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Ghislaine Maxwell Seeks Supreme Court Reversal, Citing Epstein's 2007 Plea Deal

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Ghislaine Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking minors, has formally requested the United States Supreme Court to overturn her conviction. Her legal team argues that a 2007 plea agreement between Jeffrey Epstein and federal prosecutors in Florida should have protected her from prosecution, even though she was not explicitly named in the deal. The case has reignited scrutiny over how past prosecutorial decisions may affect current legal outcomes.

In 2022, Maxwell was convicted in the Southern District of New York for her role in Epstein's abuse network. She now contends that her prosecution violated terms of the

non-prosecution agreement (NPA) signed by Epstein with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. That agreement stated that federal prosecutors would not pursue charges against "any potential co-conspirators of Epstein," which Maxwell's attorneys argue should have included her by extension.

Although Maxwell was not named in the Florida agreement, her legal team insists that the NPA offered blanket immunity to unnamed co-conspirators and should have been honored by federal prosecutors in New York. The Department of Justice (DOJ), however, has maintained that the 2007 deal was limited in scope to Florida and did not apply to other jurisdictions.

Following preliminary discussions with DOJ officials, there has been increased attention on whether Maxwell might cooperate with ongoing federal investigations. While no formal cooperation agreement has been announced, her interactions with Justice Department representatives indicate that discussions have taken place.

The plea agreement that Maxwell now invokes was negotiated by then-U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta, who later served as Secretary of Labor under President Donald Trump. Acosta resigned in 2019 amid renewed attention to the Epstein case and criticism of his handling of the original plea deal.

In recent months, the DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released a memo concluding that there was insufficient evidence to pursue charges against unnamed third parties, and stated there was no incriminating "client list." These findings have not satisfied critics, but the agencies stood by their determination based on available evidence.

Maxwell remains incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Tallahassee in Florida. The Supreme Court has not yet indicated whether it will take up her petition. If accepted, the case could prompt further legal debate over the extent and enforceability of federal non-prosecution agreements across different jurisdictions.