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Donald Trump Indicted on 34 Felony Counts



Former president and new defendant Donald J. Trump sits in court at his arraignment with his defense team.

Data News Staff Edited Report

It's a historic moment in American history on April 4, 2023. Where for approximately two hours, for the first time in his life, Donald Trump was not a free man. The former President surrendered to authorities at

Manhattan Criminal Court just before 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, beginning a surreal moment in U.S. history: a former president placed under arrest. After being fingerprinted, but not photographed for a mug shot, Trump walked a few steps out from behind a blacked-out door, where photographers briefly captured him framed by his signature combination

of navy suit, white shirt, and red tie. While inside the courtroom, he sat with his hands in his lap, flanked by his defense attorneys. When asked by Judge Juan Merchan how he pleaded to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the first degree, Trump answered defiantly "Not guilty".

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This case centers around Trump's alleged 2016 role in directing hush-money payments to adult Film Performer Stormy Daniels via Michael Cohen. Who at the time was Trump's former attorney. Prosecutors allege that business records concerning Cohen's reimbursement were falsified — everything from entries in the Trump Corporation's ledger to check stubs. Subsequently, in court papers, prosecutors also referenced similar efforts by Trump's associate and friend David Pecker, who ran the National Enquirer, to suppress damaging stories from Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal and a former Trump doorman in so-called "catch and kill" plots.

In the courtroom on this historic day, seated behind the prosecution was Alvin Bragg, the Manhattan District Attorney, taking notes in a spiral-bound notebook and flanked by security. Days earlier, Trump in his usual pugnacious fashion had shared an image of himself wielding a baseball bat against Bragg.

When asked by prosecutors to address Trump's menacing social-

media posts, Judge Merchan recommended that his defense attorneys advise their client to not speak publicly about the case. Merchan asked that prosecutors advise their witnesses the same, clearly referencing Daniels and the expected star witness, Cohen.

Merchan ordered Trump to be released on his own recognizance, and the former president was whisked away by members of the Secret Service, who were by his side during the entire ordeal. They sped down the highway in a group of black vehicles to La Guardia Airport, where Trump had arrived in dramatic fashion a day earlier on his private jet from Mar-a-Lago.



Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg speaks to reporters after charging Trump with 34 counts

Former President Trump continues denying having an affair with Daniels and has used the indictment to fundraise some \$7 million for his 2024 presidential campaign

ever since he erroneously predicted that his own "arrest" would take place weeks ago. Additionally, Republican officials and voters have rallied to his side, believing he is

the victim of a "witch hunt" by the Democratic District Attorney.

Even before the indictment was unsealed, Trump's lawyers, led by Joe Tacopina, vowed to defeat the case before it is brought to trial, saying they believe Bragg's theory of the case is not supported by law. Judge Merchan, who presided over the state's successful fraud prosecution of the Trump Organization and its CFO, Allen Weisselberg, is overseeing this case as well.

The arraignment was the hottest event in town — with Trump's trip from his Mar-a-Lago residence tracked like he was O. J. Simpson. In Manhattan, media began lining up for access to the courthouse 24 hours before the hearing was scheduled to begin, and helicopters could be heard hovering above lower Manhattan early Tuesday morning.

Trump, who continues to be a divisive figure in American politics is again grabbing headlines with his arrest and arraignment. It will be interesting to see the road this case takes in regard to Trump, who is in criminal jeopardy, as well as running for the nation's highest office.

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Crown and Glory



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Our hair is our crowning glory, not only because it is at the top of the head, but because it's the best and most notable aspect of ourselves. The hair is the finishing touch to complete one's look which reflects your personality and style. When you care for your hair and style it, you aren't being self-absorbed, you are only showing appreciation to a very significant part of you, the part of you that is your "Crown and your Glory."

Recognizing the multicultural beauty industry continues to see an annual growth due to the Black and Hispanic community, Bronner Bros., a family-owned company based in Atlanta and was founded in 1947 introduced its hair and beauty trade show over 75 years ago.

Today, it is the nation's largest cosmetology trade show, bringing the latest innovations and top trend to the beauty and barber industry to New Orleans with over 30,000 attendees. With over 300 exhibitors, attendees gain direct access to the latest products, services, tools, and equipment on the market. The three-day multicultural/multi-textural hair and beauty event took place at The Ernest Morial Convention Center with an unprecedented lineup of education, entertainment, networking opportunities and the always highly anticipated and legendary hair battle extravaganza and competition.

"The world looks to the Bronner Bros. Show for insights on what's new and next in multicultural beauty. It's a unique legacy we have cultivated with a strong commitment to the culture," said James Bronner, SVP of Show Operations, Bronner Bros., Inc. "We are proud to maintain our position as one of the industry's most creative and innovative events."



Today, Bronner Bros. continues to ascent from its modest beginnings setting new goals, new challenges, and new standards of excellence. Their mission is to provide high quality beauty products, as well as produce the largest and

best multicultural beauty show globally, so they can continue the legacy and pass the crown of inspiring and improving lives for generations to come.

Photos from Bronner Bros. Hair Show, New Orleans 2023

Tracee Dundas Fashion Editor
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Photo Credit: John Merrit
@johnmerritphotos

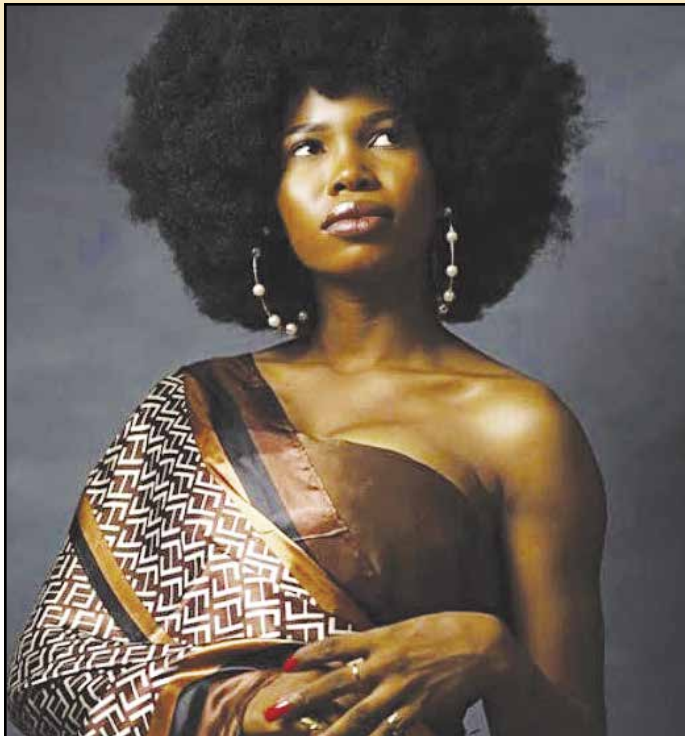
Black Woman-America



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

WOMEN- We don't need husbands, we don't need doors opened, we don't need help with heavy lifting and because we won't need anything from a man as we embark upon a new era when it comes to relationships and gender, we have all realized the true power of womanhood.

While women have clearly proven to be some of the most resilient beings on the planet, they've been able to unite change



across the globe and when it comes to feminine power and how when used together, we have all witnessed the energy of change in our divine voices because being a woman and being called such is a choice.

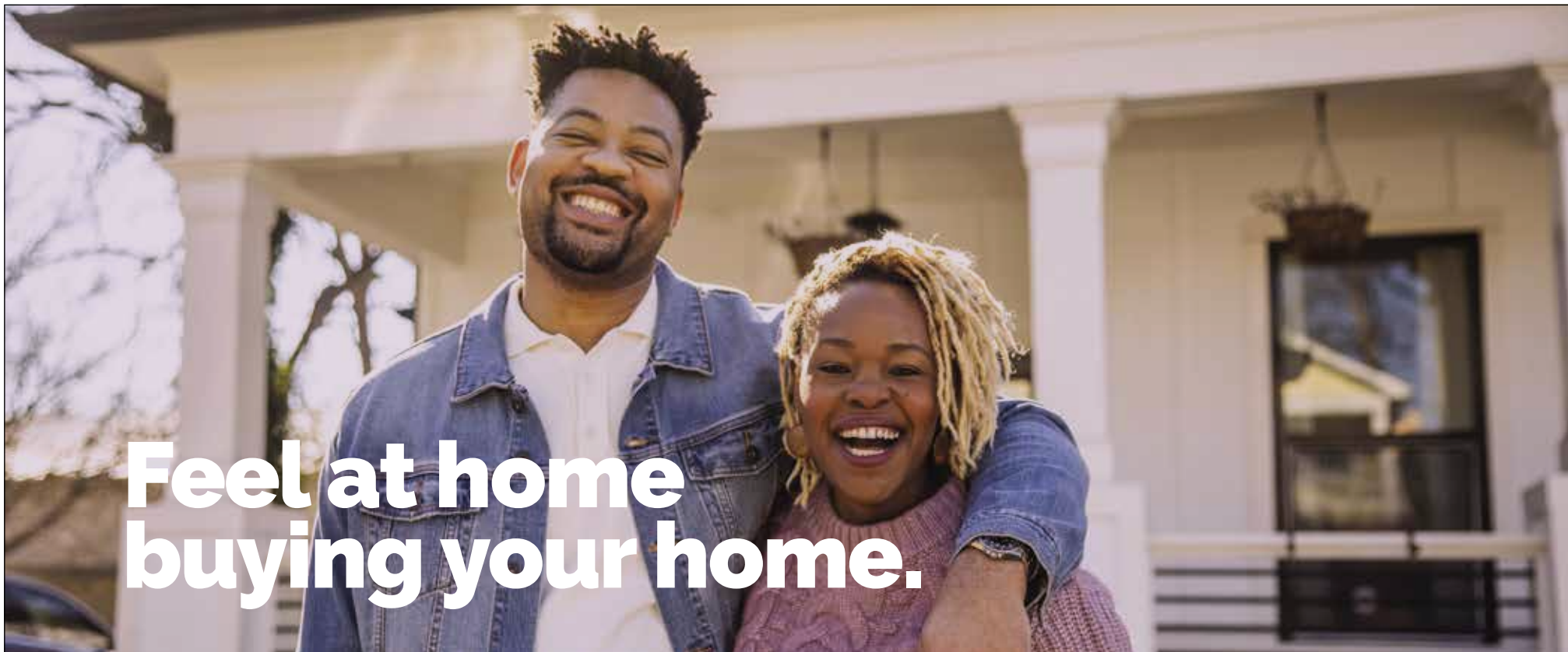
Who will the future woman become without all the historic lessons we have all endured as strong Black women today? Are we not realizing that part of the good in all of us as a race is the strength, we have held close to our hearts through our ancestors? Have we come to terms with finally letting go of the past while looking towards a better future for women as we live fearlessly through a system which will finally allow us to move freely with no anxiety and boundaries?

Will the modern woman of

today realize the fact that we will always need our fathers and uncles, grandfathers and male cousins to continue family traditions because men will always be needed in our lives, as they are the source of our strength as women?

Ladies – our independence has finally come because we all stood together as one. Let us continue to make better choices living healthier lives so that our future daughters will relish in liberation as they soar with the choice of being a part of the new generation of Black Woman in America with no boundaries because being a woman is finally enough.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com



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David Aubrey, Newly Appointed AT&T President, Louisiana

Sheds Light on the Future of AT&T in our Region

By Renetta Perry
Data Staff Writer

AT&T recently announced the appointment of David Aubrey as its Louisiana President. This promotion follows Aubrey's lengthy tenure with the company, which he joined in 2014 and served as Regional Director of External Affairs for North Louisiana and was promoted to Director of External Affairs for AT&T Louisiana in 2015.

Aubrey, a native Louisianan, was educated in the public schools system and is a graduate of Grambling State University. He says about his love for the state, "Louisiana is always home. I've always said that Louisiana has really just made a mark on me and I don't know if I'll be any other place."

In 1988, Aubrey was elected mayor of his hometown, Homer, Louisiana and was the city's youngest elected mayor as well as its first African American Mayor. "From

Valedictorian to Student of the Year, to active with FBLA on a National Level to being a local NAACP Chapter President to doing economic development work, to being elected mayor, I've just been on a path to being community focused. Be it with the public sector, private sector or non-profit, I have a really broad background of experiences, really on the ground being a champion for Louisiana," he states.

Of his appointment as Louisiana President, and the hard work that lead to such a successful career Aubrey says, "that's what it's all about: being where you need to be, God certainly ordaining and opening doors, and being ready when the horn sounds. That's the key. That's the key for a lot of us. Don't wait until an opportunity hits a website, you've gotta be preparing yourself and doing the work when nobody's counting, when nobody's expecting it."

In his work to close the digital



Newly Appointed AT&T Louisiana President, David Aubrey

divide which exists in rural and disadvantaged communities across Louisiana, Aubrey says, "we've been able to build investments and promote AT&T across rural parts

of the state, where in many cases they didn't think that we cared. We've reinvigorated our team to let them know that while we are a big company, we have a big heart."

He continues, "last year we hit a milestone and last week we celebrated a milestone. We hit 500,000 locations of AT&T fibers. They are the most aggressive and the largest build of any telecom provider in the State of Louisiana. From Bossier City, to Benton, Louisiana, to Bogalusa, to Baton Rouge and Baker, all of those - we have been across the State of Louisiana, building as fast as we can, to as many customer locations as we can, given the constraints of supply chain and labor; but we're on the forefront of pushing it out and we've done that without government subsidies."

Elaborating on the State's Broadband Program called "Gumbo," Aubrey says they are "super, super excited" about the upcoming expansion of their broadband fiber

optics and the capabilities to go further into more rural areas utilizing the Gumbo Program's Awards. But he cautiously points out that the issues regarding the digital divide are varied. "There is an access issue, an affordability issue, and an adoption issue, meaning when you get it, will you know how to use it?" To that end he speaks of training initiatives for senior citizens and of other opportunities brought about via the \$1 million in Outreach Grant Awards provided by the FCC through the Affordable Connectivity Program. His goal is to give all Louisianans the affordable access needed to thrive in the rapidly advancing digital age.

"From the Bell South days to the AT&T days here in Louisiana, we're still one AT&T. We are one big family and that's one of the goals of mine, to bring back that type of behavior to our consumers and to our customers. And we're doing it," he states.

Fleur De Lis

The Making of HERSTORY

LSU Lady Tigers Win Their First NCAA Title

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The LSU Lady Tigers Basketball Team made "Herstory" winning their first NCAA Championship.

Led by standout player Angel Reese, who was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2023 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

The LSU-Iowa NCAA Division I National Championship Game, which was shown on ABC, was the most-watched women's college basketball game of all time, ESPN announced on Monday.

No. 3 seed LSU's 102-85 victory against No. 2 seed Iowa averaged 9.9 million viewers, with a peak of 12.6 million, across all platforms,



LSU Lady Tigers Basketball Team celebrate as they make "Herstory" winning their first NCAA Championship.

the network said.

The LSU-Iowa Game was also the most-watched college event ever on ESPN+, the network said.

The growth of women sports is an incredible step in the right direction, and many are excited for

the Lady Tigers, led by their Head Coach Kim Mulkey and a talented team of players such as All-American Angel Reese.

All around the state people are celebrating the great victory and the making of "Herstory."

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Economists Say California Reparations Could Amount to \$800 Billion for Black Residents

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

California could pay more than \$800 billion in reparations to Black residents for generations of housing discrimination, disproportionate incarceration and over-policing, economists told a state panel on Wednesday, March 29th.

The preliminary estimate reportedly is more than 2.5 times California's \$300 billion annual budget and does not include a recommended \$1 million per older Black resident for health disparities that have shortened their average life span.

Additionally, the figure doesn't count compensating individuals for property taken from them by the government or Black businesses being devalued, two other things the taskforce said the state did.

Black residents may not receive cash payments anytime soon, if ever, because the state may never adopt the economists' calculations.

The proposed number comes from a consulting team of five economists and policy experts.

"We've got to go in with an open mind and come up with some creative ways to deal with this," Assembly member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, who is on the taskforce, said, according to The Guardian.

Before any reparations could become a reality, the taskforce must get support from state legislators and the California governor.

Before the meeting, The Guardian reported that Jones-Sawyer said he needed to talk to other legislators, budget analysts and the governor's office before he could decide how much money should be spent.

The taskforce must now settle on a cash amount as it nears a July deadline to recommend to lawmakers how California can atone for its role in perpetuating racist systems that continue to undermine Black people.

Economists suggest underscores the long-lasting harm Black Americans have endured, even in a state that never officially endorsed slavery.

Critics argue that California never participated in the slave trade, so current taxpayers should not be responsible for damage linked to slavery.

Taskforce recommendations are just the start because ultimate authority rests with the state assembly,



bly, senate and the governor.

"That's going to be the real hurdle," said California senator Steven Bradford, who sits on the panel, told The Guardian.

"How do you compensate for hundreds of years of harm, even 150 years post-slavery?"

Separately, an advisory committee in San Francisco has recommended \$5 million payouts, as well as guaranteed income of at least \$97,000 and personal debt forgiveness for qualifying individuals.

Supervisors expressed general support and will take up the issue later this year.

The statewide estimate includes \$246 billion to compensate eligible Black Californians from 1970 to 2020 whose neighborhoods were subjected to aggressive policing and prosecution of Black people.

That would translate to nearly \$125,000 for every person who qualifies.

The economists also included \$569 billion to make up for the discriminatory practice of redlining in housing loans.

Such compensation would amount to about \$223,000 per eligible resident who lived in California from 1933 to 1977. The aggregate is considered a maximum and assumes all 2.5 million people who identify as Black in California would be eligible.

Redlining officially began in the 1930s. At that time, the federal government gave mortgages to help people buy houses, but some neighborhoods were marked red on government maps.

On the federal level, Texas Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has continued to push H.R. 40, a bill that's intended to continue the national conversation

and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and lingering adverse effects of slavery on living African Americans and on society.

"Since its introduction in 1989 by the late Chairman John Conyers, and now through its continued introduction,

H.R. 40 has galvanized governmental acknowledgment of the crime of slavery and its continuing societal impact," Jackson Lee remarked.

"The markup of H.R. 40 by the Judiciary Committee is a major step toward the creation of a long-overdue national commission to study and develop reparation proposals."

She continued:

"Through this legislation, we will finally be able to confront the stark societal disparities occurring in the African American community today and provide solutions.

"By passing H.R. 40, Congress can also start a movement toward the national reckoning we need to bridge racial divides. Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation — and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future."

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