

The New York Times

Tedium in the Court

TO THE EDITOR:

Re “On Trial, Trump Uses the Courtroom as a Stage” (news analysis, front page, Jan. 29):

You note that Donald Trump, who dropped in whenever he pleased at his own recent civil trials — yet fidgeted, fussed and even walked out in a huff, at times — will be required to appear for the entirety of his four upcoming criminal trials.

The toil and tedium of litigating even a single criminal case is typically exhausting for everyone involved — jurors, court staff, lawyers and defendants alike.

The idea of Mr. Trump being ordered to attend four such events brings to mind a well-known ethnographic study of the lower criminal courts in New Haven, aptly titled “The Process Is the Punishment.”

This is likely to be Mr. Trump’s experience as well, regardless of the outcome. In the criminal context, he is above neither the law nor its ornate and often maddeningly inefficient processes.

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