

NBC's *Today*
02/16/24
7:00:33 a.m. [TEASE]
21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Courtroom Drama]

HODA KOTB: Courtroom drama. The prosecutor in Georgia's stolen election case against Donald Trump on the stand and facing tough questioning.

FANI WILLIS: You're confused. These people are on trial for trying to steal an election in 2020. I'm not on trial.

KOTB: One of the high-profile cases against the Republican front-runner now playing out in courtrooms across the country. We'll break it all down.

(...)

7:07:44 a.m.
7 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: It came amid fiery testimony from the district attorney in Georgia over a separate case concerning election interference.

(...)

7:08:23 a.m.
1 minute and 31 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Defiant D.A. Takes Stand in Trump Case]

LAURA JARRETT: But he may have found a strategic advantage in Georgia. A very different case, now hitting a major detour. This morning, more testimony expected in Fulton County, Georgia, after District Attorney Fani Willis unloaded on the stand Thursday —

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

JARRETT: — trying to defend her reputation and save her election interference case against the former President, as defense attorneys try to get her kicked off.

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.

JARRETT: Willis combative at times —

WILLIS: No, no. This is the truth.

JARRETT: — sparring with defense attorneys over when she began a relationship with top prosecutor Nathan Wade and whether it started before she tapped him to lead the Trump case.

WILLIS: In November of 2021, I hired him. I do not consider our relationship to have become romantic until early of 2022.

JARRETT: That timeline differing from the one offered by Willis's former friend testifying Thursday their relationship started years before.

ASHLEIGH MERCHANT [TO YEARTIE]: You have no doubt that their romantic relationship was in effect from 2019 until the last time you spoke with her?

ROBIN YEARTIE: No doubt.

JARRETT: At issue for the judge to resolve? Whether Willis benefitted financially from hiring wade as defense attorneys have highlighted the pairs vacations together —

WILLIS: I don't need anything from a man. A man is not a plan. A man is a companion.

JARRETT: — painting it as a conflict of interest in order upend the entire prosecution.

(...)

8:00:25 a.m. [TEASE]

6 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Court Clash]

KOTB: Then, court clash. The prosecutor in Georgia's stolen election case against Donald Trump on the stand facing tough questioning.

(...)

8:04:13 a.m.

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Defiant D.A. Takes Stand in Trump Case]

MELVIN: The Georgia district attorney in the election fraud case against Donald Trump is expected back on the witness stand where she was grilled yesterday about her relationship with the prosecutor.

(...)

8:04:34 a.m.
43 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Defiant D.A. Takes Stand in Trump Case]

JARRETT: Later this morning, more testimony expected in Fulton County, Georgia, after an explosive first day of District Attorney Fani Willis on the witness stand as she tries to maintain control of her election interference case against the former President. Willis sparring with defense attorneys who accuse her of benefitting from a personal relationship with the top prosecutor she tapped to lead the case against Trump.

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.

JARRETT: The stakes are high here. If the judge removes Willis from the case, her entire office would be disqualified and a different prosecutor could reshape charges Mr. Trump faces.