

Miss Ashley's Stories in the News

For the Week of 5/27/2021

Notes

1. DOJ Moves To Block Full Memo On Trump Obstruction Decision From Release
<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/25/997523749/doj-moves-to-block-full-memo-on-trump-obstruction-decision-from-release>
2. That one weird trick...Trump responds to insurrection lawsuit by claiming immunity while he was President <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/25/politics/donald-trump-capitol-riot-immunity/index.html>
3. Something outside of politics: D.C. files antitrust lawsuit against Amazon
<https://www.axios.com/amazon-dc-antitrust-lawsuit-e668f9f4-5160-46e4-826f-35f1094cf709.html>
The Complaint: <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Amazon-Complaint-.pdf>
4. HB 3979 Texas bill on Critical Race Theory
https://twitter.com/TJStiles_Author/status/1397698841214799872
The Bill: <https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB3979/id/2339637>
5. Paul Manafort lied repeatedly to investigators about arranging to share polling data on U.S. citizens with a Russian spy, according to federal prosecutors.
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/paul-manafort-donald-trump-russian-spy-polling-kilimnik_n_60ac457fe4b0a24c4f7fb62e
6. Federal Judge Dismisses Steve Bannon's Indictment Due to Trump Pardon, But Not Without a Parting Shot
<https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/federal-judge-dismisses-steve-bannons-indictment-due-to-trump-pardon-but-not-without-a-parting-shot/>

Docs

DC v. Amazon <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/Amazon-Complaint-.pdf>

HB 3979 Texas bill on Critical Race Theory <https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB3979/id/2339637>

Order unsealing more materials from Manafort's case:

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20785719/5-21-21-unsealing-order-manafort.pdf>

Judge Oetken temporarily seals the letter with the faulty redactions, as the parties scramble to put the toothpaste back in the tube in the Giuliani investigation.

<https://twitter.com/KlasfeldReports/status/1397597773126586369/photo/1>

In pending litigation over the Trump admin's decision to revive federal executions, DOJ under Biden tells the judge officials are "actively reviewing its policies and procedures" but don't have anything concrete to report right now <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20785763/5-21-21-status-report-federal-execution-protocol.pdf>

Gordon Sondland's lawsuit <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20787101/5-24-21-sondland-v-pompeo-complaint.pdf>

Here's Judge Amy Berman Jackson's unredacted opinion explaining her decision to order DOJ to release the March 2019 OLC memo re: Trump and obstruction. She says the memo's redactions and info provided by DOJ "deliberately obscured" the purpose of the memo <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20788434/5-3-21-unredacted-opinion-olc-memo.pdf>

A judge agreed to dismiss the indictment against Stephen Bannon now that he's been pardoned by Trump — the feds had argued for a more administrative removal of him from the case. Judge says the pardon is valid, but notes it doesn't mean he's innocent <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20788642/5-25-21-stephen-bannon-opinion-indictment.pdf>

The Oath Keepers moved to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Rep. Bennie Thompson and other House Dems <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20791491/5-26-21-oath-keepers-motion-to-dismiss-thompson.pdf>

Attorney General Mike Hunter is unexpectedly resigning effective June 1. <https://twitter.com/KassieMcClung/status/1397580269868228612/photo/1>

Biden DOJ going to the mat to protect Bill Barr's strategy memo. <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20788086/5-24-21-doj-motion-to-stay-olc-memo.pdf>

News

May 27th

Manhattan prosecutors pursuing the criminal case against Trump, his company and its executives have contacted potential witnesses about appearing before the special grand jury, sources told ABC News.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/manhattan-district-attorney-convenes-special-grand-jury-trump/story?id=77903041>

Biden administration backs Alaska oil drilling project approved under Trump <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-administration-backs-alaska-oil-project-approved-under-trump-politico-2021-05-27/>

Former Penn State President To Serve Jail Time In Jerry Sandusky Child Abuse Scandal <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/27/1000793762/former-penn-state-president-to-serve-jail-time-in-jerry-sandusky-child-abuse-sca>

4 U.S. Supreme Court Cases Where Asian Americans Fought For Civil Rights
<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/27/999550296/4-u-s-supreme-court-cases-where-asian-americans-fought-for-civil-rights>

A fight is brewing in New Jersey over a proposal that would force litigants to tell their adversaries when they've received third-party investments to pay for lawsuits.
https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/new-jersey-sees-new-battle-over-litigation-finance-disclosures?campaign=2A70C262-BEE9-11EB-BE9F-CECD4F017A06&utm_medium=lawdesk&utm_source=twitter

Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg's former daughter-in-law says she was served to leave her apartment. "It's a threat," Jennifer Weisselberg said, adding it's because she has spoken about "how I know he's hiding money in escrow ... there's definitely tax fraud."
<https://twitter.com/NewDay/status/1397880605006872585?s=20>

Police handcuffed a man so tightly he had to have his hand amputated, lawsuit says
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/05/26/giovanni-loyola-amputation/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=wp_main

May 26th

A Black woman will soon sit on Missouri's highest court for the first time. Judge Robin Ransom was named to the state's Supreme Court this week.
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/25/us/missouri-appoints-first-black-woman-supreme-court-trnd/index.html>

A judge gave a drug dealer a second chance. Sixteen years later, he swore him in as a lawyer.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/05/25/edward-martell-lawyer-judge-bruce-morrow/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=wp_main

A courtroom is not a church, and a judge's bench is not a pulpit. Our victory in Montgomery County is a victory for the constitutional rights of all Americans and for equal justice under the law.
[https://www.houstonchronicle.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Federal-judge-rules-against-courtroom-prayer-16202480.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/neighborhood/moco/news/article/Federal-judge-rules-against-courtroom-prayer-16202480.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral)

Ms. Jean-Pierre will be the first openly gay spokeswoman and the first Black woman in decades to address journalists on behalf of the president in the White House briefing room.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/26/us/politics/karine-jean-pierre-white-house.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Colorado now has its own \$1 million COVID vaccine lottery:
https://www.axios.com/colorado-covid-vaccine-lottery-1-million-prize-e56c97fc-0b27-4bbb-a653-500e6c26878e.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=onhrs

Donald Trump allegedly attempted to stop a congressional probe of the Spygate case involving the New England Patriots by offering a bribe to then-Sen. Arlen Specter, the late senator's son claimed.

https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/31484993/son-ghostwriter-late-senator-say-trump-intervened-stop-probe-patriots-spygate-scandal

The mother of fallen Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick is requesting meetings with Republican senators to push them to support the Jan. 6 commission.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/capitol-police-sicknick-jan-6-490943>

Democrats are pushing to spend billions to help first-time homebuyers afford down payments: A \$10 billion proposal by Maxine Waters would give homebuyers up to \$25,000. HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge says such assistance is a priority for the Biden admin.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/25/housing-assistance-racial-wealth-gap-490617>

The Republican Governors Association threw out MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell after he showed up to its spring conference in Tennessee.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/mike-lindell-rga-490914>

The Biden White House has ousted several members of the Commission of Fine Arts, the latest move in the admin's purge of Trump-era appointees from government agencies and boards.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/25/arts/design/biden-trump-arts-commission.html>

Arizona Republicans have passed a measure to strip Democrat Katie Hobbs, the secretary of state, of her ability to defend election lawsuits — a partisan retaliation for her sharp criticism of the GOP's election "audit."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/arizona-republicans-introduce-bill-strip-powers-democratic-secretary-state-n1268558>

A man charged with bringing molotov cocktails to Capitol on Jan. 6 has Texas militia ties and contacted Ted Cruz's office about 'election fraud', new court filings allege.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/molotov-cocktail-capitol-riot/2021/05/24/b97c5e6c-bce1-11eb-b26e-53663e6be6ff_story.html?utm_campaign=wp_main&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

New Hampshire auditors see no sign of fraud.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/25/politics/new-hampshire-audit/index.html>

Nevada GOP thrown into turmoil after avowed Proud Boys member said he participated in censure vote of state official

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/nevada-gop-proud-boys/2021/05/25/c0b5fe7e-bcd0-11eb-b26e-53663e6be6ff_story.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=wp_main

May 25th

DOJ Moves To Block Full Memo On Trump Obstruction Decision From Release

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/25/997523749/doj-moves-to-block-full-memo-on-trump-obstruction-decision-from-release>

Manhattan's district attorney has convened the grand jury that is expected to decide whether to indict Trump, other executives at his company or the business itself should prosecutors present the panel with criminal charges.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-investigation-grand-jury/2021/05/25/5f47911c-bcca-11eb-83e3-0ca705a96ba4_story.html

Senate Preparing \$10 Billion Bailout Fund for Jeff Bezos Space Firm

https://theintercept.com/2021/05/25/jeff-bezos-blue-origin-senate-bailout/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=theintercept

Federal Judge Dismisses Steve Bannon's Indictment Due to Trump Pardon, But Not Without a Parting Shot

<https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/federal-judge-dismisses-steve-bannons-indictment-due-to-trump-pardon-but-not-without-a-parting-shot/>

The Nevada Senate has passed a bill to establish a state-managed public health insurance option.

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/public-health-insurance-option-bill-clears-the-senate-on-party-line-vote-heads-to-the-assembly>

The Biden administration has begun to distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in funds to support victims of domestic abuse. \$200 million will help abuse victims get counseling, emergency and transitional housing and help with safety planning.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/24/us/domestic-violence-aid.html>

Paul Manafort lied repeatedly to investigators about arranging to share polling data on U.S. citizens with a Russian spy, according to federal prosecutors.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/paul-manafort-donald-trump-russian-spy-polling-kilimnik_n_60ac457fe4b0a24c4f7fb62e

Prosecutors investigating Rudy Giuliani have seized material from a wider array of individuals than previously disclosed, including messages from email and iCloud accounts they believe belong to two former Ukrainian government officials.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/25/politics/giuliani-redactions-investigations/index.html>

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has introduced legislation that would increase the IRS's budget to \$31.5 billion in order to bolster the agency's efforts to go after wealthy people who are not paying the taxes they owe.

<https://thehill.com/policy/finance/555159-warren-offers-bill-to-increase-irs-budget-to-315-billion?rl=1>

Democratic Rep. Mike Levin revealed that he declined to add Republican Paul Gosar's name to a bipartisan bill the two previously co-led in the last Congress due to Gosar's defense of the Capitol insurrectionists.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewsolender/2021/05/24/gop-rep-gosar-told-his-jan-6-comments-make-it-detrimental-to-put-his-name-on-bill/?sh=2a194a2834af>

Nine states now have 70% of adult residents with at least one COVID vaccine shot, according to CDC data.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/24/covid-19-cases-deaths-vaccinations-daily-update.html>

Company running Arizona ballot recount backs out, another company takes over
<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/elections/2021/05/25/cyber-ninjas-subcontractor-strattech-solutions-takes-over-arizona-election-audit-hand-count/7429980002/>

May 24th

An Inmate Who Sought Execution By Firing Squad Loses Supreme Court Appeal
<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/24/999782039/inmate-who-sought-execution-by-firing-squad-loses-supreme-court-appeal>

This summer, Indian Country will receive the largest infusion of federal money in the history of the United States. For Montana's 13 tribes and seven reservations, that could mean around \$500 million to spend recovering from the pandemic.

https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/marshall-plan-for-indian-country-wave-of-federal-money-flows-to-reservations/article_c87e05b5-65ca-5d4d-b59c-60a3bcd6b791.html

Trump's former White House counsel, Don McGahn, has agreed to testify behind closed doors before the House Judiciary Committee next week about Trump's efforts to obstruct the Russia investigation.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/24/us/politics/donald-mcgahn-trump-russia.html>

Beto O'Rourke is considering a campaign for Texas governor.

<https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-texas-election-2020-campaign-2016-government-and-politics-1d2fcef28c9d9a00c33500845136bda1>

Massachusetts lawmakers are considering making permanent some of the voting changes adopted during the pandemic — including the broad use of mail-in voting.

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/05/20/mass-lawmakers-consider-making-mail-in-voting-permanent-other-election-changes>

A group of Senate Democrats, led by Amy Klobuchar Dick Durbin, have introduced legislation that would ban political committees from automatically renewing campaign contributions without a donor's explicit consent.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/klobuchar-bill-aims-strike-prechecked-political-donation-boxes-n1268425>

Florida just became the 23rd Republican-led state to end \$300-a-week pandemic unemployment benefits. A total of 4 million laid-off Americans will forgo roughly \$23.3 billion in benefits because of Republicans.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/24/politics/florida-pandemic-unemployment-benefits/index.html>

May 23rd

Trump Flack Jason Miller Ordered to Pay \$42,000 in Legal Fees for Failed Suit

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-flack-jason-miller-told-to-pay-dollar42k-in-legal-fees-for-failed-suit>

Polling places for urban voters of color would be cut under Texas Senate's version of voting bill being negotiated with House

<https://www.texastribune.org/2021/05/23/texas-voting-polling-restrictions/>

May 22nd

Jeffrey Epstein Guards Would Avoid Serving Jail Time In A New Deal With Prosecutors

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/22/999441586/jeffrey-epstein-guards-would-avoid-serving-jail-time-in-a-new-deal-with-prosecut>

DOJ Uses Civil Rights-Era Law To Charge Protesters And Insurrectionists

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/22/999180144/doj-uses-civil-rights-era-law-to-charge-protesters-and-insurrectionists>

May 21st

New Idaho Law Calls For Killing 90% Of The State's Wolves

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/21/999084965/new-idaho-law-calls-for-killing-90-of-states-wolves>

May 20th

Death Row Inmates Sue After They're Asked To Pick Firing Squad Or Electric Chair

<https://www.npr.org/2021/05/20/998600135/south-carolina-reinstates-firing-squad-but-not-without-legal-challenges>

Alleged Capitol rioters are arguing to judges that they shouldn't be tried in DC because of "cancel culture"

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/zoetillman/capitol-riot-cases-dc-venue-cancel-culture>