1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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3	WALTER A. ROTHGERY, :
4	Petitioner :
5	v. : No. 07-440
6	GILLESPIE COUNTY, TEXAS. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Monday, March 17, 2008
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 11:06 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	DANIELLE SPINELLI, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf
16	of the Petitioner.
17	GREGORY S. COLEMAN, ESQ., Austin, Tex.; on behalf of
18	the Respondent.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:06 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will now hear
4	argument in Case 07-440, Rothgery v. Gillespie County,
5	Texas.
6	Ms. Spinelli.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF DANIELLE SPINELLI
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MS. SPINELLI: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	In Brewer and Jackson, this Court held that
12	an initial appearance before a magistrate like the one
13	here marks the commencement of a criminal prosecution
14	under the Sixth Amendment. This case demonstrates why
15	that holding makes eminent sense.
16	Rothgery was arrested on the erroneous
17	belief that he was a felon in possession of a firearm.
18	As required by the Texas Code, he was brought before a
19	magistrate, who informed him of the felony accusation
20	against him and required him to post bail or remain in
21	jail to ensure that he answered that accusation.
22	At that point, Rothgery acquired specific
23	rights under Texas law as the accused in a felony case,
24	including the right to have the prosecution against him
25	dismissed if an indictment or information were not filed

- 1 within a set period and the right to contest the
- 2 accusation against him prior to indictment in an
- 3 examining trial before the magistrate. At that point,
- 4 Rothgery was no longer merely a suspect, but an accused
- 5 within the meaning of the Sixth Amendment.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, how can
- 7 this -- how can this be part of an adversary proceeding
- 8 when there's no other adversary on the field? The
- 9 prosecution's not present. They don't even know
- 10 anything about this.
- 11 MS. SPINELLI: Mr. Chief Justice, this Court
- 12 held in Jackson that the question whether a particular
- 13 --
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, in Jackson of
- 15 course the charges had already been filed by the
- 16 prosecutor, so there was an adversary on the field.
- MS. SPINELLI: What I was going to say was
- 18 that there is a clear distinction which is set forth in
- 19 this Court's opinion in Jackson between the question
- 20 whether a particular proceeding initiates a criminal
- 21 prosecution and whether that proceeding itself is
- 22 adversarial in the sense that it requires the presence
- 23 of defense counsel.
- And, as to the first question, whether a
- 25 particular proceeding initiates a criminal prosecution,

- 1 this Court's cases have not held that prosecutorial
- 2 involvement is a relevant factor, and that --
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I suppose -- I
- 4 suppose you could you have an adversarial proceeding
- 5 without the prosecutor present, but it would depend on
- 6 the nature of the proceeding. And here the magistrate
- 7 simply advises the individual of the charges against
- 8 him, repeats the Miranda warnings, advises him that he
- 9 can have counsel if bail is denied or if he can't make
- 10 bail. What about that is adversarial?
- MS. SPINELLI: That's correct, Mr. Chief
- 12 Justice, and we don't contend that it is adversarial.
- 13 In Jackson, this Court made clear that a
- 14 proceeding need not itself be adversarial in the sense
- 15 that would require defense counsel to be present to
- 16 counter the adversary presentation of the prosecutor in
- 17 order for that proceeding to initiate a criminal
- 18 prosecution. Rather, it held that the initial
- 19 appearance itself, regardless of those other factors,
- 20 marked the commencement of a prosecution.
- 21 And it's worth noting that in Jackson
- 22 substantially the same arguments that Respondent raises
- 23 here were made by the State there. The State there
- 24 contended this initial appearance is merely an
- 25 administrative ministerial proceeding.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I guess I'll
2	get back to the point I raised earlier, that in Jackson
3	charges had already been filed by a prosecutor. The
4	prosecutor was aware of this proceeding. I think that's
5	a fairly significant distinction.
6	MS. SPINELLI: Well, the Court in Jackson
7	placed no weight on that distinction. That wasn't
8	something that was mentioned in Jackson. And what
9	happened in Jackson was that warrants were obtained, the
LO	defendants were arrested, and they were brought before a
L1	magistrate for this initial proceeding. There is no
L2	indication that the prosecutor was present at that
L3	initial proceeding. The Jackson court the Jackson
L4	court put no weight on that factor. And none of this
L5	Court's cases have ever stated that there is a
L6	requirement that a prosecutor be involved. And that
L7	makes sense, because the consequences of the initial
L8	appearance for the defendant are precisely the same
L9	whether or not a prosecutor is involved.
20	JUSTICE KENNEDY: But what we're looking for
21	here, at least one of the things we might look for in
22	this case, is a specific rule to give to the States so
23	the State knows when counsel has to be appointed.
24	In this case suppose the magistrate, the man
25	behind the little window, said: We're going to give you

- 1 a ticket; keep in touch with us; don't change your
- 2 address until you notify us; you're free on your own
- 3 recognizance. Would counsel have been required there?
- 4 MS. SPINELLI: Had there been no way in
- 5 which the defendant was bound to reappear and answer the
- 6 charges, then we would not have the situation that we
- 7 have, and it would seem less likely that that would
- 8 initiate a criminal proceeding. The factors that we
- 9 have here that make it clear that a prosecution was
- 10 initiated, just as it was in Jackson on identical facts
- 11 --
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Ms. Spinelli, there's
- 13 something confusing about your presentation of this,
- 14 because you say that at this initial appearance that's
- 15 called a magistration, you are not contending that there
- 16 was a right to counsel at that very proceeding.
- MS. SPINELLI: That's correct, Justice
- 18 Ginsburg.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So when, at what point in
- 20 time, did this right to counsel attach? If it didn't
- 21 attach during that magistration proceeding, when did it
- 22 attach?
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, first I should say I
- 24 believe that that question goes to Respondent's
- 25 alternative argument for affirmance. The only question

- 1 that was addressed by the Fifth Circuit and the only
- 2 question presented in the petition was the question
- 3 whether a criminal prosecution commenced at Rothgery's
- 4 magistration. And we are certainly not asking this
- 5 Court to direct the entry of judgment in our favor, but
- 6 merely --
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you are taking the
- 8 position that there was a right to counsel that attached
- 9 in this case. And I'm asking you at what point in time
- 10 that right attached.
- 11 MS. SPINELLI: We believe that -- well, this
- 12 Court's cases have made clear that the right to counsel
- 13 attaches at the time a criminal prosecution commences.
- 14 Now, the question whether counsel must then be appointed
- 15 immediately upon attachment is a separate question.
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: What does "attachment" mean?
- MS. SPINELLI: What "attachment" means under
- 18 this Court's cases is that since a criminal prosecution
- 19 has now begun, the explicit quarantees of the Sixth
- 20 Amendment are applicable, the State no longer -- the
- 21 State cannot interfere after that point with the
- 22 attorney-client relationship. At that point the
- 23 defendant has the right to counsel to serve as an
- 24 intermediary --
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: Well if Mr. Roth -- if your

- 1 client had shown up at the magistration with an
- 2 attorney, could the State of Texas have said, no, your
- 3 attorney may not be present during the magistration?
- 4 MS. SPINELLI: No, I don't believe so,
- 5 because --
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, does that mean that
- 7 the right attached prior to the magistration?
- 8 MS. SPINELLI: We believe that the right
- 9 attached at the magistration.
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: At the beginning, at the
- 11 end?
- 12 MS. SPINELLI: Upon the magistration.
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: What does that mean?
- MS. SPINELLI: So perhaps -- so at the
- 15 end -- I suppose I would say at the end, once --
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: Then why could Texas have
- 17 said your attorney -- why could Texas have not said,
- 18 although you came here with an attorney, your attorney
- 19 may not be present because you don't have a Sixth
- 20 Amendment right to counsel at the magistration? Your
- 21 right hasn't attached yet. It won't attach until the
- 22 end.
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, I believe that it would
- 24 attach at the time that the magistrate informed the
- 25 defendant of the accusation against him, at which point

- 1 he became a defendant in a criminal case and his right
- 2 to counsel attached.
- Now, to get back to Justice Ginsburg's
- 4 question, whether -- whether counsel is required to be
- 5 appointed immediately upon attachment is a separate
- 6 issue, which is the subject of Respondent's alternative
- 7 ground for affirmance. We are merely asking this Court
- 8 to resolve the threshold question, which is the
- 9 threshold question in every right to counsel case, did a
- 10 criminal prosecution commence at Rothgery's
- 11 magistration?
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The two are kind of
- 13 related. If in fact there's not a right to counsel upon
- 14 the magistration, but, as you said earlier to Justice
- 15 Alito, it attaches at the end of the magistration, it
- 16 seems to me like you're asking for counsel to be an
- 17 investigator rather than to participate in the trial
- 18 proceedings.
- MS. SPINELLI: No, I don't believe so, Your
- 20 Honor. This Court has said that a defendant does not
- 21 have a right for a lawyer to act as a pre-charge private
- 22 investigator. But our contention is that Rothgery was
- 23 charged at his magistration. At that point he became an
- 24 accused, which is demonstrated by the structure of the
- 25 Texas Code itself.

- 1 JUSTICE KENNEDY: How is that different from
- 2 a traffic ticket?
- 3 MS. SPINELLI: It's very different from a
- 4 traffic ticket, Justice Kennedy, because in that
- 5 situation -- I think that situation would be analogous
- 6 to a warrantless arrest, which, as we know, does not
- 7 commence adversary judicial proceedings. Here, we have
- 8 an arrest. We have a person who has been held for a
- 9 period of time --
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So it's the warrant that
- 11 makes the difference?
- MS. SPINELLI: No, I don't believe so. I
- 13 believe it's the magistration.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Or the incarceration.
- 15 Would your case be different if after the magistration
- 16 the -- your client was free to go? The court said, you
- 17 know, this is what you've been arrested for and charged
- 18 with by the policeman who brought you in; we'll -- you
- 19 know, good-bye. Whereas in this case, he was required
- 20 to make bail. Suppose he hadn't been required to make
- 21 bail, supposing he was free to go?
- MS. SPINELLI: If he had not been required
- 23 to make bail or make any other binding promise to
- 24 appear, which is the function of bail, to ensure that
- 25 the defendant will answer the accusation --

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: Right.
- MS. SPINELLI: -- then we would be lacking
- 3 that piece of evidence that he had been accused. There
- 4 still would remain other evidence under Texas law that
- 5 he was, in fact, an accused at that time.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: So Texas -- assuming we
- 7 agree with that, Texas made one of two possible
- 8 constitutional violations. Either it was
- 9 unconstitutional for Texas to require him to make bail,
- 10 or it was unconstitutional for Texas not to provide him
- 11 with an attorney. Why should -- why should we find that
- 12 the latter was the problem rather than the former?
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, there is certainly
- 14 nothing unconstitutional about requiring bail, as we
- 15 know.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, there certainly is if
- 17 you're not charged. I think it's a very strong point in
- 18 your favor that he was required to make bail, because I
- 19 don't think you can hold somebody without charging him,
- 20 just say, you know --
- 21 MS. SPINELLI: Well, we -- I mean, we --
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: The fact -- the fact that
- 23 he was held suggests that he was charged with something.
- MS. SPINELLI: We agree, Justice Scalia. In
- 25 fact, the Texas Code expressly recognizes that the

- 1 function of bail is to ensure that the --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Sure.
- 3 MS. SPINELLI: -- accused will answer the
- 4 accusation against him.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: So maybe, maybe Texas was
- 6 wrong about that, that it shouldn't have required bail.
- 7 Maybe that was what was unconstitutional, rather than
- 8 its failure to provide counsel.
- 9 MS. SPINELLI: Well, what occurred here,
- 10 however, was that Texas did require Mr. Rothgery to post
- 11 bail. And in addition, the magistration gave rise to
- 12 certain specific rights, which only accrued to
- 13 defendants in criminal prosecutions.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- that a magistrate is
- 15 required whenever bail is set -- pardon me, that an
- 16 attorney is required whenever bail is set?
- MS. SPINELLI: We're not contending that an
- 18 attorney was required.
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: The rule is -- I want to
- 20 know, what do we tell Texas it has to do in all these
- 21 cases? What do we tell jurisdictions that have to deal
- 22 with traffic tickets? Does it make a difference that
- 23 you're held in custody or not held in custody? I don't
- 24 understand the rule you want us to adopt.
- 25 MS. SPINELLI: I think the rule -- we're

- 1 actually not asking the Court to adopt any new rule
- 2 today, but simply to reaffirm the rule it has already
- 3 announced in Brewer and Jackson, which is that an
- 4 initial appearance before a magistrate, which is a
- 5 proceeding that is common across jurisdictions and has a
- 6 common significance across jurisdictions, a proceeding
- 7 at which a magistrate informs the defendant officially
- 8 of the accusation against him and of his rights as a
- 9 criminal defendant --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: But when do you say counsel
- 11 has to be appointed? Is it before the magistration? Is
- 12 it at the end, immediately upon the end of it?
- MS. SPINELLI: No, we believe --
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: What if -- what if an
- 15 attorney had been appointed here ten days after the
- 16 magistration?
- 17 MS. SPINELLI: Our contention is that an
- 18 attorney was required to be appointed promptly after
- 19 Rothgery renewed his request for an attorney following
- 20 the magistration.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Okay, so the --
- MS. SPINELLI: And this Court --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: What is the -- so the point
- 24 of the magistration is that is the point at which a
- 25 reasonable time starts running within which Texas must

- 1 afford -- appoint counsel, isn't that your basic point?
- 2 MS. SPINELLI: Correct, Justice Souter.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: Okay.
- 4 MS. SPINELLI: That's our contention.
- 5 JUSTICE SOUTER: So there's no claim that
- 6 there was anything invalid about the magistration
- 7 proceeding --
- MS. SPINELLI: Not at all.
- 10 no counsel there.
- 11 MS. SPINELLI: No, not at all.
- 12 JUSTICE SOUTER: There's no claim -- for
- 13 example, had there been a probable cause hearing, that
- 14 the attorney would have been required to participate in
- 15 the probable cause hearing under --
- MS. SPINELLI: No.
- 17 JUSTICE SOUTER: There has simply got to be
- 18 one appointed within a reasonable time after the
- 19 magistration. That's -- that's your argument?
- MS. SPINELLI: That's correct.
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: Is there any law on that?
- 22 Is there -- suppose there's an indictment and the
- 23 defendant finds out about it; he's never arrested;
- 24 nothing further happens; weeks pass. Now, is there any
- 25 law that tells me -- it's an indictment, that's clear --

- 1 and is there any law that tells me, when he requests a
- 2 counsel be appointed, when they have to do it?
- 3 MS. SPINELLI: Justice Breyer, this Court
- 4 has not been faced with the question --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: So the answer is no.
- 6 MS. SPINELLI: Right.
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: What happens -- what
- 8 happens if -- the part that's worrying and I don't know
- 9 how people handle it -- a riot. A big sit-in. A big
- 10 demonstration, 500 people arrested, they are brought
- 11 down to the station, bail is posted the next day, the
- 12 U.S. attorney or the D.A. thinks: I'm going to indict
- 13 the ringleaders, and the rest -- you know, the rest we
- 14 are just going to let go; they will forfeit their bond.
- 15 How is that handled? How is it handled under your rule?
- 16 How is that handled generally? How should it be
- 17 handled?
- 18 MS. SPINELLI: How is it handled with
- 19 respect to the persons who were indicted?
- JUSTICE BREYER: No. No. That's easy.
- 21 MS. SPINELLI: Or how is it --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean -- I'm talking about
- 23 the people who nobody ever intends to prosecute. What's
- 24 going to happen, as I think happens quite often, they
- 25 are brought to the station, they are arrested, they are

- 1 released on bond, and then everybody forgets about it.
- 2 MS. SPINELLI: If there are --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Or they're -- or the D.A.
- 4 says, you know, forfeit -- like a traffic ticket or
- 5 something -- forfeit your bond. And I want to know how
- 6 that's handled under your rule, how is it handled now,
- 7 how is it handled in the -- discuss it, please.
- 8 MS. SPINELLI: If a person is arrested,
- 9 brought to the station house, and then released prior to
- 10 the initial appearance, which is actually a --
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, you see what I'm
- 12 doing. I'm trying to make it comparable. What happens
- there is that these 500 people brought down to the
- 14 station, they are required to put up bail; they are
- 15 given a warning because people might question them; they
- 16 are given a warning; they are then released. And
- 17 nothing further is heard. Maybe three months later,
- 18 they come in and they agree that they'll forfeit their
- 19 bond.
- Now, that's what I'm wondering. That must
- 21 happen, because I think there are lots of
- 22 demonstrations; they occur sometimes. I suspect it
- 23 happens. How is it handled, if you know?
- MS. SPINELLI: It happens quite frequently,
- 25 Justice Breyer, that persons are arrested, brought to

- 1 the station house, and then released by the police
- 2 without undergoing an initial appearance. And in that
- 3 circumstance, we don't contend that a prosecution would
- 4 have begun.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why not, if they
- 6 initiate charges against them? You're saying, in
- 7 Justice Breyer's hypothetical, you're charged with, for
- 8 example, trespassing or conducting a demonstration on
- 9 the court grounds, and that's a crime. You're charged
- 10 with that, but we are not going to hold you, so, you
- 11 know, come back in a month.
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, it -- it might depend
- on the manner in which the charges are conveyed or
- 14 filed. If all that happens is that the police tell you,
- 15 you know, we believe you've committed a crime, certainly
- 16 that doesn't commence a prosecution. If there is a
- 17 formal -- you know, as happens in misdemeanor
- 18 prosecutions, if there is a formal complaint filed which
- 19 can be the basis for a conviction in a misdemeanor case.
- 20 then it may be that, by analogy to an indictment in a
- 21 felony case, a prosecution would commence at that point.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, what about my
- 23 traffic ticket?
- MS. SPINELLI: I don't believe --
- 25 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I've never had one so I

- 1 don't know what they say.
- 2 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Other members of the Court
- 4 can advise me about that.
- 5 MS. SPINELLI: I believe -- I believe a
- 6 ticket or a citation of that nature would not commence
- 7 adversary judicial proceedings because it's analogous to
- 8 a warrantless arrest.
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why doesn't it solve your
- 10 -- the problem that you're obviously wrestling with, if
- 11 -- if we simply said there is a right to counsel, but it
- 12 doesn't attach until there's a significant stage of the
- 13 prosecution which then follows? I mean, if you have
- 14 some proceeding afterwards, yes, then you do need a
- 15 lawyer, but the mere fact that you've been brought to
- 16 the courthouse and made bail and let go does not require
- 17 500 counsel to be provided. Only -- only when there is
- 18 some later proceeding, which is an essential part of the
- 19 prosecution, must you have counsel.
- MS. SPINELLI: Well --
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why wouldn't that solve the
- 22 problem?
- MS. SPINELLI: First of all, we agree that a
- 24 prosecution commences upon a first appearance before a
- 25 judge --

- JUSTICE SCALIA: That's fine, but -
 MS. SPINELLI: Not merely --
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: But you only need counsel
- 4 at significant phases.
- 5 MS. SPINELLI: Oh, right. And we are not
- 6 contending that counsel must be present at that initial
- 7 appearance itself.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Right.
- 9 MS. SPINELLI: So just to be clear about
- 10 that. But to address your question, which, again, I
- 11 believe goes to Respondent's alternative ground for
- 12 affirmance --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, but it's so wrapped up
- 14 with how we decide this case. I mean, if I think that
- 15 counsel has to be appointed right away for -- for
- 16 Justice Breyer's 500 demonstrators, I'm going to give a
- 17 different answer to the first question. But if I know
- 18 that counsel doesn't have to be appointed until the
- 19 prosecution proceeds to some significant phase where an
- 20 attorney would be -- would be really helpful, then --
- 21 then I can -- I can be quite more sympathetic to your --
- 22 to your argument.
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, were the Court to reach
- 24 that alternative argument, which is that -- despite the
- 25 fact that a criminal prosecution had commenced, and

- 1 Rothgery was an accused, by hypothesis he nevertheless
- 2 was not entitled to the assistance of counsel for his
- 3 defense because no critical stage had been reached -- we
- 4 would say, first of all, assuming that Respondent is
- 5 correct, that the right to counsel lies dormant
- 6 following its attachment on the commencement of a
- 7 criminal prosecution until some subsequent critical
- 8 stage is reached, if we assume that that is correct,
- 9 there was such a stage here because Mr. Rothgery was
- 10 faced with the decision whether or not to invoke his
- 11 right to an examining trial.
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But that was at the
- 13 magistration, and you -- you have said that there was no
- 14 right to counsel at the magistration.
- 15 MS. SPINELLI: That's correct, Justice
- 16 Ginsburg, but his decision regarding the examining trial
- 17 was not one that needed to be made at the magistration.
- 18 Rather, this was a right that he possessed to contest
- 19 the accusation against him under Texas law, which could
- 20 only be exercised prior to indictment. And, indeed, it
- 21 was a --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Any time prior -- any
- 23 time prior to indictment?
- 24 MS. SPINELLI: Correct. And, indeed --
- 25 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So you're saying that

- 1 that is the critical stage that he needed to have
- 2 counsel's advice about.
- 3 MS. SPINELLI: To the extent that it's
- 4 necessary to have a critical stage, then we believe that
- 5 is a critical stage.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: And that stage would arise
- 7 immediately as soon as the magistration was completed,
- 8 right?
- 9 MS. SPINELLI: His right --
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: He'd have to have counsel
- 11 appointed immediately --
- MS. SPINELLI: Well --
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- to advise him whether to
- 14 ask for this hearing or not.
- 15 MS. SPINELLI: Not necessarily immediately,
- 16 but within some reasonable time after his request, and
- 17 after he had demonstrated --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Before he said no, I
- 19 don't want an examining trial. As soon as he says that,
- 20 then he can have one, and you're saying he should have
- 21 had a lawyer before he said that?
- MS. SPINELLI: Well, I mean, had he said --
- 23 had he waived his right to an examining trial, which he
- 24 didn't do, then, you know, under -- then we would not
- 25 have --

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But he could do it;
- 2 anyone else could do it. And you would say, once he
- 3 does that, he's made it into a critical proceeding, and
- 4 so you have to have counsel before he gives up that
- 5 right?
- 6 MS. SPINELLI: Yes. We're contending that
- 7 in felony cases -- this is only an issue in felony cases
- 8 -- because Texas has provided this right, which is
- 9 precisely for defendants in Rothgery's situation, who
- 10 are innocent but --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, then -- but
- 12 then you are saying that he has a right to counsel at
- 13 the magistration, because that's when the magistrate
- 14 says: Look, you have an examining trial coming up, and
- 15 you can waive your right to that.
- 16 MS. SPINELLI: No. That's actually not
- 17 correct, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What does he say
- 19 about the examining --
- MS. SPINELLI: At a magistration --
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What does he say
- 22 about an examining --
- MS. SPINELLI: Precisely what he said and
- 24 what appears on the warning form is: In a felony case,
- 25 you have a right to an examining trial. There is no

- 1 provision at the magistration for the defendant to
- 2 either invoke or waive that right. And there's no
- 3 indication that any further explanation of that right is
- 4 given.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Do you know any other case
- 6 in which we've held that it's a critical stage of the
- 7 proceeding where nothing has happened, but something
- 8 could have happened if the defendant had asked for it?
- 9 MS. SPINELLI: Well, we're not contending
- 10 that.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't -- I find it hard
- 12 to describe that as a critical stage of the proceeding.
- MS. SPINELLI: We're not contending that,
- 14 Justice Scalia. Our contention is that the examining
- 15 trial, this Court has already held in Coleman, is a
- 16 critical stage.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: When the trial occurs, it
- 18 is a critical stage.
- 19 MS. SPINELLI: Correct. Correct.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: I have no doubt.
- MS. SPINELLI: And --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: But you're claiming that
- 23 his decision of whether to ask for that or not is a
- 24 critical stage. And I just don't know any precedent for
- 25 saying that something that hasn't happened is a critical

- 1 stage.
- 2 MS. SPINELLI: I think the strongest
- 3 precedent for that is Estelle versus Smith, in which
- 4 this Court held that counsel -- counsel's assistance is
- 5 needed not only to conduct and prepare for critical
- 6 stages, but also to assist a defendant in deciding
- 7 whether to undergo them.
- And more broadly, this Court has repeatedly
- 9 stated that one of the core purposes of the right to
- 10 counsel is to ensure that the defendant understands and
- 11 is able to invoke all of his rights. And in this case,
- 12 this was the right that he possessed that could have
- 13 enabled him to demonstrate his innocence prior to being
- 14 indicted, rearrested, and incarcerated. And he lost
- 15 that right because he didn't have counsel's help.
- 16 With the Court's permission, I'll reserve
- 17 the balance of my time.
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I know -- when we were
- 19 talking about traffic tickets, you said, well, that was
- 20 a warrantless arrest. This was a warrantless arrest.
- 21 MS. SPINELLI: This was a warrantless
- 22 arrest, but following that --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: And then --
- 24 MS. SPINELLI: But there was more, because
- 25 following that, there was -- the magistration occurred,

- 1 at which time the police officer filed an affidavit
- 2 setting forth the basis of the charges. The magistrate
- 3 found probable cause, and the magistrate officially
- 4 informed Rothgery of the accusation against him. And
- 5 that's why -- that's why -- in Kirby, this Court held
- 6 this a warrantless arrest does not commence adversary
- 7 judicial proceedings; in Jackson, on exactly these
- 8 facts, the Court held that it does.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, not exactly
- 10 these facts, because in Jackson the prosecutor had
- 11 already filed charges.
- 12 MS. SPINELLI: Charges were filed in Jackson
- in exactly the same sense that charges were filed here.
- 14 A document which contained basically simply a factual
- 15 statement of what had occurred --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But the prosecutor
- 17 wasn't involved here. The prosecutor was involved in
- 18 Jackson.
- MS. SPINELLI: That's correct, but we don't
- 20 believe that should make any difference because the
- 21 effect on the Defendant of this proceeding is precisely
- 22 the same, whether or not a prosecutor is involved. And
- 23 that's true in general and it's true under Texas law.
- 24 Either way he's faced with a need to negotiate criminal
- 25 law in order to contest the charges against him. He has

- 1 a right to do so under Texas law, and he has a right to
- 2 have the prosecution against him dismissed if an
- 3 indictment isn't filed within a set period. All of
- 4 which we believe demonstrate that he was accused and
- 5 that a prosecution had commenced.
- 6 May I reserve the balance of my time?
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes. Thank you,
- 8 counsel.
- 9 Mr. Coleman.
- 10 ORAL ARGUMENT OF GREGORY S. COLEMAN
- 11 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
- MR. COLEMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chief
- 13 Justice, and may it please the Court:
- 14 The magistration that follows every Texas
- 15 arrest does not begin a criminal prosecution under the
- 16 Sixth Amendment. When Rothgery was magistrated, no
- 17 formal charges had been filed against him; no one
- 18 attempted to elicit incriminating information from him;
- 19 no witnesses were presented --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Then how could they hold
- 21 them in jail?
- MR. COLEMAN: It is not uncommon -- in fact,
- 23 it's universal practice that when one is arrested on a
- 24 -- without a warrant, it is normally because a police
- 25 officer sees an individual in the commission of a crime.

- 1 It's not uncommon to go and to arrest that person, to
- 2 cease the crime that is taking place and perhaps to
- 3 prevent other crimes from taking place, and to present
- 4 them. Gerstein makes clear that this happens all of the
- 5 time.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: What happens in Texas?
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: He was held after he saw
- 8 the magistrate. Suppose he had been held for three
- 9 months and you couldn't make bail, we don't need
- 10 counsel?
- 11 MR. COLEMAN: Texas statute allows for
- 12 counsel under that situation. But this is an issue that
- is addressed primarily by the Fourth Amendment.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: I am asking what the
- 15 constitutional rule is.
- MR. COLEMAN: The Fourth --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: We have here a proceeding
- 18 before a magistrate; this results in custody. And my
- 19 question is, suppose this were weeks, would counsel be
- 20 required to be appointed?
- 21 MR. COLEMAN: No, Your Honor. The Fourth --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: What authority do you have
- 23 to hold somebody who's not been charged? I mean I don't
- 24 understand that. You say he hasn't been charged, but
- 25 we're going to hold you in jail. That's very strange.

- 1 MR. COLEMAN: We believe that this is an
- 2 issue that was addressed by the Court in Gerstein and
- 3 McLaughlin, that the Fourth Amendment prevents
- 4 unreasonable seizures and the Sixth Amendment speedy
- 5 trial rights kick in. And so there is a limit on what
- 6 type of a seizure that can you have.
- 7 And the Fourth Amendment does prevent that,
- 8 as do other rights, and as the Court recognized in
- 9 Gouveia. But the liberty interest that is at stake
- 10 there, as the Court said in Gouveia, is not one that
- 11 implicates the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. If
- 12 there are other --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: What you're saying, in
- 14 answer to Justice Kennedy's question, that an individual
- 15 can be brought into court, held in jail for three weeks
- 16 without charge, and no right to counsel applies? I
- 17 think that's your answer, but I want to make sure. I'll
- 18 be candid to say I'm surprised. But if that's your
- 19 position, I want to make sure I understand it.
- 20 MR. COLEMAN: Gerstein says that there must
- 21 be --
- JUSTICE SOUTER: I want to know what your
- 23 answer is here. Get to authority later, but I want to
- 24 know whether your position is that an individual may be
- 25 brought by a police officer before a magistrate, charged

- 1 with no crime, required to post bail, and if he doesn't
- 2 post bail, be held for three weeks without charge.
- 3 MR. COLEMAN: That could not happen in
- 4 Texas.
- 5 JUSTICE SOUTER: I'm not asking whether it
- 6 could happen; I'm asking whether it would be
- 7 constitutional without appointing counsel.
- MR. COLEMAN: It would be -- not be a
- 9 violation of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But it would be a
- 11 violation of some liberty interest beside the Sixth
- 12 Amendment.
- MR. COLEMAN: It might well be a violation
- 14 of the Fourth Amendment or other Sixth Amendment --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: No counsel right would
- 16 attach?
- 17 No counsel right would attach?
- 18 MR. COLEMAN: That's correct.
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: I think it's a problem even
- 20 if you appoint counsel. You say you can keep people
- 21 without charging them so long as you give them counsel?
- MR. COLEMAN: It happens all the time,
- 23 Justice Scalia, where people are appointed counsel but,
- 24 for whatever reason, do not make bail and --
- JUSTICE BREYER: But they didn't -- they

- 1 don't --
- 2 JUSTICE SOUTER: Without charges filed? In
- 3 other words, if the lawyer comes in and says, you know,
- 4 my client is sitting in jail, you've had him there for
- 5 three days now, and no complaint has been filed against
- 6 him, we don't know why he is being held -- your answer
- 7 -- the -- it's a constitutional answer to say, well, you
- 8 know, that's for us to know and you to find out?
- 9 (Laughter.)
- 10 MR. COLEMAN: I think Gerstein would prevent
- 11 that, Justice Souter.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I mean, the answer
- 13 -- your answer is that the Sixth Amendment is concerned
- 14 with the fair trial, not the detention of individuals,
- 15 and he has other constitutional rights that would be
- 16 implicated, but his right to a fair trial is not one of
- 17 them.
- 18 MR. COLEMAN: That's absolutely true here.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: What is the law here in
- 20 Texas in respect to this particular magistration
- 21 proceeding? I noticed what happened is that the
- 22 magistrate tells the person arrested, he says precisely:
- 23 "I find probable cause to believe" that you -- "that
- 24 there was probable cause to arrest you." That's what
- 25 they say, right? It said: "I have determined that

- 1 probable cause existed for the arrest of the individual
- 2 accused therein."
- 3 All right. Now, what happens -- and I think
- 4 it would be helpful to know the answer to this -- in
- 5 what might be a rare instance, but the truth of the
- 6 matter is there was probable cause to arrest that
- 7 individual when he was arrested, but there isn't now.
- 8 So because he came in -- you know, he said here's 14
- 9 cousins, I was somewhere else at the time, they all
- 10 agree. I mean, everybody agrees on a certain fact that
- 11 means there isn't now. And what I'm driving at is does
- 12 the magistrate here -- is he required, does he have the
- 13 power to commit someone, even though he honestly
- 14 believes there is no longer probable cause, in which
- 15 case he is making the decision, the magistrate, not the
- 16 policeman?
- 17 MR. COLEMAN: I don't know the answer to the
- 18 constitutional significance of the different --
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: I could -- I can think
- 20 there would be tremendous constitutional significance
- 21 and it would make a difference if all that's really
- 22 happening is a policeman is arresting someone, in which
- 23 case we might have liberty interests and others at
- 24 issue. But what's happening in this proceeding is that
- 25 the magistrate is deciding that there is probable cause

- 1 to hold him, in which case it's more like, not
- 2 completely like, but more like what happens in an
- 3 indictment or an arraignment, et cetera.
- 4 MR. COLEMAN: What is stated on the form --
- 5 certainly I can't say what was going through the
- 6 magistrate's mind.
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. But I want to know
- 8 what's Texas law, if you know it, in respect to that
- 9 question?
- 10 MR. COLEMAN: The answer I believe is that
- 11 you -- that you find that there is probable cause to
- 12 make the arrest.
- JUSTICE BREYER: So we have a magistrate who
- 14 has to find that there is -- no, to make the arrest or
- 15 to hold him now? Do you see what I'm doing?
- 16 MR. COLEMAN: I do see what you're doing.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Do you see why I'm doing
- 18 it? So, what's the answer, if you know?
- 19 MR. COLEMAN: I don't think that there is a
- 20 difference in this case. I think --
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, I know there may not
- 22 be, but what about in general.
- MR. COLEMAN: Magistrates have a great
- 24 amount of discretion, and I think if a magistrate was
- 25 convinced that probable cause existed at the time of

- 1 arrest and not now, it's quite likely the magistrate
- 2 would find --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. That's what I would
- 4 think. In which case we have before us bringing this
- 5 person before a State official who himself has the power
- 6 to decide if there is probable cause to hold him, and he
- 7 is saying, yes, there is probable cause to hold him.
- 8 That's -- that's what's happening; is that right?
- 9 MR. COLEMAN: I believe so. That's exactly
- 10 what the Court required in Gerstein, Your Honor.
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: Thank you.
- 12 JUSTICE STEVENS: Mr. Coleman, may I just
- 13 ask this kind of simple question. If the prosecutor had
- 14 participated in the magistration, then under Texas law
- 15 would the right to counsel have arisen?
- 16 MR. COLEMAN: No, Justice Stevens.
- JUSTICE STEVENS: Whether the prosecutor
- 18 participates is not relevant?
- 19 MR. COLEMAN: There is no role for a
- 20 prosecutor at a magistration under Article 1517 of the
- 21 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, couldn't he
- 23 point out -- I mean, if this is a probable cause
- 24 determination and he knows a particular fact, couldn't
- 25 he say, well, Magistrate, you should know this, and the

- 1 magistrate would say, well, I didn't know that, so
- 2 there's no probable cause?
- 3 MR. COLEMAN: That's possible.
- 4 And I would like to amend my answer to you,
- 5 Justice Stevens. It's not at all uncommon -- once an
- 6 arrest takes place and an officer can go and present a
- 7 case to the county or district attorney, it's not
- 8 uncommon at all for charges then to be filed in the --
- 9 depending on what the crime, is in the district court or
- 10 county court, and for the magistration then to be moved
- 11 over and to take place in an official court. And so at
- 12 that time, it could very well be.
- 13 And we would say -- we would say likely at
- 14 that point that, yes, that formal criminal judicial
- 15 proceedings had initiated, and it's not uncommon. But
- 16 in this circumstance --
- 17 JUSTICE STEVENS: What about the very
- 18 proceeding in this case? Supposing instead of a
- 19 detective bringing in the affidavit, that the prosecutor
- 20 did it, had the detective's affidavit, and the
- 21 prosecutor said: This is a case we intend to pursue
- 22 more seriously. That's all he says to the judge. Would
- 23 have that been sufficient?
- MR. COLEMAN: No, Justice Stevens.
- JUSTICE STEVENS: It would not?

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1	MR. COLEMAN: An expression of subjective
2	JUSTICE STEVENS: I got the impression from
3	the briefs that the absence or presence of the
4	prosecutor made a difference. But you're telling me I'm
5	wrong under that?
6	MR. COLEMAN: Under the circumstances where
7	no formal charges have been brought, a statement by a
8	prosecutor that they are looking at it or that they
9	intend to bring some is not itself the initiation of
10	formal adversary judicial proceedings.
11	JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. Coleman, what happens
12	in other jurisdictions? I probably ought to know this,
13	but I don't. Maybe you do. When you don't have a
14	procedure called magistration, but someone is taken
15	before a magistrate and with the prosecutor present, is
16	the indictment at that point drawn up, or doesn't the
17	doesn't the prosecutor have some time to decide what the
18	indictment ought to contain? What what happens at
19	that point?
20	MR. COLEMAN: An indictment does usually
21	take a little bit more time because it has to be taken
22	and presented to a grand jury.
23	JUSTICE SCALIA: So what happens in the

25 he just held because he is going to be charged, which is

24

interim? Is he -- is he charged in the interim, or is

- 1 what's going on here.
- 2 MR. COLEMAN: He is not charged during that
- 3 interim. But you can have --
- 4 JUSTICE SOUTER: You mean no complaint needs
- 5 to be filed by the police? If the magistrate says,
- 6 what's this guy doing here, don't the police normally
- 7 have a complaint, in this case a -- what was it, a
- 8 possession of a gun by a felon, say, you know, we're
- 9 filing this complaint that charges him with possessing a
- 10 qun with a felony record? And wasn't there such a
- 11 complaint displayed here?
- 12 MR. COLEMAN: No, Justice Souter. Texas
- 13 statutes do allow for the filing of a complaint in some
- 14 circumstances. It's not frequently used. But that's a
- 15 complaint that has to be filed in the district court or
- 16 in the justice of the peace court.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What was filed by the
- 18 police? What was filed by the police --
- MR. COLEMAN: Nothing was filed.
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- to justify holding
- 21 this person? You can't just say the police brought
- 22 someone in and they get locked up in jail. The police
- 23 had to present something --
- MR. COLEMAN: Yes.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- to show probable cause

- 1 and it was the burden of the State in the presence of
- 2 the police officer to prove probable cause. So that had
- 3 to be based on something. What was it based on?
- 4 MR. COLEMAN: It was based on the officer's
- 5 affidavit of probable cause, which was presented at the
- 6 little glass window to the magistrate and --
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And then -- and then the
- 8 defendant was told or was given Miranda warnings. What
- 9 was said to him precisely about right to counsel in the
- 10 warnings that the magistrate gave him?
- MR. COLEMAN: Well, the warnings go through.
- 12 They are very similar to Miranda warnings. He is told
- 13 that he has a right to counsel under Texas statute for
- 14 this. He is -- he is warned, as Ms. Spinelli said,
- 15 about examining trial. There is a list of things --
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes. But if he is
- 17 told -- the defendant is listening to this. And,
- 18 magistrate, you just told me I have a right to counsel.
- 19 Okay, I would like counsel. And then the magistrate
- 20 says, no you're not entitled to counsel?
- 21 MR. COLEMAN: I don't think that's what
- 22 would happen. I think if he had insisted on counsel
- 23 being present for the bail portion of the 1517
- 24 magistration, I believe that they would have gotten
- 25 somebody to come and --

1	JUSTICE SOUTER: Would they have been
2	obligated to get somebody to come?
3	MR. COLEMAN: Under Texas statute they
4	would.
5	JUSTICE SOUTER: Under the Sixth Amendment?
6	MR. COLEMAN: No.
7	JUSTICE SOUTER: No.
8	JUSTICE ALITO: Suppose Texas law provided
9	that there had to be an examining trial within a certain
LO	period of time after the magistration unless there was
L1	an intervening indictment. Then would you not agree
L2	that under those circumstances the defendant would have
L3	been entitled to the appointment of counsel shortly
L4	after the magistration, at least in order to prepare for
L5	the examining trial?
L6	MR. COLEMAN: We completely agree that if
L7	that were the case, Coleman this Court's decisions
L8	make absolutely clear he would have been entitled to
L9	counsel for an examining trial and would have been we
20	would have been obligated and would have appointed
21	counsel at a reasonable time before that examining trial
22	so that the preparations could take place.
23	JUSTICE ALITO: Why would the situation be
24	different simply because Texas law doesn't require the
25	examining trial but gives the defendant the option of

- 1 demanding one?
- 2 MR. COLEMAN: Because there is no prejudice
- 3 to your fair trial rights from not choosing to have an
- 4 examining trial. We are unaware of any case that has
- 5 said that there is a Sixth Amendment right to consult
- 6 with counsel before deciding whether to ask for an
- 7 examining trial. And in fact, in Texas they are very
- 8 rare because in the very unusual circumstances where
- 9 somebody asks for one, more often than not the
- 10 prosecutor will simply hurry up and do an indictment.
- 11 And so there will be no examining trial that takes
- 12 place. And that's a put up or shut up procedure, but
- 13 it's not something that prejudices your fair trial
- 14 rights if no examining trial actually takes place.
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: If we said that when a
- 16 defendant is ordered held in custody, that there is then
- 17 a right of counsel, would we be contradicting any of our
- 18 precedents as opposed, say, to extending them?
- 19 MR. COLEMAN: I certainly do believe that
- 20 the court would. I believe that a decision that the
- 21 right attaches, that there is an initiation of formal
- 22 judicial proceedings at the magistration, would
- 23 contradict not only Kirby, but also Gerstein and
- 24 Gouveia.
- 25 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well -- no. But my

- 1 assumption was assuming that the defendant is remanded
- 2 to custody. I added that.
- 3 MR. COLEMAN: It's not clear to me that that
- 4 makes a constitutional difference in our circumstances.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Suppose you were to say
- 6 that where the State arrests an individual, brings him
- 7 before a neutral official and intends and does impose a
- 8 significant restraint on his liberty for the purpose of
- 9 bringing that individual to trial, there is a
- 10 presumption that that -- forget the presumption. If
- 11 that happens for the purpose, the primary purpose,
- 12 primary purpose of bringing the individual to trial, at
- 13 that point the Sixth Amendment right attaches.
- Now, the State would not have to give him a
- 15 lawyer if there was some other purpose primary, for
- 16 example, as in Gouveia, keeping the prisons safe.
- 17 For example, it's quite clear under the
- 18 circumstances, there are 14 people accused, they
- 19 couldn't have all have done it, they want to investigate
- 20 further. Or maybe there are other examples. But, for
- 21 the primary purpose, then the right attaches.
- So you pick up Gerstein and add to Gerstein
- 23 that additional requirement. What about that? What
- 24 harm would that cause? What inconvenience would it
- 25 cause, what difficulties, et cetera?

MR. COLEMAN: I I think the primary issue
with that, Justice Breyer, is that it contradicts what
the Court said in Gouveia. The Court went through a
lengthy exegesis in Gouveia about what interests in
particular are protected and talked about this, this
expression of a concern about our liberty interests; and
that the purpose issue was not something that the Court
addressed there.
It simply said that our Fourth Amendment
precedents go to the liberty interests. Our Sixth
Amendment speedy-trial and other precedents go to the
liberty interests.
The right to counsel is not specifically a
liberty-interest protection. It is something, as Chief
Justice Roberts mentioned a few minutes ago as we set
out in our brief, something that protects your right to
a fair trial. And there are there are proceedings
that take place along the way that the Court has held
are critical stages, and we need and want counsel to be
present for them, and so we have so dictated. But
getting behind
JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought you I
thought you recognized that if he had opted to have this
examining trial to determine whether there really was

probable cause, that he would be entitled to counsel at

25

- 1 that examining trial. And, yet, that's detached from
- 2 the fair trial. The whole purpose of it is that they
- 3 will never get to trial.
- 4 MR. COLEMAN: No. I -- I disagree with
- 5 that. Coleman itself says that the reason we're
- 6 requiring counsel for a preliminary hearing or an
- 7 examining trial, as we call it in Texas, is precisely
- 8 because there will be witnesses, there will be arguments
- 9 made; and you could waive defenses if not made there;
- 10 that this is very important. So we're going to define
- 11 even, this examining trial or preliminary hearing, even
- 12 though it comes before an indictment, we're going to
- 13 define that as an event of attachment solely because
- 14 your right to a fair trial could very much be prejudiced
- 15 there.
- 16 And that -- that doesn't exist in this case,
- 17 and that certainly the failure to ask for a examining
- 18 trial does not prejudice your right to a fair trial.
- 19 Justice Breyer, you asked a hypothetical
- 20 that I would like -- I would like to address because it
- 21 is something that happens all the time, and I think
- 22 should inform the Court's decision here. And, that is,
- 23 it is not uncommon, and some statistics that I have seen
- 24 suggest that it may happen in half of the cases, where
- 25 an individual is arrested, magistrated, released, and no

- 1 charges are ever brought. So the bulk of your 500
- 2 protesters are never brought.
- 3 Under Mr. Rothgery's view of the Sixth
- 4 Amendment, the county -- you know, let's say somebody is
- 5 protesting whitetail deer hunting in Gillespie County.
- 6 The county would be required to appoint counsel for all
- 7 of those individuals even though --
- 8 JUSTICE STEVENS: Only if they ask for them.
- 9 Only if they ask for the lawyer.
- 10 MR. COLEMAN: If they ask for them.
- 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: That's why I wondered --
- 12 JUSTICE SOUTER: And that would be subject,
- 13 wouldn't it, to sort of a condition subsequent, because
- 14 if it turned out -- I mean we -- no counsel is required
- 15 if there's no incarceration. So that even if the right
- 16 had attached, if it turned out later that there was no
- 17 incarceration or even attempt to incarcerate, then that
- 18 would relate back, and there wouldn't be a Sixth
- 19 Amendment violation. Isn't that right? Wouldn't that
- 20 be the answer to the -- a partial answer?
- 21 MR. COLEMAN: If -- if the court were to
- 22 make a rule that depended solely on incarceration, that
- 23 is true. I don't understand Mr. Rothgery to be making
- that argument because he was released on bond.
- JUSTICE BREYER: And you couldn't -- you

- 1 couldn't because of the fact that bail -- if you're
- 2 going to insist on bail, that in effect is
- 3 incarceration. But the reason I asked the question,
- 4 which I would ask you the same, is there are a lot of
- 5 States, we're told, that do have counsel attach in
- 6 circumstances similar to this.
- 7 So they must have some way of dealing with
- 8 the problem that I raised if it's really a problem. And
- 9 I want to -- and that's -- and I want to -- if we're
- 10 going into this, I think I need to know how this is
- 11 dealt with.
- 12 MR. COLEMAN: That amicus brief attempts to
- 13 suggest that Texas's statute is very different from
- 14 statutes that exist in other cases -- in other States,
- 15 and that's simply not true, Your Honor.
- 16 I do not understand what happens in each of
- 17 those -- in each of those States, but I have at least
- 18 seen decisions in some of those States that suggest that
- 19 they don't act that much differently than we do, and
- 20 that -- that they do apply a critical-stage-type
- 21 analysis in evaluating --
- 22 JUSTICE BREYER: You see, you would have
- 23 given him a counsel. I mean, in fact, if he had wanted
- 24 one, Texas would give him one. So Texas must have -- it
- 25 must not be a problem. The problem, I just --

1	MR. COLEMAN: You mean at the magistration?
2	JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
3	MR. COLEMAN: If he would have asked for
4	one, he would have gotten one.
5	JUSTICE BREYER: So the problem I raise
6	can't be a real problem.
7	JUSTICE STEVENS: Let me ask on Texas
8	procedure. Supposing after the magistration he wanted
9	to have the charges dismissed. Could he have hired a
LO	lawyer to come in and ask the judge to dismiss the
L1	charges?
L2	MR. COLEMAN: Absolutely not, Justice
L3	Stevens. There were no charges pending. This this
L4	magistration that occurs in the jail is simply
L5	JUSTICE STEVENS: Let's say he wanted to get
L6	a release from bond and said he wanted to terminate his
L7	custody. Is there any procedure whatsoever available to
L8	a defendant to say: I want to get this monkey off my
L9	back after this bond premium?
20	MR. COLEMAN: A release from bond, it would
21	have theoretically been possible, yes.
22	JUSTICE STEVENS: And could he have a lawyer
23	appear before the Court to ask for that?
24	MR. COLEMAN: I don't

JUSTICE STEVENS: Could the judge say: You

25

- 1 got to appear yourself?
- 2 MR. COLEMAN: I don't think the judge would
- 3 have said: You have to appear yourself. I think he
- 4 could have personally come forth --
- 5 JUSTICE STEVENS: If the prosecutor said:
- 6 You are not entitled to a lawyer, wouldn't the judge
- 7 have said: You're crazy; of course, he is entitled to a
- 8 lawyer to come in for this proceeding?
- 9 MR. COLEMAN: Well, that's an issue that
- 10 doesn't come up because judges don't exclude --
- 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: We are talking about
- 12 theoretical problems here, and the question is whether
- 13 he would he have had a right to a lawyer asking him to
- 14 get released from bond. Twenty minutes after the first
- 15 proceeding ended his father hired a lawyer and brought
- 16 him in. Would the lawyer have been allowed to appear?
- 17 MR. COLEMAN: The difference between the
- 18 Sixth Amendment strict requirements and practicalities
- 19 is a significant one. I don't think the Sixth Amendment
- 20 would necessarily have required it. The -- I am aware
- 21 --
- 22 JUSTICE STEVENS: Even though he is paying
- 23 for his own lawyer?
- MR. COLEMAN: It is the same as every other
- 25 --

1 JUSTICE STEVENS: That's your answer? 2 MR. COLEMAN: -- situation. 3 JUSTICE STEVENS: He would not have had a 4 right under the Constitution to have a lawyer come in 5 and say: I want to get released from this bond. I find 6 that hard to believe. 7 MR. COLEMAN: He would have -- he would have the same rights as anybody else, whether retained or --8 JUSTICE STEVENS: It would not include the 9 10 right to be represented by counsel if I understand you 11 correctly. 12 MR. COLEMAN: It would not be a Sixth 13 Amendment right to counsel. There could be a right if 14 you otherwise have a lawyer; that the State cannot 15 exclude that lawyer from participating on your behalf. 16 But it would not be an "attachment," an "appointment" 17 issue, where you are entitled to appointment of counsel 18 to do that. 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Suppose that he is out on bail, but he has a suspicion that this alleged felony --20 21 that that wasn't cricket because it was expunded. So he 22 says to the judge: Judge, I want to contest my being 23 held to some kind of criminal process because there is 24 no basis for the charge.

So he is out on bail. He has no lawyer, but

25

- 1 he wants to contest the State's right to hold him at
- 2 all, and he asks for a lawyer to help him do that.
- 3 MR. COLEMAN: I think if -- if he were to
- 4 ask somebody, he would be told that you can ask for an
- 5 examining trial. If you ask for that, we will appoint
- 6 you a lawyer; and you will have your examining trial
- 7 unless the State decides to indict before we actually
- 8 get to it.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: Why is the --
- 10 JUSTICE SOUTER: Now -- no, please.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: Why is the question of
- 12 whether the right attaches, which seems to mean
- 13 different things in different situations, a separate
- 14 question from what I would think would be the question
- 15 here: Whether he had the right to have counsel
- 16 appointed for him.
- Why isn't that the question, and
- 18 "attachment" is simply a label that is used to express
- 19 one of the conditions for having the right to appoint a
- 20 counsel?
- 21 MR. COLEMAN: I have given this great
- 22 thought, Justice Alito. In my mind, the only doctrinal
- 23 difference it really makes is the situation that this
- 24 Court has described in Michigan v. Jackson, which I have
- 25 previously addressed in the Cobb case which I argued.

- 1 But in most other circumstances we think
- 2 that the analysis is essentially the same, because the
- 3 Court has never said that there isn't a right -- there
- 4 is a right to have the assistance of counsel without
- 5 having a critical stage.
- In fact, I believe Justice Brennan -- if you
- 7 will allow me 15 seconds -- Justice Brennan's decision
- 8 in Maine v. Moulton said: "Recognizing that the right
- 9 to the assistance of counsel is shaped by the need for
- 10 the assistance of counsel, we have found that the right
- 11 attaches at earlier critical stages in the criminal
- 12 justice process where the results might well settle the
- 13 accused's fate and reduce the trial, itself, to a mere
- 14 formality."
- 15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Is it then episodic?
- 16 That is, if the right is turned on when there is a
- 17 critical event, and then the critical event is over, and
- 18 no more right to counsel until the next critical event?
- 19 It's not -- you have no right to counsel in between
- 20 those critical events?
- 21 MR. COLEMAN: Once -- once a case gets
- 22 going, I don't believe this Court has ever been
- 23 presented with a case where there has been attachment,
- 24 there have been some critical stages, and then the State
- 25 has decided to deny access. And we don't think that the

- 1 Court would like --
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So you only need this one
- 3 critical stage, and then you get appointed counsel at
- 4 that stage, and that counsel will continue thereafter.
- 5 You don't have to --
- 6 MR. COLEMAN: That is the usual course of
- 7 things.
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Can you give me -- can you
- 9 give me some idea, or some empirical assessment, or tell
- 10 me where I could go to find out, as we sit here, how
- 11 many people are being held in custody after a
- 12 probable-cause determination and do not have counsel
- 13 appointed for them and do not have the right to have
- 14 counsel appointed to them until some other critical
- 15 phase takes place?
- 16 MR. COLEMAN: In Texas, because the Fair
- 17 Defense Act permits the appointment of counsel for those
- 18 who are held in custody, all persons who request counsel
- 19 are appointed counsel within one business day in the
- 20 large counties and within one -- within three business
- 21 days in the smaller counties. And so that --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: So then there was just a
- 23 misapplication of the statute here when this man was
- 24 held for three days, and then he requested counsel?
- 25 MR. COLEMAN: No. Section 1.051(j)

- 1 authorized the counties who went -- to not appoint
- 2 counsel when an individual is released on bail, and to
- 3 await -- to await the first critical stage or the
- 4 initiation of adversary judicial proceedings; whichever
- 5 occurs first, it says. And so once this gentleman was
- 6 indicted, that would disappear; and he would be entitled
- 7 to counsel, as he was appointed counsel immediately upon
- 8 indictment.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, I'm talking about
- 10 the first phase before there was an indictment, just the
- 11 probable-cause phase. You say even then there is --
- 12 under this Texas statute there is a right to have
- 13 counsel in one day?
- 14 MR. COLEMAN: The Texas statute authorizes
- 15 appointment. Gillespie County is a smaller county, so
- 16 it's three business days, Your Honor. Upon --
- JUSTICE STEVENS: Then I am not sure why we
- 18 are having this discussion.
- MR. COLEMAN: Well, because Mr. Rothgery was
- 20 released on bail, and so the county was authorized not
- 21 to appoint counsel.
- JUSTICE SOUTER: If Mr. Rothgery had,
- 23 immediately upon being admitted to bail, said: I want a
- 24 -- I was going to say a probable-cause hearing. You
- 25 have a different term for it.

1 MR. COLEMAN: "Examining trial." 2 JUSTICE SOUTER: "Examining trial." 3 MR. COLEMAN: Right. 4 JUSTICE SOUTER: At that point, under Texas 5 law, the right to counsel within one or three business days would have attached? 6 7 MR. COLEMAN: Once -- once an examining trial is scheduled, I'm not sure there are one or two 8 days, but requests -- I think that's what would have 9 10 happened. The Constitution requires appointment of 11 counsel for an examining trial a reasonable time before 12 the examining trial to allow for preparation. 13 JUSTICE SOUTER: Now, at the -- may I? At the examining trial, is there a charge filed? 14 15 MR. COLEMAN: No. The examining trial, 16 itself --17 JUSTICE SOUTER: What are they finding 18 probable cause for if they don't know what the charge 19 is? MR. COLEMAN: This Court in Coleman said 20 21 that the examining trial, because of the potential harm to a fair trial in the future, would define it as a --22 JUSTICE SOUTER: No, but I realize if the --23 24 if somebody is going to demonstrate probable cause, the 25 probable cause has got to be probable cause to hold

- 1 someone to answer for a particular charge. So why
- 2 hasn't there, as a matter of definition, got to be a
- 3 charge, even on your reasoning, by the time the
- 4 examining trial is held?
- 5 MR. COLEMAN: An examining trial is an
- 6 extended version of a probable-cause determination. It
- 7 is not holding on a charge --
- 8 JUSTICE SOUTER: That is right. It is a
- 9 probable-cause determination, and you've got to have an
- 10 answer: Probable cause for what?
- 11 MR. COLEMAN: Probable cause that -- that a
- 12 crime has been committed.
- 13 JUSTICE SOUTER: So -- so, in other words,
- 14 you determine whether a crime has been committed without
- 15 charging the individual with the crime.
- 16 MR. COLEMAN: If -- if that were the law,
- 17 Gerstein would have to be reversed.
- 18 JUSTICE SOUTER: Well, I'm just asking what
- 19 you do. Is that the case? Is no charge filed? Then,
- 20 at the end of the probable cause hearing you say: Well,
- 21 we -- the judge says: Well, you've got probable cause
- 22 to hold this person for possessing a gun after having
- 23 been convicted of a felony, but there doesn't happen to
- 24 be any charge to that effect here. Is that the state of
- 25 the law, in fact?

Т	MR. COLEMAN: That is what preliminary
2	hearings and examining trials have always been about.
3	Yes, Your Honor.
4	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Counsel.
5	Ms. Spinelli, you have three minutes.
6	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF DANIELLE SPINELLI
7	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
8	JUSTICE KENNEDY: It seems to me that our
9	precedents do say, Gerstein versus Pugh, that the
10	probable-cause hearing is not an adversary proceeding
11	where counsel is required; and if we are going to give
12	you relief, we have to go beyond what Gerstein says.
13	MS. SPINELLI: I don't believe so, Justice
14	Kennedy. It's correct that Gerstein says that the
15	probable-cause determination made under Gerstein is not
16	itself, a critical stage, and we are not contending
17	otherwise.
18	The Gerstein determination is something
19	separate from the initial appearance that occurred here
20	A Gerstein determination is made for the purpose of
21	determining whether there was probable cause for an
22	arrest. It can be made ex parte. It's essentially the
23	equivalent of what happens prior to arrest when a
24	magistrate decides whether there is probable cause to
25	issue a warrant.

1 What happened here, by contrast, was after 2 arrest and after the police had decided to --3 Mr. Rothgery, he was brought before a magistrate. He 4 was officially informed of the accusation against him, 5 and at that time he acquired the right to contest the accusation against him in an examining trial, which we 6 7 believe shows that he was accused within the meaning of the Sixth Amendment, and a prosecution had begun. 8 9 And we are not contending that that initial 10 proceeding was, itself, a critical stage where counsel 11 was required; and it's not necessary to contend that in 12 order to prevail on the point that that was when a 13 prosecution commenced, which is the only question that 14 we believe is properly before this Court and the only 15 one we are asking it to resolve. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So Texas would be 17 better off if they didn't have a magistration proceeding 18 at all, if they didn't have a proceeding to alert the 19 individual of the charges against him; they did not have 20 a proceeding to read him his rights; they did not have a 21 determination of probable cause. They would be better 22 off if they didn't do any of that? 23 MS. SPINELLI: Well, I mean I think you are suggesting, Mr. Chief Justice, that reaffirming the rule 24 25 adopted in Jackson would create, you know, a perverse

- 1 incentive for States to do away with this proceeding. I
- 2 don't believe that that's the case because, as Justice
- 3 Breyer observed, 45 jurisdictions already follow the
- 4 rule of appointing counsel at, or immediately following,
- 5 the initial appearance, which the -- any CDL brief lays
- 6 out and which neither Respondent nor its State amici
- 7 have contested.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, what's in it
- 9 for the State to provide this additional layer?
- 10 Because, of course, the person gets Miranda warnings
- 11 when he is arrested. And so why -- why should the State
- 12 do this?
- MS. SPINELLI: The initial appearance serves
- 14 a specific, substantive purpose which I think is well
- 15 described in the Seventh Circuit's decision in Armstrong
- 16 cited on page 15 of our reply brief, which is this is
- 17 the proceeding at which the defendant is informed: You
- 18 are now a criminal defendant. This is the accusation
- 19 against you, and these are your rights as a defendant in
- 20 a criminal proceeding.
- 21 And for that reason, as the Armstrong
- 22 decision says, it is commonly recognized across
- 23 jurisdictions as the inception of a formal prosecution,
- 24 and we believe that's the rule that this Court has
- 25 already laid out in Brewer and Jackson and should

- 1 reaffirm today.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why don't you take
- 3 an extra minute? We have eaten up your rebuttal time.
- 4 MS. SPINELLI: Of course, absolutely. I
- 5 mean, just to respond to one other question that arose
- 6 during the course of Respondent's argument, I think it
- 7 is important to understand that in Texas, as in other
- 8 jurisdictions, there are two phases in a felony
- 9 prosecution.
- 10 There is an initial phase that commences in
- 11 a magistrate court where a document setting out the
- 12 charges will be filed either by the police or by a
- 13 prosecutor, and the magistrate at that point has
- 14 jurisdiction over that criminal case. It is only later
- 15 that an indictment or information will be filed in the
- 16 general trial court with jurisdiction to enter final
- 17 judgment.
- 18 But this Court has repeatedly rejected the
- 19 notion that a prosecution begins only in that second
- 20 phase. It rejected it expressly in Moore. It rejected
- 21 it in Coleman, in Brewer, in Jackson, and in statements
- 22 in Kirby and McNeil. So that can't be the rule.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Counsel.
- MS. SPINELLI: Thank you.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The case is

1	submitted.
2	(Whereupon, at 12:09 p.m., the case in the
3	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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