

Georgia Appeals Court removes Fani Willis from Trump Election case



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The Georgia Court of appeals ruled on Thursday that Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis must be removed from the 2020 election case involving President-elect Donald Trump. The case stems from charges against Trump and over a dozen of his allies, accused of attempting to overturn Georgia's 2020 election results. Trump has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The appeals court found that Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee made an error in not disqualifying Willis due to concerns about potential conflicts of interest. The majority of the court highlighted that Willis's involvement in the case could have compromised public trust in the legal proceedings. While the court ruled for Willis's disqualification, it did not dismiss the charges, instead referring the case to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council for reassignment to another prosecutor.

The controversy surrounding Willis grew after it was revealed she had a romantic relationship with Nathan Wade, a special prosecutor she hired in November 2021 to assist in the investigation into Trump's alleged efforts to overturn the election results. McAfee had previously ruled that Willis could remain on the case if Wade stepped aside, which he did. Trump and several co-defendants appealed McAfee's ruling, citing concerns over the conflict of interest. Willis and Wade both admitted to the relationship but denied any improper actions or influence on the investigation.

Though McAfee criticized Willis for a "tremendous lapse in judgment" regarding her actions, he did not conclusively determine when the relationship began. The appeals court, in its 2-1 ruling, concluded that disqualifying Willis was necessary to ensure the integrity of the case and restore public confidence in the legal process.

