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Former President Donald J. Trump was convicted on June 1, 2024, in a Manhattan court on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. The charges stem from payments made to porn star Stormy Daniels to cover up a sex scandal during his 2016 presidential campaign.

**Trial Details and Verdict**

After a five-year investigation and a seven-week trial, the jury found Trump guilty, making him the first U.S. president to be declared a felon. The trial, overseen by Judge Juan M. Merchan, featured 20 witnesses and extensive arguments from the Manhattan District Attorney’s office led by Alvin L. Bragg. Trump’s conviction is grounded in allegations that he falsified financial records to conceal violations of state election laws.

**Appeal Prospects**

Trump plans to appeal the conviction, counting on both public and political support to mitigate its impact. Legal experts, however, note significant challenges in overturning the verdict, given the strength of Judge Merchan's rulings and the scarcity of grounds for appeal. The appeal process could extend into 2026, with the potential involvement of state appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court, although success in the latter is deemed unlikely.

**Sentencing and Political Implications**

Judge Merchan has scheduled Trump’s sentencing for July 11, just ahead of the Republican National Convention. Sentencing options range from probation to up to four years in prison. Despite the conviction, Trump continues his campaign for the presidency, with significant financial contributions still flowing in. Current President Joe Biden has stated that the conviction does not preclude Trump from running for office, emphasizing the role of voters in determining Trump’s political future.

**Conclusion**

The case highlights significant legal and political dimensions, with potential long-term implications for U.S. election integrity and the judiciary's role in high-profile political matters. Trump's ongoing legal battles and the impending appellate journey mark a new chapter in his controversial political career.