## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
	_
CITY OF GRANTS PASS, OREGON,	)
Petitioner,	)
v.	) No. 23-175
GLORIA JOHNSON, ET AL., ON BEHALF	)
OF THEMSELVES AND ALL OTHERS	)
SIMILARLY SITUATED,	)
Respondents.	)

Pages: 1 through 169

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6	GLORIA JOHNSON, ET AL., ON BEHALF	)
7	OF THEMSELVES AND ALL OTHERS	)
8	SIMILARLY SITUATED,	)
9	Respondents.	)
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12	Washington, D.C.	
13	Monday, April 22, 20	24
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15	The above-entitled matter of	ame on for
16	oral argument before the Supreme (	Court of the
17	United States at 10:04 a.m.	
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1	APPEARANCES:
2	THEANE D. EVANGELIS, ESQUIRE, Los Angeles, California;
3	on behalf of the Petitioner.
4	EDWIN S. KNEEDLER, Deputy Solicitor General,
5	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for the
6	United States, as amicus curiae, supporting
7	neither party.
8	KELSI B. CORKRAN, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
9	of the Respondents.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:04 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 23-175, City
5	of Grants Pass versus Johnson.
6	Ms. Evangelis.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF THEANE D. EVANGELIS
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MS. EVANGELIS: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	Like cities nationwide, Grants Pass
12	relies on camping laws to protect its public
13	spaces. These generally applicable laws
14	prohibit specific conduct and are essential to
15	public health and safety.
16	The Ninth Circuit tied cities' hands
17	by constitutionalizing the policy debate over
18	how to address growing encampments. Its holding
19	that the Eighth Amendment bars Grants Pass from
20	enforcing its camping laws is wrong for three
21	reasons.
22	First, the Cruel and Unusual
23	Punishments Clause governs which punishments are
24	permitted, not what conduct can be prohibited.
25	Second, no precedent supports the

- 1 Ninth Circuit's rule. Respondents and the
- 2 United States abandoned its reliance on Powell.
- 3 Instead, they misread Robinson to bar any
- 4 punishment for involuntary conduct that's linked
- 5 to a status. But Robinson held only that states
- 6 cannot outlaw the status of drug addiction. It
- 7 made clear that they can prohibit conduct like
- 8 drug use. This Court should not rewrite
- 9 Robinson six decades later.
- 10 Third, the Ninth Circuit's approach
- 11 has proven unworkable. The Eighth Amendment
- does not tell courts who is involuntarily
- 13 homeless, what shelter is adequate, or what
- time, place, and manner regulations are allowed.
- But, in 35 suits and counting, federal courts
- are now deciding everything from the exact size
- of campsites in San Rafael to the adequacy of
- 18 empty beds at specific shelters, like the Gospel
- 19 Rescue Mission in Grants Pass, and cities are
- 20 struggling to apply arbitrary, shifting
- 21 standards in the field.
- This Court should reverse and end the
- Ninth Circuit's failed experiment, which has
- fueled the spread of encampments while harming
- 25 those it purports to protect.

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- 1 I welcome the Court's questions.
- 2 JUSTICE THOMAS: Do you consider these
- 3 civil or criminal penalties?
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: They are both, Justice
- 5 Thomas. There is criminal trespass and civil --
- 6 JUSTICE THOMAS: Is that involved in
- 7 this case?
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, it is.
- 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: To what extent? I
- 10 mean, has any of the Petitioner's -- any of the
- 11 parties here been subject to criminal trespass?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, they are at
- issue in the case. The district court enjoined
- them. And, yes, they -- they do apply here.
- 15 They are for recidivist offenses.
- 16 JUSTICE THOMAS: But which party has
- been held accountable for criminal trespass?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. So, here, none
- of the individuals who are currently in the
- 20 case.
- 21 JUSTICE THOMAS: So what's involved in
- this case?
- MS. EVANGELIS: For Logan and Johnson,
- 24 civil, the civil penalties.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: And so what -- is it

- 1 the anti-camping, or what is it?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, it is.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. So that's
- 4 civil, or is it criminal?
- 5 MS. EVANGELIS: The camping ordinance
- 6 is civil. And then, for repeat offenders, it's
- 7 punishable --
- 8 JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. So --
- 9 MS. EVANGELIS: -- by criminal
- 10 trespass.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: But we're not talking
- 12 about repeat offenders right now, right?
- MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So -- and then -- so
- then have we ever applied the Eighth Amendment
- 16 to civil penalties?
- 17 MS. EVANGELIS: Not the Cruel and
- 18 Unusual Punishments Clause, no.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, what
- will the City do if you don't prevail here?
- MS. EVANGELIS: The City's hands will
- 22 be tied. It will be forced to surrender its
- 23 public spaces, as it has been. Unfortunately,
- 24 beds are going unused at the Gospel Rescue
- 25 Mission. People are not getting the help that

- 1 they need.
- 2 The City is under an injunction here,
- 3 and it's unable to rely on these basic
- 4 ordinances. And the Ninth Circuit's decisions
- 5 give cities like Grants Pass no guidance about
- 6 how they can navigate this very challenging
- 7 area. The Ninth Circuit has effectively imposed
- 8 a municipal code under the Ninth Circuit's
- 9 Martin rule to regulate what the City can do in
- 10 its public spaces.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, can I
- just stop you a moment? The Gospel unused beds,
- 13 they're less than a hundred, right?
- MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct.
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And there's
- 16 thousands of homeless?
- 17 MS. EVANGELIS: There are, I believe,
- as many as 600 in Grants Pass according to the
- 19 district court's --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But there's still
- only less than a hundred beds?
- MS. EVANGELIS: That is right.
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Now can I stop you
- a moment? You are not asking us to overturn
- 25 Robinson, correct?

1 MS. EVANGELIS: We think Robinson was 2 wrongly decided and should not be extended, but 3 we don't think that the Court needs to overrule it here --4 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. 6 Assuming it's there --7 MS. EVANGELIS: -- because it's still 8 saying --9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- it prohibits you criminalizing homelessness, right? So what 10 11 you do is say only homeless people who sleep 12 outdoors will be arrested? That's the testimony of your chief of police, two -- and two or three 13 14 officers, which is, if you read the crime, it's 15 only stopping you from sleeping in public if you 16 -- for the purpose of maintaining a temporary 17 place to live. 18 And the police officers testified that 19 that means that if a stargazer wants to take a 20 blanket or a sleeping bag out at night to watch the stars and falls asleep, you don't arrest 21 2.2 them. You don't arrest babies who have blankets 23 over them. You don't arrest people who are sleeping on the beach, as I tend to do if I've 24 25 been there a while.

You only arrest people who don't have 1 2 a second home. Is that correct? 3 MS. EVANGELIS: Well --JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Who don't have a 4 5 home? 6 MS. EVANGELIS: So, no. These laws 7 are generally applicable. They apply to 8 everyone. 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yeah, that's what 10 you want to say. Give me one example, because 11 your police officers couldn't, and they 12 explicitly said, if someone has another home --13 has a home, and is out there and happens to fall 14 asleep, they won't be arrested -- fall asleep 15 with something on them. 16 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, Joint Appendix, 17 page 98, is one example of a citation issued to a person with a home address. But, more 18 importantly, I think what we're getting at here 19 20 is that these laws regulate conduct of everyone. 21 There's nothing in the law that criminalizes 2.2 homelessness. I really want to --23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's what --24 that's what you say, but if I look at the record

and see differently, it's a different argument,

- 1 isn't it?
- 2 MS. EVANGELIS: Grants Pass policy
- 3 actually very clearly says that being homeless
- 4 is not a crime. And that's in --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, I know
- 6 that's what you say, but if you're enforcing it
- 7 only against the homeless, I will suggest that
- 8 you look -- there's one brief -- let me see if I
- 9 can find it -- that talks about this. At any
- 10 rate, I'll find it later and just mention it.
- 11 The second thing I want to ask you is
- 12 you seemed to start by saying that the Eighth
- 13 Amendment is limited to forms of punishment and
- 14 not to the nature of punishment, the
- 15 proportionality issue.
- 16 There also is a number of amicus brief
- 17 that lays out for us that from the Magna Carta
- 18 through the founding, through state laws,
- 19 through Weems, which was in 1910, through Trop
- 20 later in the century, that throughout all of
- 21 that, both the English, American colonies, this
- 22 Court has had some form of proportionality in
- 23 their Eighth Amendment jurisprudence.
- 24 You're asking us to ignore all of that
- 25 history.

1 MS. EVANGELIS: No, we're not, Justice 2 Sotomayor. What we are saying is that this case 3 doesn't implicate proportionality. We're not asking the Court to take a position on whether 4 it's a proper inquiry under the Eighth 5 6 Amendment. 7 For example --JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Oh, yes. Yes, you 8 9 are, because you're saying that the only thing 10 that's prohibited by the Eighth Amendment is the form of punishment. But, in those cases and in 11 12 our history, we have said that certain 13 punishments, Trop, for example, can't be done. 14 MS. EVANGELIS: That's right. And the 15 Court has always looked at, if a particular 16 punishment is considered too extreme or categorically so, as in the death penalty in 17 18 some cases, the Court looks at whether a lesser 19 punishment would be acceptable. 20 Again, it's looking at punishment, and that's where the inquiry focuses. Here, only --21 2.2 what -- what the Respondents are asking this 23 Court to do is to extend Robinson beyond --24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do you have hotels 25 that are valued at 200, \$250 in your city?

- 1 MS. EVANGELIS: I -- I --
- 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Just answer yes or
- 3 no.
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: I don't -- I don't
- 5 know.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, let's assume
- 7 because, even in New York City, which may be the
- 8 most expensive city in the nation or close to
- 9 it, there are hotels that are less than that or
- 10 at that price.
- If a homeless person had that kind of
- money, do you -- don't you think they'd stay in
- 13 a hotel?
- MS. EVANGELIS: So, Justice Sotomayor,
- 15 the -- the difficulty here is that this rule
- that the Respondents are proposing rests on
- whether someone's conduct is involuntary. Most
- importantly here, we're talking about conduct,
- so I want to talk about how this is completely
- 20 distinguishable from Robinson. The point --
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: So can I talk about
- 22 that, Ms. Kapur? So taking Robinson as a given,
- 23 could you criminalize the status of
- 24 homelessness?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I have a couple

- 1 points to that.
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: It's just a simple
- 3 question.
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: So Robinson doesn't
- 5 address that and I think it's completely
- 6 distinguishable. So Robinson was a --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could you criminalize
- 8 the status of homelessness?
- 9 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I don't think
- 10 that homelessness is a status like drug
- 11 addiction, and Robinson only stands for that.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, homelessness is
- a status. It's the status of not having a home.
- MS. EVANGELIS: I actually -- I
- disagree with that, Justice Kagan, because it is
- 16 so fluid, it's so different. People
- 17 experiencing homelessness might be one day
- 18 without shelter, the next day with. The federal
- 19 definition contemplates various forms.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: At the period with
- 21 which -- in the period where -- where you don't
- 22 have a home and you are homeless, is that a
- 23 status?
- MS. EVANGELIS: No.
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could you criminalize

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1
     that?
 2
               MS. EVANGELIS: No, it's not. So
     Robinson talked about --
 3
 4
               JUSTICE KAGAN: So you couldn't just
 5
 6
               MS. EVANGELIS: -- addiction like a
7
     disease.
               JUSTICE KAGAN: -- you -- you -- you
8
9
     could criminalize just homelessness?
10
               MS. EVANGELIS: So I want to say first
11
      a couple of things. So I think that for the --
12
     the --
13
               JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, that's guite
14
     striking to --
15
               MS. EVANGELIS: No, I don't. We --
16
               JUSTICE KAGAN: -- that you think that
17
     you can criminalize just homelessness.
18
               MS. EVANGELIS: No, we're not saying
19
      that homelessness is a status, but, most
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MS. EVANGELIS: -- is the wrong way to

importantly, I think the Eighth Amendment --

JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, you're not

24 focus on this question.

saying --

20

21

22

JUSTICE KAGAN: It's really a simple

- 1 question. Can you criminalize homelessness?
- 2 And you're suggesting, yes, you could.
- 3 MS. EVANGELIS: No, we do not
- 4 criminalize homelessness. I'm not saying --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could you criminalize
- 6 homelessness? Not tell me what you do do, what
- 7 you don't do. Could you?
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: So I think there would
- 9 be due process problems and vagueness problems.
- 10 I don't think there's an Eighth Amendment
- 11 problem in the sense of Robinson because that
- was a limited decision where the holding was
- 13 solely about a disease of addiction. The Court
- was very clear about distinguishing between
- 15 addiction and possession or use.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, counsel --
- MS. EVANGELIS: And so --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: You're right that it's
- 19 a different status that was involved in
- 20 Robinson. But Robinson made clear that there
- 21 was a category of cases which were status
- 22 offenses, which were different from conduct
- offenses.
- And when you started off here today,
- you said we're just criminalizing conduct. So,

- 1 to tell you the truth, I thought that this was
- 2 going to be a question where you would say, no,
- 3 of course, we can't criminalize a status, but
- 4 there's conduct here. And then I was going to
- 5 say: What is the conduct here?
- 6 But you didn't say that. You said you
- 7 could criminalize even the status of
- 8 homelessness, and that suggests to me that --
- 9 that you're off on the wrong track in thinking
- 10 about this issue.
- 11 MS. EVANGELIS: So, Justice Kagan, I
- think the -- the point where we are disagreeing
- 13 here is really about whether the Eighth
- 14 Amendment is the right framework for this
- 15 discussion.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, the Eighth
- 17 Amendment was the framework in Robinson.
- 18 MS. EVANGELIS: And I --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: So taking Robinson as
- 20 a given, where Robinson said the Eighth
- 21 Amendment protects you against status-based
- 22 crimes --
- MS. EVANGELIS: I don't --
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- that's what the
- 25 question is.

- 1 MS. EVANGELIS: -- I don't think Robinson extends that far. I think Robinson 2 itself was cabined -- and I think the Marshall 3 plural -- Justice Marshall's plurality in Powell 4 goes into a discussion about this and how that 5 6 was the right line. 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. What is the conduct here? 8 MS. EVANGELIS: The conduct is 9 10 camping, establishing a campsite. And it's the 11 same as in the federal regulations that the 12 National Park Service relies on. JUSTICE KAGAN: So I didn't think that 13 14 that was the -- the conduct. I thought that the 15 only conduct here was sleeping outside with a 16 blanket.
- MS. EVANGELIS: No, it is the conduct
- of establishing a campsite, which includes
- 19 making a bed with bedding or other materials --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well --
- 21 MS. EVANGELIS: -- and the federal law
- 22 is --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- a campsite suggests
- 24 something different to people. It suggests a
- 25 tent. It suggests a conglomeration of people.

- 1 You know, tent camps, if you will.
- 2 But your ordinance does not just
- 3 prohibit that. Your ordinance prohibits a
- 4 single person who is homeless, so does not have
- 5 another place to sleep, that's a status, I don't
- 6 have another place to sleep, a single person
- 7 sleeping instead in public with a blanket.
- 8 That's what I understand your statute to do.
- 9 Is that not what your statute does?
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: The statute does not
- 11 say anything about homelessness. It's a
- 12 generally applicable law. One more -- it --
- it's very important that it applies to everyone,
- 14 even --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, I -- I got that.
- MS. EVANGELIS: -- people who are
- 17 camping.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: But it's a single
- 19 person with a blanket.
- MS. EVANGELIS: And --
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: You don't have to have
- 22 a tent. You don't have to have a camp. It's a
- 23 single person with a blanket.
- MS. EVANGELIS: And sleeping in
- 25 conduct is considered -- excuse me, sleeping in

- 1 public is considered conduct. And this Court --
- 2 this Court in Clark discussed that, that is
- 3 conduct.
- 4 Also, the federal regulations --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, sleeping is --
- 6 MS. EVANGELIS: -- are very --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- a biological
- 8 necessity. It's sort of like breathing. I
- 9 mean, you could say breathing is conduct too,
- 10 but, presumably, you would not think that it's
- okay to criminalize breathing in public.
- MS. EVANGELIS: I would like to point
- to the federal regulations which I brought up.
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: And for a homeless
- 15 person who has no place to go, sleeping in
- 16 public is kind of like breathing in public.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, two points.
- So, first, even the federal
- 19 regulations prohibit even sleeping. They don't
- 20 even require any materials, including but -- but
- 21 not necessary under the federal regulation. So
- 22 this is conduct that is understood by
- 23 jurisdictions nationwide and even the federal
- 24 government to be conduct that is prohibited, and
- 25 so I want to make that point.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: See, I'll
2	MS. EVANGELIS: The second point
3	JUSTICE KAGAN: I'll tell you the
4	truth, Ms. Kapur. I think that this is this
5	is a super-hard policy problem for all
6	municipalities. And if you were to come in here
7	and you were to say, you know, we need certain
8	protections to keep our streets safe and we
9	can't have, you know, people sleeping anyplace
10	that they want and we can't have, you know, tent
11	cities cropping up, I mean, that would create
12	one set of issues.
13	But your ordinance goes way beyond
14	that. Your ordinance says as to a person and
15	I understand that you think it's generally
16	applicable, but we only come up with this
17	problem for a person who is homeless, who has
18	the status of homelessness, who has no other
19	place to sleep, and your statute says that
20	person cannot take himself and himself only and,
21	you know, can't take a blanket and sleep
22	someplace without it being a crime. And
23	and and that's, you know well, it just
24	seems like Robinson. It seems like you're
25	criminalizing a status.

1 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, it is not. And 2 we agree with you that this is a very difficult 3 policy question, and that's exactly --4 JUSTICE KAGAN: But that --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel --5 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- it isn't. 6 7 MS. EVANGELIS: -- why the Eighth 8 Amendment --9 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can you answer why? 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Can I --11 JUSTICE JACKSON: Why is it not? 12 Just -- I mean, Justice Kagan has put -- laid out one of the essential problems here, 13 14 which is that you're making a distinction 15 between status and conduct. Okay. We see that. 16 And you keep saying this is conduct. 17 Can you explain why? 18 MS. EVANGELIS: The actus reus element, that's exactly what was missing in 19 Robinson and that's what we have here. And 20 that's why that law was so unique. It's a very 21 22 peculiar --23 JUSTICE JACKSON: So it seems to me 24 that Robinson actually hurts you and not helps you in the following sense. You know, it seems 25

- 1 both cruel and unusual to punish people for acts
- 2 that constitute basic human needs.
- 3 So, here, unlike in Robinson, where,
- 4 you know, you had at least the sort of disease
- 5 state, drugs and -- and -- and the like, and
- 6 potentially culpable acts that relate to that
- 7 disease state, here, we're talking about
- 8 sleeping that is universal, that is a basic
- 9 function. And so I guess what I don't
- 10 understand is, in this circumstance, why that
- 11 particular state is being considered conduct for
- 12 the purpose of -- of -- of punishment.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I think that
- just illustrates the line-drawing problems
- 15 because, if you look at biological necessities
- and what a person needs to do, you know, the
- 17 Ninth Circuit's decisions in this area would
- 18 allow --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I give you a
- 20 hypothetical?
- 21 MS. EVANGELIS: -- all sorts of
- 22 behavior.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I give you a
- 24 hypothetical?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. Thank you.

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay. So suppose
2	the relevant ordinance prohibited eating on
3	public property rather than sleeping or camping.
4	We're talking about eating. And the city, for
5	very, you know, rational reasons, has determined
6	that when people eat outdoors, it creates
7	problems with trash and rodents and the like,
8	and so it bans eating in public places and it
9	punishes violators.
10	Now, just as here, that seems
11	generally fine because most people have
12	restaurants that they can go to, most people
13	have houses that they can eat in. But some
14	people don't have that option. They have to eat
15	in public because they're unhoused and they
16	can't afford to go to a restaurant.
17	So is is your argument the same
18	result, no Eighth Amendment problem, no problem
19	with the city banning eating in public, even
20	though that's a public function I mean,
21	excuse me, even though that's a human necessity
22	that everyone engages in, and, really, what's
23	happening is you're only punishing certain
24	people who can't afford to do it privately?
25	MS FVANCELIS: Well it sounds like

- 1 -- I -- I take for a moment that you're not
- 2 saying the law -- that the law draws lines on
- 3 any sort of irrational basis or any equal
- 4 protection issue --
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: No. The city has a
- 6 rational basis.
- 7 MS. EVANGELIS: -- and --
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: When people eat in
- 9 public --
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- there is trash,
- there are rodents, there are problems. So the
- city says what we're going to do is we're going
- 14 to say no eating in public.
- What I'm concerned about from your
- 16 argument is the suggestion -- you know, you call
- it conduct, I appreciate that, but what we have
- happening in operation is that people who are
- 19 able to afford doing this thing that's a basic
- 20 human need privately are okay. They're not
- 21 punished for it. But people who don't have any
- 22 other option or opportunity except for to do it
- in public are the ones who are being targeted by
- 24 this statute.
- MS. EVANGELIS: So two responses.

- First, I think the Eighth Amendment is
  the wrong way to look at it. Someone might have
- 3 a due process challenge to a law like that if
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: But punishment is
- 6 happening. In my hypothetical, people are going

there is a deeply entrenched liberty interest.

- 7 to jail because they're eating in public.
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: So, in that case --
- 9 JUSTICE JACKSON: Why is the Eighth
- 10 Amendment not implicated?
- 11 MS. EVANGELIS: -- in that case, you
- 12 would have a defense under Oregon law, for
- 13 example, a necessity defense.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, on -- on --
- 15 on --

- MS. EVANGELIS: And I want to get to
- 17 that on the camping.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm sorry to
- 19 interrupt.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But, on that point,
- 22 I think we're having some debate about where to
- 23 lodge the defense, whether it's under the Eighth
- 24 Amendment or under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- But do you concede that there are

- 1 instances in which a necessity defense, long
- 2 recognized at common law, would apply to eating
- 3 in public, sleeping in public, or other things
- 4 like that?
- 5 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, I agree. And,
- 6 actually, here, in the case of camping, Oregon
- 7 law recognizes a necessity defense, so as a
- 8 matter of state law and policy -- and, again,
- 9 that goes to the difficult policy questions --
- 10 that's why states are able to address the needs
- 11 of what this issue raises.
- 12 And so, for something under Oregon's
- 13 state law, a person could raise that defense
- under the necessity defense, and then, if that's
- 15 not enough, if they believe that that's not
- 16 broad enough somehow --
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And you're saying --
- MS. EVANGELIS: -- they can argue due
- 19 process.
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- Oregon law has
- 21 that defense --
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- already built
- 24 into it?
- MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct.

2.8

- 1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right. Thank
- 2 you.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Let me ask you about
- 4 Oregon law, because one sort of threshold
- 5 concern that I have about this case is I
- 6 understand that Oregon has enacted a statute, a
- 7 new statute, that seems to address this very
- 8 issue, so I'm trying to understand why this is
- 9 -- is still a live case.
- 10 As I read the new law, it essentially
- 11 codifies Martin's rule, that it says something
- 12 about all regulations of this nature have to be
- objectively reasonable as to time, place, and
- manner with regard to -- with regards to people
- 15 experiencing homelessness.
- 16 So it seems like the state has already
- 17 precluded Grants Pass from doing the sort of
- thing it's doing here, so why do we need to
- 19 weigh in on that?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, no, it hasn't.
- 21 So, first, both sides agree that this case is
- 22 not moot. There is no state law challenge in
- this case. But, more importantly, that standard
- is very different from Martin, and there's never
- 25 been a challenge to our laws.

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: What about
2	constitutional avoidance? So, fine, it's not
3	moot, but wouldn't our principle be that we
4	don't need to reach the constitutionality of
5	this issue if there's another possible way of
6	resolving it because the state has addressed it?
7	MS. EVANGELIS: Well, not at all. So
8	the state's law is very different. And we
9	believe our law is satisfied.
LO	But, more importantly, the fact that
L1	the state is acting here is a good thing. We
L2	agree that states should be able to make policy
L3	and to weigh all of the competing concerns.
L4	And, here, the need to reverse Martin
L5	is so critical because laws like ours, they
L6	really do serve an essential purpose. They
L7	protect the health and safety of everyone. It
L8	is not safe to live in encampments. It's
L9	unsanitary. We see what's happening. And there
20	are the the harms at the encampments
21	themselves on those in them and outside. We
22	know this. The federal government has cleared
23	encampments here in the capital in McPherson
24	Square. So this is an urgent problem.
2.5	And also, there are downstream effects

- of all the other things that flow from it, but
- 2 it is very important here to understand that the
- 3 state laws and the --
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: So is it your
- 5 argument that the Eighth Amendment has nothing
- 6 to say about how the City responds to such
- 7 problems? I mean, suppose the City decided that
- 8 it was going to execute homeless people. I
- 9 mean, very extreme, I know, but it would solve
- 10 the problems that you're talking about.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, that -- that
- 12 would be --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Do we have an Eighth
- 14 Amendment issue in that circumstance?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. I -- I think --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Why?
- MS. EVANGELIS: -- there, you look at
- 18 the punishment. That -- again, here, we're
- 19 looking at the punishment, which is low-level
- 20 fine --
- 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That -- that would
- 22 be both cruel and unusual, wouldn't it?
- MS. EVANGELIS: I -- I think it would
- 24 -- it would be. Yes, I think it absolutely
- would.

1	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why not just yes to
2	that?
3	(Laughter.)
4	MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. Thank you.
5	Thank you, Justice Gorsuch.
6	JUSTICE BARRETT: Counsel, can I ask
7	you a question about the scope of your
8	ordinance? So, as Justice Kagan was pointing
9	out, this this criminalizes sleeping with a
LO	blanket at a minimum, right?
L1	MS. EVANGELIS: Yeah.
L2	JUSTICE BARRETT: Correct? But, as I
L3	understand it, after this decision and and
L4	maybe after Martin before that, there was some
L5	question about whether it also criminalized
L6	having fires, campfires, tents.
L7	Can you talk a little bit about that
L8	and what the scope of it is? Does the
L9	Constitution then make it impossible for a city
20	to limit the use of fires and encampments,
21	tents, those kinds of temporary shelters?
22	MS. EVANGELIS: It really does because
23	the rationale of Martin, the the argument
24	that it's a biological necessity to sleep
25	outside the Respondents arous a blanket is

- 1 necessary in Oregon. Some might argue a tent
- 2 and a fire is necessary in North Dakota. The
- 3 Eighth Amendment really doesn't give us any
- 4 answers to what cities can and can't prohibit.
- 5 It's really administratively impossible for
- 6 cities on the ground, as well as for courts, to
- 7 administer. So we're seeing --
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. This
- 9 -- we have nothing to do with fires or tents.
- 10 That was exempted under the district court's
- injunction, and the circuit court didn't require
- 12 that. We're talking only about sleeping with a
- 13 blanket.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I -- I --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So let's narrow it
- 16 to what it is. I agree there might be other
- 17 cases in the Ninth Circuit that are not
- 18 rational, and I don't mean to throw aspersions
- 19 at -- at those holdings, but some of them are
- 20 not permitting time/place restrictions.
- Let's go beyond that. Let's go here.
- Here, you're not precluded from prohibiting
- fires. You're not precluded from prohibiting
- 24 tents. What's at issue is are you prohibited
- 25 from keeping -- having someone wear a blanket

- 1 anywhere in the city.
- 2 Your intent was to remove -- stated by
- 3 your mayor, intent is to remove every homeless
- 4 person and give them no public space to sit down
- 5 with a blanket or lay down with a blanket and
- 6 fall asleep.
- 7 MS. EVANGELIS: That's not the intent
- 8 of the law. And I would like to --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well --
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: -- address that point
- 11 because the other side has --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- why don't you
- answer the basic question.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. So --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's not about
- 16 fires. It's not about tents. It's about not
- 17 being -- a time and place restriction about
- 18 eliminating all choices.
- 19 MS. EVANGELIS: So we think that it is
- 20 harmful for people to be living in public spaces
- 21 on streets and in parks, whatever bedding
- 22 materials. When humans are living in those
- 23 conditions, we think that that's not
- 24 compassionate and that --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Oh, it's not, but

1 2 MS. EVANGELIS: -- there's no dignity 3 in that. We -- we don't. 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- neither is --5 neither is providing them with nothing --6 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, we --7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to alleviate that situation. 8 9 MS. EVANGELIS: This is a difficult 10 policy question, Justice Sotomayor. It -- it 11 is. And --12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Where do we put 13 them if every city, every village, every town 14 lacks compassion --15 MS. EVANGELIS: We --16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- and passes a 17 law identical to this? Where are they supposed 18 to sleep? Are they supposed to kill themselves, 19 not sleeping? 20 MS. EVANGELIS: So this is -- a 21 necessity defense, as I mentioned, under Oregon 2.2 law is available. States are able to address 23 these concerns. This is a complicated policy 24 question. We believe that the Eighth Amendment

analysis, to go back to it, focuses on the

- 1 low-level fines.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's so
- 3 complicated about letting someone somewhere
- 4 sleep with a blanket in the outside if they have
- 5 nowhere to sleep? The laws against defecation,
- 6 the laws against keeping things unsanitary
- 7 around yourself, those have all been upheld.
- 8 The only thing this injunction does is
- 9 say you can't stop someone from sleeping in a
- 10 public place without a blanket.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why don't you
- answer and then we'll move on to the next round,
- and you can be thinking about an answer to
- 14 Justice Sotomayor while they -- we move into a
- 15 different --
- MS. EVANGELIS: Thank you.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- stage of
- 18 the argument.
- 19 Is being a bank robber a status?
- 20 MS. EVANGELIS: No. I would say
- 21 that -- well -- well, if -- if your question is
- asking would it be permissible to punish being a
- 23 bank robber, I think that would have vagueness
- 24 problems probably.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, it would

- 1 be someone who robbed a bank. That doesn't
- 2 sound vague.
- 3 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I don't -- I --
- 4 I don't think that it is a status in the sense
- 5 of Robinson, which, again, I -- I want to just
- 6 focus on what we think Robinson stands for, and
- 7 it's only its narrow holding about addiction.
- And the -- there, it was the status of
- 9 being an addict without any mens rea. So a law
- 10 like that -- excuse me, without any actus reus.
- 11 A law like that is problematic. Without an
- 12 actus reus, I think it would probably have
- vagueness problems, due process problems.
- 14 However, the Eighth Amendment, this
- 15 entire exercise under Robinson is the only time
- 16 this Court has ever evaluated the substantive
- 17 criminal law, and it raises all of these
- 18 line-drawing problems. And the fact that -- I'm
- 19 not here to defend Robinson. As a matter of
- 20 first principles, we don't agree with it. We
- 21 think it was wrongly decided. We're just saying
- 22 that it is so far removed -- that our laws are
- 23 so far removed from what was at issue in
- 24 Robinson that it just isn't implicated here.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So, if someone

- 1 is homeless for a week and then finds available
- 2 shelter, is that person homeless when he's in
- 3 the shelter?
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: Under federal law, the
- 5 HUD regulations, he is actually considered
- 6 homeless. That shows the fluidity and the
- 7 different ways of --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Putting the
- 9 HUD regulations to one side, can someone who is
- 10 sleeping in a shelter be considered homeless?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Some would say yes,
- 12 that someone who --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What would you
- 14 say?
- MS. EVANGELIS: I -- I would say that
- 16 at that point he is sheltered and homeless. I
- 17 think he -- he -- that -- that is also --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: All right.
- 19 Let me make it easier. What if he buys a home
- or finds a home or is given a home? I mean, is
- 21 he homeless --
- MS. EVANGELIS: No, he is --
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- at that
- 24 point?
- 25 MS. EVANGELIS: -- he is not. So for

- 1 -- what -- what's at issue in this case is --
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you think
- 3 the status of homelessness can change from one
- 4 time to another?
- 5 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, I do. I think
- 6 it's very fluid.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is that
- 8 consistent with the definition of "status" in
- 9 Robinson?
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: No. So Robinson
- 11 treated addiction as a disease and as something
- 12 that -- and -- and many believe that addiction
- is something that someone has with them forever
- and -- and it's a struggle. So that is a very
- 15 different situation.
- And, here, if someone has shelter --
- 17 let's say they were offered shelter yesterday
- and they refused it, and then today, when
- someone comes around and tells them that they're
- 20 not permitted to camp, are they involuntarily
- 21 there if they refused shelter yesterday? That's
- 22 the question the Eighth Amendment does not
- answer.
- 24 This is very complex. What if there
- is a bed available in the Gospel Rescue Mission,

- but like Ms. Johnson, a person doesn't wish to
  leave their pet? Her Rottweiler's not permitted
- 3 there. So that is a difficult question for a
- 4 person and a difficult policy question, but --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 6 MS. EVANGELIS: -- a person's
- 7 status -- yes.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 9 counsel.
- 10 Justice Thomas?
- 11 JUSTICE THOMAS: Robinson actually
- included a crime of, as I read it, either to use
- 13 narcotics or to be addicted to the use of
- 14 narcotics, and the Court was concerned about
- 15 being -- the status of being addicted to the
- 16 use.
- 17 Is there a crime here for being
- 18 homeless?
- MS. EVANGELIS: No, there is not.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito?
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: Robinson presents a
- 22 very difficult conceptual question. Do you
- 23 think that someone who is a drug addict is
- 24 absolutely incapable of -- that all people who
- are drug addicts are absolutely incapable of

- 1 refraining from using drugs?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I think that for
- 3 some, that may be true, and for some, perhaps
- 4 they can abstain. But that's a question of free
- 5 will and agency that's true of every law and
- 6 what conduct we choose to regulate. That's a --
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: All right. Then
- 8 compare that with a person who absolutely has no
- 9 place to sleep in a particular jurisdiction.
- 10 Does that person have any alternative
- 11 other than sleeping outside?
- 12 MS. EVANGELIS: So I think we'd have
- 13 to ask all the questions I mentioned earlier
- 14 about what alternatives they might have had
- 15 yesterday --
- JUSTICE ALITO: They have --
- MS. EVANGELIS: -- and how they ended
- 18 up there.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: -- they have none.
- They have absolutely none. There's not a single
- 21 place where they can sleep.
- MS. EVANGELIS: If that's true, then
- that may be the case, and in that case, at least
- in Oregon, they would have a defense of
- 25 necessity.

Т	JUSTICE ALITO: So the point is that
2	the connection between drug addiction and drug
3	usage is more tenuous than the connection
4	between absolute homelessness and sleeping
5	outside.
6	MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I I think,
7	in in Robinson, again, the Court did draw
8	that line, but, here, the Respondents are saying
9	that the two are really the same, that camping
10	outside, sleeping outside, and being homeless
11	are two sides of the same coin.
12	We think that that's wrong. It's
13	collapsing the status that they claim into the
14	conduct. So we think the conduct here is very
15	clear because it applies generally to everyone.
16	The law does not say on its face it is a crime
17	to be homeless. I just want to
18	JUSTICE ALITO: All right.
19	MS. EVANGELIS: make that
20	JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
21	MS. EVANGELIS: very clear. Thank
22	you.
23	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
24	Sotomayor?
25	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It was the brief

- of Criminal Law and Punishment Scholars that I
- was referencing earlier.
- I want to go back to Justice Thomas's
- 4 beginning question. As I understood it, the
- 5 Ninth Circuit never reached the excessive fines
- 6 question presented by this case, correct?
- 7 MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct.
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So that's still
- 9 open. And you didn't seek cert on that issue?
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
- 12 Assuming that there is no standing, I understand
- one of the appellees died, the one who was
- 14 camping outside died, during the pendency of
- 15 this appeal. And there are two other named
- 16 plaintiffs. I know they have fines on them.
- 17 I'm not sure that either of them has any
- 18 criminal -- crimes charged against them.
- 19 Where does that put this appeal?
- Where does that put this case?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Sure. Well, the
- 22 case --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Should we be
- 24 vacating and remanding to see if there is --
- MS. EVANGELIS: No.

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- a live 2 plaintiff -- a plaintiff, a named plaintiff who is still suffering injury? 3 4 MS. EVANGELIS: No. So, here, the -the sleeping ordinance, which is the one that 5 Ms. Blake challenged, that is no longer in the 6 7 case. That ordinance limited only sleeping in certain rights-of-way and sidewalks in the city, 8 and it was a different law, and that's not at 9 issue here. 10 11 So sleeping is not at issue. It's 12 about the camping ordinance. And we very much have a live case because we are under the Ninth 13 14 Circuit's injunction, and the named plaintiffs 15 have --16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, the question 17 is, could it give an injunction? Do -- are these people -- well, I guess, if they're not 18 permitted to park --19 20 MS. EVANGELIS: That's correct. 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So it's not the 22 camping, it's the parking, isn't it? 23 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, and the camping. 24 So we -- we intend to -- and -- to rely on these 25 laws. We want to be able to rely on these laws.

- 1 They are very important and --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're not
- 3 answering -- just focus on my question.
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Both these people
- 6 sleep in cars. Both of them sleep in cars
- 7 outside of the town. So they're not seeking
- 8 camping permission. Is your city not provide
- 9 for overnight parking in any location at night
- 10 except in private homes?
- 11 MS. EVANGELIS: Camping in a vehicle
- is included in the camping ordinance.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, that's going
- into a camp. How do you define "camp"?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Again, it is a place
- where someone has laid down without any more,
- 17 has --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, if they go
- into -- if there's a line of cars and they want
- 20 to -- and the cars can stay overnight --
- MS. EVANGELIS: So --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- and they want
- 23 to park in one of those spaces, if they fall
- asleep in the car, they're guilty of violating
- 25 the camping law?

1 MS. EVANGELIS: No. Justice 2 Sotomayor, Ms. Johnson parks her car oftentimes 3 at a friend's, so she is not violating the law at those times. So --4 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Just answer my 6 question. 7 MS. EVANGELIS: -- parking everywhere is not prohibited. In certain areas, private 8 areas, you can. 9 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Is sleeping in 11 your car prohibited? 12 MS. EVANGELIS: If you are sleeping in 13 your car in a park, where you're not allowed to park overnight --14 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Have any of 16 them --17 MS. EVANGELIS: -- then yes. 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- indicated 19 intent to sleep in a park, or have they just 20 said they want to park somewhere in the city? 21 And can they park somewhere in the city and 22 sleep? MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, they have said 23 that they have the intent to continue their 24 25 conduct and that they will be, therefore,

- 1 subject to the city's laws and subject to --
- 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't understand
- 3 that answer. Okay.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: You've referred a
- 6 couple of times to the necessity defense, so
- 7 could you tell me how that would work?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. So there --
- 9 under Oregon law, if a person says that -- it's
- 10 effectively the lesser of two evils if they say,
- 11 I had no alternative to -- no legal alternative
- 12 other than what I did here that broke the law,
- 13 then I had no choice and I therefore had to
- 14 break the law and it was in some sense
- 15 involuntary, to use a term that -- that many
- 16 have been discussing.
- So, there, you -- it would be very
- 18 narrow. It is a very narrow defense. So it
- 19 would be in that moment of --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: So -- so suppose that
- 21 there is a person who is homeless and there are
- 22 no shelter beds available and the person has no
- 23 place to go, and the person, of course, has to
- 24 sleep. And the person -- it's cold outside.
- 25 The person has a blanket. So that's the minimum

- 1 conduct that the law prohibits. So the person
- 2 sleeps outside with a blanket, and a police
- 3 officer comes, and in the -- but the person
- 4 says, well, I had no place else to go.
- 5 Would the City continue to push for
- 6 some kind of penalty?
- 7 MS. EVANGELIS: Well, there, if a
- 8 person received a citation, so if they did, then
- 9 they would have a defense of necessity. It's
- 10 asserted as a defense.
- 11 So what the other side is trying --
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, it's asserted as
- 13 a defense.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean -- but -- so
- 16 you're not willing to say no, we're going to
- 17 tell all our police officers that they shouldn't
- 18 give a citation in that circumstance? You know,
- 19 you -- you know, we're going to give a citation,
- and then we'll see how the courts deal with it,
- is all you're going to tell me?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, officers always
- have discretion, and we know that they exercise
- 24 it. And -- and it's hard to know --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, the question is

- 1 not an individual officer's --
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yeah.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- discretion.
- 4 Individual officers are in a tough situation
- 5 here.
- 6 MS. EVANGELIS: They are.
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: The question is, what
- 8 is the City going to tell individual officers?
- 9 So what is the City going to tell individual
- officers about a case of the kind that I said?
- 11 Are you going to tell individual officers issue
- the citation and we'll see if the person knows
- enough to make a necessity defense and we'll see
- 14 what the court does about that? Or are you
- going to say, you know, there are some things
- that just ought not to be the subject of civil
- 17 or criminal infractions?
- MS. EVANGELIS: So the City, in its
- 19 policy, at Joint Appendix, page 158, for
- 20 example, talks about what officers are supposed
- 21 to do. They're supposed to put people in touch
- 22 with services first to contact if there is
- 23 available help for them. These laws are
- 24 absolutely a tool for getting people the
- 25 services that they need. Many people need that

- 1 intervention.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, you're not
- 3 giving me a real answer --
- 4 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- to the question of
- 6 is the City telling officers that they should
- 7 give citations --
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: No.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- in that
- 10 circumstance.
- MS. EVANGELIS: No. It is -- it is --
- 12 if somebody -- again, it is a matter of
- 13 discretion.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Is there anything you
- 15 can point -- it's a matter of discretion?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: There's nothing you
- 18 can point to that the City says we have a
- 19 necessity defense, what we're telling officers
- 20 to do is to, you know, act consistently with
- 21 that defense so that if it is truly a matter of
- 22 need that you are sleeping on the street alone
- with a blanket, no, the officer should not cite
- 24 the person?
- 25 MS. EVANGELIS: There's nothing in the

- 1 record here that shows officers were told about
- 2 a necessity defense and that it -- what it would
- 3 or would not preclude. That would be an
- 4 individualized question after the fact if
- 5 someone received a citation.
- And if they thought that that wasn't
- 7 enough, the proper framework would be this
- 8 Court's framework in Kahler, where we would look
- 9 at the asserted defense, there, insanity of some
- 10 form, and, here, it would be necessity, and we
- 11 would ask whether it is so deeply rooted in our
- 12 history and -- and something that has to be
- imposed in this way on the states.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Thank you.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 17 Gorsuch?
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I suppose someone
- 19 could also initiate a class action of the sort
- 20 that happened here if -- if you were not
- 21 allowing the necessity defense to operate and
- 22 seek to have it enforced, couldn't they?
- MS. EVANGELIS: Potentially. I --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. Thank you.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice

- 1 Kavanauqh? 2 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You've said 3 several times that it's a difficult policy question, a complicated policy question. I 4 5 think everyone would agree with that. 6 How does this law help deal with the 7 complicated policy issues? MS. EVANGELIS: One of the most 8 9 difficult challenges is getting people the help that they need. And laws like this allow cities 10 11 to intervene, and they're an important tool in 12 helping incentivize people to accept shelter. So Ms. Johnson, for example, had said 13 14 in her deposition -- it's in the Joint 15 Appendix -- that she does not wish to stay at 16 the Gospel Rescue Mission. One of the reasons 17 is because of her dog. She also had other 18 reasons. She doesn't like being around people 19 and -- and so forth. People have all sorts of 20 circumstances. It's very complex. And the 21 individual decisions --2.2 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How does it help
- here, the law here, how does it help if there are not enough beds for the number of homeless

if there are not -- how does it help -- the rule

- 1 people in the jurisdiction?
- MS. EVANGELIS: So, for Ms. Johnson,
- 3 she sometimes stays with a friend. So there are
- 4 other --
- 5 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How about more --
- 6 more generally, though?
- 7 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I quess, if
- 9 there's a mismatch between the number of beds
- 10 available in shelters, even including Gospel
- 11 Rescue, and the number of homeless people, there
- are going to be a certain number of people who
- there's nowhere to go?
- MS. EVANGELIS: That -- that is a
- 15 difficult policy question. And we --
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How does this law
- 17 deal --
- MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- help with that
- 20 policy?
- 21 MS. EVANGELIS: So it encourages
- 22 people to accept alternatives when they come up
- 23 so that fewer people end up camping. It also --
- there is harm in simply camping. Whatever
- 25 materials people are using when they are living

- 1 in public spaces without plumbing and
- 2 infrastructure, there's harm to the whole city
- and to the whole community, as well as to them.
- 4 We know that -- that encampments and
- 5 these conditions also breed crime and very
- 6 dangerous conditions. So the City has an
- 7 interest in protecting everyone, including --
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you think the
- 9 constitutional rule should be different when the
- 10 number of beds available in the jurisdiction
- 11 exceeds the number of homeless people versus the
- 12 number of homeless people exceeds the number of
- 13 beds available in shelters?
- MS. EVANGELIS: No. That's what we've
- 15 seen in the Ninth Circuit. We've seen that that
- 16 is unworkable. There is no way to count what
- 17 beds are available and who is perhaps willing to
- 18 take one and who would consider it adequate.
- 19 Then the question becomes, are those
- 20 beds adequate? So, here, Gospel Rescue Mission
- 21 again --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That's a separate
- issue, I agree.
- MS. EVANGELIS: It is.
- 25 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And it can be a

- 1 challenging issue, I suppose, I know, as well.
- 2 Let me ask one last question, which
- 3 is, how does the necessity defense differ from
- 4 the constitutional rule? You touched on this,
- 5 but I just want to get a succinct answer to
- 6 that, the state law necessity defense differ
- 7 from the constitutional rule here.
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: You would weigh the
- 9 harm from the individual's conduct in violating
- 10 the law. So, if someone were camping near a
- 11 school or near -- or -- or doing some --
- 12 something or engaged in some behavior that was
- particularly harmful and they had another place
- 14 where they could camp, that would be maybe a
- 15 factor that you would raise in the necessity
- 16 situation.
- 17 It's -- it's narrower. So, in a case
- of a -- the Oregon cases include people who are
- 19 growing marijuana for medical reasons but
- without a license, and so the necessity defense
- 21 was not accepted in that case because they could
- 22 have obtained a license. So, if a person had a
- friend to go to, had a bed available at the
- 24 Gospel Rescue Mission, they would be expected to
- 25 take it under the necessity defense.

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1
                I think that's how it would play out.
 2
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I actually have
 3
      one last question. When you get out of jail if
      you end up -- what's going to happen then?
 4
 5
     Aren't -- you still don't have a bed available.
 6
     So how does this help?
 7
               MS. EVANGELIS: So the -- and -- and I
 8
     want -- I do want to make a point about that --
 9
      about the criminal aspect. The trespass law
10
     here is only triggered after several civil
11
      citations.
12
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Right. No.
13
               MS. EVANGELIS: And at that point --
14
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: If you run through
15
      that cycle --
16
               MS. EVANGELIS: Yes.
17
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- and you end up
      in jail for 30 days, then you get out, I mean,
18
     you're not going to be any better off than you
19
     were before in finding a bed if there aren't --
20
21
     going to my earlier question, if there aren't
2.2
     beds available in the jurisdiction, unless
     you're removed from the jurisdiction or you
23
24
     decide to -- to leave somehow.
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MS. EVANGELIS: No. There are

- 1 services available, and the jurisdiction can put
- 2 you in touch with services and programs to help
- 3 you in those circumstances. And for many
- 4 people, that is a point where they're able to
- 5 get into treatment. So that intervention
- 6 actually saves lives.
- 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay. Thank you.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 9 Barrett?
- 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: So let me follow up
- on that. So you're saying there are services
- 12 available, there's treatment available, so
- 13 people would ultimately move off the street? Is
- 14 that -- is that what you're saying? Because I
- think part of the premise of all of this, right,
- is that there are not enough beds for homeless
- 17 people to occupy, and so there will be a
- 18 mismatch and there are going to be some people
- 19 who can't be cared for.
- 20 Are you saying that if your law is
- 21 enforced, there is a way for everyone to be
- 22 cared for?
- 23 MS. EVANGELIS: No. I'm saying that's
- a policy question that is quite difficult, but
- 25 these laws are an important part of the puzzle.

- 1 They're not the only solution. And we don't --
- 2 we don't believe that they are, but we think
- 3 they're an important tool. And without them,
- 4 we've seen what's happened on our streets.
- 5 We've seen that people are -- are dying in
- 6 encampments. We've seen that cities are -- are
- 7 being forced to cede all of their public spaces.
- 8 So that ultimate question is for the
- 9 legislature and policymakers to figure out what
- 10 the right solution, what the right mix of
- 11 policies is. But the wrong answer is to do what
- 12 the Ninth Circuit did here and to
- 13 constitutionalize --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Let me -- let
- me just interrupt you there. You're right, it's
- 16 a very, very difficult policy question. And I
- 17 asked you before about whether this was just
- 18 about blankets or whether it went into having
- 19 fires or urinating and defecating outdoors and
- 20 that sort of thing, and Justice Sotomayor
- 21 pointed out that this particular injunction did
- 22 carve out those things and was just talking
- 23 about sleep.
- 24 But, you know, other cases have been
- litigated in the Ninth Circuit that have gone

- 1 beyond that, and because the line is things that
- 2 are involuntary, that are human needs, it can --
- 3 it can extend -- it's difficult to draw the
- 4 line, and whatever we decide here about this
- 5 case is about the line.
- 6 So can you describe for me some of the
- 7 things that are difficult to figure out about
- 8 the line? There's sleeping. There's sleeping
- 9 with blankets. What else?
- 10 MS. EVANGELIS: Public urination and
- 11 defecation, that is a serious problem. Those
- 12 are parts of biological necessities of being
- 13 human. A court in Sacramento addressed that,
- and the Ninth Circuit's opinions debated whether
- its rule would actually reach those things.
- 16 I think any rule that we are wondering
- 17 about and debating whether it would go that far,
- 18 I think that is a sign that it is not a workable
- 19 rule. The slippery slope here is very real.
- 20 It's not just for camping and conduct that might
- 21 be a biological necessity. Putting aside tents
- 22 and fires and cold climates, what other things
- 23 would be allowed?
- 24 All of the things that a human needs
- to survive, for example, potentially come into

- 1 focus under the Ninth Circuit's rule but also in
- 2 other areas. Someone could say that my drug use
- 3 or possession is the other side of the coin
- 4 because I'm an addict or because I -- a -- a
- 5 person who violates other laws could say that I
- 6 had a compulsion to do those things that I
- 7 couldn't control.
- 8 And the plurality opinion in Powell
- 9 addressed that very thing and why it's so
- important to draw the line there. And when
- 11 conduct is involved and once the Court gets into
- 12 deciding which conduct may be excused under the
- 13 Eighth Amendment, it is so far afield of what
- 14 the Eighth Amendment was ever understood to
- 15 address.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Speaking of
- 17 status and conduct, you've -- you've argued that
- 18 Robinson was wrong and we don't need to overrule
- 19 it. And I agree. I don't -- I don't think we
- 20 should overrule Robinson.
- 21 You've also been kind of resisting the
- 22 status -- you've been resisting characterizing
- anything other than the drug addiction that was
- 24 at issue in Robinson as status.
- 25 So what if the law said it is unlawful

- and punishable by 30 days in prison to have the
- 2 status of homelessness? Just go with me. Just
- 3 assume that the law defines homelessness as a
- 4 status and it is a status.
- 5 Would Robinson say that that law is
- 6 unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment?
- 7 Would you concede that?
- 8 MS. EVANGELIS: And you're saying that
- 9 that is a status?
- 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: Yes.
- MS. EVANGELIS: All of the --
- 12 JUSTICE BARRETT: The law defines it
- as a status, and it's a status.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Well, yes, and I think
- 15 it looks a lot like Robinson under that
- 16 hypothetical, but, of course, we disagree that
- 17 it is --
- 18 JUSTICE BARRETT: I understand you
- 19 disagree --
- 20 MS. EVANGELIS: -- a status in that
- 21 way.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: -- but you are
- 23 accepting that Robinson draws a distinction
- 24 between status and conduct and you're just
- 25 fighting about the definition of a status?

1 MS. EVANGELIS: It -- it draws the 2 line where a law has no actus reus. So I think that's the easiest line. I -- I don't defend 3 the line under the Eighth Amendment because I 4 don't think actually that the Court -- I know 5 6 the Court didn't rely on any Eighth Amendment 7 principles or history of --8 JUSTICE BARRETT: But the hypothetical 9 I just gave you had no actus reus either. The status of homelessness, I mean, it could be, you 10 11 know, 4:00 in the afternoon and the person is 12 just standing outside the bus stop. 13 Do you agree that if the law 14 prohibited that, made that a crime, that under 15 Robinson, whether Robinson was right or wrong, 16 that under Robinson, that would be a violation 17 of the Eighth Amendment? MS. EVANGELIS: Well, I -- I -- I 18 19 think the better framework is due process. JUSTICE BARRETT: I understand that. 20 Under Robinson, do you agree that that would be 21 2.2 wrong? 23 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes. 24 JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Thank you. MS. EVANGELIS: Thank you. 25

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
2	Jackson?
3	JUSTICE JACKSON: So picking up where
4	Justice Barrett left off, you you you say
5	that the ordinance here pertains to conduct and
6	not to status, and I'm just trying to figure
7	that out. I'm not so sure for this reason.
8	It's because all humans engage in the act in
9	question, sleeping. And yet the statute
LO	operates or the ordinance operates to penalize
L1	only certain individuals, those who have no
L2	choice but to do that act in public.
L3	So it appears, I think, not to be the
L4	act that the state or the city in this case
L5	finds criminally culpable. It's instead the act
L6	as engaged in by certain people, by people who
L7	cannot afford housing and have nowhere else to
L8	go.
L9	So why is that the wrong way to think
20	about it? And if that is the right way to think
21	about it, why isn't that a status crime in the
22	way that Robinson contemplates?
23	MS. EVANGELIS: It's not because we
24	can look at the law and it has a conduct
2.5	element. The conduct is establishing a place -

- 1 a campsite, and that is something that a person
- who has a home or a shelter could do as well.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But you've just
- 4 defined away the basic actus reus, right? The
- 5 actus reus is sleeping out -- I guess outside to
- 6 the extent you put outside in it, but that's the
- 7 problem I'm talking about. The actus reus is
- 8 the sleeping, right? Everybody -- that's not a
- 9 criminally culpable kind of activity.
- 10 That's what I think might distinguish
- 11 it from Robinson and -- and make it worse for
- 12 you in a way because, in Robinson at least, to
- 13 the extent someone had a disease and the
- 14 question was, well, are they engaging in
- otherwise criminally culpable conduct, buying
- 16 and selling drugs, taking drugs, you know, we --
- 17 we look at that kind of category of things.
- 18 Here, the actus reus is sleeping,
- 19 human, universal. The -- the -- the City adds,
- okay, but you can't sleep outside. And I guess
- 21 what I'm trying to understand is, to the extent
- that that only happens with respect to a certain
- 23 category of people who have no other place to
- 24 go, why isn't that really just punishing the
- 25 status of being someone who doesn't have any

- 1 place to go?
- MS. EVANGELIS: It doesn't apply only
- 3 to those people. The Respondents here are
- 4 trying to exempt a whole category of people.
- 5 What -- so what you look at there is the -- the
- 6 conduct of camping under federal law and in this
- 7 Court's decision in Clark, it was understood
- 8 that that is conduct. It is just like trespass,
- 9 where, if you are found in a place, if you enter
- 10 with permission, but then you remain there
- 11 without permission under Quarles --
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: But it's not just
- 13 like trespass because, presumably, you have
- other places to go. So let me just -- let me
- 15 just ask you this other question.
- 16 What -- what is your understanding of
- 17 the Martin rule? Because I -- I thought it was
- 18 premised on the circumstance in which someone
- 19 had nowhere else to go and they needed to sleep
- and they needed to be there. But you seem to
- 21 suggest that necessity is not sort of baked into
- 22 what Martin was doing.
- MS. EVANGELIS: Martin speaks in terms
- of someone who is involuntarily homeless, and
- 25 that raises all of those policy questions that

- 1 we've been discussing about how do you determine
- 2 that.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But assume they
- 4 exist. Involuntarily homeless means the person
- 5 has nowhere else to sleep.
- 6 MS. EVANGELIS: Yes, that is -- the
- 7 necessity defense is available. And what
- 8 Respondents are asking to do is to
- 9 constitutionalize that very defense under the
- 10 Eighth Amendment.
- 11 So, as I said earlier, it could be --
- 12 the argument could be made -- it would be a very
- high bar under due process, but that is the sort
- of argument that we would expect one to make
- 15 under a due process framework --
- 16 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 17 MS. EVANGELIS: -- under this Court's
- 18 Kahler decision.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 20 counsel.
- 21 Mr. Kneedler.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF EDWIN S. KNEEDLER
- FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 24 SUPPORTING NEITHER PARTY
- MR. KNEEDLER: Mr. Chief Justice, and

1 may it please the Court: 2 In Robinson, this Court held that the government cannot criminalize status. And 3 Respondent has conceded here today that the City 4 cannot criminalize the status of being homeless. 5 Our narrow submission in this case is 6 7 that government cannot circumvent the principle of Robinson by making it unlawful for a person 8 9 to reside in the jurisdiction if he has that 10 status. 11 That is what the ordinances here do. 12 As applied to someone who has nowhere else to 13 sleep, which is an essential human function, the 14 ordinances are the equivalent of making it a 15 crime to be homeless while living in Grants 16 Pass. 17 Although we think the Ninth Circuit was right to recognize that the core principle 18 of Robinson is implicated in this case, the 19 20 Court was wrong to award broad injunctive relief 21 in the circumstances and manner in which it did. 2.2 The Robinson principle requires an 23 individualized determination, and the Ninth Circuit's failure to require such a 24

determination and its issuance of much broader

- 1 injunctive relief has led to the problems at
- 2 issue that the Petitioner and its amici have
- 3 raised, not the core principle of Robinson.
- And, therefore, we urge the Court to
- 5 adhere to the core principle of Robinson but to
- 6 emphasize that cities have flexibility to
- 7 implement these, and, in particular, time,
- 8 place, and manner restrictions on where someone
- 9 can sleep are entirely valid if they are
- 10 reasonable, and, indeed, the state law that
- 11 Justice Jackson referred to establishes a state
- 12 policy that time, manner, and place restrictions
- are the way to go if they are reasonable.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 15 JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Kneedler,
- 16 wouldn't you have a better argument if Robinson
- involved someone being arrested for using drugs,
- 18 but then the Court said that you were in effect
- 19 arresting him for the status of a drug user
- 20 because he was -- he had no choice but to use
- 21 drugs because he's an addict?
- MR. KNEEDLER: No. Our -- our
- 23 position is not that the conduct as in Robinson,
- the drug addict can't stop from using drugs.
- 25 That is not our position. That's a question of

- 1 personal culpability on the basis of what the
- 2 person's makeup --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So what's the
- 4 difference between that and -- and -- and
- 5 camping out? What you're saying here, it seems
- 6 as though you're saying, well, they -- there's
- 7 no other choice, so you have to camp out.
- 8 Therefore, you're really arresting this person
- 9 for the status of homelessness.
- 10 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes, but -- but not
- 11 because of an -- of an involuntary compulsion
- 12 sense. I think, as Justice Alito pointed out,
- 13 the nexus here is actually closer than in the --
- than in the addiction situation because sleeping
- outside is essentially the mirror image or the
- 16 other side of the coin or the definition --
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, Mr. --
- MR. KNEEDLER: -- of the status of --
- 19 of homelessness.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- Mr. Kneedler, I
- 21 -- I agree that the distinction between status
- and conduct is a slippery one and that they're
- 23 often closely related.
- 24 And in Robinson, though, the Court
- 25 said you cannot make the status of being a drug

- 1 addict a crime, but you can criminalize the
- 2 conduct, even if it is involuntary and
- 3 compulsive. And Powell reaffirmed that line
- 4 very strongly, at least the plurality opinion
- 5 did, and said we're not going to go further.
- And I wonder whether the government is
- 7 asking us to take that step that Powell
- 8 counseled against by saying that it is -- it is
- 9 status -- effectively status, and this is
- 10 throughout your brief. You use the word
- "effective" or "essentially" or "tantamount to,"
- 12 those kinds of words. And -- and so I just
- 13 wanted to get your response to that -- that
- 14 concern.
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, we are not asking
- 16 the Court to take the step that it declined to
- take in Powell, which had to do with personal
- 18 responsibility, the -- the sort of issues that
- 19 were involved --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. If you're --
- 21 MR. KNEEDLER: -- in this Court's
- decision in Kahler.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- not asking us to
- 24 do that, then -- then -- then I guess I just
- 25 want to circle back to what Justice Thomas was

- 1 getting at, which is, surely, the government
- 2 wants to continue to enforce the drug laws and
- 3 all kinds of other laws that people could make
- 4 an argument that I had involuntary need to do, a
- 5 necessity defense to. You -- you don't want us
- 6 to wipe out all those laws?
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: Absolutely not, but --
- 8 but what is different here is that the -- the
- 9 conduct in -- in -- that was suggested in Powell
- 10 would have been based on the person's own
- 11 separate --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well --
- MR. KNEEDLER: -- antisocial conduct.
- 14 Here --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, Justice White
- 16 made clear that some people are going to be
- forced to drink in public because they don't
- 18 have a home.
- 19 MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah. And what --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: He made this very
- 21 point. And --
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, we don't -- but --
- 23 -- but -- but the point here, it is the
- 24 government that is -- that is prohibiting the
- 25 alternative. It's not the individual's

- 1 inability to control his own conduct.
- The government, because the person --
- 3 because of other circumstances, the lack of
- 4 money, the lack of a friend to stay with, the
- 5 lack of shelter space, there is no place -- we
- 6 take as a given in our position that there is no
- 7 other place for the person to sleep --
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And I think,
- 9 wouldn't --
- 10 MR. KNEEDLER: -- and as the
- 11 government --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- couldn't a drug
- addict, though, make the exact same argument? I
- 14 had no other choice.
- MR. KNEEDLER: But that is -- that is
- 16 -- that -- the other choice would be a matter of
- 17 -- of personal --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No. Say the record
- 19 says --
- 20 MR. KNEEDLER: -- understanding,
- 21 personal culpability.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But the record says
- that there is no other choice. I had to do it.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, I -- I do think
- 25 that engaging in conduct that is unrelated to --

- 1 let me take that back.
- 2 The -- the sleeping outside when you
- 3 have no other place to go is the definition of
- 4 homelessness.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Mr. Kneedler, isn't
- 6 the response --
- 7 JUSTICE BARRETT: But -- but Judge --
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- also that those
- 9 two things are different? I mean, you're sort
- of saying it's about individual culpability.
- 11 But it's not as though everyone engages in drug
- 12 use.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Right.
- 14 JUSTICE JACKSON: Right? Certain
- 15 people do, and maybe they have addiction, and
- 16 maybe you can't punish them because of the
- 17 addiction, but you can still punish them as
- 18 criminally culpable for engaging in the act.
- 19 It seems to me we are in a totally
- 20 different category --
- MR. KNEEDLER: We are, yes.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- when you're
- 23 talking about acts that everybody participates
- in that no one thinks in and of themselves are
- 25 criminally culpable. And yet somehow this

- 1 statute is reaching out to punish certain people
- who engage in that universal human basic need.
- 3 That seems to me to be the distinction --
- 4 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- in these
- 6 situations.
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: That is a critical
- 8 distinction, and not only is it something that
- 9 everybody engages in, but it's something that
- 10 everybody has to engage in to be alive.
- So, if you -- so, if you can't sleep,
- 12 you can't live, and, therefore, by prohibiting
- 13 sleeping, the City is basically saying you
- cannot live in Grants Pass. It's the equivalent
- of banishment, which is -- which is something
- 16 that is unknown to the way --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Kneedler --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Kneedler --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- wasn't Grant
- 20 Pass's first attempt, policy choice, to put
- 21 people -- homeless people on buses so they would
- leave the city? I understood that to be the
- 23 history of Grant Pass. They put -- police
- officers would put -- buy them a bus ticket,
- send them out of the city, but that didn't work

- 1 because people came back because it had been
- 2 their home, correct?
- 3 MR. KNEEDLER: They came back.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They came back.
- 5 MR. KNEEDLER: I think they might have
- 6 been sent back by the --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So then they
- 8 passed this law. And didn't the city council
- 9 president say, our intent is to make it so
- 10 uncomfortable here that they'll move down the
- 11 road, meaning out of town, correct?
- 12 MR. KNEEDLER: That state -- that
- 13 statement was made at a -- at a public meeting
- of the city council.
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. So
- let's assume what you're saying or accepting,
- 17 that -- do you -- do you happen to know, or
- 18 maybe I hope one of you knows, how many beds
- 19 there are in Grant Pass, shelter beds?
- 20 MR. KNEEDLER: I believe the only --
- 21 the only shelter beds, at least at the -- at the
- 22 time the record in this case was compiled, was
- 23 at the Gospel Mission. There's a -- there's a
- 24 -- has been at times a detox place. There has
- been a warming center that has been maintained.

- 1 But, in terms of -- excuse me -- shelter beds --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, we're
- 3 talking about --
- 4 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes, and I think --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- a
- 6 disproportionate --
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: -- I think it's
- 8 approximately a hundred. There -- there are
- 9 men's, women's.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yeah. I thought
- 11 it was much less than that.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. So we
- 14 go back to you want the district court to make
- individualized findings. You've asked us to
- 16 vacate and remand. Can we go back to that so I
- 17 understand it? I quite didn't understand it in
- 18 your brief because I thought individualized
- 19 findings had to do with the class action, but
- that question hasn't been certified here.
- 21 MR. KNEEDLER: Right, but -- but I
- 22 think the -- I think the merits -- our basic
- 23 point is that a -- a person does not have an
- 24 Eighth Amendment defense or an Eighth Amendment
- 25 claim unless he truly does not have some other

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1
     place to reside. And so, by speaking of
 2
      individualized, what we were --
 3
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So --
               MR. KNEEDLER: -- saying is that it
 4
     depends on whether that person has some other
 5
 6
     place, has a relative.
 7
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I accept all
      of that.
 8
 9
               MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah.
10
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I guess what I'm
11
      asking you is -- and this is what I didn't
12
     understand from your brief -- are you saying
13
      that there can't be a class certification of
14
     homeless people ever?
15
               MR. KNEEDLER: No.
16
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That you have to
17
     have individuals? Or are you -- or are you
     saying that the injunction is too broad if it
18
19
      doesn't provide for remedies that are -- somehow
20
      that the person has to prove a certain --
21
               MR. KNEEDLER: The --
2.2
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- number of
     things before --
23
               MR. KNEEDLER: Yes. That it --
24
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JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- they're

- 1 entitled to the injunction?
- 2 MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah. Yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I wasn't sure.
- 4 MR. KNEEDLER: No, the -- the Eighth
- 5 Amendment claim is a personal one and, in this
- 6 context, depends on whether the person does have
- 7 another place to sleep. So the -- the person
- 8 cannot benefit from the Eighth Amendment claim
- 9 without an individualized -- without that person
- 10 showing, if it comes up in a -- in an
- 11 affirmative injunctive action, without that
- 12 person showing that he or she has no other place
- 13 to stay.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 15 counsel.
- 16 If there is a -- the town next to
- 17 Grants Pass, 10 minutes away, has just completed
- building a homeless shelter that has many vacant
- 19 beds, does that change the analysis here? I
- 20 mean, we talked about the town wanting to get --
- 21 ship people out of the town.
- 22 Would it be -- would -- would it --
- would there still be a right to sleep, contrary
- to the ordinances in Grants Pass, because you
- don't want to be taken 10 minutes away where

- 1 there's a homeless shelter?
- 2 MR. KNEEDLER: I -- that goes to the
- 3 question, I think, under the analysis of whether
- 4 the beds are available. And I think, if they're
- 5 right across the town line, it would be
- 6 appropriate to take into account that there's a
- 7 homeless shelter there, even though it's not one
- 8 in the City of Grants Pass. But often, in a
- 9 situation, the two towns might cooperate to have
- 10 one homeless shelter.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, yeah,
- 12 they might, but often --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Right.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- the next
- towns don't always cooperate. So what if it's
- 16 30 miles away? Is a -- is the shelter available
- in that case --
- 18 MR. KNEEDLER: I --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- for your
- 20 purposes, or are you going to tell me it just
- 21 depends on all the circumstances --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, I think it
- 23 depends on how --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- so
- 25 municipalities won't have that much guidance?

1 MR. KNEEDLER: I think it depends on 2 the accessibility. I mean, one -- one of the 3 fundamental points here --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: 4 accessibility is that when an officer comes up 5 6 in Grants Pass and finds a homeless person and 7 says it violates our ordinance, but I will give you a ride down the road, 30 miles, whatever it 8 is, because there's a new homeless shelter 9 10 there, and the person says, no, I don't want to 11 do that, can that person be given a citation? 12 MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I think probably not, but let me -- if I could explain why. 13 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure. 15 MR. KNEEDLER: I mean, obviously, 16 there are questions at the -- at the margin 17 But I think one of the principal features here that shouldn't be overlooked is the City is 18 seeking to banish or expel its own residents, 19 20 its own citizens, people whose children can go 21 to school in that location, who may pay taxes in 2.2 that location. 23 So, if the 30-mile-away shelter 24 requires the person to leave his community and to live in another place, that -- that 25

implicates --

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2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What is the --3 I mean, how far does that go? MR. KNEEDLER: -- that aspect of the 4 5 problem here. 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Let's say 7 there are five cities all around Grants Pass and 8 they all have homeless shelters. And yet the person wants to stay. You know, I've been a 9 10 Grants Pass resident for a long time. I don't 11 want to go to the one of those shelters. 12 Can that person be given a citation? 13 MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I think under --14 because of the concern I've mentioned, I think 15 that would -- would be a serious problem 16 because --17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You would say 18 it would be a problem to give them a citation? 19 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes, I -- I think so, 20 because you would be requiring -- or the City's 21 ordinance requires them to leave the City of 2.2 Grants Pass. If it's just -- if the homeless 23 shelter is right over the line, they can still 24 be part of the community of Grants Pass but 25 sleep in the --

1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, but it's 2 in another city. You keep fighting the 3 hypothetical. MR. KNEEDLER: No, no, and -- and 4 that's why I think it's different. I -- I'm not 5 6 prepared to say, you know, that absolutely not, 7 but I do -- I do think it's different because the City is implementing its policy of banishing 8 9 people, its own residents, from the --10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Banishment is 11 a -- is a strange word when you're talking about 12 something 10 minutes away. MR. KNEEDLER: Well -- well -- but, 13 14 again, the question is whether you could still 15 realistically be part of the community where you 16 grew up. The figures show and, in fact, JA 114, 17 115 here shows that most of the homeless people 18 in Grants Pass are from Grants Pass. 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, 20 everyone's mentioned -- not everybody. Many people have mentioned this is a serious policy 21 22 problem, and it's a policy problem because the 23 solution, of course, is to build shelter to provide shelter for those who are otherwise

24

25

harmless.

1 But municipalities have competing priorities. I mean, what if there are lead 2 3 pipes in -- in -- in the -- in the water? Do you build the homeless shelter or do you take 4 care of the lead pipes? What if there aren't --5 isn't enough fire protection? Which one do you 6 7 prioritize? Why would you think that these nine 8 people are the best people to judge and weigh 9 those policy judgments? 10 11 MR. KNEEDLER: We're -- we're not 12 suggesting that. We're not suggesting that the only solution is for -- especially in the 13 14 current circumstances, the only solution would 15 be to build homeless shelters. 16 As I mentioned, time, place, and manner restrictions, I -- I think, are a very 17 18 sensible way to go. And, in fact, as I 19 mentioned, Oregon state law requires that. other words, a -- a city adopts a provision that 20 21 you -- you know, you can't -- you -- you can't 2.2 sleep on the sidewalks anywhere because that obstructs people seeking to move. 23 24 You can't camp near a school. 25 can't camp downtown. You can't sleep downtown.

- 1 You might be able to sleep in a -- in a park,
- 2 and -- and so it -- and a park -- and that could
- 3 be patrolled for -- for drug use and whatnot.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, this
- 5 is --
- 6 MR. KNEEDLER: None of these other
- 7 laws are inapplicable if there's a time, place,
- 8 and manner restriction.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: This is an old
- 10 question, but, you know, eating is a basic human
- 11 function as well that people have to do, just
- 12 like sleeping. So, if someone is hungry and no
- one is giving him food, can you prosecute him if
- 14 he breaks into a store to get something to eat?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Absolutely, absolutely.
- 16 Breaking into -- into a store is a common crime
- that not everybody engages in, unlike sleeping,
- 18 which is what -- which is what we have here,
- 19 which is really --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But it's a --
- it's a -- it's a -- a necessity for the person
- 22 who needs food.
- MR. KNEEDLER: It's not a necessity to
- 24 break into -- into a -- into a store. And with
- 25 respect to the --

1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you're 2 fighting the hypothetical. I'm saying this 3 person needs food. MR. KNEEDLER: And -- and it -- the --4 the Eighth Amendment does not require that that 5 6 person be excused from doing it. I think 7 there's -- there's a certain amount of common sense and practicality to this, and it's, I 8 9 think, well understood that just like drug use 10 is not something the Eighth Amendment excuses 11 you from, either is eating. 12 And the -- the problem of eating is addressed at the local level as the, you know, 13 14 history and the poor law shows, is that the 15 community takes care of its own residents. 16 And it's common now as it was at the 17 founding for churches and individuals and 18 whatnot to offer their help, the charity in the 19 community. And that's what happens in Grants 20 Pass. Various organizations feed -- feed the -the homeless people, and there are social 21 2.2 services to help the homeless people. So this is -- this is consistent 23 except for the absolute ban in sleeping in the 24 25 City. Otherwise, the community's response is

- 1 what has been done down through history.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 3 counsel.
- 4 MR. KNEEDLER: But it's the City's
- 5 absolute ban --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: -- that interrupts that
- 8 continuity.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 10 Thomas?
- 11 Justice Alito?
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Could you explain how
- 13 your rule would be carried out by police
- officers on a day-to-day basis?
- 15 Let's say that there are 500 beds in a
- 16 particular town and let's say it's 3 -- 3:00 in
- 17 the afternoon, 4:00 in the afternoon on a winter
- 18 day.
- 19 What is an individual police officer
- 20 supposed to do if individual police officer
- 21 would go around and count the number of people
- 22 who are getting ready to sleep outside? I
- guess, if it's 4:00, you wouldn't get that.
- 24 Let's say it's 6:00.
- 25 Count the number of people who are

- 1 getting ready to sleep outside for the night and
- then ask each one of them whether you've tried
- 3 to find a bed at -- at a shelter? Whether that
- 4 person would be willing to go to a shelter if a
- 5 bed is available without any conditions or
- 6 whether the bed -- the bed would have to be
- 7 available on the conditions that the individual
- 8 wants, like I won't go to a shelter where they
- 9 won't take my dog or something like that?
- Just explain how it would work on a --
- 11 a daily basis.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, first of all,
- 13 with respect to the individual encounter, I
- 14 think the -- the way this would work in the real
- world -- and -- and I think it's important to
- understand what happens on the ground in these
- 17 situations.
- 18 The -- I -- I think, in the
- 19 circumstances you're talking about, I think what
- 20 would happen is that the person -- the -- the
- 21 person encountering the homeless person would
- 22 know whether there is a -- a spot available.
- 23 The study -- I don't think the
- 24 homeless person would be required to check each
- 25 day with each shelter if there are multiple

- 1 shelters. And in larger cities, these initial
- 2 encounters are -- are not handled by law
- 3 enforcement. They're typically handled by
- 4 social services agencies who are in contact with
- 5 people who are camping and -- and -- and know
- 6 what their circumstances are and they are able
- 7 to say: We know that at such and such shelter
- 8 there are beds available --
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: What if there's a --
- MR. KNEEDLER: -- would you be willing
- 11 to go?
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: What if there's a
- 13 question whether there are, indeed, enough
- 14 shelter beds available?
- Your rule wouldn't apply if there are
- 16 enough beds available, right? If there are 500
- 17 shelter beds and -- and there are only 200
- 18 people who are trying to sleep outside, then
- 19 your rule wouldn't apply?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Right, right.
- JUSTICE ALITO: So you have to have a
- 22 comparison of the number of beds available with
- the number of people who want to sleep outside?
- 24 MR. KNEEDLER: Right, yes. And I just
- 25 --

1 JUSTICE ALITO: So that would be the 2 threshold question? 3 MR. KNEEDLER: Right. And I just want to clarify one -- one point about that. It's 4 not simply a measure of the number of beds 5 6 against the number of homeless people such that 7 if there is a deficit, the City can't enforce the law at all. 8 9 If you have individualized questioning 10 and you know that there are vacant -- there are vacancies available, even if not for everybody, 11 12 but there is a vacancy for the person being interviewed, then, yes, that person -- if -- if 13 14 that person is offered and refuses, that -- that 15 person could be prosecuted and -- or -- or cited. So --16 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, what if the person says I -- I -- yeah, I know there's a bed 18 19 available at the Gospel Rescue Mission, but they 20 won't take my dog? 21 MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, I don't think --2.2 I don't think the inability to take your dog to the shelter is -- is a sufficient reason. 23 24 are shelters in some larger cities that may well

25

take pets, but --

1 JUSTICE ALITO: I could -- I could --2 I know I could sleep in the home of a family 3 member, but they really hate me and they're 4 really nasty to me. 5 MR. KNEEDLER: I -- you know, I --6 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm not -- these are 7 8 MR. KNEEDLER: No, no --9 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm just wondering how the -- this is going to be administered on a 10 11 daily basis. 12 MR. KNEEDLER: And -- and -- and I 13 think, you know, with all respect, I think that 14 example is -- if the -- if the family is going 15 to accept him, but, I mean, that's the question, whether there is a -- a place to sleep. But 16 17 I -- I don't know that it would very often come down to that -- that family hates me. 18 19 On the other hand, if it's a woman who 20 left domestic abuse, she couldn't be expected --21 JUSTICE ALITO: Right. 2.2 MR. KNEEDLER: -- to go back to the --23 to the -- to her home or maybe her relative's 24 home or his relative's home or something.

there's a lot of common sense.

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1
                And, again -- again, the law enforce
 2
      -- the -- the first encounter that a police
 3
      officer or somebody else has with a homeless
     person is very unlikely to be a situation in
 4
     which the person would be issued a citation.
 5
 6
                JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. You -- you
 7
     mentioned just a couple of things that I wanted
      to follow up on. Does it matter whether the
8
9
     person grew up in the town or not? Suppose --
10
               MR. KNEEDLER: No. No.
11
                JUSTICE ALITO: -- that they -- okay,
12
      that's irrelevant?
13
               MR. KNEEDLER: And -- and -- and I
14
      think --
15
                JUSTICE ALITO: So they go up to --
16
      they go up to some police officer or social
17
      services in San Diego goes up to somebody and
18
      says, you know, where are you from? Oh, I'm
19
      from Fargo, but if I have to sleep outside, I
20
      sure would rather do it here than in Fargo.
     That doesn't matter?
21
2.2
                MR. KNEEDLER: No, and -- and I
23
      think -- not because of -- of any Eighth
24
     Amendment rule we're talking about, but under
25
      this Court's decisions in -- in Edwards and --
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- 1 and Saenz, the Privileges and Immunities Clause
- or the Commerce Clause or the various right to
- 3 travel provisions would -- would prohibit
- 4 attaching that sort of -- of limitation to a --
- 5 to a newcomer.
- 6 But I -- but I would -- as I
- 7 mentioned, regarding people --
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. Where I used
- 9 to -- where I used to live in New Jersey, there
- 10 are a lot of really small municipalities, I
- 11 think over 500 municipalities in the state. I
- 12 could go for a 20-minute walk in the evening and
- 13 be in three or four different municipalities.
- So, to get back to my -- to Justice --
- to the Chief Justice's question, if -- you know,
- if there aren't enough beds available in West
- 17 Caldwell, does it matter -- is it -- West
- 18 Caldwell is out of luck even though there are a
- 19 lot of beds available in Caldwell, which is, you
- 20 know, a couple -- less than a mile away?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, I think the way
- you're describing it, it would -- it would be --
- 23 it -- it might be fair to say that that -- that
- 24 set of small and closely knit communities would
- 25 be one community and -- and the person wouldn't

- 1 -- wouldn't basically be banished from where he
- lived or where he grew up by saying, you know,
- 3 if there's a shelter in this other location,
- 4 then -- then you could be expected to go there.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: There's some tiny
- 6 municipalities. What if a municipality doesn't
- 7 have a park, so if somebody is going to sleep
- 8 outside, the only place where that person can
- 9 sleep is going to have to be on the street?
- 10 MR. KNEEDLER: I --
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: What -- does a time,
- 12 place, or manner restriction work there?
- MR. KNEEDLER: I mean, certainly not
- on the street and -- I mean, because of safety,
- 15 traffic, et cetera. I mean, there are
- 16 common-sense accommodations, and I think even in
- the smallest town, there are probably locations
- 18 where a -- a -- a person could sleep. I -- you
- 19 know.
- JUSTICE ALITO: All right. Thank you.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 22 Sotomayor?
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't want to be
- 24 repetitive, but what are we vacating and
- 25 remanding for? You -- you -- individualized

- 1 finding of what?
- 2 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, the -- the way
- 3 that -- the way -- first of all, the class was
- 4 defined simply on the basis of the aggregate
- 5 numbers without an individualized determination
- 6 as -- as to whether, frankly, in our view, not a
- 7 sufficient individualized determination as to
- 8 the two named plaintiffs.
- 9 And you identified several factors
- 10 here. They both slept in their -- in their
- 11 cars. Several of them were able -- or both of
- them chose at some times to sleep at a Safeway
- parking lot or with a friend. The other slept
- 14 at a truck stop out of -- out of town. It's not
- 15 clear that -- neither of them ever actually
- 16 camped in a park. And so -- and, in fact, the
- dissent below questioned whether one of those
- 18 two people even had standing.
- 19 So that there -- even with respect to
- the named plaintiffs, there was not the sort of
- 21 examination of their individual --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So you're talking
- 23 --
- MR. KNEEDLER: -- circumstances that
- 25 they're --

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1
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- about standing?
 2
      That we don't know if --
 3
               MR. KNEEDLER: Well, standing, yes,
      and then there -- there could be typicality or
 4
      commonality problems there too if the -- if the
 5
 6
      -- the two named plaintiffs slept in vehicles,
7
     which may present different problems than --
      than in the -- in the camp.
8
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, we were told
 9
     that sleeping or camping is out of the case
10
11
      because -- and the court said that.
12
                MR. KNEEDLER: Sleeping, yes, but --
13
     but sleeping in a vehicle counts as camping.
14
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Right.
15
               MR. KNEEDLER: But it's not the sort
16
     of camping that -- that we've been talking
17
      about, to some extent, about sleeping on the
18
     ground with a blanket or a tent or something
19
      like that.
20
                And it's true, the question of tents
      are not in -- in the case. And if -- even if --
21
22
     you know, if the City wanted to allow tents, I
23
      suppose it could even require that they be --
24
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
25
               MR. KNEEDLER: -- taken down --
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1
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Thank you,
 2
      counsel.
 3
               MR. KNEEDLER: -- and put back up.
      There's a lot of flexibility that the City could
 4
 5
     have.
 6
                CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
 7
                JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I did want to
      you just about that. I mean, let's say I'm with
 8
 9
      you, Mr. Kneedler, on the fact that you can't
     prohibit being homeless, and because you can't
10
     prohibit being homeless, you can't prohibit
11
12
     sleeping outside if you are a genuinely homeless
13
     person.
14
                And let's say I'm with you that the
15
      fact that this ordinance says, well, but we're
16
     prohibiting using a blanket, that can't be
17
      right. You know, you're not, like, just, like,
18
      get hypothermia and the problem will -- the
19
      constitutional problem will go away.
20
                But it does seem as though there are
      line-drawing issues as you go up, right? It's a
21
2.2
     very cold night and somebody wants to make a
23
      fire. It's raining and somebody wants to put up
24
      a tarp.
               The City has said you can sleep in
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particular areas, but it turns out that those

- 1 areas have a ton of crime.
- 2 You know, you could go on and on. And
- 3 I'm not -- how do you deal with questions like
- 4 that? These are not, like, gotcha questions.
- 5 This is, like, how do you deal with questions
- 6 like that? Where is the line where the City can
- 7 say our legitimate municipal interests can come
- 8 in and say, you know, as to that, as to that,
- 9 you can't do that?
- 10 MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, so what -- and
- 11 there are several examples that you have there.
- 12 With respect to tents and tarps, I guess, you --
- 13 you were saying, I -- I -- I think there's a
- 14 difference between what you might need to
- 15 realistically sleep outside if it's raining,
- snowing, or something like that, and what you
- 17 might prefer to have as a structure for
- 18 long-term camping.
- 19 As I mentioned, the City might say you
- 20 can put up a tent if it's very cold, but you've
- 21 got to take it down in the morning. That's like
- 22 being in -- some shelters say you can stay here
- overnight, but you have to leave during the day
- and you can come back.
- I mean, that might seem gratuitous of

- 1 the City to do it. It might not want to do it.
- 2 But -- but we're not saying that the Eighth
- 3 Amendment would prevent it from doing it, and
- 4 especially, as you say, if there's no
- 5 alternative and it's, you know, 20 -- 20
- 6 degrees.
- 7 And with respect to fires, there are
- 8 really important issues on the other side of
- 9 that question. In an urban area, if you're
- 10 creating fires, there may be hazards in a -- in
- 11 a park. There might be --
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: So how does --
- MR. KNEEDLER: -- there might be
- 14 fireplaces in a park.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- how does a court
- 16 make these judgments? Because these are tough
- judgments, and -- and usually they're the kind
- 18 of judgments that we think of as municipal
- 19 officials make them.
- But you're saying, no, there's a
- 21 certain level where it's out of their hands and
- 22 it's in the court hands. And I guess I want to
- 23 know what the principle is where those questions
- 24 go to the courts and -- and why that principle
- 25 is the right principle.

1 MR. KNEEDLER: I think -- I mean, I 2 think there are two principles. One is that it -- it's the municipality's determination 3 certainly in the first instance with a great 4 deal of flexibility how to address the question 5 6 of homelessness and a time, place, and manner. 7 And then municipalities should -- should be able to choose the place, should be able to choose 8 9 the attributes of that place, should be able to 10 say we're not going to allow more than, you 11 know, 20 people or something, you know, to -- to 12 regulate it in that manner. And I think the -- I think the 13 14 principle, the Eighth Amendment principle, would 15 be whether the -- the City has effectively 16 prevented sleeping outside because the 17 protections needed from the elements are not available. And, certainly, in Grants Pass, I 18 19 would think even a blanket would not be enough under some -- but I think that's the -- I think 20 that's the touchstone. 21 2.2 Are you basically -- does it boil down 23 to or is the core principle of Robinson that you can't criminalize homelessness, which includes 24 not being able to criminalize sleeping outside? 25

- 1 If you can't sleep outside because of lack of
- 2 protection from the elements, I think that's the
- 3 principle a court would -- would apply.
- But the Ninth Circuit, in a number of
- 5 cases, has gone way beyond that, and we think
- 6 that's really the source of the problems that
- 7 have been identified in the briefs and not the
- 8 core principle of -- of Robinson.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 11 Gorsuch?
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Kneedler, I want
- to probe this a little bit further because it --
- it does seem to me the status/conduct
- 15 distinction is very tricky. And I had thought
- that Robinson, after Powell, really was just
- 17 limited to status.
- And now you're saying, well, there's
- 19 some conduct that's effectively equated to
- 20 status and -- but you're saying involuntary drug
- 21 use, you can regulate that conduct. That
- 22 doesn't qualify as status. You're saying
- 23 compulsive alcohol use, you can regulate that
- 24 conduct in public. Public drunkenness, even if
- it's involuntary, that doesn't qualify as

1 status, right? 2 MR. KNEEDLER: Right. 3 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You're saying you can regulate somebody who is hungry and has no 4 other choice but to steal. You can regulate 5 that conduct even though it's a basic human 6 7 necessity, and that doesn't come under the -under the status side of the line, right? 8 9 MR. KNEEDLER: Yes. 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. But, when it 11 comes to homelessness, which is a terribly 12 difficult problem, you're saying that's different and -- because there are no beds 13 14 available for them to go to in Grants Pass. 15 What -- what about someone who has a 16 mental health problem that prohibits them --17 they cannot sleep in -- in a shelter. Are they 18 allowed to sleep outside or not? Is that status 19 or conduct that's regulable? MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I think the -- the 20 question would be whether that shelter is 21 2.2 available. 23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's available.

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24

25

the individual.

MR. KNEEDLER: Well, no, available to

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JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's available to
1
 2
     the individual.
 3
               MR. KNEEDLER: But --
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's just because of
 4
 5
     their mental health problem, they cannot do it.
               MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I think there
 6
7
     might be -- I mean, that's -- the mental health
8
     problem --
9
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Status or conduct?
10
               MR. KNEEDLER: The mental health
     situation is itself a status.
11
12
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Right, I know that.
               MR. KNEEDLER: Yes. But -- but if the
13
14
15
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: It has this further
     knock-on effect on conduct. Is that regulable
16
17
18
               MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I --
19
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- by the state or
20
     not?
21
               MR. KNEEDLER: -- I -- I think that --
22
     I think if the --
23
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: All the -- you know,
24
     alcohol, drug use --
25
               MR. KNEEDLER: Right, right.
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1
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- they have
 2
     problems too and that that -- and -- but
 3
     you're saying that conduct is regulable. How
      about with respect to this pervasive problem of
 4
      -- of persons with mental health problems?
 5
               MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I think, in a
 6
7
     particular situation, if the -- if the -- if the
     person would engage in violent conduct as --
8
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, no, no, don't
 9
10
     mess with my hypothetical, counsel.
11
                (Laughter.)
12
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: I like my
13
     hypothetical. I know you don't. It's a hard
14
      one, and that's why I'm asking it. I'm just
15
     trying to understand --
16
               MR. KNEEDLER: I -- I --
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- the limits of
17
18
     your line.
19
               MR. KNEEDLER: I think it would depend
20
      on how serious the offense was on the -- on the
21
      individual.
2.2
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's -- it's -- it's
23
     a very serious effect. The mental health
     problem is serious, but there are beds
24
25
     available.
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1
               MR. KNEEDLER: Well, what I was trying
 2
      to say, it would depend on how serious being
 3
     required in -- to -- to go into that facility
      was on the person's mental -- if it would make
 4
     his mental health situation a lot worse, then
 5
 6
     that may not be something that's --
 7
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: So that's status --
      that falls on the status side?
8
               MR. KNEEDLER: Well, I -- I -- I
9
10
     guess you could put it that way, but I -- I
11
     quess what I'm saying is that --
12
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- that's what I'm
     wondering. I don't -- I'm asking you.
13
14
               MR. KNEEDLER: Well --
15
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: I really am just
16
      trying to figure out --
17
               MR. KNEEDLER: No. You could view
18
      that as status or --
19
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: You're asking us to
20
      extend Robinson, and I'm asking how far?
21
               MR. KNEEDLER: Well, what I was going
22
      to say, you could -- you could think of it as
23
      status, but I think another way to think about
24
      it, and this is our point about an
25
      individualized determination, is that place
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- 1 realistically available to that person
- 2 because --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: It is in the sense
- 4 that the bed is available --
- 5 MR. KNEEDLER: I know that it's --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- but not because
- 7 of their personal circumstances.
- 8 MR. KNEEDLER: Right. Right. And
- 9 that's -- and that's my point. It -- it's
- 10 available in a physical sense. It may be
- 11 available to somebody else, but requiring an
- 12 individualized determination might include
- whether that person could cope in that setting.
- 14 That's the only --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So that -- so that
- 16 might be an Eighth Amendment violation?
- 17 MR. KNEEDLER: Because it may not --
- 18 yes, because it's not available.
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So that's an -- it's
- an Eighth Amendment violation to require people
- 21 to access available beds in the jurisdiction in
- 22 which they live because of their mental health
- 23 problems?
- MR. KNEEDLER: If -- if going there
- 25 would -- would --

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: How about if they 2 have a substance abuse problem and they can't 3 use those substances in the shelter? Is that an Eighth Amendment --4 MR. KNEEDLER: That is -- that is not 5 a -- that is not a sufficient --6 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why? Why? They're addicted to drugs, they cannot use them in the 8 shelter. That's one of the rules. 9 10 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, if they -- if 11 they -- if it's the shelter's rule, then they 12 have no -- they -- they -- they can't go there if they're -- if they're addicted. That's not 13 -- that's not --14 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So that's an Eighth -- that's an Eighth Amendment violation? 16 17 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, no, the -- the --18 the Eighth Amendment violation is prohibiting 19 sleeping outside because the only shelter that is available --20 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is not really 22 available to that person? MR. KNEEDLER: -- won't take them --23 24 won't take them, yes. And that's an 25 individualized determination.

1	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Same thing with the
2	alcoholic?
3	MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
4	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. So the
5	alcoholic has an Eighth Amendment right to sleep
6	outside even though there's a bed available?
7	MR. KNEEDLER: If if the only
8	shelter in town won't take him, then I think
9	he's in exactly he's in the same he's in
10	the same condition. And there can be all sorts
11	of reasons, and the City doesn't normally
12	JUSTICE GORSUCH: And judges across
13	the country are now going to superintend this
14	under the Eighth Amendment?
15	MR. KNEEDLER: I I actually don't
16	think that it it requires the again, I
17	don't think we should let the Ninth Circuit
18	decisions
19	JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, you want to
20	MR. KNEEDLER: characterize this.
21	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. You you
22	don't like the class certification, but that
23	question's not before us, counsel.
24	MR. KNEEDLER: No, but all we're
25	talking about is the core principle of Pobinson

- 1 which is you cannot punish someone for a status.
- 2 And -- and I think communities guided by that
- 3 principle, and it's the only principle a court
- 4 should be enforcing --
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: How about --
- 6 MR. KNEEDLER: -- would retain a lot
- 7 of flexibility.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: How about if there
- 9 are no public bathroom facilities? Can -- do
- 10 people have an Eighth Amendment right to
- 11 defecate and urinate outdoors?
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, we -- we --
- 13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is that conduct or
- is that status?
- MR. KNEEDLER: I -- it's, obviously,
- 16 there -- there is conduct there and we are not
- 17 suggesting that cities can't enforce their --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why not, if there
- 19 are no public facilities available to homeless
- 20 persons?
- MR. KNEEDLER: The -- that
- 22 situation, you know, candidly, has never arisen.
- 23 And whether or not there -- I mean, in the
- 24 litigation as I've seen. But no one is
- 25 suggesting and we're not suggesting that public

- 1 urination and defecation laws cannot be enforced
- 2 because there are very substantial public health
- 3 reasons for that.
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, there are
- 5 substantial public health reasons with drug use,
- 6 with alcohol, and with all these other things
- 7 too.
- 8 MR. KNEEDLER: And they can all be --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And you're saying
- 10 the Eighth Amendment overrides those. Why not
- in this circumstance right now?
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, I'm not -- I'm not
- saying the Eighth Amendment overrides the laws
- 14 against drug use.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I know that.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Oh, I'm sorry.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I know that.
- 18 MR. KNEEDLER: No, I misunderstood
- 19 what you --
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That one -- that one
- 21 the government wants to keep. I got that.
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, I misunderstood
- 23 your question. Sorry.
- 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. Last one.
- 25 How about -- how about fires outdoors? I know

- 1 you say time, place, and manner, but is there an
- 2 Eighth Amendment right to cook outdoors?
- 3 MR. KNEEDLER: No. I -- I -- I
- 4 think what -- what --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's -- that's an
- 6 incident -- a human necessity every person has
- 7 to do.
- 8 MR. KNEEDLER: But this -- but this is
- 9 one -- this is one of those things that, you
- 10 know, is taken care of on the ground as a
- 11 practical matter. There are restaurants where
- 12 someone can go. There are --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, no, no, we're
- 14 talking about homeless people.
- MR. KNEEDLER: No.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: They're not going to
- go spend money at a restaurant necessarily.
- 18 Let's --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, there -- there
- 20 may be inexpensive places. Some people get --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's say there
- isn't, okay?
- MR. KNEEDLER: And --
- 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's say that there
- is no reasonable --

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1
               MR. KNEEDLER: And -- and the local
 2
      community --
 3
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Do they have a right
      to cook? They have a right to eat, don't they?
 4
 5
               MR. KNEEDLER: They have -- they have
 6
      a right to eat, a right to cook if it entails
7
     having a fire, which I think it -- it -- it
     probably -- it probably would, but -- but, as I
8
9
      said, the -- the -- the eating, the feeding is
      taken care of in most communities by nonprofits
10
11
      and churches stepping forward --
12
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: But if there isn't
13
14
               MR. KNEEDLER: -- as they have for 200
15
     years.
16
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- but, if there
17
      isn't, there's an Eighth Amendment right to have
18
      a fire?
19
               MR. KNEEDLER: No, no, we are not
20
      saying there's an Eighth Amendment --
21
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, I thought you
22
      just said there was.
23
                MR. KNEEDLER: Well, there -- there's
24
      food that you can eat without cooking it. I
     mean, they -- and they could could get a handout
25
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- 1 from the -- from a -- from an individual that,
- 2 you know, people can beg for money. I mean,
- 3 there are -- there are ways that this works out
- 4 in practice.
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Last -- last
- 6 question. I -- I'm totally sympathetic to the
- 7 idea that there might be a necessity defense in
- 8 these cases, and there's a footnote in your
- 9 brief that indicates that in a lot of cases you
- 10 could -- you could maybe bring advance
- 11 preliminary injunctive action at least as
- 12 individuals. And I don't even see why you
- 13 couldn't do it on a class-wide -- a class-wide
- 14 basis.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, we haven't ruled
- 16 out classed, we haven't ruled out class -- class
- 17 action.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, I thought you
- 19 did in that footnote. You said, you know,
- 20 the -- the whole mistake here is that this was
- 21 done on a class-wide basis. Why couldn't they
- 22 --
- MR. KNEEDLER: I think without --
- 24 without -- without sufficient inquiry into the
- 25 individual circumstances is what, particularly

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1
      with the two class representatives here.
 2
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
 3
                CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
 4
      Kavanauqh?
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You just said a
 5
      minute ago that a lot of this is taken care of
 6
 7
      on the ground as a practical matter. And I
      think one of the questions is, who takes care of
 8
      it on the ground? Is it going to be federal
 9
      judges, or is it the local jurisdictions with --
10
11
      working with the nonprofits and religious
12
      organizations?
13
                So I guess following up on the
14
      necessity question, given the line-drawing
15
      problems that we've been going through, if a
16
      state has a traditional necessity defense, won't
17
      that take care of most of the concerns, if not
18
      all, and, therefore, avoid the need for having
19
      to constitutionalize an area and have a federal
20
      judge superintend this rather than the local
21
      community, which you've emphasized many times
2.2
      working with the nonprofits and charitable and
23
      religious organizations, which is how it works
24
      in most places?
25
                MR. KNEEDLER: Well, I -- I think that
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- 1 the necessity defense at least traditionally has
- 2 required a much stronger sense of urgency and
- 3 imminence than -- than this. If states had a
- 4 necessity defense and we knew that it was
- 5 available in all of these places, but even in --
- 6 in Oregon, I think it's a case called Barrett,
- 7 the Court said it's theoretically possible, but
- 8 there was a remand for factual issues.
- 9 So we don't -- we don't know at this
- 10 point in time whether -- whether there is such a
- 11 defense. And that's really not in the -- in
- 12 the -- in the case here. This comes up on an
- 13 Eighth Amendment challenge without -- without
- 14 reference to the necessity defense and, frankly,
- 15 without reference to the new Oregon statute,
- which seems highly instructive in terms of time,
- 17 manner, and place that jurisdictions -- Grants
- 18 Pass should examine.
- 19 But I -- I don't think we can -- I
- 20 don't think the Court should put this core point
- 21 about Robinson to one side because, in -- of the
- 22 possibility that in Oregon and maybe, you know,
- 23 maybe no other place, I don't know about
- 24 California law of necessity, maybe it would be
- 25 taken care of. I think, at this point in time,

- 1 that is too speculative.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, usually we
- 3 think about before constitutionalizing an area
- 4 or extending a constitutional precedent, you
- 5 might disagree with that characterization, but
- 6 before doing that, we usually think about
- 7 whether state law, local law already -- already
- 8 achieves those purposes so that the federal
- 9 courts aren't micromanaging homeless policy.
- 10 And it's -- and it's on a daily basis
- 11 when you work with the homeless. It's a daily
- issue, how many people are going to show up that
- day at the food bank, how many people are going
- 14 to show up that day at the shelter. So it's not
- 15 like this is a once-a-year thing.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, no. For -- for
- the people actually dealing with it day to day,
- 18 that is certainly true, the -- the City, the law
- 19 enforcement, the City liaisons, the nonprofits.
- 20 But it's not true for the federal
- 21 court. The federal court doesn't have to get
- 22 into any of that. The only time the federal
- 23 court would get into it is when -- is if the
- 24 core principle of Robinson was being disregarded
- 25 by not -- by criminalizing somebody for sleeping

- 1 outside when they have no place to sleep inside.
- 2 That's the core principle. That's the only
- 3 thing a court should be enforcing, not the --
- 4 not whether people -- whether people show up.
- 5 And the thing I would -- another thing
- 6 I would say about the necessity defense, it --
- 7 it may be that if the Court issues an
- 8 appropriate injunction in this case or another
- 9 case limited to the core principle of Robinson,
- 10 but it develops or the state law develops that
- there is a necessity defense, then I think that
- 12 should be taken into account. I mean, that's in
- 13 effect the time, manner, and place or -- or
- 14 similar to that.
- 15 If state law comes -- comes along and
- 16 establishes a -- a realistic defense or a
- 17 realistic approach to how people can remain in
- 18 the -- in the community, then the courts
- obviously should defer to that. But we don't
- 20 have that established state law at this time.
- 21 And I don't think the Court should
- decline to address this question, which is
- 23 important in the Ninth Circuit, both because the
- 24 principle that those courts recognize should be
- 25 sustained but the approach they've taken should

- 1 not.
- 2 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Last question I
- 3 have on the food hypotheticals about stealing to
- 4 feed yourself or cooking to feed yourself.
- 5 You kind of waved all those away by,
- 6 oh, that's all taken care of by local
- 7 communities, nonprofits, and religious
- 8 organizations, and by and large, heroic efforts
- 9 each day to make sure that happens, but it
- 10 doesn't always happen by any stretch.
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, it -- it doesn't
- 12 always happen.
- 13 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And then what?
- MR. KNEEDLER: But homeless people are
- 15 resourceful. They have friends who are also
- 16 homeless. They may -- they may know people in
- 17 town. They may beg for money.
- 18 And the -- the towns are -- are coping
- in the same way, frankly, that individual
- 20 homeless people do. They do the best they can
- 21 under the circumstances. But that -- if those
- 22 circumstances fail and the nonprofits, et
- 23 cetera, can't -- you know, the truck doesn't
- 24 show up one night, that doesn't become an Eighth
- 25 Amendment problem.

1	And and we're by no means
2	suggesting that there should be a federal
3	judiciary overlay on top of all that. The
4	cities and the nonprofits should be left alone
5	to do the work that they're doing, unless the
6	core principle of Robinson is not respected.
7	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
8	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
9	Barrett?
10	JUSTICE BARRETT: So one odd thing
11	about the posture of this case, putting aside
12	the class part, is its pre-enforcement nature,
13	because, in Robinson and in Powell too, the
14	punishment you know, the the adjudication
15	of guilt had already occurred and it was time
16	for the punishment to be to imposed, and then
17	the Eighth Amendment challenge was raised.
18	And Justice Alito was asking you about
19	a lot of the very difficult on-the-ground
20	factual determinations that law enforcement
21	would need to make before deciding whether
22	someone could be given a citation for camping
23	outdoors. Why wouldn't it make more sense,
24	assuming that we agree in substance with the
25	line that Robinson would control here, why

- 1 wouldn't it make more sense for the Eighth
- 2 Amendment claim to be raised as a defense, much
- 3 like the necessity defense, once a court is in a
- 4 position, unlike the law enforcement officer
- 5 just trying to gather information on the ground,
- 6 to determine whether there were available beds,
- 7 whether the person had a place to go? Why is a
- 8 pre-enforcement challenge the right way to think
- 9 about this?
- 10 MR. KNEEDLER: Well, several things.
- 11 It -- it obviously could be raised as a defense
- in a -- in a criminal prosecution or civil
- 13 citation.
- 14 JUSTICE BARRETT: Sure. But does it
- 15 --
- 16 MR. KNEEDLER: But -- but -- but I
- 17 think --
- 18 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- make sense to
- 19 think about it in this --
- 20 MR. KNEEDLER: -- for this particular
- 21 Eighth Amendment claim, the claim is that the
- 22 Eighth Amendment prohibits criminalizing the act
- 23 to begin with. So the -- the -- it's not just
- 24 the punishment that would be --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Well, I mean, I --

1 MR. KNEEDLER: -- meted out at the end 2 of the day. 3 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- I understand I mean -- let's see -- I do understand 4 that, but it's not that it categorically 5 6 prohibits punishing this act. I mean, as -- as 7 one might say if it, you know, prohibited sleeping altogether for everyone, right, this is 8 9 because it -- the Eighth Amendment claim is that 10 it punishes, criminalizes this act in a way that 11 falls disproportionately and unconstitutionally 12 on a particular class of people. And that requires adjudication at the 13 14 front end to figure out whether someone is 15 protected or unprotected. If -- if I go and 16 sleep in an encampment, I can be cited. It's different. There's a factual determination on 17 18 the ground. 19 And Robinson was a status-based 20 challenge, and it came up in the context of the 21 individualized criminal proceeding. So why is a 2.2 pre-enforcement challenge -- why does it make 23 sense given the very, very fact-intensive nature of this? 24

MR. KNEEDLER: Well, and -- and in --

- 1 you know, in a -- in a -- an individual case, I
- 2 think you're right, but imagine a situation
- 3 where someone who genuinely had no other place
- 4 to live and it's the third citation, the fourth
- 5 citation, and -- and you -- you have a pattern
- 6 as to that person or -- or other people where
- 7 the city is -- is consistently not respecting
- 8 the Robinson principle. Then I think you might
- 9 have a pre-enforcement review, just as you might
- 10 for an asserted violation of some other
- 11 constitutional right because, here, again, it's
- 12 -- it's not the Eighth Amendment regulating only
- 13 the punishment for an otherwise valid
- 14 conviction.
- 15 Here, the question is whether the --
- 16 the City can criminalize that conduct at all.
- 17 And so, if -- if you have a series of citations
- 18 that don't rise to the level of probable cause
- or whatever would be necessary -- excuse me --
- 20 necessary for the issuance of a citation where
- 21 the -- the law enforcement officer on the ground
- is not respecting the -- the Robinson principle,
- 23 then you might have an injunctive action.
- 24 JUSTICE BARRETT: But this would be
- 25 the first case, right, because it didn't happen

- in Robinson itself, where we had -- where we
- 2 required -- where we had a pre-enforcement
- 3 challenge on the basis of the Eighth Amendment
- 4 to the criminalization of certain conduct,
- 5 putting policemen in -- in this situation,
- 6 right?
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: But -- but I suppose,
- 8 in -- in Robinson itself, if the person had been
- 9 arrested once, been arrested a second time, and
- then he's arrested a third time, I would think
- 11 he could bring a pre-enforcement challenge
- 12 because the way the police were interacting with
- 13 him was not respecting the Robinson principle
- 14 with respect to Robinson himself.
- 15 JUSTICE BARRETT: How does the federal
- 16 government do this? So, in the brief, you
- 17 talked about clearing the encampment at
- 18 McPherson Square. Can you just describe, I
- mean, briefly if you can, I mean, do police then
- 20 make individualized inquiries? How does this
- 21 work?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Well, what happened
- 23 there was the -- you know, was I -- I think the
- 24 gold standard of -- of the way this should be
- done, and larger cities have this ability. The

- 1 -- the Park Service cooperated very closely with
- 2 the District government. The Park Service does
- 3 not have the sort of social services, et cetera,
- 4 that a municipality has in D.C. And so that
- 5 function is sort of split. These are special
- 6 National Park properties. But the -- the
- 7 National Park Service relies, as the federal
- 8 government does, the Federal Protective Service
- 9 for buildings elsewhere, cooperates with the
- 10 local government.
- 11 But -- and the local government's
- 12 social service people or the nonprofits went out
- and interviewed everybody who was in the -- who
- 14 was in the encampment at McPherson Square and --
- 15 and told them about what services are available.
- 16 There was advance notice given that the
- 17 encampment is going to be cleared within I think
- 18 it was 30 days. And people were -- so people
- 19 were warned 30 days in advance. They were
- 20 warned the night before, the day before, so they
- 21 could collect their things. Some just moved
- 22 somewhere else. Some did take the -- the city
- 23 up on the offer. Some went into shelters.
- 24 So that -- and that's the way that
- 25 shelters are -- excuse me -- encampments are

- 1 typically cleared, is the -- and particularly in
- 2 -- in cities where you've gotten a number of
- 3 amicus briefs explaining the problem. That's
- 4 what happens.
- 5 It isn't the -- it isn't the example
- 6 we've been talking about where the law
- 7 enforcement officer for the first time is
- 8 encountering the person. Smaller cities don't
- 9 have that capability, but Grants Pass does have
- 10 these outreach workers and that's who -- that's
- 11 who carries on the -- the dialogue.
- 12 And so that's the way it was cleared.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 14 Jackson?
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And so, given that
- 16 experience and the fact that Martin has actually
- 17 been the law since 2018, we don't really have to
- 18 speculate as to how this works, right? I mean,
- 19 this is happening -- this is the law right now
- 20 in the Ninth Circuit.
- 21 MR. KNEEDLER: The -- the Robinson
- 22 principle is the law.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: The Robinson
- 24 principle as adopted in Martin. My
- 25 understanding is, for example, California says

1 that's the law, we comply with it, and there we 2 are. MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah. They -- they --3 they are not asking for Robinson to be 4 overruled. What they're objecting to is the 5 6 injunctions that go well beyond that by --7 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes, I understand. 8 I'm just sort of responding to some of the 9 questions that you've gotten as to sort of how 10 does this rule work, can it work, that sort of 11 suggest that it's not already happening on the 12 ground in these places, that the shelters and the workers are aware of what is available, that 13 14 people are being advised, that, you know, the 15 principle of Martin at least in the Ninth 16 Circuit is we hold that so long as there's a 17 greater number of homeless individuals in a 18 jurisdiction than the number of available beds, 19 the jurisdiction cannot prosecute homeless individuals for sitting, lying, sleeping. 20 21 This is not a new rule. That's what 2.2 the law is right now in that situation, right? MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, that -- that's 23

what -- that's what Martin -- I don't want to

say that the -- the clearance procedures work

24

- 1 perfectly in every case or that they're
- 2 available in every case, but --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, I just want to
- 4 say we don't have to speculate about how the
- 5 rule works.
- 6 MR. KNEEDLER: Or -- yeah, or how --
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: It's not a new thing
- 8 that is being asked for today.
- 9 MR. KNEEDLER: How it's -- how it's
- 10 supposed to work.
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes.
- MR. KNEEDLER: All I'm saying is that
- 13 there -- there may be imperfections --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. Let me
- ask you about whether or not you are asking for
- 16 an extension of Robinson. That's come up a
- 17 couple times, and I don't -- I don't -- I don't
- 18 see it as an extension or whether that's being
- 19 asked for. So can you explain whether there's
- 20 some sort of extension of Robinson --
- MR. KNEEDLER: No.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- happening today?
- MR. KNEEDLER: No, I don't think so at
- 24 all because, as I said, the -- the sleeping
- 25 outside is -- is an essential human function,

- 1 and if you say someone can't sleep outside,
- 2 that's -- that's sort of -- or has no place to
- 3 sleep inside, that's the definition, really, of
- 4 -- of homelessness.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: So you're not
- 6 suggesting that people should be excused from
- 7 engaging in otherwise criminal conduct? So
- 8 we've heard this example about people stealing
- 9 in order to eat. I mean, that would be a
- 10 situation in which someone is actively
- 11 participating in what would be otherwise
- 12 criminal behavior --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- if anybody did
- 15 it.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: And -- and the idea,
- 18 I guess, is that, well, maybe these people need
- 19 to do it, and so that might be some sort of
- 20 excuse. That's not what's happening in the
- 21 facts here, correct?
- MR. KNEEDLER: No. That's correct.
- 23 And one -- one thing that I think is important
- 24 to keep in mind in this is, if Grants Pass can
- do this, so could every other city. So could a

- 1 state do it state-wide. And, eventually, a
- 2 homeless person would have no place to be,
- 3 lawfully be.
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: So this is more like
- 5 the sort of initial hypo of criminalizing eating
- 6 outside, not that you'd be doing something that
- 7 was otherwise criminally culpable?
- 8 MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah. Yes. I mean, I
- 9 suppose there could be ordinances that the City
- 10 would have about where you can -- you know, you
- 11 can't eat at -- can't consume for the --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: That's time, place,
- 13 and manner.
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- 15 JUSTICE JACKSON: Final question with
- 16 respect to you mentioned states doing this. Why
- isn't the federal government arguing that this
- 18 case is moot in light of 195.530? This is the
- 19 Oregon recently passed statute that I mentioned
- 20 earlier. Why -- why -- why doesn't the
- 21 government read that law as I do to prevent
- 22 Grants Pass from enforcing its ordinances to
- 23 block sleeping outdoors at all places and all
- 24 times?
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yeah, no, I -- I -- I

- 1 certainly agree that there appears to be a -- a
- 2 pretty stark inconsistency between that state
- 3 law and the ordinance. It hasn't been applied.
- 4 It has to be objectively reasonable, I think --
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: So would the federal
- 6 government --
- 7 MR. KNEEDLER: -- but this isn't time,
- 8 place, and manner at all.
- 9 JUSTICE JACKSON: Right. So what
- 10 would the -- what would your position be if the
- 11 Court decided that as a matter of constitutional
- 12 avoidance or whatever else that we don't need to
- 13 hear this or reach this decision in this case
- 14 given this new state ordinance?
- MR. KNEEDLER: That -- that would be
- one possibility. It wouldn't answer the core
- 17 Robinson principle point and -- and the
- 18 limitations on -- on that point that has -- that
- 19 has triggered the amicus briefs.
- 20 JUSTICE JACKSON: Right. But our
- 21 typical rule's --
- MR. KNEEDLER: Yes.
- 23 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- that if there's
- some other way, we don't necessarily comment on
- 25 constitutional issues, correct?

1 MR. KNEEDLER: Right. And -- and --2 yes. And -- and that would be -- that would be 3 one course to see how -- what time, place, and manner meant under state law and how -- how the 4 Eighth Amendment could accommodate that or take 5 6 it into account. 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you. 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 9 counsel. 10 Ms. Corkran. 11 ORAL ARGUMENT OF KELSI B. CORKRAN 12 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS MS. CORKRAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and 13 14 may it please the Court: 15 Robinson v. California holds that 16 status-based punishment schemes are 17 categorically cruel and unusual under the Eighth 18 Amendment. The challenged ordinances inflict 19 status-based punishment in both effect and 20 purpose. 21 Although the City describes its 22 ordinances as punishing camping on public 23 property, it defines campsite as anyplace a 24 homeless person is while covered with a blanket. 25 The City interprets and applies the ordinances

1 to permit non-homeless people to rest on 2 blankets in public parks while a homeless person who does the same thing breaks the law. 3 The ordinances by design make it 4 physically impossible for homeless people to 5 live in Grants Pass without facing endless fines 6 7 and jail time. The only question under Robinson is whether there's any meaningful difference 8 9 between a law that says being homeless is punishable and a law that says being homeless 10 11 while breathing or sleeping or blinking is 12 punishable. 13 In other words, does adding a universal human attribute to the definition of 14 15 the offense make the punishment conduct-based 16 instead of status-based? The answer is no. 17 purpose and effect of the second statute is 18 exactly the same as the first, to make people 19 with a status endlessly and unavoidably 20 punishable if they don't leave Grants Pass. 21 Indeed, all the ordinances do is turn 2.2 the City's homelessness problem into someone 23 else's problem by forcing its homeless residents into other jurisdictions. 24

The injunction below leaves the City

- 1 with an abundance of tools to address
- 2 homelessness. It can impose time, place, manner
- 3 restrictions on when and where homeless people
- 4 sleep.
- 5 It can ban tents and clear
- 6 encampments. It can enforce a sleeping ban
- 7 against homeless people who decline shelter.
- 8 And it can fully enforce its laws prohibiting
- 9 littering, public urination and defecation, drug
- 10 use, and violent or harassing behavior.
- 11 The only tool the City wants that it
- doesn't have is authority to impose a 24/7
- 13 City-wide sleeping ban that forces its homeless
- 14 residents to either move to another jurisdiction
- or face endless punishment.
- The state police power is broad, but
- it does not include the power to push the
- 18 burdens of social problems like poverty on to
- 19 other communities or the power to satisfy public
- 20 demand by compromising individual constitutional
- 21 rights.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: In Robinson, there
- 24 was a statute that outlawed -- that said that
- 25 "to be addicted" is a crime. Is there an

- ordinance here that says "to be homeless" is a
- 2 crime?
- 3 MS. CORKRAN: So the language for the
- 4 purposes of a temporary place to live bakes
- 5 homelessness into the -- the definition of the
- 6 offense. Justice Sotomayor was talking about
- 7 that earlier.
- 8 So, when you combine that language
- 9 with the -- the rest of the camping definition,
- 10 what you have is an ordinance that says being
- 11 homeless while sleeping with a blanket is
- 12 punishable. And as I just said earlier, the
- question becomes when you attach the status to
- 14 the universal attribute of -- of sleeping, does
- 15 it then transform the offense into conduct-based
- punishment instead of status-based punishment,
- 17 and I think the answer is no.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A number of
- 19 us, I think, are having difficulty with the
- 20 distinction between status and conduct. You'll
- 21 acknowledge, won't you, that in those terms,
- there's a difference between being addicted to
- 23 drugs and being homeless?
- 24 In other words, someone who's homeless
- can immediately become not homeless, right, if

- 1 they find shelter.
- 2 Someone who is addicted to drugs, it's
- 3 not so -- so easy. It seems to me that in
- 4 Robinson, it's much easier to understand the
- 5 drug addiction as an ongoing status, while,
- 6 here, I think it is different because you can
- 7 move into and out of and into and out of the
- 8 status, as you would put it, as being homeless.
- 9 MS. CORKRAN: Yeah. So it's
- interesting, we today understand addiction as an
- 11 immutable status. In Robinson, the Court
- suggested that someone might be recovered and no
- 13 longer have the status of addiction. So the
- Robinson Court wasn't thinking about addiction
- as something that couldn't change over time.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, that may
- 17 limit the applicability of Robinson to a
- 18 different situation, but what is the -- I mean,
- 19 what is the analytic approach to deciding
- whether something's a status or a situation of
- 21 conduct?
- MS. CORKRAN: So the question is a
- 23 status is something that a person is when
- they're not doing anything. So being addicted,
- 25 having cancer, being poor, are all statuses that

- 1 you have apart from any conduct.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Having cancer
- 3 is not the same as being homeless, right? I
- 4 mean, maybe I'm just repeating myself because
- 5 homelessness can -- you -- you can remove the
- 6 homeless status in an instant if you move to a
- 7 shelter or situations otherwise change. And, of
- 8 course, it can be moved the other way as well if
- 9 you're kicked out of the shelter or whatever.
- 10 So that is a distinction from all
- 11 these other things that have been labeled
- 12 status, isn't it?
- MS. CORKRAN: I -- I don't think so
- because, you know, a cancer patient can go into
- remission, they no longer have that status. I
- 16 don't think -- I mean, I don't think there's any
- 17 question that being poor is a status. It's
- 18 something you are apart from anything you do.
- 19 It's a status that can change over time, and at
- that point, you wouldn't be a part of the class,
- 21 but I don't think it changes the fact that it is
- 22 a status.
- 23 And what Robinson found so offensive
- 24 about status-based conduct --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I quess

- is -- is being a bank robber a status?
- MS. CORKRAN: No, because being a bank
- 3 robber means you rob banks. So -- So the
- 4 definition and the conduct --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Violating this
- 6 ordinance means upon being asked to leave you
- 7 don't leave.
- 8 MS. CORKRAN: Violating this ordinance
- 9 means you're homeless. So, again, homelessness
- is not something you can -- that you do. It's
- 11 just something that you are.
- 12 And so the question becomes, when you
- 13 attach the universal human attribute of sleeping
- or breathing to that status, does it make the
- 15 punishment conduct-based instead of status-based
- 16 and I think the answer is yes.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, Edwards
- 18 v. California in 1941 struck down a law that
- 19 made it a crime to transport an indigent person,
- 20 correct?
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Indigency is
- 23 not -- is a condition that can change over time,
- 24 but the law was aimed at the transport of a
- 25 person who wasn't morally reprehensible.

1	MS. CORKRAN: Yes. I think that's
2	notable because our history and tradition as a
3	country is to emphatically reject any sort of
4	local legislative scheme that has the effect of
5	pushing the burdens of poverty or indigency into
6	other communities. It's woven throughout
7	through our Constitution.
8	So Edwards located it in the Dormant
9	Commerce Clause. We have Saenz v. Roe, which
LO	locates it in the Privileges or Immunities
L1	Clause; Papachristou addresses that status-based
L2	punishment in the context of procedural due
L3	process.
L4	What Robinson held is that when that
L5	expulsion is effectuated through status-based
L6	punishment, it violates the Punishments Clause.
L7	JUSTICE BARRETT: How do you define a
L8	community?
L9	So Justice Alito was describing how
20	New Jersey has so many tightly woven
21	municipalities close together and, here, you
22	know, the Chief Justice was asking about whether
23	if Grants Pass, if there were was a new
24	homeless shelter with lots of beds right across
2.5	the border 10 minutes away, you know, could that

- 1 be taken into account.
- 2 And I think there was some back and
- 3 forth and not necessarily agreement on that.
- 4 What is your position? How do you define a --
- 5 define a community? Take that example of a
- 6 homeless shelter right outside the limits of
- 7 Grants Pass.
- 8 MS. CORKRAN: Yes. So to -- so to
- 9 answer that hypothetical first, I'm not
- 10 concerned -- I don't have any problems with
- 11 saying that a homeless person in Grants Pass has
- 12 legal and physical access to a shelter that's
- just over the lines if that's, in fact, true.
- 14 Lots of jurisdictions limit their
- 15 homeless shelters to people who are residents.
- 16 So -- and just to be clear, there was no
- 17 suggestion in the record here that there were
- any shelters available outside of Grants Pass.
- 19 JUSTICE BARRETT: Understood. But --
- so community doesn't need to be determined by
- 21 jurisdictional lines is what you're telling
- 22 me --
- MS. CORKRAN: No.
- 24 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- as a matter of --
- 25 because I -- I -- let's see, I'm asking all of

- 1 this because, in response to Justice Sotomayor,
- 2 you were pointing out that our -- you know, our
- 3 nation has a history and tradition of not saying
- 4 you can shunt homeless people or the poor out of
- 5 your jurisdiction and on to others.
- 6 So -- or out of your community and on
- 7 to others is I think how you -- how you phrased
- 8 it. So I'm asking, how do we know what those
- 9 lines are? And you're saying it doesn't have to
- 10 be jurisdiction-specific.
- 11 MS. CORKRAN: No. I think
- jurisdiction matters because that tells us kind
- of the lines in which the -- whatever ordinance
- or statute applies. So, when shelter is
- 15 available, the ordinances are enforceable
- 16 because they punish the conduct of not going to
- 17 the shelter, as opposed to the status of
- 18 homelessness.
- 19 So I think that a -- a municipality
- 20 can punish the conduct of not going to a shelter
- 21 that's just over the line if you have physical
- 22 and legal access to it. Now, for the reasons
- 23 you say -- and this dates back to our -- our
- 24 settlement system at the Founding Era -- a lot
- of municipalities do not allow people from

- 1 outside of the jurisdiction to use their
- 2 shelters, and so, under those circumstances, the
- 3 shelter wouldn't be legally available.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is that cruel
- 5 and unusual punishment for them to turn away
- 6 someone who wants to use their shelter?
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: No, that wouldn't be
- 8 punishment. Punishment is the infliction of
- 9 suffering for a crime.
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: Counsel, I --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, then --
- 12 then why is the Eighth Amendment implicated in
- 13 this case?
- MS. CORKRAN: Because, here, we have
- 15 fines and jail time. We have a status-based
- 16 punishment scheme that is, in fact, inflicting
- 17 punishing -- punishment within the meaning of
- 18 the Eighth Amendment.
- 19 JUSTICE BARRETT: Counsel, do you want
- 20 to -- oh, I'm sorry, Chief. Were you finished?
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, I'm done.
- 22 That's fine.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Do you want to
- 24 address some of the line-drawing problems that
- 25 we've been going back and forth? I mean,

- 1 Justice Gorsuch pointed out, you know, eating is
- 2 a basic human need, and it's not the case that
- 3 soup kitchens or social services will always be
- 4 able to meet it, and so he asked about whether
- 5 the Eighth Amendment would prohibit punishment
- 6 for stealing food.
- 7 You might ask the same questions about
- 8 trespass and squatting in structures if there
- 9 are -- you know, if that was the best
- 10 alternative. So how do we -- how do we draw
- 11 these difficult lines about, you know, public
- 12 urination and those sorts of things?
- MS. CORKRAN: So I'll start with
- 14 stealing food. Stealing food is not part of the
- definition of homelessness, and it's also not a
- 16 universal attribute. So -- so I put that
- outside the scope of any of the arguments we're
- 18 making here.
- 19 With respect to public urination and
- 20 defecation, if you had a -- I don't think this
- 21 would ever exist, but if you had a law that said
- 22 homeless people cannot urinate or defecate
- 23 anywhere within city limits, I think then it
- 24 starts to look like this case. But, if you're
- 25 saying that people can't urinate or defecate on

- 1 public property, it is almost -- it's hard to
- 2 imagine a situation where --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: They have no place
- 4 else to go. So a homeless person, there --
- 5 there's no facilities available, and a homeless
- 6 person has no place else to go. How could a --
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: You might have a -- I
- 8 mean, there are commercial establishments. I
- 9 don't know that anyone's pointed to a
- jurisdiction where you truly don't have access.
- 11 But if we had to say --
- 12 JUSTICE BARRETT: Well, what's the
- 13 constitutional principle?
- MS. CORKRAN: Right.
- 15 JUSTICE BARRETT: Take my
- 16 hypothetical. Say there -- there's not --
- 17 commercial establishments don't want non-patrons
- 18 coming in to use the facilities, there are no
- 19 public facilities, and it's a generally
- 20 applicable rule that says no public urination.
- MS. CORKRAN: So I think, there, one
- 22 distinction between urination and defecation and
- 23 sleeping is that sleeping outside is part of the
- 24 definition of homelessness, right? Homelessness
- is lacking a fixed, regular nighttime address.

- 1 So the -- the sleeping prohibition goes more
- 2 directly to the status of homelessness than
- 3 urination or defecation.
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: So it would not --
- 5 so it would not violate the Eighth Amendment to
- 6 punish public urination and defecation?
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: You might come up with
- 8 some different theory, but it's not the theory
- 9 that we're putting forward in this case.
- 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: Not the theory that
- 11 you're -- okay.
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: What do you think, Ms.
- 14 Corkran, of this idea that Oregon's necessity
- defense essentially functions as an Eighth
- 16 Amendment in this context, so we don't have to
- 17 constitutionalize the kinds of limits that
- 18 you're talking about?
- 19 MS. CORKRAN: Yeah, I would say it's
- 20 not at all clear that that's true. As Mr.
- 21 Kneedler pointed out, you know, there is a
- 22 necessity defense in Oregon law, but, so far,
- 23 the Oregon courts have not applied it to this
- 24 circumstance. It also wouldn't necessarily be
- available for the fines, the citations, we have

- 1 here.
- 2 But I think that this question about
- 3 the availability of the necessity defense really
- 4 goes to the injunctive posture of the case.
- 5 It's not going to come up if you're in the --
- 6 you know, you're -- if you're presenting the
- 7 Eighth Amendment as an affirmative defense at
- 8 the same time as a necessity defense in a
- 9 criminal prosecution, right, it kind of moots
- 10 out the -- the Eighth Amendment claim.
- 11 But going to Justice Barrett's
- 12 questions about injunctive relief, there, the
- 13 question you're asking is, does the plaintiff
- 14 have a credible threat of future punishment?
- 15 I'd say first that the injunctive relief is not
- 16 before the Court. The City has not challenged
- 17 the propriety of the injunction here. So I
- 18 think it's a question for another day.
- 19 The courts here did find that the
- 20 plaintiffs had shown a credible threat of future
- 21 punishment, and so I think that resolves the
- 22 issue for -- for this case.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, along those
- lines, we -- we haven't mentioned it yet, but in
- 25 the briefing, there's a lot of discussion about

- 1 the fact that Robinson's Eighth Amendment
- 2 holding with respect to status came without any
- 3 adversarial testing, wasn't what was argued by
- 4 the parties, it didn't have a whole lot of
- 5 citation or support, it came kind of in a breezy
- 6 paragraph.
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: Right.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And some have
- 9 suggested that that's really a mistake because
- 10 the Eighth Amendment's about punishments. It
- 11 doesn't prevent states -- limit states' capacity
- 12 to engage in passing laws that make conduct or
- actions or anything a crime. It just goes to
- 14 the nature of what punishments follow, putting
- aside the Excessive Fines Clause.
- MS. CORKRAN: Yeah.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So there's a lot of
- 18 discussion in the brief about that and some --
- 19 some suggestion that, really, it's the
- 20 Fourteenth Amendment that should be doing work
- 21 here, if there is work to be done, because some
- form of the necessity defense has been always
- 23 understood as inhering in due process from the
- 24 founding and whether that can be enforced
- 25 through state laws, which might differ, Kansas

- 1 versus Kahler, but have to -- have to
- 2 nonetheless cover the territory, and whether
- 3 there might be injunctive relief on that basis,
- 4 possible in advance, not limited to defenses,
- 5 possible.
- Just reactions to that. I -- we
- 7 haven't yet touched on it.
- 8 MS. CORKRAN: So Robinson predates
- 9 Graham v. Connor, but I think it espouses the
- same principle, which is, when you can identify
- 11 an explicit textual source for a right, you
- 12 locate the right in that amendment and not more
- 13 generalized notions of due process. And so what
- 14 the Robinson Court did was they --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, but, here, the
- 16 more -- the more -- the more limited -- I mean,
- 17 let me just --
- MS. CORKRAN: Yeah.
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- play with that
- 20 for a minute. The more natural home for a
- 21 necessity-type argument is due process. That's
- 22 where it's always historically been understood
- 23 to lie, not the -- not an amendment having to do
- 24 with punishments, right? One has to do with
- 25 what you can criminalize. The other has to do

- 1 with the punishments that follow.
- 2 And you're not really attacking the
- 3 punishments here. You're saying any punishment
- 4 is impermissible.
- 5 MS. CORKRAN: Right.
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And -- and any
- 7 punishment's impermissible. And that -- that is
- 8 a necessity defense. That's a classic necessity
- 9 defense.
- 10 MS. CORKRAN: So I think that it's --
- 11 it's right that Robinson describes what it was
- doing as saying that the Eighth Amendment
- 13 prohibited the criminalization. You see that
- language in I think Weems and Wilkerson v. Utah.
- 15 I -- I agree it seems like a bit of a strange
- 16 fit.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So, if that's the
- 18 case, if that's the case, let me just -- you
- 19 know, wouldn't that get rid of this awful
- 20 status/conduct distinction that we have -- that
- 21 we're struggling with here today? Because, if
- 22 it's a necessity, it doesn't matter why it's a
- 23 necessity. It's -- every person can make their
- own argument about why it was necessary, and
- 25 then the courts will decide. We don't get into

- 1 the status/conduct stuff that -- that Robinson
- 2 seems to invite. Thoughts?
- 3 MS. CORKRAN: Well, but that's --
- 4 here, we don't have necessarily a necessity
- 5 defense, so that wouldn't be very satisfying --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You don't think your
- 7 clients have a good necessity defense?
- 8 MS. CORKRAN: The Oregon courts so far
- 9 have not applied the Oregon --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I didn't ask whether
- 11 the courts --
- MS. CORKRAN: Yeah.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- have applied it.
- 14 You haven't asked them to apply it, and you're
- 15 --
- MS. CORKRAN: They've had a couple of
- 17 cases like this.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Have they?
- 19 MS. CORKRAN: Mr. Kneedler referred to
- 20 the Bartlett case.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And how are they
- 22 going?
- MS. CORKRAN: The -- so far, they have
- 24 not applied the necessity defense. They left
- open the possibility that it might apply, but

1 they haven't applied it --2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why not? MS. CORKRAN: -- yet. They didn't 3 find that it was necessary under those 4 circumstances. And, again, we --5 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Did they rule out 7 that it might be necessary under some circumstances? 8 9 MS. CORKRAN: They left open that 10 possibility, but I'd also say the -- the civil 11 citation or the -- I don't want to say "civil." 12 It's a little murky. But the -- the fines here 13 are not subject, I don't think, or it's not 14 clear, to the necessity defense. So it wouldn't 15 take care of the entirety of the claim. 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You've got Excessive 17 Fines Clause there, though, right? 18 MS. CORKRAN: Yes. 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And that's not 20 before us either? MS. CORKRAN: We have raised the fines 21 2.2 before this Court because our challenge is to 23 the -- the package of punishments, and, 24 historically, that's how the Court has looked at

applying the Excessive Fines Clause and the

- 1 Punishment Clause together. We're in a really
- 2 unfortunate posture here that we have claims
- 3 that involve both fines and punishment, and yet
- 4 we're only here on the Punishments Clause piece
- of it. It was one of the reasons we suggested
- 6 this isn't a great vehicle.
- 7 I think the Court can say that, you
- 8 know, it's not going to reach the fines because
- 9 we won on that below, and so you can just focus
- on the -- on the -- the jail time for -- for
- 11 criminal trespass.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: What is your
- definition of the status of homelessness? Is it
- 14 the lack of a place to stay indoors on a
- 15 particular night, or is it something broader
- 16 than that?
- 17 MS. CORKRAN: So -- so homelessness --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Does it require more
- 19 than that?
- 20 MS. CORKRAN: Right. Homelessness is
- 21 defined as lacking a fixed, regular, adequate
- 22 nighttime address. So, if you have a home, you
- 23 have a home -- I'm not homeless when I go to
- 24 Grants Pass because I have a home in D.C.
- The second part of our class

- definition focuses on whether the homeless
- 2 person has access to shelter. That's not
- 3 because that's part of the status. It's
- 4 because, when someone has access to shelter,
- 5 then the ordinances aren't punishing them for
- 6 the status. It's punishing them for the conduct
- 7 of not going --
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I -- I asked the
- 9 question because, if homelessness is defined as
- 10 simply lacking a place to stay indoors on a
- 11 particular night, then there is an ironclad
- 12 connection between the conduct, which is
- 13 sleeping outside, and the status of
- 14 homelessness.
- 15 But if homelessness is defined to
- 16 require more than that, then my question would
- 17 be whether someone who is lacking a place to
- 18 stay on a particular night or for a particular
- 19 period of time is homeless if the reason why the
- 20 person finds himself or herself in that status
- is, for example, the person refuses to take
- 22 antipsychotic medicine that's been prescribed or
- 23 refuses to go to drug rehab or rehabilitation
- for alcoholism or the person has chosen to move
- from one place where the person might have a

- 1 shelter or a home where the person could live to
- 2 another place.
- What about all of that?
- 4 MS. CORKRAN: So the status of
- 5 homelessness is something that only changes once
- 6 the person has a home. You lose your home,
- 7 you're homeless. If you have a home again, then
- 8 you're not in the status anymore.
- 9 I think what your question gets at is
- 10 that second piece, which is whether a person has
- 11 access to shelter. That can change from day to
- 12 day. And so --
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, that's not really
- 14 what my question gets at. The question is you
- 15 can draw a distinction -- status is different
- 16 from conduct, but there are some instances of
- 17 conduct that are closely tied to status or, if
- 18 homelessness is defined as simply lacking a
- 19 place to stay on a particular night, they amount
- 20 to the same thing. The definition of
- 21 homelessness encompasses the conduct of sleeping
- 22 outside.
- 23 So my question is whether this is --
- 24 what if the person finds that person in a
- 25 homeless state because of prior life choices or

- 1 the refusal to make future life choices? That's
- 2 the question.
- 3 MS. CORKRAN: Yeah, yeah. So -- so
- 4 our definition of lacking access to shelter is
- 5 lacking physical or legal access to shelter.
- 6 And you're looking at the person's situation on
- 7 that particular night.
- I think, generally, we're not doing an
- 9 inquiry into all of a person's life choices that
- 10 might have led them to the point where they're
- 11 homeless and can't find a place to sleep.
- 12 Robinson certainly didn't do that sort
- of analysis with respect to addiction, but there
- 14 could be situations where there is such a -- a
- 15 tight causal nexus between a choice a person has
- 16 made and their lack of shelter access that you
- 17 would say this person has chosen not to take the
- 18 shelter and to be very clear, if you decline
- shelter that is physically and legally available
- 20 to you, you're not in a class -- you're in --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, see, the problem
- is that once you move away from the definition
- 23 that makes the inquiry basically tautological,
- then you get into the question of assessing the
- 25 closeness of the connection between the status

- 1 and the conduct.
- 2 And you do run into problems with the
- 3 person who's a kleptomania -- a kleptomaniac or
- 4 a person who suffers from pedophilia. So how do
- 5 you distinguish that? How does the Court assess
- 6 how close the connection has to be?
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: So -- so, for both of
- 8 those categories, the -- the -- the status is
- 9 defined -- I don't know if status is the right
- 10 word there -- being a pedophilia or having
- 11 pedophilia is defined by the urge that you have,
- 12 not by your conduct, and acting on that urge.
- So, if someone were to act on that
- 14 urge, that tight causal nexus on why they didn't
- 15 have access to shelter, then they would be
- 16 outside of our claim.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: I thought you made a
- 18 very interesting remark in response to Justice
- 19 Alito, and I'm just trying to clarify.
- You seem to say that homelessness, as
- 21 you've defined, is not lacking access to shelter
- 22 on a particular night.
- Is that -- am I right about that?
- 24 MS. CORKRAN: That's right. We're
- 25 use -- I use the HUD definition, which is that

- homelessness means you lack a fixed, regular,
- 2 adequate nighttime address.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So that kind of
- 4 thing might -- going back to the Chief Justice's
- 5 original question, that's not changing night to
- 6 night --
- 7 MS. CORKRAN: No, I mean --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- in the same way.
- 9 MS. CORKRAN: -- it can change over
- 10 time in the same way that a cancer diagnosis
- 11 could change over time, but --
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: And then the other
- part that was interesting to me is that assuming
- 14 that's your definition, homelessness lacking a
- 15 fixed regular address, when someone does have
- 16 access to a shelter even though they lack a
- 17 fixed regular address, the ordinance in that
- 18 situation, I thought you said, is operating to
- 19 punish the act of not going to the shelter --
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes.
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- as opposed to
- 22 punishing the status of being homeless.
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes, that's -- that's
- the exact reason that reasonable time, place,
- 25 manner restrictions aren't a problem because, if

- 1 you have time, manner -- time, place, and manner
- 2 restrictions, what you're doing is punishing the
- 3 conduct of not going to sleep where you're
- 4 allowed to go. That rationale doesn't work when
- 5 someone has nowhere to go.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: And can you speak to
- 7 whether or not we should really be even getting
- 8 into this in light of the new Oregon law?
- 9 MS. CORKRAN: So we didn't arque
- 10 mootness. We made this point in our brief in
- opposition. We didn't say mootness just because
- we don't have an injunction under the Oregon law
- 13 yet and it's not self-executing.
- I don't think there is any question
- that the ordinances fall under the Oregon law.
- 16 I mean, it was intended to codify Martin. It
- 17 requires that any sort of restrictions on
- 18 sleeping or resting outside are reasonable with
- 19 respect to homeless individuals.
- 20 Clearly, the ordinances here don't
- 21 meet that standard. So I -- I -- I certainly
- 22 wouldn't have any concerns with the Court
- 23 saying, as a matter of constitutional avoidance,
- 24 it appears this Oregon law resolves this whole
- issue, so we're, you know, dismissing as

- 1 improvidently granted or however the Court
- 2 wanted to -- to resolve the case.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So the plaintiff
- 5 -- I'm sorry. The plaintiff who died here had
- 6 used up her provisional stay credits at the time
- 7 of class certification, so she no -- no longer
- 8 had a shelter who was willing to take her.
- 9 I think the hard hypothetical that
- 10 Justice Alito was positing and in part Justice
- 11 Gorsuch is the person who owns a dog.
- MS. CORKRAN: Yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Or let's say a
- 14 mentally ill person. Do you have the same
- response as the government?
- 16 MS. CORKRAN: So I -- I would like to
- live in a world where separating someone from
- their pet is cruel. But it's outside the scope
- of our claim because we are just talking about
- 20 physical and legal access to shelter.
- So, if someone turns down a shelter
- offer that's physically and legally available
- 23 because of their dog, they would not be within
- 24 the scope of our claim.
- To get to the mental health

- 1 hypothetical, if a person -- if the person's
- 2 mental health issues made the shelter either
- 3 physically unavailable to them because, if they
- 4 went there, they would be at substantial risk of
- 5 bodily harm or death, then I would say the
- 6 shelter isn't physically available.
- 7 You could also have a shelter that
- 8 won't take people with mental health problems,
- 9 in which case it wouldn't be legally available
- 10 to them.
- I would say that if the shelter is
- 12 physically and legally available, then they're
- 13 outside the scope of their -- our claim, but
- 14 they might have ADA claims or some other law
- that applies that would restrict the City's
- 16 ability to punish them for not going to that
- 17 place, but it's outside our case.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Thank you.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 20 counsel. Can you go from having a fixed regular
- address to not having one?
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Can you go
- from not having one to having one?
- MS. CORKRAN: Yes. People --

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
2	Justice Thomas?
3	JUSTICE THOMAS: In Robinson, a
4	narcotics officer testified that based on his
5	experience, the marks on the defendant's arm
6	suggested that he was an addict.
7	MS. CORKRAN: Yes.
8	JUSTICE THOMAS: Do we have anything
9	like that where an expert testifies that these
LO	people that the individuals here are
L1	homeless?
L2	MS. CORKRAN: So, here, the legal
L3	burden was on the plaintiffs to show that they
L4	were homeless. The lower courts found that
L5	their declarations and depositions satisfied
L6	that.
L7	JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, what I'm
L8	interested in is the status. You say that this
L9	is the equivalent of Robinson, and I'm trying to
20	determine where the status of homelessness was
21	determined and how it plays a role in this case.
22	MS. CORKRAN: So it was determined
23	based on the declarations and depositions of
24	the the putative class members and named
25	plaintiffs. It also, you know, we talked a

- 1 little about the ratio between beds to
- 2 population.
- 3 The Ninth Circuit ended up rejecting
- 4 that as a hard-and-fast rule, but the lack of
- 5 shelter beds in Grants Pass provides credibility
- 6 to the putative class members' declarations when
- 7 they say they have nowhere to go.
- 8 I'd also say I don't understand the
- 9 City to have ever contested that the named
- 10 plaintiffs are homeless. What they contested is
- 11 whether they had access --
- 12 JUSTICE THOMAS: I think what's
- confusing me is that when I read the ordinance,
- 14 the ordinance is an anti-camping ordinance.
- 15 Would this -- would a -- would a backpacker who
- 16 happens to be in the area for a few days be
- 17 allowed to camp on -- on public property?
- 18 MS. CORKRAN: I don't -- I think
- 19 theoretically no, but I would say that the City
- 20 has never -- it was not able to identify any
- 21 circumstance in which it had applied --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: I understand that.
- 23 But it -- but it would apply to a backpacker?
- MS. CORKRAN: So I -- I -- it would
- depend on the circumstances. The line that the

- 1 police officers drew in their depositions was,
- 2 if they saw a non-homeless person lying on a
- 3 blanket, they wouldn't enforce the ordinance.
- 4 JUSTICE THOMAS: No, I'm saying some
- 5 -- he's back --
- 6 MS. CORKRAN: Yeah. So --
- 7 JUSTICE THOMAS: -- someone with a
- 8 backpack who's been wandering around for a
- 9 couple of years in the continental divide or
- 10 something.
- MS. CORKRAN: So I can imagine -- I'm
- 12 putting myself in the place of the officers who
- 13 were deposed. If you gave them that
- 14 hypothetical --
- 15 JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah.
- MS. CORKRAN: -- they might say no,
- that person isn't setting up a temporary place
- 18 to live; they're just traveling through town.
- 19 That -- that particular hypothetical didn't come
- 20 up, but we do --
- 21 JUSTICE THOMAS: So that would not
- violate the anti-camping ordinance?
- MS. CORKRAN: I don't know. I mean,
- 24 maybe this gets to the vagueness of the --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah.

1	MS. CORKRAN: of the provisions,
2	but
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito?
4	Justice Sotomayor?
5	Justice Kagan?
6	Justice Kavanaugh?
7	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I think one of the
8	premises of your argument is that this is not
9	good policy for the homeless, and good policy
LO	would would help homeless individuals
L1	transition, get mental health treatment, get
L2	substance abuse treatment, job job
L3	assistance, and that this doesn't doesn't
L4	fulfill those objectives.
L5	And maybe you maybe you're not
L6	saying that, but I'm curious whether you think
L7	this is good policy in terms of incentivizing or
L8	bad? You you must think it's bad, and I'm
L9	curious why.
20	MS. CORKRAN: Yeah, I don't think
21	we've made that argument. It certainly a theme
22	across the amici briefs. I would just on the
23	incentivizing, I think, is a non sequitur
24	because the only question here is whether it
25	violates the Eighth Amendment to enforce the

- 1 ordinances when someone has no access to
- 2 shelter, when they're turning down the services.
- 3 So that's a circumstance we're looking at.
- 4 Maybe -- I think what Your Honor's
- 5 question gets at is our discussion of no
- 6 penological purpose. This Court has recognized
- 7 that when a punishment scheme has no penological
- 8 purpose, it inflicts gratuitous suffering, and
- 9 that is cruel and unusual punishment.
- 10 And I will say, at this point, the
- 11 City has not ever identified any penological
- 12 purpose for punishing homeless people who do not
- 13 have access to shelter. If you ask that
- question, every time they pivot to encampments
- and fires and sanitation problems, which are all
- 16 non-sequiturs. As I've said a number of times,
- 17 this case is only about sleeping outside when
- there's no shelter available. And so I think
- 19 that lack of penological purpose is significant.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, we've heard
- 21 a lot about how it's more difficult to have an
- 22 effective homeless policy given the rule that's
- 23 been in effect in the Ninth Circuit over the
- last several years.
- MS. CORKRAN: I think that's --

1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How are we
2	supposed to
3	MS. CORKRAN: that's flatly wrong.
4	I mean, I I'll go back to my opening. I gave
5	the whole list of the things that the City is
6	allowed to do under the ordinance and under our
7	claim. The only thing that they cannot do is
8	impose a 24/7 sleeping ban that makes it
9	impossible for homeless people to stay in the
10	jurisdiction.
11	I'd also note, you know, they have a
12	lot of amicus briefs on their side from local
13	governments. Almost the entirety of what those
14	amicus briefs are complaining about isn't at
15	issue in this case. So, when you have
16	injunctions against encampments, that's under
17	the Fourth Amendment. We don't have a Fourth
18	Amendment claim. A lot of the injunctions are
19	under the Fourteenth Amendment, including the
20	San Rafael one that the City identifies in its
21	reply brief.
22	I think it's remarkable that when the
23	City was trying to identify the best example it
24	could come up with for its reply brief, it chose
25	one involving a different constitutional claim.

- 1 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 3 Barrett?
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: No.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 6 Jackson?
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can a person go from
- 8 being addicted to drugs to not being addicted to
- 9 drugs?
- 10 MS. CORKRAN: So I think under
- 11 common -- as we think about it in terms of
- 12 modern medicine, the answer is no. But the
- 13 Robinson Court certainly thought that was the
- 14 case, right? Sixty years ago, we didn't have
- the same understanding of addiction as we do
- 16 now.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: So your view of
- 18 Robinson is that it doesn't really matter, the
- 19 permanency of the condition; it's still a
- 20 status?
- MS. CORKRAN: Right. The Robinson
- 22 Court did not think that the permanency mattered
- 23 because it thought that addiction was a status
- that could change.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
2	counsel.
3	Rebuttal?
4	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF THEANE D. EVANGELIS
5	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
6	MS. EVANGELIS: Thank you.
7	This case is worlds away from
8	Robinson. The Eighth Amendment does not answer
9	any of the questions that we've been discussing
10	today, and that is reason not to extend
11	Robinson. All of these questions are
12	unanswerable.
13	First, I'd like to start with the
14	United States' position. That would also bring
15	chaos. It would be a disaster if Martin were to
16	remain on the books in any form. It does not
17	make a difference if the inquiry is
18	pre-enforcement or post-enforcement. All the
19	same questions come up about whether the
20	person's conduct is involuntary, what their
21	choices are, how they are there, whether the
22	shelter that's available is adequate, where it
23	is, what rules it has, all of that.
24	And I'd like to clarify how all of
25	this works in practice because it would be

- 1 impossible for people on the ground to
- 2 understand and predict what a court would say
- 3 about the shelters that are available and the
- 4 alternatives that are available and the choices
- 5 that were made and the difficulty of all that.
- 6 So, here, how it works is, under the
- 7 Grants Pass policy -- I'll direct the Court to
- 8 page 155 of the Joint Appendix. There, it says,
- 9 officers are required to give a 24-hour notice
- 10 before issuing a citation.
- 11 So I -- I want to just focus on that
- 12 for a moment. How will the officer know when --
- when she or he comes back whether the individual
- has another place to go? There's no way to know
- 15 the answer to that. So they would have to take
- their word for it perhaps. So it would lead to
- 17 all of those same problems.
- 18 And it is hyperbole -- the other side
- 19 talks about banishment and all of that. The
- 20 Respondents have remained in Grants Pass for
- 21 years. There's nothing like that going on here.
- 22 They talk about an isolated statement from a
- 23 community meeting that was a three-hour meeting.
- 24 There are 20 pages of minutes. It's one
- 25 sentence. What that full context shows is a

- wide-ranging discussion about all of these
- 2 difficult policy problems and how the City was
- 3 trying to incentivize people to accept shelter
- 4 and dealing with a small group that was causing
- 5 serious problems and crime in the City, and
- 6 they're trying to balance those who wouldn't
- 7 take the help with the City's needs to keep
- 8 their public spaces open.
- 9 When the Ninth Circuit
- 10 constitutionalized this area, it left cities
- 11 with really no choice: Either keep building
- 12 enough shelter that may or may not be adequate
- or suitable to someone's preferences, or be
- 14 forced to give up all of your public spaces.
- 15 That is what's happened. We've seen a -- a
- 16 suspension of enforcement of these basic laws
- 17 that are so important.
- The line-drawing problems are
- 19 never-ending. That is exactly why Powell,
- Justice Gorsuch, to your point about Powell and
- 21 the plurality there said that if we embark on
- 22 this journey and we start constitutionalizing
- laws that address conduct, the line-drawing
- 24 problems will be endless. And so that is a
- 25 reason not to extend Robinson here.

1 So I just want to make, again, our 2 basic Eighth Amendment point here, which is that 3 these are low-level fines and very short jail terms for repeat offenders that are in effect in 4 many other jurisdictions. This is not unusual 5 6 in any way. It is certainly not cruel. And we 7 can just point to our appendix in our reply that 8 goes through jurisdictions from West Hollywood, 9 California, to Watertown, Massachusetts, that have the same type of policies. So the policy 10 11 questions in this case are very difficult, and I 12 think that's what has come across today. 13 The Eighth Amendment question, though, 14 is not. Here, the punishments are the sorts of 15 punishments that have been held to be 16 permissible for -- since the founding and really 17 are in use today. They're not in any way 18 unusual. 19 So we -- we heard a lot of things 20 about guessing how this would work in practice, but it sounds to me like courts would need to 21 2.2 have some sort of rules so that they could tell 23 a jurisdiction like Chico that the place it set 24 aside for camping was adequate when the federal 25 court said no, it wasn't, because it's outdoors,

_	of a ball cremence that was threatened with
2	lawsuits because it didn't provide cell phone
3	chargers in the area that it designated for
4	camping, or San Rafael, where the court said
5	that 200 feet between encampments between
6	tents was too much and that 100 feet was the
7	maximum under the Eighth Amendment.
8	So, for all of those reasons, the
9	Court should reverse.
LO	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
L1	counsel.
L2	The case is submitted.
L3	(Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the case
L <b>4</b>	was submitted.)
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