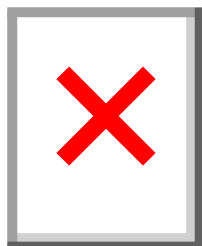


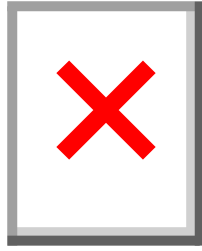
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Sent: Jun 24, 2025 22:42:31.000000000 UTC
Subject: A Trump lawyer's uphill climb to the federal bench
To: kfoote@cityofmelrose.org <kfoote@cityofmelrose.org>

Jun 24, 2025

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BY **ANKUSH KHARDORI**



Then-Trump attorney Emil Bove looks on as Donald Trump appears remotely for a sentencing hearing in front of New York State Judge Juan Merchan at Manhattan Criminal Court on January 10, 2025 in New York City. | Pool photo by Angela Weiss

BOVE AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER — The prospects for Emil Bove’s nomination to serve as a federal judge were [already uncertain](#). But today, one day before the confirmation hearing for Trump’s former criminal defense lawyer-turned-[senior Justice Department official](#), things may have gotten worse.

Attorneys for Erez Reuveni, a former Justice Department lawyer who was fired from the department after [acknowledging in court](#) that Kilmar Abrego Garcia had been sent to El Salvador in error, released [a scathing whistleblower disclosure](#) alleging that Bove and other senior Trump DOJ officials sought to defy court orders in three separate cases “through lack of candor, deliberate delay, and disinformation.”

The disclosure heightens the tensions around an already controversial nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The Trump DOJ has already pushed back vigorously. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche —who [worked with Bove](#) on behalf of Trump last year in the president’s criminal trial in Manhattan — described Reuveni’s claims in [a social media post](#) as “utterly false.”

Rep. Dan Goldman (D-N.Y.), a former federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York who overlapped with Bove, [initially held out hope](#) that Bove would take on the DOJ job while adhering to the standards of bipartisanship and professionalism that prevailed in the office. But given developments in recent months, and particularly in the wake of Reuveni’s disclosure today, Goldman’s assessment of his former colleague is now sharply negative.

“In just a few short months,” Goldman said today, Bove “has single-handedly done tremendous damage to the Department of Justice” and “repeatedly demonstrated that his oath of office and the rule of law are subservient to his personal and political desires. That record disqualifies him from serving as a lifetime judge responsible for objectively interpreting the law.”

Among other things, Reuveni alleges that Bove told a group of lawyers in mid-March, shortly before Trump publicly [invoked the Alien Enemies Act](#) as part of [his mass deportation effort](#), that they would need to be prepared for a court order that might quickly put a stop to the removals.

“Bove then made a remark concerning the possibility that a court order would enjoin those removals before they could be effectuated,” Reuveni’s lawyers wrote. “Bove stated that DOJ would need to consider telling the courts ‘fuck you’ and ignore any such court order.”

“Mr. Reuveni perceived that others in the room looked stunned,” the account continues, “and he observed awkward, nervous glances among people in the room. Silence overtook the room.”

Reuveni also alleges that Bove told officials in the Department of Homeland Security that they could violate an oral court order — one that directed the return of flights to El Salvador as part of the AEA deportations — because the order had not yet been issued in writing. The presiding judge has since concluded that there is probable cause to [hold Trump administration officials in criminal contempt](#) as a result of that decision.

Reuveni's submission provides a remarkable account from within Trump's second-term Justice Department — one that, in an earlier era, might have prompted bipartisan calls for an independent investigation. The account sharply criticizes not just Bove but several other senior administration lawyers who have been handling the litigation over Trump's deportation effort.

Bove had already come under sharp criticism from many legal observers over his dismissal of the criminal case against New York City Mayor Eric Adams. [The presiding judge](#) described the DOJ's arguments as “unsupported by any objective evidence,” “pretextual” and “unsubstantiated.”

In white-collar legal circles, however, a second — and subtler — criticism of Bove's handling of the case has also been making the rounds in recent months.

In particular, some experienced lawyers believe that Bove probably could have achieved his and Trump's objective of dismissing the case without creating [a weeks-long public spectacle](#). The argument, essentially, is that Bove made a bad situation much worse by bungling both [the internal](#) and [external communications](#) around the decision, and that the episode reflected poor political and managerial instincts on top of bad legal judgment.

Senate Democrats [oppose Bove's nomination](#), but it has also opened up [a fissure within the conservative legal movement](#). On one side are establishment Federalist Society types, who oppose Bove's nomination to serve as a judge because they believe he is being picked largely — if not entirely — because Trump views him as a diehard loyalist.

On the other side are Republicans who are stridently backing Bove. They include Andrew Ferguson, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, who recently [co-authored an op-ed](#) in support of Bove.

Bove's appearance before the Judiciary Committee tomorrow was already one worth keeping an eye on. Republicans have a narrow margin to get Bove through, and he will now also have to respond to a blistering account that threatens to derail his nomination.

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WHAT'D I MISS?

— **Trump agrees to in-person Wednesday meeting with Zelenskyy:** President Donald Trump [plans to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#) on Wednesday alongside the NATO summit, according to a White House official granted anonymity to discuss the meeting. The meeting comes as focus on Russia's war with Ukraine has taken a backseat to the Israel-Iran conflict. Leading up to the summit, it was not clear whether Zelenskyy would attend amid fears that a visit wouldn't be worth his time without a guarantee of significant facetime with Trump. Earlier this month, Zelenskyy flew to Canada for the meeting of G7 world leaders in hopes of a meeting with the U.S. president, but Trump left the summit early.

— **Trump backtracks on 'regime change' talk in Iran:** President Donald Trump said today [he doesn't want to see regime change in Iran, two days after he floated the idea on social media](#). "I don't want it. I'd like to see everything calm down as quickly as possible," Trump said to reporters aboard Air Force One on his way to the NATO summit. "Regime change takes chaos, and ideally, we don't want to see so much chaos, so we'll see how it does." Some of Trump's long-time supporters, including Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Steve Bannon, criticized the earlier suggestion of regime change, worried the effort would bog down Americans in another costly Middle East expedition. Right-wing influencers today were quick to cheer the president's apparent pivot.

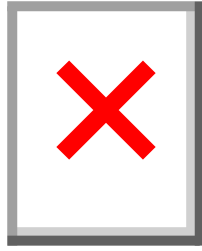
— **Senate parliamentarian approves tweaked SNAP cost-share plan:** Senate Republicans [have saved their plan to push some costs of the nation's anti-hunger program onto states](#), maintaining a crucial \$41 billion spending cut that will help pay for their policy megabill. The Senate

parliamentarian today approved Republicans' tweak to give states more time between finding out how much of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program they'll need to pay for, and when they actually need to start paying. That avoids one of GOP leaders' top issues as they work to address several other adverse rulings from the parliamentarian in accordance with the chamber's strict reconciliation rules — all ahead of a July 4 deadline.

— Another man who was deported in violation of court order must be returned to U.S., court rules: The Trump administration [must try to bring back to the U.S. another man who was deported to El Salvador](#) in violation of a court order, a federal appeals court ruled today. It's the fourth time since March that federal courts have ordered the administration to return immigrants who were deemed illegally or improperly deported. Officials must begin seeking the return of Jordin Melgar-Salmeron, who was sent to his native country on May 7, "as soon as possible," a three-judge panel of the New York-based 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled.

— New York City hits high temps as mayoral candidates make their final push on Primary Day: As voters [headed to the polls in New York City in triple-digit temps to cast a vote in the contentious mayoral primary today](#), the once-clear frontrunner Andrew Cuomo appeared to be on his back foot — and begging. "We can do it, but it's going to take all of us," Cuomo said Monday night in a leaked private call with health care worker union members entrusted with getting out the vote for him. "Please, please, please make the special effort." Real-feel temps in New York City exceeded 105 degrees today, and older voters — who make up Cuomo's base — faced dangerous conditions across the city. By 12 p.m., the city's board of elections said 605,543 voters — including 384,338 who opted for early voting — checked into polling locations to cast their ballot. What started as a race defined by a decisive frontrunner and a distant, crowded field of candidates has winnowed down to a two-person race, with recent polls showing Zohran Mamdani has closed the gap between him and Cuomo.

AROUND THE WORLD



A man stands as a Ukrainian fireman finishes putting out a fire at the "Barabashovo" market following a drone strike in Kharkiv on May 6, 2025. | Sergey Bobok/AFP via Getty Images

ANOTHER RUSSIAN ATTACK — Russia hit Ukraine’s key industrial city of Dnipro with ballistic missiles today, causing [massive destruction that killed 17 people and injured more than 270](#), local authorities reported. “This is an unprecedented amount of destruction that the city has not seen in the entire time of [Russia’s] full-scale war,” Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov said in a statement while announcing a day of mourning.

Russia has increased the frequency of its attacks on Ukraine since May when it launched a summer offensive in the conflict, now in its fourth year. It has also ramped up its production of drones: In June alone Moscow launched 2,736 Shahed kamikaze drones at Ukraine, the country’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an address to the parliament of the Netherlands today. In addition, the Kremlin continues to launch dozens of missiles at Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the recent conflict between Israel and Iran has complicated Ukraine's position, with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump moving to the Middle East some of the unmanned aerial defense systems it had given Ukraine to counter Russia's air assaults.

NATO'S NEW PARIAH — Canada used to be NATO's biggest headache for its chronic defense underspending. Now, at this year's summit, everybody agrees: [Spain's the problem, with Slovakia coming a close second in stoking anger among alliance members](#).

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's 11th-hour insistence that his country doesn't need to hit NATO's new 5 percent of GDP defense spending target, and managing to get a carve-out in an agreement on the spending goal, has turned Madrid into the alliance's new pariah. "I have no words to express my disgust," one European defense official, who like others was granted anonymity to speak candidly, said on the sidelines of the summit.

Sanchez was followed by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on Monday, who posted on X that his country "has other priorities in the coming years than armament," and can get by without increasing spending. At last year's summit in Washington, frustration with Canadian defense spending was high, with Ottawa simply refusing to increase its defense budget to anywhere near NATO's 2 percent of GDP guideline. The new government of Prime Minister Mark Carney has pledged an extra \$9 billion in defense expenditures, finally bringing the country to 2 percent and getting it out of the alliance's doghouse.

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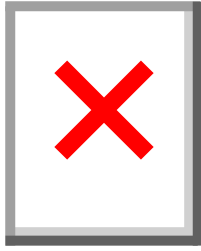
\$83.3 million

The size of the judgment Donald Trump [owes the writer E. Jean Carroll for defamatory remarks he made about her after she accused him of rape](#). A lawyer for the president told a panel of appeals court judges today that the judgment should be tossed out because Trump should have been deemed immune from Carroll's lawsuit. The January 2024 verdict "severely damages the presidency," Trump's lawyer, Justin Smith, told a three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals during a 26-minute oral argument.

RADAR SWEEP

ROUGH RIDING — Taking a taxi to work is the new normal for commuters in Johannesburg. After the city's passenger-rail system shut down in 2020, [an overwhelming majority of public transport riders turned to 14 or 15-seater taxis](#) to commute from the sprawling city outskirts. Despite high fares and frequent violence, taxi riders have few other options as government public transport projects fail or remain unaffordable for most. Zinhle Xaba explains the challenges of expanding public transport in South Africa for Bloomberg.

PARTING IMAGE



On this date in 2011: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo reacts after same sex marriage was legalized after a vote in the Senate Chamber at the Capitol in Albany, N.Y. | Mike Groll/AP

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