

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Historic NY trial opens for Trump



Former President Donald Trump watches ahead of the start of jury selection at Manhattan criminal court in New York on Monday. **JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST VIA AP, POOL**

First day ends with no jurors picked for hush-money case

By Jennifer Peltz, Michael R. Sisak and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The historic hush-money trial of Donald Trump got underway Monday with the arduous process of selecting a jury to hear the case charging the former president with falsifying business records in order to stifle stories about his sex life.

The day ended without any jurors being chosen. The selection process was scheduled to resume Tuesday.

The first criminal trial of any former U.S. president began as Trump vies to reclaim the White House, creating a remarkable split-screen spectacle of the presumptive Republican nominee spending his days as a criminal defendant while simultaneously campaigning for office. He's blended those roles over the past year by presenting himself to supporters — on the campaign trail and on social media — as a target of politically motivated prosecutions designed to derail his candidacy.

"It's a scam. It's a political witch hunt. It continues, and it continues forever," Trump said after exiting the courtroom, where he sat at the defense table with his lawyers.

After a norm-shattering presidency shadowed by years of inves-

tigations, the trial amounts to a reckoning for Trump, who faces four indictments charging him with crimes ranging from hoarding classified documents to plotting to overturn an election. Yet the political stakes are less clear because a conviction would not preclude him from becoming president and because the allegations in this case date back years and are seen as less grievous than the conduct behind the three other indictments.

The day began with pretrial arguments — including over a potential fine for Trump — before moving in the afternoon into jury selection, where the parties will decide who among them might be picked to determine the legal fate

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Court presses feds on bribery

Decision could affect Chicago cases, including Madigan's

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

A government attorney faced tough questioning Monday from U.S. Supreme Court justices over concerns that the federal bribery statute often used to prosecute public officials, including a former Indiana mayor, is vague and potentially criminalizes innocuous gift-giving by people from all walks of life.

The oral arguments came in a case involving James Snyder, the former mayor of Portage, Indiana, who was convicted of taking a \$13,000 "consulting" fee from a garbage truck contractor that had recently won two lucrative contracts with the town.

The statute Snyder was convicted under, which is commonly referred to as "666" because of its number in the federal criminal code, makes it illegal to "corruptly" accept anything over \$5,000 in value with the intention of being "influenced or rewarded" for an official act, regardless of whether there was a prior quid-pro-quo agreement.

How the high court comes down on the issue could have a resounding impact on political corruption prosecutions in Illinois — including the case against former House Speaker Michael Madigan, which is set for trial in October.

A decision is expected before the court session ends in late June or early July.

During intense questioning in Washington, D.C., on Monday, many of the justices seemed sympathetic to Snyder's argument that the statute's vague wording could sweep up all types of legal gratuities that people offer every day, such as giving a doctor a fruit basket for exceptional treatment, taking a teacher or coach who gave special attention to your child to dinner, or thanking a firefighter who rescued your kitten from a tree with concert tickets.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett at one point started a line of questioning by telling the government's attorney, Colleen Roh Sinzdak, "I'm increasingly worried about the government's position."

The nearly two-hour arguments included offbeat references

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Vigil for girl killed in shooting

Jose Molina, right, is consoled Monday before the start of a prayer vigil for his slain daughter, Ariana Molina, in the 2000 block of West 52nd Street in Chicago. A shooting over the weekend claimed the life of 9-year-old Ariana. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

After son's suicide, couple push bill for online scrutiny



Rose and Robert Bronstein, at home in Chicago, show a photo of their son Nate on April 2. They are tackling the issue of cyberbullying after Nate's death. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Measure would prohibit platforms from blocking outside safety software

By Olivia Stevens
Chicago Tribune

Rose and Rob Bronstein were blindsided by their 15-year-old son Nate's suicide in early 2022.

The Bronsteins say Nate was a funny, athletic and well-liked kid. What they didn't know, they said, is that in the weeks leading up to his death, Nate was being harassed by other Latin School of Chicago students on the social media platform Snapchat.

They believe a bill under consideration this spring by Illinois legislators could have saved his life.

The Let Parents Choose Protection Act is also referred to as Sammy's Law after 16-year-old Sammy Chapman, who died from a fentanyl overdose in his California home last year after taking drugs he found advertised on

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Change to Prisoner Review Board

Gov. J.B. Pritzker makes an appointment to fill the new position of executive director of the embattled Illinois Prisoner Review Board. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Oberweis Dairy files for bankruptcy

Oberweis, a century-old North Aurora dairy with a recent history of Republican political aspirations by its owner, is seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. **Business**

'Rust' movie armorer sentenced

A movie weapons supervisor is sentenced to 18 months in a fatal shooting by Alec Baldwin on the set of the western film "Rust." **Nation & World**

