# Jury selection to start in Sean Combs sex trafficking trial in New York



The jury selection process is set to begin next week for the highly anticipated sex trafficking trial of rapper Sean Combs, also known as Diddy, in New York City. Combs, 55, faces multiple civil lawsuits alleging that he sexually abused several anonymous complainants over a period spanning from 1990 to 2023. The accusations include disturbing claims of gang-raping minors, some as young as 13, at high-profile events such as the MTV Video Music Awards’ afterparties and Combs’ infamous ‘White Party’ gatherings in New York.

The allegations extend to accusations of drugging women to facilitate sexual assaults. Among those implicated alongside Combs is fellow rapper Jay-Z, who, along with Combs, has vehemently denied all allegations. Combs’ legal team has dismissed the lawsuits as attempts to garner publicity and insisted that he "never sexually assaulted anyone."

The voir dire phase, during which potential jurors are questioned to ensure their suitability, will include a range of unconventional queries. Both the prosecution and defence teams have proposed questions touching on sensitive subjects such as jurors’ beliefs and prior experiences related to sexual activity with multiple partners, cheating, prostitution, drug use, and familiarity with the music industry’s culture.

According to court documents, the defence intends to ask whether prospective jurors believe "wealthy people get away with things that the less wealthy do not" and if hearing evidence about "people engaging in sexual relations with multiple sexual partners" would pose difficulty for them. The prosecution, on the other hand, plans to question jurors on their media consumption habits, including whether they watch police dramas like "Law and Order" and "CSI," and their past experiences related to sexual assault, harassment, or domestic violence training.

Federal attorneys have requested the jury be queried about their attitudes towards commercial sex work, sex trafficking, law enforcement, illegal drugs, and firearms. They also noted that evidence recovered from Combs’ personal electronic devices in Los Angeles and Miami, including cellphone records and iCloud data, will be presented. Jurors will be asked whether they have any beliefs or experiences that might affect their ability to fairly evaluate the legality of such searches.

The allegations against Combs first came to light following claims from his former girlfriend, Cassie Ventura, who accused him of rape and trafficking over a decade. Numerous lawsuits are filed anonymously; however, one high-profile suit filed by former producer Rodney Jones in February 2024 seeks $30 million in damages. Jones alleges that Combs was involved in an illegal racketeering enterprise encompassing drugs and the solicitation of minors and sex workers. While several of Jones’ allegations were dismissed earlier this year, some claims remain open.

Among the plaintiffs are 25 individuals who were minors at the time of the alleged abuse, including both males and females, many of whom report being drugged or offered hush money.

Combs’ trial is scheduled to begin on 5 May 2024 at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse in Manhattan. In his defence, Combs plans to call upon Dr Elie Aoun, a Columbia University professor and medical doctor, to testify that the rapper has a "mental condition bearing on the issue of guilt." The specific nature of this condition has been redacted from court filings but is expected to be disclosed during the proceedings.

The jury selection and trial have attracted significant public attention due to the high-profile nature of Combs’ career and the serious nature of the allegations, which span several decades and involve numerous accusers.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/diddys-claims-diminished-mental-capacity-take-center-stage-days-before-sex-trafficking-trial> - This article supports the claim that Diddy's trial, scheduled for May 5, involves allegations of sex trafficking and racketeering, and that his defense team is raising questions about his mental capacity. It also discusses a 'swingers' defense strategy and the challenges of identifying known figures involved in similar lifestyles.
2. <https://people.com/diddy-sex-trafficking-mental-capacity-motion-11723497> - This article corroborates the sex trafficking charges against Diddy and discusses the potential impact of his mental capacity on the trial. It also highlights the severity of the allegations, including the possibility of life imprisonment if convicted.
3. <https://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/diddys-claims-diminished-mental-capacity-take-center-stage-days-before-sex-trafficking-trial> - Further details on Diddy's trial preparation, including the employment of unconventional defense strategies like the 'swingers' defense, are discussed in this article.
4. <https://www.google.com/search?q=Diddy+sex+trafficking+trial> - This search provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing news and developments related to Diddy's sex trafficking trial, including reports on the upcoming jury selection process and the severe allegations against him.
5. <https://www.people.com/celebrity/cassie-ventura-sean-combs-rumor-history-5557785> - Although not directly addressing current allegations, this article mentions Cassie Ventura's past relationship with Sean Combs, which might be relevant to understanding earlier rape and trafficking claims.
6. <https://lawandcrime.com/crime/sean-diddy-combs-accused-of-racketeering-sex-trafficking-in-new-allegations/> - This article provides further details on the charges against Diddy, including racketeering and sex trafficking allegations. It covers the range of accusations and legal actions taken in the case.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14657567/diddy-juror-questions-sex-trafficking-trial.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data