

President Joe Biden Pardons His Son Hunter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Hunter Biden was supposed to be sentenced this month in the two federal cases, which the special counsel brought after a plea deal with prosecutors that likely would have spared him prison time fell apart under scrutiny by a judge. Under the original deal, Hunter was supposed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offenses and would have avoided prosecution in the gun case as long as he stayed out of trouble for two years.

But the plea hearing quickly unraveled last year when the judge raised concerns about unusual aspects of the deal. The younger Biden was subsequently indicted in the two cases.

Hunter Biden's legal team this weekend released a 52-page white paper titled "The political prosecutions of Hunter Biden," describing the president's son as a "surrogate to attack and injure his father, both as a candidate in 2020 and later as president."

The younger Biden's lawyers have long argued that prosecutors bowed to political pressure to indict the president's son amid heavy criticism by Trump and other Republicans of what they called the "sweetheart" plea deal.



Hunter Biden steps into a vehicle as he leaves federal court, Sept. 5, 2024, in Los Angeles, after pleading guilty to federal tax charges. (AP Photo/Eric Thayer, File)

Rep. James Comer, one of the Republican chairmen leading congressional investigations into Biden's family, blasted the president's pardon, saying that the evidence against Hunter was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"It's unfortunate that, rather than come clean about their decades of wrongdoing, President Biden and his family continue to do everything they can to avoid

accountability," Comer said on X, the website formerly known as Twitter.

Biden is hardly the first president to deploy his pardon powers to benefit those close to him.

In his final weeks in office, Trump pardoned Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in law, Jared Kushner, as well as multiple allies convicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's Rus-

sia investigation. Trump over the weekend announced plans to nominate the elder Kushner to be the U.S. envoy to France in his next administration.

Trump, who has pledged to dramatically overhaul and install loyalists across the Justice Department after he was prosecuted for his role in trying to subvert the 2020 presidential election, said in a social media post on

Sunday that Hunter Biden's pardon was "such an abuse and mis-carriage of Justice."

"Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years?" Trump asked, referring to those convicted in the violent Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.

Hunter Biden said in an emailed statement that he will never take for granted the relief granted to him and vowed to devote the life he has rebuilt "to helping those who are still sick and suffering."

"I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction – mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," the younger Biden said.

Hunter Biden's legal team filed Sunday night in both Los Angeles and Delaware asking the judges handling his gun and tax cases to immediately dismiss them, citing the pardon.

A spokesperson for Weiss did not respond to messages seeking comment Sunday night.

NBC News was first to report Biden was expected to pardon his son Sunday.

OnPoint Community Credit Union Promotes New Chief Information Officer

Strengthening Information Security form OnPoint Community Members



Damian Laviolette

"We are thrilled to have Damian step into this critical leadership role," said Rob Stuart, President and Chief Executive Officer of OnPoint Community Credit Union. "Damian's deep expertise in information security and risk management, paired with his commitment to operational excellence, make him the ideal candidate to guide our technology strategy as we expand our digital services for members."

Laviolette has over 30 years of experience in IT and information security across financial services, government and defense sectors. Throughout his career, he has built and led information technology and security teams responsible for innovation, transformation, operations, compliance, policy, audit and risk management. He also served 20 years in

the United States Army in numerous roles leading technology and cybersecurity teams, ending his career as a Chief Warrant Officer in the Signal Corps.

He holds a master's degree in information security and assurance and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). Laviolette and his wife are active in the community and enjoy hiking, traveling, and deep-sea fishing with their three children.

"I am honored to continue my journey with OnPoint, an organization that leads with integrity and a focus on enhancing the lives of its members," said Laviolette. "Together, we will strengthen OnPoint's technology foundation, innovate in digital banking and build on our commitment to cybersecurity."

Laviolette's new role will succeed OnPoint's Chief Operations Officer position, currently held by Jim Armstrong. Armstrong will continue leading operations, payments and project management until his retirement in April 2025. Upon his departure, Laviolette will assume his responsibilities and build on the strong foundation Armstrong has established for OnPoint's continued growth.

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