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Ghislaine Maxwell's Lawyer Tells Appeals Judges That Jeffrey Epstein's Florida Plea Deal Protects Her

The [Associated Press](#) (03/12, Neumeister) reported that imprisoned British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell's lawyer asked a federal appeals court Tuesday to toss out her sex trafficking conviction and 20-year prison sentence, saying Jeffrey Epstein's 2007 non-prosecution deal with a U.S. attorney in Florida should have prevented her prosecution. The article added that attorney Diana Fabi Samson's argument was repeatedly challenged by one judge on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before the three-judge panel reserved decision. Lawyers for Maxwell are challenging her December 2021 conviction on multiple grounds, but the only topic at oral arguments was whether the deal Epstein struck in Florida to prevent a federal case against him there also protected Maxwell in New York. Samson said it did. A prosecutor said it didn't. Maxwell, 62, is serving her sentence at a low-security federal prison in Tallahassee, Florida, where yoga, Pilates, and movies are available. According to the article, Epstein's lawyers made a similar argument about the force of his non-prosecution deal in Florida after his July 2019, sex trafficking arrest in Manhattan. But the legal question became moot in his case after he took his own life a month later in a federal lockup as he awaited trial. [ABC News](#) (03/12, Katersky, Hill), [BBC](#) (03/12, Wendling), [Business Insider](#) (03/12, Shamsian), [Independent](#) (03/12, Bedigan), [Fox News](#) (03/12, Ruiz), [Washington Examiner](#) (03/12, Deese), [Reuters](#)

(03/12, Stempel), [New York Post](#) (03/12, Kochman), and the [Daily Beast](#) (03/12, Briquet) also reported on the story.



