

Rejecting Claim of Presidential Immunity, Judge Allows Lawsuit Against Trump Foundation to Proceed

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Rejecting the immunity defense put forth by President Donald Trump's lawyers, a New York state judge on Friday ruled that a lawsuit accusing Trump and members of his family of using their "charitable" foundation as nothing more than a personal "[piggy bank](#)" can proceed.

[Filed in June](#) by New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood, the suit alleges that Trump engaged in "persistently illegal conduct" by using the Trump Foundation as a vehicle to advance his political and business aims. The lawsuit seeks to dissolve the Trump Foundation entirely.

"The Trump Foundation functioned as little more than a checkbook to serve Mr. Trump's business and political interests. There are rules that govern private foundations, and we intend to enforce them—no matter who runs the foundation," Underwood wrote in a tweet on Friday.

[#BREAKING](#): The New York State Supreme Court just denied the motion to dismiss our lawsuit against the Trump Foundation and its directors: [@realDonaldTrump](#), Donald J. Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump. <https://t.co/rYj2I76d22> pic.twitter.com/8wjvy17Gsx

— NY AG Underwood (@NewYorkStateAG) [November 23, 2018](#)

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New York's lawsuit is the product of a two-year investigation into the Trump Foundation, which allegedly uncovered widespread and "knowing" violations of campaign finance laws and other regulations.

Though Trump's lawyers argued that a "[sitting president may not be sued](#)," but New York

state Supreme Court Justice Saliann Scarpulla ruled on Friday that the president's legal team "failed to cite a single case" supporting its defense.

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