

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:03 a.m. [TEASE]

18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: On the Stand; Georgia DA Testifies]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Fiery testimony from the D.A. in the Georgia election interference case against Donald Trump. On the stand.

FANI WILLIS: These people belong on trial for trying to steal an election in 2020. I'm not on trial, no matter how hard you try to put me on trial.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Fani Willis testifies as she fights to stay on the case.

(...)

7:04:15 a.m.

3 minutes and 31 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Georgia DA in Trump Case Testifies; Fani Willis Grilled About Personal Relationship With Top Prosecutor]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to turn now to the testimony of Fani Willis, the D.A. in the Georgia election case against Donald Trump. At issue is whether she should be removed from the case over her relationship with a top prosecutor. She's expected back on the stand this morning. Steve Osunsami is in Atlanta. Good morning, Steve.

STEVE OSUNSAMI: Good morning to you, George. The Fulton County prosecutor continues her fight today against lawyers who want her removed from the election interference case. The question at the heart of this case is whether or not she financially profited from her romantic relationship with the lawyer she hired. She strongly said the answer is no.

WILLIS: What's highly offensive is when someone lies on you and it's highly offensive when they try to implicate that you slept with somebody the first day you met with them. [SCREEN WIPE] Don't be cute with me and then think that you're not going to get an answer.

OSUNSAMI: From the minute she took the witness stand —

WILLIS: It is a lie. It is a lie.

OSUNSAMI: — Fulton County Prosecutor Fani Willis was pushing back against any idea that her relationship with the special prosecutor she hired was a means to make money off of her prosecution of former President Donald Trump and 18 others charged in the Georgia election interference case.

WILLIS: You're confused. You think I'm on trial. These people are on trial for trying to steal an election in 2020. I'm not on trial no matter how hard you try to put me on trial.

OSUNSAMI: The attorney for one of the defendants wants her client's case thrown out and is asking the judge to remove Willis from the election interference case because of romantic getaways and cruises with the special prosecutor, Nathan Wade.

ASHLEIGH MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: He paid for the flight and the cruise on Royal Carribbean that time?

WILLIS: So, yes, he paid. [SCREEN WIPE] He tells me how much it is and I give him the money back. [SCREEN WIPE] If you tell me it's a G, you're gonna get \$1,000. If — whatever it is, I didn't ever make him produce receipts to me. Whatever he told me it was, I gave him the money back.

OSUNSAMI: Willis told the court that she paid Wade the money back, sometimes thousands of dollars, in cash.

MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: You gave him cash before you were going on a trip?

WILLIS: Mhmm.

MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: Okay. And so, when you got cash to pay him back for these trips, did you go to the ATM?

WILLIS: No, lady.

MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: So the cash that you would pay him, you wouldn't get it out of the bank?

WILLIS: I have money in my house. [SCREEN WIPE] Probably the most money I ever handed him is \$2,500. The least amount of money I've handled him? Probably between \$500 and \$1,000.

[SCREEN WIPE]

MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: You never wrote him a check?

WILLIS: Ma'am, I don't have checks.

MERCHANT [TO WILLIS]: I'm asking if you have proof that you paid him —

WILLIS: The proof is what I just told you.

OSUNSAMI: When Wade took the witness stand hours before her, he said she wouldn't let him pay for everything because she's an independent woman.

NATHAN WADE: It was a point of contention because she was very emphatic and adamant about this independent strong woman thing, so she managed — she'd pay her own way.

OSUNSAMI: One of the big arguments is over when Willis and Wade started dating. The two say it was months after she hired him, but Willis's former friend and employee, who said she was forced to resign, said the two had been romantic since 2019, a year before the election.

STEVE SADOW [TO YEARTIE]: Did you observe them do things that are common among people having a romantic relationship?

ROBIN YEARTIE: Yes.

SADOW [TO YEARTIE]: Such as? Can you give us an example?

YEARTIE: Hugging, kissing with affection.

OSUNSAMI: The judge isn't expected to immediately make a ruling, but if he removes her, the state could appoint a new prosecutor who would then decide if this case moves forward. But it would still be a tall order for Willis to be removed from this election interference case, George?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Steve. Thanks. That was just one of several legal developments involving Donald Trump yesterday.

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7:13:31 a.m.

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; Georgia DA Testifies in High-Stakes Hearing; What Will Impact Be on Trump Election Interference Case?]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Fani Willis. Does she survive?

DAN ABRAMS: Look, bad day for her personally. I think she may still survive the effort to disqualify.