

***United States Court of Appeals***  
FIFTH CIRCUIT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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CLERK

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December 27, 2024

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No. 24-40792 Texas Top Cop Shop v. Garland  
USDC No. 4:24-CV-478

Dear Counsel,

In light of the court order of December 23, 2024, granting the motion to expedite the above captioned appeal, please adhere to the following expedited briefing schedule.

- Appellants' brief is due on 02/07/2025
- Appellees' brief is due on 02/21/2025
- Appellants' reply brief is due on 02/28/2025

The calendar information will issue at a later date. A copy of the court's printed calendar indicating the exact date and time of the hearing will be provided prior to the hearing date. Please adhere to the expedited briefing schedule without requesting extensions in order to ensure the availability of the briefs to the court prior to oral argument.

Record Excerpts: 5th Cir. R. 30.1.7(c) provides that the electronic PDF version of the record excerpts should contain pages representing the "tabs" identified in the index of the document. However, we remind attorneys that the actual paper copies of record excerpts filed with the court must contain actual physical tabs that extend beyond the edge of the document, to facilitate easy identification and review of tabbed documents.

Brief Covers: THE CASE CAPTION(S) ON BRIEF COVERS MUST BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE CASE CAPTION(S) ON THE ENCLOSED TITLE CAPTION SHEET(S). YOU WILL HAVE TO CORRECT ANY MODIFICATIONS YOU MAKE TO THE CAPTION(S) BEFORE WE SUBMIT YOUR BRIEF TO THE COURT.

Dismissal of Appeals: The clerk may dismiss appeals without notice if you do not file a brief on time, or otherwise fail to comply with the rules.

Appearance Form: If you have not electronically filed a "Form for Appearance of Counsel," you must do so within 14 days of this date. You must name each party you represent, See Fed. R. App. P. and 5th Cir. R. 12. The form is available from the Fifth Circuit's website, [www.ca5.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov).

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS: Direct access to the electronic record on appeal (EROA) for pending appeals will be enabled by the U S District Court on a per case basis. Counsel can expect to receive notice once access to the EROA is available. Counsel must be approved for electronic filing and must be listed in the case as attorney of record before access will be authorized. Instructions for accessing and downloading the EROA can be found on our website at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/docs/default-source/forms/instructions-for-electronic-record-download-feature-of-cm>. Additionally, a link to the instructions will be included in the notice you receive from the district court.

Sealed documents, except for the presentence investigation report in criminal appeals, will not be included in the EROA. Access to sealed documents will continue to be provided by the district court only upon the filing and granting of a motion to view same in this court.

### **Guidance Regarding Citations in Pleadings.**

5th Cir. R. 28.2.2 grants the Clerk the authority to create a standard format for citation to the electronic record on appeal. You must use the proper citation format when citing to the electronic record on appeal.

- A. In single record cases, use the short citation form, "ROA" followed by a period, followed by the page number. For example, "ROA.123."

- B. For multiple record cases, cite "ROA" followed by a period, followed by the Fifth Circuit appellate case number of the record referenced, followed by a period, followed by the page of the record. For example, "ROA.13-12345.123."
- C. Please note each individual citation must end using a termination of a period (.) or semicolon (;).

Brief Template: The clerk's office offers brief templates and the ability to check the brief for potential deficiencies prior to docketing to assist in the preparation of the brief. To access these options, log in to CM/ECF and from the Utilities menu, select 'Brief Template' (Counsel Only) or 'PDF Check Document'.

**Reminder as to Sealing Documents on Appeal:** Our court has a strong presumption of public access to our court's records, and the court scrutinizes any request by a party to seal pleadings, record excerpts, or other documents on our court docket. Counsel moving to seal matters must explain in particularity the necessity for sealing in our court. Counsel do not satisfy this burden by simply stating that the originating court sealed the matter, as the circumstances that justified sealing in the originating court may have changed or may not apply in an appellate proceeding. It is the obligation of counsel to justify a request to file under seal, just as it is their obligation to notify the court whenever sealing is no longer necessary. An unopposed motion to seal does not obviate a counsel's obligation to justify the motion to seal.

Sincerely,

LYLE W. CAYCE, Clerk



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shea E. Pertuit, Deputy Clerk  
504-310-7666

Enclosure(s)

cc w/encl:

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Mr. Gregg Sandler Weinberg  
Mr. John Marc Wheat  
Mr. Michael Ray Williams

Case No. 24-40792

Texas Top Cop Shop, Incorporated; Russell Straayer; Mustardseed Livestock, L.L.C.; Libertarian Party of Mississippi; National Federation of Independent Business, Incorporated; Data Comm for Business, Incorporated,

Plaintiffs - Appellees

v.

Merrick Garland, U.S. Attorney General; Treasury Department; Director FinCEN Andrea Gacki, Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury,

Defendants - Appellants