

# **FRIDAYS WITH NICOLE SANDLER**

Fridays with Nicole.

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## **SMOKING GUN! FBI DIDN'T HAVE "SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE" TO PROSECUTE FIREARMS CRIMES AGAINST HUNTER BIDEN**

The Devlin Barrett story in October 2022 designed to pressure David Weiss to charge gun and tax crimes against, Hunter Biden claimed that investigators had sufficient evidence to charge the gun crimes. WaPo hasn't reported on the three months of investigative work done since actually charging to try to obtain sufficient evidence to prosecute the charges.

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## **CONFIRMED: DAVID WEISS ONLY GOT A GUN CRIME ICLOUD WARRANT 81 DAYS AFTER INDICTING**

# HUNTER BIDEN

David Weiss didn't obtain a warrant to search iCloud content seized from Hunter Biden for evidence of gun crimes until 81 days after he indicted Hunter for those gun crimes.

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## SAY HER NAME: THE STORY OF RUBY FREEMAN AND SHAYE MOSS' VINDICATION

In her statement after an enormous jury verdict yesterday, Shaye Moss described the stakes: "We hope no one ever has to fight so hard just to get your name back." Yet the heroism of that fight: of two Black women, Ruby Freeman and Moss, refusing to be bullied, wasn't the focus of the coverage.

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## LOL, RUDY TUDY IS MOLDY FRUITY

Rudy had his lawyer promise to the jury that Rudy would testify and explain the truth.

Nope, he not only failed to personally testify, he put on no defense at all.

Mothers, don't let your babies to ever grow up to be this stupid.

\$148 million. Wow.

You all should get ready to learn about:

1) additur and remittitur.

2) Supersedeas bonds.

This was absolutely a damning verdict, and there is no way for Rudy to hide from it. Nor Trump, who will blithely act like he never knew Rudy.

Fun times, but there is a LOT ahead. Stay tuned.

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## **GEORGE SANTOS' OTHER SHOE**

George Santos was superseded yesterday with ten more counts of campaign finance related crimes. But there's reason to believe there's still more to come.

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## **PROSECUTORS IN GEORGIA STILL ABUSING THEIR OVER BROAD RICO LAW**

Georgia now charging protestors with RICO. I warned that what has, and was, being done in Georgia as to RICO was dangerous. And this is just then tip of the iceberg coming because it will spread.

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# PROUD BOY DOMINIC PEZZOLA SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON, ETHAN NORDEAN GETS 18



Proud Boy Dominic Pezzola, who U.S. District Judge Tim Kelly described Friday as the “tip of the spear” that first let rioters flood into the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison. As he exited the courtroom, Pezzola shouted: “Trump won!” and pumped his fist in the air.

The remark came after his wife, daughter and mother delivered tear-soaked, highly emotional pleas to the court for mercy and less than an hour after Pezzola told the court: “There is no place in my future for groups or politics whatsoever.”

Pezzola faced trial for seditious conspiracy and a multitude of other charges connected to efforts with fellow Proud Boy co-defendants to forcibly stop the transfer of power. He was acquitted of the sedition charge but jurors that reviewed the case for a marathon four-month slog did find him guilty of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding. Pezzola was also found guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to prevent members of Congress and

federal law enforcement officers from discharging their duties, civil disorder, and destruction of government property.

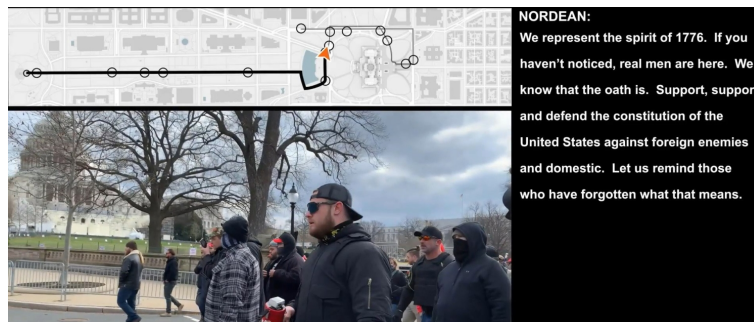
For the forcible taking of a police riot shield off a U.S. Capitol Police officer Pezzola was also found guilty of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers and robbery involving government property.

"You really were, in some ways, the tip of the spear that allowed people to end up getting into the Capitol," Kelly said.

The 10-year sentence fell well under what prosecutors initially sought: 20 years. Guidelines only recommended 17.5 to 22 years. Kelly did apply the terrorism enhancement on his offenses, but felt that it didn't apply to his conduct specifically and overstated it. Pezzola, the judge said, did not have intent to kill.

Proud Boy leader Ethan Nordean – who was convicted of seditious conspiracy – was sentenced to 18 years in prison by Judge Kelly on Friday afternoon. That is the same length of sentence that was given to former Oath Keeper founder Elmer Stewart Rhodes. Rhodes was also convicted of seditious conspiracy and several other charges.

When it was his time to make a statement, Nordean's voice was clear and loud. He did not appear to be overcome by emotion. He started out by telling Judge Kelly that he believed only two points about Jan. 6 really needed to be understood to grasp the gravity of that day.



**NORDEAN:**  
We represent the spirit of 1776. If you haven't noticed, real men are here. We know that the oath is. Support, support and defend the constitution of the United States against foreign enemies and domestic. Let us remind those who have forgotten what that means.

"We must conclude Jan. 6 was a complete and utter tragedy. How do we know this? It's best to

simplify this complex argument...All we need to show is two simple points: first, lots of people were seriously hurt and [next] some people lost their lives. We don't necessarily need to know about all the destruction that was caused, [or about those] not following commands of law enforcement or those who assaulted police officers," Nordean said.

"A lot of people went to [D.C. on] Jan. 6 with good intentions but passions accelerated and chaos ensued," Nordean also said Friday. "Even if we start out with good intentions, the end result is how we will be judged, as it should be."

Of his largest regrets around Jan. 6, Nordean told the court it was his lack of "leadership" on Jan. 6.

"I came to Jan. 6 as a leader. I came to keep people out of trouble and keep people safe," he said.

Later he added: "The truth is I did help lead a group of men back to the Capitol and I can see the government's point: I had ample opportunity to de-escalate and I chose to do nothing... There's no excuse for what I did... adding myself to an already chaotic and dangerous situation in the Capitol building was sorely irresponsible."

Pezzola and Nordean's co-defendants Joseph Biggs and Zachary Rehl were sentenced Thursday. Both Biggs and Rehl were convicted on the seditious conspiracy charge; Biggs received 17 years and Rehl was sentenced to 15 years. After Judge Kelly fell ill earlier in the week, Proud Boys leader Henry "Enrique" Tarrio's sentencing was pushed to Sept. 5. Prosecutors seek 33 years for Tarrio.

*If you want to read through the live-thread I've put together for emptywheel, check out the link here. An in-depth report encapsulating these historic sentences is coming.*

*NOTE: Emptywheel is again supporting Brandi Buchman's coverage of the Proud Boys hearings*

*live from the courthouse. Please consider making a donation to emptywheel as she continues her reporting through the final Proud Boys sentencing hearing for Henry "Enrique" Tarrio scheduled for Sept. 5.*

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## **TRUMP COURT HEARINGS FOR AUGUST 28, 2023**

There are two hearings today, one as to the DC case the other regarding the Fulton County case. Both go off at 10:00 am EST.

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## **TRUMP'S DC TRIAL STRATEGIES, HELSINKI, AND DUMB AND DUMBER**

From his 2018 presser in Helsinki to prepping for upcoming trials, there's a pattern to who Trump listens to: Trump lives by the words of Lloyd Christmas.