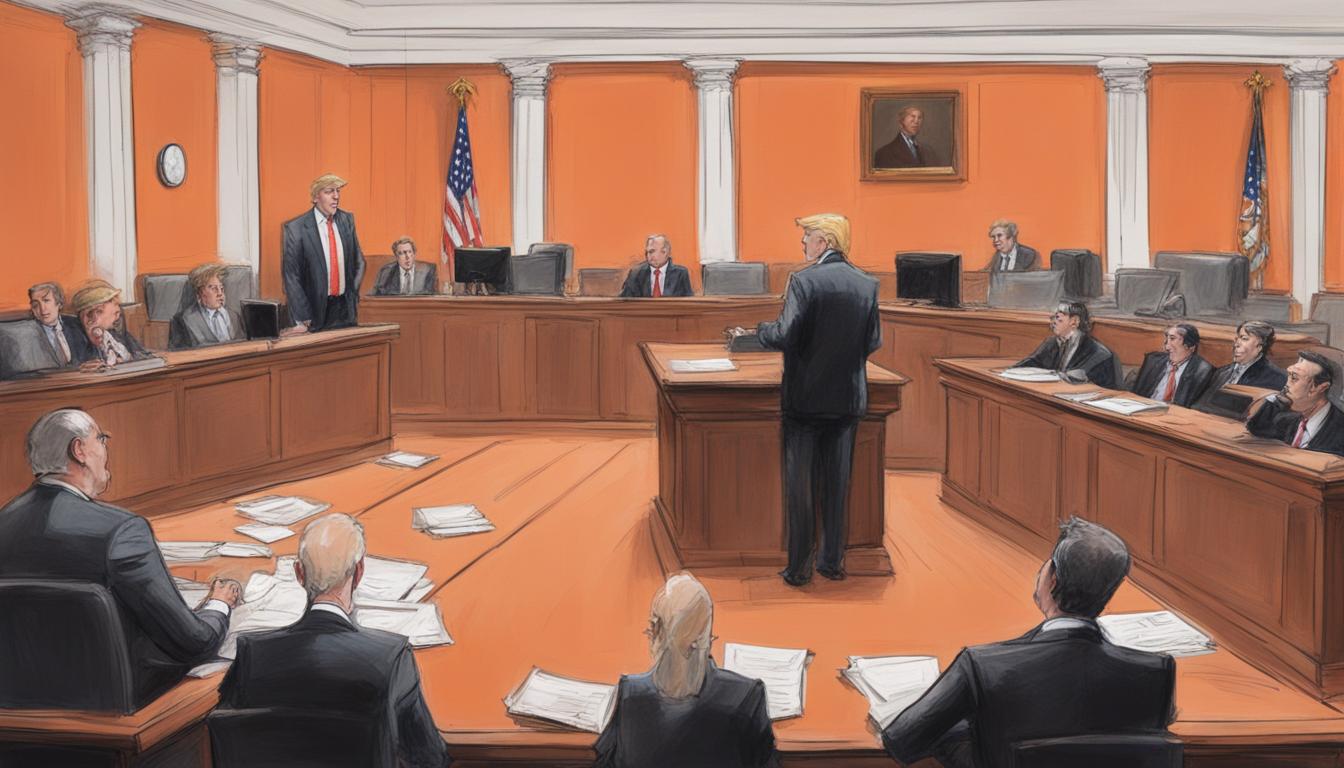
# Former Trump Attorney Michael Cohen Testifies in Hush-Money Trial



Michael Cohen, former attorney to Donald Trump, testified in court on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in Manhattan during Trump’s hush-money trial. Cohen faced intense cross-examination by Trump's defense attorney, Todd Blanche, who accused him of lying about a pivotal phone call in October 2016 related to a payment made to adult film star Stormy Daniels. Cohen maintained that he informed Trump about the $130,000 payment to secure Daniels' silence over an alleged affair.

Blanche challenged Cohen's credibility by highlighting his past instances of lying under oath and presenting audio from Cohen's podcast where Cohen wished imprisonment upon Trump. The defense argued the call with Trump actually concerned prank calls, not the hush money, questioning Cohen’s ability to recall specific details given the high volume of calls he received.

Cohen's testimony is crucial in linking Trump directly to the hush-money payments and alleged falsification of business records, for which Trump faces 34 felony counts. The court is preparing for closing arguments set to begin on Tuesday.