# Former Trump Lawyer Michael Cohen Testifies in 'Hush Money' Trial



On May 14, 2024, Michael Cohen, the former lawyer and fixer for Donald Trump, testified in a Manhattan criminal court regarding payments made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels. This case, often referred to as the “hush money” trial, revolves around allegations that Donald Trump organized a payment of $130,000 to Daniels to prevent her from publicizing an alleged affair, which could have potentially influenced the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

Cohen’s testimony is central to the case, as he claims that the payment was made directly under Trump's direction to silence Daniels, especially after the release of the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape, which had already threatened Trump’s campaign by alienating female voters. The funds were arranged by Cohen, who later claimed he was reimbursed by Trump, marking this move as a key example of what the prosecution argues was a falsification of business records.

During his testimony, Cohen portrayed Trump as heavily involved in the decision-making process to keep his liaisons quiet during the run-up to the 2016 election. He also discussed interactions regarding how to manage the fallout from the "Access Hollywood" tape, including the decision to describe Trump's comments as "locker room talk," which he testified was suggested by Melania Trump.

Trump has denied having an affair with Daniels or directing Cohen to make the hush money payment for electoral benefits, suggesting instead that the payment was made to spare his family from embarrassment.

Cohen, a disbarred lawyer who has previously pleaded guilty to charges including tax fraud, bank fraud, and lying to Congress, faced scrutiny concerning his credibility given his criminal past and admitted lies. His testimony is expected to face rigorous cross-examination as the trial progresses.

This lawsuit is one of several legal battles facing Trump, highlighting broad allegations of financial and personal misconduct extending across his business and political life.