# Jury Deliberates in Hush-Money Trial of Former U.S. President Donald Trump



On May 29, the jury in the hush-money trial of former U.S. President Donald Trump began deliberations at the Manhattan Criminal Court in New York. This trial marks the first criminal case against a former U.S. president. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office has charged Trump with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records related to a $130,000 payment made in 2016 to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels. It is alleged that Trump concealed the nature of reimbursement to his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, by misclassifying it as a legal expense.

The jury, directed by New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan, is tasked with determining whether Trump is guilty or not guilty based on the evidence presented. Merchan emphasized to jurors that their verdict must be independent of his conduct and instructed them on the legal standards to apply, including understanding terms like reasonable doubt and implicit bias. Both the prosecution and defense made extensive arguments, with prosecutor Joshua Steinglass accusing Trump of orchestrating a scheme to influence the 2016 election, while defense attorney Todd Blanche argued that the prosecution's evidence was insufficient.

If convicted, Trump faces a sentence ranging from probation to four years in prison. The jury's deliberations could extend into subsequent days if no immediate verdict is reached.