the person known as "Russia's most flexible woman" to the growing list of individuals to face financial penalties in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Alina Kabaeva, 39, has been romantically linked to Putin, 69, for more than a decade and is thought to have had at least three children with him. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Giuliani unlikely to face charges in federal lobbying case: Report, Ryan King, August 3, 2022, 3:25 PM

Rudy Giuliani is reportedly unlikely to face federal charges in the federal investigation of his business activity in Ukraine. Federal prosecutors have been investigating Giuliani for nearly two years to determine whether he illegally lobbied the Trump administration in favor of Ukrainian officials who had been collaborating with him in his quest to dig up dirt on the Biden family. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: John Durham takes the reins ahead of trial of Steele dossier source, Jerry Dunleavy, August 3, 2022, 2:46 PM

John Durham is taking the reins as the trial against the main source for Christopher Steele's dossier draws near after the special counsel's investigation was dealt a blow with a "not guilty" verdict earlier this year. Russian national Igor Danchenko was charged last year with five counts of making false statements to the FBI. Durham says the comments were about the information Danchenko provided to British ex-spy Steele for the dossier. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: Kansas man with 'just minimal' legal training to represent himself in Capitol riot case, Judy L. Thomas, August 3, 2022, 8:59 AM

A Kansas man facing eight charges in the Capitol riot including allegedly trying to force open a

door inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office suite will be allowed to represent himself in the case, a federal judge has ruled. William Pope, of Topeka, told U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras at a hearing Tuesday that he wanted to waive his constitutional right to counsel and proceed on his own. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUSA-CBS (Washington, DC): Illinois man wants to withdraw guilty plea in Capitol riot case, Jordan Fischer, August 3, 2022, 4:39 PM

An Illinois man who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of parading last month asked a judge this week to let him withdraw that plea and instead take his case to trial. Athanasios Zoyganeles, 44, pleaded guilty last month to one count of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. The charge is a petty misdemeanor offense that has, in some cases, resulted in probation-only sentences for other Jan. 6 defendants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE

AP: Trump ally Navarro sued for alleged unofficial email account, Michael Balsamo, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

The Justice Department filed suit Wednesday against Peter Navarro, claiming the former adviser to Donald Trump used an unofficial email account while working in the White House and wrongfully retained presidential records. The lawsuit in federal court in Washington claims Navarro used at least one "non-official" email account a ProtonMail account to send and receive emails. The legal action comes just weeks after Navarro was indicted on criminal charges after refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Daily Beast](#), [The Hill](#), [Law360](#), [National Law Journal](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: Democrat Seeks Inspector General Inquiry Into Pentagon's Missing Jan. 6 Texts, Luke Broadwater, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM

The No. 2 Senate Democrat on Wednesday called for an inspector general investigation into missing text messages from top Defense Department officials in the Trump administration related to the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. Senator Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he was sending a letter to Sean O'Donnell, the Defense Department's inspector general, seeking an investigation into the disappearance of text messages from the phones of at least five former Trump administration officials, including Christopher C. Miller, the acting defense secretary; Kash Patel, the Pentagon's chief of staff; and Ryan D. McCarthy, the Army secretary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [OPINION] Trump faces new danger in DOJ's surprise subpoena of Pat Cipollone, Greg Sargent, August 3, 2022, 11:37 AM

Donald Trump may announce a 2024 presidential bid before the midterm elections because he reportedly believes this could help him elude Jan. 6-related prosecution. If he's a candidate, goes this thinking, any criminal investigation into him would appear hopelessly tainted. But if Trump thinks he's in fearsome control of events, of the calendar and of the public discourse around his legal vulnerabilities an aura that's central to his appeal to supporters a confluence of new developments should sorely test that confidence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: Federal grand jury subpoenas former Trump White House counsel Pat Cipollone in DOJ Jan. 6 inquiry, Kevin Johnson, David Jackson, August 3, 2022, 11:19 PM

Former White House counsel Pat Cipollone has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating the Capitol attack and the campaign to overturn the 2020 election, a person familiar with the matter said Wednesday. The Justice Department's action involving Cipollone comes after the former White House official testified last month before the House committee in its separate examination of the Jan. 6, 2021 attack. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Fox](#), [The Hill](#), [MSNBC](#), [MSNBC-2](#), [NBC](#), [UPI](#), [USA Today](#), [WSJ](#)

CNN: [ANALYSIS] Latest subpoenas suggest DOJ probe could be aiming squarely at Trump, Stephen Collinson, August 4, 2022, 12:02 AM

"This is probably bad ... for former President Trump." With dry understatement, Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, one of two Republicans on the House select committee investigating the insurrection, summed up on CNN on Wednesday a significant turn in the Department of Justice probe into the mob attack on the US Capitol and the effort to overturn the 2020 election.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: [VIDEO] What Toobin says is a 'big deal' development in the Jan. 6 criminal probe, Anderson Cooper, August 3, 2022, 10:00 PM

CNN's chief legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin tells Anderson Cooper about the scale of the Department of Justice's January 6 criminal probe, and the significance of new subpoenas in the investigation. [\[Watch\]](#)

CNN: FIRST ON CNN: Former Deputy White House counsel subpoenaed in January 6 probe, Katelyn Polantz and Pamela Brown, August 3, 2022, 4:57 PM

The former deputy counsel to President Donald Trump has been subpoenaed in the federal criminal probe of the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, two sources familiar with the matter tell CNN. Patrick Philbin was subpoenaed for testimony and documents, according to one of the sources. Philbin worked in the White House counsel's office under Pat Cipollone, who also was also subpoenaed for documents and testimony, according to sources. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: Trump faces uphill fight on executive privilege in DOJ probe, Kyle Cheney, Josh Gerstein and Betsy Woodruff Swan, August 3, 2022, 8:51 PM

Donald Trump's camp has yet to say whether he'll try to use executive privilege to disrupt the Justice Department's grand jury investigation into attempts to overturn the 2020 election. But if he does, it could be a very short fight. A series of court rulings prompted by Trump's effort to stymie the House Jan. 6 select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol sharply rejected Trump's bid to wield the power as a former president. In fact, the Supreme Court agreed that Trump's effort to assert privilege would have failed even if he were the sitting president, effectively granting the committee access to Trump's White House papers. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

See also: [FiveThirtyEight](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

Bloomberg: Sneakerhead Accused of Running Huge Air Jordan Ponzi Scheme, Misyrlena Ekgolfopoulou, August 3, 2022, 9:40 PM

For years, he seemed like a wizard of Niketown — a Lamborghini-loving sneakerhead who made millions peddling rare Air Jordans at crazy low prices. [...] That, in a nutshell, is how authorities characterize Michael Malekzadeh, of Eugene, Oregon. Prosecutors say Malekzadeh, 39, and his

Zadeh Kicks LLC swindled thousands of people across the nation in a multimillion-dollar scam involving nubuck and leather, rather than stocks and bonds. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KATU-ABC \(Portland, OR\)](#), [KEZI-ABC \(Eugene, OR\)](#), [KOIN-CBS \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Trumbull Times: **Bridgeport man sentenced for laundering money in romance, lottery scams, prosecutors say**, Liz Hardaway, August 3, 2022, 9:08 PM

A Bridgeport man was sentenced to more than two years in prison Wednesday for laundering money obtained from lottery and romance schemes, according to federal prosecutors. U.S. Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery said the schemes defrauded mostly elderly victims across the country of millions of dollars. Stanley Pierre, 35, of Bridgeport, used his personal bank accounts, and established business bank accounts, to launder these funds. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): **Cicero man admits to possessing over 400 child porn photos, videos**, Anne Hayes, August 3, 2022, 8:45 PM

A Cicero man pled guilty in federal court to receipt of child pornography Wednesday, federal prosecutors said. As part of his guilty plea, Brian White, 67, admitted to downloading over 400 images and videos depicting child pornography in around six months. according to a news release from the United States Attorney's Office Northern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The York Dispatch (York County, PA): **Lincoln Charter School principal to plead guilty in federal theft case**, Aimee Ambrose, August 3, 2022, 8:07 PM

The apparently now-former head of Lincoln Charter School allegedly misused federal education funds. He's the second administrator from the school to face federal accusations of theft in the past two years. Leonard Hart, 50, of Mount Wolf, was charged with theft of federal funds in a case filed in U.S. District Court in Harrisburg on Tuesday following an FBI investigation. A plea agreement was also filed, showing he would admit to the charge and waive indictment by a grand jury. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Patriot-News \(Harrisburg, PA\)](#), [WGAL-NBC \(Lancaster, PA\)](#), [WPMT-Fox \(York, PA\)](#)

The Times (Shreveport, LA): **Shreveport man sentenced to 40 years in prison for mailman's murder**, Makenzie Boucher, August 3, 2022, 6:45 PM

A 33-year-old Shreveport man was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday for shooting and killing a U.S. postal worker as he delivered mail. Michael Jarred Gentry was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks Jr. of Shreveport. Gentry pleaded guilty March 21 to second-degree murder in the killing of 52-year-old Antonio Williams. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSLA-CBS \(Shreveport, LA\)](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Churchill man gets 10-year jail sentence on drugs, gun charges**, Joe Napsha, August 3, 2022, 5:45 PM

A Churchill man was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison Wednesday on firearms and drug violations and five years probation, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh. Maurice Miller, 35, had pleaded guilty on April 4 in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh to the accusations that he was part of a conspiracy to distribute at least a kilogram of heroin, at least 10 ounces of crack cocaine, more than 100 grams of acetyl fentanyl and valeryl fentanyl, and at least 400 grams or more of fentanyl. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Verona woman sentenced to federal prison for her role with**

the HDS drug trafficking gang, Michael DiVittorio, August 3, 2022, 5:32 PM

A Verona woman authorities said was involved in drug trafficking has been sentenced in federal court to 10 months in prison after being convicted of federal drug charges. Prosecutors said Shania Wilson, 40, was involved with the Hustlas Don't Sleep drug trafficking gang. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Bridgeport, CT): Bridgeport Man Pleads Guilty To Living Under Assumed Name For 20 Years, Alfred Branch, August 3, 2022, 6:26 PM

A 55-year-old citizen of St. Lucia, who last resided in Bridgeport, pleaded guilty Tuesday to offenses related to his acquiring federal documents under an assumed identity, United States Attorney Vanessa Roberts Avery announced. Adrian Joseph pleaded guilty to one count of use of a passport secured by a false statement before U.S. District Judge Sarah A. L. Merriam in Bridgeport. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Norfolk, VA): Man, Woman Convicted Of Operating Virginia Meth House, AJ Goldbloom, August 3, 2022, 4:34 PM

A Norfolk man and woman were both convicted on Wednesday, August 3, of operating a meth house, officials said. Along with firearms, Vicente Andres, 61, and Margaret Sutton, 51, stored and sold meth and marijuana in a house on Danwood Drive, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WAVY-NBC \(Portsmouth, VA\)](#), [WTKR-CBS \(Norfolk, VA\)](#)

Patch (New Haven, CT): New Haven Man, 27, Gets 5-Year Prison For Firearm Possession: Feds, Ellyn Santiago, August 3, 2022, 4:13 PM

A 27-year-old New Haven man was sentenced to serve five years in federal prison on a firearm conviction, according to the U.S. Attorney. Tyrone Brown pleaded guilty in April to illegally possessing a gun, namely a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol found by cops in a court-ordered search of his Stevens Street home in August 2021, US Attorney for Connecticut, Vanessa Roberts Avery said.. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Falls Church, VA): Falls Church Woman Sentenced For Spending Funds Intended For DC School, Emily Leayman, August 3, 2022, 2:18 PM

A Falls Church woman who served as a former principal at a DC school received a prison sentence for embezzling funds intended for students. Bridget Coates, 49, of Falls Church, pleaded guilty in April to one charge of wire fraud for embezzling at least \$175,000 in funds. Coates, the former principal at St. Thomas More Catholic School in southeast DC, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. Coates must also pay \$175,000 in restitution to the Archdiocese of Washington and the same amount in a forfeiture money judgment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Voice \(Alexandria, VA\)](#), [WJLA-ABC \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTOP-FM \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): Feds accuse Akron man of laundering drug money, fraudulently obtaining coronavirus-relief money to buy a Tesla, Adam Ferrise, August 3, 2022, 1:53 PM

An Akron man was charged Wednesday with laundering drug money through a \$325,000 home purchase and with fraudulently obtaining a small-business loan from the federal government's coronavirus relief funds to buy a Tesla. Nicholas R. Crawford, 41, is charged in federal court in Akron with money laundering, wire fraud, theft of government funds and engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from unlawful activity. The allegations were contained in a 26-

count indictment. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WHBQ-Fox \(Memphis, TN\)](#)

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): **Athens educator sentenced to 5 1/2 years for virtual school fraud**, Trisha Powell Crain, August 3, 2022, 1:17 PM

A former Athens City school administrator convicted in a virtual school scheme that defrauded Alabama public schools of up to \$10 million was sentenced Wednesday to serve 66 months in federal prison, and must pay \$1.3 million in restitution. William Richard “Rick” Carter in March was found guilty of conspiracy, four counts of wire fraud and two counts of identity theft and faced up to 20 years in prison, with a mandatory consecutive two-year sentence on each of two cases of aggravated identity theft. He must report to prison Oct. 5. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WAFF-NBC \(Huntsville, AL\)](#)

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): **Alabama man pleads guilty to shooting police K9, gun charge**, Paul Gattis, August 3, 2022, 11:21 AM

An Alabama man pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Mississippi to shooting a police K9 as well as illegal possession of a firearm. Richard J. McGuire, 44 of Mobile, entered the guilty plea in U.S. District Court in Gulfport. McGuire pleaded guilty to “animal crushing” causing serious bodily injury to a K9 police dog, according to the indictment. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WJTV-CBS \(Jackson, MS\)](#), [WLOX-ABC/CBS \(Biloxi, MS\)](#), [WXXV-Fox/NBC/CW \(Gulfport, MS\)](#)

WMGT-NBC (Macon, GA): **Georgia man sentenced for supplying meth to Monroe County drug dealer**, Clayton Poulcott, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

A Georgia man was sentenced to federal prison Wednesday, after he admitted to supplying a large quantity of methamphetamine to a Monroe County drug dealer. 63-year-old Frank Settambino, was sentenced to 90 months followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WDEL-AM (Wilmington, DE): **Wilmington man sentenced to five years for drug-related gun conviction**, Sean Greene, August 3, 2022, 10:24 PM

A Wilmington man was sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of possessing a gun during drug trafficking. 34-year-old Jeremy Johnson was arrested by Wilmington Police Department after being observed making a drug transaction near a car, which was found to have two firearms, 68 grams of cocaine, oxycodone pills, and three digital scales, according to court documents. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): **Domestic abuser sentenced 2 years in federal prison for illegal firearm possession**, Tony Brunenkant, August 3, 2022, 9:39 PM

After pleading guilty to being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, Anthony Hughes, 37, of Indianapolis, was sentenced Wednesday to two years in federal prison. During a January 2020 traffic stop, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police officers discovered a firearm that Hughes admitted to owning. Hughes is prohibited from firearm possession due to a being a repeat domestic abuser with multiple incidents involving a woman and a child. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTRF-CBS/ABC (Wheeling, WV): **“Enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman and child in the Northern Panhandle”**, Colin Roose, Dan Mayeres, August 3, 2022, 9:01 PM

Months of investigation from local agencies have paid off, as massive amounts of deadly drugs are off Ohio County’s streets. U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld announced four high-profile drug

cases that now face indictment from a grand jury. Solomon Watters of Cleveland, along with his co-conspirator Chelsea Banks of Wheeling, allegedly planned to distribute more than a kilogram of fentanyl in Ohio County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCHS-ABC (Charleston, WV): Logan County woman pleaded guilty to fraudulent claims of COVID relief funds, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 8:30 PM

A Logan County woman pleaded guilty to defrauding the Paycheck Protection Program Wednesday. Alexis Ransom, 24, admitted to federal wire fraud after taking more than \$42,000 in COVID relief funds through three separate PPP loans from March to August 2021, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Murder suspect of Millcreek mother convicted of stolen firearm charges, Michael Houck, August 3, 2022, 7:17 PM

A convicted felon and suspect of the murder of 57-year-old Millcreek mother Linda Nemelka was found guilty of stolen firearm charges on Sunday. After a four-day trial, James Dekota Brunson, 25, of Orem, Utah was found guilty of possession of firearms and ammunition as a convicted felon and possession of stolen firearms, according to Utah's Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRIS-NBC (Corpus Christi, TX): Shoot out between rival drug dealers leads to hefty prison sentence, Shane Rackley, August 3, 2022, 6:37 PM

A 26-year-old Corpus Christi man was sentenced to twenty-five years in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute narcotics and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. In May of 2019, police responded to reports of gunfire between rival drug dealers at the home of Jonathan Rodriguez. According to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office, crack cocaine and meth were found in the home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWWL-NBC/CW (Waterloo, IA): Previously deported woman living in Cedar Falls sentenced after using fraudulent Social Security Card, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 6:30 PM

A Guatemalan woman illegally living in Cedar Falls after being deported has been sentenced for using someone else's Social Security card to get employment. Maria Julia Diaz-Ventura, 34, was sentenced to almost four months in federal prison after pleading guilty in May to illegally reentering into the US after being deported in 2017 and using a fraudulent ID. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WIAT-CBS (Birmingham, AL): Birmingham man sentenced to 25 years for sex trafficking and exploitation of a minor, Monica Nakashima, August 3, 2022, 6:26 PM

A Birmingham man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison on federal charges of sex trafficking a teenage girl Wednesday. Jeremy Lynn Alexander, 36, was sentenced to 300 months in prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release for sex trafficking a minor and sexual exploitation of children. This conviction will require Alexander to register as a sex offender in accordance with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [WBMA-ABC \(Birmingham, AL\)](#)

WLWT-NBC (Cincinnati, OH): Cincinnati man sentenced in sex trafficking sting involving 16-year-old girl, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 5:27 PM

A Cincinnati man will spend eight years in federal prison for his part in a sex trafficking ring. An

undercover operation conducted by Blue Ash Police and FBI officials led to the arrest of 35-year-old Doyenn Clayborne in October 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCPO-ABC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#), [WKRC-CBS \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

WSYR-ABC (Syracuse, NY): **California man sent to federal prison for traveling to Syracuse intending to engage in sexual conduct with a child**, Reegan Domagala, August 3, 2022, 5:08 PM

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, a 35-year-old man from Los Angeles, California, Edward Mercado was sentenced to 7 years in federal prison for traveling to New York to try and engage in illicit sexual conduct with a 10-year-old child. In Mercado's previous guilty plea from May 2021 through June 2021, he had many telephone and text conversations that included sexually explicit content with an undercover officer posing as the mother of a 10-year-old girl. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPLG-ABC (Miami, FL): **Feds: Miami doc's \$38M health care fraud scheme paid for condos, cars; now he's going to prison**, Chris Gothner, August 3, 2022, 5:03 PM

A Miami physician's six-year, \$38 million health care fraud scheme paid for luxury cars and beachfront condominiums, prosecutors say. But 63-year-old Armando Valdes won't be doing any driving where he'll be living next and the accommodations are sure to be a step down. That's because on Tuesday, a judge sentenced him to five years in federal prison after a guilty plea earlier this year. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): **Muscogee County Sheriff: Man arrested with 'enough fentanyl to kill every citizen in Muscogee County' pleads guilty**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 3:56 PM

A Columbus man arrested in January, following a search warrant conducted at his home, has pleaded guilty in federal court. This week, Michael Schlarman, age 31, pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of fentanyl with the intent to distribute in the court of U.S. District Judge Clay Land. According to Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman, the Jan. 26, 2022 search of Schlarman's Wagner Drive home was conducted by the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, DEA, FBI, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOAY-ABC (Oak Hill, WV): **Jury finds Logan County man guilty of child pornography crime**, Brandy Lawrence, August 3, 2022, 2:20 PM

A federal jury convicted Raymond Dugan, 55, of accessing with the intent to view prepubescent child pornography. A forensic analysis of Dugan's computer found that the defendant used a dark web browser to access over 1,000 images of child pornography. Dugan is scheduled to be sentenced on October 27. The defendant faces the maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and must register as a sex offender. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KCAU-ABC (Sioux City, IA): **Whiting man federally sentenced for child pornography**, Ariel Pokett, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Siouland man received a prison sentence on Tuesday due to receiving child pornography. According to a release from the United States Attorney's Office, Dason Ku, 42, of Whiting, pleaded guilty after he admitted during his plea hearing to receiving visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBOI-CBS (Boise, ID): **Boise man sentenced for possession of child pornography**, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Boise man was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography. 51-year-old Justin Yount had been reported by a witness saying she had seen child pornography on his laptop. The witness gave the laptop to the Boise Police Department, who obtained a search warrant for Yount's residence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISC-CBS (Madison, WI): Dane County residents indicted by federal grand jury over gun purchase, Kyle Jones, August 3, 2022, 2:00 PM

A pair of Dane County residents were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday on charges related to a firearm purchase. Taylor Kratochwill-Loomis, 21, of DeForest is charged with two counts of making false statements, and Deontrae McIntosh, 18, of Sun Prairie is charged with two counts of causing her to make false statements. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WKOW-ABC \(Madison, WI\)](#)

WSET-ABC (Lynchburg, VA): Harrisonburg man pleads guilty to bank robbery, Robert Locklear, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

Charles Hood faces 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to a bank robbery in which he stole over \$15,000 in cash, according to the Harrisonburg Police Department. According to court documents, Hood walked into First Citizen Bank on University Blvd. in Harrisonburg on January 4, 2022. Wearing a dark mask, sunglasses, a wig and brown work boots, he approached a bank manager and inquired about opening an account, HPD says. From there Hood instructed the manager and tellers to load a makeshift bag with cash, brandishing what they thought was a gun but turned out to be a BB gun. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHSV-ABC \(Harrisonburg, VA\)](#)

KCAU-ABC (Sioux City, IA): Sioux City resident sentenced for sex crime against child, Laila Freeman, August 3, 2022, 12:26 PM

A man who lived in Siouxland has been sentenced for a sexual assault crime against a child. The U.S. Department of Justice said in a release that Juan Pablo Hernandez, 44, of El Salvador but residing in Sioux City, pleaded guilty on March 10 to aggravated sexual abuse of a child. The release reported Hernandez admitted to driving from South Sioux City to Sioux City with a minor to sexually assault them as well as take sexual photos of the victim. The minor was under the age of 12. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KICD-AM (Spencer, IA): Hartley Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Weapons Charge, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 11:28 AM

A Hartley man has pled guilty to illegally owning a firearm as a felon in Sioux City Federal District Court. 34 year old Joe Ripka was arrested in December after a traffic stop in Cherokee County. Ripka had been pulled over for having no license plates on his vehicle. During the stop he reportedly showed signs of impairment and deputies brought in a K9 which signaled the presence of a substance in the car. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Idaho's top court latest in red state to weigh abortion ban, Rebecca Boone and Geoff Mulvihill, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM

It's likely that virtually all abortions will be banned eventually in deeply conservative Idaho, along with most other Republican-dominated states, but there are still battles to play out in court and maybe the legislature as abortion rights advocates continue to try to resist what could be

inevitable. Wednesday, lawyers for a doctor, a regional Planned Parenthood affiliate and the state government went before the Idaho's state Supreme Court for arguments over whether a series of bans can be enforced this month. Even if the advocates prevail, state lawmakers could adopt new bans. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Suit: Police chasing white suspect wrongly arrest Black [sic] man, Alanna Durkin Richer, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

A suburban Boston police officer who was pursuing a white suspect pinned a 20-year-old Black man to the ground as he was walking home and placed a knee on the man's neck despite having no evidence that he was involved in any crime, according to a federal civil rights lawsuit filed Wednesday. [...] The lawsuit filed in Boston federal court alleges that police violated Johnson's constitutional rights when they stopped him, searched him, handcuffed him and placed him in the back of a cruiser before releasing him with no charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT, The Daily: [AUDIO] How to Interpret the Kansas Referendum on Abortion, August 4, 2022, 6:00 AM

Kansas this week became the first U.S. state since the fall of *Roe v. Wade* to put the question of abortion directly to the electorate. The result was resounding. Voters chose overwhelmingly to preserve abortion rights, an outcome that could have important political reverberations for the rest of the country. [[Listen](#)]

Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, MD): U.S. Justice Department is investigating UMBC's Title IX compliance and response to sexual misconduct, Darcy Costello, August 4, 2022, 6:00 AM

The U.S. Department of Justice is conducting a civil rights investigation into the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's compliance with federal Title IX rules barring gender discrimination. University officials confirmed the investigation this week and said the school was notified about it in November 2020. The probe is "still underway," UMBC's general counsel said in an emailed statement to The Baltimore Sun, though no timeline for findings has been provided. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: Federal judge throws out some claims in protracted fight over Texas voting restrictions, Stephen Paulsen, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

In a limited order this week, a federal judge threw out some civil rights and discrimination claims brought as part of a complex and ongoing legal dispute over strict new voting rules in Texas. The lawsuit filed last year alleges that the rules violate the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act by restricting voter assistance and making it easier for "partisan poll watchers to intimidate voters and poll workers." [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Law360: NJ Contractor Charged Over Deadly Wall Collapse, Elliot Weld, August 3, 2022, 6:47 PM

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday charged a New Jersey contractor with willfully violating Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, accusing the company and its director of negligence when a wall at one of the firm's construction sites collapsed in 2017, leading to a worker's death. A criminal information filed in Manhattan federal court alleges that contracting company Onekey LLC and its director, Fibar O'Neill, built a temporary wall on the construction site without the approval of an engineer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WUTR-ABC (Utica, NY): North Country Neurology ordered to pay \$850K for ‘improper,’ ‘reckless’ billing, Isabella Colello, August 3, 2022, 11:13 AM

North Country Neurology, P.C., located in Watertown has been ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars by the United States Attorney’s Office. U.S. States Attorney Carla B. Freedman confirmed on August 3 that North Country Neurology agreed to pay \$850,000 for was it admitted was “improper” and “reckless” billing to the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: White House frustrated as Washington mayor seeks troops to help handle migrants, Ted Hesson, August 3, 2022, 10:41 PM

Thousands of migrants bused to Washington in recent months by Republican governors of states on the U.S.-Mexico border have caused tensions between the White House and the Democratic mayor of the U.S. capital city, four U.S. officials told Reuters. Last week, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser called on President Joe Biden, a fellow Democrat, to mobilize the National Guard to provide aid and shelter for migrants arriving after long trips from Texas and Arizona. White House officials and Washington-area volunteers helping migrants are voicing frustration, saying the aid is unnecessary and the request, which became public last week, plays into the hands of Biden’s Republican critics. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Immigrants are not getting Social Security numbers at the U.S. border, Josh Kelety, August 3, 2022, 8:00 PM

CLAIM: U.S. Border Patrol agents are giving Social Security numbers to immigrants who cross the border into the U.S. without authorization. AP’S ASSESSMENT: False. Border Patrol does not give Social Security numbers to immigrants who cross the border, nor does it have the authority to, a spokesperson for the agency told The Associated Press. Immigrants living in the U.S. illegally aren’t eligible for Social Security numbers unless they meet certain criteria, experts say. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Border officials investigating claims Sikh turbans were confiscated, Nick Miroff, August 3, 2022, 3:37 PM

U.S. authorities are investigating complaints that the religious rights of dozens of Sikh asylum seekers were violated recently when their turbans were confiscated by Border Patrol agents in the Yuma, Ariz., area, officials said Wednesday. The American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sent a letter Monday to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus saying the organization since June has documented almost 50 cases in which agents confiscated turbans, denouncing the seizures as “ongoing, serious religious-freedom violations.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [The Hill](#), [NBC](#)

Fox: Houston task force busts catalytic converter theft ring with \$12M in stolen goods, and guns, Bradford Betz, August 3, 2022, 3:50 PM

Houston authorities apprehended six individuals last week in connection with a crime ring that had nearly \$12 million worth of stolen catalytic converters, firearms and a Challenger Hellcat. The monthslong investigation stemmed from the death of Harris County Sheriff’s Deputy Darren Almendarez, who was shot while trying to stop thieves from stealing his catalytic converter, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Biden Ordered To Revisit Visa Apps Nixed In Trump Travel Ban, Alyssa Aquino, August 3, 2022, 5:35 PM

A California federal judge ordered the Biden administration to revisit the tens of thousands of visa applications that were denied under Trump-era travel restrictions, finding that targeted foreigners were still bruised from the travel ban, long after their revocation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Senators Urge Biden To Ramp Up Refugee Admissions, Nicole Rosenthal, August 3, 2022, 5:21 PM

Thirty Democratic senators urged the Biden administration to immediately increase the target refugee admissions and take proactive steps to admit a higher number of refugees in the next fiscal year, emphasizing the need to assist refugees fleeing war and persecution. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Post: 40 illegally caught sharks seized off Texas coast, Mexican fishermen arrested, MaryAnn Martinez, August 3, 2022, 6:55 PM

Four Mexican fishermen were busted off the coast of Texas while they were illegally fishing for sharks, said the US Coast Guard. The Coast Guard received a tip Tuesday from Customs and Border Protection personnel that a Mexican fishing boat, known as a lancha, was illegally fishing in US waters near Corpus Christi. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times: Laredo CBP officers arrest capital murder suspect, Cesar Rodriguez, August 3, 2022, 2:04 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested a teen wanted for capital murder in Dallas County, according to authorities. Daniela Barrientos Echeverria, 18, arrived on July 20 at the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge as a bus passenger. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WNBC-NBC (New York, NY): Asylum Seekers Going to NY Given Fake Addresses, 'Emojis' Mocking Effort to Flee Violence, Melissa Russo, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

The federal government is sending asylum seekers from Texas to New York City with sometimes questionable paperwork and Catholic Charities says one example in particular illustrates the allegedly "disgusting treatment" of migrants at the border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFOX-Fox (El Paso, TX): CBP officers seize 73 pounds of hard drugs at El Paso area ports of entry last week, Fallon Fischer, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers working at El Paso area ports of entry seized 73 pounds of various hard drugs over the last week. On July 25, CBP officers working at the Paso Del Norte border crossing intercepted 14.77 pounds of cocaine from a 36-year-old woman from Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KYMA-NBC (Yuma, AZ): Border Patrol agents questioned for trashing migrants' personal documents, Faith Rodriguez, August 3, 2022, 1:48 PM

Representative Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) has led 22 members of Congress to send a letter to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner (CBP) Chris Magnus and Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Tae D. Johnson regarding the confiscation and discarding of personal documents of migrants by CBP agents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): \$2.6M in narcotics seized at Texas-Mexico border, Annie Gimbel, August 3, 2022, 10:48 AM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted narcotics in two separate enforcement actions with a combined estimated street value of \$2,669,899. "These significant drug seizures are the direct result of our officers' dedication and vigilance in securing our borders and our streets, and communities are safer for it," said Port Director Tater Ortiz, Brownsville Port of Entry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Tyson Foods ignoring subpoena for meat price gouging probe, NY attorney general says, Jonathan Stempel, August 3, 2022, 3:48 PM

Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N), one of the largest U.S. meat producers, is refusing to comply with a subpoena for a civil probe into possible price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic, New York's attorney general said on Wednesday. Letitia James, the attorney general, asked a state judge in Manhattan to require Tyson to turn over materials including contractual terms, prices, and profit margins for its sales of meat to New York retailers from December 2019 to April 2022.

[[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

WaPo: Phil Mickelson, 10 other LIV golfers, file antitrust suit against PGA Tour, Matt Bonesteel, August 3, 2022, 4:44 PM

Eleven golfers from the fledgling LIV Golf Invitational Series filed a federal antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour, arguing that their careers were hurt when the Tour suspended them after they joined the Saudi-funded organization. The move has been expected since LIV emerged this year to challenge the PGA Tour's professional golf supremacy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:**

[Law360](#)

Bloomberg: FTC Under Khan Faulted by Watchdog on Hiring Unpaid Experts, Leah Nylen, August 3, 2022, 1:15 PM

The US Federal Trade Commission under Chair Lina Khan has stepped up the use of unpaid experts and consultants without clear guidelines on their job responsibilities or transparency into how they were selected, the agency's watchdog found. The FTC's Inspector General said in an audit posted Wednesday that the agency, in the late Trump administration and extending into President Joe Biden's term, had recruited nine unpaid experts or consultants creating potential legal and compliance risks, including conflicts of interest. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: DOJ Gains Early Sway in Private Antitrust Law With More Briefs, Dan Papsun, August 4, 2022, 4:00 AM

The DOJ's antitrust division is leaning on legal briefs to influence competition law even when it lacks the time and resources to join private litigation as a party. In deploying statements of interest in private cases such as challenges to no-poach pacts between employers division head Jonathan Kanter is focusing on clarifying the law while laying the groundwork for potential future major cases, according to former DOJ staff and antitrust lawyers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Judge Backs Axing Amazon, Publishers E-Book Antitrust Suit, Lauren Berg, August 3, 2022, 11:00 PM

A New York federal judge on Wednesday recommended tossing a proposed class action accusing Amazon and the country's five largest book publishers of secretly fixing digital book prices, saying the e-book buyers haven't plausibly alleged the existence of a conspiracy.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: UnitedHealth Judge Probes Health Tech Co.'s Data Safeguards, Bryan Koenig, August 3, 2022, 9:59 PM

The D.C. federal judge slated to decide the fate of UnitedHealth Group's proposed \$13.8 billion acquisition of Change Healthcare pressed a Change executive on Wednesday to explain whether internal safeguards can prevent data abuses that the U.S. Department of Justice is worried about.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Judge Queries Simon & Schuster CEO On Bidding For Books, Matthew Perlman, August 3, 2022, 8:55 PM

A D.C. federal judge peppered Simon & Schuster's CEO with questions about the frequency of competitive bidding for book acquisitions during testimony Wednesday on the government's bid to stop Penguin Random House from purchasing the rival publishing house. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

See also: [Courthouse News](#)

Bloomberg Law: Meta Asks Court to Force Snap to Hand Over Data in FTC Fight, Tina Davis, August 3, 2022, 5:49 PM

Meta Platforms Inc. is asking a judge to force Snap Inc. to hand over data it says is needed to help the Facebook owner defend against a US government antitrust lawsuit. In a filing with a federal court in California, Meta said Snap should turn over information it says can help refute the Federal Trade Commission's contention that it has a monopoly in "personal social networking services." Meta said it served its subpoena on Snap more than five months ago. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: La. Real Estate Board Says FTC Decision Moots Antitrust Row, Grace Dixon, August 3, 2022, 4:58 PM

A state appraisers board urged a Louisiana federal judge to toss claims that the regulator broke federal antitrust laws, arguing that the suit from a Pittsburgh-based real estate company is moot following a deal with the Federal Trade Commission barring the board from setting appraisers' fees. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): FTC says Opendoor must pay \$62 million after cheating homesellers, Heather Sullivan, August 3, 2022, 6:23 PM

The Federal Trade Commission says online homebuyer Opendoor must pay \$62 million to settle charges that it cheated homesellers out of thousands of dollars. iBuying is a growing industry in real estate, letting people buy and sell homes quickly and easily through online platforms.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ENVIRONMENT

AP: EPA announces flights to look for methane in Permian Basin, Michael Biesecker and Helen Wieffering, August 3, 2022, 9:00 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency says it will conduct helicopter overflights to look for methane "super emitters" in the nation's largest oil and gas producing region. EPA's Region 6 headquarters in Dallas, Texas, issued a news release about a new enforcement effort in the Permian Basin on Monday, saying the flights would occur within the next two weeks.. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **200 Enviros, Indigenous Groups Back Stronger NEPA Rules**, Caleb Symons, August 3, 2022, 9:24 PM

Two hundred conservation, Native and religious organizations urged the U.S. Senate this week to reject a Republican-backed resolution against new environmental rules proposed by the Biden administration, saying the measure would "undermine core provisions" of the National Environmental Policy Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Law360: **GAO Says IRS Should Improve Data For Outreach Evaluations**, Emlyn Cameron, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Internal Revenue Service should bolster its outreach evaluations with more data for determining how effective the agency is at reaching small businesses and businesses with owners from diverse backgrounds, the Government [...] [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Republican (Springfield, MA): **Boris Shadari of Swampscott ordered to pay nearly \$500,000, serve 30 months in prison for tax scheme targeting Greater Boston Congolese community**, Kieman Dunlop, August 3, 2022, 4:34 PM

Boris Shadari of Swampscott was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$500,000 in restitution Tuesday for a tax scheme targeting fellow members of the Greater Boston Congolese community, according to United States Attorney Rachel Rollins. The tax scheme started back in 2012, according to a statement from Rollins's office, when Shadari and a co-conspirator, Christian Zynga, portrayed Shadari as a tax professional to the Congolese community of Greater Boston. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Voice \(Essex County, MA\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Reuters: **FBI returns electronic devices to former Trump attorney Giuliani -lawyer**, Sarah N. Lynch, August 3, 2022, 3:41 PM

FBI agents recently returned the cell phones and other electronic devices they had seized from Donald Trump's former attorney Rudy Giuliani, in a possible sign the investigation into whether he failed to register as a foreign agent of Ukraine could be winding down, his attorney said on Wednesday. Robert Costello, Giuliani's lawyer, told Reuters he has not been officially notified yet whether federal prosecutors in Manhattan are closing the investigation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Beast: **How a Dem Congressional Staffer Faked Being an FBI Agent and Became a Fugitive**, Jose Pagliery, August 4, 2022, 4:32 AM

A young congressional staffer for Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) was quietly fired last year after he faked being an FBI agent and led cops on a chase through the capital, resulting in a weeks-long nationwide manhunt. It took four different law enforcement agencies three months to eventually catch up with the staffer 500 miles away. And it was only after a Secret Service agent managed to track down the online shops that sold the staffer mock "federal agent" gear and a bogus license plate for his fake police car decked out with a siren and flashing lights that authorities were able to arrest him. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Post: **[OPINION] 5 questions FBI chief Wray must answer before the Senate Judiciary**

Committee, Adriana Cohen, August 3, 2022, 7:02 PM

In response to whistleblowers alerting Congress of disturbing political bias and other misconduct at the FBI, Director Christopher Wray will testify Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Here are a few questions the American people deserve answers to. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTP-ABC (Saint Paul, MN): Minnesota FBI director warns of increased cyber attacks against individuals, Jay Kolls, August 4, 2022, 12:30 AM

Minnesota FBI Special Agent in Charge, Michael Paul, told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS cybercrime in Minnesota is growing at a “tremendous rate.” According to the FBI, there were more than 6,000 victims of cybercrimes across the state in 2021, which is a 50% increase since 2019. The total financial losses for businesses and individuals was \$82.5 million. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KETV-ABC (Omaha, NE): FBI diversity recruiting event draws different backgrounds to apply, Sarah Fili, August 4, 2022, 12:11 AM

Omaha's FBI field office is pushing for diversity among new recruits. It said a wide-ranging knowledge of different cultures can help them in investigations. “We are far more effective when the members of our community look at us and see themselves in our in our employees,” said FBI Special Agent Michele Stevenson. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCJB-ABC/CW (Gainesville, FL): Drug ring busted in Putnam County, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 11:52 PM

Eleven members of a drug trafficking organization are headed to federal prison. Putnam County sheriff's deputies say 30-year-old Alejandro Alvarado distributed the drugs through a network of people who helped him. [...] FBI and DEA agents worked with local agencies for almost two years on this case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISN-ABC (Milwaukee, WI): FBI suspects Racine man of hacking Ring doorbells for 'swatting', Derrick Rose, August 3, 2022, 10:29 PM

When a Racine man phoned in fake bomb threats and an active shooter at a Kentucky high school last year, he was already on the radar of federal agents in a broader FBI investigation into "swatting" incidents in several states, court records show. According to a federal search warrant filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, which was unsealed Wednesday, Kya Nelson had already been involved in swatting incidents in California, Florida and Alabama in the months before the Kentucky case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI looking for “Bling Ring Bandit” accused of robbing Albuquerque bank, Jordan Honeycutt, August 3, 2022, 10:14 PM

The FBI and Albuquerque Police Department are asking for help identifying the “Bling Ring Bandit” who they say robbed the First Convenience Bank inside a Walmart on Coors near Rio Bravo Blvd. SW. Officials say the man, just after 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, handed the bank teller a demand note, received money, and left the bank. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRBL-CBS (Columbus, GA): FBI offers \$25,000 reward for man who shot at federal agent in Columbus, Elizabeth White, August 3, 2022, 8:35 PM

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest of Joshua Johnathon Luke Brown. Brown is wanted for his alleged involvement in the firing of multiple rounds at an FBI Agent in Columbus, Georgia, on July 28, 2022. He is considered armed and

dangerous. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPEC-CBS \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WRBL-CBS \(Columbus, GA\)-2](#), [WTVM \(Columbus, GA\)](#)

WOWT-NBC (Omaha, NE): Omaha DEA push to educate students, parents about drugs that look like cereal, Brian Mastre, August 3, 2022, 7:50 PM

Drugs that look like cereal. It's not a mistake. Clearly, young people are the targets. With students returning to school in a matter of days for some districts, the Drug Enforcement Agency in Omaha is urging parents to have hard conversations with their children about the fake pills on the street.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

KETV-ABC (Omaha, NE): 'Room for improvement:' FBI holds recruitment event to boost diversity among agents, Waverle Monroe, August 3, 2022, 7:33 PM

The FBI is holding a Diversity Agent Recruitment, hoping to increase the amount of diversity among its field offices. Special Agent Michele Stevenson said out of all FBI employees, 45 percent are female and 27 percent are diverse. At the University of Nebraska, Omaha, the number of students interested in a criminal justice degree is going up, but that doesn't mean they want to be in law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVTM-NBC (Birmingham, AL): Wisconsin homicide suspect captured in Helena by U.S. Marshals, Alabama law enforcement, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 7:17 PM

A man wanted for murder in Wisconsin was captured in Helena, Alabama by U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement on Wednesday. Helena Police Chief Brad Flynn confirmed Caleb Anderson was taken into custody on Highway 95 at Gobblers Knob Wednesday afternoon. Anderson was named the suspect in a "suspicious death" at a Green Bay home Tuesday morning, according to Green Bay police. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBJ-ABC/CBS (Jackson, TN): Jackson man arrested in connection to mass overdose event on I-40, Tristyn Fletcher, August 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

The US Marshals Service says a Jackson man has been indicted and arrested for second-degree murder. Marshals say that 30-year-old Antravious Thomas was indicted following an investigation into a mass overdose event on Interstate 40 in early March. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTBC-Fox (Austin, TX): South Austin murder suspect captured in Colorado, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 2:12 PM

A man wanted for a murder in South Austin has been captured by US Marshals in Colorado. 19-year-old John W. Bagwell is charged with first-degree murder for the May 23 shooting of 36-year-old Jose Aguirre-Castellanos in South Austin. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTTN (Trenton, MO): U. S. Marshals now offering \$5000 reward for Kirksville man wanted for murder, Unattributed, August 3, 2022, 1:00 PM

U. S. Marshals are offering an award for a Kirksville man wanted for murder. A post on the Adair County Sheriff's Office Facebook page is offering a reward for 38-year-old Jesse Rongey of up to \$5,000. He has been wanted since July 22nd. Multiple law enforcement agencies have been searching the Youngstown Trail area since July 29th after a possible sighting of Rongey. The Thousand Hills State Park's Facebook page indicates the park has been closed until further notice. [[Continue Reading](#)].

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Board recommends clemency for Oklahoma death row inmate, Ken Miller, August 3, 2022, 5:00 PM

The Oklahoma Board of Pardon and Parole on Wednesday voted to recommend clemency for a death row inmate who has admitted to beating to death a friend and co-worker who refused to loan him \$50 to buy cocaine. The board voted 3-2 to recommend Gov. Kevin Stitt grant clemency to James Coddington, 50, who was convicted and sentenced to die for killing 73-year-old Albert Hale inside Hale's home in Choctaw in 1997. Coddington beat Hale on the head at least three times with a hammer. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOKH-Fox \(Oklahoma, OK\)](#), [Oklahoman](#)

Tennessean: Federal appeals court overturns Clarksville man's death sentence, sends case back down, Mariah Timms, August 3, 2022, 6:07 PM

A Clarksville man's death sentence was overturned by a new federal appeals court decision Wednesday. His convictions stand, but the case will head back to the trial court level for a new sentencing phase. William Glenn Rogers, 60, was convicted of the 1996 rape and murder of a 9-year-old Clarksville girl. A jury sentenced him to death on the charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGW-NBC (Portland, OR): Guards at Sheridan federal prison facing abuse allegations, Conrad Wilson, August 3, 2022, 1:21 PM

A growing number of people incarcerated at the Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution sent urgent notes to their attorneys last week complaining of guards from other federal facilities coming in to toss their cells and indiscriminately beat people. Several sources complained of food taken, papers torn up and brutal beatings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg: Supreme Court to Hear Harvard Affirmative-Action Case This Fall, Greg Stohr, August 3, 2022, 11:05 AM

The US Supreme Court scheduled arguments for Oct. 31 in clashes over affirmative action policies at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina, a pair of cases that could abolish the use of race in college admissions. The justices are hearing arguments separately in the two cases. The newest justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, isn't taking part in the Harvard case, having recently completed a six-year stint on the university's board of overseers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#)

Politico: [OPINION] How Ruth Bader Ginsburg Will Have The Last Laugh on Samuel Alito, John Harris, August 4, 2022, 4:30 AM

Justice Samuel Alito, in drafting *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, said he and the other justices who joined him in ending a constitutional right to abortion had no ability to foresee what the political implications would be. Even if they could know, he added, justices have "no authority to let that knowledge influence our decision." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Dallas Morning News: Oral arguments in two cases with Texas connections scheduled for fall Supreme Court term, Rebekah Alvey, August 3, 2022, 6:25 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court released a schedule of 13 cases it will hear in its new term from October through November, including a case involving DNA testing in Texas and a Fort Worth couple's attempts to adopt Native American children, challenging the Indian Child Welfare Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: Blue Cross Gets Partial Win In Tribe's Health Care Fraud Suit, Joyce Hanson, August 3, 2022, 9:55 PM

A federal judge has partly granted Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's bid to escape a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians lawsuit claiming the insurer committed health care fraud by breaking a promise to give the tribe discounts on treatment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Alaska Native Co. Asks 9th Circ. Not To Revisit Land Swap, Andrew Westney, August 3, 2022, 8:56 PM

Alaska Native village company King Cove Corp. has urged the full Ninth Circuit to reject a bid by conservation groups to rehear a split circuit panel's ruling clearing the way for a land swap between the village and the federal government for a potential road, saying a Trump administration official amply justified his decision to greenlight the project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Wichita State Professor's Race, Sex Discrimination Case Advances, Annelise Gilbert, August 3, 2022, 5:06 PM

A Native American Wichita State professor who says she faced persistent race, sex, and religious-based harassment and discrimination following a special university appointment is poised to have 12 of her legal claims heard by a jury, while 15 others were tossed by a Kansas federal court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: California Bills To Legalize Psychedelics Possession, Allow Interstate Marijuana Commerce And More Teed Up For Key Hurdle Next Week, Kyle Jaeger, August 3, 2022, 4:00 PM

California bills to legalize psychedelics possession, create the infrastructure to allow interstate marijuana commerce, prohibit localities from banning medical cannabis delivery services and impose new labeling requirements for cannabis products are all teed up for consideration in a key Assembly committee next week. The Assembly Appropriations Committee placed all four of those proposals, as well as a litany of unrelated measures, on its suspense file on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Marijuana Moment: State Lawmakers Across The U.S. Call For Federal Marijuana Legalization And Banking Reform In Revised Resolution, Kyle Jaeger, August 3, 2022, 12:30 PM

The non-partisan National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has voted to adopt a revised policy directive that expresses support for federal marijuana descheduling and cannabis banking reform amid the state-level legalization movement. The measure, which builds on an existing directive that NCSL passed in 2018, was approved at the organization's 2022 legislative summit on a voice vote on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: What federal marijuana legalization would mean for state tax revenues, Zachary Halaschak, August 3, 2022, 7:00 AM

Senate legislation to deregulate marijuana could give a boost to states that have legalized and

taxed the drug and dedicated the revenues to social programs. Last week, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), alongside Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), introduced the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act, which would end the federal marijuana prohibition by removing cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act and leave marijuana laws to states to legislate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

KABC-ABC (Los Angeles, CA): Bill allowing safe injection sites in Los Angeles heads to governor's desk, Carlos Granda, August 3, 2022, 12:40 PM

A bold plan to provide places for people to use illegal drugs making its way through the California legislature. The bill would allow supervised injection sites. Los Angeles is one of the three cities being considered for the pilot program and the bill is heading to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk. The idea, according to proponents, is to provide a place where people could use drugs safely. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

NBC: Biden signs executive order aimed at helping women travel for abortion, Lauren Egan, August 3, 2022, 3:43 PM

President Joe Biden signed an executive order Wednesday aimed at helping women cross state borders to obtain abortions, his second order since the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to the procedure. The order directs the Department of Health and Human Services to "consider" allowing Medicaid funds to be used to assist people traveling between states to get abortions. The order also directs HHS to ensure that health care providers comply with federal anti-discrimination laws so women receive "medically necessary care without delay." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [LAT](#), [Week](#)

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. Senate panel seeks legislative path to avoid repeat of Jan. 6 violence, Rose Horowitz and David Morgan, August 3, 2022, 8:21 PM

A U.S. Senate panel on Wednesday took up proposals to reform federal election law, aiming to avoid a repeat of the violence of Jan. 6, 2021, when Donald Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in an effort to overturn his election defeat. The Senate Rules Committee is reviewing two legislative proposals to craft a bill to reform the 1887 Electoral Count Act, which the former president and his allies sought to use to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Examiner](#)

Fox: Sen. Cruz grills DOJ official on lack of prosecutions for protesters at Supreme Court justices' homes, Andrew Mark Miller, August 3, 2022, 8:53 PM

Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz grilled a top Justice Department official Wednesday over the lack of arrests made by law enforcement while protesters were demonstrating outside the homes of Supreme Court justices earlier this year. "Congress has addressed this issue. It passed 18 USC 1507 making it a crime to protest at the home of a Supreme Court Justice while a case is pending," Cruz told Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite, Jr. during a Judiciary Committee

hearing on Wednesday. "Night after night after night, these protesters committed federal crimes on national television. Why has the Justice Department refused to enforce 18 USC 1507?"

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: AUGUST 3, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with Linsay Davis

CBS: Weekend News with Major Garrett

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- Democrats displayed a newfound sense of optimism about the election-year political climate Wednesday after voters in traditionally conservative Kansas overwhelmingly backed a measure protecting abortion rights. At the White House, President Joe Biden hailed the vote in Kansas as the direct result of outrage at the Supreme Court's decision in June to repeal a woman's constitutional right to obtain an abortion. [\[ABC, CBS, NBC\]](#)
- China is ramping up its military drills in response to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's historic trip to Taiwan. This is China's first live-fire exercises off Taiwan since 1996. Beijing sent fighter jets across a critical dividing line between Taiwan and the mainland, according to Taiwan and a senior U.S. official, raising U.S. fears that either side could miscalculate. [\[ABC, CBS, NBC\]](#)
- Pat Cipollone, former White House counsel to former President Trump, has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury for their investigation into the January 6 Capitol riot. [\[ABC, NBC\]](#)
- Infowars host Alex Jones took the stand for the second time in his defamation trial where he faces \$150 million in damages for falsely telling his audience that the Sandy Hook mass shooting was a hoax. [\[ABC, NBC\]](#)
- Rep. Jackie Walorski and three other people died in a fatal car crash Wednesday, according to the sheriff's office of Elkhart County, Ind. [\[ABC, CBS\]](#)
- Many Republicans who support former President Donald Trump's false claims of widespread 2020 election fraud are winning primaries, with some advancing to positions where they could influence running future elections if voters put them in office this fall. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The accused gunman in the mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, pleaded not guilty. He is charged with killing seven people and wounding dozens more. [\[ABC\]](#)

- The Justice Department on Wednesday sued former Donald Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro in an effort to force him to turn over emails from his tenure in the White House. [[ABC](#)]
- The U.N.'s nuclear chief said the war in Ukraine has left the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant "completely out of control." [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "China Fires Missiles Around Taiwan After Pelosi Visit" [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [LAT](#)]
- "Russia's Shortfalls Create an Opportunity for Ukraine, Western Officials Say" [[NYT](#)]
- "How abortion rights organizers won in Kansas: Horse parades and canvassing" [[WaPo](#), [LAT](#)]
- "Speculators Exit Agricultural Markets, Intensifying Crop Selloff" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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Sent: July 29, 2022 1:01 AM (UTC-04:00)

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Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 5:00:23 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
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[Justice Department on KHNL-HON \(NBC\) - Honolulu, HI](#)

NBC Nightly News With Lester Holt
7/28/2022 6:11:12 PM

witness transcripts with the justice department meant me the trump legal team's
urgency a federal court to rule that he's absolutely



[Department of Justice on KGO-AM \(Radio\) - San Francisco, CA](#)

7/28/2022 9:09:58 PM

Dr. Fauci's NIH's funding matters Run absolutely China might get to that in a moment.
And let's see here. The Department of Justice possibly of struck that part of an
investigation. It was looking into corruption by Hunter Biden in Pittsburgh and in
Delaware



[Justice Department on KOMO-AM \(Radio\) - Seattle, WA](#)

7/28/2022 9:22:38 PM

announced that actually we're going to go ahead with that plan. After a , but still those
questions about the Justice Department the proof hangs over the deal so
there's quite a difference that certainly so as early interest in this marriage as you
report this would make the 5th largest carrier



[The DoJ on KOH-AM \(Radio\) - Reno, NV](#)

7/28/2022 9:39:56 PM

he's investigating President Trump. So here's Merrick Garland, saying the January 6
here in certain covering things the DOJ criminally probe didn't know which raises the
question of what he thinks he does for a living. You guys actually have criminally
investigative power if you're that if you're that



[Department of Justice on KPBS-FM - San Diego, CA](#)

7/28/2022 9:42:36 PM

te us your story. E-ma us at one a at WAMU dot org or tweet us at one a m es what f you heard from the Department of Justice off c a s about d s nformat on be ng shared. So th s s def n te y someth ng that s on the m nd of peop e at DOJ or focused on vot ng. They're obv ous y very tght pped about nvest gat ons



[Department of Justice on KOPB-FM \(Radio\) - Portland, OR](#)

7/28/2022 9:43:14 PM

te us your story. E-ma us at one a at WAMU dot org or tweet us at one a m es what f you heard from the Department of Justice off c a s about d s nformat on be ng shared. So th s s def n te y someth ng that s on the m nd of peop e at DOJ were focused on vot ng. They're obv ous y very tght pped about nvest gat ons



[Department of Justice on KUOW-FM \(Radio\) - Seattle, WA](#)

7/28/2022 9:55:29 PM

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[Justice Department on KUOW-FM \(Radio\) - Seattle, WA](#)

7/28/2022 9:56:33 PM

at a moment when there s th s sort of cu tura and bus ness c v war n go f. There's another factor, and that s the Justice Department and they are ook ng at the PGA Tour's behav or and the way t conducts bus ness to see s the r behav or erm ne. App e s tak ng ant-compet tve



[Department of Justice on KTWB \(ABC\) - Casper, WY](#)

K2 News @ 10

7/28/2022 10:06:40 PM

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[The DoJ on KOAT-ABQ \(ABC\) - Albuquerque, NM](#)

Action 7 News Live at 10

7/28/2022 10:08:37 PM

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[Department of Justice on KIFI \(ABC\) - Idaho Falls, ID](#)

Local News 8 @ 10pm

7/28/2022 10:09:43 PM

international arms trafficking a source confirms to abc news the department of justice is not a y opposed his release - but president biden himself approved the plan. but they grinner has been detained in russia since



[Justice Department on KOAA \(NBC\) - Colorado Springs, CO](#)

News 5 at 10PM

7/28/2022 10:19:36 PM

answers filed by june after learning the justice department would not prosecute former agents who were found to have failed and the 2015 inquiry into nassar's imprisonment. those answers



[Justice Department on KPVI \(NBC\) - Idaho Falls, ID](#)

KPVI 6 at 10pm

7/28/2022 10:20:46 PM

however, the takeover agreement faces scrutiny from the justice department, who considers the deal anticompetitive. meanwhile -- southwest airlines is upping the ante



[Justice Department on Spectrum News Austin - Austin, TX](#)

Capital Tonight

7/28/2022 11:00:46 PM

joined a 17 state complaint against the atf justice department. the fight the biden administration's regulations of nonfunctional firearm parts. comes after biden's ruling to regulate



[Justice Department on WCPT 820 - Chicago, IL](#)

7/28/2022 11:05:19 PM

a former top adviser to president trump's chief of staff has recently cooperated with the justice department investigation into the events of january 6 that's according to abc, which broke news of cassidy hutchinson's cooperation. wednesday is the justice department's general investigation of former president trump as part of its criminal



[Justice Department on Newsradio 740 KTRH - Houston, TX](#)

7/28/2022 11:07:12 PM

Government approval, the odds are should they still be approved of the Justice Department so that it doesn't necessarily violate federal antitrust regulations if it goes to you. I wouldn't be a patch of eyes to see the spirit named disappear entirely.



[Department of Justice on 1480 KQAM - Wichita, KS](#)

7/28/2022 11:09:35 PM

dr. fauc s n h s st fund ng m tary run abs n ch na and m ght get to that n a moment. and et's see here. the department of just ce poss b y of struck that part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by hunter b den n p ttsburgh and n de aware



[Department of Justice on KLIF-AM - Dallas, TX](#)

7/28/2022 11:10:15 PM

Dr. Fauc s NIH s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y of struck t d part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware and what e se d d I want to ta k about t, of



[The DoJ on WBOK 1230AM - New Orleans, LA](#)

7/28/2022 11:11:17 PM

r ght they're on t. They're say ng t's the most w de-rang ng nvest gat on n the h story of the DOJ so we're keep ng our fa th that Amer ca s do ng h s job. I've sten and the t me a former Pres dent has ever been n the s tes of



[Department of Justice on WLS-AM \(Radio\) - Chicago, IL](#)

7/28/2022 11:29:21 PM

and the r mach ne he contro ed the House, the Senate the pres dency the Department of Just ce n the US attorney's off ce n Wash ngton DC wh ch s ph rad ca eft when the med a of course wh ch s corrupt s how fee w th former Democrats serv ng a dfferent pos t ons n current Democrats and ed by we



[Department of Justice on Spectrum News Austin - Austin, TX](#)

TWC News All Night

7/28/2022 11:51:54 PM

by the texas tr bune, the death ta y was sent to the u.s. department of just ce, off c a comp a nt of a eged c v r ghts v o at ons. the comp a nt a so c a ms there are more frequent traff c



[Justice Department on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360

7/29/2022 12:00:20 AM

ton ght n both the house se ect comm ttees nvest gat on and the just ce department cr m na probe. frst, the se ect comm ttee and keep members of the former adm n strat on are not



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats
7/29/2022 12:00:30 AM

>> the gent e man gent eman from texas s now recogn zed. >> the department of just ce prosecutor e aga nst nd v dua s demonstrat ng the res dents of the supreme court just ces n v o at on of the 1507.



[Department of Justice on Cheddar Business - U.S. Cable](#)

Cheddar Politics
7/29/2022 12:01:52 AM

pres dent dona d trump under nvest gat on by the department of just ce for poss b e cr m na act v tes n the ead up to the january 6th nsurrect on that accord ng to a bombshe



[Department of Justice on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360
7/29/2022 12:02:43 AM

>> cass dy hutch nson, as you know, s not cooperat ng w th the just ce department cr m na probe as we . ate today, a awyer for the former department of just ce staff are, can gue kaskey,



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats
7/29/2022 12:03:00 AM

myse f they pose a greater threat to the amer can peop e. >> s the department of just ce operat ng under the memorandum of mer t a gar and of 2021 wh ch hehe sa d d sturb ng sp ke and nt m dat on and threats of



[Department of Justice on Cheddar Business - U.S. Cable](#)

Cheddar Politics
7/29/2022 12:03:03 AM

dea r ght because he spent the ast 4 years b ast ng the department of just ce b ast ng the fb try ng to make t nto an eg t mate organ zat on wh ch s go ng to he p h m w th h s base, but t's not go ng to



[Department of Justice on Cheddar Business - U.S. Cable](#)

Cheddar Politics
7/29/2022 12:04:13 AM

to get rd of the attorney genera say ng that the department of just ce was not ook ng nto voter fraud and then those fake e ctors that then m ke pence bas ca y had to cert fy then bas ca y



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:04:15 AM

equivalent to domestic terrorism proceeding the memo issued by the department of justice? >> us don't know. >> you don't know that there is a memorandum by the national school board association

[Pay](#)



[The DoJ on One America News Network - U.S. Cable](#)

OAN News

7/29/2022 12:04:17 AM

opposition from democratic voters. for the republican congressman matt gates claims the doj has an ongoing investigation into hunter biden one. america's john henz has more information here with congressman matt gates and, sir

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[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:05:33 AM

'm unaware of these occurring. would you respond to the letter we sent the department of justice and brief membersee on the issue? >> will take that back to the legislators office.

[Pay](#)



[Department of Justice on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360

7/29/2022 12:06:12 AM

charged criminally? >> have no idea. the department of justice is not telling the committee, nor should they. am relying on the same public statements that you are.

[Pay](#)



[Justice Department on One America News Network - U.S. Cable](#)

OAN News

7/29/2022 12:06:54 AM

chinese bribes in the united states. it was discredited by joe biden justice department. where is the nexus? then with mr biden with joe biden and hunter biden, where do you see that? approximately

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[Department of Justice on One America News Network - U.S. Cable](#)

OAN News

7/29/2022 12:08:08 AM

corruption perhaps are we implicated. have those concerns it now appears the department of justice has those concerns. but remember, just this week you saw senator grassley release information about a

[Pay](#)



[Department of Justice on WDEL 101.7 - Philadelphia, PA](#)

7/29/2022 12:08:44 AM

Dr. Fauc s NIH s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y of struck d d part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware



[Department of Justice on NewsRadio 680 WPTF - Raleigh, NC](#)

7/29/2022 12:08:49 AM

Fauc s NIH s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y of struck that part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware.



[Department of Justice on Talk 1300 - Albany, NY](#)

7/29/2022 12:08:52 AM

Dr. Fauc s NIH s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y of struck t d part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware



[Justice Department on MSNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

MSNBC Prime

7/29/2022 12:09:03 AM

served under jeffrey c ark s now cooperat ng w th the just ce department cr m na nqu ry. cnn reports of just ce department s a so prepar ng ts ega strategy to force



[Department of Justice on Delaware 105.9 \(Radio\) - Salisbury, MD](#)

7/29/2022 12:09:16 AM

s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y obstructed, part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware and what e se do I want to ta k about. And of



[Department of Justice on KDKA-AM \(Radio\) - Pittsburgh, PA](#)

7/29/2022 12:09:55 AM

Dr. Fauc s NIH s st fund ng m tary Run abs n Ch na m ght get to that n a moment. And Let's see here. The Department of Just ce poss b y of struck t d part of an nvest gat on that was ook ng nto corrupt on by Hunter B den n P ttsburgh and n De aware.



[Justice Department on KYW-AM \(Radio\) - Philadelphia, PA](#)

7/29/2022 12:10:02 AM

allowed to plead guilty to civil unrest at snicker says the Biden administration's Justice Department has seen the Twenty20 civil unrest in a new light and contextualize it as part of a larger incident as a snapshot, not just in her life but a snapshot in history the most profound civil rights protest in



[Justice Department on MSNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

MSNBC Prime

7/29/2022 12:10:26 AM

along time, questions about how aggressive is the justice department being. we heard criticism and concern among the committee members about, is the DOJ taking this seriously as they should be.



[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:10:45 AM

difficult to pinpoint a particular ideology but at the justice department we prosecute acts of violence without regard to ideology politics. >> would ask unanimous consent to enter into the record the



[Justice Department on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360

7/29/2022 12:12:51 AM

car, thank you so much. more now on the new justice department reporting and what it might signal about how far prosecutors are willing to go and how hard they are willing to prepare to get there.



[Justice Department on MSNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

MSNBC Prime

7/29/2022 12:13:07 AM

if they are ultimately criminal charges against him coming from the justice department. as to what was in his head both on January 6th and immediately after. remember, he was reluctant to



[Justice Department on CNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

The News with Shepard Smith

7/29/2022 12:13:41 AM

system to share evidence and witness transcripts with the justice department for its ongoing criminal investigation. >>> as speaker Nancy Pelosi gears up for a



[Justice Department on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360

7/29/2022 12:15:32 AM

someone working with Jeffrey Clark who is helping Trump at the Justice Department that he was searched the same as Kukowsky, he's become a co-operator. and then there's also the.



[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:15:48 AM

>> the way we've divided up responsibility with the Justice Department is that our federal narcotics laws and weapons laws are by and large and force by other parts of the Justice Department.



[Justice Department on CNN - U.S. Cable](#)

Anderson Cooper 360

7/29/2022 12:17:12 AM

overseeing this investment on who believe that when the Justice Department brings this and targeted, they will ultimately win. >> that would be huge. Thank you very much.



[Justice Department on WINS-AM - New York, NY](#)

7/29/2022 12:17:30 AM

competing with a combined budget airline started a bidding more in April. The merger is not a given the Justice Department is a ready suitor to break up a regional partnership in the northeast between JetBlue and American Airlines. I'm Jennifer King and the Biden administration strategy has been critical of big mergers, which they believe hurt consumers.



[The DoJ on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:18:14 AM

soon. I'd like to ask you some questions about 2705 and the DOJ use prior to the committee's examination of the issue and subsequent passage of fairness.



[Department of Justice on CNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

The News with Shepard Smith

7/29/2022 12:20:00 AM

>>> how the airlines plan to win over the department of justice. >>> four cases of COVID-19 among a most common people in lockdown. 0 COVID-19 policy returns to



[Justice Department on Black Information Network \(1600am\) - New York, NY](#)

7/29/2022 12:21:16 AM

Used the back and for me seen Network. Here are your top stor es. The Just ce Department s nvest gat ng former Pres dent Trump as part of ts cr m na probe of efforts overturned the 2020 e ect on resu ts to b ack g r s face ega act on after an a eged rac st encounter w th a Wh te woman, a Wh te man



[The DoJ on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:23:53 AM

t from that. >> has there been coord nat on between the doj and house of representat ves january 6th comm ttee? >> am aware of our request from the department of just ce



[Department of Justice on CNBC - U.S. Cable](#)

The News with Shepard Smith

7/29/2022 12:24:17 AM

>> reporter: t may take more than a year for the department of just ce to dec de f the comb nat on of jetb ue and sp r t s good for trave ers. w nn ng over the doj w not



[Justice Department on CW - Columbus, OH](#)

ABC 6 News at 11

7/29/2022 12:24:56 AM

n pr ces. ow, argues the dea cou d create more compet t on. the dea w be scrut the just ce department and the government cou d b ock a >>tomorrow ng the country have a chance toge chunk of change yet aga n as the mega. has up to \$1.1 b on, 2nd argest meg



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:25:34 AM

nvest gat on. what can te you s t s our ob gat on of the department of just ce to upho d the ru e of aw. that's what d st ngu shes us from the hypocr s es and t s a



[Department of Justice on Black Information Network \(1600am\) - New York, NY](#)

7/29/2022 12:26:19 AM

work a 22.4 m on \$ sett ement has been reached w th a Pennsy van a-based company after years of d scr m natory pract ces. The US Department of Just ce says tred t mortgage, wh ch s owned by Warren buffett ntent ona y avo ded or den ed res dent a mortgage oans n b ack and Lat no commu tes, b ack nformat on networks. Kev n



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Justice Dept. Testifies on National Security Threats

7/29/2022 12:26:40 AM

agencies to know that we were consulted, and ultimately the department of justice came out in favor of that eg s at on and at the national security risks and at the divisions were addressed by the eg s at on

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[Department of Justice on WTVN-AM \(Radio\) - Columbus, OH](#)

7/29/2022 12:29:39 AM

machine he controlled the House, the Senate the presidency the Department of Justice in the US attorney's office in Washington DC which is ph r ad ca eft st when the media of course which is corrupt is how fed with former Democrats

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[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:33:21 AM

sabotaging a political candidate. >> the justice department it has been my experience having been there for 20 years, 18 years as a career prosecutor and attorney we prosecute

Pay



[Justice Department on Central Florida's TV 27 - Orlando, FL](#)

Eyewitness News 11PM

7/29/2022 12:39:59 AM

onto those tickets that you've already bought in the justice department could block this. the antitrust unit could take a look at this and say, listen, the competition needs to be there consumers will be

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[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:40:05 AM

critical infrastructure we are engaged in the justice department in a concerted effort to address the challenge of ransomware which has increased significantly that what we see the

Pay



[The DoJ on WJR-AM - Detroit, MI](#)

7/29/2022 12:40:14 AM

investigating President Trump's here is merrick Garland, saying the January 6 hearings are uncovering things the DOJ criminally prompted no which raises the question of what he thinks he does for a living. You guys actually have criminally investigate power if you're that if you're that a f red excited about what January

Pay



[The DoJ on Fox News - U.S. Cable](#)

Fox News@Night With Shannon Bream

7/29/2022 12:40:15 AM

pres dency per v s tor ot. >> we a so want to know whether the doj s enter ng a the facts com ng to ght regard ng the bus ness dea ngs n ega act v ty of hunter b den. because there s no nd cat on



[Justice Department on WCBS-NY \(Radio\) - New York, NY](#)

7/29/2022 12:40:53 AM

whether even the spr t brand surv ves after th s s s up t up n there as we . Aga n, t's a subject to US Just ce Department ant-trust approva , wh ch s not necessar y go ng to happen qu ck y and yet the other Ar nes a seem to be conso dat ng s at the trend



[Department of Justice on WJCT - Jacksonville, FL](#)

7/29/2022 12:42:31 AM

E-ma us at one a at WAMU dot org or tweet at us at one a m es what f you heard from the Department of Just ce off c a s about th s nformat on be ng shared. So th s s def n te y someth ng that s on the m nd of peop e at DOJ or focused on vot ng. They're obv ous y very t ght pped about nvest gat ons



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:48:02 AM

p ace on - - secret workspace department of just ce. >> 'm not fam ar w th the prem se of your quest on. you're not aware of the workp ace the department of



[Justice Department on WBZ Newsradio 1030 - Boston, MA](#)

7/29/2022 12:48:50 AM

passed ast year. E sewhere n Wash ngton, a House Comm ttee focus ng on nat ona secur ty, ho d ng a hear ng w th a top Just ce Department off c a , ass stant Attorney genera for nat ona secur ty. Matt O son sa d the threats aga nst th s country have on y grown the country faces a pers stent and dynam c threat



[Department of Justice on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:49:58 AM

prem se of prosecutor a pathways and o and beho d the same day the department of just ce those f ngs re ate to the "wash ngton post" and t seems ke the b den fam y you a have the propr ety not



[Department of Justice on WOKV-AM \(Radio\) - Jacksonville, FL](#)

7/29/2022 12:50:48 AM

v o ent cr me n schoo s and among other th ngs, that creates a gun cr me task force of the Department of Just ce to prosecute fe ons ega y used guns and prosecute ba nce to try to ega y purchase guns. It a so prov ded fund ng to doub e the number of po ce



[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:51:44 AM

the lowest perception and belief of the integrity of the justice department and that we can stonewall and not give answers you will not tell me whether our own government can operate you will not tell me

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[Justice Department on CSPAN2 - U.S. Cable](#)

Public Affairs Events

7/29/2022 12:52:49 AM

basically pot calling the kettle black? if these are accurate the justice department and FBI have been corrupted to the core to the point the American people will have no confidence in the application of the

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From: Davis, Va orie A (OLP)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
To: OLP-ALL (JMD); OLP-Interns (JMD)
Sent: June 16, 2022 7:53 AM (UTC-04:00)

Good morning

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
June 16, 2022
8:00 AM EST**

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21. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: JUNE 16, 2022

DOJ

- 9:50 AM: Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco will deliver the keynote address and participate in a virtual discussion at the “GIR Live: Women in Investigations 2022” conference.

SCOTUS

- Conference.

CONGRESS

- 9:00 AM: Senate Judiciary Committee: Executive Business Meeting.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Buffalo supermarket gunman charged with federal hate crimes, Carolyn Thompson and Michael R. Sisak, June 15, 2022, 11:00 AM

The white gunman who killed 10 Black people in a racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket was charged Wednesday with federal hate crimes that could potentially carry a death penalty. The criminal complaint filed Wednesday against Payton Gendron coincided with a visit to Buffalo by Attorney General Merrick Garland. He met with the families of the people who were killed and placed a bouquet of white flowers at a memorial outside the Tops Friendly Market, which has been closed since the May 14 attack. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Fox](#), [HuffPost](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [NPR](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

Reuters: U.S. Justice Department backs measures to bolster judges' protection, Sarah N. Lynch and Costas Pitas, June 15, 2022, 2:14 PM

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Wednesday the Justice Department supports congressional legislation aimed at boosting protections for federal judges, as jurists face mounting threats and intimidation. Garland, the top U.S. law enforcement official, offered support for a bill that won final congressional approval on Tuesday that would bolster security for the nine Supreme Court justices and a second bill that remains stalled on Capitol Hill aimed at increasing security and privacy of all federal judges and their families. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: House Republicans Request Investigation Into Reports of Vandalism, Arson at Antiabortion Offices, Ben Kesling, June 15, 2022, 8:53 PM

A group of 122 Republicans in the House of Representatives sent a letter Wednesday asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate more than a dozen acts of vandalism and arson at locations run by organizations that seek to persuade women not to have abortions. According to local media reports in locations including Madison, Wis., and Buffalo, N.Y., the acts of vandalism have taken place at numerous so-called pregnancy crisis centers over the past two months as well as the offices of antiabortion organizations [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Harris to launch task force on online harassment, abuse, Chris Megerian, June 16, 2022, 5:58 AM

Vice President Kamala Harris will launch a new task force dedicated to fighting online harassment and abuse, according to senior Biden administration officials. [...] The National Security Council is working with the White House Gender Policy Council on the initiative, and Attorney General Merrick Garland and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were scheduled to attend the first meeting Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Republican senators pile pressure on Garland to prosecute Supreme Court home protesters, Bradford Betz, June 15, 2022, 5:37 PM

Republican senators are ramping up the pressure on Attorney General Merrick Garland to prosecute those who participated in protests outside the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh last week just hours after a man was charged with planning to assassinate him. "We continue to be baffled over the lack of prosecutions under Title 18, Section 1507 of the U.S. Code. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Times](#)

CNN: Merrick Garland says threats against Supreme Court justices are taken

'extraordinarily seriously', Whitney Wild, Evan Perez, Manu Raju and Hannah Rabinowitz, June 15, 2022, 1:58 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Wednesday that the Justice Department takes threats against Supreme Court justices "extraordinarily seriously" as he voiced support for a bill that extends security protections to justices' immediate family members. Garland reiterated that justices now receive "24-7 protection," including at their residences, and he said he's met with the Marshal of the Supreme Court, the FBI and others, "to be sure that we were assessing all possible threats and providing all resources available." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: **Garland should investigate attacks on anti-abortion groups as domestic terrorism: GOP**, Jerry Dunleavy,, June 15, 2022, 3:55 PM

More than 100 House Republicans are calling on Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate the rash of attacks and vandalism targeting anti-abortion groups as acts of domestic terrorism. The letter was signed by at least 124 House Republicans and was co-authored by Reps. Scott Franklin (R-FL), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), and Mike Johnson (R-LA). [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Newsweek: **[OPINION] No, Merrick Garland Can't Save America From Donald Trump**, Doug Gordon, June 16, 2022, 5:58 AM

In their first few hearings, the committee investigating Jan. 6 has done a masterful job laying out a clear and indisputable case that former President Donald Trump headed a criminal conspiracy that led to a deadly coup attempt that tried to overturn the results of a free and fair election. But the tragic truth is, thanks to the work Republicans in Congress did last year to defeat a non-partisan 9/11-style Commission, the committee is basically powerless to do anything more about the explosive criminal plot they have spent a year uncovering. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Newsweek: **Why Merrick Garland Is Unlikely to Indict Donald Trump**, Ewan Palmer, June 15, 2022, 11:07 PM

Former U.S. President Donald Trump may still escape prosecution over his role in the January 6 attack even after the House Select Committee has presented all its evidence, experts have warned. Even before the panel started laying out its findings in live televised hearings, there were calls for the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to indict the former president over his attempts to overturn the 2020 election results and the subsequent January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY): **AG Merrick Garland says death penalty a possibility for Tops shooter, but that decision will come later**, Maki Becker, June 15, 2022, 11:00 PM

Federal charges filed Wednesday against the man accused in the May 14 massacre at the Tops Markets on Jefferson Avenue lay out how he reportedly methodically planned and executed the mass shooting with the intent of killing as many Black people as possible. Payton Gendron, 18, of Conklin, already indicted by an Erie County court, is now facing 26 federal charges, including 10 counts hate crime resulting in death for each of the 10 people killed a crime that could be eligible for the death penalty. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): **U.S. Attorney General visit raises focus on federal charges against Buffalo shooting suspect**, Ron Plants, June 15, 2022, 9:02 PM

We now know that 18-year-old Payton Gendron will be making his first Federal court appearance on Thursday morning, as he is now charged in a federal complaint. He will have three attorneys from the Federal Public Defender's Office. That is in addition to the three court-appointed

attorneys handling his state level case with its indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. charges three, including an Oath Keepers volunteer, for roles in Capitol attack, Sarah N. Lynch, June 15, 2022, 2:10 PM

Three Florida residents were charged on Wednesday in connection with the January 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, including one of whom prosecutors said sought to volunteer with the far-right Oath Keepers militia. The Justice Department said that Leslie Gray, 56, Traci Isaacs, 52, and her husband, Luis Hallon, 67, of St. Cloud, Florida were all arrested on Wednesday. Gray is facing felony charges of civil disorder and obstruction of an official proceeding and other misdemeanors, while Isaacs is charged with destruction of documents and other lesser offenses, while Hallon is facing several misdemeanors. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WKMG-CBS \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WOFL-Fox \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WTOG-CBS \(Savannah, GA\)](#)

WSJ: Senior ISIS Leader Captured in Syria, U.S. Military Officials Say, Arson at Antiabortion Offices, Gordon Lubold and Nancy A. Youssef, June 15, 2022, 10:50 PM

U.S.-led coalition forces seized a man that officials described as a senior leader of Islamic State in an operation in northeast Syria late Wednesday. Military forces detained Hani Ahmed al-Kurdi, assessed to be a bomb maker and facilitator who had become one of Islamic State's senior leaders in Syria, U.S. military officials said in a statement. They didn't disclose more details about the raid that led to Mr. al-Kurdi's arrest. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [NBC](#)

WSJ: Steve Bannon Loses Bid to Have Contempt Case Dismissed, Alexa Corse, June 15, 2022, 5:14 PM

A federal district judge denied a motion from former Trump strategist Steve Bannon to dismiss his indictment on contempt charges for defying a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The decision by U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols in Washington, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, moves the case closer to trial. Mr. Bannon is scheduled to go on trial next month, although his attorney said he might ask to delay the trial date, citing media coverage of the ongoing hearings by the Jan. 6 committee. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Insider](#), [MSNBC](#), [Seattle Times \(Seattle, WA\)](#)

WaPo: Confederate flag-wielding man and son convicted in Capitol breach, Spencer S. Hsu, June 15, 2022, 4:38 PM

A federal judge Wednesday found a Confederate-flag wielding father and his adult son who breached the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, guilty of obstructing lawmakers as they met to certify President Biden's 2020 election victory. U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden found Kevin Seefried, 52, and Hunter Seefried, 24, guilty of the felony obstruction charge, as well as trespassing and related misdemeanor offenses. His verdict came after a two-day bench trial in which U.S. prosecutors and law enforcement witnesses alleged that the men overran police lines and were among the first 15 rioters who broke into the Capitol building. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [Insider](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WHYY-FM \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

ABC: Encrypted planning, high-power firearms make extremist threat in US unique: DOJ official, Luke Barr, June 15, 2022, 5:54 PM

The United States is facing the most "complex" threat landscape in quite some time, a top Justice Department official told a conference in Washington, D.C., Wednesday. Lone-wolf actors, and their access to high-capacity firearms -- like what allegedly occurred in Buffalo, New York -- are very difficult for law enforcement to combat, Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Matthew Olsen told attendees at the George Washington University Program on Extremism symposium. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [VOA](#)

CBS: Before Jan. 6, Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío was given plans to occupy congressional buildings, Supreme Court, Robert Legare, June 15, 2022, 3:01 PM

In the week leading up to the Jan. 6 Capitol assault, Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío received a nine-page memo titled "1776 Returns" that laid out detailed plans to occupy congressional office buildings to protest the counting of the Electoral College votes from the 2020 presidential election. The memo, which was filed in court as part of a recent motion made by one of Tarrío's co-defendants, outlined a goal to "maintain control over as select few, but crucial buildings in the DC area for a set period of time, presenting our demands in unity." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NBC](#)

Law360: Biden Loosens Terror Restrictions For Fleeing Afghans, Alyssa Aquino, June 15, 2022, 5:48 PM

The Biden administration has loosened terrorism-related entry restrictions for Afghan nationals who were forced to work for or pay the Taliban, saying their "inescapable proximity to war" should not prevent them from coming to the U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)]

JAN. 6 HEARINGS

Reuters: U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 panel turns attention to Pence at Thursday's hearing, Patricia Zengerle and Richard Cowan, June 16, 2022, 5:19 AM

The congressional committee investigating last year's deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol turns its attention on Thursday to then-President Donald Trump's multiple attempts to pressure former Vice President Mike Pence to overturn his 2020 election defeat. The House of Representatives Select Committee has scheduled a hearing for 1 p.m. EDT (1700 GMT), looking at efforts by Trump and some of his associates to convince Pence not to formally certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory in the November 2020 presidential election. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [NBC](#)

AP: 1/6 panel probes Trump pressure on Pence to reject election, Lisa Mascaro And Mary Clare Jalonick, June 15, 2022, 12:05 PM

The 1/6 committee is set to plunge into Donald Trump's last-ditch effort to salvage the 2020 election by pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to reject the electoral count -- a highly unusual and potentially illegal strategy that was set in motion in the run-up to the U.S. Capitol riot. With two live witnesses Thursday, the House panel intends to show how Trump's false claims of a fraudulent election left him grasping for alternatives as courts turned back dozens of lawsuits challenging the vote. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CNN](#)

USA Today: Trump raised millions to fight election fraud before Jan. 6. Here's how that money was spent, Erin Mansfield, June 16, 2022, 5:02 AM

A fundraising committee affiliated with former President Donald Trump sent out an urgent

message to supporters on election night 2020 saying the president had activated an "Official Election Defense Fund" to protect the integrity of the election. Throughout November and December, the committee sent out dozens more similar emails soliciting money. One sent from Team Trump in mid-December warned, "The truth is, we are pacing BEHIND our Election Defense Fund Goal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: 'They probably would have killed him': Jan. 6 hearing to show Trump put Pence in danger, Sarah D. Wire, June 16, 2022, 12:00 AM

When the House committee investigating Jan. 6, 2021, meets Thursday, the highest-ranking member of House leadership serving on the panel will be in an unusual position: praising a leader of the opposing party. The hearing will focus on the intense pressure then-President Trump and conservative lawyer John Eastman put on then-Vice President Mike Pence to either reject certain states' electoral college votes or delay Congress from certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Ginni Thomas corresponded with John Eastman, sources in Jan. 6 House investigation say, Jacqueline Alemany, Josh Dawsey and Emma Brown, June 15, 2022, 7:19 PM

The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol has obtained email correspondence between Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, and lawyer John Eastman, who played a key role in efforts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence to block the certification of Joe Biden's victory, according to three people involved in the committee's investigation. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

NYT: Your Questions About the Jan 6. House Committee, Answered, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 3:40 PM

After spending nearly a year investigating the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, the House select committee that was tasked with scrutinizing the riot is holding a series of public hearings to lay out the full magnitude of former President Donald J. Trump's attempts to remain in power after the 2020 election. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: [OPINION] After the Jan. 6 Hearings, Will Trump Face Criminal Charges?, Spencer Bokart-Lindell, June 15, 2022, 3:00 PM

Last week, the chair of the bipartisan House panel investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol attack, Bennie Thompson, opened the committee's televised hearings by assigning moral responsibility to former President Donald Trump for "a sprawling, multi-step conspiracy" to overturn the presidential election. But did he commit a crime? Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chair, seemed to say so, calling Trump's efforts to obstruct the electoral vote count on Jan. 6 not just "unconstitutional" but also "illegal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Trump Lawyer Cited 'Heated Fight' Among Justices Over Election Suits, Luke Broadwater and Maggie Haberman, June 15, 2022, 12:05 PM

A lawyer advising President Donald J. Trump claimed in an email after Election Day 2020 to have insight into a "heated fight" among the Supreme Court justices over whether to hear arguments about the president's efforts to overturn his defeat at the polls, two people briefed on the email said. The lawyer, John Eastman, made the statement in a Dec. 24, 2020, exchange with a Wisconsin lawyer and Trump campaign officials over whether to file legal papers that they hoped might prompt four justices to agree to hear an election case from Wisconsin. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: House Jan. 6 committee uses video to press GOP congressman on Jan. 5 Capitol tour, Sarah D. Wire, June 15, 2022, 11:04 AM

The House Committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection pressed Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.) on Wednesday to discuss a tour he gave of the Capitol complex on Jan. 5 by releasing security footage of an unidentified person on the tour taking photos and video of mundane areas of the building. "Individuals on the tour photographed and recorded areas of the complex not typically of interest to tourists, including hallways, staircases, and security checkpoints," committee chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) wrote in a letter to Loudermilk. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NBC](#), [NYT](#)

CNN: Retired Republican judge says January 6 was 'well-developed plan' by Trump to cling to power, Jamie Gangel, Jeremy Herb and Elizabeth Stuart, June 16, 2022, 6:00 AM

Retired federal judge J. Michael Luttig, a Republican who is testifying at Thursday's January 6 committee hearing, will provide a sharp condemnation of former President Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election, saying Trump and his allies "instigated" a war on democracy "so that he could cling to power," according to a written statement he intends to submit for the committee's record obtained exclusively by CNN. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: January 6 committee division on criminal referrals surfaces long-simmering debate behind the scenes, Zachary Cohen, Ryan Nobles and Annie Grayer, June 15, 2022, 3:00 PM

Members of the House select committee investigating the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol are in wide agreement that former President Donald Trump committed a crime when he pushed a conspiracy to prevent the peaceful transfer of power. But they are split over what to do about it, including whether to make a criminal referral of Trump to the Justice Department, four sources connected to the panel tell CNN. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: The Guilfoyle email that illustrates Cheney's pre-Jan. 6 assistance to Trump World, Betsy Woodruff Swan, June 16, 2022, 4:30 AM

It reads like a time capsule from an alternate universe: Kimberly Guilfoyle, a card-carrying Trump World insider, heaping praise upon Rep. Liz Cheney for helping the former president's reelection. In a previously unreported email obtained by POLITICO, Guilfoyle the former Fox News host now engaged to Donald Trump's elder son thanked the Wyoming Republican for supporting Trump's 2020 bid as a "congressional co-captain" and asked her to do more. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Axios: Jan. 6-linked candidates are outperforming expectations, Andrew Solender, June 15, 2022, 7:00 PM

Across the country, candidates who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6 are running for office and, in some cases, finding shocking success. Driving the news: Ryan Kelley, a leading Republican candidate for Michigan governor, was arrested by the FBI last week on misdemeanor charges related to the Capitol riot, including engaging in violence on restricted grounds. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Feds indict Calif. man found with gun near Kavanaugh's home, Michael Balsamo, June 15, 2022, 7:56 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted a California man who was found with a gun, knife and pepper spray near the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh after telling police he was planning to kill the justice, prosecutors said Wednesday. Nicholas John Roske, 26, of Simi Valley, Calif., was charged in a single-count indictment with attempting to murder a Justice of the United States. Prosecutors say Roske traveled from California to the justice's home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with the intent of killing Kavanaugh. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Guardian](#), [NBC](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WBTV-CBS \(Charlotte, NC\)](#), [WRC-NBC \(Washington, DC\)](#)

Reuters: Ghislaine Maxwell says she should get less than 20-year sentence for sex abuse conviction, Luc Cohen, June 15, 2022, 9:15 PM

Ghislaine Maxwell should spend fewer, and perhaps far fewer, than 20 years in prison for helping deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse teenage girls, her lawyers said on Wednesday, arguing that Epstein was the "mastermind" behind the abuse. Maxwell, 60, "cannot and should not bear all the punishment for which Epstein should have been held responsible," her lawyers wrote in a sentencing memorandum filed in Manhattan federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DaVita Must Return Rather Than Destroy No-Poach Docs, Bryan Koenig, June 15, 2022, 7:52 PM

A Colorado federal judge on Wednesday ordered DaVita to return rather than destroy confidential documents produced by the U.S. Department of Justice in its failed criminal no-poach case against the dialysis giant, giving a minor win to follow-on civil plaintiffs who hoped the documents would be preserved for possible use in their litigation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier: Three sentenced to prison on gun charges, Jeff Reinitz, June 15, 2022, 10:00 PM

Three men who were found with guns and drugs in Waterloo and Cedar Falls homes in 2021 have been sentenced to federal prison. On Friday, Qunshaundes Davion McNealy, 27, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on a charge of felon in possession of a firearm. Also sentenced Friday were William McNealy III, 22, sentenced to seven years and three months, and Sahjit Mcyle Phillips, 23, sentenced to eight years and four months, both on charges of felon in possession of a firearm. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Nonpareil (Council Bluffs, IA): Cass County man sentenced to seven years in prison for receiving child pornography, David Golbitz, June 15, 2022, 8:00 PM

A Cass County man was sentenced this week to seven years in prison for receiving child pornography. United States Attorney Richard D. Westphal of the Southern District of Iowa announced that Aaron William Butcher, 34, was sentenced in federal court on June 14 to 84 months in prison for receipt of child pornography. Upon release, he will be placed on supervised release for an additional seven years, and be required to register as a sex offender. Butcher was also ordered to pay \$12,000 in restitution. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Nonpareil (Council Bluffs, IA): Woodbine man sentenced to 12 years for receiving child pornography, David Golbitz, June 15, 2022, 8:00 PM

A Harrison County man was sentenced this week to 12 years in prison for receiving child pornography. United States Attorney Richard D. Westphal of the Southern District of Iowa announced that Curtis Lee Jensen, 47, of Woodbine, Iowa, was sentenced in federal court on June 14 to 144 months in prison for receipt of child pornography. Upon release, he will be placed

on supervised release for an additional eight years, and be required to register as a sex offender. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WOWT-NBC \(Omaha, NE\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: Federal Jury Convicts Newark Man for Possession Of Weapons, Narcotics in East Orange, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 6:59 PM

A Newark man was convicted today on weapons and drug charges, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced. Federal officials said Teriek Edwards, 44, of Newark, was convicted on two counts of possession of firearms and ammunition by a convicted felon; one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, and oxycodone; and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of his possession with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, and oxycodone, following a six-day trial before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez in Newark federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Brattleboro Reformer (Vermont): What is the 'boyfriend loophole' in the bipartisan gun deal announced by senators?, Mike Donoghue, June 15, 2022, 6:30 PM

A Brattleboro man pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court in Burlington on Wednesday afternoon to a charge of illegal possession of four firearms by a convicted felon. Joshua R. Stratton, 36, also is facing a separate charge of violating three supervised release conditions imposed in 2020 for an unrelated case of being a convicted felon in illegal possession of nine firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): Ex-Discovery Tours VP pleads guilty to embezzlement that led to dozens of canceled school trips, Mark Feuerborn, June 15, 2022, 6:06 PM

A former executive of Mayfield Village-based Discovery Tours pleaded guilty Wednesday to embezzling about \$600,000. The scheme forced the company to abruptly close in 2018 and cancel school trips for some 5,000 students. Joseph Cipolletti, 47, of Hudson admitted to stealing the money from the company during a hearing held via teleconference in federal court in Cleveland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WEWS-ABC \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WKYC-NBC \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

Kingsport Times-News (Kingsport, TN): Kingsport man convicted on child pornography charges, Cliff Hightower, June 15, 2022, 5:30 PM

A Kingsport man was convicted in federal court this week on child pornography charges. Gary Lynn Hammonds, 53, was found guilty after a trial in the United States District Court for knowingly distributing child pornography, knowingly receiving child pornography and knowingly possessing child pornography involving a child less than 12 years old. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WCYB-NBC/CW \(Bristol, VA\)](#), [WJHL-CBS/ABC \(Johnson City, TN\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: Voorhees Woman Admits Stealing \$2.67 Million in Rent Checks From Work, Failing to Pay Taxes, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:08 PM

A Camden County woman today admitted stealing approximately 700 checks and money orders from her employer and failing to pay taxes on the income, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced. According to U.S. Attorney Sellinger, Lori Andrew, 61, Voorhees, pleaded guilty to an information charging her with interstate transportation of stolen property and one count of income tax evasion. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Houston Chronicle (Houston, TX): Former federal agent accused of groping a woman at IAH in Houston, Jose R. Gonzalez, June 15, 2022, 4:37 PM

A Conroe man has been arrested on federal charges alleging he tried covering up having grabbed a female passenger's breasts while working as a Customs and Border Protection officer at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Christopher Edwards Dowell, 34, was taken into custody Wednesday on the felony counts of violating a person's civil rights and obstruction of justice. Dowell was indicted June 9 by a federal jury, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KPRC-NBC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

The Patriot-News (Harrisburg, PA): **Man arrested in Steelton while 'fishing' for mail sentenced for aggravated identity theft**, Sean Adams, June 15, 2022, 4:32 PM

A judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania has sentenced a New York man to 24 months in prison after he was convicted of aggravated identity theft for using stolen checks and debit cards fished out of mail boxes. Marlon Valoy De La Rosa, 23, of the Bronx, New York City, was sentenced Jun 8 after pleading guilty to the charge. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPMT-Fox \(York, PA\)](#)

Hartford Courant: **Three men charged in connection with string of convenience store, smoke shop robberies across Connecticut**, Mike Mavredakis, June 15, 2022, 3:58 PM

Three men were indicted in federal court Wednesday on charges in connection to a string of robberies at retail locations across the state, according to federal authorities. Efrain Deleon, 58, and Gilberto Deleon, 56, both of New Britain, and Steven Galarza, 24, of Seymour, were each charged with eight counts of Hobbs Act Robbery and one count of conspiracy to commit Hobby Act Robbery, according to federal authorities. If convicted, the three face a maximum prison sentence of 20 years on each count. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [New Haven Register](#), [Patch \(Across Connecticut\)](#)

Wausau Pilot & Review (Wausau, WI): **2 Wausau-area men indicted on federal drug charges in separate cases**, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 3:30 PM

Two Wausau-area men were indicted this week in separate cases alleging distribution of significant amounts of drugs in the area, according to a news release from the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Kou Yang, 27, of Weston faces two counts of distributing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The indictment alleges that he distributed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on August 30 and September 8, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hartford Courant: **New Britain man indicted on charges of illegal gun possession**, Mike Mavredakis, June 15, 2022, 2:52 PM

A New Britain man was indicted in federal court on unlawful gun possession charges, according to federal authorities. Luis Javier Lopez, 23, was indicted by a grand jury and charged with one count of possession of a firearm by a felon and one count of possession of ammunition by a felon, according to federal authorities. The maximum prison time for each charge is 10 years. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHAS-ABC (Louisville, KY): **Two local men charged in conspiracy to steal mail from Louisville post office**, Kennedy Thompson, June 15, 2022, 11:36 PM

Two local men have been charged with conspiring to steal mail from USPS boxes and unlawfully possessing a postal key that opened official mail collection boxes. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Jeffersontown Police Department are investigating the case. A federal grand jury in Louisville returned the indictment on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WAVE-NBC \(Louisville, KY\)](#), [WDRB-Fox \(Louisville, KY\)](#)

WBFF-Fox (Baltimore, MD): Previously convicted child sex offender pleads guilty to abusing 'generations of victims', Tim Swift, June 15, 2022, 8:00 PM

A Baltimore man pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges that he sexually abused five young girls. Some of his victims were young as six years old when the abuse began. Prosecutors said Garnell Eugene Graves, 58, inflicted abuse on "generations of victims." Graves threatened his victims as they got older that if they did not comply with his demand he would abuse their younger family members. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTTG-Fox \(Washington, DC\)](#)

WCMH-NBC (Columbus, OH): Drug robbery turned deadly: Columbus man pleads guilty to murder, Mark Feuerborn, June 15, 2022, 7:38 PM

One of five people indicted in a drug robbery plot turned deadly has now plead guilty for his involvement, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio announced Wednesday. Kyle Castle, 29, could see a potential sentence of life in prison. He went to trial for the following charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WKRG-CBS (Mobile, AL): Mobile man sentenced to 6 years, found with meth and gun, Aspen Popowski, June 15, 2022, 6:25 PM

A Mobile man was sentenced to six years in prison after his partner was found with several kilos of meth, according to officials with the south Alabama District Attorney's Office. William Joshua Ikner was sentenced after his co-conspirator Angela Faye Keebler was pulled over by Saraland police at Interstate 65. Keebler was found with meth and a gun, according to a news release from the South Alabama U.S. District Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KVOA-NBC (Tucson, AZ): Arizonan with domestic violence history pleads guilty to illegally obtaining pistol, Czarina Sukkar, June 15, 2022, 6:00 PM

Bobby Lee Seely, Jr. will spend more than six months in prison after he was sentenced for lying about obtaining a firearm he was prohibited from possessing Tuesday. When Seely filled out a form in September of 2020 for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives when purchasing a pistol, he allegedly claimed to had not been convicted of any felonies or domestic violence that would prohibit him from purchasing a firearm. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMVT-CBS (Twin Falls, IA): Idaho men sentenced for unlawful taking of a Golden Eagle, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:48 PM

Two Idaho men have been sentenced to two years of probation and 15 hours of community service for the unlawful taking of a golden eagle without permission. According to court records, 20-year-old Colten R. Ferdinand and 23-year-old Wyatt G. Noe were charged by information with one count of taking the eagle in April of last year. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WVNS-CBS/Fox (Lewisburg, WV): What is the 'boyfriend loophole' in the bipartisan gun deal announced by senators?, Harper Emch, June 15, 2022, 4:42 PM

A Raleigh County man pleaded guilty today to possession of Heroine, Meth, Fentanyl, and large amounts of prescription medications. According court information, on September 21, 2021, law enforcement executed a search warrant at Larry Wayne Meadows' Shady Spring home. During the search, officers found approximately 28 grams of meth, several grams of a heroin and fentanyl mixture, and a large assortment of prescription pills. Meadows admitted that he had these drugs with the intent to distribute them. Meadows further admitted to possessing four firearms that officers also found inside his house. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WANE-CBS (Fort Wayne, IN): Court docs: Man who traded guns for drugs sentenced to 5 1/4 years in prison, Jeff Wiehe, June 15, 2022, 3:54 PM

A federal judge sentenced a 49-year-old Fort Wayne man to more than five years in prison Wednesday for selling firearms to a convicted felon. Andrew S. Thompson had initially been accused of selling five handguns to two people he knew were convicted felons back in late 2018 and early 2019, according to U.S. District Court documents. These people were working with law enforcement as part of a sting against Thompson. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS (St. Louis, MO): St. Charles man sentenced to prison for possessing thousands of child pornography images, videos, Matt Woods, June 15, 2022, 3:18 PM

Marcus E. Gardner was sentenced Wednesday to more than six years in prison for possessing thousands of images and hundreds of videos containing child pornography. Gardner, 48 and of St. Charles, was also ordered to pay \$78,000 in restitution to underage victims identified in the photos and videos found on Gardner's computer and hard drives. About 11,000 photos and 500 videos were found on Gardner's devices. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPLG-ABC (Miami, FL): South Florida man who gave girls 'hush money' for sex gets 40 years for child porn, Chris Gothner, June 15, 2022, 3:12 PM

A South Florida man, accused of paying two girls, aged 12 and 14, "hush money" for oral sex and recording it, has been sentenced to 40 years in prison, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In March, 23-year-old Keivon McBride pleaded guilty in federal court to producing and distributing child pornography. Broward County deputies first arrested him on Sept. 28, 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPRC-NBC (Houston, TX): Katy woman accused of defrauding Medicaid out of more than \$600K using her ex-husband's therapist information, Amanda Cochran, June 15, 2022, 2:21 PM

A 47-year-old Katy resident has been indicted for defrauding Medicaid of more than \$600,000, a federal official said Wednesday. U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery said authorities took Kay Le Farmer into custody and she is expected to make her initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Dena Hanovice Palermo at 1 p.m. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KRIV-Fox \(Houston, TX\)](#)

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Ex-SLC school board member sentenced for producing, transporting child pornography, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 2:21 PM

A former member of the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education has been sentenced to 180 months in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to two felony counts related to the production and transportation of child pornography. Joel Lehi Organista, 29, of Salt Lake City, was sentenced by a U.S. District Court Judge on Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Carroll County, MD): New Windsor Businessman Sentenced For \$940K USPS Facilities Fraud Scheme, Zak Failla, June 15, 2022, 2:00 PM

A Maryland businessman will spend more than a year behind bars for conspiring to commit wire fraud and overcharging the US Postal Service (USPS) for maintenance and repair services through his company. New Windsor resident Joseph Liberto, 47, has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison, followed by 12 months of home detention and three years of supervised release for a wire fraud conspiracy in connection with his company's contract to perform work at USPS facilities [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WFMD \(Frederick, MD\)](#)

WSFA-NBC (Montgomery, AL): Man in custody after Covington County shooting death, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 12:48 PM

A man is in custody after a fatal shooting Tuesday, according to Covington County Sheriff Blake Turman. James Derek Peoples, of Opp, is considered a suspect in the death of Brandon Keith Foley, also of Opp. The incident happened around 10:45 a.m., Turman said. Officers were called to a home on Jackson Town Toad in the Horn Hill Community. At the scene, officers found Foley with a fatal gunshot wound. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KELO-AM (Sioux Falls, SD): Spearfish woman sentenced for theft of government funds, Kullyn Meffert, June 15, 2022, 9:38 AM

A Spearfish woman will have to repay thousands of dollars after being convicted of Theft of Government Funds. The United States Attorney's Office says 37-year-old Christi Johnson was sentenced to five years probation, and will have to pay just under \$16,594.50 in restitution.. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KELO-AM (Sioux Falls, SD): Former officer sentenced; grandfather dies after crash; state fair gate hikes, Marissa Lute, June 15, 2022, 8:35 AM

[...] A former Box Elder Police Officer will spend years behind bars after pleading guilty to Aggravated Sexual Abuse. The U.S. Department of Justice says that 35-year-old Ricardo Olandez forced a young girl to have sex with him while he was living at Ellsworth Air Force Base in 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

New Jersey Advance Media: Feds settle suit with N.J. town over discriminatory Orthodox Jewish zoning ordinances, Chris Sheldon, June 15, 2022, 9:42 PM

The Justice Department settled a lawsuit Wednesday it filed against Jackson Township and its planning board which alleged that the town enacted zoning ordinances that discriminated against the Orthodox Jewish community by preventing them from opening religious boarding schools in the town, officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTTN (Trenton, MO): Former police officer indicted for sexually assaulting a female crime victim, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 11:36 PM

A former police officer with the Memphis Police Department was charged in an indictment unsealed in the Western District of Tennessee for sexually assaulting a woman while he was on duty. According to the indictment, Bridges Randle, 47, who has also used the names Ajamu Abiola Banjoko and Oluwafemi Abiola Banjoko, sexually assaulted the woman after he was dispatched to a vandalism call at the woman's residence on June 24. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Davidson nail salon owner sentenced to 15 years in prison for assault, forcing labor on employee, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 8:34 PM

A former executive of Mayfield Village-based Discovery Tours pleaded guilty Wednesday to embezzling about \$600,000. The scheme forced the company to abruptly close in 2018 and cancel school trips for some 5,000 students. Joseph Cipolletti, 47, of Hudson admitted to stealing the money from the company during a hearing held via teleconference in federal court in Cleveland. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

Law360: MD Helicopters To Pay \$31.5M In DOJ Fraud Settlement, Jeff Montgomery, June 15, 2022, 3:01 PM

Former Lynn Tilton-piloted MD Helicopters Inc. has landed a mediated \$31.5 million federal False Claims Act settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice and whistleblowers, saying in a Delaware bankruptcy court filing that the deal heads off nearly \$110 million in triple damages liability in Alabama. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Feds Hit Nursing Home With FCA Suit Over 'Nonexistent' Care, P. J. Danunzio, June 15, 2022, 2:37 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice has sued a nursing home operator in Pennsylvania federal court, accusing it of fraudulently billing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for often "nonexistent care," including one instance which allegedly resulted in a mental health patient dying by suicide. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Cleary Notes Off-Limits In Ex-Citi Trader's Forex Probe Suit, Rachel Scharf, June 15, 2022, 1:38 PM

A former Citigroup Inc. trader can't access Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP's reports of U.S. Department of Justice meetings in his lawsuit alleging the bank framed him to save itself during a foreign exchange-rigging probe, a Manhattan federal judge said Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Washington Times: Biden sets new monthly record for illegal border jumpers, Stephen Dinan, June 15, 2022, 10:20 PM

Border authorities nabbed nearly 240,000 illegal immigrants at the southern border in May, according to numbers released late Wednesday that show the month marked a new record level of chaos for the Biden administration. Just 42% of those were expelled under the Title 42 pandemic emergency policy, while the rest were processed under normal immigration rules which under the Biden administration usually means being released into communities to await eventual court proceedings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: DHS Wants 5th Circ. To Restore ICE's Immigration Guidelines, Alyssa Aquino, June 15, 2022, 8:46 PM

Immigration officers have turned to the Fifth Circuit to pause a court order vacating their enforcement priorities, saying a Texas judge had overstepped his authority and left immigration officers "rudderless" when he threw out the prioritization scheme. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY): Buffalo man charged with attempt to possess heroin after cops find 1 kilo of drug, Thad Green, June 15, 2022, 4:00 PM

Homeland Security Investigations arrested a Buffalo man, charging him with attempting to possess heroin with the intent to distribute it. On June 4 at a UPS hub in Louisville, Ky., a dog trained to find narcotics alerted a Customs and Border Protection officer to a package containing 1.1 kilograms of heroin, according to a federal agent. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KDVR-Fox (Denver, CO): ICE detainee described as hardworking father of 4, Rogelio

Mares, June 15, 2022, 11:40 PM

Victor Barrandey-Garcia was arrested by agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. His daughter told the Problem Solvers he's more than just a person taken into custody he's a hardworking father raising four children and running his own business. "I'm not sure what happened, I just know that he got picked up outside of the auto shop," Deyanire Barrandey said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WKRC-CBS (Cincinnati, OH): Local CBP officers seize \$300,000 worth of ketamine being shipped to other countries, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 9:00 PM

Customs and Border Protection officers in Cincinnati stopped pounds of the drug ketamine from being shipped to a number of international locations. The drugs were found in four shipments trying to pass through the Port of Cincinnati on June 8. They came in a shipment of cosmetics and protein supplements from Canada. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGNS-NBC/ABC (Laredo, TX): Undocumented immigrants attempt to cross Eagle Pass Port of entry, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:27 PM

Over two dozen undocumented immigrants are apprehended by federal agents after allegedly attempting to cross a port of entry in Eagle Pass. According to a media outlet out of Piedras Negras, Tuesday at around 5 p.m. several undocumented people allegedly escaped the National Institute of Migration Facility causing damage to the federal compound. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGNS-NBC/ABC (Laredo, TX): CBP seizes hard narcotics totaling over \$1 million, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:04 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers seized hard narcotics totaling over \$1 million in street value. Packages and a bucket containing \$1.1 million in cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine were seized by CBP officers at the Colombia-Solidarity International Bridge back on June 9. It happened after officers came across an SUV with the driver claiming he was carrying statues from Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPRC-NBC (Houston, TX): Customs and Border Protection agent from Conroe accused of sexually groping passenger at Bush IAH, US Attorney says, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 1:36 PM

A 34-year-old Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer is accused of violating a passenger's civil rights and obstruction, the U.S. Attorney's Office has announced. Christopher Edwards Dowell, a Conroe resident, was arrested on Wednesday. The charges allege Dowell deprived a woman of her civil rights at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. While conducting a secondary inspection, he allegedly touched the victim's breasts without her consent. He then engaged in obstruction by attempting to cover up the incident with information he submitted in the secondary inspection report, according to a federal indictment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTVJ-NBC (Miami, FL): Immigration Activists Call for Action 10 Years After DACA Established, Cherney Ahmara, June 15, 2022, 12:28 PM

It's been 10 years since the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was established by former President Barack Obama. But even a decade later, the Obama-era policy which stalls deportation for some undocumented young people who arrived here as children has no permanent solution. Now, several South Florida immigration activists are taking their fight to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, to call for changes to the immigration system. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

NYT: Justice Dept. Asks Court to Limit Scope of M.L.B.'s Antitrust Exemption, Benjamin Hoffman, June 16, 2022, 12:05 AM

In a filing on Wednesday, the Department of Justice asked a federal court to limit the scope of Major League Baseball's antitrust exemption to "conduct that is central to the offering of professional baseball exhibitions." Calling the century-old exemption an aberration no such exemption exists for other United States-based sports leagues the filing said the Supreme Court ruling that created the exemption was based on a "repudiated" interpretation of the Constitution. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ESPN: Department of Justice asks federal court to limit MLB's antitrust exemption, Joon Lee, June 16, 2022, 1:00 AM

The Department of Justice, making a request on behalf of three former minor league teams suing Major League Baseball after the league stripped them of their affiliation, asked a federal court Wednesday to limit the antitrust exemption given to MLB. The three teams suing MLB were among 43 that lost their affiliation when the league downsized the minors to 120 teams in 2020. MLB has asked that the lawsuit be dismissed, citing the antitrust exemption. In the filing with the U.S. District Court in New York, the Justice Department asked the court to "define the exemption narrowly." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: [OPINION] Antitrust populism would shift US from free market to managed economy, Jonathan M. Barnett, June 15, 2022, 12:00 PM

Antitrust law has long relied on two cardinal principles: the consumer welfare standard and the "rule of reason" balancing test. Both principles reflect the view that antitrust is hard and that it is easy for regulators and courts to make errors. The consumer welfare standard ensures that antitrust law is only deployed against business practices that injure competition, rather than practices that disadvantage less-adept competitors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

WSJ: EPA Lowers Bar for Toxic Chemicals Contamination, Kris Maher, June 15, 2022, 5:02 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency sharply lowered safe-consumption levels for so-called forever chemicals in drinking water, signaling its conclusion that the widely found substances are more hazardous than previously thought. While not enforceable, the new levels could have far-reaching effects on state drinking water regulations, pending federal rules and thousands of lawsuits involving chemicals found in firefighting foam and contamination from legacy uses of the chemicals. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WaPo](#)

Law360: Court Stands By Feds' Review Of Alaskan Mining Road, Grace Dixon, June 15, 2022, 4:29 PM

An Alaska federal court backed an earlier decision giving the federal government leeway to review a prior approval of a \$1 billion mining access road project, finding that work allowed to continue in the meantime will have minimal effects. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Environmental groups sue Biden administration over western drilling permits,

Zack Budryk, June 15, 2022, 3:34 PM

Three environmental organizations on Wednesday sued the Biden administration for granting thousands of fossil fuel drilling permits, alleging the permits violate federal law. In the lawsuit, filed in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, plaintiffs accused the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of violating the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act by granting 3,500 permits in Wyoming and New Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Law360: Pa. Man Owes \$3.5M Restitution, Prison Time For Tax Fraud, Emlyn Cameron,

June 15, 2022, 3:47 PM

A Pennsylvania man must pay over \$3.5 million in restitution and spend two-and-a-half years in prison and a year in supervised release for tax fraud, the U.S. Department of Justice said Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Levittown, PA\)](#)

Law360: FBAR Penalties Apply To Each Account, US Tells 2nd Circ., Theresa Schliep,

June 15, 2022, 5:15 PM

The Second Circuit should undo a lower court ruling determining that the maximum penalty for unintentionally failing to disclose foreign accounts to the IRS is \$10,000 per annual form rather than [...]. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDSU-NBC (New Orleans, LA): New Orleans judge tosses one count ahead of Jason Williams federal tax fraud trial, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:15 PM

Orleans Parish District Attorney Jason Williams is just a few weeks away from a federal tax fraud trial, but will now face lesser charges. On Wednesday, a judge tossed one count from Williams' original 11-count indictment. Williams still faces 10 counts of tax fraud ahead of his July 18 trial. This comes less than a week after the judge in Williams' case ruled his defense team cannot claim he was indicted for racial or political reasons in the upcoming trial. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WMBF-NBC (Myrtle Beach, SC): Owner of NC tax prep business arrested for fraud, attempted to board flight out of country, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 5:14 PM

The owner of a North Carolina tax preparation business has been arrested after attempting to board a flight out of the country. The U.S. Attorney's Office said Wednesday that Emmanuel Wesner Jean was taken into custody at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport while trying to board a flight to Haiti. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WBTW-CBS \(Florence, SC\)](#)

Patch (Levittown, PA): Bucks Business Owner Sentenced In \$1.3M Tax Fraud Scheme: DOJ, John Fey, June 15, 2022, 1:28 PM

A Bucks County construction business owner has been sentenced to prison and to pay restitution for their orchestration of a tax fraud scheme. Samuel Bullock, 72, of Langhorne, was sentenced to two and a half years in prison and one year of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay \$3,501,261 restitution by United States District Court Judge Michael M. Baylson. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: 3 hurt in fire in row homes on block where pride flag burned, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 6:11 PM

Three people were hospitalized after a fire tore through four row homes on the same north Baltimore block where a pride flag was burned early Wednesday, officials said. [...] Fire Chief Niles R. Ford said his department would work with city police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and FBI “to determine who is responsible for setting the fire.” Investigators are still determining the details and motives behind the fires, Police Commissioner Michael Harrison said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: U.S. probing how American electronics wound up in Russian military gear, Jeanne Whalen, June 15, 2022, 6:55 PM

Federal agents have begun questioning U.S. technology companies on how their computer chips ended up in Russian military equipment recovered in Ukraine. Commerce Department agents who enforce export controls are conducting the inquiries together with the FBI, paying joint visits to companies to ask about Western chips and components found in Russian radar systems, drones, tanks, ground-control equipment and littoral ships, according to people familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive investigations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Has the FBI become a threat to democracy?, Thomas J. Baker, June 16, 2022, 1:00 AM

Last month, in the District of Columbia, a jury could not bring itself to find Michael Sussmann guilty of lying to the FBI. Nonetheless, we learned a lot during that trial. An FBI agent testified that he is under investigation for withholding exculpatory material during the investigation of the Trump campaign. Other revelations in that courtroom highlighted the eagerness of FBI brass, “the 7th floor,” to proceed with the investigation of that presidential campaign. Withholding exculpatory information about someone is a threat to that individual’s civil rights; withholding exculpatory material about a presidential campaign is a threat to democracy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Bone-Chilling FBI Audio Recording of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks Resurfaces, Sara Santora, June 15, 2022, 2:56 PM

An uninterrupted audio recording of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has resurfaced online. The 90-minute audio recording was initially uploaded to YouTube by ElReyDeNorte. However, it was later shared in Reddit's "Today I Learned" (TIL) forum, where it has amassed over 60,000 upvotes and inspired thousands of commenters to recount their own memories from the day of the attacks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH): FBI: Rare wine, whiskey scheme bilked \$13 million from elderly across U.S., including 89-year-old Highland Heights man, Adam Ferrise, June 15, 2022, 4:39 PM

A scheme targeting the elderly across the country bilked some 150 people out of \$13 million by promising high returns on investments in rare wine and whiskey, according to the FBI. One of the victims, an 89-year-old Highland Heights man, lost \$300,000, according to criminal charges filed in federal court in Cleveland. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WATE-ABC (Knoxville, TN): Cities nationwide not reporting crime data to FBI, Dray Clark, Devan Markham, June 16, 2022, 1:43 AM

In America's heartland, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska are among the states with dozens of cities not reporting their data, according to data analysis by The Marshall Project. Although the New York Police Department is listed as one of the law enforcement agencies accused of not reporting its 2021 crime data to the FBI, criminologists say the NYPD still has a very good idea of what's happening crime-wise in New York City because of its own sophisticated system of tracking crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KHON-Fox/CW- (Honolulu, HI): **FBI, KPD find explosives in Kauai residence**, Elizabeth Ufi, June 16, 2022, 1:12 AM

In a joint operation, Kauai law enforcement served search warrants on a residence and vehicle in Hanamaulu for explosive devices. According to the Kauai Police Department, bomb technicians found five homemade pyrotechnic devices and an item that resembled a metallic pipe bomb. Unknown powders, cardboard tubing, hobby-type fuse and other items consistent with manufacturing PED explosives were also found. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMSP-Fox (Minneapolis, MN): **[VIDEO] FBI says there may be 1,000 victims in St. Paul man's sextortion case**, June 15, 2022, 11:00 PM

The suspect at the center of a massive online sextortion scheme is behind bars, but agents at FBI Minneapolis say their work is far from over. Over the last two years, the FBI has invested time and resources investigating, 31-year-old Yue Vang from St. Paul. [[Watch](#)]

WSVN-Fox (Miami, FL): **Her SUV Seized After Boyfriend's Arrest**, Patrick Fraser, Kelara Ehfad, June 15, 2022, 9:00 PM

The DEA arrested her boyfriend, accusing him of selling drugs, and when they did that they also took her SUV that she used for her business. When she couldn't get it back, she called Help Me Howard with Patrick Fraser to find out if the government could keep her vehicle. If Derica is in a kitchen, her face is smiling. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBOY-NBC/ABC (Clarksburg, WV): **FBI holds first Information Sharing Summit**, Makayla Schindler, June 15, 2022, 8:56 PM

The FBI CJIS Division partnered with FBI Pittsburgh's Office to hold an Information Sharing Summit on the early morning of June 15. This summit is a way for FBI Pittsburgh and FBI CJIS to really connect with their local partners throughout West Virginia, to share information, tools, resources, network, and strategize to combat a lot of the crimes and things that are affecting our communities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KARE-NBC (Minneapolis, MN): **FBI believes there are more victims of St. Paul man's sextortion scheme**, Sharon Yoo, June 15, 2022, 7:59 PM

A St. Paul man has pleaded guilty to a massive sextortion scheme that the FBI says targeted at least 500 minors through a number of social media sites. But they believe there could be many more victims. However, before getting to that, what exactly is sextortion? [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOAM-CBS (Pittsburg, KS): **U.S Marshals say last Barry County fugitive captured planned to flee the U.S**, Andre Louque, June 15, 2022, 7:35 PM

U.S. Marshals say the last of the Barry County Jail escapees had plans to flee to the country. Just last night, the Barry County Sheriff's office announced that U.S. Marshals had taken Lance Stephens, the third and final jail escapee into custody. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHNT-CBS (Huntsville, AL): FBI warns of elder fraud and abuse, gives resources, Emily Moessner, June 15, 2022, 7:27 PM

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) recognizes June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The awareness day is to draw attention to abuse, neglect, and fraud committed against older Americans. The DOJ reports elder abuse impacts at least 10% of older Americans each year. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTVA-ABC/ABC \(Tupelo, MS\)](#)

WBAL-NBC (Baltimore, MD): Police investigating Wednesday morning fire in Baltimore City, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 7:00 PM

An intense fire in Baltimore's Charles Village neighborhood damaged four rowhomes and sent three people to the hospital on Wednesday. [...] "As this investigation moves forward, we will continue to work with the Baltimore City Police Department, ATF and the FBI to determine who is responsible for setting the fire. I am also extremely proud of the work performed by our members to help bring this fire under control in just under an hour, while preventing the fire from spreading to additional homes." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPBF-ABC (West Palm Beach, FL): FBI joins search for 12-year-old Boynton Beach boy, Taylor Lang, June 15, 2022, 6:34 PM

The FBI has joined the search to help locate a 12-year-old boy missing from Boynton Beach. A Missing Child Alert was issued Wednesday for Yves Clervoir, who was last seen in the 400 block of NE 11th Avenue. Clervoir is 5 feet, 3 inches tall, according to law enforcement. He weighs about 125 pounds. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): [VIDEO] FBI affidavit reveals new information about Tops shooting, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 6:15 PM

The details include incite into the timeline of events, as well as evidence which led prosecutors to bring charges under the hate crime statute. [[Watch](#)]

KIRO-CBS (Seattle, WA): 2 arrested in Centralia for trafficking fentanyl, meth, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 4:40 PM

Two men were arrested Tuesday in possession of 8 pounds of methamphetamine and 10,000 suspected fentanyl pills, the Centralia Police Department announced Wednesday. The arrests were made by the Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET), made up of members from the Centralia and Chehalis police departments, the Washington State Department of Corrections, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPVI-NBC (Pocatello, ID): SPD, FBI to hold joint news conference on Shamia Little case, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 4:00 PM

The FBI New Orleans and Shreveport Police Department will hold a joint news conference at 10 a.m. Thursday to update the investigation into the death of a Shreveport teenager. The body of Shamia Little, 17, was found behind a business on Curtis Lane on July 12, days after she was reported missing from near Douglas Williams Park. The coroner said she was shot to death. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDTV-CBS (Weston, WV): FBI information summit hosts WV law enforcement, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 3:46 PM

Law enforcement from around the region met at the FBI headquarters in Bridgeport Wednesday morning. They were there to discuss and learn about information gathering and sharing between

law enforcement and federal agencies. The FBI showed officers some of the latest technology and methods while focusing heavily on cybercrime and data sharing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRGT (Dayton, OH): Attorney General Yost announces partnership that will analyze firearms faster, Lydia Bice, June 15, 2022, 3:00 PM

On Wednesday, June 15, Attorney General Dave Yost announced a partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that will allow the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to analyze firearms evidence significantly faster for law enforcement agencies statewide. This partnership will also help Ohio law enforcement agencies match evidence with evidence gathered from crimes in other states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Reuters: U.S. President Reagan's shooter John Hinckley fully released after 41 years, Jonathan Allen, June 15, 2022, 9:11 PM

John Hinckley, who wounded then U.S. President Ronald Reagan and three others in a 1981 assassination attempt, was released without conditions on Wednesday in compliance with a federal judge's order. He had received full-time conditional release in 2016 after 30 years in a psychiatric hospital in Washington and had lived with his mother in Virginia until her death last year. A jury had found him not guilty by reason of insanity in his 1982 trial, prompting Congress and some states to pass laws restricting the use of insanity as a defense. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Oregon's prison chief in lead for top federal prisons job, Michael Balsamo and Michael R. Sisak, June 15, 2022, 7:00 PM

Colette Peters, the director of Oregon's prison system, has now emerged as the leading contender to run the federal prison system, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Peters, who has run the state's corrections department since 2012, is at the top of the list of candidates to replace Bureau of Prisons Director Michael Carvajal, who submitted his resignation in January but said he would stay on until a successor was named, the person said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: Inmate planned to strangle Ghislaine Maxwell in her sleep at Brooklyn federal jail: lawyer, Molly Crane-Newman, June 15, 2022, 7:56 PM

One of Ghislaine Maxwell's fellow detainees at the Brooklyn federal lockup plotted to murder her, a defense lawyer said in a court filing Wednesday aimed at lightening Maxwell's sentence on sex trafficking charges for procuring young women for Jeffrey Epstein. "(One) of the female inmates in Ms. Maxwell's housing unit told at least three other inmates that she had been offered money to murder Ms. Maxwell and that she planned to strangle her in her sleep," wrote lawyer Bobbi Sternheim. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court deals major blow to California worker class actions, Daniel Wiessner, June 15, 2022, 3:32 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday said a unique California law allowing workers to sue their employers in the state's name does not permit them to circumvent agreements to bring legal disputes in individual arbitration rather than court. The court's 8-1 ruling in a case involving Viking

River Cruises Inc is a major victory for business groups who had backed the company, and is likely to stem a flood of lawsuits filed in recent years accusing companies of widespread wage law violations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Justices dismiss Trump-era immigration case, in a Biden win, Jessica Greesko, June 15, 2022, 2:00 PM

The Supreme Court said Wednesday it was wrong to wade into a dispute involving a Trump-era immigration rule that the Biden administration has abandoned, so the justices dismissed the case. The court had said it would answer the question of whether Republican-led states, headed by Arizona, could pick up the legal defense of the Trump-era “public charge” rule that denied green cards to immigrants who use food stamps or other public benefits. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court rejects its own precedent in death row decision, Hassan Kanu, June 15, 2022, 1:53 PM

A U.S. Supreme Court decision on Monday demonstrates its conservative justices' disregard for well-established judicial norms and longstanding legal rights, even in cases that present literal life-or-death stakes. The court's decision on June 13 rejected a petition to reevaluate a death sentence in *Andrus v. Texas*, with its three liberal justices dissenting in an opinion by Justice Sonia Sotomayor. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. Supreme Court faults Medicare cuts to hospitals for outpatient drugs, Andrew Chung, June 15, 2022, 12:02 PM

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) exceeded its authority when it cut billions of dollars in annual Medicare reimbursements to a group of nonprofit hospitals that cater to poor and uninsured people, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday. The justices, in a 9-0 decision authored by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, sided with the hospitals, which sued after HHS starting in 2018 reduced by \$1.6 billion the government's yearly Medicare payments for outpatient drugs that had helped subsidize the operations of these hospitals. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [WSJ](#)

NYT: Bracing for the End of Roe v. Wade, the White House Weighs Executive Actions, Charlie Savage, June 15, 2022, 5:00 AM

President Biden's top aides are weighing whether he can or should take a series of executive actions to help women in Republican-controlled states obtain abortions if the Supreme Court eliminates a woman's right to end her pregnancy, according to senior administration officials. Some of the ideas under consideration include declaring a national public health emergency, readying the Justice Department to fight any attempt by states to criminalize travel for the purpose of obtaining an abortion, and asserting that Food and Drug Administration regulations granting approval to abortion medications pre-empt any state bans, the officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: When will the Supreme Court make a decision on the fate of Roe vs. Wade?, Unattributed, June 15, 2022, 8:00 AM

The Supreme Court will soon announce its decision in a historic abortion case that will affect millions of Americans. Here's what we know about the timing of the decision. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ABC: Ahead of Supreme Court decision on abortion, Texas is already a 'post-Roe world,' advocates say, Katie Kindelan, June 16, 2022, 5:02 AM

Down a dirt road, inside a church in Dallas, Texas, the cellphone of Zuleka Edwards buzzes constantly. "I was just trying to seek termination of a pregnancy," one caller tells Edwards, abortion coordinator for The Afiya Center, the only Black-women-led abortion fund in North Texas. "I just need some assistance, OK, if that's possible." [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: [VIDEO] Toobin: SCOTUS says this is history, we're dealing in the present, Jessica Schneider, June 15, 2022, 12:40 PM

The Supreme Court dismissed a case brought by Republican led states attempting to defend a Trump-era immigration policy. The "public charge" immigration rule was rescinded when the Biden administration took office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR: Dana Remus made legal history in the White House. Now she's moving on, Carrie Johnson, June 15, 2022, 9:03 AM

The top lawyer in the White House is stepping down after more than a year-and-a-half in the role, NPR has learned. White House counsel Dana Remus made history by helping to confirm the first Black woman for the U.S. Supreme Court. She also set records for appointing dozens of lower court judges with diverse professional experiences, selecting public defenders and civil rights attorneys for posts that carry a lifetime tenure.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

SCOTUSblog: Justices broaden trial courts' discretion in child-custody disputes under Hague Convention, Amy Howe, June 15, 2022, 5:32 PM

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave federal trial courts more discretion over whether children in some international custody disputes must be returned to their home countries. The unanimous decision in *Golan v. Saada* was the latest in a series of cases interpreting the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, an international agreement adopted in 1980 to deal with international child abduction during domestic disputes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

SCOTUSblog: [OPINION] In an opinion that shuns Chevron, the court rejects a Medicare cut for hospital drugs, James Romoser, June 15, 2022, 2:24 PM

In *American Hospital Association v. Becerra*, the Supreme Court had a chance to upend the administrative state. Though the dispute involved a technical Medicare reimbursement formula, business groups and conservative legal organizations had urged the justices to use the case as a vehicle to overhaul or even overturn the 38-year-old doctrine known as *Chevron* deference.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

Reuters: Biden's seven new judicial nominees include first Latino for D.C. Circuit, Nate Raymond, June 15, 2022, 12:49 PM

President Joe Biden on Wednesday unveiled seven new judicial nominees, including U.S. Justice Department official Bradley Garcia, who would become the first Latino to serve on the influential federal appeals court in Washington, D.C. Garcia, a veteran appellate lawyer and a former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan now at the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, was nominated to join the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Law360](#)

Fox: Biden nominates Minnesota prosecutor in Derek Chauvin case for federal judgeship, Ronn Blitzer, June 15, 2022, 1:37 PM

The White House announced Wednesday that President Biden is nominating Derek Chauvin prosecutor Jerry Blackwell to be a federal district court judge for the District of Minnesota. Blackwell was part of the legal team that successfully secured a guilty verdict against Chauvin for the 2020 murder of George Floyd. He is one of seven new judicial picks the president named, and the White House specifically mentioned diversity in its press release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Republic: Biden nominates Arizona attorney who fought attempts to overturn election as judge for 9th Circuit, Ryan Randazzo, June 15, 2022, 3:59 PM

President Joe Biden on Wednesday nominated Arizona attorney Roopali Desai, who was on the front lines of several high-profile election challenges in Arizona, to fill a vacancy on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Desai has represented Democrats and the Democratic Party in a host of high-profile issues in Arizona and served as legal counsel and campaign attorney for U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, who advocated for her nomination. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Law360: Reps. Back Subpoena Power For Indian School Panel, Caleb Symons, June 15, 2022, 8:33 PM

Federal lawmakers declined Wednesday to eliminate the subpoena power of a commission that, if created, would detail the government's past efforts to erase Native American culture by forcing children to attend coercive and often abusive boarding schools. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Cherokee Nation will display Oklahoma flag after removal from tribal properties, Kaelan Deese, June 15, 2022, 5:22 PM

The Cherokee Nation announced Tuesday it will allow the Oklahoma flag to fly on its properties after Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. reversed his decision to remove the flag due to negative feedback from within the tribe. "I was particularly moved by concerns of some members of the Council that my executive order created unnecessary division at a time when I have called for cooperation," Hoskin wrote in a press statement Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: SF Opioid Crisis Not From Allergan's Market Share, Judge Told, Bonnie Eslinger, June 15, 2022, 11:05 PM

An economics expert for Allergan testified Wednesday in a bellwether opioid bench trial that the "extremely small" market share and promotion done for the company's two branded opioids could not have substantially contributed to San Francisco's opioid crisis. Margaret Kyle, who holds a Ph. D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, also told the court that there wasn't evidence that the marketing done for Allergan's branded opioids Kadian and Norco caused or substantially contributed to San Francisco's overdose and addiction crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

AP: Harris to launch task force on online harassment, abuse, Chris Megerian, June 16, 2022, 4:23 AM

Vice President Kamala Harris will launch a new task force dedicated to fighting online harassment and abuse, according to senior Biden administration officials. Although the problem isn't new, it has taken on new urgency following shooting massacres in Texas and New York that were predated by misogynist and racist commentary on social media and message boards. The National Security Council is working with the White House Gender Policy Council on the initiative, and Attorney General Merrick Garland and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were scheduled to attend the first meeting Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [Reuters](#)

WSJ: Biden Seeks to Strengthen LGBT Protections With Executive Order, Catherine Lucey, June 15, 2022, 5:50 PM

President Biden signed an executive order Wednesday aimed at improving protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people that includes efforts to counter GOP-led state laws regarding transgender youths. The order charges the Department of Health and Human Services with “protecting LGBTQI+ children and families from attacks on their access to health care” and directs the department to release new policies for states on how to expand access to healthcare for those patients. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#)

CONGRESS

WaPo: Bipartisan bill aims to curb foreign influence in U.S. democracy, Isaac Stanley-Becker, June 16, 2022, 6:00 AM

A House bill due to be introduced Thursday seeks to curb foreign influence in U.S. democracy by imposing a lifetime ban on members of Congress, senior military leaders and senior executive branch officials from lobbying for a foreign government or political party, among other measures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: [EDITORIAL] During Watergate, Republicans made ‘the system’ work. Today’s GOP is failing the nation, Jackie Calmes, June 16, 2022, 6:00 AM

Friday is the 50th anniversary of the Watergate burglary that would end Richard M. Nixon’s presidency two years later. By then, his vice president and successor, Gerald R. Ford Jr., would tell Americans, “Our long national nightmare is over.” Little could Ford or his audience have imagined the nation’s current nightmare, one that’s far from over. We’re enduring the biggest presidential scandal since Watergate, or ever: Donald Trump’s continued assault on democracy, following his unprecedented refusal to accept the 2020 election result and allow for the peaceful transfer of power to the winner. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: House Passes 'Unprecedented' Wildlife Protection Act, Joyce Hanson, June 15, 2022, 4:48 PM

The U.S. House in a bipartisan vote has passed a wildlife protection measure that proposes to pay out \$1.3 billion to states, territories and tribes to help accelerate the recovery of 1,600 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Reps. Back Subpoena Power For Indian School Panel, Stephen Dinan, June 15, 2022, 3:00 PM

Congressional Democrats have proposed an amnesty for immigrants with a history of marijuana use, saying those records should not be used to prevent them from gaining a more permanent legal status. The proposal was tucked inside House Democrats' 2023 spending plan for homeland security programs. The language would prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from using immigrants' history of personal marijuana use, including criminal conviction, against them if they are applying for admission to the U.S., or for an immigration benefit such as a green card or citizenship. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JUNE 15, 2022

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The Federal Reserve intensified its fight against high inflation on Wednesday, raising its key interest rate by three-quarters of a point the largest bump since 1994 and signaling more rate hikes ahead as it tries to cool off the U.S. economy without causing a recession. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#), [NBC-2](#)]
- The U.S. announced it will send an additional \$1 billion in military aid to Ukraine, as America and its allies provide longer-range weapons they say can make a difference in a fight where Ukrainian forces are outnumbered and outgunned by their Russian invaders. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Jan. 6 Committee on Wednesday released new footage of a man who on Jan. 6 outside the Capitol made violent verbal threats against top Democratic lawmakers and who the day before had been taken on a tour of House office buildings by Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-Ga. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The white gunman who killed 10 Black people in a racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket was charged Wednesday with federal hate crimes that could potentially carry a death penalty. The criminal complaint filed Wednesday against Payton Gendron coincided with a visit to Buffalo by Attorney General Merrick Garland. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Rep. Tom Rice was one of ten Republicans who voted to impeach former President Trump after the January 6th insurrection and never wavered from his vote. This cost Rice as he lost his primary to Trump-endorsed candidate state Rep. Russell Fry. [[NBC](#)]
- COVID-19 vaccine shots for U.S. infants, toddlers and preschoolers moved a step closer Wednesday. The Food and Drug Administration's outside vaccine advisers gave a thumbs-up to Moderna's two-shot vaccine and also to Pfizer-BioNTech's three-shot series for the young age group. [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “European Leaders Visit Irpin, a Site of Atrocities in Ukraine” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#)]
- “Fed announces biggest interest rate increase since 1994 in effort to tame inflation” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]
- “The Next Steps for Moderna and Pfizer Vaccines for the Youngest Children” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#)]
- “U.S. defends weapons aid to Ukraine as ‘numbers clearly favor the Russians’” [[WaPo](#)]

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