



The Daily Docket

Reuters

Diana Novak Jones, Mike Scarcella and Sara Merken

March 25, 2025

Good morning.

Welcome to The Daily Docket. Here are today's top legal stories: U.S. Circuit Judge Patricia Millett [offered a harsh assessment](#) of the Trump administration's treatment on Venezuelan migrants during a contentious hearing. Plus, law firms are [taking different approaches](#) to Trump administration pressure, and the SEC's acting enforcement director said the agency will focus on [more traditional cases](#) under incoming leadership.

Were you forwarded this email? [Subscribe here.](#)

[*Federal judge invokes treatment of Nazis in contentious hearing over Venezuelan deportations*](#)

U.S. Circuit Judge Patricia Millett said Nazis were given more rights to contest their removal from the U.S. during World War II than Venezuelan migrants deported by the Trump administration, [our colleagues Luc Cohen and Ted Hesson report](#).

In a contentious hearing before a three-judge appellate panel in D.C., Millett questioned government lawyer Drew Ensign on whether Venezuelans targeted for removal under a little-used 18th-century law had time to contest the Trump administration's assertion that they were members of the Tren de Aragua gang before they were put on planes and deported to El Salvador. The Trump administration was asking the appeals court to halt U.S. District Judge James Boasberg's [two-week ban](#) on those deportations.

The case has emerged as a major test of President Trump's [sweeping assertion of executive power](#). He called for Boasberg's impeachment—drawing a [rare public rebuke](#) from U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

More top news

- [Trump takes challenge to judge's federal worker rehiring order to Supreme Court](#)
- [Exclusive: Massachusetts regulators probe Robinhood over March Madness basketball betting](#)
- [US Supreme Court wrestles with Louisiana electoral map with more Black-majority districts](#)

The buzz

- Paul Weiss' decision to make peace with the White House is [intensifying a divide](#) within the legal industry over how to confront President Trump, who on Monday said that "law firms have to behave themselves."

- President Trump is [appointing his former lawyer](#) Alina Habba, who was previously sanctioned for filing a frivolous lawsuit, to serve as interim U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey.

Republican lawmakers [moved to have two judges impeached](#) as the White House and its allies continue ramping up attacks on members of the judiciary for imposing roadblocks on President Trump's sweeping assertions of power.

"Creativity is probably not where we want to be."

—Sam Waldon, the SEC's acting enforcement director. The agency [will likely focus on more traditional cases](#) under incoming leadership, including those involving individual wrongdoing and fraud targeting elders, Waldon said at a securities industry event. The SEC has pioneered novel enforcement theories in recent years, but it is in the midst of a major pivot and staff exodus since Republicans took the helm at the agency.

Coming up today

- U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian in a lawsuit brought by detained Columbia student Mahmoud Khalil is set to hold a hearing over [whether to extend an order that blocks the university](#) from sharing disciplinary records of student protesters with a Republican-controlled House committee.
- Lawyers for a group of transgender and nonbinary people [represented by the ACLU](#) are scheduled to urge a federal judge in Boston to block enforcement of President Trump's executive order directing the U.S. Department of State to only issue passports showing their sex assigned at birth.

Court calendars are subject to last-minute docket changes.

In the courts

- The U.S. Supreme Court [turned away a bid by casino mogul](#) Steve Wynn to roll back defamation protections established in its landmark 1964 ruling in the case *New York Times v. Sullivan* – a standard that has been questioned by President Trump and two of its own conservative justices.
- The U.S. Supreme Court also [rejected a bid](#) by 21 young people to revive a novel lawsuit claiming the U.S. government's energy policies violate their rights to be protected from climate change.
- Live Nation [agreed to pay \\$20 million](#) to settle a shareholder lawsuit accusing it of making misleading statements about industry competition and compliance with antitrust laws, artificially boosting its stock price.
- Five transgender U.S. military members asked a federal judge to [block actions against them](#) under President Trump's transgender ban, which include administrative leave and exclusion from training exercises.
- 23andMe [filed for bankruptcy](#) after struggling with weak demand for its ancestry testing kits that once featured in Oprah Winfrey's annual list of favorite things, and following a 2023 data breach that damaged its reputation.

- Organizers and supporters of pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Columbia University [were sued](#) in Manhattan federal court for allegedly functioning as Hamas' "propaganda arm" and "in-house public relations firm" in New York City and on campus.

Industry moves

- Foley & Lardner expanded its state attorneys general practice with partners Siran Faulders and Stephen Cobb in D.C., who previously were at Cozen O'Connor. ([Foley & Lardner](#))
- Akin brought on litigation partner Laura Smolowe in Los Angeles. She most recently was at Munger Tolles as co-chair of the firm's trade secret and employee mobility practice group. ([Akin](#))
- Proskauer hired finance partner Heather Viets in New York from Weil. ([Proskauer](#))
- O'Melveny added technology M&A partner Craig Menden from Willkie in Silicon Valley and Newport Beach, California. ([O'Melveny](#))
- **Saul Ewing brought on Justin Beyer, who focuses on trade secrets and non-compete agreement disputes, as a Chicago-based partner from Seyfath. ([Saul Ewing](#))**
- Energy partner John Decker joined Kirkland & Ellis in D.C. He previously practiced at Vinson & Elkins. ([Kirkland & Ellis](#))

>> More moves to share? Please drop us a note at LegalCareerTracker@thomsonreuters.com.

Lawyer speak: [Parsing patent law's on-sale bar and commercial exploitation by suppliers and third parties](#)

The patent system rewards inventors by granting them exclusive rights, including allowing them to commercially exploit their inventions for the full patent term, in exchange for disclosing their inventions to the public. Eric Fues and Kyle Howarth of Finnegan explain what is referred to as the "patent bargain." [Read today's Attorney Analysis.](#)