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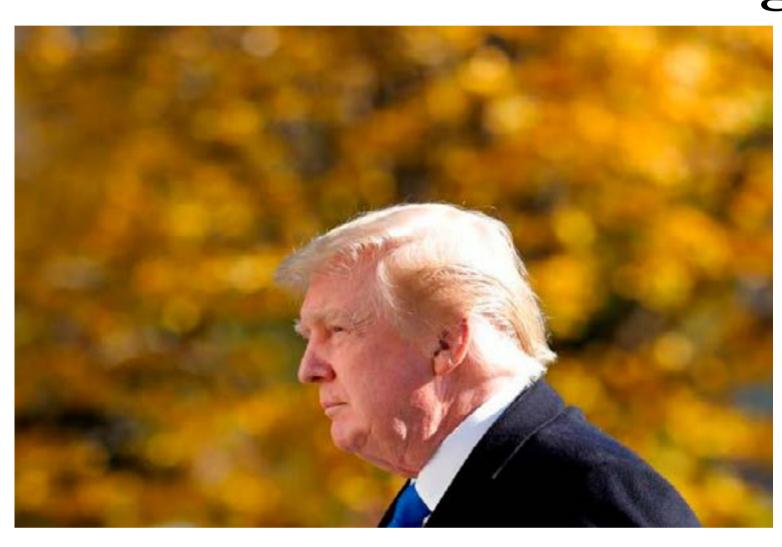
Southern News Group



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U.S. judiciary, shaped by Trump, thwarts his election challenges



FILE PHOTO: U.S.
President Donald
Trump walks on the
South Lawn of the
White House upon his
return to Washington
from Camp David,
U.S., November 29,
2020. REUTERS/Yuri
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Mr. Lee's Commen-

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GL®BAL NOTES

Inside C2

(Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's reshaping of the federal judiciary has done little to help him win lawsuits challenging the election outcome, with Trump appointees rebuffing him and the U.S. Supreme Court showing little interest in getting involved.

An appeals court judge appointed by Trump, a Republican, on Friday ruled against his campaign's effort to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's win in Pennsylvania based on unsupported allegations of voter fraud.

"Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy," Judge Stephanos Bibas wrote on behalf of a unanimous U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals panel. "Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here."

Two judges appointed by President George W. Bush, also a Republican, signed onto Bibas' decision.

Bibas is one of 53 judges Trump has appointed to the federal appeals courts since 2016. By comparison, President Barack Obama appointed 55 in eight years. Trump has appointed roughly a quarter of all trial-level federal judges.

"The Trump administration has been so efficient at confirming judges, but it's a real mistake to think that just because you appointed someone they will rule in your favor in an election case," said Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Trump's campaign and his allies, including Republican law-makers and activists, have filed more than 40 lawsuits in state and federal courts in an effort to overturn Democrat Biden's victory in the Nov. 3 election.

The 13 federal cases have had little success so far. Several have been withdrawn. Three, including the case Bibas heard on appeal, have been dismissed. One, concerning poll observer access in Philadelphia, resulted in a settlement after a judge rebuked Trump's lawyers.

Ultimately, Trump's biggest problem is his arguments are so shaky that it is hard to find a sympathetic judge, Levinson said.

"These cases are an easy way for judges to show judicial independence," Levinson said. "These cases are so frivolous." In one instance, a Trump appointee dismissed a lawsuit brought by conservative lawyer Lin Wood seeking to halt certification of Biden's victory in Georgia.

"To halt the certification at literally the 11th hour would breed confusion and disenfranchisement that I find have no basis in fact and law," U.S. District Judge Steven Grimberg in Atlanta wrote on Nov. 19.

Trump campaign legal adviser Jenna Ellis said in a statement that the Trump campaign has been denied the opportunity to fully present its evidence in court.

"Every American who cares about our constitutional system and free and fair elections should demand a full adjudication on the merits and a remedy for the corruption that has occurred, whether in court or state legislatures," Ellis said. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court has for weeks sat on a request by Pennsylvania Republicans that it overturn a September decision by the state's highest court allowing election officials to count mail-in ballots that arrived after Election Day. The Trump campaign has a pending request to intervene in that

Trump appointed three of the Supreme Court's nine members: Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and most recently Amy Coney Barrett.

Barrett joined the court a week before the election, creating a 6-3 conservative majority.

Trump repeatedly said he expected the court to decide the outcome of the election while also raising doubts, without providing evidence, that the large number of mail-in ballots used because of the coronavirus pandemic would lead to fraud.

"I think this (election) will end up in the Supreme Court, and I think it's very important that we have nine justices," Trump told reporters at a White House event in September.

Trump struck a markedly different tone on Sunday, saying in a Fox News interview that he had an increasingly narrow path to overturning Biden's victory in court.

"Well, the problem is, it's hard to get into the Supreme Court," Trump said.

Federal judges, in general, are reluctant to appear to be interfering in elections, legal experts said. And, in the case of Trump-appointed judges, their priorities may be elsewhere, like broadening protections for religious freedoms.



WEALER'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/01/2020

English

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CORONAVIRUS DIARY Wealee@scdaily.com

Helping people in winter cold.

Winter storm and cold weather arrived to East and southern United States in Houston Texas reached 30 degree this is the coldest day after coronavirus attacked our nation.

As the drug maker Moderna already applied to FDA on Monday to authorize its coronavirus vaccine for emergency use, federal government will quickly distribute right after FDA approved

We hope these vaccine will into people'

s arms before Christmas. These vaccine to be 94.1% affective.

But the medical experts say the coming. O this are going to be just horrible in United States ore than one million new coronavirus cases every week hospitals in the same state are full to bursting. The number of death are rising to surpass the 2200 per day in spring

President elected Biden has assembled excellent team for tackling the pandemic



but he just can't do too much after he become president on January 20 2021

In San Francisco Vice President elected Kamala Harris said the new administration most urgent agenda are

to fight with the coronavirus virus and helping small business to survive.

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Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

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- 2. Politics: Supreme Court backs religious groups on New York coronavirus restrictions.
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— Total recoveries: 4,871,203 — Total tests: Coronavirus Cases Rose 10% In

The Week Before Thanksgiving

Change in new COVID-19 cases in the past week



Data: The COVID Tracking Project, state health departments;

Andrew Witherspoon, Sara Wise/Axios The daily rate of new coronavirus infections rose by about 10 percent in the final week be-

fore Thanksgiving, continuing a dismal trend ing Project notes. If there is a Thanksgivinto a three-stage process out of lockdown. that may get even worse in the weeks to come. Why it matters: Travel and large holiday celebrations are most dangerous in places where the

virus is spreading widely — and right now, that

includes the entire U.S. By the numbers: On average, roughly 170,000 people per day were diagnosed with coronavirus infections over the past week.

- That's a new record, a 9.7% increase over last week, and the 11th straight week that the U.S. has been heading in the wrong direction.
- The number of new daily cases increased in
- Testing was up significantly by about 16% — over the past week, potentially driven by pre-Thanksgiving precautions. The U.S. is now conducting nearly 1.8 million COVID-19 tests

Between the lines: The U.S. outbreak is worse than it might look on this map.

• Our map is a snapshot of change over the past week, and a handful of states are doing better this week than they did last week. But they are, for the most part, states that have seen astronomical increases throughout the fall.



- Iowa, for example, is now averaging about 2,800 new infections per day. That's an 18% improvement over last week, but it's still about 250% higher than where Iowa stood at the beginning of October and leaves the state with far too many cases.
- · Hospitals remain overwhelmed in some parts of the country, especially in rural areas.
- What's next: Infections and hospitalizations are already skyrocketing nationwide, and experts fear that the Thanksgiving holiday could give it even more fuel as people travel and gath-
- It can take a while for waves of new cases to show up in the data, because most people don't experience symptoms right away.
- · The holiday will probably lead to some additional reporting delays and other data quirks over the next few weeks, as the COVID Track-

ing-driven surge in new cases, it may not show up in these statistics until mid-December.

The bottom line: Cases are still rising nationally and are still at crisis levels in several hardhit states. Cases and hospitalizations are both at record highs. This is going to be a long, dark

European Countries Extend Lockdowns

Recent spikes in COVID-19 infections across Europe have led authorities to extend restrictions ahead of the holiday season.

Why it matters: "Relaxing too fast and too much is a risk for a third wave after Christmas," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leven.

Germany's shutdown, which was planned to last four weeks beginning Nov. 2, will remain through Dec. 20 in an attempt to lower the number of new cases in each region from the current 140 per 100,000 inhabitants per week to fewer than 50, the AP reports.



A medical worker takes a COVID-19 throat swab sample at the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport. (Photo/Maja Hitij via Getty)

· The country will enforce additional restrictions to private gatherings, expand mask mandates, reduce the count of customers allowed in stores and discourage traditional New Year's

Greece's current lockdown, due to end Nov. 30, will be extended for one week amid a surge in

- · Residents are only allowed to leave home for specific reasons, such as work, health, essential purchases, exercise or walking a pet, and they have to send a text or carry self-declaration.
- A 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew remains in place. Lithuania has also extended its lockdown until Dec. 17, while Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is considering limiting Christmas celebrations to six people.
- · France recently eased its restrictions, moving

Biden Will Let Health Experts Decide Who Gets A Covid-19

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden will leave it to health experts to decide who gets the Covid-19 vaccine first, Dr. Celine Gounder, a member of Biden's coronavirus advisory board, said Friday.

Vaccine First, Adviser Says

There will likely be a limited supply of coronavirus vaccine doses available immediately after a vaccine is authorized by the US Food

and Drug Administration. "Other than health care workers, others who will be first in line to get it will be people who do have chronic underlying medical conditions, who are older, as well as communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic,"



A sign on the entrance to a pharmacy reads "Covid-19 Vaccine Not Yet Available", Nov. 23, in Burbank, California. (Photo/Robyn Beck/AFP/Getty Images)

"Now among those groups is where it starts to get a little bit more contentious," she added. "How do you prioritize between the 85-year-old woman in a nursing home, versus

the 65-year-old African American -- especially when that 65-year-old may be as just as high-risk of significant disease?"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) will recommend groups to receive the vaccine first.

"That's where it gets a bit more political and frankly, this is where the President-elect is leaving it to the public health experts and scientists to figure out how best to allocate the limited supply first."

The ACIP called an emergency meeting for Dec. 1, where they will vote on the very first group to get a vaccine.

(Courtesy axios.com)

Wednesday, December 02, 2020



Editor's Choice



Ethiopia near the Hamdeyat refugees transit camp, which houses Ethiopian refugees fleeing the fighting in the Tigray region, on the Sudan-Ethiopia border, Sudan. REUTERS/Baz...



People wearing costumes walk past signs requesting protective face masks and social distancing as heavy fog covers a square named after Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin in Stavropol, Russia. REUTERS/Eduard Kornivenko



An aerial view shows municipality workers bury a coffin at a funeral area provided by the government for victims of the coronavirus, at Tegal Alur cemetery complex in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan



People watch movies from tents placed for social distancing at the campsites in Bandung, West Java Province, Indonesia. Antara Foto/M Agung Rajasa



Abdelrahman Tarek, 11-year-old cancer patient practices traditional Tanoura dance to keep his spirits high as he battles the harsh illness at a small theatre in central Cairo, Egypt. RE-UTERS/Mohamed Abd El Ghany



Matias Disciosia, a devoted Diego Maradona fan who tattooed Maradona's name and former jersey number on his back, looks through his closet at his home in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "In reality, I don't think about what people say, whether he's good or bad or whether he's an inspiration



A boy adjusts his turban at a site of a protest by farmers against the newly passed farm bills at Singhu border near Delhi, India. REUTERS/Danish Siddiqui



Nurse Jorge Catarino, 35, holds a piece of plastic as part of his recovery therapy after suffering from the coronavirus and being intubated for two weeks, at Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center of the Mexican Institute of Social Security...



COMMUNITY

Life After COVID-19



Illustration: Eniola Odetunde/Axios

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Recovering from the coronavirus does not necessarily mean you'll bounce back to your old, pre-infection self: Most people who survived a severe infection were still dealing with some combination of physical, emotional and financial pain weeks later

That's the conclusion from researchers who tracked more than 1,600 people who were hospitalized for coronavirus infections in Michigan. Their findings were published in the Annals of Internal Med-

By the numbers: Roughly 24% of those 1,600 patients died in the hospital. Another 6% died within 60 days of being dis-

Researchers were able to track down 488 survivors to see how they were doing 60 days after getting out of the hospital.



Roughly a third of those patients were ex- Holidays are coming as authorities

long-term loss of taste and smell.

Roughly half said their health had affected their emotional well-being, and about 36% said their illness had been a financial setback.

Getting back to work was also a struggle: Among patients who were employed before they got sick, 40% said they had lost their jobs or couldn't go back for health reasons.

And a quarter of those who did return to work said their hours had been cut or their responsibilities modified.

Why it matters: The coronavirus can wreak havoc on your health and your life even if it doesn't kill you — which also means that looking only at the death rate is not a good way to take the full measure of this pandemic.



periencing symptoms such as a cough or advise against parties and unneces-

sary "clusterings."

Coronavirus hospitalizations are surging right now, all across the country.

The best way to minimize the number of people who suffer these long-term effects would be to minimize the number of people who have the coronavirus which the U.S. is not doing.

AstraZeneca CEO: "We Need To Do An Additional Study" On The COVID Vaccine

AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot said on Thursday the company is likely to start a new global trial to measure how effective its coronavirus vaccine is, Bloomberg reports.

Why it matters: Following Phase 3 trials, Oxford and AstraZeneca said their vaccine was 90% effective in people who got a half dose followed by a full dose, and 62% effective in people who got two full doses.



Photo: Pavlo Gonchar/SOPA Images/ LightRocket via Getty Images

• "Now that we've found what looks like a better efficacy we have to validate this, so we need to do an additional study," Soriot said, in his first interview since the University of Oxford announced data this week from the vaccine it's developing with AstraZeneca.

Soriot told Bloomberg that it would likely be another "international study, but this one could be faster because we know the efficacy is high so we need a smaller number of patients."

· Soriot does not expect the trial to affect regulatory approvals in the European Union and the U.K., although FDA clearance may take longer, he said. Thailand, Philippines Sign Deals With AstraZeneca For COVID-19 Vaccine Thailand and the Philippines announced separately on Friday that they secured

deals with AstraZeneca to receive supplies of the company's coronavirus vac-

The state of play: These announcements come a day after AstraZeneca said the company will likely conduct a new global trial to measure the vaccine's efficacy. Thai health officials signed a \$200 million deal for 26 million doses, which would cover 13 million people in a population of about 69 million, per AP.



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha (C) and James Teague (2nd R), president of AstraZeneca in

Thailand, Photo: Chalinee Thirasupa/ **AFP via Getty Images**

• Thailand has a total of 3,961 cases with 60 deaths, but the pandemic has badly hurt the country's economy, which largely depends on tourism.

In the Philippines, over 30 private companies signed an agreement to purchase 2.6 million shots, with a large part being donated to the government, per AP.

- The supply is expected to cover 1 million people in a population of about 108 million, according to the Bangkok Post. The Philippines has a total of 425,918 confirmed cases with 8,255 deaths.
- The country is seeking 20-50 million doses from China's Sinovac and Pfizer among others, and it's targeting about 60 million Filipinos to be vaccinated against the virus over about two years starting next year. (Courtesy axios.com)



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