SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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FS CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES CORP.,)
ET AL.,)
Petitioners,)
v.) No. 24-345
SABA CAPITAL MASTER FUND, LTD.,)
ET AL.,)
Respondents.)
	_

Pages: 1 through 95

Place: Washington, D.C.

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12	Washington, D.C.	
13	Wednesday, December 1	0, 2025
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15	The above-entitled matter	came on for
16	oral argument before the Supreme	Court of the
17	United States at 12:07 p.m.	
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1	APPEARANCES:
2	SHAY DVORETZKY, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
3	of the Petitioners and BlackRock Respondents
4	supporting the Petitioners.
5	MAX E. SCHULMAN, Assistant to the Solicitor General,
6	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for the
7	United States, as amicus curiae, supporting the
8	Petitioners.
9	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQUIRE, Alexandria, Virginia; on
10	behalf of the Saba Respondents.
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5	BlackRock Respondents supporting	
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(12:07 p.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument next in Case 24-345, FS Credit
5	Opportunities Corporation versus Saba Capital
6	Master Fund.
7	Mr. Dvoretzky.
8	ORAL ARGUMENT OF SHAY DVORETZKY
9	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS AND BLACKROCK
10	RESPONDENTS SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS
11	MR. DVORETZKY: Mr. Chief Justice, and
12	may it please the Court:
13	To imply a private right of action in
14	Section 47(b), Congress would have needed to
15	speak clearly and unambiguously. It did not.
16	Start with the text. Section 47(b)
17	doesn't come near the high bar for an implied
18	private right of action. Congress knew how to
19	speak clearly to create a right of action, just
20	as it did in Sections 30(h) and 36(b).
21	Congress could have said an action may be
22	brought by any party to a contract that
23	violates the ICA. Instead, Congress chose
24	language that specifies what remedy is
25	available to parties already before the court.

1	Section 47(b) applies only if a
2	contract is unenforceable, an inherently
3	defensive concept. And Section 47(b)(2)
4	focuses on courts, not who can sue. It uses
5	the term "instance," which ordinarily means a
6	request, not a right to bring an action.
7	Indeed, Congress rewrote Section 47(b) after
8	TAMA, eliminating the phrase "shall be void"
9	that TAMA had held created a private right of
10	action under the IAA.
11	Statutory structure points in the same
12	direction. It makes no sense to think that, on
13	the one hand, Congress expressly specified
14	narrow rights of action for particular
15	plaintiffs in 36(h) and in 30(h) and 36(b),
16	but, on the other hand, Congress subtly implied
17	a private right of action for any party to a
18	contract to enforce any provision of the ICA in
19	47(b).
20	What's more, Congress vested the SEC
21	with an array of powers to enforce the ICA,
22	from investigation and rulemaking to exemption
23	and filing suit, which further suggests that it
24	didn't intend private enforcement by
25	implication under Section 47(b)(2).

1	If the Court lets the Second Circuit's
2	decision stand, the clear statement rule in
3	Sandoval and Gonzaga will have little meaning.
4	The Court should leave private rights of action
5	to Congress and reject Saba and the Second
6	Circuit's unworkable return to the ancien
7	régime.
8	I welcome the Court's questions.
9	JUSTICE THOMAS: Respondent has quite
10	a different reading of Transamerica than you
11	do, so would you spend just a minute or two
12	just responding to Respondents' argument as to
13	Transamerica?
14	MR. DVORETZKY: Of course. So I think
15	Transamerica, TAMA, is really the linchpin of
16	their argument. Their argument, as I
17	understand it, is that in Transamerica, the
18	Court interpreted "void" a certain way in the
19	IAA, and that necessarily carries over to
20	present-day ICA.
21	That's incorrect on a number of
22	levels. I agree with them that "void" was the
23	key language in TAMA. But Congress moved away
24	from that language in 1980 when it amended the
25	ICA. The the very linchpin of the Court's

- 1 opinion in -- in TAMA was that the concept of
- 2 voidness necessarily has customary incidents
- 3 that let you go to court, including not only to
- 4 determine the voidness but also to get
- 5 restitution.
- 6 In the ICA in 1980, Congress
- 7 eliminated "void" from 47(b). It came up with
- 8 an entirely new construct in (b)(1) and (b)(2).
- 9 It replaced voidness with unenforceability.
- 10 Unenforceability is inherently a defensive
- 11 concept, not one that lets you go to court
- 12 affirmatively.
- And then, in (b)(2), it introduced
- 14 court-focused language focusing on what courts
- may or may not do when they have a contract
- 16 before them in a litigation where the parties
- are otherwise properly before the court.
- 18 And so whatever one may think of TAMA
- 19 as to the IAA, it doesn't apply to the ICA,
- where Congress moved away from that language.
- 21 And, in addition to that, a key difference
- 22 between the ICA and the IAA is that the ICA
- 23 contains the two express private rights of
- 24 action in 30(h) and 36(b). And where Congress
- 25 knows how to write a cause of action explicitly

- 1 by saying a -- a cause of action -- a claim may
- 2 be brought or an action may be brought by a
- 3 particular plaintiff against a particular
- 4 defendant over a particular violation, that
- 5 strongly supports the notion that Congress did
- 6 not impliedly leave the door open in 47(b)(2)
- 7 for an even broader cause of action that would
- 8 let any party to the contract go in to sue not
- 9 just over a particular provision of the ICA but
- 10 over any provision in the ICA that may be
- 11 violated.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: So, Mr. Dvoretzky --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, your --
- 14 we have said in Touche Ross, in Cort, in
- 15 Sandoval, that what we're looking at is whether
- 16 Congress intended to create a private right of
- 17 action. You say that neither the text or
- 18 structure does.
- 19 But I'm not sure you're leaving out
- one very important part of the context, which
- is the statutory history, and that's what the
- 22 other side relies upon. The IAA and the ICA
- were passed in the same bill. TAMA then held
- 24 that identical statutory language in the IAA
- 25 had a private right of action for rescission.

_	so you re relying on the changes that occurred
2	to differentiate the ICA today, correct?
3	MR. DVORETZKY: We're relying on the
4	changes, but I would also note that TAMA was a
5	holding only as to the IAA, not as to the ICA.
6	And so
7	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But the language
8	is identical. If this case had come up a year
9	after TAMA, do you think that, on the basis of
L O	Sandoval, we would have ruled differently?
L1	MR. DVORETZKY: Well, the the fact
L2	that the IAA, unlike the ICA, contain no
L3	express private rights of action was the very
L 4	first sentence of this Court's analysis in
L5	TAMA. And so, even pre-1980, there was that
L6	distinction that this Court in in this
L7	hypothetical case might have focused
L8	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But those but
L9	that difference went solely to the question of
20	damages, not to the question of an implied
21	cause of action with respect to rescission.
22	There is no other claim being made.
23	The issue is narrow to is there a right to
24	rescission, an implied cause of action with
25	respect to revision rescission correct?

- 3 under the Sandoval line of cases between the
- 4 standard where damages are sought impliedly
- 5 versus the standard where equitable relief is
- 6 sought impliedly.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, Congress has
- 8 because what we -- we have said with respect to
- 9 that statute, the TAMA statute, is that there,
- 10 there's no implied cause of action for -- that
- 11 there is an implied cause of action for
- 12 rescission. We didn't recognize one for
- damages.
- 14 MR. DVORETZKY: That -- that's true,
- but the distinction in TAMA didn't turn on
- damages versus equitable relief. It turned on
- the word "void" in Section 215 versus different
- 18 language in 206.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, in TAMA,
- 20 we said that the word "void" is the power to
- 21 rescind. And that's exactly the -- the
- 22 language that Congress used in the ICA in
- 23 47(b). It says that in the instance of a party
- that seeks or demands rescission, that it could
- 25 be given in certain circumstances.

So you make much of the fact that 1 Congress did away with the word "void," but it 2 3 kept exactly the meaning of void. It said: The insistence of a party to seek rescission. 4 MR. DVORETZKY: I don't think it did, 6 Justice Sotomayor, first, because the Court said in TAMA that voidness was about more than just rescission. It was also -- this is at 8 9 page 18 of the TAMA decision: A person with the power to void a contract ordinarily may 10 11 resort to a court to have the contract 12 rescinded and to obtain restitution of 13 consideration paid. So, at the --14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it didn't. 15 All it talked about was the -- there, the TAMA 16 court was only an implied cause of action for rescission where the subsequent disputes among 17 courts laid -- was whether that statute also 18 19 permitted damages. 2.0 And Congress answered that question in 21 the ICA. It only permits damages in a limited number of cases and not in others, and it 22 23 doesn't permit it in rescission. 2.4 MR. DVORETZKY: But, Justice 25 Sotomayor, Congress also moved away from the

- word "void" to the word "unenforceable" in
- 2 (b)(1), and I think that's a critical
- 3 distinction.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, but --
- 5 JUSTICE BARRETT: Counsel, can I --
- 6 oh.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, just
- 8 one last point.
- 9 I know that many of my colleagues
- don't believe in statutory history, but, here,
- 11 we have both a House and a Senate reports
- 12 accompanying the 1980 amendments to the ICA,
- and in both the House and the Senate reports,
- it says that "Private rights of action for
- violations of the federal securities laws are a
- 16 necessary adjunct to the SEC's enforcement
- 17 efforts due to the SEC's small staff and
- 18 overwhelming enforcement."
- 19 The Senate also wrote: "The committee
- 20 wishes to make clear that private rights of
- 21 action should be implied to and in its
- 22 enforcement to the same extent that such causes
- of action are implied under the ICA."
- 24 The House wrote: "It wishes to make
- 25 plain that it expects the courts to imply

- 1 private rights of action under this legislation
- 2 where the plaintiff falls within the class of
- 3 persons protected by the statutory provision in
- 4 question."
- I don't know how more -- much more
- 6 decisive on congressional intent than those
- 7 statements are. The ICA implies a private
- 8 cause of action for rescission, and Congress
- 9 says what you did there, do here.
- 10 MR. DVORETZKY: Justice Sotomayor,
- I do think that under Sandoval, the analysis
- 12 begins and ends with the text and structure.
- But, if I may respond on the
- legislative history, first, the legislative
- 15 history also shows that Congress considered
- legislation in 1980 that would have explicitly
- 17 added a private right of action and it didn't
- do that. So, in that sense, the same inference
- 19 from --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it did it with
- 21 respect to damages. It didn't say anything
- 22 about -- it did say about rescission that at
- 23 the insistence of any party, a court could
- 24 grant rescission.
- It seems to me that what you want us

- 1 to do is to ignore the statutory context and
- 2 say that's language that's limited only to
- 3 parties in the litigation, but they didn't use
- 4 those words. They didn't say it's limited to
- 5 parties in litigation.
- 6 MR. DVORETZKY: So I think the term
- 7 "party" is best read to mean party to the
- 8 litigation. When Congress wanted to refer to a
- 9 party to the contract, it did that expressly in
- 10 (b)(1). But, at the end of the day, it really
- is not of much moment what "party" refers to
- because, again, the language that Congress used
- in (b)(1) is nec- -- is a defensive concept of
- unenforceability, not one that lets you go into
- 15 court.
- And in (b)(2), that is court-focused
- 17 language. It's not the sort of unmistakable
- 18 focus on an individual and creating new rights
- 19 prescribing conduct as unlawful as to that
- 20 individual that this Court, under Sandoval and
- 21 Gonzaga and that whole line of cases, has
- looked to in order to recognize whether
- 23 Congress meant to create a private right of
- 24 action, that the text is the ultimate
- 25 touchstone.

1	JUSTICE BARRETT: Counsel, I'd like to
2	ask you a question about your clear statement
3	rule.
4	I don't read Sandoval to necessarily
5	require or to require a clear statement. I
6	understand the question when we're looking at
7	implied causes of action to simply be ordinary
8	statutory interpretation and what do the text
9	and structure require as distinguished from
LO	Gonzaga and our Spending Clause line.
L1	Why do you think there should be a
L2	clear statement rule here? And I know the
L3	government takes the same position.
L 4	MR. DVORETZKY: So, for starters, I
L5	think Gonzaga, and this is at page 290, equates
L6	the two standards at least as to the first
L7	prong of of the Spending Clause cases.
L8	Gonzaga said: If Congress wishes to create new
L9	rights, it must do so in clear and unambiguous
20	terms, no less and no more than what is
21	required for Congress to create new rights
22	enforceable under an implied prior right of
23	action.
24	As to why that makes sense, I think it
2.5	goes to Justice Scalia's concurrence in the

- 1 Thompson case, which I think is -- is then --
- 2 becomes much of the basis for the Sandoval
- 3 opinion, where he said that creating a private
- 4 right of action is such a significant
- 5 legislative act that there is only "a remote
- 6 possibility" -- that's a quote -- that Congress
- 7 would do that implicitly.
- And so before this Court, as a matter
- 9 of separation of powers, reads an implied
- 10 private right of action into a statute, it
- 11 ought to look for that kind of clear,
- 12 unambiguous language.
- 13 JUSTICE BARRETT: But that would be
- 14 an -- that would be an innovation. We haven't
- 15 expressly said that in our implied cause of
- 16 action cases.
- 17 MR. DVORETZKY: I think you've said it
- in Gonzaga, and I -- and I --
- 19 JUSTICE BARRETT: Right.
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: -- think it's also --
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: But -- but Gonzaga
- 22 was a Spending Clause --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Haven't we said it
- in the context of 1983?
- MR. DVORETZKY: I'm sorry?

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Haven't we said it 2. in the context of 1983 and whether it secures a 3 right enforceable under federal law, quite apart from the Spending Clause context? 4 MR. DVORETZKY: Right. You said it 6 under the first prong of the Spending Clause 7 analysis. 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Forget -- so 9 whether -- whether 1983 secures a right for purposes of federal law. 10 11 MR. DVORETZKY: Right. That is the 12 context in which you have equated the two standards. But I think the key point is that 13 14 you have equated the two standards and that the 15 separation-of-powers concerns are similar 16 across the two contexts and --17 JUSTICE JACKSON: That -- sorry. 18 ahead. 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: If you might finish 20 your answer first. 2.1 MR. DVORETZKY: Yeah. I think the 22 separation-of-powers concerns are similar 23 across the two concept -- contexts. In both situations, it is the role of Congress to 24

determine whether it is conferring a right and

- 1 whether that right is privately enforceable.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: I had understood
- 4 that the Spending Clause context had particular
- 5 concerns that were relevant to this inquiry.
- 6 So, while we may have said it in the context of
- 7 1983, I thought we said it, as you pointed out,
- 8 in Gonzaga and the line of cases there in a
- 9 Spending Clause context in which we analogized
- 10 to contracts, and so it was very important to
- 11 have clarity from Congress in the federal
- 12 grants context, and that's sort of the impetus
- of the standards there.
- 14 I -- have we said that same sort of
- thing in this context outside of Spending
- 16 Clause?
- 17 MR. DVORETZKY: I think, again,
- 18 Sandoval itself really establishes the clear --
- 19 the clear statement rule. That's how this
- 20 Court under -- characterized Sandoval in cases
- 21 like Gonzaga. When this Court was relying on
- 22 Sandoval and Gonzaga and applying the same
- 23 standard for both contexts, the Court described
- it as a clear statement rule, as a rule
- 25 requiring Congress to --

1 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. So, under that rule, under that rule for this 2 3 purpose, I'm looking at (b)(2) and you say it doesn't have the kind of party-centric 4 5 language. 6 I mean, yes, a court may not deny the rescission, but it does say at the instance of 7 8 any party. And so we do have references in the 9 text of (b)(2) related to parties. Why is that not sufficient in your view? 10 11 MR. DVORETZKY: Because the way in 12 which this is written, its primary focus is on 13 what courts may or may not do. In that sense, 14 it's like the Thompson case, where the Court 15 said that -- I think it was the -- the Parental 16 Kidnapping Prevention Act there -- is a mandate 17 directed to state courts. It doesn't create 18 individual rights even though what those courts 19 may do may have consequences for individuals. 2.0 This too is court-focused language. 2.1 And it also --22 JUSTICE JACKSON: Right. But, when 23 we're talking -- when the right here is the 24 right to bring the action, then a court can't

do what it does unless it has an action.

- 2 implicit in a direction to a court related to a
- 3 kind of legal action that the party, as it says
- 4 here, any party can bring the action.
- 5 MR. DVORETZKY: It doesn't say that
- 6 any party can bring the action the way it does
- 7 in Section 36. It just says at the instance of
- 8 any party.
- 9 "At the instance" ordinarily means at
- 10 the request of a party, but there are all sorts
- of things that parties might be able to request
- from the court once they are already before the
- 13 court. That doesn't mean --
- 14 JUSTICE JACKSON: I understood that
- 15 your argument here was -- was that the party
- 16 can raise it defensively, is that right? At
- 17 the instance -- so your -- your point is at the
- instance of any party in defense? That's how
- 19 this would work for you?
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I think that that
- 21 is right, and that follows from
- 22 unenforceability being inherent.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But unenforceability
- is in (b)(1), and (b)(2), we are looking at the
- 25 text here, and it says that the contract has

- 1 been performed. So we're sort of in a
- 2 different world in (b)(2). In (b) -- (b)(1),
- 3 the contract hasn't yet been performed, and I
- 4 suppose you could have an unenforceability
- 5 argument there, but have -- aren't we already
- 6 in the world in (b)(2) of a contract being
- 7 performed?
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: Respectfully, I read
- 9 the interplay between (b)(1) and (b)(2)
- 10 differently. I think the only way that you get
- 11 to (b)(2) is through (b)(1) if you have a
- 12 contract that -- to the extent that a
- 13 contract --
- 14 JUSTICE JACKSON: That has been
- 15 performed.
- MR. DVORETZKY: -- has been performed,
- that can be either full or partial performance.
- And, either way, you need to go through (b)(1)
- 19 and first show it can -- it can be fully
- 20 performed but perhaps a contract with a limited
- 21 term and there's some litigation afterwards
- 22 about what happened during the term that has
- 23 now been completed. It may be partially
- 24 performed. But, either way, the only way to
- get to (b)(2) is by showing that (b)(1) is

1 satisfied, and that's when --2. JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you. MR. DVORETZKY: -- the defensiveness 3 4 concept comes in. 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you. 6 Justice Thomas, anything? Justice Alito? 8 Justice Sotomayor? 9 Justice Kagan? Justice Gorsuch, anything? 10 11 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Unfortunately, I 12 have several questions. 13 (Laughter.) JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I think this case 14 is extremely close, so I'll just put the cards 15 16 out there on that. So, when you're talking about the 17 18 statute alone, I get it, but when you look at 19 Transamerica and then you look at the statute, 2.0 it would be very odd to think Congress has 21 recognized for both statutes, or I get it's for 22 the IAA, a private cause of action and then to 23 think Congress got rid of that by explicitly 24 referring to the rescission right that it had 25 just recognized in Trans -- that the Court had

- 1 just recognized in Transamerica.
- 2 And what the statutory language did
- 3 was add the "unless" clause to show that you
- 4 don't always have a right of rescission. So
- 5 what Congress seemed to do was say recognize
- 6 what the Court had just said about rescission
- 7 but actually slightly -- put slight exceptions
- 8 in there with the "unless" clause.
- 9 And what your position would do is say
- 10 everything goes to state court and -- as I
- 11 understand it. You can respond to that. But,
- in Transamerica in Footnote 8, they -- they
- 13 address that possibility.
- One possibility, of course, is that
- 15 Congress intended that claims under 215 would
- 16 be raised under state court, but we decline to
- 17 adopt such an anomalous construction without
- 18 some indication that Congress, in fact,
- 19 wishes -- wished to remit the litigation of a
- 20 federal right to the state courts.
- 21 So your theory is Congress comes back
- in knowing that and refers specifically to
- 23 rescission but, without giving any indication,
- does the anomalous thing silently of remitting
- 25 everything to state court.

1 Now, so that's something you need to 2. answer. And then I'll just get the last thing 3 out which bothers me, which is the SEC in 2001 in the Bush administration comes in and says, 4 5 actually, this is an express right of action, I 6 think six times in the SEC brief in 2001 says 7 this is an express right of action because it 8 refers to rescission specifically. 9 And so you need to deal with that, and you need to deal with how does this work in 10 11 state court? You want it to go to state court? 12 Can they bring the suit, the rescission -- suit for rescission in state court, and the state 13 14 court then does what? And why be in state 15 court? So that's a lot. You can deal with 16 whatever you want to deal with there, but those are things that are on my mind. 17 MR. DVORETZKY: Let me deal with as 18 much as I can. I think I can distill that to 19 2.0 three questions. You're tell me if I -- you'll 2.1 tell me if I'm missing something. 2.2 One is didn't Congress just carry over the concept of rescission from the old statute 23 2.4 to the new? Two is what happens in state court? Three is what about the SG's brief in 25

- 1 Olmsted in 2001? Does that capture it?
- 2 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Footnote 8 would
- 3 be useful too, but --
- 4 MR. DVORETZKY: Okay. I'll -- I'll
- 5 bake that -- bake that into state court.
- 6 All right. So, starting with the
- 7 first question, didn't Congress just carry over
- 8 the concept of rescission, if that is what
- 9 Congress would have wanted -- wanted to do, it
- 10 would have been easy enough for Congress to
- 11 keep the word "void." "Void" was really the
- 12 linchpin of this Court's opinion in -- in TAMA.
- 13 And whether or not the opinion in TAMA is the
- 14 correct result under the Sandoval framework,
- what the Court thought in TAMA was that "void"
- 16 had a particular connotation. There were
- 17 particular customary incidents, I think was the
- 18 phrase in TAMA, about what "void" means. And
- 19 it was that essential term that Congress took
- out of 47(b), and not only took out that one
- 21 term, it really rewrote the whole structure.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But it put in the
- 23 term "rescission." Keep going.
- 24 MR. DVORETZKY: It -- it did put in
- 25 the term "rescission," which can be a

- 1 consequence of unenforceability, but by -- it
- 2 came up with this whole new construct that
- 3 tells you, first, all of this is only triggered
- 4 when you have unenforceability, which,
- 5 according to the treatises, according to
- 6 Corbin, according to Williston, according to
- 7 the Restatement, that is an inherently
- 8 defensive concept that's at contrast with what
- 9 this Court thought "void" meant in TAMA, which
- 10 was you have an affirmative right to go to
- 11 court.
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Why -- why don't
- 13 you go -- sorry. Why don't you go to the state
- 14 court and, you know, how does this play out in
- 15 state court? I've tried to go through this.
- 16 It strikes me as very bizarre. "Anomalous" was
- 17 the word that the Court used in Transamerica.
- 18 I'll -- I'll use "bizarre" to figure out how
- 19 this would play out in state court and why.
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: So I think it's a
- 21 complicated question, what happens in state
- 22 court, which I don't think you need to -- to
- 23 decide here. I don't think that's what
- 24 presented here, but --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, I mean,

- 1 you're telling us go to state court, not
- 2 federal court. We should have some idea what's
- 3 going to happen in state court and why. Why
- 4 are we going to state court for this?
- 5 MR. DVORETZKY: So I think that if
- 6 Saba tried to do in state court what it tried
- 7 to do here in federal court, first, I'm not
- 8 aware of any state cause of action anywhere
- 9 that would actually let them go in as a matter
- of state law and seek rescission in this way.
- 11 So I don't know that it could ever even,
- 12 practically speaking, come up in state court.
- No party has -- "no party," no pun intended --
- 14 to this litigation --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Yeah.
- 16 MR. DVORETZKY: -- has pointed to any
- 17 case that is on point for that. If there were
- 18 such a statute, I think that it would be
- 19 preempted by the comprehensive scheme that
- 20 Congress enacted in 47(b). Congress intended
- 21 for there to be uniform nationwide rules about
- 22 how to determine -- about what happens when a
- 23 contract violates the ICA, and that ended up as
- 24 the subject of litigation.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I thought you

- 1 wanted it to be a federal rule of decision
- 2 in --
- 3 MR. DVORETZKY: I'm sorry?
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I thought you
- 5 wanted it to be a federal rule of decision in a
- 6 state court proceeding even if brought
- 7 defensively. No?
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: So -- so I think this
- 9 issue can come up in state court in that
- 10 limited circumstance.
- 11 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And it would be a
- 12 federal rule of decision?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Where it is is a
- 14 federal rule of decision.
- 15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay.
- MR. DVORETZKY: But -- but --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Why don't you go
- 18 to the SEC brief. Sorry.
- MR. DVORETZKY: So, on the SEC
- 20 brief --
- 21 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I'm using too
- 22 much --
- 23 MR. DVORETZKY: -- I'll let
- 24 Mr. Schulman address it in more detail, but
- 25 I -- but I think the --

1 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, they refer 2 to it as an express right of action. 3 MR. DVORETZKY: So, first --4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Or express remedy. 5 MR. DVORETZKY: -- that was 6 essentially dicta in an amicus brief because 7 the case, Olmsted, did not itself even present 8 the question of whether there was a right of 9 action in 47(b). 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay. Thank you. 11 MR. DVORETZKY: Not the most carefully 12 considered statement by the government. 13 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Really? Okay. Well --14 15 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, and -- and --16 and if -- if I might -- if I might just add --17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you know that? 18 Or are you just --19 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, if I might just 20 add, I think they have said that in the wake of 21 Sandoval, which had come out just shortly 22 before that Olmsted brief, they've 23 reconsidered --24 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Seven -- seven

months before, I think, but yeah.

1 MR. DVORETZKY: But -- but not just 2 Sandoval. This Court's cases applying Sandoval, in Stoneridge and the later cases, 3 showing that this Court really meant something 4 5 like a clear statement rule --6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you. Thank 7 you. 8 MR. DVORETZKY: -- and that this 9 action would have been satisfied. 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice 11 Barrett? 12 JUSTICE BARRETT: Just one follow-up 13 question to Justice Kavanaugh. How might this 14 play out in federal court in a diversity case? 15 Could there be a declaratory judgment for 16 breach of contract relying on that state law 17 cause of action? MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I don't think 18 19 there could be. I think for much the same 20 reason that Congress intended this to be a 21 uniform scheme that would preempt state law, it 22 would also displace the ability to bring a 23 declaratory judgment action. It could be used 24 and, in fact, is intended to be used as a rule

of decision in federal court if it comes up

- 1 defensively.
- 2 In a situation, let's say
- 3 hypothetically, where a fund has a dispute with
- 4 the advisor over the payment of fees, and a
- 5 defense to that could be, well, wait a minute,
- 6 actually, the contract was never valid in the
- 7 first place or is unenforceable because it
- 8 somehow violated the ICA. That might come up
- 9 as a defense in that kind of a suit between a
- 10 fund and an advisor, whether it's in federal or
- 11 state court.
- 12 JUSTICE BARRETT: Is that necessary to
- 13 your argument? If we -- if we think that
- 14 rescission isn't just a defense, then do you
- lose on the cause of action point?
- MR. DVORETZKY: No, because even if
- 17 rescission conceptually can be something other
- 18 than a defense, this statute doesn't create the
- 19 right to go to court for all of the reasons
- that we've been discussing. It doesn't say an
- 21 action may be brought. It is court-focused,
- 22 not -- not focused -- doesn't have the
- 23 unmistakable focus on creating individual
- 24 rights that this Court's cases require.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice

- 1 Jackson?
- 2 JUSTICE JACKSON: So can I just get
- 3 back to Justice Sotomayor's questions about the
- 4 legislative history? I understand -- I
- 5 understand your point about Sandoval and moving
- 6 away from legislative history in general, but
- 7 do -- do you agree that Sandoval said that
- 8 statutory intent is determinative of this
- 9 issue?
- 10 MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I don't think the
- 11 intent is determinative. I think the text that
- 12 Congress enacted is determinative and
- 13 obvious --
- 14 JUSTICE JACKSON: Isn't that what
- 15 Sandoval said? Statutory intent "is
- 16 determinative" when it comes to figuring out
- 17 whether Congress implied a cause of action?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Sure, but there's
- 19 a -- statutory intent.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Right.
- 21 MR. DVORETZKY: So the question is
- 22 what -- what -- how is the intent reflected --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Correct.
- 24 MR. DVORETZKY: -- in the words that
- 25 Congress enacted.

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: Correct. So
2	but but the goal is that we're trying to
3	figure out what Congress intended. And so I
4	appreciate that some people look only at the
5	text and structure in context to figure that
6	out, but you did in your argument here refer to
7	TAMA and the enactment history and the extent
8	to which you think that Congress wasn't
9	incorporating the same kinds of ideas that we
10	indicated in TAMA. So there is some there's
11	something to your argument that is about the
12	statutory development here and not just the
13	text, right?
14	MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I think, if we
15	never had TAMA
16	JUSTICE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.
17	MR. DVORETZKY: I'd be making the
18	same argument about what $47(b)(1)$ and $(b)(2)$
19	means. The argument about TAMA is because I
20	understand and understood from Justices Tom
21	Justice Thomas's first question
22	JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah.
23	MR. DVORETZKY: that that is really
24	the linchpin of the other side's argument.
25	JUSTICE JACKSON: Of the other side.

1 MR. DVORETZKY: They start with that 2 and they say it's carried through. And so I'm 3 responding to that by saying --4 JUSTICE JACKSON: I see. MR. DVORETZKY: -- no, it's not 5 6 carried through because Congress changed the 7 key language. But, even without that change, 8 I'd be making the same argument about what the 9 language that is in 47(b) means on its face. JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes. And if we --10 11 if we are trying to understand whether it was 12 carried through, you say Congress changed the 13 language and you say don't look at the 14 legislative history to assess that. 15 Is that your position? Because the 16 legislative history refers to TAMA and makes 17 pretty clear, as Justice Sotomayor pointed out, 18 that Congress wanted a implied private right of 19 action in this situation just as we had held in 20 TAMA the year before. So part of your argument does require 2.1 22 us in response to the other side to close our 23 eyes to that -- that part of the context of this. 2.4

MR. DVORETZKY: So -- so I don't think

- 1 it does in light of Sandoval, not only because
- 2 Sandoval says focused on text and structure,
- 3 but Sandoval at 287 to 288 rejected reliance on
- 4 what it called I think contemporary context.
- 5 So it really is a matter of the text.
- 6 But, Justice Jackson, understanding that you
- 7 may wish to look at the legislative history,
- 8 the other thing I'll say about the legislative
- 9 history is that the House report and the Senate
- 10 report that talks about implied right --
- 11 private rights of action is talking about six
- 12 different statutes that were all amended at the
- same time. That's not specific to 47(b). The
- only place in which the reports do specifically
- discuss 47(b), that doesn't mention a private
- 16 right of action at all.
- 17 And so this -- they're --
- 18 JUSTICE JACKSON: So you say it
- doesn't even get us there when we look there?
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: This -- this -- this
- 21 very general legislative history, even if you
- 22 were to look at it contrary to Sandoval --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah.
- 24 MR. DVORETZKY: -- doesn't bear the
- 25 weight that it would need to bear here.

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
2	MR. DVORETZKY: Thank you.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
4	counsel.
5	Mr. Schulman.
6	ORAL ARGUMENT OF MAX E. SCHULMAN
7	FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE
8	SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS
9	MR. SCHULMAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	Most statutes fail the stringent and
12	demanding test to imply a private right of
13	action under this Court's precedents. Section
14	47(b) of the Investment Company Act is no
15	exception to that rule. Its text does not
16	unambiguously create new rights or focus
17	unmistakably on individual plaintiffs.
18	Instead, it references preexisting
19	state law rights and tells courts how to limit
20	them after finding a violation. The ICA's
21	structure confirms that Congress knew how to
22	authorize private suits, as it did expressly in
23	two narrow provisions that do not apply here,
24	while otherwise entrusting broad enforcement
25	authority to the Securities and Exchange

- 1 Commission.
- 2 In contrast to those express rights of
- action, Section 47(b) simply imposes rules of
- 4 decision that apply in cases otherwise properly
- 5 before a court, but it does not implicitly
- 6 authorize commencement of new federal lawsuits
- 7 by anyone who alleges that a contract violates
- 8 any part of the ICA.
- 9 The judgment of the Second Circuit
- 10 should be reversed.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 12 JUSTICE THOMAS: Would you zero in on
- 13 Respondents' argument and use of the
- 14 Transamerica case?
- 15 MR. SCHULMAN: Yes. Thank you. Sc
- 16 I -- I agree with my friend that the
- 17 Transamerica case was focused on the word
- 18 "void" in the Investment Advisers Act. That's
- 19 the key language that it relied on, the
- 20 customary incidents of voidness to imply a
- 21 right of action for rescission. And that's the
- 22 language that Congress removed from the
- 23 Investment Company Act in 1980.
- 24 So that's not the text that's before
- this Court, and I don't think this Court needs

- 1 to question Transamerica at all. This Court
- 2 has a different statute in front of it, and the
- 3 post-1980 ICA does not meet the standard to
- 4 imply --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: If -- if it were,
- 6 Mr. Schulman, suppose that Congress had done
- 7 nothing on the ICA front. Would Transamerica
- 8 control?
- 9 MR. SCHULMAN: We think that would be
- 10 a closer question, but, no, ultimately, I don't
- 11 think it would. I think, as my friend
- mentioned, there are differences between the
- 13 ICA even before 1980 and the Investment
- 14 Advisers Act, such as the fact that there were
- other express rights of action in the
- 16 Investment Company Act. That's something that
- 17 the Transamerica court noted about the advisers
- 18 act. So we think that alone could provide a
- 19 distinction and if it --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Although there were
- 21 express rights of action for damages, and,
- 22 presumably, Congress is considering both of
- 23 these pieces of legislation at the same time,
- they're companion bills. The fact that they
- 25 decided to have damages suits in the one, I

- 1 don't know.
- 2 Like, they -- they knew how to do it.
- 3 They decided to have damages suits in one, not
- 4 in the other, but what does that have to say
- 5 about the -- about the issue that Transamerica
- 6 decided?
- 7 MR. SCHULMAN: Well, I agree with
- 8 my -- what my friend also said that this
- 9 Court's implied right of action cases have not
- 10 drawn a distinction between damages and
- 11 equitable relief, that it's sort of drawn,
- painted with a broad brush in that respect.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: But you would really
- 14 have us take -- look at these two companion
- pieces of legislation passed at the same time
- and say that the exact same language has one
- 17 result in one statute and the other result in
- 18 another statute just because there happens to
- 19 be in one of the statutes private rights of
- 20 action for damages that are essentially
- 21 unrelated?
- MR. SCHULMAN: So --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: That seems like a -- a
- 24 pretty extreme position, honestly.
- MR. SCHULMAN: So I will say that's a

- 1 hypothetical question that this Court doesn't
- 2 need to decide. It obviously doesn't have the
- 3 pre- --
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: But it helps me think
- 5 about it. You know, it helps me figure out,
- 6 like, what's the baseline here.
- 7 MR. SCHULMAN: Sure. So I'll offer
- 8 two things in -- in response to that. I think
- 9 there's another potential distinction between
- 10 the two statutes, which is that the Investment
- 11 Company Act is distinctive among the securities
- laws, even as distinct from the advisers act in
- 13 how intrusively it treads on core matters of
- 14 state law about the internal workings of
- 15 corporations, who can be on a board.
- And so, there, I think there's special
- 17 reason to think that Congress might not have
- 18 been treading into areas traditionally governed
- 19 by state law to the same extent.
- I also think that even if the logic of
- 21 TAMA might suggest the -- the same result for
- the pre-1980 ICA, this Court didn't confront
- it, and this Court, its methodology has evolved
- 24 and if this --
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: It's kind of -- you

- 1 know, it hasn't really. This is several years
- 2 after Cort v. Ash. I think Mr. Clement makes
- 3 this point in his brief. We haven't gotten to
- 4 the rhetorical pitch that we discovered in
- 5 later cases maybe, but -- but the Court had
- 6 made a shift already. This was by the exact
- 7 same people who decided Cort v. Ash. This is
- 8 not an ancien regime case.
- 9 MR. SCHULMAN: So I think TAMA is a
- 10 transitional case. There are certain respects
- in which it more closely resembles the modern
- 12 cases.
- But it also is relying on some of the
- 14 bad old days cases, such as the Kardon case
- from the district court, the Mills case, which
- 16 was really a follow-on to Borak, the epitome of
- 17 the bad old days. So I think it's certainly --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Sandoval specifically
- 19 cites Transamerica in a kind of approving way.
- MR. SCHULMAN: That's true, and I
- 21 think --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Not kind of approving.
- 23 Very approving. Several times.
- 24 MR. SCHULMAN: It -- it cites the
- 25 specific aspects of TAMA that more closely

- 1 resemble the modern cases, the rule statement
- 2 at the beginning about how an implied right of
- 3 action is a question of statutory intent, and
- 4 then it cites the analysis of the damages
- 5 question in 206.
- 6 It conspicuously does not cite the
- 7 portion of the TAMA opinion that is discussing
- 8 whether there's a right to rescission.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: I'll ask you one more
- 10 and then I'll stop. So you said void. And
- 11 you're absolutely right, you know, all the
- 12 language is void, void, void. But I'm
- wondering whether the fact that they changed
- "void" to "unenforceable" has to do with just
- what Justice Kavanaugh was talking about, that
- 16 they have this "unless" clause in there, so
- they basically say, well, not always, it's
- 18 really unless enforcement would be more
- 19 equitable.
- 20 And -- and once you have an unless
- 21 clause, you kind of have to change the word
- 22 "void." You know, like void unless, blah,
- 23 blah, blah. It's just not the way we think of
- voidness, that, like, you can be void and then
- 25 discover you're not void.

1	So so they did change it. They
2	did they did say not always rescission, but
3	they changed it in a way that actually explains
4	why they had to change the word "void," and I'm
5	not sure that you can pin too much on that.
6	MR. SCHULMAN: So I think that that
7	point dovetails with and supports our argument
8	that whatever you think Congress was doing in
9	1980, it was clearly pulling back from and
LO	reacting and saying that it did not want the
L1	full consequences of voidness that Thomas
L2	suggested.
L3	And so we think that's a reason to
L4	suggest that it clearly was contemplating that
L5	more of these contracts would be enforced, and,
L6	you know, certainly, that, I think, dovetails
L7	with our argument that it also doesn't pass the
L8	clear statement to imply a private right of
L9	action.
20	I think there's an important
21	distinction too that the 1980 amendments also
22	amended other provisions of the Investment
23	Advisers Act but did not amend 215 in the
24	advisers act, the key provision in TAMA, which
25	gtill gavg "woid "

1	So I think that's just a very strange
2	way to think that Congress was ratifying the
3	intent, the decision in TAMA as applied to the
4	ICA. If anything, I think that it suggests
5	that Congress was perhaps acquiescing in that
6	result as to the advisers act but saying no, we
7	don't want that result in 47(b) of the
8	Investment Company Act. We're moving away from
9	that.
10	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: What can happen in
11	state court now under your view?
12	MR. SCHULMAN: So so I think all
13	parties agree, and we do too, that it can at
14	least be raised defensively. The party
15	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can it be the
16	"at least" is important. Can it be raised more
17	than defensively in your view?
18	MR. SCHULMAN: So we are agnostic on
19	that for purposes of this case. We agree
20	with
21	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, that's a
22	pretty important thing to be agnostic on.
23	MR. SCHULMAN: Well, so I I
24	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You don't have a
25	view on that, how it's going to play out in

- 1 state court?
- 2 MR. SCHULMAN: So I -- I agree with
- 3 what Petitioners say, that the cases that have
- 4 been cited in the briefs, you know, we haven't
- 5 seen a case brought under a state law cause of
- 6 action, even in the circuits that have not
- 7 allowed --
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, you will
- 9 soon if you prevail here.
- 10 MR. SCHULMAN: I think that's a --
- 11 a -- a fair question, but, you know, the Third
- 12 Circuit has barred express -- has barred a
- private right of action under 47(b)(2) since
- 14 2012, and we haven't seen cases in that
- 15 circuit.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Except there is a
- 17 question, which is federal law trumps state
- 18 law, correct?
- 19 MR. SCHULMAN: Certainly.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And what you're
- 21 suggesting is that Congress thought that it was
- 22 the right of the state to permit bylaws that
- violate the ICA, unless you go to court to
- 24 challenge that practice.
- MR. SCHULMAN: So --

1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Meaning you, the
2	government.
3	MR. SCHULMAN: we do think that the
4	SEC is the primary enforcer, and that's an
5	important
6	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I agree, but what
7	you're suggesting to Justice Kavanaugh is that
8	Petitioner Respondents are barred from going
9	to state law for a declaratory judgment rule.
10	They could go to state law and say this
11	permissible bylaw under this state's rules
12	violates federal law, and federal law trumps.
13	MR. SCHULMAN: So we actually haven't
14	taken a position on whether a declaratory
15	judgment
16	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, that
17	I'm I'm pushing you the way Justice
18	Kavanaugh did.
19	MR. SCHULMAN: Well
20	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do you really
21	think that Congress intended in this language
22	change to permit states to let companies do
23	what they wanted with respect to voting rights
24	and do it until the SE until the SEC acted?
25	MR. SCHULMAN: So I do think that

- 1 Congress intended for the state law remedies or
- 2 causes of action available to be in the first
- 3 instance where parties should turn. And I
- 4 think that, you know, whatever else the 1980
- 5 amendments did --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: State law should
- 7 be where they should first turn. So they go to
- 8 state law and say declare this bylaw invalid
- 9 under federal law. Can they do that or can't
- 10 they?
- 11 MR. SCHULMAN: So I'll just say
- 12 Respondents here are asking for a rescission.
- 13 I don't think that that could be provided in a
- 14 declaratory judgment action. So that's all you
- 15 need to decide this case.
- To the extent there would be a
- 17 hypothetical question about a declaratory
- 18 judgment action, the complaint in this case at
- 19 Pet. App. 36 suggested --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't know what
- 21 else --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Mr. --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- "void" means
- 24 but that.
- 25 MR. SCHULMAN: I -- I'm sorry.

⊥	JUSTICE BARRETI: Please linish.
2	MR. SCHULMAN: That there is not
3	complete diversity among the parties in this
4	case, so I I don't think that would be
5	available here. In another hypothetical case,
6	it's possible, but, certainly, the Declaratory
7	Judgment Act just gives courts discretion, and
8	we think it might not be appropriate for courts
9	to exercise their discretion. But we think
LO	that's a case a issue that this Court can
L1	leave for another day.
L2	JUSTICE BARRETT: I have a question,
L3	Mr. Schulman, about how you understand the
L4	scope of I'll ask in my round robin time.
L5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no,
L6	please.
L7	JUSTICE BARRETT: How you understand
L8	the scope of the cause of action that would be
L9	implied here. You know, as I read TAMA, it was
20	a pretty narrow cause of action because the
21	Court said it was apparent that the two
22	sections were intended to benefit the clients
23	of investment advisors and parties to advisory
24	contracts.
25	Do you understand the cause of action

- 1 that the Respondents are seeking here to sweep
- 2 far more broadly than that?
- 3 MR. SCHULMAN: I do think there's
- 4 potential that it could. You know, the parties
- 5 in this case have a disagreement over what
- 6 "party" means. We don't think that's
- 7 dispositive. And I understand Petitioners to
- 8 agree with that.
- 9 But I do think there's potential that
- 10 Congress could have thought this would be
- 11 disruptive to allow, and that's potentially why
- 12 it made that change in 1980 to the extent this
- 13 Court --
- 14 JUSTICE BARRETT: Because it could be
- any contract. Putting aside the parties point,
- it's not just focused on a particular kind of
- 17 contract or a narrow beneficiary or a
- 18 particular statutory provision.
- 19 MR. SCHULMAN: That's exactly right.
- 20 Yes, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Thank you.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I want to
- 23 figure out exactly what we're talking about
- 24 when we're referring to the ancien régime. It
- 25 seems to me that could be understood in two

- 1 different ways. One is if you have a court
- 2 interpreting the statute and relying in its
- 3 interpretation on materials that would not
- 4 necessarily be relied on today, the legislative
- 5 history. I understand that you don't say,
- 6 well, we're going to start all over again and
- 7 reinterpret that statute.
- 8 But, if you have this statute come
- 9 before us today, the fact that there's
- 10 legislative history in it and that the statute
- 11 was passed back in that day, I understood the
- 12 approach of cases like Gonzaga and others to be
- 13 that we think that the best way of
- 14 understanding that statute is to look at the
- 15 text of the statute rather than what some
- legislators from some houses of Congress may
- 17 have thought about it.
- 18 So that's not -- the fact that the
- 19 statute comes from before Sandoval and all is
- 20 not a license to look at -- at what legislative
- 21 history. All that means as I understand it is
- that you don't go back and reinterpret a
- 23 statute you've already interpreted. Is that
- 24 your understanding?
- MR. SCHULMAN: Yes, absolutely. And I

think Sandoval says that the Court will not

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2. revert to the understanding of implied rights 3 of action that was prevailing at the time the 4 statute was passed. This Court applies its 5 current methodology to the cases that come 6 before it. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you. 8 Justice Thomas? 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: No. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito? 10 11 Justice Sotomayor? 12 Justice Kagan? 13 Justice Gorsuch? Justice Kavanaugh? 14 15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Sorry. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah. JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: The SEC brief in 17 2001 referred to it multiple times as an 18 19 express remedy. Do you disagree with that? MR. SCHULMAN: We do. As we say in 2.0 21 our brief, we've reconsidered that position in 22 light of this Court's developing jurisprudence. 23 And I don't think that's the theory on which the Second Circuit ruled either. The Second 2.4 25 Circuit said that there is not an express right

- 1 to sue in 47(b). And so we just think that the
- 2 way this Court analyzes these statutes now, it
- 3 does not provide a right of action.
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You mentioned that
- 5 the SEC can grant exemptions and that would
- 6 create confusion in your brief, right?
- 7 MR. SCHULMAN: We do think there's the
- 8 possibility of that. I -- I do want to say we
- 9 are taking this Court at its word that text and
- 10 structure is what matters, so we're not making
- 11 a policy argument, that you should decide on
- 12 that basis, but we do think there's a
- 13 possibility of that.
- 14 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay. But, if
- 15 there's state court actions, those SEC
- 16 exemptions and the certainty that would grant
- would be out the window anyway, whether it's
- 18 state court or federal court. And you being
- 19 agnostic on the state court thing means that
- 20 argument really just drops out entirely then
- 21 unless you want to take a position on that.
- 22 MR. SCHULMAN: Well, so I'm not sure
- 23 that that's right about exemptions. The
- 24 parties don't really get into this. But I
- 25 think it's at least possible that an exemption

- 1 granted by the SEC is not a simple forbearance
- 2 from prosecution. It's granting an exemption
- 3 from the requirements of the statute that I
- 4 think could apply in state -- private action as
- 5 well. So we don't think it would necessarily
- 6 undermine exemptions in that way.
- 7 The -- the Yahoo litigation is an
- 8 example of litigation over the scope of an
- 9 exemption, but I don't think the parties were
- 10 arguing there that the exemption was not a
- 11 shield in private litigation.
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And from your
- 13 perspective, the Second Circuit's had this rule
- for about seven-ish years, I think, six or
- 15 seven. There have been problems in the Second
- 16 Circuit with the rule?
- 17 MR. SCHULMAN: So there have been an
- increasing number of suits invoking this
- 19 private right of action that we've seen. As I
- say, we're not primarily relying on disruption,
- 21 but the amici do point to things that, from
- their perspective, are disruptive, and we think
- 23 to the extent this Court is concerned --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, how would
- you characterize -- what's -- is it disruption

- 1 just meaning illegality in the contracts as
- 2 being the subject of the suits, or what's the
- 3 disruption?
- 4 MR. SCHULMAN: Well, so I would say
- 5 the disruption is that the SEC is the primary
- 6 regulator in this area. It's in communication
- 7 with regulated parties. It brings enforcement
- 8 actions. It has informal communications with
- 9 parties.
- 10 And then, for private parties to come
- in and seek to upset these contracts that the
- 12 SEC is aware of from these registered
- investment companies, that's -- you know, we
- 14 don't think Congress anticipated that
- 15 necessarily.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 18 Barrett?
- 19 Justice Jackson?
- 20 JUSTICE JACKSON: Is there any
- 21 daylight between you and Mr. Dvoretzky?
- MR. SCHULMAN: I don't think we
- 23 disagree on anything necessary to decide the
- 24 case. As I was attempting to say earlier, we
- haven't taken a position on the argument in

- 1 Petitioners' reply brief about whether there would be preemption of an affirmative state 2. 3 cause of action, but I don't think this Court needs to reach that to decide this case. 4 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 7 counsel. 8 Mr. Clement. 9 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL D. CLEMENT 10 ON BEHALF OF THE SABA RESPONDENTS 11 MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and 12 may it please the Court: 13 Having heard the argument to this 14 point, let me emphasize three points. First, I 15 don't really think this is an implied cause of 16 action case at all. There's express text here, there's about 150 words in 47(b), and the 17 18 question is what's the best reading of that 19 statutory text. 2.0 I think, if you look at the actual 21 statutory text, it becomes clear that Congress 22 couldn't have possibly wanted to get rid of the
- 25 In (b)(1), it adds not just the word

23

24

rescission action it would have understood

there to be in the "shall be void" language.

"unenforceability," which, if that were it. 1 2. might be different. But it says "unenforceable 3 by either party," which is very close to a synonym to "void." And probably the reason 4 5 that Congress used the synonym and not "void" 6 is precisely the one Justice Kagan suggested, 7 which the "unless" clause looks a little uneasy with the word "void" but works better with 8 9 "unenforceability by either party." 10 But, in all events, (b)(2) uses 11 "rescission by any party." So it makes it 12 express. That's why the SEC had this exactly right in the Bush administration, that this is 13 14 an express cause of action case. And then 15 (b)(3) should not be ignored either because it 16 addresses two secondary questions that can arise with a right to rescission, namely, 17 severability and whether you get unjust 18 19 enrichment. 2.0 Now I know better than anybody that 21 not everybody at this Court likes to look at 22 legislative history, but if you're going to 23 look at anything, look at what Congress said 24 specifically about adding this particular provision, and that's on page 27 of the House 25

- 1 report. The identical language appears at page
- 2 10 of the Senate report. So you have
- 3 bicameralism without presentment.
- 4 What it says these words are meant to
- 5 do is they -- "they are designed to provide
- 6 clearer statutory guidance in interpreting that
- 7 equitable rescission remedy." They are
- 8 talking -- that equitable rescission remedy is
- 9 their reference to Section 47. So it is
- 10 crystal-clear if you're going to look at that
- 11 report that they were not trying to make the
- 12 rescission remedy go poof. They were trying to
- 13 refine it.
- 14 The last thing I was going to say is
- this is a weird case, because all three parties
- 16 agree that this language does more than just
- 17 create a statutory right enforceable only by
- 18 the SEC.
- The only question is whether it
- 20 weirdly or anomalously, to use the Footnote 8
- 21 term, is only enforceable by -- in state court
- or whether you can bring it directly in federal
- 23 court.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 25 JUSTICE THOMAS: What would a -- a

- 1 state law action look like where you could
- 2 raise it as a defense?
- 3 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I have no idea,
- 4 but let me speculate. And that's all I'm doing
- 5 is speculating.
- I think, for starters, we could
- 7 probably just go in and say we have a common
- 8 law right to bring an equitable rescission
- 9 action. I can -- I can cite sort of Story on
- 10 equity, that just in the old equity courts you
- 11 could go in and demand they bring a deed in or
- 12 a contract in and you could seek rescission of
- 13 it.
- 14 So if federal law provides sort of the
- 15 -- the substantive law for the vessel of that
- 16 equitable rescission action, which is what I
- 17 thought the S -- I thought the government was
- 18 kind of at least not foreclosing, I mean, I
- 19 think that's one way to do it.
- Obviously, the "at least" language is
- 21 right. We all agree that you could at least
- 22 raise it as a defense in a breach of contract
- 23 action. But keep in mind, that'd be a very
- 24 weird thing for Congress to go to all the
- 25 trouble of saying that in this context we care

- 1 enough about compliance with the Investment
- 2 Company Act that we're going to expressly use
- 3 the words "rescission by any party," but the
- 4 only time you can bring it is as a defense to
- 5 a breach of contract action, which in this
- 6 context would mean an action where the fund
- 7 managers actually go to the trouble of suing
- 8 their own shareholders for breach of contract.
- 9 Now, as far as we can tell, that
- 10 essentially never happens. And the whole point
- of the Investment Company Act is to protect the
- 12 shareholders against fund managers who have all
- 13 kinds of bad incentives, like in this case
- where they say, you know, if you get more than
- 15 10 percent of the shares and you're going to
- tell us that we should do things differently
- 17 and get this fund to be closer to net asset
- 18 value, well, guess what, anybody over
- 19 10 percent, you don't get to vote anymore. I
- 20 mean, that's a clear violation of 18(i) of the
- 21 Investment Company Act.
- 22 So there's no way the fund here is
- going to sue my clients for breach of contract.
- 24 So under their theory, this language that
- 25 Congress went to all this trouble to add is

- 1 basically nugatory.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, you
- 3 cited the House report and then you said this
- 4 is what Congress said. Did Congress pass the
- 5 House report?
- 6 MR. CLEMENT: Of -- of course they
- 7 didn't, Your Honor. And I -- and -- and
- 8 obviously, a little bit loose in that language.
- 9 But not everybody looks at House reports and
- 10 Senate reports. If you don't look at them,
- 11 just ignore it. But if you ever look at these,
- when you have the same language in the House
- 13 report and the Senate report, and they're
- 14 explaining what they are trying to accomplish
- by the changes to this precise provision, my
- 16 friend on the other side said there's the
- 17 language that we were -- talked about that's
- 18 about a page later in the House report and the
- 19 Senate report that says that the Congress of
- 20 1980 liked implied causes of action more than
- 21 the court in 1979 liked implied causes of
- 22 action.
- I don't think that's the language to
- 24 focus on. It's helpful to us. But the
- 25 critical language is a page before where they

- 1 say what we are trying to do -- and the "we"
- 2 here is the House and the Senate, not
- 3 Congress -- but what we are trying to do here
- 4 is to provide clearer statutory guidance in
- 5 interpreting an equitable rescission remedy.
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And why did they
- 7 need --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel --
- 9 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Go ahead.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: We've put you in a
- 11 difficult spot, because you usually advocate
- 12 against statutory history, but this is not an
- individual legislator at a hearing or on a
- 14 Senate floor making a statement, correct? This
- is the Senate and House reports that accompany
- 16 the bill.
- 17 MR. CLEMENT: That -- that's exactly
- 18 right.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Now,
- 20 to the extent -- isn't there a difference
- 21 between citing to something like that as
- 22 opposed to citing to ad hominem statements by
- 23 senators --
- MR. CLEMENT: I totally --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- at a committee

- 1 hearing somewhere else?
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Totally agree, Your
- 3 Honor. I mean there is --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: For those that look at
- 6 it, there is a hierarchy of legislative
- 7 history, and House reports and Senate reports
- 8 are towards the top.
- 9 But I do want to be clear that I read
- 10 every member of this Court as being willing to
- 11 look at not legislative history but statutory
- 12 history --
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Statutory history.
- 14 MR. CLEMENT: -- and the evolution of
- 15 a statute. And, indeed, Justice Scalia, who
- 16 didn't like legislative reports, even House
- 17 reports very much, one of the things he looked
- 18 at is kind of the evolution of a statute. And
- 19 he found -- this is the Gwinnett County case,
- another case where he favorably cited TAMA, if
- 21 you're trying to keep track of that -- and in
- 22 Gwinnett County he dealt with a situation where
- 23 the text of the statute didn't have an express
- 24 cause of action. But Congress, in a later
- 25 statute, expressly waived the state's 11th

- 1 Amendment immunity.
- 2 And what Justice Scalia said in that
- 3 case is: Uncle. You got me.
- I mean, at the point that you're
- 5 addressing secondary questions that presuppose
- 6 the existence of a cause of action, even if
- 7 there is not an express cause of action, I am
- 8 going to agree that there is a cause of action.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you can --
- 10 MR. CLEMENT: And that's --
- 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: Can I --
- 12 MR. Clement: -- what we have here.
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- look at the
- 14 statutory context to --
- MR. CLEMENT: Yeah.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- figure that
- 17 out.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Can take you back to
- 19 the language?
- MR. CLEMENT: Sure.
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: So I start from the
- 22 baseline that if Congress had done nothing and
- 23 we had decided TAMA, you know, we couldn't
- 24 reach two different results on the same
- 25 statutory language. But, in fact, Congress

- 1 didn't just leave well enough alone. It
- 2 changed a lot.
- 3 And whether you're going to say, you
- 4 know, the void is the question or -- I mean, I
- 5 hate to be simple minded about this, but there
- 6 is a lot of red on this page when you do a
- 7 redline of the TAMA provision and then the
- 8 as-amended provision.
- 9 And I wonder whether that just doesn't
- 10 take TAMA out of the picture and say, now we
- 11 just look at it in the standard way. We say,
- is this language enough to be rights creating?
- MR. CLEMENT: So I think if you look
- 14 at it without TAMA, there's still enough there
- 15 to say that there is an action. So I -- I want
- 16 -- you know, but in terms of the redline, it's
- 17 -- there's a lot of red, but it's all, like,
- 18 red addition. It's not struck out. The three
- words are struck out, "shall be void."
- 20 And they're replaced with 120 words
- 21 that tell you all the details about how this
- 22 rescissionary action is going to proceed. And
- 23 the unless clause is a qualification that
- 24 wasn't there. But it's a qualification that
- 25 presupposes that you can get into court for a

- 1 rescission.
- In fact, (b)(2) is kind of written in
- 3 this backwards way which sort of assumes that
- 4 the rescission is being asked for by the
- 5 plaintiff, and you -- the court shall not deny
- 6 rescission unless it makes a finding.
- 7 And if you want to really get deep
- 8 into the weeds of this, if you trace back the
- 9 proposed language here, it goes back to a
- 10 proposal that was a sort of modeled approach
- 11 to securities law by Louis Loss. And it
- 12 originally said in (b) -- something like
- (b)(1), it said defendant, and in (b)(2), it
- 14 said something like plaintiff.
- 15 And in all events, then you get to
- 16 (b)(3). And (b)(3) answers the kind of
- 17 second-order questions that Congress answered
- in the Title IX context when it said we're
- 19 going to waive the state's sovereign immunity.
- 20 It says --
- 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I guess what
- Justice Kagan is getting at is, all right, when
- 23 Congress says we waived sovereign immunity or
- 24 whatever, it's pretty: Uncle, uncle, uncle.
- 25 Hard to get around that, right? It presupposes

- 1 that there is a cause of action.
- 2 But here the redline is -- takes away
- 3 the words "shall be void" and does a whole lot
- 4 of other things.
- 5 And that implication is not inevitable
- 6 at that stage. And then it really is asking us
- 7 to take one last drink.
- 8 Thoughts?
- 9 MR. CLEMENT: Thoughts. I think it
- is -- once you get to the language that they
- 11 added, 120 words they added, by my rough count,
- 12 they all presuppose that there is an -- a
- 13 rescission remedy available at the instance of
- 14 any party.
- And I do think (b)(3) are the
- 16 functional equivalent of waiving sovereign
- immunity. You're basically answering the
- 18 question of what are we going to do about the
- 19 severability of the valid provisions of the
- 20 contract from the invalid provisions?
- And, oh, by the way, you know, (b)(2)
- 22 talks about partial performance. So there're
- 23 going to be some situations where you rescind a
- 24 contract that has been partly performed. And
- 25 then the question is, if you got some benefit

- 1 from the partial performance by the side that
- 2 you're now rescinding the contract, do they owe
- 3 you, like, 100 bucks for mowing your lawn under
- 4 quantum meruit? And the answer is, yes, you
- 5 get that unjust enrichment --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I appreciate, you
- 7 know, there are interesting complications, some
- 8 of which are befuddling, and -- but it is not
- 9 the unmistakable, there has to be a cause of
- 10 action because otherwise you don't waive
- 11 sovereign immunity from it. And, in fact, the
- language that we relied on isn't here anymore.
- MR. CLEMENT: But -- but its
- 14 functional equivalent is.
- 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Its
- 16 functional equivalent.
- 17 MR. CLEMENT: From what I -- no, but
- 18 when I learned contracts --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I mean, is that our
- 20 test?
- MR. CLEMENT: When I learned contracts
- I was told that unenforceable by either party
- meant void, okay, that they were the same.
- 24 That was different from a voidable contract
- 25 that was only voidable by the party, like, the

- 1 infant or the minor or, you know, the orphan,
- 2 right, you know, that -- so -- so I don't think
- 3 Congress changed this language in any material
- 4 respect except they added the "unless" clause
- 5 to both (b)(1) and (b)(2). And they're
- 6 providing a little equitable play in the
- 7 joints.
- 8 But that makes no sense unless there
- 9 is a rescissionary cause of action. And then
- 10 you get to the rescission by any party, by --
- 11 at the instance of any party, and --
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That's added too,
- 13 right? I mean --
- MR. CLEMENT: That is added too. And,
- 15 you know, the Latin root for that tells you
- that's, like, not just at the request, that's
- 17 the initiation by any party.
- 18 So, you know, I don't know if you want
- 19 to go all the way back to Hale and the
- 20 ecclesiastical courts, but I think any fair
- 21 reading of this, with -- whether or not you
- look at the House report or the Senate report
- 23 that tells you exactly what they were doing,
- 24 but any fair reading of this text --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Why do you think

- 1 --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'll remember that
- 3 next time.
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- they phrased it
- 5 this way, though, the "at the instance of any
- 6 party"? I mean, that's -- that's your hurdle,
- 7 I think. I mean, it also helps you, but the
- 8 hurdle as it's phrased, you know, in the
- 9 language of the court, a court may not deny
- 10 rescission at the instance of any party. And
- 11 so it's kinds of an odd phrasing, I think you
- 12 would acknowledge. Why do you think it came
- 13 out that way?
- 14 MR. CLEMENT: I think it came out that
- 15 way -- I mean, again, the honest --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: What's a theory?
- 17 What's a theory?
- 18 MR. CLEMENT: The honest answer is it
- was based on this Louis Loss's model security
- 20 language that had something like this. And it
- 21 made a little more sense the way it was
- originally written because (b)(1) was a pure
- 23 defense by the defendant, and (b)(2) was
- 24 rescission by the plaintiff. And, as sometimes
- 25 happened, they modified the words a little bit,

- 1 and maybe something gets a little clouded, but
- 2 I don't think it really gets clouded.
- 3 Let's say this for -- for -- for
- 4 starters. If you are trying to say that this
- 5 is only a defense that can only be raised by
- 6 the defendant, the worst phrase in the world
- 7 would be "rescission by any party," I mean,
- 8 because -- because that makes it clear, like,
- 9 it's the plaintiff or the defendant.
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Yeah, how does
- 11 that -- I -- I think I agree with what you
- just said. How does that even play out, do you
- think? I mean, we're getting back to the state
- 14 court action, but --
- MR. CLEMENT: And -- and I'm glad you
- asked about that because, you know, by the time
- my friend is done explaining how this is going
- 18 to play out if you don't have a federal cause
- of action, by my count, he's got implied
- 20 preemption kicking in, so much for textualism,
- 21 but it -- but then I heard today for the first
- time that there's somehow going to be, like,
- 23 implied displacement of the federal Declaratory
- 24 Judgment Act in a case where there's diversity
- 25 jurisdiction? I mean, the circus music is

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1 playing over here.
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- 2 (Laughter.)
- 3 MR. CLEMENT: And you avoid all of
- 4 that, all of that, all of the anomalous result
- from Footnote 8, if you just say, hey, this
- 6 isn't that big a deal, you go in -- and --
- 7 and -- and keep in mind, whatever you decide in
- 8 this case, you are going to be able to go into
- 9 federal court under an equivalent action under
- 10 the Investment Advisers Act and the Exchange
- 11 Act. It's not just TAMA. It's 29(b) of the
- 12 Exchange Act which has the same "shall be void"
- language, happens to actually -- Congress, in
- 14 1938, two years before it passed these
- 15 statutes, it added a statute of limitations to
- 16 "shall be void" language, making clear beyond
- 17 all cavil that that was a cause of action.
- 18 And I think you have a similar thing
- 19 here. By the time they add (b)(2), by the time
- they add (b)(3), that you can only understand
- 21 it --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you understand
- 23 their implied preemption thing? I -- they --
- 24 what were they talking about there?
- MR. CLEMENT: I think they were

- 1 talking about the fact that once you were in
- 2 state court and you raised this as a defense,
- 3 it is a uniform nationwide federal defense that
- 4 would displace any state law that sort of got
- 5 in the way of raising the state defense.
- But, again, to me, when -- when --
- 7 when they're trying to get up here and bang the
- 8 table about, you know, text, text, text, text,
- 9 at the point they're relying on implied
- 10 preemption to make things sort of work in state
- 11 court, I think they've lost the theme. The
- 12 theme is look at the text.
- I'm -- you know, I think this is an
- easy case after TAMA for the reasons we
- 15 discussed, but I take this text straight on,
- 16 and this text -- I mean, rescission at the
- instance of any party, of course --
- 18 JUSTICE BARRETT: But, Mr. Clement,
- any party, if it refers "party" to the
- 20 contract, then it's not crazy language to use.
- 21 I -- I heard you say to Justice Kavanaugh that
- that would be the worst language to use if it
- 23 was a defense, and I assume that you meant
- 24 because you're thinking of parties to the
- 25 litigation? Or did I misunderstand that?

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1
              MR. CLEMENT: No. I think either
 2
      way --
 3
               JUSTICE BARRETT:
                                 Either way.
               MR. CLEMENT: -- it's the worst
 4
 5
      language if what you're saying is it's only a
     defense because then you would say rescission
 6
 7
      by the defendant or rescission as a defense.
 8
      You wouldn't say rescission by any party.
 9
               JUSTICE BARRETT: No, but what if it's
     party to the contract, rescission by either
10
11
     party who wants to get out of the contract, as
12
      opposed to party to the litigation?
13
              MR. CLEMENT: But -- but, again, I
14
      mean, you would say -- you would say rescission
15
     by the defendant or rescission by -- you know,
16
      as a defense. You wouldn't say rescission by
      any party. Rescission by any party sort of
17
      suggests that either, you know, the -- the
18
19
     prince -- you know, both principals to the
2.0
      contract could raise -- raise the issue.
2.1
               And so it -- like, I just don't
22
     understand.
                   If you were saying it's only a
23
     defense, why would you say rescission by any
24
      party? Especially because keep in mind -- and
25
      I'm going to give you an old chestnut here --
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- 1 Ward against Sherman, a 1912 case from this
- 2 Court, which described rescission as an
- 3 affirmative remedy. So, like, the idea --
- 4 like -- and -- and this Court said as much in
- 5 TAMA without citing my chestnut, that --
- 6 that -- that in -- in TAMA, like we could say
- 7 you can raise voidness or rescission as a
- 8 defense, but we've never thought of it as being
- 9 only a defense. The customary incident of
- 10 voidness includes an affirmative right to
- 11 rescission.
- 12 And one way to think about this and
- the way I think about this, and I think it's
- 14 the way the SEC was thinking about this in
- 15 2001, is TAMA probably is fairly described as
- finding an implied right to rescission because
- it had to get from the word "voidness" to the
- 18 incidents of voidness, which include
- 19 rescission, which requires a little bit of
- 20 implication.
- I think, after 1980, we're out of
- 22 implied cause of action land. We are into
- 23 express textual references to rescission by any
- 24 party.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: There's an express

- 1 cause of action in the ICA, though. What
- 2 about -- and that's a difference between this
- 3 and the IAA and TAMA, that there is an express
- 4 cause of -- cause of action in this statute.
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: Remember, the party that
- 6 was resisting even an implied right to
- 7 rescission in TAMA raised Sections 30 and 36 of
- 8 the ICA. And they also raised some other
- 9 express causes of action in other provisions of
- 10 the securities law. And they said these --
- 11 this shows you that when they want to do an
- 12 express cause of action, they know how to do
- 13 it.
- 14 And that didn't deter the majority in
- 15 TAMA, which, of course, included Justices
- 16 Rehnquist and Justice Powell from finding the
- 17 rescission remedy. And, of course, that
- decision -- you know, there's -- there's the
- 19 transition from, yes, we're finding a
- 20 rescission remedy to, no, we're not finding a
- 21 damages remedy. And the Court says it's quite
- 22 different. So, in TAMA, they expressly
- 23 considered the same causes of action for
- 24 damages, and it didn't -- in -- in the ICA, and
- it didn't stop them from inferring a rescission

- 1 remedy in the IAA.
- 2 And now, like, my friend will tell
- you, well, yeah, but this time they're the
- 4 exact same statute. But that makes very little
- 5 difference in the context of these two
- 6 particular statutes, which were passed the same
- 7 day in the same act of Congress.
- 8 And so -- and, indeed, if anything,
- 9 the argument that was kind of made in TAMA is,
- 10 look, the Investment Company Act, they wanted
- 11 some remedial stuff because they had these two
- damages actions, so they probably would have
- been more forgiving of wanting a rescission
- 14 action.
- So I just don't think you can get
- 16 there from that. I think TAMA got it right on
- 17 the rescission, but it was by implication. I
- think, after 1980, it's no longer even by
- 19 implication. And that's, I think, what the SEC
- 20 was saying in 2001 when they said -- and, you
- 21 know, dictum, I don't know -- I didn't know
- 22 amicus briefs could have dictum, but they said
- 23 it six times. So it was a pretty considered
- 24 position.
- 25 And, by the way, it was all in service

- of getting the Second Circuit not to come up
- with an implied damages remedy. The SEC told
- 3 the Second Circuit: You don't have to do that
- 4 because there is an express remedy in the
- 5 statute.
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That's the same as
- 7 TAMA then, right?
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: What's that?
- 9 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That's the same as
- 10 Transamerica: Don't have the damages remedy;
- 11 just have the rescission.
- MR. CLEMENT: Yes, exactly.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And that was --
- MR. CLEMENT: And I will say this. I
- 15 mean, you know --
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: They were 9-0 on
- the rescission and 5-4 on the damages, right?
- MR. CLEMENT: They were -- exactly.
- 19 Exactly. And --
- 20 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But -- but can
- 21 I -- well, keep going. Sorry.
- MR. CLEMENT: Yeah, I'd just like to
- 23 make this point about this, which is, like,
- there's a huge difference between a damages
- 25 action, which is going to attract all sorts of

- 1 litigation, and a rescission action, which is
- 2 about the most targeted kind of relief you can
- 3 get. And there just isn't a lot of money in
- 4 most cases in rescission.
- 5 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, but this is
- 6 what I was going to ask. The amicus briefs say
- 7 if we agree with -- some of the amicus briefs
- 8 on the other side, in addition to Petitioners
- 9 and the SEC, I think, used phrases like
- 10 "chaos," "disruption," kind of tossed those
- 11 around. So I want to -- you know --
- 12 MR. CLEMENT: I'm -- I'm glad you
- 13 asked. So let's --
- 14 (Laughter.)
- 15 MR. CLEMENT: -- let's start with the
- last six years in the Second Circuit, okay? I
- 17 eventually want to talk about history going
- 18 back to the Exchange Act in 1935 and the
- 19 Investment --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Let's just go to
- 21 the last six years.
- MR. CLEMENT: Let's just go to the
- last six years.
- 24 (Laughter.)
- MR. CLEMENT: Now I would say, in most

- 1 circumstances, just six years in one circuit,
- 2 not that big a deal. But, in a financial case,
- 3 six years in the Second Amendment -- in the
- 4 Second Circuit is --
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 MR. CLEMENT: Freudian. Six years in
- 7 the Second Circuit is a long time. And I
- 8 looked at those amicus briefs, and I actually
- 9 tracked down what's happened in the Second
- 10 Circuit. As far as I can tell, there's really,
- 11 like, two sets of litigation. There's the
- 12 litigation my clients are bringing. And I
- think we're on the side of the angels trying to
- 14 liberate shareholders and increase net asset
- 15 value, okay, so -- so I'll defend those to
- 16 the -- to the end.
- 17 The other cases I found, there are
- 18 three cases they cite that involve challenges
- 19 to SPACs, okay? Here's what actually happened
- 20 in those cases. Those three SPACs, like,
- 21 raised a bunch of money thinking they had some
- 22 great new idea, and then that idea sort of
- 23 petered out, and they hung on to their money
- for, like, 18 months. And at that point,
- 25 somebody said, geez, this looks like an

- 1 unregulated investment company because they're
- 2 holding on to all this money for purposes of
- 3 investment and they haven't done anything with
- 4 it. And so they brought that action.
- 5 The SEC -- I think it was in the last
- 6 administration, but the SEC looked at it and
- 7 said, yeah, actually, this is a problem. And
- 8 then they created a new rule that says you
- 9 basically have 18 months when you have a SPAC
- 10 before you need to actually take those funds
- and invest them. Otherwise, you either got to
- 12 give the money back or you got to, you know,
- satisfy all the requirements for an investment
- 14 company. And then those cases settled
- 15 favorably to the plaintiffs.
- 16 And that's it as far as I could tell.
- 17 That's -- that's -- that's the floodgates have
- 18 opened. And I think the reason for that -- and
- 19 then, of course, we've had rescission actions
- 20 under the Exchange Act since 1935. I don't
- think there's been a moment under the Exchange
- 22 Act where courts didn't think there was a cause
- of action for rescission under the Exchange
- 24 Act.
- In 90 years, floodgates have not

- 1 opened. Now why is that? Because there's just
- 2 not the same money in rescission that there is
- 3 in a damages action.
- 4 And, by the way, like, rescission
- 5 isn't even as forceful a remedy as an
- 6 injunction. You know, under injunction, you
- 7 can run a prison, right? Like rescission, all
- 8 you can do is take this one contract and a
- 9 severable provision of the contract if you look
- 10 at (b)3, take this one provision of the
- 11 contract and you knock it out.
- Now, there are circumstances like this
- 13 case where doing so is incredibly important,
- 14 but it's just not going to attract the
- 15 plaintiffs bar or this flood of cases or --
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Does that make it
- any more acceptable for us to imply a cause of
- 18 action? Does it matter? Do we have any more
- 19 power to imply a modest cause of action as
- opposed to a substantial one? And, if so, what
- 21 standard do we use to tell the difference?
- MR. CLEMENT: So I don't think at the
- 23 end of the day --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And again, is this
- 25 another -- is this another --

- 1 MR. CLEMENT: But I'm asking you to
- 2 ex -- ply. I'm just asking you to imply --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, your -- your
- 4 brief says it's one thing to imply damages.
- 5 And it's another thing to imply rescission.
- 6 It's right out of your brief.
- 7 MR. CLEMENT: Yeah. And I think that
- 8 fairly describes what the Court was thinking in
- 9 TAMA. And --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But I'm just asking
- 11 you, do you -- is it your position that you
- 12 think it's okay to imply rescission but not
- damages?
- MR. CLEMENT: I don't actually. But,
- 15 but -- but --
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. I wouldn't --
- 17 I'm glad to hear it.
- 18 MR. CLEMENT: Yeah. But -- but I do
- 19 think there are circumstance we're looking at
- 20 the same text.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I understand --
- MR. CLEMENT: Yeah, okay. Okay --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- your argument
- 24 about text.
- MR. CLEMENT: -- okay.

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1
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: I just -- I just --
              MR. CLEMENT: And -- and I do think --
 2
 3
     but I will say this: I don't think it's okay,
     but it is less disastrous to do it. I mean,
 4
     because I do think, particularly with the
 5
 6
      rescission --
 7
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Less disastrous
 8
      for -- for -- for private litigants, perhaps,
 9
     but pretty disastrous for -- for our system of
     government where the people are supposed to
10
11
     write the laws that govern them, not judges.
12
              MR. CLEMENT: Yeah, I get it. But --
13
     but -- but --
14
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: You get it, the
15
      separation of powers might be disastrous?
16
               (Laughter.)
17
               MR. CLEMENT: No, I get it, I get it,
18
     but look -- at the end of the day look at their
19
     position. They have the same separation of
2.0
     powers problems and now they have huge
21
      federalism problems because they admit
      this isn't -- this isn't the normal --
22
23
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm talking about
24
      implied causes of action. And it seems to me
25
     you've -- you've acknowledged that it would be
```

- 1 bad -- well, not okay at least for us to imply
- 2 any cause of action.
- 3 MR. CLEMENT: And you don't have to do
- 4 it here.
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I've got you.
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Because it refers
- 7 to rescission, right? I mean, that's --
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: It does. Rescission by
- 9 any party.
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Rescission is in
- 11 the text.
- 12 MR. CLEMENT: Right. This is not a
- 13 one last swig.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Mr. --
- MR. CLEMENT: This is look at this
- 16 text. This text says rescission --
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So it's a federal
- 18 court, state court issue as I see it. Like
- 19 this is going to happen. It's just going to
- 20 happen in federal court or state court.
- Now, they say -- they cite Thompson a
- lot so you need to respond to Thompson.
- Obviously that's on the kidnapping child
- 24 custody situation, state courts -- deal with
- Thompson.

1 MR. CLEMENT: Please. So first of 2 all, let me -- let me -- can I -- can I start with the dissent. 3 Justice Scalia, Thompson, another case 4 5 where he cites TAMA favorably in his -- yeah, it's -- it's a concurrence, it's a concurrence, 6 sorry, but he cites TAMA favorably in the 7 8 concurrence. Now, I wouldn't overread the 9 majority opinion in Thompson. Thompson is a majority opinion --10 11 In Thompson, yeah. JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: 12 MR. CLEMENT: Am I -- I Thompson. 13 would not overread the majority opinion in Thompson because Thompson finds no cause of 14 15 action in the Parental Kidnapping Act and it's 16 an easy case. I mean, the majority opinion is written by Justice Marshall. 17 Talk about sort of the anti-Scalia 18 19 when it comes to being comfortable with implied 2.0 causes of action but even he doesn't find one 21 in the parental kidnapping act. 22 Now, here's why. That statute was 23 passed as essentially pursuant to Congress's 24 power to implement the full faith and credit 25 clause. And in that context, a statute that is

- 1 addressed to the courts is almost certainly
- 2 assuming that you've already got a judgment
- 3 under some other cause of action and the
- 4 question for the courts is, should the courts
- 5 give full faith and credit to that earlier
- 6 action.
- 7 And in that context, to try to go into
- 8 court and affirmatively use this full faith and
- 9 credit statute, to have a cause of action, an
- 10 initial cause of action is a complete misfit.
- 11 That's why it's nine-zip against that.
- But I think it would be a huge mistake
- to say that a provision directed to the courts
- is somehow a strike against something being an
- 15 express cause of action because, actually, if
- 16 you're thinking not about the questions under
- 17 1981, where 1981 provides the vessel and this
- is just the statute that affects individual
- 19 rights.
- When you're actually talking about
- 21 something that may very well be and in my view
- is an express cause of action, it's not at all
- 23 anomalous to refer to the courts in that
- 24 because the courts are the ones that are going
- 25 to administer the cause of action.

1	So it doesn't make any difference
2	whether you say the courts shall not deny
3	rescission unless or if you have, say, a party
4	has a right to rescission in court unless the
5	court like, they're the same thing. So
6	it you know, it is a strike and I and I
7	don't don't want to be misunderstood about
8	this. Like it is a strike against the statute
9	in the 1981 case if it were directed to the
LO	courts and not to the private party.
L1	But when you have something like this,
L2	where the question is, is 47(b) an express
L3	cause of action, then the fact that it talks
L4	about the courts is not a strike against it.
L5	It's pretty normal to say that an express cause
L6	of action is going to be directed to the
L7	courts. The courts are the ones that are going
L8	to apply it.
L9	And let's hope it's the federal
20	courts. I mean I have to say, like, at the end
21	of the day, I think if my friends on the other
22	side win this case but win it on the grounds
23	that all these things have to go to state
24	court, they're going to rue the day.
25	I mean from the perspective of what

- they care about, disrupting the SEC's
- 2 enforcement actions and all of that kind of
- 3 stuff, like the one thing worse than having the
- 4 occasional rescission remedy in federal court
- 5 is 50 state courts going on and interpreting
- 6 the Investment Company Act on a routine basis.
- 7 And that's the world they envision.
- 8 Or, you know, in fairness to
- 9 Petitioners, what they really envision is that
- 10 they're going to interpret this into nothing.
- 11 And so all this 120 words about rescission by
- any party is never going to happen because no
- investment company is ever going to actually go
- 14 to the trouble of sharing its -- suing its
- 15 shareholders for breach of contract --
- 16 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: One -- one comment
- more for Petitioner on rebuttal but I'll get it
- out there, is that Thompson does make clear
- 19 then in the context of custody determinations
- 20 and full faith and credit, it's a mandate
- 21 directed to state courts, which, you know, I'll
- just throw that out there.
- MR. CLEMENT: Yeah. No, no. And
- 24 again in the full faith and credit context,
- 25 which is a very specific context where like,

- 1 yeah, you're telling the courts what their
- 2 directions are about giving sort of credit to
- 3 judgments that you assume have already happened
- 4 in some other court, and in that context it's
- 5 custody. So of course it's going to be state
- 6 court.
- But, you know, again, that was -- that
- 8 argument that was made there was a 9-0 loser in
- 9 an opinion written by Justice Marshall. That's
- 10 not -- that's not the edge case that tells you
- 11 how to interpret every other statute.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: Mr. Clement, I
- thought it interesting in the amicus brief for
- 14 the securities law scholars that they looked at
- 15 the historical context.
- And I don't know to what extent that
- 17 matters to all of us, but it looks as though
- 18 these -- this language, even the void and they
- say even the amendment really mirrors or tries
- 20 to incorporate the state Blue Sky laws and the
- 21 sort of pedigree of this is that everybody
- 22 really understood that a private right of
- 23 action was necessary in this kind of context to
- 24 -- for a rescission, in order to aid compliance
- 25 with the state and federal securities laws in

- 1 this way.
- 2 So it was sort of like the background
- 3 under which these types of provisions came into
- 4 being. Do you agree with that perspective?
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I agree with
- 6 that. I think that is a very helpful brief. I
- 7 mean, not everybody is going to give it full
- 8 faith and credit, but I think it's a very
- 9 helpful brief.
- 10 And I think the point at which it
- 11 becomes most helpful is when they sort of
- 12 explain the transition from the state Blue Sky
- laws to the Exchange Act of '34, and Section
- 14 29(b) because that's the first statute that
- used the "shall be void" language. And of
- 16 course, everybody kind of understood, and it
- 17 was quite -- if I can finish?
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- MR. CLEMENT: It was quite
- 20 uncontroversial that 29(b) created a right to
- 21 rescission and that's the -- the same language
- that carried over into the Investment Advisers
- 23 Act in --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 25 counsel.

1	Justice Thomas?
2	Justice Alito?
3	Justice Sotomayor?
4	No? Justice Kagan?
5	Justice Gorsuch?
6	Justice Kavanaugh?
7	Justice Kavanaugh?
8	Justice Barrett?
9	Justice Jackson?
10	Okay, thank you, counsel.
11	Rebuttal, Mr. Dvoretzky?
12	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF SHAY DVORETZKY
13	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS AND BLACKROCK
14	RESPONDENTS SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS
15	MR. DVORETZKY: Thank you, Mr. Chief
16	Justice.
17	I think the colloquy here today shows
18	that this is about the most round-about way
19	that one could write a cause of action. If
20	Congress wanted to create a right to sue here,
21	it could easily have specified who can go to
22	court, for what, whether it's for damages or
23	for rescission, against whom, it didn't do any
24	of those things in this statute.
25	And so what what was Congress

- 1 possibly concerned with here? One thing, we
- 2 know Congress was concerned with the level of
- 3 enforcement and with where it was going to
- 4 happen. We know that because Congress pulled
- 5 back on the rescission remedy by adding the
- 6 balancing requirement and the severance
- 7 requirement and that shows that Congress was
- 8 concerned about over-enforcement.
- 9 Congress in this statute made the SEC
- 10 the primary enforcer of the ICA. It also
- 11 allowed the SEC to grant exemptions which again
- 12 shows that Congress was concerned about
- 13 over-enforcement.
- 14 What Congress didn't try to do in
- 47(b)(2) was create a back door cause of action
- that would allow anybody into court, any -- any
- 17 party to sue over any violation of the ICA
- anywhere.
- 19 With respect to Justice Sotomayor's
- 20 question about how investors could be trapped
- 21 under these impermissible bylaws, one, again,
- the SEC has taken positions on that issue.
- 23 And depending on the presidential
- 24 administration, it's gone both ways. So it's
- 25 the SEC that's the primary enforcer of that.

1	With respect to my friend's comments
2	about closed-end funds who actually are the
3	ones who are the angels here, these closed-end
4	funds are the ones that provide a reliable and
5	important long-term stream of income for
6	retirees and the the strategy on the other
7	side is to acquire a significant share, go in,
8	change the investment strategy of the fund, and
9	then cash out. That's precisely one of the
10	things that Section 1 of the ICA says that
11	Congress was concerned about when it passed
12	this statute.
13	With respect to TAMA, I do think that
14	even even under the pre-1980 version of
15	Section 47(b), this Court today would look at
16	that and reach a different result.
17	I think TAMA, as my friend from the
18	government said, characterized it as a
19	transitional case. The standards up at the
20	front of the opinion, which are what Justice
21	Scalia latched onto, the 206 analysis, spot on.
22	The 215 analysis, reading a lot into
23	"void" relying on Mills, which was a an NCM
24	regime era case, relying on legislative
25	history, not so much. So I I don't think

- 1 that Court would read the statute today in the
- 2 way that TAMA did.
- 3 But critically, again, Congress
- 4 changed the key language that TAMA relied on.
- 5 The three critical words are gone from
- 6 the current version.
- With respect to damages versus
- 8 injunctive relief, Sandoval itself involved
- 9 injunctive relief. The Armstrong case later
- 10 involved injunctive relief as well and the
- 11 separation of powers concerns are the same.
- Justice Kavanaugh, with respect to
- what happens in state court, just to clarify
- 14 the point about preemption, again, I don't
- think you need to decide this here, but I think
- what would be preempted is an affirmative cause
- 17 of action under state law to seek rescission.
- 18 The reason that would be preempted is
- 19 that Congress created a federal rule of
- 20 decision, and the -- the mischief that
- 21 would result, I think, is illustrated in
- 22 particular by the Yahoo case in the Ninth
- 23 Circuit if you wanted to look at that.
- Thank you.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,

1	counsel.									
2		The	case	is	suk	omitte	ed.			
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