

U.S. Supreme Court in 2020 ruled non-unanimous verdicts were unconstitutional

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Attorneys and backers of an effort to make a ban on non-unanimous jury verdicts retroactive in New Orleans gather on the steps of the state Supreme Court building, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, after the court heard arguments. (AP Photo/Kevin McGill)

stitutional amendment prohibiting non-unanimous verdicts in trials for crimes committed after Jan. 1, 2019. The vote followed a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of stories in *The Advocate* analyzing the origins of the law and the racial disparities in verdicts.

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that non-unanimous verdicts were unconstitutional, broadening the effect of the state constitutional amendment.

But in 2021, the Supreme Court made clear that the decision against non-unanimous verdicts applied only to future cases and cases in which the defendants' appeals had not been exhausted.

The Reddick case is one of two arising from the ban on non-unanimous verdicts the court heard Tuesday.

The other involves Ronald Gasser, who was convicted of manslaughter by a non-unanimous jury. Gasser had originally been charged with the murder of New Orleans football star and former NFL player Joe McKnight.

His conviction was thrown out because of the non-unanimous verdict. The question before the high court Tuesday was whether prosecutors can try him again for murder. Gasser's defense attorneys say that amounts to double jeopardy and Jefferson Parish prosecutors must be limited to trying him for manslaughter. Gasser has pleaded not guilty, insisting he shot McKnight in self-defense.

Deion Sanders:

'NCAA, you have a problem'

by Khari Thompson | Mississippi Clarion Ledger

(SPORTS) - Deion Sanders has an issue with the way money earned under the NCAA's new name, image, and likeness rules is causing some athletes to act.

The Jackson State football coach tagged the NCAA in a Twitter post Wednesday with a one-minute video explaining his position on the subject.

"When you start paying athletes like they're professionals, you get athletes acting like they're professionals," Sanders said. "And you don't have staffs large enough and equipped enough to handle a young man with money. Let me go deeper. Handle a young man that's making more money than some of the coaches on staff."

The way Sanders wants the NCAA to deal with the issue is to add more football staff members.

"I suggest to you to allow college teams to hire more qualified men. Qualified. That can handle these young men that's getting this money," said Sanders.

Sanders said that smaller schools such as Jackson State can't compete with the amount of money Power 5 schools are paying.

"See, with the NIL, which really ain't NIL because it ain't no name, image, and likeness, it's just pay-per-view right now," Sanders said. "That's what they're doing at the big boys; little boys, we can't compete with that. But anyway, you've got a problem,"

Sanders said he brought attention to the issue because he's trying to help before the problem gets worse.

"I'm trying to help before it blows up in your face. Money Makes You More Of Who You Really Are. Now think about that for a minute," wrote Sanders on Twitter.

Senate approves Lisa Cook as first Black woman on Federal Reserve board of governors

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER | AP



FILE - Lisa Cook, nominee to be a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, speaks during the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, in Washington. On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the Senate confirmed economist Cook to serve on the Federal Reserve's board of governors, making her the first Black woman to do so in the institution's 108-year history. (Ken Cedeno/Pool Photo via AP, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmed economist Lisa Cook on Tuesday to serve on the Federal Reserve's board of governors, making her the first Black woman to do so in the institution's 108-year history.

Her approval was on a narrow, party-line vote of 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the decisive vote.

Senate Republicans argued that she is unqualified for the position, saying she doesn't have sufficient experience with interest rate policy. They also said her testimony before the Senate Banking Committee suggested she wasn't sufficiently committed to fighting inflation, which is running at four-decade highs.

Cook has a doctorate in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and has been a professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State since 2005. She was also a staff economist on the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2011 to 2012 and was an adviser to President Joe Biden's transition team on the Fed and bank regulatory policy.

Some of her most well-known research has focused on the impact of lynchings and racial violence on African-American innovation.

Cook is only the second of Biden's five nominees for the Fed to win Senate confirmation. His Fed choices have faced an unusual level of partisan opposition, given the Fed's history as an independent agency that seeks to remain above politics.

Some critics charge, however, that the Fed has

contributed to the increased scrutiny by addressing a broader range of issues in recent years, such as the role of climate change on financial stability and racial disparities in employment.

Biden called on the Senate early Tuesday to approve his nominees as the Fed seeks to combat inflation.

"I will never interfere with the Fed," Biden said. "The Fed should do its job and will do its job, I'm convinced."

Fed Chair Jerome Powell is currently serving in a temporary capacity after his term ended in February. He was approved by the Senate Banking Committee by a nearly unanimous vote in March.

Fed governor Lael Brainard was confirmed two weeks ago for the Fed's influential vice chair position by a 52-43 vote.

Philip Jefferson, a economics professor and dean at Davidson College in North Carolina, has also been nominated by Biden for a governor slot and was approved unanimously by the Finance Committee. He would be the fourth Black man to serve on the Fed's board.

Biden has also nominated Michael Barr, a former Treasury Department official, to be Fed's top banking regulator, after a previous choice, Sarah Bloom Raskin, faced opposition from West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin.

Cook, Jefferson, and Barr would join Brainard as Democratic appointees to the Fed. Yet most economists expect the Fed will continue on its path of steep rate hikes this year.

The attack on Dave Chappelle didn't constitute a felony, LA DA says

by MANDALIT DEL BARCO | npr



(LOS ANGELES) - The Los Angeles County district attorney has defended his decision to not file felony charges against the man who attacked comedian Dave Chappelle last week.

Isaiah Lee, 23, remains behind bars, accused of tackling the comedian onstage at the Hollywood Bowl. Lee pleaded not guilty to four misdemeanor charges filed by a different office, that of the city attorney. LA's District Attorney George Gascón told reporters on Tuesday that Lee's behavior wasn't consistent with a felony.

"Mr. Lee was not holding a weapon when he rushed Mr. Chappelle, and we can see that by the video and we also know that from the interviews with witnesses," Gascón said during a news conference Tuesday. "Security quickly separated the two men and Mr. Chappelle was not injured."

The LAPD said Lee had in his possession a replica gun with a retractable knife. The office even provided photos of the weapon. But Gascón says Lee wasn't holding it and the knife blade was always folded.

Police are still investigating a possible motive for the attack that happened as Chappelle was per-

forming during the Netflix *Is A Joke* festival. Audience members surreptitiously videotaped the incident with their cellphone cameras. Hollywood Bowl security guards chased the man backstage, and reportedly stamped on him before the police arrived.

Gascón's new statements come days after Chappelle's attorney Gabriel Colwell blasted the decision not to file felony charges for assault with a deadly weapon, for which Lee was originally booked.

"Mr. Chappelle wants this case charged as a felony," Colwell told *Rolling Stone*. "Ten thousand people saw Dave Chappelle assaulted on stage at the Hollywood Bowl last Tuesday night, and the assailant had a deadly weapon on him. The fact that this isn't charged as a felony case by the DA is insane."

The district attorney is facing a recall movement over his criminal justice reforms. This week, in addition to defending his decision about Lee, he announced plans to convene a roundtable to address security measures at concert venues. "We all have a right to feel safe when we're attending these events," Gascón said in a statement. "We will ensure that safety measures are taken to protect performers so that Los Angeles can continue to be a hub for music, comedy and other artistic performances in this country."

Lee was charged with misdemeanor battery, possession of a weapon with intent to assault, unauthorized access to the stage area during a performance and commission of an act that delays an event or interferes with a performer. This week, he appeared in court Tuesday for a bail review hearing, and is due back in court on May 20 for a pre-trial hearing; A judge ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from Chappelle, the Hollywood Bowl and any venue where the comedian performs if Lee is able to post the \$30,000 bail.