



Footwear & Politics

By Thomas Crockett • Aug 29, 2025

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In a stunning Friday of Labor Day Weekend ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled 7-4 that a majority of President Trump’s tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) are illegal.

- **What’s next:** This case will now almost certainly head to the Supreme Court.

Give me the details: The appeals court ruled that the President cannot use emergency powers under IEEPA to impose broad new tariffs — Congress alone has that authority.

- The court declared the recent “trafficking” and “reciprocal” tariffs unlawful and invalid, striking them down.
- The Trump administration has until October 14, 2025 to appeal to the Supreme Court before the ruling takes effect.
- If an appeal is filed, which we highly anticipate, the tariffs will remain in place until the Supreme Court makes a decision.

Oh, also: The court said it did not reach a conclusion on whether a president could authorize any tariffs under the emergency powers, only that Trump's reasoning for the tariffs did not constitute an emergency.

- "[T]he only issue we resolve on appeal is whether the Trafficking Tariffs and Reciprocal Tariffs imposed ... are authorized by IEEPA. We conclude they are not."

Tell me about it: The essence of the appellate court’s ruling is captured here:

The statute bestows significant authority on the President ... but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like, or the power to tax. It seems unlikely that Congress intended, in enacting IEEPA, to depart from its past practice and grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs.

The bottom line: The case is far from over but is moving in the right direction.

- **Go deeper:** Read the ruling in its entirety here:

[Read the Ruling](#)

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Matt and Thomas

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