

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: OPENING STATEMENTS TO BEGIN IN HUNTER BIDEN TRIAL]

MICHAEL STRAHAN: And now to the trial of Hunter Biden on felony gun charges. A jury has been seated in this unprecedented case and opening statements are set to begin this morning. Our senior national correspondent Terry Moran is at the courthouse in Wilmington, Delaware, for us. Good morning, Terry.

TERRY MORAN: Good morning, Michael. Prosecutors say this is a simple case and it's moving quickly. The judge, as you mentioned, seating a jury in just one day and after those opening statements, these jurors will hear from the first witness, an FBI agent, who will testify about some of Hunter Biden's text messages. This morning, the trial of Hunter Biden gets under way with opening statements from both sides. Six men and six women will weigh the evidence against Hunter Biden, who faces three felony gun charges. Prosecutors say in October 2018, he illegally purchased a colt revolver while he was addicted to drugs, lying on his federal form. The jury that's been seated for this case includes several people with family members who suffered from addiction or who own firearms, including a man whose father died by gun violence and his brother was sentenced to prison for drug crimes, and a woman whose sister was addicted to drugs and committed credit card fraud.

ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR/LEGAL ANALYST BRYAN BUCKMIRE: A person like that, especially a foreperson, can be very sympathetic to Hunter Biden's cause.

MORAN: Later today, prosecutors are expected to call an FBI agent as their first witness who will present several of Hunter Biden's text messages and excerpts from his memoir, part of the prosecution's evidence that Biden knew he was an addict when he bought the gun. But Biden's lawyers have argued that the form he had to fill out is confusing and so their client did not knowingly lie. In a state as small as Delaware, it wasn't easy to find jurors who didn't have a strong opinion of the president and his family. One perspective juror telling the judge, "you can't swing a cat without hearing something" about the Bidens. Also in the courtroom, First Lady Jill Biden, Hunter's sister Ashley, and his wife Alyssa. Hunter Biden at times growing emotional seeing his family at his side. He said in the past that they saved his life.

HUNTER BIDEN [on 12/13/23]: During my battle with addiction, my parents were there for me. They literally saved my life.

MORAN: President Biden released a statement. In it, he said as president he can't comment on the case but he also said this. He said, "I am the president, but I am also a dad. As a dad, I have boundless love for my son." George.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Terry Moran, thanks.