

Con Law Education Project Newsletter

March 2, 2025

Unit I.

Introduction to Law, the Constitution, and the Supreme Court

Supreme Court Says Alabama's Exhaustion of State Processes Rule Unlawfully Blocked Due Process Claims

The Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's requirement to exhaust administrative processes before pursuing federal due process claims in state court unlawfully immunized state officials from claims for delays in unemployment insurance claims.

https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/supreme-court-says-alabama-s-exhaustion-5602683/?origin=CEG&utm_source=CEG&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CustomEmailDigest&utm_term=jds-article&utm_content=article-link

Chief justice pauses order for Trump to pay \$2 billion in foreign-aid funding

Chief Justice John Roberts on Wednesday night [temporarily froze an order](#) by a federal judge in Washington, D.C., that would have required the Trump administration to pay nearly \$2 billion in foreign-aid reimbursements for work that has already been done.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/02/chief-justice-pauses-order-for-trump-to-pay-2-billion-in-foreign-aid-funding/>

California Advances Fast-Food Wage Hike Proposal as Restaurant Owners Struggle to Hold On

California's Fast Food Council agreed this week to consider hiking the industry's hourly minimum wage by another 70 cents despite intense pushback from restaurant owners who say last year's massive wage increase is [devastating their businesses](#).

<https://www.nationalreview.com/news/california-advances-another-fast-food-hike-proposal-as-restaurant-owners-struggle-to-hold-on/>

The Court System (Topic 9 and 10)

Disney defends 'Moana' at trial, DoorDash settles tab over driver tips, Gulf of America

"See the line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me."

https://courthousenews.substack.com/p/disney-defends-moana-at-trial-doordash?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=1952310&post_id=158120724&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=5b4b0u&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Unit II.

Defining the Political System: Federalism and Checks & Balances

Trump to sign executive order making English the country's official language

In a marked break with tradition, President Trump is planning to sign an executive order that would make English the official language of the United States for the first time, according to White House officials, [the Wall Street Journal reported](https://www.wsj.com/news/us/politics/trump-to-sign-executive-order-making-english-the-official-language).

https://edsource.org/updates/trump-to-sign-executive-order-making-english-the-countrys-official-language?utm_source=EdSource&utm_campaign=ab42ac18ed-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_02_28_07_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a54dc0b8a6-ab42ac18ed-292001346

Farmers sue USDA after agency deletes climate change data

The lawsuit says the Agriculture Department is hindering farmers from using the data to make "agricultural decisions" while they also face a recent funding freeze.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/25/farmers-lawsuit-usda-trump-climate-change/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

'Unfit to hold the office of federal judge': Lawmaker moves to impeach judge who ordered Trump admin to restore public health websites

For the third time in two weeks, a federal judge has had articles of impeachment filed against him in the U.S. House of Representatives over temporary pauses imposed on [Trump administration](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/25/farmers-lawsuit-usda-trump-climate-change/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email) policies.

<https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/unfit-to-hold-the-office-of-federal-judge-lawmaker-moves-to-impeach-judge-who-ordered-trump-admin-to-restore-public-health-websites/>

Judge tells White House to stop ordering mass firings

A federal judge in Northern California yesterday ordered the White House Office of Personnel Management to temporarily stop mandating the mass firing of federal employees, calling it a presumptively "illegal" overreach. U.S. District Judge William Alsup also said OMP must inform about a dozen agencies that they do not have to follow its layoff directives.

https://theweek.com/edition/theweekus-morning-report-2025-02-28-113959?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=pushly&utm_campaign=US%20Digital%20Edition

Judge Rules Trump Can't Fire Head of Federal Watchdog Agency Without Cause

A federal judge said that the president's efforts to remove Hampton Dellinger, who leads the Office of Special Counsel, were unlawful. The agency protects whistle-blowers.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/01/us/politics/dellinger-trump-watchdog-judge-jackson.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Judge blocks Trump order threatening funding for institutions that offer care for transgender youth

Medicaid programs in some states cover gender-affirming care, and Trump's "Protecting Children" order suggests that practice could end.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/01/transgender-youth-lawsuit-block-00206867>

Court allows CIA to fire employees who worked on DEI

The judge lifted a prior short-term block he had placed on the firings of 19 intelligence community workers.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/27/cia-dei-firings-trump-administration-00206491>

Unit III.

The Political System: Voting and Campaigns

Under legal threat and public pressure, Gilroy moves toward district-based elections

Gilroy joins a growing number of Bay Area jurisdictions that have made the move

<https://ground.news/article/under-legal-threat-and-public-pressure-gilroy-moves-toward-district-based-elections>

Cuomo Jolts New York's Mayoral Race as His Challengers Attack

Former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo hits the campaign trail on Sunday. The other candidates will try to stop his momentum.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/02/nyregion/cuomo-mayor-women-nyc.html>

Vivek Ramaswamy running for Ohio governor. Wants to end income, property taxes

Ramaswamy, a Cincinnati native, gained national attention for his criticisms of "woke" politics and support for Donald Trump.

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/24/ramaswamy-launches-campaign-in-cincinnati-area/79100957007/>

Legislation and the Legislative Process (TOPIC 20)

[editor's note: this story is about a December bill that is just now being debated.]

Missouri bill putting a bounty on undocumented immigrants faces fierce resistance

'It is inhumane to say people should be hunted like a sport,' said Aura Velasquez, who has been a U.S. citizen for five years.

<https://missouriindependent.com/2025/01/28/missouri-bill-putting-a-bounty-on-undocumented-immigrants-faces-fierce-resistance/>

A historic look at bill introductions in the California Legislature

Over the past decade, the California Legislature, and its 120 legislators, introduce between 1,900 and 2,600 bills per year, each year of the 2-year legislative session, by the February introduction deadline. Fewer than 50 additional bills get introduced after the deadline (e.g., due to a rule waiver or a bill introduced by a committee, which are not subject to the introduction deadline).

<https://capitolweekly.net/a-historic-look-at-bill-introductions-in-the-california-legislature/>

Unit IV.

Criminal Law and Procedure (4th, 5th, 6th, & 8th Amendments)

Immigration raids rattled Kern County. Now, the ACLU is suing over alleged abuses.

The civil liberties organization on Wednesday filed the lawsuit in federal court, saying the operation unlawfully targeted “people of color who appeared to be farm workers or day laborers, regardless of their actual immigration status or individual circumstances.”

<https://calmatters.org/justice/2025/02/border-patrol-sued-over-kern-county-raids/>

Jury finds Illinois landlord guilty of murder, hate crime in 2023 attack on Palestinian American boy

Jurors deliberated less than 90 minutes over the crime that renewed fears of anti-Muslim discrimination in the Chicago area’s large and established Palestinian community.

<https://religionnews.com/2025/02/28/jury-finds-illinois-landlord-guilty-of-murder-hate-crime-in-2023-attack-on-palestinian-american-boy/>

Unit V.

1st Amendment (Speech, Religion, Press and Assembly)

Death Row Inmate Saved by Supreme Court

Richard Glossip was scheduled to die nine times after being convicted of murder. Now he could walk free.

https://www.thefp.com/p/death-row-inmate-richard-glossip-saved-by-supreme-court?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Judge Blocks Trump Policy Allowing ICE Operations in Some Houses of Worship

U.S. District Judge Theodore Chang ruled that the Trump administration’s policy might [infringe on religious freedoms](#) and should be suspended while a lawsuit challenging it is resolved.

<https://www.newsweek.com/judge-blocks-trump-policy-allowing-ice-operations-some-houses-worship-2035517>

Unit VI.

14th Amendment, Discrimination, Privacy, Working, Citizenship & Immigration

Bay Area teen rejected by 16 colleges, hired by Google files racial discrimination lawsuit

The father of a Palo Alto teen who garnered national attention for getting rejected by 16 colleges and hired by Google as a software engineer has filed a new lawsuit on Feb. 11 against the University of California and five UC campuses -- UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, UCSB and UC Davis -- as well as the U.S. Department of Education, for racial discrimination.

<https://abc7news.com/post/palo-alto-teen-rejected-16-colleges-hired-google-files-racial-discrimination-lawsuit-university-california/15933493/>

Forced Sterilization of Disabled People Isn't a Relic of the Past

In a majority of states, eugenics laws still let doctors sterilize disabled patients against their will.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/02/forced-sterilization-eugenics-scotus-state-laws/>

Dems tackle controversy over ethic studies curriculum

Just days after three major Jewish organizations [announced](#) that an Orange County school district had agreed to settle a lawsuit over controversial ethnic studies courses, 31 Democrats in the Assembly and State Senate introduced a bill they hope will prevent situations like that from happening again.

<https://capitolweekly.net/dems-tackle-controversy-over-ethic-studies-curriculum/>

International Law, Citizenship and Immigration (TOPIC 40-42)

U.S. Wins Backing for U.N. Resolution on Ukraine War That Doesn't Blame Russia

On third anniversary of invasion, Trump says he is talking to Moscow about economic development deal as Washington's posture in region shifts

<https://www.wsj.com/world/russia/trump-putin-us-russia-economic-deal-679a9d26?ref=readtangle.com>

Amid Trump crackdown, illegal border crossings plunge to levels not seen in decades

The number of migrants crossing the U.S. southern border illegally in President Trump's first full month in office plunged to a level not seen in at least 25 years, according to preliminary government data obtained by CBS News.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/illegal-crossings-plunge-to-levels-not-seen-in-decades-amid-trump-crackdown/>

Sources Used for this Week's Newsletter are:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/school_law/

<http://blogs.kqed.org>

<http://capitolweekly.net/>

<https://www.axios.com/>

<https://lawandcrime.com/>

The Hill

<https://www.propublica.org/>

[Verdict's Justia blogs](#)

<http://online.wsj.com>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/>

<http://rtumble.com/>

<http://swampland.time.com>

<http://theweek.com/>

[California Appellate Report](#)

<http://www.americanbar.org/>

<http://www.businessweek.com>

<http://www.caperb.com/>

[Courthouse News Service](#)

[Jurist](#)

<https://rollcall.com/>

<http://www.law.cornell.edu>

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<https://missouriindependent.com/>

