

# Ex-Trump lawyer Cohen delays testimony to Congress

By MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, will not testify before a House committee next month as scheduled, his adviser said Wednesday, depriving Democrats for now of a prime opportunity to scrutinize Trump, his links to Russia and payments to buy the silence of a porn star.

Cohen indefinitely delayed his Feb. 7 appearance before the House Oversight and Reform Committee. He blamed threats from Trump and the president's attorney-spokesman, Rudy Giuliani, and cited his own ongoing cooperation in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Cohen adviser Lanny Davis said the decision was made on advice of Cohen's lawyers.

"This is a time where Mr. Cohen had to put his family and their safety first," Davis said in a statement.

The statement did not detail the threats. But Trump and Giuliani have publicly urged the Justice Department to investigate Cohen's father-in-law, insinuating he was part of some unspecified criminal activity. Trump, for example, told Fox News this month that Cohen "should give information maybe on his father-in-law, because that's the one that people want to look at."

Asked about the claim of a threat, Trump accused Cohen of lying.

"He's only been threatened by the truth, and he doesn't want to do that, probably for me or other of his clients," Trump said at the White House. "He has other clients also, I assume, and he doesn't want to tell



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File  
In this Sept. 19, 2017, file photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's personal attorney, steps out of a cab during his arrival on Capitol Hill in Washington.

the truth for me or other of his clients."

Trump's fixer-turned-foe is a central figure in Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Trump's campaign. Cohen also played a pivotal role in buying the silence of a porn actress and a former Playboy Playmate who both alleged they had sex with Trump. The president has denied their claims.

Cohen pleaded guilty last year to campaign finance violations and other offenses connected to the payments. Federal prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to make the payments during the campaign.

Newly empowered Democrats wanted to make Cohen the first high-profile witness since they regained

control of the House and have promised an aggressive effort to investigate the president. They have pledged to limit their questioning to avoid interfering with any investigations.

It is unclear how long Cohen is seeking to delay his testimony, but Cohen "looks forward to testifying at the appropriate time," Davis said.

Cohen is scheduled to report to prison on March 6 to begin a three-year sentence.

Democrats have suggested they may subpoena Cohen to compel his testimony and the committee's chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings, said Cohen could be brought from prison to appear before Congress.

"We will get his testi-

mony," Cummings said.

In a statement, Cummings and Rep. Adam Schiff, who heads the House Intelligence Committee, said they understood the "completely legitimate concerns" Cohen raised about threats. But, they added, it "was never an option" for Cohen not to appear before Congress.

The committees have been in touch with Cohen and offered to work with law enforcement to enhance security measures to protect his family and is in touch with Cohen's lawyers about when he would testify, they said.

"We will not let the president's tactics prevent Congress from fulfilling our constitutionally mandated oversight responsibilities," the chairmen said in a statement. "This will not stop us from getting to the truth."

In November, Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to Congress. He admitted that he said negotiations over the development of a Trump-branded tower in Moscow had ended in January 2016 but had actually continued until at least June 2016, well into Trump's presidential campaign. Cohen has said he lied to be consistent with Trump's "political messaging" and to minimize the public's understanding of Trump's ties with Russia.

Republicans, in their questioning at a Cohen hearing, probably would have seized on a disputed BuzzFeed News story that Trump instructed Cohen to lie before Congress.

The special counsel's office issued a rare public statement after the story ran last week disputing elements of the article. BuzzFeed stands by the story and has asked for clarity from Mueller's team.



AP Photo/John Minchillo  
A Kentucky Catholic boys' school shut down its campus on Tuesday as a small protest was held outside their diocese as fallout continued over an encounter between white teenagers, Native American marchers and a black religious sect last week.

## Catholic student says he didn't disrespect Native American

By JOHN MINCHILLO  
Associated Press

PARK HILLS, Ky. — A Catholic high school student whose encounter with a Native American activist and a black religious sect was captured on video in Washington, D.C., says he has nothing to apologize for.

Nick Sandmann told NBC's "Today" show on Wednesday that he had every right to be there, as did the others who gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial. He said he wasn't disrespectful and was trying to stay calm under the circumstances.

Videos posted of Sandmann and his classmates wearing "Make America Great Again" hats and facing off against Omaha Nation elder Nathan Phillips have sparked widespread criticism. But the various sides say they've been misunderstood and that snippets of video were taken out of context.

Many saw the white teenagers, who had traveled to Washington for an anti-abortion rally, appearing to mock the Native



AP Photo/John Minchillo  
Protesters gather outside the Catholic Diocese of Covington on Tuesday.

Americans. Others interpreted Phillips' drumming and singing as hostile. Phillips has since explained that he was trying to intervene between the boys and a group of black street preachers who were shouting racist insults at both the Native Americans and the white kids.

Sandmann said he definitely felt threatened by the black men, who were calling them things like "incest kids" and "bigots."

"In hindsight, I wish we'd just found another spot to wait for our buses, but at the time, being positive seemed better than letting them slander us with all of these things."



# 2018 COMMERCIAL RECYCLER OF THE YEAR



## KEYSTONE RV

Each year the employees of Pendleton Sanitary Service, Inc. (PSSI) nominate several commercial businesses or institutions for the Commercial Recycler of the Year award. The winning recipient is determined by a vote of PSSI employees, as they are the individuals who deal directly with the recycled materials, and are impacted by the quality of those materials. This award is given to a commercial recycler that does an outstanding job recycling, or has made significant improvements to their waste or recycling efforts over the past year.

The employees of Pendleton Sanitary Service voted unanimously to choose Keystone RV as Pendleton's Commercial Recycler of the Year for 2018. The determining factor was Keystone's concerted effort to recycle as much as

possible, but also make a significant effort at reducing waste during 2018. Keystone recycled 2,151 tons of cardboard, office paper, aluminum, steel, copper, and plastic during 2018. They also disposed of 4,005 tons of solid waste during 2018. This equates to a recycling rate of 34.95%! Moreover, Keystone reduced total solid waste disposed by 15% in 2018 versus 2017. Given production data, Keystone has achieved significant waste reduction on a per unit basis.

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Pendleton Sanitary Service would like to congratulate and thank Keystone RV for being a community leader in reducing waste and for their outstanding efforts in recycling!



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