1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	
3	ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., ATTORNEY :
4	GENERAL, :
5	Petitioner : No. 10-1542
6	v. :
7	CARLOS MARTINEZ GUTIERREZ. :
8	x
9	and
10	x
11	ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., ATTORNEY :
12	GENERAL, :
13	Petitioner : No. 10-1543
14	v. :
15	DAMIEN ANTONIO SAWYERS. :
16	x
17	Washington, D.C.
18	Wednesday, January 18, 2012
19	
20	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
21	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
22	at 10:19 a.m.
23	APPEARANCES:
24	LEONDRA R. KRUGER, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor
25	General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for

 STEPHEN B. KINNAIRD, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for Respondent in No. 10-1542. CHARLES A. ROTHFELD, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for Respondent in No. 10-1543. Respondent in	1	Petitioner.	
 CHARLES A. ROTHFELD, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for Respondent in No. 10-1543. <li< td=""><td>2</td><td>STEPHEN B. KINNAIRD, 1</td><td>ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for</td></li<>	2	STEPHEN B. KINNAIRD, 1	ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for
 Respondent in No. 10-1543. Respondent in No. 10-	3	Respondent in No. 3	10-1542.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	4	CHARLES A. ROTHFELD, 1	ESQ., Washington, D.C.; for
7 8 9 9 10 11 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 20 21 22 23 24 24	5	Respondent in No. 2	10-1543.
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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (10:19 a.m.) 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument 4 first this morning in Case 10-1542, Holder v. Gutierrez, 5 and the consolidated case. 6 Ms. Kruger. 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF LEONDRA R. KRUGER 8 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER 9 MS. KRUGER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it 10 please the Court: 11 Under section 1229b of Title 8, an alien who 12 has not been a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 13 years, or who has not continuously resided in the United 14 States for at least 7 years following admission in any 15 status, is not eligible for cancellation of removal 16 under the first prong of the statute. That is true 17 regardless of whether the alien can show that his 18 parents, or any other third party, for that matter, did 19 satisfy those requirements. 20 The Ninth Circuit, alone among the courts of 21 appeals, has recognized a rule of imputed eligibility under section 1229b(a). That rule is wrong for at least 22 two reasons. First of all, it is inconsistent with the 23 plain text of the statute. 24 25 The touchstones of eligibility under section

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1 1229b(a), LPR status, admission, and residence, are all 2 terms that are defined in the INA to refer to attributes 3 that are individual to the alien seeking relief, 4 attributes that cannot be satisfied by a third party. 5 But even if the statute were thought to be ambiguous with respect to this question, the Board of 6 7 Immigration Appeals has interpreted the statute to mean 8 that the alien seeking relief must personally and 9 actually satisfy both durational requirements. That 10 interpretation is at the very least a reasonable reading 11 of the statute, if not the only reasonable reading of 12 the statute. 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But did it make that 14 determination as a legal matter or as an exercise of its 15 discretion? As I read its opinion, it felt that it had 16 to come to that conclusion as a matter of law. 17 MS. KRUGER: I think --18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If we were to find the 19 statute ambiguous, where has it explained its policy decisions independent of its legal conclusions? 20 21 MS. KRUGER: First of all, Justice 22 Sotomayor, we don't think the statute is ambiguous; and 23 so, we don't think there's any reason to go to Chevron step two in this case. 24 25 But if you look at the Board's decision in

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1 Escobar in particular, I think the Board makes clear 2 that, although it thought the statutory language was 3 clear, it also rested its decision on other 4 considerations that are uniquely within the Board's 5 expertise. It discussed how the imputation rule comports with the general policies of the statute, how 6 7 it comports with the rule that the Board itself has 8 recognized over time, that LPR status is something that's individual to a particular alien, and that the 9 10 alien seeking relief has to individually, both 11 procedurally and substantively, satisfy the eligibility 12 requirements. 13 And it also noted that the imputation rule

14 would create significant holes in the statutory scheme. 15 It would mean that an individual who may not even have 16 been eligible for admission to the United States or 17 lawful admission for permanent residence would 18 nevertheless receive a significant benefit that goes 19 along with that status.

20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You say that you 21 think the statute is unambiguous, but it -- it doesn't 22 address issues of imputation at all, does it? 23 MS. KRUGER: It does not address issues of 24 imputation. 25

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, if it doesn't

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1 even address it, it seems to me the best you can say is 2 that it's ambiguous.

MS. KRUGER: Well, I don't think that a 3 4 statute, as this Court has recognized, has to address 5 every conceivable possibility in order to be unambiguous. And this statute, I think, is unambiguous 6 7 in that it refers to eligibility requirements that are 8 by their nature, as defined in immigration law, individual to a specific alien. There's --9 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What about -- there 11 was -- wasn't there in the prior law a child domicile --12 a child was able to satisfy the 7-year requirement based 13 on the parent's domicile, which was deemed to be the 14 child's? 15 MS. KRUGER: Right. There -- the 16 Respondents relied very heavily on three court of 17 appeals cases that had interpreted the predecessor to 18 this statute, former section 212(c), to allow imputation 19 of a parent's domicile to a child. Those courts relied on the common law rule that a child's domicile follows 20 21 that of his parents. And applying that rule, they 22 allowed children to rely on their parents' domicile in 23 the United States to satisfy the 7-year lawful

unrelinquished domicile requirement in that statute.

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JUSTICE SCALIA: I guess a child doesn't

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1 have any domicile except the parents'; right? Children
2 who run away from home do not acquire new domiciles, do
3 they?

4 MS. KRUGER: Under this Court's decision in 5 Holyfield, the common law rule is that the child's domicile is determined by that of his parents, б 7 regardless of where the child resides in fact. When 8 Congress repealed former section 212(c) and enacted the current cancellation of removal statute, it removed any 9 10 reference to the word "domicile," instead replacing the 11 requirement of 7 years unrelinquished domicile with two 12 durational requirements that are at issue in this case. 13 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Is that change alone 14 sufficient for us to say that this is -- was a clear 15 indication by the Congress of an intent or purpose to 16 alter the imputation rule? 17 MS. KRUGER: I think if this Court is

18 willing to presume along with Respondents that Congress 19 would have been aware of these three court of appeals 20 decisions that were issued, it should be noted, very 21 late in the life of a provision that had existed in more 22 or less the same form since the Immigration Act of 1917, 23 then the Court also must presume that Congress was aware 24 that the basis for those decisions was the common law 25 definition of the term "domicile" and that Congress

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meant what it did when it replaced "domicile" with three eligibility criteria that are defined terms in the immigration law and all of which refer to attributes that are individual to a specific alien. JUSTICE GINSBURG: Does a child who is not

6 emancipated have the capacity to independently establish 7 a residence?

8 MS. KRUGER: Under the -- how the INA defines the term "residence" is an actual principal 9 10 dwelling in fact. So, yes, a child will dwell somewhere 11 in fact and can do so independent of a parent. That is 12 in marked contrast to the common law rule of domicile 13 that this Court explained at length in its Holyfield 14 decision and that the courts of appeals applied in 15 interpreting former section 212(c).

16JUSTICE KENNEDY: Can a parent ask for a17permanent resident status for a 5-year-old child?18MS. KRUGER: Yes, a parent could.

JUSTICE KENNEDY: So, if you have two cases, one -- two 5-year-olds. One, as in this case, lives with the parent, but the application has not been granted or not been filed; and the other, the application has been granted. And they're treated -they're treated differently?

MS. KRUGER: I think that's right,

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Justice Kennedy. And I think that that is a necessary corollary of the way the immigration system is constructed. As a general rule, LPR status and admission are criteria that are individual to a particular alien. To be sure, minor children of lawful permanent residents receive a high preference in the immigration visa system.

8 But there's no rule that says that children 9 automatically receive the same legal status as their 10 lawful permanent resident parents.

11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Assuming we don't accept 12 Respondents' -- what appears to be their argument, that 13 being an LPR is not a requirement of the statute, if we 14 assume that being an LPR is what triggers the 15 availability for the Attorney General's exercise of 16 discretion, how does that -- how does the imputation 17 rule harm the statute? The child has lived with the 18 parents for 5 years, whether before or after -- well, 19 after, it wouldn't be an issue, but before the grant of 20 LPR status. How does that harm the purposes of the 21 statute?

I thought the idea of the statute was to give individuals who had ties to the United States an opportunity to stay. If a child's been with their parents for 5, 10, 15 years, what sense does it make to

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deprive them of the Attorney General's exercise of discretion merely because the administrative process has taken too long to give them something which they're going to get and which they've gotten?

5 MS. KRUGER: I think it's worth separating out two different components of the cancellation of 6 7 removal decision. It is certainly true that it's an important criteria, in determining whether or not an 8 individual is entitled as a matter of discretion to 9 10 cancellation of removal relief, how strong their ties are to the United States, what their family ties are and 11 12 so on. But it has never been thought that particularly 13 compelling reasons for the exercise of discretion can 14 overcome the plain threshold requirements for eligibility for the exercise of discretion under 1229b. 15 16 The difficulty with the imputation rule that 17 the Ninth Circuit has recognized is that it undermines 18 the plain requirements for those threshold 19 determinations of eligibility, conferring an important 20 benefit that goes along with long-time permanent 21 resident status and long-time continuous residence after 22 admission on individuals who not only did not receive 23 the necessary formal authorization from immigration officials at the requisite time; they may not even have 24 25 been eligible to receive those authorizations.

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1	I think it's also worth noting that this
2	statute is not the beginning and the end of discretion
3	in the immigration system. It is always true, and it is
4	certainly was the case when Congress enacted the
5	statute in 1996, that immigration officials have the
6	discretion not to bring removal proceedings in the first
7	place, to terminate removal proceedings once they have
8	begun, to defer action on the execution of a removal
9	order. And current immigration and customs enforcement
10	guidance makes clear that a minor receives particular
11	consideration within the totality of the circumstances
12	in determining whether or not prosecutorial discretion
13	is something that should be exercised.
14	JUSTICE BREYER: So, how does it work? I'm
15	how does it work? Two legal permanent residents, a
16	man and his wife, happen to show up in New York, and
17	they have a 6-month-old child. All right. What's the
18	legal why doesn't the INS just take the child, ship
19	him off? I mean there is it just discretion? Or is
20	there some rule of law or regulation that prevents that
21	from happening?
22	MS. KRUGER: It will depend on the
23	individual circumstances.
24	JUSTICE BREYER: Well, no. I've given you
25	the hypothetical. I mean, there we are.

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1 MS. KRUGER: Right. 2 JUSTICE BREYER: That's all you know. 3 MS. KRUGER: So, Congress has taken some 4 steps with respect to some subset of aliens. 5 Respondent, for example, brings up the LIFE Act, and that is an example of where Congress has taken a step 6 7 to --8 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm not asking for that. I'm saying, what in the law -- that's all you know. All 9 10 right? There are -- you know the hypothetical. 11 I want -- one possible thing to say would be 12 that child is -- is actually -- we are imputing that 13 he's here for lawful permanent residence, too. Every 14 circuit had had some kind of imputation rule, and 15 moreover there are other areas of law where I have found 16 imputation rules in the immigration law. Roughly, I 17 have three or four cases on that. But they're --18 they're not exactly comparable. 19 Okay. So, I just want to know what is it that prevents you from taking the child and shipping him 20 21 off to China if we don't impute? MS. KRUGER: Well, I think the answer is 22 23 certainly not that we impute the admission of the -- as 24 to child. 25 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm not asking that. You

1 know the question. I just want your best effort --2 MS. KRUGER: So, if there --3 JUSTICE BREYER: -- to give an answer. Or 4 I'm thinking that your answer is there is nothing; it's 5 either imputation or nothing. 6 MS. KRUGER: Well, I think that that's --7 JUSTICE BREYER: And you don't want me to 8 reach that conclusion. 9 MS. KRUGER: No, I think that that's 10 incorrect. There are certain provisions of law that 11 would allow for the child to be admitted but on an 12 independent basis from the parents. If a child is not 13 admissible --14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: If the supposition -- if 15 the supposition is that the parents -- I think 16 Justice Breyer's supposition was that both parents were 17 LPRs. The likelihood of the 6-month-old child being 18 born in the United States and therefore being a citizen 19 would be rather large. 20 MS. KRUGER: Well, that's certainly right. 21 It is also true that --22 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. That isn't my hypothetical. 23 24 (Laughter.) 25 MS. KRUGER: Right. The child in your

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1 hypothetical -- the child is not born in the United 2 States, right? 3 If the child does not independently satisfy 4 the criteria for admissibility, then the child has 5 entered the United States illegally and remains here at the discretion of immigration officials. 6 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: I suppose if they come with 8 somebody else's 6-month-old child, they'd have to send that child back to China, too, wouldn't they? 9 10 MS. KRUGER: Well --11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Which would be very sad, 12 but that would be the law, right? 13 MS. KRUGER: Well --14 JUSTICE BREYER: Actually they came from 15 Italy, in my hypothetical. 16 (Laughter.) 17 MS. KRUGER: I mean, I think that 18 Martinez --19 JUSTICE SCALIA: They should not have sent 20 him back to China, then. Why did they do that? 21 (Laughter.) MS. KRUGER: I think that Martinez 22 23 Gutierrez's situation, I think, is a good example of He entered the United States illegally with the 24 this. 25 -- with his parents and remained here illegally until he

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1 was admitted as an LPR at the age of 19 as an adult. 2 Until that time, there were no efforts to remove him 3 from the United States, and I think that that's fairly 4 typical, but that's not because his parents' admission 5 or their lawful status in the United States was imputed to Martinez Gutierrez, and there is no background 6 7 principle in the law that would allow for such imputation of an individual formal authorization to 8 remain in the country by immigration officials to be 9 10 imputed from one to another.

11 Rather, the immigration system sets up a 12 system in which a lawful permanent resident parent can 13 seek to -- to petition for an immigration visa on behalf 14 of a child and facilitate that child's eventual 15 adjustment to lawful permanent resident status, but it's 16 not something happens automatically. It's something 17 that happens through a regular, orderly process.

18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Can you give me an example 19 of an instance in which a child who is the child of two 20 lawful permanent residents cannot get lawful permanent 21 resident status for himself at the age of 8, but that he 22 can at the age of 15? I mean, what commonly happens 23 between that period that would make him ineligible -eligible only when he is 15, other than just as a matter 24 25 of providing all the documents?

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1 MS. KRUGER: That would make him ineligible 2 at the age of 15? 3 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, you -- the whole 4 point here is that some children are given lawful 5 permanent resident status and -- and some are not. But б I'm asking, does the passage of time, assuming two 7 lawful resident parents, ever make it so that a child 8 who was formerly ineligible is now eligible? He was ineligible at 5, but he's eligible at 14? I mean, how 9 10 does that work? 11 MS. KRUGER: I think the most common scenario is one in which a visa number doesn't become 12 13 available until the child is -- is --14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Oh, I don't mean a visa 15 number. But nothing -- nothing with -- with respect to the child's real status other than his -- where he is on 16 17 the queue in the immigration department? 18 MS. KRUGER: That would be the most common 19 scenario, is -- is where the child is in the queue. And 20 I think Respondents place a great deal of emphasis on 21 the amount of time it takes for visa numbers to become available for both children and spouses of lawful 22 23 permanent residents, but that has been a regular and 24 acknowledged feature of the immigration system for 25 decades.

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1	The Congress that enacted IIRIRA in 1996 was
2	well aware of the waiting times for these visa numbers.
3	It had before it proposals for reducing the backlog, and
4	it rejected those proposals. It enacted in the
5	cancellation of removal statute two eligibility criteria
6	that do not turn on potential eligibility for receiving
7	LPR status or admission to the United States but,
8	instead, turn on actually having received that formal
9	authorization from immigration officials.
10	And I think that the best inference that we
11	can draw from the statutory language is that Congress
12	meant what it said; it attached special significance to
13	that formal authorization, the formal exercise of
14	authority by immigration officials, and not simply the
15	potential for that exercise in the future.
16	JUSTICE KAGAN: Ms. Kruger, you take a
17	statute that doesn't say anything about imputation one
18	way or the other, and you say that statute can still be
19	unambiguous. And that would I think be true as a
20	general matter. But now you add to that statute a
21	history and a tradition and a practice in immigration
22	law of imputation of various kinds. One is imputation
23	of domicile in the way we talked about, but there are
24	other imputations that occur throughout the field of
25	immigration law. Some cut for the alien; some cut

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1 against the alien.

2 In the world of that practice and tradition, 3 are you at least in a sphere in which there's ambiguity, 4 in which the agency essentially has discretion to decide 5 whether it wants to impute in this way? 6 MS. KRUGER: I think the answer is "no," 7 Justice Kagan, because the other circumstances in which 8 imputation had been allowed under the immigration laws 9 differ in very important respects from the imputation --10 JUSTICE KAGAN: But none of them are 11 textually commanded; is that right? I mean, the -they're all situations in which the agency has decided 12 13 that there are good reasons to impute various factors. 14 MS. KRUGER: Well, I don't think that the 15 only reason that the agency has allowed for imputation 16 is that there is good reason as a general policy matter. 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Counsel, I can't hear you 18 very well. Would you --19 MS. KRUGER: Certainly. 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: Can you crank up the thing 21 or something? 2.2 MS. KRUGER: I will. 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: Thank you. MS. KRUGER: I'll try to speak more directly 24 25 into the microphone.

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1	The reason the the agency has allowed for
2	imputation in other circumstances is with respect to
3	certain inquiries that involve an inquiry into the
4	alien's intent. So, for example, the Board has allowed
5	for imputation under section 1182(k), which provides for
6	for discretionary relief from the Attorney General
7	when an immigrant did not know or could not have known
8	that they were inadmissible. And the Board has said
9	that, for those purposes, the parents' knowledge of
10	inadmissibility is imputed to the minor child. So, too,
11	in the context of abandonment of LPR status. The Board
12	has said
13	JUSTICE SCALIA: Excuse me. That first one
14	usually cuts against the immigrant, I would assume. So,
15	if the parents knew, the child knows, and the child
16	normally would not know, right?
17	MS. KRUGER: Well, that's correct.
18	JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes.
19	MS. KRUGER: That's correct. But I think
20	the critical point is that the agency has interpreted
21	imputation of intent, of state of mind, to be
22	permissible, in part for the same reason that the common
23	law rule about domicile formed, which is that
24	JUSTICE KAGAN: So, you think that all the
25	imputations that exist in immigration law are all a

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1 matter of imputing intent?

2 MS. KRUGER: I think that that's -- all of 3 the imputations that Respondents have pointed to concern 4 state of mind type requirements. They don't concern 5 formal authorizations by immigration officials. The Board, I think, has been very consistent, certainly in 6 7 the context of cancellation of removal, in not imputing the legal status of being an LPR or admission from 8 parent to child. And it's difficult to see any other 9 10 examples in which such imputation would be permissible, 11 in part because the background presumption of the 12 immigration law is that those are both attributes that 13 have to be individually achieved and the eligibility 14 criteria have to be independently satisfied by each individual alien. 15 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, why is a parent's 17 fraudulent conduct imputed to a child? There's no 18 intent there. The child obviously doesn't have an 19 intent or couldn't have an intent to commit a crime. 20 So, why is that imputed by the BIA? 21 MS. KRUGER: Well, I don't --22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Other than that it's a 23 holding against the immigrant, which your adversary points out is not a very favorable outlook for the 24

25 agency, that it only imputes when it harms the

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immigrant. But, putting that aside, there's no intent
 involved in the fraud. It's just the commission of an
 act.

MS. KRUGER: Well, I think that where the imputation has come in, in the Board's analysis, is with respect to the state of mind and not with respect to the objective conduct.

3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's the state of mind9 of committing an act, like a fraudulent act?

10 MS. KRUGER: It's -- I think where this has 11 come up is in the context of knowing that the -- that 12 the alien is not in fact admissible to the United 13 States, is generally where it's come up. I'm not --14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The child doesn't commit 15 a fraudulent act.

16 MS. KRUGER: But, again, I think that the 17 principle that the Board has applied is that, because 18 the child is presumed not capable of forming a requisite 19 intent, the parent's intent is imputed to the child. 20 But I think for present purposes the 21 critical point is, even in that context, what is being 22 imputed is not a formal status conferred on an 23 individual alien by immigration officials, or admission, a formal authorization to enter the country. 24 That is, 25 again, conferred on an individual basis by immigration

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1	officials. I think Respondents can identify no
2	circumstance, no precedent, for that type of imputation,
3	and it's one that would be inconsistent with the basic
4	structure of the immigration system.
5	JUSTICE GINSBURG: They do say
6	JUSTICE KENNEDY: It's a little odd that the
7	domicile is the more exacting of the two requirements,
8	and yet the Congress allowed imputation in the domicile
9	case but not not in the residence case. It seems
10	almost backward.
11	MS. KRUGER: Well, to be
12	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Congress enacts a more
13	forgiving and less exacting standard, but then takes
14	away the imputation.
15	MS. KRUGER: Well, to be clear,
16	Justice Kennedy, Congress did not supply a definition of
17	the term "domicile." And so, the court of appeals
18	opinions that Respondents are relying on followed the
19	common law rule that says that a child's domicile
20	follows that of his parents, but those courts applied
21	that rule in very different ways.
22	Two courts of appeals permitted children to
23	benefit from the domicile of their parents in the United
24	States even when they were not even physically present
25	in the United States for the full 7-year period; whereas

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the Ninth Circuit, for its part, applied that rule only where the alien child had been -- had entered the United States lawfully with his parents, according to the Ninth Circuit, remains lawfully in the United States thereafter, and simply had become an LPR outside of the full 7-year period.

7 In crafting the current cancellation of 8 removal statute, there's no reason to believe that Congress was aware of these three court of appeals 9 10 opinions that were, again, decided very late in the life 11 of former section 212(c). But even if it had been aware 12 of those decisions, it also would have been aware that 13 by using defined terms in the INA that are defined in a 14 way that's individual to the particular alien, it was 15 eliminating any reference to the common law rule.

16 Unlike domicile, there is no rule that says 17 that a child's LPR status follows that of his parents or 18 that a child's admission follows that of its parents.

19 JUSTICE BREYER: I don't see how -- were you
20 finished?

21 MS. KRUGER: Yes.

JUSTICE BREYER: I don't see how the -- you can read the Lepe-Guitron -- that was one of the cases -- it seems to me clearly imputes residence as well. They quote the earlier case from the circuit which said

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1 the 7 years of domicile have to come after their 2 admission for permanent residence. And then the dissent 3 says, hey, what about permanent residents? And what 4 they say is this case is different because, in that 5 earlier case, the parents had never been admitted. He came after he was married in this case. He's here after 6 7 his parents were admitted. Now, I grant you they didn't 8 explicitly say this, but I don't see how they reached their conclusion without it. 9

10 And then there's a different split in the 11 circuits about the pro and con of tacking on periods, 12 you know, before the domicile, after, et cetera. And 13 that seems to be what Congress resolved.

So, I think if you're talking about what was the law, the law was you did impute with -- you did impute for residence. And then Congress sort of just doesn't deal with that and deals with a slightly different thing. Is that a fair reading, or what do you think?

20 MS. KRUGER: I don't think it is, but first 21 I'd like to clarify that the Ninth Circuit had no reason 22 to impute residence in Lepe-Guitron, in part because the 23 alien in that case had resided in fact in the United 24 States throughout the 7-year period. I think 25 Respondents make the argument that Lepe-Guitron was in

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fact imputing LPR status, as opposed to residence in
 fact.

3 But I think that that is an incorrect 4 reading of the Ninth Circuit's decision as well, and 5 that's for the following reason: All three courts of appeals that Respondents rely on dealt separately with 6 7 the threshold requirement under former section 212(c) 8 that the alien be a lawful permanent resident. None of 9 those three courts permitted LPR status to be imputed 10 from parent to child. So, where there was an explicit 11 requirement in the statute that LPR status be obtained 12 by the alien seeking relief, the courts were very clear 13 in requiring that the alien before them independently 14 satisfied that requirement.

In Lepe-Guitron, the Ninth Circuit 15 16 acknowledged that, under circuit precedent, it had held 17 that domicile requires an intent to remain permanently 18 in the United States lawfully and said that that meant that the alien had to be in LPR status. 19 Lepe-Guitron 20 said that with respect to children, that intent to 21 remain in the United States lawfully need not be an LPR 22 status so long as their parents were lawfully domiciled 23 in the United States.

If the Court has no further questions, I'dlike to reserve the balance of my time.

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1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
2	Mr. Kinnaird.
3	ORAL ARGUMENT OF STEPHEN B. KINNAIRD
4	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT IN
5	NO. 10-1542
6	MR. KINNAIRD: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
7	please the Court:
8	Children present special problems under the
9	immigration laws, and, as discussed, both the courts and
10	the agency in various contexts have resorted to
11	imputation to cure those problems. And here the the
12	statute is silent as to imputation, and ambiguity arises
13	as applied to the special circumstance of children who
14	were minors during the years in question.
15	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I don't know
16	whether I'm having trouble applying the concepts of
17	unambiguous and ambiguous in this situation. As far as
18	I can tell, this is something that the statute just
19	doesn't deal with, and I don't know that you
20	characterize that correctly as ambiguous. It's just
21	kind of off the table.
22	MR. KINNAIRD: I think it's ambiguous as
23	applied to this specific circumstance. And the
24	ambiguity arises because the requirements for which
25	there is imputation, status and residency, are matters

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that are not within the capacity or the control of a minor. A minor does not decide whether or when a parent will apply for LPR status for him or her. He does not control the -- the maintenance of that status over a period of years, and he also does not control where he resides.

JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, can you give any example -- the Government says you can't -- of an instance where status is imputed, not intent, but just status; where the status that the parents have is automatically given to the child or, for that matter, automatically taken away from the child?

MR. KINNAIRD: Section 212(c) imputed status, as the Ninth Circuit found. The reason was that the requirement there was not just for unrelinquished domicile but lawful unrelinquished domicile, and, therefore, they had to reach back to the period in which the parent was an LPR --

JUSTICE SCALIA: But there -- there, you -what they're imputing is the intent to remain in the place, right? And that's -- that's an -- that's intent. That's imputing intent.

23 MR. KINNAIRD: No, they also had to impute 24 lawfulness, which meant that the parent had to be an LPR 25 for that period or at least in some lawful status. And

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1 in each of the three instances, the parents were LPRs in 2 the times in question. So, there definitely was a 3 foregoing rule of imputation of status. And I would 4 submit that --5 JUSTICE SCALIA: And the child would not have been lawfully there but for the imputation of 6 7 lawfulness from the parents. 8 MR. KINNAIRD: That's right. He -- well, he would not have qualified for -- for a waiver of removal. 9 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Kinnaird, I take it that 11 the point you're making is the statute is ambiguous in 12 the sense that its silence does not prevent the BIA from 13 making this imputation if it wants to. But the BIA 14 clearly doesn't want to. So, where does that leave you? MR. KINNAIRD: Well, I think if it is 15 16 ambiguous, then the BIA actually has to exercise its 17 discretion and grapple with that ambiguity. And that is 18 one of the fundamental problems, as Justice --19 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, are you saying that 20 the BIA needs to write an opinion that says now we are 21 doing Chevron step two analysis? Is that what you're 22 saying, that this is a matter of labeling? MR. KINNAIRD: I don't think it's a matter 23 of -- of magic words, but what it has to do is actually 24 25 grapple with and recognize the ambiguity, at least in

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1	the alternative, and then exercise its discretion to say
2	if this is a permissible construction of the Act and
3	there's another permissible construction, which of the
4	two better serves the statutory purpose.
5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But it doesn't have
6	to grapple with everything that's not there. I mean,
7	there are a lot of things that the statutes don't
8	address.
9	MR. KINNAIRD: Agreed.
10	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It seems to me that
11	they don't have to grapple with everything that's there.
12	You just have to say this doesn't address it. So,
13	whoever is asking for the affirmative, which is you,
14	loses.
15	MR. KINNAIRD: I don't think
16	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You're saying: We
17	think this law should allow should provide for this,
18	should be extended for this. And it's one thing to say,
19	well, the statute's ambiguous; it talks about children
20	in one category but not in another category; so, the
21	issue's there; we don't know what they meant. It's
22	another thing if it's something that's totally not on
23	the table. I mean, if if you claimed that the law
24	required every minor to get \$500 a year, you wouldn't
25	say the statute was ambiguous about that. You'd say it

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1 doesn't have anything to do with it.

2	MR. KINNAIRD: Well, that's right, Your
3	Honor, but I think the ambiguity arises here because the
4	matters in question are ones not within the capacity or
5	control of the minor, and that's been the traditional
6	basis on which the BIA has looked for imputation. And
7	when you take into account
8	JUSTICE GINSBURG: In your your
9	argument under your argument an alien, a child, who
10	never acquired LPR status in its own right could get a
11	cancellation of removal based on the parents' status.
12	MR. KINNAIRD: I don't think that's right.
13	The Ninth Circuit did not address that, but I think the
14	better reading of the statute, even if (a)(1) is
15	somewhat ambiguous on that point, is that you have to be
16	an LPR in order to seek cancellation. And then for
17	these durational requirements and the look-back to
18	status, there you do imputation.
19	And the reason is twofold. One, section
20	212(c), which it replaced, was limited to LPRs. The
21	second is that there is a separate subsection,
22	subsection (b), of that same statute. I don't believe
23	it's in the addenda provided to the courts, but it is
24	cancellation of removal for certain nonpermanent
25	resident aliens. And the critical distinction between

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1 the two, besides differences in criteria, is that that 2 one authorizes adjustment of status as well as 3 cancellation. 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: What would --5 MR. KINNAIRD: So, if you're not an actual LPR, you need to have adjustment of status to -- to not б 7 be in a legal limbo. 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Mr. Kinnaird, what would 9 happen if the child remains with the grandparents in 10 Mexico and his parents are living in Los Angeles for 6 11 years until they can afford to take him. Is the parents' residence then imputed to the child so that 12 13 when he moved to Los Angeles in year 7 he is deemed to 14 have been there for 6 years? MR. KINNAIRD: I think if there's a 15 16 significant separation of that duration, I think there 17 would be a question about whether you have the 18 significant relationship between parent and child to 19 warrant imputation. But it is true that under former 20 section 212(c), at least in two of the cases, they 21 imputed residency where the child was not actually 22 resident. 23 JUSTICE BREYER: You had an example in your brief, I thought -- you might -- I thought that it was 24

25 an example of status rather than intent. The example

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1 that you gave -- I took that way; tell me if I'm -- is 2 where an alien comes in and wants asylum, and then you 3 can't get it if you were resettled in another country. 4 And there are criteria -- country with a resettlement 5 program. And then that seemed like a status, a residence. Were you resettled in the other country or 6 7 were you not? That's his status, and then that's imputed to the child. 8 9 MR. KINNAIRD: That's right. And the 10 resettlement doesn't have any element of intent to it. 11 So, it's not true that everything turns upon intent. 12 And I would also point out that, under 13 section (a)(1), it's not simply a requirement that there 14 have been some grant of LPR status at some point and 15 passage of 5 -- of 5 years. The statutory definition of 16 "lawfully admitted for permanent residence" includes a 17 requirement that the status has not changed. And that 18 requires domiciliary intent because the BIA has 19 interpreted that phrase to mean that you can change your 20 status by intent, and in fact the Department of Homeland 21 Security has defended against cancellation claims on the 22 grounds that there was abandonment during a -- during 23 the 5-year period. So, if you had a child coming forth,

24 you would have to look, in certain circumstances at

25 least, to the parent for intent of abandonment.

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1	So, I think this is an element where there
2	is direct continuity from section 212(c). It makes
3	eminent sense. And even if the BIA is deemed to have
4	exercised its discretion here, I think its rule is
5	patently unreasonable, and for a number of reasons.
6	First, they're not able to advance a single
7	policy reason that would be favorable to non-imputation.
8	It destroys family unity, and it forecloses eligibility
9	for relief for even people like Mr. Martinez Gutierrez,
10	who has lived here since the age of 5.
11	JUSTICE GINSBURG: There this Court has
12	dealt in the constitutional context with parent-child
13	relationships under the immigration law. And let's take
14	Fiallo v. Bell. There the Court said, well, it tells us
15	that for married parents it's this way, and for a child
16	born out of wedlock, that relationship is something
17	else. That could be considered quite arbitrary when the
18	question is, is the child left orphaned? But the Court
19	said, well, that's what the statute said. It made that
20	distinction, and the Court upheld it.
21	But there are a number of cases where there
22	is the statute does say, parent-child relationship,
23	this is imputed, that is not, and dealt the Court
24	dealt with that in Miller and Nguyen.
25	MR. KINNAIRD: Yes, Your Honor. I think

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1 Congress has the latitude to be -- to draw arbitrary 2 lines. I don't think the agency does if imputation is a 3 permissible alternative. I think they have to give a 4 reasoned basis for denying imputation when it was the 5 prior rule. 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Isn't it -- why 7 can't the BIA adopt or why doesn't the background principle apply that you're not entitled to admission 8 9 unless you make an affirmative case for it? 10 You say, well, the -- the government hasn't 11 advanced any policy reason on the other side. Why isn't 12 that the basic policy of the government? MR. KINNAIRD: Well, I think they have to 13 14 look to the actual statute, and they have to give their 15 own reasons, which I don't think they've done adequately 16 as a matter of discretion. But here, this is a --17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why isn't it -- why isn't 18 it an adequate reason that they've come up with here and 19 in their decisions that the prior word was "domicile" 20 and a child's domicile is that of the parents, and that 21 the word under the new statute is "residence" and the 22 child's residence is not necessarily the residence of 23 the parent? That seems to me a perfectly valid reason. 24 MR. KINNAIRD: Well, I wouldn't say that's 25 Chevron step two discretion. But I think you also have

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1 to look to the fact that there was not only imputation 2 of domicile; it required lawfulness. And -- and in 3 imputing domicile, they were also imputing residence. 4 So, it's true the word "domicile" has --5 JUSTICE SCALIA: That may well be, but it's a different word. 6 7 MR. KINNAIRD: It's a different word, yes. 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: And the one word demands 9 imputation; the other doesn't. So, I mean, I don't 10 think you can say there's no -- no rational basis given 11 by the agency. MR. KINNAIRD: Well, the rational basis 12 13 comes in if -- if there's ambiguity and they're 14 determining why -- if it's a permissible construction, 15 why it should be rejected or not. 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: One of the problems that 17 I have is that I see the imputation as an equitable 18 doctrine. 19 MR. KINNAIRD: Yes. 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And to me, that often 21 means discretionary. 22 MR. KINNAIRD: Yes. 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If it is that, 24 discretionary, I -- I don't know what more the BIA has 25 to say than "I don't want to," because it renders lots

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of issues open, like what do we do with 1229b(a)(2)?
Isn't that an end run on stopping this continuous 7-year
statute, or 10, whatever it is, if we're imputing a
parent's residence or any of the things that you're -that the government said, the BIA said, in rendering its
decision?

7 I mean, you can't force a court to -- the 8 BIA to impute. So, what more do they have to say than 9 we don't think it's consistent with the statute, even if 10 it is ambiguous to do this?

MR. KINNAIRD: Well, I would say the statute 11 12 has an equitable purpose which allows imputation. I do 13 not think there's discretion, if imputation is 14 permissible unless there's a rational basis in serving 15 the policies of the Act, to deny imputation. And 16 discretion does come in at the second phase, which is 17 when the Attorney General determines whether or not the 18 -- the cancellation should be granted.

So, we should bear in mind that this is a statute strictly for eligibility, simply to get to the phase where there's unreviewable discretion in the Attorney General to deny relief. And this is a once-in-a-lifetime remedy. You can only apply for cancellation once in your life.

So, I think in the special circumstance of

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1	children who were minors during the period, who could						
2	not have controlled their status, could not have						
3	controlled their residence, this is an eminently						
4	reasonable rule that's backed by Congress.						
5	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's so reasonable						
б	about a child who lives with their grandparents outside						
7	the country? Why should their parents' being in the						
8	U.S. be imputed to the benefit of that child? I						
9	certainly understand it in your client's situation.						
10	Your client is the one who has been here since 5 years						
11	old.						
12	MR. KINNAIRD: Right.						
13	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So						
14	MR. KINNAIRD: And if BIA, I think, would						
15	be reasonable to draw a narrower rule, and we could						
16	prevail under that rule, but I think the rationale is						
17	family unity; that even though there are periods of						
18	residence where there's a dysjunction, the real reason						
19	is simply the operation of quotas. And and there was						
20	a historical practice of allowing imputation of						
21	residence. Since you still have the family ties, I						
22	think imputation is permissible there, as long as you						
23	have the significant relationship.						
24							
	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Mr. Kinnaird, I'm having						

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1	is just upressentable per se or is your view that they					
1	is just unreasonable per se, or is your view that they					
2	didn't explain non-imputation properly?					
3	MR. KINNAIRD: They are alternative					
4	arguments. They certainly didn't explain it. I would					
5	also say it's unreasonable per se: One, because they					
6	have to deal with the fact of lack of custody and					
7	control. That's been the basis for their abandonment					
8	decisions. They have invoked imputation only to the					
9	detriment of the alien where the child has no intent					
10	whatsoever.					
11	So, there's no common law principle for					
12	imputing mens rea, for example, knowledge of					
13	inadmissibility to a child; no basis for really imputing					
14	an intent to abandon when the child has none whatsoever.					
15	So, at the very least, they have to explain that.					
16	And because and the BIA has also not					
17	really taken into account the nature of these as simply					
18	eligibility rules.					
19	Thank you.					
20	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,					
21	Mr. Kinnaird.					
22	Mr. Rothfeld.					
23	ORAL ARGUMENT OF CHARLES A. ROTHFELD					
24	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT IN					
25	NO. 10-1543					

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1 MR. ROTHFELD: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice, 2 and may it please the Court: So far as subsection (2) of the provision 3 4 that we're talking about this morning, which is the 5 provision that concerns me in the Sawyers case, we think that the Government's reading is simply not a sensible 6 7 approach to the statute. And in that sense, our 8 position is not that the statute is ambiguous. We think that the statutory context and the particular meaning of 9 10 the words that Congress used require imputation in the 11 circumstances of this case. 12 I'll start with the statutory background, 13 where I think the Government understates the nature of 14 the prevailing settled rule that it applied. 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We usually like to 16 start with the statutory language. Where is this issue 17 addressed in this statute at all? 18 MR. ROTHFELD: Imputation as such, as has 19 been said, is not directly addressed. But the words 20 that the -- that Congress used, the word "residence" and 21 the word -- particularly "continuous residence" are 22 words that Congress would have thought carried along 23 with it the concept of imputation. And the reason why that is so, I think it's necessary to start with a 24 25 little bit of the background both of the statute and how

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those words have been interpreted in prior usages.
 Congress would have been aware of when it used them in
 the statute.

4 Under the prior relief provision here, 5 section 212(c), the old provision, the courts that -courts of appeals that had addressed it had uniformly б applied an imputation rule. The Government says it's 7 8 three courts. Two of those courts are the Second and Ninth Circuits, the largest immigration circuits that 9 10 decide two-thirds of the immigration cases in the 11 country. So, I think one can presume that Congress 12 would have been aware of this rule.

And the Government concedes that Congress didn't change the language of 212(c) because it was dissatisfied with imputation. It had other purposes in mind altogether. And so --

17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What does the 18 statute say about imputation of individuals' residence 19 to grandparents?

20 MR. ROTHFELD: The rule -- it says nothing 21 directly about it.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It says nothing 23 about it. So, would you say the statute is ambiguous on 24 whether or not residents' legal permanent residence 25 status should be imputed to grandparents?

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1	MR. ROTHFELD: Well, I think there could be						
2	circumstances in which imputation is appropriate when						
3	when the child is in the custody of the grandparent.						
4	But I'm focusing on parents because that's how the cases						
5	have been decided up to that point.						
6	The BIA itself had said, prior to the						
7	enactment of this statute, in the In re Ng case that						
8	which I think is the case the Justice Breyer had						
9	referred to it had said in so many words the						
10	residence of the parent is imputed to child when the						
11	child is a minor. Congress would have been aware of						
12	that when it used the word "residence" in						
13	subsection (2).						
14	JUSTICE GINSBURG: What do you do what						
15	you do if the parents the father is an LPR, the						
16	mother is not? Do we then impute to the child the						
17	father's status? The couple is not married.						
18	MR. ROTHFELD: There are rules, common law						
19	rules, that the courts had applied in determining whose						
20	residence and whose domicile would be attributed to the						
21	child when the parents were not didn't have joint						
22	custody. When the if we're talking only about						
23	residence here						
24	JUSTICE GINSBURG: They have joint custody.						
25	They live together. They're just not married.						

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1	MR. ROTHFELD: I think that again, the						
2	courts have applied if we're distinguishing for						
3	purposes of residence and I'm not talking about the						
4	technical LPR status here when I'm using the term						
5	"residence"; I am referring simply to kind of the						
6	general common law concept.						
7	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, I think it was						
8	agreed that that LPR status would be necessary. At						
9	least, Mr. Kinnaird said that.						
10	MR. ROTHFELD: We						
11	JUSTICE GINSBURG: So, we're talking about						
12	the 5-year period and the 7-year period. The child						
13	would have to have LPR status.						
14	MR. ROTHFELD: We agree ultimately, to get						
15	relief, the child has to have LPR status and certainly						
16	under subsection (1) of the provision, which is not at						
17	issue in the Sawyers case. That concerns 5 years of LPR						
18	status. Subsection(2), which is all that I'm concerned						
19	with in Sawyers because that's the only only element						
20	of the relief provision that he was deemed not to						
21	satisfy, concerns only the term "residence," not LPR as						
22	such; simply continuous residence in the United States.						
23	And so, the question of would Congress have						
24	thought that residence, continuous residence, is						
25	imputable from parent to child I think it would have						

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1 for two reasons: First of all, it would have believed 2 that residence as a general matter is imputable. The 3 BIA had said so itself in the Ng case. And as it --4 domicile, which the Government concedes was imputable, 5 necessarily includes --6 JUSTICE SCALIA: Excuse me. Was residence 7 at issue in that case? 8 MR. ROTHFELD: It was indeed. It was a firm 9 resettlement case, and the question was whether or not 10 the alien had been a resident of Hong Kong. And the 11 parents were residents, and the BIA said, well, the 12 parents' residence is imputed to the child. 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Just for factual 14 correction, the record doesn't tell us whether he was 15 living with his mother -- Mr. Sawyer was living with his 16 mother. 17 MR. ROTHFELD: That's correct. 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And the answer to that 19 is? Is this a child living with a grandparent out of 20 the country or not? 21 MR. ROTHFELD: The record does not 22 reflect -- we don't know if he was living in U.S. in an 23 unlawful status up until the point he became an LPR at age 15. The record simply doesn't answer that question. 24 25 JUSTICE BREYER: You're saying -- I just

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1	want to hear your whole argument here. You're saying							
2	they would have had, Congress, as a background, the Ng							
3	case where they imputed the Hong Kong residence; the							
4	fact that you were about to say, that domicile							
5	necessarily includes residence. And is there something							
6	else?							
7	MR. ROTHFELD: That's the principle, but							
8	that							
9	JUSTICE BREYER: All right.							
10	MR. ROTHFELD: That's correct. That but							
11	I can add to that a little bit, that in the section							
12	212 cases, in which domicile was imputed, as the							
13	Government recognizes, in at least two of those cases,							
14	the child was not in the United States for a portion of							
15	that time; and, therefore, necessarily those courts must							
16	have been imputing not only domicile but residence. And							
17	that is necessarily the case because residence is an							
18	element, a subset, of domicile							
19	JUSTICE ALITO: So, if he came to the United							
20	States at 15 from Jamaica, he was a resident of the							
21	United States before he came							
22	MR. ROTHFELD: As a as a legal matter,							
23	just as he was would have been domiciled in the							
24	United States.							
25	JUSTICE ALITO: Would he be a resident of							

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1 Jamaica, too, at that time? 2 MR. ROTHFELD: I think not. I think -- I 3 think our common law would have regarded him as a 4 resident of the United States --5 JUSTICE ALITO: If his father was living in the U.K., would he be a resident of the U.K.? 6 7 MR. ROTHFELD: There might be legal rules 8 that -- that specify the physical presence is equivalent 9 to residence for particular purposes. But as this Court 10 held in Holyfield, as the Government recognizes in a 11 domicile context, a child can be a domicile of a 12 jurisdiction in which they have never set foot. The 13 legal presumption is that a child is -- takes the 14 domicile of the parent, and -- and residence is a necessary subset, as this Court has said long ago, 15 16 before any of these statutes were passed. The 17 definition --18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you can be a resident 19 without being a domiciliary? 20 MR. ROTHFELD: One can be -- yes, because 21 the definition, as this Court said, of -- of "domicile" 22 is residence in a particular place accompanied by an 23 intent to remain there indefinitely. And so, you have to have both. You can't be a domicile without being a 24 25 resident of the jurisdiction.

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1	Congress would have been aware of that. And						
2	when it used the term "residence," it would have been						
3	aware of that as a general proposition, and it would						
4	have been aware that in the particular context of						
5	section 212(c), imputation rule for relief in the						
б	immigration laws, that use of the term "resident"						
7	carries with it imputation.						
8	I think that makes this so far as we're						
9	concerned, that makes the use of the term "continuous						
10	residence" in subsection (b) unambiguous and requires						
11	imputation. Congress would have been aware of this.						
12	There's no reason to think, the Government concedes,						
13	Congress was not trying to change the imputation rule						
14	when it changed the terminology from from "domicile"						
15	to "resident."						
16	In fact, it's sort of perverse to say that						
17	Congress had achieved that purpose, because it was						
18	a this was a liberalizing change. The reason that						
19	Congress it's quite clear from the statutory						
20	background why Congress changed the language from 7						
21	years' unrelinquished lawful domicile in the old 212(c)						
22	to continuous residence after admission in any status in						
23	in subsection (b) of the new statute was to						
24	broaden the availability of relief.						
25	Congress was confronted with a split in the						

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1 circuits on the interpretation of the old rule, as to 2 whether or not one could achieve unrelinguished 3 domicile -- lawful unrelinguished domicile while not in 4 an LPR status, because the BIA had taken the position 5 that for -- to have lawful domicile, you have to 6 lawfully intend to stay here permanently; you can't do 7 that if you're not an LPR. 8 And, therefore, Congress, confronting the split on circuits -- because some courts had rejected 9 10 the BIA's view, Congress said, okay, we're going to put 11 in subsection (a) of the new statute a requirement of 5 12 years' LPR status. 13 JUSTICE ALITO: If Congress had wanted to 14 use the term "resided" in the ordinary sense of the 15 word, they wanted to require that the alien actually 16 have lived in the United States continuously for 7 17 years, what language would they have used? What 18 language should they have used? 19 MR. ROTHFELD: For -- for the child? Well, 20 I think --21 JUSTICE ALITO: If they wanted (2) to mean 22 that the alien must have actually -- that person must --23 the one who committed the crime later must actually have 24 resided in the United States continuously for 7 years --25 MR. ROTHFELD: I would --

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1	JUSTICE ALITO: then what should they					
2	actually lived in the United States for 7 years, what					
3	language should they have used?					
4	MR. ROTHFELD: For for an adult, the					
5	language that they did use, because I think "continuous					
6	residence" carries with it the requirement that the					
7	person be physically present in the United States					
8	JUSTICE ALITO: For a minor.					
9	MR. ROTHFELD: If they're a minor?					
10	JUSTICE ALITO: For that to apply to					
11	everybody.					
12	MR. ROTHFELD: I I would think, given the					
13	context, of which imputation was the settled rule, that					
14	Congress would have had to indicate affirmatively that					
15	imputation was impermissible. Just as if if Congress					
16	uses the term "domicile" as they did in the old section					
17	212(c), knowing the context in which, as a universal					
18	matter, the domicile of the parents is attributed to the					
19	child, one would expect					
20	JUSTICE ALITO: "Domicile" is a legal term.					
21	You don't go around and you meet somebody and say, Where					
22	are you domiciled?					
23	(Laughter.)					
24	JUSTICE ALITO: You might not even say,					
25	Where do you reside? But it's closer to being ordinary					

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1 language.

2 MR. ROTHFELD: Well -- and "reside" can have 3 different meanings in different contexts. There is a 4 definition in the statute which the BIA itself has said 5 does not apply to conditional uses of the term. So, you know, "residence" in its plainest sense -- I mean, as 6 7 this Court said in the Savorgnan case, which is where 8 Congress derived the -- the definition which is now in 9 the INA, that was under the plainest use of the term 10 "residence." You know, unadorned. And that was the 11 statutory definition, which says without regard to 12 intent.

13 But when there's a conditional use, when 14 it's continuous residence, as in subsection (b) of the 15 statute, or permanent residence, necessarily one has to 16 look at intent. And, therefore, that statutory 17 definition cannot apply. The BIA itself has said that 18 expressly in the Huang case, which we discuss in our 19 brief, that so far as permanent residence is concerned, 20 the statutory definition has no application because 21 necessarily one has to look to intent. 22

And so, this is sort of a second -secondary argument here, but insofar as intent is essential for imputation, which is what the Government says -- the Government says the reason that the switch

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1 from "domicile" to "residence" matters is because 2 "domicile" looks to intent, and "residence" doesn't. 3 But, in fact, continuous residence does, necessarily does, look to intent because it's the intent to remain 4 5 continuously or permanently. 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Is -- is there some 7 advantage to giving parents an incentive to apply for 8 early lawful permanent residence? Because under your 9 view, parents wouldn't have to bother to apply for it at 10 all. I'm -- I'm wondering about the --11 MR. ROTHFELD: Well, I --12 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- the consequences of 13 deciding in your favor. And the other one, quite 14 distinct, is it seems to me that there probably would 15 not be some floodgate of -- of imputed residence cases. 16 MR. ROTHFELD: I -- I -- the only thing 17 we're talking about here, of course, is -- is a 18 particular relief from removal provision. And so, 19 certainly, the -- the expectation that the child someday 20 down the road may seek relief from removal --21 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Right. 22 MR. ROTHFELD: -- if they do -- if they 23 become an LPR and do something wrong is not going to 24 induce parents to delay. JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. Rothfeld, I'm -- I'm 25

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1	curious, how often this dispute here is simply about					
2	whether the Attorney General is permitted to cancel					
3	removal, right?					
4	MR. ROTHFELD: That is correct.					
5	JUSTICE SCALIA: How often does are					
6	applications for cancellation of removal granted? I					
7	mean, is it a common phenomenon, or are we really					
8	talking here about just spinning it out longer so that					
9	the so that the person who will ultimately be					
10	deported can stay here that much longer?					
11	MR. ROTHFELD: I I can't give you current					
12	statistics. I think this Court said, I believe in the					
13	St. Cyr case, that a fairly substantial 40 percent					
14	or so of the cases are granted. The Gutierrez case, in					
15	fact, the IJ would have granted removal and					
16	JUSTICE SCALIA: You think it's as high as					
17	40 percent?					
18	MR. ROTHFELD: I believe that that's I					
19	wouldn't swear to that, Your Honor, but but it is					
20	a a significant percentage. And, again, Gutierrez is					
21	an example of that. The IJ would have granted it but					
22	for the the rejection of the imputation rule further					
23	on in the in the process.					
24	And I think this is actually kind of a					
25	significant point, which goes to what Congress would					

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have had in mind. We are only talking about not entitlement to relief; we're talking about entitlement to ask the Attorney General, in the exercise of his unreviewable discretion, to grant relief to deserving immigrants who would otherwise be forced out of the country by application of an inflexible rule.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I suppose one of the 8 things he could take into account in exercising his 9 discretion is whether we're actually dealing with a 10 minor, or, as I understand in this case, it's someone 11 who is guite a bit older.

MR. ROTHFELD: He -- it is unreviewable 12 13 discretion, yes. He could take anything into account. 14 And, certainly, the nature of the family ties, the --15 the background of the immigrant, all of those things are 16 taken into account. But the question -- whether or not 17 Congress when it passed this statute, knowing how 18 section 212(c) had been interpreted, the prospect that 19 Congress meant to --

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, that's a very big assumption. I mean, yes, it's the two biggest circuits who have defined domicile and imputation, but it wasn't us, number one. And, number two, going back to Justice Alito's question, they didn't adopt the same word, "domicile"; they changed it. So --

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1	MR. ROTHFELD: Well, I can give you					
2	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And that's what the BIA					
3	was saying.					
4	MR. ROTHFELD: I can give you two responses					
5	to that, if I may, Justice Sotomayor. First, yes, I					
б	mean, it is a presumption that Congress is aware of					
7	judicial decisions, but I think that presumption					
8	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It can't be aware of all					
9	judicial decisions.					
10	MR. ROTHFELD: No, but in this particular					
11	context, there's particular reason to think they were					
12	because Congress, it is agreed, enacted this legislation					
13	to cure a conflict in the circuits involving the					
14	application of this cancellation provision. And so,					
15	there would have been particular reason for Congress to					
16	be aware of what the courts had done.					
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You you said you					
18	had two points. Do you want to get your second out, in					
19	half a sentence?					
20	MR. ROTHFELD: I I can rest at this					
21	point, Your Honor.					
22	Thank you so much.					
23	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.					
24	Ms. Kruger, you have 4 minutes remaining.					
25	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF LEONDRA R. KRUGER					

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1	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER						
2	MS. KRUGER: Thank you.						
3	I'd like to make three quick points						
4	JUSTICE KENNEDY: The the Respondent said						
5	that the BIA gave no policy reason, no policy						
б	justifications, for its for its interpretation.						
7	Is that correct in your view?						
8	MS. KRUGER: I don't think that that is						
9	correct. The BIA noted to be clear, the BIA was, I						
10	think, heavily influenced by what it saw as the clear						
11	language of the statute, but it also noted that the						
12	imputation rule was inconsistent with a history of						
13	non-imputation of LPR status, an approach that treats						
14	LPR status as accorded to individual aliens.						
15	JUSTICE SCALIA: What do you respond to the						
16	point that lawfulness has been attributed, not just						
17	intent, but under the prior law, lawfulness was also						
18	attributed?						
19	MS. KRUGER: I think this goes back to the						
20	answer I was giving to Justice Breyer earlier. Where						
21	former section 212(c) had an explicit lawful status						
22	requirement, which is the status of being a lawful						
23	permanent resident, no court of appeals allowed						
24	imputation from parent to child.						
25	Their argument is a little bit more						

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1 convoluted than that. It is that because domicile, 2 lawful unrelinguished domicile, was interpreted to mean the ability to form a lawful intent to remain 3 4 permanently in the United States, and the Ninth Circuit 5 said you could only form such an intent if you are a lawful permanent resident, that in Lepe-Guitron, the 6 Ninth Circuit was therefore necessarily imputing LPR 7 8 status from parent to child. 9 I think the more straightforward way to read 10 the Ninth Circuit's decision is that it was imputing the 11 intent to remain permanently in the United States from 12 parent to child, based in part on the parents' establishment of a domicile, and based on the common law 13 14 rule that the child's domicile follows that of his 15 parents. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, in response 17 to Justice Kennedy's question about whether they gave a 18 policy reason, your answer was that they, you know, 19 followed the history. I'm not sure that's the same as a 20 policy. 21 MS. KRUGER: Well, in -- in addition to 22 discussing the individual nature of LPR status, they 23 also noted the consequence of the Ninth Circuit's imputation rule would be to permit a kind of end run 24 25 around the substantive eligibility requirements for LPR

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1 status. So, theoretically, you could have an individual 2 minor alien who's not eliqible, who's inadmissible for 3 adjustment of status, who would nevertheless be accorded 4 a substantial benefit of that status without regard to 5 whether or not he could have received that status in fact. 6 7 I want to --8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Was that the case under the 9 prior law? 10 MS. KRUGER: Under the -- under former 11 section 212(c). 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, when -- yes. 13 MS. KRUGER: Again, no court --14 JUSTICE SCALIA: So, it's not unthinkable. 15 MS. KRUGER: No court had imputed LPR 16 status, the threshold requirement for relief under --17 under the predecessor statute, from parent to child. 18 So, it wasn't the case that somebody who was actually 19 ineligible for -- for LPR status would nevertheless be 20 eligible for waiver of removal under -- under that 21 provision. JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I just don't understand 22 23 that argument because they've conceded that you need 24 the -- the child needs their own LPR status before it 25 triggers --

1 MS. KRUGER: Right, and I think that 2 concession --3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- residency. 4 MS. KRUGER: I think that concession is 5 important for the following reason: When Congress enacted the present cancellation of removal statute, it б 7 preserved that threshold requirement that you had to be 8 an LPR in order to seek relief, but it added a durational requirement. You had to have attained that 9 10 status at least 5 years before you sought relief. 11 There's no reason to think, if there's no precedent for imputing LPR status in the first place, 12 13 that there would be precedent for imputing LPR status 14 going back 5 years. One necessarily follows from the 15 other. 16 If I could, I'd like to address the other 17 proposition that Respondent Sawyers makes, that courts 18 were necessarily imputing residence as an element of 19 domicile. That argument relies heavily on the 1967 20 regional commissioner decision dealing with firm 21 resettlement. 22 If you look at that decision, you will see 23 that the regional commissioner focused very intensely on 24 the minor alien's particular actions -- identity, 25 documents that he received personally from the foreign

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1	country, his own schooling, and residence. And the
2	degree to which the regional commissioner rested on
3	principles of imputation is entirely unclear.
4	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
5	The case is submitted.
б	(Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., the case in the
7	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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