

Judge tosses DOJ lawsuit challenging a New York law barring immigration agents from state courts

MICHAEL HILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. — A judge has dismissed a Trump administration legal challenge to New York policies that block immigration officials from arresting people at state courthouses, saying the federal government can't force states to cooperate with those enforcement efforts.

U.S. District Judge Mae D'Agostino late Monday granted New York's motion to dismiss the government's lawsuit, one of several legal actions from the Republican administration targeting state and local policies over immigration enforcement.

The lawsuit challenged a 2020 state law banning fed-

eral immigration officials from arresting people who are coming and going from New York courthouses or in court for proceedings unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. The law, called the Protect Our Courts Act, was approved in response to enforcement actions at courthouses during President Donald Trump's first term. The law doesn't cover federal immigration courts.

In its lawsuit, the Department of Justice claimed that the New York law and two related state executive orders were unconstitutional because they obstructed the execution of federal immigration authorities.

D'Agostino, though, found

that New York's decision not to participate in enforcing civil immigration law is protected by the 10th Amendment, which sets boundaries on the federal government's powers.

"Fundamentally, the United States fails to identify any federal law mandating that state and local officials generally assist or cooperate with federal immigration enforcement efforts. Nor could it," the judge wrote. "No such federal laws exist because the Tenth Amendment prohibits Congress from conscripting state and local officials and resources to assist with federal regulatory schemes, like immigration enforcement."

A Justice Department spokesperson said in response

to an email seeking comment that, "President Trump's immigration enforcement agenda is a top national security and public safety priority that this Department of Justice will continue to vigorously defend whenever challenged in court."

New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat whose office argued for the lawsuit to be dismissed, said she was fighting for the "dignity and rights of immigrant communities."

"Everyone deserves to seek justice without fear," James said in a statement. "This ruling ensures that anyone can use New York's state courts without being targeted by federal authorities."



Yuki Iwamura | AP

Mohamed Bahi, New York City Mayor's liaison to the Muslim community, exits Manhattan Federal Court, Oct. 8, 2024, in New York.

Ex-aide to NYC Mayor Eric Adams avoids prison term for soliciting illegal campaign gifts

JAKE OFFENHARTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A former aide to outgoing New York Mayor Eric Adams was sentenced Tuesday to three years' probation, including a year of home confinement, for soliciting illegal campaign contributions for Adams.

Mohamed Bahi embraced supporters in a Manhattan federal courtroom after learning that he would be spared prison. His confinement will allow him to leave home for work and attend religious services, among other reasons.

"I'm feeling content that this whole ordeal is over," he said as he left court.

Bahi served as City Hall's chief liaison to the Muslim community. He originally was charged as part of a sweeping corruption investigation into Adams — a probe that was ultimately dropped by the Trump administration.

When Judge Dale E. Ho asked a prosecutor Tuesday how to weigh the fact that the mayor had his charges dismissed, there was brief applause from one of Bahi's dozens of supporters in the gallery.

Bahi, 41, pleaded guilty in August, admitting that he helped solicit illegal dona-

tions from employees of a Brooklyn construction company during a December 2020 fundraiser for Adams' first mayoral campaign.

Bahi was charged in October 2024 with witness tampering and destroying evidence as part of the federal investigation into Adams.

The mayor was charged with accepting bribes and campaign contributions from foreign interests in a separate fundraising scheme. Adams, a Democrat, pleaded not guilty.

The Justice Department in February ordered federal prosecutors to drop the charges against Adams, saying the case interfered with the mayor's ability to assist in President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration.

The surprising development prompted protests and resignations from several top prosecutors, including the interim U.S. attorney in Manhattan, who accused Adams of striking a quid pro quo deal with Trump.

Adams denied any wrongdoing and ran for reelection as an independent, but ended his campaign early.

Democrat Zohran Mamdani won the election and will succeed Adams on Jan. 1.

Meta prevails in historic FTC antitrust case, won't have to break off WhatsApp, Instagram

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO — Meta has prevailed over an existential challenge to its business that could have forced the tech giant to spin off Instagram and WhatsApp after a judge ruled that the company does not hold a monopoly in social networking.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg issued his ruling Tuesday after the historic antitrust trial wrapped up in late May. His decision runs in sharp contrast to two separate rulings that branded Google an illegal monopoly in both search and online advertising, dealing regulatory blows to the tech industry that for years enjoyed nearly unbridled growth.

The Federal Trade Commission "continues to insist that Meta competes with the same old rivals it has for the last decade, that the company holds a monopoly among that small set, and that it maintained that monopoly through anticompetitive acquisitions," Boasberg wrote in his ruling.

"Whether or not Meta enjoyed monopoly power in the past, though, the agency must show that it continues to hold such power now. The Court's verdict today determines that the FTC has not done so."

The federal agency had argued that Meta maintained a monopoly by pursuing an expression CEO Mark Zuckerberg made in 2008: "It is better to buy than compete." True to that maxim, Facebook has systematically tracked potential rivals and acquired companies that it viewed as serious competitive threats.

During his April testimony, Zuckerberg pushed back against claims that Facebook bought Instagram to neutralize a threat. In his line of questioning, FTC attorney Daniel Matheson repeatedly brought up emails — many of them more than a decade old — written by Zuckerberg and his associates before and after the acquisition of Instagram.

While acknowledging the documents, Zuckerberg has often sought to downplay the contents, saying he wrote the emails early in the acquisition

process and that the notes did not fully capture the scope of his interest in the company. But the case was not about the acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp more than a decade ago, which the FTC approved at the time, but about whether Meta holds a monopoly now. Prosecutors, Boasberg wrote in the ruling, could only win if they proved "current or imminent legal violation."

The FTC's complaint said Facebook also enacted policies designed to make it difficult for smaller rivals to enter the market and "neutralize perceived competitive threats," just as the world shifted its attention to mobile devices from desktop computers.

Meta said Tuesday's decision "recognizes that Meta faces fierce competition."

"Our products are beneficial for people and businesses and exemplify American innovation and economic growth. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Administration and to invest in America," said Jennifer Newstead, chief legal officer, in a statement.

The social media landscape

has changed so much since the FTC filed its lawsuit in 2020, Boasberg wrote, that each time the court examined Meta's apps and competition, they changed. Two opinions to dismiss the case — filed in 2021 and 2022 — didn't even mention popular social video platform TikTok. Today, it "holds center stage as Meta's fiercest rival."

Quoting the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, "that no man can ever step into the same river twice," Boasberg said the same is true for the online world of social media as well.

"The landscape that existed only five years ago when the Federal Trade Commission brought this antitrust suit has changed markedly. While it once might have made sense to partition apps into separate markets of social networking and social media, that wall has since broken down," he wrote.

Emarketer analyst Minda Smiley said Meta's win "is not necessarily surprising considering the lengths it's gone to in recent years to keep up with TikTok."

GRANTS

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- Ballard County — \$44,117.19 for site prep and installation of a horse barn and metal stalls.
- Boyd County — \$62,233.50 for nine sets of bleachers and concrete.
- Clark County — \$15,984 for roof repair, a pagant room expansion, and replacement of the show ring fence and lighting.
- Clinton County — \$75,859.30 for arena fencing and a gate, concrete safety walls and guard rails, a new announcer stand, speakers at the arena and track, a new flagpole, and replacement of the septic system.
- Germantown Fair — \$100,000 for building renovations including windows, doors, insulation, HVAC, electric, siding, roof.
- Hart County — \$70,746.60 for reconstruc-

- tion of an exhibit hall roof, porch overhangs, walkways, lighting, fencing, and public announcement system.
- Laurel County — \$100,000 for restrooms and concession building.
 - Oldham County — \$100,000 for two sets of bleachers, asphalt/concrete walkways, and a new agriculture building.
 - Shelby County — \$100,000 for renovation of a horse barn.
- Any incorporated fair board in Kentucky may apply with the State Aid to Local Agricultural Fairs Program for grants in the amount of \$10,000-\$100,000. Each grant will fund 75 percent of the total cost of the project, with the local fair board matching the other 25 percent. Each project must be started within 90 days of the date the project was awarded and must be completed within nine months.

NELSON

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credited elected officials and community members for supporting new programs during his tenure. He said that experience prepared him to take on the challenges facing the sheriff's office.

"I believe with my background I can improve the sheriff's office," Nelson said. "My goal is to increase efficiency and strengthen the expertise of the deputies. I think I have a lot to offer the citizens of Pulaski County."

Nelson outlined five primary pledges for his campaign: increase the sheriff's visibility in all parts of the county; promptly return phone calls; meet with citizens in a timely manner about law enforcement concerns; reduce response times to calls; and cut down the number of unserved warrants, indictments, and civil papers.

He emphasized a commitment to community presence, saying a sheriff must be accessible to residents whether at "the barn, the garage, or wherever the community needs me." Nelson said he intends to restructure the department to free up more deputies for patrol, including reducing some office positions to put more personnel on the road.

Nelson said he is a strong believer in "total policing"—a system in which deputies handle a case from initial call to final indictment. He also wants to reestablish regular multi-agency cooperation by forming a Pulaski County law enforcement coalition that would meet every four to six weeks. The group, he said, would include local police departments, the sheriff's office, state police, and other agencies to share information and coordinate responses to crime.

Communication, he said, is a major issue he hopes to

address early if elected. Nelson said he may consider returning to more open radio channels so the public can hear law enforcement activity, a change he believes can build transparency and trust.

Nelson frequently referenced his early guidance under Sheriff Sam Catron, calling him "firm, fair, and dedicated to the people." He hopes to bring similar qualities to the office, including strong support for the county's volunteer fire departments, which he described as "the eyes and ears" of rural public safety.

Reflecting on his time as chief, Nelson said one of the biggest lessons he learned was stepping back and trusting his staff to do their jobs. He also credited the department's chaplain program with helping officers manage stress, finances, and family challenges—support he considers essential for modern law enforcement.

Nelson retired after reaching eligibility but said many people encouraged him to run, believing he still had more to contribute.

"I enjoyed retirement, but I still have a lot of love for this work," he said. "This campaign won't be about who did or didn't do something—it's about who I am and what I plan to do."

Nelson said he will present a 10-step plan during the campaign, outlining specific management and operational changes he believes can be implemented without major new spending. "If I tell someone I'm going to do something and I don't do it, I don't deserve another term," he said.

Doug and his wife, Anne, have been married 36 years and have two children and four grandchildren.

Contact **Steve Cornelius** at scornelius@somerset-kentucky.com.

COUNCIL

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take place.

"Enjoy your family, enjoy your constituents, your friends. Hang out. Business can wait until early December," Keck said, adding that should something urgent come up, council could call a special meeting to address it.

Looking ahead to December and, more specifically, the end of the year, Keck said that the City of Somerset would not hold a New Year's Eve Bash downtown as it has done so in previous years.

"This one's tough for me, because I absolutely love our New Year's Eve festival," Keck said. "But I know, like many of you, we're budget

conscious, and I try to be as well. ... So, our team decided not to have the New Year's Eve Bash this year, because we spend a lot of money for only ... about a fourth of the people we normally see at a festival."

Keck said that the purpose of such festivals was to spur downtown development and engagement, and in the case of New Years, the city is seeing that.

"Now you don't need us to throw a New Year's Eve party, because they'll be five or six places in downtown Somerset that you can go support that will be open for business," he said.

Carla Slavey can be reached at cslavey@somerset-kentucky.com

ALLEN

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Somerset-Pulaski Economic Development Authority (SPEDA) and the Dream Big Burnside Authority boards. Allen is also a certified KTIA Kentucky Tourism Professional.

KTIA President and CEO Hank Phillips said the association's effectiveness is a reflection of the quality of its volunteer leadership.

"KTIA has enjoyed a long tradition of excellent volunteer leaders and those serving in 2026 certainly will continue that tradition," Phillips said.

The day before Allen's election, Lake Cumberland Tourism received bronze and

silver Traverse Awards recognizing excellence in tourism marketing. The winning projects were:

SILVER AWARD — VIDEO OR PODCAST — REAL LIFE, UNSALTED PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Produced by Hutch Digital and released in March, this video showcases the Somerset-Pulaski County vacation experience through the lens of Lake Cumberland Tourism's signature Real Life, Unsalted™ campaign. Featuring the song "Sunshine Daydream," written and performed by Somerset singer-songwriter Cody Lee Meece, the piece highlights authentic, on- and off-the-water experiences and reflects the organization's commit-

ment to promoting local music, arts, and entertainment.

BRONZE AWARD — ARPA-FUNDED PROJECTS — LAKE CUMBERLAND WAYFINDING SYSTEM

Involving seven tourism organizations from Lake Cumberland's five surrounding counties and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this first-of-its-kind wayfinding signage system spans all 101 miles of Lake Cumberland. The project includes 75 signs and 20 informational kiosks, helping visitors navigate to coves, tributaries, and marinas across the region.

Entries for the Traverse Awards are judged by an independent panel of out-of-state

tourism industry professionals, with evaluation criteria including concept, creativity, results, and impact. This year's competition drew more than 200 submissions, making it Kentucky's largest and most prestigious tourism marketing contest.

KTIA represents various segments of Kentucky's tourism industry, which contributes over \$14 billion to the state's economy. The 1,000-member association engages in advocacy and provides its members with education, information and business development opportunities. The association also works to inform the public of the enormous economic, employment and tax revenue contributions tourism makes to the people of Kentucky.


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