

In the

ORIGINAL

Supreme Court of the United States

GLOBE NEWSPAPER COMPANY,

Appellant,

v.

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF

NORFOLK

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No. 81-611

Washington, D. C.

Monday, March 29, 1982

Pages 1 thru 57

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1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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3 GLOBE NEWSPAPER COMPANY, :
4 Appellant, :
5 v. : No. 81-611
6 SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF :
7 NORFOLK :
8 - - - - -x
9 Washington, D. C.
10 Monday, March 29, 1982
11 The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12 argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13 at 1:45 o'clock p.m.
14 APPEARANCES:
15 JAMES F. McHUGH, III, ESQ., Boston, Massachusetts;
16 on behalf of the Appellant.
17 MITCHELL J. SIKORA, JR., ESQ., Special Assistant
18 Attorney General of Massachusetts, Boston,
19 Massachusetts; on behalf of the Appellee.
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We will hear arguments
3 next in Globe Newspaper Company against Superior Court.

4 Mr. McHugh, I think you may proceed whenever
5 you are ready.

6 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAMES F. McHUGH, III, ESQ.,

7 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANT

8 MR. McHUGH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
9 please the Court, the Appellant in this case is the
10 Globe Newspaper Company, publisher of a newspaper called
11 The Boston Globe, which is circulated in the city of
12 Boston and elsewhere throughout New England. We are
13 here today to seek reversal of a judgment of the Supreme
14 Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
15 holding that a Massachusetts statute, General Laws,
16 Chapter 268, Section 16(A), on its face and as applied
17 to the facts of this case constitutes a permissible
18 method for regulating the trial of certain criminal
19 cases.

20 In essence, the statute provides that at the
21 trial of cases involving crimes of sex, the court is
22 required to exclude the press and the public from the
23 courtroom while the minor victim --

24 QUESTION: Do you mean, Mr. McHugh, by
25 required, the fact it is mandated, that no matter what

1 the witnesses may desire, and what the parties may
2 desire, the court must close the courtroom?

3 MR. McHUGH: Precisely, Mr. Justice. That is
4 exactly what the statute says. That is exactly how the
5 Supreme Judicial Court has construed it to read.

6 QUESTION: Then, I am a little puzzled when
7 you reach the proposition you advance that you -- it is
8 not only bad on its face but as applied.

9 MR. McHUGH: Well, if --

10 QUESTION: Now, as applied here, you say that
11 even if the statute were discretionary, you would be
12 here.

13 MR. McHUGH: We would be here on this record.
14 Yes, Mr. Chief Justice.

15 QUESTION: I notice in your brief you suggest
16 that there was no question raised by the complaining
17 witness. Do you think that is quite an accurate
18 characterization of the complaining witness?

19 MR. McHUGH: At the time the closure order was
20 entered, there surely was no question raised by the
21 complaining witness. At the time --

22 QUESTION: What was the complaining witness's
23 position about the matter?

24 MR. McHUGH: It is unclear to me, Mr. Chief
25 Justice, and I think that --

1 QUESTION: I thought it was pretty clear that
2 if her privacy could be guaranteed, then she would have
3 no objection. Now, could her privacy be guaranteed in
4 any other way than what was done here?

5 MR. McHUGH: Well, I don't think her privacy
6 could be guaranteed by what was done here if by privacy
7 we mean disclosure of potentially embarrassing facts,
8 because this statute doesn't reach the problem that is
9 covered by that kind of a situation. Beyond that, I am
10 not sure from what I described as an uninformative, and
11 I think it is an uninformative colloquy that took place
12 in chambers after these orders were entered, precisely
13 what her concerns about privacy were.

14 After all, that colloquy dealt with the
15 prosecutor's representation to the court concerning what
16 the victim them had said to her, the prosecutor. Before
17 that, at the time the hearing took place before a single
18 justice, the representation was that the prosecutor had
19 consulted fully with the victims, and that literally on
20 their behalf the Commonwealth was waiving whatever
21 rights it had under the statute.

22 At most, I would suggest, Mr. Chief Justice,
23 that that colloquy and its dimensions illustrate the
24 critical need for a hearing in cases like this, so that
25 questions like the one you have just asked can be

1 answered on some kind of a factual record which lets
2 people know precisely what is going on and what the
3 precise concerns of the victim are.

4 QUESTION: Yes, but I understood, Mr. McHugh,
5 in your answer to me, it would not -- what was the need
6 for a hearing? As I understood it, the trial judge,
7 under the statute, if he is to follow it, has absolutely
8 no choice. He has to close the courtroom.

9 MR. McHUGH: I agree, and that --

10 QUESTION: I mean, he has to ask reporters, he
11 has to ask the public, he has to ask everyone to get out
12 except the parties. Isn't that right?

13 MR. McHUGH: That's correct, Mr. Justice, but
14 -- and I am not quarreling with that -- with what the
15 Supreme Judicial Court says. That is a reason in our
16 judgment, and we suggest strongly to you that this
17 statute is invalid, and in response to the Chief
18 Justice's questions, I was suggesting that this kind of
19 colloquy and the kinds of problems that are demonstrated
20 by that kind of colloquy illustrate the need for a
21 hearing before some kind of an order of closure can be
22 entered.

23 QUESTION: This statute accordingly is
24 unconstitutional because it makes no provision for such
25 a hearing.

1 MR. McHUGH: That's correct.

2 QUESTION: Suppose he had held a hearing, and
3 explored whatever anyone wanted to explore within
4 reason, and then said, in case anyone thinks this
5 statute is unconstitutional, as being overbroad, I now
6 address the question of whether I would -- what I would
7 do if I read the statute as giving me discretion, and
8 under that discretion I would exclude all persons during
9 this particular component, section of the trial. Would
10 you still be here?

11 MR. McHUGH: I would if that is all we had,
12 Mr. Chief Justice, because I think --

13 QUESTION: So even with discretion, you would
14 challenge.

15 MR. McHUGH: On this record, I would challenge
16 that. Yes, I would, and I think that the reason for
17 challenging it is that, given the fact that there is, as
18 this Court two terms ago said there was, a First
19 Amendment right to attend, then something more than the
20 desire of the victim, standing alone, or a private
21 session has to be demonstrated before the presumptive
22 right of the public to attend can be overborne. Any
23 other view of the matter puts the extent of the press's
24 and the public's First Amendment rights wholly in the
25 hands of someone else, and it seems to me that that is

1 not what this Court has ever interpreted the First
2 Amendment to do.

3 QUESTION: Well, in the case you are referring
4 to, did we not suggest that the right is the right of
5 the public, and the press included as a component of the
6 public.

7 MR. McHUGH: Well, I'm not making any
8 differentiation here between the right of the press and
9 the right of the public. I am content to rest on the
10 rights of the public, but surely the press as a member
11 of the public has no fewer rights under the First
12 Amendment than does the public.

13 QUESTION: As a practical matter, Mr. McHugh,
14 if you are going to preserve the interests that the
15 Commonwealth seeks to preserve here, isn't it either a
16 flat rule or no rule --

17 MR. McHUGH: No, I don't --

18 QUESTION: -- because if you are going to
19 obtain testimony from witnesses in situations like this,
20 isn't the prosecutor going to have to offer them some
21 assurance at the outset that their testimony will be not
22 exposed to the public?

23 MR. McHUGH: Well, it seems to me, Mr. Justice
24 Rehnquist, that you cannot simply achieve, if I
25 understand what the statute is aimed at, a flat rule

1 that simply excludes the public from the courtroom
2 during the victim's testimony. In order to achieve the
3 interests that the Commonwealth apparently seeks to
4 achieve, as I understand those interests, one would in
5 effect have to have a uniform rule closing virtually the
6 entirety of these trials, because if we look at what
7 those interests are, at least as I understand them, it
8 seems to me that the predominant interest is an interest
9 in privacy of some kind.

10 Now, I question whether privacy really is a
11 relevant concept when we are talking about this kind of
12 a proceeding, a criminal proceeding, but assuming that
13 it is, and if we further look at what is inherent in the
14 notion of privacy, we come to the conclusion that what
15 is involved, what the Commonwealth is attempting to
16 protect, is some restriction on the dissemination of
17 potentially embarrassing facts, and that is the element
18 of privacy that we are talking about.

19 QUESTION: The facts that might not be given
20 in evidence were it not for some sort of protection.

21 MR. McHUGH: But -- might not be given in
22 evidence by the victim --

23 QUESTION: Right.

24 MR. McHUGH: -- conceivably, but surely even
25 if given by the victim, are very likely also going to be

1 given by other witnesses during the course of the trial,
2 and --

3 QUESTION: Do you think that is realistic,
4 counsel, in crimes of rape of children or sexual abuse?
5 They don't usually occur in the presence of other
6 witnesses --

7 MR. McHUGH: No.

8 QUESTION: -- and the problem, of course, is
9 trying to make sure that the state as a policy doesn't
10 discourage victims of these crimes from coming forward
11 in the first place and making a complaint simply because
12 of the trauma that they will go through if forced to
13 testify in public about it. Now, how do you balance
14 those interests? I mean, as a practical matter, how do
15 you balance those interests?

16 MR. McHUGH: Well, as a practical matter, it
17 seems to me one has to start first with what the statute
18 does and what it doesn't do, and if one looks at that
19 distinction, one finds that this is a statute in which
20 the names of the victims are part of the public record.
21 They were in this case.

22 QUESTION: Right.

23 MR. McHUGH: In which the rest of the trial is
24 presumptively open, so that any reports given by the
25 victim to police officers, doctors, mothers, fathers

1 friends, and others, are going to be presumptively part
2 of the public trial, in which a transcript is
3 presumptively going to be available to the public at
4 some point, assuming that a transcript some time is
5 prepared.

6 QUESTION: You make a good bit of to do about
7 encouraging victims to come forward. Is there any
8 empirical evidence by way of study that supports that
9 kind of a statement?

10 MR. McHUGH: That this statute encourages
11 victims to come forward?

12 QUESTION: That in fact a statute of this kind
13 does encourage victims to come forth. Has there been
14 any empirical study to that effect?

15 MR. McHUGH: Not of which I am aware, and it
16 seem to me that this is really a leap of faith.

17 QUESTION: How long has this statute been on
18 the books, Mr. McHugh?

19 MR. McHUGH: It has been on the books, Mr.
20 Justice, since 1931, in its present form.

21 QUESTION: That means that for this kind of
22 crime, then, there has never been an open trial in
23 Massachusetts?

24 MR. McHUGH: No, it does not. There are
25 really -- There is not a significant amount of empirical

1 data, survey data, if you will, but we do have some
2 clues. We have a clue -- One clue is a case called
3 Commonwealth versus Blondin, which is cited in the
4 briefs, and which was cited in a footnote in Mr. Justice
5 Blackmun's dissent in Gannett, which was really the
6 first case to construe this statute, in the mid-forties,
7 and that was a statute -- that was a case which put the
8 question whether this statute was constitutional, and in
9 that case, while deciding that it was constitutional, A,
10 because this Court had not yet decided that the Sixth
11 Amendment applied to the states through the Fourteenth,
12 and B, because there is no public trial guarantee in the
13 Massachusetts constitution, the court was -- the Supreme
14 Judicial Court observed that from the trial of that case
15 the press had not been excluded, and went on to raise
16 the question whether indeed the press could be excluded
17 under any constitutional provisions that applied.

18 QUESTION: Of course, this applies only where
19 there is a minor under 18 years of age who is the victim?

20 MR. McHUGH: That is correct.

21 QUESTION: So that there is at least that
22 distinction.

23 MR. McHUGH: No, that --

24 QUESTION: Trials of victims over 18 are open
25 to the public, are they?

1 MR. McHUGH: They are, unless everybody
2 consents to a closure.

3 QUESTION: Like who, you mean the press?

4 MR. McHUGH: That has not been a question
5 which has been tested.

6 QUESTION: Well, I know, but that is --

7 MR. McHUGH: But on its face --

8 QUESTION: So it really -- you are really
9 saying that unless the defense and the prosecution and
10 the judge agree.

11 MR. McHUGH: That's correct, on the face of
12 the statute.

13 QUESTION: But neither the public nor the
14 press would be consulted in that --

15 MR. McHUGH: Well, Mr. Justice, that statute
16 is one which says that the judge may close the trial.

17 QUESTION: Yes.

18 MR. McHUGH: It does not, like this statute,
19 require him to do so if everybody agrees.

20 QUESTION: I know. I know, but the judge
21 could close it without consulting either the press or
22 the public if prosecution and defense agreed.

23 MR. McHUGH: On the face of the statute, but I
24 suggest to you that that would raise itself questions --

25 QUESTION: Well, it may, but the --

1 MR. McHUGH: -- but at least that's what the
2 statute says.

3 QUESTION: Well, I expect in that circumstance
4 if a reporter for the Globe was asked to leave the
5 courtroom, we might have a test of that, might we not?

6 MR. McHUGH: I can't predict the future, Mr.
7 Justice.

8 QUESTION: Mr. McHugh, maybe I missed it, but
9 at this hearing you want, would the press be barred from
10 that?

11 MR. McHUGH: I think that that would have to
12 be a decision made on a case by case basis. In the
13 main, I would think there would be --

14 QUESTION: I mean, I would think it would be
15 like a voir dire hearing. It could be in the judge's
16 chambers.

17 MR. McHUGH: Well, that's conceivable. On the
18 other hand --

19 QUESTION: Well, would that hearing satisfy
20 the First Amendment?

21 MR. McHUGH: Well, if it were held -- a
22 blanket rule saying that all of these preliminary
23 hearings were to be held in camera or in the chambers or
24 out of the public view, it seems to me it would suffer
25 from many of the defects that this present statute

1 suffers from.

2 QUESTION: Right.

3 MR. McHUGH: But I do not --

4 QUESTION: Well, in place of that the rule was
5 that the judge can hold an in camera hearing from which
6 the public is excluded.

7 MR. McHUGH: I am sorry. At the trial or at
8 the preliminary hearing to decide whether the trial was
9 to be open?

10 QUESTION: This is a voir dire that has
11 nothing -- it will not be in the trial at all. It's
12 just like any other voir dire. That is the purpose of
13 it, not being in the trial.

14 MR. McHUGH: Well, that would have to -- I
15 would have difficulty with a statute which said that in
16 blanket fashion, for the same reasons that I think
17 questions --

18 QUESTION: It's like a jurisdiction to
19 determine whether you have jurisdiction.

20 MR. McHUGH: Must be held in public. I think
21 that's right, and I see no problem with that, unless
22 substantial reasons are advanced to support, just as we
23 are suggesting here they should be asserted in
24 particularized fashion to support closure of the
25 criminal trial or a portion of it itself.

1 QUESTION: Mr. McHugh, if the procedure
2 involved were one that were not mandatory, and a hearing
3 would be conducted, would you concede that there are
4 certain circumstances which would justify closing the
5 testimony to the press and public of a minor victim in a
6 sex crime?

7 MR. McHUGH: I would, Justice O'Connor, but I
8 would suggest to you in the same breath that they would
9 be circumstances in which some substantial concrete
10 showing of tangible harm to that particular process, to
11 that particular trial, would have to be made. We are
12 not --

13 QUESTION: Such as what, that the victim feels
14 she just can't testify?

15 MR. McHUGH: Yes, that's one of them. An
16 inability, a demonstrated inability on the part of the
17 victim to testify.

18 QUESTION: Subject to cross examination at the
19 hearing by counsel for the newspaper or whoever was
20 there?

21 MR. McHUGH: In the hearing to determine
22 whether the trial is to be open?

23 QUESTION: Yes.

24 MR. McHUGH: Not necessarily. No. As a
25 matter of fact, it seems to me that the vast majority of

1 these cases can be handled without even -- without ever
2 getting to that particular problem which posed a
3 particular concern, understandably, I think, for the
4 Supreme Judicial Court, and it seems to me that the mode
5 of proceeding with respect to these kinds of hearings
6 could well take the form which only rarely, if ever, got
7 to examination and cross examination of the victim by
8 anybody.

9 It seems to me that a hearing of the type that
10 would suffice in most cases would require, first of all,
11 that somebody move for a concrete reason that the
12 hearing be closed, rather than simply presuming from the
13 outset that that is what is going to happen, and
14 secondly, that somebody demonstrate and articulate some
15 concrete reason, based on the evidence that is expected
16 to be presented, type of crime that is involved, the age
17 and maturity of the victim, the victim's prior ability
18 to deal with --

19 QUESTION: Well, supposing the prosecutor
20 comes in and moves just what you said, that this is a
21 15-year-old girl who is going to testify that she has
22 been raped, and she is unwilling to testify unless there
23 can be some exclusion of the public and the press at the
24 time she testifies. What more would be required?

25 MR. McHUGH: Well, it seems to me that then,

1 those who oppose closure ought to have an opportunity to
2 address some kinds of lesser restrictions --

3 QUESTION: Like gag orders, for example?

4 MR. McHUGH: No, Mr. Justice, like --

5 QUESTION: Well, allowing the public to be
6 present and the press to be present, but under some kind
7 of restraint against disclosing in the next day's
8 newspaper what happened.

9 MR. McHUGH: Well, I have great difficulty
10 with assuming that in order to exercise one
11 constitutional right, one should be required to enter
12 into a prior restraint situation.

13 QUESTION: So you would not consider that, at
14 least, as --

15 MR. McHUGH: No, but I would --

16 QUESTION: -- an acceptable lesser --

17 MR. McHUGH: What I would consider, I get back
18 to the question you raised, and what might well have
19 been done in this case, and indeed in most cases, is to
20 address the concerns of the victim. What is it really
21 that bothers the victim? Is it the part about where she
22 is going to identify the perpetrator?

23 QUESTION: How would you get at that as a
24 practical matter? Wouldn't you put the victim on the
25 stand? I mean, you can't conduct it by a colloquy

1 between the prosecutor and the attorney for the Globe,
2 certainly.

3 MR. McHUGH: You might well put the victim on
4 the stand, and then the trial judge, depending on the
5 victim's demeanor and ability to testify at that
6 hearing, might, for example, put all the questions to
7 the victim himself, or herself.

8 QUESTION: Who is present at this hearing --

9 MR. McHUGH: I would --

10 QUESTION: -- when this is happening?

11 MR. McHUGH: I would suggest that
12 presumptively everybody would be present.

13 QUESTION: Is every one of the public in
14 Boston entitled to have a lawyer there?

15 MR. McHUGH: Well, that's what I read the
16 First Amendment rights articulated in Richmond to mean,
17 at least in a hypothetical sense. Whether that is a
18 practical problem or not --

19 QUESTION: It is a real practical problem,
20 isn't it? On what basis would the Globe be there if
21 every other citizen of Boston couldn't be there?

22 MR. McHUGH: I say it's a hypothetical
23 problem, Mr. Chief Justice, because I think it highly
24 unlikely that in any case of -- imaginable that the vast
25 majority of the populace would be there with their

1 lawyers, and if that problem arises --

2 QUESTION: Maybe not the vast majority, but
3 let's say 100 of them asked to come in.

4 MR. McHUGH: All right, let's even take a
5 substantial group, Mr. Chief Justice. It seems to me
6 that that problem, too, can be handled the way all kinds
7 of class action problems are handled and other kinds of
8 problems are handled. You appoint lead counsel,
9 somebody to ask the questions to the judge which are
10 going to be put to the victim.

11 We're not suggesting here, and I don't think
12 we ever have suggested that this preliminary hearing is
13 going to be a wide-open free-for-all in which everybody
14 is going to be permitted to go out and get their own
15 experts and their own examination and their own cross
16 examination.

17 What we are suggesting is that the hearing has
18 to take into account in some form of sensitive fashion
19 the rights at issue, and if we come to a situation in
20 what I think are going to be those rare situations in
21 which we have a question of fact which has to be
22 resolved in order to make the decision whether closure
23 is appropriate, then it seems to me the trial judge in
24 careful and sensitive fashion can handle that in a
25 variety of ways, and one of those ways is to say to the

1 people who oppose closure, all right, tell me what you
2 want me to ask this victim about her abuse. Tell me,
3 and I will determine whether or not I am going to ask it
4 to her.

5 Another way would be to have the victim
6 actually examined out of the public view, but with a
7 two-way communication system, so that people could hear
8 what was going on.

9 Justice Powell, in his concurring opinion in
10 Gannett, suggested that it is the responsibility of
11 those who oppose closure to come up with alternatives if
12 an impasse or a problem is reached, and I don't back
13 away from that, but it seems to me both with some
14 sensitivity and some creativity and the technology that
15 exists we can come up with those kinds of alternatives
16 to some kind of a free-for-all situation, and really
17 that that ought not be the primary concern.

18 QUESTION: In this hearing, this preliminary
19 hearing, would it be your view that the defense could
20 cross examine the victim to determine whatever it was he
21 was after, defense counsel?

22 MR. McHUGH: Well, it seems to me that the
23 issue, the sole issue at this --

24 QUESTION: Now, this is all before trial.

25 MR. McHUGH: Yes, the sole issue at this

1 hearing, Mr. Chief Justice, would be, at least this
2 hearing that I envision, would be to determine whether
3 or not the public was going to be excluded from the
4 ensuing trial, so that --

5 QUESTION: But you had said before the public
6 would have to be present at that hearing.

7 MR. McHUGH: In my view, it would,
8 presumptively. Presumptively. Nothing is --

9 QUESTION: What would be left of the privacy
10 that presumptively was one of the factors underlying
11 this statute in the first place?

12 MR. McHUGH: But I keep coming back to the
13 problem that this statute closely examined, and the way
14 that it's been interpreted doesn't in any meaningful
15 sense preserve privacy in the first place, if by privacy
16 what we mean is preventing the dissemination of
17 potentially embarrassing facts, because those facts are
18 going to get out in every case, presumptively. What it
19 does, and all it does, and all it is supposed to do, and
20 that is the bringing-forwardness that the statute has,
21 if you will, all it is supposed to do is close the
22 courtroom to a group of people while the victim is on
23 the stand, not prevent anybody from discussing or
24 otherwise disseminating what the victim says while she
25 is on there, or he is on there.

1 QUESTION: Or publishing a transcript.

2 MR. McHUGH: Or publishing a transcript, if a
3 transcript exists. In fact, in this case, I believe
4 that there is no transcript, and in the normal case in
5 situations at least in Massachusetts a transcript is not
6 customarily prepared unless one of the parties requests
7 one for purposes of appeal.

8 QUESTION: Is there some rule against the
9 press buying a transcript?

10 MR. McHUGH: No, there isn't, but the --

11 QUESTION: Isn't a transcript made?

12 MR. McHUGH: Not in the ordinary course.

13 QUESTION: Is it recorded?

14 MR. McHUGH: It is stenographically recorded.

15 QUESTION: Well, couldn't you buy one if you
16 wanted to? Is there a law against that?

17 MR. McHUGH: No, there is no law against --

18 QUESTION: Well, could you buy one?

19 MR. McHUGH: I believe that we could buy one.

20 QUESTION: Well, there's no law then against
21 your buying one and publishing it.

22 MR. McHUGH: That's correct, Mr. Justice, but
23 the problem is, in addition to the problem of instant
24 availability, is what I should have said, that --

25 QUESTION: You certainly -- Well, I'll put it

1 as a question. Would you say that it is a reasonable
2 proposition that in this type of case, particularly the
3 rape case, that what happens as a practical matter is
4 that the defense is an attack on the complaining
5 witness, and the trial often becomes converted into a
6 trial of the complaining witness, at least as much as of
7 the defendant?

8 MR. McHUGH: No, I could not agree with that.

9 QUESTION: You would not agree with that?

10 MR. McHUGH: Not in Massachusetts, Your Honor,
11 because we have addressed that problem in Massachusetts
12 through the so-called rape shield laws, of a type which
13 are burgeoning throughout the country, which are
14 designed to head off that kind of scenario from taking
15 place. The victim's prior sexual history and a whole
16 host of details concerning her conduct with others at
17 other times and even with the defendant himself at other
18 times is, unless -- except in very narrow circumstances
19 -- kept out.

20 QUESTION: Then Massachusetts follows the
21 proposition from what you say that even a prostitute may
22 be a rape victim --

23 MR. McHUGH: That's correct. That's correct.

24 QUESTION: -- and a complaining witness.

25 MR. McHUGH: Beyond that, it seems to me --

1 QUESTION: Well, this statute reaches more
2 than indictments for rape, does it not?

3 MR. McHUGH: Well, it --

4 QUESTION: It is also non-support of an
5 illegitimate child.

6 MR. McHUGH: Yes, it does, and --

7 QUESTION: Mr. McHugh, on the record point,
8 the transcript, it doesn't have to be released. The
9 judge can seal it.

10 MR. McHUGH: Well, he can, but according to
11 the Supreme Judicial Court, Justice Marshal, the sealing
12 decision or the -- the sealing decision, I guess, is
13 really how properly to view it -- the sealing decision
14 is to be based on the factors articulated in Richmond
15 Newspapers.

16 QUESTION: Well, we had one from another state
17 a couple of weeks ago where a grown man had sealed his
18 record because he didn't want to be known as going
19 before the grand jury, so I think if he can get it, I
20 thought a child, but I realize that is state by state.

21 MR. McHUGH: We have difficult problems in
22 that regard, too, because a whole host of criminal
23 proceedings are sealed up and bound up forever once the
24 criminal trial has concluded.

25 QUESTION: I see.

1 MR. McHUGH: So that it is not always a
2 question of simply going to the courthouse and getting a
3 copy of the transcript.

4 If Your Honor permits, I would like to reserve
5 some time.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Very well.

7 Mr. Sikora.

8 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MITCHELL J. SIKORA, JR., ESQ.,
9 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLEE

10 MR. SIKORA: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
11 please the Court, if I may, I would like to begin by
12 addressing several questions put by the Justices to my
13 brother.

14 Mr. Justice White asked about the availability
15 of a transcript in this case, and indeed, the record
16 shows that the Globe originally sought a transcript.
17 Page 12 of the Joint Appendix contains the motion of the
18 Globe that a transcript be made available in this case.
19 The Globe did not follow up that request in the course
20 of this proceeding.

21 Mr. Justice Blackmun asked whether there are
22 any empirical data which show the effectiveness of the
23 Massachusetts statute, and I agree with my brother that
24 there are not conclusive data. On the other hand, by
25 way of background, as we observe in our brief, rape is

1 the most underreported of all major crimes against the
2 person in the United States, and it is estimated
3 authoritatively that only two out of seven rapes are
4 reported in the country.

5 Given that background, and given certain
6 legislative history of this statute, we suggest that it
7 serves an eminently rational and compelling purpose.

8 QUESTION: Well, suppose that is correct, that
9 two out of seven are unreported. Does that mean that
10 the greater percentage of burglaries are not reported?

11 MR. SIKORA: No, Your Honor. If I may,
12 perhaps I misspoke. I meant that only two out of seven
13 are reported. That is, only one out of three and a half.

14 QUESTION: Well, without using my figures,
15 does that mean the same thing is not true with respect
16 to other crimes, particularly in the inner city?

17 MR. SIKORA: According to data released
18 annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, rape is
19 the most underreported of all crimes, because of several
20 of its inherent features, the profound embarrassment and
21 inhibition on the part of the victim, and above all, her
22 dread of her trial appearance.

23 QUESTION: Well, isn't the embarrassment just
24 as great in a closed courtroom as in an open one? She
25 is bound to be cross examined. There are, I assume, in

1 your courtrooms in Massachusetts a lot of unrelated to
2 her persons in that courtroom. Isn't the reluctance
3 just that of testifying at all, rather than testifying
4 in an open court as distinguished from a closed
5 courtroom?

6 MR. SIKORA: The suggestion of the empirical
7 literature of the last 15 years is that there is a
8 peculiar inhibition about testifying in front of a
9 crowd. I would suggest also, Your Honor, that
10 testifying in a courtroom in which the jury, court
11 officers, the judge, and counsel are present nonetheless
12 puts all of them within the enclosure of the bar, and
13 under somewhat of a controlled setting, that is, a
14 setting controlled by the trial judge. He can provide,
15 I think, a more protective atmosphere for the appearance
16 of the child.

17 QUESTION: Of course, some of those, in our
18 cases, have talked a lot and have interfered with the
19 judicial process on occasion. This morning we had a
20 case about -- or alluded to, anyway, where bailiffs had
21 misbehaved.

22 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, Your Honor. If
23 one seeks perfection from the statute, some kind of
24 airtight anonymity for the child, and some type of
25 perfect laboratory condition for her testimony, we don't

1 purport to offer it through this statute. It is a
2 reasonable enclave for the child at her most traumatic
3 moment in the trial.

4 QUESTION: Mr. Sikora, is there any other
5 state in the United States with a similar statute of
6 mandatory exclusion?

7 MR. SIKORA: Your Honor, there are two other --

8 QUESTION: To your knowledge?

9 MR. SIKORA: No, Your Honor, not precisely of
10 this kind. There are two other states which compel the
11 closure of certain similar proceedings, I believe. Iowa
12 requires the closure of paternity trials. West Virginia
13 requires the closure of divorce trials. There are four
14 states which permit the use of a videotaping device in
15 lieu of the child's actual testimony at trial, and
16 those, I believe, are Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, and
17 Florida. And in addition, two other states permit --

18 QUESTION: How do those work, Mr. Sikora?

19 MR. SIKORA: Your Honor, there is -- the child
20 essentially testifies in a closed setting --

21 QUESTION: In camera, in chambers or
22 something, in like an interview with the judge, or what?

23 MR. SIKORA: No, Your Honor, she is subject to
24 direct and cross examination.

25 QUESTION: She is.

1 MR. SIKORA: The videotape is preserved, and
2 then shown to the jury.

3 QUESTION: But where is the child examined, in
4 chambers or something?

5 MR. SIKORA: The statutes don't indicate the
6 physical locus for examination. It would appear to us
7 that it would be either in chambers or perhaps at the
8 courthouse several weeks before trial.

9 QUESTION: Not just like a deposition, it
10 could be in a lawyer's office?

11 MR. SIKORA: The statutes as they read would
12 permit any kind of a location, so long as the essentials
13 of direct and cross examination are preserved.

14 QUESTION: But does it exclude people from
15 that examination?

16 MR. SIKORA: It does, Your Honor. It is a
17 closed setting.

18 QUESTION: Would the judge be present?

19 MR. SIKORA: It appears that he would be
20 present. Yes, Your Honor.

21 QUESTION: The judge and counsel, prosecutor
22 and defense, and the accused.

23 MR. SIKORA: Correct.

24 QUESTION: That would be all.

25 MR. SIKORA: Yes.

1 QUESTION: In other words, it would be just
2 like the trial, except it is before the formal trial
3 actually opens.

4 MR. SIKORA: That's --

5 QUESTION: But then the videotape becomes part
6 of the trial, does it?

7 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, Your Honor.

8 QUESTION: And that's public?

9 MR. SIKORA: Yes. It is literally
10 transplanted or plugged into the trial.

11 In addition, two states permit the use of
12 deposition testimony in lieu of the child's testimony
13 alive at trial, and those are Virginia and South
14 Carolina.

15 Mr. Justice Brennan, you asked about the
16 peripheral offenses involved in the statute in
17 particular. The statute in its original form covered
18 trials regarding illegitimacy and non-support. We
19 believe that the Supreme Judicial Court has now excluded
20 those offenses.

21 QUESTION: I see.

22 MR. SIKORA: And I believe you will find at
23 Page 98 of the record appendix, Footnote 11, a statement
24 by the court that its holding is now limited only to the
25 crimes involved in this case, and they were forcible

1 rape and forced unnatural rape, and indeed, the entire
2 bulk of the court's reasoning rests for the most part on
3 a body of empirical literature and observations of the
4 past 15 years which center, again, on the crime of rape.

5 QUESTION: The opinion and decision, I gather,
6 apply only to the crime of rape, but that doesn't mean
7 the other categories have been written out of the
8 statute, do they?

9 MR. SIKORA: We would -- we read the opinion
10 in Globe II to that effect, Your Honor.

11 QUESTION: I see.

12 MR. SIKORA: We think it necessarily means
13 that much because of the reasoning and the emphasis --

14 QUESTION: Yes.

15 MR. SIKORA: -- upon the crime of forcible
16 rape.

17 QUESTION: Well, does that mean in effect that
18 as applied to these other offenses, your court has in
19 effect said the provision will be unconstitutional?

20 MR. SIKORA: One cannot find that square
21 holding beyond the footnote, but the court does --

22 QUESTION: But the court couldn't write out of
23 the statute these other categories.

24 MR. SIKORA: Well, I think --

25 QUESTION: Other than by declaring that the

1 statute is unconstitutional, could it?

2 MR. SIKORA: I believe the court has said in
3 Globe II that insofar -- that trial judges will now be
4 guided by Globe II, and by Richmond Newspapers, and that
5 statement on Page 101 of the record in combination with
6 the essential reasoning which emphasizes the role of
7 rape and its peculiar physical and mental injury to the
8 victim leave the statute in effect only as to rape,
9 incest, or, I believe, carnal abuse. So it would be
10 crimes of sexual assault as to which the statute remains
11 constitutional and valid.

12 QUESTION: Constitutional. Yes.

13 QUESTION: May I ask a question about exactly
14 what is before us? As I understand it, under the
15 decision in Globe II, the trial court's order was an
16 improper order, because it closed the entire trial.

17 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

18 QUESTION: And so they say it should be, in
19 effect, that more of the order should be set aside. I
20 take it the part that remained valid is the part that
21 excluded the public from the testimony of two or three
22 of the victims, was it?

23 MR. SIKORA: All three were minors.

24 QUESTION: All three.

25 MR. SIKORA: Yes.

1 QUESTION: And do we have a transcript so we
2 would know how much of the entire trial was therefore --
3 the public was denied access to --

4 MR. SIKORA: We do not --

5 QUESTION: -- under the order?

6 MR. SIKORA: We do not, Your Honor. The trial
7 was an eight-day trial, and we do know that there were a
8 number of witnesses, approximately 12 to 14 witnesses in
9 the case, that the two main issues of the case were
10 identification of the defendant and a certain amount of
11 alibi testimony on the part of the defendant. There
12 were six alibi witnesses, and that appeared to be a
13 crucial --

14 QUESTION: So we should judge the case on the
15 hypothesis that the order had permitted the press to
16 attend all but two or three witnesses' testimony.

17 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, Your Honor.

18 QUESTION: That's kind of a strange appellate
19 posture for a decision on this kind of an issue.

20 MR. SIKORA: It is, Your Honor, although it
21 appears to have been unavoidable because of really the
22 flow of constitutional doctrine. The trial took place
23 in April of 1979, two months before Gannett.

24 QUESTION: But on the bottom line, we are
25 reviewing a trial court order that has already been set

1 aside.

2 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, and I suppose you
3 are determining whether its preservation of the core of
4 this statute for the future, prospectively.

5 QUESTION: But even preserving the core of the
6 statute doesn't preserve the trial court order that gave
7 rise to this litigation.

8 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

9 QUESTION: And the particular order that was
10 entered will never recur again in Massachusetts.

11 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

12 QUESTION: Did the defendant testify?

13 MR. SIKORA: I believe he did, Your Honor, yes.

14 QUESTION: And I suspect if it is something
15 else, that these multiple witnesses were alibi witnesses
16 and perhaps character witnesses for the defendant?

17 MR. SIKORA: They were, Your Honor. There
18 were three witnesses who were waitresses, whom he called
19 as alibi witnesses to put him at a particular restaurant
20 during or about the time of the crime. There were two
21 other witnesses who testified that one of those
22 waitresses was with them and not at the restaurant, and
23 the victim's father testified that he was at home that
24 night. The victim himself testified and recounted the
25 chronology of his doings that night.

1 QUESTION: So he was both at the restaurant
2 and at home on the defendant's case.

3 MR. SIKORA: Well, at various times. He
4 accounted for the duration of his evening, so that he
5 would not have been present at the site of the crime.

6 QUESTION: Mr. McHugh, after your -- Mr.
7 Sikora, sorry, forgive me. After your discussion with
8 my brother Stevens, what order is actually before us?

9 MR. SIKORA: Well --

10 QUESTION: I mean, can you point -- tell me
11 where it is in the appendix?

12 MR. SIKORA: Yes. I believe I can, Your
13 Honor. I believe you will find it at Page 18.

14 QUESTION: You don't really care if we review
15 it, do you?

16 MR. SIKORA: Well, after all this work, I
17 would hope that the Court would render a decision.

18 QUESTION: Well, I know, but we review
19 judgments, and I am just wondering what judgment are we
20 reviewing.

21 MR. SIKORA: That's correct. Well, Your
22 Honor --

23 QUESTION: We don't review opinions.

24 MR. SIKORA: We have treated -- the Supreme
25 Judicial Court and the Globe and the Commonwealth have

1 treated the decision as -- or the events as capable of
2 repetition yet evading review in light of --

3 QUESTION: With respect to the same newspaper.

4 MR. SIKORA: Yes.

5 QUESTION: So that that saves it from being
6 moot.

7 MR. SIKORA: Yes.

8 QUESTION: It is not unlike Nebraska Press
9 Association versus Stewart in that regard.

10 MR. SIKORA: I suppose it is not unlike that
11 case, Your Honor, but I think it is more like Gannett
12 and Richmond Newspapers. We have an acquittal here as
13 in Richmond Newspapers --

14 QUESTION: Well, that still bothers me, Mr.
15 Sikora. What do we affirm and what do we reverse?

16 MR. SIKORA: I think --

17 QUESTION: Look at Page 108a. Is that what we
18 are here for? It says the judgement of June 30, 1981.
19 Does that help you any?

20 QUESTION: Where is it?

21 MR. SIKORA: Literally, the --

22 QUESTION: On Page 108.

23 QUESTION: I know, but where is the judgment.

24 QUESTION: That's the trouble. Where is the
25 "judgement of June 30. 1981?"

1 MR. SIKORA: Your Honor, I believe literally
2 the judgment is a dismissal of the Globe's petition
3 seeking extraordinary interlocutory review of the trial
4 judge's entire order.

5 QUESTION: The only consequence -- suppose
6 your friend prevailed. Would the only consequence be
7 that the next time they have this precise kind of case,
8 that it can't be closed without a hearing, at least? Is
9 that it?

10 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, Your Honor.
11 That's correct.

12 QUESTION: It might be closed out for hearing
13 and it might not?

14 MR. SIKORA: That's correct. Essentially, the
15 statute as it was preserved by the Supreme Judicial
16 Court in both Globe I and Globe II is at stake here. In
17 a very real sense, if the Court holds that the Supreme
18 Judicial Court was mistaken, the statute goes down,
19 there is no statute to this effect in the Commonwealth.

20 QUESTION: Well, is the non-discretionary, the
21 mandatory aspect of this statute severable from the rest
22 of the statute?

23 MR. SIKORA: No, Your Honor. The statute
24 contains one main verb, and the main verb is imperative.

25 QUESTION: So it stands or falls altogether.

1 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

2 QUESTION: But only with respect to the

3 victim's testimony.

4 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

5 QUESTION: You would anticipate that in

6 another case there would be a closure order for the

7 victim's testimony?

8 MR. SIKORA: That's correct. The rest of the

9 trial will remain open.

10 QUESTION: But the closure order would be a

11 matter of discretion.

12 MR. SIKORA: No, Your Honor, it's --

13 QUESTION: No, if the statute were stricken.

14 MR. SIKORA: Oh, I see.

15 QUESTION: If the statute --

16 MR. SIKORA: Yes.

17 QUESTION: Striking this statute as

18 unconstitutional, you suggest that would have any effect

19 on the inherent power of the court that has been

20 intimated in some cases?

21 MR. SIKORA: No, there would remain an

22 inherent common law power on the part of trial judges

23 for good reasons, supported by findings, to close all or

24 part of trials in accordance, I believe, with Richmond

25 Newspapers and in accordance with what in Massachusetts

1 has been called a common law principle of publicity for
2 criminal trials.

3 QUESTION: That would be basically up to the
4 Supreme Court of Massachusetts, would it not, as to
5 whether the statutes remaining or the common law powers
6 of the Massachusetts courts extended to that? It is
7 nothing this Court would have anything to say about.

8 MR. SIKORA: That's correct. It would be a
9 matter of state law, Your Honor.

10 QUESTION: Do the common laws, Mr. Sikora,
11 extend, say, to burglary trials?

12 MR. SIKORA: Hypothetically, if there were
13 some compelling reason why, say, the testimony of
14 perhaps a young witness to a burglary should be
15 sheltered, a judge would hold a hearing, make that
16 finding, and issue a reason and close it, could in his
17 discretion if the circumstances were --

18 QUESTION: But as to these offenses under this
19 statute, he doesn't have to go through that procedure.

20 MR. SIKORA: That's correct. As a matter of
21 fact, he is mandated to close the testimony of children
22 under 18.

23 QUESTION: Yes.

24 MR. SIKORA: With regard to state law, Mr.
25 Justice, for some reason, John Adams did not include in

1 the Massachusetts constitution a provision for public
2 trials, and perhaps that was because it was so settled
3 in common law doctrine at that time. As a consequence,
4 the principle of publicity for criminal trials in
5 Massachusetts has always been a common law doctrine and
6 a matter of state law enforced by the Supreme Judicial
7 Court.

8 In the course of my brother's argument, I
9 believe he took false aim at the main purpose of the
10 statute. The main purpose of the statute is not to
11 confer a generalized privacy upon the victim.
12 Essentially the purpose is to give her some protection
13 against the trauma of her testimony at trial. Further,
14 through that kind of assurance by means of a mandatory
15 statute, the legislature attempts to bring forward, to
16 encourage the reporting and the prosecution of this
17 particular category of crime.

18 Again, this particular category of crime is
19 characterized by a reluctance of victims, especially
20 young victims and their families, to come forward and to
21 endure the process of the prosecution. A number of the
22 students of this subject have suggested that the
23 criminal justice system itself ironically imposes a
24 second round of physical and psychological pain upon the
25 victim.

1 Indeed, a number of the writers recount the
2 ordeal of a victim, a young victim and her family as
3 they approach the trial process itself. Typically, the
4 victim will have to visit the police station, the
5 district attorney's office, identification, go through
6 identification procedures, and, of course, at the time
7 of trial itself confront the alleged rapist and undergo
8 cross examination.

9 Typically, too, the victim will experience a
10 number of trial continuances, and this will protract her
11 inhibition, her embarrassment, and very often it will
12 cost the prosecution the value of her assistance.

13 QUESTION: Mr. Sikora, you said earlier that
14 only two of seven are reported. How many of the two
15 ever actually go to trial?

16 MR. SIKORA: That was not available in the
17 data which we examined, Your Honor. We have derived our
18 data from two main sources. One was the study of the
19 Presidential Commission on Crime of 1967, and the other
20 was annual Federal Bureau of Investigation reports on
21 the incidence of crime in the United States.

22 QUESTION: But this also prohibits one who has
23 no objection.

24 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, Your Honor. It
25 does not --

1 QUESTION: That's my problem.

2 MR. SIKORA: Yes, and that is certainly the
3 most difficult part of the case. We say that there are
4 at least three reasons --

5 QUESTION: Well, under this statute, can the
6 judge say that since this complainant witness does not
7 object, her family does not object, the minister doesn't
8 object, I am going to open it? Could he do that in
9 Massachusetts?

10 MR. SIKORA: He could not. He could not, and
11 the Supreme Judicial Court cited several reasons why he
12 could not and should not. The first essentially is an
13 assertion of parens patriae power of the state. The
14 state is entitled to be wary of a family or a victim
15 which feels confident enough to undergo cross
16 examination or confrontation at a public --

17 QUESTION: Well, suppose the mother was a
18 psychiatrist and the father was a college president.

19 MR. SIKORA: There would still be no right of
20 waiver.

21 QUESTION: That's right.

22 MR. SIKORA: In that regard, Your Honor, we
23 rely particularly upon several decisions of this Court,
24 one of which is Prince versus Massachusetts, a 1944
25 decision in which the Court held that a child, even with

1 the accompaniment of a parent or guardian, and even
2 though the child sincerely held the religious beliefs
3 involved, could not participate in street pamphleting or
4 prosyletizing in behalf of her religious views, and the
5 Court used rather strong language as to permissibility
6 of parents exposing their children to particular
7 activities which they felt strong enough to endure
8 themselves. The majority said, "Parents may be free to
9 become martyrs themselves," even a psychiatrist or a
10 college president, I would submit, "but it does not
11 follow that they are free in identical circumstances to
12 make martyrs of their children before they have reached
13 the age of full and legal discretion" --

14 QUESTION: Do you consider testifying at trial
15 being a martyr?

16 MR. SIKORA: Testifying at a trial which is
17 called to resolve the question whether you have been
18 raped, if you are a child, eight, ten, or twelve years
19 old, I think is analogous.

20 QUESTION: Well, my child from my hypothetical
21 is 17 years, 350 days old. That is my hypothetical.

22 MR. SIKORA: And the answer, I think, is --

23 QUESTION: Attending one of the Ivy League
24 Colleges.

25 MR. SIKORA: The answer, I think, Your Honor,

1 even for that --

2 QUESTION: It's hard. It's hard to answer.

3 MR. SIKORA: -- even for that extraordinary
4 individual must be no, for several very practical
5 reasons.

6 QUESTION: Are you going to retreat to the
7 point that you have to draw a line some place, aren't you?

8 MR. SIKORA: Well, naturally we would have to
9 make that point.

10 QUESTION: Yes.

11 MR. SIKORA: And cite Justice Holmes, as
12 always, for it, but in addition, this is not an
13 experience, testifying at a trial of rape, even for a
14 mature minor, even for an adult woman, which provides
15 the victim with any realistic opportunity for
16 preparation, for rehearsal, for prior experience. It is
17 a traumatic event as much for the adult perhaps as for
18 the child.

19 QUESTION: I agree.

20 MR. SIKORA: It is not one of those events
21 that changes the quality radically as one passes from
22 adolescence to adulthood, and again --

23 QUESTION: Suppose, counsel, that this
24 pretrial exploration of the matter that we referred to
25 before developed the fact that the defense was entirely

1 alibi, that he wasn't in Boston, he was in Philadelphia
2 for a whole week before and after. Would a trial court
3 be sustained in refusing to permit cross examination on
4 any issue except identification? Is there any other
5 issue in the case then except identification of the
6 defendant?

7 MR. SIKORA: In that hypothetical, Your Honor,
8 identification -- I am assuming that identification is
9 the issue on which guilt or innocence would hinge, and
10 apart, though, from the character of the crucial issue
11 in the case, a minor would still under this statute be
12 given sheltered testimony.

13 If I may, Justice Marshal, I would like to go
14 back to your question and wrestle with it a little more.

15 QUESTION: Yes. It worries me, too.

16 MR. SIKORA: I think there is a second
17 dimension to the reason why the state should not permit
18 even the willing minor or her family to expose her to
19 public testimony, and that is the interest of the
20 government in the quality of her testimony. The
21 government as an institution has a special interest in
22 the accuracy, the reliability of her testimony.

23 QUESTION: Well, on the other hand, she could
24 go to the newspaper, get a TV camera, sit down in front
25 of them and testify, and there is nothing in the world

1 you could do to stop it.

2 MR. SIKORA: Absolutely, but at least that
3 communication would take place outside the very special
4 setting of a criminal trial to determine the guilt or
5 innocence of the accused. It would take place out of
6 the viewing of a jury. It is that precise circumstance
7 of testifying in front of a jury with the guilt or
8 innocence of a defendant at stake that makes her
9 testimony very precious stuff, and makes us want as much
10 as possible to assure its reliability and accuracy.

11 And incidentally, note that that concern about
12 the quality of her testimony leads as much to
13 exculpatory evidence as in this case, the victim was
14 acquitted -- I'm sorry, the accused was acquitted -- as
15 it does to inculpatory evidence that would lead to just
16 convictions. It is a just result, acquittal or
17 conviction, which is the special concern of the state,
18 and the state, we say, may pre-empt the risk of even a
19 mature minor who has abundant confidence in her ability
20 to testify effectively, the state may pre-empt the risk
21 of her appearance in front of a full courtroom
22 containing members of the press in a situation in which
23 she might succumb to stress or otherwise compromise her
24 testimony, compromise the quality of that testimony.

25 There is perhaps one -- and a third dimension

1 to the answer on waiver, Your Honor, and that is very
2 simply that even a waiver offer by the victim would
3 require probably some kind of hearing on the part of a
4 trial judge to assure himself that her waiver was
5 knowing, voluntary, and wise or intelligent. In those
6 circumstances, again, the victim is drawn into another
7 preliminary hearing at which the issue is her capacity
8 to testify and perhaps her psychological strength or
9 stamina.

10 Again, there is a pulling and hauling over the
11 psyche of the child victim even before the trial
12 begins. This in particular persuaded the Supreme
13 Judicial Court that preliminary hearings on waiver would
14 themselves begin to defeat the purpose of the statute.

15 QUESTION: General, how does Massachusetts
16 handle this problem in the trial of juveniles?

17 MR. SIKORA: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I missed
18 the last word.

19 QUESTION: How does Massachusetts handle the
20 problem we are discussing here today in criminal trials
21 of juveniles?

22 MR. SIKORA: I see. They are entirely closed,
23 Your Honor.

24 QUESTION: Mandatorily so?

25 MR. SIKORA: Yes, sir.

1 QUESTION: To what age?

2 MR. SIKORA: I believe the age is 14, and

3 there is a period between 14 and 16 in which --

4 QUESTION: They may be tried as adults.

5 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

6 QUESTION: That's fairly standard among the

7 states, I think.

8 MR. SIKORA: I believe so.

9 QUESTION: So you could have a 16-year-old

10 defendant and a 14-year-old victim, and these two

11 statutes would interact with one another.

12 MR. SIKORA: That's correct, although I

13 believe that the fact that the victim would be 14 would

14 be conclusive as to her testimony.

15 QUESTION: Yes. Mandatory in that case.

16 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

17 QUESTION: But you said it was mandatory up to

18 14 on the defendant?

19 MR. SIKORA: For the accused. Yes.

20 QUESTION: And discretionary from 14 to 16?

21 MR. SIKORA: That's correct.

22 If I may, I would like to stress just one more

23 point, and that is a mode of analysis which Mr. Justice

24 Brennan introduced in the Richmond Newspapers case, when

25 he suggested that we should test statutes of this kind

1 by inspection as to whether they interfere seriously
2 with the flow of information to citizens about their
3 courts or about their political institutions more
4 generally.

5 I believe that the Supreme Judicial Court has
6 tried very hard to shrink this statute to fit its
7 essential purpose. Indeed, if we examine the remainder
8 of the trial open to the public, it is very
9 considerable. All pre and post-trial proceedings remain
10 open, presumptively open. Empanelment of the jury,
11 opening remarks, testimony of all other witnesses, and
12 typically there are five other categories of witnesses
13 -- police, medical and scientific evidence, prosecution
14 corroboration witnesses, defense evidence and defense
15 corroboration and alibi witnesses -- in addition,
16 summation to the jury, jury instructions, rendition of
17 the verdict, all court papers, the appellate process,
18 all of these elements of the judicial process remain
19 open to the public.

20 My brother suggested that the statute might be
21 self-defeating because it left so much of the proceeding
22 open, but again, if one zeroes in on the very precise
23 purpose of the statute, simply to give the child an
24 enclave at the moment of testimony, I think one grasps
25 the true purpose of the statute, and appreciates the

1 effort of the Supreme Judicial Court to leave the
2 remainder of the trial and the judicial proceeding all
3 but entirely open.

4 Just to sum up then, we suggest that on other
5 occasions the press itself has recognized the social
6 value of some confidentiality, particularly in cases or
7 in legislation where it sought to shield the identity,
8 for example, of reporters' sources, and argued that such
9 confidentiality produced socially beneficial results.

10 Today, the government is arguing that some
11 reasonable confidentiality for children, victim to
12 crimes of sexual assault, serves equally important
13 purposes. We believe that the Supreme Judicial Court
14 decision below respects both values, both the purposes,
15 the practical and humane purposes of the statute, and
16 the First Amendment.

17 We urge the Court to affirm that judgment.

18 Thank you.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Mr. McHugh, do you have
20 anything further? You have five minutes remaining.

21 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAMES F. McHUGH, III, ESQ.,

22 ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANT - REBUTTAL

23 MR. McHUGH: The suggestion, to begin with,
24 that this statute preserves an enclave of privacy at the
25 time of the victim's testimony, I suggest, simply misses

1 the point. Under Commonwealth and Marshall, the Supreme
2 Judicial Court has ruled that the defendant is entitled
3 to be in there with his family and his friends. Under
4 prior decisions and under the statute itself, it is
5 clear that the jury will be in there. The judge will be
6 in there, and a host of other people, strangers all to
7 the victim, are going to be inside --

8 QUESTION: Well, if the defendant is aged 12,
9 is the statute mandatory on everyone?

10 MR. McHUGH: With respect to juvenile --
11 alleged juvenile delinquents?

12 QUESTION: Yes.

13 MR. McHUGH: Yes, it is.

14 QUESTION: He can't have his mother or father
15 or his brother there?

16 MR. McHUGH: Oh, no, I'm sorry. It's
17 mandatory in all cases but the same kinds of people are
18 permitted in. That's correct. But I suggest that that
19 serves a very different purpose, and is aimed at a very
20 different purpose than is this statute.

21 QUESTION: Well, I'm not sure I've got your
22 answer clear. It may or may not be important. A
23 juvenile, aged 12 or 13, on trial, are his parents
24 excluded?

25 MR. McHUGH: No, they are not. The language

1 in the juvenile statute is the same. Those with a
2 direct interest in the case, quote, unquote, may
3 attend. All of those people may attend as well. But
4 the notion advanced by the Commonwealth this morning and
5 in its brief is that the purpose of the statute is to
6 create an enclave of privacy, and I am suggesting to you
7 that it just doesn't work if one looks at the operation
8 of the statute. There are going to be a host of people
9 in there anyway, under all circumstances, even if the
10 courtroom is mandatorily closed, and those people are
11 going to be permitted to disseminate under the statute
12 standing by itself whatever they hear in that courtroom,
13 and in terms of protecting some notion of privacy, then,
14 the statute simply is not going to work.

15 QUESTION: Well, let's say it's not so much
16 privacy as it is just protection against the trauma, the
17 trauma of testifying before the public.

18 MR. McHUGH: Well, from where does that trauma
19 come, I would suggest is the relevant question, given
20 the numbers of people who are already going to be in
21 there, and --

22 QUESTION: Well, there's a jury, but there are
23 certain -- besides the jury, there's not a host of
24 people. I mean, the defendant can't have all of his
25 friends from the neighborhood in there.

1 MR. McHUGH: But then I suggest to you that
2 there is --
3 QUESTION: He has his parents. Who else? His
4 lawyer. Who else?
5 MR. McHUGH: Parents, lawyer, and friends, is
6 what the Supreme Judicial Court has said.
7 QUESTION: Friends?
8 MR. McHUGH: Friends.
9 QUESTION: You mean, all the friends he has?
10 MR. McHUGH: There has only been one case, and
11 there was only one friend in that case. I don't know
12 how far the Court would take that principle, but that's
13 what they've said, parents, family, and friends, and, of
14 course, lawyers.
15 QUESTION: Now you are talking about the
16 juvenile?
17 MR. McHUGH: No, I am back to the adult, in
18 this case, under 16(A), this statute, Mr. Chief Justice.
19 QUESTION: Even an adult --
20 MR. McHUGH: Prosecuted under --
21 QUESTION: -- defines offenses covered by this
22 statute?
23 MR. McHUGH: That's correct, in one of these
24 cases. Indeed, that was a statute --
25 QUESTION: So there's a minimum, in any event,

1 number of people, the jury, the judge, counsel, both
2 sides, the accused, and his father, mother, brothers,
3 sisters, and friends, whatever that means.

4 MR. McHUGH: And friends.

5 QUESTION: And court officials.

6 MR. McHUGH: And court officials.

7 QUESTION: Could the court under your theory
8 of the case impose an order on them that they could not
9 speak of the proceedings until after the verdict?

10 MR. McHUGH: Well, but even -- I don't believe
11 that we need to reach that question. I think it
12 raises --

13 QUESTION: Well, maybe we don't need to. I am
14 just interested in your position.

15 MR. McHUGH: Well, it raises extraordinarily
16 troublesome problems, I would suggest, because it is a
17 kind of prior restraint, and in order to exercise --
18 really what it boils down to again is the kind of
19 problem we are talking about with respect to imposing
20 that kind of a restraint on the press. In order to
21 exercise his public trial guarantee in some form, those
22 members of the public whom the defendant has attend or
23 who do attend have to consent to the imposition of a
24 prior restraint.

25 QUESTION: Could I ask you just one more -- I

1 suppose if you prevailed in this you would certainly
2 request to get into the videotaped deposition type of
3 hearings.

4 MR. McHUGH: Not necessarily, because --

5 QUESTION: I know not necessarily, but what is
6 the probability?

7 MR. McHUGH: I --

8 QUESTION: Well, you needn't answer that if
9 you don't want to.

10 MR. McHUGH: No, I will be happy to tell you
11 why I think those are different, because what we are
12 asserting here is --

13 QUESTION: Well, if they differ, would you
14 think it is probable you would try to get into those,
15 too, or not? That's my question.

16 MR. McHUGH: Into the videotaped depositions?

17 QUESTION: Yes.

18 MR. McHUGH: I would think that we would not
19 try to get into those, so long as the results of those
20 were going to be available when the case came on for
21 trial, and we could see what the jury could see.

22 QUESTION: Well, then, why wouldn't you be
23 satisfied with a transcript of the entire trial after
24 the verdict comes in?

25 MR. McHUGH: Because the transcript only

1 captures, I suggest to you, about 70 percent of the
2 evidence that the victim --

3 QUESTION: Well, not only that, it is not
4 instantaneous.

5 MR. McHUGH: And it's not instantaneous.

6 QUESTION: So that when you get that, it is
7 not news, it is history.

8 MR. McHUGH: Well, it's not news, and it's
9 history, and it's not all there, Mr. Justice. We don't
10 see the demeanor of the witness. We don't see the kinds
11 of things that historically have been used by juries to
12 judge who is telling the truth.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, gentlemen.
14 The case is submitted.

15 (Whereupon, at 2:44 o'clock p.m., the case in
16 the above-entitled matter was submitted.)

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CERTIFICATION

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc. hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcription of electronic sound recording of the oral argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the matter of:
Globe Newspaper Company, Appellant, V. Superior Court
for the County of Norfolk -- No. 81-611

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BY Reene Lammert

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