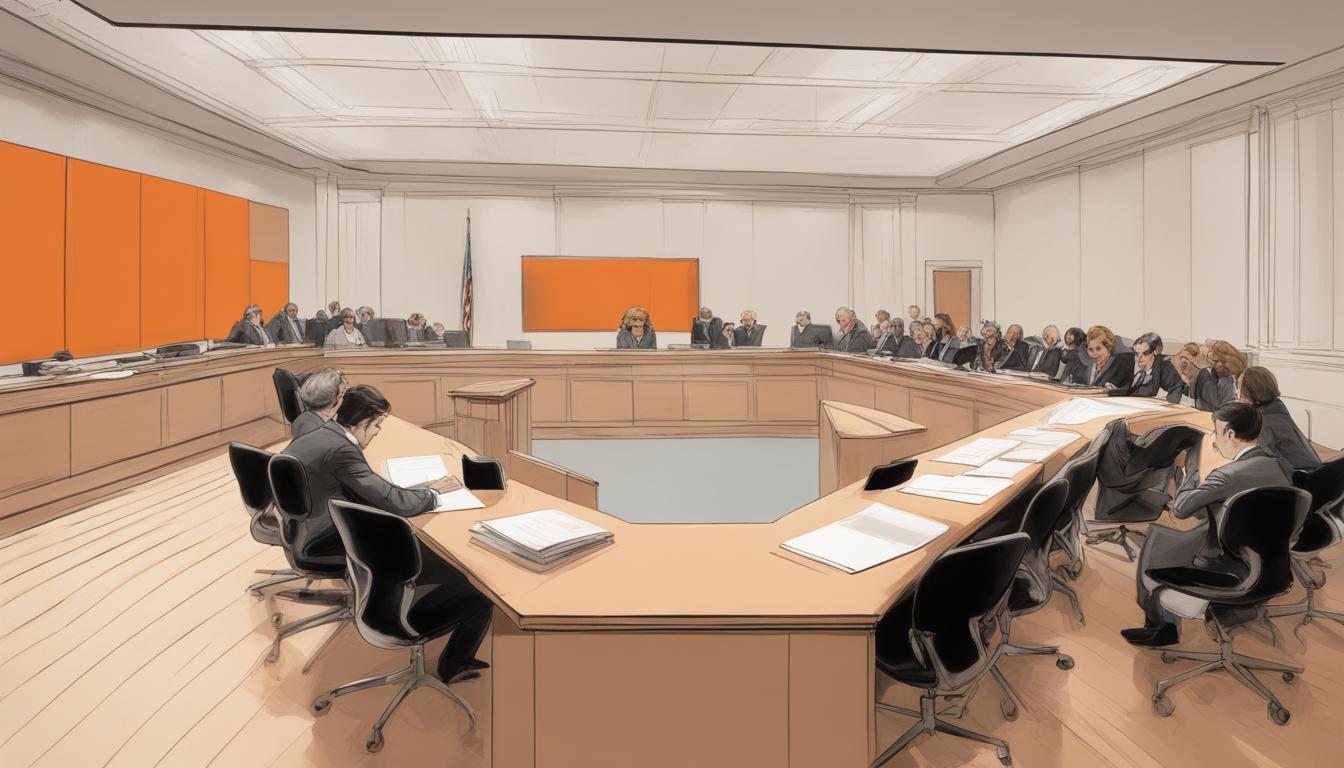
# Legal Battle Ensues Over Prince Harry's Confidential Visa Application Documents



The American government is currently engaged in a legal battle to keep certain documents related to Prince Harry's visa application confidential, arguing that making them public would attach a "stigma" to the Duke of Sussex. The details are contained in a 53-page court transcript which followed a February hearing where The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, pushed for the release of information, particularly concerning Prince Harry's answers about his drug use on his March 2020 visa application.

Lawyers for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have stressed that Prince Harry has a right to privacy, and the records in question include "confidential law enforcement tools and techniques." DHS attorney John Bardo stated that the documents are law enforcement records, which inherently carry a stigma. It is yet unclear what specific law enforcement records are involved.

This follows revelations in Prince Harry’s memoir, "Spare," where he admitted to using cocaine, psychedelic mushrooms, and marijuana. The Heritage Foundation argues that these admissions nullify any claim to privacy regarding his visa status. Judge Carl Nichols is currently reviewing the documents in private and is expected to render a decision within weeks on whether they should be released.

This case could impact Prince Harry's ability to renew his current visa and continue residing in the U.S. with his wife, Meghan Markle, and their two children. If the visa renewal is denied, he could face deportation, affecting the life they have built in Montecito, California. The case, initially brought to court in Washington, D.C., remains ongoing.