



Footwear & Politics

By Thomas Crockett • May 28, 2025

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In major trade news, the United States Court of International Trade (CIT) struck down President Trump’s April 2nd “reciprocal” tariffs on the grounds he exceeded his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). This involved two lawsuits brought by businesses and state government officials.

What they’re saying: The three-judge panel wrote:

The question ... before the court is whether the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977 ("IEEPA") delegates these powers to the President in the form of authority to impose unlimited tariffs on goods from nearly every country in the world. The court does not read IEEPA to confer such unbounded authority and sets aside the challenged tariffs imposed thereunder.

 **Go deeper:** Read the court’s opinion below:

CIT Tariff Opinion

What this means:

- Right now the April 2nd tariffs levied on all countries are null and void.
- There may be refunds to importers. That issue is being looked at now. We will advise when next steps become clearer.

What’s next:

President Trump will appeal: The White House will appeal the ruling to the Federal Circuit. We expect the case to end up at the Supreme Court.

- The CIT decision may be stayed by the appeals court while the case is being reviewed.

Other avenues for tariffs: At the same time, the President will likely try to use another power to keep some tariffs active.

- As we have advised for some time, the president has several avenues to enact tariffs—think 301 on steroids against many countries or 232 tariffs on specific products.
- **Yes, but:** These processes take time and have statutorily defined rules to guide the investigations.

There are many possible outcomes. What’s important is to stay closely connected with FDRA as we track developments using our full expertise and insider knowledge.


As always, we will send out key updates to FDRA members as we receive them.

Thanks for reading. We’re on call for any questions or comments you might have.

Matt and Thomas

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