

Court authorizes E. Jean Carroll to collect \$5M from Trump

BY JONATHAN STEMPEL AND JACK QUEEN
Reuters

NEW YORK

A Manhattan federal judge on Wednesday authorized the payment of \$5.8 million in damages and interest to magazine writer E. Jean Carroll to satisfy a 2023 civil verdict in which a jury found President Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming her.

Trump had deposited the funds in a court escrow account while he appealed the verdict, but the U.S. Supreme Court on June 29 declined to take up the case.

In a filing late Tuesday night in Manhattan federal court, Trump's lawyers said Carroll should wait until the Supreme Court hears Trump's renewed

bid to overturn the \$5 million verdict, which has grown to about \$5.8 million including interest.

The lawyers said Trump would be irreparably harmed and face "unrecoverable loss" if Carroll fulfills her stated intention to give away the money because once she does, the money likely could not be recovered.

They also said letting Carroll recover, only to have the Supreme Court grant a rehearing, would "undermine public confidence in an orderly judicial process" at a time when Trump's supporters and some critics, according to his lawyers, voice "concerns about politically motivated weaponization of the legal system."

Justices to face Congress after contentious court rulings

BY MICHAEL MACAGNONE AND AIDAN QUIGLEY
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court justices are scheduled to appear before both Senate and House appropriators next week, marking the first time since 2019 that justices will face lawmakers.

Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Elena Kagan are slated to testify before the Senate and House Financial Services Appropriations subcommittees on July 14 to discuss the high court's fiscal 2027 budget request.

The court is requesting \$225.1 million, an approximately 10% increase over fiscal 2026 enacted funding. Of that total, \$207 million would be for salaries and expenses and \$18.1 million would be for care of the Supreme Court building and grounds.

The federal judiciary overall requested \$9.7 billion in the coming fiscal year, a roughly \$500 million increase from current funding. Much of those increases would go to cover increased staff and staff salaries across the federal appellate and district courts.

The House Financial Services spending bill would provide \$10 billion for the judiciary, including \$207 million for the Supreme Court, according to a GOP summary. Senate appropriators have yet to release their version of the bill.

While next week's hearings are designed to be focused on the budget, the justices will likely face questions about the cases before them in recent years, as well as on the court as an institution.

The hearings will come two weeks after the justices closed out their term for the year, issuing decisions that rebuffed President Donald Trump's worldwide tariff regime and his attempt to redefine citizenship through executive order, along with decisions that supercharged the ongoing redistricting wars and gave presidents more power to fire federal officials.

Democrats sought to

have several justices testify during the Biden administration amid concerns over alleged ethical lapses by several members of the high court. That included a request from Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., to have Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. meet with senators about the court's ethics.

Roberts rebuffed Durbin's request.

The court has also faced scrutiny from Republicans about its failure to identify the person who leaked a draft of the opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the 2022 decision that overturned a constitutional right to an abortion. An internal probe published by the court found lax security measures and gaps in information technology.

Following the leak of that decision, protesters appeared outside the justices' homes, and Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh faced an abandoned assassination attempt. The justices have received round-the-clock protection since then from U.S. Marshals and Supreme Court police - also leading to multiple requests for increased security funding.

Justices had been expected to appear before the Senate Appropriations Committee in May, but that hearing was rescheduled.

The House Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee had also contemplated a hearing with the justices in May, but Chairman David Joyce, R-Ohio, said at the time that it would not work with the busy schedule of the chamber and that of the justices.

In 2019, Kagan and Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. appeared before the House Financial Services Subcommittee, the most recent time justices appeared before House members. The last time justices appeared at a Senate hearing was 2011, when Justices Stephen G. Breyer and Antonin Scalia testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding their views about the constitutional role of federal judges, according to the Congressional Research Service.



A person holds a Mexican flag during a vigil Wednesday after the fatal shooting of Mexican motorist Lorenzo Salgado Araujo by an ICE agent in Houston, Texas.

ICE shooting in Houston sparks demands for transparency

BY ARATHY SOMASEKHAR, EVAN GARCIA AND NATHAN CROOKS
Reuters

HOUSTON

Hundreds of protesters assembled Wednesday at the spot where a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer fatally shot a man driving to work a day earlier, the latest in a spate of deadly encounters involving expanded deportation raids nationwide.

The chanting demonstrators, many displaying Mexican flags and carrying signs that read, "Stand with immigrants" and "ICE out of Houston," echoed mounting demands for an independent inquiry into Tuesday's shooting of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national living in the U.S. illegally.

A contingent of police officers, some on horseback with helmets and riot gear, closed off surrounding streets to traffic and moved around the perimeter of the rally, which was boisterous but peaceful.

"It's not right. The people shouldn't be attacked the way that they are. Everything that's going on is wrong," Jose Valles, 51, who lives about a two-minute drive from the scene, said minutes before the crowd began marching to a nearby park.

The killing of 52-year-old Salgado, a construction worker who, according to family, had resided in

Houston for over three decades and was close to obtaining legal U.S. residency, brought to at least six the number of people shot dead during immigration enforcement operations since January 2025, when President Donald Trump returned to office and launched a campaign of mass deportations.

That crackdown has recently gained new momentum in cities across the country, with federal agents detaining around 2,000 migrants a day nationwide last week, according to two people familiar with the matter.

In Houston alone, home to a large and deeply rooted Mexican immigrant community, the number of ICE arrests per week more than tripled from mid-June to late June - to around 100 - according to preliminary data shared with Reuters by a source.

In a statement issued Tuesday after the fatal shooting, ICE said that Salgado rammed his van into an ICE vehicle, refused to obey multiple verbal commands and tried to run over an officer, who then fired on him in "self-defense."

Salgado was a Mexican national living illegally in the United States and was caught up in a "targeted enforcement operation" when ICE officers tried to stop his vehicle, the agency said.

Reuters could not verify

the man's immigration status or the circumstances of the shooting in Houston's heavily Hispanic East End neighborhood.

'OPEN SEASON ON LATINOS'

At a Wednesday news conference, Salgado's son Ronaldo described his father as a peaceful man who had spent the past 35 years in the country as a construction worker.

"He dedicated his life in the United States to giving his family the American dream," Ronaldo said, adding that he had been working to get his legal immigration status and was close to securing it.

Salgado was on his way to pick up his construction crew en route to a work site in north Houston, according to family.

Flanked by several members of Congress, leaders of Latino advocacy groups and Houston officials, Ronaldo called for "a full investigation" into his father's killing.

He only learned about what had happened after seeing a video posted on social media, Ronaldo said, showing his father on the ground next to his white van.

"I recognized him immediately, not from his appearance, but from his voice, crying for help as he lay on the street, bleeding out," he said, choking back tears.

"It is un-American to use

a fatal force against a human being, then lock away the evidence," Roman Palomares, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, told the press conference. "For too long, we have watched an open season declared on Latinos, and communities of color, under the guise of public safety."

DISPUTE OVER INVESTIGATION

ICE said Tuesday that its parent agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, would lead an investigation into the shooting, while the FBI would spearhead an inquiry into the "potential assault on a law enforcement officer."

But many in this city were unwilling to wait for a federal probe: "I am calling for an immediate and impartial investigation, with all available video and findings released as soon as possible," Alejandra Salinas, a Houston City Council member, wrote in an op-ed in the Houston Chronicle on Wednesday.

U.S. Representative Sylvia Garcia, a Texas Democrat who represents the neighborhood where the shooting took place, made a similar appeal.

"We need independent investigations, we need body cameras, clear identification, no masks and an end to paramilitary-style immigration enforcement in our streets," Garcia said at the press conference.

Stamp prices are going up; Forever stamps to cost 82 cents

BY MIKE SNIDER
USA TODAY/USA TODAY
Network via Reuters Connect

The U.S. Postal Service is once again raising the price of Forever stamps and other postal rates. If you are running low on Forever stamps, now is a good time to restock because the stamps will increase in price by 4 cents from 78 cents to 82 cents when the price increase goes into effect Sunday.

Overall, the Postal Service is raising mailing services product prices by about 4.8%, according to USPS. The Postal Service raised the price of the Forever stamp from 73 cents to 78 cents in July 2025. When Forever stamps were introduced in 2007, they cost 41 cents each. That's a 100% increase in 19 years.

Initially issued at the going price of a First-Class stamp, the "Forever" stamps were meant to help consumers with fu-



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images file photo illustration

Forever stamps are increasing in price by 4 cents from 78 cents to 82 cents starting on Sunday.

ture price changes. No matter when they were purchased, the stamps would be good for sending mail. So any stamps you have now that you bought for 78 cents or less can still be used even after this latest price increase.

Other price increases include:

- Domestic postcards - 61 cents to 65 cents
- Letters (metered 1 ounce) - 74 cents to 78 cents

- Letters (1 ounce) - 78 cents to 82 cents
- International postcards - \$1.70 to \$1.75
- International letter (1 ounce) - \$1.70 to \$1.75

The additional-ounce price for single-piece letters will remain at 29 cents, according to the USPS.

The Postal Service filed its intent to raise prices on April 9, 2026. The Postal Regulatory Commission on May 27 approved the

Postal Service's price changes.

The price increases were needed to help the Postal Service address rising costs and other challenges, the agency said in its announcement.

"In the midst of the severe financial crisis facing the Postal Service and continued rising operational costs, the Postal Service is using all available tools, including available regulatory pricing authority, to ensure we can continue to fulfill our universal service obligation and serve the American public," the Postal Service said at the time.

In a financial analysis report released May 21, the Postal Regulatory Commission noted the Postal Service had recorded a net loss of \$2.7 billion for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2025. The agency has operated at a loss over the past decade, the commission said.

"Losses sustained over the past 10 years have weakened the Postal Service's financial position, resulting in a significant gap between assets and liabilities," the commission said in the report.