

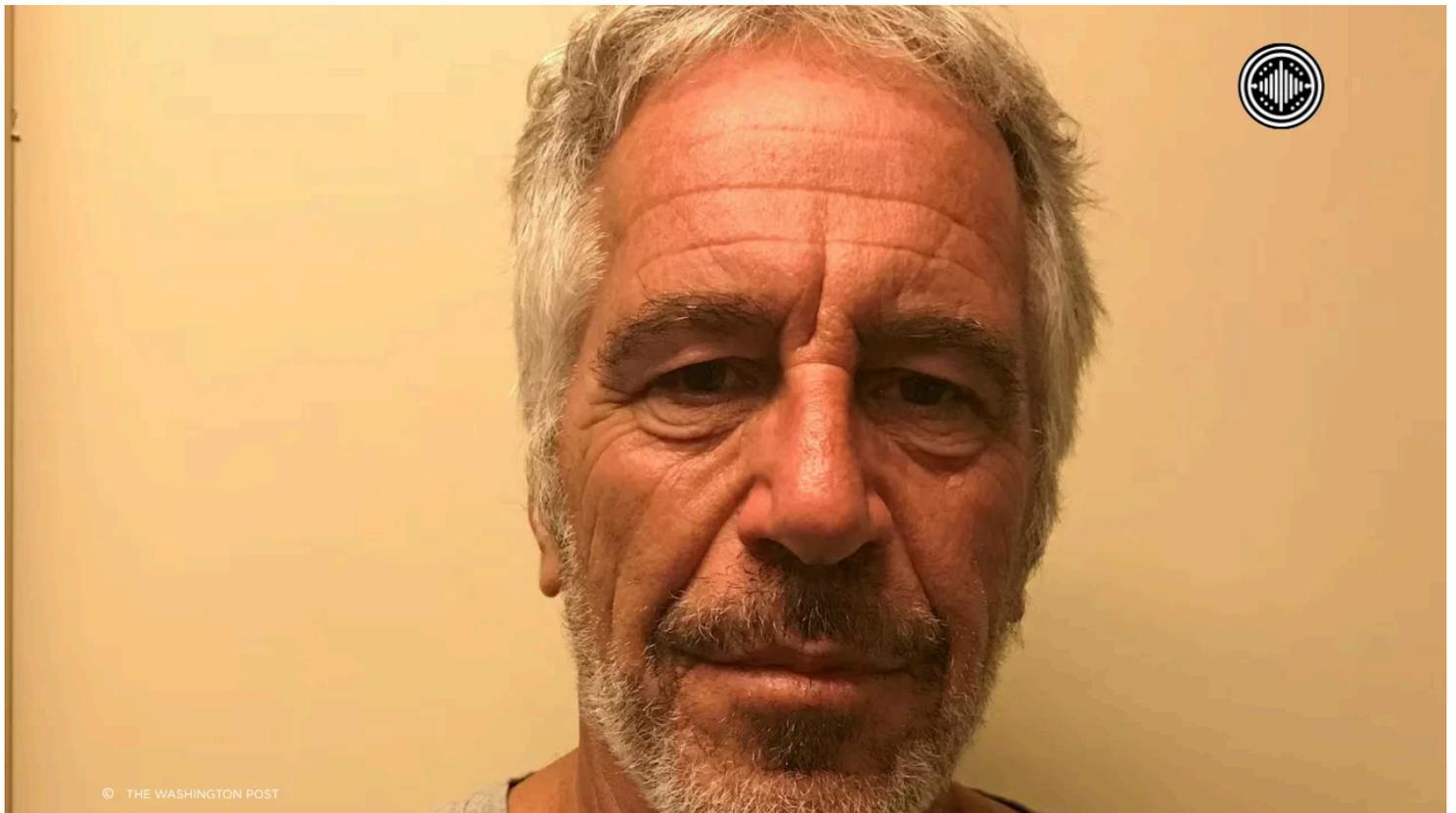
# OpenVoiceNews U.S.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

## Florida Judge Denies DOJ Bid to Unseal Epstein Grand Jury Records Amid Congressional Scrutiny

July 24, 2025

– Categories: *Human Rights*



Download IPFS

A federal judge in Florida has rejected a request by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to release grand jury transcripts related to Jeffrey Epstein's 2005 and 2007 investigations, citing a lack of legal justification to override federal confidentiality rules. The decision

comes amid mounting pressure from Congress and Trump-aligned figures seeking greater transparency in the long-running and controversial case.

U.S. District Judge Robin Rosenberg, based in West Palm Beach, ruled Wednesday that the DOJ's appeal to unseal records from the original Florida grand jury proceedings did not meet any of the legal exceptions required under federal law. These exceptions allow for disclosure only under extraordinary circumstances, such as cases of judicial misconduct or significant public interest that outweighs long-standing grand jury secrecy protections.

The DOJ's request, submitted under President Trump's administration, was intended to address public suspicion surrounding Epstein's past connections and alleged protection by powerful elites. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche emphasized in his appeal that "transparency to the American public is of the utmost importance to this administration." Despite the push, the court held firm that secrecy in grand jury matters remains a foundational principle of the U.S. legal system.

Epstein, a wealthy financier with powerful ties, avoided serious federal charges in 2008 after a controversial plea deal allowed him to plead guilty to minor state offenses, including the solicitation of a minor. He served a relatively short jail term in Florida. Critics argue that the deal concealed deeper criminal conduct and shielded his influential associates from scrutiny.

In 2019, Epstein was arrested again, this time on federal sex trafficking charges, but was found dead in a New York jail cell weeks later. Authorities ruled the death a suicide. His longtime associate, Ghislaine Maxwell, was later convicted of aiding Epstein's abuse of underage girls and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The continued demand for access to sealed grand jury records reflects skepticism among Trump supporters and others who suspect that Epstein's criminal network extended beyond what the public has been told. Some of these concerns were intensified earlier this year when conservative commentators were reportedly shown binders labeled "The Epstein Files: Phase 1" and "Declassified" at the White House. The documents, however, consisted largely of previously available material.

Adding to the tension, the DOJ acknowledged on July 7 that Epstein did not maintain a so-called client list, despite long-standing rumors. In a two-page memo bearing the logos of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and DOJ but lacking individual signatures, the

department stated that no additional documents from Epstein's case would be released. It stated that further disclosure was "not appropriate or warranted."

Nevertheless, the House Oversight Subcommittee voted Wednesday to subpoena the DOJ for related files. The full committee also issued a subpoena compelling Maxwell to testify before Congress in August. Meanwhile, Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) has called on Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the handling of Epstein's investigation.

While Wednesday's court decision upholds legal norms around grand jury secrecy, the issue is far from settled. With ongoing subpoenas and political interest intensifying, the battle over Epstein's records is likely to escalate, especially as the public continues to demand answers on how such a high-profile case was handled behind closed doors.