

Trump protective order hearing at deliberately inconvenient time

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The judge trying the January 6 [case](#) against Donald Trump scheduled a hearing on a proposed protective order. But she scheduled it at a time she knew one of Trump's lawyers couldn't attend.

The Trump protective order – negotiations fail

Judge Tanya Chutkan had ordered a response from Trump by Monday afternoon, after Special Counsel Jack Smith moved for a protective order. (See the [docket page](#).) Protective orders function to guard sensitive prosecution information from public eyes. But Smith insisted on protecting *everything* he would have to share with Trump's legal team as part of criminal discovery.

Despite the breakneck schedule, Trump's lawyers did [file a response](#) on time. Smith's team filed one almost immediately thereafter. The Trump team proposed a more limited protective order, recognizing some categories of legitimately sensitive information. Smith's team wouldn't budge, charging that Trump wanted to try his case in the media rather than in court.

Yesterday morning both parties filed a [joint notice](#) of availabilities for a hearing.

Judge Chutkan had couched her order to the two parties to confer as an order to inform the court “of two dates and times on or before August 11, 2023 when both parties are available for a hearing.” Evidently August 11 was not a deadline for the notice, but rather a deadline for the hearing. Trump’s team wanted a hearing next week, because lawyer Todd Blanche cannot attend this week. He is working the Documents Case before Judge Aileen Cannon in Fort Pearce, Florida.

The judge, apparently unmoved, scheduled the hearing for August 11 at 10:00 a.m. So only John Lauro will be able to attend. Trump himself need not appear.

Additional reportage came from *Newsmax* and *The Gateway Pundit*.

Background on the judge

An X user speculated that Trump and his team might be looking for exceptions to file, in preparation for an appeal.

No surprise – Judge Chutkan denies the hearing date(s) requested by Trump's lawyers.

Unclear whether both of Trump's lawyers can make it.

August 11 hearing date on the protective order. (Take a guess on whose protective order she'll favor...) <https://t.co/i0eq30GSmb> [pic.twitter.com/y3B8sfAW8M](https://t.co/y3B8sfAW8M)

— Techno Fog (@Techno_Fog) [August 8, 2023](#)

In reply another user shared information going to the bias of the judge. She once donated \$1500 to Obama’s Presidential campaign. That, apparently, was the going rate for a Federal judgeship.

Judge Chutkan donated \$1,500 to Obama’s campaign and in return she was then appointed by Obama. They are personal friends. Nothing about this is on the level. Her loyalty is strictly to Barack Obama and Joe Biden. <https://t.co/WP2Uouv8zX>

— JamieRJN (@JamieRJN) [August 8, 2023](#)

The Gateway Pundit has previously [reported](#), furthermore, that Tanya Chutkin once worked for Hunter Biden at a firm having ties to Burisma, the Ukrainian natural-gas company.