

THE ROAD to Supreme Court: Important Dates of *Trump v. Barbara et al*

- May 6, 1882** Chester A. Arthur, the 21st president of the United States, signs the Chinese Exclusion Act, passed by the U.S. Congress, into law, restricting immigration and naturalization for Chinese immigrants.
- August 1895** Born in 1873 in San Francisco to parents who were both Chinese citizens residing in the United States, Wong Kim Ark is denied re-entry in the country upon returning from a visit to China by Federal officials who argue that as the son of Chinese nationals, he is not a U.S. citizen.
- October 2, 1895** A writ of habeas corpus¹ is issued on Wong Kim Ark's behalf, which formally introduces his case before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.
- March 5, 1897** The United States Supreme Court hears arguments in the case *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*.
- March 28, 1898** The Supreme Court rules 6–2 that as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Wong Kim Ark is a citizen. This cements birthright citizenship for nearly all born on U.S. soil.
- January 20, 2025** President Donald Trump issues ***Executive Order (EO) 14160***, “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship,” seeking to end birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to undocumented or temporary-status parents.
- February 19, 2025** Because a Subsection (a) applied only to persons born within the United States after 30 days from date of EO 14160, numerous lawsuits are filed. Courts initially grant injunctions against the EO, setting up a legal battle over the 14th Amendment.
- June 27, 2025** In the case *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, the Supreme Court's 6-3 majority rules that federal courts generally lack the authority to issue “universal” or nationwide injunctions against government policies. The case centered on a challenge to EO 14160, but the Court did not rule on its constitutionality, but focused on the procedural impropriety of the injunctions.
- December 5, 2025** The Supreme Court grants certiorari² to hear *Trump v. Barbara*
- April 1, 2026** The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on *Trump v. Barbara et al.*³ A ruling by the Supreme Court is expected in late June/early July when the Court's 2025-2026 term ends.

¹ A **writ of habeas corpus** is a legal order for authorities to bring a person in custody before a court to determine if their imprisonment or detention is lawful, essentially meaning, “you have the body.” It's a fundamental right protecting against illegal imprisonment, forcing the government to justify holding someone and ensuring they aren't held indefinitely without charges or due process.

² In law, **certiorari** (Latin for “to be more fully informed”) refers to a writ (order) from a higher court to a lower court or agency, compelling it to send up the records of a case for review, typically at the higher court's discretion, most prominently by the U.S. Supreme Court to decide which cases it will hear. Granting certiorari (or abbreviated as “cert”) means the higher court agrees to hear the appeal; however denying it allows the lower court's decision stand.

³ The case is formally listed in the docket as *Trump v. Barbara, et al.* (Docket No. 25-365). While often referred to in media and scholarly discussions simply as *Trump v. Barbara*, the “**et al.**” indicates that Barbara is the lead plaintiff representing a class of individuals.