1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE U	NITED STATES
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3	PHILLIP MORRIS USA INC.,	:
4	Petitioner	:
5	v.	: No. 07-1216
6	MAYOLA WILLIAMS,	:
7	PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE	:
8	OF THE ESTATE OF JESSE D.	:
9	WILLIAMS, DECEASED.	:
10		- x
11	Washington, D.C.	
12	Wednesday	, December 3, 2008
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14	The above-entitled	matter came on for oral
15	argument before the Supreme Cour	t of the United States
16	at 10:02 a.m.	
17	APPEARANCES:	
18	STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.; on behalf of	
19	the Petitioner.	
20	ROBERT S. PECK, ESQ., Washington	, D.C.; on behalf of the
21	Respondent.	
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1	CONTENTS	
2	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	PAGE
3	STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO, ESQ.	
4	On behalf of the Petitioner	3
5	ROBERT S. PECK, ESQ.	
6	On behalf of the Respondent	27
7	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF	
8	STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO, ESQ.	
9	On behalf of the Petitioner	54
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(10:02 a.m.)	
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument	
4	first this morning in Case 07-1216, Philip Morris v.	
5	Williams.	
6	Mr. Shapiro.	
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO	
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER	
9	MR. SHAPIRO: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice,	
10	and may it please the Court:	
11	We are here today because the Oregon court	
12	failed to follow this Court's directions on remand and	
13	because the ground it gave is not adequate to show a	
14	forfeiture of due process rights.	
15	This this Court vacated after finding	
16	that the Oregon Supreme Court applied the wrong	
17	constitutional standard, and it remanded with directions	
18	to apply the standard that the Court laid out. But the	
19	Oregon court didn't do that. It never even addressed	
20	the constitutional issue. The Oregon court, of course,	
21	refused to follow this Court's direction because it	
22	believed there were mistakes in another paragraph in our	
23	instruction request dealing with what the court referred	
24	to as "unrelated issues."	
25	But that isn't what this Court mandated.	

- 1 And the specific forfeiture theory adopted here for the
- 2 first time after nine years of appellate litigation is
- 3 completely inadequate to avoid this mandate.
- 4 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Shapiro, we are
- 5 dealing with a State supreme court, and our bottom line
- 6 always reads "for further proceedings not inconsistent
- 7 with this opinion." And it was my understanding that a
- 8 State court can resolve a case on an alternate State law
- 9 ground, if there is such a ground in the case.
- 10 MR. SHAPIRO: Yes, Your Honor. We believe
- 11 that this disposition is quite inconsistent with what
- 12 the Court mandated. The Court heard arguments in this
- 13 case about the "correct in all respects" rule, but it
- 14 still mandated an application of the constitutional
- 15 standard, including the prohibition on punishment for
- 16 harm to nonparties, and that standard simply was never
- 17 applied. We say that's inconsistent with this Court's
- 18 opinion.
- 19 JUSTICE SOUTER: But it seems to me the
- 20 problem with the argument is that to say it's
- 21 inconsistent with the opinion we implicitly have to say
- 22 that the Oregon Supreme Court has to confront State law
- 23 issues in a certain sequence, and that if it does not do
- 24 so, those issues are waived, as it were, not only by the
- 25 court but by the party who raised it. And the

- 1 difficulty, I think, with your position here is that on
- 2 the assumption, which I do make, that the -- that the
- 3 issue, "correct in all respect" issue, was properly
- 4 raised by the other side, if we accept your position, we
- 5 in effect are saying the other side is not going to have
- 6 an opportunity to argue that before the Oregon Supreme
- 7 Court. And that's, it seems to me, kind of a steep hill
- 8 for you to climb.
- 9 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, we don't say that the
- 10 court can never adopt a State law standard after remand
- 11 from this Court, but we say that this disposition is
- 12 inconsistent with --
- 13 JUSTICE SOUTER: I know you are saying that
- 14 but why -- why does the disposition that you are asking
- 15 for not entail what I just said, and that is, in effect
- 16 you cut off the claim by a party raised before the
- 17 Oregon Supreme Court, not considered by the Oregon
- 18 Supreme Court, and you cut off that claim simply because
- 19 the Oregon Supreme Court chose to approach the issues in
- 20 the case in a certain sequence? What business do we
- 21 have to do that?
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, because the preservation
- 23 issue was debated before this Court, and it adopted a
- 24 specific order here saying on remand now consider the
- 25 constitutional standard, which is the prohibition on --

- 1 JUSTICE SOUTER: I know the language that
- 2 you are referring to.
- 3 MR. SHAPIRO: Yes.
- 4 JUSTICE SOUTER: But referring to that
- 5 language simply skips over the issue that I am trying to
- 6 raise. Isn't there a problem that we should be
- 7 concerned with if we accept your position in cutting off
- 8 the claim made by one party to the case which was never
- 9 heard by the Oregon Supreme Court?
- 10 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, Your Honor, this is very
- 11 similar to what occurred in the Sullivan case in this
- 12 Court, where the issue of preservation was debated
- 13 before this Court at the cert stage in the cert papers,
- 14 and the Court said: We sub silentio passed on the
- 15 adequacy of the State ground when we GVR'ed the case.
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Didn't -- did the
- 17 Court -- I mean, that's -- suppose the -- what is it
- 18 called -- "correct in all respects" had been raised and
- 19 decided by the Oregon Supreme Court in the first
- 20 instance. Suppose it had said, well, we don't have to
- 21 deal with whether Instruction 34 was right or wrong in
- 22 this particular, because it was wrong in other respects.
- 23 Suppose that had been the first time around what the
- 24 Oregon Supreme Court said. Would that have offended any
- 25 Federal due process? Would that have been an

- 1 appropriate disposition for the Oregon Supreme Court to
- 2 make?
- 3 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, that takes us to our
- 4 second and principal argument, which is that that ground
- 5 would not be adequate under this Court's criteria for
- 6 adequacy. And we say that -- that there are really
- 7 three reasons why that would not be an adequate ground
- 8 for forfeiting this valuable constitutional right. It's
- 9 an ambush. It was a surprise ruling that we couldn't
- 10 anticipate. It's an exercise in futility because, even
- if we submitted a perfect instruction that complied with
- 12 that rule, we would have been rejected anyway by the
- 13 trial court that simply believed that this instruction
- 14 wasn't required by the --
- 15 JUSTICE SOUTER: Isn't the place to make
- 16 that argument in the Oregon Supreme Court?
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, no. The Oregon Supreme
- 18 --
- 19 JUSTICE SOUTER: Wouldn't it have been
- 20 appropriate to -- to hear the -- the issue that they are
- 21 raising and for you to make the reply that you have just
- 22 made?
- MR. SHAPIRO: Your Honor, this Court has
- 24 said repeatedly that adequacy is a Federal law question
- 25 for this Court to decide.

1	JUSTICE SOUTER: I realize it's a Federal	
2	law question, and in approaching that question, I keep	
3	asking the question which I think I have now put to you	
4	three times and have yet to hear an answer on the merits	
5	on: Why is it appropriate for us to have a rule here	
6	that cuts off the right of a party that properly raised	
7	an issue in the Oregon Supreme Court and has yet to be	
8	heard on the merits in the Oregon Supreme Court?	
9	MR. SHAPIRO: Well, there are two reasons.	
10	First under the adequacy decisions of this Court,	
11	including Lee v. Kemna, if it takes years and years	
12	after the trial to articulate a forfeiture rule like	
13	this, that counts heavily against the adequacy of the	
14	State ground. This Court held that in Lee v. Kemna very	
15	recently.	
16	And then secondly, this is a point that was	
17	argued to this Court four three four separate	
18	times now, and when the Court remanded with explicit	
19	directions to apply the constitutional standard, that's	
20	something that had to be done on remand. The Court did	
21	not invite the lower court to get into the question of	
22	whether this request was made. The Court found that the	
23	request was made.	
24	JUSTICE SOUTER: Maybe maybe this Court	
25	insufficiently appreciated the significance of the issue	

- 1 which is now before us. And I still want to know, is
- 2 there a good reason on the merits why it is fair for us
- 3 to cut off the right of the other side to raise an issue
- 4 that they raise or to argue an issue that they raised in
- 5 a timely fashion?
- 6 MR. SHAPIRO: Yes, there is a good reason,
- 7 because this is -- adequacy is ultimately a Federal
- 8 question for this Court to decide. The issue was
- 9 debated here four separate times at great length. The
- 10 Court remanded for a specific decision by the lower
- 11 court. That wasn't done. And if we turn to the
- 12 adequacy doctrine --
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: Excuse me. What -- what
- 14 issue was debated here four times?
- 15 MR. SHAPIRO: Whether or not there was an
- 16 adequate State ground because of the "correct in all
- 17 respects" rule. That was debated in the merits brief,
- 18 in the cert oppositions twice. It was debated again in
- 19 the cert opposition this time around. But the Court has
- 20 never accepted it.
- 21 JUSTICE STEVENS: But the State court hadn't
- 22 ruled on it at that time.
- MR. SHAPIRO: That's correct, and --
- 24 JUSTICE STEVENS: So how do we rule on it as
- 25 a matter of first impression?

- 1 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, because, Your Honor, the
- 2 Court considered -- just as it did in Sullivan, it
- 3 considered these issues in the cert papers and then
- 4 remanded the case for a different issue to be decided by
- 5 the lower court.
- But we don't hesitate from debating the
- 7 adequacy issue.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Did our opinion decide that
- 9 -- that question? Did our opinion say that that
- 10 question was decided against your opponent?
- 11 MR. SHAPIRO: No. What the Court said in
- 12 Sullivan was that it was a sub silentio determination.
- 13 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How could we have
- 14 determined it when the Oregon Supreme Court itself
- 15 hadn't made any determination?
- 16 MR. SHAPIRO: Because the parties debated
- 17 this extensively in their briefs, just as they did in
- 18 Sullivan.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But we don't decide
- 20 questions, particularly questions of State law, that may
- 21 have a Federal check. But we don't decide them in the
- 22 first instance.
- 23 And there's one point, Mr. Shapiro, that I
- 24 think is -- affects this concern of fairness to the
- 25 party who raised this "correct in all respects" from the

- 1 beginning. This Court had not clarified, had it, until
- 2 the Williams case itself, the rule about harm to others?
- 3 In State Farm, we were talking about harm to
- 4 nonresidents. So if I recall correctly, Williams was
- 5 the first time we ever clarified that harm to others
- 6 included people within the same State; is that correct?
- 7 MR. SHAPIRO: Yes. That's true.
- 8 This -- this, as the Court expressed it, was
- 9 a slight extension of the previous decisions. But Your
- 10 Honor, if the Court feels that this adequacy issue
- 11 hasn't been dealt with previously by this Court, it's
- 12 presented squarely here. It is a Federal question,
- 13 which this Court says has to be decided by this Court.
- 14 And we don't hesitate from --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I suppose one reason
- 16 -- one reason to think it may not have been decided is
- 17 that, unlike the other situations you have discussed, it
- 18 would not have been a bar to our consideration of this
- 19 case the last time because, just as you raised the
- 20 question in your second question presented that whether
- 21 the award complies with due process, we may have thought
- there might have been an adequate and independent State
- 23 ground on a procedural question, but we were going to go
- 24 ahead. We granted cert on the substantive question of
- 25 whether the damages award was unconstitutional.

1 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, Your Honor, if -- if 2 we're not right about the decision resolving the adequacy issue already, we're happy to turn to it now 3 4 and address it as we do in our briefs. This is not an 5 adequate State ground under this Court's decisions. 6 first reason for that is that this is a futile gesture 7 that the State court requires of us. JUSTICE STEVENS: I want to ask you about 8 That's a thrust of your argument: It would have 9 10 been futile to comply with the specific -- drafting a 11 perfect -- perfect instruction "correct in all respects." But I have to think the trial -- the record 12 13 is subject to the reading that the trial judge thought 14 the issue had already been adequately taken care of, rather than it would be an incorrect instruction. 15 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, the trial judge asked, 16 17 is there any authority that requires me to give this 18 instruction on harm to nonparties? And we said, in our 19 view it's the BMW case. And she said, well, if there is not an authority right on point I'm not going to give 20 21 this instruction. She said that very clearly. So if we 22 submitted a separate piece of paper, it would have made no difference; and if we had taken out the two mistakes 23 24 25 JUSTICE STEVENS: Where in the record is the

- 1 portion of the colloquy about the instructions most
- 2 clearly stated in your view, on your side of that issue?
- 3 MR. SHAPIRO: Let's see. It's the
- 4 instruction conference. This begins on page 17a, where
- 5 Mr. Beatty starts discussing the second prong of this
- 6 paragraph. He says -- he quotes the language, and the
- 7 judge -- the judge says, well, I think that that's
- 8 covered by giving an instruction that punitive damages
- 9 are not compensatory. And he says: No, no, that is not
- 10 -- that is not the point of this instruction. This is
- 11 pages 17 and 18a.
- 12 JUSTICE STEVENS: But that's exactly the
- 13 point I make. I think that the trial judge was saying,
- 14 I think it's already covered, which is very different
- 15 from saying, no matter how you phrase it, I won't give
- 16 it.
- 17 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, she said she just
- 18 disagreed with the idea that there should be protection
- 19 against punishment for harm to nonparties. And she said
- 20 unless there's a case requiring that, I'm not going to
- 21 give that instruction. And she said --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Didn't she also say that
- 23 she was going to give, and ultimately did give an
- 24 instruction, to the effect that punitive damages are
- 25 punitive, they are not for the compensation of this

- 1 person or any other person, and to -- she then turned to
- 2 Philip Morris's counsel and said: What about that? And
- 3 Philip Morris's counsel said okay.
- 4 MR. SHAPIRO: What he was saying when he
- 5 said okay was: I understand your ruling, and I'm not
- 6 going to continue to argue a point that I've already
- 7 lost. But he pressed that point --
- 8 JUSTICE SOUTER: It doesn't sound like much
- 9 of an objection.
- 10 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, the -- the State courts
- 11 both held -- both of the appellate courts held our
- 12 instruction was rejected. And this Court said it was
- 13 rejected, too, in its opinion. And that's exactly
- 14 right. You can't antagonize the trial judge by arguing
- 15 and arguing after your position has been rejected.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: But -- but the -- the
- 17 problem that I am having at the moment is that they did
- 18 -- from your point of view, is that they -- the other
- 19 side listed 28 cases in which they said the Oregon
- 20 courts have followed this rule of the instruction has to
- 21 be good as a whole.
- Now, I have looked up those 28 cases, and
- 23 they do -- they do say that. They do say it, or they
- 24 imply it, or they apply it. They are not completely on
- 25 point, but they are not completely out of point, either.

- 1 And -- and so I suppose what happened is that the judge
- 2 there just looked at this instruction on 32a. It looks
- 3 like sort of it's all together. It really does look
- 4 like it's all together, the (1) and the (2). And he ran
- 5 his eye down the page and he said, well, here are two
- 6 other ways in which it's no good, and so that's the end
- 7 of it. You can't raise your objection. Maybe you
- 8 should have had four instructions instead of one, but
- 9 you did just have one.
- 10 And under Oregon law, unless every part of
- 11 it is right, the judge is correct in not giving it, even
- 12 if he never mentions the other part. And that 28 -- it
- does seem as if that's what those 28 cases do say. So
- 14 what do we say about that?
- 15 MR. SHAPIRO: The -- the reason we say that
- 16 those 28 cases did not give us reasonable notice that we
- 17 had to submit a separate piece of paper or change
- 18 another paragraph in the instruction request is that
- 19 none of them dealt with a situation where you have
- 20 separately numbered requests --
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I mean -- please, I
- 22 -- I don't want to appear skeptical, but I am. And --
- 23 and that's because I have looked up in some of those
- 24 cases, and then I sort of looked at the -- which doesn't
- 25 -- most of them don't give you the instructions, so it's

- 1 a little hard to say. But then I looked on page 32a of
- 2 this appendix and looked at what your instructions
- 3 looked like.
- 4 And -- and if I were sitting there as a
- 5 judge, I would think, well, gee, that looks like a
- 6 single thing there. They have it indented, and they
- 7 have a (1) and a (2), and it just looks like it's one
- 8 ball of wax. So can I really fault this Oregon court
- 9 for just doing what I said?
- 10 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, I -- I think so, because
- 11 the pattern instruction here told both parties to
- 12 include all their paragraphs pertaining to punitive
- damages in one numbered instruction, 34.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, they have some other
- 15 handbook that says beware of that.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Because you are going to
- 18 run into this rule that says if there's any part of a
- 19 single instruction that is wrong, goodbye, even if the
- 20 trial judge never mentioned it.
- 21 MR. SHAPIRO: But that handbook came out in
- 22 2006. And after all, that was a practice tip. It was
- 23 not a State court ruling saying you had to organize your
- 24 instruction this way.
- 25 We had separate paragraphs, separately

- 1 numbered. They dealt with different issues. One was
- 2 the Constitution and the other was the State statute.
- 3 And there's no Oregon case that said that in that
- 4 situation you have to break it out into a separate piece
- 5 of paper.
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought the notion was
- 7 one issue, one charge. And it wasn't in just one
- 8 practice manual. There were a few cited in the brief
- 9 that the charge should be limited to one issue, one
- 10 point of law.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, the pattern instructions
- 12 told us to put every point pertaining to punitive
- 13 damages in Instruction number 34. Both sides did that.
- 14 And the court was working with plaintiffs' instruction,
- 15 taking their --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, it would be pretty
- 17 odd. Did the person who wrote that read these 28 cases
- 18 or some share thereof? And if you were going to do that
- 19 -- it wasn't you, I know -- why -- why wouldn't you
- 20 just, if you have one instruction, copy the -- the model
- 21 instruction? Then you won't make errors in the other
- 22 parts.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, you see, the -- the
- 24 pattern -- the pattern instruction didn't include the
- 25 due process point. We --

- 1 JUSTICE BREYER: True, but you could add
- 2 that to the pattern.
- MR. SHAPIRO: That's what we tried to do,
- 4 and the judge invited us while dealing with the other
- 5 side's instruction to go through this one by one. She
- 6 -- she was asking us: Now, what's your next addition?
- 7 And we -- we got to the due process point,
- 8 and she said: What is your authority? And we told her,
- 9 and she said: I don't think that instruction is
- 10 necessary.
- It was separately argued. It was separately
- 12 decided by the State courts in the prior decisions,
- 13 decided by this Court as -- as a separate matter, and
- 14 that is exactly how the trial court approached this.
- 15 Her request was to go through this item by item.
- 16 She wasn't taking an all-or-nothing approach
- 17 to this instruction. She started with plaintiff's
- 18 document and asked what from our menu of additions
- 19 was necessary.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I'm not speaking of this
- 21 from the point of view -- I mean I -- when I read that
- 22 petition for cert, I thought this is a run-around, and
- 23 I'm not sure that I think that now. That is, in the --
- 24 the reason is because I put myself in the position of
- 25 not the trial judge. The person to put yourself in the

- 1 position of is the Oregon Supreme Court justice. And
- 2 what he is doing is he's reading that instruction. And
- 3 -- and what can you say in response to what -- what he
- 4 might have thought?
- 5 He knows this rule. The rule is if an
- 6 instruction is -- is unfavorable in any part, if it's
- 7 wrong, you are out.
- 8 MR. SHAPIRO: Well --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: He knows that rule, because
- 10 there have been a lot of cases on it. And then he reads
- 11 your instruction, and as I looked carefully -- I didn't
- 12 know this the first time when it was here, but he said
- 13 because it's right in paragraph 1 -- I mean, it's wrong
- 14 in paragraph 1, where he was wrong -- I don't have to go
- 15 to the rest of it.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Yes.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Now we send it back, so he
- 18 says: Okay, now I've got to go to the rest of it.
- 19 MR. SHAPIRO: You know, Justice Breyer, this
- 20 is very similar to what was at issue in the Flowers case
- 21 which reached this Court. The Alabama Supreme Court had
- 22 said if you intermix different appeal points in your
- 23 brief, we are not going to consider any of them if there
- 24 are any errors to be found in any of the paragraphs in
- 25 that brief.

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But I thought that the
- 2 whole thing about -- this is the NAACP case you that
- 3 you're discussing?
- 4 MR. SHAPIRO: Yes.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- that this was
- 6 something that the Alabama Supreme Court really sprung
- 7 at the last minute, that it was not like this rule.
- 8 There were not 28 cases in the Alabama Supreme Court
- 9 applying the rule. It seemed to be quite a novel rule.
- 10 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, what -- what the State
- 11 argued there was that for 60 years the "correct in all
- 12 respects" rule was in effect in Alabama, and they cited
- dozens of cases applying it. But this Court unanimously
- 14 held that that approach was pointless severity. Even
- 15 though the State supreme court there said, we can't
- 16 disentangle these arguments, it's too complicated, it's
- 17 too much of a burden on the State supreme court, this
- 18 Court unanimously found that was pointless severity.
- 19 And if that's pointless severity --
- JUSTICE STEVENS: There was a basis for
- 21 questioning the good faith of the court in that case, I
- 22 think.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well --
- 24 JUSTICE STEVENS: And I don't think that's
- 25 true here.

1 MR. SHAPIRO: I -- I -- we don't question 2 the good faith of the court, but we say that this is 3 pointless severity, a rule that this Court has applied 4 more recently in Lee v. Kemna where there was no issue 5 of bad faith. The Court thought that it was pointlessly severe and unnecessarily severe to insist on a perfect 6 7 proposal in that case. The --8 JUSTICE BREYER: The best you have come up with -- and I think you have researched this pretty 9 thoroughly -- and the best you have come up with to find 10 11 a case where they didn't apply the rule is that George case, right? "George," I think, is the name of it. 12 13 And there, there is an alternative ground 14 which is that the judge had to -- had to give the instruction himself, and it's a criminal case. And we 15 16 Shepardized it, and it has only been cited twice. And 17 -- and so I'm slightly at sea, to tell you the truth. 18 And -- and what is the standard I'm supposed to use to 19 decide whether that State ground is adequate as a matter 20 of Federal law or not? 21 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, there is an earlier case 22 that is interesting, State v. Brown, which comes several 23 years before. It's cited in our brief. In that case an 24 imperfect instructional request was made, and the Court 25 still found that there was a duty to give the

- 1 instruction based on due process. And the reason was
- 2 that the parties, during the charge conference, had
- 3 debated the issue. It was a fair-enough exposition for
- 4 the trial court to understand the need for the charge.
- 5 And here this really is much like the
- 6 Osborne case. You know, in the Osborne case the
- 7 defendant didn't make any instructional proposal, and
- 8 this Court still reversed and required a new trial with
- 9 the correct instruction. It said due process required
- 10 that. And the Court said that we -- that the party had
- 11 sufficiently brought this to the attention of the trial
- 12 judge for Federal adequacy purposes even though no
- 13 instruction was -- was proposed.
- 14 The lawyer there merely moved to dismiss the
- 15 proceeding, never proposed an instruction, but this
- 16 Court required a retrial with a correct set of
- 17 instructions for the jury. That's an a fortiori case, I
- 18 think; and also the Flowers case, I believe, is a
- 19 fortiori. There really was a strong and compelling
- 20 State interest there in having the lawyers break their
- 21 arguments up into separate headings and subheadings so
- the appellate court could follow the argument.
- But here there wasn't any burden placed on
- 24 the trial judge at all by our request. She was going
- 25 through these one by one, and she asked us: What's your

- 1 next point that you want added? We proposed it. It was
- 2 on a silver platter. She didn't have to retype it. She
- 3 could have simply read it to the jury in that form. It
- 4 didn't have to be edited or amended. There literally
- 5 was no burden on the trial judge at all. And so we --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: She didn't get to the --
- 7 the other grounds, because I think it was all about that
- 8 paragraph and whether that paragraph was adequate under
- 9 our then precedent. And I don't think that -- that the
- 10 -- the incorrect portions of the charge that have now --
- 11 are now before us were -- were even reached then.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, she did look at the
- 13 illicit profits point. And she said: I'm not going to
- 14 give that; that's unnecessary. She did -- she didn't
- 15 address the "may versus shall" issue because she was
- 16 working with plaintiffs' proposal. So all -- really she
- 17 just had before her our request for this due process
- 18 instruction. She analyzed it separately. It was
- 19 debated before her.
- 20 And this is much more specific than what the
- 21 lawyers did in the Osborne case. They didn't even
- 22 propose an instruction. We served it up on a silver
- 23 platter. She could have used it, and indeed there was
- 24 no work for the trial judge at all because she was
- 25 simply telling the lawyers, make this change, make that

- 1 change that we've discussed, so there is zero burden on
- 2 the court.
- And you have to ask in this situation, what
- 4 is the legitimate State interest that would support this
- 5 massive forfeiture of a very important due process
- 6 right? The plaintiff says the State interest here is
- 7 that it promotes affirmance of jury verdicts whether or
- 8 not there has been a due process violation. But think
- 9 about that. That's hardly a State interest. It's --
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: The State interest in the
- 11 rule in general, I take it, is to require the lawyers,
- 12 if they are going to object to the instructions that the
- 13 judge is going to give, to produce an instruction that
- 14 is a correct instruction of the law. That's -- that's
- 15 why, I guess, they have this rule.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Oh, yes.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: And -- and you'd better get
- 18 it right, because if you don't get it right, you're
- 19 going to lose your ability to claim that the judge was
- 20 wrong in refusing to give any part of it.
- Now, if that's the reason they have that
- 22 rule, that would seem to apply as much in this case as
- in any other case. Why wouldn't it?
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, please recall that in
- 25 both Osborne and in the Lee case, there was a general

- 1 State purpose of that kind that supported the rule, but
- 2 the Court said it was an exorbitant or unnecessarily
- 3 severe application of the rule. And that's what we
- 4 contend here, that this is exorbitant, it serves no
- 5 legitimate purpose. It is truly a game of gotcha that
- 6 just nullifies the defendant's due process rights.
- 7 And that precedent I think would be of great
- 8 concern in various fields of law. This is a rule of law
- 9 that will apply in civil rights cases in the future,
- 10 criminal cases, all sorts of cases.
- 11 So I -- I think if this Court does apply its
- 12 own criteria here, it will see that this was an exercise
- in futility, it was an ambush as a practical matter. We
- 14 didn't have any reason to think we had to submit this
- 15 again on a separate piece of paper.
- 16 JUSTICE STEVENS: Could you just tell me,
- 17 well, why was it an exercise in futility? That's what I
- 18 don't quite understand.
- 19 MR. SHAPIRO: Oh, because the judge had
- 20 ruled as a matter of substantive law that she wasn't
- 21 going to give this instruction. It wouldn't matter if
- 22 we separated it.
- JUSTICE STEVENS: But she said she thought
- 24 it was already covered. That's what I -- on that very
- 25 page you pointed me to.

- 1 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, she -- she said that was
- 2 all she was going to say about the point. And we said,
- 3 well, that doesn't cover our point, because we want
- 4 protection against punishment for harm to nonparties.
- 5 And she said: I'm not going to give that instruction; I
- 6 deny the rest of your request, number 34.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And where is this
- 8 colloquy? I mean, we went through the parts, she said I
- 9 think it's covered and it was okay. You seem to be
- 10 saying more than was included in that colloquy.
- 11 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, I -- I think if -- if
- 12 you look at the whole colloquy, that's the gist of it.
- 13 I've -- I've paraphrased it, but --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: You've made it much
- 15 clearer than it was.
- MR. SHAPIRO: Perhaps --
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 MR. SHAPIRO: -- perhaps I did. But I -- I
- 19 would just point out that in Osborne the lawyer didn't
- 20 make it clear at all. The lawyer didn't even propose an
- 21 instruction.
- We proposed a good instruction that this
- 23 Court has quoted from emphasizing our language,
- 24 saying -- saying it correctly captures the due process
- 25 principle. So that is enough to satisfy Federal

- 1 criteria of -- of adequacy, and that is sufficient to
- 2 preserve the point. There's no dispute that this was
- 3 preserved for appellate purposes in Oregon.
- 4 Unless the Court has further questions, I --
- 5 I would reserve the balance of our time.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr.
- 7 Shapiro.
- 8 Mr. Peck.
- 9 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ROBERT S. PECK
- 10 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
- 11 MR. PECK: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 12 please the Court:
- 13 This Court's constitutional mandate in this
- 14 case is conditioned in several significant respects, and
- 15 it invites the discretion and judgment of a State court
- 16 that's applying it. First of all, it says that States
- 17 have flexibility in coming up with a procedure to
- 18 address this procedural due process issue.
- 19 It also says that it has to be an
- 20 appropriate case; there has to be a significant risk of
- 21 juror confusion, and a request. There's no indication
- in the opinion that this Court intended to federalize
- 23 the State procedure over how that request occurs. It --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you don't
- 25 dispute that it's a Federal question whether that

- 1 procedure is adequate and independent?
- 2 MR. PECK: I do not, but I also submit that
- 3 it is more than adequate. Exist -- what the Oregon
- 4 Supreme Court decided was that the existing procedure
- 5 permitting a limiting instruction to be requested -- in
- 6 Oregon it's Rule 105, the same language as in the
- 7 Federal rule -- and such a request has to be timely, it
- 8 has to be specific, it has to be on the record. And
- 9 Oregon precedent says that when we mean specific, the
- 10 proponent has to give us the exact language -- this is
- 11 part of the party presentation principle -- the exact
- 12 language that they are asking us to use.
- 13 And that means that we also apply our
- 14 traditional 92-year-old rule that requests for
- 15 instruction must be clear and correct in all respects.
- JUSTICE STEVENS: The problem --
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: I would say the 28 cases
- 18 are not quite as clear as I suggested. That is, I
- 19 couldn't find in those 28 cases really a comparable
- 20 situation.
- MR. PECK: Well --
- 22 JUSTICE BREYER: In each instance it seemed
- 23 as if one of two things was the case: Either (a) where
- 24 the instruction was in error, it really was the matter
- 25 brought up in the first place, or the court said, but he

- 1 gave the essence of the instruction he wanted anyway.
- Now, which of those cases do you think -- I
- 3 am leading up to, what of -- what of those cases do you
- 4 think is your best support, because I couldn't -- they
- 5 are not perfect.
- 6 MR. PECK: I would look first at
- 7 Reyes-Camarena, which is a 2000 -- a 2000 decision
- 8 involving the death penalty. And there, there were two
- 9 parts of this request, in a single request. The request
- 10 asked for a mitigating factors instruction, which the
- 11 court found was correct on the law and -- and would have
- 12 been given had it been asked for separately.
- But it also asked the jury to consider
- 14 sympathy for the defendant, which they found to be
- 15 contrary to Oregon law, and therefore, it was not error
- 16 for the trial court to have refused this.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: What -- what you can't tell
- 18 from that is what was the part of the sympathy
- 19 instruction that they thought was wrong, and was the
- 20 part that they thought was wrong really part and parcel
- 21 of the part that the -- that the appellant was
- 22 complaining about.
- MR. PECK: Well, the court, though, did cite
- 24 a prior decision that talked about a sympathy
- 25 instruction and claimed that this one was no different

- 1 than that. It was contained in a single instruction.
- 2 It makes clear, the opinion does, on that.
- Owings v. Rose is that another case which
- 4 both parties have cited. And in Owings, it's very
- 5 clear. There you have two different parts of an
- 6 instruction that are offered at the same time, and --
- 7 and one part is right. And this -- this one deals with
- 8 third-party liability.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, but that's another --
- 10 I remember that, because they said on that one -- some
- 11 floor covering thing, wasn't it, that they had some
- 12 liability for bad floors or designing the floors
- 13 wrong --
- MR. PECK: If --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: If that's the case, what
- 16 they said was: Don't worry about it because basically
- 17 he did give the instruction that you wanted, though in a
- 18 different way --
- MR. PECK: But --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: -- and besides that, they
- 21 added --
- MR. PECK: And besides that --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, I know you're right.
- MR. PECK: -- this was an alternate ground.
- Then in Hotelling v. Walther, a 1944 case,

- 1 the proposed instruction consisted of three separate
- 2 sentences, and the court does reprint that instruction.
- 3 And each of those sentences had a different legal
- 4 proposition in it. And it was only the last sentence,
- 5 the third proposition, that the court found to be in
- 6 error and, therefore, found that there was no error in
- 7 failing to give this instruction because it was not
- 8 clear and correct in all respects.
- 9 I -- I think that is --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, in the last one, what
- 11 I have here is that the court said the so-called
- 12 requested instruction was never requested at all --
- MR. PECK: But --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: -- at all.
- 15 MR. PECK: But I do not believe that that
- 16 was the ground --
- JUSTICE BREYER: What is the -- what is the
- 18 -- I will go look at that again. But what is the
- 19 standard? I mean, remember, what I think your brother
- 20 said at the end is correct. Imagine that yours is a
- 21 death case, and we have said as a matter of Federal law
- 22 that this execution is unconstitutional, and then we
- 23 send it back. And the court then says: Oh, we forgot;
- 24 there are a couple of matters of State law here that bar
- 25 the Federal consideration of the death question. And

- 1 here they are. And then they come up with just this.
- 2 Is this -- is this a situation where you
- 3 would be equally -- that's my problem. And so, put
- 4 yourself in my shoes and -- and tell me what you would
- 5 do if this is a death case and not the case that you
- 6 have?
- 7 MR. PECK: Well, you know, it's -- it's hard
- 8 to get my arms around your hypothetical, because I don't
- 9 know the grounds on which --
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm just imagining that
- 11 what has happened is that the instruction that they have
- 12 given for the defendant in the death case violates
- 13 Federal law, and then we send it back, and what happens
- 14 is that the State court says, oh, it may violate Federal
- 15 law all right, but it's -- the Federal court is blocked
- 16 from considering it because there are these two other
- 17 State grounds that mean that the lawyer --
- 18 MR. PECK: I understand.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes. Okay.
- 20 MR. PECK: But -- but the question would be
- 21 then, why would that be a situation like this, where the
- 22 trial judge -- contrary to your assumption,
- 23 Justice Ginsburg -- the trial judge did find that there
- 24 were other parts of the instruction offered by Philip
- 25 Morris that were incorrect on the law, and the illicit

- 1 profits was one of them.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Why didn't the trial judge
- 3 just stop there? I mean, if this is the ruling in the
- 4 State --
- 5 MR. PECK: Justice --
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- once the trial judge
- 7 found that one of the other instructions was bad, he
- 8 could have just said, I throw the whole thing out. Why
- 9 did he go to all the trouble of going into this, the
- 10 governing one?
- 11 MR. PECK: This is -- this is a process.
- 12 Counsel in the case in a trial in Oregon can offer an
- 13 instruction -- a proffered instruction up to the point
- 14 when the jury is instructed under their law. So Philip
- 15 Morris had the opportunity to correct it. The practical
- 16 nature of a charge conference is that the parties come
- in with their proposed instructions. The plaintiffs
- 18 followed the pattern instruction, which by the way does
- 19 not require enumeration.
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: You -- you are
- 21 acknowledging that the trial court did not apply the
- 22 rule --
- MR. PECK: The -- it's not a rule of trial
- 24 procedure. It's a rule of appellate review.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I -- yes,

- 1 that's exactly right. And I think the purpose for the
- 2 rule is to avoid confusion about the ground of decision
- 3 for the trial court. If you have got two errors, and
- 4 she says the instruction's no good, on appellate review
- 5 you don't know which basis was at issue. There's no
- 6 doubt here the basis on which the trial court was
- 7 ruling, is there?
- 8 MR. PECK: I believe there's -- there's --
- 9 first of all, the trial judge rejected this instruction
- 10 on multiple grounds and made it clear that she -- the
- 11 illicit profits request was contrary to the Oregon
- 12 statute that sets up the criteria. She found other
- 13 parts confusing and contradictory. But -- and -- but
- 14 there are two things that I think are significant here.
- 15 You have to look at what was discussed
- 16 here. The trial judge, if you turn to 21a of the joint
- 17 appendix: "We are not here to punish for other
- 18 plaintiffs' harms. We are here to punish, if we are
- 19 here to punish at all, for the conduct that caused harm
- 20 to Jesse Williams on or after September 1, 1988." This
- 21 sounds very much like an acceptance of the rule that
- 22 Philip Morris was advocating.
- On 19a, she said: "These punitive damages
- 24 are not designed to compensate for other plaintiffs who
- 25 are not here. " On 20a, there is a colloquy; she

- 1 expresses her belief that the risk is adequately guarded
- 2 against, suggests language to express that, and asks:
- 3 "Does that get you where you need to be?"
- 4 That's when Philip Morris's counsel says
- 5 "Okay." She had every reason to believe that she had
- 6 satisfied it. She then follows up.
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do we give any weight in
- 8 the case to the fact that the instruction that the
- 9 Petitioners now request and the rule had not really been
- 10 announced clearly as of the time of this trial? It's
- 11 not exactly a new rule, but let's -- for our sake we'll
- 12 call it a new rule. Does that have any weight?
- MR. PECK: I don't think it does.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But it does -- but it does
- 15 in our cause and prejudice jurisprudence. In habeas,
- 16 which is also a civil action --
- 17 MR. PECK: I understand.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- we say there is an
- 19 overarching Federal principle that allows -- because of
- 20 cause and prejudice, we can consider the Federal issue.
- 21 We do that all the time. Those cases weren't raised by
- the Petitioner, but it seems to me they're quite
- 23 relevant here, especially when you consider the
- 24 importance of the constitutional issue, which was not
- 25 really -- let's face it -- clear to counsel on either

- 1 side of the aisle or to the trial judge.
- MR. PECK: Well, here's the reason why I
- 3 think in the context of this record and -- and this
- 4 litigant, it is not significant. And that is, if you
- 5 look at 21a, the appendix in our -- our merit brief,
- 6 there we have Philip Morris in another smoker trial in
- 7 Oregon offering up a requested instruction on this
- 8 issue. This is in 2002, so it's well before this
- 9 Court's decision in this case.
- 10 It's even before State Farm v. Campbell, and
- 11 the requested instruction says, one sentence: "You are
- 12 not to impose punishment for harms suffered by persons
- other than the plaintiff before you."
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: But the trial judge didn't
- 15 have the benefit of -- of the ruling that this Court has
- 16 subsequently made on that point. The trial judge in
- 17 fact here said: Now, if you can give me a case, then
- 18 I'll give the instruction; you can't give me a case.
- 19 And she was right.
- 20 MR. PECK: But she -- but that's actually
- 21 not the same issue that she asked that on. Counsel
- 22 cited page 17a of the joint appendix for that question.
- 23 And if you look at the bottom of 16a, her question is:
- 24 "Let me stop first and go back to the proportionality
- 25 point you are making." This is the ratio point, the

- 1 second guidepost of BMW v. Gore. She says: "Is there
- 2 case law that says the trial court shall, in order to
- 3 have a constitutional instruction, tell the jury about
- 4 proportionality?" And this is where he says: It's
- 5 addressed post-verdict. She asks: Is there any case
- 6 law; and she says: No, I'm not going to go there. I'm
- 7 not going to go where no judge has gone before --
- 8 because she did not want to be reversed.
- 9 So she is trying to be careful, and I think
- 10 you have to credit the Oregon --
- 11 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, but I -- it sounds
- 12 to me like that you are confirming my concerns.
- 13 MR. PECK: No. I -- I think that what she
- 14 said is as to the proportionality issue. On the other
- 15 issue, she even returns to it later when Philip Morris
- 16 brings up a different issue with respect to punitive
- 17 damages.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Oh. Oh, you're -- you're
- 19 saying that if our law had been clear at the time, that
- 20 she still wouldn't have given the instruction? That's
- 21 worse.
- 22 MR. PECK: No. I'm saying that she thought
- 23 she was complying with that. She stated on the record
- 24 that we are not here to punish for other plaintiffs'
- 25 harms. Later on that other issue, if you look at 28a --

- 1 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So your -- your contention
- 2 is, is that this trial court and the counsel in the case
- 3 had all the guidance necessary to give the correct
- 4 instruction --
- 5 MR. PECK: She seemed to accept --
- 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- before -- before we
- 7 even announced the rule?
- 8 MR. PECK: She accepted the point before you
- 9 announced the rule, and the Oregon Court of Appeals,
- 10 ruling in the Estate of Schwarz case where they offered
- 11 that one-sentence instruction, reversed the verdict in
- 12 part because that instruction, they said, should have
- 13 been given. So they anticipated this Court's rule. I
- 14 think --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: To move -- to move
- 16 from the trial court to the appellate court, if you are
- 17 correct that there's this routine, clear rule of State
- 18 procedure, why would the appellate court say, in its
- 19 head, well, I could rely on that, but I want to decide
- 20 this complicated, difficult rule of Federal
- 21 constitutional law instead?
- 22 MR. PECK: Well, in fact, the -- the court
- 23 thought it was relying on it. In each of the previous
- 24 iterations in the Oregon Court of Appeals and in the
- 25 Oregon Supreme Court, they cited this rule, "clear and

- 1 correct in all respects, " in order to reject the "harm
- 2 to others" instruction because they said it was
- 3 inconsistent with State law. This point --
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you think we just
- 5 made a mistake in going ahead and reaching the Federal
- 6 procedural rule that we reached because it was barred by
- 7 this adequate and independent State ground that the
- 8 Oregon courts had relied upon?
- 9 MR. PECK: No. What I'm saying is that they
- 10 went further then, and this is what gave this Court the
- 11 authority to rule on that substantive issue. They said
- 12 that that request was inconsistent with the Oregon
- 13 statute. And they did so on page 48a of the petition,
- 14 where they say: "In Williams I, the Court of Appeals
- 15 concluded that the instruction was incorrect under State
- 16 law. We agree."
- 17 And then again on page 52a, they note that:
- 18 "That is not correct as an independent matter of Oregon
- 19 law respecting the conduct of jury trials and
- 20 instructions" --
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, then I think
- 22 your --
- MR. PECK: But --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I think your answer
- 25 -- go ahead with your "but."

1	(Laughter.)
2	MR. PECK: But then they went on to say:
3	"And nothing in due process requires us to look at this
4	differently." That's where they made their error. That
5	was the constitutional mistake that the Oregon court
6	made. They thought they were wrong on a State ground.
7	They thought there was no Federal issue addressing that,
8	and so they decided that they didn't have to reach any
9	other State law issues. And they ignored the
10	well-preserved objections that Mrs. Williams made to the
11	other parts of this unified instruction on punitive
12	damages.
13	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I'm sorry. I
14	still don't see that answer. You are saying they said,
15	yes, there was this rule of Oregon law, but you can
16	still reach there might still be a Federal due
17	process issue, so we can't just rely on that. And if
18	that's true, then that seems to me to be a concession
19	that this is not an adequate and independent State
20	ground that would bar consideration of a Federal
21	constitutional issue.
22	MR. PECK: What was not an adequate and
23	independent State ground was their decision that the
24	Oregon statute which permits you to punish a misconduct
25	in order to deter others from doing that allowed

- 1 punishment for harm to nonparties.
- 2 That part was their interpretation of the
- 3 statute, and if there were no due process equation here,
- 4 that would have been an independent State ground. It
- 5 was wrong as a matter of due process.
- But there are other grounds, other mistakes,
- 7 substantive mistakes, avoiding law in this instruction.
- 8 And any trial court that gave instruction number 34,
- 9 which was objected to as a whole, would have committed
- 10 reversible error because they failed to follow the
- 11 Oregon statute.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I quess I think it's
- 13 the more routine practice for a court, if you have a --
- 14 again, as you argue -- a clear procedural rule that bars
- 15 addressing the substantive issue, to go ahead and rely
- 16 on that. Now, if the procedural rule is difficult and
- 17 of uncertain application, maybe you go ahead and say,
- 18 well, we we're going to decide the merits anyway.
- 19 But it seems to me, under your presentation,
- 20 it's the other way around. It's a clear and easy
- 21 procedural rule, difficult Federal and State intertwined
- 22 constitutional rule, and yet the court says, well, I'm
- 23 going to do the hard work rather than the easy work.
- 24 MR. PECK: I think it was natural for the
- 25 court to do that. That was the issue presented to them

- 1 by Philip Morris. And courts do not reach out to do
- 2 other issues. They reach -- they were being solicitous
- 3 of Philip Morris, and they were addressing the arguments
- 4 that Philip Morris made. And when they decided that
- 5 that inured to Mrs. Williams' benefit, not to Philip
- 6 Morris's benefit, then they said we don't need to
- 7 address your other questions. And I think you have to
- 8 look at the Oregon Supreme Court as noting in their own
- 9 decision that there was no futility here. In fact, the
- 10 last time we were here Philip Morris said the reason
- 11 they needed this instruction was because of what was
- 12 said at closing argument.
- JUSTICE BREYER: All right. So, what are
- 14 the elements? Imagine -- I'm trying to get help, if I
- 15 were to try to put pen to paper on this. Suppose they
- 16 win in this. Then we'll be back at the State law issue
- 17 that I thought was going to be there, which was the
- 18 issue of -- you are talking about the colloquy. Did
- 19 they give the essence of the Federal mandated
- 20 instruction, or didn't they? And then look how
- 21 cooperative the judge was, et cetera. But that isn't
- 22 before us now.
- What's before us now is something that
- 24 blocks our consideration of that or anybody's
- 25 consideration of that. And imagine this is not your

- 1 case; imagine it is the most, you know, striking case,
- 2 that's why I used a death example, and we go through
- 3 exactly the same thing. And then the court does exactly
- 4 the same thing, the State court, that happened here.
- 5 And now what are the words that distinguish whether the
- 6 court is in essence, to be colloquial, giving everybody
- 7 the runaround or whether the court is applying a -- an
- 8 absolute, clear, you know, fair, standard of State law?
- 9 Which really they should have gone into first and saved
- 10 everybody a lot of trouble.
- 11 MR. PECK: I think the easiest way to look
- 12 at this --
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
- MR. PECK: -- is imagine that the statute of
- 15 limitations, which now bars any such suit in Oregon,
- 16 were brought today, after this Court's decision in
- 17 Williams, and imagine that Philip Morris is the
- 18 defendant, and at the end of the trial they offer their
- 19 number 34 as it was before saying, "This Court said that
- 20 they had made the right choice in asking for this
- 21 instruction."
- 22 A trial court clearly would engage in
- 23 reversible error if they gave that instruction because
- 24 it materially departs from Oregon law. At the same
- 25 time, they could deny that instruction. They could deny

- 1 that instruction, and the Oregon Supreme Court would not
- 2 violate the mandate of this Court's decision by saying
- 3 that that is a correct decision on the part of the trial
- 4 law court because it was not clear and correct in all
- 5 respects.
- 6 And that is part of what distinguishes this.
- 7 This is still a rule that has to apply to its
- 8 instruction --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, what they say is --
- 10 look at the two errors they found. One is in saying
- 11 "may" instead of "shall," and the other is in saying
- 12 "illicit profit" instead of "profit." And they are
- 13 pretty picky. So, this is -- this is very picky, they
- 14 say. And not only are they being picky, but they are
- 15 being picky after the event. And they could have raised
- 16 it first, and they have 28 cases supporting them, but
- 17 none of these cases is right on point because the
- 18 subject matter is, you know, closer, bound up. And so
- 19 they put all this together and say it's an unreasonable
- 20 application of a rule that was there. And you say --
- 21 MR. PECK: I would urge you, Justice Breyer,
- 22 to look at the original case in 1916, the Sorenson case.
- 23 There the court was faced with the question: If there
- 24 is the kernel of a correct instruction in there, is that
- 25 adequate to ask the court to give that instruction or

- 1 should we insist on what they thought at the time was
- 2 the majority rule in the United States, that we should
- 3 insist on an instruction that is clear and correct in
- 4 all respects, and that the -- that the counsel has the
- 5 responsibility to provide that? And they decided to go
- 6 with the clear and correct rule. That was the debate
- 7 that they had, and that debate informs this one.
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Sorenson was the agent and
- 9 the principal, the broker who was selling some land.
- 10 MR. PECK: Right.
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: And I think in that case
- 12 they also said: By the way, you've got basically the
- instruction that you wanted, and you overlooked -- no,
- 14 that was the case where they said: You overlooked in
- 15 your instruction an important allegation of fact, which
- 16 allegation was that the guy had been rehired as a
- 17 broker.
- 18 MR. PECK: And there's a similar distinction
- 19 that makes Osborne irrelevant, which counsel suggested
- 20 was a -- an exemplar here.
- 21 In Osborne, an element of the crime had not
- 22 been instructed upon. That's why there didn't have to
- 23 be the offer of an instruction. But the party
- 24 presentation principle puts the onus on counsel to do
- 25 so, and Philip Morris showed, in 2002, well before this

- 1 Court's decisions that they know how to do it when they
- 2 want to.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. Peck, are you -- are
- 4 you asserting that our remand order was in error? After
- 5 all, it did say, "We remand this case so that the Oregon
- 6 Supreme Court can apply the standard we have set forth."
- 7 MR. PECK: And I -- I contend, Your Honor,
- 8 that the --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: We didn't say it was in
- 10 error. I mean, there is nothing wrong with that.
- 11 (Laughter.)
- MR. PECK: Well, I think --
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: If you say it's in error,
- 14 my next question is going to be --
- 15 MR. PECK: I think the Oregon Supreme Court
- 16 read that decision --
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- can -- is it up to a
- 18 State court to sit in judgment about whether our remand
- 19 orders are in error or not?
- MR. PECK: Well, I'm prepared to say that
- 21 the Oregon Supreme Court took that remand order to mean
- 22 that they had to have in place -- this was a procedural
- 23 due process decision -- that they had to have a
- 24 procedure that was fair, outcome neutral, applied --
- 25 JUSTICE SCALIA: If that's what they took it

- 1 to mean, they -- they were just wrong. I mean, that's
- 2 not what it says.
- 3 MR. PECK: Well, if you look --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: The opinion concludes, "As
- 5 the preceding discussion makes clear, we believe the
- 6 Oregon Supreme Court applied the wrong constitutional
- 7 standard when considering Philip Morris's appeal." And
- 8 it goes to the constitutional issue we are talking
- 9 about.
- 10 MR. PECK: When considering --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: "We remand so that the
- 12 Oregon Supreme Court can apply the standard we have set
- 13 forth, " which has nothing to do with the issue we have
- 14 been discussing this morning.
- MR. PECK: Your Honor --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: So it was wrong?
- MR. PECK: No, it was not wrong. I don't
- 18 think it was wrong, and here's the reason why I don't
- 19 think it was wrong: You corrected the Oregon Supreme
- 20 Court when they thought that due process does not inform
- 21 the analysis on harm to nonparties. You corrected that
- 22 substantive error, and that part is what they got wrong.
- 23 Much of this opinion said that they got lots
- 24 of other things right. And so Oregon looked at it and
- 25 said, "Okay, we got that issue wrong, but there are

- 1 other problems with this instruction that are adequate
- 2 and independent grounds for --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: That's very nice, but
- 4 that's not what we remanded for.
- 5 MR. PECK: You did not remand for that, but
- 6 when this Court decides a constitutional issue of one
- 7 part, it doesn't necessarily tell the court anything
- 8 different. What -- the essence of this Court's opinion
- 9 is that where there's a significant risk of jury
- 10 confusion, the State has to provide a procedure and has
- 11 flexibility in designing that procedure. There is no
- 12 indication that the procedure for limiting instructions
- 13 does not satisfy that.
- 14 JUSTICE SOUTER: The -- the problem that I
- 15 think we all have is how do we guard, in effect, guard
- 16 against making constitutional decisions which are simply
- 17 going to be nullified by some clever device raising a
- 18 procedural issue or an issue of State law when the case
- 19 goes back? Is there any way for us to ensure against,
- 20 in effect, a bad faith response to our decision except
- 21 by purporting to require the State courts to follow a
- 22 certain order of battle in the -- in the decision of
- issues before them so that when the case gets to us, we
- 24 can be assured that there is no lurking issue that has
- 25 not yet been decided as a matter of State law that in

- 1 effect could then be resurrected to nullify our
- 2 decision? Is there any way to guard against that except
- 3 by telling the State courts what the sequence is in
- 4 which they have to make decisions?
- 5 MR. PECK: I believe there is. And I
- 6 believe that it would be error to suggest to the State
- 7 supreme court that they must, even though prudent,
- 8 follow a specific sequence, simply because that would
- 9 mean that they would have to necessarily decide every
- 10 State law issue in the case --
- 11 JUSTICE SOUTER: I -- I see the problem. I
- 12 mean, that's why I raised the question, how do we ensure
- 13 --
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But we do that all the
- 15 time in cause and prejudice cases. We do it all the
- 16 time --
- MR. PECK: Yes.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- because of the
- 19 importance of the constitutional right.
- 20 MR. PECK: I understand that, but I think
- 21 the adequate and independent State law ground provides
- 22 all the protection. You assume, and I think properly
- 23 so, that State supreme courts will operate in good
- 24 faith. Even in Flowers, after the fourth trip to the
- 25 U.S. Supreme Court, were -- Alabama Supreme Court was

- 1 still trusted to apply the decision.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Okay. Your -- your answer
- 3 is there is -- there is no way to guard against it
- 4 except --
- 5 MR. PECK: Except --
- 6 JUSTICE SOUTER: -- by reviewing the good
- 7 faith of what the court does on remand.
- 8 MR. PECK: Well, by -- by accepting that if
- 9 the rule that has been imposed was invoked properly by
- 10 the party that invoked it at the right time --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Yes.
- 12 MR. PECK: -- that it is firmly established
- 13 and regularly followed, then it should satisfy the
- 14 Court --
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But it -- but it serves
- 16 very little interest. Nothing the trial judge would
- 17 have done, nothing the plaintiffs' counsel would have
- 18 done below, nothing the intermediate court would have
- 19 done, would have -- would have been different if they
- 20 had submitted -- what's it called -- the "correct in all
- 21 respects "rule. If they had filed the "correct in all
- 22 respects" rule and submitted that, saying, excuse me,
- 23 judge, I want to type a little piece of paper,
- 24 everything would have been the same.
- 25 MR. PECK: I suggest that it would be

- 1 different. I think the Oregon Supreme Court decided,
- 2 when they decided that there was no futility in offering
- 3 another one, that it would be different. And the fact
- 4 of the matter is that --
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I excluded the Oregon
- 6 Supreme Court from my list of -- of participants who
- 7 would have done something differently.
- 8 MR. PECK: But -- but -- but the fact of the
- 9 matter is, if after closing arguments, which was the
- 10 trigger that Philip Morris urged upon this Court for
- 11 needing this substantive rule, if that -- if after that
- 12 Philip Morris's counsel had returned to the judge -- you
- 13 know, they said a few things that we think would tell
- 14 the jury to punish for harm to others. We don't think
- 15 the instruction is adequate. We will give you the same
- 16 instruction, that one-sentence instruction like we gave
- 17 in Estate of Schwarz. I believe the court would have
- 18 given it.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: There is, of course,
- 20 another way to protect our constitutional authority in
- 21 this case. We are talking about procedures for
- 22 addressing the substantive due process challenge to
- 23 a punitive damages award. That's the second question
- 24 presented here.
- 25 If we went and granted that question and

- 1 considered that issue, we would have protected our
- 2 authority to reach that question despite the procedural
- 3 objections alone. Why don't we just do that?
- 4 MR. PECK: Well, Your Honor, of course, the
- 5 last time we were here you had a full briefing and even
- 6 some argument on that. And I -- I believe that we are
- 7 prepared to stand on that briefing and argument.
- 8 We do not believe the Due Process Clause is
- 9 an exercise in elementary school mathematics. It does
- 10 not tell you something about this. Here you have to
- 11 look at the enormity of the misconduct. And that
- 12 dictates --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm not asking you
- 14 to argue here today the second question presented.
- MR. PECK: I understand.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But if we have some
- 17 concern, that there's something malodorous about the
- 18 fact that the Oregon Supreme Court waited until the last
- 19 minute to come up with this rule that was before it all
- 20 the time, which was a State court rule that you would
- 21 expect the State court to be addressing as a matter of
- 22 course, then -- then we -- we can avoid having to
- 23 address what we do in a situation, having to
- 24 characterize the nature of that -- that consideration,
- 25 simply by saying: Look, we are going to go ahead. The

- 1 question is presented. We can decide it in this case,
- 2 and to avoid having to reach that, we will go ahead and
- 3 do it.
- 4 MR. PECK: Well, it's -- it's certainly
- 5 within this Court's power to do that. Philip Morris has
- 6 made a very harsh accusation in this case of bad faith
- 7 on the part of the Oregon Supreme Court. There was no
- 8 sandbagging here. The Oregon court did not act in bad
- 9 faith.
- 10 Mrs. Williams raised these State-law issues
- 11 at every opportunity, which is something that Philip
- 12 Morris denied in their petition but then conceded in
- 13 their merit brief. And the fact is it was before the
- 14 Oregon Court of Appeals. It was before the Oregon
- 15 Supreme Court. We even raised it before this court.
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You -- in answer to the
- 17 Chief Justice, you are not suggesting that we should go
- 18 ahead and decide the second question when there has been
- 19 no briefing on it?
- 20 MR. PECK: I -- I am not suggesting that you
- 21 decide the question, but I recognize the Court has the
- 22 power to do so. Mapp v. Ohio came to this Court as a
- 23 First Amendment case and came out as a Fourth Amendment
- 24 case.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I thought -- just to

- 1 follow up, I thought you just told me that there has
- 2 been full and adequate briefing on that question.
- 3 MR. PECK: I believe we had full and
- 4 adequate briefing. We may not have had the opportunity
- 5 to fully argue the case, and it's for you to decide
- 6 whether or not you -- you have enough on that.
- 7 I thank you.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 9 Mr. Shapiro, you have three minutes
- 10 remaining.
- 11 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO
- 12 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 13 MR. SHAPIRO: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 14 Justice Breyer asked about these various
- 15 cases from Oregon, whether they provided guidance and a
- 16 warning here. And counsel referred to three cases,
- 17 Reyes, Owings, and then Sorenson. If you look at those
- 18 cases, you'll see there were simple instructions
- 19 proposed on a single topic that were infected with an
- 20 error throughout.
- 21 And the court said if there is any valid
- 22 proportion of this instruction, it was covered by
- 23 something that was said to the jury already. So there
- 24 was no harm in not giving that instruction.
- 25 That is certainly not our case. We have a

- 1 separately numbered paragraph dealing with the
- 2 Constitution, which is quite apart from the statutory
- 3 factors.
- 4 Now, counsel referred to the charge actually
- 5 given by the court as if it provided some protection
- 6 against punishment for harm to nonparties. If you read
- 7 that instruction, far from providing the protection that
- 8 the -- this Court said was obligatory, it invited global
- 9 punishment. It told the jury that they could return any
- 10 punitive damage award up to \$100 million. Lo and
- 11 behold, they come up with \$80 million, right within the
- 12 suggested range of this charge. And there was no
- 13 statement --
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Which portion of the
- 15 charge specifically are you referring to?
- 16 MR. SHAPIRO: This is page 37a of our joint
- 17 appendix. The -- the court concludes the amount of
- 18 punitive damages you assess may not exceed the sum of
- 19 \$100 million. And that, of course, was the zone of
- 20 reasonableness that the jury inferred from this,
- 21 suggesting a global punishment to the jury with no
- 22 protection.
- Now, this Court said that that protection
- 24 has to be provided. The Court said the State must
- 25 insist, that the State must give assurance, and it's an

- 1 important constitutional right, as Justice Kennedy said.
- 2 And I don't think the State court --
- JUSTICE BREYER: What is -- what is your
- 4 response to the Chief Justice's suggestion that maybe we
- 5 should reach the issue of due process on the amount?
- 6 MR. SHAPIRO: Well, we wouldn't oppose that
- 7 because this is clearly excessive under what the Court
- 8 said in State Farm: Where there is substantial
- 9 compensatory damages, one to one is something of a norm.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I wasn't asking you
- 11 to argue it either, but I mean I suppose the procedure
- 12 the parties would prefer, if we were interested in that,
- 13 would be for us to grant the second question and then
- 14 have the normal briefing in consideration.
- 15 MR. SHAPIRO: Oh, that -- that -- yes,
- 16 certainly, that -- that -- that is true. I -- I would
- 17 comment, too, on Justice Breyer's question about what is
- 18 the ultimate test here.
- 19 The Court has stated various criteria and
- 20 opinions over the last century, but the -- the key ideas
- 21 are: Was it an ambush, something that couldn't be
- 22 anticipated?
- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, I'll tell you my
- 24 subjective reaction going through these 38 cases is they
- 25 are not quite in point, but I really take away the idea

- 1 of the bad faith, particularly because the first time
- 2 what the judge said, which I didn't understand its
- 3 significance then, was the judge said: Well, since the
- 4 first part of that paragraph (1) was in -- was in error
- 5 anyway, I don't have to reach the questions of whether
- 6 there were other mistakes under State law in the rest of
- 7 the instruction. They did say that the first time, I
- 8 think.
- 9 MR. SHAPIRO: Oh, yes, but this is the first
- 10 time the court has ever taken this "correct in all
- 11 respects" rule and extended it to a completely different
- 12 topic, U.S. constitutional law, in a separately numbered
- 13 paragraph. And we had no notice that this had to be
- 14 broken out on a separate piece of paper. If we did, we
- 15 would have broken it out on a separate piece of paper.
- 16 It's just like Lee against Kemna where the Court said --
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What about the point that
- 18 was made that in 2002 that's exactly what Philip Morris
- 19 did, gave one simple, precise instruction?
- MR. SHAPIRO: Well, no, that instruction was
- 21 not harm to nonparties. That was harm for out-of-State
- 22 injuries. It was a different issue. And it's true the
- 23 lawyers there did break up their instructions
- 24 differently, but the pattern instruction --
- 25 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Is it -- is it true that

1	they gave one simple sentence stating their position on
2	on what harm to others, how that
3	MR. SHAPIRO: No. That's not true. That
4	case did not accept our instruction. It did not. It
5	accepted the State Farm instruction, which said that
6	there can't be punishment for out-of-State harm.
7	JUSTICE GINSBURG: But but was the
8	instruction stated in a in a single paragraph, but
9	all the other requests to charge broken out?
10	MR. SHAPIRO: Yes. This this State Farm
11	instruction was broken out. That's an option for
12	lawyers. But under the pattern instruction, it's quite
13	proper to put them all in one instructional basket.
14	That's what the form instructions said. That's what
15	both parties here did.
16	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
17	The case is submitted.
18	MR. SHAPIRO: We thank the Court.
19	(Whereupon, at 11:03 a.m., the case in the
20	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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24	
25	

	5:23	anaut 55.2	14:15	22.7.49.20
<u>A</u>		apart 55:2		33:7 48:20
ability 24:19	advocating 34:22	appeal 19:22 47:7	argument 1:15	53:6,8 57:1
above-entitled	- '		2:2,7 3:3,7	balance 27:5
1:14 58:20	affirmance 24:7	Appeals 38:9,24	4:20 7:4,16	ball 16:8
absolute 43:8	agent 45:8	39:14 53:14	12:9 22:22	bar 11:18 31:24
accept 5:4 6:7	agree 39:16	appear 15:22	27:9 42:12	40:20
38:5 58:4	ahead 11:24	APPEARAN	52:6,7 54:11	barred 39:6
acceptance	39:5,25 41:15	1:17	arguments 4:12	bars 41:14 43:15
34:21	41:17 52:25	appellant 29:21	20:16 22:21	based 22:1
accepted 9:20	53:2,18	appellate 4:2	42:3 51:9	basically 30:16
38:8 58:5	aisle 36:1	14:11 22:22	arms 32:8	45:12
accepting 50:8	Alabama 19:21	27:3 33:24	articulate 8:12	basis 20:20 34:5
accusation 53:6	20:6,8,12	34:4 38:16,18	asked 12:16	34:6
acknowledging	49:25	appendix 16:2	18:18 22:25	basket 58:13
33:21	allegation 45:15	34:17 36:5,22	29:10,12,13	battle 48:22
act 53:8	45:16	55:17	36:21 54:14	Beatty 13:5
action 35:16	allowed 40:25	application 4:14	asking 5:14 8:3	beginning 11:1
add 18:1	allows 35:19	25:3 41:17	18:6 28:12	begins 13:4
added 23:1	all-or-nothing	44:20	43:20 52:13	behalf 1:18,20
30:21	18:16	applied 3:16	56:10	2:4,6,9 3:8
addition 18:6	alternate 4:8	4:17 21:3	asks 35:2 37:5	27:10 54:12
additions 18:18	30:24	46:24 47:6	asserting 46:4	behold 55:11
address 12:4	alternative	apply 3:18 8:19	assess 55:18	belief 35:1
23:15 27:18	21:13	14:24 21:11	assume 49:22	believe 4:10
42:7 52:23	ambush 7:9	24:22 25:9,11	assumption 5:2	22:18 31:15
addressed 3:19	25:13 56:21	28:13 33:21	32:22	34:8 35:5 47:5
37:5	amended 23:4	44:7 46:6	assurance 55:25	49:5,6 51:17
addressing 40:7	Amendment	47:12 50:1	assured 48:24	52:6,8 54:3
41:15 42:3	53:23,23	applying 20:9	attention 22:11	believed 3:22
51:22 52:21	amount 55:17	20:13 27:16	authority 12:17	7:13
adequacy 6:15	56:5	43:7	12:20 18:8	benefit 36:15
7:6,24 8:10,13	analysis 47:21	appreciated	39:11 51:20	42:5,6
9:7,12 10:7	analyzed 23:18	8:25	52:2	best 21:8,10
11:10 12:3	announced	approach 5:19	avoid 4:3 34:2	29:4
22:12 27:1	35:10 38:7,9	18:16 20:14	52:22 53:2	better 24:17
adequate 3:13	answer 8:4	approached	avoiding 41:7	beware 16:15
7:5,7 9:16	39:24 40:14	18:14	award 11:21,25	blocked 32:15
11:22 12:5	50:2 53:16	approaching 8:2	51:23 55:10	blocks 42:24
21:19 23:8	antagonize	appropriate 7:1	a.m 1:16 3:2	BMW 12:19
28:1,3 39:7	14:14	7:20 8:5 27:20	58:19	37:1
40:19,22 44:25	anticipate 7:10	argue 5:6 9:4		bottom 4:5
48:1 49:21	anticipated	14:6 41:14	B	36:23
51:15 54:2,4	38:13 56:22	52:14 54:5	back 19:17	bound 44:18
adequately	anybody's 42:24	56:11	31:23 32:13	break 17:4
12:14 35:1	anyway 7:12	argued 8:17	36:24 42:16	22:20 57:23
	29:1 41:18	18:11 20:11	48:19	Breyer 14:16
adopt 5:10	57:5	arguing 14:14	bad 21:5 30:12	15:21 16:14,17
adopted 4:1				
	•	•	•	•

		1	1	
17:16 18:1,20	20:2,21 21:7	33:16 55:4,12	32:1 33:16	confusion 27:21
19:9,17,19	21:11,12,15,21	55:15 58:9	52:19 55:11	34:2 48:10
21:8 24:10,17	21:23 22:6,6	check 10:21	comes 21:22	consider 5:24
28:17,22 29:17	22:17,18 23:21	Chicago 1:18	coming 27:17	19:23 29:13
30:9,15,20,23	24:22,23,25	Chief 3:3,9	comment 56:17	35:20,23
31:10,14,17	27:14,20 28:23	11:15 27:6,11	committed 41:9	consideration
32:10,19 42:13	30:3,15,25	27:24 33:25	comparable	11:18 31:25
43:13 44:9,21	31:21 32:5,5	38:15 39:4,21	28:19	40:20 42:24,25
45:8,11 46:9	32:12 33:12	39:24 40:13	compelling	52:24 56:14
54:14 56:3,23	35:8 36:9,17	41:12 51:19	22:19	considered 5:17
Breyer's 56:17	36:18 37:2,5	52:13,16 53:17	compensate	10:2,3 52:1
brief 9:17 17:8	38:2,10 43:1,1	53:25 54:8,13	34:24	considering
19:23,25 21:23	44:22,22 45:11	56:4,10 58:16	compensation	32:16 47:7,10
36:5 53:13	45:14 46:5	choice 43:20	13:25	consisted 31:1
briefing 52:5,7	48:18,23 49:10	chose 5:19	compensatory	Constitution
53:19 54:2,4	51:21 53:1,6	cite 29:23	13:9 56:9	17:2 55:2
56:14	53:23,24 54:5	cited 17:8 20:12	complaining	constitutional
briefs 10:17	54:25 58:4,17	21:16,23 30:4	29:22	3:17,20 4:14
12:4	58:19	36:22 38:25	completely 4:3	5:25 7:8 8:19
brings 37:16	cases 14:19,22	civil 25:9 35:16	14:24,25 57:11	27:13 35:24
broken 57:14,15	15:13,16,24	claim 5:16,18	complicated	37:3 38:21
58:9,11	17:17 19:10	6:8 24:19	20:16 38:20	40:5,21 41:22
broker 45:9,17	20:8,13 25:9	claimed 29:25	complied 7:11	47:6,8 48:6,16
brother 31:19	25:10,10 28:17	clarified 11:1,5	complies 11:21	49:19 51:20
brought 22:11	28:19 29:2,3	Clause 52:8	comply 12:10	56:1 57:12
28:25 43:16	35:21 44:16,17	clear 26:20	complying	contained 30:1
Brown 21:22	49:15 54:15,16	28:15,18 30:2	37:23	contend 25:4
burden 20:17	54:18 56:24	30:5 31:8	conceded 53:12	46:7
22:23 23:5	cause 35:15,20	34:10 35:25	concern 10:24	contention 38:1
24:1	49:15	37:19 38:17,25	25:8 52:17	context 36:3
business 5:20	caused 34:19	41:14,20 43:8	concerned 6:7	continue 14:6
	century 56:20	44:4 45:3,6	concerns 37:12	contradictory
	cert 6:13,13	47:5	concession	34:13
C 2:1 3:1	9:18,19 10:3	clearer 26:15	40:18	contrary 29:15
call 35:12	11:24 18:22	clearly 12:21	concluded 39:15	32:22 34:11
called 6:18 50:20	certain 4:23	13:2 35:10	concludes 47:4	cooperative
	5:20 48:22	43:22 56:7	55:17	42:21
Campbell 36:10	certainly 53:4	clever 48:17	conditioned	copy 17:20
captures 26:24 care 12:14	54:25 56:16	climb 5:8	27:14	correct 4:13 5:3
care 12:14 careful 37:9	cetera 42:21	closer 44:18	conduct 34:19	6:18 9:16,23
carefully 19:11	challenge 51:22	closing 42:12	39:19	10:25 11:6
case 3:4 4:8,9,13	change 15:17	51:9	conference 13:4	12:11 15:11
5:20 6:8,11,15	23:25 24:1	colloquial 43:6	22:2 33:16	20:11 22:9,16
10:4 11:2,19	characterize	colloquy 13:1	confirming	24:14 28:15
12:19 13:20	52:24	26:8,10,12	37:12	29:11 31:8,20
17:3 19:20	charge 17:7,9	34:25 42:18	confront 4:22	33:15 38:3,17
17.5 17.20	22:2,4 23:10	come 21:8,10	confusing 34:13	39:1,18 44:3,4
	1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ı

	1			•
44:24 45:3,6	31:11,23 32:14	cuts 8:6	46:16,23 48:20	discussing 13:5
50:20,21 57:10	32:15 33:21	cutting 6:7	48:22 49:2	20:3 47:14
corrected 47:19	34:3,6 36:15		50:1	discussion 47:5
47:21	37:2 38:2,9,16	D	decisions 8:10	disentangle
correctly 11:4	38:16,18,22,24	D 1:8 3:1	11:9 12:5	20:16
26:24	38:25 39:10,14	damage 55:10	18:12 46:1	dismiss 22:14
counsel 14:2,3	40:5 41:8,13	damages 11:25	48:16 49:4	disposition 4:11
33:12 35:4,25	41:22,25 42:8	13:8,24 16:13	defendant 22:7	5:11,14 7:1
36:21 38:2	43:3,4,6,7,19	17:13 34:23	29:14 32:12	dispute 27:2,25
45:4,19,24	43:22 44:1,4	37:17 40:12	43:18	distinction
50:17 51:12	44:23,25 46:6	51:23 55:18	defendant's	45:18
54:8,16 55:4	46:15,18,21	56:9	25:6	distinguish 43:5
58:16	47:6,12,20	deal 6:21	denied 53:12	distinguishes
counts 8:13	48:6,7 49:7,25	dealing 3:23 4:5	deny 26:6 43:25	44:6
couple 31:24	49:25 50:7,14	18:4 55:1	43:25	doctrine 9:12
course 3:20	50:18 51:1,6	deals 30:7	departs 43:24	document 18:18
51:19 52:4,22	51:10,17 52:18	dealt 11:11	designed 34:24	doing 16:9 19:2
55:19	52:20,21 53:7	15:19 17:1	designing 30:12	40:25
court 1:1,15	53:8,14,15,15	death 29:8 31:21	48:11	doubt 34:6
3:10,11,15,16	53:21,22 54:21	31:25 32:5,12	despite 52:2	dozens 20:13
3:18,19,20,23	55:5,8,17,23	43:2	despree 32:2 deter 40:25	drafting 12:10
3:25 4:5,8,12	55:24 56:2,7	debate 45:6,7	determination	due 3:14 6:25
4:12,22,25 5:7	56:19 57:10,16	debated 5:23	10:12,15	11:21 17:25
5:10,11,17,18	58:18	6:12 9:9,14,17	determined	18:7 22:1,9
5:19,23 6:9,12	courts 14:10,11	9:18 10:16	10:14	23:17 24:5,8
6:13,14,17,19	14:20 18:12	22:3 23:19	device 48:17	25:6 26:24
6:24 7:1,13,16	39:8 42:1	debating 10:6	dictates 52:12	27:18 40:3,16
7:23,25 8:7,8	48:21 49:3,23	DECEASED 1:9	difference 12:23	41:3,5 46:23
8:10,14,17,18	Court's 3:12,21	December 1:12	different 10:4	47:20 51:22
8:20,21,22,24	4:17 7:5 12:5	decide 7:25 9:8	13:14 17:1	52:8 56:5
9:8,10,11,19	27:13 36:9	10:8,19,21	19:22 29:25	duty 21:25
9:21 10:2,5,11	38:13 43:16	21:19 38:19	30:5,18 31:3	D.C 1:11,20
10:14 11:1,8	44:2 46:1 48:8	41:18 49:9	37:16 48:8	
11:10,11,13,13	53:5	53:1,18,21	50:19 51:1,3	E
12:7 14:12	cover 26:3	54:5	57:11,22	E 2:1 3:1,1
16:8,23 17:14	covered 13:8,14	decided 6:19	differently 40:4	earlier 21:21
18:13,14 19:1	25:24 26:9	10:4,10 11:13	51:7 57:24	easiest 43:11
19:21,21 20:6	54:22	11:16 18:12,13	difficult 38:20	easy 41:20,23
20:8,13,15,17	covering 30:11	28:4 40:8 42:4	41:16,21	edited 23:4
20:18,21 21:2	credit 37:10	45:5 48:25	difficulty 5:1	effect 5:5,15
21:3,5,24 22:4	crime 45:21	51:1,2	direction 3:21	13:24 20:12
22:8,10,16,22	criminal 21:15	decides 48:6	directions 3:12	48:15,20 49:1
24:2 25:2,11	25:10	decision 9:10	3:17 8:19	either 14:25
26:23 27:4,12	criteria 7:5	12:2 29:7,24	disagreed 13:18	28:23 35:25
27:15,22 28:4	25:12 27:1	34:2 36:9	discretion 27:15	56:11
28:25 29:11,16	34:12 56:19	40:23 42:9	discussed 11:17	element 45:21
29:23 31:2,5	cut 5:16,18 9:3	43:16 44:2,3	24:1 34:15	elementary 52:9
27.23 31.2,3	- Cat 3.10,10 7.3	, ,-	21.1 57.15	,,
	•	•	<u>'</u>	•

	I	I	I	I
elements 42:14	execution 31:22	10:21 11:12	19:24 20:18	55:5
emphasizing	exemplar 45:20	21:20 22:12	21:25 29:11,14	giving 13:8
26:23	exercise 7:10	26:25 27:25	31:5,6 33:7	15:11 43:6
engage 43:22	25:12,17 52:9	28:7 31:21,25	34:12 44:10	54:24
enormity 52:11	Exist 28:3	32:13,14,15	four 8:17,17 9:9	global 55:8,21
ensure 48:19	existing 28:4	35:19,20 38:20	9:14 15:8	go 11:23 18:5,15
49:12	exorbitant 25:2	39:5 40:7,16	fourth 49:24	19:14,18 31:18
entail 5:15	25:4	40:20 41:21	53:23	33:9 36:24
enumeration	expect 52:21	42:19	full 52:5 54:2,3	37:6,7 39:25
33:19	explicit 8:18	federalize 27:22	fully 54:5	41:15,17 43:2
equally 32:3	exposition 22:3	feels 11:10	further 4:6 27:4	45:5 52:25
equation 41:3	express 35:2	fields 25:8	39:10	53:2,17
error 28:24	expressed 11:8	filed 50:21	futile 12:6,10	goes 47:8 48:19
29:15 31:6,6	expresses 35:1	find 21:10 28:19	futility 7:10	going 5:5 11:23
40:4 41:10	extended 57:11	32:23	25:13,17 42:9	12:20 13:20,23
43:23 46:4,10	extension 11:9	finding 3:15	51:2	14:6 16:17
46:13,19 47:22	extensively	firmly 50:12	future 25:9	17:18 19:23
49:6 54:20	10:17	first 3:4 4:2 6:19		22:24 23:13
57:4	eye 15:5	6:23 8:10 9:25	G	24:12,13,19
errors 17:21		10:22 11:5	G 3:1	25:21 26:2,5
19:24 34:3	$\frac{\mathbf{F}}{\mathbf{F}}$	12:6 19:12	game 25:5	33:9 37:6,7
44:10	face 35:25	27:16 28:25	gee 16:5	39:5 41:18,23
especially 35:23	faced 44:23	29:6 34:9	general 24:11,25	42:17 46:14
ESQ 1:18,20 2:3	fact 35:8 36:17	36:24 43:9	George 21:11,12	48:17 52:25
2:5,8	38:22 42:9	44:16 53:23	gesture 12:6	56:24
essence 29:1	45:15 51:3,8	57:1,4,7,9	Ginsburg 4:4	good 9:2,6 14:21
42:19 43:6	52:18 53:13	flexibility 27:17	6:16 10:13,19	15:6 20:21
48:8	factors 29:10	48:11	17:6 20:1,5	21:2 26:22
established	55:3	floor 30:11	23:6 26:7,14	34:4 49:23
50:12	failed 3:12 41:10	floors 30:12,12	32:23 53:16	50:6
Estate 1:8 38:10	failing 31:7	Flowers 19:20	55:14 57:17,25	goodbye 16:19
51:17	fair 9:2 43:8	22:18 49:24	58:7	Gore 37:1
et 42:21	46:24	follow 3:12,21	gist 26:12	gotcha 25:5
event 44:15	fairness 10:24	22:22 41:10	give 12:17,20	governing 33:10
everybody 43:6	fair-enough	48:21 49:8	13:15,21,23,23	grant 56:13
43:10	22:3	54:1	15:16,25 21:14	granted 11:24
exact 28:10,11	faith 20:21 21:2	followed 14:20	21:25 23:14	51:25
exactly 13:12	21:5 48:20	33:18 50:13	24:13,20 25:21	great 9:9 25:7
14:13 18:14	49:24 50:7	follows 35:6	26:5 28:10	ground 3:13 4:9
34:1 35:11	53:6,9 57:1	forfeiting 7:8	30:17 31:7	4:9 6:15 7:4,7
43:3,3 57:18	far 55:7	forfeiture 3:14	35:7 36:17,18	8:14 9:16
example 43:2	Farm 11:3 36:10	4:1 8:12 24:5	36:18 38:3	11:23 12:5
exceed 55:18	56:8 58:5,10 fashion 9:5	forgot 31:23	42:19 44:25	21:13,19 30:24
excessive 56:7		form 23:3 58:14	51:15 55:25	31:16 34:2
excluded 51:5	fault 16:8 Federal 6:25	forth 46:6 47:13	given 29:12 32:12 37:20	39:7 40:6,20
excuse 9:13	7:24 8:1 9:7	fortiori 22:17,19	38:13 51:18	40:23 41:4
50:22	1.4 0.1 7.1	found 8:22	30.13 31.10	49:21

	I	I	I	I
grounds 23:7	hill 5:7	11:22 28:1	48:1 51:15,16	19:20 21:4
32:9,17 34:10	Honor 4:10 6:10	39:7,18 40:19	51:16 54:22,24	22:3 23:15
41:6 48:2	7:23 10:1	40:23 41:4	55:7 57:7,19	27:18 34:5
guard 48:15,15	11:10 12:1	48:2 49:21	57:20,24 58:4	35:20,24 36:8
49:2 50:3	46:7 47:15	indication 27:21	58:5,8,11,12	36:21 37:14,15
guarded 35:1	52:4	48:12	instructional	37:16,25 39:11
guess 24:15	Hotelling 30:25	infected 54:19	21:24 22:7	40:7,17,21
41:12	hypothetical	inferred 55:20	58:13	41:15,25 42:16
guidance 38:3	32:8	inform 47:20	instructions	42:18 47:8,13
54:15		informs 45:7	13:1 15:8,25	47:25 48:6,18
guidepost 37:1	I	injuries 57:22	16:2 17:11	48:18,24 49:10
guy 45:16	idea 13:18 56:25	insist 21:6 45:1	22:17 24:12	52:1 56:5
GVR'ed 6:15	ideas 56:20	45:3 55:25	33:7,17 39:20	57:22
	ignored 40:9	instance 6:20	48:12 54:18	issues 3:24 4:23
H	III 1:18	10:22 28:22	57:23 58:14	4:24 5:19 10:3
habeas 35:15	illicit 23:13	instructed 33:14	instruction's	17:1 40:9 42:2
handbook 16:15	32:25 34:11	45:22	34:4	48:23 53:10
16:21	44:12	instruction 3:23	insufficiently	item 18:15,15
happened 15:1	imagine 31:20	6:21 7:11,13	8:25	iterations 38:24
32:11 43:4	42:14,25 43:1	12:11,15,18,21	intended 27:22	
happens 32:13	43:14,17	13:4,8,10,21	interest 22:20	J
happy 12:3	imagining 32:10	13:24 14:12,20	24:4,6,9,10	Jesse 1:8 34:20
hard 16:1 32:7	imperfect 21:24	15:2,18 16:11	50:16	joint 34:16
41:23	implicitly 4:21	16:13,19,24	interested 56:12	36:22 55:16
harm 4:16 11:2	imply 14:24	17:13,14,20,21	interesting	judge 12:13,16
11:3,5 12:18	importance	17:24 18:5,9	21:22	13:7,7,13
13:19 26:4	35:24 49:19	18:17 19:2,6	intermediate	14:14 15:1,11
34:19 39:1	important 24:5	19:11 21:15	50:18	16:5,20 18:4
41:1 47:21	45:15 56:1	22:1,9,13,15	intermix 19:22	18:25 21:14
51:14 54:24	impose 36:12	23:18,22 24:13	interpretation	22:12,24 23:5
55:6 57:21,21	imposed 50:9	24:14 25:21	41:2	23:24 24:13,19
58:2,6	impression 9:25	26:5,21,22	intertwined	25:19 32:22,23
harms 34:18	inadequate 4:3	28:5,15,24	41:21	33:2,6 34:9,16
36:12 37:25	include 16:12	29:1,10,19,25	inured 42:5	36:1,14,16
harsh 53:6	17:24	30:1,6,17 31:1	invite 8:21	37:7 42:21
head 38:19	included 11:6	31:2,7,12	invited 18:4	50:16,23 51:12
headings 22:21	26:10	32:11,24 33:13	55:8	57:2,3
hear 3:3 7:20	including 4:15	33:13,18 34:9	invites 27:15	judgment 27:15
8:4	8:11	35:8 36:7,11	invoked 50:9,10	46:18
heard 4:12 6:9	inconsistent 4:6	36:18 37:3,20	involving 29:8	jurisprudence
8:8	4:11,17,21	38:4,11,12	irrelevant 45:19	35:15
heavily 8:13	5:12 39:3,12	39:2,15 40:11	issue 3:20 5:3,3	juror 27:21
held 8:14 14:11	incorrect 12:15	41:7,8 42:11	5:23 6:5,12	jury 22:17 23:3
14:11 20:14	23:10 32:25	42:20 43:21,23	7:20 8:7,25 9:3	24:7 29:13
help 42:14	39:15	43:25 44:1,8	9:4,8,14 10:4,7	33:14 37:3
hesitate 10:6	indented 16:6	44:24,25 45:3	11:10 12:3,14	39:19 48:9
11:14	independent	45:13,15,23	13:2 17:7,9	51:14 54:23
	_	10.12,13,23	15.2 17.7,5	
	<u>'</u>	•	•	<u> </u>

K ompo 0.11 14	22.21 25 24.11		minute 20.7
Kemna 8:11,14	23:21,25 24:11	<u>M</u>	minute 20:7 52:19
•	\mathbf{c}		minutes 54:9
,	,	· ·	misconduct
,		0	40:24 52:11
	0		mistake 39:5
	C		40:5
			mistakes 3:22
	O		12:23 41:6,7
v		27:13 44:2	57:6
		mandated 3:25	mitigating 29:10
	•	4:12,14 42:19	model 17:20
		manual 17:8	moment 14:17
		Mapp 53:22	morning 3:4
		massive 24:5	47:14
,		materially 43:24	Morris 1:3 3:4
44:18 46:1	= :	mathematics	32:25 33:15
51:13	line 4:5	52:9	34:22 36:6
knows 19:5,9	list 51:6	matter 1:14 9:25	37:15 42:1,3,4
	listed 14:19	13:15 18:13	42:10 43:17
	literally 23:4		45:25 51:10
	litigant 36:4	· ·	53:5,12 57:18
	litigation 4:2		Morris's 14:2,3
0 0	little 16:1 50:16		35:4 42:6 47:7
	50:23		51:12
	Lo 55:10	,	move 38:15,15
	look 15:3 23:12		moved 22:14
O	26:12 29:6		multiple 34:10
40:1 46:11	31:18 34:15		
law 4:8,22 5:10	36:5,23 37:25		N
7:24 8:2 10:20	40:3 42:8,20		N 2:1,1 3:1
15:10 17:10	43:11 44:10,22		NAACP 20:2
21:20 24:14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		name 21:12
25:8,8,20	54:17		natural 41:24
29:11,15 31:21	looked 14:22	·	nature 33:16
31:24 32:13,15			52:24
32:25 33:14		*	necessarily 48:7
37:2,6,19			49:9
38:21 39:3,16			necessary 18:10
39:19 40:9,15			18:19 38:3
41:7 42:16			need 22:4 35:3
43:8,24 44:4			42:6
48:18,25 49:10		•	needed 42:11
49:21 57:6,12			needing 51:11
		· ·	neutral 46:24
26:19,20 32:17			never 3:19 4:16
lawyers 22:20	lurking 48:24	· ·	5:10 6:8 9:20
· · · J · - ~ · - · ·	IUI MIIZ TU. 4T	55:19	
	21:4 57:16 Kennedy 35:7 35:14,18 36:14 37:11,18 38:1 38:6 49:14,18 50:15 51:5 56:1 kernel 44:24 key 56:20 kind 5:7 25:1 know 5:13 6:1 9:1 17:19 19:12,19 22:6 30:23 32:7,9 34:5 43:1,8 44:18 46:1 51:13 knows 19:5,9 L laid 3:18 land 45:9 language 6:1,5 13:6 26:23 28:6,10,12 35:2 Laughter 26:17 40:1 46:11 law 4:8,22 5:10 7:24 8:2 10:20 15:10 17:10 21:20 24:14 25:8,8,20 29:11,15 31:21 31:24 32:13,15 32:25 33:14 37:2,6,19 38:21 39:3,16 39:19 40:9,15 41:7 42:16 43:8,24 44:4 48:18,25 49:10 49:21 57:6,12 lawyer 22:14 26:19,20 32:17	21:4 57:16 Kennedy 35:7 35:14,18 36:14 37:11,18 38:1 38:6 49:14,18 50:15 51:5 56:1 kernel 44:24 key 56:20 kind 5:7 25:1 know 5:13 6:1 9:1 17:19 19:12,19 22:6 30:23 32:7,9 34:5 43:1,8 44:18 46:1 51:13 knows 19:5,9 Llaid 3:18 land 45:9 language 6:1,5 13:6 26:23 28:6,10,12 35:2 Laughter 26:17 40:1 46:11 law 4:8,22 5:10 7:24 8:2 10:20 15:10 17:10 21:20 24:14 25:8,8,20 29:11,15 31:21 31:24 32:13,15 32:25 33:14 37:2,6,19 38:21 39:3,16 39:19 40:9,15 41:7 42:16 43:8,24 44:4 48:18,25 49:10 49:21 57:6,12 lawyer 22:14 26:19,20 32:17 leading 29:3 Lee 8:11,14 21:4 24:25 57:16 legal 31:3 legitimate 24:4 25:5 liability 30:8,12 limitations 43:15 limited 17:9 limited 17:9 limited 17:9 limited 17:9 little 16:1 50:16 50:23 Lo 55:10 look 15:3 23:12 26:12 29:6 31:18 34:15 36:5,23 37:25 40:3 42:8,20 43:11 44:10,22 47:3 52:11,25 54:17 looked 14:22 15:2,23,24 16:1,2,3 19:11 47:24 looks 15:2 16:5 16:7 lose 24:19 lost 14:7 lot 19:10 43:10 lots 47:23 lower 8:21 9:10 10:5	The state of the

	1	<u> </u>	1	<u> </u>
15:12 16:20	32:24 38:10	36:7 37:10	parcel 29:20	49:5,17,20
22:15 31:12	offering 36:7	38:9,24,25	part 15:10,12	50:5,8,12,25
new 22:8 35:11	51:2	39:8,12,18	16:18 19:6	51:8 52:4,15
35:12	oh 24:16 25:19	40:5,15,24	24:20 28:11	53:4,20 54:3
nice 48:3	31:23 32:14	41:11 42:8	29:18,20,20,21	pen 42:15
nine 4:2	37:18,18 56:15	43:15,24 44:1	30:7 38:12	penalty 29:8
nonparties 4:16	57:9	46:5,15,21	41:2 44:3,6	people 11:6
12:18 13:19	Ohio 53:22	47:6,12,19,24	47:22 48:7	perfect 7:11
26:4 41:1	okay 14:3,5	51:1,5 52:18	53:7 57:4	12:11,11 21:6
47:21 55:6	19:18 26:9	53:7,8,14,14	participants	29:5
57:21	32:19 35:5	54:15	51:6	permits 40:24
nonresidents	47:25 50:2	organize 16:23	particular 6:22	permitting 28:5
11:4	once 33:6	original 44:22	particularly	person 14:1,1
norm 56:9	one-sentence	Osborne 22:6,6	10:20 57:1	17:17 18:25
normal 56:14	38:11 51:16	23:21 24:25	parties 10:16	PERSONAL 1:7
note 39:17	onus 45:24	26:19 45:19,21	16:11 22:2	persons 36:12
notice 15:16	operate 49:23	outcome 46:24	30:4 33:16	pertaining
57:13	opinion 4:7,18	out-of-State	56:12 58:15	16:12 17:12
noting 42:8	4:21 10:8,9	57:21 58:6	parts 17:22 26:8	petition 18:22
notion 17:6	14:13 27:22	overarching	29:9 30:5	39:13 53:12
novel 20:9	30:2 47:4,23	35:19	32:24 34:13	Petitioner 1:4
nullified 48:17	48:8	overlooked	40:11	1:19 2:4,9 3:8
nullifies 25:6	opinions 56:20	45:13,14	party 4:25 5:16	35:22 54:12
nullify 49:1	opponent 10:10	Owings 30:3,4	6:8 8:6 10:25	Petitioners 35:9
number 17:13	opportunity 5:6	54:17	22:10 28:11	Philip 3:4 14:2,3
26:6 41:8	33:15 53:11		45:23 50:10	32:24 33:14
43:19	54:4	<u>P</u>	passed 6:14	34:22 35:4
numbered 15:20	oppose 56:6	P 3:1	pattern 16:11	36:6 37:15
16:13 17:1	opposition 9:19	page 2:2 13:4	17:11,24,24	42:1,3,4,5,10
55:1 57:12	oppositions 9:18	15:5 16:1	18:2 33:18	43:17 45:25
	option 58:11	25:25 36:22	57:24 58:12	47:7 51:10,12
0	oral 1:14 2:2 3:7	39:13,17 55:16	Peck 1:20 2:5	53:5,11 57:18
O 2:1 3:1	27:9	pages 13:11	27:8,9,11 28:2	PHILLIP 1:3
object 24:12	order 5:24 37:2	paper 12:22	28:21 29:6,23	phrase 13:15
objected 41:9	39:1 40:25	15:17 17:5	30:14,19,22,24	picky 44:13,13
objection 14:9	46:4,21 48:22	25:15 42:15	31:13,15 32:7	44:14,15
15:7	orders 46:19	50:23 57:14,15	32:18,20 33:5	piece 12:22
objections 40:10	Oregon 3:11,16	papers 6:13 10:3	33:11,23 34:8	15:17 17:4
52:3	3:19,20 4:22	paragraph 3:22	35:13,17 36:2	25:15 50:23
obligatory 55:8	5:6,17,17,19	13:6 15:18	36:20 37:13,22	57:14,15
occurred 6:11	6:9,19,24 7:1	19:13,14 23:8	38:5,8,22 39:9	place 7:15 28:25
occurs 27:23	7:16,17 8:7,8	23:8 55:1 57:4	39:23 40:2,22	46:22
odd 17:17	10:14 14:19	57:13 58:8	41:24 43:11,14	placed 22:23
offended 6:24	15:10 16:8	paragraphs	44:21 45:10,18	plaintiff 24:6
offer 33:12	17:3 19:1 27:3	16:12,25 19:24	46:3,7,12,15	36:13
43:18 45:23 offered 30:6	28:3,6,9 29:15	paraphrased 26:13	46:20 47:3,10	plaintiffs 17:14
onered 30.0	33:12 34:11	20.13	47:15,17 48:5	23:16 33:17
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ı		1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
34:18,24 37:24	28:11 41:19	22:1,9 23:17	punish 34:17,18	quoted 26:23
50:17	45:24	24:5,8 25:6	34:19 37:24	quotes 13:6
plaintiff's 18:17	presented 11:12	26:24 27:18	40:24 51:14	
platter 23:2,23	11:20 41:25	33:11 40:3,17	punishment	R
please 3:10	51:24 52:14	41:3,5 46:23	4:15 13:19	R 3:1
15:21 24:24	53:1	47:20 51:22	26:4 36:12	raise 6:6 9:3,4
27:12	preservation	52:8 56:5	41:1 55:6,9,21	15:7
point 8:16 10:23	5:22 6:12	produce 24:13	58:6	raised 4:25 5:4
12:20 13:10,13	preserve 27:2	proffered 33:13	punitive 13:8,24	5:16 6:18 8:6
14:6,7,18,25	preserved 27:3	profit 44:12,12	13:25 16:12	9:4 10:25
14:25 17:10,12	pressed 14:7	profits 23:13	17:12 34:23	11:19 35:21
*	pretty 17:16	33:1 34:11	37:16 40:11	44:15 49:12
23:1,13 26:2,3	21:9 44:13	prohibition 4:15	51:23 55:10,18	53:10,15
	previous 11:9	5:25	purporting	raising 7:21
33:13 36:16,25	38:23	promotes 24:7	48:21	48:17
	previously	prong 13:5	purpose 25:1,5	ran 15:4
39:3 44:17	11:11	proper 58:13	34:1	range 55:12
	principal 7:4	properly 5:3 8:6	purposes 22:12	ratio 36:25
pointed 25:25	45:9	49:22 50:9	27:3	reach 40:8,16
_	principle 26:25	proponent	put 8:3 17:12	42:1,2 52:2
20:18,19 21:3	28:11 35:19	28:10	18:24,25 32:3	53:2 56:5 57:5
pointlessly 21:5	45:24	proportion	42:15 44:19	reached 19:21
_	prior 18:12	54:22	58:13	23:11 39:6
portion 13:1	29:24	proportionality	puts 45:24	reaching 39:5
	problem 4:20	36:24 37:4,14		reaction 56:24
portions 23:10	6:6 14:17	proposal 21:7	Q 7.24	read 17:17
position 5:1,4	28:16 32:3	22:7 23:16	question 7:24	18:21 23:3
6:7 14:15	48:14 49:11	propose 23:22	8:2,2,3,21 9:8	46:16 55:6
	problems 48:1	26:20	10:9,10 11:12	reading 12:13
	procedural	proposed 22:13	11:20,20,23,24	19:2
post-verdict	11:23 27:18	22:15 23:1	21:1 27:25	reads 4:6 19:10
37:5	39:6 41:14,16	26:22 31:1	31:25 32:20	realize 8:1
power 53:5,22	41:21 46:22	33:17 54:19	36:22,23 44:23	really 7:6 15:3
practical 25:13	48:18 52:2	proposition 31:4	46:14 49:12	16:8 20:6 22:5
	procedure 27:17	31:5	51:23,25 52:2	22:19 23:16
practice 16:22	27:23 28:1,4	protect 51:20	52:14 53:1,18 53:21 54:2	28:19,24 29:20
17:8 41:13	33:24 38:18	protected 52:1		35:9,25 43:9 56:25
precedent 23:9	46:24 48:10,11	protection 13:18	56:13,17 questioning	reason 9:2,6
25:7 28:9	48:12 56:11	26:4 49:22	20:21	11:15,16 12:6
_	procedures	55:5,7,22,23	questions 10:20	15:15 18:24
precise 57:19	51:21	provide 45:5	10:20 27:4	22:1 24:21
_	proceeding	48:10	42:7 57:5	25:14 35:5
prejudice 35:15	22:15	provided 54:15	quite 4:11 20:9	36:2 42:10
I I	proceedings 4:6	55:5,24	25:18 28:18	47:18
1	process 3:14	provides 49:21	35:22 55:2	reasonable
52:7	6:25 11:21 17:25 18:7	providing 55:7 prudent 49:7	56:25 58:12	15:16
presentation	11.43 10.7	pi uuciil 47./	20.22 20.12	10.10
		*		

	1	1	ı	ı
reasonableness	22:24 23:17	37:8 38:11	33:24 34:2,21	SCALIA 9:13
55:20	26:6 27:21,23	reversible 41:10	35:9,11,12	10:8 33:2,6,20
reasons 7:7 8:9	28:7 29:9,9,9	43:23	38:7,9,13,17	46:3,13,17,25
REBUTTAL	34:11 35:9	review 33:24	38:20,25 39:6	47:4,11,16
2:7 54:11	39:12	34:4	39:11 40:15	48:3
recall 11:4 24:24	requested 28:5	reviewing 50:6	41:14,16,21,22	school 52:9
recognize 53:21	31:12,12 36:7	Reyes 54:17	44:7,20 45:2,6	Schwarz 38:10
record 12:12,25	36:11	Reyes-Camar	50:9,21,22	51:17
28:8 36:3	requests 15:20	29:7	51:11 52:19,20	sea 21:17
37:23	28:14 58:9	right 6:21 7:8	57:11	second 7:4 11:20
referred 3:23	require 24:11	8:6 9:3 12:2,20	ruled 9:22 25:20	13:5 37:1
54:16 55:4	33:19 48:21	14:14 15:11	ruling 7:9 14:5	51:23 52:14
referring 6:2,4	required 7:14	19:13 21:12	16:23 33:3	53:18 56:13
55:15	22:8,9,16	24:6,18,18	34:7 36:15	secondly 8:16
refused 3:21	requires 12:7,17	30:7,23 32:15	38:10	see 13:3 17:23
29:16	40:3	34:1 36:19	run 16:18	25:12 40:14
refusing 24:20	requiring 13:20	42:13 43:20	runaround 43:7	49:11 54:18
regularly 50:13	researched 21:9	44:17 45:10	run-around	selling 45:9
rehired 45:16	reserve 27:5	47:24 49:19	18:22	send 19:17
reject 39:1	resolve 4:8	50:10 55:11	S	31:23 32:13
rejected 7:12	resolving 12:2	56:1		sentence 31:4
14:12,13,15	respect 5:3	rights 3:14 25:6	S 1:20 2:1,5 3:1	36:11 58:1
34:9	37:16	25:9	27:9	sentences 31:2,3
relevant 35:23	respecting 39:19	risk 27:20 35:1	sake 35:11	separate 8:17
relied 39:8	respects 4:13	48:9	sandbagging	9:9 12:22
rely 38:19 40:17	6:18,22 9:17	ROBERT 1:20	53:8	15:17 16:25
41:15	10:25 12:12	2:5 27:9	satisfied 35:6	17:4 18:13
relying 38:23	20:12 27:14	ROBERTS 3:3	satisfy 26:25	22:21 25:15
remaining 54:10	28:15 31:8	11:15 27:6,24	48:13 50:13	31:1 57:14,15
remand 3:12	39:1 44:5 45:4	33:25 38:15	saved 43:9	separated 25:22
5:10,24 8:20	50:21,22 57:11	39:4,21,24	saying 5:5,13,24	separately 15:20
46:4,5,18,21	Respondent	40:13 41:12	13:13,15 14:4 16:23 26:10,24	16:25 18:11,11
47:11 48:5	1:21 2:6 27:10	51:19 52:13,16	26:24 37:19,22	23:18 29:12
50:7	response 19:3	53:25 54:8	39:9 40:14	55:1 57:12
remanded 3:17	48:20 56:4	56:10 58:16	43:19 44:2,10	September
8:18 9:10 10:4	responsibility	Rose 30:3	44:11 50:22	34:20
48:4	45:5	routine 38:17	52:25	sequence 4:23
remember	rest 19:15,18	41:13	says 11:13 13:6	5:20 49:3,8
30:10 31:19	26:6 57:6	rule 4:13 7:12	13:7,9 16:15	served 23:22
repeatedly 7:24	resurrected	8:5,12 9:17,24	16:18 19:18	serves 25:4
reply 7:21	49:1	11:2 14:20	24:6 27:16,19	50:15
REPRESENT	retrial 22:16	16:18 19:5,5,9	28:9 31:23	set 22:16 46:6
1:7	return 55:9	20:7,9,9,12	32:14 34:4	47:12 sets 34:12
reprint 31:2	returned 51:12 returns 37:15	21:3,11 24:11	35:4 36:11	
request 3:23 8:22,23 15:18	retype 23:2	24:15,22 25:1 25:3,8 28:6,7	37:1,2,4,6	severe 21:6,6 25:3
18:15 21:24	retype 25:2 reversed 22:8	28:14 33:22,23	41:22 47:2	severity 20:14
10.13 41.44	16 761864 22.0	20.14 33.22,23	11.22 17.2	56vC11ty 20.14
	ı	ı	ı	ı

	 I	I	I	 I
20:18,19 21:3	23:25 48:16	21:18 31:19	25:16,23 28:16	supposed 21:18
Shapiro 1:18 2:3	49:8 52:25	43:8 46:6 47:7	stop 33:3 36:24	supreme 1:1,15
2:8 3:6,7,9 4:4	single 16:6,19	47:12	striking 43:1	3:16 4:5,22 5:6
4:10 5:9,22 6:3	29:9 30:1	started 18:17	strong 22:19	5:17,18,19 6:9
6:10 7:3,17,23	54:19 58:8	starts 13:5	sub 6:14 10:12	6:19,24 7:1,16
8:9 9:6,15,23	sit 46:18	State 4:5,8,8,22	subheadings	7:17 8:7,8
10:1,11,16,23	sitting 16:4	5:10 6:15 8:14	22:21	10:14 19:1,21
11:7 12:1,16	situation 15:19	9:16,21 10:20	subject 12:13	20:6,8,15,17
13:3,17 14:4	17:4 24:3	11:3,6,22 12:5	44:18	28:4 38:25
14:10 15:15	28:20 32:2,21	12:7 14:10	subjective 56:24	42:8 44:1 46:6
16:10,16,21	52:23	16:23 17:2	submit 15:17	46:15,21 47:6
17:11,23 18:3	situations 11:17	18:12 20:10,15	25:14 28:2	47:12,19 49:7
19:8,16,19	skeptical 15:22	20:17 21:19,22	submitted 7:11	49:23,25,25
20:4,10,23	skips 6:5	22:20 24:4,6,9	12:22 50:20,22	51:1,6 52:18
21:1,21 23:12	slight 11:9	24:10 25:1	58:17,20	53:7,15
24:16,24 25:19	slightly 21:17	27:15,23 31:24	subsequently	sure 18:23
26:1,11,16,18	smoker 36:6	32:14,17 33:4	36:16	surprise 7:9
27:7 54:9,11	solicitous 42:2	36:10 38:17	substantial 56:8	sympathy 29:14
54:13 55:16	Sorenson 44:22	39:3,7,15 40:6	substantive	29:18,24
56:6,15 57:9	45:8 54:17	40:9,19,23	11:24 25:20	
57:20 58:3,10	sorry 40:13	41:4,21 42:16	39:11 41:7,15	T
58:18	sort 15:3,24	43:4,8 46:18	47:22 51:11,22	T 2:1,1
share 17:18	sorts 25:10	48:10,18,21,25	suffered 36:12	take 24:11 56:25
Shepardized	sound 14:8	49:3,6,10,21	sufficient 27:1	taken 12:14,23
21:16	sounds 34:21	49:23 52:20,21	sufficiently	57:10
shoes 32:4	37:11	55:24,25 56:2	22:11	takes 7:3 8:11
show 3:13	SOUTER 4:19	56:8 57:6 58:5	suggest 49:6	talked 29:24
showed 45:25	5:13 6:1,4 7:15	58:10	50:25	talking 11:3
side 5:4,5 9:3	7:19 8:1,24	stated 13:2	suggested 28:18	42:18 47:8
13:2 14:19	13:22 14:8	37:23 56:19	45:19 55:12	51:21
36:1	48:14 49:11	58:8	suggesting	tell 21:17 25:16
sides 17:13	50:2,6,11	statement 55:13	53:17,20 55:21	29:17 32:4
side's 18:5	so-called 31:11	States 1:1,15	suggestion 56:4	37:3 48:7
significance	speaking 18:20	27:16 45:2	suggests 35:2	51:13 52:10
8:25 57:3	specific 4:1 5:24	State-law 53:10	suit 43:15	56:23
significant	9:10 12:10	stating 58:1	Sullivan 6:11	telling 23:25
27:14,20 34:14	23:20 28:8,9	statute 17:2	10:2,12,18	49:3
36:4 48:9	49:8	34:12 39:13	sum 55:18	test 56:18
silentio 6:14	specifically	40:24 41:3,11	support 24:4	thank 3:9 27:6
10:12	55:15	43:14	29:4	54:7,8,13
silver 23:2,22	sprung 20:6	statutory 55:2	supported 25:1	58:16,18
similar 6:11	squarely 11:12	steep 5:7	supporting	theory 4:1
19:20 45:18	stage 6:13	STEPHEN 1:18	44:16	thereof 17:18
simple 54:18	stand 52:7	2:3,8 3:7 54:11	suppose 6:17,20	thing 16:6 20:2
57:19 58:1	standard 3:17	STEVENS 9:21	6:23 11:15	30:11 33:8
simply 4:16 5:18	3:18 4:15,16	9:24 12:8,25	15:1 42:15	43:3,4
6:5 7:13 23:3	5:10,25 8:19	13:12 20:20,24	56:11	things 28:23

				1
34:14 47:24	57:1,7,10	two 8:9 12:23	valid 54:21	we'll 3:3 35:11
51:13	timely 9:5 28:7	15:5 28:23	valuable 7:8	42:16
think 5:1 8:3	times 8:4,18 9:9	29:8 30:5	various 25:8	we're 12:2,3
10:24 11:16	9:14	32:16 34:3,14	54:14 56:19	41:18
12:12 13:7,13	tip 16:22	44:10	verdict 38:11	we've 24:1
13:14 16:5,10	today 3:11 43:16	type 50:23	verdicts 24:7	Williams 1:6,9
18:9,23 20:22	52:14		versus 23:15	3:5 11:2,4
20:24 21:9,12	told 16:11 17:12	U	view 12:19 13:2	34:20 39:14
22:18 23:7,9	18:8 54:1 55:9	ultimate 56:18	14:18 18:21	40:10 42:5
24:8 25:7,11	topic 54:19	ultimately 9:7	violate 32:14	43:17 53:10
25:14 26:9,11	57:12	13:23	44:2	win 42:16
29:2,4 31:9,19	traditional	unanimously	violates 32:12	words 43:5
34:1,14 35:13	28:14	20:13,18	violation 24:8	work 23:24
36:3 37:9,13	trial 7:13 8:12	uncertain 41:17		41:23,23
38:14 39:4,21	12:12,13,16	unconstitutio	W	working 17:14
39:24 41:12,24	13:13 14:14	11:25 31:22	waited 52:18	23:16
42:7 43:11	16:20 18:14,25	understand 14:5	waived 4:24	worry 30:16
45:11 46:12,15	22:4,8,11,24	22:4 25:18	Walther 30:25	worse 37:21
47:18,19 48:15	23:5,24 29:16	32:18 35:17	want 9:1 12:8	wouldn't 7:19
49:20,22 51:1	32:22,23 33:2	49:20 52:15	15:22 23:1	17:19 24:23
51:13,14 56:2	33:6,12,21,23	57:2	26:3 37:8	25:21 37:20
57:8	34:3,6,9,16	understanding	38:19 46:2	56:6
third 31:5	35:10 36:1,6	4:7	50:23	wrong 3:16 6:21
third-party 30:8	36:14,16 37:2	unfavorable	wanted 29:1	6:22 16:19
thoroughly	38:2,16 41:8	19:6	30:17 45:13	19:7,13,14
21:10	43:18,22 44:3	unified 40:11	warning 54:16	24:20 29:19,20
thought 11:21	50:16	United 1:1,15	Washington	30:13 40:6
12:13 17:6	trials 39:19	45:2	1:11,20	41:5 46:10
18:22 19:4	tried 18:3	unnecessarily	wasn't 7:14 9:11	47:1,6,16,17
20:1 21:5	trigger 51:10	21:6 25:2	17:7,19 18:16	47:18,19,22,25
25:23 29:19,20	trip 49:24	unnecessary	22:23 25:20	wrote 17:17
37:22 38:23	trouble 33:9	23:14	30:11 56:10	
40:6,7 42:17	43:10	unreasonable	wax 16:8	X
45:1 47:20	true 11:7 18:1	44:19	way 16:24 30:18	x 1:2,10
53:25 54:1	20:25 40:18	unrelated 3:24	33:18 41:20	T 7
three 7:7 8:4,17	56:16 57:22,25	urge 44:21	43:11 45:12	<u> </u>
31:1 54:9,16	58:3	urged 51:10	48:19 49:2	years 4:2 8:11
throw 33:8	truly 25:5	USA 1:3	50:3 51:20	8:11 20:11
thrust 12:9	trusted 50:1	use 21:18 28:12	ways 15:6	21:23
time 4:2 6:23	truth 21:17	U.S 49:25 57:12	Wednesday	
9:19,22 11:5	try 42:15		1:12	
11:19 19:12	trying 6:5 37:9	<u> </u>	weight 35:7,12	zero 24:1
27:5 30:6	42:14	v 1:5 3:4 8:11,14	well-preserved	zone 55:19
35:10,21 37:19	turn 9:11 12:3	21:4,22 30:3	40:10	\$
42:10 43:25	34:16	30:25 36:10	went 26:8 39:10	\$100 55:10,19
45:1 49:15,16	turned 14:1	37:1 53:22	40:2 51:25	\$80 55:11
50:10 52:5,20	twice 9:18 21:16	vacated 3:15	weren't 35:21	φου υυ.11
,				

	52 0 20.17		
0	52a 39:17		
07-1216 1:5 3:4	54 2:9		
	6		
1	60 20:11		
1 15:4 16:7	00 20.11		
19:13,14 34:20	9		
57:4	92-year-old		
10:02 1:16 3:2	28:14		
105 28:6	20.14		
11:03 58:19			
16a 36:23			
17 13:11			
17a 13:4 36:22			
18a 13:11			
19a 34:23			
1916 44:22			
1944 30:25			
1988 34:20			
2			
2 15:4 16:7			
20a 34:25			
2000 29:7,7			
2002 36:8 45:25			
57:18			
2006 16:22			
2008 1:12			
21a 34:16 36:5			
27 2:6			
28 14:19,22			
15:12,13,16			
17:17 20:8			
28:17,19 44:16			
28a 37:25			
3			
3 1:12 2:4			
32a 15:2 16:1			
34 6:21 16:13			
17:13 26:6			
41:8 43:19			
37a 55:16			
38 56:24			
4			
-			
48a 39:13			
5			