

# [***Letitia James Celebrates Ex-NRA Chief Being Found Liable for Corruption***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BD9-SBT1-DY68-10KV-00000-00&context=1516831)

Newsweek.com

February 23, 2024 Friday 10:02 PM EST

Copyright © 2024 Newsweek Inc. All Rights Reserved



**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** Jon Jackson

**Highlight:** The New York Attorney commented on Wayne LaPierre being found liable in a civil corruption trial.

**Body**

A New York jury on Friday found the National Rifle Association ([*NRA*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/nra?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)) and its former CEO, [*Wayne LaPierre*](https://www.newsweek.com/nra-chief-wayne-lapierre-street-cred-hunter-1865374?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), liable in a civil corruption trial.

The jury determined LaPierre misspent millions of dollars of NRA money, which he allegedly used on expensive vacations and for traveling on yachts and private planes. The jury also found the NRA failed to properly manage its assets, as well as misrepresented information in tax filings and violated whistleblower protections.

The case came after New York Attorney General Letitia James sued the gun rights group in 2020, accusing LaPierre and other executives of breaking state laws for financial gain. She originally sought to have the NRA dissolved, but a Manhattan judge ruled against the move in 2022.

The jury found LaPierre—who [*announced his resignation*](https://www.newsweek.com/wayne-lapierre-resigns-nra-1858281?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) from the NRA days before the trial began in January—must repay the NRA almost $4.4 million. (LaPierre was found liable for $5.4 million, but he has already repaid the group over $1 million.) Another former executive, retired finance chief Wilson Phillips, owes the group $2 million.

NRA general counsel John Frazer had violated his duties, the jury found, but he was not ordered to repay any money.

"In a major victory, my office won our case against the NRA and its senior leadership for years of corruption and greed," [*James wrote*](https://twitter.com/NewYorkStateAG/status/1761166487031537788) on X, formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), about the decision.

In a separate post, [*James*](https://www.newsweek.com/letitia-james-wants-block-trump-leaving-new-york-1872533?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) added: "In New York, you cannot get away with corruption and greed, no matter how powerful or influential you think you may be. Everyone, even the NRA and Wayne LaPierre, must play by the same rules."

In a statement posted on its official website, the NRA emphasized that the verdict found it had been "victimized by certain former vendors and 'insiders' who abused the trust placed in them by the Association."

"NRA officials set a confident tone today following the verdict in the New York Attorney General v. NRA lawsuit," the message continued, in part. "The NRA's commitment to good governance was on full display during the trial proceedings."

NRA President Charles Cotton also commented on the jury's decision in the statement.

"We appreciate the service of the jury and the opportunity to present evidence about the positive direction of the NRA today," Cotton said. "NRA members should be heartened by the NRA's commitment to best practices, and we will continue to amplify our compliance record in the pivotal next phase of these proceedings. To the extent there were control violations, they were acted upon immediately by the NRA Board beginning in summer 2018."

*Newsweek* reached out to the NRA via email on Friday night for further comment.

While the NRA remains an influential voice in conservative ***politics***, the group has been beset by other issues in recent years. *The New York Times* reported in January that membership "has plummeted to 4.2 million from nearly six million five years ago," while revenue is down 44 percent since 2016.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2353325/letitia-james-wayne-lapierre.jpg)

**Graphic**

Letitia James and Wayne LaPierre

Photos by YUKI IWAMURA/Joe Raedle/AFP/Getty Images

On the left, New York Attorney General Letitia James speaks during a press conference on September 21, 2022 in New York. On the right, then-CEO of the NRA Wayne LaPierre addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference on February 28, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. A jury on Friday found the NRA and LaPierre liable in a lawsuit.

**Load-Date:** February 24, 2024

**End of Document**