

BOOM! LAWYERED: MEET THE REPUBLICAN AGS DRIVING THEIR PARTY OFF A CLIFF

Imani Gandy: Hello, fellow law nerds! Welcome to another episode of Boom! Lawyered, a Rewire News podcast, hosted by the legal journalism team that would like you to know that Liz Cheney is not a hero. Stop it. Seriously. Stop it. I'm Imani Gandy.

Jessica Pieklo: And I'm Jess Pieklo! Rewire News Group is dedicated to inspiring you to own your relationship to sex, abortion, parenthood, and power. And the #TeamLegal podcast is part of that mission. So a big thanks to our subscribers and a welcome to our new listeners!

Imani Gandy: So Jess, I can't help, but notice, lately you've been a bit frazzled. I mean, you look great. You look fabulous. I don't want it this turn into like, "oh, you're going to look like you're tired." No, you look fantastic. But I've known you for a while and you've been kind of frazzled, a little out of sorts, one might say.

Jessica Pieklo: So, yeah. It's Ken Paxton's fault.

Imani Gandy: Ken? Wait, what? How's is it ... it's Ken Paxton's fault? How was it Ken Paxton's fault?

Jessica Pieklo: It is entirely Ken Paxton's fault. First of all, thank you, Imani-

Imani Gandy: Who is Ken Paxton? Let's talk about who can Ken Paxton is. He's like the AG for Texas, right? He's the State AG?

Jessica Pieklo: The Texas Attorney General is making my skin breakout.

Imani Gandy: It's not though because you look great.

Jessica Pieklo: It's giving me sweats.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, you always say you're sweaty.

Jessica Pieklo: I'm not sleeping. I never slept.

Imani Gandy: I'm not. So it sounded like you were about to break into song: "I'm not sleeping, can't be sleeping..."

Jessica Pieklo: Ken Paxton has me three bars into a country song. [laughter]

Imani Gandy: Ken Paxton won't let me sleep.

Jessica Pieklo: This man is under criminal indictment.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, he is.

Jessica Pieklo: Right? Probably champing at the bit, to use your phrase, to get to enforcing a bunch of anti-trans and anti-abortion nonsense that lawmakers in the state are pushing. And I haven't even mentioned the big lie, right? This lie that the election was stolen. That's out there. And so Ken Paxton is like the face of this and there's this big fight going on. And, I think he's going to be the future of the conservative movement.

Imani Gandy: No, no. I don't like this at all.

Jessica Pieklo: And that's why I'm in a way.

Imani Gandy: A way. I don't like that idea at all. So let's talk about that. We're going to focus our episode on that this week, right-

Jessica Pieklo: Therapy?

Imani Gandy: We're going to about-

Jessica Pieklo: We're going to talk about, we're going to do therapy for Jess.

Imani Gandy: Okay. We're going to try and get some therapy in for Jess, but we're also going to talk about this big lie, right? That the election was stolen and that Trump really is the president and I don't know, he should be in The White House ... and Biden, he's just this guy who stole the election. We're going to talk about that.

We're also going to talk about the ways in which Republican attorneys general are propagating this big lie. The Republican Attorneys General Association. I love saying attorneys general. The Republican Attorneys General Association, or RAGA has gone MAGA. RAGA has gone MAGA.

[noises, laughter]

But honestly, there's really, I have to say, there's really nothing that makes me happier. Well, there are some things that make me happy. Few things make me happier than being able to say attorneys general or goings on.

Jessica Pieklo: It is like a thing that you have.

Imani Gandy: Missions impossible.

Jessica Pieklo: It is missions impossible, not mission impossibles! Attorneys general.

Imani Gandy: Right? So RAGA is essentially what it sounds like. It is a bunch of Republican attorneys general, whose goal is to get other Republican attorneys general elected to office.

Jessica Pieklo: You really do love saying attorneys general.

Imani Gandy: I do. And I won't apologize for it.

Jessica Pieklo: No, you shouldn't. You know what? No apologies in 2021, Imani.

Imani Gandy: Thank you. No apologies. Be a chad. I'm going to be a chad and say attorneys general. We're going to talk about how RAGA has gone MAGA. Not only were they involved in promoting the January sixth insurrection, and we're going to talk about that more later, but one of the guys who said, "Oh, no, not us. We didn't have anything to do with it. Not RAGA" ... was forced to resign from RAGA because it turned out that this RAGA dude was lying through his MAGA teeth.

Jessica Pieklo: The RAGA MAGA is just so much.

Imani Gandy: It's a lot and it's fine. Like I'm okay if RAGA wants to go MAGA. But the problem is, is that these attorneys general really affect our lives. And so the ways in which they affect our lives, it's just poised to be really, really bad for us. So we got to talk about these RAGA that have gone MAGA.

Jessica Pieklo: RAGA gone MAGA is just like, that's the terrible mantra. I need to put that in a shell and burn it, right? That's just bad. All right. So these AG's. Let's get into it.

Imani Gandy: Let's do it.

Jessica Pieklo: So the conservative party, conservatives, the Republican party seems to be having a moment amongst itself. Right? You said Liz Cheney is not a hero. She's not a hero. But, she was the one person who was like, "hey, you know what's not cool guys? Insurrection. Let's not do that."

Imani Gandy: Maybe that's a bad idea.

Jessica Pieklo: Maybe that's a bad idea. And she was rewarded by being what? Kicked out of leadership.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. She was kicked out of leadership just today. Just this morning.

Jessica Pieklo: Okay, so we've got that as like the table setting, as the backdrop for what is going on in the states, because this fight for the soul of the conservative party that's happening nationally is absolutely happening at the state level, too. And we've got state attorneys generals, attorneys general in places like Texas, right? Ken Paxton. Alabama, Mississippi, these places will all sound familiar to you if you know civil rights and anti-abortion politics, right. They are all right in the center of this whole mess.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. And the Daily Beast has done some great reporting on these frigging jackasses and in particular, in their role in the January 6th uprising. Unsurprisingly, Missouri is smack dab in the middle of these shenanigans. Missouri is always smack dab in the middle of all kinds of shenanigans. Smack

dab in the middle of the Black Lives Matter uprising that started in Ferguson. Though, I've had to write several open letters to Missouri asking them to chill the fuck out when it comes to antiabortion restrictions.

Jessica Pieklo: Seriously, if there is a fight over the soul of the country, Missouri seems to be located dead center in it always.

Imani Gandy: Which is interesting to me because, they're kind of located dead center in the country. Aren't they? Would you say?

Jessica Pieklo: Look, I mean, there's a lot ... like I ... do you want me to do a civil war riff? Once a confederate, always a confederate.

Imani Gandy: Oh God. I actually would, kind of.

Jessica Pieklo: I mean, the history is there. The history is there. Missouri is in the middle of all of this.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. Yeah. So according to the Daily Beast, RAGA, the Republican Attorneys General Association, their fundraising arm is called the Republican Legal Defense Fund. So the Republican Legal Defense-

Jessica Pieklo: I have eyeballs for that.

Imani Gandy: Right? Because this isn't the first thing you think of is the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. That's the first place my mind goes. And I'm like, what? All you do is you just come up with money to defend AGs who are bullshit, essentially. But the RLDF sent out invitations for a conference call on January 5th to talk about the rally that was scheduled for the following day, which ended up being not so much a rally, but more of an insurrection, a very violent insurrections.

Jessica Pieklo: I was going to say rallies doing a lot of work there.

Imani Gandy: They're doing a lot of work. And as if that wasn't bad enough, the RDLF, Republican Legal Defense Fund also sent out robocalls that kind of seemed like they were foreshadowing the insurrection. So here's what they said. They called up a bunch of people, and here's what they said:

“At 1:00 PM. We will march to the Capitol building and we will call on Congress to stop the steal. We are hoping patriots like you will join us to continue the fight.” This is the actual legal defense fund, the fundraising arm of the Association of Republican Attorneys General. That's bonkers and the RLDF, this legal defense fund, they were listed as a participating organization on the website that advertised the march, like to have the top chief legal advisors in multiple states signing on for this nonsense legal argument that somehow the election was stolen. That's bad.

Jessica Pieklo: So for the non-lawyers participating in this journey with us today, one of the things that you may not know is that in order to even be a member of the bar association, lawyers to be need to pass character and fitness like evaluation by the law examiners, which is basically like, "hey, you're not the kind of person who would go out and advertise an insurrection, are you? And if so, you should not be part of this profession." Like, I'm thinking about all of the law students who were sweating about whether or not they need to disclose a minor in possession of alcohol charge from some under age high school party when they were 16 or whether or not they got busted with a dime bag of weed before it was legal ... and that is going to keep them out of a profession. And we have the top lawyers of the states effectively saying, you know what be cool is if you marched on the Capitol.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. You know what'd be pretty sweet? If you just overthrew the government.

Jessica Pieklo: What in the ever-loving fuck is going on?

Imani Gandy: But it gets worse.

Jessica Pieklo: No.

Imani Gandy: You want to talk about ... no, it does. You want to talk about moral character and fitness. One of the things you're supposed to do when you're a lawyer is not lie.

Jessica Pieklo: Yeah, totally.

Imani Gandy: I know. I know people would say lawyers are liars and lawyers just look at the law and interpret it differently than other people, but you're not supposed to lie.

Jessica Pieklo: That's not lying.

Imani Gandy: That's not lying. That's just finessing an argument. That's finagling, right. And so the executive director of RAGA who's a dude named Adam Piper, was essentially like, "we didn't have anything to do with promoting the insurrection. I don't know what you're talking about." But it turns out that that's not true, right? Because RAGA's fundraising arm was ass deep in the insurrection.

So when it turned out that RAGA was ass deep in the insurrection, the guy who said, "no, not us," this Adam Piper character, resigned.

Jessica Pieklo: Well, good.

Imani Gandy: Smart. You should resign because you lied. And then there was this huge internal struggle for the soul of RAGA, for the soul of this collective of attorneys general and the MAGA people won.

Jessica Pieklo: I quit.

Imani Gandy: You can't quit because then I'm left to talk alone by myself to our producer, Marc, who's just sitting there and looking at me like face palming right now. That's no fun for us. [laughter]

Jessica Pieklo: So how are the lawyers letting this happen?

Imani Gandy: I don't know. But what happened is, is these attorneys general promoted to executive director this guy called Peter Bisbee. The guy called Peter Bisbee was directly involved in these robocalls advertising the insurrection.

Jessica Pieklo: Wait. So they rewarded him.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. The rewarded the guy who was like, "hey, we should do these robocalls to convince other Americans to overthrow the government." And it gets even worse than that. They also promoted to chair of RAGA, Mississippi's Attorney General, this guy, Eric Schmidt. Eric Schmidt is the guy who filed, not just one, but two briefs to the Supreme Court backing this madness that the GOP was propagating about how the Pennsylvania election results should essentially be overturned and that state should be handed to Trump because reasons. And he's running for Senate, if you just want that last cherry on a shit sundae.

Jessica Pieklo: No, I do think I quit. I do think this is enough for me? Because like ... first of all, good dude, you quit. Congratulations, but you quit because you got caught. And I'm imagining this promotion conversation happening, which was like, good job getting the crew together. Effectively marched. Don't know that we hit of all of our goals, so those are some places that we have to work on next time. Right. Like he got a nine out of ten, right? You organized everything. you just didn't get your ultimate conclusion, but hey, you still get the promotion.

Imani Gandy: Yeah.

Jessica Pieklo: So this is a really terrifying signal to be sending other lawyers, other advocates, other activists, as we round out the previous election and into the next one, because we are not doubling down on the democratic process if we are the conservative movement. We are doubling down on the big lie. And so this doesn't go away.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, doubling down.

Jessica Pieklo: You don't double down on something like a complete alternate reality. A fiction. And then be like, ah, you know what? Ha ha just kidding. We're totes cool.

Imani Gandy: Also it sends a signal to young conservative lawyers to be, that it's okay to lie and to make shit up.

Jessica Pieklo: Yeah.

Imani Gandy: And that we really don't ... all those ethics tests that we take and the oaths that we take, they don't really mean anything because look ... something like almost half of the attorneys general in this country have decided that they are going to support a ridiculous lie. They've decided as a collective, that this is what they're going to do. And it's not just robocalls. These ass hats have been involved in actively challenging the results of the presidential election. Right. So I mentioned Eric Schmidt, mattorney, mattorneys. In Missouri.

Jessica Pieklo: Okay.

Imani Gandy: I mentioned Eric Schmidt. He's Missouri's maternity general. [laughter] What is wrong with me?

Jessica Pieklo: The maternity general is just amazing.

Imani Gandy: I don't even know.

Jessica Pieklo: Just go with it. In season 12 of Grey's Anatomy, we're talking about maternity generals.

Imani Gandy: Maternity general hospital. [laughter]

Okay. So yeah, so essentially, he has been backing this ridiculous argument that state Supreme Courts don't have the authority to overrule bad actions by state lawmakers when it comes to voting rights, right. They want to be able to cut off at the pass, all of the mail in voting, right? And the thing that's fascinating about this to me is that Trump signaled to Democrats that you need to mail in vote by basically yanking, in the dead of night, post office boxes off the street. And so now, what we're supposed to believe is that the recourse that Democrats took to make sure that their vote got counted, which was mailing in a ballot, somehow that was illegal too. And when the states decided to count those ballots, even after election day, which they had the right to do under their own state law, that that was somehow illegal.

Jessica Pieklo: Right.

Imani Gandy: It's bad.

Jessica Pieklo: It's just bad. It's bad.

Imani Gandy: And like you said, in the upfront, you said Ken Paxton is the reason that you're frazzled and then you're stressed out. Ken Paxton literally spoke at the January 6th uprising, right? Like how does that happen?

Jessica Pieklo: So as an attorney, I cannot file anything with the court without doing, what's called a rule 11 attestation, right? And that attestation is basically like, hey, look, there aren't any lies in this. I'm representing my client's interests to the fullest of my ability and within the bounds of the law. And maybe I'm making a novel legal argument, like maybe this is a new legal argument that I'm making, but I have a good faith reason to do so that I'll lay out in the brief, or in the pleading or whatever. And if lawyers fail to do that, if what they filed with the court doesn't match that statement, we can be sanctioned. A judge can say, "hey, you know what? You're in violation of rule 11, that's an ethics violation. You owe the court money. Your license is suspended." Where is the rule 11 violation for speaking at an insurrection?

Imani Gandy: I don't know.

Jessica Pieklo: Like, I can file a motion if it helps move things along.

Imani Gandy: Maybe we need to file something with the state bar, because this is just ... it's out of hand. And Ted Cruz too. I mean, he's not an attorney general, but he's a member of the bar, right?

Jessica Pieklo: He went to Harvard law.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, he went to Harvard.

Jessica Pieklo: That guy knows better.

Imani Gandy: They all should have their bar licenses stripped at a minimum.

Jessica Pieklo: And again, I'm just going back to, because words used to matter. They should matter. The rule of law defense funds. Like honestly, the RAGA is bonkers. But RAGA's fundraising arm is, shouldn't it be called the rule of defense law fund or what rule of law defense fund? Right? Because like, when I think conservative lawyers, I think like law and order man, right? Like those are the folks who are backing the blue and shit like that. So that seems like rule of law to me, not march on the Capitol and erect some scaffolding to-

Imani Gandy: But in their minds, they are upholding the rule of law because in their minds, Trump won the election. Or, at least that's the lie that they are trying to convince their constituents. I don't actually think that most of these people believe Trump won the election.

Jessica Pieklo: No.

Imani Gandy: I think it's just a play, but we need to get back to the fact that ... listeners, what we are telling you right now is that there is basically a hundred percent chance that an attorney general who is in a Republican state, a gerrymandered state, a voter suppressed state is full on MAGA, like completely on the Trump train, still

on the Trump train, despite two impeachments, despite all of the bad behavior, despite bilking his followers and his stands out of millions and millions and millions of dollars and shipping it off to the Cayman somewhere.

That these attorneys general, the people who are supposed to uphold the rule of law in the states are MAGA. They don't believe in the rule of law. What are we supposed to do with that? What are Democratic attorneys general supposed to do with that? Because usually, these people are supposed to be able to work together. Sure you may disagree on the interpretation of the law, but Democratic attorneys general usually don't think, "oh hey, that guy over there tried to overthrow the government based on a really, really bad faith reading of the law."

Jessica Pieklo: Yeah, I mean, pretty much. We just have big lies, like all over the state now, right? Like Paxton, you've got one example. There's that dude, Jason Ravensborg, did I say his name? Ravensborg-

Imani Gandy: Oh my God, that guy-

Jessica Pieklo: From South Dakota. This guy-

Imani Gandy: That guy-

Jessica Pieklo: Who literally, like 100% MAGA, not even like trying to hide it.

Imani Gandy: Not only what a hundred percent MAGA, but 100% hit a dude with his car, killed the man, and he's still in office!

Jessica Pieklo: The rule of law, Imani. This is the rule of law that we defend. The right to leave a Trump fundraiser and drive drunk and put another man through our windshield. That's the rule of law.

Imani Gandy: And not only that, it was a hit and run. It was like a hit and run in return. Here's what happened. He initially told authorities that he thought he'd struck a deer or another large animal. And so he went home.

Jessica Pieklo: That's reasonable in South Dakota.

Imani Gandy: He hit a deer and he just moved on. And then he said, he went back and searched the area with a flashlight, and didn't realize that he'd killed the man until the next day. Like he looked around with a flashlight apparently that night, didn't see anything, flashlight on his phone, didn't see a dead body. It was like, didn't see a deer either apparently, just saw nothing. All good. Went home, came back the next day and was like, "ooh, it looks like it kind of killed the dude." So it's hit and run and return. There was a five month investigation. They weren't able to bring any charges against him that would have landed him in jail.

So he basically got like a misdemeanor and he's still in office. He's still the attorney general for South Dakota. What? What? What?

Jessica Pieklo: I know right? This accident is so tragic because, and during that investigation, it came out, that when he hit the dude, it was because he was on his phone, looking up a story about Hunter Biden's laptop and China. So like all of it, it is literally that ridiculous. So yeah, that guy's attorney general. He's in charge of enforcing the laws of the state of South Dakota. So you might have some questions for him if you are a resident of South Dakota. I'm just saying.

Imani Gandy: Like why did you hit a dude and run? I don't know. And, we're making jokes and we're trying to keep this light, but this is actually really serious. The fact that we have that we have MAGA attorney gen ... I almost said attorney generals. I messed up my whole vibe, bro. But the fact that we have these MAGA attorneys general in office, that is really harmful because they are not really tapped into reality. They don't believe in the rule of law. They have absolutely no problem with lying. And they actually think that, or at least they are willing to pretend, that they think that Trump actually won the election.

Jessica Pieklo: Yeah. And it's just bonkers. I mean, you had mentioned like, how are Democratic attorneys general supposed to work with them? How our Democratic lawmakers? If you have somebody who should just be ideologically different than you, but that difference is an alternate reality, there's no governing that is possible.

Imani Gandy: Right.

Jessica Pieklo: Like, that is just not possible. The only way that you can govern is if you buy into their big lie, even in incremental bits and you just can't. So then what does this look like? This looks like progressive lawmakers in states trying to push back against some of these anti-trans bills with science, and conservative lawmakers, like these MAGA folks being like, so yeah, so science, that's neat. We don't actually do science around here. You know? Where is the policy that comes from that? Right? Like there is no ... it's an entrenched unsolvable problem that we have and why I'm seeming a little frazzled these days, Imani.

Imani Gandy: And as well you should, because we've been talking about Eric Schmidt, this Missouri Attorney General. He's running for Senate now.

Jessica Pieklo: Yeah.

Imani Gandy: So these people ... attorneys general offices are often pipelines to national office. Right.

Jessica Pieklo: This is such an important point. Like I can imagine listeners being like, oh I mean-

Imani Gandy: Who cares about Eric Schmidt-

Jessica Pieklo: Do I really care about the attorneys general? And like yeah. You know, because you know, who used to be the attorney general of Missouri, Josh Hawley.

Imani Gandy: Another guy who just walked by these insurrectionists, gave them a fist bump.

Jessica Pieklo: Like, you know, a power to be just like, hey, Josh Hawley.

Imani Gandy: Fight the power. I just ... oh it's so terrible-

Jessica Pieklo: Right? But this is absolutely true. It is absolutely true. There are a couple pipelines to national office for folks in the legal profession and a state level attorney general is an excellent example of this. And I mean, we see how this can go very differently too. I mean, even just look at the difference in the way the states of Kentucky versus the state of Minnesota have handled police violence incidents among, in their ranks. Right? Like attorney general, Keith Ellison, actually prosecuted a cop.

Imani Gandy: Yeah. Yep. Got a cop prosecuted. Convicted.

Jessica Pieklo: Right? So the differences are not just like a little esoteric. They're real.

Imani Gandy: And in Kentucky, we had Daniel Cameron as the AG, who essentially undercharged the officers who killed Breonna Taylor so that they couldn't possibly be found guilty of anything. I mean, this is how these attorneys general can affect actual people's lives, especially the lives of Black people.

Jessica Pieklo: Totally. It's where the rubber meets the road.

Imani Gandy: And the lives of trans people and the lives of pregnant people and the lives of any marginalized people who aren't particularly represented in Republican governance.

Jessica Pieklo: Absolutely. So it does matter that this dude in South Dakota hit a guy and continues to stay in office because he could be a future Senator from the great state of South Dakota.

Imani Gandy: And it matters that these AGs are continuing to push this line. And I've said over the course of the episode, are pretending to believe this lie because I don't think a lot of them actually believe that Biden didn't fair and square win. But what they are doing, is they are trying to undermine voter confidence in the electoral system, to undermine white voter, white non-progressive conservative voter confidence.

These are people who have never been disenfranchised a day in their life. The entire ... all of the gerrymandering and voter suppression laws cater to these

people. You can go vote in a white neighborhood. It takes you 10 minutes. You go to downtown Atlanta, it takes you eight to 12 hours. There's a reason for that. The reason is because Black and Brown people tend to vote for Democrats. Right? And so then there becomes a question about, are we even a representative Republic at all?

Because for the last ... I don't know how many elections did Republicans lose the popular vote, but when the presidency based solely on the electoral college, which is a racist, fricking vintage piece of garbage from Jim Crow era? Like these are actual problems. And so now you have white folks, conservative white folks, who have never been disenfranchised, but who think that they have been because the orange guy didn't win the election. And so now what are Republican's doing? They're passing laws to make sure that the elections remain ... have some sense of integrity, right? They got to restore integrity to the electoral process.

There was never any dissipation of integrity from the electoral system. It's been, if anything, it's always Black and Brown people who are disenfranchised. And now they're passing more laws, which further disenfranchise already disenfranchised people because Republicans have colonized voter suppression.

Jessica Pieklo:

Yeah.

Imani Gandy:

They've literally colonized. They have taken an actual issue affecting Black people, co-opted it, and made it an issue affecting them so that they can continue to disenfranchise Black and Brown people. It's actually very clever. It's clever, in terms of policy and strategic, as Bush would have said, it's actually clever, but it's just that it's not clever ... it's cleverness that's going to end up hurting marginalized people. And that's-

Jessica Pieklo:

Yeah. And I mean, they took a page right out of the anti-abortion playbook to do it, right? Like this we're restoring integrity to the process. That is just the same as like we're going to pass a heartbeat ban. Right. That's nonsense. Those words don't mean what you're saying they mean, right.

Imani Gandy:

Right. Right.

Jessica Pieklo:

Because the rhetorical presumption there that they are promoting is that when Black and Brown folks vote in large numbers, that that is in and of itself, fraudulent.

Imani Gandy:

Yeah. I mean, literally, they went to court a bunch of times ... they'd be like, can we just toss out the votes of the Black and brown people who voted against Trump? That's what they did. So, this is a real problem for Democrats because Democrats are not going to be able to win another election if Black and brown people are not permitted to vote because Black and brown people tend to vote for Democrats. So if Democrats have any intention of remaining in power, they

need to figure out a way to push back against the Republicans who are propagating this lie, who have turned a lie into truth.

Jessica Pieklo: And I just think, to one final point that you made, that I just think is so important that I really want to amplify is this idea that it feels nice right now, several months into a different administration and that and it feels like there's some hope on the horizon with the pandemic, even like ... there are signs of lightness, but the dark storm clouds really continue. And it is natural I think, for folks to get complacent. But as you said, Democrats have to get focused on this if they have any hope of fulfilling an agenda or winning elections in the future again. So the stakes are really quite that high.

Imani Gandy: The stakes are high and RAGA has gone MAGA. And on that note, we are going to close out this episode. If you want to talk about any of this stuff, or if you just want to say attorneys general with me five times in a row, you can find me on Twitter at @AngryBlackLady. You can find Jess on Twitter at @Hegemommy, H-E-G-E-M-O-M-M-Y. You should follow @RewireNewsGroup on Twitter and on Instagram. And you could give us money, right? You could go to rewirenewsgroup.com/boomgive and give us money so we can keep talking to you about Republicans behaving badly, Republicans behaving badly and okay, that's it. What are we going to do, Jess?

Jessica Pieklo: I'm going to change my shirt because this episode made me so sweaty, but then we will also see you on the tubes, folks.

Imani Gandy: Shirt change, tubes. That's the order of things happening today.

Boom! Lawyered is created and hosted by Jessica Mason Pieklo and Imani Gandy. Marc Faletti produces the show.