

Trump appeals hush money conviction, names new lawyers

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President Donald Trump has appealed his conviction for covering up hush money payments to a porn star and appointed new lawyers to expunge the first conviction of a former president, his legal team said Wednesday.

Trump named lawyers from the prestigious firm Sullivan and Cromwell in an effort to overturn the New York jury's guilty verdict and the sentence passed by the judge in the case on January 10.

"President Donald J. Trump's appeal is important for the rule of law, New York's reputation as a global business, financial and legal center, as well as for the presidency and all public officials," Trump's new lawyer Robert Giuffra said in a statement.

"The misuse of the criminal law by the Manhattan (prosecutor) to target President Trump sets a dangerous precedent, and we look forward to the case being dismissed on appeal."

New York judge Juan Merchan handed down no jail time or fine, but the discharge upheld the jury's guilty verdict -- and confirmed Trump's infamy as the first former president convicted of a felony.

The 34 counts of falsifying business records on which Trump was convicted in May 2024 carried potential jail time.

The trial saw Trump forced to look on as a string of witnesses testified that he had fraudulently covered up illicit payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels in an effort to stop her disclosing their tryst ahead of the 2016 presidential election, which he ultimately won.

Trump had sought a suspension of the criminal proceedings after a New York State appeals court dismissed his effort to have the hearing delayed.

But the Supreme Court ruled that the sentencing could proceed.

In a brief legal filing dated Tuesday, Trump's lawyers state that he "hereby appeals to the First Department of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York from the judgment of conviction... and sentence rendered."

No grounds for the appeal were given.

Trump repeatedly called the prosecution a "witch hunt", rhetoric prosecutors argued was "designed to have a chilling effect" on the legal cases against him.

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2nd Circuit rejects Donald Trump's request to halt postconviction proceedings in hush money case

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected Donald Trump's request to halt postconviction proceedings in his hush money criminal case, leaving a key ruling and the former president's sentencing on track for after the November election.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan cited the postponement last week of Trump's sentencing from Sept. 18 to Nov. 26 in denying his motion for an emergency stay.

The sentencing delay, which Trump had sought, removed the urgency required for the appeals court to consider pausing proceedings.

Messages seeking comment were left for Trump's lawyers and the Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted the case.

Trump appealed to the 2nd Circuit after a [federal judge last week thwarted](#) the Republican nominee's request to have the U.S. District Court in Manhattan seize control of the case from the state court where it was tried.

Trump's lawyers said they [wanted the case moved to federal court](#) so they could then seek to have the verdict and case dismissed on immunity grounds.

The trial judge, Juan M. Merchan, announced the delay last Friday and said he now plans to rule Nov. 12 on Trump's [request to overturn the verdict and toss out the case](#) because of the U.S. Supreme Court's July [presidential immunity ruling](#).

Merchan explained that he was postponing the sentencing to avoid any appearance that the proceeding "has been affected by or seeks to affect the approaching presidential election in which the Defendant is a candidate."

Trump was convicted in May on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election. Trump denies Daniels' claim that she and Trump had a sexual encounter a decade earlier and says he did nothing wrong.

Falsifying business records is punishable by up to four years behind bars. Other potential sentences include probation, a fine or a conditional discharge, which would require Trump to stay out of trouble to avoid additional punishment.

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