1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	MICHAEL B. KINGSLEY, :
4	Petitioner : No. 14-6368
5	v. :
6	STAN HENDRICKSON, ET AL. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Monday, April 27, 2015
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:01 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	WENDY M. WARD, ESQ., Madison, Wis.; on behalf of
16	Petitioner.
17	JOHN F. BASH, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor General,
18	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for United
19	States, as amicus curiae, supporting affirmance.
20	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
21	Respondents.
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1	CONTENTS	
2	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	PAGE
3	WENDY M. WARD, ESQ.	
4	On behalf of the Petitioner	3
5	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	
6	JOHN F. BASH, ESQ.	
7	For the United States, as amicus curiae,	
8	supporting affirmance	22
9	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	
10	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQ.	
11	On behalf of the Respondents	33
12	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF	
13	WENDY M. WARD, ESQ.	
14	On behalf of the Petitioner	54
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 (10:01 a.m.)
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
- 4 argument this morning in Case 14-6368, Kingsley v.
- 5 Hendrickson.
- 6 Ms. Ward.
- 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF WENDY M. WARD
- 8 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 9 MS. WARD: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 10 please the Court:
- 11 The core of the liberty interest protected
- 12 by due process is the right to be free from unjustified
- 13 bodily restraint and harm. It's hard to imagine
- 14 anything more inconsistent with these core rights than
- 15 the use of a weapon on a restrained detainee, and that
- is why Respondents urge this Court to import a
- 17 subjective intent element that doesn't relate to due
- 18 process, but is instead drawn from the test for
- 19 violation of a convicted prisoner's Eighth Amendment
- 20 rights.
- 21 Respondents candidly admit that they favor
- 22 this test because it better insulates guards from
- 23 liability, but that is no reason to ignore meaningful
- 24 constitutional distinctions between those who have been
- 25 convicted and those who have not.

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1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, why isn't the
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- 2 safety of the detainee, why isn't that just a facet of
- 3 the use of excessive force? I think that's how the
- 4 district court treated it.
- 5 MS. WARD: The -- the safety of the detainee
- 6 was the stated objective for the use of the force in --
- 7 in this case. And that is a legitimate interest, but
- 8 the determination of whether the -- the force itself was
- 9 excessive is based on the Bell test for legitimate
- 10 purpose, legitimate penological objectives. So then the
- 11 test is objectively, then, whether or not the use of
- 12 force was excessive to the state -- stated need and the
- 13 Fourth Amendment test provides a -- a -- a good familiar
- 14 workable standard that can be used to determine that
- 15 question.
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You -- you mentioned the
- 17 Fourth Amendment now, but as I understand it, the
- 18 complaint just alleged a due process violation. It
- 19 didn't -- it didn't refer to the Fourth Amendment.
- 20 MS. WARD: That's correct, Your Honor. And
- 21 -- and the Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process
- 22 test as articulated in Bell does provide the clearest
- 23 application by the Court of the rights of detainees in
- 24 the prison context.
- 25 And the Court has stated that Bell does

- 1 apply to the excessive force claims of pretrial
- 2 detainees and it makes perfect sense because, like a
- 3 prison policy that goes too far, it's easy to see how
- 4 a use of force can be administered as punishment.
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So suppose you have a
- 6 detainee being held in a prison population. And --
- 7 is -- is your point that the prisoners can be punished,
- 8 but the detainee cannot be?
- 9 MS. WARD: That's correct, under the --
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: All right. Now -- now --
- 11 now suppose the prisoners are misbehaving. They're
- 12 unruly. They're yelling and throwing things at the
- 13 guards and the guards say, alright, lockdown for 24
- 14 hours; you can't go to the mess hall. Now, the detainee
- 15 raises his hand and says, Oh, excuse me. I'm a
- 16 detainee. I -- I have a different standing.
- 17 Is that your -- is that what has to happen
- 18 here.
- 19 MS. WARD: Yes, but -- but the problem with
- 20 the hypothetical is that the -- that's a legitimate
- 21 penological objective. So under either test, neither
- 22 the prisoner --
- 23 JUSTICE KENNEDY: That was my next question.
- 24 So there can be punishment for simply not -- in order to
- 25 maintain discipline within the prison population. You

- 1 can be deprived of your exercise or your right to go to
- 2 the mess halls. So you can, quote, "punish" for that
- 3 purpose, even if it's a pretrial detainee.
- 4 MS. WARD: If it's a pretrial detainee,
- 5 you -- you can discipline for -- to enforce legitimate
- 6 objectives. If it's a convicted prisoner, even harsh
- 7 conditions are --
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: You use the word
- 9 "discipline;" I use the word "punish." Are they the
- 10 same?
- 11 MS. WARD: They're not the same. Punishment
- 12 is the end result of application of the Bell test.
- 13 Discipline is what happens to you if you fail to follow
- 14 the rules.
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: And it doesn't matter if
- 16 the -- if the punisher, so to speak, is simply an
- 17 individual guard at the prison versus the -- the State,
- 18 which will run a prison that it knows has these cruel
- 19 quards. It doesn't matter. The -- the tortification of
- 20 the Due Process Clause, right?
- 21 MS. WARD: Right. It -- it doesn't matter.
- 22 And, in fact, guards are probably entitled to even less
- 23 deference than prison administrators who are making
- 24 policy for the Court. In footnote 38 of Bell, the Court
- 25 acknowledged that -- or suggested that individual

- 1 instances of abusive practices might be -- the guards
- 2 might be given --
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's a substantive due
- 4 process you're arguing, right? Not procedural due
- 5 process.
- 6 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: And it's not the Eighth
- 8 Amendment. You're not relying on the Eighth Amendment?
- 9 MS. WARD: That's right, other than to
- 10 distinguish --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Right.
- 12 MS. WARD: -- what you can do with a
- 13 convicted prisoner versus a detainee.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I just have to tell you, I
- 15 find it very difficult to understand how it would be a
- 16 different standard if these same facts occurred, but it
- 17 was an inmate who was serving a sentence. What -- what
- is the rationale for why they should be different?
- 19 MS. WARD: The rationale for why they should
- 20 be different is it's a -- it's an after-the-fact
- 21 analysis. And the Constitution requires that detainees
- 22 not be punished. And it allows --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. Why is
- 24 anybody --
- 25 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But -- but you said that

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1 they could be disciplined and now -- and that's --
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- 2 MS. WARD: I think the -- I think the
- 3 difference --
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: You use the -- I -- where
- 5 am I going to read to find a difference between
- 6 discipline and punishment?
- 7 MS. WARD: I think the difference is
- 8 punishment is the result of applying the Bell
- 9 rationally-related test. If use of force is not
- 10 rationally related to a legitimate objective, we can
- 11 define that as punishment. If the act complained of
- 12 fails the Bell test, objectively, we can call that
- 13 punishment.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But even --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm having a problem
- 16 with trying to understand why we're talking about a
- 17 difference between any of the Amendments, the Fourth,
- 18 the Fourteenth, or the Eighth. The cruel and unusual
- 19 punishment, I thought, was generally -- generally
- 20 applicable to the sentence a prisoner receives.
- 21 That's very different than to the
- 22 application of -- of force separate from the -- from the
- 23 sentence. We're talking about whether and under what
- 24 circumstances a prison guard or a prison is liable for
- 25 using unnecessary force on another person.

- I don't think that taking any prisoner and
- 2 for no reason -- arbitrary reason banging his head on
- 3 the wall because you think that'll send the message to
- 4 other prisoners would be acceptable, do you, under any
- 5 of the Amendments?
- 6 MS. WARD: That's correct.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. So I -- I
- 8 just don't quite understand the difference. I think the
- 9 issue is one, how -- how you instruct the jury. And the
- 10 government is saying you instruct the jury by saying you
- 11 have a subjective intent to punish the prisoner -- you
- 12 just want to beat him up; or you're inflicting harm
- 13 that's not necessary or reasonable for a legitimate
- 14 penological reason, correct?
- 15 MS. WARD: That's correct. That's correct.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do you have a different
- 17 standard than the government?
- MS. WARD: We do, Your Honor.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Then yours
- 20 is broader.
- MS. WARD: Well --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And explain why. Why is
- 23 the government standard not good enough?
- 24 MS. WARD: I misspoke. I'm sorry. I
- 25 misspoke. We agree with the government as to what the

- 1 appropriate standard is, but we disagree with the
- 2 government as to how the standard was improperly applied
- 3 in the jury instructions in this case.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That I -- I understand.
- 5 I'm just talking about the standard now.
- 6 MS. WARD: We -- we are in agreement with
- 7 the Solicitor General on the standard.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: What if -- what if I don't
- 9 agree with the Solicitor? Is there anybody here to
- 10 argue for a different standard? No? We -- we just have
- 11 to pick between two people who argue for the same
- 12 standard, right?
- 13 MS. WARD: I -- I -- I believe the
- 14 Respondents have a different standard in mind, Your
- 15 Honor.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. Okay.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is it possible -- I
- 18 hadn't thought about it too much -- that you would have
- 19 different priorities in training, depending on whether
- 20 you're dealing with people who've already been convicted
- 21 of crimes and people who are being detained, like,
- 22 perhaps people who have been convicted tend to engage in
- 23 particular activity more than people just awaiting
- 24 trial?
- 25 MS. WARD: I think the detainees can be as

- 1 dangerous as prisoners. But as to your point about
- 2 training standards, currently, as the amici former
- 3 corrections officers point out, they are trained to an
- 4 objective standard. And it's -- it's difficult to even
- 5 comprehend how you would train officers in view of
- 6 particular subjective maliciousness element. Do you --
- 7 do you explain to them how they can use force as long as
- 8 they're not malicious, as long as they never admit to --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I know -- of
- 10 course you're not going to say you can't act with --
- 11 with malice, but it would seem to me if the standards
- 12 are broader with respect to people who have been
- 13 convicted, you might tell the officers, look, you have
- 14 more flexibility with respect to people who are already
- 15 subject to a conviction. You have to be -- you phrase
- 16 it the other way -- you have to be more careful with
- 17 respect to people who are simply being detained.
- But it's very complicated in a case like
- 19 this because the Respondents make a very persuasive case
- 20 that the convicts are actually less of a threat than
- 21 the -- often than the pretrial detainees. You go to --
- you're going to go to jail if you've got 10 days on a
- 23 DUI or something like that, but the people who are
- 24 detained preconviction may be multiple murderers.
- 25 MS. WARD: That's certainly true. They

- 1 certainly may be dangerous folks who are deserving of --
- 2 you know, in the prison context, if they're dangerous
- 3 and -- and discipline needs to be imposed, that's --
- 4 that's a possibility. The -- the question is: How do
- 5 we evaluate their excessive force claims after the fact?
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I still go back to my
- 7 question: Why is there a difference at all? What you
- 8 seem to be suggesting is that gratuitous violence,
- 9 unnecessary violence, can be directed to pretrial and
- 10 post-trial detainees. Isn't your objection that
- 11 unreasonable, unnecessary force is not permissible? Why
- 12 are we giving a license to prison guards to use
- 13 unreasonable or unnecessary force --
- MS. WARD: We are --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- against anybody?
- 16 MS. WARD: I think I understand your
- 17 question, Justice Sotomayor. Convicted prisoners
- 18 actually can be punished. That is one of the legitimate
- 19 objectives with respect to convicted prisoners.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But they can't be
- 21 punished corporally. They can be denied good credit --
- 22 good time credit. Do you think we could put them -- you
- 23 can knock them against the wall as punishment?
- MS. WARD: No.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Not -- not in terms of

- 1 discipline. It may be that some matter, immediate need
- 2 justifies that action, but are you suggesting that as
- 3 punishment they could do it for unnecessary force?
- 4 Unnecessary, not punishment -- or even punishment.
- 5 They -- they looked -- they -- they said the -- a bad
- 6 word to the prison officer.
- 7 MS. WARD: The egregious use force will fail
- 8 both tests.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, that's what I wanted
- 10 to ask about. As a practical matter, in evaluating
- 11 excessive use of force claims, how much difference does
- 12 it make whether there's a purely objective standard or a
- 13 subjective standard. It will be the rare case, I would
- 14 imagine, where there's direct evidence of the officers'
- 15 subjective intent. So the subjective intent is going to
- 16 be inferred from objective factors.
- 17 So what -- give me an example of an excessive
- 18 use of force claim that would involve the unreasonably --
- 19 a use of force that's objectively unreasonable, but there
- 20 is not the subjective intent to harm.
- MS. WARD: Mr. Kingsley's case might be just
- 22 such an example. It was unreasonable for him to be
- 23 Tased, and under our jury instructions, the jury well
- 24 could have found that that use of force was
- 25 unreasonable. But yet the subjective element that was

- 1 injected to our jury instructions could have made it --
- 2 it could have resulted in the -- the finding for the --
- 3 the verdict for the Respondents.
- 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, in a case where
- 5 there's -- where the jury thinks that there was force
- 6 that was objectively unreasonable, and in particular, if
- 7 it's a -- if it's a 1983 claim or a Bivens claim, where
- 8 the officer has qualified immunity, it doesn't seem to
- 9 me that there are going to be very many cases where the
- 10 difference between these two standards will result in a
- 11 different outcome. Am I wrong?
- MS. WARD: I think you are wrong. I think
- 13 that juries give a lot of deference to officers. And if
- 14 they can -- if they're allowed to inject their
- 15 subjective good faith as part of a response to the
- 16 elements for proving the -- the case by the -- by the
- 17 prisoner, that would result in a lot more findings and
- 18 verdicts in favor of quards, even in instances where
- 19 objectively unreasonable, unjustified force is used.
- 20 In the in the
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I don't see how you could
- 22 use excessive force -- unreasonably excessive force and
- 23 be acting in good faith.
- MS. WARD: Well, there's the issue -- the
- 25 issue of qualified immunity with respect to mistake of

- 1 law. They could believe that the law actually allows
- 2 for them to engage in whatever use of force that
- 3 they're -- that they're using, but --
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But no -- but we're asking
- 5 what the standard ought to be. We don't talk about
- 6 qualified immunity until we know and until the officer
- 7 knows the standard.
- 8 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And as of this point, I -
- 10 I do not know why the standard should be different for
- 11 convicts as opposed to pretrial detainees, other than
- 12 for purposes of rehabilitation. And even that has to be
- 13 reasonable. You want to us say that under these facts,
- 14 the result might be different, depending on if it's a
- 15 pretrial detainee or an inmate, and that's just very
- 16 difficult for me to understand why that should be.
- 17 MS. WARD: It's -- it's -- using the
- 18 objective test for a pretrial detainee is faithful to
- 19 the Constitution. It's faithful to due process. Due
- 20 process talks about deprivations of life, liberty, or
- 21 property. Deprivations are X. The Eighth Amendment,
- 22 which governs the use of force with respect to convicted
- 23 prisoners, talks about cruel and unusual punishment.
- 24 There's a -- there's a -- an inherently subjective
- 25 element to cruel and unusual punishment.

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: But -- but Ms. Ward, you've
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- 2 said a few times that we're supposed to be looking to
- 3 see whether something counts as punishment. And in the
- 4 Eighth Amendment context, we've suggested that that term
- 5 "punishment" does indeed have a subjective component;
- 6 that it requires some kind of intent to chastise or to
- 7 deter. So I'm a little bit with Justice Kennedy, that
- 8 I'm not quite sure what the word "punishment" is doing
- 9 in this context, but if we're looking for punishment, we
- 10 have indicated that punishment is a subjective concept.
- 11 MS. WARD: Yes. In the Eighth Amendment
- 12 context, because the word "punishment" appears in the
- 13 Eighth Amendment, but as it's used in Bell, it's
- 14 referring to X. It's referring to evaluation of prison
- 15 policies or uses of force that go too far.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, but you -- you -- you
- 17 brought punishment into this discussion. We didn't.
- 18 Justice Kagan didn't. Your brief is full of references
- 19 to punishment. You say it's punishment that's bad.
- 20 You -- you want to abandon all of that? That's --
- 21 that's not the criteria?
- 22 MS. WARD: No, that is the -- that is the
- 23 criteria.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I don't understand it,
- 25 either. It seems to me that there is some circumstances

- 1 where a guard is trying to punish someone, but there are
- 2 many circumstances where a guard has something totally
- 3 else in mind. He's trying to keep order in the prison.
- 4 A policeman might try to stop a fleeing felon. That has
- 5 nothing to do with punishment.
- 6 And so what a guard -- normally, the
- 7 provision that governs the policeman is the Fourth
- 8 Amendment. I would guess that if you're talking about
- 9 trying to keep order in a prison, the Due Process Clause
- 10 may have something to do with it. This person who may
- 11 be awaiting a lawyer is there, his liberty confined, and
- 12 you cannot use excessive force.
- 13 I I don't see what punishment had to do
- 14 with it. But I -- but I did think, and I don't know the
- 15 answer, but I looked it up in the Model Penal Code, that
- 16 either the policeman who's trying to stop someone, or
- 17 perhaps the prison guard who's trying to keep order,
- 18 cannot use excessive force.
- 19 Now, what is excessive force? It is force
- 20 that is objectively unreasonable. Now, suppose he does.
- 21 The next question is: Is a state of mind required? We
- 22 can imagine -- it would be a weird case -- but we can
- 23 imagine a very weird case where the force is objectively
- 24 unreasonable, but the policeman is totally innocent.
- 25 Somebody told him, that is a Taser, but it's really a

- 1 gun. He uses it. Objectively unreasonable. State of
- 2 mind, innocent. Is he liable?
- 3 As far as I can tell, the government thinks
- 4 he should be. As far as I can tell, you think he should
- 5 be. End of case. We just say everybody agrees. Is
- 6 that where we are? Because I'm rather worried about
- 7 holding the policeman in this weird case, where his
- 8 state of mind is a hundred percent innocent. What here
- 9 happened is that they read in a little bit of
- 10 culpability, the least onerous subjective intent. It's
- 11 called recklessness. You have to be aware of the risk.
- 12 So I'm rather tempted to say, yes, there should be
- 13 something guilty about this policeman. Now, there's
- 14 where I am at the moment, and I'd like you to explain
- 15 where I should go.
- 16 MS. WARD: The Fourth Amendment doesn't
- 17 require any inquiry into the subjective state of mind.
- 18 And the Fourth Amendment test, in the case of a police
- 19 officer on the street, does the job adequately. It
- 20 provides the adequate amount of deference, and it -- it
- 21 protects people from excessive uses of force. That same
- 22 analysis can do the job in the prison situation when a
- 23 pretrial detainee's interests are at stake as well. A
- 24 subjective intent element shouldn't be required of the
- 25 test at all, because that only comes in when there is a

- 1 question of cruel punishment.
- 2 JUSTICE BREYER: At least in a prison, I
- 3 would think a prison guard would have a pretty tough
- 4 time thinking that if this person is in prison because
- 5 he's been convicted of a crime, I can try to control his
- 6 riotous behavior as long as I reasonably believe that
- 7 what I'm doing is correct, even if it turns -- but now I
- 8 have a totally different standard, where this person's
- 9 in the same cell, doing the same thing, but he hasn't
- 10 yet had his trial. He's just there waiting for his
- 11 lawyer or he's been there because bail has been denied.
- 12 I -- I don't see how you administer such a rule.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I --
- JUSTICE BREYER: What's the answer to that?
- 15 MS. WARD: It's okay for the standards to be
- 16 different, because it's more faithful to the
- 17 Constitution. It's okay for the analysis of the
- 18 excessive force claim in both situations to be
- 19 different, and -- and I will --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I -- I'm still
- 21 struggling because we're trying to create boxes in a way
- that makes no sense to me. There are all sorts of
- 23 reasons for doing things, and the Eighth Amendment cases
- that we have, have to do with punishment qua not
- 25 bringing control, not responding to a prison outbreak,

- 1 or a fight, or anything else, but the types of
- 2 conditions that are imposed on prisoners as punishment,
- 3 i.e., you've broken an administrative rule, and now
- 4 we're going to put you in shackles in the dark dungeon.
- 5 We've already said in one case you can't do
- 6 that. You may subjectively and legitimately think that
- 7 that will keep you constrained, but that's too far.
- 8 It's not -- it's unwanted and unnecessarily cruel and
- 9 unusual. All right?
- 10 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that's very
- 12 different than this situation. Whether it's a pretrial
- 13 detainee or post-trial detainee, I don't think the
- 14 Constitution gives you a free pass to punish a prisoner
- 15 by inflicting unwanted corporal punishment. I'm not
- 16 talking about the conditions of -- of punishment; i.e.,
- 17 good time credit, solitary confinement, segregation of
- 18 some sort, deprivation of a prison job you have. That,
- 19 clearly, you need an Eighth Amendment, sort of
- 20 subjective intent element.
- 21 I'm talking about the use of force for
- 22 purposes of restoring discipline. That's what this was
- 23 about, wasn't it?
- MS. WARD: Yes.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So I keep saying why are

- 1 we thinking about the necessity to impose subjective
- 2 standards or any other standards or that they have to be
- 3 different?
- 4 MS. WARD: I see that I have used my time.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes.
- 6 MS. WARD: And can I respond --
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- 8 MS. WARD: -- briefly?
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll -- we'll give
- 10 you an extra minute since --
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- the Court
- 13 intruded on your time.
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- The Court could decide that the standard for
- 16 all excessive force cases should be an objective
- 17 standard. I think that the -- the jurisprudence related
- 18 to convicted prisoners has already shut that door that
- 19 require -- in requiring a subjective intent element for
- 20 a convicted prisoner, but it's more faithful to the
- 21 Constitution to actually give effects to the rights of
- 22 detainees which are much closer to the rights of free
- 23 citizens because they haven't received all of their due
- 24 process pursuant to a legal conviction.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.

- 1 Mr. Bash.
- 2 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOHN F. BASH
- 3 ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES,
- 4 AS AMICUS CURIAE, SUPPORTING AFFIRMANCE
- 5 MR. BASH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 6 please the Court:
- 7 If there's one point I would like to convey
- 8 to the Court this morning which I think is responsive to
- 9 a number of questions that were asked in the opening
- 10 presentation, it's that there are two relevant
- 11 differences between the standard we're advancing and the
- 12 standard Mr. Clement is about to get up and talk about.
- One goes to what sort of purpose is
- 14 required, and the other goes to how you establish that
- 15 purpose.
- On the first, Mr. Clement says it is
- 17 malicious and sadistic intent. We say it is a punitive
- 18 purpose. It is clear as day in the Court's Eighth
- 19 Amendment cases, Farmer, Wilson, Whitley, that malicious
- 20 and sadistic comes from the wantonness requirement of
- 21 Eight Amendment, cruel and unusual.
- He is just wrong about that. The only
- 23 argument he has on that -- that it should be malicious
- 24 and sadistic is Judge Friendly's opinion that this Court
- 25 cited in a couple Eighth Amendment cases. But if you

- 1 look at Judge Friendly's analysis -- this is on page 28
- 2 of the red brief -- he very clearly says that there's a
- 3 whole list of factors relevant. Malicious and sadistic
- 4 is one factor. It's not dispositive, and all of the
- 5 other factors are objective.
- 6 So I don't think you can extrapolate from a
- 7 few citations to Judge Friendly that malicious and
- 8 sadistic is appropriate for a due process claim for
- 9 someone who has not convicted of an offense.
- 10 And by the way, I think --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: This is a due process case,
- 12 right?
- 13 MR. BASH: It --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's not a Fourth Amendment
- 15 case, and it's not an Eighth Amendment case; is that
- 16 right?
- 17 MR. BASH: That's correct. Now, Justice
- 18 Scalia --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's just that you want to
- 20 bring into the due process analysis --
- 21 MR. BASH: Justice Scalia, you characterize
- 22 it as substantive due process, and --
- 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes.
- 24 MR. BASH: -- I think a couple cases have
- 25 talked about it like that, but it's not exactly

1 substantive due process. I mean, the rule this Court has

- 2 established is that before you go through the procedures
- 3 of the Bill of Rights conviction or a guilty plea and so
- 4 forth, you may not be punished. So it really sounds a
- 5 little more in procedural due process than I think your
- 6 question gave it credit for.
- Now, the other point is how you establish
- 8 that purpose. Under the Eighth Amendment standards this
- 9 Court has set forth, it has interpreted cruel and unusual
- 10 punishment to require a degree of subjective intent.
- 11 Although it has used the term "punishment" to describe
- 12 the general legal standard under the Due Process Clause,
- 13 of course, that clause does not say the word
- 14 "punishment." What's required --
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And -- and your -- your
- 16 standard in this case as to the pretrial detainee is
- 17 that he is entitled to what protection?
- 18 MR. BASH: He is --
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: What -- what is your
- 20 standard?
- 21 MR. BASH: It -- it's exactly what Justice
- 22 Rehnquist said for this Court in Bell, which is that
- 23 either an intent to punish, which I take to be shorthand
- 24 for an intent to achieve objectives that are -- are not
- 25 reasonable -- reasonable at that point for that person's

- 1 status in the system, or, objectively, there's no
- 2 reasonable relation between the use of force and those
- 3 objectives.
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Wait, wait, wait.
- 5 The first one, that's the -- I mean, now you've run --
- 6 just run -- I could say the objective part has to be
- 7 objectively unreasonable force. Now, the question is:
- 8 Is there also some kind of subjective part? And at this
- 9 moment, it seems to me, on the one hand, you say, yes,
- 10 and on the other hand, no.
- MR. BASH: No. I'm saying no on both hands.
- 12 It's --
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: No. No. In other words --
- 14 MR. BASH: It -- it is --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: -- even though this man,
- 16 the defendant, is completely innocent, it wasn't his
- 17 fault in the slightest, he wasn't even negligent, the
- 18 quard is nonetheless liable. I can't find anywhere --
- 19 not even in Fourth Amendment cases could I find a case
- 20 where that actually occurred.
- 21 MR. BASH: Because, Justice Breyer, that's
- 22 not what we're saying.
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: All right.
- MR. BASH: I think the premise of the
- 25 question conflates two different types of intent. And

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1 this is exactly what the court of appeals did below.
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- 2 There's the intent to actually do the act. So if I --
- 3 if he had accidentally Tasered him --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Obviously --
- 5 MR. BASH: -- or if --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: -- you have the intent to
- 7 do the act, that obviously --
- 8 MR. BASH: But -- but --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: -- isn't the problem.
- 10 MR. BASH: -- that was the premise of your
- 11 question about --
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: No.
- 13 MR. BASH: -- if you think it is --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: -- it isn't. It isn't.
- MR. BASH: Well, the Taser gun question -- I
- 16 mean --
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Can I ask my question?
- 18 MR. BASH: Yes.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: It is objectively
- 20 unreasonable. But it is an odd case where the policeman
- 21 is -- or warden or whoever, is totally reasonable in
- 22 thinking the contrary, and that focuses you on the
- 23 question of whether there is some kind of either
- 24 purposeful, knowledgeable, or reckless, that being the
- 25 weakest, requirement in respect to the use of

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1 objectively unreasonable force, not the act, but knowing
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- 2 that it is objectively or reckless in respect to. You
- 3 see?
- 4 MR. BASH: Well, let -- let me describe
- 5 how --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: I want to know what your
- 7 view is on that.
- 8 MR. BASH: My view is this: One, it has to
- 9 be an intentional act. That -- that's the less --
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's --
- MR. BASH: And -- well, and intent --
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Do you mean -- do
- 13 you mean -- just to -- you mean voluntary?
- MR. BASH: Well -- well, not --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Not -- not a -- a
- 16 mistake with a Taser or gun?
- 17 MR. BASH: And it -- no. A mistake with a
- 18 Taser or gun would not be an intentional application of
- 19 force. It would be a negligent application of force.
- 20 And I think under Daniels v. Williams -- that's the slip
- 21 on the pillow case case -- that would not count.
- The question we're asking is: What does the
- 23 connection have to be between that intentional use of
- 24 force and any legitimate penological objective?
- 25 And bear in mind, the officer has to know

- 1 all the relevant facts. So if you have an eggshell
- 2 prisoner who has some special medical condition that
- 3 nobody knows about, that's not going to bear on the
- 4 constitutional analysis. It's the facts that the
- 5 officer is aware of.
- 6 And I think what this Court's decisions in
- 7 Bell, Block, say is that an objectively unreasonable
- 8 deprivation of liberty violates the Due Process Clause.
- 9 And just as confirmation that that is an objective
- 10 standard in both Bell -- this at page 561 -- and
- 11 Block -- this is a page 585 -- the Court said there's
- 12 not even an allegation here that there was a punitive
- intent or some ill intent. Therefore, we're going to
- 14 analyze it under an objective test.
- 15 And the opinion --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why is this different for
- inmates as -- as opposed to detainees?
- 18 MR. BASH: Because what the Due Process
- 19 Clause --
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: What's the test for
- 21 inmates? You -- you don't apply the same test.
- 22 MR. BASH: The -- the malicious and sadistic
- 23 intent test that Mr. Clement is asking you to apply to
- 24 pretrial detainees.
- 25 But remember, this would probably not only

- 1 apply to pretrial detainees, certainly not only
- 2 pretrial detainees in mixed populations. It would also
- 3 probably apply to immigration detainees, juveniles who
- 4 have not been subject to a criminal punishment, and a
- 5 host of other people who have not gone through the
- 6 rigors of the Bill of Rights, who have not been
- 7 convicted of a crime, and never --
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you agree that the
- 9 pretrial detainee can be deprived of -- of privileges
- 10 because of bad behavior that's disruptive to the
- 11 confinement?
- MR. BASH: Yes. And that's what I was
- 13 getting at when I said the way that I think Justice
- 14 Rehnquist used the term "punishment" in the due process
- 15 cases is as shorthand for a deprivation of liberty in
- 16 the prison context that has no reasonable relation to
- 17 any legitimates objectives. So if it was --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Why wouldn't -- why wouldn't
- 19 persons who were being arrested and persons who have
- 20 been convicted and are incarcerated have the same due
- 21 process rights as detainees?
- 22 MR. BASH: Because the Due Process Clause
- 23 permits the punishment of people who are convicted. And
- 24 as this Court interpreted that in the context of
- 25 convicted prisoners, it's that convicted prisoners may

- 1 be subject to hasher conditions than pretrial detainees.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So it's -- so it's okay
- 3 to use excessive force in the case of a prisoner,
- 4 somebody who has been convicted? I mean, the question
- 5 here is did -- what did the police -- was it
- 6 objectively unreasonable to use the extent of force that
- 7 was used in this case. So are you saying that in the --
- 8 in the case of a convicted prisoner, that it would be
- 9 okay to use excessive force?
- MR. BASH: Well, it probably almost always
- 11 violate the Eighth Amendment if there was an actual
- 12 intent to punish, and the punishment was carried out by
- 13 the use of force.
- But I think often what we're talking about
- is these cases on the margin, where the officer maybe
- 16 had mixed motives or whatever. And the idea behind the
- 17 Eighth Amendment jurisprudence is that we're going to
- 18 amp the standard up when you're talking about someone
- 19 who is subject to the penological force of the State.
- 20 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Can you give us an example
- 21 of what a guard could do to an inmate and a guard could
- 22 not do to a pretrial detainee, other than for
- 23 rehabilitation purposes?
- MR. BASH: I don't think the use of force as
- 25 discipline is ever appropriate. But, you know, in a --

- 1 in a max prison where you only have felony convicts, I
- 2 think, at the margins, officers are willing to be able to
- 3 use slightly more force than they can with pretrial
- 4 detainees where people who are held, as this Court said
- 5 in Salerno, in regulatory detention. Admittedly --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I think it's
- 7 pretty unusual, isn't it, to have a pretrial detainee in
- 8 a maximum security prison?
- 9 MR. BASH: No. I -- I was just trying to
- 10 identify for Justice Kennedy how the standard at the
- 11 margins might be different, so when you're talking
- 12 about --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And you come up with
- 14 a hypothetical, I think, is quite unrealistic, so I'm
- 15 not sure it's responsive.
- 16 MR. BASH: I I didn't mean to come up with a
- 17 hypothetical.
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm even not sure why
- 19 that's right. Why -- you get a free -- the Constitution
- 20 permits you to get a free kick in?
- 21 MR. BASH: That -- that's -- that is
- 22 certainly --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So if you walk by a
- 24 prisoner and, you know, I want to establish discipline
- 25 so I can freely kick them any time I want?

- 1 MR. BASH: That's certainly not what we're
- 2 saying. What we are saying is that the prohibition on
- 3 what officers can do to convicted prisoners is they
- 4 cannot punish them cruelly and unusually. And it makes
- 5 sense that this Court has upped the subjective intent
- 6 standard with respect to convicted prisoners because it
- 7 reflects that the constitutional prohibition is only
- 8 cruel and unusual punishment. Here is a --
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Bash, would you
- 10 explain? I mean, you agree that it's only the objective
- 11 standard, use of excessive force, but then your bottom
- 12 line is the same as the Respondent, that is, you think
- 13 that this -- this verdict should hold and it should not
- 14 be any new trial. Can you explain how your bottom line
- is the same as Respondent, but your standard is the same
- 16 as Petitioner?
- 17 MR. BASH: I would take the Court to page
- 18 277 and 278 of the Joint Appendix, which lists the
- 19 pertinent jury instructions. And the -- the jury was
- 20 instructed to find four elements, three of them no one
- 21 is contesting at this stage. The third one is the key
- 22 element. This is on page 278. And it said, "Defendants
- 23 knew that using force presented a risk of harm to
- 24 Plaintiff, but they recklessly disregarded Plaintiff's
- 25 safety. If it" -- full stop there, I would agree you

- 1 naturally infer that, at least on this review, as
- 2 importing a subjective element. But then it tells you
- 3 exactly what recklessly disregarded Plaintiff's safety
- 4 means. By failing to take reasonable measures to
- 5 minimize the -- the risk of harm to Plaintiff. And I
- 6 see that as no different than the proportionality
- 7 standard that Bell itself requires.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 9 Mr. Clement.
- 10 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MR. PAUL D. CLEMENT
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 13 please the Court:
- 14 This Court should adopt -- adopt the
- 15 subjective test fashioned by Judge Friendly in Johnson
- 16 against Glick in addressing a due process claim for
- 17 excessive force by a pretrial detainee.
- 18 This Court has already adopted that standard
- 19 in the Eighth Amendment context for convicted prisoners,
- 20 and both doctrinal and practical reasons strongly
- 21 suggest that it should apply the same test in the due
- 22 process context in which that test originated, and the
- 23 contrary propositions are simply not compatible with
- 24 this Court's precedents.
- 25 JUSTICE GINSBURG: In Johnson and Glick, the

- 1 bottom line was that there was reliability; isn't that
- 2 so?
- 3 MR. CLEMENT: No, Justice Ginsburg. The
- 4 bottom line was a remand so that there could be a -- a
- 5 factual determination based on the Four Factor Test that
- 6 Judge Friendly articulated.
- 7 So in the lower courts, they dismissed the
- 8 claim. Judge Friendly recognized that the Due Process
- 9 Clause does provide protection, and then he articulated
- 10 that Four Factor Test, one important part of which is a
- 11 subjective factor that, I think, sensibly tries to
- 12 distinguish those situations where an officer is trying
- 13 to use force in a good faith effort to maintain order
- 14 and discipline and contrast that with a situation where
- 15 the force is being used sadistically or maliciously for
- 16 the very purpose of inflicting pain.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But if we look at
- 18 this -- this case, the conduct was deliberate, using the
- 19 Taser was deliberate. The effect known to the officer
- 20 was that it would cause pain. So what subjective
- 21 element other than when using -- I'm deliberately using
- 22 force, I know it will cause pain. What beyond that?
- 23 MR. CLEMENT: So the question is: Is this a
- 24 good faith effort to try to get these handcuffs off, or
- 25 is this somebody who's acting simply to punish the --

- 1 the detainee? And I think that's what the good faith
- 2 test really gets to. It gets to what, I think, in some
- 3 respects is the nub of the issue here.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, let's put the nub
- 5 of the issue here. Let me give you the fact -- let's
- 6 use this actual situation.
- 7 The -- the defendant says, I wasn't
- 8 resisting, I wasn't spreading my arms apart, I was just
- 9 laying there, and they came and Tased me. All right.
- 10 The officers say instead he was pulling his arms and
- 11 resisting it so we couldn't get the handcuffs open. So
- 12 assuming a jury credits the Petitioner, what would that
- 13 do under -- how would that be evaluated under your test?
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, I suppose that if the
- 15 jury actually credited Petitioner's versions of events,
- 16 they might be able to find liability under the John --
- 17 Johnson v. Glick standard. I think it's worth recognizing
- 18 that there was a jury trial here, and under a recklessness
- 19 standard, they ruled in favor of our clients, and it
- 20 seems to me that it would be very odd to have to have a
- 21 new jury trial.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Let's go back
- 23 to -- that's why I keep trying to go back to what is
- 24 the -- what are the -- under what circumstances and how
- 25 does your test get to the gratuitous use of violence or

- 1 the excessive use of violence where it's unnecessary?
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think it gets to it in
- 3 a way that provides a degree of deference to the
- 4 difficult decisions that the guard has to make, which is
- 5 it recognizes that unlike the arrest context in other
- 6 situations, prison environment's different. There are
- 7 going to be lots of situations where guards are going to
- 8 use force and legitimately.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that instruction is
- 10 going to be given anyway.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: What's that?
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Under -- under the Bell
- 13 v. Wolfish case, that presumption was given anyhow.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, but I -- I don't -- I
- 15 mean, I think there are real differences between the
- 16 instruction, and if you look at the way -- the clearest
- 17 way to illustrate this is if you look at Joint Appendix
- 18 page 78 and you look at the instruction that was offered
- 19 by the Petitioners below, it flat out says you can't take
- 20 into account the good faith intent of the officer. It's
- 21 irrelevant.
- Now, I think that's perfectly appropriate in
- 23 a Fourth Amendment instruction where there's objective
- 24 reasonableness, and this Court said a bunch of times
- 25 that the subjective intent of the officer doesn't

- 1 matter.
- 2 But in the difficult context of a prison, I
- 3 think Judge Friendly got it right, I think this Court
- 4 got it right with respect to convicted prisoners, which
- 5 is you give the guard a little bit of flexibility
- 6 because it's a difficult situation. And if you say
- 7 after the fact, maybe they shouldn't have used the
- 8 Taser, or if, in a case where they used the Taser twice,
- 9 maybe they should've used it once, but not twice, those
- 10 questions of degree ought to be some degree of
- 11 deference.
- This test allows for that. It gives a jury
- 13 a landing place. If they look at this in hindsight and
- 14 say, you know, I wish they hadn't used the Taser, but I
- 15 think they were doing it to get the handcuffs off. This
- 16 isn't a case like Hudson against McMillan where they
- 17 were just taking the guy out and beating him up
- 18 punitively. So I don't think there should be a
- 19 Constitutional violation here.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's true -- you
- 21 know, what you say is equally true where you're running
- 22 a jail, isn't it? And it's equally true where the
- 23 person in the jail is -- has been convicted or hasn't
- 24 been convicted. The need for order is the same.
- 25 So how would it apply in a circumstance

- 1 where there's a claim of excessive force to someone who
- 2 has been convicted, but it has nothing to do with
- 3 punishment. No one thinks it has to do with punishment.
- 4 The situation was one where they were trying to maintain
- 5 order, or the situation was one where they were trying
- 6 to give medical treatment, or the situation was any one
- 7 of a thousand.
- 8 What I can't see is why the punishment
- 9 standard should apply whether he's been convicted or
- 10 not. And I also can't see why they should be different
- 11 whether he's been convicted or not.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think the punishment
- 13 standard applies in both cases, Justice Breyer, because
- 14 the relevant constitutional text has been interpreted to
- 15 require punishment. In the Eighth Amendment context --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: But suppose you brought a
- 17 lawsuit under the Due Process Clause? I mean -- and
- 18 there are instances where people are seized in jail, so
- 19 it was under the Fourth Amendment.
- I mean, why is punishment in these other
- 21 situations? I can't figure that one out. I can't
- 22 figure out -- and then I looked at the Model Penal Code.
- 23 The Model Penal Code seems to require both excessive
- 24 force and some kind of state of mind, which could be
- 25 recklessness, which is what the judge said here or maybe

- 1 even negligence.
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Well, obviously, if you adopt,
- 3 as this Court has in the Eighth Amendment context, the
- 4 understanding that punishment inherently requires some
- 5 subjective mental state, the lowest available mental
- 6 state is recklessness and under that standard, which the
- 7 jury clearly was instructed under, we would prevail. So
- 8 that would lead to an affirmance.
- 9 Now, I would still think, since it is
- 10 well-established that the relevant standard for
- 11 excessive force in cases involving convicted prisoners
- 12 is the Johnson v. Glick standard, I think since that's
- 13 established and nobody here is asking for Whitley or
- 14 Hudson to be overruled, and there are so many practical
- 15 imperatives for treating pretrial detainees and
- 16 convicted prisoners the same, I think this Court should
- 17 apply the Johnson v. Glick standard in the due process
- 18 claims of pretrial detainees.
- 19 In a subsequent case, if the Court wants to
- 20 reconsider what the test should be even under the Eighth
- 21 Amendment and apply it uniformly across pretrial
- 22 detainees and convicted inmates, that may make some
- 23 sense.
- I also think there's some very interesting
- 25 questions lurking out there about what kind of objective

- 1 evidence of unreasonableness is enough in an Eighth
- 2 Amendment case, or if we prevail, a Fifth Amendment
- 3 case, what kind of objective evidence is enough to get
- 4 to the jury on the subjective intent question. I think
- 5 those are all questions that this Court may eventually
- 6 have to confront, but I think the first step in a case
- 7 where nobody wants to overrule Hudson and Whitley is to
- 8 suggest that since the imperatives that the officers
- 9 face with respect to pretrial detainees and convicted
- 10 inmates are essentially identical.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why is that? Why don't you
- 12 tell us why that's so?
- 13 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I'll -- I'll tell you
- 14 why that's so. And it's so in these -- particularly in
- 15 a -- in a local jail like Monroe County, Wisconsin,
- 16 where you have these individuals, they're housed side by
- 17 side. As the Chief Justice has alluded to, in this kind
- 18 of jail, the only way you can serve their sentence as a
- 19 convicted individual is if you've been convicted for a
- 20 relatively minor offense. But if you're there pretrial,
- 21 awaiting your trial, any -- any -- any book -- any --
- 22 any offense in the criminal book could be your charge of
- 23 -- that -- where you're being held for, so it could be a
- 24 murderer. And I think this Court has recognized, and
- 25 this -- I mean, this is empirically true -- this Court

- 1 has recognized this empirical fact, first in Bell
- 2 against Wolfish, then in Block against Rutherford,
- 3 and -- and more recently, in the Florence County case.
- 4 When you --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, sorry. There's
- 6 a lot to what you say that sometimes the practical
- 7 concerns are the same for pretrial detainees and for
- 8 convicted criminals. There's also something to the
- 9 other point of view, which is that in our cases, we've
- 10 consistently said that if you're a pretrial detainee, if
- 11 you haven't been found to have committed wrongful
- 12 conduct, you shouldn't be treated the same way as people
- 13 who have been found to have committed wrongful conduct;
- 14 that for the convicted criminals, it's kind of, you
- 15 know, we're allowed to punish them, because they've done
- 16 something wrong. And we haven't found that yet for the
- 17 pretrial detainees.
- And so what place in your system is there
- 19 for that, you know, very commonsensical, and also, you
- 20 know, normatively attractive proposition that people who
- 21 haven't been found to have done anything ought not to be
- 22 treated with the same level of disregard for their
- 23 interests as people who have been?
- 24 MR. CLEMENT: Justice Kagan, there is a
- 25 place for that in the doctrine. I would submit it's not

- 1 in the excessive force cases. So let me tell you where
- 2 I think it is. I mean, Sandin against Conner is a good
- 3 example. There the Court said that with convicted
- 4 individuals, it was perfectly permissible to move them
- 5 from minimum security to maximum security as a punitive
- 6 matter, and you didn't even have to give them any
- 7 process to do that. I don't think that same analysis
- 8 would apply to pretrial detainees.
- 9 Another example is footnote 17 of the Bell
- 10 against Wolfish case, where I think it's understood that
- 11 at least if the statutory law provides for it, that if
- 12 you're convicted, you can be sent out to the work gang
- 13 and have to pick up trash along the highway. I don't
- 14 think you can do that to a pretrial detainee. But
- 15 whatever differences there are, I don't think they arise
- 16 in an excessive force context. I think if you think
- 17 about this Court's cases, and start with Whitley. If
- 18 you're trying to quell a prison riot, and you have an
- 19 inmate who's going up the stairs, trying to go where
- there's an unarmed quard, it doesn't make a whit of
- 21 difference whether that inmate is a pretrial detainee or
- 22 a -- a -- a convicted individual.
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: So that might be, but let's
- 24 take another comparison. And the comparison is two
- 25 people who have been indicted for the same offense, and

- 1 one makes bail and he's out on the street, and the other
- 2 doesn't make bail, and so he is in an institutional
- 3 facility. And the one who's out on the street has some
- 4 kind of encounter with a police officer, and he reaches
- 5 into his pocket to take out something, and the police
- 6 officer shoots him. And let's just imagine that
- 7 circumstances are such that this is utterly
- 8 unreasonable.
- 9 And then the same -- the same person
- 10 indicted for the same offense, not convicted of that
- 11 offense, same circumstances, the police shoot him, now
- 12 he's not going to be treated in any respect the same
- 13 way. Why should that be so?
- 14 MR. CLEMENT: I think because the fact of
- incarceration really is a game-changer. When that
- 16 person's out on bail, nobody is going to know that, so
- 17 he has exactly -- or she, the exact same expectations as
- 18 any reasonable individual. The same expectations as the
- 19 individual in Graham v. Connor, who's doing nothing more
- 20 than trying to buy orange juice in a convenience store.
- 21 There are rules that apply to that, and they
- 22 should be sufficient and they should be objective, and
- 23 that's the Fourth Amendment standard.
- When you're in the incarceration context,
- 25 things are different. The margin for error for the

- 1 quards is quite different. The need to protect the
- 2 other inmates from a potentially violent person doesn't
- 3 have the same kind of direct analogue when something's
- 4 unfolding on the streets. Sometimes it can, but the
- 5 quarters, I think, are -- are going to be different, in
- 6 the main, in the incarceration context. And so I think
- 7 it makes sense to apply a standard that's slightly more
- 8 forgiving of the prison guards than of the police
- 9 officers.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And I -- I still find it
- 11 very hard to understand how use of force can be excessive
- 12 without being at least reckless. It's -- it's confusing.
- 13 For excessive use of force, but yet what -- what does the
- 14 reckless add to it? If -- if it's an excessive use of
- 15 force, isn't that at least reckless by definition?
- 16 MR. CLEMENT: I think often it will be.
- 17 We're not here to defend the recklessness instruction as
- 18 the platonic sort of form. We actually think that
- 19 applying Judge Friendly's instruction from Johnson
- 20 against Glick is the right way to go, which we think
- 21 provides a little more separation between the two.
- I don't think, though -- I mean, we can --
- 23 we can obviously come up with hypothetical situations
- 24 where there are going to be different applications. I
- 25 think the principal difference here is this instruction,

- 1 both in the Eighth Amendment context, and in the due
- 2 process context in Johnson v. Glick, I think it gives
- 3 the jury a practical landing place when they think, you
- 4 know, with the benefit of hindsight, I wish the police
- 5 -- I wish the corrections officer hadn't done that, but
- 6 I don't think it was completely outside of the bounds of
- 7 what was reasonable. I certainly don't think it's so
- 8 purposeless and so arbitrary that it gives rise to an
- 9 inference that it had a punitive motive.
- 10 That gives the jury kind of a reasonable
- 11 landing place, and I think this case is actually a
- 12 pretty good illustration of this. I think if you look
- 13 at this and you ask yourself, was it reasonable to use
- 14 the Taser? That's a debatable question. Was it really
- 15 punitive? Was it unrelated to an interest in trying to
- 16 get the handcuffs off? Of course not.
- 17 And so I do think in cases like this, it
- 18 gives the jury an appropriate landing place to come up
- 19 and make a judgment that doesn't second guess the
- 20 officers. And this Court has said so many times that
- 21 deference to prison officials is an important value.
- 22 And I think this test that we've proposed that, again,
- 23 originates with Judge Friendly in a due process case
- 24 gives --
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you're giving --

- 1 you're -- you're loading the deck completely, because
- 2 you're instructing the jury first to give the police
- 3 officers deference, and then you're now giving them an
- 4 instruction that assumes that whatever they do is okay.
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: I don't think so. I think --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I mean, there's no --
- 7 there's -- by adding that kind of subjective intent that
- 8 you want, maliciousness and wantonness, which are not --
- 9 are only one part, as your -- as the Assistant Solicitor
- 10 General said, only one part of the Johnson test.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: But -- but if I -- if I
- 12 could --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're -- you're -- the
- 14 way you've articulated in your brief has really loaded
- 15 the deck completely.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, in -- in fairness, and
- 17 to correct the Assistant Solicitor General, the
- 18 instruction we asked for, which is at Joint Appendix 65,
- 19 it has all of the Johnson factors. Now, it focuses, as
- 20 we think -- and that's the pattern jury instruction in
- 21 an excessive force case for a prisoner in the Seventh
- 22 Circuit, we think it gets it right, which is it focuses
- 23 the ultimate inquiry on this, is it a punitive intent or
- 24 is it a good faith effort to restore order.
- 25 But then if you look for the factors that

- 1 the jury can consider, all four -- all the rest of the
- 2 Johnson factors are there. And we think that's actually
- 3 the best reading of Bell v. Wolfish, too, which is to
- 4 say it provides objective factors, but then it's
- 5 basically asking, you can look at those objective
- 6 factors and it allows -
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Except that -
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: -- you to infer a punitive intent.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Bell v. -- Bell v.
- 10 Wolfish, the first part of the application section of
- 11 that opinion goes to whether there's an intent to
- 12 punish. It assumes there's not, and then it goes to the
- 13 objective test and says, in that particular case, that
- 14 the conditions met that -- those conditions as well, but
- 15 it treated it as alternative. That's --
- 16 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think alternative ways
- 17 to prove a punitive intent. And if you look at Bell v.
- 18 Wolfish, when it talks about those objective factors, it
- 19 then says, so if you have purposeless or arbitrary
- 20 government action, the court may infer an intent to
- 21 punish. So it's objective factors in service of what is
- 22 ultimately a subjective inquiry.
- 23 The other thing I think that needs to be
- 24 added, though, is that Bell v. Wolfish, you know, we
- 25 think we win under it. But it is a test that was really

- 1 designed to judge some conditions questions. And we
- 2 think Johnson against Glick, and we think, in the -- in
- 3 the Eighth Amendment context, Whitley and -- and Hudson,
- 4 are directed at the unique dynamic that you have in
- 5 excessive force cases.
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Am I right that the
- 7 pattern instruction in -- in this case, the pattern
- 8 instruction asked only the excessive force question,
- 9 asked the jury to decide whether the force was excessive
- 10 in light of the particular facts and circumstances?
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, okay. So there were two
- 12 pattern instructions, neither of which were used. There
- 13 was the pattern instruction which my friends wanted to
- 14 have, which was the Fourth Amendment pattern
- 15 instruction. There was the pattern instruction that was
- 16 the Eighth Amendment standard that we wanted to have.
- 17 And Judge Crabb essentially split the difference and
- 18 came up with this nonpattern jury instruction that asked
- 19 the excessive force question, and baked in this notion
- 20 of recklessness.
- Now, we think obviously that the lowest
- 22 standard of intent that could be compatible with the Due
- 23 Process Clause is recklessness, and so we think you
- 24 should affirm if you think recklessness is the standard.
- 25 But in fairness, we think the most coherent way to

- 1 approach this issue is to apply a single unitary
- 2 standard to pretrial detainees and post-convicted
- 3 inmates when you're talking about these kind of
- 4 excessive force claims.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, why not look at
- 6 it this way? I mean, you said -- and it's really the
- 7 basis of your argument -- that being in an institutional
- 8 setting is the game-changer. There's no doubt it's
- 9 important.
- 10 But there's another potential game-changer
- 11 as well, and that is this question of have you actually
- 12 been convicted? Has the legal system found that you're
- 13 a person who is a wrongdoer?
- 14 So if we say that both of these things are
- important, why shouldn't we adopt a set of principles
- 16 that say it is -- we're -- we're looking for objectively
- 17 reasonable conduct, but in looking for that, of course
- 18 we take into account the prison circumstances. Of
- 19 course we take into account the context in making that
- 20 evaluation, so that the person on the street does not
- 21 necessarily come up with the same result as the person
- in prison because the contexts are different.
- 23 But still, the test, the basic test is the
- same because they are both people who have not been
- 25 found to have done anything wrong.

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1 MR. CLEMENT: Well, a couple of responses,
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- 2 Justice Kagan. I mean, obviously, you could try to take
- 3 the Fourth Amendment test and you could adjust it -- try
- 4 to adjust it for the prison conditions.
- 5 We don't think that that's going to work in
- 6 a way that gives sufficient deference to the prison
- 7 officials. We do think -- this Court has said so many
- 8 times they are in a unique environment. It's not
- 9 something that the normal jury is going to have any sort
- 10 of insight into. So I think if you just ask them was it
- 11 reasonable in hindsight, I don't think you're going to
- 12 get sufficient deference. So that's one reason.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: I would think that the jury
- 14 would give a lot of deference to prison officials, in
- 15 part because they are unfamiliar with the circumstances.
- 16 And folks will come in and will say, you know, here's --
- 17 I think that there's -- that -- that that will be the
- 18 natural tendency.
- 19 MR. CLEMENT: I mean, I hope you're right
- 20 for the sake of my clients, but I think that tendency is
- 21 going to be embodied much more if you let them take into
- 22 account good faith. And I think that's a really
- 23 important way of thinking about the question here,
- 24 because if you look at their proposed jury instruction,
- 25 at JA 78, it's the one thing the jury is told they can't

- 1 take into account, is whether there was good faith. And
- 2 that does not seem particularly productive.
- 3 Another point you made was that, you know,
- 4 there is this difference that these individuals are --
- 5 have not been convicted. And I do think that's
- 6 important, and I've talked about a couple of instances
- 7 where I think that that makes an outcome-determinative
- 8 difference.
- 9 But you also have to take into account that
- 10 the Bell decision itself said the presumption of
- 11 innocence has nothing, really, to do with this. And I
- 12 think that was a reflection of the reality that when
- 13 the -- an institution is trying to deal with pretrial
- 14 detainees and inmates, it's not dealing with different
- 15 entities.
- Another thing I'd like to say about Bell v.
- 17 Wolfish is I do think it's an analysis that applies most
- 18 readily to conditions cases. And there are a number of
- 19 cases we cite in footnote 9 of our red brief involving
- 20 the lower courts' applications of various tests
- 21 requiring subjective intent. There's a D.C. Circuit
- 22 case called Norris against the District of Columbia. I
- 23 paid more attention on rereading it because I noticed
- 24 that Justice Ginsburg had written the opinion.
- 25 It's decided in 1984, and I think it's

- 1 actually quite instructive because in 1984, the D.C.
- 2 Circuit had the benefit of Bell v. Wolfish. It also
- 3 had the benefit of Johnson against Glick. And when it
- 4 confronted an excessive force claim, as opposed to a
- 5 conditions claim, the D.C. Circuit looked to Johnson
- 6 against Glick and not to Bell v. Wolfish, which it
- 7 doesn't even cite, to provide the relevant standard.
- 8 And I think that just shows that
- 9 Judge Friendly got this one right. He has an analysis
- 10 that of course looks to objective factors in terms of
- 11 the amount of force used, the need for the force, the
- 12 relationship of the two, but also says, was this a good
- 13 faith effort to maintain or -- or restore order, or was
- 14 this something that was just sadistic and malicious with
- 15 the intent to cause harm?
- 16 My friends from the Solicitor General
- 17 Office, I guess, don't like the words "salist -- sadistic
- 18 and malicious." I looked them up. I mean, they sound
- 19 kind of rough, but they actually -- you know, Judge
- 20 Friendly got that right, too. I mean, they're words
- 21 that basically mean exactly what he said in the rest
- 22 of the sentence --
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: But if you really --
- 24 MR. CLEMENT: -- which is there's no
- 25 intent --

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- if you really --
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- 2 MR. CLEMENT: -- other than to cause harm.
- 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- want to take the
- 4 Judge Friendly test -- and I guess you've talked about
- 5 this before, but it is a multifactor test where the
- 6 question of sadisticness is counting as a plus factor,
- 7 a thumb on the scales. But it's clear under that test
- 8 that even if that sadistic quality isn't there, it's
- 9 still allowable to hold the prison official to have
- 10 violated the law.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I don't think that's the
- 12 right reading of it, which is I think the ultimate
- 13 question under that test, and that's certainly the way
- 14 it's been applied by this Court in the Eighth Amendment
- 15 context, and you see that in this pattern jury
- 16 instruction that we propose.
- 17 The ultimate test is, is this a good faith
- 18 effort to maintain order, or is this an effort to
- 19 inflict punishment just for the sake of punishment? And
- 20 then the rest of the factors inform that as, of course,
- 21 they always would.
- 22 And I think one way of thinking about the
- 23 question before the Court in this case is that this
- 24 Court has already borrowed the -- the Johnson v. Glick
- 25 factors that were due process factors -- they've already

- 1 borrowed them and used them in the Eighth Amendment
- 2 context.
- 3 And the question in this case is should they
- 4 take that due process test and apply it in a due process
- 5 case? And that doesn't sound like a difficult question,
- 6 and I really don't think it is. I think this Court got
- 7 it right in Hudson and Whitley. You think about those
- 8 cases. Whitley, it wouldn't matter whether or not that
- 9 individual going towards an unarmed guard was pretrial
- 10 or post-conviction. But in Hudson it's the opposite. I
- 11 mean, Hudson is this case where you have somebody who is
- 12 singled out for a punitive beating in response to an
- 13 altercation with the quard.
- 14 Again, it makes no difference. That's not
- 15 acceptable behavior, whether or not they are an inmate
- 16 who's been convicted or pretrial detainee. Applying one
- 17 test to both of these very similar individuals seems to
- 18 be the appropriate response.
- 19 If there are no further questions.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Ms. Ward, 4 minutes.
- 22 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF WENDY M. WARD
- ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- 25 Justice -- Justice Kagan got it exactly

- 1 right. The institutional setting is not the
- 2 game-changer. The game-changer is the fact of lawful
- 3 conviction pursuant to due process. That's -- that's
- 4 the -- the dividing line between the right test and the
- 5 wrong test.
- 6 Justice Ginsburg also was looking at
- 7 recklessness in our jury instructions, and you -- you got
- 8 it right also. Disregard -- reckless disregard of
- 9 someone's rights has no place in a jury instruction that
- 10 should be objective.
- 11 And I want to step through the jury
- 12 instructions because we part ways with Mr. Bash on the
- 13 jury instructions in particular. If you look at -- part
- 14 of the confusion comes in in the three different uses of
- 15 recklessness in the jury instructions, as the dissent
- 16 below noted. There's three different ways that
- 17 recklessness is used.
- 18 If you look at 277 of the Joint Appendix,
- 19 the first use of recklessness is that force is applied
- 20 recklessly. Well, here we're asking whether force is --
- 21 force is less than deliberate if you look at how force
- 22 applied recklessly is -- is used in Farmer, for example,
- 23 deliberate indifference. You're looking at -- you're --
- 24 you're conflating deliberate indifference with a
- 25 deliberate act. That's confusing.

- 1 And Question No. 1 of the special verdict
- 2 questions, excessive force means force applied
- 3 recklessly that is unreasonable. So the -- again, this
- 4 is what I was talking about, force applied recklessly;
- 5 that's also not deliberate.
- 6 And then the -- the plaintiff is required to
- 7 prove each of the following factors by a preponderance
- 8 of the evidence. Factor 2 is the reasonableness test.
- 9 Factor 3, which is in addition to the reasonableness
- 10 test, is reckless disregard of plaintiff's safety, which
- 11 is, again, a different use from acting recklessly.
- 12 And -- and it's that reckless disregard for plaintiff's
- 13 safety language that the Court said in Farmer was
- 14 unquestionably related to a culpable state of mind.
- 15 And then if there's any question about
- 16 whether reckless in our jury instructions were related
- 17 to a bad intent, the third use of recklessness, which is
- 18 on 278 about halfway down the page, acted with
- 19 recklessness disregard of plaintiff's rights. The jury
- 20 instructions defined that specifically not in the -- the
- 21 special verdict itself, but in the -- the instruction on
- 22 punitive damages, which is found on page 281, where the
- 23 court said to the jury that an action is in reckless
- 24 disregard of plaintiff's rights if, under the
- 25 circumstances, it reflects complete indifference to the

Т	praintiff's safety or rights. If you find that
2	defendant's conduct was motivated by evil motive or
3	intent, unquestionable bad intent related to that
4	element of reckless or that version of recklessness
5	that was used in the jury instructions.
6	If the Court has no further questions.
7	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
8	The case is submitted.
9	(Whereupon, at 11:01 a.m., the case in the
LO	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
L1	
L2	
L3	
L 4	
L5	
L 6	
L7	
L8	
L 9	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

	afterthefact 7:20	analyze 28:14	48:8,9,18	29:10 54:15
A 16.20	agree 9:25 10:9	answer 17:15 19:14	asking 15:4 27:22	believe 10:13 15:1
abandon 16:20	29:8 32:10,25	answer 17.13 19.14 anybody 7:24 10:9	28:23 39:13 47:5	19:6
able 31:2 35:16	agreement 10:6	12:15	55:20	bell 4:9,22,25 6:12
aboveentitled 1:11			assistant 1:17 46:9	
57:10	agrees 18:5 al 1:6	anyway 36:10		6:24 8:8,12 16:13
abusive 7:1		apart 35:8	46:17 assumes 46:4 47:12	24:22 28:7,10
acceptable 9:4	alito 13:9 14:4	appeals 26:1		33:7 36:12 41:1
54:15	29:18	appearances 1:14	assuming 35:12 attention 51:23	42:9 47:3,9,9,17
accidentally 26:3	allegation 28:12	appears 16:12		47:24 51:10,16
account 36:20	alleged 4:18	appendix 32:18 36:17 46:18 55:18	attractive 41:20	52:2,6
49:18,19 50:22	allowable 53:9		available 39:5	benefit 45:4 52:2,3
51:1,9	allowed 14:14	applicable 8:20	awaiting 10:23	best 47:3
achieve 24:24	41:15	application 4:23	17:11 40:21	better 3:22
acknowledged 6:25	allows 7:22 15:1	6:12 8:22 27:18	aware 18:11 28:5	beyond 34:22
act 8:11 11:10 26:2	37:12 47:6	27:19 47:10	В	bill 24:3 29:6
26:7 27:1,9 55:25	alluded 40:17	applications 44:24	$\frac{\mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{b}}$ 1:3	bit 16:7 18:9 37:5
acted 56:18	alright 5:13	51:20	back 12:6 35:22,23	bivens 14:7
acting 14:23 34:25	altercation 54:13	applied 10:2 53:14	bad 13:5 16:19	block 28:7,11 41:2
56:11	alternative 47:15	55:19,22 56:2,4	29:10 56:17 57:3	bodily 3:13
action 13:2 47:20	47:16	applies 38:13 51:17	bail 19:11 43:1,2,16	book 40:21,22
56:23	amendment 3:19	apply 5:1 28:21,23	baked 48:19	borrowed 53:24
activity 10:23	4:13,17,19,21 7:8	29:1,3 33:21	banging 9:2	54:1
actual 30:11 35:6	7:8 15:21 16:4,11	37:25 38:9 39:17	based 4:9 34:5	bottom 32:11,14
add 44:14	16:13 17:8 18:16	39:21 42:8 43:21	bash 1:17 2:6 22:1	34:1,4
added 47:24	18:18 19:23 20:19	44:7 49:1 54:4	22:2,5 23:13,17	bounds 45:6
adding 46:7	22:19,21,25 23:14	applying 8:8 44:19	23:21,24 24:18,21	boxes 19:21
addition 56:9	23:15 24:8 25:19	54:16	25:11,14,21,24	breyer 16:24 19:2
addressing 33:16	30:11,17 33:19	approach 49:1	26:5,8,10,13,15	19:14 25:4,13,15
adequate 18:20	36:23 38:15,19	appropriate 10:1	26:18 27:4,8,11	25:21,23 26:4,6,9
adequately 18:19	39:3,21 40:2,2	23:8 30:25 36:22	27:14,17 28:18,22	26:12,14,17,19
adjust 50:3,4	43:23 45:1 48:3	45:18 54:18	29:12,22 30:10,24	27:6,10 37:20
administer 19:12	48:14,16 50:3	april 1:9	31:9,16,21 32:1,9	38:13,16
administered 5:4	53:14 54:1	arbitrary 9:2 45:8	32:17 55:12	brief 16:18 23:2
administrative	amendments 8:17	47:19	basic 49:23	46:14 51:19
20:3	9:5	argue 10:10,11	basically 47:5	briefly 21:8
administrators	amici 11:2	arguing 7:4	52:21	bring 23:20
6:23	amicus 1:19 2:7	argument 1:12 2:2	basis 49:7	bringing 19:25
admit 3:21 11:8	22:4	2:5,9,12 3:4,7	bear 27:25 28:3	broader 9:20 11:12
admittedly 31:5	amount 18:20	22:2,23 33:10	beat 9:12	broken 20:3
adopt 33:14,14	52:11	49:7 54:22	beating 37:17	brought 16:17
39:2 49:15	amp 30:18	arms 35:8,10	54:12	38:16
adopted 33:18	analogue 44:3	arrest 36:5	behalf 1:15,20 2:4	bunch 36:24
advancing 22:11	analysis 7:21 18:22	arrested 29:19	2:11,14 3:8 22:3	buy 43:20
affirm 48:24	19:17 23:1,20	articulated 4:22	33:11 54:23	
affirmance 1:19	28:4 42:7 51:17	34:6,9 46:14	behavior 19:6	c 1:8,18,20 2:1 3:1
2:8 22:4 39:8	52:9	asked 22:9 46:18	Deliavior 19.0	L 1.0,10,20 2.1 3.1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	l

51:21 52:1,5	circuit 46:22 51:21	committed 41:11	28:4 32:7 37:19	count 27:21
call 8:12	52:2,5	41:13	38:14	counting 53:6
called 18:11 51:22	circumstance 37:25	commonsensical	constrained 20:7	counts 16:3
candidly 3:21	circumstances 8:24	41:19	contesting 32:21	county 40:15 41:3
cant 5:14 11:10	16:25 17:2 35:24	comparison 42:24	context 4:24 12:2	couple 22:25 23:24
12:20 20:5 25:18	43:7,11 48:10	42:24	16:4,9,12 29:16	50:1 51:6
36:19 38:8,10,21	49:18 50:15 56:25	compatible 33:23	29:24 33:19,22	course 11:10 24:13
38:21 50:25	citations 23:7	48:22	36:5 37:2 38:15	45:16 49:17,19
careful 11:16	cite 51:19 52:7	complained 8:11	39:3 42:16 43:24	52:10 53:20
carried 30:12	cited 22:25	complaint 4:18	44:6 45:1,2 48:3	court 1:1,12 3:10
case 3:4 4:7 10:3	citizens 21:23	complete 56:25	49:19 53:15 54:2	3:16 4:4,23,25
11:18,19 13:13,21	claim 13:18 14:7,7	completely 25:16	contexts 49:22	6:24,24 21:12,15
14:4,16 17:22,23	19:18 23:8 33:16	45:6 46:1,15	contrary 26:22	22:6,8,24 24:1,9
18:5,7,18 20:5	34:8 38:1 52:4,5	complicated 11:18	33:23	24:22 26:1 28:11
23:11,15,15 24:16	claims 5:1 12:5	component 16:5	contrast 34:14	29:24 31:4 32:5
25:19 26:20 27:21	13:11 39:18 49:4	comprehend 11:5	control 19:5,25	32:17 33:13,14,18
27:21 30:3,7,8	clause 6:20 17:9	concept 16:10	convenience 43:20	36:24 37:3 39:3
34:18 36:13 37:8	24:12,13 28:8,19	concerns 41:7	convey 22:7	39:16,19 40:5,24
37:16 39:19 40:2	29:22 34:9 38:17	condition 28:2	convicted 3:19,25	40:25 42:3 45:20
40:3,6 41:3 42:10	48:23	conditions 6:7 20:2	6:6 7:13 10:20,22	47:20 50:7 53:14
45:11,23 46:21	clear 22:18 53:7	20:16 30:1 47:14	11:13 12:17,19	53:23,24 54:6
47:13 48:7 51:22	clearest 4:22 36:16	47:14 48:1 50:4	15:22 19:5 21:18	56:13,23 57:6
53:23 54:3,5,11	clearly 20:19 23:2	51:18 52:5	21:20 23:9 29:7	courts 22:18 28:6
57:8,9	39:7	conduct 34:18	29:20,23,25,25	33:24 34:7 42:17
cases 14:9 19:23	clement 1:20 2:10	41:12,13 49:17	30:4,8 32:3,6	51:20
21:16 22:19,25	22:12,16 28:23	57:2	33:19 37:4,23,24	crabb 48:17
23:24 25:19 29:15	33:9,10,12 34:3	confined 17:11	38:2,9,11 39:11	create 19:21
30:15 38:13 39:11	34:23 35:14 36:2	confinement 20:17	39:16,22 40:9,19	credit 12:21,22
41:9 42:1,17	36:11,14 38:12	29:11	40:19 41:8,14	20:17 24:6
45:17 48:5 51:18	39:2 40:13 41:5	confirmation 28:9	42:3,12,22 43:10	credited 35:15
51:19 54:8	41:24 43:14 44:16	conflates 25:25	49:12 51:5 54:16	credits 35:12
cause 34:20,22	46:5,11,16 47:8	conflating 55:24	conviction 11:15	crime 19:5 29:7
52:15 53:2	47:16 48:11 49:5	confront 40:6	21:24 24:3 55:3	crimes 10:21
cell 19:9	50:1,19 52:24	confronted 52:4	convicts 11:20	criminal 29:4 40:22
certainly 11:25	53:2,11	confusing 44:12	15:11 31:1	criminals 41:8,14
12:1 29:1 31:22	clients 35:19 50:20	55:25	core 3:11,14	criteria 16:21,23
32:1 45:7 53:13	closer 21:22	confusion 55:14	corporal 20:15	cruel 6:18 8:18
characterize 23:21	code 17:15 38:22	connection 27:23	corporally 12:21	15:23,25 19:1
charge 40:22	38:23	conner 42:2	correct 4:20 5:9 9:6	20:8 22:21 24:9
chastise 16:6	coherent 48:25	connor 43:19	9:14,15,15 19:7	32:8
chief 3:3,9 10:17	columbia 51:22	consider 47:1	23:17 46:17	cruelly 32:4
11:9 21:5,7,9,12	come 31:13,16	consistently 41:10	corrections 11:3	culpability 18:10
21:25 22:5 27:12	44:23 45:18 49:21	constitution 7:21	45:5	culpable 56:14
27:15 31:6,13	50:16	15:19 19:17 20:14	couldnt 35:11	curiae 1:19 2:7
33:8,12 40:17	comes 18:25 22:20	21:21 31:19	counsel 21:25 33:8	22:4
54:20 57:7	55:14	constitutional 3:24	54:20 57:7	currently 11:2
-				

D	describe 24:11 27:4	54:5	6:20 7:3,4 15:19	engage 10:22 15:2
	deserving 12:1	direct 13:14 44:3	15:19 17:9 21:23	entities 51:15
d 1:8,18,20,20 2:10	designed 48:1	directed 12:9 48:4	23:8,11,20,22	entitled 6:22 24:17
3:1 33:10 51:21	detained 10:21	disagree 10:1	24:1,5,12 28:8,18	environment 50:8
52:1,5	11:17,24	discipline 5:25 6:5	29:14,20,22 33:16	environments 36:6
damages 56:22	detainee 3:15 4:2,5	6:9,13 8:6 12:3	33:21 34:8 38:17	equally 37:21,22
dangerous 11:1	5:6,8,14,16 6:3,4	13:1 20:22 30:25	39:17 45:1,23	error 43:25
12:1,2 daniels 27:20	7:13 15:15,18	31:24 34:14	48:22 53:25 54:4	esq 1:15,17,20 2:3
dark 20:4	20:13,13 24:16	disciplined 8:1	54:4 55:3	2:6,10,13
day 22:18	29:9 30:22 31:7	discussion 16:17	dui 11:23	essentially 40:10
days 11:22	33:17 35:1 41:10	dismissed 34:7	dungeon 20:4	48:17
deal 51:13	42:14,21 54:16	dispositive 23:4	dynamic 48:4	establish 22:14
dealing 10:20 51:14	detainees 4:23 5:2	disregard 41:22		24:7 31:24
debatable 45:14	7:21 10:25 11:21	55:8,8 56:10,12	E	established 24:2
decide 21:15 48:9	12:10 15:11 18:23	56:19,24	e 2:1 3:1,1 20:3,16	39:13
decided 51:25	21:22 28:17,24	disregarded 32:24	easy 5:3	et 1:6
decision 51:10	29:1,2,3,21 30:1	33:3	effect 34:19	evaluate 12:5
decisions 28:6 36:4	31:4 39:15,18,22	disruptive 29:10	effects 21:21	evaluated 35:13
deck 46:1,15	40:9 41:7,17 42:8	dissent 55:15	effort 34:13,24	evaluating 13:10
defend 44:17	49:2 51:14	distinctions 3:24	46:24 52:13 53:18	evaluation 16:14
defendant 25:16	detention 31:5	distinguish 7:10	53:18	49:20
35:7	deter 16:7	34:12	eggshell 28:1	events 35:15
defendants 32:22	determination 4:8	district 4:4 51:22	egregious 13:7	eventually 40:5
57:2	34:5	dividing 55:4	eight 22:21	everybody 18:5
deference 6:23	determine 4:14	doctrinal 33:20	eighth 3:19 7:7,8	evidence 13:14
14:13 18:20 36:3	didnt 4:19,19 16:17	doctrine 41:25	8:18 15:21 16:4	40:1,3 56:8
37:11 45:21 46:3	16:18 31:16 42:6	doesnt 3:17 6:15,19	16:11,13 19:23	evil 57:2
50:6,12,14	difference 8:3,5,7	6:21 14:8 18:16	20:19 22:18,25	exact 43:17
define 8:11	8:17 9:8 12:7	36:25 42:20 43:2	23:15 24:8 30:11	exactly 23:25 24:21
defined 56:20	13:11 14:10 42:21	44:2 45:19 52:7	30:17 33:19 38:15	26:1 33:3 43:17
definition 44:15	44:25 48:17 51:4	54:5	39:3,20 40:1 45:1	52:21 54:25
degree 24:10 36:3	51:8 54:14	doing 16:8 19:7,9	48:3,16 53:14	example 13:17,22
37:10,10	differences 22:11	19:23 37:15 43:19		30:20 42:3,9
deliberate 34:18,19	36:15 42:15	dont 9:1,8 10:8	either 5:21 16:25	55:22
55:21,23,24,25	different 5:16 7:16	14:21 15:5 16:24	17:16 24:23 26:23	excessive 4:3,9,12
56:5	7:18,20 8:21 9:16	17:13,14 19:12	element 3:17 11:6	5:1 12:5 13:11,17
deliberately 34:21	10:10,14,19 14:11	20:13 23:6 28:21	13:25 15:25 18:24	14:22,22 17:12,18
denied 12:21 19:11	15:10,14 19:8,16	30:24 36:14 37:18	20:20 21:19 32:22	17:19 18:21 19:18
department 1:18	19:19 20:12 21:3	40:11 42:7,13,15	33:2 34:21 57:4	21:16 30:3,9
depending 10:19	25:25 28:16 31:11	44:22 45:6,7 46:5	elements 14:16	32:11 33:17 36:1
15:14	33:6 36:6 38:10	50:5,11 52:17	32:20	38:1,23 39:11
deprivation 20:18	43:25 44:1,5,24	53:11 54:6	embodied 50:21	42:1,16 44:11,13
28:8 29:15	49:22 51:14 55:14	door 21:18	empirical 41:1	44:14 46:21 48:5
deprivations 15:20	55:16 56:11	doubt 49:8	empirically 40:25 encounter 43:4	48:8,9,19 49:4
15:21	difficult 7:15 11:4	drawn 3:18	enforce 6:5	52:4 56:2
deprived 6:1 29:9	15:16 36:4 37:2,6	due 3:12,17 4:18,21	emorce 0.3	excuse 5:15
	l		l	

	25.10	6	25.5.27.5.20.6	17.0.45.10
exercise 6:1	35:19	forgiving 44:8	35:5 37:5 38:6	guess 17:8 45:19
expectations 43:17	felon 17:4	form 44:18	42:6 46:2 50:14	52:17 53:4
43:18	felony 31:1	former 11:2	given 7:2 36:10,13	guilty 18:13 24:3
explain 9:22 11:7	fifth 40:2	forth 24:4,9	gives 20:14 37:12	gun 18:1 26:15
18:14 32:10,14	fight 20:1	found 13:24 41:11	45:2,8,10,18,24	27:16,18
extent 30:6	figure 38:21,22	41:13,16,21 49:12	50:6	guy 37:17
extra 21:10	find 7:15 8:5 25:18	49:25 56:22	giving 12:12 45:25	H
extrapolate 23:6	25:19 32:20 35:16	four 32:20 34:5,10	46:3	
F	44:10 57:1	47:1	glick 33:16,25	hadnt 10:18 37:14 45:5
f 1:17 2:6 22:2	finding 14:2	fourteenth 4:21	35:17 39:12,17	
	findings 14:17	8:18	44:20 45:2 48:2	halfway 56:18
face 40:9 facet 4:2	first 22:16 25:5	fourth 4:13,17,19	52:3,6 53:24	hall 5:14 halls 6:2
	40:6 41:1 46:2	8:17 17:7 18:16	go 5:14 6:1 11:21	
facility 43:3	47:10 55:19	18:18 23:14 25:19	11:22 12:6 16:15	hand 5:15 25:9,10
fact 6:22 12:5 35:5	flat 36:19	36:23 38:19 43:23	18:15 24:2 35:22	handcuffs 34:24 35:11 37:15 45:16
37:7 41:1 43:14 55:2	fleeing 17:4	48:14 50:3	35:23 42:19 44:20	hands 25:11
factor 23:4 34:5,10	flexibility 11:14	free 3:12 20:14	goes 5:3 22:13,14	happen 5:17
34:11 53:6 56:8,9	37:5	21:22 31:19,20	47:11,12	happened 18:9
factors 13:16 23:3	florence 41:3	freely 31:25	going 8:5 11:10,22	happens 6:13
23:5 46:19,25	focuses 26:22 46:19	friendly 23:7 33:15	13:15 14:9 20:4	hard 3:13 44:11
47:2,4,6,18,21	46:22	34:6,8 37:3 45:23	28:3,13 30:17	harm 3:13 9:12
52:10 53:20,25,25	folks 12:1 50:16	52:9,20 53:4	36:7,7,10 42:19	13:20 32:23 33:5
56:7	follow 6:13	friendlys 22:24	43:12,16 44:5,24	52:15 53:2
facts 7:16 15:13	following 56:7	23:1 44:19	50:5,9,11,21 54:9	harsh 6:6
28:1,4 48:10	footnote 6:24 42:9	friends 48:13 52:16	good 4:13 9:23	hasher 30:1
factual 34:5	51:19	full 16:18 32:25	12:21,22 14:15,23	hasnt 19:9 37:23
fail 6:13 13:7	force 4:3,6,8,12 5:1	further 54:19 57:6	20:17 34:13,24	havent 21:23 41:11
failing 33:4	5:4 8:9,22,25 11:7	G	35:1 36:20 42:2	41:16,21
fails 8:12	12:5,11,13 13:3,7	$\frac{\mathbf{g}}{\mathbf{g}}$ 3:1	45:12 46:24 50:22	head 9:2
fairness 46:16	13:11,18,19,24	gamechanger	51:1 52:12 53:17	hear 3:3
48:25	14:5,19,22,22	43:15 49:8,10	government 9:10	held 5:6 31:4 40:23
faith 14:15,23	15:2,22 16:15	55:2,2	9:17,23,25 10:2	hendrickson 1:6
34:13,24 35:1	17:12,18,19,19,23	gang 42:12	18:3 47:20	3:5
36:20 46:24 50:22	18:21 19:18 20:21	general 1:17 10:7	governs 15:22 17:7	heres 50:16
51:1 52:13 53:17	21:16 25:2,7 27:1 27:19,19,24 30:3	24:12 46:10,17	graham 43:19	hes 17:3 19:5,10,11
faithful 15:18,19	, ,	52:16	gratuitous 12:8 35:25	38:9,11 43:1,12
19:16 21:20	30:6,9,13,19,24	generally 8:19,19		highway 42:13
familiar 4:13	31:3 32:11,23	getting 29:13	guard 6:17 8:24	hindsight 37:13
far 5:3 16:15 18:3,4	33:17 34:13,15,22	ginsburg 4:1,16	17:1,2,6,17 19:3	45:4 50:11
20:7	36:8 38:1,24	14:21 30:2 32:9	25:18 30:21,21 36:4 37:5 42:20	hold 32:13 53:9
farmer 22:19 55:22	39:11 42:1,16	33:25 34:3,17		holding 18:7
56:13	44:11,13,15 46:21 48:5,8,9,19 49:4	44:10 48:6 51:24	54:9,13 guards 3:22 5:13	honor 4:20 9:18
fashioned 33:15	52:4,11,11 55:19	55:6	5:13 6:19,22 7:1	10:15
fault 25:17	55:20,21,21 56:2	give 13:17 14:13	12:12 14:18 36:7	hope 50:19
favor 3:21 14:18	56:2,4	21:9,21 30:20	44:1,8	host 29:5
	JU.4,4		77.1,0	
	I	l	I	I

	. 1.66 55.00	12 22 14 1 22 10	25.16	27.15.20.16.20
hours 5:14	indifference 55:23	13:23 14:1 32:19	35:16	27:15 28:16,20
housed 40:16	55:24 56:25	48:12 55:7,12,13	johnson 33:15,25	29:8,13,18 30:2
hudson 37:16	individual 6:17,25	55:15 56:16,20	35:17 39:12,17	30:20 31:6,10,13
39:14 40:7 48:3	40:19 42:22 43:18	57:5	44:19 45:2 46:10	31:18,23 32:9
54:7,10,11	43:19 54:9	instructive 52:1	46:19 47:2 48:2	33:8,12,25 34:3
hundred 18:8	individuals 40:16	insulates 3:22	52:3,5 53:24	34:17 35:4,22
hypothetical 5:20	42:4 51:4 54:17	intent 3:17 9:11	joint 32:18 36:17	36:9,12 37:20
31:14,17 44:23	infer 33:1 47:8,20	13:15,15,20 16:6	46:18 55:18	38:13,16 40:11,17
	inference 45:9	18:10,24 20:20	judge 22:24 23:1,7	41:5,24 42:23
<u> </u>	inferred 13:16	21:19 22:17 24:10	33:15 34:6,8 37:3	44:10 45:25 46:6
id 18:14 51:16	inflict 53:19	24:23,24 25:25	38:25 44:19 45:23	46:13 47:7,9 48:6
idea 30:16	inflicting 9:12	26:2,6 27:11	48:1,17 52:9,19	49:5 50:2,13
identical 40:10	20:15 34:16	28:13,13,23 30:12	53:4	51:24 52:23 53:1
identify 31:10	inform 53:20	32:5 36:20,25	judgment 45:19	53:3 54:20,25,25
ignore 3:23	inherently 15:24	40:4 46:7,23 47:8	juice 43:20	55:6 57:7
ill 28:13 40:13,13	39:4	47:11,17,20 48:22	juries 14:13	justifies 13:2
illustrate 36:17	inject 14:14	51:21 52:15,25	jurisprudence	juveniles 29:3
illustration 45:12	injected 14:1	56:17 57:3,3	21:17 30:17	
im 5:15 7:23 8:15	inmate 7:17 15:15	intentional 27:9,18	jury 9:9,10 10:3	<u>K</u>
9:24 10:5 16:7,8	30:21 42:19,21	27:23	13:23,23 14:1,5	kagan 16:1,18 41:5
18:6,12 19:7,20	54:15	interest 3:11 4:7	32:19,19 35:12,15	41:24 42:23 49:5
20:15,21 25:11	inmates 28:17,21	45:15	35:18,21 37:12	50:2,13 52:23
31:14,18 34:21	39:22 40:10 44:2	interesting 39:24	39:7 40:4 45:3,10	53:1,3 54:25
imagine 3:13 13:14	49:3 51:14	interests 18:23	45:18 46:2,20	keep 17:3,9,17 20:7
17:22,23 43:6	innocence 51:11	41:23	47:1 48:9,18 50:9	20:25 35:23
immediate 13:1	innocent 17:24	interpreted 24:9	50:13,24,25 53:15	kennedy 5:5,10,23
immigration 29:3	18:2,8 25:16	29:24 38:14	55:7,9,11,13,15	6:8 7:14,25 8:4,14
immunity 14:8,25	inquiry 18:17	intruded 21:13	56:16,19,23 57:5	15:4,9 16:7 24:15
15:6	46:23 47:22	involve 13:18	justice 1:18 3:3,9	24:19 29:8 30:20
imperatives 39:15	insight 50:10	involving 39:11	4:1,16 5:5,10,23	31:10
40:8	instances 7:1 14:18	51:19	6:8,15 7:3,7,11,14	key 32:21
import 3:16	38:18 51:6	irrelevant 36:21	7:23,25 8:4,14,15	kick 31:20,25
important 34:10	institution 51:13	isnt 4:1,2 12:10	9:7,16,19,22 10:4	kind 16:6 25:8
45:21 49:9,15	institutional 43:2	26:9,14,14 31:7	10:8,16,17 11:9	26:23 38:24 39:25
50:23 51:6	49:7 55:1	34:1 37:16,22	12:6,15,17,20,25	40:3,17 41:14
importing 33:2	instruct 9:9,10	44:15 53:8	13:9 14:4,21 15:4	43:4 44:3 45:10
impose 21:1	instructed 32:20	issue 9:9 14:24,25	15:9 16:1,7,16,18	46:7 49:3 52:19
imposed 12:3 20:2	39:7	35:3,5 49:1	16:24 19:2,13,14	kingsley 1:3 3:4
improperly 10:2	instructing 46:2	ive 51:6	19:20 20:11,25	kingsleys 13:21
incarcerated 29:20	instruction 36:9,16		21:5,7,9,12,25	knew 32:23
incarceration	36:18,23 44:17,19	J	22:5 23:11,14,17	knock 12:23
43:15,24 44:6	44:25 46:4,18,20	ja 50:25	23:19,21,23 24:15	know 11:9 12:2
inconsistent 3:14	48:7,8,13,15,15	jail 11:22 37:22,23	24:19,21 25:4,13	15:6,10 17:14
indicated 16:10	48:18 50:24 53:16	38:18 40:15,18	25:15,21,23 26:4	27:6,25 30:25
indicted 42:25	55:9 56:21	job 18:19,22 20:18	26:6,9,12,14,17	31:24 34:22 37:14
43:10	instructions 10:3	john 1:17 2:6 22:2	26:19 27:6,10,12	37:21 41:15,19,20
	-	-	-	-

43:16 45:4 47:24	lockdown 5:13	mean 24:1 25:5	n 2:1,1 3:1	12:19 24:24 25:3
50:16 51:3 52:19	long 11:7,8 19:6	26:16 27:12,13,13	natural 50:18	29:17
knowing 27:1	look 11:13 23:1	30:4 31:16 32:10	naturally 33:1	obviously 26:4,7
knowledgeable	34:17 36:16,17,18	36:15 38:17,20	necessarily 49:21	39:2 44:23 48:21
26:24	37:13 45:12 46:25	40:25 42:2 44:22	necessary 9:13	50:2
known 34:19	47:5,17 49:5	46:6 49:6 50:2,19	necessity 21:1	occurred 7:16
knows 6:18 15:7	50:24 55:13,18,21	52:18,20,21 54:11	need 4:12 13:1	25:20
28:3	looked 13:5 17:15	meaningful 3:23	20:19 37:24 44:1	odd 26:20 35:20
	38:22 52:5,18	means 33:4 56:2	52:11	offense 23:9 40:20
L	looking 16:2,9	measures 33:4	needs 12:3 47:23	40:22 42:25 43:10
landing 37:13 45:3	49:16,17 55:6,23	medical 28:2 38:6	negligence 39:1	43:11
45:11,18	looks 52:10	mental 39:5,5	negligent 25:17	offered 36:18
language 56:13	lot 14:13,17 41:6	mentioned 4:16	27:19	office 52:17
law 15:1,1 42:11	50:14	mess 5:14 6:2	neither 5:21 48:12	officer 13:6 14:8
53:10	lots 36:7	message 9:3	never 11:8 29:7	15:6 18:19 27:25
lawful 55:2	lower 34:7 51:20	met 47:14	new 32:14 35:21	28:5 30:15 34:12
lawsuit 38:17	lowest 39:5 48:21	michael 1:3	nonpattern 48:18	34:19 36:20,25
lawyer 17:11 19:11	lurking 39:25	mind 10:14 17:3,21	normal 50:9	43:4,6 45:5
laying 35:9		18:2,8,17 27:25	normally 17:6	officers 11:3,5,13
lead 39:8	M	38:24 56:14	normatively 41:20	13:14 14:13 31:2
legal 21:24 24:12	m 1:13,15 2:3,13	minimize 33:5	norris 51:22	32:3 35:10 40:8
49:12	3:2,7 54:22 57:9	minimum 42:5	noted 55:16	44:9 45:20 46:3
legitimate 4:7,9,10	madison 1:15	minor 40:20	noticed 51:23	official 53:9
5:20 6:5 8:10	main 44:6	minute 21:10	notion 48:19	officials 45:21 50:7
9:13 12:18 27:24	maintain 5:25	minutes 54:21	nub 35:3,4	50:14
legitimately 20:6	34:13 38:4 52:13	misbehaving 5:11	number 22:9 51:18	oh 5:15
36:8	53:18	misspoke 9:24,25		okay 10:16 19:15
legitimates 29:17	making 6:23 49:19	mistake 14:25	0	19:17 30:2,9 46:4
level 41:22	malice 11:11	27:16,17	o 2:1 3:1	48:11
liability 3:23 35:16	malicious 11:8	mixed 29:2 30:16	objection 12:10	once 37:9
liable 8:24 18:2	22:17,19,23 23:3	model 17:15 38:22	objective 4:6 5:21	onerous 18:10
25:18	23:7 28:22 52:14	38:23	8:10 11:4 13:12	open 35:11
liberty 3:11 15:20	52:18	moment 18:14 25:9	13:16 15:18 21:16	opening 22:9
17:11 28:8 29:15	maliciously 34:15	monday 1:9	23:5 25:6 27:24	opinion 22:24
license 12:12	maliciousness 11:6	monroe 40:15	28:9,14 32:10	28:15 47:11 51:24
life 15:20	46:8	morning 3:4 22:8	36:23 39:25 40:3	opposed 15:11
light 48:10	man 25:15	motivated 57:2	43:22 47:4,5,13	28:17 52:4
line 32:12,14 34:1,4	margin 30:15 43:25	motive 45:9 57:2	47:18,21 52:10	opposite 54:10
55:4	margins 31:2,11	motives 30:16	55:10	oral 1:11 2:2,5,9
list 23:3	matter 1:11 6:15,19	move 42:4	objectively 4:11	3:7 22:2 33:10
lists 32:18	6:21 13:1,10 37:1	multifactor 53:5	8:12 13:19 14:6	orange 43:20
little 16:7 18:9 24:5	42:6 54:8 57:10	multiple 11:24	14:19 17:20,23	order 5:24 17:3,9
37:5 44:21	max 31:1	murderer 40:24	18:1 25:1,7 26:19	17:17 34:13 37:24
loaded 46:14	maximum 31:8	murderers 11:24	27:1,2 28:7 30:6	38:5 46:24 52:13
loading 46:1	42:5		49:16	53:18
local 40:15	mcmillan 37:16	N	objectives 4:10 6:6	originated 33:22

originates 45:02	norfootly 26.22	nonulation 5:4 25	17:17 10:22 10:2	nronositions 22.22
originates 45:23	perfectly 36:22	population 5:6,25	17:17 18:22 19:2	propositions 33:23
ought 15:5 37:10 41:21	42:4	populations 29:2	19:3,4,25 20:18	protect 44:1
outbreak 19:25	permissible 12:11 42:4	possibility 12:4	29:16 31:1,8 36:6 37:2 42:18 44:8	protected 3:11
		possible 10:17		protection 24:17
outcome 14:11	permits 29:23	postconvicted 49:2	45:21 49:18,22	34:9
outcomedetermi	31:20	postconviction	50:4,6,14 53:9	protects 18:21
51:7	person 8:25 17:10	54:10	prisoner 5:22 6:6	prove 47:17 56:7
outside 45:6	19:4 37:23 43:9	posttrial 12:10	7:13 8:20 9:1,11	provide 4:22 34:9
overrule 40:7	44:2 49:13,20,21	20:13	14:17 20:14 21:20	52:7
overruled 39:14	persons 19:8 24:25	potential 49:10	28:2 30:3,8 31:24	provides 4:13
P	29:19,19 43:16	potentially 44:2	46:21	18:20 36:3 42:11
	persuasive 11:19	practical 13:10	prisoners 3:19 5:7	44:21 47:4
p 3:1	pertinent 32:19	33:20 39:14 41:6	5:11 9:4 11:1	proving 14:16
page 2:2 23:1 28:10	petitioner 1:4,16	45:3	12:17,19 15:23	provision 17:7
28:11 32:17,22	2:4,14 3:8 32:16	practices 7:1	20:2 21:18 29:25	pulling 35:10
36:18 56:18,22	35:12 54:23	precedents 33:24	29:25 32:3,6	punish 6:2,9 9:11
paid 51:23	petitioners 35:15	preconviction	33:19 37:4 39:11	17:1 20:14 24:23
pain 34:16,20,22	36:19	11:24	39:16	30:12 32:4 34:25
part 14:15 25:6,8	phrase 11:15	premise 25:24	privileges 29:9	41:15 47:12,21
34:10 46:9,10	pick 10:11 42:13	26:10	probably 6:22	punished 5:7 7:22
47:10 50:15 55:12	pillow 27:21	preponderance	28:25 29:3 30:10	12:18,21 24:4
55:13	place 37:13 41:18	56:7	problem 5:19 8:15	punisher 6:16
particular 10:23	41:25 45:3,11,18	presentation 22:10	26:9	punishment 5:4,24
11:6 14:6 47:13	55:9	presented 32:23	procedural 7:4	6:11 8:6,8,11,13
48:10 55:13	plaintiff 32:24 33:5	presumption 36:13	24:5	8:19 12:23 13:3,4
particularly 40:14	56:6	51:10	procedures 24:2	13:4 15:23,25
51:2	plaintiffs 32:24	pretrial 5:1 6:3,4	process 3:12,18	16:3,5,8,9,10,12
pass 20:14	33:3 56:10,12,19	11:21 12:9 15:11	4:18,21 6:20 7:4,5	16:17,19,19 17:5
pattern 46:20 48:7	56:24 57:1	15:15,18 18:23	15:19,20 17:9	17:13 19:1,24
48:7,12,13,14,15	platonic 44:18	20:12 24:16 28:24	21:24 23:8,11,20	20:2,15,16 24:10
53:15	plea 24:3	29:1,2,9 30:1,22	23:22 24:1,5,12	24:11,14 29:4,14
paul 1:20 2:10	please 3:10 22:6	31:3,7 33:17	28:8,18 29:14,21	29:23 30:12 32:8
33:10	33:13	39:15,18,21 40:9	29:22 33:16,22	38:3,3,8,12,15,20
penal 17:15 38:22	plus 53:6	40:20 41:7,10,17	34:8 38:17 39:17	39:4 53:19,19
38:23	pocket 43:5	42:8,14,21 49:2	42:7 45:2,23	punitive 22:17
penological 4:10	point 5:7 11:1,3	51:13 54:9,16	48:23 53:25 54:4	28:12 42:5 45:9
5:21 9:14 27:24	15:9 22:7 24:7,25	pretty 19:3 31:7	54:4 55:3	45:15 46:23 47:8
30:19	41:9 51:3	45:12	productive 51:2	47:17 54:12 56:22
people 10:11,20,21	police 18:18 30:5	prevail 39:7 40:2	prohibition 32:2,7	punitively 37:18
10:22,23 11:12,14	43:4,5,11 44:8	principal 44:25	property 15:21	purely 13:12
11:17,23 18:21	45:4 46:2	principles 49:15	proportionality	purpose 4:10 6:3
29:5,23 31:4	policeman 17:4,7	priorities 10:19	33:6	22:13,15,18 24:8
38:18 41:12,20,23	17:16,24 18:7,13	prison 4:24 5:3,6	propose 53:16	34:16
42:25 49:24	26:20	5:25 6:17,18,23	proposed 45:22	purposeful 26:24
percent 18:8	policies 16:15	8:24,24 12:2,12	50:24	purposeless 45:8
perfect 5:2	policy 5:3 6:24	13:6 16:14 17:3,9	proposition 41:20	47:19

purposes 15:12 46:14 47:25 49:6 29:14 rest 47:1 52:21 sa	sadistic 22:17,20
	sautetic / /: / /ll
	22:24 23:3,8
	28:22 52:14,17
	53:8
	sadistically 34:15
	sadisticness 53:6
	safety 4:2,5 32:25
10.01	33:3 56:10,13
1	57:1
20.1 30.1 13.10	sake 50:20 53:19
** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **	salerno 31:5
	salist 52:17
	sandin 42:2
30.21 20.0,5	saying 9:10,10
10.45.15.15.01 Temember 20.25 5.7,19.10.12.20.9	20:25 25:11,22
10.17 10.17 25.12,10 25.25	30:7 32:2,2
21.19 21.10 30.10 31.19 30.3 37.3,1	says 5:15 22:16
	23:2 35:7 36:19
1044514400	47:13,19 52:12
1 40 40 40 41 50 22	scales 53:7
	scalia 6:15 7:3,7,11
	10:8,16 16:16
	23:11,14,18,19,21
25 10 20 25 40 5	23:23 28:16,20
10 1 51 10 56 6	40:11
	second 45:19
	section 47:10
0114441501	security 31:8 42:5
	42:5
55.7 15 17 19 12.19 14.25 15.22 33.5 se	see 5:3 14:21 16:3
R 56:17.19.57:4 26:25.27:2.32:6 roberts 3:3.10:17	17:13 19:12 21:4
r3:1 recognized 34:8 37:4 40:9 43:12 11:9 21:5,7,9,12	27:3 33:6 38:8,10
raises 5:15 40:24 41:1 respects 35:3 21:25 27:12 15	53:15
rare 13:13 recognizes 36:5 respond 21:6 31:6,13 33:8 se	segregation 20:17
rationale 7:18,19 recognizing 35:17 respondent 32:12 54:20 57:7 se	seized 38:18
rationally 8:10 reconsider 39:20 32:15 rough 52:19 se	send 9:3
rationallyrelated red 23:2 51:19 respondents 1:21 rule 19:12 20:3	sense 5:2 19:22
8:9 refer 4:19 2:11 3:16,21 24:1	32:5 39:23 44:7
reaches 43:4 references 16:18 10:14 11:19 14:3 ruled 35:19 se	sensibly 34:11
read 8:5 18:9 referring 16:14 14 33:11 rules 6:14 43:21 se	sent 42:12
readily 51:18 reflection 51:12 responding 19:25 run 6:18 25:5,6 se	sentence 7:17 8:20
1 40 0 1 26 1 5	8:23 40:18 52:22
I modified (1)	separate 8:22
1 ma a Her 1 / 1 / 1 k / 1 / 1 k / 1 / 1 k / 1 / 1	separation 44:21
1 25.2 42.15 45.14 1	serve 40:18
35:2 43:15 45:14 rehnquist 24:22 31:15 s 2:1 3:1 7:3 se	service 47:21

				1
serving 7:17	20:11,25 31:18,23	store 43:20	50:2,21 51:1,9	9:15,15 11:25
set 24:9 49:15	35:4,22 36:9,12	street 18:19 43:1,3	53:3 54:4	12:3,4 13:9,19
setting 49:8 55:1	45:25 46:6,13	49:20	talk 15:5 22:12	15:15 16:19,20,21
seventh 46:21	47:7,9	streets 44:4	talked 23:25 51:6	20:7,11,22 23:17
shackles 20:4	sound 52:18 54:5	strongly 33:20	53:4	25:5,21 27:9,10
shoot 43:11	sounds 24:4	struggling 19:21	talking 8:16,23	27:20 28:3 29:10
shoots 43:6	speak 6:16	subject 11:15 29:4	10:5 17:8 20:16	29:12 31:19,21
shorthand 24:23	special 28:2 56:1	30:1,19	20:21 30:14,18	32:1 35:1,23
29:15	56:21	subjective 3:17	31:11 49:3 56:4	36:22 37:20 39:12
shouldnt 18:24	specifically 56:20	9:11 11:6 13:13	talks 15:20,23	40:12,14 43:23
37:7 41:12 49:15	split 48:17	13:15,15,20,25	47:18	44:7 45:14 46:20
shouldve 37:9	spreading 35:8	14:15 15:24 16:5	tased 13:23 35:9	47:2,15 50:5,12
shows 52:8	stage 32:21	16:10 18:10,17,24	taser 17:25 26:15	50:22 51:5 53:11
shut 21:18	stairs 42:19	20:20 21:1,19	27:16,18 34:19	53:13 54:14 55:3
side 40:16,17	stake 18:23	24:10 25:8 32:5	37:8,8,14 45:14	55:3,25 56:5
similar 54:17	stan 1:6	33:2,15 34:11,20	tasered 26:3	theres 13:12,14
simply 5:24 6:16	standard 4:14 7:16	36:25 39:5 40:4	tell 7:14 11:13 18:3	14:5,24 15:24,24
11:17 33:23 34:25	9:17,23 10:1,2,5,7	46:7 47:22 51:21	18:4 40:12,13	18:13 22:7 23:2
single 49:1	10:10,12,14 11:4	subjectively 20:6	42:1	25:1 26:2 28:11
singled 54:12	13:12,13 15:5,7	submit 41:25	tells 33:2	36:23 38:1 39:24
situation 18:22	15:10 19:8 21:15	submitted 57:8,10	tempted 18:12	41:5,8 42:20 46:6
20:12 34:14 35:6	21:17 22:11,12	subsequent 39:19	tend 10:22	46:7 47:11,12
37:6 38:4,5,6	24:12,16,20 28:10	substantive 4:21	tendency 50:18,20	49:8,10 50:17
situations 19:18	30:18 31:10 32:6	7:3 23:22 24:1	term 16:4 24:11	51:21 52:24 55:16
34:12 36:6,7	32:11,15 33:7,18	sufficient 43:22	29:14	56:15
38:21 44:23	35:17,19 38:9,13	50:6,12	terms 12:25 52:10	theyre 5:11,12 6:11
slightest 25:17	39:6,10,12,17	suggest 33:21 40:8	test 3:18,22 4:9,11	11:8 12:2 14:14
slightly 31:3 44:7	43:23 44:7 48:16	suggested 6:25 16:4	4:13,22 5:21 6:12	15:3,3 40:16
slip 27:20	48:22,24 49:2	suggesting 12:8	8:9,12 15:18	52:20
solicitor 1:17 10:7	52:7	13:2	18:18,25 28:14,20	theyve 41:15 53:25
10:9 46:9,17	standards 11:2,11	supporting 1:19	28:21,23 33:15,21	thing 19:9 47:23
52:16	14:10 19:15 21:2	2:8 22:4	33:22 34:5,10	50:25 51:16
solitary 20:17	21:2 24:8	suppose 5:5,11	35:2,13,25 37:12	things 5:12 19:23
somebody 17:25	standing 5:16	17:20 35:14 38:16	39:20 45:22 46:10	43:25 49:14
30:4 34:25 54:11	start 42:17	supposed 16:2	47:13,25 49:23,23	think 4:3 8:2,2,7
someones 55:9	state 4:12 6:17	supreme 1:1,12	50:3 53:4,5,7,13	9:1,3,8 10:25
somethings 44:3	17:21 18:1,8,17	sure 16:8 21:7	53:17 54:4,17	12:16,22 14:12,12
sorry 7:23 9:24	30:19 38:24 39:5	31:15,18	55:4,5 56:8,10	17:14 18:4 19:3
41:5	39:6 56:14	system 25:1 41:18	tests 13:8 51:20	20:6,13 21:17
sort 20:18,19 22:13	stated 4:6,12,25	49:12	text 38:14	22:8 23:6,10,24
44:18 50:9	states 1:1,12,19 2:7		thank 21:11,14,25	24:5 25:24 26:13
sorts 19:22	22:3	T	33:8 54:20,24	27:20 28:6 29:13
sotomayor 7:23	status 25:1	t2:1,1	57:7	30:14,24 31:2,6
8:15 9:7,16,19,22	statutory 42:11	take 24:23 32:17	thatll 9:3	31:14 32:12 34:11
10:4 12:6,15,17	step 40:6 55:11	33:4 36:19 42:24	thats 4:3,20 5:9,20	35:1,2,17 36:2,15
12:20,25 19:13,20	stop 17:4,16 32:25	43:5 49:18,19	7:9 8:1,21 9:6,13	36:22 37:3,3,15

37:18 38:12 39:9	trial 10:24 19:10	unquestionable	51:16 52:2,6	20:10,24 21:4,6,8
39:12,16,24 40:4	32:14 35:18,21	57:3	53:24	21:11,14 54:21,22
40:6,24 42:2,7,10	40:21	unquestionably	value 45:21	54:24
42:14,15,16,16	tries 34:11	56:14	various 51:20	warden 26:21
		unrealistic 31:14	various 31.20 verdict 14:3 32:13	
43:14 44:5,6,16	true 11:25 37:20,21 37:22 40:25			washington 1:8,18 1:20
44:18,20,22,25		unreasonable	56:1,21	wasnt 20:23 25:16
45:2,3,6,7,11,12	try 17:4 19:5 34:24	12:11,13 13:19,22	verdicts 14:18	25:17 35:7,8
45:17,22 46:5,5	50:2,3	13:25 14:6,19 17:20,24 18:1	version 57:4	,
46:20,22 47:2,16	trying 8:16 17:1,3,9	,	versions 35:15	way 11:16 19:21 23:10 29:13 36:3
47:23,25 48:2,2	17:16,17 19:21	25:7 26:20 27:1	versus 6:17 7:13	
48:21,23,24,25	31:9 34:12 35:23	28:7 30:6 43:8	view 11:5 27:7,8	36:16,17 40:18
50:5,7,10,11,13	38:4,5 42:18,19	56:3	41:9	41:12 43:13 44:20
50:17,20,22 51:5	43:20 45:15 51:13	unreasonableness	violate 30:11	46:14 48:25 49:6
51:7,12,17,25	turns 19:7	40:1	violated 53:10	50:6,23 53:13,22
52:8 53:11,12,22	twice 37:8,9	unreasonably 13:18 14:22	violates 28:8	ways 47:16 55:12 55:16
54:6,6,7	two 10:11 14:10 22:10 25:25 42:24	unrelated 45:15	violation 3:19 4:18 37:19	
thinking 19:4 21:1 26:22 50:23 53:22	44:21 48:11 52:12			weakest 26:25
thinks 14:5 18:3		unruly 5:12 unusual 8:18 15:23	violence 12:8,9 35:25 36:1	weapon 3:15 weird 17:22,23
38:3	types 20:1 25:25	15:25 20:9 22:21	violent 44:2	18:7
third 32:21 56:17	U	24:9 31:7 32:8		wellestablished
thought 8:19 10:18	ultimate 46:23	unusually 32:4	voluntary 27:13	39:10
thousand 38:7	53:12,17	unwanted 20:8,15	$\overline{\mathbf{W}}$	wendy 1:15 2:3,13
threat 11:20	ultimately 47:22	upped 32:5	wait 25:4,4,4,4	3:7 54:22
three 32:20 55:14	unarmed 42:20	urge 3:16	waiting 19:10	weve 16:4 20:5
55:16	54:9	use 3:15 4:3,6,11	walk 31:23	41:9 45:22
throwing 5:12	understand 4:17	5:4 6:8,9 8:4,9	wall 9:3 12:23	whats 19:14 24:14
thumb 53:7	7:15 8:16 9:8	11:7 12:12 13:7	want 9:12 15:13	28:20 36:11
time 12:22 19:4	10:4 12:16 15:16	13:11,18,19,24	16:20 23:19 27:6	whit 42:20
20:17 21:4,13	16:24 44:11	14:22 15:2,22	31:24,25 46:8	whitley 22:19 39:13
31:25	understanding	17:12,18 20:21	53:3 55:11	40:7 42:17 48:3
times 16:2 36:24	39:4	25:2 26:25 27:23	wanted 13:9 48:13	54:7,8
45:20 50:8	understood 42:10	30:3,6,9,13,24	48:16	whos 17:16,17
told 17:25 50:25	unfamiliar 50:15	31:3 32:11 34:13	wantonness 22:20	34:25 42:19 43:3
tortification 6:19	unfolding 44:4	35:6,25 36:1,8	46:8	43:19 54:16
totally 17:2,24 19:8	uniformly 39:21	44:11,13,14 45:13	wants 39:19 40:7	whove 10:20
26:21	unique 48:4 50:8	55:19 56:11,17	ward 1:15 2:3,13	williams 27:20
tough 19:3	unitary 49:1	uses 16:15 18:1,21	3:6,7,9 4:5,20 5:9	willing 31:2
train 11:5	united 1:1,12,18	55:14	5:19 6:4,11,21 7:6	wilson 22:19
trained 11:3	2:7 22:3	utterly 43:7	7:9,12,19 8:2,7	win 47:25
training 10:19 11:2	unjustified 3:12		9:6,15,18,21,24	wis 1:15
trash 42:13	14:19	V	10:6,13,25 11:25	wisconsin 40:15
treated 4:4 41:12	unnecessarily 20:8	v 1:5 3:4 27:20	12:14,16,24 13:7	wish 37:14 45:4,5
41:22 43:12 47:15	unnecessary 8:25	35:17 36:13 39:12	13:21 14:12,24	wolfish 36:13 41:2
treating 39:15	12:9,11,13 13:3,4	39:17 43:19 45:2	15:8,17 16:1,11	42:10 47:3,10,18
treatment 38:6	36:1	47:3,9,9,17,24	16:22 18:16 19:15	47:24 51:17 52:2