

Court

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But the federal appeals court in New Orleans struck down the funding mechanism. The ruling would cause “profound disruption by calling into question virtually every action the CFPB has taken” since its creation, the Biden administration said in a court filing.

The same federal appeals court also produced the ruling that struck down a federal law that aims to keep guns away from people facing domestic violence restraining orders from having firearms.

The three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said its decision was compelled by the Supreme Court’s 2022 ruling expanding gun rights and directing judges to evaluate restrictions based on history and tradition. Judges also have invalidated other long-standing gun control laws.

The justices will hear the Texas case, in November, in what is their first chance to elaborate on the meaning of that decision in the earlier case, which has come to be known as Bruen.

The abortion case likely to be heard by the justices also would be the court’s first word on the topic since it reversed Roe v. Wade’s right to abortion. The new case stems from a ruling, also by the 5th Circuit, to limit the availability of mifepristone, a medication used in the most common method of abortion in the U.S.

The administration already won an order from the high court blocking the appellate ruling while the case con-



A big unknown for the new Supreme Court term, which begins Monday, is whether the justices will be asked to weigh in on any aspect of the criminal cases against former President Donald Trump and others or efforts in some states to keep the Republican off the 2024 presidential ballot. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY FILE

tinues. The justices could decide later in the fall to take up the mifepristone case this term.

The assortment of cases from the 5th Circuit could offer Chief Justice John Roberts more opportunities to forge alliances in major cases that cross ideological lines. In those cases, the conservative-dominated appeals court, which includes six Trump appointees, took aggressive legal positions, said Irv Gornstein, executive director of the Georgetown law school’s Supreme Court Institute.

“The 5th Circuit is ready to adopt the politically most conservative position on almost any issue, no matter how implau-

sible or how much defiling of precedent it takes,” Gornstein said.

The three Supreme Court justices appointed by Trump – Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh – have been together in the majority of the some of the biggest cases in the past two years, including on guns, abortion and ending affirmative action in college admissions.

But in some important cases last term, the court split in unusual ways. In the most notable of those, Kavanaugh joined with Roberts and the court’s three liberal justices to rule that Alabama had not done enough to reflect the political power of Black voters in its congression-

al redistricting.

Roberts, Kavanaugh, this time joined by Barrett, also were in the majority with the liberal justices in a case that rejected a conservative legal effort to cut out state courts from oversight of elections for Congress and president.

Those outcomes have yet to do much to ameliorate the court’s image in the public’s mind. The most recent Gallup Poll, released last week, found Americans’ approval of and trust in the court hovering near record lows.

It is not clear whether those numbers would improve if the court were to adopt a code of conduct.

Several justices have publicly recognized the ethics issues, spurred by a series of stories questioning some of their practices. Many of those stories focused on Justice Clarence Thomas and his failure to disclose travel and other financial ties with wealthy conservative donors, including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

Behind the scenes, the justices are talking about an ethics code, and Kavanaugh has said he is hopeful the court would soon take “concrete steps.”

Justice Elena Kagan, who backs a high court code of ethics, said in an appearance at the University of Notre Dame that her colleagues are trying to work through their differences.

“There are, you know, totally good-faith disagreements or concerns, if you will. There are some things to be worked out. I hope we can get them worked out,” Kagan said.

Martin

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was a public official, community leader, concerned citizen, a human/health service worker, and volunteer. She was always there willing to do whatever had to be done to keep things going.”

What did Lois D. Martin bring to Boca Raton?

Martin was an avid member of her community.

In addition to her career as an educator, from which she retired in 1988, she

served as secretary to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, vice chairman for the Housing Authority, vice chairman for the Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee, treasurer for the Martin Luther King Memorial Committee, a member of Boca Raton’s Historic Preservation Board and a contributor to Habitat for Humanity.

She also served as a Sunday school teacher and treasurer for the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The Lois Martin Community Center in Boca Raton, named in her honor, serves the underprivileged communities of the city and offers a variety of services for children and teens, including tutoring and after-school programs.

“Lois D. Martin’s legacy as an educator and community leader shines as a beacon of inspiration in the City of Boca Raton,” Mayor Scott Singer said. “Her unwavering commitment to fostering positive change has resonated deeply, particularly within the historic Pearl City neighborhood. In naming a street in her honor, we pay tribute to her life of advocacy and substantial contributions to our city and hope it will inspire generations to come.”

History of Pearl City

Pearl City, the community Martin championed, was founded in 1915 as a three-block neighborhood for blue-

collar African-American residents who worked at the Boca Raton Resort and similar establishments, on area farms and in construction nearby.

The neighborhood grew to the point of establishing its own churches, businesses and schooling during the time of segregation.

It’s Boca Raton’s oldest surviving neighborhood, earning a historic designation from the city in 2002.

Recently, Pearl City was approved by the state of Florida for historic designation on the National Register of Historical Places. It’s since been forwarded to Washington, D.C., for signatures and the Department of Interior for final approval, Boca Raton officials said.

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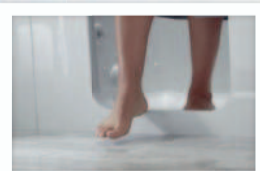
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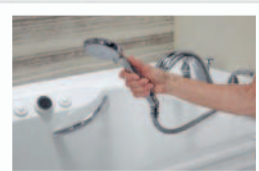
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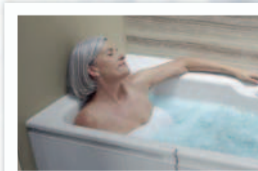
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