



COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes, the biggest legal news story of the week depends on whom you ask. This was not one of those weeks.

Reporter [Erik Uebelacker](#) followed Donald Trump's historic hometown criminal trial that ended Thursday with the ex-president's conviction on all 34 counts against him. Here's what he had to say about covering the trial.

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Closing Arguments: This trial went on for over a month. What was the daily routine?

Erik Uebelacker: Luckily, it was pretty consistent. Reporters struck a deal to reserve one seat per outlet in the courtroom every day. Other reporters and members of the public hired overnight line sitters (which cost up to \$1,800 on big days!) or showed up hours early just for a shot at the overflow room.

Security was tight. The courtroom was totally locked down whenever Donald Trump was on the move until Secret Service cleared the area. Even roads and sidewalks around the courthouse would be blocked for parts of the day.

CA: Did you have a chance to observe jurors during trial? Any noteworthy reactions to attorneys or witnesses?

EU: It shocked me how attentive the jurors were, particularly on the longest days. Even during prosecutor Joshua Steinglass' six-hour closing, most appeared vigilant, while our eyelids in the press gallery collectively drooped.

The jury was stoic, too. The press was chided for giggling during some of the more colorful testimony, while the jurors tended to remain stone-faced.

CA: Now that all is said and done, what stood out to you the most?

EU: Needless to say, Stormy Daniels' testimony about her 2006 tryst with Trump was awfully memorable testimony. The adult film star recalling the salacious details of the encounter to a packed courtroom, containing Trump's political allies and family members, is something I'll never forget.

CA: You also covered the civil fraud trial against Donald Trump in the fall. How did this trial compare to that one?

EU: The criminal trial was a much more difficult case to cover. Access was far more limited. Reporters could only use laptops in the courtroom, no cell phones. (At the civil fraud trial, you could use both.) Of course, it didn't matter much: The WiFi and cell connection in the courtroom left a lot to be desired, and both cut out completely as the verdict was read.

CA: What's next?

EU: Since the verdict, Trump has stuck to [making the same baseless claims](#) he's made throughout the proceedings: that the trial was rigged against him and brought by the Biden administration. He'll be sentenced on July 11. That's when we'll find out whether Trump will become not only the first U.S. president to be convicted of a crime, but the first to be imprisoned as well.

However, Trump seems to have endless stamina when it comes to appeals. Experts tell me that even if he's [sentenced to prison this summer](#), he'll likely file waves of appeals to preserve his freedom on bail.

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We've got more trial analysis, and plenty of other Courthouse News, up next.

— *Nina Pullano*

Here's what else happened in court this week:



Legal experts weighed in on the Trump verdict, telling reporter [Josh Russell](#) that the two attorneys on the jury — a rare occurrence — [didn't do Trump any favors](#).

The historic verdict [invites a comparison](#) to President Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal. But while Nixon resigned, Trump is the presumptive 2024 nominee, [Nika Schoonover](#) writes.

On the political front, Congress reporter [Benjamin S. Weiss](#) sums up the scene: "Any doubts that congressional Republicans would [unflinchingly back](#) former President Donald Trump following his felony conviction were left aside this week."

» The NRA [can pursue First Amendment claims](#) against New York regulators it accuses of coercing businesses to distance themselves from the gun rights group, SCOTUS ruled. [[Ryan Knappenberger](#)]

» Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch [admonished his colleagues](#) for turning down an opportunity to revoke the use of six-member jury panels. [[Kelsey Reichmann](#)]

» Amazon [can't dodge the FTC's lawsuit](#) accusing it of tricking shoppers into signing up for a \$14.99-a-month Prime membership while making it unnecessarily complicated to cancel. [[Edvard Petterson](#)]

» For the second time in three years, the Labor Department [sued Hyundai suppliers](#), accusing the companies of knowingly violating child labor laws. [[Gabriel Tynes](#)]



Dozens of reggaeton artists, including global stars Bad Bunny and Daddy Yankee, [must face allegations](#) that the genre's signature beat was stolen from an instrumental percussion track created by two Jamaican producers in 1989. [\[Edvard Pettersson\]](#)

The debacle was featured heavily in a 2023 [episode of Sidebar](#) hosted by [Nina Pullano](#) and [Josh Russell](#).

Top 8: This week's most-read stories

1. Chicago suburb faces federal class action over reparations program
2. Gorsuch offers rebuke as Supreme Court turns away review of 6-member juries
3. Prisoner fights for public information access before hesitant Seventh Circuit panel
4. Texas' largest comic convention returns, drawing diverse crowd of fans
5. Jury reaches verdict in Donald Trump's historic criminal trial
6. Chinese billionaire bilked investors of over \$1 billion, prosecutors say at fraud trial
7. Robert Costello's testimony in Trump criminal trial a 'disaster,' experts say
8. Naples on edge as huge underground volcano rumbles



To protect endangered loggerhead sea turtles during El Niño weather, the National Marine Fisheries Service [will ban fishing with large-mesh drift gillnets](#) in federal waters off the coast of Southern California from the beginning of June until the end of August. Shales, dolphins, sharks and turtles can get caught in the nets, which are used to catch fish like swordfish. [[Sam Ribakoff](#)]

New rulings on our radar 📡

» **NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division:** Former President Donald Trump [may sue his niece](#) for violating a confidentiality agreement she signed in a settlement relating to her grandfather's estate.

» **Southern District of Texas:** A customer who was harmed by broken glass found in his Smucker's jam [may file suit](#) against the company despite his misidentification of the firm's affiliates in his lawsuit.

» **California Supreme Court:** The court [upholds the dismissal](#) of misdemeanor charges against an 85-year-old property owner over an alleged unlicensed cannabis dispensary operating in her Los Angeles building.

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