

U.S. Appeals Court Upholds Block on Trump's Birthright Citizenship Order

A U.S. appeals court has blocked President Donald Trump's executive order restricting automatic birthright citizenship. The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the administration's emergency request to lift a nationwide injunction issued by a federal judge in Seattle. This executive order, signed on January 20, directed U.S. agencies to deny citizenship to children born in the United States if neither parent is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

The 9th Circuit's decision marks the first appellate review of this policy, which is anticipated to be ultimately resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court. Similar blocks have been instituted by judges in Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, with appeals in progress.

The Justice Department argued that the Seattle-based U.S. District Judge John Coughenour's ruling was overly broad, as it imposed a nationwide injunction at the request of four Democratic-led states. However, the three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit declined to stay the injunction and scheduled arguments for June.

U.S. Circuit Judge Danielle Forrest, appointed by Trump during his first term, concurred with the decision. He emphasized that a hasty ruling could undermine public confidence in the judiciary's impartiality. She noted that the government's proposed exception to birthright citizenship lacks judicial precedent.

The White House and the Justice Department have not provided immediate comments on the ruling.

Opponents of the executive order, including Democratic state attorneys general and immigrant rights advocates, contend that it violates the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. They reference the 1898 Supreme Court case, *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which affirmed birthright citizenship irrespective of parental immigration status.

Judge Coughenour, appointed by former President Ronald Reagan, initially blocked the order on January 23. He described it as “blatantly unconstitutional.” He later extended this block into a preliminary injunction. During a hearing on February 6, Coughenour criticized the administration’s attempt to revoke citizenship rights via an executive order. He equated this to a constitutional amendment.

If implemented, the executive order would deny citizenship to over 150,000 children born annually in the United States, as estimated by the state attorneys general.

Elon Musk Proposes \$5,000 ‘DOGE Dividend’ Checks for Taxpayers

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has suggested distributing “DOGE dividend” checks to American taxpayers, aiming to return 20% of the savings achieved by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) back to the public. Initially put forward by Azoria CEO James Fishback, this proposal could provide approximately \$5,000 to each of the 78 million households that pay federal income taxes, contingent upon Musk’s ambitious goal of reducing government spending by \$2 trillion.

Politico

However, implementing such a rebate program would require congressional approval, and budget experts caution that lawmakers might prefer to allocate the funds toward reducing the national debt or extending existing tax provisions. Additionally, the legality of DOGE is currently under judicial review, adding another layer of complexity to the proposal.

Politico

Musk, who President Donald Trump appointed to co-lead the Department of Government Efficiency alongside Vivek Ramaswamy, aims to streamline federal operations and cut wasteful expenditures. The department, operating outside the formal government structure, seeks to achieve significant structural reforms by July 4, 2026.

Reuters

While the idea of government-issued checks is not new—similar stimulus payments were distributed during Trump’s first term—the feasibility of funding such rebates through anticipated government savings remains uncertain. The proposal’s success hinges on achieving the projected \$2 trillion savings and obtaining the necessary legislative approvals.

LITTLER AWARDED TOP FIRM FOR DIVERSITY BY YALE LAW WOMEN+

Littler, the world’s largest employment and labor law practice representing management, has been named the Top Firm for Diversity in the Yale Law Women+ (YLW+) Top Firms Report 2023.

Rob Blank Invited to Join the American Board of Trial Advocates

Press Release

Govenda Launches D&O Questionnaire Suite

D&O Suite™ Transforms Disclosure and Assessment Processes for Faster Compliance and Risk Mitigation

Big Law Profit Plunge Looks Like Precursor to Another Good Year

Law Firm Management One question I've asked lawyers is whether Big Law's outstanding financial performance in 2021 was a historical anomaly or the result of a secular shift that bolstered

Former Facebook General Counsel Joins Latham & Watkins

Law Firm Management Latham & Watkins LLP is pleased to announce that Colin Stretch, Facebook Inc.'s now Meta Platforms, Inc. General Counsel from 2013-2019, has joined the firm's

Brad Pitt Reaches \$20.5M Settlement with Katrina Victims Over Faulty Homes

Law Firm Management Brad Pitt and his Make It Right Foundation, who were sued in 2018 over shoddy homes they built in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, settled their lawsuit for \$20.5 million.

Capital One \$190 Million Data

Breach Settlement: Are You Eligible for a Payment?

Law Firm ManagementCapital One's infamous 2019 data breach exposed the personal information of more than 100 million people and resulted in a class-action lawsuit that's been tentatively

The U.S. Cities Where Biglaw Associates are The Most Satisfied (2022)

Law Firm ManagementHere at Above the Law, we've spent the past week or two discussing what makes Biglaw associates satisfied with their jobs. From their compensation to their firm's commitment to

RE/MAX Parent Appoints General Counsel and Compliance Chief

Law Firm ManagementNYSE-listed RE/MAX Holdings, parent company of RE/MAX and Motto Mortgage, has promoted Susie Winders to become general counsel, chief compliance officer and

Reading the Riot Act: \$100 Million Settlement in Gender Discrimination Class Action

Law Firm ManagementA California Superior Court judge recently preliminarily approved a \$100 million settlement in connection with a class action brought on behalf of a class of current and former

Apple's \$30M Employee Bag Search Lawsuit Settlement Given Approval

Law Firm ManagementLast year, Apple agreed to pay retail workers in California \$30 million to settle a lawsuit over its bag check policy. That settlement has now been approved by a US District Court

Fuel Is Not Energy. Investors

Should Know the Difference.

Law Firm Management Fuel is not energy. Fuel is a valuable material. Energy is an abstract concept (the ability to do work) until it is combined with time. Then energy becomes valuable power. It is

Barcelona will be Able to Sign Teenage Sensation on a Five-Year Contract Tomorrow

Law Firm Management Barcelona midfield prodigy Gavi will celebrate his 18th birthday tomorrow, August 5. The teenage sensation has enjoyed a memorable past twelve months, having been plucked

NHL Contract Efficiency Rankings: Grading Every Team in the League

Law Firm Management Last week we went through the league's best and worst contracts, but that was only the tip of the iceberg a sneak peek toward a much larger outlook. It's now time to look at every

Beware the Contract Clause Loading US Workers with Debt

Law Firm Management
Graduating From Petsmart's Grooming Academy early last year should have been a proud day for animal lover BreAnn Scally. It offered a path into full-time work with animals and

Elite Biglaw Firm Gently Reminds Associates to Get Back to the Office After Remote August

Law Firm Management
The dog days of summer are here, and for those who are working at Biglaw firms that adopted a "remote August" plan, the clock is ticking on their full-time work-from-home

University of Iowa Hires

Husch Blackwell Lawyer as New General Counsel

Law Firm ManagementThe University of Iowa is bringing back to campus a former deputy general counsel who for the last year has been advising colleges, including the UI, on issues like

Judge Approves \$24 Million Settlement Between USWNT Players, U.S. Soccer

Law Firm ManagementA federal judge in California has preliminarily approved a \$24 million settlement between the U.S. women's national soccer team (USWNT) and governing body U.S. Soccer in a