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## Louisiana indicts California doctor accused of shipping abortion pills



Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill, center, has secured an indictment of a California doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills for a Louisiana patient. GREG HILBURN/USA TODAY NETWORK

# 'This is not healthcare; It's drug dealing'

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill has secured an indictment of a California doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills for a Louisiana patient.

Dr. Remy Coeytaux, who operates a practice in Sonoma County, is charged in St. Tammany Parish with violating Louisiana's Criminal Abortion by Means of Abortion-Inducing Drugs Law, which carries a penalty of up to 50 years hard labor.

"This is not healthcare; it's drug dealing," Murrill said in a statement.

"Individuals who flagrantly and intentionally violate our laws by sending illegal abortion pills into our state placing women in danger. We've seen the proof of that, with women showing up in emergency rooms after taking these pills and being coerced into abortions."

A criminal arrest warrant has been signed for Coeytaux and Murrill has sent an extradition request to Louisiana Gov. Landry. Murrill previously secured an indictment against a New York doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills to a Louisiana patient, but New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has said her state won't comply with an extradition request.

Coeytaux's case will be prosecuted by 22nd District Attorney Collins Sims. The New York case is being handled by 18th District Attorney Tony Clayton.

Murrill is set to testify in front of the U.S. Senate Health Committee at 9 a.m. Jan. 14 about abortion pills shipped by mail. Republican Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy chairs that committee.

Cassidy, a doctor who opposes abortion, said, "Her testimony will be powerful and important."

*Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.*

## Johnson, Newsom fuel LA, CA feud

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A fiery feud between Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and California Gov. Gavin Newsom that began last summer has spilled over into 2026 and pitted the politicians' two home states against each other.

Johnson fired the first verbal volley of the New Year with the following Jan. 5 post on X:



Johnson

"The company U-Haul just released its yearly report showing more people are leaving California than ANY OTHER STATE - for the 6th year in a row. It's EASY to see why. California has the highest state income tax in America — 13.3% — and now Democrats like @GavinNewsom are blocking President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts, denying workers real money back in their pockets. Workers are leaving high taxes behind — and red states are welcoming them with open arms."

Newsom quickly responded with his own post from his campaign account on X on Jan. 5:

"Louisiana ranking for best states: #50. Dead last. Not good Mike. California's population has grown for the last 3 consecutive years. Fix your own damn state."

That drew Republican Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry into the fray:

"I know California ranks last in the Nation for literacy, @GavinNewsom, but can you at least try harder!," Landry posted Jan. 8 on X along with a collage of recent positive news stories about Louisiana.

Newsom also mentioned Johnson and President Trump in his California State of the State Address Jan. 8.

"It's time for the President to act like a President for ALL of the United States," he said. "It's time for the Speaker of the House to ACT like the man of faith he claims to be."

Their fiery feud began last summer

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## Fake viral video shows crumbling I-10 bridge

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana's Interstate 10 Atchafalaya Basin Bridge connecting Acadiana's Lafayette to the state capital Baton Rouge isn't crumbling into the swamp, contrary to a viral social media video showing the columns of an unidentified bridge near collapse.

The state's transportation department and Gov. Jeff Landry reiterated that the images shown in the social media post weren't the 18-mile Atchafalaya Bridge.

"We are aware of a viral video circulating on social media showing what has been alleged as crumbling support columns on a bridge," the Louisiana

Department of Transportation said Jan. 14 in a post on X. "We want to clarify that this bridge is NOT in Louisiana."

Landry shared the transportation department's post on his X account Wednesday.

The fake video was shared on Instagram by an account "60landpark" and drew thousands of likes and comments.

The fake post said: "These are the Supports for the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge that carries Interstate 10 & connects Lafayette & Baton Rouge Louisiana!. Someone needs to get to work!"

*Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1*

## Judge says nomination is an 'honor of lifetime'

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shreveport attorney Alexander Van Hook was sworn in as the newest federal judge on the Western District Court of Louisiana on Tuesday and was on the bench Wednesday morning with a docket full of cases.

"I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work," Van Hook said in an interview with the USA Today Network.

But before his first full day on the job, Van Hook took in the moment Jan. 13 as Judge Donald Walter and Van Hook's wife, Patricia, also an attorney, administered the oath in the Tom Stagg

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Patricia Van Hook helps administer the oath of office to U.S. District Judge Alexander Van Hook, Patricia's husband on Jan. 13, 2026 at the Tom Stagg Court House in downtown Shreveport. PROVIDED BY WESTERN DISTRICT COURT LOUISIANA

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