

Casino tycoon Wynn defeats U.S. lawsuit over Chinese agent claims

Written by Administrator

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Oct 12 (Reuters) - Casino magnate Steve Wynn cannot be ordered to register with the U.S. Department of Justice as a foreign agent of China, a federal judge in Washington, D.C., said on Wednesday.

The Justice Department in May [sued for a court order](#) forcing Wynn, the former CEO of Wynn Casinos, to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Officials alleged that Wynn lobbied then-U.S. President Donald Trump on China's behalf in 2017. Wynn's attorneys denied that he was ever an agent of the Chinese government.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg said on Wednesday that, because any relationship between Wynn and the Chinese government ended in 2017, the Republican donor cannot be required to register as an agent. The judge pointed to past precedent in D.C. federal court in making the ruling.

The judge said he was not determining whether Wynn had lobbied on China's behalf. He also said the Justice Department could pursue criminal sanctions against Wynn for failing to disclose the alleged lobbying, if the statute of limitations had not expired.

A Justice Department spokesperson said the department disagreed with the ruling and is considering its options.

Wynn's lawyers in a statement reiterated their denial of the lobbying allegations. "This is a claim that should never have been filed, and the court agreed," they said.

Reporting by Jacqueline Thomsen in Washington; Editing by David Barrio, Matthew Lewis and Richard Pullin

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