## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME	COURT	OF	THE	UNITED	STATES
TERANCE MARTEZ GAMBLE,			)		
Petitione	r,		)		
v.			)	No. 17	-646
UNITED STATES,			)		
Responden	t.		)		

Pages: 1 through 92

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: December 6, 2018

## HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
2		
3	TERANCE MARTEZ GAMBLE,	)
4	Petitioner,	)
5	V.	) No. 17-646
6	UNITED STATES,	)
7	Respondent.	)
8		
9		
10	Washington, D.	.C.
11	Thursday, December	er 6, 2018
12		
13	The above-entitled	d matter came on for
14	oral argument before the Supre	eme Court of the
15	United States at 10:04 a.m.	
16		
17	APPEARANCES:	
18	LOUIS A. CHAITEN, ESQ., Clevel	land, Ohio; on behalf
19	of the Petitioner.	
20	ERIC J. FEIGIN, Assistant to t	the Solicitor General
21	Department of Justice, Was	shington, D.C.;
22	on behalf of the Responder	nt.
23	KYLE D. HAWKINS, Texas Solicit	tor General, Austin,
24	Texas; for Texas, et al.,	as amici curiae,
25	in support of affirmance.	

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:04 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument this morning in Case 17-646, Gamble
5	versus United States.
6	Mr. Chaiten.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF LOUIS A. CHAITEN
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. CHAITEN: Thank you, Mr. Chief
10	Justice, and may it please the Court:
11	The separate sovereigns exception to
12	the Double Jeopardy Clause is inconsistent with
13	the text and original meaning of the Double
14	Jeopardy Clause. There is no dispute that the
15	text of the clause was understood to
16	incorporate English practice. And there was no
17	practice of intersovereign successive
18	prosecutions in all of English history or in
19	American history for the first century of this
20	republic after the framing.
21	There's also a mountain of affirmative
22	evidence that in England, even a foreign
23	acquittal by a court of competent and current
24	concurrent jurisdiction bars a subsequent
25	prosecution in England for the for the

1	same offense.
2	JUSTICE ALITO: You think that's fair
3	to
4	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, your
5	JUSTICE ALITO: Excuse me, Chief.
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Your leading
7	authority is a foreign prosecution in England
8	of the the in in the Spanish case.
9	And the argument on the other side, which has
10	some traction, I think, is that it would be
11	quite unusual or surprising for the new
12	American republic to look to Europe in a
13	question like that because the one concern, and
14	applies both in the English situation as well,
15	is that it would be a significant intrusion on
16	sovereignty, a particular concern of the new
17	new American republic, to allow a foreign
18	prosecution to limit the authority of of the
19	the United States.
20	It's and, frankly, it's would be
21	surprising even in the the English case. I
22	mean, the the relations between Spain and
23	England were not exactly the the best. And
24	why I mean, if it if it were a Spanish
25	case involving the murder of Englishmen, would

- 1 the English court really have said, well, he
- 2 was tried in Spain, so we're -- our hands are
- 3 tied?
- 4 MR. CHAITEN: Well, there's
- 5 overwhelming evidence, as I said, that that is
- 6 the English rule, and there's no dispute that
- 7 the framers were incorporating English practice
- 8 into the Double Jeopardy Clause. And --
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Any -- any country
- 10 in the world?
- 11 MR. CHAITEN: Any country in the
- 12 world?
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes. If there's --
- 14 MR. CHAITEN: Well, it -- I'm -- I'm
- 15 sorry.
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: If there's a -- a
- 17 prior criminal proceeding, either an acquittal
- or a conviction, any country in the world, that
- 19 would count?
- 20 MR. CHAITEN: So -- so there are a few
- 21 requirements. One, it would have to be the
- 22 same offense, so you would have to meet the
- 23 English standard, which is, in fact, the
- 24 standard of this Court today.
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: It isn't clear. I

- 1 mean, I thought when I read your brief, well,
- 2 you're absolutely right. But then I read the
- 3 other side on the practice.
- 4 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE BREYER: And now I'm not going
- 6 to say you're absolutely wrong, but three times
- 7 the Court has considered your arguments, looked
- 8 at those cases, the English case, Hutchinson,
- 9 no report. Later cases refer to it. There was
- 10 a complexity involving a special commission
- 11 designed to try people who had committed murder
- outside the country. The King's Bench didn't
- 13 have authority. The King's Bench referred it
- 14 to that commission, and that commission said:
- 15 Well, he was acquitted in Portugal and,
- therefore, we will not try him in this special
- 17 commission designed to, dah-dah.
- 18 And does that reflect a principle of
- 19 law? Does it reflect something about the
- 20 commission? Does it reflect something about
- 21 the individual circumstances? So far, it seems
- to me, no one has any idea. If you read Gage,
- you'll discover the other side's argument. And
- the same is true of the early cases. I won't
- 25 go through all of them here.

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1
               MR. CHAITEN: So -- so --
 2
               JUSTICE BREYER: But the early cases,
 3
      we find some --
 4
               MR. CHAITEN: So -- so --
 5
               JUSTICE BREYER: -- you know, that
 6
      support you and some that don't. What do we
 7
      do?
 8
               MR. CHAITEN: So I -- I do think they
9
      all support us.
10
               JUSTICE BREYER: They all support you?
11
               MR. CHAITEN: Yes, I do believe they
      all support us. And the one -- the one case
12
13
      you mentioned that is -- potentially leans the
      other way is Gage, but it's a civil case and
14
15
      it's analogizing to Hutchinson for the purposes
16
      of -- of -- of how -- a rule about recognition
17
      of civil judgments. And there is no ancient
      rule rooted in Talmud, in Roman law, in Greek
18
      law, in canon law, in ancient English common
19
20
      law to have your civil judgments recognized by
21
      another court.
2.2
               JUSTICE BREYER: No, I -- I -- I
23
      accept that.
24
               MR. CHAITEN: There is not to be
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prosecuted by -- for -- for a successive

1	prosecution. And the point is not
2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: May I ask you to
3	just step back and so you can complete your
4	answer to my question? I had asked you any
5	country in the world, the judgment from any
6	country in in the world.
7	MR. CHAITEN: So so, if if
8	you're asking me what the English rule was, I
9	would say yes, that is, but there are three
10	important qualifications on the rule. First,
11	it it does have to be the same offense, so
12	there is no dispute in in in the case of
13	the murder in Portugal and the trial in England
14	or the murder in in the Cape of Good Hope
15	and the trial in England that those were the
16	same offense. They were both murder.
17	But sometimes that's a little more
18	complicated because it has to be the same
19	elements. That's the that's the meaning of
20	"same offense" under this Court's jurisprudence
21	and under the original meaning.
22	Secondly, and and and this is
23	very important, the second court has to
24	recognize the competent and concurrent
25	concurrent jurisdiction of the first court.

- 1 That -- that's part of the English rule.
- 2 And there's no dispute -- whatever may
- 3 arise in the international context, there's no
- 4 dispute that Alabama and this -- the federal
- 5 government have competent and concurrent
- 6 jurisdiction over the offense of being a felon
- 7 in possession.
- 8 So, at least in this country, the
- 9 answer seems pretty clear, because the rule was
- 10 a concurrent jurisdiction rule, and there's no
- 11 doubt that there is concurrent jurisdiction. I
- don't think the idea, even at the framing, that
- 13 you would recognize a -- an acquittal in
- 14 another country as a bar to prosecution could
- 15 possibly be so shocking because it was
- 16 mentioned in Furlong. It was discussed in
- 17 Furlong.
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How -- how -- how
- 19 --
- 20 MR. CHAITEN: And the only --
- JUSTICE ALITO: What's the third --
- 22 what's the third requirement?
- MR. CHAITEN: The third requirement is
- that it can't be a sham prosecution or a
- 25 collusive prosecution. But then you're never

- 1 really --
- JUSTICE ALITO: All right, it can't be
- 3 a sham. So, today, let's say a group of
- 4 American tourists are murdered by terrorists in
- 5 a foreign country, and there is a prosecution
- in the foreign country for murder, the same
- 7 offense in a court of competent jurisdiction
- 8 there, and it's not a sham prosecution, but
- 9 it's a fairly inept prosecution, lack of
- 10 prosecutorial investigative resources in a poor
- 11 country, and it results in an acquittal or a
- 12 conviction with a very light sentence.
- 13 And your position is that there could
- 14 not be a prosecution here in the United States
- 15 under the statute enacted by Congress to permit
- 16 the prosecution of individuals who murder
- 17 Americans abroad?
- 18 MR. CHAITEN: So -- so let me address
- 19 that in a few different ways. One, the
- 20 original understanding was that it applied
- 21 between countries.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, well --
- MR. CHAITEN: But that -- and that's
- 24 --
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: -- could you just

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1 answer whether that's correct or not? And if
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- it's not correct, why is it not correct?
- 3 MR. CHAITEN: Under the original
- 4 understanding, it would be up to the U.S. court
- 5 to determine whether it's going to recognize
- 6 the competent and concurrent jurisdiction of
- 7 that other country.
- 8 What I'm saying is, in the case of
- 9 federal and state relations, there is no
- 10 dispute about that.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: But I really don't
- 12 think you're --
- 13 MR. CHAITEN: There's binding law on
- 14 that.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, I don't think
- 16 this is in -- a surprise question or a
- 17 particularly difficult one. It is a court of
- 18 competent jurisdiction. It is the court that,
- 19 in that case -- in that country has
- 20 jurisdiction to try offenses for murder. No
- 21 question about that.
- MR. CHAITEN: Well, it's not -- it's
- 23 --
- JUSTICE ALITO: So your answer is?
- 25 Can they be prosecuted here or can they not be

- 1 prosecuted here? The -- the -- the 2 MR. CHAITEN: answer, it's not just that the particular court 3 is competent jurisdiction; it's that we're 4 5 going to recognize the jurisdiction of the 6 other country over the crime. This was the 7 point that Furlong was making about the -- the 8 murder of a British subject by a British subject on a British ship, and Furlong says 9 10 it's pretty doubtful that England would 11 actually recognize a U.S. acquittal in that case because England would say you have no 12 13 basis for concurrent jurisdiction over that crime. 14 15 So that's the determination the U.S. 16 court would make. You don't have to reach that 17 question in this case. Our point is that if that was the rule at the -- at the -- if that 18 19 was the original understanding at the time of 20 the framing --21 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well -- well, we do have to reach --2.2
- MR. CHAITEN: -- if the rule -
  JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- we do have to
- 25 reach that question because your position

- 1 logically would extend to Justice Alito's
- 2 hypothetical, and if prosecution is part of the
- 3 national security efforts of the United States,
- 4 federal prosecution, and your position would
- 5 substantially hamper those national security
- 6 efforts.
- 7 MR. CHAITEN: So -- so I -- I'm saying
- 8 the reason you don't have to reach the
- 9 questions, obviously, this is a case involving
- 10 an Alabama crime and -- and -- and a federal
- 11 crime, and there is --
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But the logic of
- 13 your position --
- 14 MR. CHAITEN: The logic of our
- 15 position, though -- but -- but the point is
- 16 whatever -- whatever the court's ruling in that
- 17 case, were it ever to come up, which I think is
- 18 exceedingly unlikely, this is a different case
- 19 because it's so much stronger.
- 20 If the -- if the original
- 21 understanding was the rule applied between
- 22 foreign countries, then, a fortiori, it should
- 23 apply between a state and federal government
- 24 that --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, a fortiori, but

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1 -- but your -- your -- you say -- I -- I wonder
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- 2 whether you have perhaps exaggerated in saying
- 3 there's a mountain of support for your
- 4 position. But your main support is a -- a
- 5 rumor of a decision involving a prior
- 6 prosecution in Portugal and then the
- 7 possibility of a subsequent prosecution in
- 8 England. So it's a foreign prosecution.
- 9 MR. CHAITEN: So --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: It -- it's true,
- 11 that's not what's involved here, but your --
- 12 your argument is based on foreign prosecutions.
- MR. CHAITEN: The original
- 14 understanding was based on foreign
- 15 prosecutions. The point is, in -- on the
- 16 question presented here, a fortiori, it should
- 17 apply between federal and state government.
- 18 There is a principled basis for limiting this
- 19 to governments bound by the Double Jeopardy
- 20 Clause if the Court --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But --
- MR. CHAITEN: -- wanted to do that.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- but, Mr. Chaiten, I
- 24 think --
- 25 MR. CHAITEN: It did that in --

- 3 which is based on this original understanding,
- 4 and the original understanding, as you put it,
- 5 applies between foreign countries, and, a
- 6 fortiori, it must be that our decision would
- 7 apply between foreign countries.
- 8 MR. CHAITEN: The -- the original
- 9 understanding is it would.
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: And that's what --
- 11 MR. CHAITEN: In Murphy v. Waterfront
- 12 Commission --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: That's -- that's --
- that's what your brief is all about. That's
- 15 what you're asking us to say, that the original
- 16 understanding was that there would be no double
- jeopardy bar between different sovereigns when
- 18 those sovereigns are foreign countries. So how
- 19 could we avoid that consequence?
- 20 MR. CHAITEN: Well, first of all, I'm
- 21 not sure the case is ever going to arise, but
- 22 -- and this is State of Alabama and federal
- 23 government and its undisputed concurrent
- 24 jurisdiction. The rule is a rule of concurrent
- 25 jurisdiction. So it's when is the U.S. going

- 1 to recognize the current -- concurrent
- 2 jurisdiction of another country.
- 3 And, again, I want -- just wanted to
- 4 say that Murphy v. Waterfront Commission is a
- 5 case where the court held that the
- 6 self-incrimination privilege applies
- 7 cross-jurisdictionally. The Court subsequently
- 8 limited that to parties bound by the Double
- 9 Jeopardy Clause.
- 10 So there is a principled way of doing
- 11 this if the Court ever gets such a case and
- 12 wants to do that. And I would like to
- 13 emphasize that is -- it would be -- no one in
- 14 any of these briefs has pointed to a pattern of
- 15 intersovereign successive prosecutions between
- 16 nations that is going to be disrupted by our
- 17 rule, even if the Court were to suggest that
- it's -- it would also apply between foreign
- 19 nations.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, can I ask you a
- 21 different --
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We've been
- 23 through -- we've been through all this in
- 24 Bartkus, right?
- 25 MR. CHAITEN: I don't think the Court

1 has been -- ever given this question a full and

- 2 fair opportunity, certainly post-incorporation,
- 3 and it's important to understand how the
- 4 holding of this Court arose.
- 5 There was, of course, a suggestion in
- 6 Fox v. Ohio in 1847 that there might be a
- 7 separate sovereigns exception. It was based on
- 8 a non-incorporation rationale, but no one
- 9 actually -- it's dicta. It's the purest dicta,
- 10 because there were no intersovereign successive
- 11 prosecutions, not only not in that case but no
- 12 practice of them.
- 13 The first time this Court had a chance
- 14 to actually hold whether that's permissible was
- 15 Lanza. And I think it's worth reading the
- 16 respondent's brief in -- in Lanza, Lanza's
- 17 brief. There was no representation, the
- 18 position we're presenting here. The brief was
- incoherent, and the Court said I think what
- 20 counsel is arguing is that the separate
- 21 sovereigns exception doesn't apply in the
- 22 particular context of the Eighteenth Amendment,
- 23 given the concurrent powers of the states and
- 24 the federal government. But the --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: None of these

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1 concerns were presented in Bartkus, though,
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- 2 right?
- 3 MR. CHAITEN: Excuse me?
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: None of the
- 5 concerns you've been talking about there were
- 6 presented in Bartkus?
- 7 MR. CHAITEN: So -- so I -- I'm just
- 8 -- I -- Bartkus was decided at the same time as
- 9 Abbate. Abbate is the case that answers this
- 10 particular question. Abbate remarkably says
- 11 we're just going to adhere to Lanza because
- none of the issues that are presented today are
- 13 different from what was presented in Lanza,
- which is a really remarkable statement.
- 15 And Abbate is also pre-incorporation.
- 16 Bartkus obviously is a due process case under
- 17 the burden of Palko v. Connecticut, and the --
- the evidence that we're presenting here was not
- 19 fully presented in Bartkus. The Court in --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could you say a little
- 21 bit more about why you think incorporation or
- the lack of incorporation had anything to do
- 23 with this question?
- MR. CHAITEN: Yeah, so I -- I -- Fox
- 25 v. Ohio, it -- its lead rationale is

- 1 non-incorporation. And, I mean, I think it's
- wrong, but it clearly said that and then Lanza
- 3 picked it up and then Abbate picked it up. And
- 4 I think what the Court --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, there is that
- 6 reference in Fox, but it honestly makes no
- 7 sense that incorporation would be the basis of
- 8 the doctrine, because, if incorporation were
- 9 the basis of the doctrine, you would have a
- 10 doctrine that only cuts one way.
- In other words, it would -- it would
- 12 -- the Court would have held that the federal
- 13 government can't prosecute an individual for
- the same offense after a state prosecution, but
- 15 not the other way around. So the fact that
- 16 there's not a one-way ratchet but that, in
- 17 fact, it's a symmetrical rule suggests that
- incorporation has nothing to do with it at all.
- 19 MR. CHAITEN: Well I think what the
- 20 Court was getting at was the -- I think the --
- 21 it was the -- the baronial logic of it was that
- 22 "offense" must mean federal offense because the
- 23 Double Jeopardy Clause only applies to the
- 24 federal government.
- That's what this Court was getting at.

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1 That's what was picked up in Abbate and Lanza,
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- 2 and that's what's no longer true. So as a --
- 3 as a pure -- I -- I don't think it was a
- 4 legitimate rationale to begin with because it
- 5 conflates two things that are different: to
- 6 which government does the clause apply and what
- 7 prior offenses count for double jeopardy
- 8 purposes. That was the rationale.
- 9 It's interesting, I don't know that
- 10 the government is defending that rationale.
- 11 They -- they -- they completely ignore the
- 12 non-incorporation rationale.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: I -- I guess what
- strikes me, Mr. Chaiten, is that you can say,
- 15 well, you know, this case was a little bit
- 16 different. And this case, the arguments
- 17 weren't properly presented. In this case,
- there's something else that's the matter. But,
- 19 you know, this is an 170-year-old rule, and
- it's an 170-year-old rule that's been relied on
- 21 by close on 30 Justices have voted at one time
- or another specifically for this rule, not an
- 23 application of this -- but for this rule.
- 24 And, you know, part of what stare
- decisis is, is a kind of doctrine of humility

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1 where we say we are really uncomfortable
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- 2 throwing over 170-year-old rules that 30
- 3 Justices have approved just because we think we
- 4 could kind of do it better.
- 5 MR. CHAITEN: Well, I mean, I disagree
- 6 with the 170 years because, again, it's -- it's
- 7 dicta in dicta in Fox v. Ohio, and I think it
- 8 is important to look at the rationale when the
- 9 Court finally had an opportunity to decide this
- 10 and make a holding on it, and that is Lanza.
- 11 And it -- there's -- nothing
- 12 resembling an argument for the original
- 13 understanding the Double Jeopardy Clause was
- 14 presented in Lanza. That was picked up in
- 15 Abbate. And all these cases are
- 16 pre-incorporation. The Court has held
- 17 repeatedly that jurisprudential changes are a
- 18 reason to revisit a doctrine and incorporate --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But why is the
- 20 doctrine wrong? The -- given the uniqueness of
- 21 our system of government, because there wasn't
- and isn't a comparable system in England at the
- time, there were not separate sovereigns, there
- 24 was one sovereign, England. And one of the
- 25 cases you rely on involved Wales, and so the

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1 application of the rule there makes absolute
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- 2 sense in that context.
- 3 But the logic of all of our cases
- 4 relied on a simple theory of -- of -- of what
- 5 the sovereignty between the states and the --
- 6 and the federal government are. And you
- 7 haven't really explained why that logic is not
- 8 sensical.
- 9 MR. CHAITEN: Well, the -- the logic
- of the English rule, as reported in numerous
- 11 treatises from the early 18th Century through
- 12 the 20th Century, it's still the rule today, is
- that, where there's a court of concurrent
- 14 jurisdiction, even if it's a -- another
- 15 government that has concurrent jurisdiction,
- then an acquittal there bars a subsequent
- 17 prosecution.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do you have --
- 19 MR. CHAITEN: And the logic for --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- do you have any
- 21 current case that describes the English rule
- that way?
- MR. CHAITEN: Current case?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: A current case,
- 25 something --

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1 MR. CHAITEN: So I -- I refer the
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- 2 Court to two things. One, the famous Professor
- 3 Grant article, Successive Prosecutions, tracks
- 4 the law of England and the British empire
- 5 through -- through the -- into the latter half
- of the 20th Century. There was a case in 1985,
- 7 Regina v. Thomas, in which the Court describes
- 8 and applies the rule.
- 9 It -- I -- I don't think the idea that
- 10 it -- this is not the English rule is a serious
- 11 argument. I -- I --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Do you know how the
- 13 -- this rule applies within the European Union?
- 14 MR. CHAITEN: It -- it applies the
- 15 same way that we are urging here.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: What --
- 17 MR. CHAITEN: That is my
- 18 understanding.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: The question, I
- 20 thought, perhaps Justice Kagan and Justice
- 21 Ginsburg and Justice Sotomayor are asking, as I
- 22 understand it -- in any case, I'm asking it --
- 23 I -- I -- I have spent a certain amount of time
- 24 in these old cases. I think that Bartkus in
- 25 this Court says there were three with you,

1 three against you, two undecided. I don't find

- it quite as clear, but I'll go back and look at
- 3 them again.
- 4 But suppose you're right. Maybe
- 5 Marbury versus Madison was wrong. Maybe there
- 6 are mis-cites in all kinds of things. Look at
- 7 the door we're opening up. And, here, you've
- 8 read the briefs. There are -- there are briefs
- 9 that say remember the civil rights world where
- 10 people were, with victims of a different race,
- 11 simply killing them or worse, and the state
- 12 would just, ah, don't worry, they'll never
- 13 convict, and they didn't.
- 14 Or think of the brief here with the
- 15 Indian tribes. We're saying that we need this
- 16 kind of thing for abuse of women. And think of
- 17 the case of prohibition. And think of the
- 18 cases that you've seen.
- Now what I looked for in your briefs
- 20 which I haven't found yet but for the military
- is, is it really the case or not that, as a
- 22 practical matter, if you go back the last 10
- years or five or whatever it is, you found a
- 24 whole lot of cases where people were prosecuted
- 25 twice by different sovereigns for what was the

- 1 same thing. Because I didn't see them listed
- 2 here in any brief but for the military.
- And -- and, therefore, to me, that's
- 4 an important question.
- 5 MR. CHAITEN: Well -- well, we can't
- 6 know for sure how many successive prosecutions
- 7 there are --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Of course.
- 9 MR. CHAITEN: -- because the federal
- 10 government and the state --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I don't expect you to
- 12 know for sure.
- MR. CHAITEN: Well, and I -- and I --
- 14 well, I -- and I want to say the reason I'm
- 15 saying we don't -- can't know for sure is
- 16 because the government's Petite policy is a
- secretive policy that they implement and they
- don't really share data on it, other than the
- 19 prosecutions they decline to make.
- 20 Sources from the early 2000s say that
- 21 they've authorized 150 Petite authorizations
- 22 per year. There's reason to believe, I
- 23 think -- and, first of all, let me step back
- 24 and say I don't think that should dictate what
- 25 the constitutional rule is. There's no minimum

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1 number of constitutional violations that
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- 2 triggers this Court's duty to enforce the
- 3 Constitution.
- But I think there's every reason to
- 5 believe that the use of this intersovereign
- 6 prosecution, particularly federal after state,
- 7 for the same crime is increasing. You could
- 8 just see the facts of this case.
- 9 It is really difficult --
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How much does --
- 11 does Blockburger shrink the significance?
- 12 Because -- because with -- if there's a
- different element in one, that's enough to take
- it out of double jeopardy?
- 15 MR. CHAITEN: If each has a different
- 16 -- an element the other doesn't have, then,
- 17 yes, that's enough to take it out of double
- 18 jeopardy. And that -- that's -- that makes
- 19 sense when you're talking about federal and
- 20 state government because, if the federal
- 21 government has made a considered decision that
- there's some substantial federal interest here,
- 23 they can write -- they can define the crime in
- a way that's probably going to be different
- 25 than -- than -- than crimes that states

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1 prosecute which are local crimes.
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- 2 I think it --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think that it
- 4 would come under --
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Do you know how
- 6 that would work for the civil rights cases?
- 7 MR. CHAITEN: Yeah -- yes, yes. So --
- 8 so -- so, one, I want to note that the -- the
- 9 -- the -- on the civil rights concern, the ACLU
- 10 supported us. Other progressive organizations
- 11 have supported us. The Howard Civil Rights
- 12 Clinic, the Howard University Thurgood Marshall
- 13 Civil Rights Clinic, has filed a brief in
- 14 support of neither side, but I believe it's
- 15 quite helpful to us because it explains why, if
- the Court adopts our rule, it is not likely to
- 17 be a problem for civil rights prosecutions.
- The main tools for federal civil
- 19 rights prosecutions are 18 U.S.C. 241 and 18
- 20 U.S.C. 242.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, that would be
- the case if the Blockburger rule holds, but
- your interpretation of the term "offence" in
- the Fifth Amendment is perhaps inconsistent
- 25 with the way this Court has interpreted that --

1 that concept in Blockburger cases. Isn't that

- 2 true?
- 3 MR. CHAITEN: I -- I don't think it's
- 4 the least bit inconsistent. I think if you
- 5 look at -- if you look at -- so they -- the --
- 6 the current understanding, the Blockburger rule
- 7 derives from Justice Scalia's dissent in Grady
- 8 v. Corbin, which had -- which was adopted in
- 9 Dixon, and it's exactly what we're saying it
- 10 is. It's a crime defined by the same elements
- 11 or -- or a lot lesser --
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: But didn't he --
- didn't he say it is the elements defined by a
- 14 particular sovereign?
- 15 MR. CHAITEN: I -- I don't believe he
- 16 actually said that in Grady v. Corbin, and I
- don't think the Court said that in Dixon.
- 18 There was nothing sovereign-specific about it.
- 19 The government tries to say that it's -- it --
- 20 it -- it's necessarily a rule of legislative
- 21 intent which makes it sovereign-specific. But
- 22 that -- that is not what -- that is not what
- 23 the English authorities said.
- Now the English --
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: Can I go back to the

1 way you began? I mean, you told us that there

- 2 is a mountain of evidence supporting your
- 3 interpretation of the original meaning of the
- 4 Double Jeopardy Clause.
- 5 Put aside Hutchinson and put aside the
- 6 case involving Welsh law that Justice Sotomayor
- 7 referred to. Can you cite any 17th -- any 16th
- 8 or 17th or 18th Century British case in which a
- 9 foreign judgment actually barred a prosecution
- 10 in Great Britain?
- 11 MR. CHAITEN: In Great Britain? Well,
- 12 it -- it's -- it's Hutchinson. The actual
- 13 holding of Roche was that the plea of autrefois
- 14 acquit based on foreign acquittal would be a
- 15 bar because that -- if that was necessary to
- 16 the court's decision, the court was deciding
- 17 whether -- whether the defendant could plead
- 18 that and innocence at the same time and said it
- 19 -- it couldn't because the plea of autrefois
- 20 acquit based on foreign conviction would be a
- 21 bar.
- 22 It's true that the Hutchinson --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, there's -- I
- 24 mean, there are questions about Roche. What --
- in the version of the opinion that was

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1 available at the time of the founding, was
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- 2 Hutchinson even cited?
- 3 MR. CHAITEN: Hutchinson wasn't cited,
- 4 but Roche on its own -- Roche on its own stood
- 5 for that proposition. And then, in 1800, the
- 6 Hutchinson explanation was added to the
- 7 opinion. This Court is --
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: So this is the mount
- 9 -- this is a mountain?
- 10 MR. CHAITEN: The -- the mountain -- I
- 11 would primarily start with the treatises. And,
- 12 by the way, in the -- in the Grady v. Corbin
- dissent, the entirety of the English common law
- 14 evidence of that the Court -- that Justice
- 15 Scalia relied on, that then became the opinion
- of the Court in Dixon, was five treatises, one
- 17 pre-ratification case that was dicta, and one
- 18 post-ratification case that adopted it. So
- 19 that was -- that was the way the originalist
- 20 inquiry happened.
- 21 If you want to know what the public
- 22 understanding of the rule was --
- 23 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you have any
- 24 evidence that most of these treatises -- that
- 25 these treatises -- with the exception of

1 Blackstone, which was every lawyer's bible at

- 2 the time of the founding. But there's almost
- 3 nothing in Blackstone about this. These other
- 4 treatises were well-known to the members of the
- 5 first Congress and to the -- the members of the
- 6 state ratifying conventions? They had these
- 7 treatises on their bookshelves and that was
- 8 what they looked to? Do you have any evidence
- 9 of that?
- 10 MR. CHAITEN: Yeah. Yes. These
- 11 treatises were all -- all the treatises we cite
- 12 were available in America.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They were?
- MR. CHAITEN: They were well-known
- 15 treatises. The Buller treatise, which the
- 16 government seems to enjoy taking potshots at --
- 17 the Buller treatise was written by Sir Francis
- Buller, who was a member of the King's Bench at
- 19 the time of the framing. It is cited in
- 20 numerous cases in this country, pre-framing and
- 21 post-framing, for criminal law principles and
- 22 civil law principles.
- 23 So three -- three of the five
- 24 treatises that Justice Scalia relied on in
- 25 Grady v. Corbin are -- are treatises we rely on

- 1 here, Hawkins, Starkie, and Chitty. You know,
- 2 this is --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Those treatises don't
- 4 cite any actual authority.
- 5 MR. CHAITEN: Those treatises?
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: What -- what actual
- 7 authority? What holdings of pre-Fifth
- 8 Amendment-adoption courts are cited in those --
- 9 can be cited in those treatises? You're just
- 10 --
- 11 MR. CHAITEN: Yeah, MacNally --
- 12 MacNally cites Hutchinson and cites -- and
- 13 cites Roche.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Hutchinson? Do we
- 15 have the --
- 16 MR. CHAITEN: It just doesn't cite
- 17 them. It discusses them. And it says --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Do we have -- do we
- 19 have the opinion in Hutchinson?
- 20 MR. CHAITEN: There is a bail
- 21 notation, and that is the only thing that
- 22 survived, and the scholars have -- scholarship
- 23 has long noted that that was from one phase of
- the case. But it doesn't matter. It doesn't
- 25 matter because we have the King's Bench

1 repeatedly saying this is the rule, this is the

- 2 rule.
- 3 And -- and the government cites not a
- 4 single authority to the contrary, stating an
- 5 opposite rule. There's no --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, I apologize
- 7 for ping-ponging you from the -- from the
- 8 framing back to the present, but I'd like to
- 9 return you to Justice Breyer's question about
- 10 the impact this might have on civil rights
- 11 organizations and -- and others.
- 12 You know, the stare decisis
- 13 considerations, one of which would be are we
- 14 upsetting settled expectations currently?
- 15 MR. CHAITEN: Well, I don't think it
- 16 would have an impact on civil rights
- 17 litigation. As I was -- as I was saying, I
- 18 think the --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You started, but I'm
- 20 -- I'd like you to develop that further.
- MR. CHAITEN: Yes --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I didn't get a
- 23 complete answer.
- MR. CHAITEN: Sorry. And so I
- 25 mentioned that the primary tools of the federal

- 1 government in the area of civil rights
- 2 prosecution are 18 U.S.C. 241 and 242. 241 is
- 3 conspiracy to deprive someone of their
- 4 constitutional rights under color of law. 242
- 5 is actually doing it. Those aren't going to be
- 6 the same offenses as, say --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: Now.
- 8 MR. CHAITEN: -- a murder or an
- 9 assault.
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: Now. Now. But a
- 11 state -- well, I don't -- I can't foresee the
- 12 future. And it wouldn't be that hard. It
- 13 wouldn't have been --
- MR. CHAITEN: Well, in the federal
- 15 government, if --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: -- for a state in the
- 18 me is, yes, I know you're convinced on the
- 19 history. I also know that -- that, there, it
- 20 may be less clear than you think, but maybe
- 21 not, that this Court several times has looked
- 22 at the history and they've said it's
- inconclusive and, therefore -- and now we have
- a rule that's been there a long, long time.
- 25 And if we're going to go back and look

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1 to whether this Court got the history right in
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- 2 cases, I have my own candidates. Is that --
- 3 MR. CHAITEN: So --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: -- okay? So -- so --
- 5 so now --
- 6 MR. CHAITEN: -- I don't agree that
- 7 the Court has several times looked --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: -- my problem is
- 9 that.
- 10 MR. CHAITEN: The Court --
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: My problem is, is
- 12 this a basis for going back, the same one that
- 13 -- the same question. But I haven't heard the
- 14 answer that Justice Kagan started with.
- 15 MR. CHAITEN: So -- so -- so two --
- 16 two responses. And one, could I -- if I could
- 17 finish on the civil rights issue. I just
- wanted to add that the federal government can
- 19 take control in all manner of ways. In a
- 20 particular case, they can take custody of
- 21 someone via an ad prosequendum writ. If
- 22 Congress -- if -- if states were becoming
- 23 uncooperative in the area of civil rights, and
- this were really a problem, which it doesn't
- 25 seem to be today, the federal government could

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1 preempt certain state crimes.
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- 2 There are any number of ways the --
- 3 the federal government could take control if,
- 4 in the future, there were these problems that
- 5 we can't foresee today.
- And then, as far as the -- the history
- 7 being analyzed in several opinions of this
- 8 Court, no, which -- respectfully, Your Honor, I
- 9 disagree. It is one footnote in one opinion.
- 10 It is Footnote 9 of Bartkus.
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I think the
- 12 question, though, is, of all the errors this
- 13 Court has made over the years --
- 14 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE BREYER: That's right.
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- why this one?
- 17 Why should we care about this one?
- 18 MR. CHAITEN: Well -- well, we should
- 19 care because there is an ancient right not to
- 20 be tried twice for the same crime. And the
- 21 original understanding of the Double Jeopardy
- 22 Clause considers this the same crime.
- 23 It would allow --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Chaiten, I
- 25 mean, one of the --

1	MR. CHAITEN: You should care
2	JUSTICE KAGAN: I'm sorry. Please.
3	MR. CHAITEN: You should you should
4	care because we've cited examples of cases
5	where a state court
6	JUSTICE GORSUCH: I I I
7	MR. CHAITEN: acquitted someone of
8	murder and the federal government convicted.
9	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel counsel,
10	I'm sorry to interrupt, but I I think I
11	think we've got that, okay? I think it it's
12	just a practical question. It took until last
13	year for this Court to overrule Korematsu. Why
14	is this case, practically, today important?
15	MR. CHAITEN: It is it is important
16	for the it is important because we currently
17	have a rule that allows the federal government
18	to come in decide they didn't like the way a
19	state prosecuted someone or the result of the
20	prosecution or the sentence they got and re-
21	prosecute them.
22	It's precisely what happened in this
23	case. There's every reason to believe it
24	happens with some regularity. And the Court
25	can put an end to it. The scholars

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I guess I
2	guess the the question that underlies
3	Justice Breyer's question about civil rights is
4	something along the lines of: You know, that's
5	consistent with our structure of government.
6	We have dual sovereigns. That means dual
7	regulation. And dual regulation often means
8	dual punishment.
9	And if we were to adopt the rule that
10	you suggest, it might very well be that either
11	the federal government would have to
12	subordinate its interests to the states or that
13	the states would have to subordinate their
14	interests to the federal government.
15	And one of the things about our
16	constitutional structure makes which makes
17	it unusual is that is that both sovereigns
18	are understood to have significant interests
19	that they have the capacity to pursue.
20	MR. CHAITEN: But where they have the
21	concurrent jurisdiction over something that is
22	the same offense, that is illegitimate for
23	reasons that were understood at the framing.
24	Take the cases of take take
25	Furlong That's a case where multiple

1 sovereigns have concurrent jurisdiction over

- 2 robbery at sea, and it was well understood that
- 3 a prosecution by one would bar a prosecution by
- 4 another.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah. Well, I read
- 6 Furlong a little bit differently, as actually
- 7 separating out the offense of piracy, which was
- 8 an offense that sort of was in common, versus
- 9 the offense of murder, which Furlong says, yes,
- 10 each different jurisdiction can prosecute the
- offense.
- 12 MR. CHAITEN: The murder of a British
- 13 subject by a British subject on a British ship
- is what they were saying.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: I guess I want to ask
- 16 --
- 17 MR. CHAITEN: They weren't -- they
- 18 weren't -- they weren't drawing -- they were --
- 19 they were just applying the concurrent
- 20 jurisdiction rule, and they were saying why
- 21 would the U.S. have concurrent jurisdiction
- 22 over that.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: I suppose my -- my
- 24 main question, which actually goes back to
- Justice Gorsuch's question, because Justice

- 1 Gorsuch has been trying to lead you away from
- 2 something, and I'm a little bit also confused
- 3 as -- as to why your argument seems, frankly, a
- 4 little bit one note.
- 5 You know, your -- your brief and now
- 6 your argument is just all about the original
- 7 jurisdiction. And there are some people on
- 8 this bench that think that that is the Alpha
- 9 and Omega of every constitutional question.
- 10 But there are other people on this
- 11 bench who do not, who think that 170 years of
- 12 significant practice where 30 Justices have
- 13 signed on to a rule, that you're going to have
- to give me more than the fact that, you know,
- 15 actually, pretty early on in the republic they
- decided that that was not what the original
- 17 understanding was, even if they're wrong.
- 18 MR. CHAITEN: Well --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: And so this is your
- 20 opportunity to give me more.
- 21 MR. CHAITEN: Okay. 1922, I would
- 22 say. But my opportunity in response to your --
- your offering me an opportunity to give you
- 24 more, I will tell you incorporation.
- 25 Incorporation, incorporation, incorporation.

1	The Court has said its own precedents
2	are that incorporation makes a big difference
3	for purposes of stare decisis.
4	So look at Elkins and look at look
5	at Murphy v. Waterfront Commission. After
6	incorporation, the federal government and the
7	state government shouldn't be able to combine
8	to do that which they can't do alone.
9	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Part of part of
10	the original understanding as well was stare
11	decisis, and stare decisis is a principle, in
12	my view, rooted in Article III, as Federalist
13	78 points out and as Justice Kagan points out.
14	It's a doctrine of stability and humility that
15	we take very seriously.
16	And the reason with the bar that
17	you have to clear, I believe, is not just to
18	show that it's wrong but to show that it's
19	grievously wrong, egregiously wrong, something
20	meeting a very high bar because stare decisis
21	is itself a constitutional principle.
22	And given, as Justice Alito says, the
23	uncertainty about the history, can you clear
24	that bar?

So two questions. Is that the right

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1 way to look at it, grievously wrong, and --
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- and, two, how can you clear that given some of
- 3 the uncertain?
- 4 MR. CHAITEN: Yeah, so I -- I'm not
- 5 sure grievously wrong is the right way to look
- 6 at it when you're talking about an
- 7 unconstitutional law enforcement practice
- 8 because this Court has never upheld an
- 9 unconstitutional --
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But that's begging
- 11 -- that's begging the question. The whole
- 12 point is that there are prior decisions going
- 13 back, as Justice Kagan says, many years,
- 14 reaffirming this doctrine.
- And the question is, when are we going
- to upset that stability, when are we going to
- depart from the humility of respecting
- 18 precedent and overrule it?
- 19 MR. CHAITEN: So --
- 20 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And usually it has
- 21 to be -- your -- your brief uses egregiously
- 22 wrong. I -- I use the term grievously wrong.
- MR. CHAITEN: Well, I -- and I agree
- 24 this -- this rule is egregiously wrong. If
- 25 it's a rule that -- there was no practice for

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1 all of English history, no practice for the
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- 2 first century of this republic. That alone, I
- 3 think, speaks volumes.
- 4 And the -- I think, going back to
- 5 incorporation, I think, in addition to just how
- 6 wrong the rule is, as explained by many jurists
- 7 and many scholars over many decades, I think
- 8 incorporation -- the -- the Court has never had
- 9 a full and fair opportunity post-incorporation
- 10 to revisit this rule.
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And I guess, counsel --
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How -- how
- does it work as a practical matter? Is this --
- is it a race to the courthouse? I mean, if a
- 15 prosecution bars a subsequent one, the state
- 16 and federal government may have different
- 17 perspectives, is it whoever can empanel a jury
- 18 first is going to block the others?
- 19 MR. CHAITEN: So I don't think so.
- 20 So, first of all, the -- the norm in the
- 21 country is cooperation between federal and
- 22 state authorities. There are just -- speaking
- of one agency in one area of law, the DEA --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, it sure
- 25 wasn't at the -- entirely true at the time of

- 1 the civil rights actions in the -- in the '60s
- 2 and '70s. It wasn't true at the time of the
- 3 fugitive slave law.
- 4 MR. CHAITEN: Well, as a practical
- 5 matter, I think it is true today.
- 6 Secondly, Blockburger has been subject
- 7 to enormous criticism because it isn't
- 8 defended, frankly, enough. When you apply
- 9 Blockburger, oftentimes, these aren't going to
- 10 be the same offenses.
- 11 And this is a critical, critical
- 12 point. We have had an experiment in this rule.
- 13 The experiment is that between 20 and 37 states
- 14 already bar successive prosecutions after a
- 15 federal prosecution or by another state as a
- 16 matter of state law. And where is the race to
- 17 the courthouse concerned in those states?
- Where are the law enforcement problems in those
- 19 states? They don't exist.
- 20 And I don't think Texas and the
- 21 government have ever really -- ever even really
- 22 responded to that point.
- 23 If I may, Mr. Chief Justice, I'd like
- 24 to reserve the remainder of my time.
- Thank you.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
2	counsel.
3	Mr. Feigin?
4	ORAL ARGUMENT OF ERIC J. FEIGIN
5	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
6	MR. FEIGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chief
7	Justice, and may it please the Court:
8	Throughout its history, this Court has
9	correctly recognized that the distinct and
LO	separate sovereign powers of the state and
11	federal governments make state and federal
12	crimes different offenses under the Double
L3	Jeopardy Clause.
L4	Petitioner provides no reason for this
15	Court suddenly to conclude that it's been wrong
16	all this time. And overturning 170 years of
L7	precedent on this issue is going to invite a
L 8	whole host of problems that this Court has thus
L9	far been able to avoid.
20	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, 170
21	years, I I I think your friend is right,
22	isn't it, that we have not had a full
23	consideration and exposition of the issue in
24	any of our precedents?

MR. FEIGIN: I don't think that's

1 correct, Your Honor. I think, as you yourself

- 2 pointed out earlier in the argument, the
- 3 historical point that he is making here and
- 4 that is the centerpiece of his argument, that
- 5 even prosecutions by a foreign sovereign can
- 6 bar domestic prosecution by the -- a state or
- 7 by the United States, was fully before the
- 8 Court in Bartkus.
- 9 The Grant article that is all over the
- 10 Petitioner's brief and that Petitioner's
- 11 counsel cited at argument today was cited by
- 12 Justice Black in his dissent in Bartkus. And
- all the authorities on which he's relying, with
- the exception of Roche, which, correctly
- understood, doesn't actually announce this
- 16 rule, were identified by Justice Frankfurter
- 17 for the majority in Footnote 9.
- 18 And the Court found these authorities
- 19 to be dubious and of limited value in --
- 20 because they don't really speak to our
- 21 federalism.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you -- you have
- 23 to concede, won't you, that this rule, this
- 24 separate sovereign rule, has been widely
- 25 criticized by both academics and federal

1	judges?
2	MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, it has come
3	under some criticism. But I think what's worth
4	noting is a lot of the articles that criticize
5	it also recognize that some exceptions are
6	necessary and that successive prosecutions and
7	separate prosecutions are sometimes necessary
8	to vindicate particular sovereign interests.
9	So take the civil rights brief that my
10	friend was just mentioning. They think that
11	this Court, if it goes for the position the
12	Petitioner's advocating, should then announce a
13	separate constitutional doctrine that saves
14	civil rights prosecutions.
15	And that's because they realize the
16	enormous consequences that overturning all this
17	precedent would have. What's
18	JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought the
19	answer to the civil rights cases is it's not
20	the same offense, 241 and 242. There are no
21	state law counterparts to those.
22	MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, those aren't
23	the only civil rights charges we bring. So in
24	the recent shootings by the recent shootings

of the synagogue in Pittsburgh and of the

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1 African-American church in Charleston, we've
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- 2 charged those with offenses that -- I mean, I
- 3 can get into the details if you'd like, but
- 4 they're essentially murder plus a bunch of
- 5 elements. And those would be Block --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, but once you
- 7 say --
- 8 MR. FEIGIN: -- could be Blockburger
- 9 barred.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- once -- once you
- 11 say "a bunch of elements," then you get into
- 12 Blockburger.
- MR. FEIGIN: No, Your Honor, murder
- 14 would be a less -- considered a lesser-included
- offense of those offenses if the offenses
- defined by different sovereigns were considered
- 17 the same, as Petitioner is urging. But those
- 18 -- that's not even the only consequence.
- 19 Even the -- there are a number of
- 20 categories of cases that would be put at issue
- 21 here. And I -- I can get into more detail in
- those in a moment, but before I get to that,
- even the possibility of claims like this
- 24 creates adverse consequences for law
- 25 enforcement, for legislatures, and for courts.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you had
2	you must think that there's some problem or
3	you wouldn't have the Petite policy. I mean,
4	that's that's an odd defense of a of a
5	a position to say, well, we take care of it
6	somewhere else, so don't worry about it.
7	MR. FEIGIN: Well, no, Your Honor, I
8	think there are a number of instances,
9	including the Double Jeopardy Clause just last
10	term, where a plurality of this Court has
11	recognized the Constitution doesn't solve every
12	potential policy problem that may arise, and we
13	leave those a lot of those questions for
14	legislatures or for the political branches in
15	general.
16	And I think this has actually been a
17	real success story of that because he was just
18	asked if he could point to any significant
19	practical problems, and he couldn't. But I can
20	point to a lot of practical problems that are
21	going to arise if this Court adopts his rule.
22	So, on the law enforcement side, just
23	the possibility that this could happen is going
24	to deter cooperation, encourage aggressive
25	prosecutions a race to the courthouse and

- defendants trying to play each sovereign off
- 2 against the other where one sovereign will have
- 3 the ability to unilaterally bargain away the
- 4 other sovereign's ability to enforce its
- 5 interests. And I'd -- I'd like to get into
- 6 some concrete examples of that in a second.
- But, as to legislatures, he said it
- 8 himself, he's going to -- this would
- 9 incentivize Congress to preempt state law in
- 10 more circumstances, and it's going to also
- 11 incentivize --
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What about a case
- 13 like this, this very case, a felon in
- 14 possession? It's the same crime, federal and
- 15 state. What is the manipulation that you see
- 16 there?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, the --
- the examples I would get into, and I'm happy to
- 19 get into them, are examples of cases in which
- 20 state and federal interests would be blocked.
- 21 But speaking to this particular case, I don't
- think there's any dispute, at least by
- 23 Petitioner, that the federal government has a
- 24 substantial interest in regulating access to
- 25 the interstate market for firearms by someone

- who has twice fired weapons in that endangered
- 2 members of his own family and other members of
- 3 the community.
- 4 The only question is whether that
- 5 substantial federal interest was vindicated
- 6 when he entered into an omnibus plea deal with
- 7 the state where he wound up, as a practical
- 8 matter, not receiving any additional time in
- 9 prison for the firearm offense.
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, but I think
- 11 that's exactly the problem that is practically
- more apparent today or at least of potential
- 13 concern that counsel might have addressed, and
- that is, with the proliferation of federal
- 15 crimes, and I think over 4,000 statutes now and
- 16 several hundred thousand regulations, the
- 17 opportunity to -- for the government to seek a
- 18 successive prosecution if it's unhappy with
- 19 even the most routine state prosecution is a
- 20 problem.
- Justice Brennan was concerned about it
- 22 in Bartkus. In that case, there was some
- 23 evidence of manipulation even by federal
- 24 authorities to secure a second conviction in
- 25 state court.

1	Why shouldn't that be a practical
2	concern we ought to be more concerned about
3	today?
4	MR. FEIGIN: Well, let me say a few
5	things about that, Your Honor. I mean, the
6	reason we have the Petite policy is we do
7	understand that successive prosecutions are
8	very often inappropriate and we try to reserve
9	them for circumstances in which the federal
10	interest hasn't been vindicated.
11	But I think, to the extent that
12	that there's a concern about successive
13	prosecutions, it's not so much successive
14	prosecutions based on a particular law of one
15	sovereign or another; it's successive
16	prosecutions for the same conduct all raise
17	those concerns.
18	But everyone agrees that successive
19	prosecutions for the same conduct don't raise
20	any double jeopardy concerns. That's why the
21	Petite policy, Mr. Chief Justice, is somewhat
22	broader. It covers a a subsequent federal
23	prosecution following a state or federal
24	disposition for the same act or transaction.
25	But, to get back to your question,

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1 Justice Gorsuch, I think that makes the Double
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- 2 Jeopardy Clause not necessarily the appropriate
- 3 vessel for vindicating that concern.
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, you know, I --
- 5 I wonder about that because, in our prior
- 6 cases, we hinged on two things, in Bartkus,
- 7 among other places. One was incorporation, and
- 8 we were concerned that the federal government
- 9 would be at a disadvantage compared to states
- 10 without this rule because states were not bound
- 11 then by the Double Jeopardy Clause and could
- 12 pursue a second prosecution after a failed
- 13 federal prosecution. So why shouldn't the
- 14 reverse be true, we thought.
- 15 That rationale has now disappeared
- 16 with incorporation. And we've since revisited
- 17 a very similar -- similar issue in the Fourth
- 18 Amendment context in Elkins, where we used to
- 19 allow federal prosecutors to use illegally
- obtained evidence, and now we don't.
- 21 So that rationale seems to have, in
- 22 fact, changed over time. So that might be one
- 23 -- one argument. And then -- and then the
- other is, again, with the -- with the -- in --
- 25 in Bartkus, we relied on the -- on -- on the --

- 1 and elsewhere on -- on the promise that
- 2 prosecutors wouldn't do this in routine cases.
- And, you know, at least to some eyes,
- 4 this might look like a pretty routine case,
- 5 where -- as did Bartkus itself. And why
- 6 shouldn't we be concerned about those two
- 7 things?
- 8 MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, we
- 9 don't view this as a routine case. We don't --
- 10 first of all, you have to understand that the
- 11 set of cases that could even come under the
- 12 Petite policy is already a very selective
- group. The federal government doesn't charge
- 14 very many criminal cases as compared to the
- 15 states.
- And then we don't -- our number of
- 17 Petite policy approvals each year is about a
- 18 hundred. And this case is important to us
- 19 because it's a part of a program called
- 20 Operation Safe Neighborhoods. The case studies
- 21 have shown, by focusing on recidivist
- offenders, like Petitioner, we've reduced crime
- in some neighborhoods by up to 42 percent.
- But even if you don't like this
- 25 prosecution, let me give you a few other

- 1 examples of the kinds of cases that are going
- 2 to be barred under his rule.
- First, there's the foreign judgment
- 4 problem that the Court was discussing with
- 5 Petitioner's counsel. And that's not just a
- 6 hypothetical problem. That's a real one.
- 7 And let me give you a real example.
- 8 In 2003, the FARC rebels in Colombia kidnapped
- 9 American journalists and held them hostage for
- 10 five years. And we have open indictments on
- 11 them. And when there was the peace accord
- between the Colombian government and the FARC
- rebels, the charges against them in Colombian
- 14 court were dismissed.
- Now I'm not certain whether those
- 16 charges -- jeopardy actually attached in those
- 17 cases under Colombian law or exactly what the
- 18 elements of the Colombian law were, but that's
- 19 precisely the inquiry we don't want courts to
- 20 have to have.
- 21 And we certainly don't want to have to
- 22 file as the government --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, why not?
- MR. FEIGIN: -- pieces of --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: We do it in -- in

- 1 civil cases all the time, right? And we -- we
- 2 won't enforce judgments that are shams. We
- 3 won't enforce judgments when there are
- 4 different elements. We won't enforce judgments
- 5 when jeopardy acquittal hasn't attached, so
- 6 claim preclusion wouldn't apply.
- 7 But why is it that civil defendants,
- 8 corporations, businesspeople, get the benefit
- 9 of this rule but not criminal defendants, least
- 10 amongst us?
- 11 MR. FEIGIN: Well, usually, Your
- 12 Honor, there, there's going to be privity among
- 13 the parties. Here, the Colombian government
- 14 had a perfectly legitimate sovereign reason for
- 15 forgiving this conduct once the rebel -- in
- 16 return for which the rebels admitted it and got
- amnesty. But that reason doesn't apply to the
- 18 federal government.
- 19 And the other thing that we can't do
- 20 and the thing that Petitioner's counsel's --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, wouldn't they
- 22 -- they say since there was never any trial,
- that they were never in jeopardy?
- 24 MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I'm not
- sure how far the proceedings with respect to

1 each and every individual rebel we might charge

- 2 in Colombia got. But his only solution to
- 3 this -- and I can give you other examples as
- 4 well, but just to finish this one up, his only
- 5 solution to this is to ask the federal
- 6 government to make a filing in U.S. district
- 7 court asking that court not to respect the
- 8 judgment of a Colombian court.
- 9 Now we can't do that with respect to
- 10 Colombian courts or French courts or Italian
- 11 courts without creating enormous diplomatic
- 12 problems for ourselves. And I don't think U.S.
- 13 district courts --
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I don't know
- 15 whether a dismissal based on some amnesty --
- MR. FEIGIN: So --
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- is a -- anything
- 18 like an adjudication on the merits.
- 19 MR. FEIGIN: So, Your Honor, let me
- 20 give you another example. There's the bombing
- of PanAm Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.
- 22 That implicates the interests of numerous
- 23 sovereigns. One of the bombers has been tried
- in Pakistan, and the U.S. might want to try
- 25 that bomber as well.

1	His rule would preclude that. And,
2	again, his only solution is to ask a U.S. court
3	to declare that some foreign court is not a
4	court of competent jurisdiction.

- And to -- Justice Ginsburg, to your question before about what European countries
- 7 do, it's not correct that European countries
- 8 all have his rule. Germany, Italy, France,
- 9 Belgium, and Austria are all countries that
- 10 follow the same rule we do. In 2009, French --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But -- but -- but as
- 12 I understand it -- and tell me if I'm wrong --
- 13 the common-law countries, Great Britain and
- 14 Canada, do?
- 15 MR. FEIGIN: Not all of them, Your
- 16 Honor. Great Britain, it has become apparent
- 17 recently, the -- probably the best case is the
- 18 Regina against Thomas case that my friend
- 19 cited. It's become apparent recently that they
- 20 do adhere to that rule, although even in Regina
- 21 against Thomas, the prosecution, I believe, was
- 22 allowed to proceed for other reasons.
- 23 Canada's Supreme Court has reserved
- 24 this question. And the idea that there is some
- international norm that sovereigns can't

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1 separately vindicate their own interests when
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- 2 they're implicated is simply not a rule. But
- 3 let me focus just to -- let -- let's just turn
- 4 to domestic --
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: May I ask, before
- 6 you do that, you -- you rely very heavily on
- 7 federalism, separate sovereigns.
- 8 Is there another case where federalism
- 9 has been invoked to strengthen the hand of
- 10 government, state and/or federal, vis-a-vis an
- 11 individual? Federalism is usually invoked
- 12 because it's a protection of the liberty of the
- individual, but, here, the party being
- 14 strengthened is not the individual, it is the
- 15 state's freedom and the federal government's
- 16 freedom to bring -- to prosecute with the same
- 17 offense, felon in possession.
- 18 MR. FEIGIN: So I think the Court's
- 19 recognized in older cases, like Cruikshank,
- 20 which was from the 19th Century, and in its
- 21 recent first decision in Bond against United
- 22 States that one of the things that American
- 23 citizens get by being citizens of both the
- 24 state and the United States is that there are
- 25 two sovereigns that can positively legislate;

- 1 that is, pass affirmative legislation to
- 2 protect them.
- 3 So, in the civil rights era, when the
- 4 states weren't affirmatively protecting the
- 5 civil rights of their citizens enough, they're
- 6 also American citizens, and the United States
- 7 stepped in to vindicate those interests.
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: To -- to -- to
- 9 state a different crime, not the garden-variety
- 10 assault, murder.
- 11 MR. FEIGIN: So, Your Honor, there are
- 12 civil rights offenses on the books now, like 18
- 13 U.S.C. 249, which precludes -- criminalizes
- causing bodily injury to someone for racially
- 15 motivated reasons that could be double jeopardy
- 16 barred under their rule.
- 17 But let me give you -- let me give you
- 18 some other examples of --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But, counsel, just
- 20 -- before we get to more examples, I thought
- 21 Justice Ginsburg's point was worth exploring a
- 22 little bit more.
- I -- I had thought in this country the
- 24 people were -- were the sovereign and that
- 25 sovereignty was divided, exercise of

1 sovereignty was divided, not multiplied. So it

- 2 was divided between the federal government and
- 3 the state governments, Ninth and Tenth
- 4 Amendment. And that it -- it is awkward, isn't
- 5 it, to say that there are two sovereigns who
- 6 get to multiply offenses against you?
- 7 I can't think of another case where
- 8 federalism is used, as Justice Ginsburg
- 9 indicated, to allow greater intrusions against
- 10 the person, rather than to protect more against
- 11 them.
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, the
- people have vested the sovereignty in both the
- 14 state and the United States --
- 15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Is there such an
- 16 example? Is there such an example, other than
- double jeopardy, where the individual has a
- double whammy, both the state and the federal,
- 19 usually federalism, as Justice Gorsuch just
- 20 pointed out --
- 21 MR. FEIGIN: Well --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- is protective of
- 23 the individual?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, it is a
- 25 common fact of life that everyone is subject to

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1 both state and federal regulation. It's why
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- everyone in this room, except maybe my friends
- 3 from Texas, pay both state and federal taxes.
- 4 (Laughter.)
- 5 MR. FEIGIN: It's why businesses are
- 6 regulated by both the federal and state
- 7 governments, and why everyone knows that an
- 8 act, and even Petitioner agrees, the same act
- 9 can be both a state and federal crime.
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: But what about the
- 11 adoption of the Black -- the Blockburger rule
- 12 as opposed to the same -- same transaction
- 13 test?
- MR. FEIGIN: So, Your Honor, I think
- 15 the -- the origins --
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: That -- that's a --
- 17 that's a rule that -- that's a rule of
- 18 federalism in a way. And -- and yet it exposes
- 19 defendants to prosecution for the same acts in
- 20 both federal court and state court.
- 21 MR. FEIGIN: I think that's right,
- 22 Your Honor. It would respect the judgments of
- 23 the legislatures as to how they wanted to craft
- 24 their crimes. Blockburger hasn't --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: It's -- it's --

1	MR. FEIGIN: heretofore been
2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: it's a double
3	jeopardy. We're talking about double jeopardy,
4	whether it's Blockburger or this case. I
5	asked, outside the realm of double jeopardy, is
6	there such an instance?
7	MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, I I think
8	I've just given several examples of cases where
9	people are regulated more heavily because there
10	are two governments than in than they would
11	be if they were subject only to one unitary
12	government. That's a necessary consequence of
13	our system. And the Court has repeatedly
14	recognized it.
15	JUSTICE KAGAN: May I ask, Mr. Feigin,
16	do you think that there's a prospect of abuse
17	where two different governments can use the
18	possibility of prosecutions as a bargaining
19	tactic to get defendants to agree to plea
20	deals? Is is is that something that
21	happens regularly?
22	MR. FEIGIN: I I'm not really
23	familiar with that being a serious problem
24	under the current system. I think the main
25	concern would actually be the opposite under

1 the new unprecedented system that Petitioner is

- 2 asking this Court to adopt, where someone could
- 3 go into -- to the state prosecutors, someone --
- 4 let's say someone's caught in California with
- 5 100 kilograms of marijuana, which is a
- 6 misdemeanor in California, as the states point
- 7 out in their brief, but is a felony under
- 8 federal law.
- 9 And he agrees to plead to the state
- 10 offense, and, therefore, that would bar a
- 11 federal prosecution for possession with intent
- to distribute, which would be considered, under
- 13 his rule, a greater included offense.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Do -- do you
- 15 remember what the situation was in the D.C.,
- 16 not so very long ago, when we had the same
- 17 prosecutor for the local courts and the federal
- 18 court? And the D.C. code had lower penalties
- 19 than the U.S. code, and the prosecutor engaged
- 20 in just that kind of tactic. Plead guilty
- 21 under the D.C. code, and if you don't, I'm
- going to indict you under the U.S. code.
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, D.C. is
- 24 kind of a special case where both of those fall
- 25 under federal government. It's like Puerto

1 Rico in that sense in that they're not separate

- 2 sovereigns.
- 3 But here's another problem we've run
- 4 into in Puerto Rico. Now the -- we can't
- 5 charge -- we can't rely on the separate
- 6 sovereign understanding of the Double Jeopardy
- 7 Clause there, is that the territorial
- 8 prosecutors in Puerto Rico don't view the
- 9 prosecution of crime in quite the same way as
- 10 the federal government does. They're more
- 11 concerned with crime of a transactional nature,
- 12 rather than necessarily developing longer term
- 13 investigations.
- 14 And so one thing that they do is they
- 15 frequently prosecute drug conspiracies that
- last only for one day, an agreement just to
- 17 sell particular drugs from particular location
- 18 on a particular day.
- 19 And at least one district court has
- 20 dismissed a federal indictment for a broader
- 21 drug conspiracy that occurred for over a range
- of years on the ground that it was simply a
- 23 greater included offense of the smaller Puerto
- 24 Rico drug conspiracy.
- 25 And that's just a consequence of the

- 1 different ways in which the state and the
- 2 federal government use their resources and the
- 3 ways in which they want to prosecute crime.
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Are --
- 5 MR. FEIGIN: Another difficulty that's
- 6 going to arise here is prosecutions by the
- 7 federal government that follow tribal
- 8 prosecutions, which I think are about
- 9 two-thirds of the -- of the few hundred
- 10 successive prosecutions that we bring each
- 11 year.
- 12 And as this Court recognized a couple
- of terms ago in United States against Bryant,
- 14 the federal government plays a critical role in
- 15 curbing the serious problem of domestic
- 16 violence against Native American women.
- 17 Tribes are limited generally to
- 18 prosecuting only for misdemeanors. So, if they
- 19 find that someone has been committing domestic
- abuse, the most that they can do is prosecute
- 21 that person for a misdemeanor.
- 22 Under federal law, 18 U.S.C. 117(a),
- 23 we can prosecute for -- recidivist domestic
- 24 abusers for a felony. And the tribes bring --
- 25 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And what is --

1	MR. FEIGIN: the tribes bring
2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: what is the
3	reason for the tribes' very limited
4	jurisdiction?
5	MR. FEIGIN: So the tribes have
6	limited jurisdiction as a consequence of
7	federal law. Some tribes are allowed to do
8	more serious offenses in exchange for providing
9	more protections in their courts.
10	Very few have decided they want to
11	make that tradeoff because it would require
12	them to dispense with some of the traditional
13	accoutrements of tribal justice that are
14	important to their traditions.
15	So, as the Court noted in United
16	States against Wheeler, justice in tribal
17	courts is more focused on restitution between
18	the defendant and the victim and less focused
19	on incarceration and deterrence and the kinds
20	of treatment programs that they can receive in
21	federal prison but that they're not going to be
22	able to receive in tribal prison.
23	JUSTICE BREYER: I see the problem. I
24	just wondered if you want to say a few words on
25	a slightly different thing, which I don't know

- if you have anything to add to what's in my
- 2 mind, and I've never been able to formulate a
- 3 principle.
- 4 All right. I -- I looked at the
- 5 history, it's not just a Footnote 9. It's a --
- 6 a whole discussion in Frankfurter's opinion,
- 7 which is on your side, but they have a pretty
- 8 strong argument on their side.
- 9 Then you've pointed to some
- 10 problems and -- and I'm sure they're real
- ones -- but they don't seem like overwhelming
- ones in terms of how often they occur. Then
- 13 you say: Well, it's 100 cases where this
- 14 applies every year in the federal part and
- there are also 20 states, probably 50,000
- 16 federal prosecutions, something like that,
- there are 100 cases, and this has been around
- 18 for 70 years, at least, 170, possibly, or
- 19 somewhere in between.
- 20 So how am I supposed to decide in your
- 21 opinion about whether their arguments, which
- 22 are past, plus a certain unfairness, which
- Justice Black says pretty well, outweighs the
- 24 stare decisis. You can't say never, stare
- 25 decisis is never. If it always holds, it

- 1 wouldn't have Brown versus Board.
- But, if it never holds, we're really
- 3 in trouble in terms of the stability of the
- 4 law. Okay? Wonderful. This has occurred to
- 5 you, this problem. And do you have anything to
- 6 say that will help me decide this kind of
- 7 balance?
- 8 MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, I think they
- 9 need to show a lot more than they have shown
- 10 here in order to overcome this Court's
- 11 consistent understanding throughout its history
- of what the Double Jeopardy Clause means.
- 13 As Justice Kavanaugh pointed out
- 14 earlier -- I forget what adjective he used, but
- 15 it was --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Grievously.
- 17 MR. FEIGIN: Thank you. You have to
- 18 show that this was grievously wrong, and they
- 19 haven't come close to doing that. I can talk
- 20 about the history in -- in a second, but just
- in terms of the consequences, there are very
- 22 serious consequences -- these consequences are
- 23 going to multiply if you have -- if you adopt
- their rule because everyone understands how to
- 25 operate under the old rule.

1	Their rule's going to create problems
2	for courts comparing offenses across
3	jurisdictions. That's complicated
4	JUSTICE GINSBURG: May I ask you a
5	question about issue preclusion? You say no
6	no double double jeopardy doesn't operate
7	state/federal federal/state. But how about
8	a case that has been tried in one system and
9	the jury has found whatever it's found, and
10	then it's tried in the other system and the
11	identical conduct is involved. Is does
12	issue preclusion operate?
13	MR. FEIGIN: In are you talking in
14	criminal law
15	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes.
16	MR. FEIGIN: or in huh?
17	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yeah.
18	MR. FEIGIN: Or in civil law?
19	JUSTICE GINSBURG: I'm talking about
20	criminal law.
21	MR. FEIGIN: So, in criminal law, Your
22	Honor, there is no non-mutual collateral
23	estoppel. The Court said as much in in
24	Standefer. And this issue hasn't come up, of
25	course because the Court has understood that

- 1 federal and state crimes are not the same
- 2 offense under the Double Jeopardy Clause.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Don't -- don't
- 4 all your problems go away if you're the first
- 5 to file, if you win the race to the courthouse?
- 6 And I would assume the same is true with the
- 7 states. And so what's most likely is that you
- 8 and the states are going to sit down and
- 9 develop a -- a way of coordinating which cases
- 10 you're going to file in first and which ones
- 11 they're going to file in first?
- 12 MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I'm not
- 13 sure that's true, because I'm not sure that
- we're always going to cooperate. I think the
- 15 history of this nation has shown that the
- 16 federal government and states do not always see
- 17 eye to eye on matters of criminal law
- 18 enforcement, and there are going to be cases in
- 19 which each has separate interests to vindicate.
- 20 You could imagine federal prosecutors
- 21 in California, as a protest against -- I -- I'm
- 22 sorry, state prosecutors in California, as a
- 23 protest against federal marijuana laws,
- 24 allowing anyone who's caught with 50 kilograms
- of marijuana to walk in and plead to a

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1 misdemeanor to frustrate federal prosecutions.
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- 2 There are also going to be cases where
- 3 the state prosecutors simply don't have perfect
- 4 information or maybe the federal prosecutors
- 5 don't. So the state prosecutors might see
- 6 something and just think it's a simple assault,
- 7 and what they don't realize is that it's
- 8 actually part of a racketeering conspiracy.
- 9 And I'm not making up these examples,
- 10 Your Honor. We see all the Petite waiver
- 11 requests, and the examples I'm giving the Court
- 12 are real cases that have actually happened.
- 13 They're at least based on some --
- 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So, counsel, it
- 15 seems like the ones that you can't cooperate
- 16 you could solve by getting to the courthouse
- 17 first, right?
- 18 MR. FEIGIN: Well, then we're not --
- 19 Your Honor, then, if there's a race to the
- 20 courthouse, it deters state and federal
- 21 prosecutors from cooperating even at the
- investigation stage. You don't have to take my
- 23 word for it. If you look at the state and
- local government brief, that's exactly what
- 25 they say.

1	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Can I ask one
2	question on on on stare decisis that we
3	haven't explored so far? And and and
4	that's reliance. The government doesn't make a
5	reliance argument here as far as I can tell.
6	It says that there's going to be some systemic
7	trouble if we were to change the rule, and
8	confusion.
9	But you you can't you haven't
10	suggested, I don't think, that that a a
11	prosecutor has a right to rely on an
12	unconstitutional rule to put someone in prison.
13	I mean, that wouldn't be a thing, would it?
14	MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I do
15	think that it should weigh heavily on this
16	Court that what it would be doing would
17	potentially be letting people out of prison
18	based based on, I think, a rule that is at
19	best
20	JUSTICE GORSUCH: If we if we were
21	convinced, though, the Constitution stood one
22	way, against you, and just hypothetically,
23	you wouldn't you wouldn't argue that the
24	government has a reliance interest to keep
25	neonle in pricon decnite an unconstitutional

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1 rule, would you?
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- 2 MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, I think if
- 3 they had shown the kind of monumental or
- 4 grievously serious evidence that they would
- 5 need to show --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, no. How
- 7 about 50 --
- 8 MR. FEIGIN: -- to prevent stare
- 9 decisis.
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's just say
- 11 51 percent, they've persuaded us 51 percent
- that the Constitution's meaning under any sort
- of interpretation, just hypothetically, is
- 14 against the government.
- Would it be appropriate, in the
- 16 government's view, to keep people in prison in
- 17 those circumstances?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, it's --
- 19 it's hard to put an exact percentage on it, but
- 20 I do think they would have to show -- this
- isn't just a preponderance of the evidence test
- or stare decisis means nothing. There's also
- 23 something about the reputation of this Court
- and ensuring that this Court doesn't lightly
- overturn its precedents, and unless there is

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1 some monumental reason to do so. And they
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- 2 haven't shown that -- they haven't shown any
- 3 such reason to do so today.
- I mean, one -- one further point I
- 5 would -- I would make on that is that their
- 6 entire argument is based on a historical
- 7 principle that no court in the United States
- 8 has ever adopted, which would be this foreign
- 9 judgment bar principle.
- 10 And the result that they would reach
- 11 would be, I think, frankly, unworkable.
- 12 They're not raising any arguments that this
- 13 Court hasn't already considered and rejected.
- 14 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, it's
- 15 based --
- 16 MR. FEIGIN: And in terms of -- I'm
- 17 sorry.
- 18 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Go ahead.
- MR. FEIGIN: Your Honor, you
- 20 referenced earlier and -- as did Justice Kagan
- 21 -- the idea of stare decisis representing
- 22 something about judicial humility. And I can't
- think of anything that's more antithetical to
- 24 judicial humility than deciding that this
- 25 Court, all of a sudden, has discovered some

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1 historical principle that has eluded its
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- 2 predecessors going back 170 years.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: They --
- 4 MR. FEIGIN: If these -- I'm sorry,
- 5 Justice Kavanaugh.
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: They also raise,
- 7 of course, a general principle of individual
- 8 liberty. And we've often said, as Justice
- 9 Ginsburg points out, that federalism is
- 10 designed to protect individual liberty.
- I think your basic response to that is
- that, actually, that's wrong in certain
- 13 respects. Federal -- that this system of
- 14 separate sovereigns means your individual
- 15 liberty's infringed more often by double
- 16 prosecution, double regulation, double
- 17 taxation.
- 18 Is that your answer, or do you have an
- 19 answer other than that in response to the
- 20 individual liberty concern?
- 21 MR. FEIGIN: No, Your Honor, I think
- 22 it's a very narrow and not correct view of
- 23 liberty, only to look at the liberty interests
- 24 of the defendant.
- 25 There are also the liberty --

1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: From the
2	perspective of negative liberty, liberty
3	freedom from government oppression or
4	government regulation, your rule strikes some
5	and this is what they point out as a
6	as an infringement of basic concepts of
7	individual liberty: You didn't get me the
8	first time; you're going to take another crack
9	at it.
10	MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I I
11	don't think that's the right way to think about
12	it. I think the framers decided that they were
13	going to protect may I finish, Your Honor?
14	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Uh-huh.
15	MR. FEIGIN: They were going to
16	protect liberty in a particular way, and the
17	way they were going to do that is by vesting
18	sovereign power in the states and in the United
19	States, which could both positively enact laws
20	and protect people who may be victims of
21	crimes.
22	And they did not have any
23	understanding that the United States or the
24	states would be precluded from vindicating
25	their distinct sovereign interests in their own

1 sovereign spheres by the unilateral actions of

- 2 the other sovereign.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 5 Mr. Feigin.
- 6 General Hawkins.
- 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF KYLE D. HAWKINS
- FOR TEXAS, ET AL., AS AMICI CURIAE,
- 9 IN SUPPORT OF AFFIRMANCE
- 10 MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 11 Justice, and may it please the Court:
- 12 I'm here today on behalf of a broad
- and diverse coalition of 36 states collectively
- 14 representing over 86 percent of the U.S.
- 15 population. The states may disagree with one
- another about various policy issues, but we are
- 17 united here in urging the Court not to overrule
- its long-standing interpretation of the Double
- 19 Jeopardy Clause.
- 20 To rule for Petitioner, the Court
- 21 would have to read "offence" to mean conduct
- 22 without regard to sovereignty; overrule Fox,
- 23 Lanza, Bartkus, Abbate, and Heath; allow one
- sovereign to potentially thwart another's
- ability to prosecute violations of its laws;

- 1 give foreign powers a potential veto over
- 2 domestic prosecutions; incentivize even --
- 3 JUSTICE GINSBURG: In the -- in the
- 4 numbers -- in the numbers you just mentioned, I
- 5 thought we had heard from the other side that
- 6 something like 25 states, something like that,
- 7 do not have the separate sovereigns, one state
- 8 versus another, state versus federal.
- 9 MR. HAWKINS: Well, Your Honor, it's
- 10 true that there are 20 states that have enacted
- 11 a general sort of bar on their ability to bring
- 12 a prosecution based on conduct that was already
- 13 prosecuted by another sovereign.
- 14 There are some quirks and differences
- 15 within those states, but I think it's important
- 16 to note that 14 of those 20 states are a part
- of our coalition today. They have signed on to
- our amicus brief urging this Court to leave
- 19 that decision and those types of policy
- 20 considerations to the states, which are already
- 21 actively legislating in this area.
- Take the Commonwealth of Virginia, for
- 23 example. The Commonwealth of Virginia
- 24 generally bars a prosecution by that state when
- 25 the federal government has already brought a

1 prosecution based on the same conduct. But, as

- 2 recently as 2003, following the 9/11 attacks,
- 3 Virginia amended its law to make an exception
- 4 for terrorism cases.
- 5 Other -- the parties have spoken about
- 6 potential exceptions related to civil rights,
- 7 for example. I think the Virginia example
- 8 shows that states are capable of recognizing
- 9 the fairness concerns and the policy concerns
- 10 that Petitioner raises and legislating
- 11 appropriately.
- 12 In asking the Court not to overturn
- its long-standing interpretation, we'd like to
- 14 emphasize a couple of points.
- 15 First, Petitioner's position would
- 16 create a litany of practical problems that
- 17 could harm state interests, and I'd like to go
- 18 through a number of examples of those.
- 19 First, imagine a situation in which
- 20 state A has a tougher penalty for a particular
- 21 type of conduct than does state B. That, of
- 22 course, is the fact pattern of Heath v.
- 23 Alabama.
- 24 Under Petitioner's view, state A would
- 25 not be able to vindicate its interest in that

- 1 sterner prosecution if state B were to go
- 2 first. That could -- that situation could also
- 3 play out if a state has a sterner penalty for a
- 4 particular act than does the federal
- 5 government.
- This Court, of course, saw that in the
- 7 Screws case, where the state penalty was much
- 8 stronger than the federal penalty. We also see
- 9 that in, for example, the area of robbery.
- 10 Under federal law, a robbery of a U.S.
- 11 letter carrier carrying U.S. mail is punishable
- 12 by up to 10 years. In Texas, however, robbery
- is punishable by up to 20 years. Again, under
- 14 Petitioner's view, Texas would not be able to
- 15 vindicate its interests.
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: I think what your
- 17 friends on the other side might say to that is
- something along the lines of: Well, it's one
- 19 thing to pick the higher penalty and, you know,
- 20 let the state or the -- or the government with
- 21 the higher penalty go forward. The problem
- 22 with this is that you can get both.
- MR. HAWKINS: Well -- well, Your
- 24 Honor, oftentimes, as a practical matter, there
- 25 won't be both. But -- but suppose another

- 1 practical problem that would arise under
- 2 Petitioner's theory, suppose that a state had a
- 3 particular interest in prosecuting a drug
- 4 kingpin in that state. Suppose he's public
- 5 enemy number 1 in a given state.
- 6 Well, unbeknownst to the state, the
- 7 U.S. Government is also looking at that kingpin
- 8 in connection with a different federal
- 9 prosecution. Now, unbeknownst to the state,
- 10 the federal government could enter into a plea
- 11 agreement with that criminal in exchange for
- 12 testimony in some other matter that's of great
- 13 concern to the federal government.
- 14 The states might not know about that
- 15 until it's too late. At that point, the states
- 16 would not be able to vindicate their interests
- in prosecuting public enemy number 1.
- 18 And, of course, as the discussion
- 19 earlier --
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: That would
- 21 certainly limit the willingness of the
- 22 defendant to cooperate if that -- if that were
- 23 the rule.
- 24 MR. HAWKINS: I'm sorry, Your Honor?
- 25 Can you please repeat that?

1	JUSTICE GINSBURG: If the if the
2	if the defendant could be re-prosecuted by the
3	state, that would be a a disincentive to
4	entering into a a plea bargain if he can
5	if he can just be subject to prosecution by
6	another sovereign for the same conduct.
7	MR. HAWKINS: Your Honor, I suppose
8	that may be theoretically true, but, as my
9	friend from the federal government indicated,
10	we don't have any evidence that that's the
11	case, and I don't believe that Petitioner has
12	pointed to any.
13	As was discussed earlier, we could
14	also see this play out as to foreign
15	prosecutions. Imagine a situation involving a
16	international drug lord, a Pablo Escobar type,
17	for example. Suppose that Florida could show
18	that this individual had trafficked large
19	amounts of drugs into the State of Florida and
20	devastated local Florida communities.
21	Well, if a local Medellin prosecutor
22	and a local Medellin jury were to try and
23	either acquit Escobar or potentially give him a
24	light sentence or something like that, that
25	would under Petitioner's theory forever

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1
      prevent the State of Florida --
 2
               JUSTICE GINSBURG: Acquit of conduct
      engaged in Florida?
 3
 4
                             Well, yes, Your Honor,
               MR. HAWKINS:
 5
      if -- if there were drugs being trafficked by
      the -- by Escobar and a cartel into the State
 6
 7
      of Florida, that would certainly implicate the
 8
      interests of Florida.
 9
               And under Petitioner's theory --
10
               JUSTICE GINSBURG: Yes, but I asked
11
      about the Colombia? If the crime is committed
      in Florida against Florida residents --
12
               MR. HAWKINS: Well, Your Honor, my --
13
      my hypothetical I am making assumes that
14
15
      there's some sort of Colombian law against
16
      trafficking drugs out of that country into
17
      another country. We can certainly imagine that
      being the case in -- in many scenarios.
18
19
               Other practical concerns that would
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arise, as my friend from the -- the Department
of Justice indicated, would involve races to
the courthouse and competition between states
and the federal government, rather than
cooperation, all to the detriment of law
enforcement.

1	And even setting aside these practical
2	problems, there are a number of other concerns
3	that Petitioner's view would raise.
4	First, under Petitioner's view, courts
5	around this country would be for the first time
6	asked to apply Blockburger across the federal
7	and state divide.
8	That is no easy thing to do. This
9	Court has experienced a taste of that in its
10	Armed Career Criminal Act jurisprudence where
11	the Court has tried to do something similar to
12	that, has developed the modified categorical
13	approach and other doctrines to try to
14	accomplish that.
15	It's no easy matter to do that. That
16	problem would even be compounded if this Court
17	were to declare a ruling for Petitioner to be
18	retroactive. Anybody who had been convicted or
19	even charged, really, a second time based on
20	similar conduct would challenge that
21	prosecution as unconstitutional under this
22	Court's rule.
23	And then, of course, a court in
24	reviewing that, if if the rule were
25	retroactive would have to go back through

1	history and apply Blockburger not just across
2	the federal and state divide but also as a
3	historical matter as to offenses that may have
4	changed over time.
5	Finally, setting all of these
6	practical problems aside, I think it's
7	important to note that Petitioner seeks to take
8	us into uncharted waters. The the rule that
9	he imagines has never been the rule in this
10	country until potentially now.
11	The states and the federal government
12	have never had to be concerned about who goes
13	first. Under the law of unintended
14	consequences, surely, there are practical
15	problems that would arise from Petitioner's
16	position that we may not have even thought
17	about today.
18	Unless there are further questions.

20 counsel.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Chaiten,

23 four minutes remaining.

24

19

25

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,

1	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF LOUIS A. CHAITEN
2	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
3	MR. CHAITEN: I I just I guess
4	I'll pick up where thank you, Mr. Chief
5	Justice.
6	I'll pick up where he ended, which is
7	that this has never been the rule in the
8	country in this country today. It is the
9	rule in at least 20 20 states. It's the
10	rule in 37 states with respect to certain
11	crimes. And it all seems to have worked out
12	okay.
13	I did want to I did want to return
14	to the issue of stare decisis and respond to
15	what they were saying. We we have a legal
16	framework for answering stare decisis
17	questions. It's a law of stare decisis.
18	And I think it provides some pretty
19	standard guidance on this. We we have to be
20	right on the merits, that's true, but if we're
21	right right if we're assuming we're right
22	on the merits, then then the question is,
23	what else do we need to show?
24	And I already told you about one key
25	factor under this Court's jurisprudence, which

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is a jurisprudence -- jurisprudential change.
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- 2 And I think incorporation is a pretty
- 3 significant one.
- 4 Second, we -- there has been a -- a --
- 5 a massive expansion in federal law, as this
- 6 Court has recognized. That was recognized by
- 7 this Court in Murphy and Elkins as the kind of
- 8 changed factual circumstance that would -- that
- 9 would justify revisiting an issue.
- 10 There -- another issue is reliance.
- 11 And, of course, reliance isn't really a
- 12 relevant issue where you're talking about an
- 13 unconstitutional law enforcement practice.
- 14 And -- and finally, the -- the -- the
- 15 -- this is a constitutional case. It is not a
- 16 statutory case. And the Court's approach to
- 17 stare decisis has been different in
- 18 constitutional cases.
- 19 As -- as for --
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you think there's
- 21 less reliance here than there was on the issue
- 22 of the Miranda rule?
- MR. CHAITEN: Well, the -- the issue
- is whether -- whether you are continuing an
- 25 unconstitutional law enforcement practice. And

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1 my point is the Court has pointed out in
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- 2 Arizona v. Gant that the Court has never
- 3 allowed continuation of an unconstitutional law
- 4 enforcement practice --
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: So you -- you think
- 6 that --
- 7 MR. CHAITEN: -- on reliance.
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: -- any -- any
- 9 constitutional decision of this Court that
- 10 imposes any limitation on any right in the Bill
- of Rights that affects criminal procedure is
- 12 always open to reexamination without
- 13 consideration of stare decisis because doing
- that would expand the rights of the criminal
- 15 defendant? That's your position?
- 16 MR. CHAITEN: Your Honor, I'm not
- 17 saying without consideration of stare decisis.
- 18 I am saying without consideration of reliance
- 19 interests.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Reliance --
- 21 MR. CHAITEN: This Court has said --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, the obvious
- thing that comes into my mind, I got the other
- factors, but the -- the -- it seems --
- 25 what's wrong with -- I'm -- with what I'm

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1 thinking, which must be something wrong with
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- 2 it, that -- that very often this Court has said
- 3 the rule of Constitution is X, but we're not
- 4 going to apply it retroactively, because to do
- 5 that would mean a vast release of prisoners who
- 6 have committed crimes.
- 7 Now that sounds like reliance and it
- 8 sounds like reliance on a law that the Court
- 9 has said is unconstitutional, which is the
- 10 preceding situation.
- 11 MR. CHAITEN: Yeah, I don't think it's
- 12 a reliance issue on addressing the underlying
- 13 merits question. It's just whether to apply
- 14 the law retroactively. Incidentally, yet I --
- 15 I don't think that --
- JUSTICE BREYER: You don't --
- 17 MR. CHAITEN: -- I don't -- I'm sorry.
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, the reason you
- 19 don't apply the unconstitutional -- the reason
- 20 you still apply the unconstitutional law to all
- 21 those people who are in prison is because the
- 22 reliance in the community on their staying in
- 23 prison.
- MR. CHAITEN: Well -- well, I think
- 25 there -- the reason you don't apply it is

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because the judgment's final, but I -- I -- so
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- 2 I think it's a separate question from the
- 3 underlying merits question, the underlying
- 4 constitutional question.
- 5 And, incidentally, I don't think this
- 6 rule would be retroactive. It's a procedural
- 7 rule. It doesn't go to substantive. It's not
- 8 a watershed rule. So I -- I don't think that's
- 9 a concern here.
- 10 And then --
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: And there have been
- many decisions of this Court that have imposed
- some limits on -- have rejected some claims
- that have been asserted under the Fourth
- 15 Amendment, under the -- the Fifth Amendment
- 16 right against self-incrimination, under the
- 17 Sixth Amendment jury trial right and the right
- 18 to ineffective assistance of counsel, under the
- 19 Eighth Amendment, right against cruel and
- 20 unusual punishment.
- 21 And if any of those was challenged,
- you would say there's no -- there can never be
- 23 a reliance, and because there's a -- there
- 24 never can be reliance because it's a -- it
- 25 involves an individual right, we put stare

1	decisis aside?
2	MR. CHAITEN: I'm so I'm not
3	there's more that goes into stare decisis than
4	reliance. That's one factor.
5	What I'm saying is that the Court has
6	said that we will not
7	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But you
8	MR. CHAITEN: we will not rely on
9	reliance in the case of an unconstitutional law
10	enforcement practice.
11	Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.
12	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
13	counsel. The case is submitted.
14	(Whereupon, 11:24 a.m., the case was
15	submitted.)
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