Subject: DOJ civil rights unit faces mass exodus

Date: 7/23/2025 11:45 AM

From: "The Afternoon Docket" < the daily docket @thomson reuters.com>

Global news you can trust. Download the Reuters App.





A newsletter by Reuters and Westlaw

By Sara Merken

### What's going on today?

- French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte <u>filed a defamation lawsuit</u> in the U.S. against right-wing influencer Candace Owens, centered on her claim that France's first lady is male.
- The United Nations' highest court told wealthy countries they must comply with their international commitments to curb pollution or risk having to pay compensation to nations hard hit by climate change.
- Missouri's Republican attorney general <u>filed a lawsuit</u> accusing **Planned Parenthood** of misleading women about the potential risks of using the abortion drug mifepristone.

# US Justice Dept civil rights unit faces mass exodus





REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque/File Photo

The **DOJ** office tasked with protecting peoples' civil rights <u>has lost 368 employees</u> since **President Trump** took office, in a mass exodus that has coincided with a dramatic policy shift away from its historical mission of protecting marginalized populations.

The staffing decrease at the **Civil Rights Division**, disclosed in a congressional memo from **U.S. Senator Peter Welch**, represents an unprecedented exodus of career officials who usually remain in their roles from administration to administration, regardless of political party. He said DOJ provided the figures to his office on July 15.

Prior to Trump's inauguration, the division employed more than 400 attorneys. Reuters could not determine how many of the departed 368 officials worked as attorneys, as opposed to other roles such as office support staff. Of those who left, 270 took the government's deferred retirement program while 98 resigned.

Welch, a Democrat from Vermont, released the figures ahead of a **Senate Judiciary** subcommittee hearing today where **Harmeet Dhillon**, Trump's <u>head of the Civil Rights Division</u>, will testify to Congress for the first time since her confirmation hearing in February.

Read more from Sarah N. Lynch.

## More top news

- US judge rejects bid to unseal Epstein grand jury transcripts from Florida probe
- · State Department investigating Harvard's participation in exchange visitor program
- Apple cites Supreme Court's birthright ruling in fight over Epic Games injunction
- <u>Law firm Clifford Chance reports 9% revenue gain, citing US, Middle East growth</u>
- US EPA to withdraw foundation of greenhouse gas rules, sources say
- Missouri accuses Planned Parenthood of downplaying abortion drug risks
- · US Republicans continue push to override California animal welfare law
- French president Macron sues influencer over claim France's first lady was born male
- Top UN court says treaties compel wealthy nations to curb global warming
- Apple and Google face more UK antitrust scrutiny over mobile ecosystems
- · Doctor pleads guilty to supplying ketamine to 'Friends' star Matthew Perry
- Trump ally Lindell wins appeal in lawsuit over \$5 million 2020 election contest

### Sponsored by: Fisher Investments



# How Long Does \$1 Million Last After 60?

Download "The Definitive Guide to Retirement Income" and learn seven ways to build your wealth.

Learn More

#### Career Tracker ...

In New York: Agnès Dunogué joined Freshfields as co-head of its U.S. securities and shareholder litigation practice from A&O Shearman ... O'Melveny added corporate partner Andra Troy from Latham ... Dechert hired private funds partners Arina Lekhel from Akin and Megha Kalbag from Milbank ... Corporate transactions partner Sarah Kaehler joined Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner from Golenbock Eiseman Assor Bell & Peskoe ... Paul Hastings picked up tax partner Sherry Xie from Kirkland ... Proskauer hired structured credit partner Lawrence Berkovich from A&O Shearman ... Seward & Kissel tapped litigation and investigations partner Randall Adams from Schulte ... Katten added tax partner Loren Lembo from Gibson Dunn.

In D.C.: Morrison Foerster added partner Chris Chamberlain, a former official at the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security ... Venable picked up government contracts partner Scott Sheffler from Feldesman Leifer ...Fried Frank hired Candice Wong, who is also a commissioner for the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

In London: Simpson Thacher added securitization and structured products partner Richard Hanson from Cadwalader ... Ranajoy Basu joined Squire Patton Boggs as global head of structured finance and head of the India practice from McDermott.

In San Francisco: Former Amazon lawyers Clay Marquez and Meghan McMeel jumped to Crowell as litigation partners ... Anthony Valenzuela joined Davis Wright Tremaine from OKX ... Akerman hired labor and employment partner Mel Cole from Seyfarth.

In Pittsburgh: Cozen O'Connor <u>added</u> employment litigation partner Marla Presley from Jackson Lewis ... Clark Hill <u>hired</u> corporate partner Jason Kreps from Cozen O'Connor.

In Chicago: Steptoe added Christian Auty from Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, where he was the U.S. lead of its global data privacy and security practice ... Paul Hastings <a href="https://linear.nicety.com/hired/">hired</a> structured finance partner Megan Roberts from Sidley.

Across other cities: Health care partner Devin Cohen joined Proskauer in Boston from Ropes & Gray ... Husch Blackwell hired former health care partners Robert Threlkeld and Elliott Coward as part of its virtual office, The Link, from Morris, Manning & Martin ... McDermott brought on private client partner David Pratt in Boca Raton from Proskauer ... Squire Patton Boggs picked up real estate partner Rick Flowers in Tampa from Burr & Forman ... Fennemore is combining with Denver-based construction law firm Galvanize Law in October ... Vikas Khanna, former acting U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, joined Sills Cummis in Newark as chair of its white-collar defense and investigations practice ... IP partner Benjamin Kelly rejoined Baker McKenzie in Dallas from Forrest Weldon ... Bradley added partner Allison Cook to its banking and financial services team in Atlanta from Arnall Golden Gregory ... Former Holland & Knight partner Richard Roper moved to Vartabedian Hester & Haynes in Fort Worth, Texas, to lead a new white-collar and investigations practice ... Pryor Cashman added corporate partner Kelly Siobhan Laffey from Stubbs Alderton & Markiles.

**New offices:** Orrick <u>hired</u> a trio of corporate partners from **Akerman** and opened an office in Miami ... **Eversheds Sutherland** <u>launched</u> an office in Silicon Valley with litigation partner **Bradford Newman** from **Baker McKenzie**, who joined as head of complex technology disputes.

## Exxon plastic waste suit faces first major hurdle



# Jenna Greene's

# On the Case

From empty water bottles to grocery bags, plastic waste is ubiquitous. The question for a federal judge in San Francisco now is whether **Exxon Mobil** can be held liable for such pollution, or if a novel suit claiming the company has created a public nuisance should be dismissed. During a hearing last week, **Chief U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg** pushed lawyers on both sides to lay out the parameters of nuisance law, while also hinting he might allow the case to move forward, **Jenna Greene** writes in **On the Case**.

### In other news ...

U.S.-funded contraceptives worth nearly \$10 million <u>are being sent to France</u> from Belgium to be incinerated, sources said ... **Delta**'s plans to use Al in ticket pricing <u>drew fire</u> from U.S. lawmakers ... **Microsoft**'s server hack <u>has now hit 400 victims</u>, researchers said ... Russia and Ukraine are set to <u>hold their first peace talks</u> in seven weeks ... Record heat in China <u>strained the power grid</u> and stirred health fears

#### **ADVERTISEMENT**

# 4 Ways to Avoid Running Out of Money During Retirement

If you have a \$1,000,000 portfolio, download the guide from Fisher Investments. Even if you have something else in place, this must-read guide includes research and analysis you can use right now. Don't miss it!

Learn More

FISHER INVESTMENTS®

### Contact

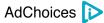
Sara Merken

sara.merken@thomsonreuters.com

@saramerken

Sponsors are not involved in the creation of newsletters or other Reuters news content. <u>Advertise in this newsletter or on Reuters' website</u>

Ads powered by **LiveIntent** 



The Afternoon Docket is sent 5 days a week. Think your friend or colleague should know about us? Forward this newsletter to them. They can also <u>sign up here</u>.

Want to stop receiving this email? Unsubscribe  $\underline{\text{here}}$ . To manage which newsletters you're signed up for, click  $\underline{\text{here}}$ .

This email includes limited tracking for Reuters to understand whether you've engaged with its contents. For more information on how we process your personal information and your rights, please see our <a href="Privacy Statement">Privacy Statement</a>.

### Terms & Conditions

© 2025 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved.

3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036





