1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	MARC J. GABELLI AND BRUCE ALPERT, :
4	Petitioners : No. 11-1274
5	v. :
6	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE :
7	COMMISSION :
8	x
9	Washington, D.C.
10	Tuesday, January 8, 2013
11	
12	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
13	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
14	at 10:13 a.m.
15	APPEARANCES:
16	LEWIS LIMAN, ESQ., New York, New York; on behalf of
17	Petitioners.
18	JEFFREY B. WALL, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor
19	General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
20	on behalf of Respondent.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:13 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	first this morning in Case 11-1274, Gabelli and
5	Alpert v. the Securities and Exchange Commission.
6	Mr. Liman.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF LEWIS LIMAN
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
9	MR. LIMAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	This case concerns the statute dealing
12	exclusively with penalty claims brought by government
13	agencies to punish conduct made unlawful by statute.
14	Congress provided a clear and easily administered
15	statutory time limitation on the government's power to
16	punish: 5 years, except as otherwise provided by
17	Congress.
18	The case does not concern the statute
19	does not concern the government's power to seek remedial
20	remedies such as disgorgement and injunction.
21	Consistent with Congress's normal approach in penal
22	situations, Congress fixed a statute of limitations for
23	penalties. The court below, for the first time over the
24	century the statute has been in existence, sweepingly
25	concluded that unless Congress clearly directed

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otherwise, the statute and the 5 years did not begin to run from the time the defendant violated the law, the ordinary rule for statutes providing for accrual, but instead --

5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Liman. Mr. Liman, 6 you -- you are typing this a penalty case. The government says yes the accrual is the ordinary rule, but 7 8 discovery is the rule when there is fraud, and fraud is alleged here. So how does the Court decide whether to 9 10 type this case a penalty case, as you urge, or a fraud case, as the government urged -- urges, when both 11 12 captions fit?

13 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, I think there are 14 two answers to that. First is that the Court doesn't 15 need to decide, Congress has decided. Congress made it 16 quite clear that the rule of accrual applied to all penalty claims. And as this Court held in 17 18 Clark v. Martinez, the same word in a statute cannot be 19 given different interpretations depending on the 20 underlying statute to which it is applied. 21 The second reason, though, Justice Ginsburg,

is that it is not correct to say, and this Court has never said, that either the Bailey rule or the injury accrual rule applies to a statutory fraud claim where the government is seeking to punish. That would --

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1	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Excuse me.
2	Justice Ginsburg points out that you're talking about
3	the statute, but the statute uses the term "accrual."
4	Is it correct to say that the term "accrual" is not used
5	in statute of limitations for crimes generally for
6	crimes?
7	MR. LIMAN: For for crimes, the general
8	word that is used is time period from the violation.
9	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Right. And this and
10	this talks about accrual. So that is indicative is
11	indicative of the fact that Congress is using a civil
12	analogue in the drafting of this statute.
13	MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, it indicates that
14	Congress is using accrual as it is understood at common
15	law. Common law, it means when the claim becomes ripe
16	and the plaintiff has the ability to sue. What that
17	means is, as the D.C. Circuit said in 3M and we think
18	the D.C. Circuit got it right on this that you look
19	to the underlying statute pursuant to which the
20	government is seeking a penalty to see when the claim
21	became ripe.
22	In a penalty situation, and under the IAA,
23	which is what this concerns it doesn't concern a
24	common law fraud claim; it doesn't concern a claim where
25	there's even any element of deception that's required.

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It's a breach of fiduciary duty. What the IAA says is 1 2 that the government can sue when the violation occurs. 3 Now --4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Liman, I understand 5 your argument, but I have a fundamental difficulty, okay? б 7 Bailey and Exploration Company, with 8 statutes not too dissimilar from this one, who read the discovery rule into a fraud claim, both for a civil 9 10 litigant and for the government. The only way that I 11 can tease out a potential difference between Exploration 12 and this case is somehow that the penalty in this case 13 is not for injury, but for punishment, as you called it. 14 Government as enforcer, rather than government as 15 victim. 16 Some of us would say that the common wheel is injured whenever someone breaks a law, so that that 17 18 distinction between enforcer and victim makes no sense. 19 How do you answer that point? 20 MR. LIMAN: Justice Sotomayor, let me give 21 you the precise answer to that, which is that in this 22 case where the government is seeking a penalty, it is 23 not acting on behalf of underlying investors, and the 24 recovery is not one that is brought by way of damages or 25 disgorgement.

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JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's acting as a sovereign to protect what it thinks is an ordered society. And if you break that order, you are injuring the society. That -- that's the best --

5 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, I think that is the 6 articulation that the government would have to make. I 7 don't think it holds up, for several reasons. First of 8 all, it would represent an extreme departure from 9 anything this Court has ever held or, to our knowledge, 10 any court has ever held with respect to the application 11 of the discovery rule.

12 Second, when you're talking about penalty, you're not talking about recovery to -- to victims. 13 14 Third, when we're talking about implying a rule, which 15 is what the government's argument is here -- it's not an 16 argument to follow the plain language, it's an argument 17 to depart from the plain language -- you should look at, 18 and the cases direct you to look at, the policy 19 concerns. And when you're talking about discover -- a 20 discovery rule with respect to the government as enforcer, the rules don't work. They don't work for 21 several reasons. 22

First of all, when you've got an injury, a party who is injured, the statute of limitations has a natural start date that is not in control of the

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plaintiff. There is a relationship to the underlying
 violation. And that can be readily measured. None of
 that is true when you're talking about the government in
 a law enforcement capacity.

5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Liman, what you 6 suggested, when we talked about the discovery rule, is 7 that it has its basis in the notion that a defendant with 8 unclean hands who has committed deceptive conduct 9 preventing the plaintiff from understanding that he or 10 it has a cause of action -- you know, shouldn't be 11 entitled to the benefit of a statute of limitations.

And if that's the understanding that lies behind the discovery rule, I guess the question for you is, why doesn't it apply in this case, as well as, in a case where the person bringing the action has himself suffered a harm?

17 MR. LIMAN: Justice Kagan, I've got two answers to that question as well. The first is that --18 19 that I don't think is the basis for the -- for the 20 discovery rule at bottom. The basis for the discovery 21 rule -- if you look at this Court's opinion in -- in 22 Rotella, if you look at the Seventh Circuit in Cada, the D.C. Circuit in Connor -- is the notion that when the 23 plaintiff cannot discover the injury, doesn't know that 24 25 it's been injured, and cannot reasonably know that the

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plaintiff's been injured, the plaintiff cannot take the 1 steps that other plaintiffs would take to investigate 2 3 and determine whether they've got a cause of action. 4 That's not applicable in a government 5 enforcement context because you're not talking about The government may б there the government as a victim. 7 not know of the underlying transaction, will not know of 8 the underlying transaction, unless the government asks. 9 The second reason is that there is a strain that -- in the Bailey line of cases -- that really 10 11 speaks in terms of equitable tolling and fraudulent concealment, that sort of a notion of unclean -- unclean 12 13 hands. That's not in this case because the government 14 affirmatively took it out. But we would submit --15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How did the government 16 take it out? I mean, the point here is that there was a concealment. There was a hiding of what was -- the 17 18 impermissible action. 19 That's -- that's not correct, MR. LIMAN: 20 Justice Ginsburg. If you'd look at the -- at the 21 opinion below and you look at the complaint, the essence 22 of the allegation, which we have not yet had a chance to disprove before you on a motion to dismiss, is that 23 there were misrepresentations and omissions made to the 24 25 board of the mutual fund. There was no

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1 misrepresentations made to the investing public. That 2 allegation is not in the complaint. It would not be 3 accurate. And there is no allegation whatsoever that 4 anything was hidden from the government or was in any way concealed from the government. The records here 5 would have been available -- were available for the б 7 government to look at, at any time. 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Liman, finishing up a point you were just on previously, what's your 9 10 position with respect to fraudulent concealment? 11 Doesn't your theory preclude even the application of 12 that to tolling of the statute? 13 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, I think you could 14 and should conclude -- that if you reach that issue. I 15 don't think you need to reach that issue. 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But tell me about --MR. LIMAN: Our theory doesn't require you 17 18 to come to that conclusion. 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: This is -- it's nice for 20 you to say that. But tell me, having announced your 21 theory, how the next step is avoidable? Under what 22 theory would we say you can't have a discovery rule, but 23 you can have a fraudulent concealment rule? 24 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, in the -- using the same type of theory and the same methodology that the 25

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1 Court employed in the RICO context, in the Claire case, 2 and in the Rotella case, one can read the statute, I 3 think you have to read the statute, here to say that 4 "accrue" means accrue. It's the time that the government can first sue. 5 That does not necessarily resolve the 6 7 question of whether there are equitable exceptions that 8 the government or any party could affirmatively assert to toll the statute of limitations, not to delay the 9 10 accrual of the statute of limitations. 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. -- Mr. Liman, you 12 acknowledge that a civil action could be brought 13 beginning from the time when the injured plaintiff 14 discovers the fraud, right? 15 MR. LIMAN: That's --16 JUSTICE SCALIA: So you're really not arguing for what you might call a total statute of 17 18 It seems to me odd that the defendant would be repose. 19 relieved from prosecution by the government, but not 20 relieved from a suit for sometimes very substantial 21 damages by -- by an injured plaintiff who doesn't have to sue until he's discovered the fraud. 22 23 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, respectfully, we don't think that's not odd at all. If you look in the 24 25 securities context, there is a 5-year statute of repose.

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1 And it would be odd to think that the same Congress that 2 passed that 5-year statute of repose limiting even the 3 ability of an injured plaintiff without the tools of the 4 government to bring a private suit for damages, that's 5 the --Sure. 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: But that 5 years 7 doesn't begin to run until the private plaintiff 8 discovers the fraud, right? 9 MR. LIMAN: That's -- that's not correct, 10 Your Honor. 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: No? 12 MR. LIMAN: Under Title 28 1658(b) the 5 years runs from the time of the violation. It's exactly 13 14 coextensive with 2462, and it's not an accident that it's 15 exactly coextensive. 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Liman, how does it work with a disgorgement remedy? I take it that that's 17 18 still -- that you are not challenging the disgorgement? 19 MR. LIMAN: We are not challenging the 20 disgorgement in front of this Court, and if this Court reverses the Second Circuit that -- that issue will 21 remain in the case and the SEC's claim for disgorgement 22 will remain, and that's really been the way --23 24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you don't apply -you don't say it's too late for them to sue for 25

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1 disgorgement? 2 MR. LIMAN: 2462 applies exclusively with 3 respect to penalties, fines and forfeitures. It does 4 not apply with respect to equitable remedies. 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So is there any statute of limitations on disgorgement? б 7 MR. LIMAN: There is none. There is none. 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Does it apply to Social 9 Security? Does it apply to Veterans Affairs? 10 MR. LIMAN: The -- there is a Social 11 Security statute that --12 JUSTICE BREYER: Does this statute apply to 13 Social Security? 14 MR. LIMAN: Yes. 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Does it apply to Veterans 16 Affairs? Yes or no or you don't know? 17 MR. LIMAN: I don't know on Veterans 18 Affairs. 19 JUSTICE BREYER: What about Social Security? 20 MR. LIMAN: Social Security, there is an 21 underlying statute --22 JUSTICE BREYER: Then, I'm asking about this 23 statute. Does it apply? 24 MR. LIMAN: The answer is yes. The answer It applies to a broad range of statutes, unless 25 is yes.

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1	Congress otherwise provided. In fact, there are very
2	few penalty statutes to which it does not apply.
3	JUSTICE BREYER: Defense Department?
4	MR. LIMAN: It does apply to a number of
5	Defense Department statutes. I'm hesitating
6	JUSTICE BREYER: Antitrust?
7	MR. LIMAN: I'm not sure on antitrust. But
8	I believe that it applies to it does apply to a
9	number of unfair trade practices. Antitrust, there may
10	be a separate statute.
11	JUSTICE BREYER: FTC, you don't know?
12	MR. LIMAN: FTC, yes.
13	JUSTICE BREYER: It does apply to FTC, okay.
14	So Social Security, FTC. Veterans Affairs we don't
15	know, antitrust we don't know. Okay.
16	MR. LIMAN: One of the notable features,
17	Justice Breyer, is that if you look across the U.S.
18	Code, the government makes a point of saying: Well,
19	Congress uses penalty acknowledges that Congress has
20	used penalty when the word "penalty" when the
21	Congress has I'm sorry, it has used the word
22	"discovery" when Congress has wanted the statute to
23	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Liman, I'm a little
24	confused in your answer to Justice Scalia. You said
25	that the underlying case has a 5-year statute of repose

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1	for a civil claim. If Bailey applies, however, those
2	claimants who have under your theory, who have been
3	directly injured. The presumption would apply of
4	discovery, if they were claiming a fraud.
5	MR. LIMAN: No no, Your Honor.
6	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So are you just arguing
7	that under this statutory scheme there is no application
8	of the discovery?
9	MR. LIMAN: This this Court has held in
10	the Lampf case that Bailey and Holmberg do not apply to
11	securities fraud case.
12	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Because of the
13	alternative language of 5 years.
14	MR. LIMAN: Well, in Lampf it was 1-year and
15	3-year.
16	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Right.
17	MR. LIMAN: And in the Merck case, the Court
18	made clear that the 5 years was the statute of the
19	statute of repose.
20	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's what I thought
21	those involved.
22	JUSTICE BREYER: Medicare, Medicaid?
23	MR. LIMAN: Yes.
24	JUSTICE KAGAN: It is true, though, isn't
25	it, that Justice Scalia pointed to an anomaly that could

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easily exist in other contexts because this isn't only a statute about securities violations. So that you might have in other contexts in which this statute applies a world in which a private individual could sue, but the government -- could sue after the -- the period of time --MR. LIMAN: Yes.

3 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- the 5 years, but the9 government could not.

10 Yes, Justice Kagan. And we MR. LIMAN: 11 don't think that's an anomaly. We don't think it's an 12 anomaly for two reasons. First of all, in the private context, as again I mentioned, the statute, the start 13 14 date for the statute of limitations is not in the 15 control of the plaintiff. That's a critical point. 16 It's critical in this Court's jurisprudence from Hubrick forward. It -- there is a natural start date from when 17 18 the injury would be known to a reasonable plaintiff. 19 Not true with respect to the government, who may not even know of the transaction. And -- but what it -- so 20 21 it's -- I don't think there's an anomaly because there are different statutes of limitation. 22

JUSTICE KAGAN: And I take it that your view would be that a case like Exploration, it's different than this case because it does have a natural start

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1 date; is that the idea?

2 MR. LIMAN: Number one, it does. And number 3 two, the relief being sought in Exploration was the 4 cancellation of a patent, so it was the government as a party to a transaction. And what the Court really said 5 in Exploration, what the Court, in fact, said in б 7 Exploration, is that there is no reason why the same 8 rule applied the same way couldn't benefit the 9 government, as well as the private plaintiff.

10 What the government is seeking here is not 11 the same rule and would not be applied in the same way 12 because you are talking about a transaction that is a, 13 frankly, a private transaction that there is no reason 14 that the government would know anything about. The 15 claim ultimately here is a claim about what was said in 16 a private conversation between the advisor to a mutual 17 fund and the mutual fund -- fund board.

18 So Exploration, what's notable is that the 19 government doesn't cite a single case where the 20 discovery rule has been applied to a party who is not a 21 victim or that it's been applied -- where it's been 22 applied and a penalty hasn't been -- a penalty has been at issue. I mean, neither of those circumstances. We 23 are talking about a statute ultimately where the plain 24 25 language is clear and the government is invoking a

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statutory canon not to try to interpret language of the statute, not even to fill a gap in a statute, but to override it. The canon that they say overrides the plain language doesn't exist.

5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: In a civil -- in a civil 6 action brought by an injured investor or private party, 7 can that plaintiff, the injured investor, the private 8 party, in the ordinary course plead and rely upon an 9 earlier government determination that there had been a 10 violation and so that that's presumptive showing of 11 liability?

12 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor --

JUSTICE KENNEDY: In other words, the SEC makes an investigation, finds a violation; can a private investor then rely on that as a presumptive showing of liability?

MR. LIMAN: Yeah. I think the lower courts are mixed on the extent to which you can rely upon the actual allegations in a complaint.

JUSTICE KENNEDY: No, not the allegation.21 It's an ultimate finding.

22 MR. LIMAN: Absolutely.

JUSTICE KENNEDY: But then under your rule.The plaintiff would be deprived of that.

25 MR. LIMAN: No, that's not correct,

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Your Honor. Under our rule the plaintiff has exactly
 the same rights, regardless of how this case is
 determined. The plaintiff's cause of action will turn
 upon the underlying --

5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But if the government's statute of limitations runs out and the private investor б 7 is on his own, then the private investor doesn't have 8 the advantage that exists in other cases of reliance on a -- SEC finding as a presumptive showing of liability. 9 10 MR. LIMAN: Your Honor, that -- that -- our 11 argument only applies with respect to penalty. The 12 government has huge powers with respect to disgorgement and injunctive relief. So, if the government believes 13 14 that there is a wrongdoing, the government still has the 15 ability to bring a claim and the private investors still 16 have the ability to rely upon the government's 17 enforcement action and whatever findings come out of 18 So there is nothing in our argument that that. 19 diminished, to any degree, the recovery abilities of a 20 private plaintiff.

In fact, as we've highlighted, that 5-year period for the -- in the securities laws puts a premium on the SEC acting promptly. And I would note that that's something that is not accidental. If you go back in the legislative history and look to the SEC's

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1 reaction to the Lampf decision, the SEC urged a 5-year statute of repose, saying that that struck in the 2 private context the right balance between repose when 3 4 you're dealing with complex commercial transactions and enforcement and -- and recovery. 5 There's -- the position that the SEC is б 7 taking now is a novel position that to -- to our 8 knowledge has not been taken by other regulators and 9 hasn't been taken by the SEC until -- until guite recently. This statute's been on the books for quite a 10 11 long time, and it's notable that agencies have not urged 12 that -- that interpretation. 13 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Are there no statutes, 14 Mr. Liman, that say the claim accrues when the injury is 15 discovered, that use both -- both terms? 16 I'm sorry, Justice Ginsburg. I MR. LIMAN: missed the question. 17 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Are there no statutes 19 that use both terms, "accrues" and "discovery"? A 20 statute, for example, that says, this claim accrues when 21 the injury is discovered? 22 MR. LIMAN: There are statutes that use that 23 kind of language, and that's precisely our point because it reflects that Congress recognizes the difference and 24 could, if Congress wanted, provide that a claim for the 25

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violation of the IAA or for any other statute accrues 1 2 when it is discovered. 3 If there are no further questions, I would 4 like to reserve the remainder of my time. 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel. Mr. Wall. 6 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL 8 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT 9 MR. WALL: Mr. Chief Justice and may it 10 please the Court: 11 I think Justice Kennedy started us off in 12 the right place by focusing on the statute and its use 13 of the term "accrual." And when counsel concedes that 14 that term had an established meaning at common law and 15 this statute picks it up, I think he gave away his case 16 because there were a cluster of concepts. One was the general rule governing accrual: It accrues when the 17 18 plaintiff can -- has a right to sue. 19 But there was a specific principle for cases of fraud and concealment. And I don't think there is 20 21 any basis in law or logic for Petitioner saying that

22 this statute meant to pick up one of those concepts and 23 not the other concept.

JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't think the commonlaw held that it didn't accrue. I think it was an

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1 exception to the accrual rule, that, even though it 2 accrued earlier, we are going to allow a later suit 3 where -- where discovery is made later. I -- is that 4 the way those cases were framed, that it didn't accrue until discovery? 5 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, I don't want to 6 7 fight about it too much because from the government's 8 perspective, it doesn't matter --9 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, you are making the argument, so you ought to fight about it. 10 11 MR. WALL: It doesn't matter how it's 12 It doesn't matter whether we label it as an labeled. interpretation of the statute or an exception for cases 13 14 of fraud or concealment. The result is the same. 15 But I will say you are right, in some cases 16 it was described as an exception, but as long ago as Kirby in 1887 and as recently as Merck --17 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: And never in a criminal 19 case, right? Do you have a single case in which the 20 discovery rule was -- was applied in a criminal case 21 with respect to a penalty or a criminal sanction? 22 MR. WALL: No, not in --23 JUSTICE SCALIA: Not a single one. 24 MR. WALL: Well, no. The criminal context is fundamentally different. This Court has said that 25

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1 those statutes are construed liberally in favor of 2 repose and are presumptively not subject to --

JUSTICE BREYER: Now, that's the question because I certainly agree with Justice Scalia that this is not an SEC statute, this is not a securities statute; it is a statute that applies to all government actions, which is a huge category across the board and it's about 200 years old.

9 And until 2004 I haven't found a single case in which the government ever tried to assert the 10 11 discovery rule where what they were seeking was a civil 12 penalty, not to try to make themselves whole where they 13 are a victim, with one exception, a case called Maillard 14 in the 19th century where they did make that assertion. 15 They were struck down by the district court, and the 16 attorney general in his opinion said, the district court's absolutely right; of course, the government 17 18 cannot effectively abolish the statute of limitations 19 where what they're trying to do is to gather something that's so close to a criminal case. 20

So my question is: Is there any case at all until the year 2004, approximately, in which the government has either tried or certainly succeeded in taking this general statute and applying the discovery rule where they are not a victim, they are trying to

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1 enforce the law for the civil penalty? 2 The reason I brought up Social Security, 3 Veteran's Affairs, Medicare, is it seems to me to have 4 enormous consequences for the government suddenly to try to assert a quasi-criminal penalty and abolish the 5 statute of limitations, I mean, in a vast set of cases. б 7 And that -- you know, I have overstated that last remark 8 a little bit, but I want you to see where I'm coming from, which isn't so different from the -- from the 9 10 questions that have been put to you. 11 MR. WALL: Justice Breyer, most or many of 12 the penalty claims that are being brought under Section 2462 and other penalty statutes don't deal with fraud or 13 14 concealment, and I grant you that it is a problem --15 JUSTICE BREYER: All I'm asking you for is 16 one case. 17 MR. WALL: So in -- it's a problem of fairly recent vintage, to be sure --18 19 JUSTICE BREYER: No, it is not a problem of 20 fairly recent vintage. I'd say for 200 years there is 21 no case. The only case, as far as I have been able to 22 discover, which is why I am asking, is that what created 23 the problem of recent vintage is that the Seventh Circuit, I guess, or a couple of other circuits decided 24 25 that this discovery rule did apply to an effort by the

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1 government to assert a civil penalty. That's what created the problem. Before that there was no problem; 2 3 it was clear the government couldn't do it. 4 All right. Now, you will tell me that I'm wrong by citing some cases that show I'm wrong. And 5 б that's what I'm asking. I want to be told I'm wrong, 7 sort of. 8 (Laughter.) 9 MR. WALL: And I guess what I want to tell you is there aren't cases out there one way or the 10 11 other. There aren't cases endorsing or declining to 12 adopt the discovery rule in the context of fraud or 13 concealment with civil penalty actions --14 JUSTICE SCALIA: You'd expect that - you'd 15 expect there to be some cases in a couple of hundred 16 years. 17 JUSTICE BREYER: No, I haven't found one. 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: Fraud is nothing new, for 19 Pete's sake. 20 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, it's not that --JUSTICE SCALIA: This is brand-new assertion 21 22 by the government that -- tell -- is there much difference between the rule you are arguing for and a 23 24 rule that there is no statute of limitations? 25 MR. WALL: Absolutely there is. Since --

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1 look, in 1990 the Commission was given the right to seek 2 civil penalties, so it could only have brought these 3 actions for the last 20 years. In those 20-plus years, 4 we have seen 25 reported cases dealing with 2462 and civil penalties. In 19 of those cases, the Commission 5 brought its action within 5 years of the end of the б 7 fraud. It used the discovery rule only to reach back 8 and get the beginning of the fraud.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but that 10 ignores the point that has been raised, is that this 11 statute does not just apply in the SEC context. How 12 many cases have you found across the board in the range 13 of those areas that Justice Breyer catalogued?

MR. WALL: There are cases from the 1980s and 1990s dealing with concealment, and in our view the justification is the same for concealment as fraud.

JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, we are asking the same question, but in 30 seconds I am going to conclude there is none. What I want is a case before the year 20 2000 in which the government sought a civil penalty and was not trying to recover money or land that it had lost, and I want the name of that case in which they said that the discovery rule applies.

24 The two that you cited, Amy and the case of 25 Broderick's Will, did involve the government being

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injured by losing land or losing money, something like that. So I have those and I don't think they count, but I will look at them again. Is there anything else you would like to refer me to?

5 MR. WALL: Justice Breyer, I don't think 6 there is anything on either side of the ledger, I will 7 be very upfront, other than the Maillard case, which I 8 think even courts at the time, an exploration company, 9 the court of appeals recognized --

JUSTICE SCALIA: It's not a matter of there being nothing on either side of the ledger. What's extraordinary is that the government has never asserted this, except in the 19th century, when it was rebuffed and -- and repudiated its position. It isn't just that there are no cases against you. It's you've never -the government has never asserted it before.

17 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, there were very 18 few civil penalty actions in which -- that involved 19 fraud or concealment, in which the government would have 20 needed to invoke it, or did invoke it and was rebuffed 21 by courts. I mean, this is a fairly modern problem, and 22 the question is do all of the same concepts that compelled one answer in these other contexts compel the 23 24 same answer here or does a rule that blankets the 25 waterfront --

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1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, this is a very
2	modern problem, but how about the statute of Elizabeth,
3	which talked about penalties as being a criminal
4	sanction, but permitted private individuals, not the
5	government, to seek the penalties and keep it. So you
6	cite the statute of James, and I look at the statute of
7	Elizabeth, and try to find the analogy between which
8	one.
9	MR. WALL: Well, if this were a criminal
10	penalty, the government agrees
11	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Even though private
12	parties could keep the money back then.
13	MR. WALL: That's right. But what the
14	Court's been clear on is that there are civil penalties
15	and there are criminal penalties and which side of the
16	line it falls on invokes a different set of background
17	rules and legal norms. The Congress denominated this as
18	a civil penalty
19	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Could I move you to
20	another issue? If a party can defeat the government's
21	claim of discovery by showing that the government wasn't
22	reasonably diligent, how does a party ever accomplish
23	that? Aren't you going to raise the law enforcement
24	privilege, the some other privilege to block
25	discovery?

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1	MR. WALL: Justice Sotomayor, discovery is
2	playing itself out in cases like these in district
3	courts. Privilege has not been a very major issue and
4	the reason is defendants are by and large pointing to
5	things in the public domain private lawsuits, public
б	filings with the Commission, public statements to say
7	those put the Commission on constructive words
8	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, if they fail
9	there, don't you think that they are going to also fail
10	because they are not going to be able to look at your
11	records to figure out exactly what you knew or didn't
12	know?
13	MR. WALL: No, not invariably. I mean, the
14	way this plays itself out in the district court is the
15	Commission says that it didn't know and a defendant
16	points to something in the public domain and says either
17	that put you on constructive notice or
18	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So it depends really
19	on how many enforcement officers the SEC has, is it
20	reasonable for them to have been aware of the particular
21	item in some publication. Maybe if they've got 1,000
22	people reviewing it, but maybe not if they have 10; and
23	that's just not the I mean, it's not just the SEC;
24	it's all these other government areas.
25	It seems to me that it's going to be almost

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1 impossible for somebody to prove that the government 2 should have known about something. And which part of 3 the government? I mean, it's a big, big government, and 4 particular agencies -- well, you say, well, the Defense Contractor Board should have known, but does that mean 5 that the U.S. attorney's office or the Defense Counsel's б 7 office should have known? 8 It seems to me that, at least with respect 9 to that aspect, you really are eliminating any real --10 it's certainly not a lot of repose if the idea is, well, 11 I've got to establish that this particular government 12 agency should have known about this. 13 You certainly can't sit back and say, well, 14 5 years has gone by and --15 MR. WALL: Mr. Chief Justice, they can't 16 point to a single case where it has been difficult here, and it hasn't been difficult --17 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They can't point to 19 a single case? 20 MR. WALL: Where it's been difficult in 21 order to make that determination. And it hasn't proven difficult --22 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you think it's 24 significant if you can't point to a single case? 25 MR. WALL: Well, I think there are -- where

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1	you should expect those cases to exist, yes.
2	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Are are there cases
3	discussing whether or not a government agency has been
4	diligent in pursuing a fraud, a fraud investigation?
5	You see, in the private context we have some sense of
6	what the plaintiff has to do to protect the plaintiff's
7	rights. He has to be diligent. But to transpose that
8	to a governmental agency suppose the agency's over
9	overworked or underfunded? I don't which way do you
10	come out when the government says that?
11	MR. WALL: Justice Kennedy, not just this
12	statute. There are other statutes, the False Claims Act
13	and others, that have specific provisions requiring
14	courts to determine when a government official would
15	reasonably have been on notice of certain circumstances.
16	That hasn't proven difficult in those contexts. It's
17	not difficult here.
18	JUSTICE ALITO: Well I have the same question
19	that Justice Kennedy just asked? What if a claim could
20	have reasonably been discovered by a government agency if
21	it had more resources, but given the resources that it had
22	it couldn't have reasonably discovered the claim? Would
23	the discovery rule apply there?
24	MR. WALL: I I don't think so,
25	Justice Alito. I mean, I think we could say that there

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1 might be circumstances where the Commission would be on 2 constructive notice and not a private plaintiff because 3 of its expertise. It would see something in the public 4 domain that should be meaningful to it that might not be meaningful to a private plaintiff --5 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: The False Claims Act example you give is indeed a private plaintiff kind of a 7 8 case. 9 MR. WALL: That's --10 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, you can say the 11 government, having been cheated, should have known it 12 was cheated. But we are talking here about prosecution, 13 essentially, prosecution for a civil penalty rather than 14 a criminal. By the way, doesn't the rule of lenity 15 apply whether the penalty is criminal or civil? So if I 16 think the word "accrual" is, at best, ambiguous, shouldn't the tie qo to the defendant? 17 18 No. The court's been very -- I MR. WALL: 19 mean, in all of the civil cases applying the fraud 20 discovery rule, the court has never looked to the 21 criminal analogies. The canon here is that ambiguities 22 get construed for the sovereign, not against it. 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: But my question is broader than that. Does the rule of lenity not apply to all 24 25 penalties?

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1 I don't think it applies in the MR. WALL: context of a civil penalty. I don't think the -- I 2 3 don't think the --4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Are you sure of that? My 5 belief is the contrary. MR. WALL: I can't say that I focused on it б 7 specifically, but I think if the Petitioner said --8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, it's an important issue in this case, surely. I mean, if "accrual" is 9 ambiguous and we have a rule of lenity, we should 10 11 interpret it to favor the defendant. 12 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, I don't --Petitioner certainly couldn't claim that this civil 13 14 penalty should have to be proved beyond a reasonable 15 doubt, or that they are entitled to a constitutional 16 right to counsel. I don't know why one legal norm among them all should change in the civil context and not the 17 18 others. 19 JUSTICE BREYER: The reason would be that 20 the -- you know, once you start talking about applying 21 this to Social Security, for example, or to Medicare, 22 for example, or to DOD, for example, you have somebody 23 who did commit some fraud and they kept the money. You know, she had five children not four, or she has five, 24

25 not six. And I can understand it being fair when the

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1 government catches her -- you know, 18 years later, they 2 say, We want our money back. Okay. I say that's fair, 3 not necessarily merciful, but fair.

4 But then to go and say, and in addition we want this civil penalty, even though -- of course, we 5 couldn't have discovered it. Don't you know there are 4 б 7 million people who get Social Security or 40 million or 8 something, and we can't police every one. And so 9 suddenly, I see I am opening the door, not just to 10 getting your money back, but to also you're having what 11 looked like criminal penalties years later without much benefit of a statute of limitations. 12

13 That is at the back of my mind. And I'd 14 like to know, having brought it up front, what -- what 15 your response is.

MR. WALL: Absolutely. There are anomalies on both sides of the coin and I just want to touch on both very briefly. Take the example you gave. In that situation, the defendant's fraud or concealment would allow it or him to escape paying civil penalties, but not private damages.

22 JUSTICE BREYER: That's right.

23 MR. WALL: This Court has never privileged a 24 private lawsuit above a government enforcement action in 25 the securities context --

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1	JUSTICE BREYER: But this is not the
2	securities context. This is the context of that's
3	why I started down the road I was down.
4	MR. WALL: But even in that context, imagine
5	if there's a private right of action, the private
б	plaintiff will be able to recover damages and the
7	government will not
8	JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, because you have two
9	people who are hurt, where two people have been hurt.
10	For example, I wrote the case in Burk and we had the
11	statute of limitations and Congress focused on this.
12	And it wrote a two-tier statute. And it wrote a
13	two-tier statute in large part because it was concerned
14	about the problem you mention. You have a victim. So
15	you're either going to let the defendant keep the money
16	or the victim gets it back. I understand that, but this
17	is not that context. This is like a criminal context,
18	where not only are you getting your money back, but you
19	also want to assess a kind of criminal penalty. And in
20	that situation, I see a pretty clear line and I don't
21	understand why the government is so anxious to change
22	what has long been the apparent
23	MR. WALL: Justice Breyer imagine the opposite,
24	which is far more dangerous. Imagine a bank makes a bad
25	loan to a veteran, or a bank tells the FDIC that it's gotten

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mortgage insurance to help lower income families buy homes, and then that fraud or falsity escapes detection for five years. The Veterans Administration or the FHA then is barred from bringing a civil penalty action, and there is no private right of action.

5 JUSTICE BREYER: That's correct, you have a 7 fraud and you can't put them in jail either, but you can 8 get your money back.

9 MR. WALL: But the reason there's no private 10 right of action in those contexts is, in part, because 11 government agencies can seek civil penalties. And I 12 cannot imagine that the Congress, which allowed agencies to seek civil penalties, where here they had existing 13 14 remedies, would have thought that the only people who 15 could get away without paying them are the ones who 16 commit fraud or concealment and that remains hidden for 17 five years.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And the reason --19 the reason there's no private action -- right of action 20 is not because the government could seek civil 21 penalties, it's because Congress hasn't provided a 22 private right of action. 23 MR. WALL: That's right because it thought

23 MR. WALL: That's right because it thought 24 that the agencies could seek civil penalties and that 25 was sufficient.

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1	JUSTICE BREYER: Oh, no, your case
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But it didn't it
3	didn't necessarily think, and that's why we have a case,
4	that they could seek civil penalties 10 years later,
5	18 years later, however long, so long as they were busy
6	doing other things and didn't have a chance to know.
7	MR. WALL: No question. And in the average
8	typical case, the time that Congress afforded is enough
9	and we're not here claiming any different, but that
10	JUSTICE GINSBURG: And it is a generous
11	period. It's it's 5 years. And, Mr. Wall, maybe you
12	can explain the SEC's pursuit of this of this case.
13	The alleged fraud went on from 1999 to 2002. It was
14	discovered in 2003. The SEC waited from 2003 to 2008 to
15	commence suit. What what is the reason for for
16	the delay from the time of discovery till the time suit
17	is instituted?
18	MR. WALL: Justice Ginsburg, there was a lot
19	of back and forth between the parties, document
20	exchanges, they wanted to make additional submissions.
21	The government hoped that there would be a settlement
22	that would encompass all the defendants. Ultimately,
23	there was a settlement that only went to the fund and
24	Petitioners did not settle and then the government put
25	together and brought its case.

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Wall, I'll go even 2 further than Justice Ginsburg. I mean this case actually 3 seems to me a good example when Mr. Liman said there's 4 no natural starting point and Justice Kennedy and Justice Alito referred to just -- this is a -- this is a 5 decision about enforcement priorities. The government б 7 had decided not to go after market timers. And it 8 changed its decision when a State attorney general 9 decided to do it, and it embarrassed them that they had 10 made that enforcement priority decision, and then the 11 government made a different enforcement priority decision. But that's not the kind of situation that the 12 discovery rule was intended to operate on, is it? 13 14 MR. WALL: Justice Kagan, I don't think 15 that's fair. We didn't go -- it wasn't market timing 16 that we discovered. What General Spitzer announced was

there are advisors that are permitting market timing, but misleading investors about it and they're doing it in return for investments in other funds that they manage, what are called sticky asset agreements, and then we started doing market sweeps for those agreements.

And I don't think we can ignore the evidence here because we shouldn't decide the case based on feverish hypotheticals. There are 25 reported cases

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brought by the Commission involving this statute, 19 were brought within 5 years and they were just reaching back to pick up the beginning of the fraud. And the other six, including this case, the longest lag time was six and a half years from the end of the fraud to bringing the complaint.

7 And the reason is these are dynamic markets. There's a lot going on in the public domain that puts 8 the commission on notice, inquiry or constructive, and 9 starts the clock running. Not only have we not seen a 10 11 10, a 15, a 20-year case, we haven't seen a 7-year case. 12 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, if all that's true, and this is a point I want you to -- I'm not sure I am 13 14 right about this point, but remember your banking case 15 now, we're sounding like that, I thought -- doesn't the 16 doctrine of fraudulent concealment still apply? That is, if the defendant, in fact, takes any affirmative 17 action to hide what's going on, the statute will be 18 19 tolled. Is that right?

20 MR. WALL: That's right, but that --21 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. As long as 22 that's right, then in all your banking cases, there are 23 bank inspectors all over these banks, I hope -- you 24 know, about once a month or so --

25 MR. WALL: But Justice Breyer, that's --

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1	JUSTICE BREYER: or once a year. And so
2	the chance of there the chance of this somehow
3	escaping notice without fraudulent concealment, which
4	would allow the government to extend the toll strikes me
5	as small, but am I right?
б	MR. WALL: Justice Breyer, I want to be
7	clear. In the government's view, the concealment would
8	apply, though Petitioners or others like them will be
9	back here making exactly the same arguments. The
10	government's point is just at equity fraud and
11	concealment were a pair and the justification was the
12	same for both.
13	JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, perhaps I've missed
14	something. I I came in here thinking that both
15	parties were willing to concede for purposes of this
16	case that there was a fraudulent concealment. Is
17	that is that wrong?
18	MR. WALL: I I
19	JUSTICE KENNEDY: I mean, for purposes of
20	presenting the statute of limitations issue that's
21	before us.
22	MR. WALL: I don't think the Petitioners are
23	disputing it here, but I think Mr. Liman acknowledged
24	earlier that, if pressed, his arguments could be
25	leveraged to get rid of the concealment doctrine, too.
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1	JUSTICE SCALIA: He didn't concede that
2	there was fraudulent concealment. All he conceded is
3	that there was fraud, but later concealment to cover up
4	that fraud I don't think has been conceded.
5	MR. WALL: Oh, no, no, not I didn't
6	I'm sorry, Justice Scalia. I wasn't trying to mislead.
7	This is not a concealment case. This is a fraud case.
8	JUSTICE BREYER: I thought it was the
9	opposite. In other words, I thought both parties, for
10	purposes of this argument, are assuming fraudulent
11	concealment has nothing to do with it. We are not to
12	consider fraudulent concealment.
13	MR. WALL: This is a fraud case, not a
14	concealment case.
15	JUSTICE BREYER: Am I right when I say that?
16	MR. WALL: Yes. I was just trying to say
17	that once you say there is a concealment exception, the
18	fraud exception follows from equity because they were of
19	a piece. And once you say there is not a fraud
20	exception, the same arguments will be leveraged to get
21	rid of a concealment exception. And the reason that
22	equity treated them as of a piece was the deception
23	was the same. The fraud was self-concealing or even if
24	it was non-fraud, the defendant could conceal, but
25	either way

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1 JUSTICE SCALIA: Except that concealment is 2 sort -- you know, it's sort of a self-starter. You --3 you -- it -- it doesn't apply always. It applies when 4 there is concealment, and the person who is being subjected to the longer statute of limitations is on 5 notice that if he fraudulently conceals, he's extending б 7 the statute. So I -- I don't think that the one has to 8 go with the other. Maybe they're both equitable 9 doctrines, but that doesn't -- that doesn't mean that we 10 have to apply them to this statute.

MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, for 300 years, 11 12 English and American courts looking at this problem have 13 said where the defendant's misconduct, be it fraud or be 14 it concealment of a non-fraud, but where the defendant's 15 deception prevents a plaintiff from knowing that he, she 16 or it has a cause of action, equity suspends the running of a statute of limitations. Those -- that has been --17 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: And for 300 years, that has 19 been said only with respect to civil actions, not with 20 respect to the government's attempt to exact a penalty. 21 JUSTICE KENNEDY: That's correct. 22 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, this is a civil 23 action. I don't think even Petitioners are disputing 24 that. 25 I assume that we are on the JUSTICE BREYER:

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1 same ground, but I don't know that you have -- I mean, 2 I'm worried about your giving up the fraudulent 3 concealment. I mean, you wouldn't give up equitable 4 estoppel, would you? 5 MR. WALL: If I gave up anything on fraudulent concealment, I didn't mean to. б 7 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no, no. I mean -- I 8 mean, there's nothing --9 (Laughter.) MR. WALL: I want to be very clear, I give 10 11 up nothing. 12 JUSTICE BREYER: If we were to say -- if we -- if the Court were to hold, it seemed to me, and 13 14 this is again tentative to get your response, but if the 15 -- if the Court were to hold the discovery doesn't --16 rule doesn't apply, there's nothing in that that says equitable -- equitable tolling doesn't apply, nothing in 17 18 that that says equitable estoppel doesn't apply, nothing 19 in that that says fraudulent concealment doesn't apply. 20 Now, you've shaken me a little bit on the 21 fraudulent concealment, but I don't know about the other 22 two. MR. WALL: Well, all the same arguments are 23 going to apply. Petitioners --24 25 JUSTICE BREYER: Oh, not the equitable

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1 estoppel.

2	MR. WALL: Oh, sure.
3	JUSTICE BREYER: Equitable estoppel, the
4	person comes in and says, oh, yes, I'll tell you all
5	about what I did, but by the way, I won't assert a
6	statute of limitations defense, I promise. And the
7	Court says, hey, you just asserted one, you can't.
8	MR. WALL: Justice Breyer, Petitioners in a
9	future case would be back here saying: The text of the
10	statute says nothing about equitable estoppel. And even
11	if you've applied it to everybody else's actions, you
12	can't apply it to me because I'm somehow different.
13	JUSTICE SCALIA: And you will say nonsense
14	in that future case, won't you?
15	(Laughter.)
16	MR. WALL: That's I'll be as right then
17	as I am now.
18	(Laughter.)
19	MR. WALL: I mean, Petitioners' argument has
20	this sort air of unreality. You've applied it
21	everywhere else he says, but not to me. Think how odd
22	that is, Justice Scalia, that where you have a
23	background canon that says ambiguities get construed
24	for, and not against, the sovereign. When the sovereign
25	sues quasi-sovereign to enforce the laws, that is

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1 somehow a subordinate interest and the sovereign alone 2 cannot take advantage of the Fraud Discovery Rule. 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Wall, why is it that you 4 don't you have any cases? I mean, you said way back This didn't come up, this is a modern problem. 5 when: б So explain to me why this is a modern problem. This is 7 obviously an old statute. Are you saying that this 8 statute has not been used very -- was not used very much until very, very recently? 9 10 MR. WALL: There are -- that's right. There 11 are very few cases that deal with this statute at all 12 and, obviously, in this context because the Commission's only had the ability to bring civil penalties for about 13 14 20 years. 15 But I think that is not a problem unknown to 16 Again and again, facing garden variety the law. limitations provisions written just like this one, this 17 18 Court applied the fraud discovery rule. And now they 19 come in and say, oh, but you've never applied it to this 20 statute. That's true, but everything about this statute 21 is identical as a matter of text and history to the 22 statute of Bailey. 23 The cause of action equally accrued there, 24 and this Court's applied it across bankruptcy, land, 25 patent cases --

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JUSTICE KAGAN: But what you're running up against is a skepticism, that -- you know, the government, which has not -- asserted this power for 200 years, is now coming in and saying we want it. And the question is why hasn't the government asserted this power previously?

7 MR. WALL: I -- there are just very few 8 cases on it. I think there are very few civil penalty actions that are being brought at all, certainly to 9 which this statute apply, and certainly that deal with 10 11 fraud or concealment and reach outside the 5-year 12 period. And I don't have a great answer for why there aren't cases. All I can tell you is that -- it isn't 13 14 like there are cases rejecting our arguments. We just 15 see an absence of case law.

16 But what we do see are -- is cases like Exploration Company, where the government comes in, is 17 18 really suing in a sovereign capacity, to redistribute 19 land from some private land owners to another by 20 annulling their patents. And this Court rejects 21 basically exactly the same arguments Petitioners are 22 making and says it applies equally to the government when it brings an action as to private plaintiffs. 23 24 Now, an action for civil penalties? No, the

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relief here is a little different, but if one looks back

1 at the briefs the arguments are exactly the same. They 2 made exactly the same claims that the sky was falling 3 there, and for 100 years they have not been true. There 4 is nothing important about this statute as a matter of text, structure or anything else from the other statutes 5 to which this Court has again and again applied the б 7 rule. And the justification is the same. It's the 8 defendant's misconduct which keeps the plaintiff from knowing of her cause of action. 9

10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, you made 11 the point earlier that it would be very odd that it's 12 only the sovereign that doesn't benefit from the discovery rule when other people can. But it's when 13 14 it's the sovereign that's bringing the action that the 15 concerns about repose are particularly presented. You 16 know, the sovereign, with all of its resources, can decide to go after whomever it discovers, however many 17 years after -- whether it's the Social Security 18 19 recipient that Justice Breyer mentioned or -- or anyone 20 else.

21 So I at least don't find it unusual that 22 it's the sovereign in particular that doesn't get the 23 benefit of whenever you happen to find about it rule. 24 MR. WALL: No question in the typical case, 25 but what equity has always said is in cases of fraud or

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1 concealment the defendant is not entitled to repose until there is discovery of the fraud. And equity has 2 never looked at the identity of the plaintiff, the 3 4 elements of the cause of action, the plaintiff's status, 5 role, party to what happened in the case. That is б never --7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Would you agree that 8 when we're talking about the interests in repose that 9 the one plaintiff we should be particularly concerned about is the government? 10 11 MR. WALL: I -- I don't think that there's a 12 basis for separating as between private damages lawsuits and civil penalties. I think when Congress sets a 13 14 statute of limitations, that's a limitation on the 15 various forms of --16 JUSTICE SCALIA: What about criminal penalties? Would your argument be different with regard 17 18 to criminal? 19 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia --20 JUSTICE SCALIA: Incidentally, what makes 21 something a civil penalty? You just call it a civil 22 penalty and -- and you don't have to prove it beyond a 23 reasonable doubt, and you get the benefit of this extension that you are arguing for? 24 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, two very 25

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1 important things. Yes, our argument would absolutely be 2 different in a criminal context. In cases like Marion 3 and Toussie, this Court has explained how statutes of limitations function in the criminal context is very 4 different. They are presumptively not equitably tolled, 5 whereas civil statutes are presumptively equitably б 7 tolled. 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: What makes -- what makes a 9 penalty a civil penalty? 10 MR. WALL: In Hudson v. United States --11 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, a penalty is a 12 penalty as far as I'm concerned if the government's 13 taking money from me. 14 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, the Court walked 15 through in Hudson v. United States the test for 16 denominating a civil from a criminal penalty. The main thing is what Congress denominates it, although you can 17 18 look behind that. 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's nice. 20 MR. WALL: Here, there is no question that 21 this is a civil penalty. It was denominated by Congress 22 that way, it functions that way, it is phrased that way. I think even Petitioners and all of their amici -- not a 23 single person on that side of the case has attempted to 24 25 argue this penalty is criminal rather than civil under

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1 Hudson.

JUSTICE SCALIA: That isn't my point, that it is criminal. My point is, it doesn't seem to me to make a whole lot of difference as far as these issues are concerned.

6 MR. WALL: Justice Scalia, the Court has 7 always said that whether the penalty is civil or 8 criminal carries with it a different set of legal rules 9 or norms, and no party has ever successfully come into 10 court and said, well, it may be civil, but it's a little 11 criminal-like, so I should borrow from the criminal 12 context.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What about the -14 what about the Halper case?

MR. WALL: Mr. Chief Justice, I think Hudson overruled Halper in large part, and no one here has asked this Court to label this a criminal penalty. They have asked the Court to call this a civil penalty and yet say the fraud discovery rule does not apply. That, there is no precedent for.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
22 Mr. Liman, you have 5 minutes remaining.
23 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF LEWIS LIMAN
24 ON BEHALF OF THE Petitioners
25 MR. LIMAN: Just a few points in rebuttal.

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1 First of all, with respect to whether this 2 is a criminal penalty and whether the rules of lenity apply, this Court has held in the Commissioner v. 3 4 Ackerly case that the rule of lenity applies to civil penalties. 5 6 Just as an --7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sorry. What 8 case? 9 MR. LIMAN: I believe it's Commissioner against Ackerly. It's cited in one of the -- one of the 10 11 amicus briefs. 12 Second, the concession that you just heard a moment ago, that the statute would not apply as the 13 14 government says it should apply if this was deemed to be 15 a criminal penalty, we submit under this Court's 16 reasoning in Clark v. Martinez, it just gave away the store in the government's case because if it is 17 possible -- as the government has now admitted it's 18 19 possible -- and I don't want to get into all of the 20 permutations of Hudson -- but if it is possible that the 21 label of civil penalty does not -- is not dispositive as 22 to whether a penalty is civil or criminal, then, as the Court held in Clark v. Martinez, the lowest common 23 denominator applies. 24 25 One has to interpret this statute so that it

1 is applicable across the range of statutes. And if 2 that's so, then it follows, it runs from accrual as that 3 word is commonly understood.

Next point. The government said that there are no cases where the Court considered the -- the claim that it is making. We would point the Court's attention to the Rotella case, in which in the context of a private plaintiff, who did not have the resources of the government, the argument was made that the RICO statute should have a discovery of the violation-type principle.

And the argument was made there that RICO can encompass a pattern of fraudulent acts. And the plaintiff in that case said, as the government says here, fraud can be concealed, can be complex, can be difficult to discover.

16 And the Court unanimously had a response to 17 that. The response was that, at least as soon as you know the injury, where there is an injury element, the 18 19 difficulty of discovery of the actual violation doesn't 20 defer the running of the statute of limitations. It 21 would defeat the purposes of a statute of limitations. 22 The government also argued that the problems 23 of privilege are not significant ones. We would point the Court's attention to the Joint Appendix in the 24 25 Second Circuit, where the government asserted privilege

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1 with respect to our questions about its investigations 2 of the counterparty to this alleged quid -- quid pro 3 quo.

4 The Court also asked a question of whether there are any cases in which courts have dealt with 5 б government agencies being diligent, and the claim being 7 the government agency was not diligent. The Court has 8 dealt with that in a related context, in the 9 Heckler v. Cheney context. And in the Heckler v. Cheney 10 context the Court held that type of issue, how an 11 administrative agency treats facts that are -- that it 12 discovers and whether it chooses to bring a claim or not, whether it chooses to believe that they are in 13 14 violation of a statute, the agency is charged with 15 administering is not fit for judicial review. No 16 different result should apply here.

17 Just two more points. The False Claims Act has a -- which has an explicit discovery rule, also has 18 19 a statute of repose. It would be very odd, indeed, if 20 the one circumstance where Congress, one of the few 21 circumstances where Congress chose to use the word 22 "discovery," was where the government was injured, and 23 they -- Congress chose to impose a statute of repose, where, as they say in the 100 or other statutes that use 24 25 language, fraud-like language, Congress intended there

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1 to be discovery and no repose.

2 And that really ties into the last point, which is that there are, by our count, if you look at 3 fraud, misleading, false statement-type statutes, there 4 5 are somewhere like 80 or 100-type statutes that use that kind of language that would be applicable if this Court б affirms the Second Circuit. 7 This case was in -- the government says this 8 9 case was an outlier. There is no reason to believe this 10 case will remain an outlier. Thank you. 11 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel. 13 Counsel. 14 The case is submitted. 15 (Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the case in the above-entitled matter was submitted.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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