## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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LOS ROVEI	L DAI	HDA,				)	
		Petition	ner,			)	
	V					) No.	17-43
UNITED STATES,					)		
		Responde	ent.			)	
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Pages: 1 through 68

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: February 21, 2018

## HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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3	LOS ROVELL DAHDA,	)
4	Petitioner,	)
5	v.	) No. 17-43
6	UNITED STATES,	)
7	Respondent.	)
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10	Washington, D.	С.
11	Wednesday, Februa	ary 21, 2018
12		
13	The above-entitled mat	ter came on for oral
14	argument before the Supreme Co	ourt of the United
15	States at 11:12 a.m.	
16		
17	APPEARANCES:	
18	KANNON K. SHANMUGAM, ESQ., Wa	shington, D.C.; on behalf
19	of the Petitioner.	
20	ZACHARY D. TRIPP, ESQ., Assis	tant to the Solicitor
21	General, Department of Ju	stice, Washington, D.C.;
22	on behalf of the United S	tates.
23		
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:12 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument next in Case 17-43, Dahda versus
5	United States.
6	Mr. Shanmugam.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF KANNON K. SHANMUGAM
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. SHANMUGAM: Thank you, Mr. Chief
10	Justice, and may it please the Court:
11	The federal wiretap statute, Title
12	III, was enacted 50 years ago in response to
13	national concern over wiretapping and the
14	threat it posed to individual privacy.
15	Title III prohibits wiretapping unless
16	a series of detailed requirements is met. And
17	to ensure compliance with those requirements,
18	Title III directs the suppression of the
19	evidence derived from a wiretap order when
20	there is an error in obtaining, issuing, or
21	executing that order.
22	As is relevant here, Title III directs
23	suppression if a judge issues an order that is
24	insufficient on its face; that is, if the order
25	itself fails to comply with any of Title III's

- 1 requirements.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Shanmugam, the
- 3 expression "insufficient to authorize," this
- 4 order was sufficient to authorize all of the
- 5 interceptions that were introduced in evidence.
- 6 The problem was that it authorized more, but
- 7 that more was never introduced. So I don't
- 8 understand how you can characterize the -- the
- 9 order here as in -- insufficient. It was
- 10 sufficient, but then it went beyond, and that
- 11 beyond was not operative in this case.
- 12 MR. SHANMUGAM: Justice Ginsburg, let
- me go directly to that threshold argument which
- 14 the government makes for the first time before
- 15 this Court. To the best of our knowledge, the
- 16 government --
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You -- you said
- 18 that. But it seems to me that was exactly what
- 19 the magistrate judge and the district judge
- 20 went on.
- 21 MR. SHANMUGAM: The magistrate judge
- 22 and the district court seemed to conclude that,
- 23 by virtue of the fact that all of the
- interceptions that were introduced were
- 25 interceptions that took place within the

- 1 court's territorial jurisdiction, that there
- was no problem, and that, therefore,
- 3 suppression was not required. I don't think
- 4 that they really grappled with this argument
- 5 that the government now makes about the meaning
- of the term "insufficient."
- 7 But let me address the merits of that
- 8 argument directly, Justice Ginsburg. The
- 9 government seems to make the argument now that
- 10 these orders were not insufficient on their
- 11 face because they were merely overbroad. But I
- don't think that that's the better reading of
- the phrase "insufficient on its face," either
- 14 as a matter of plain text or as a matter of the
- 15 policies that were animating the inclusion of
- 16 this particular provision.
- 17 Let me state first what we think
- 18 "insufficient" means. We think that an order
- is insufficient on its face if the failure to
- 20 comply with the requirements of Title III is
- 21 evident from the four corners of the order
- 22 itself. And the government now concedes that,
- 23 under such a standard, the orders here would be
- invalid because each of the orders here
- 25 contained jurisdictional provisions that went

- 1 too far, that went beyond the power of the
- 2 district court to authorize.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But those --
- 4 those weren't --
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But it was fully
- 6 sufficient for what, in fact, happened, other
- 7 than Missouri, and we'll have leave that out.
- 8 MR. SHANMUGAM: But, Justice Kennedy,
- 9 if the statute merely prohibited the
- introduction of evidence from unlawful
- interceptions, I might be inclined to agree
- 12 with you. But, of course, we know that the
- 13 suppression provision here does more.
- 14 It not merely prohibits and requires
- suppression where there is an unlawful
- interception; it goes further and refers to
- some category of cases where the order is
- 18 insufficient on its face.
- Now the government attempts to make
- 20 this plain language distinction between orders
- 21 that are overbroad and orders that are somehow
- 22 otherwise insufficient. But I think if you
- look at the very dictionary definitions that
- the government now relies on for the word
- 25 "insufficient," you'll see that those

- definitions essentially define the terms
- "insufficient" and "inadequate" and "invalid"
- 3 effectively synonymously.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I
- 5 understand "inadequate" being the same as
- 6 "insufficient," but I don't understand
- 7 "invalid." I mean, if you have a requirement,
- 8 you know, you must have these four things in
- 9 your -- in your order, and you have -- and you
- fill them out and you've got all four, and then
- 11 you've got another one that's not required, it
- 12 seems to me that that might be invalid, but --
- but you can't say it's insufficient. You've
- 14 got everything you have to -- have to have.
- 15 And yet, you're saying if you add
- something else, it's insufficient. It seems to
- 17 me it might be invalid under the statute as you
- say, you can't do what the fifth thing says,
- 19 but I don't see why -- why it would be
- 20 insufficient.
- 21 MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, Mr. Chief
- 22 Justice, I suppose that one could try to draw
- fine distinctions between all of these terms.
- 24 I think each of the three dictionaries on which
- 25 the government relies defines the term

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"invalid" to mean "inadequate," and they define
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- "inadequate" to mean "insufficient."
- 3 But I think even if you think --
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah, but you
- 5 need them to define "insufficient" to mean
- 6 "invalid."
- 7 MR. SHANMUGAM: But I'm happy to -- to
- 8 -- to fight this case on the ground that we're
- 9 talking about insufficiency or, as you put it,
- 10 inadequacy. We believe that these orders --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, what
- 12 about invalidity? Forget I said inadequacy.
- 13 You have to say that "insufficient" -- you have
- 14 to say that "invalid" is the same as
- 15 "insufficient."
- 16 MR. SHANMUGAM: I don't think that
- 17 that's necessarily true, Mr. Chief Justice. I
- 18 think you could say that these orders were
- insufficient precisely because they lacked a
- 20 valid limitation. In other words, the --
- 21 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Could the orders
- 22 have been used for anything?
- 23 MR. SHANMUGAM: No. If an order is --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, then it's
- 25 invalid.

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               MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, correct. I
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     mean, in other words, I -- I'm -- we certainly
 3
      take the view that those terms are, in fact,
 4
      synonymous here; and, indeed, that's the view
 5
      that the government took below when it referred
 6
      to the potential facial invalidity of these
 7
      orders.
 8
               But I think my point --
 9
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You didn't --
      the -- the order didn't need any statement with
10
      regard to the territorial limitation, did it?
11
               MR. SHANMUGAM: We believe that --
12
13
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: If that were
14
     not in this order, the order would still be
15
      sufficient, correct?
               MR. SHANMUGAM: We believe that the
16
      orders would still be insufficient if they did
17
     not contain that; in other words, we believe
18
19
      that the better reading of this statute is that
20
      it requires the jurisdictional limitation to
21
      appear on the face of the order. But, of
22
      course, here, the orders --
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Any -- do you
23
24
     have any authority for that?
25
               MR. SHANMUGAM: I -- I would rely on
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- 1 the language of the statute itself.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Do you have
- 3 any judicial authority interpreting the
- 4 statute?
- 5 MR. SHANMUGAM: So I'm not aware of
- 6 any case that presents the question of what
- 7 would happen if a jurisdictional limitation
- 8 were entirely omitted, and my understanding in
- 9 Mr. Tripp's --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Where do you see it in
- 11 the statute as requiring that?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: So I would point to
- 13 2518(3) itself. And while it is certainly true
- that 2518(3) is not worded in terms of what an
- order shall specify, I think in some sense it
- 16 goes even further. This is the one requirement
- 17 that Congress thought was so foundational that
- it included it in the very provision that
- 19 authorizes a judge to enter a wiretap order in
- 20 the first place.
- 21 The Court will be aware of that
- language. It's at pages 16a to 17a of the
- 23 government's brief. And it says that the judge
- 24 may enter an order authorizing interception of
- 25 communications within the territorial

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1 jurisdiction of the court in which the judge is
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- 2 sitting. Now to get --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: So if the -- if the
- 4 -- if the application just says telephone X
- 5 pursuant to whatever it is, whatever the --
- 6 cites the statutory section, but doesn't say
- 7 District of Kansas?
- 8 MR. SHANMUGAM: I think that that
- 9 would still be insufficient.
- But, Mr. Chief Justice, to get back to
- 11 your question that started this discussion, I
- 12 don't think that the Court needs to answer that
- 13 question whereas, here, you have a provision
- 14 that goes further. It affirmatively --
- JUSTICE BREYER: It doesn't go -- wait
- 16 -- wait just a second, because I -- I might be
- 17 missing this. I don't see anywhere in this
- 18 order, which is in your Joint Appendix, Volume
- 19 2 -- are -- you must be telephone number 1 or
- telephone number 2?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Yes. I mean, we're
- 22 talking about --
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: Who are you telephone
- 24 number 1 or number 2, one of those two?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: You know, there were

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1 multiple communications pursuant to --
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- JUSTICE BREYER: I know that, but I
- 3 mean for purposes of this order.
- 4 MR. SHANMUGAM: Yes.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Now where does
- 6 it say in this order in respect to telephone
- 7 number 1 or telephone number 2 that they can
- 8 intercept within the jurisdiction of the
- 9 issuing magistrate?
- 10 MR. SHANMUGAM: So the orders -- and
- 11 let me take you to page 97 of the Joint
- 12 Appendix.
- JUSTICE BREYER: That's what I'm on.
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Okay.
- JUSTICE BREYER: And it says -- it
- 16 doesn't say anything about -- it talks about
- outside the territorial jurisdiction in the one
- 18 -- in the relevant full paragraph on page 97.
- 19 I don't see here anywhere.
- I mean, if what you said was true, why
- 21 didn't you challenge this on the ground that
- it's insufficient because it does not claim or
- 23 put in words that, in respect to telephone
- 24 number 1 and telephone number 2, you have
- 25 authority to intercept within the jurisdiction

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1 of the issuing magistrate, which I think was
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- New York, wasn't it, or was it?
- 3 MR. SHANMUGAM: So the judge who
- 4 entered this was a judge in Kansas.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Kansas. In Kansas.
- 6 MR. SHANMUGAM: Right. And --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.
- 8 MR. SHANMUGAM: And I think that this
- 9 language --
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Where
- 11 does it say they have jurisdiction to intercept
- in Kansas?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, I think it's --
- 14 that is implicit in the paragraph --
- JUSTICE BREYER: No.
- MR. SHANMUGAM: -- on page 97.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: No. Read the
- 18 paragraph. It says in the -- in the event that
- 19 they "are transported outside the territorial
- 20 jurisdiction of the court, interception may
- 21 take place in any other jurisdiction within the
- 22 United States."
- 23 It nowhere says that you have
- 24 authority to interpret jurisdiction -- to
- 25 intercept in Kansas. Does it?

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1 MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, you know, I -- I
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- 2 --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I take from your
- 4 hesitation it does not.
- 5 MR. SHANMUGAM: No. Well, I think
- 6 that it is at a minimum implicit in that --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: Implicit that it says
- 8 other --
- 9 MR. SHANMUGAM: -- that if the
- 10 telephone is in the territorial jurisdiction,
- 11 that interception may take place in the
- 12 territorial jurisdiction.
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. But aside
- 14 from those words.
- 15 MR. SHANMUGAM: But I think our -- but
- I think our argument would be the same, Justice
- 17 Breyer. In other words, our argument here is
- 18 that this provision goes too far. The judge is
- 19 exceeding his power when he enters an order
- 20 that authorizes effectively nationwide
- 21 jurisdiction over the tapping --
- JUSTICE BREYER: All right.
- 23 MR. SHANMUGAM: -- of these phones and
- the other phones.
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: The reason -- see, I

- 1 -- I can't ask my question because you've
- 2 stopped me cold; that is, what I thought was
- 3 that we'd have an order which says you can tap
- 4 in Kansas and you can also tap outside of
- 5 Kansas.
- 6 And I find the paragraph which says
- 7 you can tap outside of Kansas. Okay? But I
- 8 can't find the paragraph which says you can tap
- 9 in Kansas.
- 10 So the first thing you say is, well,
- it's insufficient if an order does not say you
- 12 can tap in Kansas -- yeah, that's what you
- 13 cite, you just said that -- and so I never
- 14 thought of that.
- 15 And -- but, lo and behold, I never
- 16 thought of it, although I read the briefs in
- this case, and I read the opinion below, and
- 18 they never said anything about it.
- 19 So I started where the -- where --
- 20 where -- I think, I can't remember who asked
- 21 the question, I started saying it doesn't have
- 22 to say that because that's not listed in Title
- 23 IV. That's in Title III. Right?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Yeah. So --
- JUSTICE BREYER: So you see my

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1 puzzlement?
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- 2 MR. SHANMUGAM: I -- I do see your
- 3 point, Justice Breyer. So let me explain how,
- 4 you know, again, we think that all of this
- 5 should work. And I think that our position is,
- 6 you know, a simple one that I think courts have
- 7 consistently accepted, at least up until now
- 8 when the government is suddenly making this
- 9 argument.
- 10 That is, first of all, that
- "insufficient" here really does comport -- does
- imply a failure to comply with any of Title
- 13 III's requirements. And here the government
- 14 concedes that this provision does not comply
- 15 with those requirements because it goes further
- than even the language in the statute
- 17 authorizing these telephone interceptions.
- 18 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Well,
- 19 suppose I said this. There is one paragraph
- 20 here saying, which I just read you, which says
- 21 you can tap outside of Kansas. Your clients
- 22 had nothing to do with that. They were never
- 23 outside or whatever. Okay?
- 24 So what we do is we excise that
- 25 paragraph. It's called severability. Excise

- 1 it and send the case back to see, with that
- 2 paragraph excised, whether there's some other
- 3 reason why this warrant could not be granted.
- 4 What about that?
- 5 MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, I mean, you can
- 6 do that, Justice Breyer. In other words, I
- 7 think that the failure expressly to authorize
- 8 interception within the jurisdiction would, at
- 9 most, be an additional reason why this is
- 10 defective.
- 11 Again, our view, as I indicated in
- 12 response to Justice Kagan, is that when you
- take a look at Section 2518(3), it indicates
- 14 that this is an additional requirement.
- 15 Indeed, as I said earlier, really sort of the
- 16 foundational requirement.
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Is your -- is your
- 18 view dependent on our accepting that, that it's
- 19 not only a foundational requirement but that
- it's a foundational requirement that has to be
- on the face of the order?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: No, because of the
- 23 overbreadth of the orders. In other words, as
- 24 I indicated to Justice Breyer, I certainly
- 25 think that, to the extent that the failure

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1 specifically to refer to Kansas matters, it
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- 2 would only help our argument.
- But at bottom, our argument is that
- 4 because the order exceeds the Court's
- 5 territorial jurisdiction, it's facially
- 6 inadequate and, therefore, insufficient.
- 7 Now the government --
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: I -- I tried to --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, irrespective --
- 10 irrespective of whether the jurisdiction has to
- 11 be stated on the face of the order?
- 12 MR. SHANMUGAM: Yes, that is correct.
- In other words, our view is that because there
- is a conceded failure to comply with one of
- 15 Title III's requirements, that's all that's
- 16 needed.
- 17 And I think that the government's
- 18 argument would really lead to strange and
- 19 anomalous results here.
- In our reply brief, we give the
- 21 example of an order that authorized
- interception for 180 days rather than 30 days.
- 23 I think the government would take -- I think
- 24 the government would take the same position:
- 25 That that order would not be facially

- 1 insufficient because it would merely be
- overbroad, in Justice Ginsburg's words.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, but in that
- 4 situation, if the -- if there were
- 5 interceptions beyond the period that's allowed
- 6 by the statute, then -- then those would be
- 7 suppressed under, I guess it's subsection (1),
- 8 right, so it was acquired illegally?
- 9 MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, I'm not sure
- 10 about that, Justice Alito. In other words, if
- 11 Subsection 1 were to apply in that context,
- there would still be the additional inquiry
- about the core concerns of the statute that
- 14 this Court mandated in Chavez and Giordano.
- 15 But I think that that example really
- 16 points out --
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I thought the
- 18 circuit split that we had granted on was
- 19 whether the core concern analysis applied to
- 20 subdivisions (ii) and (iii), three. Isn't that
- 21 the circuit split that we granted?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: That is the question
- on which this Court granted cert. And, again,
- 24 I don't mean to --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, it wasn't

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1 the question presented, but that seemed to be
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- 2 the focus of the entire briefing in this case,
- 3 with the exception of the government's new
- 4 argument that this wasn't insufficient, but --
- 5 MR. SHANMUGAM: Yes. And the --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- putting that
- 7 aside, I thought that we granted cert on that.
- 8 MR. SHANMUGAM: That is the question
- 9 on which the circuits are divided. And I don't
- 10 mean to fight too hard the Court's addressing
- 11 this threshold argument that the government is
- 12 now making. The government did make it, albeit
- in passing, in its brief in opposition.
- I think that the Court really did
- grant cert on the premise that these orders
- 16 were insufficient, but I think that it's no
- 17 surprise that, before this Court, on the actual
- 18 question on which this Court granted review,
- 19 the government has comparatively little to say.
- JUSTICE ALITO: But, you know, if we
- 21 --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But why -- why
- 23 should we, if -- if we think that the phrase
- "insufficient" doesn't mean overbreadth, why
- 25 should we proceed to base a decision on a

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1 premise that we think is wrong?
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- 2 MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, first --
- 3 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And -- and -- and
- 4 your point about -- why was the district court
- 5 wrong when it said simply, "the government did
- 6 not actually intercept communications outside
- 7 this court's jurisdiction; "therefore, as
- 8 applied, the orders did not violate the
- 9 statute. That seems to make good sense.
- 10 MR. SHANMUGAM: I think that is a
- 11 regime that Congress could have enacted. But I
- don't think, Justice Ginsburg, that that is the
- 13 regime that Congress did enact.
- In other words, Congress did not enact
- a regime in which the sole focus was whether or
- 16 not a particular application was unlawful. If
- 17 that had been what Congress had intended, it
- 18 would have stopped after subparagraph (1). But
- 19 instead --
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, I tried to
- 21 figure out where this "insufficient on its
- 22 face" language came from, because it is
- 23 somewhat curious. And I'm sure that you have
- 24 probably researched this more thoroughly, but
- 25 the best I could come up with was that it was

- 1 taken from old Rule 41(e) of the Federal Rules
- 2 of Criminal Procedure.
- 3 So, if that's the case, should we look
- 4 to the way that rule was applied?
- 5 MR. SHANMUGAM: So I don't think that
- 6 we know that that is where the phrase came
- 7 from. It does not appear anywhere else in the
- 8 United States Code, to which -- as far as I'm
- 9 aware.
- 10 But I think, quite frankly, I would
- 11 not go -- I would not think that the Court
- would need to go any further than looking to,
- again, the plain meaning of the term
- "insufficient" but also the policies animating
- 15 the inclusion of this provision.
- And I do think it would lead to highly
- 17 anomalous results to limit insufficiency and to
- 18 exclude cases in which language is overbroad
- 19 but yet concededly violative of the statute.
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, if you -- if
- 21 -- do you think that if this situation had been
- 22 presented to the Congress that enacted the --
- 23 the 1968 legislation, which was basically
- 24 anti-crime legislation, that they would have
- said, yes, in this case, Mr. Dahda can't be

1 convicted even though what happened here had no

- 2 effect whatsoever on him?
- 3 MR. SHANMUGAM: I do think so, and I
- 4 think so precisely because of what Congress, or
- 5 the Senate, to be more precise, said in the
- 6 Senate report, where -- where the Senate made
- 7 quite clear -- and this is at page 96 of the
- 8 report -- that it intended to compel
- 9 compliance, strict compliance, with the
- 10 requirements of the statute.
- 11 And, again, as I indicated at the
- 12 outset, Title III was enacted against the
- 13 backdrop of a vigorous national debate over
- 14 whether wiretapping should even be permitted in
- 15 the first place.
- And I think, as part of the compromise
- that was struck when Congress enacted Title
- 18 III, it included a very muscular suppression
- 19 provision.
- 20 Now I think what the government tries
- 21 to do throughout its brief, and I suspect
- 22 you'll hear this from my friend Mr. Tripp
- 23 today, is to try to get this Court to think
- 24 about this case in traditional Fourth Amendment
- 25 terms where the Court is always taking into

- 1 account broader principles of prejudice and
- 2 causation and the like.
- 3 And I think that where this is
- 4 clearest is in the government's argument that
- 5 the Court should somehow sever the invalid
- 6 applications of the orders from valid ones.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But there was no
- 8 invalid application. The only intercepts that
- 9 were introduced were in -- from the District of
- 10 Kansas. So the -- the order authorized an
- invalid application, but there was no such
- 12 invalid application.
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Well, in fact, there
- 14 were. There were communications that were
- intercepted from a wire room in St. Louis. In
- 16 response to the motion to suppress, the
- 17 government, I think quite wisely, indicated
- 18 that it was not going to introduce those
- 19 communications.
- 20 But I think, more broadly, I would say
- 21 two things about that, Justice Ginsburg.
- 22 First, I would say that when you have a
- 23 facially insufficient order, any communications
- that are intercepted pursuant to that order are
- 25 unlawfully intercepted. I think that that was

- 1 the premise of this Court's decisions in Chavez
- 2 and Giordano.
- And, second, that to the extent that
- 4 the government is making this back-end argument
- 5 about a severance principle and seeking to
- 6 introduce a severance principle that the lower
- 7 courts have recognized in the exclusionary rule
- 8 context into Title III, that there's just
- 9 simply no textual footing for that. The
- 10 statute --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you -- you --
- 12 you did recognize that if that paragraph were
- deleted, this order wouldn't be sufficient?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: Potentially. Leaving
- 15 aside our argument that you would have to
- 16 affirmatively state a jurisdictional
- 17 limitation.
- 18 But I think, more broadly, if you
- 19 agree with us on the issue of facial
- insufficiency, the government's fallback
- 21 argument, leaving aside its relatively cursory
- 22 argument on the actual question presented, is
- that you should apply a severance principle.
- 24 And not only does that principle have no
- 25 footing in the actual text of Title III's

- 1 suppression provision, I think that that would
- 2 really sort of effectively all but read
- 3 subparagraph (2) out of that statute.
- 4 What the government is attempting to
- 5 do -- do through these various arguments is to
- 6 create a regime under which only when there is
- 7 unlawful interception and the fruits of that
- 8 unlawful interception are introduced, can there
- 9 be suppression.
- 10 Again, if that were true, why did
- 11 Congress go on to say in subparagraph (2)
- 12 essentially that even if communications were
- lawfully intercepted, there should be
- 14 suppression when an order is insufficient on
- 15 its face.
- And, again, the severance principle on
- 17 which the government relies, and the government
- 18 cites various lower court decisions for that
- 19 proposition, is a principle that was not well
- 20 established in the law in 1968. No federal
- 21 court of appeals, as far as I'm aware, had even
- 22 recognized that principle.
- 23 And, of course, that principle is
- animated by concerns about the harsh effects of
- 25 the judicially created exclusionary rule.

- 1 JUSTICE BREYER: No -- I mean, but
- 2 here's the problem that -- look, first, if I
- 3 look at this, what that -- what you just
- 4 pointed to says you have to have in this
- 5 document the nature and location of where the
- 6 authority to intercept is granted. Doesn't it?
- 7 Yes.
- 8 You just pointed to that. So I look
- 9 at the last page and it says District of
- 10 Kansas. It says it. The judge puts his title,
- 11 District of Kansas. There is the authority
- 12 that that's what they want, exactly what you
- said, that's where the authority comes from,
- and Title III makes clear they can't go beyond
- that authority, except in some circumstances
- 16 that are not present here.
- 17 So what we have with the paragraph
- 18 you're pointing to is an addition. It says:
- 19 In addition, you can go outside of Kansas.
- 20 That is wrong. And, by the way, they didn't go
- 21 outside of Kansas insofar as your client is
- 22 concerned and anything that was introduced into
- 23 evidence is concerned.
- So everybody's instinct, or at least
- 25 mine, to say, well, sever that, is -- maybe the

- judge wrote poetry on the wrong paper, you
- 2 know? I mean, maybe he -- he -- he wrote down
- 3 a joke. Maybe he -- he wrote something that
- 4 was totally extraneous that had nothing to do
- 5 with the case.
- 6 We wouldn't look at that; we'd just
- 7 say forget it, it has nothing to do with this
- 8 case. And why shouldn't we do the same thing
- 9 with this paragraph?
- 10 MR. SHANMUGAM: I understand that
- instinct, Justice Breyer, because that would be
- 12 a natural Fourth Amendment instinct. In other
- words, lower courts who have looked at the
- issue have pretty universally now concluded
- that when you're in the traditional
- 16 exclusionary rule context and when, say, you
- 17 have an order that authorizes -- a warrant that
- authorizes the search of two apartments and
- 19 there's probable cause as to one and not as to
- 20 the other, you sever.
- 21 I think that the only problem with
- that, and in our view, it's a dispositive
- 23 problem, is the actual language of the statute.
- 24 The statute draws a direct line between an
- 25 invalid, insufficient order and the suppression

of any communications obtained pursuant to that

- 2 order.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, You keep
- 4 --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Shanmugam --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You keep
- 7 mixing, as you just did, "insufficient" and
- 8 "invalid." And I want to make sure I
- 9 understand your view on it.
- 10 If somebody told you to bring to a
- 11 party apples, bananas, and pears; and you
- 12 brought apples, bananas, pears, and cherries,
- 13 the person would not say that's insufficient.
- 14 Right?
- MR. SHANMUGAM: I think that a person
- 16 might say that that's insufficient. In other
- 17 words, I think that --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Who would do
- 19 that? I'm sorry.
- 20 (Laughter.)
- MR. SHANMUGAM: I mean, I don't think
- 22 you would -- I don't think in that context, you
- 23 know, you would ordinarily talk about
- 24 insufficiency. And I'm willing to also
- 25 recognize, Mr. Chief Justice, that there are

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1 circumstances in which insufficiency
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- 2 necessarily means that something is lacking.
- I mean, I think that when we think
- 4 about, say, evidentiary insufficiency, that
- ordinarily, you know, you can't have too much
- 6 evidence; you can only have too little. I
- 7 think that this is a somewhat unusual
- 8 formulation. And, again, it's a formulation,
- 9 as I indicated to Justice Alito, doesn't appear
- 10 anywhere else in the United States Code.
- 11 And I do think that the definition of
- 12 the term "insufficient," even if you view
- "insufficient" to mean "lacking," could easily
- mean lacking a valid limitation. It doesn't
- 15 necessarily mean lacking a provision that the
- order is required by statute to contain.
- I see that my yellow light is on, so
- 18 I'll just say one thing about the actual
- 19 question presented here and the government's
- 20 argument. I think that if this Court were to
- 21 read a core concerns requirement or a
- 22 fundamental defect requirement into
- 23 subparagraph (2), it would essentially be
- 24 creating the very problem that this Court
- addressed when it adopted that requirement in

- 1 Chavez and Giordano.
- 2 And I think it's really no accident
- 3 that, for that reason, the government devotes
- 4 most of its brief to these arguments that it
- 5 had not previously made and that really don't
- 6 go to that question.
- 7 And with that, I'll reserve the
- 8 balance of my time. Thank you.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 10 counsel.
- 11 Mr. Tripp.
- 12 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ZACHARY D. TRIPP
- ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES
- MR. TRIPP: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 15 it please the Court:
- I think, as most of the questioning
- 17 has already picked up, the -- the best way to
- 18 encapsulate our basic position in this case is
- 19 -- is just to imagine what would have happened
- 20 if everything was exactly the same except this
- 21 -- this language was missing from the orders,
- 22 it didn't add this additional authority telling
- 23 us that we could put the wire room outside
- 24 Kansas.
- 25 If that had happened, there would

- 1 clearly be no basis for suppressing any of the
- 2 evidence we relied on here. It was all
- 3 lawfully intercepted inside Kansas. The orders
- 4 say everything Title III requires them to say
- 5 to allow us to intercept --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, let's
- 7 go back to that point. Justice Breyer is
- 8 correct. I don't find in this order saying you
- 9 can intercept in Kansas. It doesn't say it
- 10 directly, all right?
- 11 So how is that sufficient? Is it your
- 12 position that every order does not have to say
- 13 it's limited to Kansas? Forgetting that it
- 14 says you can go outside.
- 15 MR. TRIPP: It's not the -- so Title
- 16 III says in no uncertain terms what every Title
- 17 III order "shall specify." It's in 2518(4).
- 18 It's on 17a of the --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: 25 -- yes, and I
- 20 was reading that.
- 21 MR. TRIPP: And -- and -- and the --
- 22 the -- the location of the place where we're
- 23 going to put our wire room is not one of those
- 24 items. Instead, the -- the venue provision
- 25 that we've been talking about here appears on

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1 the -- on the previous page, on 16a, and -- and
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- 2 -- and it says, right, that the -- obviously,
- 3 that the -- the interception needs to --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's actually in
- 5 subdivision (3).
- 6 MR. TRIPP: Right, on 16a of our --
- 7 our gray brief, yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And it says "may
- 9 enter an ex parte order as requested or as
- 10 modified," et cetera, "within the territorial
- jurisdiction of the court in which the judge is
- 12 sitting."
- 13 You take that "within" to mean that
- 14 the judge has to be within that jurisdiction?
- MR. TRIPP: Well, so -- wait -- wait,
- 16 sorry.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Or that the order
- 18 has to be within that jurisdiction?
- MR. TRIPP: So we -- we now agree --
- 20 there -- there was dispute in the lower courts
- about whether a tapped mobile phone qualified
- 22 as a mobile interception device within the next
- 23 clause of that, saying that we could put our
- 24 wire room anywhere in the country. We now
- agree with Petitioner that the answer is no, we

- 1 can't; the wire room needs to be in the same
- 2 judicial district.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I -- I'm
- 4 sorry. Do you agree that the order has to be
- 5 within the -- for interceptions within the
- 6 jurisdiction? Except for a mobile device, and
- 7 you agree this is not a mobile --
- 8 MR. TRIPP: Yes, so an -- an order
- 9 from the District of Kansas, we need to put our
- 10 wire room in the District of Kansas.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Are
- 12 you taking the position that the order does not
- have to say, at all, that it's within the
- 14 jurisdiction?
- MR. TRIPP: Yeah, that is absolutely
- 16 our position.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's your
- 18 position?
- 19 MR. TRIPP: Yeah, absolutely. I think
- 20 that that --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
- 22 MR. TRIPP: -- follows just straight
- 23 from the text of the statute. It is enough
- 24 that this is in --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So you're saying

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only a violation of those four -- of -- of
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- 2 subparagraph (4), even though the whole process
- 3 of ordering is premised on it being an order
- 4 within the jurisdiction of the Court?
- 5 MR. TRIPP: Well, I -- I -- so this is
- 6 obviously an order from the Kansas court. I
- 7 don't think there's any dispute about that.
- 8 And then the question was just: Where do we
- 9 put our wire room?
- I think I was trying --
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's such a
- 12 strange position, though, that you would have
- an order that wouldn't tell you where you could
- 14 do this.
- MR. TRIPP: I -- I think it -- it
- 16 just follows. It's a -- it's a background rule
- 17 that follows from the statute.
- 18 When you get an order that says that
- 19 it's coming from the District of Kansas, then
- 20 the rule is you can either intercept inside the
- 21 District of Kansas or outside the District of
- 22 Kansas if you're using a mobile interception
- 23 device. That's the rule in every single Title
- 24 III case.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What did it do

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1 with the requirement of every warrant that you
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- 2 have to give a time, place? We know the rule
- 3 requires a time, a place.
- 4 MR. TRIPP: Right. So --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But there's no
- 6 place here.
- 7 MR. TRIPP: No, the -- the --
- 8 so if you look at the checklist of items that
- 9 -- that the statute expressly requires every
- 10 order to contain, it -- it does all of those
- 11 things. It tells you many times --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How about if the
- judge fails to make the required findings under
- 14 (3)? Would the order be insufficient if he
- didn't do what subparagraph (3) requires?
- 16 MR. TRIPP: I -- I think actually that
- is a classic example of something that would
- 18 fall within prong 1. It -- it -- it's
- 19 hard to think of a situation where you would
- 20 have an order where on its face it's clear from
- 21 the order that the judge didn't make any of
- those requisite findings, really for two
- 23 reasons.
- One is, again, those findings don't
- 25 actually need to appear in the order. Title

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1 III doesn't require that.
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- 2 And then the other is, you know, in
- 3 practice, they actually quite often recite a
- 4 probable cause finding.
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Uh-huh. So that's
- 6 your position. Your position is, if the
- 7 jurisdiction is missing, it falls under prong
- 8 1?
- 9 MR. TRIPP: If jurisdiction is --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: (i), I should say,
- 11 not 1, under --
- MR. TRIPP: Sorry, an important point.
- So, if jurisdiction is missing and we sought to
- introduce evidence that was intercepted from
- outside the jurisdiction, right, if we had --
- if there had been no language in this case, in
- 17 -- in these orders --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: This is a more
- 19 interesting argument --
- 20 MR. TRIPP: It is.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what you're --
- because I can't figure out how you could have
- an order that doesn't have jurisdiction. It
- seems to me that that's a requirement of every
- 25 warrant.

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1
               MR. TRIPP: So I -- I think --
 2
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, if it's not
 3
      correctable somewhere, it makes no sense to me.
 4
               MR. TRIPP: The -- the -- it does not
 5
      need to say where the wire room needs to be
 6
                Indeed, I'll -- I'll say that
 7
      the applications in this case didn't even say
 8
      where we were going to put the wire room, that
 9
      that went to how we were going to implement the
10
      order of the Kansas court.
11
               The jurisdiction that flowed from
12
      those orders flow -- flowed from the fact that
13
      it was an order of the District of Kansas.
                                                  Ιt
14
      said District of Kansas across the top.
15
               And so the -- the upshot of that is
      that we either needed to put the wire room
16
      inside Kansas or we could put it outside if we
17
18
      were using a mobile interception device, which
19
      we -- which we weren't doing here.
20
               JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Tripp, if --
21
      if -- if you -- if the order doesn't have to
22
      include anything about territorial
23
      jurisdiction, how is anybody to know whether it
      approves interception only within the
24
25
      territorial jurisdiction or instead outside
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1 that jurisdiction?
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- I mean, there's a -- there's a --
- 3 there's a choice here, depending on whether
- 4 there's a mobile interception device, right?
- 5 If there's a mobile interception device, you
- 6 can approve interception more widely than if
- 7 there's not a mobile interception device.
- 8 So I would think looking at this
- 9 statute -- and I recognize that it's not
- included in one of the things that's said in
- Number (4), but that Number (3), you know, just
- implicitly requires a court to say which one it
- is, is it just within the jurisdiction or is it
- 14 outside the jurisdiction, because there's a
- 15 mobile interception device at issue.
- 16 MR. TRIPP: So I -- I -- I think our
- first response is that the statute doesn't
- 18 require it to appear in the order because the
- 19 statute doesn't say that.
- 20 And then I think the -- the second is
- 21 that the background --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, how is -- I
- 23 guess what I'm saying is -- I appreciate
- 24 that -- but how is anybody to know unless the
- 25 court says that?

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1 MR. TRIPP: So I think --
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- JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, they're not
- 3 going to know what they're -- they can do
- 4 unless the court says what they can do.
- 5 MR. TRIPP: Right. So I -- so I think
- 6 it's clear to everybody that in all these cases
- 7 that we can put the wire room inside Kansas,
- 8 right, that flows from -- from this just sort
- 9 of background jurisdictional principle, and the
- 10 harder question in all of these cases is -- or
- 11 that -- that prompted this line of cases was:
- 12 Well, what about the -- what is a mobile
- interception device? When can you put it
- 14 outside?
- 15 And in this case, we got advance
- 16 judicial approval from the district court of
- the government's view at the time, that when
- 18 you were tapping a cell phone, that qualified
- 19 as a mobile interception device. We could put
- 20 the -- the wire room outside Kansas.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you -- you were
- 22 wrong about that.
- MR. TRIPP: We were wrong.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Am I -- am I right
- 25 that that's an obsolete thing? The mobile

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1 interception device you thought was the mobile
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- 2 phone, but it's really the bug.
- 3 MR. TRIPP: It's really the bug,
- 4 that's right.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And now they don't
- 6 use bugs anymore, do they?
- 7 MR. TRIPP: Not -- not never, but, you
- 8 know, you -- you -- you might install a bug
- 9 inside a car or something to track all the
- 10 communications in the car, not just the
- 11 communications over a phone.
- 12 It's just a different kind of case and
- 13 -- and -- and would -- none of that --
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: But let me say this
- another way, Mr. Tripp. On 17a, it says: Each
- order authorizing or approving the interception
- 17 shall specify.
- And you're right, the jurisdictional
- 19 thing does not appear in this list.
- 20 But then, if you look at 16a, what is
- 21 an order authorizing or approving the
- interception, on 16a in paragraph (3), it says,
- well, the judge enters an order authorizing or
- 24 approving interception, either within the
- 25 territorial jurisdiction or outside that

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1 jurisdiction, depending on whether there's this
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- 2 mobile interception device.
- 3 So it just does seem to me that that's
- 4 just got to be a necessary part of an order
- 5 authorizing the interception.
- 6 MR. TRIPP: Well, I --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Where is the
- 8 interception supposed to take place?
- 9 MR. TRIPP: So --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Either within the
- jurisdiction or outside, depending on whether
- 12 there's a mobile interception device. It's
- just got to be in the order because, otherwise,
- 14 how would you know --
- MR. TRIPP: So I --
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- which of those two
- 17 possible things is true?
- 18 MR. TRIPP: So I -- and two follow-ups
- on that. It -- it doesn't say either/or. It
- 20 -- it -- it -- it's "and," right, and so we can
- 21 do it inside the territorial jurisdiction and
- outside if we're using a mobile interception
- 23 device.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, no, but it is an
- 25 either/or because if it's -- if there's a

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1 mobile interception device, it's both. And if
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- 2 it's not a mobile interception device, it's
- 3 only one.
- 4 MR. TRIPP: Right, and I think --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: And that's a
- 6 disjunctive thing, it's only one or it's both?
- 7 MR. TRIPP: Yes, but -- but that is
- 8 something that goes to how the government is
- 9 going to implement the order, how we're going
- 10 to go about intercepting the communications.
- 11 It -- it is not a -- a determination
- 12 that the judge needs to make up front when
- issuing the order.
- 14 Actually, I think another thing that
- drives that home is in (3), (3) goes on and
- lists a number of things that come after this
- 17 jurisdictional provision that the judge must
- determine on the basis of facts submitted by
- 19 the applicant. And jurisdiction is not one of
- those things, because the application doesn't
- 21 need to say --
- 22 JUSTICE BREYER: It does say --
- 23 MR. TRIPP: -- whether we're using a
- 24 mobile interception device. We -- that -- that
- 25 -- that's not part of the process.

1	JUSTICE BREYER: This was a new								
2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Tripp, how do								
3	you how do you answer Mr. Shanmugam's								
4	positing, suppose this order had authorized the								
5	interception to continue for 180 days when the								
6	statute says only 30 days?								
7	MR. TRIPP: Yeah. So I we actually								
8	offered a pretty similar hypothetical to this								
9	in our brief at page 37, because I think it's								
10	it's a good illustration of the practical								
11	difference between our position and								
12	Petitioner's.								
13	So both sides are in full agreement								
14	that from days 31 forward we can't use the								
15	evidence. It would need to be suppressed.								
16	The principal difference between our								
17	positions is that what we're saying is that								
18	from days 1 to 30, when the order has validly								
19	authorized us to intercept those								
20	communications, in full conformity with Title								
21	III, we have that authority.								
22	Whereas, what Petitioners are saying								
23	is that, as soon as it goes across the line at								
24	all, right, if it said 31 days instead of 30,								
25	their their position is that you need to								

- 1 throw all of the evidence out, no matter what,
- 2 even if the government noticed the problem and
- 3 never did any interception after day 30.
- 4 So it's really a very extreme
- 5 position. We offer a --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm a little bit
- 7 still worried about what we discovered at the
- 8 outset, that at least they are claiming that
- 9 this order has to say you have authority to
- 10 wiretap in Kansas as well as outside.
- 11 So it occurs -- there are two things
- 12 which worry me. The first, by the way, it does
- 13 say in Kansas. Where it says Kansas is under
- 14 the signature of the district judge.
- MR. TRIPP: Right.
- JUSTICE BREYER: So it may be that
- they're thinking, given (3), you know, given
- 18 what you read us in -- on page 16a where it
- 19 says a judge can within his territorial
- 20 jurisdiction authorize a wiretap, that that's
- 21 good enough. It says he's in Kansas. It says
- in the statute that you can authorize it within
- the state you're in, and, therefore, we know
- 24 this authorizes Kansas.
- Now they're going to say, if they --

- if this were what the argument were about, that
- isn't good enough. It should say: And you can
- 3 do it.
- 4 Now what I'm worried about is that
- 5 there are thousands, that this is a -- this is
- 6 a form and that there are thousands of wiretap
- orders, perhaps, throughout the country which
- 8 do not say in district X; though it says I am a
- 9 judge in district X, they did -- do not say
- 10 that you have authority to tap in district X in
- 11 those words.
- 12 I'm worried about that because I
- wouldn't like this case suddenly to cast doubt
- 14 without argument, you know, full argument --
- MR. TRIPP: Right.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: -- on those
- thousands, if there are those thousands. Do
- 18 you know?
- 19 MR. TRIPP: I would say I'm quite
- 20 worried about that as well. I guess I don't
- 21 have extensive empirical evidence of how often
- 22 we were issuing orders that didn't include that
- 23 precise language in part because it hadn't been
- 24 the focus of the case.
- 25 I do know that language like this was

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1 quite common at the relevant time in 2012 when
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- 2 the only judicial precedent interpreting the
- 3 phrase "mobile interception device" had held
- 4 that it included the tapped cell phone. And so
- 5 it was quite common for orders to include this
- 6 language saying, yes, you can also put your
- 7 wire room outside Kansas.
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. I got that. I
- 9 see that. There's one other question I have,
- 10 which is, since that wasn't fully argued, what
- do you say in response to their argument that
- these questions of severability and reading, et
- cetera, while very interesting, were not the
- 14 subject of any argument below?
- MR. TRIPP: Well, so, on that, I think
- 16 I'd like to echo what Justice Ginsburg pointed
- out earlier, which is that we -- we won on the
- 18 basis of severability in the district court. I
- 19 think the clearest indication of that is the
- 20 magistrate judge's opinion, at page 73a of the
- 21 Pet. App., where the magistrate judge described
- it as "academic" whether there was a problem
- with that additional language in the orders,
- and then, in the Pet. App. at 64a, the district
- court said, as applied, the orders did not

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1 violate the statute. And we --
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- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Cox, just so I
- 3 understand your argument, your argument really
- 4 is that the core -- the court's approach was
- 5 right, that the core concern analysis applies
- 6 to (ii) and (iii), that what we announced in
- 7 Giordano and -- and -- was it Chavez?
- 8 MR. TRIPP: Chavez -- yeah.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- that that
- inquiry applies to those two subdivisions.
- 11 MR. TRIPP: I -- I think --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So let -- let's
- 13 assume for the sake of argument, because I
- 14 understand you're saying the only thing needed
- by the order is subparagraph (iv), that if it
- misses any one of these four things, we apply
- 17 the core concerns analysis.
- 18 MR. TRIPP: No, I don't think that's a
- 19 -- that's an accurate description of our
- 20 position.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what is your --
- 22 your -- your -- your point?
- 23 MR. TRIPP: So I think it would help
- if I could clarify what exactly we mean by
- 25 "insufficient" and "overbroad."

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JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, I don't want
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- 2 to know those terms. I want what the circuit
- 3 split is. The D.C. Circuit has said -- taken a
- 4 position contrary to yours in this case, but
- 5 the D.C. Circuit has said that the core
- 6 concerns analysis that we used for subdivision
- 7 (i) doesn't apply to (ii) and (iii). Do you
- 8 disagree with that?
- 9 MR. TRIPP: So the way I -- I like to
- 10 put it is -- so our front line --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, just answer my
- 12 question.
- MR. TRIPP: We think that the court of
- 14 appeals -- to the extent the Chavez and
- 15 Giordano test is relevant, we think the court
- of appeals put it in the wrong box. There --
- 17 there is no dispute that once you have an order
- 18 that is insufficient and you're trying to
- 19 decide whether to suppress tainted evidence on
- 20 the grounds that the order is insufficient on
- 21 its face, that Chavez and Giordano do not come
- 22 into play at that point.
- 23 Our -- our -- our --
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Your point is that
- 25 this is not insufficient?

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1 MR. TRIPP: Our -- right. Our -- our
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- 2 primary arguments -- our arguments here are
- 3 that this order was not insufficient and -- and
- 4 -- and in any event, even you think it was, the
- 5 error is severable, that --
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Tripp -- I'm
- 7 sorry, finish your sentence.
- 8 MR. TRIPP: Well, I -- so I just want
- 9 to be clear about --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, if you're really
- 11 going to --
- 12 MR. TRIPP: Go -- go ahead. Yeah.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: When you say
- "insufficient," I mean, you know, the Chief
- Justice raises a very good point that
- 16 "insufficient" doesn't usually mean invalid,
- 17 that it usually means lacking something.
- 18 So then the question is, well, was
- 19 this order lacking something? And you say no,
- it wasn't because it didn't have to have
- 21 anything about the jurisdictional reach of the
- 22 interception. And I guess I'm a little bit
- 23 concerned listening to you, I mean, if we -- if
- 24 we accepted that, how are these orders supposed
- 25 to read? We're going to go tell every court

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1 you don't have to put anything in your order
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- 2 about whether this is only within the
- 3 jurisdiction or outside that jurisdiction?
- Because, again, there are really two
- 5 choices in the statute depending upon whether a
- 6 mobile interception device is -- is at issue.
- 7 And if we say, well, this is not insufficient
- 8 because you don't have to have that, what are
- 9 we going to be creating, a world of orders in
- which the judge doesn't tell anybody whether
- 11 this is within the jurisdiction or whether it's
- 12 also outside the jurisdiction?
- MR. TRIPP: No, I don't think that's
- 14 the upshot of our position. I think one thing
- 15 to just point out, as a practical matter, these
- orders contain a large amount of material that
- 17 Title III does not actually require them to
- 18 contain in order for interception of the
- 19 communications to lawfully occur under Title
- 20 III.
- Like the orders in this case, for
- 22 example, include these recitations of probable
- 23 cause and necessity and -- and -- and other
- information that is not strictly required. And
- 25 -- and the government often asks to have that

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1 in -- in these orders because, you know, in
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- 2 practice they are heavily picked over. We like
- 3 to be sure that the district court knows in
- 4 advance what it is that we're actually doing.
- 5 I think actually maybe this is a case
- 6 where it backfired, where we were, you know,
- 7 trying to cover our bases, be sure that the
- 8 district court understand what we -- what we
- 9 might do in this case. It so happened that we
- 10 didn't rely on any of the evidence in this
- 11 trial that was intercepted from outside Kansas,
- 12 so I think -- I don't think, by the way, it had
- 13 --
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: I guess --
- JUSTICE ALITO: If the -- if the -- if
- 16 you were seeking to use a mobile -- a real
- mobile interception device, would that appear
- in the application?
- 19 MR. TRIPP: I think if we were going
- 20 to actually seek for approval to put a bug in
- 21 somebody's car like a mobile interception
- device in that way, I think it would be clear
- from the application that that's what we were
- 24 talking about doing.
- 25 But the -- the orders -- you know, in

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1 the applications and the orders, we didn't
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- 2 explain to the court that we were going to be
- 3 tapping from a wire room on the -- on the basis
- 4 of a provider cooperation obtained under a
- 5 different federal statute that the --
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, when this
- 7 statute was enacted in 1968, there were no cell
- 8 phones. So I would think that -- I'm not sure
- 9 what -- under what circumstances the order
- 10 would need to specify where the -- the
- 11 tap was going to be.
- 12 It would have to -- it would have to
- say that you're authorized to tap a particular
- 14 number, which would be registered at a
- 15 particular place, so it would be taken care of
- otherwise. Would you need to have a -- would
- 17 there be circumstances at that time where you
- 18 needed a separate provision of the order
- 19 specifying where?
- 20 MR. TRIPP: No. I think, you know,
- 21 the manner in which interception has very much
- 22 changed in the last 50 years with the change in
- 23 technology, it is, of course -- I think it's
- 24 undisputed in this case that the interception
- of a cell phone occurs wherever we put the wire

- 1 room.
- 2 And, again, I'd like to emphasize that
- 3 not only did we only use evidence in this case
- 4 that was intercepted from inside Kansas, we
- 5 only used evidence in this case under orders
- 6 where the interception was exclusively inside
- 7 Kansas. There were -- there were --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Tripp, one
- 9 thing that -- one thing that the statute
- 10 requires is that the order identify the person
- 11 authorizing the wiretap. Now let's say you put
- 12 your name down, Zachary Tripp, Assistant to the
- 13 Solicitor General. You have satisfied the
- 14 statute. You have identified the person
- authorizing the wiretap, but you're not allowed
- 16 to do that.
- 17 Now is that -- that's invalid. Would
- 18 you say it's also insufficient?
- 19 MR. TRIPP: Maybe you could read the
- 20 statute that way. We -- we don't take it that
- 21 far. We think that when the statute --
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you think
- 23 something that literally complies with the
- 24 statute can be insufficient because it's
- 25 invalid?

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1 MR. TRIPP: It -- it's more that I
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- 2 think when the statute says that you need to
- 3 identify -- so each order needs to identify the
- 4 identity of the person who approved the
- 5 application and then when the -- the Title III
- 6 tells you that that has to be a person of, you
- 7 know --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Right.
- 9 MR. TRIPP: -- that -- that that
- incorporates that into the requirement. And so
- if it were to identify somebody like me or the
- 12 -- an executive assistant, somebody who clearly
- didn't have the -- the authority, then, no, it
- 14 would be insufficient as -- as to that.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Then it would be
- 16 lacking, lacking something.
- 17 MR. TRIPP: It would be lacking
- 18 something that Title III expressly makes
- 19 necessary.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What would it
- 21 be lacking? It says that you should identify
- 22 the person authorizing it. You do that. You
- 23 put your name down there. It's not lacking
- 24 anything. It's just not authorized.
- MR. TRIPP: I would -- so --

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1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I mean, it's
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- 2 not permitted under the statute.
- 3 MR. TRIPP: I think -- so our -- our
- 4 -- our definition of what "insufficient" on its
- 5 face means is that if it is lacking something
- 6 that is necessary for the government to
- 7 actually just rely on the orders to intercept
- 8 the communications at issue, I think in that
- 9 case it would be quite clear that the order
- 10 would be lacking something that is necessary
- 11 for the government to intercept those
- 12 communications. The order would tell you on
- its face that it was approved by an official
- 14 who -- who lacked the ability to do that.
- 15 That's actually in -- in response to
- 16 my brother. That's one of the examples of
- 17 where we think the -- the suppression under
- 18 prong 2 can reach some situations where prong 1
- 19 would not apply, like if -- if, in fact, an
- 20 appropriate official had approved it
- 21 notwithstanding what it said on the face of the
- 22 order.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Tripp, I'd like
- to ask you about the Glover case, a D.C.
- 25 Circuit case which is set up as creating a

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1 split with this decision.
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- 2 Am I wrong in my understanding of
- 3 Glover that the district court in the District
- 4 of Columbia authorized something that she had
- 5 no authority to order because she ordered a bug
- 6 to be attached to a truck in another
- 7 jurisdiction?
- 8 So it wasn't a question of
- 9 overbreadth. It was a question that she didn't
- 10 have authority to order that a bug be placed on
- 11 -- in a truck in another jurisdiction.
- 12 MR. TRIPP: Right. In -- in -- in
- 13 Glover, that was a case that involved the use
- of evidence that -- that -- that was, you know,
- actually squarely obtained pursuant to the
- order saying that they could do that.
- 17 And -- and -- and so, yeah, I think
- 18 that really -- the -- the circuit conflict --
- 19 I'm not sure there really was a circuit
- 20 conflict. Obviously, we opposed certiorari
- 21 here. And I think the -- the sort of -- the
- trickier questions in this area about, well,
- 23 what do you do when the government is actually
- 24 relying on evidence that was obtained outside
- 25 the jurisdiction, and in particular based on

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1 the misreading of the phrase "a mobile
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- 2 interception device, " just none of that is
- 3 presented here.
- 4 And I think there -- there are two
- 5 just much easier threshold ways of resolving
- 6 this case. I think, frankly, the easiest is on
- 7 the grounds of severability, the
- 8 straightforward way we won this case below.
- 9 I think the other is just to say that
- 10 the orders were not insufficient because they
- 11 -- they did include everything that Title III
- 12 required them to contain, an order for the
- 13 government to perform interception inside
- 14 Kansas, and that's the only evidence we relied
- 15 on at trial.
- I think just one other -- I just want
- 17 to clarify one other thing I said earlier.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, if we're
- 19 talking about easy ways to resolve this case, I
- 20 have to say the more I think about this, the
- 21 more it seems really complicated to me, what's
- supposed to be in these orders and what's not
- 23 supposed to be in these orders.
- 24 The only thing I'm sure of in this
- 25 case is that there's no core concern

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1 requirement.
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- 2 So why isn't that the easy way to
- decide this case and leave everything else for
- 4 cases where actually people have briefed and
- 5 addressed these questions of what has to be in
- 6 and what has to be out and when you can call
- 7 something insufficient and when not?
- 8 MR. TRIPP: So, of course, we agree
- 9 that the Court could send the case back to the
- 10 court of appeals on that basis, although I just
- 11 -- a couple caveats.
- We agree that, basically as a fall
- 13 back argument on insufficiency, that the --
- 14 that the Chavez and Giordano test is -- is
- appropriately considered as to whether the
- 16 order is insufficient on -- in -- in the first
- 17 place. I -- I wouldn't want to leave that out.
- 18 I think another couple -- couple of
- 19 points on this is we've been making these
- 20 arguments about -- that the order is not
- 21 actually insufficient on its face and that it
- 22 -- it just doesn't matter here because we
- 23 didn't use any evidence that was intercepted
- outside Kansas. We've been making these
- 25 arguments all along. We won it on this basis

- 1 in the district court. We preserved these
- 2 arguments in the court of appeals. It flew by
- 3 them and -- and -- but I -- I -- I don't think
- 4 that -- that -- that the right result is -- is
- 5 to -- is to treat it as if we haven't made
- 6 these arguments.
- 7 I think the appropriate course is --
- 8 is simply to affirm.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: On that one point,
- 10 might it have been true that you did use some
- of the California intercepts from -- that
- originate from Missouri as part of your general
- investigation? Maybe that hasn't been raised
- 14 in this case.
- MR. TRIPP: Yeah, and this is -- this
- 16 is --
- 17 JUSTICE KENNEDY: It would be, maybe,
- 18 fruit of the poison tree argument or something
- 19 like that.
- 20 MR. TRIPP: Yeah, this is something I
- 21 wanted to clarify. So -- so we did not use any
- 22 evidence that was the fruit of the poisonous
- 23 tree. We did not use any evidence obtained any
- 24 -- under any order where we did any
- 25 interception outside Kansas.

There were 10 orders entered in this

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2
      case. For nine of them, including all the
 3
      orders covering Petitioner's phones and all the
 4
      orders we relied on at trial, interception was
 5
      all in Kansas.
 6
               For the one remaining order, we did
 7
      the interception at the DEA headquarters in
 8
      St. Louis, where there was better Spanish
 9
      language capability. But we didn't use any
10
      evidence under that order at this trial here.
11
               I think also one -- one point I really
12
     do want to emphasize here is that I think our
      -- our primary interest in this case is in
13
14
     being sure that the Court not adopt
15
      Petitioner's very extreme rule where, as -- as
16
      long as there is any statutory violation of any
17
     kind apparent on the face of an order, then you
18
      automatically and mechanically need to suppress
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- 20 no matter what, even when there's no causal
- 21 link between the error and the interception of

all of the evidence obtained under that order

the evidence.

19

- That would be very damaging. I think
- 24 this case is a -- a good example of -- of -- of
- 25 why that frankly doesn't make all that much

- 1 sense.
- 2 I have a lot of trouble imagining --
- 3 excuse me -- that any Congress would knowingly
- 4 enact that rule. I admit that this statute is
- 5 ambiguous. You could potentially read it
- 6 Petitioner's way.
- 7 But I think, with all due respect to
- 8 Petitioners, it is also ambiguous and you could
- 9 read it our way: That insufficiency only means
- 10 some errors, not all of them.
- 11 Only some things make an order
- 12 insufficient. Some -- this error just made it
- overbroad, not insufficient. And -- and,
- 14 regardless, even if you disagree with that,
- 15 that -- that you can sever the mistake, the
- 16 orders here were not insufficient to authorize
- 17 the interception of these communications inside
- 18 Kansas, and that's the only evidence we relied
- 19 on in this trial.
- So, if there's no further questions,
- 21 I'm asking the Court to affirm.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 23 counsel.
- Four minutes, Mr. Shanmugam.

1	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF KANNON K. SHANMUGAM
2	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
3	MR. SHANMUGAM: Thank you, Mr. Chief
4	Justice.
5	The district court in this case
6	exceeded its power under Title III by
7	authorizing what was effectively a nationwide
8	wiretap for the phones at issue.
9	And in doing so, the district court
10	entered orders that under the statute it simply
11	lacked the power to order. The orders at issue
12	here were ultra vires.
13	Now the government concedes that the
14	orders did not comply with the jurisdictional
15	requirement, and instead it argues that the
16	communications at issue could have been
17	lawfully intercepted if the district court had
18	only entered narrower orders.
19	But if, in fact, that is sufficient to
20	avoid suppression, it's really difficult to see
21	what purpose subparagraph (2) serves in this
22	statute at all. Subparagraph (2) by its terms
23	must apply in circumstances in which the
24	communications at issue were, in fact, lawfully
25	intercepted.

т	And I would note parenthetically in
2	response to this back and forth both with me
3	and with Mr. Tripp on the issue of what would
4	happen if the orders were completely silent,
5	that it's hard to see how these orders could be
6	silent on something as fundamental as the
7	question of where interception may occur.
8	And, if anything, in 1968, well before
9	the advent of modern mobile telephone
10	technology, you might think that Congress, if
11	anything, would have been more concerned about
12	the risk of forum shopping and more desirous of
13	ensuring that oversight over wiretap orders was
14	performed by the courts with the closest
15	geographic nexus to the investigations at
16	issue.
17	But, again, whatever you think about
18	this question of what would happen when an
19	order is silent, we have orders here that the
20	government no longer defends, that the
21	government recognizes exceeded the district
22	court's power to enter.
23	I would say a a just a couple of
24	things about the government's argument on the
25	issue of

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: On that point, Mr.
- 2 Shanmugam, there was a legitimate dispute
- 3 whether the mobile phone itself qualified as
- 4 whatever the -- the intercept device. There
- 5 was a -- the -- the government took the wrong
- 6 position on that, it now admits that it was the
- 7 wrong position, but the courts were confused
- 8 whether the mobile phone itself constituted the
- 9 interception device.
- 10 MR. SHANMUGAM: That's right, Justice
- 11 Ginsburg. But the government does not argue
- 12 before this Court for a good-faith exception.
- 13 In Footnote 6, the government concedes that
- that argument was waived below. And that would
- be the appropriate place to locate any such
- 16 concern.
- 17 And so what we're left with is the
- 18 government really, again, primarily relying on
- 19 two arguments: The argument about the meaning
- of insufficiency, and its severance argument.
- 21 And on the issue of insufficiency, as
- 22 I indicated in my opening argument, that would
- 23 really lead to absurd results.
- 24 And I think the most telling moment in
- 25 Mr. Tripp's argument was when he was asked

- 1 about our hypothetical of an order that
- 2 authorized a 180-day wiretap, and in response
- 3 to that, tellingly, he didn't attempt to make
- 4 the argument that that would not fall within
- 5 the scope of the phrase "insufficient." He
- 6 turned it to the government's severance
- 7 argument instead.
- 8 And I think that that hypothetical,
- 9 and the Chief Justice's hypothetical of an
- order authorized by Mr. Tripp itself, really
- illustrates that narrowing insufficiency to
- 12 exclude overbreadth would really lead to absurd
- 13 results.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, our legal
- 15 system usually does not give a party relief
- 16 based on a mistake that had absolutely no
- 17 effect on the party.
- Now I understand that the provision
- 19 that's directly at issue here is an exception
- 20 to that. It is a -- it is a list. It's some
- 21 kind of a -- there's some requirements that
- have to be in the warrant, and whether or not
- 23 they had any effect whatsoever, the statute
- 24 says that there has to be suppression.
- 25 But when you have that kind of a rule

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1 that is purely a formal rule, would you not
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- 2 expect to find in the statute a very clear
- 3 specification of the things that have to be in
- 4 the warrant, a very clear checklist, so that
- 5 somebody can be certain that all of those steps
- 6 are -- are covered, even if they have no
- 7 effect?
- 8 MR. SHANMUGAM: Justice Alito, that
- 9 might be -- may I answer, Mr. Chief Justice?
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- 11 MR. SHANMUGAM: That might be a better
- way to write the statute. Congress plainly
- didn't do that because it scattered those
- 14 requirements across several subsections.
- But I think that your question
- 16 reflects this concern about the harshness of
- 17 the rule, the extremeness of the rule. And on
- 18 that, I think that we can be certain that what
- 19 Congress intended to do, as this Court said in
- 20 Giordano, was to ensure strict compliance with
- 21 the statute's requirements, and it created a
- 22 muscular suppression remedy in order to
- 23 effectuate that goal.
- 24 And we would ask for reversal of the
- 25 judgments below. Thank you.

1			CHIEF	r JUSI	ГІСІ	ER	ROBERTS	S: Th	ank y	you,
2	cour	nsel.	The	case	is	su	ıbmitte	ed.		
3			(Wher	eupor	ı, a	at	12:11	p.m.,	the	case
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