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Despite settlement, Fox News legal woes are far from over

Peter HUTCHISON

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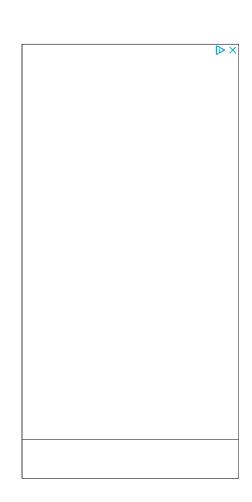
SPORTS



Fox News's massive payout to settle a defamation case doesn't end its legal woes, with the network facing other lawsuits and shareholder action over its broadcasting of election conspiracy theories.

The news behemoth agreed Tuesday to pay \$787.5 million to voting technology company Dominion, which sued the channel for airing false claims that its machines were used to steal the 2020 presidential ballot from Donald Trump.

The right-wing network still faces a \$2.7 billion lawsuit from another electronic voting company -- Smartmatic -- which claims that Fox News broadcast lies that "decimated" its business prospects.



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Q		He added	that the	company w	as "committed t	o clearin	g its			
	name, recouping the significant damage done to the									
f		company, and holding Fox accountable for undermining								
. ~		democrac								
7		Tuesday's	agreem	ent, announ	ced after jury se	lection ar	nd			

Tuesday's agreement, announced after jury selection and just before opening arguments were due to start, was settled for about half the \$1.6 billion that Dominion initially sought.

It avoided a high-profile trial that would have seen a parade of Fox personalities, including owner Rupert Murdoch and star anchor Tucker Carlson, forced to testify.

Fox News, which argued that it was protected by First Amendment free speech rights, acknowledged in a statement an earlier ruling by the presiding judge that the conservative network had broadcast false claims.

But US media reported that the channel's anchors will neither have to admit nor apologize on air for spreading the falsehoods -- comments that would likely anger its loyal viewers.

At the heart of the trial was going to be whether Fox News aired the falsehoods despite knowing they were untrue.

To win, Dominion would have to have proven "actual malice" -- that Fox knew the information was wrong or had a "reckless disregard" for the truth.

- 'Emboldened' -

The high bar has been a bedrock of US media law since 1964.

"The big takeaway is that the underlying law didn't change," Syracuse law professor William Banks told AFP.

"So though there may be emboldened plaintiffs they still have a high burden of proof," he added.

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Fox to Pay \$787.5 Million to Settle Dominion's Defamation Lawsuit

The Wall Street Journal



Fox News, Dominion Reach Settlement in Defamation Case

National Review



News US **Politics** World COVID-19 **Climate Change** Health Science **Originals Contact Us** A spokesperson for Fox News did not respond to a request Q Fox News' settlement with Dominion for comment but the network has denied the allegations in mean the risk of embarrassment is over, with previous statements. Smartmatic saying it 'remains committed' t... Business Insider Smartmatic's complaint cites comments by former Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and as well as anchors including Lou Dobbs and Jeanine Pirro. $\triangleright \times$ In February this year, a New York appeals court rejected Fox News's request to dismiss the case. A trial date has not yet been set. Last month, a Fox News producer filed two lawsuits against the network, alleging that its lawyers coerced her into giving false testimony in the Dominion case and claiming a "hostile work environment." Fox is also reportedly facing separate claims from shareholders accusing it of being in breach of fiduciary duties related to its coverage of Trump's claims. One complaint has already been submitted to a chancery court, the Financial Times has reported. Murdoch admitted in a deposition in the Dominion case that some on-air hosts had "endorsed" Trump's lie but he

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denied that the network in its entirety had pushed it,

according to court documents filed by Dominion.

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Fox Cries Uncle, Will Pay \$787 MILLION to End Dominion Trial

Shannon Stapleton/ReutersFox News waved the white flag on Tuesday, settling with Dominion Voting Systems just hours into the first day of the bombshell trial over whether... 22h ago



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Fox News settles Dominion's defamation lawsuit for \$787.5 million just as the trial was about to start Dominion had sued Fox for \$1.6 billion in damages, alleging it defamed it by airing conspiracy theories about the 2020 election.

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