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ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Rescue workers carry a woman on a stretcher out of a collapsed building following an earthquake in Caracas, Venezuela, on Wednesday. Juan Barreto / AFP via Getty Images

How Pa. justices limited a signature Krasner initiative

Last week's ruling by the state Supreme Court promises to reshape practices in the DA's office for years to come.

By Ellie Rushing, Jillian Kramer, and Chris Palmer
Staff Writers

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision to limit Philadelphia prosecutors' ability to seek to overturn old convictions not only took aim at one of District Attorney Larry Krasner's defining initiatives — it altered the work of an office he will one day leave behind.

The high court's ruling last week adds an extraordinary new layer of oversight to an issue that helped make Krasner one of the nation's most prominent progressive prosecutors: correcting what he has described as injustices of decades past.

But the newly established changes to the appellate processes in Philadelphia will outlive Krasner's tenure and reshape the way the office reviews post-conviction cases for years to come. It could not only apply to high-profile exonerations in murder convictions, but also extend to cases that even Krasner's more conservative predecessors were eager to undo, like drug and gun convictions linked to corrupt cops.

It also deepens a yearslong conflict between Krasner and his critics in the justice system. Several justices, in dissenting opinions, raised concerns that the change could inject politics into a high-stakes legal process.

Since taking office in 2018, Krasner has made post-conviction review a centerpiece of his reform agenda. His office said it has overturned the wrongful convictions of 59 people — almost all of them

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Venezuelans search for survivors after two devastating earthquakes

At least 188 people were killed, thousands were missing, and buildings were evacuated as far away as Brazil's Amazon.

By Regina Garcia Cano and Juan Pablo Arraez
Associated Press

LAGUAIRA, Venezuela — Venezuelans searched for survivors beneath collapsed buildings Thursday and rescue teams raced to northern areas rocked by a pair of powerful

earthquakes that officials say killed at least 188 people and left more than 200 trapped.

More were feared dead from the 7.2- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes that struck Wednesday evening — among the strongest in Venezuela in more than a century and felt throughout the region. Some 1,500 people were injured, thousands were reported missing, and buildings were evacuated as far away as Brazil's Amazon.

In cities across northern Venezuela, panicked residents poured out into the streets and searched for the missing in the debris. Injured children, animals and civilians covered

in dust and blood were pulled out of concrete rubble.

One mother sobbed and collapsed in grief as the bodies of her 3- and 10-year-old children were wrapped in blankets and carried away. Others screamed the names of missing loved ones. Some stood in silent shock.

The coastal region of La Guaira — north of the capital, Caracas — suffered some of the heaviest damage and casualties, and it's there that the country's main airport was damaged and closed, complicating aid efforts.

Retired schoolteacher Juan Alberto Mendaño climbed through

wreckage in La Guaira and past a dead body when he spotted a woman who was trapped and signaling with her hand for help.

"May God rescue her as quickly as possible," said Mendaño. "When we heard the scream, there was nothing we could do."

Offers of help poured in from around the world, including from the United States, which seized Venezuela's then-president Nicolas Maduro at the beginning of the year in a surprise military operation.

The natural disaster is just the latest challenge for acting President Delcy Rodríguez, the former

→ SEE VENEZUELA ON A9

Supreme Court backs Trump's authority over immigration

The court handed him victories in his push to rescind deportation protections for hundreds of thousands of people and turn away migrants at the southern border.

By Ann E. Marimow
New York Times

WASHINGTON — In a pair of sharply divided decisions Thursday, the Supreme Court allowed President Donald Trump's aggressive crackdown on immigration to move forward, permitting the administration to both expel some migrants from the country and to turn away others at the southern border.

Taken together, the court's conservative majority signaled deference to the president's ability to set the nation's immigration policy, as the justices prepare in the coming

days to issue more rulings that will decide how much power to give Trump across his boundary-pushing agenda.

In one ruling Thursday, the justices allowed the Trump administration to end humanitarian protections that have permitted hundreds of thousands of people from Haiti and Syria to live and work legally in the United States.

Trump has long pushed to terminate the program, known as temporary protected status, as part of his efforts to restrict immigration. The program was created by Congress with bipartisan support in 1990 to provide temporary legal status to people whose home countries were deemed unsafe because of war, natural disasters, or other crises.

The court's 6-3 decision, divided along ideological lines, clears a path for the potential deportation of 350,000 Haitians and 6,100 Syrians, and it is likely to have implications for TPS holders from about a dozen other countries.

The ability of the government to → SEE IMMIGRATION ON A6

At Trump's 250th anniversary fair, Pa.'s absence makes a statement



This pavilion at the Great American State Fair would have belonged to Pennsylvania if the state had participated. Sam Janesch / Staff

By Sam Janesch and Andrea Padilla
Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — Pennsylvania is not participating in President Donald Trump's Great American State Fair, which kicked off Wednesday, after state leaders failed to find a company willing to represent it at one of the hallmark 250th anniversary events in Washington that some say have become overly partisan.

Pennsylvania's state government, like those in some other Democratic-led states, had already chosen to not sponsor a booth at the 16-day fair. Gov. Josh Shapiro's office had still been trying to connect Freedom 250, the nonprofit behind the fair, with organizations and companies that could represent the state, according to federal

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