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N.Y. COURT REVERSES WEINSTEIN RAPE CASE VERDICT

State appellate panel overturns conviction and orders new trial, citing errors by judge in 2020 proceedings.

BY JENNY JARVIE, RICHARD WINTON AND STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

In a dramatic reversal of the nation's landmark #Me-Too trial, a New York appeals court on Thursday overturned the sex assault conviction of disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The state appeals court found, in a 4-3 decision, that the judge who presided over Weinstein's 2020 trial prejudiced his case by allowing four women who said Weinstein had assaulted them to serve as witnesses even though their allegations were not a part of the case.

The trial judge also made a mistake, the court found, in ruling that prosecutors could cross-examine Weinstein about uncharged and decades-old allegations if he decided to testify.

"It is an abuse of judicial discretion to permit untested allegations of nothing more than bad behavior that destroys a defendant's character but sheds no light on their credibility as related to the criminal charges lodged against them," Judge Jenny Rivera wrote for the majority.

The predominantly female panel of judges ordered a new trial, arguing that the "synergistic effect of these errors was not harmless."

"The only evidence against defendant was the complainants' testimony, and the result of the court's rulings, on the one hand, was to bolster their credibility and diminish defendant's character before the jury," the court added.

Women who accused Weinstein in the past moved swiftly to condemn the decision.

Actor Ashley Judd called the decision "an act of institutional betrayal." Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the filmmaker and wife of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, said it [See Weinstein, A7]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

CAMPUS STANDOFF

Police face protesters against the war in Gaza on Wednesday at USC. On Thursday, a day after more than 90 arrests on campus, USC said it was canceling its main commencement event. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Gascón aide charged with mishandling officer records

Assistant D.A. faces 11 felony counts related to downloading confidential data when she worked for Sheriff's Department

BY JAMES QUEALLY, KERI BLAKINGER AND MATT HAMILTON

California's attorney general has filed criminal charges against one of L.A. County Dist. Atty. George Gascón's top advisors, who supervises high-profile and sensitive cases including police misconduct, fraud and public corruption.

Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta announced the 11 felony counts against Assistant Dist. Atty. Diana Teran in a press statement Wednesday. He accused her of improperly downloading confidential records of law enforcement officers in 2018 while she was working for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Teran then "impermissibly used that data" after joining Gascón's office three years later, Bonta said.

The confidential records



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

DIANA TERAN, right, a top aide to Dist. Atty. George Gascón, denied wrongdoing through a lawyer.

concern 11 sheriff's deputies, according to a criminal complaint filed in L.A. County Superior Court. The deputies' names were not included in the court filing.

The announcement of criminal charges against one of Gascón's top advisors — particularly one so closely tied to his agenda of law enforcement accountability and criminal justice reform — sent shock waves across the state's legal community and was expected to have a far-reaching impact on active and future criminal cases handled by Gascón's office, while also fueling fresh controversy as he pursues reelection this year.

"No one is above the law," said Bonta, a fellow Democrat and police reform advocate, in a statement issued by his press office. "Public officials are called to serve the people and the State of [See Records, A10]

Court appears to hand Trump a delay

Justices seem unlikely to accept his full immunity claim, but timing of ruling could push back Jan. 6 case.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative justices said Thursday they agree a former president should be shielded from prosecution for his truly official acts while in office, but not for private schemes that would give him personal gain.

They also suggested the case against former President Trump will have to be sent back to the lower courts to decide which parts of the pending criminal indictment can proceed to a trial.

Trump was indicted on charges of conspiring to stay in office after losing the 2020 election, but the high court blocked the case from going before a jury to consider the ex-president's claim of absolute immunity for his official acts while in the White House.

So far, Trump's lawyers have been winning delays, and it appeared they may have done it again.

While the justices gave no hint they would endorse a total or absolute immunity for former presidents, they suggested that former presidents have an immunity for their official acts.

"Why shouldn't we ... [See Immunity, A5]

What's coming next for TikTok?

Questions swirl about the app's future after Biden signs a law calling for its sale.

BY WENDY LEE AND ANDREA CHANG

TikTok on Wednesday faced a formidable threat to its business, with a new law signed by President Biden that could dramatically change the way the popular video app operates.

TikTok, which is owned by Chinese company ByteDance, has faced scrutiny from U.S. government officials over how it handles the data of its users here as well as its ties to China. The new law would require ByteDance, a tech company founded in China in 2012, to sell TikTok or the app will be banned in the U.S.

In a statement, TikTok said it has invested billions of dollars to protect the data of its U.S. users and a ban would "devastate seven million businesses and silence 170 million Americans."

The social media app, which has a large presence in Culver City, is a key platform for influencers, musicians and Hollywood talent.

"This unconstitutional [See TikTok, A7]

Ancient storms a warning for today

Atmospheric rivers were once wetter, and could be again, a study finds

BY GRACE TOOHEY

For years, scientists have said that atmospheric rivers can either make or break the water supplies of thirsty California cities and farms.

For the last two winters, a steady succession of these giant "rivers in the sky" have dumped record-breaking and drought-busting precipitation across the state, while simultaneously causing catastrophic floods, landslides, and dangerous blizzards.

But new research has found that these recent atmospheric rivers pale in comparison to some of the monster storms that battered ancient California — a sobering revelation that suggests to some experts that the state could be revisited once again by such cataclysmic storms.

"Our findings show that atmospheric river activity [See Storms, A10]



BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

A MAN exercises in Santa Monica as a storm moves out of the Southland. For the last two winters, a steady series of atmospheric rivers have pummeled the state.

Tabloid helped aid Trump

Former publisher lays out for New York jury how 2016 scheme for favorable coverage worked. **NATION, A4**

Caleb Williams' telling moments

In two years at USC, quarterback showed near-supernatural talent as well as growing pains. **SPORTS, B10**

U.S. vote may be a loss for China

Would Beijing prefer Biden or Trump to win this year's election? Experts are divided. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Weather Partly sunny.

L.A. Basin: 70/54. **B6**

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