SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA)
HOLDINGS, D/B/A LABCORP,)
Petitioner,)
v.) No. 24-304
LUKE DAVIS, ET AL.,)
Respondents.)

Pages: 1 through 122

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: April 29, 2025

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3	LABORATORY CORPORATION OF AMERICA)
4	HOLDINGS, D/B/A LABCORP,)
5	Petitioner,)
6	v.) No. 24-304
7	LUKE DAVIS, ET AL.,)
8	Respondents.)
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11	Washington, D.C.	
12	Tuesday, April 29, 20	25
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14	The above-entitled matter	came on for
15	oral argument before the Supreme	Court of the
16	United States at 11:03 a.m.	
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Т	APPEARANCES:
2	NOEL J. FRANCISCO, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on
3	behalf of the Petitioner.
4	SOPAN JOSHI, Assistant to the Solicitor General,
5	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for the
6	United States, as amicus curiae, supporting
7	neither party.
8	DEEPAK GUPTA, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
9	the Respondents.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:03 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument next in Case 24-304, Laboratory
5	Corporation of America versus Davis.
6	Mr. Francisco.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF NOEL J. FRANCISCO
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. FRANCISCO: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	Two basic principles resolve this
12	case. First, a class action is just a tool for
13	aggregating claims. So, if an individual
14	plaintiff doesn't have Article III standing to
15	bring his own claim, he can't bring it as part
16	of a class either. That's why Laroe held that
17	an intervenor has to show Article III standing
18	in order to intervene, and, as Justice Scalia
19	said in Shady Grove, class actions are just
20	another species of joinder.
21	Second, Rule 23(b)(3)'s predominance
22	requirement leads to the same result. If a
23	class is defined to include plaintiffs without
24	Article III standing and, as a result, you need
25	thougands of mini-trials to separate the wheat

- 1 from the chaff, the Article III issue
- 2 necessarily swamps any common ones.
- This case is a perfect example.
- 4 Plaintiffs who don't want to use kiosks don't
- 5 have standing to challenge how kiosks work any
- 6 more than a vegan has standing to challenge how
- 7 a restaurant defines a medium rare steak.
- As a result, the Court needs to assess
- 9 whether each of the 8,000 to 112,000 class
- 10 members actually want to use kiosks, and that
- 11 will necessarily swamp any common issues, as the
- 12 D.C. and First Circuits correctly held in the
- 13 Rail Freight and Asacol cases.
- 14 Plaintiff's only response is to say
- 15 that courts should assess the merits first and
- 16 jurisdiction second. But that makes no sense.
- 17 What if they lose on the merits?
- 18 Either the unnamed class members are
- bound by a judgment regardless of whether the
- 20 court had Article III jurisdiction over it, or
- 21 the court has to determine if it had
- jurisdiction over each plaintiff in the first
- 23 place. And that's why courts have to address
- the jurisdiction before the merits, just like in
- 25 every other case.

Plaintiff's rule, in contrast, assumes 1 2 either they win or coerce a settlement, but there's no basis for that "heads I win, tails 3 you lose" approach to Article III. 4 I welcome your questions. 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: The -- in this case, 6 7 there have been a number of orders, and it seems as though the one that we have before us is the 8 9 May order, which is inoperative. Would you spend a minute on why we still -- we have 10 11 jurisdiction over the May order when there have 12 been subsequent orders? MR. FRANCISCO: Sure, Your Honor. 13 14 a variety of reasons. I think the simplest way 15 to understand it is that the Ninth Circuit 16 resolved the question presented in this case, 17 affirmed the certification of a class against 18 It just got it wrong. You have 19 jurisdiction to review that judgment. 20 Now I can unpack that a little bit 21 more. Everybody here agrees that the May order is before the Court. The August order didn't 2.2 23 change the May order in any material way. That's what the district court explicitly found. 24 25 That's what Plaintiffs argued to the district

- 1 court below.
- 2 That's why we couldn't have actually
- 3 appealed the August order even if we wanted to.
- 4 It would have been barred by 23(f)'s 14-day
- 5 statute of limitations.
- And I think, more importantly, that is
- 7 precisely why the Ninth Circuit resolved the
- 8 question presented in the context of the May
- 9 order. It issued a judgment. That judgment
- 10 went against us. It had reasoning. We think
- 11 that reasoning is wrong.
- This Court has the jurisdiction to
- 13 address that judgment, reverse it, and send it
- 14 back --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel --
- 16 MR. FRANCISCO: -- to the Ninth
- 17 Circuit.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- you're --
- 19 you're skipping a lot of steps in there. The
- 20 May order is before us, but it's inoperative.
- 21 The August order superseded it and replaced it.
- That's what the Ninth Circuit said.
- When it reached the May order, it said you
- 24 didn't move to amend your notice of appeal.
- We're basing this on the May order. We're not

- 1 may -- basing it on the August order because you
- 2 didn't move to amend.
- 3 Isn't us looking at the May order --
- 4 that's not the operative language right now.
- 5 Isn't it an advisory opinion?
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, I -- I --
- 7 I'm -- I'd like -- I want to follow up on your
- 8 answer to Justice Alito, when does a party
- 9 become -- when does a party become a part of a
- 10 litigation.
- I always thought it was at the time
- 12 the class was certified, which is not at the
- 13 time where -- where the judgment is entered. I
- 14 didn't think they became parties until the
- judgment is entered in a class action.
- 16 MR. FRANCISCO: I think their claims
- are clearly added the moment the class is
- 18 certified. That's why --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The claim -- the
- 20 claim, yes, but not them as parties.
- 21 MR. FRANCISCO: Well, I -- I --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So I'm not quite
- 23 sure how you -- why they have to -- they have to
- 24 prove that they are injured or uninjured.
- MR. FRANCISCO: So I'll give you two

- 1 answers.
- 2 The first is I think just as a
- 3 technical, formal matter when the claims are
- 4 added at certification, you have to have
- 5 jurisdiction over those claims.
- 6 The practical answer is the one that I
- 7 think I -- I've already given, which is, what if
- 8 the class is certified, all the claims are
- 9 added, and the Court then rules against the
- 10 class?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. But
- 12 you said earlier --
- MR. FRANCISCO: The rule is the whole
- 14 class is bound.
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, you said
- 16 earlier -- yes, but it's not bound until the
- 17 class is certified. And between -- until
- 18 judgment is entered. The way class actions
- 19 happen, the -- they get amended constantly
- 20 during the proceeding.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Sure.
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Sometimes some
- 23 claims are dropped altogether. They are
- 24 altered.
- The whole process is fluid as problems

- 1 start arising. And it's not until the -- until
- 2 the judgment is entered that you have to
- 3 determine whether there's an administrable way
- 4 to identify them -- using your own words, to
- 5 identify who's been injured or not.
- 6 MR. FRANCISCO: So say --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So you're saying,
- 8 instead, we've got to do it immediately.
- 9 MR. FRANCISCO: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They're saying it
- 11 has -- the Court below said it has to be done.
- 12 MR. FRANCISCO: What -- what I'm
- 13 saying is that you need to always address
- 14 jurisdiction before you adjudicate the merits of
- 15 a claim. That's what this Court --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, but we have
- jurisdiction. We have some people, the named
- 18 Plaintiffs, who wanted to use this kiosk. They
- 19 are clearly a part of that class.
- Now the question becomes, in naming
- 21 that class, will there be people who are blind
- 22 who didn't want to use it. And they have to
- 23 show that there's an administrable way to
- 24 identify the difference between those people and
- 25 themselves.

- 1 MR. FRANCISCO: So, Your Honor, let's
- 2 assume --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think that's a
- 4 Rule 23 question.
- 5 MR. FRANCISCO: -- let's assume for
- 6 the sake of argument that people who don't want
- 7 to use kiosks don't have standing to challenge
- 8 kiosks. And let's further assume that we've got
- 9 a class here that includes both -- both groups
- of people.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, but that's
- 12 going to be the legal fight, but --
- MR. FRANCISCO: No, I get that, which
- is why I stipulate --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And I'm asking why
- do it immediately at class certification stage.
- 17 There is an argument that if I'm
- 18 blind, the benefit that the statute gives me is
- 19 like the standing question we faced with the ADA
- 20 person who was calling hotels. And all she said
- 21 is I want -- I want to walk in there. I may
- 22 want to use it. We didn't require her to use
- it. All she had to say was I may want to use
- 24 it.
- They're saying the same thing, if I'm

- 1 blind and I walk in, I'm being denied the
- 2 choice.
- 3 MR. FRANCISCO: And that's --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't know if
- 5 that will hold up for injury.
- 6 MR. FRANCISCO: Sure.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But the question
- 8 is: Why are we facing that question at class
- 9 certification?
- 10 MR. FRANCISCO: And that's the
- 11 question I want answered, because I think what
- 12 your question really is doing is joining the
- 13 issue --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No. I --
- MR. FRANCISCO: -- and an issue that
- 16 needs to be --
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- think --
- 18 MR. FRANCISCO: -- resolved. And
- 19 here --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think -- I think
- 21 the question -- I think --
- 22 MR. FRANCISCO: -- the class --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Francisco,
- hear me out. I think the question only becomes
- 25 pertinent when you're trying to give a damage

- 1 award to anyone.
- 2 MR. FRANCISCO: And that's where I
- fundamentally disagree with you, because that's
- 4 only true if they win.
- 5 If they lose, if the class is
- 6 certified and they lose, the entire class is
- 7 bound by that adverse judgment.
- 8 So if you have certified --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, it depends
- 10 on what ground they lose.
- 11 MR. FRANCISCO: Let's say they just
- 12 lose across the board on the merits on a motion
- 13 to dismiss. That binds the entire class.
- 14 So if you have certified a class that
- includes uninjured people and the class loses
- 16 across the board, the general rule is the entire
- 17 class is bound. But that can't be the case if
- 18 you didn't have jurisdiction in the first place,
- 19 which is why jurisdiction always, in every case,
- 20 precedes the merits. It doesn't follow the
- 21 merits.
- 22 That's my -- that's one of our
- 23 principal objections to their position. Your
- 24 position, Your Honor, as you just very well
- 25 articulated --

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1
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, but I -- I
 2
      quess --
 3
               MR. FRANCISCO: -- makes perfect sense
     when they win --
 4
 5
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yeah, but
 6
     you're --
 7
               MR. FRANCISCO: -- but makes no sense
 8
     when they lose.
 9
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you're still
10
      saying it's a question of predominance and that
      that's what has to be addressed. If there's an
11
12
      administrable way to do it, then the class gets
13
      certified. If there's not, then you can't.
14
               MR. FRANCISCO: So I'm saying two
15
      things. Under Article III, they have got to
16
     define the class properly at the front end.
17
               Under 23(b)(3), I'm not sure I
18
     necessarily disagree with you, but you've got to
19
     have an administrable way to separate the wheat
20
      from the chaff before you address the merits,
21
     not after you address the merits.
2.2
                And if the only way to do that
23
      consistent with protecting the defendants'
24
     rights is thousands of mini trials, that is
25
     necessarily going to defeat predominance, just
```

- 1 like if the fraud on the market theory fails in
- 2 a way that requires individual issues of
- 3 reliance.
- 4 Again, the rule that we're asking for
- 5 under 23(b)(3) is the one that Judge Katsas
- 6 adopted in the D.C. Circuit and Judge Kayatta
- 7 adopted in the First Circuit.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: So I want to pick up
- 10 there and also go back to the Chief Justice's
- 11 question and make sure I understand what you're
- saying, which is that the Article III question,
- 13 you're saying, in a case like this is not so
- hard to solve, that it's merely a matter of
- taking it from all the people who walked into
- 16 the facilities to the people -- the blind people
- 17 who walked into the facilities and wanted to use
- 18 the kiosk.
- 19 And that's the key move to get you to
- 20 a place where it's not the Article III question
- that's important but, rather, the predominance.
- 22 Is that --
- 23 MR. FRANCISCO: With one insignificant
- tweak for purposes of this. I don't know that
- 25 we would concede -- in fact, I know we wouldn't

- 1 concede that merely wanting to is good enough.
- 2 There -- I think there has to be a further
- 3 injury. But it doesn't really affect the -- the
- 4 -- the force of your question, Your Honor.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. Wanting to,
- 6 tried to, something like that.
- 7 MR. FRANCISCO: And -- and was
- 8 hindered in their ability to -- to check in.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah. Okay. So --
- 10 okay. Then we can go back to the procedural
- 11 question again, which I don't want to do, but,
- 12 you know, but that does raise the procedural
- question, is like isn't that exactly what the
- 14 May order said, and the problem was really the
- 15 August order, which was way wider than that, but
- 16 the May order seems on its face and at least in
- 17 some of the district courts' comments to be
- 18 exactly that.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Except for when the
- 20 district court specifically addressed it, it
- 21 explicitly told us there is not an iota worth of
- 22 difference between the two orders when it comes
- 23 to the size of the class.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: I -- I totally can see
- 25 that it does say that at some times. And then

- 1 it says at other times: I'm just talking about
- 2 people who tried to use the kiosk. So that's a
- 3 little bit of a mystery.
- 4 MR. FRANCISCO: But the one time it
- 5 specifically did address it, twice it said the
- 6 two orders are materially identical. And that's
- 7 --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, on --
- 9 MR. FRANCISCO: -- a quote.
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- its face they're
- 11 still obviously not materially identical, but --
- 12 okay. I -- I actually was going someplace else.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Sure.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: We'll leave that as
- 15 a -- a question to be asked.
- Okay. But -- but that's the full
- 17 range of the Article I question you see, and
- 18 everything else, you're saying, really is a
- 19 predominance inquiry and is a matter -- and I
- think you said it's not how many people.
- 21 It's -- it's just you have a mechanism for
- 22 easily separating the wheat from the chaff. Is
- 23 that correct?
- 24 MR. FRANCISCO: While protecting the
- 25 defendant's rights.

1 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, well, that is 2 what protects the defendant's rights, isn't it? 3 Is there something else that I'm missing? MR. FRANCISCO: Well, you know, I 4 mean, there have been suggestions that you could 5 6 just do everything through affidavits and 7 deprive the defendants their right of -- of -of contesting those affidavits through the 8 crucible of cross-examination. 9 10 It is specifically what Judge Kayatta 11 addressed in the Asacol case, where he said, 12 look, when it comes to issues of preference, you can't simply rely on affidavits, because --13 14 unless the defendants stand up and say we 15 concede that all the affidavits are true. 16 Instead, a defendant, if it has a 17 good-faith basis to do so, has a right to contest the veracity of affidavits. 18 19 Here, given how implausible it would 20 be if 112,000 people came forward and said we all preferred to use the kiosk. Given the 21 2.2 inherent implausibility of that, I think we 23 would have a very strong basis to say: No, we 24 want to test every one of those affidavits. 25 We're going to spend, you know, anywhere between

- 1 two and ten years addressing the threshold
- 2 question of jurisdiction, necessarily going to
- 3 overwhelm any common issue.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: So you're saying you
- 5 can't do it by, like, surveys or other
- 6 mechanisms that addressed the classes -- you
- 7 know, addressed -- addressed the class as a
- 8 whole.
- 9 MR. FRANCISCO: Those only work if you
- 10 could also introduce them in an individual case.
- 11 That's what you held in Tyson's.
- 12 But take an individual case like this
- one. If somebody came in and said I like
- 14 kiosks, I want to use the kiosks, you couldn't
- 15 put forward a survey that says 50 percent of
- 16 people like to use kiosks, therefore, you like
- 17 to use kiosks.
- That would be completely inadmissible
- in an individual case and it's so inadmissible
- 20 in a class case.
- 21 So what they have to do is identify
- 22 something that they could do that's consistent
- 23 with our right to cross-examine and contest that
- 24 evidence. And in a case like this there is
- 25 simply no way to do that, short of putting these

- 1 people on the stand and testing whether their
- 2 assertions failed to survive the crucible of
- 3 cross-examination.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. That's helpful
- 5 to me, and I hope Mr. Gupta addresses the same
- 6 question. I'm sure he will, because what I hear
- 7 you saying in your argument, again aside from
- 8 the procedural matter as to whether you have any
- 9 right to object to the May order, is really that
- 10 the -- the crux of the matter is something along
- 11 the lines of, there's no procedure that we can
- 12 think of that -- that is easy enough to address
- 13 the predominance inquiry.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Well, I -- again, it's
- not just any procedure we can think of. It's a
- 16 procedure that exists and also is protective of
- 17 --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah.
- 19 MR. FRANCISCO: -- the defendant's
- 20 rights. Again, this is an issue that I think
- 21 Judge Katsas and Kayatta both went through in --
- in quite a bit of detail.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, I didn't mean to
- 24 take that out.
- 25 MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah. In your opinion

- 1 -- yeah.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: I meant to -- to,
- 3 like, you know, say, like, exactly how much the
- 4 --
- 5 MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- does the defendant
- 7 need such that you can have a mechanism that
- 8 actually works to separate people who are
- 9 injured from people who are uninjured.
- 10 MR. FRANCISCO: And the critical issue
- I would add to that, Your Honor, is that that is
- 12 a procedure that also -- always has to be
- capable of taking place before you reach the
- 14 merits. You can never kick the jurisdictional
- 15 question to after you resolve the merits. It's
- 16 also -- always got to be resolved before you
- 17 reach the merits.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: And -- and this is
- only because the -- because you're worried about
- 20 the -- the -- the case if you -- if the
- 21 defendant loses.
- MR. FRANCISCO: I think that just
- 23 illustrates the nature of the problem. I think
- 24 that just reflects the fundamental principles of
- 25 Article III jurisdiction. When a class action

2.2

- 1 is just an aggregation tool, so when you certify
- 2 a class, you're adding a bunch of claims to the
- 3 case. You're increasing the exposure to the
- 4 defendant. You cannot -- you don't have the
- 5 power to adjudicate the merits of those claims
- 6 either up or down unless you have jurisdiction
- 7 over those claims in the first place.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, I think this
- 9 one, I think we're going to have to agree to
- 10 disagree on this one because the court is not
- doing anything with respect to those claims
- 12 until the court actually provides damages,
- otherwise exercises remedial powers with respect
- 14 to those claims, and as long as the court
- 15 figures this question out before the court
- actually does anything with respect to those
- 17 claims, that seems to me good enough.
- Otherwise, they're just riding along. They're
- 19 not -- they're not -- they're not affecting the
- 20 litigation in any way.
- 21 MR. FRANCISCO: Sure. And I disagree
- 22 with that for a couple of reasons. One is that,
- 23 as this Court has said a couple of different
- times, class actions are claims aggregation
- 25 tools. As Justice Scalia explained in Shady

- 1 Grove, it's just another joinder device.
- 2 And I think that the reason why I
- 3 point to what happens if there's a loss is
- 4 because it does illustrate that the claims
- 5 are -- it illustrates the basic principles that
- 6 I'm trying to articulate in other ways because
- 7 it shows that those claims actually do become
- 8 part of the case at the moment of certification,
- 9 because they are capable of being resolved in an
- 10 adverse way against the defendant.
- 11 And I think that is why this Court has
- 12 always said that class actions are just joinder
- devices no different from intervention. And
- 14 Laroe makes clear that if you're going to add
- that new claim to a case by way of intervention,
- 16 you need to have jurisdiction over that new
- 17 claim. I don't think there's any different of a
- 18 rule that would apply in the class action
- 19 context.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Thank you.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 23 Gorsuch?
- 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Sorry to belabor
- 25 this, but I am -- I am struggling to understand

- 1 your argument.
- 2 I believe in response to the Chief
- 3 Justice, though you can correct me, that you
- 4 acknowledged that a court can certify a class
- 5 action with some noninjured people in it, and
- 6 that in response to Justice Kagan you said,
- 7 basically, that you have to do the predominance
- 8 and manageability inquiry early on. That's --
- 9 that's what I got out of it.
- 10 MR. FRANCISCO: That -- then I --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And then you
- 12 determine whether you can separate the wheat
- from the chaff early on in order to ensure that
- 14 you can weed out people who aren't injured. And
- if all that's true -- and you can tell me where
- 16 I'm wrong -- boy, that sure sounds like Rule 23
- 17 to me.
- 18 MR. FRANCISCO: So, Your Honor, I
- 19 think I wasn't clear if that's how you
- 20 understood my articulation of the rule. There
- 21 are sort of two steps. There's the Article III
- step and the 23(b)(3) step.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah, in the Article
- 24 III step, you said --
- 25 MR. FRANCISCO: You need to define the

- 1 class so that it's limited only -- only to
- 2 injured people.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Only -- so you can
- 4 never have an uninjured person in a class
- 5 definition?
- 6 MR. FRANCISCO: At least not --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is -- is that it?
- 8 MR. FRANCISCO: -- on the face of the
- 9 definition. But I think that in a case like
- 10 this and in most cases, that can be solved
- 11 pretty easily. You just --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So -- so --
- 13 MR. FRANCISCO: -- define the class
- 14 factually to include --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay, I -- I've
- 16 heard all that before. I don't mean to force
- 17 you to repeat it. So your position now is a
- 18 class definition can never have one uninjured
- 19 person in it?
- 20 MR. FRANCISCO: I --
- 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: If I can imagine a
- 22 definition that -- that yields one uninjured
- 23 person, I can't certify it?
- MR. FRANCISCO: Well, if you can
- 25 imagine a class definition that yields one

- 1 uninjured person, you can redefine the class to
- 2 eliminate that uninjured person.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, maybe I can
- 4 and maybe I can't, but I know that common issues
- 5 predominate, and I know that I can sort out
- 6 those things later. And I still can't certify
- 7 this --
- 8 MR. FRANCISCO: I think what you do,
- 9 what the proper approach there would be, to
- 10 simply redefine the class to eliminate the one
- 11 person.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well --
- MR. FRANCISCO: You can say, okay, the
- 14 class --
- 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So I think the
- 16 answer is -- I think the answer to the question
- is yes.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yes. Yes.
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You cannot certify
- 20 that class at -- at all.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- MR. FRANCISCO: But you can redefine.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And if that's true,
- is that protective of defendants' rights? I

- 1 mean, we've been talking about judgments in
- 2 class action litigation. My memory's a little
- 3 hazy, but I remember doing a little -- a little
- 4 bit of it back in the day. And these things
- 5 never go to judgment. They're always settled.
- 6 And often defendants like broad class
- 7 definitions because it gives them peace. And
- 8 the alternative, which I think your rule would
- 9 invite, is mass tort claims in which you're
- 10 litigating these -- you talk about piecemeal;
- 11 you're really going to be litigating it
- 12 piecemeal. Thoughts?
- MR. FRANCISCO: So I guess my first
- 14 thought would be, if you look at, just as a
- practical matter, are the positions that we're
- 16 articulating pro-defendant or anti-defendant, I
- 17 quess my first answer would be I don't think it
- 18 really matters. But my second answer would be
- 19 that, to the extent it does, I'm pretty
- 20 comfortable with my position from a pro-defense
- 21 standpoint, because if you look who's lined up
- in favor of our position, it's pretty much the
- 23 entire defense bar.
- Then to take it on more directly, what
- 25 I'd say is, if you can properly define the

- 1 class, the case can be easily settled. You just
- 2 have to figure out who's in that class and
- 3 settle it with respect to those people.
- I think that the problem when you can
- 5 lard up a class, not just with one, not just
- 6 with two uninjured members, but you can define a
- 7 class in a way like this one that maybe includes
- 8 as many as a majority of uninjured members out
- 9 of the 112,000 --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, then -- then
- 11 you maybe have some predominance issues, some
- 12 manageability issues. And I take all that
- 13 point. But that's what rule 23 exists to sort
- out. And maybe it isn't certifiable for that
- reason. But that's a Rule 23 inquiry, it seems
- 16 to me.
- 17 MR. FRANCISCO: And that's the second
- 18 part of our argument, Your Honor. Even if you
- 19 completely disagree with me on my Article III
- 20 question --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah, maybe --
- 22 MR. FRANCISCO: -- on 23(b)(3), if
- there isn't a way to separate them out before
- 24 you reach the merits, short of having all of the
- 25 mini-trials, it's going to fail under

- 1 23(b)(3)(ii).
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Thank you.
- 3 MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 5 Kavanaugh?
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I thought one of
- 7 the problems with an overly broad class being
- 8 certified was that it would pressure defendants
- 9 into settlements that are coercive and unfair.
- 10 Isn't that one of the concerns you -- you have?
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yes, Your Honor, and
- 12 that would have been fourth on my list, had I
- 13 had a chance to get to that.
- 14 And the other point I'd like to --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And do you want to
- 16 explain that, the real-world problem?
- 17 MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah. In the real
- 18 world, what drives settlement is the fact of
- 19 certification and the size of the class that's
- 20 certified, because those are the two numbers
- 21 that really require defendants to roll the dice.
- 22 Maybe I can defeat everything at the end of the
- 23 day. If I don't, I'm looking at a massive
- 24 number times whatever damages there are per
- 25 person.

1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So the flip side
2	of the peace from a larger class is the
3	disaster, from your perspective, of being
4	pressured into a settlement with an overly broad
5	class once it's certified.
6	MR. FRANCISCO: I think that's right.
7	We don't want to be pressured into those
8	settlements.
9	And the the other thing that I
10	would add is it's not like you need class
11	actions across the board in every manifestation
12	in order to make sure that plaintiffs are
13	protected and defendants are punished.
14	You also have federal and state law
15	enforcement authorities who are charged with
16	enforcing the federal and state consumer
17	protection and antidiscrimination laws. One of
18	the problems with an overly aggressive use of
19	class certification is that it interferes with
20	that law enforcement discretion by deputizing
21	literally thousands of plaintiffs lawyers to act
22	as private attorneys general.
23	I think this case is a pretty good
24	illustration of that. Here, about a year ago,
25	the Department of Health and Human Services

- 1 actually put forward a rule that suggested that
- what we are doing is what we should be doing;
- 3 that is, providing a front desk alternative to
- 4 kiosks. Yet, notwithstanding that rule, we're
- 5 being subjected to a massive class action that
- 6 goes after us for doing precisely what the rule
- 7 appears to contemplate.
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And on the facts
- 9 here -- I think you've maybe covered this, but I
- just want to be clear. On the facts, general
- 11 facts, here could they permissibly define a
- damages class consistent with Article III and
- 13 23(b)(3), and if so, how?
- MR. FRANCISCO: I think they could do
- it here with respect to Article III. On these
- 16 facts, I don't think they could do it consistent
- 17 with Rule 23(b)(3). They could -- let's assume
- 18 that anyone who wants to use a kiosk has
- 19 standing. As I mentioned to Justice Kagan, we
- 20 dispute that. We think more is needed. But for
- 21 purposes of this I'll assume that's enough.
- 22 They could define the class as anybody who
- 23 wanted to use a kiosk and visited a Labcorp
- facility and couldn't use the kiosk.
- 25 That then walks you straight into Rule

- 1 23(b)(3), and I don't see any way for them to
- 2 show -- to -- to meet Rule 23(b)(3), because
- 3 you'd have to have literally 112,000 mini-trials
- 4 to determine whether any particular unnamed
- 5 member actually wants to use that kiosk,
- 6 particularly given how many people in this
- 7 country -- I talked about myself; I imagine I'm
- 8 not alone in this room -- don't like using
- 9 kiosks and will avoid them whenever they can.
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 12 Barrett?
- JUSTICE BARRETT: I'm with you. I
- 14 like to avoid kiosks too.
- Okay. So I want to figure out exactly
- 16 what would be open to you on remand. I mean,
- there are different paths that we could take
- 18 here.
- 19 Let -- let's imagine that we say, oh,
- 20 this whole confusion about the order, we think
- 21 that the August order is operative and that's
- 22 not before us, so we send it back.
- 23 Given the Ninth Circuit's rules and
- that you have, you know, a time, like you were
- pointing out under 23(f), you had time and the

- 1 Ninth Circuit says that you can't -- you
- 2 can't -- you couldn't appeal the August order,
- 3 right, because they said it was the same?
- 4 You say the Ninth Circuit -- and --
- 5 and you're right, that the Ninth Circuit said
- 6 you couldn't appeal the August order because it
- 7 was the same.
- 8 So have you lost it? If -- if -- if
- 9 your friend on the other side is right and so
- 10 it's not properly before us, can you still
- 11 appeal that certification?
- Do you follow me? Am I being clear?
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah, I think so.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: So, like, if -- if
- 17 it's the case that what we really have before us
- is the May order or the May order as amended in
- 19 June, and if we said, no, no, no, no, really, it
- 20 was this August order. You know, Justice Kagan
- 21 was pointing out, no, I think the language is
- 22 materially different. Let's say that that's the
- view that carries the day. What happens to you?
- 24 Are you still able to make these arguments with
- 25 respect to the August order?

- 1 MR. FRANCISCO: So, if the May order
- 2 was immaterially amended by the August order, as
- 3 the district order said and the Ninth Circuit
- 4 found, no, we cannot appeal the August order.
- 5 So --
- 6 JUSTICE BARRETT: What if -- but what
- 7 if Justice Kagan is right? You know, she said,
- 8 if you look at the August order -- Justice
- 9 Kagan's question to you was -- and I know you
- 10 disagree with this, so just -- just assume this.
- 11 Let's assume that we thought that the
- 12 August order did materially order -- alter the
- 13 May order.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Okay.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: What happens to you?
- 16 Do you still have the --
- 17 MR. FRANCISCO: All right. So the
- assumption is that we're going to override the
- 19 district court's own interpretation of its own
- 20 orders --
- 21 JUSTICE BARRETT: Go with the
- 22 hypothetical.
- MR. FRANCISCO: I get it. I get it.
- 24 And override their understanding of the orders.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

- 1 MR. FRANCISCO: I -- I -- I'll accept
- 2 that too. I would have to think through that
- 3 more, Your Honor, and I would be uncomfortable
- 4 making a definitive representation here given
- 5 how far we are away from all of the different
- 6 orders.
- 7 If you did that, I would certainly
- 8 probably do my best to come up with an argument
- 9 that we could appeal that August order
- 10 separately. I don't think that there's any
- 11 reason for you to do any of that because I think
- the simplest route here is that you have a Ninth
- 13 Circuit judgment before you.
- 14 JUSTICE BARRETT: I -- I understand
- 15 that. But I think --
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 17 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- you can tell from
- some of the questions today that there's some
- 19 question about that on the bench, so I'm just --
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 21 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- trying to figure
- out what happens if that doesn't carry the day.
- Justice Alito pointed out this is a
- 24 weird, not clear rule from the Ninth Circuit.
- 25 So I'm trying to figure out what the consequence

- 1 to your client would be if some of those
- 2 concerns carried the day.
- I understand it's not your position
- 4 and there are other routes open.
- 5 MR. FRANCISCO: So the reason why I
- 6 think it's complicated is let's say you reversed
- 7 the Ninth Circuit's procedural ruling and you
- 8 said the August 8 order was the operative one.
- 9 Under Rule 23(f), we are way past the
- 10 14-day period to appeal the August order. So
- 11 there would have to be then some other -- some
- 12 kind of equitable tolling concept that gets
- 13 built into and on top of that.
- And, as I said, if you were to do
- 15 that -- and -- and I would strongly urge you not
- 16 to -- I would be vigorously arguing for anything
- 17 I could think of to allow us to appeal that
- 18 August order well past the 14-day period of
- 19 limitations under 28(f), and I would do my best
- 20 to succeed. I just can't represent to you what
- 21 I think the answer is.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: No, and I agree, and
- 23 that's why I brought up the 23(f) timing.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- 25 JUSTICE BARRETT: So it seems to me

- 1 that -- that maybe -- and tell me if you think
- 2 this is a description of your dilemma.
- If we understood the August order to
- 4 materially -- despite the -- despite the
- 5 descriptions in the lower courts, if we
- 6 understood it as Justice Kagan was
- 7 hypothesizing, that there was a material
- 8 difference, we said, no, no, we've got to
- 9 look at the orders ahead of us -- in front of
- 10 us, that's wrong, the whole reason you would be
- in this position is because of the weird rule
- 12 that Justice Alito was pointing out, this not
- 13 clear rule, we would be sending it back, and
- 14 then it would be kind of -- there would be a
- risk of "too bad for you" because the 23(f)
- 16 timeline has run.
- 17 So another way to look at this would
- 18 be for you to say, okay, there might be some
- 19 procedural quirks, maybe they flow from the
- Ninth Circuit's odd, you know, way of deciding
- 21 what orders are appealable, what orders are
- 22 operative, but that, here, you should just
- 23 decide the question presented on the facts as
- they've come up to you because you do have a
- 25 judgment in front of you from the Ninth Circuit.

1 MR. FRANCISCO: A hundred percent. 2 JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. How much of 3 this -- I mean, I -- I take it -- I just want to clarify. In your comments to Justice Kavanaugh, 4 we -- we didn't take the case to decide whether, 5 6 in fact, under the class as certified by the 7 district court there would be standing. Justice Sotomayor, I think I heard her 8 9 to say that we had decided that the woman who 10 called the hotels had standing even though she 11 didn't walk in. We actually didn't in Acheson 12 reach that question, and we didn't take this case to decide that here. But that is still 13 14 open to you to argue on remand, correct? 15 MR. FRANCISCO: Yes, Your Honor. And 16 the only thing I'd add to that is I think that 17 the facts here provide a good, nice way to 18 illustrate the application of the rule because I 19 think the facts are relatively clean, 20 notwithstanding the procedural issues that we're 21 discussing. 2.2 But, yes, it would still be open to us on remand because the rule that the Ninth 23 Circuit and the district court adopted was that 24 it just didn't matter. 25

1	JUSTICE BARRETT: Right.
2	MR. FRANCISCO: It didn't matter
3	whether the class included uninjured people
4	because, under the Ninth Circuit rule, is you
5	can certify a class as long as the main
6	plaintiff has standing, and and it doesn't
7	matter if there are lots of other people who
8	don't.
9	JUSTICE BARRETT: Gotcha. Yeah, I
LO	agree. And I think that's why we
L1	MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah.
L2	JUSTICE BARRETT: took the case, to
L3	decide that issue and not I was just kind of
L4	carving out that other issue
L5	MR. FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm.
L6	JUSTICE BARRETT: saying that you
L7	are not accepting that this class definition
L8	would that everyone in this class could
L9	satisfy Article III even if you collected a
20	hundred thousand affidavits that said: We
21	walked into the LabCorp, didn't matter if we
22	wanted to use the kiosk or not, but we couldn't
23	have used it if we wanted to because we were
24	blind, right?
25	MP FPANCISCO: We would not accept

- 1 that as a valid class.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Yes. Yes. Yes.
- 3 Okay.
- 4 MR. FRANCISCO: Correct.
- 5 JUSTICE BARRETT: Thank you.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 7 Jackson?
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: So it seems to me
- 9 that the merits of your argument actually rests
- on two premises that I am struggling with, so
- 11 maybe you can help me.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm.
- 13 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. I hear
- 14 you saying at bottom that it violates Article
- 15 III to include uninjured people in the class
- definition and that it violates Rule 23 if there
- are lots of uninjured people in the class
- 18 definition. And so if I can just ask you
- 19 questions about those two different basic
- 20 propositions that I think is really what is
- 21 underpinning your arguments here.
- The problem that I keep coming back to
- 23 with your Article III point, that it violates
- the Constitution to include uninjured people in
- 25 the class and so you would, therefore, need to

- 1 redefine it to be only injured people, is our
- 2 standard rules and principles with respect to
- 3 standing and when the jurisdiction of the Court
- 4 can be invoked.
- 5 My understanding is that you -- you
- 6 only need one plaintiff, one plaintiff, who
- 7 establishes standing, even if there are others
- 8 there who are making the same claim. I
- 9 appreciate that our law says if they're making
- 10 different claims by nature. I mean, obviously,
- 11 they're different because there are different
- 12 people there.
- But what we say is, if there's a claim
- 14 that is being made and the claim is you violated
- the law in this way and we have five people who
- are saying that and they are named plaintiffs in
- this action, only one of them has to establish
- injury for standing purposes.
- 19 If that's true, I don't understand
- 20 your Article III argument.
- MR. FRANCISCO: So I would push back
- 22 on whether or not that is true.
- This Court has never applied the
- one-plaintiff rule to a damages case, which I
- 25 think because, by definition, in a damages case,

- 1 every plaintiff is seeking his own form of
- 2 damages instead --
- 3 JUSTICE JACKSON: And we've done that
- 4 at the threshold? I mean, my understanding is
- 5 that at the --
- 6 MR. FRANCISCO: That's Laroe.
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: No, what -- what --
- 8 what I -- my understanding is that, yes, at the
- 9 end of the day, each person has to have been
- injured in order to be entitled to damages.
- 11 But, for the invocation of the power of the
- 12 court, which is what Article III standing is
- about, we don't go into the harm to each person
- in order to take up the claim that is being
- 15 made.
- 16 MR. FRANCISCO: Sure. I -- I
- 17 respectfully disagree with that, and I think
- 18 it's --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right.
- MR. FRANCISCO: -- squarely foreclosed
- 21 by Laroe.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- MR. FRANCISCO: What Laroe
- 24 specifically said was that at the point of
- intervention, you don't allow the intervenor to

- 1 add his new claim to the case unless he can show
- 2 an Article III injury --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But I'm not talking
- 4 about intervention. I'm talking about original
- 5 action. We have five plaintiffs. They are
- 6 making a claim. They have one count in their
- 7 complaint. And I understood that many, many
- 8 times we just say: One person, show us
- 9 your harm.
- 10 MR. FRANCISCO: Never in a damages
- 11 case have you ever done that, Your Honor.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- MR. FRANCISCO: Only in injunctions,
- and even there, only where plaintiffs were
- 15 seeking --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. So --
- 17 MR. FRANCISCO: -- the same injunction
- 18 or declaratory relief.
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- I understand.
- 20 That's where I'm having the disconnect.
- 21 All right. The second problem is with
- 22 respect to the proposition that it violates Rule
- 23 23 if there are lots of uninjured people in the
- 24 class.
- 25 And I got to tell you I'm struggling

- 1 with why it matters that there are uninjured
- 2 people.
- I hear you say that the reason is
- 4 because we have to have a bunch of mini-trials.
- 5 And I just want to put to you a quick
- 6 hypothetical --
- 7 MR. FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- which, to me,
- 9 demonstrates that that's not always the case,
- and so, therefore, that might be a problem with
- 11 your argument.
- So suppose we have a Verizon customer
- who brings a class action against the company,
- 14 arguing that Verizon charged her and all
- 15 customers certain fees over a six-month time
- 16 period that she says were unlawful. And this is
- 17 a claim that does not have an element of harm in
- 18 it. She's just saying these fees, unlawful, you
- 19 weren't allowed to do it. And she seeks to
- 20 certify a class of all Verizon customers during
- 21 that six-month time frame.
- Now imagine that Verizon says that it
- 23 only charged some of its customers during that
- 24 six-month time frame the relevant fee. So, in
- 25 actuality, only some of the members of the

- 1 defined class were injured. And Verizon says
- 2 that, over time, with some effort, it can
- 3 generate a list of those customers.
- 4 MR. FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: So, at the class
- 6 certification stage, everybody knows that we
- 7 will eventually be able to figure out which
- 8 customers were actually charged the fee. But we
- 9 have a class that's defined of everybody --
- 10 MR. FRANCISCO: Sure.
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- during this
- 12 six-month period. I guess I don't understand
- 13 why it matters how many injured versus
- 14 noninjured members there are in this class as
- 15 defined.
- 16 MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah. I think the way
- that the resolution of that hypothetical would
- 18 proceed was, at the front end, if you know that
- 19 you've got a class that includes both people who
- were charged the fee and people who were not
- 21 charged the fee, you define the class to include
- 22 only people who were charged the fee. That
- 23 solves the Article III problem.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Well, assuming --
- assuming there is an Article III problem.

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1
               MR. FRANCISCO: And then -- and
 2
      then -- and then you get to the -- and then --
 3
               JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
               MR. FRANCISCO: Yeah, right,
 4
     assuming it is an Article -- I totally -- I
 5
 6
      totally agree with that.
7
               JUSTICE JACKSON: Right. Okay.
 8
               MR. FRANCISCO: Then you get to the
9
      second stage, and you do the Rule 23(b)(3)
10
      analysis and you say -- and it's not really --
11
      as I mentioned to the Chief Justice, it's not so
12
     much a numbers game. The question is, is it
13
     easy to figure out --
14
               JUSTICE JACKSON: No, but I -- I
15
     guess --
16
               MR. FRANCISCO: -- who paid the fees
17
      or not. And, in your hypothetical, it might
     well be very easy to figure it out.
18
19
               JUSTICE JACKSON: So we do certify
20
     that class or we don't?
21
               MR. FRANCISCO: I think that it would
22
      turn on how easy it is to figure out --
23
               JUSTICE JACKSON: But why? What
     difference does it make?
24
25
               MR. FRANCISCO: -- definitively who's
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- 1 in the class.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: What -- what
- 3 difference does it make when we're certifying
- 4 this class to establish the liability, there are
- 5 common issues with respect to that, and, really,
- 6 the only thing that figuring out who is harmed
- 7 and not matters to is who gets damages at the
- 8 end of the day?
- 9 MR. FRANCISCO: With --
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: I don't understand
- 11 why class certification would be held up or
- 12 evaluated with respect to, you know, the numbers
- of people who were actually injured or not in
- 14 the class.
- 15 MR. FRANCISCO: Sure. And with
- 16 respect, Your Honor, I think it makes all the
- difference in the world from both a practical
- 18 matter and a legal matter.
- 19 From a practical matter, these bloated
- 20 classes are what allow plaintiffs' lawyers to
- 21 extract massive settlements on weak claims.
- 22 From a legal matter, what you are doing are
- 23 adding claims to a case over whom the Court
- 24 doesn't have jurisdiction. Those claims
- 25 allow --

1 JUSTICE JACKSON: Assuming your 2 Article III question is correct. And let me 3 just --MR. FRANCISCO: No, no, no. No. 4 Even assuming my Article III question is wrong, 5 6 Your Honor. 7 If you have a class that includes people who have not been injured -- I'll assume 8 that you don't think that that is an Article III 9 10 problem. When it comes to Rule 23(b)(3), you 11 still at some point have to figure out whether 12 or not you have jurisdiction over those 13 individual claims. And you cannot proceed to adjudicate the merits of those individual claims 14 15 unless you first assure yourself that you have 16 Article III --17 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. One 18 final question --19 MR. FRANCISCO: -- jurisdiction over 20 the individual claims. 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: One final question 2.2 on the -- assuming the claim is different from 23 other claims, but -- but setting that aside, 24 with respect to the practicality of it, I

appreciate Justice Kavanaugh's point that many

- of these settle and that, you know, it sort of
- 2 tilts the scales in some way for -- from the
- defendants' perspective, but don't defendants
- 4 also have, in my case, for example, all of the
- 5 information that would be necessary for them to
- 6 say we know that only X number of people have
- 7 injure -- injury?
- In other words, the defendants have
- 9 the best lawyers. They have a gajillion
- 10 dollars. They are being sued. And they have
- some responsibility and understanding of the
- 12 claim and the population of people who were
- injured, right?
- MR. FRANCISCO: And -- and -- and I
- think that's why, Your Honor, in your
- 16 hypothetical I said that it would be pretty easy
- 17 to define the class that met our Article III
- 18 rule, anybody who paid the fee.
- And on the 23(b)(3) issue, in a case
- that really is just looking at the company's
- 21 records to figure out who paid the fee, that
- 22 might well survive the 23(b)(3) inquiry as well.
- It's essentially like TransUnion. If
- 24 TransUnion you had limited the class at the
- 25 front end to only people whose credit reports

- 1 had been disseminated to third parties, you
- 2 would have defined the class as the universe of
- 3 people who were injured under this Court's
- 4 ruling --
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 6 MR. FRANCISCO: -- then you probably
- 7 could have just looked at TransUnion's records
- 8 to figure out who was in or out. That is the
- 9 polar opposite of a class like the one before
- 10 you today.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 12 counsel.
- Mr. Joshi.
- 14 ORAL ARGUMENT OF SOPAN JOSHI
- 15 FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 16 SUPPORTING NEITHER PARTY
- 17 MR. JOSHI: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 18 it please the Court:
- 19 This Court has frequently said that
- 20 Rule 23 requires all class members to share the
- 21 same injury. We think that includes an Article
- 22 III injury. So, if there are members of a class
- that aren't even injured, they can't share the
- same injury with the other class members.
- 25 Respondents accuse us of somehow

- 1 creating a special rule for Article III injury.
- 2 I guess I view it a little bit differently. I
- 3 view Respondents' rule as creating a special
- 4 rule for Article III injury because they would
- 5 pluck Article III injury out of the
- 6 certification context and either authorize or
- 7 require, I'm not quite sure, district courts to
- 8 delay and defer consideration of Article III and
- 9 only Article III until the end of the case,
- 10 after the merits, after the remedial stage, when
- it comes time to dole out the actual relief.
- Rule 23 doesn't support that kind of
- 13 rule. I don't think it's supported in practice,
- 14 as illustrated by cases in which the defense
- 15 wins. I've never heard of a court certifying a
- 16 class, ruling for the defense, and then figuring
- out if the plaintiffs have Article III standing.
- 18 And I think it's inconsistent with the view of
- 19 Rule 23 as a purely procedural aggregation
- 20 device.
- I think my light went off.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So what would you do
- 23 at the early stages of the litigation, say,
- 24 post-certification, and you find injured --
- 25 uninjured parties in the -- in the class?

1	MR. JOSHI: Yeah. So our view is
2	surprisingly maybe not that far from what
3	Respondents are saying. I think the way we
4	would approach it is what Rule 23 requires at
5	certification is that the class be defined in
6	such a way that, on its face, it includes only
7	injured members. And at that stage of the
8	litigation, you might not have much information
9	about them.
LO	But then, as the litigation proceeds,
L1	as as Amchem recognized, courts have a duty
L2	to to continually reevaluate the class, and
L3	if it comes to light that maybe there's a group
L4	of absent class members who aren't injured or
L5	don't share the same injury or really any other
L6	issue that might go to Rule 23, the court should
L7	reevaluate: Do I need to redefine this case to
L8	carve out those plaintiffs that I now know are
L9	uninjured?
20	And the question then is going to be:
21	Can I do it in a way that doesn't require a lot
22	of individualized analysis? And this is why I
23	say I think we're not that far away from
24	Respondents here, and I think Petitioner agrees
25	with us, that if there's some class-wide way or

- 1 easily administrable way or mechanical way of
- 2 identifying them, then that's what the court
- 3 should do, and you can keep on going.
- If there's not, if you're going to
- 5 need, you know, a hundred thousand individual
- 6 mini-trials --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why would that be
- 8 the case, though? Because you have uninjured
- 9 people in the party that you've now found. Why
- isn't that an Article III problem if it's an
- 11 Article III problem up front at certification?
- MR. JOSHI: So we are not making the
- 13 Article III argument. We are saying Rule 23 is
- 14 what requires commonality, predominance --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So you don't think
- 16 Article III requires injury?
- 17 MR. JOSHI: We have not taken a
- 18 position on Petitioner's Article III argument.
- 19 We're saying Rule 23 requires courts --
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. And if
- 21 that's the case -- let's work with your -- your
- view, which is different than Petitioner's view,
- and I hear you not endorsing it.
- 24 MR. JOSHI: We haven't taken a
- 25 position on it.

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. Okay. 2 do we do with historical practice where it was 3 very common to treat, in representative actions, unnamed parties as not parties for purposes of 4 the proceeding until and unless relief was given 5 6 to them, and then you go through the injury 7 analysis? MR. JOSHI: I was --8 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm thinking here of 10 Justice Story's Commentaries, for example. 11 MR. JOSHI: I guess I view the history 12 a little bit differently. I think the historical examples -- and, you know, we go 13 14 through some of that in our own brief. I think, 15 in every one of those cases, it was obvious that 16 everyone shared an Article III injury. Indeed, 17 the representative action stemmed from the 18 harshness of the rule in equity that all 19 necessary parties had to be joined to a case. 20 If you're a necessary party, you 21 definitely have suffered an injury. And the 2.2 representative action was meant to say it might 23 be difficult to get all of those injured people, those necessary parties, joined, and so here's 24 25 an exception we can create.

1 So I read the history a little bit 2 differently. It -- it might be relevant to --3 to, say, a 23(b)(1) class. That's sort of the forerunner, but I think 23(b)(3) really is a 4 1966 innovation, and I think the further it 5 6 strays from those roots, the more we ought to be 7 careful about. 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Where do you -where do you find in Rule 23 the rule that the 9 class must be limited to injured persons? 10 MR. JOSHI: We derive it from the 11 12 Court's repeated statements and the --JUSTICE GORSUCH: How about Rule 23? 13 14 MR. JOSHI: Oh, from commonality, from typicality, adequacy, predominance, we think all 15 16 of those tell us, as this Court has recognized, 17 that class members should share the same injury. I don't see why that would exclude the Article 18 19 III injury at the core of the claim. 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But it's not an Article III injury. You say it's not an Article 21 22 III requirement. It's a Rule 23 requirement. 23 MR. JOSHI: We're saying Rule 23 24 requires all class members to share the same 25 injury, including, therefore, the same Article

- 1 III injury. I do not --
- 2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So it is an Article
- 3 III argument then. I'm just -- I'm really
- 4 confused now.
- 5 MR. JOSHI: I -- I'm -- I'm trying to
- 6 help you out, so let me try and explain.
- 7 We believe that under Rule 23 it
- 8 requires that a class cannot be certified unless
- 9 all class members share the same injury,
- 10 including an Article III injury. Including --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So an Article III
- injury is required. It's a backdoor way of
- 13 getting to Petitioner's position, I think.
- 14 MR. JOSHI: I think our -- our
- approaches land at the same spot. But what I'm
- 16 saying is that --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So you think it's
- 18 not required by Article III but Rule 23 requires
- 19 Article III injury for all class members?
- 20 MR. JOSHI: I am -- yes, I am saying
- 21 Rules 23 requires it. Whether Article --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: What -- where in the
- 23 rule is that? I don't see Article III mentioned
- 24 in Rule 23.
- MR. JOSHI: No, but -- but to -- but

- 1 to say a class satisfies commonality and
- 2 predominance is to say it has the same injury.
- 3 That's this Court's words, not mine.
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's to say that
- 5 overall, looking at the whole thing, it's
- 6 manageable. There are at least some common
- 7 questions. The -- these named Plaintiffs are
- 8 generally typical --
- 9 MR. JOSHI: I just --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- and -- and common
- issues predominate. That's how I would have --
- maybe -- where does it -- I just don't get --
- everyone -- every single person must have an
- 14 Article III, I don't get that out of the rule.
- MR. JOSHI: The rule requires
- 16 commonality and predominance. This Court has
- interpreted those terms in Rule 23 to require
- 18 all class members to share the same injury.
- 19 That's why in Falcon the -- the
- 20 applicants claiming discrimination couldn't be
- 21 certified in the same class with those claiming
- 22 a denial of promotion for the same
- 23 discrimination.
- 24 That's why in Amchem those exposed to
- 25 the asbestos products who were ill couldn't be

1 certified in the same class with those --2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's predominance 3 issues and commonality issues, for sure. MR. JOSHI: Yeah. And all we're 4 saying is that Article III -- an Article III 5 6 injury is the same kind of thing. If there are 7 members of the class that don't even have an injury, how can they share the same injury with 8 other members of the class who do? How does 9 that satisfy commonality and predominance? 10 11 That is our view of what Rule 23 12 requires. In other words --13 JUSTICE JACKSON: But you're saying --14 MR. JOSHI: -- we're saying there's 15 nothing special about Article III injuries. It 16 should be treated just like any other element of 17 class certification. That's our only --18 JUSTICE JACKSON: But Mr. Joshi, when we look at commonality and predominance, and the 19 20 treatises say this, they don't pick out a particular issue and say you have to have that. 21 2.2 You don't have to have commonality with respect 23 to every issue. 24 So Justice Gorsuch's question is: 25 you don't have commonality with respect to the

- 1 injury issue, what difference does it make? Why
- 2 is that fatal to the class? There's no rule
- 3 that says that particular issue you have to have
- 4 commonality with respect to.
- 5 MR. JOSHI: I take --
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Just to supplement
- 7 that, if you mostly have commonality with
- 8 respect to the injury issue but not with respect
- 9 to every single person, what does that have to
- 10 do with commonality and predominance?
- 11 MR. JOSHI: So let me take those in
- 12 turn.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: I think that they're
- 14 both the same.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Same question.
- 16 That's fine.
- 17 MR. JOSHI: Sure. So I -- I think
- 18 this Court's cases in Walmart, in Halliburton
- 19 and Amgen and in Comcast illustrate that there
- are some items on which, if there is variation
- 21 across the class, they are no fundamental to the
- 22 case that you really just aren't going to be
- able to certify the class.
- In Walmart it was injury and
- 25 causation. In Amgen and Halliburton it's

- 1 reliance in a securities claim. In Comcast it
- was damages.
- And so the same argument could have
- 4 been made in Comcast, right, where we all had
- 5 the same antitrust theory of injury, but because
- 6 the damages were going to vary, that class
- 7 couldn't be certified. And I think we're just
- 8 saying the same thing.
- 9 If -- if you have a class in which
- 10 Article III injury is not present for some but
- is present for the others, that's just not going
- 12 to meet the commonality standard.
- Now, Justice Kagan, you said: Well,
- 14 what if it's only a few? And I think my answer
- is the same as Mr. Francisco's and, frankly, the
- same that Respondents give in their brief, or as
- 17 I read it, which is: If there is a classwide,
- 18 manageable mechanical way to separate them as
- in, for example, TransUnion there would have
- 20 been, or as in Justice Jackson's Verizon
- 21 hypothetical there would be a manageable
- 22 classwide way to do it, we think that's fine.
- 23 Rule 23 doesn't preclude that sort of
- 24 certification.
- 25 But what we are saying is that Rule 23

- 1 needs to be followed at certification and then
- 2 throughout the litigation. As the litigation
- 3 proceeds, if there is more in --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, hold on. I
- 5 thought you said that commonality means -- I had
- 6 understood it as one issue has to be common, and
- 7 that that has to be predominant, that has to be
- 8 the predominant. That's the way I understood
- 9 it. Okay. Fine.
- Now you're telling me that Article
- 11 III, and Article III alone, must be satisfied by
- 12 everyone at the outset. I thought.
- MR. JOSHI: What I'm saying is Article
- 14 III injury is no different from any other
- 15 requirement for class certification that should
- be common to the class, like injury, causation,
- 17 reliance, damages. All of these must be common.
- 18 And I take the point that there needs to be --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, they don't
- 20 all have -- they don't all have to be common.
- 21 There has to be a common question that
- 22 predominates over others. And if it -- and --
- 23 and -- and now a special rule that Article III
- 24 must exist for all class members?
- MR. JOSHI: I am not asking for a

- 1 special rule any more than Comcast had a special
- 2 rule for damages or Walmart had a special rule
- 3 for causation or Halliburton and Amgen had a
- 4 special rule for reliance.
- 5 I'm just trying to say that Article
- 6 III injury is of that sort, important enough
- 7 that it's just unlikely you're ever going to be
- 8 able to certify a class.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 10 counsel.
- I'm not sure I've been following the
- 12 bouncing ball.
- 13 Does Article III in this context
- 14 require an injury? Now, I don't know if you're
- 15 saying that not at the outset, but at -- at the
- back end, before any relief is granted or what.
- 17 MR. JOSHI: Article III, of its own
- 18 force, of course, requires every class member to
- 19 have standing before he or she can collect a
- 20 damages award. That's TransUnion.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm happy to
- 22 stop there.
- MR. JOSHI: Yeah. Well, so I -- I
- 24 take Petitioner's point to be that -- or
- 25 Petitioner's Article III argument, as I

- 1 understand it, is that Article III, of its own
- 2 force, also requires each class member to
- 3 demonstrate standing at certification.
- 4 And we're not taking a view on that.
- 5 What we're saying is that Rule 23's commonality
- 6 and predominance requirements requires that same
- 7 thing, and so there's no need to decide whether
- 8 Article III, of its own force, would require it,
- 9 if, say, Rule 23 --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So Article III
- is in the case. You just like to run it through
- 12 the certification process?
- MR. JOSHI: That's right.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay.
- Justice Thomas, anything further?
- 16 Justice Alito?
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, just to clarify
- 18 this last point. Are -- are you saying that
- 19 Rule 23 requires something that just happens to
- 20 correspond with what Article III requires?
- 21 That, I would understand.
- 22 Or are you saying that Rule 23
- 23 requires compliance with Article III? Which,
- then, doesn't seem to me to be any different
- 25 from Petitioner's argument.

MR. JOSHI: Yeah, we're saying the 1 2 first thing. 3 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. MR. JOSHI: And all we're saying is 4 that as an empirical matter, in practice an 5 6 Article III injury is just so fundamental to the 7 claim that, just like in Walmart or Halliburton and Comcast, it's the kind of thing that, if 8 it's not common, if it's individualized, then 9 that's probably going to predominate in -- in 10 11 such a class. 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. So why do you 13 want to -- why do you approach this issue in 14 that way? Is this just sort of abstract respect 15 for constitutional avoidance, or does the 16 government think that there's some -- that there 17 are different consequences from taking your approach and the Petitioner's approach? 18 19 MR. JOSHI: No. It really is from constitutional avoidance. And -- and ruling on 20 this case narrowly, as the case presents itself, 21 2.2 we take -- we took the Court, when it reframed the question presented to limit it to 23(b)(3), 23 24 as a signal that maybe it wanted us to talk 25 about Rule 23(b)(3), and that's what we think

1 you should do here. 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you. 3 Justice Sotomayor? JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: In TransUnion -- I 4 can go back. Relying on old memory, but I think 5 6 the class was defined as anyone who had false 7 statements in their credit reports. It wasn't until the litigation came forward that we found 8 9 out that some people's false information was not 10 disseminated. 11 And we basically said you can't give 12 out the damages to the people who weren't injured, because there was no dissemination. 13 14 But that wasn't known until the end. 15 I think what Mr. Francisco is now 16 saying, and I'm not sure you are or aren't, that 17 now we have to have that fight at the class certification stage, that we have to define a 18 19 class in a way that says only people who receive 20 the report, instead of the way it was defined. 21 Do you agree with that? 2.2 MR. JOSHI: Now that we know -- so if --23

Heritage Reporting Corporation

without -- we don't know at the beginning.

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, but use

24

MR. JOSHI: Well, if you don't know --1 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But he's going to 3 put in an affidavit in that says some weren't disseminated, so this class shouldn't be 4 certified. 5 MR. JOSHI: If -- if we don't know, 6 7 then no. I mean, we're not asking for Rule 23 to be applied in a senseless way. We think it 8 9 should be applied sensibly, reasonably, with reasonable inferences. 10 11 So in -- but now that we know, now 12 that we have TransUnion on the books, if there's a future claim under FCRA for, you know, OFAC 13 14 warnings on credit reports, yeah, I think a 15 court there should say, well, I know in TransUnion this class of plaintiffs wouldn't 16 17 have standing, so I'm going to certify a class 18 only of plaintiffs whose credit reports were 19 disseminated. That would be the responsible 20 thing to do now that we have TransUnion on the 21 books. But our view is that, you know, in a 2.2 23 case like TransUnion or in a case like Tyson 24 Foods, which I would love to talk about --25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: We go back to, is

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1 there -- is there administrable way --
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- 2 MR. JOSHI: Exactly.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to identify the
- 4 injury?
- 5 MR. JOSHI: Exactly. Exactly.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay. And that's
- 7 what the 23(f) inquiry is.
- 8 MR. JOSHI: 23(b)(3). Yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry.
- 10 23(b)(3).
- 11 MR. JOSHI: Exactly. Exactly.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Do you think, Mr.
- Joshi, that this is the way we've handled class
- 15 actions over the years? You know, I -- I -- if
- 16 you look back for the last 70 years of class
- 17 action or whatever Rule 23 is, you know, it
- 18 strikes me that if you look at all the classes
- 19 that have been certified by that point, you're
- 20 always going to be able to find people for
- 21 idiosyncratic reasons who don't share the same
- injury, who don't have standing, and that that's
- 23 never been seen as kind of the end all and be
- 24 all, the whole -- like, okay, we have to explode
- 25 everything.

1 So it seems very inconsistent to me 2 with the way class actions have been practiced 3 for many decades. MR. JOSHI: Yeah, so I disagree. I --4 I have read every single one of this Court's 5 class action cases, you might imagine, in -- in 6 7 preparation for this case, and the one theme I see consistently is that, where there's a 8 9 difference in injuries or the type of relief or 10 even the type of remedy that, you know, the 11 defendant is requested to make, this Court has 12 said that those really can't be in the same class together. And it just strikes me that 13 Article III is kind of --14 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: But the rule that you're suggesting is a rule that says to 16 17 district courts, you have to do this right up front, you have to figure out whether everybody 18 19 has the exact same injury. If, like, there are a few people who have a different kind of 20 injury, that's verboten. I -- I mean, that is 21 something that I don't think district courts 2.2 23 have ever thought that they needed to do. 24 Rather, what they've thought is, by 25 the time we get around to issuing remedial

- orders and issuing damages, we better make sure
- 2 that we're not handing out money to people who
- 3 aren't injured. So that, I think, everybody has
- 4 understood is their obligation all -- but not
- 5 this, not like we have to do all the work the
- 6 moment the case comes in the door to figure out
- 7 exactly who is injured and how.
- 8 MR. JOSHI: I guess I have a few
- 9 responses to that. One is what I just said to
- 10 Justice Sotomayor, which is that we think Rule
- 11 23(b)(3) should be applied in a sensible,
- 12 reasonable manner.
- So, for example, if there's, say, an
- 14 antitrust class and the allegation is
- 15 price-fixing and the class is defined as all
- 16 purchasers of the product during the period of
- 17 price-fixing where there were super-competitive
- 18 prices. We think that would be a valid class
- definition, even if there's some idiosyncratic
- 20 person that likes paying higher prices for
- 21 whatever reason.
- Or if it's a product liability, you
- 23 know, a defective product that injured people,
- 24 you know, all purchasers of a product who
- 25 suffered the injury would be a valid class in

- 1 our view, even if there's somebody who, because
- of the injury, you know, missed a test and then
- 3 -- that he didn't study for but then did the
- 4 makeup test later on, got a better grade, got a
- 5 Supreme Court clerkship at the end of it, and
- 6 therefore wasn't injured, I -- you know, those
- 7 sorts of idiosyncratic things, we agree, that's
- 8 not what Rule 23 requires, but --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. So this is
- 10 really not an Article III rule, because if it
- 11 were really an Article III rule, you couldn't
- 12 agree on all those things.
- 13 MR. JOSHI: That -- that's right. We
- think this is a Rule 23 issue. It's just that,
- when we read the question presented as
- 16 reformulated, the Court was very careful to say
- 17 an Article III injury. And we read that as
- 18 saying how is that different from the kinds of
- 19 injuries in Falcon you said couldn't be --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah.
- 21 MR. JOSHI: -- sort of --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But I'm -- I'm taking
- from your -- you know, you went back and forth
- 24 with Justice Gorsuch about were you endorsing,
- were you not endorsing, do you have a position.

- 1 In fact, you do have a position on
- 2 Mr. Francisco's hard Article III argument
- 3 because you couldn't have said that those
- 4 classes should go forward if you accepted
- 5 Mr. Francisco's argument.
- 6 MR. JOSHI: We're saying those classes
- 7 could go forward under Rule 23. We are not
- 8 taking a position on whether Article III -- its
- 9 independent force would prevent that -- would
- 10 preclude those sorts of classes.
- 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. Well, then
- 12 that's just --
- MR. JOSHI: So we don't think it's --
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: Come on. Okay.
- MR. JOSHI: That -- that's our
- 16 position.
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. Thank you.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 19 Gorsuch?
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah, there are a
- lot of price-fixing cases where the victim can
- 22 pass through the overcharge and suffers no
- injury, but you let that go forward.
- MR. JOSHI: That's a substantive rule
- of antitrust law, I believe.

JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, it's a fact in 1 2 the world too. 3 MR. JOSHI: Yeah. JUSTICE GORSUCH: And they're not 4 injured. And you'd let that class go forward? 5 6 MR. JOSHI: As I said, my 7 understanding is that's a substantive rule of antitrust law that only direct purchasers can 8 bring claims. 9 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, some places 11 yes and some places no, and after Apple, I don't 12 know. But you would allow that class to go 13 forward, no Article III problem? MR. JOSHI: Under Rule 23 --14 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yes. 16 MR. JOSHI: -- there's no problem. 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. All right. 18 just wanted to make sure I understood it. 19 MR. JOSHI: Yeah. JUSTICE GORSUCH: You've heard some of 20 21 the discussion about the procedural problems in 22 this case. The government didn't talk about 23 them in its brief. I wanted to give you an 24 opportunity to give us your thoughts on whether

we have the problem before us given that the May

- order talks about only injured persons.
- 2 MR. JOSHI: Yeah. So we didn't talk
- 3 about it in our brief because our brief was
- 4 filed before the red brief was filed, so we
- 5 didn't know this issue was going to be raised.
- 6 It wasn't raised in the brief in opposition.
- 7 As an amicus, we're poorly situated to
- 8 take a strong view of matters, but, that said, I
- 9 think -- I think Petitioners have the better of
- 10 the argument.
- 11 And what I would rely on are two
- 12 things. One, under cases like ASARCO against
- 13 Kadish, we know that the court of appeals issued
- 14 an adverse judgment to Petitioner. It's
- jurisdictionally properly before this Court.
- 16 This Court has jurisdiction over the case. So I
- don't think it's a matter of jurisdiction.
- 18 So then there's the question, well,
- 19 which order are you really looking at here? And
- 20 I guess I would place greater emphasis on
- 21 something that Mr. Francisco mentioned a couple
- 22 of times in his discussion, but for me it's very
- important, which is on page 63a of the appendix.
- 24 This is the August order.
- The August order does not purport to

- 1 enter a new class or certify a new class and get
- 2 rid of the old one. What it says is page 24
- 3 lines 13 to 23 of the earlier order is replaced
- 4 with the following.
- 5 And so I view it as sort of nunc pro
- 6 tunc modifying the earlier order for which there
- 7 was a notice of appeal. And I know there's been
- 8 a lot of --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I appreciate that.
- 10 What do we do about the fact that the only order
- 11 that the Ninth Circuit was reviewing was the May
- 12 12th order, and it specifically said we can't
- hear, we have no authority to -- no jurisdiction
- over the August order that you're asking us to
- 15 rely on? That you didn't -- you didn't address
- 16 that squirrelly complication.
- 17 MR. JOSHI: Yeah. Again, you know,
- there's an August order, but one of the terms of
- 19 the August order was to nunc pro tunc --
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand.
- MR. JOSHI: -- amend the earlier one.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand, but
- the court of appeals didn't understand itself to
- have jurisdiction over that order, and we're
- 25 only reviewing the court of appeals' resolution

- of its view on the May 12th order.
- 2 MR. JOSHI: That's right. And -- and
- 3 that's why I would fall back on the fact that
- 4 you have jurisdiction to review the Ninth
- 5 Circuit's decision. We think it contains an
- 6 error of law. You could correct that error of
- 7 law.
- 8 And, you know, Justice Barrett asked
- 9 what's left on remand. I think if you corrected
- 10 that error of law and sent it back, even if the
- 11 Ninth Circuit adheres to its view that it had
- only the May class definition in front of it,
- and even if the Ninth Circuit then holds that
- the May definition doesn't run afoul of the rule
- that by hypothesis you would adopt in this case,
- 16 then -- and even if, as Mr. Francisco suggested,
- 17 he's out of time to appeal the August order, I
- 18 would imagine that on remand in the district
- 19 court with that binding precedent, Petitioner
- 20 could move for decertification or --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I -- I accept
- 22 all of that, but that really does start to sound
- 23 sort of like an advisory upon to me because the
- 24 only binding force we would have is to say that
- 25 the May 12th order was fine because it addressed

- only injured people, period. I mean, that's our
- 2 judgment.
- 3 MR. JOSHI: This Court frequently
- 4 corrects errors of law in what court of appeals
- 5 say without analyzing whether the prevailing
- 6 party below could nevertheless still prevail
- 7 under the new rule. It does that all the time,
- 8 and I think you could take that case here.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right. Okay.
- 10 MR. JOSHI: Take that approach here.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 12 Kavanaugh?
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: When you said Rule
- 14 23 is narrower Article III, I just want to make
- sure I understand how you think it's narrower.
- 16 It's not narrower in the result that would be
- 17 reached in particular cases, at last as I
- 18 understand your position. It's narrower, I
- 19 gather, in the sense that, theoretically, Rule
- 20 23 could be changed, and at that point, we would
- 21 have to confront, in your view, the Article III
- issue.
- Is that what you mean by narrower?
- MR. JOSHI: That's exactly what I
- 25 mean, yeah.

1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay. Thank you.
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
3	Barrett?
4	Justice Jackson?
5	JUSTICE JACKSON: I guess I'm still
6	struggling with why isn't the sensible and
7	reasonable manner of applying Rule 23 the way
8	that, as Justice Kagan says, we always do, that
9	we look at commonality, or the district courts
10	look at commonality and predominance sort of in
11	the aggregate with all of the issues on the
12	table, there aren't directed to one or another
13	to say that if this particular issue does not
14	have commonality, you can't certify the class.
15	And that seems to be what you are saying.
16	I appreciate that there are certain
17	other cases where the Court has picked out
18	various issues and said either you've gotten it
19	wrong or right on commonality and that you would
20	like for this to be one of them.
21	But it's unclear to me that the rule
22	is such that it requires that this particular
23	issue, there has to be commonality with respect
24	to.
25	MR. JOSHI: I think the one thing

- 1 I -- I read the cases differently. I think
- there is a strong through line of this Court's
- 3 class action cases, Falcon, AmChem, Walmart,
- 4 Lewis against Casey, so many cases, East Texas
- 5 Motor Freight, in which the Court has said that
- 6 different injuries --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah.
- 8 MR. JOSHI: -- cannot be certified in
- 9 the same class.
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: Let me ask you a
- 11 question. Do those cases talk about those
- injuries in the context of the harm being an
- 13 element of the claim?
- 14 If I go back and look at them, are
- 15 those cases ones in which the harms that we're
- 16 talking about are just in the damages realm?
- 17 There are many claims in which harm is actually
- 18 an element of liability, and I totally
- 19 understand, in those worlds, you're thinking
- about can this be proven by common proof or do
- 21 we have a bunch of individual actions here.
- But it seems to me that when we're
- 23 talking about damages apart from liability, it's
- 24 very hard to see a world in which individual
- 25 proof with respect to damages can overwhelm from

- 1 the standpoint of predominance the kind of
- 2 consideration of whether or not you should have
- 3 a -- a -- a Rule 23 certification.
- 4 MR. JOSHI: So there are cases of both
- 5 types, and Comcast is the perfect example of the
- 6 case you just said. In Comcast, the plaintiffs
- 7 had an antitrust theory that was common to the
- 8 class that was common to the defendants that
- 9 would have established, you know, the injury,
- 10 causation, et cetera, but it was the variation
- in damages that precluded certification of that
- 12 class because it's just so fundamental to the
- 13 kind of claim that was being brought that it was
- just going to overwhelm even the common
- antitrust liability theory, and we're saying
- 16 Article III injury is just as fundamental and --
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 18 MR. JOSHI: -- Rule 23 would preclude
- 19 certification in those circumstances.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 21 counsel.
- Mr. Gupta.
- 23 ORAL ARGUMENT OF DEEPAK GUPTA
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 25 MR. GUPTA: Mr. Chief Justice, and may

- 1 it please the Court:
- 2 As this Court held in TransUnion and
- 3 as the Chief Justice recognized in Tyson Foods,
- 4 Article III doesn't give federal courts the
- 5 power to give relief to any uninjured plaintiff,
- 6 class action or not.
- 7 So, if the Court finds its way to
- 8 reaching the question presented and writes an
- 9 advisory opinion, and it's what we think it
- would be, the advisory opinion should hold that,
- 11 at the class certification stage, the proper
- inquiry is whether there will be an
- 13 administratively feasible mechanism to weed out
- 14 the uninjured.
- 15 Consistent with centuries of
- 16 historical practice from the chancery courts at
- 17 the time of the Constitution's ratification to
- 18 now, it is the representative who is actually
- 19 before the court, not the absentees, who must
- 20 prove the existence of an Article III case or
- 21 controversy at the outset.
- But, if we are here to police the
- jurisdiction of the federal courts under Article
- 24 III, we should probably start with this case in
- 25 this Court.

1	LabCorp now concedes that any appeal
2	of the August order on which LabCorp's arguments
3	have exclusively relied was not actually in the
4	case in the court of appeals and, therefore,
5	isn't within this Court's certiorari
6	jurisdiction.
7	In its reply, LabCorp has shifted
8	gears and attempted to reorient its challenge to
9	the May order that is concededly no longer in
10	effect and that is not harming LabCorp.
11	But any appeal of that superseded
12	order is moot under the general rule that
13	interlocutory appeals from superseded orders are
14	moot. The traditional exceptions to mootness do
15	not apply.
16	And this Court should reject the
17	invitation to craft a new mootness exception on
18	the fly. It would make little sense for this
19	Court to reach broad pronouncements on Article
20	III's limits in a case that itself presents such
21	serious jurisdictional barriers to reaching the
22	question presented.
23	I welcome the Court's questions.
24	JUSTICE THOMAS: Did you raise that in
25	your brief in opposition?

1 MR. GUPTA: I'll acknowledge that the 2 brief in opposition did not raise this 3 jurisdictional problem. It did raise the -- the fundamental problem that in -- in the 4 Respondents' view, the question presented is not 5 6 presented by this case and other preservation 7 issues. But, as the amicus brief of the 8 9 federal jurisdiction professors indicates, there were a number of ways in which the petition 10 11 obscured this jurisdictional problem. It became 12 apparent when the blue brief was filed that the arguments rested entirely on this outdated order 13 14 and class definition, and we pointed it out in 15 the -- in the red briefing. 16 In hindsight, with the 20/20 of 17 hind -- view of hindsight, I wish these -- all 18 of these issues had been fleshed out at the --19 at the cert stage and perhaps we wouldn't be here, but I do think, even when wisdom comes 20 21 too -- comes late, we should acknowledge it, and 2.2 this Court's rules are clear that -- that the 23 failure to raise jurisdictional objections at the certiorari stage doesn't deem them 24 25 forfeited.

Τ	JUSTICE BARRETT: What's your view of
2	what would happen on remand? I asked
3	Mr. Francisco what would happen given that the
4	23(f) time has expired. You heard the question
5	What's your view of what would happen
6	and whether that August order remains something
7	that he could appeal or not?
8	MR. GUPTA: Right. And so we don't
9	we don't think there should be a deem a
LO	remand if you agree with us that the the
L1	case, you know, is moot. You could dismiss as
L2	improvidently granted or or perhaps a
L3	revacatur, but either way
L4	JUSTICE BARRETT: Even if we did that
L5	and then it goes back down
L6	MR. GUPTA: Set all that aside
L7	JUSTICE BARRETT: what happens
L8	after this?
L9	MR. GUPTA: Yeah, yeah. So I think
20	they have available to them the ability to move
21	to decertify the class. They have the ability
22	to move to dismiss for lack of standing the
23	named plaintiff. So they're not without rights
24	And, you know, Rule 23(f) is a
25	discretionary appeal mechanism And there was

- 1 some discussion earlier about what was described
- 2 to the Ninth Circuit, this material change
- doctrine. It's actually not just the Ninth
- 4 Circuit.
- I know you don't have briefing on
- 6 this, but all of the circuits have had to
- 7 confront this question. And I think their
- 8 approach is similar, which is it doesn't assign
- 9 dispositive significance to what the district
- 10 court said, whether the district court
- 11 characterizes there being a material change.
- 12 The -- the court of appeals has the
- 13 discretion under Rule 23(f) to have a
- 14 gatekeeping role and to decide whether there's
- 15 an appeal. So it's true that they failed to
- take an appeal under 23(f) from that August
- 17 order, but it -- it would have been a mistake to
- 18 ascribe any significance to the district court's
- 19 determination on this.
- 20 And, actually --
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, why would it
- 22 be --
- MR. GUPTA: -- in our opposition to
- 24 the -- in Rule 23(f) -- I just want to make sure
- 25 I point this out, Justice Alito -- that in our

- 1 opposition to the Rule 23(f) petition, we did
- 2 point out that there was a -- a fight in the
- 3 district court about the class definition, and
- 4 that could actually render the Rule 23(f)
- 5 petition moot. So we put, you know, the
- 6 defendant on notice of this.
- 7 They -- they had the ability to file a
- 8 second petition and they didn't, and they still
- 9 have the ability in the district court to --
- 10 because class certification is always a constant
- 11 moving target, they have the ability to -- to
- 12 seek relief even now in the district court and
- then perhaps, if they don't like that, they can
- 14 appeal and maybe they would come back here.
- Sorry, Justice Alito.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Do you think this
- 17 material modification rule is required by
- 18 statute?
- MR. GUPTA: By the -- by Rule 23(f)?
- 20 I -- I think Rule 23(f) --
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: In other words, if a
- 22 different court of appeals said we don't want
- 23 any part of this rule, we think it's a silly
- rule, we're going to adopt a different rule,
- would that be wrong?

1 MR. GUPTA: I think that --2 JUSTICE ALITO: Would it be contrary 3 to some statute? MR. GUPTA: I think the best way to 4 understand what the lower courts are doing is 5 6 that they are interpreting Rule 23(f), and Rule 7 23(f) limits the interlocutory appeal jurisdiction to an order granting or an order 8 9 denying class certification. 10 And so the courts are trying to figure 11 out do we have, you know, a new order granting 12 or denying certification. And, in this case, I think it's quite clear, and, actually, I 13 disagree with Mr. Joshi's characterization. 14 15 think it's quite clear that the May order and 16 the August order are different orders with 17 respect to class certification. 18 In fact, the August order, it's true 19 that it -- it says it's modifying the previous order. That was the June order, which the Ninth 20 Circuit also said was outside of its 21 2.2 jurisdiction. 23 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, suppose the district court issues a -- a -- an order 24 25 certifying a class. There is an appeal. And,

- 1 after that, the district court makes some change
- 2 in the order, but the district court says, look,
- 3 this is not material. This is immaterial,
- 4 absolutely immaterial.
- 5 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: What -- what is the --
- 7 the party who's taken the earlier appeal
- 8 supposed to do? Is that party -- the party
- 9 would -- I would think, if your position is
- 10 correct, the party has to say, well, you know,
- 11 I -- I don't want to bet everything on this.
- 12 Even though the district court has said it's
- immaterial, I'm going to have to take -- I'm
- 14 going to have to file a new notice of appeal
- 15 always.
- MR. GUPTA: Right. So I think that's
- 17 exactly what this doctrine is intended to
- 18 address. And I think, you know, if -- if there
- 19 was a typographical error, for example, in a
- 20 class certification order, I think nobody would
- 21 reasonably insist that there needs to be a
- 22 second 23(f) petition. And I think Judge Posner
- 23 has a -- a decision on this in the Apple
- 24 Illinois case. So I think that -- he explains
- 25 that's part of the reasoning for this.

Τ	But I just want to point out we're
2	here, you know, in in this case talking about
3	23(f) appealability jurisprudence in a case
4	where my friends didn't challenge the
5	jurisdictional holding of the court of appeals.
6	If they had taken if they had filed in their
7	cert petition if they had told you about this
8	problem and they said, look, there's a May order
9	and an August order, and our beef is really with
10	the August order, and and maybe we think the
11	jurisdictional holding of the court of appeals
12	was wrong, they could have challenged that. But
13	they didn't. They didn't do that here.
14	I think the reason we're talking about
15	it is, as I understand the reply brief and the
16	letters that were exchanged, I think the
17	suggestion Labcorp's suggestion is that the
18	case is not moot because you should import
19	this is how I understand their argument that
20	you should import this material change doctrine
21	into the mootness exception and craft some kind
22	of exception for mootness on that basis.
23	And they cite in their reply brief the
24	Jacksonville case. That case is a case about ar
25	exception for mootness, but it is about the

- 1 voluntary cessation and capable of repetition
- 2 exception, which is a recognized exception.
- JUSTICE ALITO: If the -- I -- I don't
- 4 want to belabor this, but I will ask one more
- 5 question on it.
- If the -- the Ninth Circuit's rule is
- 7 not required by statute, then why is there a
- 8 jurisdictional problem?
- 9 MR. GUPTA: Oh, I think that the --
- 10 the court of appeals have to have some way of
- 11 determining what is within their jurisdiction
- 12 and what is not. And remember it's
- discretionary, so they have certiorari-like
- 14 discretion to determine their --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, that's a
- 16 different question, but, surely --
- 17 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: -- the court of
- 19 appeals can't by means of some -- by -- by means
- of a decision say we -- we are defining our
- 21 jurisdiction in a particular way?
- MR. GUPTA: Well, I think they -- they
- 23 exercised their discretion with respect to a
- order granting or denying class certification.
- 25 They exercised that discretion with respect to

- 1 the order that they were asked to review, that
- 2 was attached to the petition.
- 3 And then the question is, is --
- 4 should -- should some kind of exception be made
- 5 because there was a subsequent order that --
- 6 that wasn't appealed.
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: All right. Thank you.
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I think you said
- 9 earlier, and I might have misunderstood, but I
- 10 think your position was that the Petitioner
- 11 should have disregarded the district court's
- 12 characterization of its own order, is that
- 13 correct?
- MR. GUPTA: Well, yeah, I mean, that's
- not quite how I'd put it because I think, as --
- 16 as Justice Kagan was saying --
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But I think that's
- 18 the -- I think that's what you mean -- that's
- 19 not what you said, but I think that's what you
- 20 mean, and I doubt many lawyers, you know, your
- 21 clients -- I doubt, you know, anyone really
- 22 wants to live under that rule, that a lawyer
- 23 should be disregarding how the district court
- 24 characterizes its own orders for purposes of
- 25 these timing rules. That strikes me as -- as

- 1 asking for a lot of chaos.
- 2 MR. GUPTA: I think there's an earlier
- 3 colloquy with Justice Kagan brought out there --
- 4 a lot of people said a lot of different things
- 5 about the differences between these orders, and
- 6 perhaps it would be worth pointing to what the
- 7 defendants said when there was a fight about
- 8 this order. And this is in the district court
- 9 at Document 110 on the first page of their brief
- 10 about the refinement. They said this is no
- 11 refinement at all. This proposed definition,
- 12 the August definition, is -- is broader than the
- existing one and clearly includes those who have
- 14 no injury.
- So they understood it to be a very big
- 16 change and -- and --
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: The question was
- 18 about how the district court characterized it.
- 19 MR. GUPTA: Right. I don't think -- I
- 20 don't read that footnote --
- 21 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And there are at
- 22 least at times -- at least at times, the
- 23 district court characterized it in a way that
- 24 you said -- you say, oh, well, a reasonable
- 25 lawyer would have just ignored that. And I

- just -- it strikes me as contrary to how lawyers
- 2 practice law and --
- 3 MR. GUPTA: Well, I --
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- and -- and just
- 5 say, oh, well, the district court is clearly
- 6 wrong in how it's characterizing its own order,
- 7 so we should just ignore that and, you know,
- 8 file this and that. This is --
- 9 MR. GUPTA: Well, that one footnote
- 10 wasn't the only thing that was said, and I
- 11 think, if I were advising a client in this
- 12 circumstance, I would say, look, if what we
- 13 really want to challenge is the August order,
- 14 we'd better make darn sure that we challenge the
- 15 August order and we shouldn't rely on the fact
- 16 that an order that we regard as --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Are you going to
- 18 be -- are you going to be held to that standard
- 19 always?
- 20 MR. GUPTA: Yeah, I mean, I -- I don't
- 21 think this is actually --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Because that's
- 23 asking a lot.
- MR. GUPTA: I don't think this is a
- 25 close question under the -- the lower court's

- 1 material change doctrine cases. And I think
- 2 another thing that Judge Posner said in that
- 3 case that I mentioned is that what the inquiry
- 4 turns on is what it is that the party seeking
- 5 the 23(f) appeal is actually seeking to
- 6 challenge. It was pretty clear that there was
- 7 a -- a fight over these definitions and that
- 8 Labcorp regarded this as a big change.
- 9 Recall that they sold -- they --
- 10 they -- they persuaded this Court to grant
- 11 certiorari on the idea that you've got
- 12 unscrupulous plaintiffs' lawyer -- lawyers that
- are stuffing classes full of uninjured people,
- 14 right? But they regarded that first definition,
- the problem with it is that it was actually too
- tethered to the plaintiffs' injury, that it --
- 17 that it was failsafe because it only had
- 18 uninjured people. And then they regarded the
- 19 second definition as broader and -- and wanted
- 20 to challenge that definition.
- So, under those circumstances, I do
- 22 not think it would be reasonable for somebody to
- rely on the idea that the original 23(f)
- 24 petition didn't extend.
- 25 But -- but we're now here talking

- 1 about, you know, the appealability of that -- of
- 2 that order. And that jurisdictional holding
- 3 wasn't challenged. And I actually read the
- 4 reply and the letters that were exchanged as
- 5 acknowledging that Labcorp hasn't preserved and
- 6 isn't seeking to contest that jurisdictional
- 7 holding of the court of appeals.
- 8 So now what you're left with is an
- 9 appeal from an order that has been superseded.
- 10 And I alluded earlier to the general rule. The
- 11 general rule in this Court's cases -- and this
- 12 comes up when you have, for example, a
- preliminary injunction that has been outstripped
- and then you had an appeal from the preliminary
- 15 injunction. This Court has said those appeals
- 16 are moot. Or if you have, for example, an
- 17 appeal with respect to a complaint, the
- 18 complaint has been amended, the interlocutory
- 19 appeal is rendered moot. You might have a -- a
- 20 case in a redistricting case where there's a
- 21 debate about a map, and then the map has been
- 22 changed. That appeal would be rendered moot.
- 23 And so that's the general rule. And
- 24 that's why I said earlier that what I regard
- 25 Labcorp as asking you to do is to craft an

- 1 exception from that general rule on mootness for
- 2 this circumstance.
- 3 And I think I regard them as relying
- 4 on this material change doctrine from the lower
- 5 courts as supplying a standard for that mootness
- 6 exception. Mr. Francisco can correct me if I'm
- 7 wrong, but that's how we read their reply brief
- 8 and the letter. And I think, you know, in our
- 9 view, that would be an ill-advised thing to do.
- 10 You don't have briefing on that.
- 11 And -- and, as the examples that I
- 12 recited, I think, tell you, this is not an
- 13 unimportant question. It is something that is
- 14 recurring. And even in class action practice, I
- think this is a recurring issue about how the
- 16 courts of appeals police the boundaries of
- 17 their -- of their jurisdiction as class actions
- 18 are continuing to move through the district
- 19 courts. And it's important -- it is important
- that jurisdictional rules be clear, to be sure.
- It is also important that the court of
- 22 appeals be able to use their limited resources
- 23 to exercise their discretion to decide live
- 24 controversies with respect to actual, in effect
- 25 class certification orders, rather than have

- 1 appeals that are, you know, backwards-looking
- 2 and are about a target that has already moved.
- 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: In their opening
- 4 brief, Petitioner said: "The definition for the
- 5 damages class, the only class before this
- 6 Court" --
- 7 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- "is as
- 9 follows."
- 10 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And it gave the
- 12 August definition, not the May definition.
- MR. GUPTA: Right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Francisco
- 15 relies on, and I think it was a question that
- 16 Justice Alito was referring to, that they view,
- 17 the district court, the class definition as not
- 18 meaningfully different between the May and
- 19 August. But it was meaningfully different
- 20 because of your change, correct? Your change
- 21 was in response to their claim that you had a
- 22 fail class definition that was the problem.
- MR. GUPTA: Yeah. I mean, the reason
- 24 they're pointing -- they're pointing to
- 25 statements by the district court or by the

- 1 plaintiffs is, if you actually look at the --
- 2 the -- the -- Labcorp has been fairly consistent
- 3 that they regard this as a big change, and they
- 4 regarded the original definition, as I said
- 5 earlier, as too tethered to -- to injury --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Can --
- 7 MR. GUPTA: -- because it was defined
- 8 in terms of who was denied a full and equal
- 9 enjoyment of services.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: This is the hard
- 11 question. It may be unfair, and you can tell me
- 12 you want to think about it. But they claim that
- 13 you do not have an administrable way of
- identifying the injured and uninjured.
- MR. GUPTA: Right.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right? So,
- 17 whether it's under Article III or it's under
- 18 Rule 23, according to the SG, that you can't
- 19 prove that. What's your point on that?
- MR. GUPTA: Well, so, you know, I
- 21 can -- I'd be happy to talk about it in the
- 22 abstract, and I can talk about what all the
- lower courts have said in cases where this
- 24 question has actually been presented.
- 25 The oddity of this case is that issue

- 1 was never presented in the district court, and
- 2 so the district court didn't have any battle
- 3 over this and didn't certify a class that was
- 4 premised on the idea that there was a contest
- 5 over whether there were uninjured people.
- 6 And actually our position has been all
- 7 along that the -- the -- everyone in this class
- 8 is injured, and that's what the lower courts, I
- 9 think, recognized. And the reason why is, you
- 10 know, similar to other cases where there's a
- 11 discrimination alleged, this Court has always
- 12 said discrimination itself is an Article III
- injury. And so one analogous case is a case
- 14 where you have people that are challenging
- 15 affirmative action policy of a university.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Well, Mr. Gupta,
- 17 that -- that's the question that we didn't get
- 18 to in Acheson, right? There -- there are
- 19 arguments that racial discrimination and other
- 20 kinds of discrimination are different.
- 21 So I do think it's an -- I do think,
- in fairness, that that's an open question,
- 23 whether there's a --
- MR. GUPTA: Well, I mean, you don't
- 25 have a case directly on point, and I agree that

- 1 was teed up in Acheson. I think the case is
- 2 very, very different from Acheson, because these
- 3 are not, you know, people who are in Maine
- 4 talking about something in Hawaii.
- 5 JUSTICE BARRETT: I -- I'm not saying
- 6 it's the same, and maybe you might win. All I'm
- 7 saying is I don't think it's as settled as
- 8 you're presenting it.
- 9 MR. GUPTA: Sure -- sure. And, I
- 10 mean -- and it -- it wasn't presented in the
- lower courts and so that's why I'm in the
- 12 position of just kind of, you know, making this
- 13 argument on the fly.
- But -- but I'll say, if you set
- 15 aside -- and you're right, Justice Barrett, if
- 16 you set aside this question of whether
- disability discrimination maps on to this
- 18 Court's precedence of discrimination -- and we
- 19 think it should. I think if you do that, this
- is a case where all of the people are injured
- 21 for the same reason as in a case like Gratz
- versus Bollinger, the affirmative action case,
- 23 where what the Court said there was you are --
- you are confronted with this barrier on the
- 25 basis of the protected characteristic.

1	The fact that you didn't reach the
2	thing
3	JUSTICE BARRETT: But I didn't mean to
4	lead you down this road
5	MR. GUPTA: Okay.
6	JUSTICE BARRETT: because that's
7	not before us, right? We didn't take that.
8	MR. GUPTA: It is not. It is not
9	JUSTICE BARRETT: And so the whole
10	point is that even if we assume that you're
11	right and that the class, as you defined it,
12	does include only people who are injured, that
13	doesn't take away Mr. Francisco's argument that
14	there would still have to be some sort of
15	process and certification to identify who
16	MR. GUPTA: Oh.
17	JUSTICE BARRETT: was injured or

20 MR. GUPTA: Well, I think, Justice

not, even if it was just who wanted to go to

- 21 Barrett -- I mean, this points up the
- 22 strangeness of this vehicle, because this is a
- 23 case -- this is a question that arises with some
- 24 frequency in the lower courts.

18

19

LabCorp.

25 But where it arises, there is an

- 1 understanding that there -- there is a real
- 2 question about whether there are uninjured
- 3 people and how they will be weeded out.
- 4 And it -- it principally arises in
- 5 cases -- it happens a lot in antitrust cases and
- 6 other kinds of cases where the Plaintiffs'
- 7 method of proof relies on economic model about a
- 8 counterfactual world.
- 9 And so, you know, in a price-fixing
- 10 case, for example, there's going to be a
- 11 question: Did everyone pay the super
- 12 competitive price? And it might not be possible
- 13 ex ante to determine who the people are.
- 14 JUSTICE BARRETT: But what -- but what
- 15 you're saying -- I mean, because I don't want to
- 16 take up your time, and you can divert it. Just
- 17 what you're saying is that it would be
- impossible -- if -- if we agree with you on kind
- of the Acheson-esque point, you're saying it
- 20 would be impossible for everyone in the class
- 21 not to have standing, as you describe it, so
- that this would just kind of be irrelevant.
- MR. GUPTA: Yeah. I mean, it's
- another way in which writing an opinion here
- would be an advisory opinion. Because you'd

- 1 be -- you'd be --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Well, we'd have to
- 3 decide that we agreed with you on the question
- 4 that we don't want to answer, which is --
- 5 MR. GUPTA: Well, you'd be -- you'd
- 6 have to reach an antecedent question that really
- 7 wasn't presented below.
- 8 JUSTICE BARRETT: And we deliberately
- 9 excluded it from the question, so.
- 10 MR. GUPTA: Right. And I think you do
- 11 that all the time. You grant cases where
- there's an assumption built into the question
- presented. But I think it does matter whether
- that assumption is true or has been established
- in the lower courts.
- 16 I don't want to fight on this, because
- it's outside the -- the -- the QP. But I would
- 18 just -- to continue what I was saying, I think
- where the question arises, it tends to be where
- 20 there's a battle of the experts, as Justice
- 21 Gorsuch was talking about earlier in cases like,
- 22 you know, antitrust cases, or in a case like
- 23 Tyson Foods.
- 24 Tyson Foods was a -- a case that came
- 25 here where you had a complex question about how

- 1 to weed out the uninjured people. And because
- the defendant hadn't kept records, the
- 3 Plaintiffs had to rely on expert testimony. And
- 4 there were 212 people at that pork processing
- 5 plant in Storm Lake, Iowa, who it turned out
- 6 were not injured.
- 7 It would have been really easy to have
- 8 a trial and weed them out if there had been a
- 9 special interrogatory form. Those were people
- 10 who were uninjured simply because, you know,
- 11 they didn't work over 40 hours, and so they
- weren't deprived of overtime.
- But if you -- you accept the
- submission on the other side here today, I think
- what should have happened, in their view, is
- 16 redefine -- you would have redefined the class.
- 17 And then you would have had a failsafe problem,
- 18 perhaps, which is you would have defined the
- 19 class to be only those people who worked 40
- 20 hours and were not paid overtime. That's not
- 21 really in the Defendant's interest.
- 22 The Defendant -- as Justice Gorsuch
- 23 was describing earlier, the Defendant wants a
- 24 class definition that's ultimately going to
- 25 provide global peace when the -- when the case

- 1 is resolved.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: When I -- when
- 3 I said in this short concurrence, which Justice
- 4 Alito, and Justice Alito alone, joined --
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- the -- the
- 7 answer, when you get to the point and realize
- 8 that these people had not worked 40 hours, is
- 9 not that you then go back and carve them out.
- 10 What -- what I suggested is that that would be a
- good reason not to certify the class in the
- 12 first place.
- MR. GUPTA: Yeah. I mean, I think the
- 14 problem in Tyson Foods, though, was -- you'll
- 15 recall the -- the conundrum that the parties
- 16 faced there was because they hadn't done a trial
- where there was a special interrogatory, it was
- 18 all one proceeding, and so you had this weird
- 19 aggregate judgment.
- 20 And then the question was: Could
- 21 you -- is there some way to reverse-engineer
- 22 what happened with that judgment to weed out the
- 23 uninjured, right?
- 24 But if you had -- if you had to redo
- 25 the experiment of Tyson Foods, it's a pretty

- 1 standard kind of case, except that the
- 2 defendants didn't have those records. And it
- 3 would have been easily possible to try that case
- 4 in a way where the -- the case would have weeded
- 5 out those uninjured people and then, of course,
- 6 would comport with the defendant's Seventh
- 7 Amendment right.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, right,
- 9 but, I mean, everybody knows the elephant in the
- 10 room, that once you get to trial you sort of --
- 11 I mean, the -- the -- the possibility of facing
- the damages that are at issue in many of these
- cases is enough to prevent defendants, as a
- 14 practical matter, from going to trial.
- MR. GUPTA: Well, I mean, I
- 16 acknowledge that, you know, many class action
- 17 cases don't go to trial. I'm not sure -- you
- 18 know, that's true of litigation in general.
- But I think the suggestion on the
- 20 other side is that the in terrorem effect of
- 21 certification is magnified because of the
- 22 incremental difference in the class definition
- that includes some uninjured people.
- 24 And the story is -- right, that's the
- 25 story on the other side. This case itself

- 1 belies that story, right? The -- the -- the
- 2 problem here was the Plaintiffs, in their view,
- 3 had defined the class in a way that was too
- 4 tethered to injury, and they wanted to change
- 5 that class definition, to expand it.
- And at the end stage of litigation, it
- 7 is the Defendants who want the broadest possible
- 8 definition --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sure
- 10 there's a situation they should -- they should
- do this because it's actually going to be good
- 12 for them. But on the other hand, it's
- reasonable to suspect that that's not always
- going to be the case, and that they may be the
- best judge of whether it's good for them or not.
- MR. GUPTA: I mean, look, I think, in
- 17 strategic -- in litigation where there's high
- 18 stakes, the parties are going to behave
- 19 strategically in a way that maximizes their
- 20 interest. And as I'm suggesting, that interest
- 21 changes over -- over time.
- 22 But I just resist the -- the
- 23 suggestion that what's really happening in the
- 24 real world is that there's some incremental
- 25 marginal advantage that Plaintiffs are seeking

- 1 to get by expanding the definition to include
- 2 the uninjured. Because that just creates --
- 3 the -- the goal is to try to eliminate those
- 4 manageability problems, to the extent possible.
- 5 And in the settlement calculus, those
- 6 uninjured people, we know after TransUnion,
- 7 they're not going to recover. And so I -- you
- 8 know, I think the -- the policy argument -- I'm
- 9 not sure that, you know, this is the right body
- 10 to be considering those policy arguments, but I
- also think the economic logic just doesn't hold
- 12 up.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you think the
- amicus briefs are wrong, then? They're just not
- 15 understanding their own interest? The
- 16 interest -- the amicus briefs on the other side.
- I guess I'm picking up on the Chief
- 18 Justice's question. I think they know their own
- 19 interests. I'm not saying they're right. I'm
- just saying -- you're saying their interests are
- 21 just misguided entirely.
- MR. GUPTA: Well, I -- I actually
- think some of the amicus briefs on the other
- 24 side take a more measured position that is -- is
- 25 really more consistent with the consensus view

- in the lower courts on Rule 23.
- 2 The parties' positions have coalesced
- 3 quite a bit on the Rule 23 question. And -- and
- 4 I know you were persuaded to take this case on
- 5 the idea that there's some circuit split, but if
- 6 you actually look at the -- the circuit
- 7 decisions that are deciding this question on
- 8 Rule 23, I think the divergences are largely
- 9 explained just by the differences in the record
- and the economic models, which are complex.
- 11 But they're all saying really the
- 12 same -- I think Judge Katsas and Judge Kayatta
- and Judge Dyk in the First Circuit, they are all
- saying the same thing, which is this has to be
- administratively feasible, and we have to figure
- out whether it's going to be possible --
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you agree with
- 18 Judge Katsas's opinion?
- 19 MR. GUPTA: Yeah. I -- I mean, I
- 20 think I might --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Judge Katsas --
- 22 MR. GUPTA: Perhaps if I were sitting
- 23 with Judge Katsas on that case, I might have
- 24 come out differently on those facts, but I think
- 25 the -- the legal framework for these cases, they

- 1 are just not very different.
- 2 And I think everyone recognizes,
- 3 especially after TransUnion, that the job is to
- 4 weed out the uninjured. And it's just a
- 5 question of whether on those records, whether
- 6 it's -- it's going to be manageable to do so.
- 7 I think the -- the Article III
- 8 argument on the other side here is much more
- 9 ambitious and would really be a departure from
- 10 the -- the way things work.
- 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: If -- if I could
- 12 just -- in Mr. Francisco's understanding of this
- 13 case is you have sort of two groups of people,
- the ones who wanted to use the kiosk, who tried
- to use the kiosk, who couldn't use the kiosks,
- and the ones who wanted no part of the kiosks.
- 17 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: And, of course, that's
- 19 very different from your understanding, which is
- 20 discrimination is discrimination.
- 21 But just take for a moment -- and this
- is a question that we're not going to decide one
- 23 way or the other in this case -- if you take for
- a moment Mr. Francisco's understanding of who
- 25 has -- you know, what the wheat and what the

- 1 chaff is --
- 2 MR. GUPTA: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- is he right that
- 4 you have no way of separating out those two
- 5 groups of people?
- 6 MR. GUPTA: No. I think -- I think it
- 7 would be a harder case than this one, but I
- 8 think it's not infrequently the case that, you
- 9 know, membership in a class turns on some
- 10 attribute of a person that can be tested through
- 11 a claims process.
- 12 And you have an amicus brief from the
- 13 claims administrators that explains how this
- 14 happens. It happens in a lot of different
- 15 contexts, products liability. And there can
- 16 be -- you know, there was discussion of
- 17 affidavits. There can be affidavits. That can
- 18 be one way it can be done. It can be done based
- 19 on an examination of records. The defendant
- often has records that will confirm membership
- 21 in the class.
- 22 So I -- I -- I reject the suggestion
- that that's impossible to do, but I think, you
- 24 know, as this Court said in Dukes, like, the
- 25 predominance inquiry is very case-specific and

- 1 it has to be a rigorous inquiry based on the
- 2 record.
- 3 And so what I -- I appreciate you're
- 4 not going to answer, you know, the specific
- 5 standing question in this case, but I would also
- 6 just caution the Court, because of the -- the
- 7 strangeness of this vehicle, where none of this
- 8 was teed up in the courts below, not to paint
- 9 with a broad brush and -- and address situations
- that aren't before the Court, where, actually,
- 11 managerial district judges are able to do a very
- 12 good job of weeding out the uninjured under
- 13 existing practice.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Justice Alito,
- going back to his point about the variation
- 16 among circuits as to when you should appeal --
- 17 MR. GUPTA: Mm-hmm.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- an amended --
- 19 sorry, my throat -- a frog got into it. When
- you should appeal a amended order.
- 21 MR. GUPTA: Right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And he takes from
- 23 that that if there's no time -- if there's no
- 24 clarity to the rule, then you can do it at any
- 25 time. Do you think that's correct?

1	Meaning I read 23(I) and It says a
2	court of appeals may permit an appeal from an
3	order granting or denying class. A party must
4	file a petition with the circuit court within 14
5	days after the order is entered.
6	MR. GUPTA: Right.
7	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right? Here,
8	we have a Ninth Circuit ruling that the August 9
9	order was not properly appealed, correct?
LO	MR. GUPTA: Correct.
L1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Whatever its
L2	reasons for not properly appealing it, it's
L3	holding that that order is not operative,
L4	correct?
L5	MR. GUPTA: Correct.
L6	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And what they're
L7	attacking here is an inoperative order by the
L8	Ninth Circuit's ruling?
L9	MR. GUPTA: Correct.
20	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If they had come
21	to us and used the earlier version of the order,
22	which wasn't a failsafe class, it was only
23	people who were injured, you would have a
24	different set of arguments, correct?
5	MP CIIDTA: Absolutely

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1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Thank
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- 2 you.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 4 counsel.
- 5 MR. GUPTA: Thank you.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 7 Thomas?
- 8 Justice Alito?
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, to return to a
- 10 question that's a great favorite, do you think
- 11 that this Ninth Circuit rule about material
- versus immaterial changes is jurisdictional, or
- is it a claims-processing rule?
- MR. GUPTA: I -- as I understand it --
- and, again, you know, there's been no briefing
- on it. I don't think the Ninth Circuit's
- jurisprudence is any different from any of the
- 18 other circuits' and I think it's a
- 19 jurisdictional -- it's a body of jurisdictional
- 20 law -- the best way I can understand it is
- 21 they're interpreting --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. That's all I
- 23 wanted to know. It's -- you think it's --
- MR. GUPTA: Jurisdictional.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: -- jurisdictional?

- 1 MR. GUPTA: Yes.
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: And if I think that
- 3 it's not jurisdictional and the Ninth Circuit
- 4 erred in saying we lack jurisdiction to consider
- 5 this, what should I do?
- 6 MR. GUPTA: I think that you'd -- they
- 7 haven't asked -- they didn't file a cert
- 8 petition on that question, didn't ask you to
- 9 decide that, and so I don't think you should
- 10 decide that.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, you -- you argue
- that it's a jurisdictional question that we have
- 13 to decide.
- MR. GUPTA: No. I -- I think what I'm
- 15 saying is that the -- the case, as it comes to
- 16 you, comes with that jurisdictional holding that
- 17 hasn't been challenged. They've now
- 18 acknowledged that the only order before you is
- 19 an order that isn't live. And then the question
- 20 is whether the case is moot.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, so what? If the
- 22 district -- the court of appeals said there's a
- 23 lack of jurisdiction in a particular case and
- the petitioner doesn't raise that, are we not
- 25 required to decide whether that's right?

1	MR. GUPTA: I think, as a prudential
2	matter, you you you shouldn't. I think
3	you can. It's within it's always, of course,
4	within your jurisdiction to decide your
5	jurisdiction.
6	But I think there's a reason they
7	didn't challenge if they had if they had
8	filed a cert petition that said, look, there are
9	two orders, we really want to challenge the one
10	that the Ninth Circuit said we don't have
11	jurisdiction over, and so we have this first
12	question presented that's this jurisdictional
13	question and there's really not a split on it,
14	but we'd like you to take it so you can get to
15	this other question, you would have denied that
16	petition, I think.
17	JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
18	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
19	Sotomayor?
20	Justice Kagan?
21	Justice Gorsuch?
22	Justice Kavanaugh?
23	Justice Barrett?
24	Justice Jackson?
25	JUSTICE JACKSON: One quick thing.

- 1 You say the job is to weed out the uninjured. I
- 2 think Mr. Francisco says you have to do that at
- 3 the start by virtue of Article III and Rule 23.
- 4 And the government joins him with respect to the
- 5 second point of that.
- 6 You seem to say it suffices just to
- 7 know that there is going to be a mechanism to do
- 8 that down the road eventually. Why is he wrong
- 9 about the timing of this?
- 10 MR. GUPTA: Yeah. I -- I do think
- 11 it's a question of timing. And I think, if
- we're analyzing this from the perspective of
- 13 Article III, this Court has always said that the
- case or controversy between the plaintiffs in a
- 15 class action and the defendants is between the
- 16 named plaintiff, the representative party.
- 17 That's the person that's the party.
- 18 So, if you think about this from the
- 19 perspective of what Justice Story said about how
- 20 representative litigation worked at equity
- 21 practice or how it works under modern Rule 23,
- 22 Justice Scalia's opinion in Devlin, the
- 23 understanding has always been that, pretty much
- 24 always, the absentees are not parties over whom
- 25 the court exercises jurisdiction unless and

- 1 until the court is doing one of two things:
- 2 exercising its remedial power with respect to an
- absentee or deciding a question that it wouldn't
- 4 otherwise have to decide, like an individual
- 5 question.
- At that point, we acknowledge that
- 7 those people who are absentees, they then have
- 8 to establish Article III standing. But why
- 9 should you --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: What about Rule 23?
- MR. GUPTA: But why should you do all
- 12 this before you have to? That's one of the
- 13 efficiencies of the class device. And I think
- Rule 23 is designed to promote those
- 15 efficiencies through representative litigation
- so long as you have a case or controversy with a
- 17 representative. The way it works now is really
- 18 the way it worked in Anglo-American courts at
- 19 the time of the -- the founding, is that you --
- 20 you decide the common questions with respect to
- 21 the person who is actually before the court, and
- 22 then, if and only if there's -- they prevail,
- then the people can come in under the decree.
- 24 That was the language that Justice Story used,
- and it's the same language that Rule 23 uses.

- 1 But why would you decide all of that, those
- 2 individualized questions if you don't have to,
- 3 because the defendant is actually going to
- 4 prevail?
- 5 And this brings me to one point
- 6 that -- that I just want to mention if I have
- 7 time, which is that there's a suggestion on the
- 8 first page of the reply brief that if you
- 9 adopted our rule, that -- that what's going to
- 10 happen is you're not going to have preclusive
- 11 class judgments.
- 12 And I actually think this is a big bug
- 13 with their approach and -- and a feature of
- ours, which is right now a defendant can rest
- easy knowing that they've prevailed in a class
- 16 action and someone isn't going to run into state
- 17 court and bring the exact same claim and say,
- 18 a-ha, we didn't -- we wouldn't have had Article
- 19 III standing in that first case. And that
- 20 disturbs the finality of class-wide judgments.
- 21 Class-wide judgments and their
- 22 finality and their preclusive effect under our
- 23 current law is predicated on adequate
- 24 representation and due process. And I think you
- 25 would be breaking the system if you were to

- 1 adopt their position that makes Article III a
- 2 necessary prerequisite and -- and invites
- 3 collateral attacks and retrospective inquiries
- 4 into the finality of class judgments.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 7 counsel.
- 8 MR. GUPTA: Thank you.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Francisco,
- 10 rebuttal?
- 11 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF NOEL J. FRANCISCO
- 12 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- MR. FRANCISCO: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 14 Justice.
- To begin with the procedural issue,
- 16 here's what the district court said twice: In
- 17 refining the class definition, this order does
- 18 not materially alter the composition of the
- 19 class or materially change in any manner the
- 20 original definition of the class.
- 21 Here's what plaintiffs argued to the
- 22 district court when it urged the district court
- 23 to adopt the August definition. It moved to --
- 24 to refine the class definition, and it assured
- 25 the court that it was "identical in every way to

- 1 the original May definition." And it assured it
- 2 that it had not changed the "substance" of the
- 3 class. That's at page 107 of the district
- 4 court's docket, pages 3 and 7.
- Now there is a reason for that. The
- 6 definition, the original May definition, was
- 7 defined to include any blind person who was
- 8 denied full and equal enjoyment of the goods,
- 9 services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
- 10 accommodations due to Labcorp's failure to have
- 11 accessible kiosks.
- Their position with respect to that
- language was the position that my friend just
- 14 articulated. Every single person who walked
- into a Labcorp facility had those rights denied
- 16 regardless of whether they wanted to use a kiosk
- or not. That's what he just stood up and told
- 18 you was their understanding of who's injured,
- 19 and that fits within that definition.
- That is why they took the position
- 21 that the August definition and the May
- 22 definition were the same. That is why the
- 23 district court took the position that the August
- 24 definition and the May definitions were the
- 25 same. Because the district court agreed that

- 1 that was what the definition of the class and
- 2 the class of people who would have had standing
- 3 and perhaps, most importantly, that is why the
- 4 Ninth Circuit resolved the question presented.
- 5 It acknowledged that it couldn't
- 6 address an issue that pertained solely to the
- 7 August order, but because on the issue that it
- 8 did resolve, there was not a -- an iota of
- 9 difference between the May order and the August
- order for the reasons my friend explained to you
- 11 when he was standing up here.
- 12 It did resolve that question, that it
- 13 reduced to a judgment. That judgment is before
- 14 you. You plainly have jurisdiction to resolve
- 15 that question presented.
- 16 Turning to the merits, I think that
- 17 the -- as we've discussed, the Article III issue
- is easy to solve but it walks right into the
- 19 23(b)(3) question. My friend essentially
- 20 acknowledged that when it comes to a class loss,
- 21 the only consequence is that you're going to end
- 22 up binding a class even if it includes members
- over whom the Court lacked jurisdiction.
- 24 That is a fairly shocking proposition.
- 25 To say that a court can say I know I am

Т	adjudicating a whole group of people, many of
2	whom I don't have jurisdiction over, yet,
3	nonetheless, I am going to proceed to bind them
4	with that judgment, that is in the teeth of
5	Steel Company, we ask that you reverse.
6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
7	counsel. The case is submitted.
8	(Whereupon, at 1:19 p.m., the case in
9	the above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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