

Ghislaine Maxwell Trial: Opening Statements

Maxwell's trial begins as socialite faces 40-year sentence The jury has been picked Opening statements will follow jury selection

11:09

equalityClosed 29 nov. 2021

13m ago16:28

Thanks for joining us. Here are five **key takeaways** from Monday's opening statements at the trial of Ghislaine Maxwell:

- Prosecutor Lara Pomerantz said Maxwell "helped normalize abusive sexual conduct" at the hands of Jeffrey Epstein; she was his "best friend and right hand," involved in every detail of his life and serving as the "**lady of the house**" for his various properties.
- Epstein and Maxwell had a "**playbook**" for grooming young girls for him, learning about their "hopes and dreams" and gathering intimate details about their families in order to make them feel comfortable around him before abusing them, prosecutors said.
- Maxwell's attorneys said the case was about "**memory, manipulation and money**," arguing that the four alleged victims of Epstein have received multimillion-dollar payments from a settlement fund set up by his estate, and changed their stories throughout the years.
- Maxwell is "not Jeffrey Epstein" and is not like any of the other powerful men who have abused women, defense lawyer Bobbi C. Sternheim told jurors.
- The government "reached back almost a quarter of a century" and is

"looking through a rear-view mirror with 20/20 vision," Sternheim said.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

30m ago16:11

OUR MAIN STORY: Ghislaine Maxwell is a lot of things: an Oxford University graduate, a helicopter pilot, and a student of numerous languages. What she isn't is Jeffrey Epstein, her lawyer told a jury on Monday, write Bloomberg's Chris Dolmetsch and Mary Biekert.

More here:

[Ghislaine Maxwell Isn't Jeffrey Epstein, Defense Says at Trial](#)

[Andrew Dunn](#)TOPLive Editor

37m ago16:04

The defense has **finished** its opening statement.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

37m ago16:04

"You have the power to return a verdict of not guilty for Ghislaine Maxwell," Sternheim says in **closing**.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

39m ago16:02

"Their words have been untested and unchallenged," Sternheim says. "And for the first time, they are being **put to the test**."

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

39m ago16:02

Sternheim asks the jury to pay close attention to the four accusers:

"They have been impacted by lawyers, by media, by things they have read, things they have heard. And by money. Big Bucks."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

39m ago16:01

Sternheim:

"The government is trying to stitch together stories of four different people, four different stories to support a pattern. But the only pattern you will see here is the success of those four people getting big money awards from the Epstein fund."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

40m ago16:01

"Each accuser's story is **thin**. It lacks support," she says. "It's like taking paper cutouts and putting them together."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

41m ago16:00

Sternheim:

"What you will hear are stories that are based on words and words alone. There will not be the kind of corroboration, if any corroboration, to support the charges. There will not be substantive evidence to support the charges."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

42m ago15:59

Sternheim tells the jury that the **age of consent** will be critically important to this case and advises them to keep it in mind.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

44m ago15:57

She tells the jury that the government “will not establish without a **reasonable doubt**” any of the charges brought against Maxwell.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

44m ago15:57

Sternheim explains the counts against Maxwell to the jurors and how she believes they should **interpret them**.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

46m ago15:55

Carolyn received \$3.5 million from the **Epstein fund**, less approximately \$50,000 more from another lawsuit, Sternheim says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

47m ago15:54

“The evidence will also show that Carolyn also **groomed and trafficked** other people to Epstein,” Sternheim says. And after Epstein died and there was money to be had, her lawyer contacted the government.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

47m ago15:54

“Carolyn’s story changed dramatically,” Sternheim says. She was **interviewed in 2007 by the FBI** in connection with Epstein and never mentioned Maxwell, and never included her as a defendant in lawsuits she filed against Epstein and others, Sternheim says.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

47m ago15:54

Sternheim argues that Carolyn **never accused** Maxwell before now, even

throughout other lawsuits against Epstein.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

48m ago15:53

Note: Roberts also claims she is a victim of Epstein and has **spoken openly** about her experiences to the public and the press.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

49m ago15:52

The final accuser "has a **troubled past**, lived a dangerous lifestyle and was using drugs when she interacted with Epstein," Sternheim says.

She was introduced to Epstein by Virginia Roberts, Sternheim says, who was being paid by Epstein.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

50m ago15:51

The last victim-witness, Sternheim says, is Carolyn.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

51m ago15:50

Sternheim says she settled her claim with the **Epstein fund** for \$3.25 million and is now seeking a special **visa** to come to the U.S.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

51m ago15:50

But "when Epstein died, she **pointed the finger** at Ghislaine," Sternheim says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

51m ago15:50

Sternheim says that the third victim who will testify "eagerly" sent **pictures** of herself to Epstein while he was in jail in the early '00s and went to visit after his release.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

53m ago15:48

Sternheim says Annie **never saw Epstein** after meeting him in New Mexico, but now says she is a victim and speaking publicly.

"She will claim she is scarred by what happened there. But ask yourself: If it was so traumatic why she has kept for 25 years the boots Epstein purchased for her?"

Sternheim adds that Annie received \$1.5 million from Epstein's fund.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

55m ago15:45

"Whatever you hear Annie claim happened there, Annie did not believe that she was a victim," until **people convinced her** otherwise, Sternheim says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 6m ago15:35

This is **third sidebar** in defense opening statements.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

1h 7m ago15:34

"You will learn that she was above the **age of consent** in New Mexico," Sternheim says, drawing an **objection** from the government.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 8m ago15:33

Sternheim says that, at 16 years old, Annie went to Sante Fe, New Mexico, to meet Epstein.

"That is the only time she met Ghislaine, and nothing criminal happened there."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 9m ago15:32

Sternheim moves to how the jury should think about the **second victim** who will testify: Annie Farmer.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 10m ago15:31

"When money was on the line, she tagged Ghislaine. She got her application before the fund and she received **\$5 million**," Sternheim says.

"Examine critically" what she is going to say, Sternheim warns the jury.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 10m ago15:31

Sternheim:

"As her scripts and characters changed, so has the story you will hear."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 11m ago15:30

Sternheim says Jane never told these stories before:

"She is a consummate actress and is a pro at playing roles."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 11m ago15:30

Sternheim says that, after Epstein died and with a lawyer now by her side, Jane remembers "**all this horror**" and "places Ghislaine by her side."

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 12m ago15:29

Sternheim:

"Jane did take some flights on Epstein's dime and she went to New York and some other places as well. A month before Epstein's arrest in 2019, Jane did not want to be involved in any criminal case involving Epstein. But after Epstein died she changed her mind. When money was on the line she changed her mind. She hired a lawyer. She became a client, got in touch with the government and said she changed her mind."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

1h 12m ago15:28

"You will learn that Jane was in a beauty pageant," Sternheim says. She modeled, she sang, she **traveled nationally and internationally** from a young age.

"She attended auditions" and even had an agent in New York, Sternheim says.

But, Sternheim argues, nothing "amiss happened" when Jane and her family **visited Epstein** in Florida.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 14m ago15:27

Jane, Sternheim says, "was and is a talented musician and a singer from a musical family, and Epstein -- a **patron of the arts** and a supporter of young talent -- sponsored musicians and artists and actresses and others,

and he offered to become her benefactor."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

1h 15m ago15:26

She says that in the case of Jane, Epstein paid for her school and her vocal lessons. He paid, or at least co-signed, for a **Wall Street apartment** that she lived in with her mother and brother while she went to a prestigious school in New York.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 16m ago15:25

Sternheim pivots to explain what she says the jury will hear from **each witness**.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 16m ago15:25

Sternheim says the Epstein fund is administered by the same people who ran the **9/11 victims' fund**, but the two are different.

She says the claims made before the Epstein fund were **not contested** or put to jury to decide whether they were credible.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 17m ago15:23

Sternheim says that the witnesses who are testifying have "gotten money, a lot of money," from the **Epstein fund**.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 19m ago15:22

"The government has reached back almost a **quarter of a century**, and they are looking through a rear-view mirror with 20/20 vision," she says.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 21m ago15:20

They are still **discussing** the objection.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 25m ago15:16

Maxwell's sister appears to be **taking notes** on a yellow legal pad.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 28m ago15:13

The government has raised **another objection**, which the judge is discussing.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 29m ago15:12

Sternheim argues Epstein wasn't the only source of manipulation: "**Lawyers, media, money** have impacted the memories" that jurors will hear about.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 30m ago15:11

And his accusers have shaken the "**money tree**."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 30m ago15:11

"I said before Epstein was a **manipulator**," she continues, "but he was also a mysterious man without attachment. He had no wife. He had no children. And he had no boss. Yet he attracted all these rich and powerful people before and after his fall from grace back around 2008."

"In many regards, he was like a **21st-century James Bond**. His mystery has stirred interest."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 32m ago15:09

"There will be **no eye witnesses** to their accounts," Sternheim tells the jury. "There will not be documentation that is going to corroborate their testimony."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 32m ago15:09

Sternheim tells the jury that the amount of **time** that has elapsed, the many versions of the stories that have since been spun and the incentive for personal monetary gain will "impact **so-called memories**."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 34m ago15:07

The **memories** "may seem like they're personal truth, but, in fact, are not the truth," Sternheim tells the jury.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 34m ago15:07

"Memory, as you will hear, changes," Sternheim argues.

"You will heard expert testimony about how memory can be contaminated over time. How false memory can be created."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 35m ago15:06

"They don't have contemporaneous records. They **don't have notes** of the things they are going to say," she says. "Instead, they come before you

and tell their stories purely from memory."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 35m ago15:06

"I ask you to consider when you hear their testimony" the core point of **"memory, manipulation and money,"** Sternheim says.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 35m ago15:06

The victim witnesses are going to "tell stories that have changed over time and will over time," Sternheim says.

"Stories that they have told for the first time after Epstein died. Ghislaine has been inserted in those stories as they reframed their stories for a payday."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 37m ago15:04

Sternheim:

"They are not going to be able to pinpoint dates."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 37m ago15:04

"What you will see and hear center around four women. They are going to tell different stories," she says.

"And they are going to recount things the claimed happened to them decades and decades ago."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 39m ago15:02

Epstein's jets were like commuter planes, serving as a sort of "Hampton Jitney" for the air, Sternheim says.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 40m ago15:01

Maxwell "had the time consuming task of developing and administering" **Epstein's real estate portfolio**, Sternheim says.

"They were luxurious. They were vacation spots. And like many New Yorkers, Epstein wintered and spent weekends at Palm Beach."

"You will hear that Ghislaine visited those properties with and without Epstein," she says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 40m ago15:00

Sternehim:

"Privileged background, comfortable lifestyle status -- they may be things that are easily checked as the wrong box, but they are not crimes and nor should they factor negatively into your consideration of the evidence."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 42m ago14:59

Sternheim reminds the jurors that they promised Nathan they would not be biased against those who were wealthy and lived **luxurious lifestyles**.

"And your word is your bond," she says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 43m ago14:58

"The evidence is going to show many exceptional things about Ghislaine Maxwell. Well-educated, well-traveled. A graduate of Oxford," Sternheim says.

"She can pilot a helicopter. She speaks numerous languages."

The attorney adds:

"She is being pegged as the rich girl. The socialite."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 44m ago14:57

Four women will come into this courtroom and they will **point a finger** at Ghislaine Maxwell, Sternheim continues. But what they say and the evidence that you will see are not going to support these charges beyond a **reasonable doubt**, she says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 45m ago14:56

Sternheim is back at the lectern.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 45m ago14:55

Maxwell whispers with attorney Christian Everdell as Nathan speaks with the other lawyers.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 46m ago14:55

Two more objections have been raised by the government. Judge Nathan is now speaking with counsel.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 46m ago14:55

"She is **filling that hole** and filling an empty chair," Sternheim says. "She is a brand name, she is a lightning rod, she is a **convenient stand-in** for the man who cannot be here."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

1h 47m ago14:54

Prosecutors **object** to Sternheim calling Maxwell a scapegoat.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 47m ago14:54

"She is a **target**" for women who were, or "believe they were, victimized by Epstein."

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 48m ago14:53

Sternheim says Maxwell is a "**scapegoat.**"

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 48m ago14:53

Sternheim talks about Epstein's **victim compensation fund**. She explains that the fund did not challenge accusers, did not check facts and did not ask questions.

"Each accuser" who will testify here "received **millions of dollars,**" Sternheim says.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 48m ago14:52

"Yes, Jeffrey Epstein manipulated the world around him and the people around him," Sternheim says.

"He compartmentalized his life, only showing what he wanted to show to the people around him."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

1h 49m ago14:52

"As we all know, **memories fade** over time," Sternheim says. "Not only that memories have faded, but they have been contaminated."

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 49m ago14:51

Sternheim:

"As you will see, the accusations that you will hear from the mouths of four accusers -- not like the hundreds that the government suggested you would hear from -- you will hear from them and they will recount from their memories, memories of a quarter century ago. Memories that have been corrupted by things that have happened throughout the years. Manipulated by a narcissistic man and self interested civil lawyers and a desire for a big jackpot of money."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

1h 50m ago14:51

"You will hear from the accuser," she says. "And they will recount their memories."

"Memories manipulated from a **narcissistic man**," and "a desire for a big jackpot of money," she says.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

1h 52m ago14:49

Sternheim:

"This case is about memory, manipulation and money."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 52m ago14:49

The evidence will show the government **will not be able to prove** that Maxwell committed the crimes she is charged with, Sternheim says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 54m ago14:47

Maxwell's attorney **Bobbi C. Sternheim** is up now.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 55m ago14:46

Pomerantz has **finished** her opening statement.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 55m ago14:46

"The defendant and Epstein were dangerous predators who sexually exploited and abused" children "**for a decade**," Pomerantz says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 55m ago14:45

Pomerantz:

"All of this evidence will prove to you that the defendant conspired with Jeffrey Epstein to entice young teenage girls to be sexually abused."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

1h 56m ago14:45

Pomerantz:

“They were exploiting kids. They were trafficking kids for sex.”

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 56m ago14:45

Jurors will see records showing Epstein **sent a gift** to one victim when she was 15, Pomerantz says.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 57m ago14:44

They will see **flight logs** of Epstein’s private planes, “confirming that Epstein and the defendant” flew with minors.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 57m ago14:44

Pomerantz says the jury will see **evidence** of Epstein’s massage rooms, which were decked with nude photographs of women.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 57m ago14:44

They will see **records** showing that Epstein and Maxwell were at the arts camp where they first met Jane.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 57m ago14:43

Witnesses will also include law enforcement, including those who **searched Epstein’s homes** in Florida and New York.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

1h 58m ago14:43

Pomerantz said the jury will also hear from **family members** of the

victims. They will hear from Epstein's **staff**. They will hear from **pilots**. They will hear from employees who worked for Epstein.

The jury will hear about "the rules the defendant imposed on staff," she says. Rules to ensure a "culture of silence."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 59m ago14:42

"It will be obvious to you at this trial that these witnesses would pay anything for this to **not have happened** to them," Pomerantz says, explaining that they will hear about Epstein's **victims' fund** from the defense.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

1h 60m ago14:41

Pomerantz continues:

"Experiences they couldn't talk about for years. Experiences that forever changed their lives. Experiences that scarred them."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h ago14:41

"These witnesses will be testifying about some of the most **painful and private** experiences of their childhood," she says. "Experiences they couldn't talk about for years."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 1m ago14:40

Jane herself will **take the stand** and describe how Maxwell and Epstein abused her, Pomerantz says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 1m ago14:40

Pomerantz explains how the government will **prove** these counts are true.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 1m ago14:40

Pomerantz turns to explaining the **counts against Maxwell** to the jury.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 3m ago14:38

Pomerantz:

"Under this pyramid scheme of abuse, the defendant could just call girls to schedule massage appointments and just hand them cash afterwards."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 3m ago14:38

Maxwell is **watching** Pomerantz directly.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 3m ago14:38

Pomerantz:

"Those girls were not professional masseuses. They were kids being sexually exploited and abused."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 4m ago14:37

"They encouraged girls to bring other girls," Pomerantz says, explaining Epstein and Maxwell's alleged **predatory patterns**.

"And when a girl brought someone new, they were rewarded with cash."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 4m ago14:37

Maxwell, meanwhile, is **passing notes** to someone sitting on the side of the courtroom. She appears calm and is looking down.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 5m ago14:36

"You will learn that they used these **so-called massages** as a way to sexually abuse the victims," Pomerantz said.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 5m ago14:36

"You will learn how their sexual abuse evolved over a **decade**," Pomerantz says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 5m ago14:36

"You will also learn about a 17-year-old girl," Pomerantz says, whom Maxwell spotted in a parking lot before telling her driver to pull over, to approach and **recruit** her.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 6m ago14:35

"You will learn about a 16-year-old girl, who traveled to Epstein's ranch in New Mexico, who found herself alone with Maxwell and Epstein," Pomerantz says. Once she got the girl alone, Pomerantz says, **Maxwell took steps** to prepare her to be abused by Epstein.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 7m ago14:34

Pomerantz:

"You will learn about multiple girls who were targeted by Epstein and the defendant for sexual abuse."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 7m ago14:33

Pomerantz says Epstein and Maxwell encouraged Jane to travel with Epstein to New York, where he also abused her.

But she **wasn't the only one**, Pomerantz says.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 8m ago14:33

Pomerantz says Jane stayed in Epstein's **Manhattan townhouse**, where she was also abused.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 8m ago14:32

"These horrifying massages **occurred frequently**. It continued for years," Pomerantz says. "When Jane was 15. When Jane was 16.

"And the abuse was not limited to Palm Beach, Florida."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 10m ago14:31

Epstein regularly gave Jane **hundreds of dollars**, knowing that she needed the money,

"But that wasn't all that happened during those visits," Pomerantz says.

"Epstein started sexually abusing Jane," at times when Maxwell was in the

room. "Making it feel **normal**."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 11m ago14:30

Pomerantz:

"They pretended to be Jane's friend. They took her to the movies and on shopping trips."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 11m ago14:30

Pomerantz returns to the story of Jane, explaining the first time Jane visited Epstein's house in Palm Beach, Florida, when she was **just 14**.

Epstein was in his early 40s; Maxwell in her early 30s.

"They were each more than double her age, yet they were befriending a child."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 13m ago14:28

"Make no mistake: She knew exactly what Epstein was going to do to those children when she sent them inside those massage rooms," Pomerantz says.

"She knew exactly what was going to happen. The defendant was essential to this scheme. As an adult woman, she was able to provide a cover of respectability for Mr. Epstein that enabled her to draw these young girls and their families into a sense of security."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 13m ago14:27

"So the defendant could stay in the lifestyle in which she was accustomed," Pomerantz adds.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 14m ago14:27

Pomerantz argues that Epstein and Maxwell lured their victims with a promise of a bright future only to sexually abuse them. Meanwhile, as this was happening, Maxwell was living a **luxurious life**.

| "These girls were a means to support her lifestyle."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 15m ago14:26

Pomerantz:

| "Sometimes she was in the room for those massages herself."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 15m ago14:25

The prosecutor offers **graphic details** of how Epstein abused the girls.

"The defendant helped Epstein find those girls, she helped him **recruit** those girls for so-called massages," she says. "She manipulated the girls, groomed them for abuse."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 17m ago14:24

"Epstein brought girls into his massage rooms **every single day**," Pomerantz says.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 17m ago14:24

Pomerantz explains what Epstein's rooms looked like: filled with photographs of naked women.

"But what was happening in those massage rooms was not massage. It was sexual abuse."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 18m ago14:23

Pomerantz said a "massage" was **a ruse** to get the girls to touch Epstein and to allow Epstein to touch the girls.

"These are the crimes the defendant and Epstein committed."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 18m ago14:23

Pomerantz explains that the cover of "**massaging**" Epstein was Maxwell's way of starting the abuse.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 18m ago14:22

"They were wealthy and influential people who used that cover to make the girls and their parents feel comfortable and safe," Pomerantz says.

"But what came next was anything but safe. The next stage involved getting the girls comfortable with sexual contact involving Epstein."

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 19m ago14:22

"They figured out what the girls dreamed of being when they grew up and promised to help," Pomerantz says.

"They made these girls feel seen. They made them feel special. But

that was a cover."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 20m ago14:21

"The defendant and Epstein promised these girls the world," Pomerantz says.

"The defendant and Epstein were wealthy and powerful and well-connected, and they flaunted it."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 20m ago14:21

Pomerantz:

"The defendant and Epstein were **partners in crime**. They had a playbook. First, they got access to young girls. Then they gained their trust. They learned about each girl's hopes and dreams. They learned about each girl's family."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 21m ago14:20

"Starting in the 1990s, the defendant was in a personal relationship with Epstein," Pomerantz says. "When that relationship ended, they remained, in the defendant's words, the best of friends."

"She was involved in every detail of Epstein's life. During the 10 years, they committed these crimes together. She was the lady of the house."

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 22m ago14:19

"Maxwell was **Epstein's best friend and right hand**," Pomerantz says. "Epstein was a multimillionaire connected to famous and powerful

people."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

2h 22m ago14:18

Pomerantz:

"The defendant walked the girls into a room where she knew that man would molest them, and there were times she was in the room when it happened, making it all feel normal and casual. That is why we are here today."

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

2h 23m ago14:17

"Between 1994 and 2004 the defendant sexually exploited young girls. She preyed on vulnerable young girls, manipulated them and served them up to be sexually abused," Pomerantz says.

"The defendant was trafficking kids for sex."

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

2h 24m ago14:17

Pomerantz opens with a story of a girl named **Jane**, who was at a camp for talented young kids.

"She turned 14 years old that summer. She was sitting at a picnic table for kids when a man and woman walked by. The man introduced himself as someone who gave scholarships for kids.

"They asked Jane for her phone number. What Jane didn't know then was that this meeting at summer camp was the beginning of a nightmare that would last for years."

She adds:

"This meeting was the beginning of that man and woman targeting Jane for sexual abuse that would last for years."

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 29m ago14:12

Pomerantz is starting her **opening statement**.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 31m ago14:10

Maxwell is looking on at her jury.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 32m ago14:09

The **jury** is entering the courtroom for opening statements.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

2h 34m ago14:07

Maxwell and her attorney **Christian Everdell**, who is sitting next to her in the courtroom, whisper to each other before prosecutor Pomerantz begins her opening statement.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 38m ago14:03

Court is back in session and prosecutor Lara Pomerantz is readying to make her **opening statement**.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

2h 40m ago14:01

Maxwell's brother, Ian Maxwell, isn't here but **Leah Saffian**, a lawyer who has represented Maxwell in the past, is also sitting with her sister.

Maxwell's brothers and sisters last week [petitioned](#) the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention about her conditions in jail, saying her rights are being violated.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 43m ago13:58

FIRST WITNESS: One of Jeffrey Epstein's former private pilots will be one of the government's first witnesses against Ghislaine Maxwell, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

More here:

[Epstein Pilot to Be One of the First Witnesses Against Maxwell](#)

[Andrew Dunn](#)[TOPLive Editor](#)

2h 43m ago13:57

Damian Williams, the newly sworn-in U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, has arrived in the courtroom for opening arguments.

Read More:

Wall Street Enforcer Who Nabbed Visium Fraudster Takes Top Job

[Tina Davis](#)[Executive Editor Legal](#)

2h 44m ago13:57

While we know that **Maxwell's sister** is attendance today, courtroom watchers will be trying to figure out if another family member is watching the trial: **Maxwell's husband**.

Her husband's identity has been kept a secret so far, even as he (along with several of her friends and relatives) pledged \$22.5 million in assets in an attempt to get her out of jail ahead of the trial.

At one point, Maxwell said she and her husband were **discussing divorce** as a way to shield him from "the terrible consequences of being

associated with her."

Read More:

Maxwell Says She and Spouse Pledge All Their Assets for Bail

[Tina Davis](#)[Executive Editor Legal](#)

2h 52m ago13:49

Attorneys are **filtering back** into the courtroom now.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

2h 59m ago13:42

The courthouse today has been **mostly swarming** with press and a few members of the public. Press and public have been dispersed into several **overflow rooms** over many floors throughout the building.

[Mary Biekert](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

3h 4m ago13:37

JURY PROFILE: Ghislaine Maxwell once inhabited an exclusive world of Upper East Side townhouses and private Caribbean islands, but her fate will be decided by a jury that includes a home health aide and four public-sector workers, write Bloomberg's Mary Biekert and Patricia Hurtado.

Two of the jurors work in the financial industry, with one 61-year-old woman identifying herself as a trader's assistant for a bank and a 35-year-old man saying he's an executive assistant at a financial firm.

More on the panel here:

[Maxwell's Fate in Hands of Home Health Aide, City Worker](#)

[Andrew Dunn](#)[TOPLive Editor](#)

3h 11m ago13:30

We are on a **lunch break** until 1:45 p.m.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

3h 25m ago13:16

Avoiding social media won't be a problem for Juror 50, a 35-year-old man who said he deleted his social media accounts "last week" after a breakup.

Sad for him, but great timing.

[Katia Porzecanski](#)Team Leader - Legal

3h 34m ago13:07

"It is your duty not to discuss this case with anyone," Nathan tells the jurors. "And this includes members of your own **family and friends.**"

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

3h 35m ago13:06

Jurors are being advised to **avoid all social media** and not to talk to anyone about the case.

"I know, in this day and age, this is a temptation," the judge says, "but all you need to know will be presented in this courtroom at trial."

The jury is told report any **improper communication** attempts by outsiders to the court and her staff.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

3h 38m ago13:03

"This case has received significant attention in the media," Nathan says.

Some of the witnesses will be known by a **pseudonym or only a first name** to protect them because of the nature of the charges, she says.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 40m ago13:01

"You are to decide this case **solely on the evidence** provided in the courtroom," Nathan tells the jury -- *not* on what the panelists hear outside the courtroom.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 42m ago12:59

The judge tells jurors what their job will be. While she issues rulings on the law, Nathan says, "you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, are the **triers of fact.**"

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 47m ago12:54

The courtroom deputy is now **swearing in** the jury.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 47m ago12:54

For the first time since the court conducted individual questioning of potential jurors, **Maxwell gets to see the jury** that will hear her case.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 48m ago12:53

So it appears Nathan has **resolved the issues** with the two problematic jurors. She's now going to bring them in, swear them in, give them preliminary instructions and then excuse them for a **45-minute lunch break.**

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 58m ago12:43

"Thank you for your patience and time. We couldn't have done this without you" Nathan tells the rest of the potential jurors before she excuses them.

"I thank you for your service."

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

3h 59m ago12:42

Nathan just took the bench to tell the lawyers that she's going to bring the jury in, give them preliminary instructions and send them to **lunch**.

"We have our 18 jurors," the judge announces to the lawyers.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 24m ago12:17

We remain in a holding pattern.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 24m ago12:17

Nathan addresses the **potential jurors**, thanking them for their patience.

"The process is still ongoing and it remains possible we may call upon you for jury duty," she tells them.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 26m ago12:15

A prosecutor suggests taking an **early lunch** break, but Nathan says the jurors' lunches won't get delivered until 1 p.m.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 27m ago12:14

"I have two courtrooms full of **jurors who are waiting**," Nathan says. "I may let them know I may still need them."

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 28m ago12:13

Nathan says she hopes for a reply within the hour.

The judge says they can agree to **seven alternates** and proceed with openings.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

4h 29m ago12:12

Judge Nathan is back on the bench. No information yet.

The juror's employer is "**working on it**," she says.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

5h 31m ago

Nathan is discussing what to do if they have to **replace** either of the two jurors.

She's **left the bench** to await more information from the problematic jurors.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 35m ago11:06

Nathan is back. The judge says she's still **gathering employer information** so she can call them.

The juror with the **surprise trip** from Dec. 24 to Dec. 28 tried to call their spouse to find out if the plans can be changed.

"I'm inclined to sit that week," the judge says. "I'm going let that juror know to **keep pressing** to see what options are moving."

Defense lawyers and prosecutors say they agree with Nathan on keeping the juror with surprise trip on the panel.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 41m ago11:00

We're **still waiting** for the judge to return to the bench while she sorts out issues with two jurors -- one who expressed concern about time off from work, and one who said their spouse has planned a vacation in late December.

[Chris DolmetschLegal Reporter](#)

5h 52m ago10:49

Other judges in the federal courthouse have been all too happy to **call up employers** of jurors. Judge Jed Rakoff has done this.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 57m ago10:44

Nathan says the juror whose spouse surprised them with an **unplanned vacation** will be off Dec. 24 through Dec. 28.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 58m ago10:43

Sternheim suggests that Nathan **call up the juror's employer** to put some pressure on them to compensate a seated juror.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 58m ago10:42

This is **pretty typical** in jury selection -- people getting cold feet about six weeks of jury duty during the holidays.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

5h 59m ago10:42

Another juror just indicated that a spouse has **surprised them with a trip**.

Comey, one of the prosecutors, says she believes the juror with the **financial hardship** should be excused.

Nathan is discussing what to do next with prosecutors and defense attorneys.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

6h 1m ago10:40

The judge is back.

"We have a juror indicating **financial hardship**," she says. "The juror says they get two weeks of paid service" -- with five days remaining.

"The juror indicated that's a substantial financial hardship," Nathan says.

[Andrew Dunn](#)TOPLive Editor

6h 1m ago10:40

The judge is back.

"We have a juror indicating **financial hardship**," she says. "The juror says they get two weeks of paid service" -- with five days remaining.

"The juror indicated that's a substantial financial hardship," Nathan says.

[Andrew Dunn](#)TOPLive Editor

6h 2m ago10:39

Several potential jurors told Nathan during the selection process that they weren't sure their **employers** would pay them.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

6h 3m ago10:38

One juror has asked to speak to Nathan about their employer. The judge and court reporter are now going into the **robing room** to speak to that juror.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

6h 10m ago10:31

Why the **lull**?

The jurors were all in different places in the courthouse, so while this seems like an interminable delay to spectators, it's pretty typical in an **old courthouse with slow elevators**.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

6h 11m ago10:30

[Sternheim](#) is a seasoned defense attorney, and works for Fasulo, Braverman & Di Maggio LLP.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

6h 13m ago10:28

Delivering opening statements for the prosecution will be **Lara Pomerantz**, according to a spokesman for U.S. Attorney's Office.

Bobbi Sternheim will give the opening statements for Maxwell.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

6h 21m ago10:20

Preliminary **instructions** will come before opening arguments.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

6h 26m ago10:15

After **weeks of winnowing** down the potential jury pool to 58 people (from hundreds who filled out an initial questionnaire), the selection of the final 12 was rather quick.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

6h 33m ago10:08

Nathan is having the selected jurors and alternates come to the third-floor courtroom so **opening statements** can begin.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

6h 36m ago10:05

Nathan just **listed off** the numbers of the 12 selected jurors and six alternates.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 38m ago10:03

Nathan is now going to read the **numbers** of the jurors who have been selected. The judge has ruled that they'll only be known publicly by these assigned numbers; **we don't have names**.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

6h 42m ago09:59

Prosecutors are exercising their peremptory **challenges** with Judge Nathan at the moment.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 44m ago09:57

Maxwell is sitting with her right hand up to her face, shielding her view of the rest of the courtroom, from what I can see on the **streaming feed**.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 50m ago09:50

No. 87 said he had **conversations** with people he works with who expressed strong opinions about Epstein case.

"I tried to cut them off, but some of the people who were speaking to me I wasn't comfortable with."

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

6h 54m ago09:47

Juror 87 has entered the courtroom.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 55m ago09:46

A few **other jurors** in the other courtroom also raised their hands, but it's unclear how many.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

6h 56m ago09:45

This juror has **expressed doubts** about being able to remain fair and impartial in his previous questioning from Judge Nathan.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 56m ago09:45

Juror 87, who previously told the court he works for a private equity firm, is being brought into the courtroom for questioning.

[Mary BiekertLegal Reporter](#)

6h 57m ago09:44

The juror who raised his hand -- No. 87 -- is apparently the same one who said he feared he couldn't be impartial because of his job with a private equity firm.

More here:

[Private Equity Worker Fears He Can't Be Impartial Maxwell Juror](#)

[Tina DavisExecutive Editor Legal](#)

Updated 6h 7m ago

6h 57m ago09:44

The juror who raised his hand -- No. 87 -- is apparently the same one who said he feared he couldn't be impartial because of his job with a private equity firm.

More here:

[Private Equity Worker Fears He Can't Be Impartial Maxwell Juror](#)
[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

Updated 6h 2m ago

6h 59m ago09:42

Nathan says **one potential juror** has raised their hand. She's turning off the live feed to the courtrooms where prospective jurors are seated and waiting.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

6h 59m ago09:41

The judge is now asking the two questions and telling any potential jurors who have an issue to **raise their hand**.

Lawyers for both sides are in the overflow rooms to assess whether anyone raises a hand. Those who do will be **interviewed individually** by the court.

[Andrew Dunn](#)TOPLive Editor

6h 60m ago09:41

The question of whether the potential jurors have read anything new about the case and if there's a reason they can't be fair and impartial is the **third and final step** of jury selection.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

7h 1m ago09:40

Nathan is now addressing the **two courtrooms** where potential jurors are gathered.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

7h 2m ago09:39

Maurene Comey, the daughter of former FBI Chief James Comey and one of the prosecutors on the case, is in the courtroom.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 3m ago09:38

I got in line at the courthouse at **6 a.m.**

The press had already formed a small queue of about 20 people before the sun even started coming up. A security guard later told me the earliest person was here at **2 a.m.!**

We all waited to get in for about two hours, with the line ever-growing with press and press people chattering about whether Maxwell would testify or not.

I couldn't see any of the alleged victims (or general public for that matter) waiting in the line but I can't say for sure because the **line kept growing** and I was trying to get inside as fast as possible to snag a seat in the actual courtroom.

The **overflow rooms** are filled with press and illustrators.

[Mary Biekert](#)Legal Reporter

7h 6m ago09:35

Nathan is using a videotaped statement because she wants to **minimize her exposure** to the pool of prospective jurors who are seated in two

large courtrooms in the courthouse.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

7h 8m ago09:33

Nathan is now **selecting a potential juror** from the second pool to replace one of the missing prospective jurors.

Then they're going to play a **videotaped introduction** to the group asking the two questions I mentioned earlier -- whether they have read or heard anything about the case since she last spoke to them, and whether they still think they can be fair and impartial.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

7h 9m ago09:32

The judge says two jurors are no-shows and can't be reached. Another juror "**forgot**" -- and Nathan says they're on the way to the courthouse.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)Legal Reporter

7h 10m ago09:31

Court action is being **delayed** by the wait for the missing potential jurors.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 10m ago09:31

There are about **50 people** on a security line outside the courthouse, many of whom are members of the media.

[Chris Dolmetsch](#)Legal Reporter

7h 11m ago09:30

The judge says there are three potential jurors who **haven't arrived** and are not yet accounted for on the security line.

[Bob Van VorisLegal Reporter](#)

7h 12m ago09:29

Judge Nathan says they're **still waiting** for some of the potential jurors to get to court.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

7h 14m ago09:27

The jurors will be selected from a group of the first 40 interviewed. The **total pool** of prospective jurors is 58. Lawyers for both sides get to exercise challenges to certain jurors as they select a panel.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

7h 15m ago09:26

Judge Nathan has told the lawyers she's going to ask potential jurors **two questions**: First, whether they've read or heard anything since she last spoke to them and, second, whether they still think they can be fair and impartial.

Depending on those who have an issue, she will interview them. They're going to select the 18.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

7h 16m ago09:24

The judge has drastically **limited seating** in the courtroom because of social-distancing measures in place due to of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nathan also said she would ask potential jurors if they've been **vaccinated** and she will determine whether those who haven't been must socially distance from those who have.

[Patricia HurtadoLegal Reporter](#)

7h 18m ago09:23

Before opening statements begin, the judge will oversee final selection of the 12 jurors and six alternates who will decide Ghislaine Maxwell's fate.

More here:

Maxwell Jury Confronts Rare Case Alleging Female Sexual Predator

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 18m ago09:23

Before opening statements begin, the judge will oversee final selection of the 12 jurors and six alternates who will decide Ghislaine Maxwell's fate.

More here:

[Maxwell Jury Confronts Rare Case Alleging Female Sexual Predator](#)
[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

Updated 6h 3m ago

7h 20m ago09:21

As the judge will instruct the jury, nothing that the prosecution or the defense says during their opening statements is **evidence**.

But the **openings are nonetheless crucial** for framing the stakes of the case as each side sees it, setting the tone for the trial and planting seeds that the lawyers will come back to during their closing arguments at the end of the trial.

[Jordan Rubin](#)Legal Reporter

7h 21m ago09:20

Maxwell, wearing a white turtleneck and dark slacks, is **in the courtroom** next to her lawyers. Her sister, Isabel Maxwell, is seated in the spectator section directly behind the defense table.

[Tina Davis](#)[Executive Editor Legal](#)

7h 22m ago09:19

As Maxwell first entered the courtroom today, she **embraced** each of her defense lawyers, as is her practice.

[Patricia Hurtado](#)[Legal Reporter](#)

7h 23m ago09:18

Epstein's arrest and suicide sent shock waves across the **business community**.

Ultimately, the case ensnared, to one degree or another, a cadre of **famous men** once part of Epstein's circle like Leon Black, the co-founder of Apollo Global Management; hedge fund manager Glenn Dubin; and Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz.

Earlier this month, Barclays Plc Chief Executive Officer Jes Staley stepped down amid a U.K. regulatory probe into how he characterized his ties to Epstein.

The fallout from each of their associations has varied, but the common reaction is that **none claims to have had knowledge of Epstein's behavior**.

[Katia Porzecanski](#)[Team Leader - Legal](#)

7h 24m ago09:17

On Aug. 10, 2019, Epstein was **found dead** in his Manhattan jail cell in what authorities say was a suicide.

Two weeks later, 16 women appeared in court to describe the sexual abuse they say they experienced. Several of them named Maxwell as having **played a key role** in the alleged predation.

There, Sarah Ransome, an Epstein accuser, urged prosecutors:

"Please, please finish what you have started. For a very long time, Jeffrey Epstein gamed the system at every level. When he realized he couldn't do that any longer, he showed the world what a depraved individual he is by taking his own life."

[Katia Porzecanski](#) Team Leader - Legal

7h 25m ago 09:16

Twelve jurors and six alternates will be picked this morning before opening arguments begin.

The decision they have to wrestle with: Is Maxwell a predator or is she being used as a scapegoat for Epstein's crimes?

[Tina Davis](#) Executive Editor Legal

7h 27m ago 09:14

Maxwell's arrest came about a year after the arrest of Jeffrey Epstein, who faced up to 45 years in prison after being charged with abusing dozens of girls. A 2018 Miami Herald report detailing the breadth of his alleged abuse counted as many as 60 victims.



Then-U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman next to a poster displaying the image of Epstein during a news conference in New York in July 2019. Photographer: Louis Lanzano/Bloomberg

A decade earlier, Epstein had struck a **much-criticized deal** with Florida prosecutors and pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution. Epstein served a 13-month sentence, during which he was allowed out for 12 hours a day to spend at his lawyer's office.

[Katia Porzecanski Team Leader - Legal](#)

7h 29m ago 09:12

Maxwell has been accused by four women of committing **crimes between 1994 and 2004**. None of the four women has been identified in public court records, although one of them -- Annie Farmer -- has identified herself as Minor Victim-2.

Under the rules of the court, some of the government's witnesses are

being allowed to testify under **pseudonyms** because their identities could be used to identify the alleged victims.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 30m ago09:11

Defense lawyers have also filed dozens of complaints about the conditions their client is being held under, including everything from requesting an eye mask to "sexually inappropriate" patdowns by her guards.

More:

'You Are Not Special': Ghislaine Maxwell's Complaints From Jail

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 32m ago09:09

Maxwell's lawyers have been rebuffed multiple times in their attempts to get her out of **jail** while she was awaiting trial.

She had offered as much as \$28.5 million in bond and the surrender of her **British and French passports** to allay government concerns that she would leave the U.S. Her lawyers said she had little reason to flee, citing a husband who lives in the U.S. but hasn't been identified.

The judge was not persuaded. Nathan said in March:

"There are no combination of conditions that can reasonably assure her appearance."

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 33m ago09:08

U.S. District Judge Alison Nathan, who is presiding over the case, has been nominated to serve on a higher court by President Joe Biden.

She told the parties earlier this month that she intended to stay for the duration of what's expected to be a **six-week trial**.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 34m ago09:07

In a flurry of **pre-trial motions**, Maxwell's lawyers have given some hints about what their defense may be. They have asked to bring to the stand experts on **false memories** and on prosecutorial misconduct.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 36m ago09:05

Here are the specific **counts**:

1. Conspiracy to entice a minor to travel to engage in illegal sex acts
2. Enticing a minor to travel to engage in illegal sex acts
3. Conspiracy to transport a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity
4. Transporting a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity
5. Conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors
6. Sex trafficking of minors

Counts one, two, three and six carry a maximum sentence of **five years** in prison. Counts four and five carry higher potential sentences of **10 and 40 years**, respectively.

[Katia Porzecanski](#)Team Leader - Legal

7h 37m ago09:04

[Maxwell](#), the former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein, faces charges including sex trafficking, conspiracy and enticing minors.

The defendant, 59, has been in jail since July 2, 2020, when she was arrested at her 156-acre estate in New Hampshire. If convicted of the

most serious charges, she could be sentenced to 40 years in prison.

[Tina Davis](#)Executive Editor Legal

7h 39m ago09:02

Reporters Patty Hurtado, Mary Biekert and Chris Dolmetsch will guide us through the final steps of **jury selection** and the trial's **opening statements** today in Courtroom 318 of the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in lower Manhattan.

[Katia Porzecanski](#)Team Leader - Legal

7h 40m ago09:00

Welcome to TOPLive. Opening statements in the trial of Ghislaine Maxwell are set to begin in a Manhattan federal court. Maxwell is charged with trafficking girls for abuse by Jeffrey Epstein, her ex-boyfriend, and participating in some of the abuse herself. She faces as long as 40 years in prison if convicted on the most serious charge.

Join us on Monday at 9 a.m. New York time to follow the proceedings.

[Andrew Dunn](#)TOPLive Editor