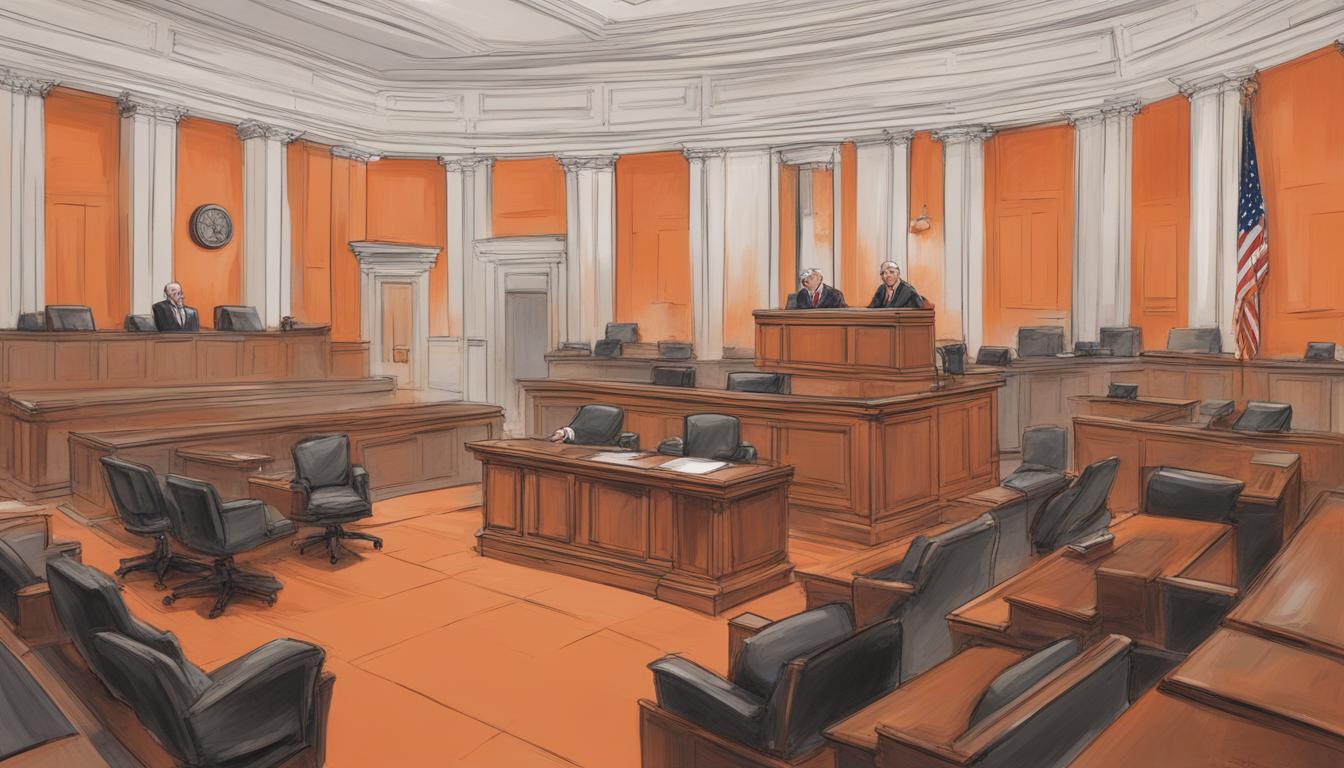
# Former President Donald Trump Faces Trial Over Hush Money Allegations at Manhattan Criminal Court



Former President Donald Trump is currently on trial at the Manhattan Criminal Court over allegations related to a hush money payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels before the 2016 presidential election. The trial, overseen by Judge Juan Merchan, has drawn several prominent Trump allies to the courthouse to show their support.

On May 13, 2024, Ohio Sen. JD Vance and Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville were present to support Trump and criticize Michael Cohen, the prosecution's key witness. House Speaker Mike Johnson, Florida Rep. Byron Donalds, Florida Rep. Cory Mills, and former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy are also expected to appear. North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, considered a potential vice-presidential pick, will be there as well.

Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer, testified that Trump directed him to pay Daniels $130,000 to prevent her from disclosing an alleged affair, which Trump feared would harm his 2016 campaign. Cohen used his own money for the payment and later served time in prison for related charges. Trump faces 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to hide the payout, to which he has pleaded not guilty.

The trial continues to unfold, with prosecutors nearing the end of their case. Daniels and Cohen have provided key testimonies, while Trump has engaged aggressively with the media outside the court, criticizing the proceedings.

This event has seen Trump gathering considerable support from his political network, seeking to bolster his position amid ongoing legal battles, including three other criminal cases. Trump’s supporters argue his rights are being unduly restricted by a gag order preventing him from discussing certain case details publicly.

The trial has significant political implications, with many Trump allies seeking to align themselves with him for potential future roles should he secure another presidential term.