

AlterNet

'Any lie will do for MAGA dimwits': Experts slam Trump for claiming 'absolute and unquestioned right' to docs

Maya Boddie

July 17, 2023

Twice-indicted former President Donald Trump addressed attendees at the recent conservative Turning Point USA Conference in Florida.

After a New York jury charged the 2024 MAGA hopeful in May for sexual assault against journalist E. Jean Carroll, Trump was indicted again, [NBC reports](#), "in connection with his mishandling of more than 100 classified documents that were discovered last year at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, making the twice-impeached former commander-in-chief the first former president to face federal criminal charges."

During his Turning Point USA speech, [the former president said](#), "They indicted me. They think of it. You don't have to be a lawyer to understand those words. That's as simple as it gets. They indicted me. In other words, whatever documents a president decides to take with him, he has the absolute and unquestioned right to do so. This is a law that was passed inside. And that's the law, and that's the way it is, and it couldn't be more clear."

Last month, the National Archives released a statement [saying](#), the Presidential Records Act "requires that all records created by Presidents (and Vice-Presidents) be turned over to" the National Archives and Records Administration "at the end of their administrations."

A slew of journalists and legal experts immediately debunked Trump's claim via Twitter.

Vanity Fair special correspondent Molly Jong-Fast [commented](#): "I don't think trump believes this."

James Surowiecki, editor at Yale Review, [said](#): "Trump is going to get convicted of multiple crimes literally because he listened to [conservative activist and Judicial Watch President] Tom Fitton's terrible legal advice."

Doug Thompson, political reporter and enterprise editor at Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette [added](#): "The presidential records act was passed specifically and explicitly to prevent this."

Former CATO Institute senior fellow Julian Sanchez wrote: "It takes some real chutzpah to slap the label 'unquestioned' on a position literally nobody but that weirdo hamhock from Judicial Watch thinks is correct."

David Lazarus, consumer reporter at KTLA, said: "He either doesn't understand the law or is lying"

CNN senior political commentator Adam Kinzinger added: "Of all the not true things, this is the not truest"

Washington Post investigative journalist Jonathan Greenberg replied: "Every hour brings new proof that any lie will do for MAGA dimwits & the fascist media propaganda networks that amplify the GOP's bottomless deceit as 'news!'"