1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	ANTHONY WALDEN, :
4	Petitioner : No. 12-574
5	v. :
6	GINA FIORE, ET AL. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Monday, November 4, 2013
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:03 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	JEFFREY S. BUCHOLTZ, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf
16	of Petitioner.
17	MELISSA ARBUS SHERRY, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor
18	General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; fo
19	United States, as amicus curiae, supporting
20	Petitioner.
21	THOMAS C. GOLDSTEIN, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf
22	of Respondents.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:03 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 12-574,
5	Walden v. Fiore.
6	Mr. Bucholtz.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY S. BUCHOLTZ
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. BUCHOLTZ: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
LO	please the Court:
L1	In holding that the in holding that
L2	Respondents could bring this Bivens lawsuit against
L3	Officer Anthony Walden in Nevada, the Ninth Circuit made
L 4	two errors that independently require a reversal.
L5	First, as to personal jurisdiction, the
L 6	Ninth Circuit held that it was sufficient that
L7	Respondents have connections to Nevada, and that Officer
L8	Walden allegedly targeted his conduct at them, knowing
L 9	of their contacts with Nevada. That plaintiff-centered
20	approach is inconsistent with this Court's precedence
21	which emphasize that the defendant himself must have
22	meaningful contacts with the forum State.
23	Second, as to venue, the Ninth Circuit
24	relied on the fact that the Respondents felt in Nevada
25	the effects of Officer Walden's alleged conduct in

- 1 Georgia. That, similarly, Plaintiff-centered approach
- 2 is in conflict with the text of the venue statute,
- 3 1391(b)(2), which focuses on where the events or
- 4 omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, not where
- 5 the impact of those events or omissions may be felt.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Do you have any preference
- 7 as to which of those errors you would like us to rely
- 8 on?
- 9 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, Justice Scalia, I
- 10 think, for the reasons set out in the Federal Law
- 11 Enforcement Officers' amicus brief, which I will try to
- 12 explain, I think that it would be preferable for the
- 13 Court to address personal jurisdiction and not just
- 14 venue, that the reason is that venue in removed cases
- 15 works differently. There really is no venue, per se, in
- 16 removed cases.
- 17 And so if the Court only reaches venue here,
- 18 holds that venue is improper, in theory -- and maybe
- 19 there are limitations problems with this, but in theory,
- 20 the plaintiffs could refile the same lawsuit in State
- 21 court in Nevada. It would be a Bivens lawsuit; it would
- 22 arise under Federal law, so we would remove it.
- 23 But then removal would mean, under 1441(a),
- 24 venue would be proper, per se, in the district of
- 25 removal because that's the way removal works, and this

- 1 Court so held in Polizzi half a century ago.
- 2 And then there would be no personal
- 3 jurisdiction, and then the personal jurisdiction would
- 4 be under the Ninth Circuit's decision, and we'd be back
- 5 exactly where we are now.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Of course, the venue
- 7 question does not -- does not bring into the Court a
- 8 constitutional question and the jurisdictional -- the
- 9 jurisdictional one does.
- 10 MR. BUCHOLTZ: That's true.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: And we usually try to avoid
- 12 constitutional questions.
- 13 MR. BUCHOLTZ: That's true. And the
- 14 avoidance canon is certainly one factor the Court could
- 15 take into account in deciding which issue to reach -- or
- 16 which issues to reach or in what order.
- 17 On the other hand, the personal jurisdiction
- 18 question is -- is a constitutional question, but it's
- 19 not a constitutional question in the strong sense of the
- 20 term because the only reason that the -- the personal
- 21 jurisdiction question, as applied in this case, is a
- 22 constitutional one is because Congress hasn't provided
- 23 for nationwide service of process for Bivens claims.
- 24 And as the Court pointed out in Omni
- 25 Capital, the Congress has the power to do that. It's

- 1 not for the Court to do that on its own, to fill a
- 2 perceived policy gap in personal jurisdiction law.
- 3 And so, even though it is a constitutional
- 4 question as currently configured, if Congress thought
- 5 that it were a problem to apply the existing personal
- 6 jurisdiction jurisprudence to Bivens claims and wanted
- 7 to provide for nationwide service of process based on
- 8 the idea that what counts is contacts with the U.S. as a
- 9 whole, as opposed to any particular State.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: It's not likely, is it,
- 11 considering that the Bivens claim was created by this
- 12 Court and not Congress.
- 13 MR. BUCHOLTZ: I'm not suggesting that
- 14 Congress should do that. I think Congress should not do
- 15 that. I think Bivens claims, for the reason that Your
- 16 Honor just stated, is -- is sort of the last place
- 17 that -- that anyone should start to create a more
- 18 plaintiff-friendly version of personal jurisdiction.
- 19 The Court has gone -- I'm sorry, Your Honor.
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You -- you would not have
- 21 any problem about -- assuming we agree with you that
- 22 it's -- there's no personal jurisdiction, it's the wrong
- 23 venue, for the district court in Nevada to transfer the
- 24 case to the Federal district court in Georgia?
- MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, I think,

- 1 Justice Ginsburg, in the ordinary course, in a -- in a
- 2 case starting in district court, under Section 1631
- 3 or -- or the venue statute, that would be an appropriate
- 4 course.
- 5 Here, the district court asked Respondents
- 6 specifically, if I agree with Officer Walden on personal
- 7 jurisdiction or venue, do you want me to transfer, or do
- 8 you want me to dismiss? Because the statute gives the
- 9 district court discretion and -- and says, in the
- 10 interest of justice, transfer is -- is permissible in
- 11 lieu of dismissal.
- 12 The Respondents said, emphatically, we don't
- 13 want you to transfer. We want you to dismiss. I guess
- 14 they -- they decided they would rather have an appeal to
- 15 the Ninth Circuit and take their -- their chances
- 16 with -- with an appeal, then pursue the case in Georgia.
- 17 So I think under the unusual --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: That's probably --
- 19 it turned out to be a good -- good strategy, at least to
- 20 the extent they got to the Ninth Circuit.
- 21 Isn't Calder against Jones in considerable
- 22 tension with your proposition that you don't look to the
- 23 plaintiff's contacts with the forum?
- 24 MR. BUCHOLTZ: I don't think so, Your Honor.
- 25 I think there -- there is definitely some language in

- 1 Calder that could be read in a variety of ways. I think
- 2 the key language in Calder -- excuse me -- as the Court
- 3 states its conclusions, it says, "In sum, California was
- 4 the focal point both of the article and of the harm
- 5 suffered by the plaintiffs."
- 6 And then the Court later says that -- that
- 7 the defendants expressly aimed their conduct at
- 8 California. It doesn't say at the plaintiff, who
- 9 happened to be in California; it says at California.
- 10 And I think that's not an accident, that the Court used
- 11 those formulations.
- 12 In all of the personal jurisdiction cases
- 13 before Calder and since -- and, for that matter, decided
- 14 the same day, in Keeton -- decided the same day as
- 15 Calder, the Court has emphasized that random,
- 16 attenuated, and fortuitous contacts with the forum State
- 17 are insufficient and that, in particular, contacts
- 18 between the defendant and the -- and the forum that are
- 19 created by the unilateral activity of the plaintiff are
- 20 not sufficient. So --
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: What do you think the Court
- 22 meant when it said that the -- the article was aimed at
- 23 California?
- 24 MR. BUCHOLTZ: I think what the Court meant,
- 25 Justice Alito, is that the article was distributed in

- 1 California, and California was, by far, the largest
- 2 market for the National Enquirer. The article recounted
- 3 events or -- or alleged events, that happened in
- 4 California. And the article was drawn from California
- 5 sources.
- 6 So it's not fortuitous that the effect of
- 7 the article was felt in California. That was -- that
- 8 was -- nothing about that was fortuitous because the --
- 9 the defendants knew that the article would be
- 10 distributed widely in California, that it was the
- 11 largest market, and they --
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: When it was distributed, it
- 13 was distributed everywhere. It was the National
- 14 Enquirer, so it was probably in every supermarket in the
- 15 country.
- And why does California, as an abstract
- 17 entity, care about an article that makes allegedly
- 18 defamatory statements about things that people
- 19 supposedly did in California? I don't quite understand
- 20 that.
- 21 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, let me try to answer
- 22 the first part of your question first, Justice Alito.
- 23 It's true that the National Enquirer was national; it
- 24 was distributed throughout the country. But the Court
- 25 went -- went to pains in the opinion to emphasize that

- 1 California was the largest market.
- 2 And so when the Court said the brunt of the
- 3 harm -- that -- this is right after the Court's
- 4 reference to express aiming, where the Court says --
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's the largest market for
- 6 everything, isn't it?
- 7 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, I think particularly for the
- 8 National Enquirer, when you're talking about articles
- 9 about celebrities, about actresses in particular, that
- 10 allegedly injure their professional reputation and
- 11 prevent them from getting future acting jobs.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I don't understand.
- 13 Are you suggesting if this -- everything was the same,
- 14 except Ms. Jones was in New York, there'd be a different
- 15 result in that case?
- 16 MR. BUCHOLTZ: No, I'm not suggesting that.
- 17 I think that --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I thought,
- 19 several times, you said California was the biggest
- 20 market.
- 21 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Right. I think -- I think
- 22 the way that -- that Calder reads, I think that there
- 23 are a number of factors. One of them is plaintiff's
- 24 residence in California. That's where she was when she
- 25 suffered the emotional distress from -- from reading

- 1 the article about herself and where her job prospects
- 2 were -- were allegedly adversely affected.
- 3 But it's also true the Court points out that
- 4 not only is -- when the Court says the defendants
- 5 expressly aimed their conduct at California, the next
- 6 passage after that, where the Court explains what
- 7 that -- what express aiming at California means, it says
- 8 California was not only where -- where Ms. Jones
- 9 suffered the brunt of the harm, but where the defendants
- 10 knew that the Enquirer had its largest circulation.
- 11 So I don't think you can disentangle the
- 12 fact that that's where she was, which, of course, was a
- 13 relevant factor in that case because it was true, from
- 14 the fact that the defendants, in a broader sense, in a
- 15 more -- in a sense not based on her unilateral activity,
- 16 but in a sense based on their own contacts, aimed at
- 17 California.
- 18 They drew their --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, what does it mean --
- 20 what does it mean, in the context of an intentional
- 21 tort, which is what we're talking about here, to aim at
- 22 a particular State, if it doesn't mean to aim at a
- 23 person who you know to be within that State?
- I mean, nobody conducts an intentional tort
- 25 intending to injure California, per se. You're

- 1 intending to injure a person who resides in California.
- 2 So what would it actually mean to aim conduct at a
- 3 State, irrespective of a person?
- 4 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, Justice Kagan, I think
- 5 the answer is that it could take a few forms. It
- 6 depends on the type of case. It would be very difficult
- 7 to try to come up with the single -- you know, sort of
- 8 comprehensive unitary answer to that question that would
- 9 govern all types of cases.
- I think the way that the plurality put it in
- 11 J. McIntyre, for intentional tort cases, is that maybe
- 12 you're intending to obstruct the laws of the forum
- 13 State. That would be more meaningfully aimed at the
- 14 forum State qua State and not just somebody who happens
- 15 to be in it or have a connection to it.
- 16 Another way that conduct could be aimed at a
- 17 State would be if -- if it's a species of purposeful
- 18 availment or purposeful direction, where you're
- 19 projecting your conduct into that State, whether
- 20 that's -- whether that's physical and literal or whether
- 21 it's -- it's through some indirect or technological
- 22 means for --
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, suppose -- suppose --
- 24 and I'm sorry. Please.
- 25 MR. BUCHOLTZ: -- for some benefit, for some

- 1 reason, where you're projecting your conduct into that
- 2 State, not just because that's where the plaintiff
- 3 happens to be, which is incidental and irrelevant to you
- 4 that the plaintiff is there, as opposed to anywhere
- 5 else, but because you're seeking that State out.
- 6 That could be -- it could be, in a case like
- 7 J. McIntyre, the Court, of course, divided over whether
- 8 in a -- in a very broad sense, sending your product into
- 9 the stream of commerce, intending that it in some
- 10 sense -- you know, go to the U.S. as a whole, without
- 11 any particular focus on a given State, was sufficient.
- But at least there -- at least there, you
- 13 have the intent to serve the U.S. market as a whole.
- 14 And so you at least are on notice that your own conduct
- is putting you at risk of being haled into court in any
- 16 one of the States.
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yes. I mean, I quess I
- 18 just -- the -- the McIntyre example is a very different
- 19 kind of example because, in those cases, you really are
- 20 talking about a company seeking to serve a general
- 21 market in a State.
- 22 But intentional tort cases don't usually
- 23 have that quality. You're going after a particular
- 24 person in an intentional tort case. And it's odd to
- 25 think of going after an intentional -- a particular

- 1 person, whether it's a defamation suit or it's a fraud
- 2 suit or -- or what have you, as -- as targeting the
- 3 State itself.
- 4 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, I think if it's a
- 5 defamation suit, Justice Kagan, if you project your
- 6 defamation into the forum State, then it's fair to say
- 7 that you've, in a sense, entered the forum State,
- 8 whether that's electronic or physical, as in Calder.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But in -- in this case, it
- 10 was known -- or should have been known that these were
- 11 gamblers; they were in Nevada. That's where a lot of --
- 12 that's where their gambling takes place. They were
- 13 residents of Nevada. So in that sense, they were like
- 14 the plaintiff in -- in Calder. The injury was there,
- and the defendant arguably knew or should have known
- 16 that that's where its major impact would be.
- 17 I recognize your point that, when you take
- 18 money away, then you're inconvenienced in any State
- 19 where you happen to be, but there was an argument
- 20 here -- it seems to me there is an argument here that
- 21 this was gambling, and these people were from Nevada,
- 22 and so you've -- this -- this curtails their right or --
- 23 or their option to conduct -- to conduct their
- 24 activities in -- in Nevada.
- MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, Justice Kennedy, the

- 1 complaint alleges that the plaintiffs had contacts with
- 2 Nevada, were residents of Nevada. Of course, they
- 3 showed Officer Walden California licenses. That's what
- 4 the complaint alleges, not Nevada licenses. And so at
- 5 the time of their actual --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But didn't they say they
- 7 were residents in both places, in both California and
- 8 Nevada?
- 9 MR. BUCHOLTZ: They do say that. But
- 10 there's no reason to think -- and even they don't allege
- 11 this, that Officer Walden knew that at the time that he
- 12 actually interacted with them. And so there's no
- 13 allegation that he --
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Let me ask this -- and
- it's probably clear in the briefs. Is -- is the
- 16 gravamen of the complaint the seizure at the airport or
- 17 the later false affidavit? Because, to the extent it's
- 18 the later false affidavit, that cuts against you
- 19 marginally.
- 20 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, I would emphasize
- 21 "marginally," Justice Kennedy, because I think the
- 22 gravamen of the complaint is both. I don't think
- 23 there's a way to separate them. The effect that the
- 24 plaintiffs are -- the reason for their lawsuit --
- 25 they're claiming damages based on the allegedly false

- 1 affidavit, is that it took them longer than it otherwise
- 2 would have to get their money back.
- 3 It's the same money that was seized in
- 4 Atlanta. So it's a continuation of the effect of the
- 5 seizure. You can't separate them cleanly. And the
- 6 affidavit --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, would you -- would
- 8 your answer be different -- suppose that the -- the
- 9 officer had said, you can keep -- you can keep your
- 10 money, go on to Nevada with it.
- 11 And then, once Fiore -- the Fiores had reached
- 12 Nevada, the officer said -- the officer filed a false
- 13 affidavit, which, let's say, froze the Fiores' bank
- 14 accounts. Would your -- would your answer be different?
- 15 The affidavit was filed in Georgia, but the money was
- 16 not seized in Georgia; instead, the money has gone on to
- 17 Nevada. Is there personal jurisdiction in Nevada?
- 18 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, Justice Kagan, I think
- 19 if -- if what Officer Walden allegedly had done -- of
- 20 course, that's not this case -- is freeze a bank account
- 21 in Nevada, then --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, he did it by filing an
- 23 affidavit in Georgia, and then it froze a bank account.
- 24 MR. BUCHOLTZ: No, I understand that. I
- 25 understand the question. But if what he had done is

- 1 freeze a bank account in Nevada, then maybe it would be
- 2 fair to say that he had entered into Nevada by freezing
- 3 the bank account in Nevada.
- 4 But, here, the cash was in Atlanta. The
- 5 plaintiffs brought the cash to Atlanta. Officer Walden
- 6 didn't seek them out, knowing that they had any
- 7 connection to Nevada. They -- he didn't go to Nevada.
- 8 He didn't direct anyone in Nevada to do anything. He
- 9 didn't seize a -- or freeze a bank account in Nevada or
- 10 direct anyone to do anything like that.
- 11 He never had any contact with Nevada at all,
- 12 except for the very intangible contact, if you can call
- 13 it that, of -- of allegedly writing this affidavit to
- 14 keep the plaintiffs from getting the money back sooner
- 15 than they would have.
- But the plaintiffs would have gotten the
- 17 money back wherever they happened to be or, really, more
- 18 precisely, wherever their lawyer happened to be. The
- 19 fact that they chose a lawyer in Nevada, and that's
- 20 where they asked the government to send them their money
- 21 back, ultimately, is the very definition of fortuitous
- 22 contact between Walden and Nevada.
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Could you tell me -- you
- 24 started by saying that our personal jurisdiction and
- 25 venue provisions and jurisprudence center on a -- on a

- 1 defendant's action, not on the plaintiff's action or
- 2 injury. Calder suggests otherwise.
- But how do you respond, not only to
- 4 Justice -- I'll do this after, but let me just pose the
- 5 question, and you can answer it on your rebuttal.
- 6 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Thank you.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm worried about the
- 8 internet effects from somebody's account in Vermont by
- 9 someone in Illinois -- the hypothetical on page 19, who
- 10 steals something from a store in California.
- 11 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Thank you, Justice Sotomayor.
- 12 If I may, I'll reserve the balance of my time and, as
- 13 you suggested, address that on rebuttal.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you,
- 16 counsel.
- 17 Ms. Sherry.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF MELISSA ARBUS SHERRY,
- 19 FOR UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 20 SUPPORTING THE PETITIONER
- 21 MS. SHERRY: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 22 please the Court:
- 23 If I could start with this Court's decision
- 24 in Calder because the facts of this case stand in stark
- 25 contrast to Calder. In Calder, the article was all

- 1 about the State of California. It was about the
- 2 California activities of a California resident whose
- 3 career was centered in California, based on California
- 4 sources, and in a magazine that its -- where its primary
- 5 publication was in California.
- 6 Here, even if you were to focus just on the
- 7 affidavit, the affidavit is, in every real sense,
- 8 focused on the State of Georgia. According to
- 9 Respondents' own allegation, it recounts what happened
- 10 in the Atlanta airport in Georgia.
- 11 It was based on information that was
- 12 received by Officer Walden in Georgia. It's about funds
- 13 that were seized in Georgia, that remained in Georgia.
- 14 It was prepared in Georgia, forwarded to an AUSA in
- 15 Georgia, for forfeiture proceedings in Georgia.
- And so the two cases could not be more
- 17 different. Just as the focal point of the tortious
- 18 activity in Calder was on the State of California, here,
- 19 the focus of the tortious activity was on the State of
- 20 Georgia.
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: Did the affidavit ever get
- 22 to Nevada?
- 23 MS. SHERRY: It didn't get to Nevada. Based
- 24 on Respondents' own allegations, it was sent to an AUSA
- 25 in Georgia for forfeiture proceedings in Georgia. And,

- 1 notably, had Respondents wanted to regain their property
- 2 during the 6 months' period of seizure, they would have
- 3 had to go to Georgia to do so.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do we know how much of the
- 5 information -- the supplemental information that was
- 6 prepared in Nevada and then was forwarded to Georgia,
- 7 how much of that information was in the affidavit?
- 8 MS. SHERRY: Based on the current record, I
- 9 don't know that we do. If you look at the complaint
- 10 allegations, they suggest that the -- what they call the
- 11 "exculpatory information" was left out of the affidavit.
- 12 The affidavit itself, if it even exists, is not in the
- 13 record in this case.
- 14 And then -- you know, by focusing -- you asked
- 15 the question, Your Honor, about what the gravamen of
- 16 this case is. I think, in a very real way, the gravamen
- 17 of the case is the initial seizure. The Ninth Circuit
- 18 focused exclusively on the affidavit, and Respondents do
- 19 so here as well.
- 20 But I think it's a quintessential example of
- 21 the tail wagging the dog. The affidavit is, at best, a
- 22 thin and artificial read. Even if you were to focus
- 23 exclusively on the affidavit, as I explained --
- 24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But it was -- it was
- 25 stated as a separate claim, and I think Judge Grisholm

- 1 read it that way, and I don't think Petitioner has taken
- 2 issue with that, that there's -- one claim is for the
- 3 seizure, another claim is for the false affidavit. So
- 4 the seizure stops the funds immediately, and then the
- 5 false affidavit keeps them there.
- 6 So I didn't think there was a -- a genuine
- 7 difference between the parties on whether the
- 8 affidavit -- knowingly composing a false affidavit is an
- 9 independent claim.
- 10 MS. SHERRY: There isn't for purposes of --
- of this case in this Court, and I don't mean to suggest
- 12 otherwise, but while there may be a distinct claim,
- 13 there is no distinct injury. The injury that
- 14 Respondents allege based on the affidavit is simply that
- 15 the initial seizure continued beyond the time that it
- 16 otherwise would have.
- 17 And for that reason, the harm -- the same
- 18 economic harm that they were already feeling in Nevada,
- 19 continued beyond a certain person point in time.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: But imagine a case where
- 21 everybody agreed that the initial seizure was lawful, so
- 22 that that wasn't part of the complaint at all, and the
- 23 only complaint was that a false affidavit had been
- 24 filed, so that, after making the preliminary
- 25 investigation, the officer hadn't transferred the money,

- 1 but had, instead, kept it.
- 2 MS. SHERRY: And, again, I -- obviously,
- 3 that's not this case, but I don't think that case would
- 4 be any different because, assuming that the affidavit
- 5 looks the same as it's alleged to look in this case, it
- 6 would still be focused -- that money in Georgia and
- 7 everything about it would still be related to Georgia.
- 8 Again, the only connection to Nevada would
- 9 be the fact that Respondents felt some harm in that
- 10 State. It's not a harm that's unique in any respect to
- 11 Nevada. It's a harm that they would have felt no matter
- 12 where they traveled. If they had gone to their other
- 13 residence in California, if they had left on another --
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: And that would be true, even
- if the Respondents had never been in Georgia?
- 16 MS. SHERRY: No. I think it's -- I think
- 17 it's significant, here, that the Respondents did go to
- 18 Georgia. I mean, here, we are talking about a traveling
- 19 Plaintiff -- a mobile Plaintiff, who voluntarily left
- 20 their home State and traveled to other States, traveled
- 21 to New Jersey, traveled to San Juan, and traveled to
- 22 Walden's home State, the place where he lives and works,
- 23 and brought their cash with them there.
- And so I think it is significant that they
- 25 did travel to the State of Georgia, and I think it shows

- 1 how broad the Ninth Circuit ruling really is. As far as
- 2 law enforcement officers, go, Federal, State, or
- 3 local, this is a really problematic decision because
- 4 they interact with travelers from all 50 States and
- 5 beyond on a daily basis.
- The idea that, based on those interactions,
- 7 that they can be hauled into a far-away and distant
- 8 forum, based on nothing more than their interaction with
- 9 a traveler and finding out where that person is from,
- 10 which, of course, unlike this case -- the facts here are
- 11 somewhat unique, in that the drivers' licenses that were
- 12 showed were not from the State of Nevada.
- In most cases, when travelers show a
- 14 driver's license, it's from their State of residence.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you think it's relevant
- 16 in a case like this whether the -- the Federal officer
- 17 who is sued is represented by the Justice Department?
- 18 MS. SHERRY: I don't think it's relevant at
- 19 all. I would point Your Honor to the Court's decision
- 20 in Stafford v. Briggs. In that case -- it's a venue
- 21 case. It's about 1391(e). In that case, the dissent
- 22 made an argument that that provision should extend to
- 23 personal capacity cases against government officials.
- And one of the arguments made is there's
- 25 really not much of a burden on them because they have

- 1 DOJ representation and because they have
- 2 indemnification. And the majority there rejected that
- 3 argument.
- I think it's equally implausible here, and I
- 5 think it's significant that, not only did the Ninth
- 6 Circuit rely on the fact of DOJ representation, which,
- 7 mind you, is not a guarantee, it's a discretionary
- 8 determination; but not only did they rely on it, they
- 9 relied on it to say that there would be personal
- 10 jurisdiction here because this is a Federal official --
- or, really, a State official deputized as a Federal
- 12 official.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: Ms. Sherry, just to try to
- 14 figure out how far your argument goes, suppose there's
- an IRS agent sitting in Washington, D.C., and she
- 16 maliciously does something, files an affidavit, does
- 17 whatever she does, to impose a tax penalty on somebody
- 18 in Nevada, and everything that she does happens in
- 19 Washington, D.C.
- 20 Does the person in Nevada, who is the victim
- 21 of this malicious attempt to impose a tax penalty, have
- 22 to go to Washington, D.C., to sue her?
- 23 MS. SHERRY: I think there's more difficult
- 24 questions there, where the individual hasn't left the
- 25 State at all and where it's targeted at the State. I

- 1 think that comes to Your Honor's question about what it
- 2 means --
- 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, she's a very mobile
- 4 person. She lives in Nevada, but she goes other places,
- 5 and -- and this could -- you know, harm her wherever she
- 6 goes. Isn't that what you said? So why should she be
- 7 able to bring suit in Nevada, under your view?
- 8 MS. SHERRY: That is what I said and I
- 9 think maybe it goes to Your Honor's other question,
- 10 earlier, about what it means to expressly aim your
- 11 conduct at the forum State, as opposed to just the forum
- 12 resident, when we're talking about an intentional tort.
- In the cases that have looked at this,
- 14 they've -- they have looked for something more besides
- 15 simply aiming your conduct at a forum resident, some
- 16 indication that the -- that the defendant is trying to
- 17 reach into the forum State. And some of the examples
- 18 that have come up is when they've actually sent
- 19 something into the forum State, whether it's a
- 20 defamatory article or a letter, the bullet example
- 21 that's in the restatement and mentioned in the briefs.
- In those cases, the defendant is actually sending
- 23 something physically into the State or, for example,
- 24 directing activity in the forum State -- directing
- 25 something to happen in the forum State.

- 1 Whatever the answer is to the -- to that
- 2 hypothetical, the facts here are really quite different.
- 3 Walden didn't do anything to reach into the State of
- 4 Nevada. And as my colleague pointed out, the only
- 5 connection to Nevada and the idea that the money was
- 6 going to be returned there and eventually was returned
- 7 there is entirely fortuitous.
- 8 It's based entirely on the unilateral acts
- 9 of the plaintiff, the fact that they happened to hire a
- 10 Las Vegas attorney. If they hired --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Ms. Sherry, you -- would
- 12 you want us to decide this case on the jurisdictional
- 13 question or the venue question?
- 14 MS. SHERRY: The Court, I think, can do
- 15 either. My preference would be --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: I -- I understand that.
- 17 That's why I asked the question.
- 18 (Laughter.)
- 19 MS. SHERRY: My -- my preference would be
- 20 that -- the same as Petitioner's, that the Court decide
- 21 it on personal jurisdiction grounds, and the reasons are
- the ones expressed in the Federal Law Enforcement
- 23 Officer brief.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What -- what type of
- 25 action would the United States have brought if they

- 1 decided to bring an action? It would have been in
- 2 personam or in rem against the assets?
- 3 MS. SHERRY: It would have been an in rem
- 4 action against the assets. It would have been a
- 5 forfeiture complaint that would have been filed in
- 6 Georgia. And in those proceedings, the Respondents
- 7 would have had an opportunity to contest the forfeiture.
- 8 If during either the pendency of those
- 9 proceedings or even before those proceedings, if they
- 10 had wanted to seek to regain control of their property,
- 11 they would have had to file a motion or a petition in
- 12 the State of Georgia. They wouldn't have been able to
- 13 file one in their home State. And, again, those are the
- 14 statutes that we cite at page 31 of our brief.
- The consequence of the Ninth Circuit's
- 16 decision here really is to allow personal jurisdiction,
- 17 as well as venue, to travel with a mobile plaintiff in a
- 18 way that it cannot travel with mobile chattel.
- 19 We've talked mostly about personal
- 20 jurisdiction here, but could I -- if I could just take a
- 21 quick moment on venue and point the Court to this -- to
- 22 the Leroy decision in 1979. Nobody contests that there
- 23 would be no venue in the District of Nevada under the
- 24 Leroy decision.
- The language change in 1990 does nothing to

- 1 change that and does nothing to change the result in
- 2 Leroy. Respondents avoid the statutory text, and I
- 3 think it resolves this case.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 6 Mr. Goldstein.
- 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF THOMAS C. GOLDSTEIN
- 8 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 10 it please the Court:
- 11 You are being asked by the other side to
- 12 write an opinion about personal jurisdiction that is
- 13 going to try and slice the salami very, very, very thin,
- 14 that is going to create a huge amount of confusion about
- 15 these facts versus the facts in Calder and that is going
- 16 to be very, very difficult to reconcile with the
- 17 internet cases and the cases that the lower courts are
- 18 constantly confronting, about where a person in State A
- 19 intentionally injures a person in State B.
- 20 And that person frequently doesn't shoot a
- 21 gun into the other State. They sit at their computer,
- 22 and they steal money under the bank account. They take
- 23 the person's ID. They use their credit cards and the
- 24 like.
- I think, in truth, the way the case is most

- 1 likely to be resolved --
- 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: They didn't really injure a
- 3 person in State B here. I mean, these people were in
- 4 Georgia when the injury occurred.
- 5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Scalia, we disagree,
- 6 and so let me focus on your point and Justice Kennedy's
- 7 question about which claim it is. The claim here -- the
- 8 complaint states two complaints, Judge Berzon
- 9 recognized. One is about the seizure.
- 10 It's exactly what you are describing. The
- 11 other is about the false affidavit. And those really
- 12 are different as a matter of law. I have a couple of
- 13 citations to give you to explain how this legal process
- 14 works.
- What happens is the DEA seizes the money at
- 16 the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport. He takes the cash and
- 17 turns it in to a locker. Then what happens is that we
- 18 have to state a claim to the money. And when we state a
- 19 claim to the money, they either have to do one of two
- 20 things: They have to give it back to us as a matter of
- 21 law, or they have to start a forfeiture process as a
- 22 matter of law.
- 23 And if you start the forfeiture process, you
- 24 have to provide to the assistant U.S. attorney a factual
- 25 basis for the forfeiture. And the way to look at this,

- 1 I think, is the way that Justice Kagan's hypothetical
- 2 asked, and that is imagine that there were two officers
- 3 here, not one.
- 4 Officer A -- we'll call him Walden -- is at
- 5 the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, and he seizes our money.
- 6 And just assume that that's perfectly lawful. We then
- 7 state a claim to the money, and then we provide factual
- 8 information about why it is that the money is not
- 9 subject to seizure. They have to return it to us at
- 10 that point, or they have to start the forfeiture
- 11 process.
- 12 And when that second officer creates a false
- 13 affidavit to start the forfeiture process, we are not in
- 14 Georgia. We have no ongoing contacts with Georgia. And
- 15 we are losing access to the money only in Nevada.
- 16 That's the only place we're in --
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, suppose that the
- 18 plaintiffs in this case were not professional gamblers.
- 19 Let's say they were Major League umpires, or they are
- 20 members of a rock group that's going on a tour of 25
- 21 cities.
- Where would there be personal jurisdiction
- 23 there? In every place where the umpire was going to
- 24 appear at a game? Every place where the group was going
- 25 to perform?

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. The lower courts
- 2 have tackled this question because people go visit their
- 3 mother-in-law. They do travel around. It's a mobile
- 4 society, and they have taken, from your opinion in
- 5 Calder and Jones, the focus on where it is that the
- 6 plaintiff lives and works. And there is a good reason
- 7 for that.
- 8 Personal jurisdiction is trying to tackle
- 9 the question of where does the defendant reasonably
- 10 believe that he will be haled into court. It's a
- 11 fairness principle. And that is, we need to have a
- 12 predictable rule that allows the would-be defendants to
- 13 know, okay, if I do this --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, here, the -- here, the
- 15 plaintiffs apparently lived in two places, right?
- 16 California and Nevada.
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That is --
- JUSTICE ALITO: And suppose my hypothetical
- 19 rock performer has five houses, one in California, one
- 20 in Montana, and so forth. He -- personal jurisdiction
- 21 everywhere?
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. The -- and let me
- 23 just start with the premise of this case, all right? My
- 24 friend said that this officer was shown the
- 25 California -- California driver's license. That's not

- 1 correct. He wasn't shown a California driver's license.
- 2 The officer in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was
- 3 shown one. They only -- their principal residence, the
- 4 complaint alleges, I think, in paragraph 2, is in
- 5 Nevada. We do have situations -- and that's where they
- 6 lived and worked. We have situations --
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, they were sufficiently
- 8 residents of California to get California driver's
- 9 licenses, were they not?
- 10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That is true, at one point,
- 11 and they had moved.
- 12 I'm going to step outside the record, just
- 13 so I can accurately answer your question. But it will
- 14 give you a sense of how these cases actually operate.
- Most often, you have the situation where
- 16 they're college students -- you know, you have a college
- 17 student who lives at home with their parents, but they
- 18 go off to college, and they may be injured where it is
- 19 that they live and go to school in that case.
- 20 And what the lower courts do is, sensibly,
- 21 they say, if you know where the person's principal
- 22 residence is -- and this case is simplified by the fact
- 23 that the district court understood and assumed that the
- 24 defendant knew that they lived in Nevada. It's never
- 25 been contested in the case.

- 1 And Judge Berzon said, quite correctly, what
- 2 you have to do is you have to make it a prima facie case
- 3 because there's no evidence in this case that the --
- 4 that the principal residence was Nevada and that the
- 5 defendant knew that.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: So you're really arguing
- 7 for a very broad principle. Whenever there is an
- 8 intentional tort, you can be haled into court at the
- 9 place of residence of the person against whom the tort
- 10 is committed.
- 11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. I'm sorry --
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: No, that's what I thought
- 13 you were saying.
- 14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Then I've -- I've
- 15 misled you, and let me state our test, which I haven't
- 16 done yet, and that may help you. Our rule is as
- 17 follows: When the defendant intentionally targets the
- 18 plaintiff for injury in State A, where the injury
- 19 arises -- and that's going to be the big difference.
- 20 Does the injury arise there?
- 21 Justice Scalia, your impression in your
- 22 earlier question was that this injury didn't arise in
- 23 Nevada. But our test requires that it arise in Nevada,
- 24 and the defendant knows that it's going to arise in
- 25 Nevada.

- 2 claim, right? We were in the airport. We lose the
- 3 \$97,000. If we then go back to Nevada and then file
- 4 suit, our injury can't travel with us. And that's the
- 5 big concern of --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I don't see how it
- 7 arises in Nevada. What they're saying is that some
- 8 people in Georgia didn't give back some money that they
- 9 took in Georgia. To take your example, my question is
- 10 this: There could -- you say there are many, many, many
- 11 cases. We could get this all mixed up if we don't
- 12 follow your rules.
- 13 All I want you to do is cite me a few, but
- 14 the few that I want you to cite me will meet certain
- 15 criteria.
- 16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: For example, a college
- 18 student goes into the bookstore, and it's also a
- 19 pharmacy, by the way. And he breaks his finger in the
- 20 door. Which he thinks is his fault. He says, I am going home; send
- 21 me some bandages. The store never does. Send me some
- 22 books, I just bought them. The store never does. They
- 23 know his home address, all right? Injury -- now, what
- 24 about those?
- 25 Cite me some lower cases where they say

- 1 there is jurisdiction in cases like that.
- 2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I have not seen --
- 3 JUSTICE BREYER: Oh, I lost my billfold. I
- 4 lost it here in the store. When you find it, will you
- 5 send it back? They never send it back, though they
- 6 found it. All right. So just give me some lower court
- 7 cases that finds jurisdiction in that kind of situation.
- 8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: In that kind of situation,
- 9 where the injury actually -- and you have named several
- 10 situations.
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no, the injury -- my
- 12 goodness, he lost his billfold. There was money in it.
- 13 And by the way, when he gets home, his parents are away,
- 14 and he's not going to have any money to spend on food or
- 15 even, like, CDs or anything.
- 16 (Laughter.)
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: So, Justice Breyer, it is
- 18 our position that, in that situation, there is not
- 19 personal jurisdiction. And let me try --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: There is no jurisdiction in
- 21 those cases where he lost his billfold in the bookstore
- in the college town, 1,000 miles away from home, and
- 23 he's going home, and everybody knows he's never going to
- 24 have any money, and they keep the money.
- Okay. What's the difference? If there are

- 1 no cases on those, what is the difference between that
- 2 case and yours?
- 3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. The difference is
- 4 that the defendant in that instance, the injury arises
- 5 at the bookstore. Okay? And the fact that it has a
- 6 continuing effect, as a practical matter, the lower
- 7 courts uniformly treat the injury arising as in the
- 8 bookstore.
- 9 But there are situations that you can
- 10 imagine the following: And that is, he loses the
- 11 billfold in the store. Okay. That injury arose there.
- 12 Now, someone takes the credit card from the billfold
- 13 after he has gone home, knows that he's at home, and
- 14 starts spending his money with it. That injury arises
- 15 where he lives.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Now, give me the
- 17 case that says that.
- 18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. The cases that are
- 19 closest to that -- two of them are at page 25a of the
- 20 petition appendix. They are the Bancroft case, and
- 21 that -- these are not going to be billfold cases. Okay?
- 22 Billfold cases, people tend not to -- if you lose \$100,
- 23 people don't file a lawsuit. These are bigger cases.
- 24 And it's the petition appendix. You've
- 25 pulled open the red brief, so I am asking you for the

- 1 cert petition. The Bancroft case at 25a is where a
- 2 Georgia resident writes to a Virginia registrar, and the
- 3 registrar misappropriates the website of a California
- 4 company. And that is, they never set foot in
- 5 California. They don't -- you know, do anything in
- 6 California at all.
- 7 And there, there is jurisdiction in
- 8 California because they know that the person's going to
- 9 be hurt in California.
- 10 The next one is Metropolitan Life, that --
- 11 the same page, an Alabama resident writes to an
- insurance company, and they say, Ah, I'm entitled to the
- insurance proceeds. But the actual proceeds belong to
- 14 someone in California. And they never get the money.
- 15 So it's like this case. The money never gets sent into
- 16 California.
- 17 And these remote injury cases --
- 18 JUSTICE BREYER: Is this a case -- is this a
- 19 case like -- I'll look at those cases.
- 20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: But is your case a case
- 22 like where the -- a credit card is used, somebody finds
- 23 it in a bookstore and starts spending the money and did
- 24 the agents here, who were outside Nevada and they were
- 25 keeping the money, were they going and spending it?

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: They weren't going and
- 2 spending it. They were --
- 3 JUSTICE BREYER: Was there a credit card
- 4 that they were using?
- 5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. I -- I am giving
- 6 you -- I was trying to take a billfold example and --
- 7 I'm -- I'm trying to --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: I was trying to figure out
- 9 just which cases I should read carefully, and I will
- 10 read those cases.
- 11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. And there's a case
- 12 that's discussed in several of the briefs called
- 13 Dudnikov, and that involves an -- an eBay -- eBay-like
- 14 auction, and someone in one State blocks an auction in
- 15 another State.
- So one of the impressions --
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Was the money here in
- 18 Georgia the whole time?
- 19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: The money here was --
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: Was it still there in that
- 21 locker?
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: No. Here's the thing about
- 23 it, this is no longer about the cash. And this -- the
- 24 actual answer to your question is he turns the money in
- 25 at a locker, okay? Then it's deposited into an account.

- 1 It's not about the physical money in any way, shape, or
- 2 form at that point.
- We weren't -- when we got the money, nobody
- 4 sent us a duffle bag full of cash. There was a check,
- 5 of course.
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, if it were about
- 7 them --
- 8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: So -- so suppose they seized
- 10 a gold watch --
- 11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- and then they refused to
- 13 return the gold watch.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: But the gold watch really is
- 16 still sitting there in Georgia.
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay? Would you say that --
- 19 that then there's -- there's personal jurisdiction in
- 20 Nevada?
- 21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Okay. And same
- 22 facts, and that is a false affidavit, it's not just they
- 23 seized it, it's they make a false --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, they seize it, and
- 25 then there's a false affidavit keeping it.

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. Yes. That --
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: And the complaint is only
- 3 about the false affidavit, but it's in reference to
- 4 property that is indisputably in Georgia.
- 5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. I do think, if you can
- 6 prove an injury, which I think is very hard from the
- 7 gold watch -- let's say a computer, just to make it a
- 8 little bit more plausible, that they would be hurt in
- 9 Nevada, then, yes, I do think if you can make out an
- 10 injury, which isn't -- the tort doesn't arise until the
- 11 injury occurs.
- 12 That's why the lower courts treat these
- 13 cases as the tort occurring where the victim is.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Goldstein, can I take
- 15 you back to the origins of all of this?
- 16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: The main move for
- 18 personal jurisdiction, traditionally, is the plaintiff
- 19 must go to where the defendant is, no matter how
- 20 inconvenient that is for the plaintiff. Jurisdiction is
- 21 defendant-centered. You're trying to hold a defendant,
- 22 you have to go where he is.
- 23 Then the long-arm age comes about, and we
- 24 have specific jurisdiction, which, by the way, is what
- you're urging.

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You're certainly not saying
- 3 they have all-purpose jurisdiction over Walden.
- 4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No. Correct.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And this Court, as the
- 6 McIntyre decision indicates, has been pretty careful
- 7 about specific jurisdiction. And Miguel wasn't enough
- 8 that machine blew up or cut somebody's fingers in New
- 9 Jersey. They had to purposely avail themselves of
- 10 wherever the -- the standard words are.
- 11 And here, you're asking for -- really
- 12 pushing this specific jurisdiction to the limit. The
- 13 defendant has acted only in Georgia. He hasn't set foot
- 14 outside the State.
- 15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. So I don't think we
- 16 are trying to push the bounds -- let me make one point
- 17 about McIntyre and then try and correct the
- 18 misimpression that I think that's been left, that there
- 19 are a few contacts between Nevada and this case and
- 20 hopefully prove to you that there are far more contacts
- 21 between this tort and this forum than will be true in
- 22 the overwhelming majority of cases that the lower courts
- 23 confront.
- 24 And the point I would make, Justice
- 25 Ginsburg, and it's made by the plurality in McIntyre, is

- 1 that there have always been special rules for
- 2 intentional tort cases. That's the distinction, and
- 3 that's why Calder comes out the way it does, citing
- 4 restatement Section 32nd of the second -- the second
- 5 restatement of the conflict of laws, and that is the
- 6 reason -- it's not just made up.
- 7 The reason there's a special rule for
- 8 intentional torts is that the defendant knows he's
- 9 hurting someone somewhere else and, therefore, expects
- 10 to be haled into court. The view of the McIntyre
- 11 plurality, of course, was that the overseas manufacturer
- 12 there wasn't, itself, doing anything directed at the
- 13 forum.
- But if I could just get to the very
- 15 important point about --
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: Before you move on from that
- 17 point --
- 18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: -- your -- your argument is
- 20 dependent on the fact that the officer here knew that
- 21 the -- the plaintiffs were residents of Nevada; is that
- 22 right?
- 23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That they lived and worked
- 24 there.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: Why should that make any

- 1 difference? The conduct is the same; the injury is the
- 2 same. What if he didn't know? Then there would be no
- 3 personal jurisdiction.
- 4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That -- that is actually,
- 5 generally, what the lower courts hold, and their reason
- 6 is that the defendant is doing something, knowing that
- 7 he may be haled into that court. It is a
- 8 defendant-favoring rule that intends -- attempts to give
- 9 predictability.
- Now, if that's wrong, it doesn't hurt my
- 11 case because, as the case comes to you, it's not --
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, you could say that
- 13 about whatever rule we adopt. Once we adopt the rule,
- 14 when -- the defendant will know that, if he violates
- 15 that rule, he's going to be haled into court.
- 16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Scalia, there is
- 17 a --
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, it's sort of a
- 19 self-fulfilling point you're making.
- 20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. It's almost like the
- 21 Fourth Amendment reasonable expectations to privacy.
- 22 There is a circularity here. But it's not entirely
- 23 circular because we're talking about a specific State
- 24 here. It's not that he knows that the plaintiffs might
- 25 be -- live in Georgia or might live anywhere in the

- 1 United States, it's a very specific State, and that's
- 2 why it's not circular.
- Now, if I could just help you understand our
- 4 view that there are a lot more contacts between this
- 5 tort and Nevada than in the great, great -- at least
- 6 90 percent of the cases the lower courts are
- 7 confronting. So here are the points that I would make
- 8 about those contexts, and there are six, and I will try
- 9 and be brief.
- 10 The case involves money owned by Nevada
- 11 residents, \$30,000 of which originated in Nevada, and
- 12 all of which was on its way to Nevada.
- 13 Second, the defendant intentionally hurt the
- 14 plaintiffs, knowing that they would lose access to the
- 15 money in Nevada, where they lived and worked.
- Third, we will use documents in Nevada to
- 17 prove that his action was intentional because it omitted
- 18 the information that the defendant requested. This is
- 19 not a -- us unilaterally sending money. At the Atlanta
- 20 airport, he said, send us the proof that the funds are
- 21 legitimate, that he requested and received from the
- 22 plaintiffs in Nevada and that he learned in searching a
- 23 Nevada law enforcement database, which is paragraph 79
- 24 of the complaint.
- The two last points I would make is that the

- 1 plaintiffs will show that they were deprived of the
- 2 money in Nevada until the Nevada lawyer they had to hire
- 3 used records in Nevada to persuade the government to
- 4 send the money to Nevada.
- 5 And the plaintiffs in their case, of course,
- 6 will show, because it is the fact that they are gamblers
- 7 working in Las Vegas, that the economic injury occurred
- 8 to them there.
- 9 Now, if you think that's not enough, if you
- 10 conclude that's not enough, you are closing the door
- 11 absolutely to all of the internet cases because those
- 12 are cases where someone sits at the computer and targets
- 13 someone in another State. This --
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: But, when you're talking
- 15 about the internet, you're in a different world. But
- 16 this is a -- the facts here are old-fashioned.
- 17 Everything that happened here could have happened in
- 18 1920.
- 19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Could have happened in -- in
- 21 the 19th century.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 23 JUSTICE ALITO: So I don't see what the
- 24 internet has to do with this.
- 25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Alito, you always

- 1 tell us that you've got to write a legal rule, and there
- 2 is no special personal jurisdiction rule, and the lower
- 3 courts --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes. Well, there seems to
- 5 be because it's hard to think of an internet case where
- 6 a defendant wouldn't be having communications with
- 7 people in the foreign State, wouldn't be inviting
- 8 business, wouldn't be doing all kinds of things.
- 9 So there are many kinds of internet cases,
- 10 but I don't -- I don't automatically see, in deciding
- 11 this, that we're deciding any on --
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Breyer, the kinds of
- 13 internet cases -- and it's wrong for me to just say,
- 14 "internet" -- the kinds of cases that I'm talking about
- 15 are the fraud cases, the intentional tort cases --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Like what?
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: You steal -- you're sitting
- 18 in Georgia -- you don't, but someone is sitting in
- 19 Georgia, and they steal the identity of someone who's in
- 20 Nevada.
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: I wouldn't do that.
- (Laughter.)
- 23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I'm -- exactly -- that's why
- 24 I took it immediately back, recognizing the error.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: He wouldn't know how.

- 1 (Laughter.)
- 2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: But there are bad people in
- 3 the world, obviously, and those people do, with
- 4 increasing and distressing frequency at -- with these
- 5 new tools of communication, they are very, very capable
- of causing significant harm to someone else without
- 7 actually do -- setting foot in the State.
- 8 Now, I have to offer you a solution. Let me
- 9 just be clear. I recognize that this can go either way
- 10 because if I say, "internet cases," well, then I'm
- 11 opening the door to potentially a very wide-ranging set
- 12 of cases going into Nevada, and we have here the special
- 13 case of the law enforcement officer, and I believe that
- 14 I do have the solution.
- And that is, this is actually a case about
- 16 transfer. It is not a case about jurisdiction and
- 17 venue. This is the unusual case where the defendant
- 18 filed a motion to dismiss and did not file a 1404 motion
- 19 to transfer.
- 20 And this case is a lot -- you should treat
- 21 it like Atlantic Marine because what you need to do is
- 22 recognize, I think, that there's the big category of
- 23 jurisdiction. Where there is jurisdiction, there's a
- 24 subset, there is venue. That's where you can file a
- 25 lawsuit. That is not where the case is going to be

- 1 litigated.
- 2 And in these cases, what defendants
- 3 uniformly do -- and the lower courts pay incredible
- 4 attention to the fact that law enforcement officers are
- 5 going to be witnesses or are the defendant. In these
- 6 cases, the defendant comes in and says, okay, I
- 7 recognize, technically, there's jurisdiction and venue,
- 8 but let me tell you how disruptive it will be if I
- 9 actually have to litigate the case here.
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I don't understand
- 11 what you're saying. You're saying that we should
- 12 reverse the Ninth Circuit's dismiss -- the dismissal and
- 13 send it back for the district court to consider whether
- 14 the case should be transferred?
- 15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. I would not --
- 16 this is my judgment. I do not want it reversed. What
- 17 I'm saying --
- JUSTICE ALITO: I know that, so that's why
- 19 I'm confused by what you're saying about transfer.
- 20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I'm trying to describe an
- 21 opinion that you would write, and the opinion that I
- 22 think you would write is this -- and it says, look,
- 23 personal jurisdiction in the wake of Calder,
- 24 particularly where there are contacts here, exists.
- 25 Venue exists because several of these are events and

- 1 omissions, including the injury that occurs in Nevada.
- 2 But what we expect the lower courts to do in
- 3 a case like this is to pay particular attention at the
- 4 beginning of the case, as we do with qualified immunity,
- 5 to have an efficient process in which the defendant can
- 6 say --
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you are asking the
- 8 Court to decide a big-ticket item, personal
- 9 jurisdiction, and what -- the theory that you are
- 10 proposing would apply not to -- just to Officer Walden,
- 11 but it would be about as far out as any specific
- 12 jurisdiction case I know.
- 13 So the Court shouldn't say, well,
- 14 jurisdiction, okay, venue, okay, but consider it
- 15 transferring it to Georgia. That seems, to me, wild.
- 16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Ginsburg, I am not
- 17 trying to just skip over. I have talked for this entire
- 18 time about why I think we are right on jurisdiction and
- 19 venue, and I am pleased to return to the issue. What
- 20 I'm suggesting to you is that I recognize that we can't
- 21 have -- there are two ways of dealing with the prospect
- 22 of a broad personal jurisdiction rule.
- One is to narrow it substantially. The
- 24 second is to recognize that it doesn't determine where
- 25 the case is going to ultimately be litigated.

- 1 I will tell you, Justice Ginsburg, from
- 2 personally reviewing all of the post-Calder cases in the
- 3 Federal courts and the State courts, that the contacts
- 4 here are much, much greater between Nevada and this tort
- 5 than exists in the great majority of cases that the
- 6 lower courts are confronting.
- 7 And so if you --
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Did -- did Calder have
- 9 something to do with the notion that every defamation
- 10 is -- that every publication is a tort where it occurs?
- 11 There is something special about the libel cases. There
- 12 was that theory that, wherever the paper that contains
- 13 the libelous article -- wherever it is sent, each one of
- 14 those places, the tort occurs there.
- 15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Two things about that. That
- 16 is the rule for torts, not specifically -- it does -- it
- 17 is true of libel, but it is true, as well, of fraud.
- 18 The fraud occurs where the person is defrauded. This is
- 19 straight from the Restatement. It's the ordinary common
- 20 law rule. So the tort does happen where the victim is
- 21 injured in libel and in a case like --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, but you are libeled
- 23 wherever it is published. You don't have to be there
- 24 where it's published. You are libeled wherever it is
- 25 published.

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: And, Justice -- that's
- 2 correct. And, Justice Scalia, this is exactly why --
- 3 you were asking the question, why is it that
- 4 then-Justice Rehnquist's opinion in Calder has the
- 5 discussion that the other side is focusing on about how
- 6 the article was centered on California and how it came
- 7 from California sources.
- Now, none of the holding of the case
- 9 describes it, but you wondered -- and he has emphasized,
- 10 my friend has, why is it in the opinion? And it's for
- 11 the reason you have just given. And that is defamation
- 12 and libel cases, when you are talking about the
- 13 publication to the internet or publication nationwide
- 14 like the National Enquirer, the lower courts have
- 15 rightly focused on the fact, can we say that this isn't
- 16 just directed to the United States?
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: So -- so you could say that
- 18 Calder, far from being an expansive decision, was a
- 19 narrowing decision. It said -- you know, there's
- 20 jurisdiction not necessarily everywhere where the libel
- 21 was published, which is where the injury occurs, but
- 22 there is jurisdiction only -- only in California, where
- 23 these other connections existed.
- 24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: We are saying the same
- 25 thing. I'm just not explaining my view of it well

- 1 enough, and that is the
- 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: Except it's harder for you
- 3 to establish that the injury occurred in Nevada.
- 4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I don't think so, and let me
- 5 try my best. All right. The reason these defamation
- 6 cases about internet and national publications -- say
- 7 the New York Times is sued for defamation.
- 8 The Court was very concerned and the lower
- 9 courts are very concerned that the publisher can't be
- 10 sued in all 50 States. And so what the lowers courts
- 11 have done in the wake of Calder is say, I know you
- 12 published it to the whole country, National Enquirer,
- 13 but is it fair to say you expected to be haled into
- 14 court in California because there were special features
- 15 about this defamation.
- 16 Now, defamation and nationwide publication
- 17 is very different from the other torts the lower courts
- 18 confront, which, as was suggested in the first 30
- 19 minutes of questioning, I think, by Justice Kagan, are
- 20 directed at a person, the "shoot the gun" example, the
- 21 "defraud the victim" example.
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: But our jurisdiction cases
- 23 have not been based on where you expected to be sued.
- 24 You could expect to be sued anywhere if the State says
- 25 you are going to be sued here.

- 1 Our cases have focused on whether the State
- 2 has jurisdiction, whether the State has enough
- 3 connection with it to assert its power; not the
- 4 expectation of the defendant, but the power of the
- 5 State. That's what's going on here.
- 6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Scalia, I agree with
- 7 you, but I will say in my defense that, when the Court
- 8 has said -- when we are trying to figure out if there
- 9 are minimum contacts and whether it's consistent with
- 10 fair play and substantial justice, the language the
- 11 Court has used is, is it fair, because the defendant
- 12 could reasonably be expected -- could reasonably expect
- 13 to be haled into the court.
- 14 That's true of purposeful availment cases
- 15 like McIntyre. It's true of intentional tort cases.
- 16 And that is, we measure fairness and whether you are
- 17 getting process that is due to you procedurally by
- 18 whether this is something that you could expect to
- 19 happen to you --
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's your new test, just
- 21 whether you could expect this to happen?
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, sir. No, sir. I have
- 23 given you a specific test about where you have to
- 24 intentionally injure the person, knowing that they will be
- 25 injured there, and the injury has to arise there.

- 1 And as I've said, the way in intentional
- 2 tort cases that has to work is that the lower courts
- 3 recognize that a tort has a wrong and an injury, and the
- 4 injury is what makes the tort complete and the tort
- 5 occurs where the victim is.
- Just take the "shoot the gun" example,
- 7 right? The reason is that the person is injured there.
- 8 It doesn't have to be that you shoot the gun, that the
- 9 bullet travels across the State line, because the same
- 10 thing can happen when money is taken out of your bank
- 11 account.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: What is the -- what are the
- 13 elements of the -- of the second tort?
- 14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. It is essentially a
- 15 fraud claim. And that --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: And what is the element?
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That he knowingly submitted
- 18 information that caused the government not to send us
- 19 the money. False --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Injury element?
- 21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. That is --
- JUSTICE BREYER: How do I find that?
- 23 Because you see, in the fraud case, the element includes
- 24 the victims being misled.
- 25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. That's --

JUSTICE BREYER: But that's not necessarily 1 2 true here. I wonder --3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, it's actually not the 4 case that the victim has to be misled in fraud, 5 Justice Breyer, so for example --6 JUSTICE BREYER: It has to be a 7 misrepresentation --8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes, a knowing 9 misrepresentation. JUSTICE BREYER: -- material to. 10 11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. 12 JUSTICE BREYER: Material to? MR. GOLDSTEIN: Here, to the government's 13 14 decision --JUSTICE BREYER: Not here, but material 15 to -- normally, it has to be material to the obtaining 16 the, say, of property. 17 18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. Or the refusal to 19 return. 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Now, where do I find the 21 elements of the tort that you are alleging here? MR. GOLDSTEIN: The tort that we are 22 23 alleging here is essentially common law fraud under 24 Bivens. I can give you citations --25 JUSTICE BREYER: I don't see anything in the

- 1 complaint that says anything like that. It just says --
- 2 where -- where do I look to see it?
- 3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. The citations to the
- 4 complaint about -- it would be paragraphs 99 to 101.
- 5 "It's alleged to violate the Fourth Amendment and our
- 6 due process rights to have submitted the false affidavit
- 7 that caused the government not to send us the money."
- 8 And if you were to conclude, Justice Scalia,
- 9 that this injury doesn't arise here -- let me just tell
- 10 you what the consequences of that are. And that is
- 11 there are a large number of cases that arise constantly
- where people lose access to money, where they don't have
- 13 the insurance proceeds sent to them or the Social
- 14 Security checks or the IRS refunds.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Goldstein, as I
- 16 understood what Mr. Bucholtz was saying, he was saying
- 17 there is a distinction between an officer who commits a
- 18 fraud in Georgia, when your money is in Nevada, and so
- 19 he commits a fraud and he freezes your bank accounts in
- 20 Nevada, versus he commits a fraud by filing this
- 21 affidavit.
- 22 But it is as to money that is located where
- 23 he is, not where you are, but where he is in Georgia.
- 24 That's the distinction that I understood him to be
- 25 drawing.

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right.
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: What do you think about
- 3 that?
- 4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It doesn't make any
- 5 practical sense to me, and the money wasn't in Georgia.
- 6 The money was in an account in Quantico, Virginia that
- 7 belonged to the DEA.
- 8 What difference does it make as a matter of
- 9 personal jurisdiction between the following two cases
- 10 and that is the defendant sitting in Georgia steals
- 11 money from my bank account in Nevada or the defendant
- 12 sitting in Georgia causes the government not to send me
- 13 the money in Nevada --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: Because one of the elements
- 15 of the crime in the -- in the second case, no element of
- 16 the crime or no element of the tort, it's only the
- 17 injury, which isn't an element of the actual underlying
- 18 behavior that gives rise to, and in the first case, it's
- 19 the other. There is an element that takes place there.
- 20 That's what I'm looking for.
- 21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.
- 22 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm looking for that. I'm
- 23 not saying that I have it. That's why I asked you the
- 24 question I did.
- 25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. I believe that the

- 1 elements of the tort that Justice Kagan is describing
- 2 are the same elements that I am talking about here.
- 3 It's just where the money starts.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What -- what if the
- 5 plaintiffs in this case didn't leave Georgia?
- 6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They said, look, I'm
- 8 not leaving until I get my money back, and I'm going to
- 9 get my money back as soon as the lawyer sends us the
- 10 receipts or whatever it is. Is that a different case?
- 11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes, it is a different case,
- 12 Mr. Chief Justice. And the lower courts say the real
- 13 question is, where -- is this the kind of injury that
- 14 will arise where the Plaintiff lives and works. And any
- 15 case --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I thought your
- 17 arguments were, basically, it does arise where he lives
- 18 and works because it is in Nevada. And he still lives
- 19 and works in Nevada, even if he stays in Georgia and
- 20 says, I'm not leaving until I get the money.
- 21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, I -- that is -- for
- 22 example, on our seizure claim, we acknowledge that, at
- 23 the very least, there wouldn't be venue. And there's
- 24 another difference, in addition to the fact that they
- 25 had returned to Nevada and they had returned to living

- 1 and working.
- 2 And that is, in our actual case, we have the
- 3 documents that are sent at his request from Nevada. We
- 4 have the fact that he searches the Nevada law
- 5 enforcement databases. And we have the fact that the
- 6 money is going to be sent by the government to Nevada.
- 7 It's requested by their Nevada lawyer,
- 8 sending documents from Nevada. And so those are -- if
- 9 we think of Calder as a case in which there's not merely
- 10 injury in California, but a few extra factors that were
- in California, that's much more this case than it is any
- 12 of the other cases that the lower courts are
- 13 confronting.
- I would just discourage the Court, if I
- 15 could, from --
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Except, Mr. Goldstein --
- 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- it -- it is of no
- 19 consequence to Walden whether this person is from Alaska
- 20 or Nevada. In Calder, the article was about a person in
- 21 California. The sources came from California. The
- 22 paper had its principal circulation in California. It
- 23 seems to me there's nothing resembling that in this
- 24 case.
- 25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Justice Ginsburg, to my

- 1 mind, what resembles it are the documents that go from
- 2 Nevada to the defendant, and we think that's a --
- 3 specific to the fact that it was a libel and defamation
- 4 case.
- 5 Thank you.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 7 Mr. Bucholtz, you have four minutes
- 8 remaining.
- 9 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY S. BUCHOLTZ
- 10 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 11 MR. BUCHOLTZ: There was a lot of talk about
- 12 intentional torts being different, and -- and how there
- 13 should be a different rule in intentional torts. And I
- 14 want to start just by -- by emphasizing the implications
- 15 of that. The other side is putting all their eggs in
- 16 the basket of what's in Officer Walden's mind,
- 17 triggering some different personal jurisdiction inquiry.
- 18 And my friend even referred to qualified
- immunity by analogy, but I think that analogy is very
- 20 important. And it shows why it would be unworkable to
- 21 make personal jurisdiction turn on what's allegedly in
- 22 the defendant's mind.
- 23 This Court initially created qualified
- 24 immunity on that model as a -- as a -- based on
- 25 subjective good faith. That turned out not to work

- 1 because subjective good faith --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Write a -- counsel,
- 3 write a holding that takes care of your case without
- 4 putting at risk the internet cases that he's talking
- 5 about.
- 6 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Justice Sotomayor, I think
- 7 there is absolutely no reason the Court needs to address
- 8 internet cases or any other cases involving modern
- 9 technology. This case is -- the most modern technology
- 10 involved in this case, I think, is a dog sniff at the
- 11 airport. There's just no reason for the Court to
- 12 address any of those --
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, your adversary
- 14 is right. We write rules that get applied to different
- 15 concepts.
- 16 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Right.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So write the holding for
- 18 me that can't be just plaintiff -- defendant's
- 19 activities because Calder did more than just defendant's
- 20 activities, so write a different -- write the holding.
- 21 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Of course, Justice Sotomayor.
- 22 I understand there has to be a rule, and the rule is
- 23 here there is -- there's tangible property. This isn't
- 24 a case about property with no real-world presence that
- 25 only exists on a server somewhere.

- 1 This is a case about cash that was in a bag,
- 2 and the bag was in Atlanta, on the plaintiff's person in
- 3 Atlanta. It was seized in Atlanta. And the only
- 4 effect --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: I'm sorry. So there'd be a
- 6 difference if the bag had been shipped to Washington,
- 7 D.C.? And -- you know, money is -- is fungible. Money
- 8 is everywhere and nowhere. So it -- it seems as though
- 9 money is a bit different from a gold watch, that -- that
- 10 it was -- it's only contingent that the money remained
- in Atlanta, rather than being shipped to a bank
- 12 someplace else.
- MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, I think it's not
- 14 contingent -- and from Officer Walden's perspective, I
- 15 think it's incidental and contingent that the plaintiffs
- 16 happened to be from Nevada, and that's where the effects
- 17 of the seizure or the continued seizure or the delay in
- 18 return were felt.
- 19 But I think to -- to try to answer, Justice
- 20 Sotomayor, your question and your question earlier about
- 21 freezing a bank account in other kind of electronic
- 22 cases or internet cases, where different technologies
- 23 are involved, maybe there's a difference between
- 24 freezing a bank account in Nevada.
- 25 Maybe that can be said to be something that

- 1 occurs in Nevada -- that's reaching into Nevada to cause
- 2 a real effect in Nevada, to cause something to happen in
- 3 Nevada, which is different from seizing cash in Atlanta,
- 4 knowing and failing to return it, knowing that the
- 5 failure to return it is going to have an impact wherever
- 6 the plaintiffs are, which presumably will include where
- 7 they live, which is Nevada and California.
- 8 So maybe there's a way to draw a line
- 9 between freezing a bank account in Nevada, or in
- 10 Bancroft and Masters and Dudnikov, the cases that my
- 11 friend relied on, there were real-world activities
- 12 happening in the forum State.
- In Dudnikov, there were goods. There
- 14 were -- there were fabric prints that existed in the
- 15 real world. And they were being -- they were in
- 16 Colorado, and they were to be sold in Colorado. And the
- 17 defendant --
- 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Could this record or these
- 19 complaints be read to support the conclusion that the
- 20 injury was substantially altered by the false affidavit,
- 21 based on the misuse of the information received from
- 22 Nevada?
- 23 MR. BUCHOLTZ: Well, Justice Kennedy, I
- 24 think the complaint -- again, we're not challenging
- 25 the -- the reading by the lower courts that there's a

- 1 claim based on the affidavit that's distinct from the
- 2 claim based on the seizure. On the other hand, the
- 3 complaint only has a Fourth Amendment claim in it.
- 4 That's the only source of law that the complaint relies
- 5 on.
- 6 And the Fourth Amendment injury was complete
- 7 upon the seizure -- upon the search and seizure which
- 8 occurred in Atlanta. The quantum of damages wasn't
- 9 known yet at that time because the plaintiffs didn't
- 10 know whether they'd get the money back or when or what
- 11 might happen in-between.
- But that Fourth Amendment injury occurred
- 13 then and there. And so the fact that maybe their
- 14 consequential damages are higher because they didn't
- 15 have the use of the money for longer, as opposed to
- 16 shorter, I suppose that could increase their damages.
- But it doesn't fundamentally change the
- 18 nature of this case as one that has no meaningful
- 19 connection between Officer Walden's conduct, all of
- 20 which occurred in Atlanta and -- and Nevada.
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: You say the affidavit
- 22 wouldn't give rise to a Fourth Amendment claim.
- 23 MR. BUCHOLTZ: I think Judge Ikuda made that
- 24 point below, Justice Scalia, and I would agree with
- 25 that, that -- that, however, is what the complaint

Т	alleges, and we're here on personal jurisdiction and
2	venue and not on the merits of the of the complaint.
3	So, again, the complaint alleges that
4	there's this affidavit may I finish,
5	Mr. Chief Justice?
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You can finish your
7	sentence.
8	MR. BUCHOLTZ: The complaint alleges that
9	there is this affidavit written in Georgia for the
10	purpose of seizing funds that were seized in Georgia,
11	that were to be forfeited in Georgia. The only
12	connection to Nevada is the fact that the plaintiffs
13	allegedly felt the impact there. Under any of this
14	Court's precedents, that's not sufficient.
15	Thank you, Your Honors.
16	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
17	Counsel.
18	The case is submitted.
19	(Whereupon, at 11:04 a.m., the case in the
20	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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