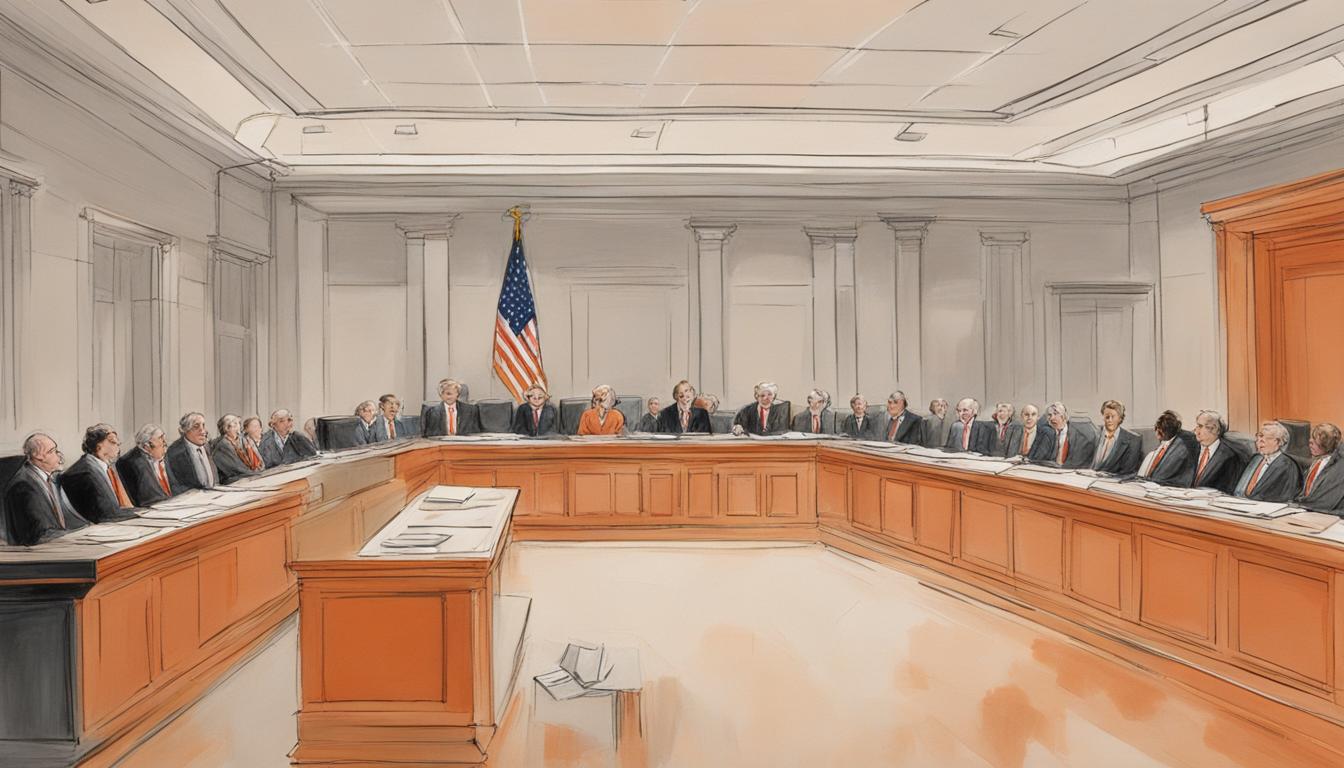
# Donald Trump's New York Hush Money Trial: Jury Deliberates on 34 Counts of Falsifying Business Records



Donald Trump’s New York hush money trial is now in the hands of the jury, a panel of twelve Manhattan residents. Following six weeks of testimony and 22 witnesses, the jury will decide on 34 counts of falsifying business records. The charges stem from a $130,000 payment made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election to keep her from revealing an alleged extramarital affair with Trump, which he denies.

Judge Juan Merchan instructed the jurors on the law, emphasizing that their verdict must be unanimous and that they should disregard potential punishments. Trump’s defense attorney, Todd Blanche, argued against the credibility of the prosecution's key witness, Michael Cohen, and suggested that the case lacked sufficient evidence to convict Trump. In contrast, Manhattan prosecutors framed the case as one of election interference, arguing that the hush money payment was intended to influence the outcome of the election.

Both sides made their final arguments on Tuesday, with the prosecution urging jurors to consider the detailed evidence presented and the defense highlighting Cohen’s past dishonesty. Jury deliberations began on Wednesday and are expected to continue until a unanimous decision is reached. If the jury cannot reach a consensus, a mistrial may be declared. The outcome could significantly impact Trump’s political future, especially as he seeks to return to the White House in the 2024 election.