SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SU	PREME COURT OF	THE UNITED STATES
MEDICAL MARIJUAN	A, INC., ET AL.	,)
	Petitioners,)
v.) No. 23-365
DOUGLAS J. HORN,)
	Respondent.)

Pages: 1 through 87

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: October 15, 2024

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNI	ITED STATES
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3	MEDICAL MARIJUANA, INC., ET AL.,)
4	Petitioners,)
5	V.) No. 23-365
6	DOUGLAS J. HORN,)
7	Respondent.)
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10	Washington, D.C	2.
11	Tuesday, October 15	5, 2024
12		
13	The above-entitled matter	came on for
14	oral argument before the Supreme	Court of the
15	United States at 10:06 a.m.	
16		
17	APPEARANCES:	
18	LISA S. BLATT, ESQUIRE, Washingto	on, D.C.; on behalf of
19	the Petitioners.	
20	EASHA ANAND, ESQUIRE, Stanford, (California; on behalf
21	of the Respondent.	
22		
23		
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:06 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 23-365,
5	Medical Marijuana versus Horn.
6	Ms. Blatt.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF LISA S. BLATT
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
9	MS. BLATT: Thank you, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	RICO states that any person injured in
12	his business or property by reason of
13	racketeering can sue therefor and recover
14	threefold the damages he sustains. Because
15	RICO's cause of action excludes personal
16	injuries, RICO excludes damages resulting from
17	personal injuries.
18	The text differentiates the injury
19	from racketeering and the damages sustained from
20	that injury, thus showing that injury and
21	damages are distinct. And the references to
22	damages he sustains shows that damages are the
23	losses suffered as a result of the injury.
24	Damages are not themselves the injury inflicted
25	by the defendant.

1	This distinction tracks this Court's
2	recognition that lost wages and medical expenses
3	are classic damages from personal injuries.
4	Respondent's complaint alleges the
5	personal injury of unwanted ingestion of THC and
6	the resulting damages of lost wages. To quote
7	the complaint: "Defendant's behavior caused
8	Plaintiff's physical harm in the ingestion of
9	Dixie, and as a direct result of consuming this
10	product, he was dismissed from his employment."
11	That's a personal injury claim outside civil
12	RICO.
13	Respondent argues that every economic
14	loss is its own RICO injury but not to worry
15	because RICO still bars non-pecuniary damages.
16	But that view conflates injury and damages by
17	treating RICO's exclusion of personal injuries
18	as just excluding a narrow type of damages:
19	pain and suffering and emotional distress.
20	Respondent's rule also leaves the
21	personal exclusion toothless since virtually all
22	personal injuries result in monetary loss. It
23	is utterly implausible that Congress federalized
24	every slip and fall involving RICO predicates.
25	Personal injuries are serious and may support

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1 state tort -- tort claims, but they are not the
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- 2 stuff of RICO.
- 3 I welcome questions.
- 4 JUSTICE THOMAS: What does it mean to
- 5 be injured, someone to be injured, in his
- 6 business?
- 7 MS. BLATT: The Court in -- in the
- 8 Clayton Act case of Reiter talked about what --
- 9 injury to business, and it was referring to
- 10 anytime a commercial enterprise suffers any
- 11 monetary loss, it would be both a right -- a --
- 12 a injury to both business and property, a right
- 13 to carry on business.
- Now the lower courts pre-RICO under
- 15 the Clayton Act have also recognized that an
- 16 employee has a business kind of a right to carry
- on in his employment, and we haven't contested
- 18 that. So, in those cases, if you conspired to
- 19 prevent -- in those cases, they involved
- 20 encyclopedic salesmen, deprived those people of
- 21 their right to carry on their profession as a
- 22 salesman, the -- the lower courts recognized
- that that was an injury to business. So it's a
- 24 right to carry on, you know, a profession or
- 25 your commercial enterprise.

1	JUSTICE THOMAS: Can loss of
2	employment ever constitute injury in business?
3	MS. BLATT: Well, it's it certainly
4	does in the Clayton Act. And the example I can
5	think of, the only example that readily comes to
6	mind, in RICO would be the human trafficking
7	cases, where a person is forced to work against
8	their will, and the there's an injury in your
9	right to get, you know, the the the
10	payment for your performed work. So that would
11	be an injury, a direct injury, to one's
12	business. And that human trafficking it's
13	hard to see how it would otherwise come up
14	unless you defrauded someone into quitting their
15	job, but, generally, lost wages are pretty
16	standard, prototypical damages from personal
17	injury.
18	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Ms. Blatt, you're
19	raising an example that leads me to think that
20	what you're really arguing about is proximate
21	cause, meaning and not really whether
22	personal injury is recoverable or not. It is
23	under, by your own admission, certain
24	circumstances. And, in your brief, you list a
25	bunch of examples that seem to me quintessential

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1 personal injuries, but you related them to the
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- 2 business loss and then said those were
- 3 recoverable.
- 4 MS. BLATT: So personal --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So it doesn't make
- 6 any sense to me to say a mob can threaten a
- 7 store owner to take over his business and, if he
- 8 doesn't, injure him and he can't recover, but if
- 9 they put a bomb in the place and close it down,
- 10 they close it down by hitting him or shooting
- 11 him but then throw a bomb, he can recover for
- 12 the bomb but not for the injury to himself.
- MS. BLATT: So no one in -- under this
- statute can ever recover for personal injuries,
- 15 full stop, never ever. If there's an
- 16 independent infringement --
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But why? Isn't --
- 18 MS. BLATT: -- of the right to
- 19 property --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- isn't that an
- issue or shouldn't it be an issue of proximate
- 22 cause, which wasn't reached in this case,
- 23 correct?
- MS. BLATT: So -- so, no, and here's
- 25 why, because a lot of examples, the plaintiff

- 1 will meet a direct and proximate cause, and I
- 2 can start to give you a million, but they would
- 3 still be damages resulting from personal injury.
- 4 Take your -- a shooting where someone
- 5 is shot and suffers medical expenses and can't
- 6 work. Direct injury, sure, the lost wages and
- 7 medical expenses, but, still, it's damages
- 8 resulting from personal injury, so a proximate
- 9 cause --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But, no, there's a
- whole lot more to RICO than simply damages.
- 12 There's also the predicate that you have to have
- 13 a racketeering --
- MS. BLATT: For sure.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- enterprise.
- 16 You have to have willful intent. In product
- 17 liability cases, most of those are negligence or
- 18 strict liability, so you're not going to have
- 19 willfulness or intent.
- 20 And, similarly, you have to show
- 21 proximate causation, reasonably foreseeable.
- 22 There's a serious question as to whether you
- 23 shoot someone not related to the enterprise and
- you cause damage, but another predicate act
- occurs that you're going to recover.

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1 MS. BLATT: So, in your normal case of
2 any personal injury, you read a -- misread -- a
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- 3 label's -- confuse -- misleading, you're
- 4 injured, you are -- can't work, you have lost --
- 5 lost --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're still
- 7 not --
- MS. BLATT: That's --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- you're still
- 10 not answering my question.
- MS. BLATT: Well, I guess what -- so
- 12 two things. You can always have causation, but
- there's still an independent requirement that
- 14 you must be injured in your business or
- 15 property.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It has to be
- 17 proximate course -- causation --
- MS. BLATT: Yes. And there's --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- which is very
- 20 different.
- MS. BLATT: -- plenty of proximate,
- 22 direct, absolute causation, no ands, ifs, or
- buts, but it's still just a personal injury
- action that's outside the scope of RICO.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, Ms. --

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: But you --
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- JUSTICE JACKSON: Oh, go ahead. Go
- 3 ahead.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: You started by talking
- 5 to Justice Thomas about what it means to be
- 6 injured in your business or property. Now there
- 7 might be a set of questions there that this
- 8 Court has not addressed, lower courts have, but
- 9 you said lower courts have said that to -- to
- 10 lose a job is to be injured in your business or
- 11 property.
- MS. BLATT: No -- no. Sorry. To lose
- a job can be both damages or an injury. It
- depends on the nature of the cause of action.
- So you always generally, with every
- 16 personal injury, can have permanent job loss.
- 17 You can have lost wages. Those are damages.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, it's also --
- MS. BLATT: It is a very rare case --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- it's also a loss
- 21 when -- you know, it's a -- it's a harm when I
- 22 lose a job. You know, I've been harmed. I lost
- 23 my job. And --
- 24 MS. BLATT: Yes. When you pay medical
- 25 expenses, you're harmed as well.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: If you're harmed when
2	you lose a job, then you've been injured in your
3	business, haven't you?
4	I mean, just as I I guess what
5	I'm saying is the simplest, clearest reading of
6	this statutory language is it doesn't it
7	doesn't distinguish by what causes the harm. It
8	just says, if you're harmed in a way that's in
9	your business or property, which has been
10	understood to include being harmed by loss of a
11	job, and that's by reason of a violation of
12	Section 1962, then you're entitled to threefold
13	the damages you would otherwise be
14	MS. BLATT: And the problem with that
15	is it's reading the statute just like the
16	Federal Tort Claims Act, the Antiterrorism Act,
17	to say any person injured in his person can
18	recover threefold the damages. And the
19	JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, it's it's not
20	reading the statute the same way as injured in
21	his person because, if if all I come in and
22	say is, you know, I suffered emotional distress
23	or I suffered pain and suffering, I would not be
24	entitled to damage to threefold damages.
25	MS RIATT: So that s an

- 1 infinitesimal, small number of cases that would
- 2 be excluded.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: It might be an
- 4 infinitesimal, small number of cases. I'm just
- 5 trying to figure out -- like, that's the most
- 6 normal, natural reading of the statutory
- 7 language. If you've been -- it doesn't say what
- 8 you've been injured by. I mean, you have to be
- 9 injured by the RICO violation. But it doesn't
- 10 distinguish among different kinds of RICO
- 11 violations. It just says, if you've been
- injured by a RICO violation in your business --
- MS. BLATT: In your business, right.
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- which includes your
- employment, then you're entitled to threefold
- 16 damages.
- MS. BLATT: And the only way to give
- 18 the statute its normal meaning of "damages
- 19 sustained" is to distinguish between the injury.
- 20 If the Respondent had hit a tree because he was
- 21 impaired from THC, that would be a classic
- 22 personal injury action for lost wages and
- 23 medical expenses.
- It sounds like you think maybe the
- 25 Second Circuit is right. The Second Circuit

- 1 seemed to think lost wages are always
- 2 recoverable, but medical expenses never would be
- 3 because that results from a physical injury.
- 4 And, of course, property loss, the
- 5 most fundamental of all property loss is
- 6 monetary loss.
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: But I -- I think
- 8 what --
- 9 MS. BLATT: All personal injury
- 10 actions result in monetary loss except, I guess,
- 11 a case where there's just exclusively
- 12 psychological damage. But every slip and
- 13 fall --
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I -- I don't
- 15 know exactly how your rule works because, if you
- don't read it that normal, straightforward way,
- 17 then, you know, you -- you get into all these --
- 18 you admit in a whole set of hypos that I can do
- something to you that we would normally classify
- as a personal injury and you would be entitled
- 21 to RICO damages.
- MS. BLATT: No.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: So, if I hit you and,
- 24 as a result of that -- this is your car wash
- operator example -- there's an assault that's

- 1 usually understood as a personal injury, but, as
- 2 a result, you decide to do business with the
- 3 mobster rather than with a legitimate
- 4 businessman and you say, well, notwithstanding
- 5 that it was all caused by an assault, which was
- 6 a personal injury, you are entitled to RICO
- 7 damages.
- 8 And I think you could say the same
- 9 thing here.
- 10 MS. BLATT: But that's just not our
- 11 argument.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, you could
- 13 have -- you could have a -- well, I don't know
- 14 how you get to the answers of your hypotheticals
- if that's not your argument.
- 16 MS. BLATT: Sure. Whenever you have a
- 17 robbery where money is taken or an extortion
- where money is taken or kidnapping where ransom
- 19 is taken, there are two independent
- 20 infringements of your legal right.
- You have a right to not be hit or
- 22 assaulted or whatever, you know, kidnapped, and
- you have a right not to have your money taken.
- 24 And when money is taken, you get your money back
- 25 under RICO because that's a monetary independent

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1 loss. You cannot recover for physical --
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- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, money is taken
- 3 as a result of the assault. The assault
- 4 happens, and then you say: Okay, I better do
- 5 business with you.
- So, I mean, you're -- you're --
- 7 MS. BLATT: But that's why our test --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- it's a -- it's a
- 9 consequential injury from the assault.
- 10 MS. BLATT: Let me give you an
- 11 example. If you take the money and then shove
- the person down the stairs, you took the money.
- 13 You may have shoved the person down the stairs
- 14 to prevent them from getting your money back,
- 15 but our test doesn't ask which --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But that's not your
- own hypos. Your own hypos are things like
- there's an assault, there's a kidnapping,
- 19 there's a murder. All of those things are
- 20 personal injuries that don't have any particular
- 21 economic component.
- 22 As a result of those things, you lose
- 23 some business opportunities, and -- and you
- 24 yourself say you get RICO under that -- you get
- 25 RICO damages under those hypotheticals. So this

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1 one --
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- 2 MS. BLATT: You can --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- looks pretty much
- 4 like that.
- 5 MS. BLATT: No. You can always get
- 6 RICO damages for independent property
- 7 violations. And, here, there is just an allege
- 8 of a right not to have -- not to be induced to
- 9 consume THC.
- 10 Our position is no different than the
- 11 Clayton Act. It's the exact same rule. This
- 12 Court, in the Truett versus Chrysler Motor
- 13 Company case, said: No damages resulting from
- 14 personal injuries. That is our test.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, Ms. Blatt, can
- 16 I --
- 17 JUSTICE BARRETT: Ms. Blatt, can I ask
- 18 you --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: Go ahead.
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: Ms. Blatt, can I ask
- 21 you where you get your definition of "legal
- 22 injury"? I mean, are you looking at just kind
- of general tort principles? I guess I'm having
- 24 a hard time figuring out exactly how you look at
- 25 it and define it.

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1 MS. BLATT: Two -- two -- two places.
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- 2 So, when it says, you know, this RJR Nabisco and
- 3 also just the statute, you can sue and you can
- 4 sue for a personal injury, that, to me, conjures
- 5 up the infringement of a right.
- And in WesternGeco, when the Court
- 7 talked about an infringement of the patent
- 8 right, it called it "the injury."
- 9 In Yegiazaryan, when it talked about
- 10 what the injury in that case was when trying to
- 11 decide if there's a domestic injury, it talked
- 12 about what the racketeering activity directly
- did to the plaintiff.
- 14 And so injury as an infringement of a
- 15 legal right is a -- I think we cite Ballentine,
- but that is a standard definition of "injury."
- 17 JUSTICE BARRETT: Where does the
- "legal" in the "legal right" come from? Are you
- 19 looking kind of at general principles? You're
- 20 just looking at the nature of the harm? Does it
- 21 help you in terms of property or --
- MS. BLATT: Oh, I think it's just a
- 23 question of federal law. I mean, so whether you
- have an injury to person, property, or business,
- 25 that's a question of federal law that's informed

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1 by general tort principles.
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- 2 JUSTICE BARRETT: So are you looking
- 3 at, like, the Restatement?
- 4 MS. BLATT: You could in the Burke
- 5 case that dealt with whether something was a
- 6 personal injury on -- sorry, damages on account
- 7 of personal injury.
- 8 The Court looked at things like a
- 9 Dobbs and Restatements, but it was a federal
- 10 question on whether the damages resulted from
- 11 the personal injury --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Why -- why aren't
- 13 you looking --
- 14 MS. BLATT: -- and whether there was a
- 15 per -- whether -- whether discrimination under
- 16 Title VII was, in fact, a personal injury or
- some other kind of injury. The Court looked at
- 18 a bunch of state law sources, but it was a
- 19 federal law question.
- 20 JUSTICE JACKSON: Ms. Blatt, I -- I'm
- 21 trying to understand the personal injury that
- you say was alleged or happened in this case.
- I did not perceive Mr. Horn to be
- 24 relying on any sort of personal injury
- 25 allegation with respect to the RICO count. He

- doesn't say, for example, that he took the THC
- 2 and that he got ill from it and, as a result of
- 3 that, he took off from work and then he got
- 4 fired.
- 5 He says, instead, just directly, that
- 6 he -- let me see --
- 7 MS. BLATT: Well, I think --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- it alleges a
- 9 pattern of mail and wire fraud related to your
- 10 client's alleged fraud about whether the product
- 11 took -- contained THC. He relied on that, and
- 12 he got fired as a result.
- I don't see where personal injury is
- doing any work in his RICO claim.
- MS. BLATT: I think you're correct in
- the complaint that the allegations we're talking
- about, where he's talking about physical harm,
- 18 it's talking about either the -- the allegations
- 19 that are general. But page 21 of our brief goes
- into great detail of all the other places in his
- 21 affidavit and in the RICO case statement --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah, but those are
- 23 in other counts. Those are in the personal
- 24 injury counts. And I think that matters, right?
- MS. BLATT: No, not in the RICO

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1 statement. The RICO statement, by definition,
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- 2 is the RICO claim.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, no, no. What
- 4 I'm saying is the question presented in this
- 5 case, that you've presented, is whether economic
- 6 harms resulting from personal injuries are
- 7 injuries to business and property.
- 8 So I'm trying to understand the
- 9 allegation of personal injury here from which
- 10 the business harm results.
- MS. BLATT: Yeah, and I guess --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: He doesn't say: My
- injury is resulting from a personal injury. He
- 14 says: I'm injured because I got fired.
- MS. BLATT: Well, his entire
- 16 causation -- and, again, I'm not just quoting
- 17 from the complaint. His affidavit -- he needs
- 18 to rely on the consumption or he doesn't have
- 19 causation. Consumption is personal injury.
- 20 But this was litigated at the cert
- 21 stage.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But does your test
- 23 need to rely on the consumption? I mean,
- 24 suppose there was -- suppose the employer's
- 25 rule.

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1 MS. BLATT: I think you're -- that's
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- 2 fair, you're right.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So -- but -- but --
- 4 but that's why I'm sort of, with Justice Kagan,
- 5 trying to understand your rule. So --
- 6 MS. BLATT: I think our rule is, if
- 7 there's no personal injury, we don't need to be
- 8 here and have this discussion.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, no, no. What
- 10 I'm asking you -- let me ask you in a
- 11 hypothetical.
- MS. BLATT: Okay.
- 13 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right? So
- 14 suppose we have the same basic situation, but
- the employer's rule is that you can't possess --
- MS. BLATT: Mm-hmm.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- THC. Can't have
- 18 it. And he looks at all of the advertising
- 19 materials. He understands that your product
- 20 does not have it based on your advertising
- 21 materials, and so he buys it and he has it in
- 22 his locker.
- I think this is an example --
- MS. BLATT: Yeah.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- that the

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1 Respondents came up with.
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- 2 MS. BLATT: Yes.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And then he's
- 4 fired --
- 5 MS. BLATT: Yes.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- because the --
- 7 the -- the employer says: You have it. You're
- 8 not supposed to have it.
- 9 MS. BLATT: Right.
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: Does he have a RICO
- 11 claim or not under those circumstances?
- MS. BLATT: Well, he doesn't have a
- 13 RICO claim, but it wouldn't be covered by this
- 14 case because there's no personal injury. It
- 15 would be no different if he was --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, no, no. You're
- inserting personal injury. What I'm
- 18 suggesting --
- MS. BLATT: Your example doesn't
- 20 involve a personal injury.
- Now, at most -- if I can just answer
- 22 the direct question. If I was that person's
- 23 lawyer, I would say: You were injured in your
- 24 business or property for the purchase price.
- 25 You paid -- purchase price is a classic RICO

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1 injury, classic Clayton Act. He's entitled to
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- 2 three times his purchase price.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So you're saying he
- 4 would have a RICO claim in --
- 5 MS. BLATT: For purchase price.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: He would -- okay.
- 7 So --
- 8 MS. BLATT: But lost wages aren't --
- 9 he doesn't rely on the law -- he -- and he would
- 10 fail any kind of causation test if he tried to
- 11 say: I was fired from the purchase price.
- 12 He would ultimately fail causation
- 13 under three of your Supreme Court cases that say
- there has to be a direct relationship between
- 15 the conduct that was done to the plaintiff and
- 16 the lost claim. And there, you had the
- independent actor of the employer.
- 18 It would be no different if the
- 19 employer fired him for being tricked into buying
- 20 baby powder that, you know, didn't have the
- 21 requisite -- it might -- he might have an
- 22 injury, but he just wouldn't have a RICO claim
- 23 because there would be lack of causation.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: And -- and isn't that
- essentially what's wrong with this case too, is

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what Justice Sotomayor was suggesting?
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- 2 MS. BLATT: It --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, there is a
- 4 definite causation problem in this case.
- 5 MS. BLATT: Absolutely.
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: His -- his -- you
- 7 know, he buys this thing. He ingests this
- 8 thing.
- 9 MS. BLATT: And someone else fired
- 10 him.
- 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: A different person
- 12 fires him. This is not a good RICO claim for
- that reason, but it has nothing to do with the
- 14 reason that you're giving.
- MS. BLATT: Oh, no, no, no, no. You
- 16 can win for more than one reason, Justice Kagan.
- 17 The Second Circuit held that a --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But you're relying on
- 19 an intuition that your client should win and
- 20 Ms. Anand should lose. And that intuition may
- 21 be a very valid one and -- but the -- but the
- intuition works because there's no proximate
- 23 cause.
- MS. BLATT: But all -- with all --
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: The intuition does not

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1 work because he hasn't satisfied the business or
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- 2 property requirement because he has. He's been
- 3 injured in his person or property --
- 4 MS. BLATT: No, and with all due
- 5 respect --
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- by reason of a RICO
- 7 violation.
- 8 MS. BLATT: -- with all due respect,
- 9 every classic slip-and-fall personal injury
- 10 case, you could talk about causation clearly,
- 11 but it would still be the lost wages, you're
- 12 fired because you either can't work because
- you're permanently disabled, or your employer
- 14 fires you because you can no longer see or have
- 15 an arm.
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, maybe there's --
- MS. BLATT: You still lose your job,
- 18 but it's --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- maybe there's also
- 20 an issue -- I mean, we haven't -- we haven't
- 21 decided what this "business or property" phrase
- 22 means. Maybe "business or property" doesn't
- 23 mean lost wages. But, again, it -- that's a --
- that's a second reason why you might win but
- also a reason that has nothing to do with the

- 1 reason that you're articulating here.
- MS. BLATT: Justice Kagan, the Ninth
- 3 Circuit and the Second Circuit hold, if you have
- 4 a personal injury, and what the other side reads
- 5 the statute to say anybody injured in his
- 6 person, have at it under RICO; just don't assert
- 7 economic damages.
- 8 That flips the statute on its head.
- 9 It doesn't say anything about being injured in
- 10 your person. And, under their rule, all
- 11 personal injuries are recoverable under RICO,
- 12 which is an absurd not just intuitive
- 13 proposition, but that cannot be within the
- 14 contemplation --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I pick up --
- MS. BLATT: -- of Congress.
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- on Justice
- 18 Barrett's question? Because I think the other
- 19 side says that injury, just ordinary meaning,
- 20 means harm.
- MS. BLATT: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And you say that's
- wrong based on an idea that "injury" is a term
- 24 of art, I think --
- MS. BLATT: Yes.

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1 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- in tort law.
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- 2 Can you elaborate on why injury does not equal
- 3 harm? Because that's --
- 4 MS. BLATT: So --
- 5 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- front and
- 6 center in their brief.
- 7 MS. BLATT: -- so I think injury could
- 8 mean harm just as it means the -- the legal harm
- 9 that was invaded. So I don't have a problem
- 10 with the word "harm." But what it doesn't mean
- is loss in terms of any damage.
- 12 And they have no meaning or
- independent distinction between "injury" and
- "damages sustained." And I think inherent in
- that distinction between the injury that -- the
- 16 injury that you sue over is the type of
- 17 infringement. And you have to have -- look,
- 18 everyone agrees at least I think since you've
- 19 said it twice under Clayton Act and RICO that
- the cause of action excludes personal injuries.
- 21 So what does that mean? We think it
- 22 means what it says. It excludes personal
- 23 injuries. So that means the damages from
- 24 personal injuries. They say no, no, no, it
- includes personal injuries and it includes all

- 1 damages from personal injuries.
- 2 JUSTICE JACKSON: But why is this a
- 3 damage from personal injury? That's the part I
- 4 don't understand. He's not claiming that he got
- 5 ill because of the product. He's not saying he
- 6 was personally injured.
- 7 MS. BLATT: Was it --
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: He didn't even
- 9 know --
- 10 MS. BLATT: True.
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- that he had
- ingested THC until the testing and the firing.
- MS. BLATT: Yeah.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Isn't that where his
- 15 injury comes in?
- 16 MS. BLATT: I think -- I mean, this
- 17 was the -- this was what the other side briefed
- 18 to the Second Circuit and the Second Circuit
- 19 didn't decide it. But, if I ate poppyseed
- 20 bagels and failed a drug test, it's a personal
- 21 injury. If I took a medicine like doxycycline,
- which is an antibiotic, and I can't be out in
- the sun and I lose my job as a lifeguard, it's a
- 24 personal injury claim.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But why are you

- 1 saying that? You can -- I mean, you're just
- 2 saying that. I'm asking you, you know --
- 3 MS. BLATT: Why am I saying it?
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- there are --
- 5 there are personal injury claims that derive
- 6 from a person being harmed by -- by the
- 7 ingestion of the product, right? They're
- 8 bodily, physically harmed because they have
- 9 taken this thing.
- 10 I don't read this claim to be that
- 11 kind of injury.
- 12 MS. BLATT: I --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: He's not saying that
- 14 the product itself injured him in any way.
- 15 MS. BLATT: I think it is inconsistent
- with all of tort law to say a bodily invasion is
- 17 not a personal injury just because you didn't
- 18 have to go to the hospital or cough.
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: He voluntarily took
- 20 the product.
- MS. BLATT: Well, we all do.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: He was not invaded.
- 23 He --
- 24 MS. BLATT: We all take products that
- 25 can be mislabeled. We take them and we either

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1 get sick or we don't. But we all take products
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- 2 and we claim, yeah, but the label told me I
- 3 wasn't going to have a side effect --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Ms. Blatt --
- 5 MS. BLATT: -- and I had the side
- 6 effect.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- Ms. Blatt, if I
- 8 might ask you a different question. You rely
- 9 heavily on the Clayton Act and -- and the
- 10 similar language there.
- I went and looked at the
- 12 Areeda-Hovenkamp, what they have to say about
- 13 this.
- MS. BLATT: Oh, dear.
- 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I know. I know.
- 16 (Laughter.)
- MS. BLATT: Okay.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. "Oh, dear" is
- 19 right. They say: "Reiter thus made plain that
- 20 the business-or-property requirement is
- virtually always satisfied provided there's some
- 22 kind of injury that can properly be
- 23 characterized as economic."
- MS. BLATT: Yeah. Well, I don't -- I
- 25 mean, that's not right.

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1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. So --
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- 2 MS. BLATT: I would go -- no.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you just disagree
- 4 with Areeda --
- 5 MS. BLATT: Oh, yeah. No, that's
- 6 definitely wrong.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Okay. Okay.
- 8 MS. BLATT: Absolutely. And --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's all I need to
- 10 know. Thank you.
- MS. BLATT: Yeah. No. Wrong, wrong,
- 12 wrong. And Reiter, I think, I mean, says
- anytime a commercial enterprise suffers any
- 14 monetary loss it's going to be a business or
- 15 injury. But let's -- look, there are Clayton
- 16 Act cases after -- any -- any conspiracy to
- 17 affect drug prices that result in a personal
- injury would mean treble damages under Clayton
- 19 Act. That would be a sea change -- a sea change
- 20 in Clayton Act if you had personal injury
- 21 recovery for price-fixing.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So even Homer nods,
- the great Areeda and Hovenkamp treatise wrong?
- MS. BLATT: No, absolutely.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.

- 1 MS. BLATT: No, absolutely, because
- 2 you would -- you would -- that would be, like I
- 3 said, a sea change under Clayton Act. I mean,
- 4 it might be a boondoggle for plaintiffs'
- 5 lawyers, but I think it would freak everyone
- 6 else out.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Ms. Blatt, aren't
- 8 you estopped from claiming that he has a
- 9 personal injury here when below you argued or
- 10 your client argued that he had no personal
- injury, which is why all the personal injury
- 12 claims were dismissed?
- MS. BLATT: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: I don't understand
- 15 how you can have it both ways.
- MS. BLATT: Sure. On page 113 of the
- 17 Pet. App., the district court is recognizing
- that we argued, and the court said, there's no
- 19 cognizable injury. But, on pages 49 and 50,
- which I think is pretty bad for the other side,
- 21 the court is saying but there's clearly a --
- 22 this is a classic personal injury claim, which
- is why he can get lost wages for fraud.
- 24 JUSTICE JACKSON: I understand. I'm
- 25 talking about what you argued. Your client

- 1 argued, to get rid of the personal injury
- 2 claims, that he had no personal injury; the only
- 3 thing was economic.
- 4 MS. BLATT: So -- so --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And so now that he's
- 6 left with the economic, you say no, there is a
- 7 personal injury and he can't get damages for
- 8 that.
- 9 MS. BLATT: Yeah -- sorry. On pages
- 10 49 and 50, it goes through how we, the
- defendants, are arguing this is a personal
- 12 injury claim. So we did argue it was a personal
- injury claim. We claimed what we're talking
- about before, there's no cognizable personal
- injury. It's like saying emotional damage, it's
- 16 not -- it doesn't count because you didn't -- it
- 17 didn't manifest itself in physical. So I don't
- 18 think we're estopped.
- If you want to let that, I guess, I
- don't know, reverse, you'd have to reverse the
- 21 rule and then decide if we're estopped, but I
- 22 don't -- I'm not sure how that would work out if
- that's what you thought.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you want to
- 25 respond to their invocation of the liberal

- 1 construction canon?
- MS. BLATT: Yes, a couple responses.
- I mean, liberal construction in light
- 4 of its remedial purposes, but the one thing all
- 5 nine of you should agree on, its remedial
- 6 purposes did not extend to personal injuries.
- 7 You've already said that twice, in the Clayton
- 8 Act and in RJR Nabisco. It doesn't extend to
- 9 remediate personal injury.
- 10 Second of all, I think it's a
- 11 tie-breaker. We -- their -- their serious
- reading of the statute inserts the word "injured"
- in its person" to read just like the
- 14 Antiterrorism Act.
- And, finally, I think it does run up
- 16 against the constitutional principle of
- 17 federalism, that their view does cannibalize all
- of state tort law. Every -- every slip and fall
- 19 from a mislabel now is a RICO case.
- 20 So I think, I mean, that should be --
- 21 the Court -- I mean, one more thing I'll try on
- that, the Court last cited that clause in 1985.
- I mean, it hasn't relied on it since and says
- you shouldn't use it to put RICO in contexts
- 25 that Congress, you know, didn't want or couldn't

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1 have contemplated.
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- 2 And, here, it is just so -- would be
- 3 so striking to think that RICO remedied personal
- 4 injuries.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 6 counsel.
- Justice Thomas, anything?
- 8 MS. BLATT: Oh.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito?
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, you say that
- 11 under RICO, injury is "the invasion of a legal
- 12 right." So how would we go about determining
- whether something is a legal right for this --
- 14 this purpose?
- MS. BLATT: So, first, you look at the
- 16 complaint. I think property's pretty easy
- 17 because the Court has already said any monetary
- loss is a property loss. So, I mean, you could
- 19 quibble about whether loss of consortium, if
- 20 state law defines that as a property loss.
- 21 And then injury is also, I think,
- 22 pretty easy because that involves the body.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, what authorities
- 24 would we look at?
- MS. BLATT: Oh. Look at the

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1 complaint. Look at state law general tort
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- 2 principles. Again, that Burke case --
- JUSTICE ALITO: General tort
- 4 principles?
- 5 MS. BLATT: Yeah. What Burke said
- 6 is -- which I like because it -- I think it
- 7 works -- is that are the damages -- what are the
- 8 damages seeking to redress? Are the damages
- 9 redressing a -- something that happened to the
- 10 body, are they redressing stolen property, or
- 11 are they redressing a right to carry on in your
- 12 business?
- JUSTICE ALITO: All right. Thank you.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 15 Sotomayor?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Ms. Blatt, you
- 17 rely a lot on WesternGeco. You mentioned it a
- 18 few minutes ago.
- MS. BLATT: Yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you ignore its
- 21 language where they differentiate a patent case
- 22 where the legal right is the right not to be
- 23 infringed and where you feel the economic loss
- 24 is different.
- 25 And we said there that the Patent Act

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1 was different from civil RICO because the
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- 2 question in civil RICO is where the plaintiff
- 3 feels the injury, in other words, where he
- 4 suffers the economic harm that the damages
- 5 compensate.
- 6 So why should we think -- in -- in --
- 7 in Sedima, we were very, very clear that RICO
- 8 doesn't rely on state law -- state tort law
- 9 concepts. We said that explicitly. What we
- 10 said was that RICO complicates injuries to have
- 11 been caused by predicate acts. That's our --
- MS. BLATT: Yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- and we
- explicitly -- explicitly say: Not otherwise an
- injury cognizable under state tort law.
- 16 MS. BLATT: But that's even better for
- 17 me because our position is you shouldn't -- you
- 18 can't get recovery that's -- that's caused by
- 19 personal injury, which I think this case is.
- 20 But, on RJR Nabisco -- sorry, the
- 21 WesternGeco citing RJR Nabisco, I didn't --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that goes back
- 23 to what Justice Jackson and -- and what I tried
- 24 earlier and Justice Kagan point out: You're
- 25 trying to say there's a difference between the

- 1 two. But we've made very clear in WesternGeco
- there isn't. Injury is where you feel the harm.
- Now the question is: What's the harm?
- 4 MS. BLATT: Yegiazaryan said the
- 5 opposite. Yeah.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And, as Justice
- 7 Jackson said, the harm is not ingesting the
- 8 drugs. That's the personal injury. The harm is
- 9 from being fired. And whether there's a
- 10 connection between the predicate acts and that
- 11 harm --
- MS. BLATT: So --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- is a question
- of proximate cause, not a question of personal
- 15 injury.
- MS. BLATT: -- Yegiazaryan is the most
- 17 recent case where you said the injury was -- the
- inability to collect the California judgment was
- 19 a domestic injury. You did not say it was the
- 20 injury where all the effects were felt, which
- 21 were a million different places --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that has
- 23 nothing to do with the language of RICO -- of
- 24 RICO, which says --
- MS. BLATT: It was the language of

- 1 RICO.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- compensable
- 3 injuries are the harms caused by predicate acts.
- 4 And that's what we said in WesternGeco.
- 5 MS. BLATT: Yeah. So --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's where you
- 7 feel the harm.
- 8 MS. BLATT: -- Yegiazaryan quotes that
- 9 exact same language, and I think it's -- it begs
- 10 the question about what is the harm talking
- 11 about. Is it the harm that's the legal invasion
- of the right, or is it the damages at the end of
- 13 the day?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Thank you,
- 15 counsel.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- 17 Justice Gorsuch?
- 18 Justice Kavanaugh?
- Justice Barrett?
- Justice Jackson?
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I just ask you
- 22 about a hypo? Because I'm still trying to
- 23 understand your rule.
- You seem to be suggesting that the
- 25 mere existence of physical harm renders any

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1 business injury not compensable. Is that -- is
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- 2 that the -- do I have the sum total of your --
- 3 MS. BLATT: No.
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: No? Okay.
- 5 MS. BLATT: Because you just said --
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: So what is your
- 7 rule?
- 8 MS. BLATT: -- you just -- because you
- 9 just said it's any personal injury renders the
- 10 damages not recoverable.
- 11 Obviously, if you have a business
- injury, a property injury, you can recover
- damages.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Even if you have a
- 15 physical injury too?
- 16 MS. BLATT: Absolutely, because that's
- 17 the example of a robbery. If you are thrown
- down a flight of stairs and they take your
- 19 wallet, you have two injuries. You fell down
- 20 the stairs and you lost your wallet.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- MS. BLATT: You've got -- so you have
- 23 a property injury --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- MS. BLATT: -- and a personal

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1 injury --
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- 2 JUSTICE JACKSON: And --
- 3 MS. BLATT: -- two independent
- 4 invasions.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- and so, here, you
- 6 say he took the drugs and that was an injury.
- 7 And he says: I was also fired.
- 8 Why isn't that two injuries too?
- 9 MS. BLATT: Because every -- you
- 10 would -- because -- because that conflates
- 11 damages. Every personal injury, you could say I
- 12 slip and fell --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But this is --
- imagine that this is not damages in the
- following sense, all right? If we have a case
- in which he takes the drugs --
- 17 MS. BLATT: Mm-hmm.
- 18 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- and, as a result
- of taking the drugs, he has to go to the
- 20 hospital, and, as a result of being in the
- 21 hospital, he can't work.
- MS. BLATT: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And then he's fired.
- MS. BLATT: Right.
- 25 JUSTICE JACKSON: I kind of understand

- 1 the argument you're making.
- 2 But, in this situation, he takes the
- 3 drugs and there is no harm --
- 4 MS. BLATT: Okay.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- to him from
- 6 taking the drugs.
- 7 MS. BLATT: Let me leave you with one
- 8 more example. He goes to the hospital and he
- 9 loses his sight and he can't drive anymore, so
- 10 he gets fired. He still has a loss of
- 11 employment. It is a damage.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: I understand. But
- 13 that's not this case. Nothing happened to him
- 14 as a result of taking the drugs.
- Instead, what happened to him, I
- 16 think -- and this is -- maybe I'm just not
- 17 understanding.
- MS. BLATT: Well, he failed a drug
- 19 test. It changed his -- well, allegedly, it had
- 20 THC in it. I think it's the same thing as if
- 21 you took something and had an allergic reaction.
- 22 It's a physical, chemical, bodily invasion. He
- 23 didn't want -- he didn't want THC and he took
- it. It's like taking cocaine. That's a -- to
- 25 me, that's a physical injury --

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
2	MS. BLATT: whether or not you hit
3	something.
4	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
5	counsel.
6	Ms. Anand.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF EASHA ANAND
8	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
9	MS. ANAND: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
LO	it please the Court:
L1	I want to address two quick points.
L2	The first is about the "damages sustained"
L3	locution in Section 1964(c). That means
L4	compensatory damages. We know that from the
L5	rest of the U.S. Code, the syntax of the
L6	sentence, and the plain meaning of the word
L7	"damages."
L8	So rest of the U.S. Code, that
L9	locution, "damages sustained," appears some
20	three dozen times in the U.S. Code. It always
21	means compensatory damages. So we point you to
22	the example of 18 U.S.C. 2255, where victims of
23	crime choose between liquidated damages and
24	damages sustained. You can't choose between
25	liquidated damages and harm. Those have to be

- 1 two measures of compensation.
- 2 Syntax of the rest of the sentence.
- 3 The sentence says: "Recover the damages
- 4 sustained." If it meant harm, you would expect
- 5 it to say "recover for the damages sustained."
- 6 You recover for harm. You don't recover the
- 7 harm. But, if it means compensatory damages,
- 8 that's a perfectly sensible sentence.
- 9 And, finally, the plain meaning of
- 10 "damages." Every dictionary will tell you
- damages is a measure of compensation, including
- 12 the treatise that Petitioners cite at page 15 of
- 13 their opening brief.
- So, absent that textual hook, the
- other problem with Petitioners' rule is they
- still have not told you how to distinguish the
- 17 human trafficking case from this case.
- 18 Here are some of the things I heard my
- 19 friend say: Look at the Restatement.
- Well, we think the relevant
- 21 Restatement principle is Section 525, the
- 22 fraudulent misrepresentation tort. That's the
- 23 only state law tort that survived to trial,
- 24 right? It's not a product liability claim.
- 25 It's an economic tort, fraudulent

- 1 misrepresentation.
- 2 She said: Look to a legal right.
- Well, Sedima tells us that the legal
- 4 right protected by RICO is the right not to be
- 5 harmed by reason of the predicate acts.
- 6 She said: Look at whether money was
- 7 taken.
- 8 This isn't a forfeiture or a unjust
- 9 enrichment statute, right? It's not worded that
- 10 way.
- 11 She said: Look to directness.
- 12 As Justice Kagan explained, that's a
- 13 proximate cause problem. We recognize we have a
- 14 heavy burden on remand, but that's not the
- 15 argument before you.
- And she said: Look at what is trying
- 17 to be redressed.
- 18 Here, we're trying to redress the loss
- 19 of income from being fired.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 21 JUSTICE THOMAS: Is the loss of income
- from being fired an injury in business?
- MS. ANAND: Yes, Your Honor. And I
- 24 believe my friend on the other side conceded
- 25 that. She said inability to carry on one's

- 1 livelihood is an injury to business.
- 2 JUSTICE THOMAS: And is -- what's the
- 3 difference between injury and damages?
- 4 MS. ANAND: So injury is the harm.
- 5 Damages is how you compensate for that harm.
- 6 And, again, I think that's a perfectly sensible
- 7 reading of the statute.
- 8 JUSTICE THOMAS: So, if the harm is a
- 9 loss of income, aren't you collapsing or
- 10 conflating the two?
- MS. ANAND: So it's true that we use
- the term "lost wages" as shorthand for both.
- But, in one case, you are losing your source of
- income. Lost wages is the measure of
- 15 compensation you need to make yourself whole.
- And, again, that "damages" definition,
- damages is compensation, that's the definition
- 18 that every legal dictionary or treatise
- 19 articulates.
- 20 JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. So just walk
- 21 me through factually what is the injury here.
- MS. ANAND: So the injury here is we
- were fired. That's the injury to our business.
- Now, as a measure of compensation for
- 25 that, the damages we claim are an amount equal

- 1 to the salary we would have made and the other
- 2 economic benefits we would have gotten had we
- 3 remained employed.
- 4 JUSTICE THOMAS: But Medical Marijuana
- 5 did not fire you.
- 6 MS. ANAND: So, again, Your Honor, we
- 7 accept that on remand we will have to meet the
- 8 kind of heavy factual burden of showing
- 9 proximate cause, but that's the home for the
- 10 problem Your Honor is articulating: how direct
- is the link between the predicate acts and what
- 12 happened here.
- 13 And, in this case, you know, our
- 14 argument is we acted in reasonable reliance on
- 15 Medical Marijuana's misrepresentations -- that's
- 16 a classic, right, Restatement 525, the pecuniary
- 17 loss occasioned as a result of relying on a
- 18 fraudulent misrepresentation, is usually
- 19 actionable.
- 20 We think we can prove proximate cause,
- but, again, that's a question for remand, not
- 22 for this Court.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, I
- 24 understood the business-or-property limitation
- as having been intended to be a significant

- 1 limitation on the reach of RICO.
- 2 Your friend said that your position
- 3 would make every slip and fall a RICO violation.
- 4 Why isn't that the case?
- 5 MS. ANAND: So two reasons, Your
- 6 Honor.
- 7 The first is sort of empirical. We
- 8 can look at, for instance, the evidence from the
- 9 Ninth Circuit, which has had this rule for 20
- 10 years, and, as we explain in our -- in our
- 11 brief, you actually see fewer civil RICO
- 12 complaints than you'd expect.
- 13 And that's because the "injured in his
- business or property" requirement is still doing
- something really important, which is fencing out
- any claim that the harm I suffered is pain and
- 17 suffering or emotional distress. Those are the
- 18 sort of lion's share of recoveries in most of
- 19 these tort cases, right? This is the reason
- that plaintiffs' lawyers bring these cases, are
- 21 for those massive recoveries.
- The second -- sorry. Does that --
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no, go --
- 24 go ahead.
- MS. ANAND: The sort of second point

- 1 I'll -- I'll make on that front is, you know,
- 2 RICO has a number of guardrails. In your
- 3 average slip-and-fall case, you're not going to
- 4 be able to prove a predicate act, let alone a
- 5 pattern of predicate acts, let alone a pattern
- 6 carried on through a racketeering enterprise.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but, I
- 8 mean, those guardrails are addressing different
- 9 things. I mean, the business-or-property
- 10 requirement is pretty central to the heart of
- 11 RICO and what separates it from all these other
- 12 cases.
- So I'm not sure it's very responsive
- 14 to say, oh, don't worry about that basic,
- 15 fundamental question because there are all these
- other more subsidiary ones that are going to
- 17 take care of the problem.
- 18 MS. ANAND: So I think that's -- I
- 19 think that's right, that it's still -- it's
- doing meaningful work because, again, it fences
- 21 out the sort of pain and suffering, emotional
- 22 distress, the kind of lion's share of the
- 23 recoveries.
- 24 You know, as Justice Gorsuch noted and
- as lower courts have kind of grappled with, it

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1 turns out that Congress maybe wasn't doing quite
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- 2 as much work as it wanted to with this
- 3 guardrail. We know that from the antitrust
- 4 context, where it's virtually always satisfied.
- 5 But, as this Court has said time and --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You -- by
- 7 "this guardrail," you mean the
- 8 business-or-property restriction?
- 9 MS. ANAND: Yes. As Justice Gorsuch
- 10 noted, in the antitrust context, it's virtually
- 11 always satisfied. And what this Court has said
- time and again, right, that's Sedima, that's
- 13 Bridge, that's Turkette, Congress may have
- written the statute too broadly, but that's a
- 15 problem for Congress to have its say.
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you agree that
- 17 the statute excludes damages for personal
- 18 injuries?
- 19 MS. ANAND: So, yes, I agree that if
- 20 the injury you suffered is an injury to your
- 21 body, you can't claim damages for that.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And I think what
- 23 the other side is saying, that the damages for
- 24 personal injuries are usually including lost
- 25 wages and medical expenses and that what you're

- doing, even though you just admitted that the
- 2 statute excludes damages for personal injuries,
- 3 is taking lost wages and medical expenses and
- 4 saying, oh, well, we can get around that
- 5 limitation that the Chief Justice referred to by
- 6 characterizing the lost wages or medical
- 7 expenses as separate injuries to your business
- 8 or property. That's the concern. I'm curious,
- 9 your response.
- 10 MS. ANAND: So I do think lost wages
- are an injury to business. And my friend on the
- 12 other side said --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But they're also
- 14 damages for the personal injury --
- MS. ANAND: So yes --
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- in some of
- 17 these cases.
- MS. ANAND: So --
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And the question
- 20 is whether -- I think the question and the
- 21 problem here that we have to figure out is, when
- 22 you characterize them, if they are damages from
- 23 personal injury, can you just recharacterize
- them as injury to business or property and get
- around, as the Chief Justice's point, the

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1 limitation that Congress at least thought was
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- 2 important?
- 3 MS. ANAND: So I think that -- when
- 4 Congress wants to exclude something that is
- 5 intertwined with a personal injury, it knows how
- 6 to do so, right? It can exclude -- there's lots
- 7 of statutes, we give examples in our brief,
- 8 where it says you cannot recover damages on
- 9 account of a personal injury. That is, if
- there's a personal injury intertwined with the
- 11 business injury or in the chain of causation
- leading up to the business injury, you are out
- 13 of luck.
- 14 Congress didn't do that here.
- 15 Congress just said find an injury to business --
- and we think being fired is a classic injury to
- 17 business; you can no longer carry out your
- 18 livelihood -- and that's all you need to get
- 19 to --
- 20 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But that would
- 21 mean, I think you're saying -- okay -- I think
- you're saying yes, the damages from personal
- 23 injuries can be characterized as injuries to
- 24 business or property. Therefore, you can just
- 25 bring them under RICO. That would mean that

- 1 every state tort personal injury suit in which
- 2 you're seeking lost wages or medical expenses
- 3 can be now brought on -- under RICO and seek
- 4 treble damages.
- 5 And I would think the federalism
- 6 canon, among several others, would kick in there
- 7 and say, well, that would be a dramatic, really
- 8 radical shift in how tort suits are -- are
- 9 brought throughout the United States, and we
- 10 would expect a clearer indication from Congress.
- MS. ANAND: Sure, Your Honor. So two
- 12 responses on that front.
- The first is I think it's a mistake to
- 14 think that most state garden-variety torts can
- 15 form the basis of a RICO claim. There's a
- 16 reason that why most product liability cases are
- 17 brought in strict liability or negligence.
- 18 There's a reason why the pattern --
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: There are going to
- 20 be a lot of false advertising kind of cases,
- 21 inadequate warning cases that can easily be made
- 22 into a RICO predicate than can, under your
- theory, be brought in federal court under RICO
- for treble damages and then -- you know, you've
- 25 seen it in the amicus briefs, I'm just raising

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1 what's there -- class actions and MDLs, where
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- 2 you have the treble damages. And that's a
- 3 dramatic -- I'm not saying it's right or wrong,
- 4 but I think it's a dramatic shift -- and the
- 5 Ninth Circuit doesn't have exactly the rule
- 6 you're asking for, so I don't think the Ninth
- 7 Circuit's actually a good answer to the Chief
- 8 Justice -- a dramatic shift in how tort suits
- 9 are prosecuted, which may be good, may not be
- 10 good. I'm not sure Congress really put that
- 11 into this statute.
- MS. ANAND: Sure. So just on the
- 13 federalism canon point, I'll note that if Your
- 14 Honor is right that every state false
- 15 advertising case actually can be actionable as
- intentional fraud committed through a
- 17 racketeering enterprise, that means that under
- 18 criminal RICO -- remember, does not have an
- 19 injured in his business or property
- 20 requirement -- those are prosecutable with a
- 21 20-year sentence. And so, if Congress did not
- 22 have any federalism concerns with subjecting the
- 23 garden-variety state tortfeasor to criminal --
- 24 federal criminal liability, I think it's hard to
- say the federalism canon kicks in when they're

- 1 subjected to civil liability.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, they -- they
- 3 didn't -- I -- I think the lack of the language
- 4 in the criminal RICO provision shows that they
- 5 were more concerned about federalizing the civil
- 6 RICO side because, there, they did have the
- 7 limitation, injured in your business or
- 8 property, not injured in your person.
- 9 MS. ANAND: So maybe two -- two more
- 10 responses let me try to -- to Your Honor's
- 11 hypothetical.
- The first is the word "injured," if it
- doesn't mean harm, my friend on the other side
- 14 haven't -- hasn't told you what else it might
- 15 mean. And --
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, the
- 17 Restatement -- I'm sorry to interrupt.
- MS. ANAND: Oh, please.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But your -- your
- 20 brief starts with injured equals harmed.
- MS. ANAND: Yeah.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: It's right on page
- 23 1, like, fifth line, and that's the linchpin of
- your argument, which I think, as a matter of
- ordinary meaning, yes, but, as a matter of tort

- 1 law, the Restatement makes very clear, like
- 2 Restatement 7 says injury and harm contrasted.
- 3 MS. ANAND: That's right.
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: They're two --
- 5 they're two different concepts and have been for
- 6 years and decades and centuries in tort law.
- 7 Injury and harm are two very different concepts.
- 8 MS. ANAND: So that's right, injury
- 9 can mean invasion of a legal right, but, here,
- 10 that's trivially true, right? That's the square
- 11 holding of Sedima. In Sedima, someone tried to
- 12 come to this Court and say, look, it can't just
- be an injury meaning you were harmed by the
- 14 predicate acts. There's got to be some sort of
- 15 racketeering injury. That's the legal right
- 16 being invaded. And this Court said, "The
- 17 compensable injury necessarily is the harm
- 18 caused by the predicate acts."
- 19 So we're happy with a definition that
- 20 says invasion of a legal right, but Sedima tells
- 21 you what that legal right is, and it is harm
- 22 caused by the predicate acts. The right that
- 23 RICO protects is the right not to be harmed by
- 24 the predicate acts.
- 25 And so I think whether you say injury

- 1 just means harm, period, or it means an invasion
- of a legal right, there's no way on the text of
- 3 the statute to somehow distinguish between the
- 4 human trafficking and kidnapping hypotheticals
- 5 and I --
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Just to close it
- 7 out, you're okay if we say injury is the
- 8 invasion of legal right?
- 9 MS. ANAND: We're -- we are completely
- 10 okay with that so long as you accept that Sedima
- 11 tells you what that legal right looks like.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Ms. Anand, just a
- 13 couple quick questions.
- 14 First, in your dialogue with Justice
- 15 Kavanaugh, there was some discussion of lost
- 16 wages and medical expenses.
- 17 Do you think medical expenses are
- 18 recoverable as well as lost wages under business
- 19 and property?
- MS. ANAND: So I happen to think yes,
- 21 and I think that follows from Rotella and
- 22 Reiter. But we don't particularly have a dog in
- that fight because that's under the property
- 24 branch and not the business branch.
- So I'm happy to explain why I think

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1 the answer is yes. Reiter seems to say --
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- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Briefly, but I --
- 3 I -- I -- it seems to me you're telling me we
- 4 don't need to decide that question in this case,
- 5 is your top-line answer.
- 6 MS. ANAND: Top-line answer is you
- 7 don't need to decide that question. The way you
- 8 know that is the Second Circuit, Pet. App. 18a,
- 9 Judge Moore's dissent in Jackson, all these
- jurists who have accepted our rule have reserved
- 11 the question of medical expenses --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- MS. ANAND: -- as just a separate
- 14 question.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And would you --
- 16 would you encourage us to do so here?
- MS. ANAND: No, I would not encourage
- 18 you do so.
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You encourage us to
- 20 decide it, of course. Okay. So, briefly, give
- 21 me your best shot at it.
- MS. ANAND: So -- okay. So -- so, on
- 23 the precedent piece, Reiter/Clayton Act context
- 24 says economic expenditure equals injury.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.

_	MB. ANAND: AND NOCETTA PECTICIONETS
2	seem to accept at Reply Brief page 8, right?
3	This is the case doctors wrongly impose
4	psychiatric confinement and then bill someone
5	for it, and Petitioners seem to accept that that
6	bill counts as a harm to property.
7	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. All right.
8	And the second question: There was an extensive
9	dialogue about the car wash hypothetical and the
10	kidnapping hypothetical, and if I understood
11	Ms. Blatt, her argument it goes something
12	like this: that there are two injuries, however
13	characterized, whether as a harm or invasion of
14	a legal right. One is you the assault or
15	the kidnapping. The other is the act of
16	extortion. And only the latter is recoverable,
17	and it isn't a causation question so much as the
18	nature of the injury in those two cases.
19	Your best response?
20	MS. ANAND: I think, under that
21	framework, we also have two injuries, right?
22	There's the bodily invasion, the sort of
23	undetected consumption of THC
24	JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, no, the
25	MS. ANAND: and then the firing.

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1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Deal -- I understand
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- 2 that, but deal with the hypotheticals if you
- 3 will.
- 4 MS. ANAND: So I --
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You both -- you both
- 6 go back and forth forever on these
- 7 hypotheticals, and they're very interesting
- 8 ones, so --
- 9 MS. ANAND: Sure. So I -- I agree the
- 10 car wash owner gets to recover, and I would say
- 11 that is because the only thing you're looking at
- in the "injured in his business or property"
- 13 requirement is, was the person harmed in his
- 14 business? And the answer is yes.
- Now there are other parts of the
- 16 statute that take care of how direct is the
- 17 connection between the predicate offense and the
- injury to business. That's the "by reason of"
- 19 language. That's a proximate cause test.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So the assault, if I
- 21 understand it -- your answer if I -- see if this
- 22 is right. I just want to understand it.
- MS. ANAND: Sure.
- 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That the assault
- 25 in -- in the car wash hypothetical and the

- 1 kid -- act of kidnapping in the kidnapping
- 2 hypothetical may or may not be recoverable
- 3 depending upon whether they're proximately
- 4 related to the extortion acts in both cases?
- 5 MS. ANAND: I think that's right. So
- 6 the -- the only part that's recoverable is the
- 7 money or business part. And the only --
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: The extortion.
- 9 MS. ANAND: Right.
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: The extortion part
- 11 that I paid money --
- 12 MS. ANAND: Or -- or the ransom in the
- 13 kidnapping hypothetical.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And the ransom.
- 15 Right.
- MS. ANAND: And the only question is,
- 17 are those proximately caused by the RICO
- 18 predicate of the kidnapping or the extortion?
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- 20 MS. ANAND: And, you know, I -- I
- 21 think, in those cases, right, the causal
- 22 connection may be tighter, but, again, right,
- that's, again, classic proximate cause.
- 24 Congress connected predicate act with injury to
- business and property using the phrase "by

1 reason of." 2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Got it. 3 MS. ANAND: It anticipated some link 4 to the cause. JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I ask one --5 JUSTICE ALITO: If we --6 JUSTICE BARRETT: Ms. Anand --7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito? 8 9 JUSTICE ALITO: If we agree with your reasoning but reserve the question of the 10 11 coverage of medical expenses, would there at --12 in a later case, be a principled basis for drawing that distinction, or would we be 13 14 effectively deciding that by agreeing with your 15 reasoning? 16 MS. ANAND: So, again, I think the 17 answer is that those count, but I can tell you 18 what lower courts have sort of said to 19 distinguish those. There's been kind of two 20 explanations. 21 One is that Reiter's "all money counts 2.2 as property" definition doesn't map on cleanly to civil RICO. And the other is that there's 23 24 sort of a common law principle that mitigation

measures don't -- count. And so, if you're

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1 trying to mitigate your pain and suffering
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- 2 through medical expenses, that wouldn't count.
- Now, again, I'm not -- I -- we have no
- 4 dog in that fight. I don't know whether those
- 5 are right or wrong. And, again, I think Rotella
- 6 kind of already crosses that bridge, but I think
- 7 you can reserve the question here.
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: One other question.
- 9 There's been talk about proximate cause. I
- 10 assume you believe on remand you can show that
- 11 the injury here, the lost wages, were
- 12 proximately caused. Could you explain why?
- MS. ANAND: Sure, Your Honor. So I
- 14 think our -- the -- the two best points for us.
- The first is how the Restatement
- 16 provision talks about fraudulent
- 17 misrepresentation, and it says: Any pecuniary
- 18 loss occasioned by reasonable reliance on the
- 19 misrepresentation is usually recoverable.
- 20 And so we think, here, that's exactly
- 21 what happened. In reasonable reliance on
- 22 Petitioners' misrepresentation, we took this
- 23 drug. The foreseeable consequence is that we
- 24 got fired.
- The second is a sort of factual point.

- 1 Remember, it's not just about general
- 2 misrepresentations on YouTube and on the
- 3 website. Ms. Harp-Horn called Customer Service,
- 4 says: I'm a trucker. Can you promise me this
- 5 doesn't have THC? And they say: Yes.
- Now, again, we know we're going to
- 7 have a heavy burden on remand. This Court's
- 8 cases have said that proximate cause is not just
- 9 a common law concept, but you layer on top of
- 10 that specific civil RICO directness
- 11 requirements.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Is this a jury
- 13 question?
- MS. ANAND: The question of proximate
- 15 cause? We think there are factual issues
- 16 embedded in the proximate cause question.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: What percentage of --
- MS. ANAND: But, again -- apologies.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: What percentage of
- 20 RICO cases go to trial?
- 21 MS. ANAND: I don't know the answer to
- 22 that off the top of my head, Justice Alito.
- I -- I will say that on this point,
- 24 Petitioners' proximate cause arguments at
- 25 summary judgment related primarily to

- 1 Ms. Harp-Horn and not to Mr. Horn.
- 2 So, in other words, had they made the
- 3 argument that Justice Kagan articulated, we
- 4 don't know how the district court would have
- 5 ruled. They did not make that argument.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
- 7 JUSTICE BARRETT: Ms. Anand, it seems
- 8 to me -- and -- and, you know, I just would like
- 9 to get your take on this -- that Medical
- 10 Marijuana has litigated this case differently
- 11 than it was framed below and differently than
- 12 the circuits that are on its side of the split
- in this definition of "injury." You know, the
- 14 Second Circuit said: Well, if personal injury
- is the derivative of the property damage, it
- 16 doesn't count.
- 17 As you said and as Justice Kagan said
- when she was going back and forth with
- 19 Ms. Blatt, proximate cause seems a natural home
- 20 for this.
- I mean, what do you think? I mean,
- 22 can you point to developed ideas in the courts
- of appeals about how to define this injury?
- 24 This idea of looking to a federal definition of
- in it, looking to Restatements, I mean, in your

1 view, are there circuits that are actually doing

- 2 that?
- 3 MS. ANAND: So I don't think so, Your
- 4 Honor, and I think you can see that in the
- 5 question presented, which asks: When economic
- 6 harm results from a personal injury, is it
- 7 actionable? Right?
- 8 So the -- the question presented seems
- 9 to contemplate this sort of chain-of-causation
- 10 test, which, as we're sort of talking about, I
- 11 think proximate cause and not some sort of
- 12 per se rule about what the links are should
- 13 count.
- I don't see that there's a body of
- 15 case law doing something different in the -- in
- 16 the -- in the lower courts.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: So, in your view,
- 18 Medical Marijuana's theory of the case is kind
- 19 of novel?
- 20 MS. ANAND: I think Medical
- 21 Marijuana's theory of the case is novel,
- 22 although I guess I -- I would say again I'm not
- 23 sure I understand it. That is, I'm not sure I
- understand where they're asking you to look to
- 25 find the legal right.

- 1 It's not civil RICO because Sedima
- 2 tells us we can't do that. I don't think it's
- 3 state tort law because it would be a little bit
- 4 strange to have a list of predicates that
- 5 includes trafficking in nuclear weapons and
- 6 counterfeit phonograph records and say, look at
- 7 the Restatement.
- 8 And if you look at the Restatement in
- 9 this case, the only state tort law claim that's
- 10 still live in our case, fraudulent
- 11 misrepresentation, looks economic and not
- 12 personal.
- So I'm not positive what their test
- is, but I agree that it is not something that
- 15 we've seen in the lower courts.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: I share your
- 17 confusion.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Ms. Anand, did your
- 19 client suffer a personal injury that caused his
- 20 firing and lost wages?
- MS. ANAND: So we think that he did
- 22 not suffer any harm to his person. And we are
- 23 not here challenging the district court's ruling
- that we cannot even bring a products liability
- 25 claim because we did not suffer harm.

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1
               Does that answer your question?
 2
      in other words --
 3
                JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah, I mean, I
      think so. I guess I'm -- I'm still struggling
 4
     with the question presented in this case --
 5
               MS. ANAND:
 6
                           Yeah.
 7
                JUSTICE JACKSON: -- which assumes
      that sort of connection, that there's a personal
 8
 9
      injury from which economic damages result.
10
                And I don't see a personal injury, and
11
     maybe I'm just looking it in a peculiar way.
12
                MS. ANAND: Well, so we -- we
13
      vociferously argued at the brief-in-opposition
14
      stage that this is an improper vehicle to grant
15
      cert because we did not think there was a
16
     personal injury here. Or, at the very least,
17
      the personal injury here is so strange, right,
18
      the personal injury that only gets discovered
19
     after the economic injury, that it would be a
20
      strange case to connect those overall.
21
                JUSTICE JACKSON: And, in fact, below,
2.2
      they argued there was no personal injury --
23
               MS. ANAND:
                            That's right.
24
                JUSTICE JACKSON: -- in seeking to
25
     dismiss all of the personal injury claims,
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- 1 correct?
- 2 MS. ANAND: That's exactly right. And
- 3 none of those claims are proceeding to trial.
- 4 So they successfully argued for dismissal of
- 5 those claims.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, why wouldn't
- 7 there be a -- a personal injury, though?
- 8 Just -- you -- there's a failure to warn that
- 9 this product contains ingredients that your --
- 10 your -- your client didn't know about and should
- 11 have known about and had a right to know about.
- 12 I would have thought that that would
- have been kind of a classic personal injury.
- MS. ANAND: So two responses, Your
- 15 Honor.
- 16 The first is --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I mean, perhaps --
- 18 perhaps that's what you argued below. I don't
- 19 know.
- 20 MS. ANAND: That is what -- so I was
- 21 going to say the strange thing about how this
- 22 case comes to you, right, is --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I understand.
- 24 But this is -- this -- that was your theory
- 25 below?

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1 MS. ANAND: That -- that was our
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- 2 theory below --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah.
- 4 MS. ANAND: -- that we should be able
- 5 to bring a state law products liability claim.
- 6 Opposing counsel said: No, you can't. District
- 7 court sided with them.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Got it. Got it.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 MS. ANAND: It's what the -- the only
- other thing I'll say is, kind of going back to a
- 12 hypothetical earlier, we just don't think that
- ingestion is particularly critical to our case.
- 14 In other words, we would bring exactly the same
- 15 case, we would allege exactly the same predicate
- 16 acts, the same measure of compensation, the same
- 17 sort of theory of harm, if the -- if Medical
- 18 Marijuana's product had been found in a locker
- 19 and we'd been fired as a result.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 21 counsel.
- A big part of your answer in your
- 23 dialogue with Justice Scalia to why this -- why
- 24 we shouldn't worry about the expansion of RICO
- 25 that your -- your friend suggests might follow

- 1 is that you have to show proximate cause.
- 2 And I -- I don't quite remember your
- 3 formulation. I'm sure it was carefully guarded.
- 4 But you -- you -- you suggested that that was
- 5 going to be hard to do, right?
- 6 And -- and -- tell me again why that
- 7 is.
- 8 MS. ANAND: So -- so I said we would
- 9 have a heavy factual burden to carry on remand.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: That sounds
- 11 hard.
- 12 MS. ANAND: But I think that if we can
- 13 prove that, in fact, you know, there was
- reasonable reliance on this misrepresentation
- and, more specifically, that Ms. Harp-Horn
- 16 called Customer Service, said, you know, I'm a
- 17 trucker, promise me this doesn't have
- 18 zero percent THC, I think that satisfies
- 19 proximate cause even under this Court's more
- 20 restrictive test. But we accept we're going to
- 21 have to prove those things up.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, what's
- so hard about that? In other words, if you're
- 24 concerned about the reach of your argument and
- your answer is, don't worry, we have to show

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1 proximate cause, that seems like a pretty normal
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- proximate cause argument.
- 3 MS. ANAND: So -- so apologies. My
- 4 answer isn't just proximate cause. It's also
- 5 you have to show RICO predicates, right? Most
- 6 products liability are --
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah, fraud,
- 8 mail fraud.
- 9 MS. ANAND: -- strict liability,
- 10 right?
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Right.
- MS. ANAND: But, again, that's
- intentional. And there's a reason why most
- 14 people bring products liability claims under
- 15 strict liability or negligence. You're also
- 16 going to have to prove a pattern, right,
- 17 continuity and relatedness. You have to
- 18 prove -- the enterprise requirement.
- 19 And I think, most importantly, again,
- the mine-run of cases, the big chunk of recovery
- 21 is pain and suffering or economic distress, and
- 22 you cannot get those in -- under civil RICO,
- 23 right? Those are not injuries to business or
- 24 property.
- 25 And I think that that's --

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, again,
2	you're talking about these other guardrails, not
3	to worry about the fact that you're diluting the
4	business-or-property requirement.
5	MS. ANAND: So I guess I disagree that
6	we're diluting the business-or-property
7	requirement. We think that lost employment is a
8	classic business injury.
9	Now the relationship between the lost
10	employment and the predicate acts, you know,
11	Congress put "by reason of" in there. It didn't
12	put a more stringent test. It didn't say, you
13	know, in the course of the predicate act you
14	have to injure a business or property. It
15	didn't you know, it didn't have a motive or a
16	targeting requirement.
17	And we think that the plain import of

- 18 that, as this Court has held in Holmes and from
- there on, is, if you have a predicate act, you 19
- have a loss of livelihood, and the -- the work 20
- 21 to do is to connect those with the proximate
- 22 cause requirement.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 24 Justice Thomas?
- 25 Justice Alito?

1	JUSTICE ALITO: Well, just out of
2	curiosity, why do you think you're going to face
3	a a heavy burden on remand to show
4	foreseeability? Wouldn't you argue that a
5	company that advertises its product as being
6	completely free of THC, not just that it has
7	only such an infinitesimal amount that it's not
8	going to get people high, but it is completely
9	free of THC, is appealing to a category of
LO	potential customers who, for some reason, want
L1	to make sure that they don't ingest even a tiny,
L2	tiny amount of of THC?
L3	And when someone who purchases the
L4	product then suffers the consequences of having
L5	a very small amount of THC in that person's
L6	system, that is an entirely foreseeable result?
L7	MS. ANAND: So I agree, Justice Alito.
L8	JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah.
L9	MS. ANAND: I was just responding to
20	Justice Kagan's point that, in many cases, the
21	intervening act of a third party does cut off
22	the chain of custody
23	JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, I know.
24	MS. ANAND: but for exactly the
25	reason

- JUSTICE ALITO: You're -- you're
- 2 trying to tell us that the proximate -- among
- 3 other things, you have other arguments, but the
- 4 proximate cause requirement is going to do some
- of the work that some of us might fear will be
- 6 needed if we agree with your interpretation of
- 7 "injury to business or property." I get it.
- 8 But I'm not sure why they're -- why your case is
- 9 a -- is a good example of that.
- 10 MS. ANAND: Sure. I think that's
- 11 right. I was responding only to Justice Kagan's
- 12 concern about the third-party actor, but, you
- know, we agree, we think we're going to meet the
- 14 proximate cause test.
- I -- I just want to say so my
- 16 bottom-line position here is defendants have
- 17 come to this Court for decades and said the sky
- is going to fall if you interpret RICO the way
- 19 its text literally says it should be
- 20 interpreted. The sky hasn't fallen. This Court
- 21 has, time after time, including unanimously in
- 22 Bridge, said, you know, Congress probably wrote
- 23 a statute that's a little too broad in some
- 24 ways, but here we are.
- 25 And it should stay the course here.

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1 That's my fundamental position.
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- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I think
- 3 you're -- are you overstating your argument? If
- 4 we look back at everything that the Court has
- 5 done in civil RICO cases, I -- I -- I certainly
- 6 don't think the Court has consistently applied
- 7 the -- the liberal construction policy or just
- 8 relied on the plain language of the statute.
- 9 RICO is a -- RICO is a tough thing to
- 10 deal with.
- 11 MS. ANAND: I think that's right, but
- 12 I think that's because of things in the statute,
- 13 like the enterprise requirement, right? It's
- 14 not just someone commits a predicate act; they
- 15 have to use an enterprise to do it or fund an
- 16 enterprise through doing so. It's because the
- 17 predicate acts often require sort of higher
- 18 degrees of proof. There's lots of reasons in
- 19 the text why RICO --
- JUSTICE ALITO: All right.
- 21 MS. ANAND: -- is challenging.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 24 Sotomayor?
- 25 Justice Kagan?

1	Justice Kavanaugh?
2	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: A couple
3	questions. The the larger issue afoot from
4	the amicus briefs, of course, is the class
5	action MDL, that state tort suits are going to
6	be converted into civil RICO because you can ge
7	treble damages, and this is going to be a bit of
8	a change.
9	On that, one thing you've stressed is
10	proximate cause. When of course, in those
11	types of suits and you can respond whether
12	you think that's correct or not, that factual
13	prediction. But, in those kinds of suits, of
14	course, getting past the motion to dismiss,
15	getting past summary judgment is the key. When
16	would proximate cause be resolved?
17	MS. ANAND: So I think some of those
18	can be resolved early on, right? In most cases
19	it's not going to be the case that firing is the
20	obvious consequence of whatever mislabeling
21	happened, right? And so I think fairly early
22	on
23	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But you're saying
24	in this case
25	MS. ANAND: Well, because of what

1 Justice Alito explained, right? The only reason

- 2 to market this as having zero percent THC,
- 3 right --
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Mm-hmm.
- 5 MS. ANAND: -- there are a couple
- 6 reasons you might market it. You can say no
- 7 psychoactive effect for the person who's worried
- 8 about that, but the emphasis on zero percent
- 9 THC, that's for someone who's either worried
- 10 about their employer or about federal law.
- 11 Like, the particular misrepresentation here is
- intimately tethered to the business harm that
- 13 occurred, right?
- And that won't be the case in every
- 15 kind of, you know, average -- or product
- 16 mislabeling.
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: What about the
- 18 factual prediction? Do you want to say anything
- 19 about that? Because the amicus briefs really
- 20 are quite aggressive on that. And you could say
- 21 yes, but that's good, or you can say no, that's
- 22 not going to happen. And, if it's the latter,
- 23 I'd like to hear why.
- 24 MS. ANAND: Right. So I think we have
- 25 two data points for why this is unlikely to

- 1 happen. The first is sort of the Ninth Circuit,
- 2 as I explained. The second is, right, there are
- 3 lots of products liability cases -- think the
- 4 washing machine that floods your home, right --
- 5 where there's no personal injury anywhere in the
- 6 ambit, right? It's all property damage.
- 7 You see those cases. You see lots of
- 8 those cases in state court. You don't see them
- 9 being brought as civil RICO. That's not because
- 10 of Petitioners' rule. Petitioners' rule has
- 11 nothing to do with the oven that burns the house
- or the washing machine that floods the basement.
- 13 That's all the other aspects of RICO are keeping
- 14 that case out.
- So I think, you know, those are the
- 16 two data points I can give you. You know,
- 17 the -- and just the other thing I would say is I
- do think that the other guardrails do some work
- in fencing out those cases. I think that's why
- you don't see those cases being brought.
- 21 And, again, as a kind of incentive
- 22 matter, ruling out all pain and suffering and
- 23 emotional distress means it isn't proper.
- 24 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, you've said
- 25 that umpteen times, which I -- and I understand

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1 why you've said it.
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- 2 MS. ANAND: Yes.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But lost wages and
- 4 medical expenses are a huge part of personal
- 5 injury tort suits, the damages.
- 6 MS. ANAND: I think we -- I think
- 7 that's right. My friend on the other side and I
- 8 disagree on exactly what -- what fraction, but,
- 9 you know, the Chamber of Commerce study that we
- 10 cite in our brief says the lion's share of the
- 11 recovery --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Mm-hmm.
- MS. ANAND: -- are these sort of
- 14 non-pecuniary intangible harms.
- 15 And I think that's correct, right?
- 16 Medical expenses, you may see insurance
- 17 companies bringing these suits, although I
- think, under Petitioners' theory, insurance
- 19 companies can still sue for medical expenses, is
- 20 I think what they told you in the brief. But,
- in the sort of average case, the big incentives,
- I think that's why you're not seeing -- I don't
- 23 know the reason you're not seeing these cases in
- 24 the Ninth Circuit or in the products liability
- 25 that don't result in bodily injury contexts, but

- 1 you're not. And I think that should give you
- 2 some solace.
- 3 My fallback position is just Congress
- 4 wrote this statute to just ask about an injury
- 5 to business or property. That may have been
- 6 profoundly unwise. It may have been profoundly
- 7 unwise to use mail and wire fraud as predicate
- 8 offenses.
- 9 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And the federalism
- 10 canon doesn't kick in at all you said. I just
- 11 want to make I had that answer nailed down.
- 12 MS. ANAND: I don't think the
- 13 federalism canon kicks in because Petitioners
- 14 have not been able to give you any definition
- that's tenable on the plain text of the statute,
- 16 which is where the canon would kick in as a tie
- 17 break, if at all.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 20 Barrett?
- JUSTICE BARRETT: No.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 23 Jackson?
- 24 JUSTICE JACKSON: And I just wanted to
- let you finish the discussion of whether or not

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1 this statute is overly broad. I mean, I -- it
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- 2 gives me some solace that we have actual text
- 3 from Congress directing courts to liberally
- 4 construe the provisions of RICO to effectuate
- 5 its purposes. So it seems as though Congress
- 6 contemplated that this was going to have a
- 7 pretty broad sweep and that we should allow it
- 8 to do that.
- 9 MS. ANAND: I think that's right.
- 10 It's very rare Congress writes a liberal
- 11 construction canon into the text of the statute.
- 12 And I think that the ill that Congress was
- targeting is one that's sort of hard to pin down
- 14 and define, right?
- 15 We've talked a little bit about the
- wire and mail fraud predicates, which I think
- 17 are -- I think sort of what is causing this
- 18 Court some heartburn is the fact that mail and
- 19 wire fraud are among the predicate offenses, and
- 20 those seem to map onto a lot of state tort law
- 21 claims but that the --
- 22 JUSTICE JACKSON: And it seems as
- though some of the concern is, you know, are we
- 24 expanding beyond what the text says here and
- 25 would it be a sea change that actually brings in

- a lot of things that weren't intended to be
- 2 covered, or is Ms. Blatt asking us to narrow
- down what the text says and make business and --
- 4 or property, you know, narrower?
- I kind of see it as the latter, but
- 6 can you just speak to that as the final word
- 7 here?
- 8 MS. ANAND: So I agree it would be the
- 9 latter. "Injury to business or property" means
- injury to business or property, whether that's
- 11 harm or legal harm. It just means that you are
- 12 harmed in your ability to earn a livelihood.
- Now, again, I think that Congress used
- that language and used the liberal construction
- 15 provision and put things like mail and wire
- 16 fraud in the predicate -- in the list of
- 17 predicate offenses because they wanted the
- 18 statute to sweep quite broadly. And I think
- 19 that this Court should just enforce the text as
- 20 it was written.
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 23 counsel.
- 24 Rebuttal, Ms. Blatt?

1	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF LISA S. BLATT
2	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
3	MS. BLATT: Thank you, and may it
4	please the Court:
5	Let's just start with the text. I
6	don't think there's a response to the fact that
7	the other side is reading this as any person
8	injured in his person, business, or property can
9	recover three times the economic damages. So
10	they're adding the word "injury," a personal
11	injury, to the injury requirement, and they're
12	adding the economic restriction to the damages.
13	It completely flips this statute on its head.
14	And this is the way the Clayton Act has been
15	read since eternity, that personal injuries are
16	not recoverable.
17	On the consequences, we cite, I think
18	on page 27, this case, Hopp. It involves a
19	boxer. And that's a case where the district
20	court just ignored the Ninth Circuit, and that's
21	why there's not consequences, is because
22	district courts aren't crazy, and when they see
23	a personal injury action, they're just not
24	citing Diaz and they're preventing personal
25	injury cases from going forward.

1	The Ninth Circuit also has some
2	language that says lost wages may not be
3	recoverable. So it's a little bit quirky.
4	In terms of the lion's share, that
5	mega-study is just dealing with gargantuan
6	mega-hits. It doesn't matter if pain and
7	suffering is 60 percent or 20 percent;
8	99.99999 percent of all personal injury cases
9	come in under their rule. All they're doing is
10	excluding a narrow type of damages. So any
11	personal injury comes in as long as there's an
12	economic damage.
13	In terms of proximate cause, proximate
14	cause, we think there is no proximate cause, but
15	that's not the problem. You have a case before
16	you that will be a legal rule where there is
17	proximate cause in all personal injury actions
18	resulting in medical expenses and lost wages.
19	There's direct cause. You don't even need
20	proximate cause. It's but proximate, direct,
21	what have you. Yet only our rule will exclude
22	it. There will be proximate cause when you have
23	a slip and fall and lose your job, either lose
24	wages or you can't work because you lose your
25	ability to use your hands or evesight

- In terms of the other thing about, oh,
- 2 RICO's a big deal, on 107, 108, and 76, 77a, two
- 3 sales were the RICO predicate act and three ads.
- 4 That's what it took to state a mail and wire
- 5 fraud: two sales in -- 10-year period. That is
- 6 not that complicated.
- 7 Justice Barrett, in terms of the
- 8 shifting position, I do think we came up with
- 9 WesternGeco at the merits stage, but both the
- 10 Sixth, Seventh, and the Eleventh Circuit do talk
- about damages in recovery for personal injury.
- 12 So I think we refined it here, but we certainly
- 13 got it from those cases. The district court
- 14 itself held this is a personal injury action and
- 15 there's lost wages damages.
- The other thing I will say is we took
- 17 your language from that -- Chrysler Motor case
- 18 that said damages resulting from personal
- injury, so we stole it straight from your
- language because we figured we can't go wrong if
- 21 we just stick with the Clayton Act rule.
- In terms of medical expenses, I -- I'm
- sorry, I don't see how you can carve out medical
- 24 expenses. That's the biggest loss of property
- 25 to say that what the -- the court below did, it

1	just said, well, personal injury damages would
2	be excluded, but lost wages will be recoverable
3	because that's an injury to business.
4	Well, all lost wages could be
5	categorized as injury to business when they're
6	just damages. To be sure, you can have a lost
7	property damage or a lost property injury. You
8	can have damages or injury to both. It just
9	depends on what the nature of the cause of
10	action is.
11	And I think that's it. Thank you.
12	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
13	counsel. The case is submitted.
14	(Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the case
15	was submitted.)
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