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Trump Sues Wall Street Journal and Rupert Murdoch for $10 Billion Over Epstein Story

July 19, 2025
— Categories: Politics & Government

President Donald Trump has filed a $10 billion defamation lawsuit in federal court against Dow Jones, News Corp., Rupert Murdoch, and two Wall Street Journal reporters. The case stems from a recent article alleging that Trump sent Jeffrey Epstein a sexually suggestive birthday letter in 2003, including a nude sketch and cryptic references to “shared secrets”, claims Trump adamantly denies.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump called the story a smear and claimed Murdoch had personally assured him the report would not be published. Trump added that he looked forward to forcing Murdoch to testify under oath, referring to the newspaper as a “pile of garbage.” A spokesperson for Dow Jones defended the article, expressing confidence in the Journal’s reporting and stating that the organization would vigorously contest the suit.

This marks Trump’s most high-profile libel case while running for office and one of the largest defamation claims in U.S. legal history. Legal experts have noted that Trump must meet the high bar of proving “actual malice”, that the defendants knowingly published false information or acted with reckless disregard for the truth. Some analysts view the $10 billion figure as symbolic, meant more to rally support than to reflect realistic damages.

In a related development, Trump instructed Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek the release of grand jury transcripts from the Epstein investigation. He framed the move as a response to what he called the “ridiculous” media attention surrounding the story. The Justice Department’s motion argued that releasing redacted portions of the transcripts is in the public interest, provided the identities of victims are protected.

Meanwhile, Trump’s political base continues to demand transparency. Many supporters have claimed a broader cover-up of Epstein’s alleged connections to powerful figures. However, the Justice Department recently concluded there was no credible evidence of a secret “client list” and reiterated that Epstein’s death was ruled a suicide.

The combination of Trump's lawsuit and the push to unseal documents has reignited scrutiny around the Epstein case. The legal battle with one of the nation's largest media conglomerates could have sweeping implications, not just for Trump's campaign narrative, but also for the future of media liability in high-stakes political reporting. As proceedings unfold, the outcome may impact both Trump's standing with his supporters and the broader fight over press freedom and accountability.