OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

DKT/CASE NO. 82-963 TITLE MASSACHUSETTS, Petitioner v. OSBORNE SHEPPARD PLACE Washington, D. C. DATE January 17, 1984 PAGES 1 thru 50



(202) 628-9300

1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 2 - - - - - X 3 MASSACHUSETTS, : Petitioner 4 : : No. 82-963 5 ٧. OSBCRNE SHEPPARD 6 : - - - - -x 7 Washington, D.C. 8 Tuesday, January 17, 1984 9 The above-entitled matter came on for cral 10 argument before the Sugreme Court of the United States 11 12 at 10:58 a.m. APPEAR ANCES: 13 BAREARA A. H. SMITH, ESC., Asst. Atty. Gen. of Mass. 14 Boston, Mass.; on behalf of the Petitioner. 15 JCHN REINSTEIN, ESC., Ecster, Mass.; on behalf of the 16 Respondent. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

> ALDERSON REPORTING COMPANY, INC. 440 FIRST ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 (202) 628-9300

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1	<u>C C N I E N I S</u>	
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3	BARBARA A. H. SMITH, ESQ.,	
4	on behalf of the Fetitioner	3
5	JOHN REINSTEIN, ESC.,	
6	on behalf of the Respondent	26
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Miss Smith, you may
3	proceed when you are ready.
4	CEAL ARGUMENT OF BARFARA A. H. SMITH, ESQ.,
5	ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER
6	MISS SMITH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
7	please the Court:
8	This case presents the question whether the
9	Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution
10	requires application of the exclusionary rule to
11	evidence seized by police acting under the authority of
12	a search warrant issued upon a finding of probable cause
13	but which is later invalidated because of the technical
14	errcr of omission committed by the issuing judge, an
15	error of which the police had no knowledge, took no
16	advantage and which resulted in no prejudice to the
17	defendant.
18	The Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth
19	of Massachusetts ruled that suppression was required
20	because this Court had not yet recognized an exception
21	to application of the exclusionary rule for an errcr of
22	this type. The court, thus, overruled the trial court's
23	determination that although the warrant was defective
24	the issuing judge failing to restate in the warrant the
25	items specified in the application cr tc incorporate

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that affidavit by reference, he declined to exclude the 1 evidence finding that the police had acted properly in 2 conducting their duties, that they had acted upon 3 4 probable cause and in good faith thus presenting a factual situation in which the exclusion would have no 5 deterrent effect. Rather, the sole consequence of 6 exclusion would be to deprive the jury of the real and 7 8 protative evidence, thus, impairing their fact finding function. 9

I think the factual situation in this case is extremely important, and I will, therefore, elaborate on it in some detail. At 5 a.m. the morning of May 5, 13 1979, a Saturday morning, the badly burned, partially clad body of a young woman was found in a vacant lot in the Roxbury District of Eoston.

A piece of wire was bound around one leg. An
autopsy disclosed that the victim had died of multiple
skull fractures. The victim had been alive but
unconscious when her body was set on fire.

By midday the victim had been identified and
Osborne Sheppard had been identified as a possible
boyfriend. An officer who knew Sheppard as a gambler
began to circulate through the Roxbury area stopping at
a gaming house he knew Sheppard to frequent.

Sheppard himself opened the door, and after

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some conversation with the police agreed to accompany
 them to the police station. He was given his Miranda
 rights in the car on the way to the station.

He was told that the police were investigating 4 the death of Sandra Boulware, and they wanted to examine 5 hs relationship with Ms. Boulware and establish his 6 whereabouts on May 4th and 5th. Mr. Sheppard told the 7 police that he had visited with the victim at her home 8 on Tuesday, May 1st, that they together had taken a taxi 9 cab back to his home, stopping on the way to purchase 10 some marijuana and a bottal of Amaretto. 11

He said that the victim had left him at approximately 2 p.m. on Tuesday. He also stated that he had been at the gaming house where the police had found him from 9 p.m. on Friday until 5 a.m. that Saturday morning.

After naming some other individuals who had 17 been at the gaming house with him, he left the police 18 station. Continuing their investigation that afterroon 19 the police questioned the other members of the gaming 20 establishment who said that indeed Osborne Sheppard had 21 left. He had left at approximately 3 a.m. borrowing a 22 car to drive some men home on a trip that ordinarly took 23 15 minutes although he did not return until 4:45 a.m. 24 and then abruptly left again. 25

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1 The police also learned that on leaving the 2 gaming house at 6 a.m. one of the occupants noticed on 3 the porch a gasoline can and a pair of gloves. On 4 Sunday morning, the police learned from a friend of 5 Sheppards that he had refinished his basement area, and 6 this was an area in which he entertained women for 7 social purposes.

8 Most importantly on that Sunday morning the 9 owner of the automobile corroborated the fact that 10 Sheppard had borrowed his car. On inspection of the car 11 the police and a police chemist found human blood stains 12 and pieces of hair on the rear bumper near the trunk 13 area.

14 In the trunk area they found more human blood 15 stains and pieces of wire similar to that which had been 16 found on the body. The owner of the car told them that 17 there was no wire and no blood in the trunk of that car 18 on Friday night before he had loaned it to Sheppard.

19 It was then after consultation with the 20 district attorney's office determined that arrest and 21 search warrants should be obtained. A Detective 22 O'Malley typed an affidavit in support of the 23 application for the search warrant demonstrating 24 probable cause for the search and the seizure. 25 He specifically enumerated in his application

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describing the condition of the body that had been
beaten and burned, that Sherrard had been the last
person known to have seen the victim, that he and the
victim had gone to 42 Leckard Street, that Sheppard had
been in possession of a particular automobile, which was
found to have blood stains and human hair on it that had
not been there prior to Sherrard's using the car.

8 He reiterated that a friend had told them that 9 Sheppard used his basement area for entertaining women 10 and O'Malley, therefore, specified the areas to be 11 searched as the second floor and second area controlled 12 by Sheppard at 42 Deckard Street. He specified the 13 items to be seized.

Probable cause for the seizure of each item 14 was related to the facts as set out in the affidavit. 15 The items included the fifth of Amarette, two nickel 16 bads of marijuana, possessions of Sandra Boulware, wire 17 matching that found on the body or in the trunk of the 18 car, men's or women's clothing having blood or gascline 19 stains, blunt instruments, which may have been used to 20 inflict the multiple fractures, and items with the 21 victim's fingerprints. 22

It was then Sunday afternoon and O'Malley was
unable to find a proper warrant form. The Foxbury court
was closed. Efforts to contact the clerks were

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unsuccessful. Efforts to find a proper warrant form at
 other police stations was also unsuccessful.

3 C'Malley did find a warrant form used by the Dorchester District Court for searches for controlled 4 5 substances, which he attempted to adapt. He crossed out the words "controlled substances" on the face of the 6 7 warrant form, and he substituted the name Roxbury for Dorchester as the ccurt, and he inserted a reference to 8 42 Deckard Street, second floor and basement as the 9 places to be searched. 10

He did nct at that time delete the reference 11 to controlled substance in the portion of the form 12 constituting the application which, when signed, would 13 constitute the warrant itself. The trial court found, 14 and I think it is important to note, that all of the 15 16 items listed in the affidavit were small and suscertible of easy destruction and transport and were located in a 17 place to which the defendant had total right of access. 18

19 The defendant was at liberty, and he was known
20 to spend his evenings with the occupants of the gaming
21 house that had given the information about the car.
22 Therefore, it was essential that the police move with
23 great dispatch, and they did.

24 Arrangements were made to meet with the judge25 at his home. O'Malley accompanied by other

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investigating officers and an assistant district 1 attorney went there at approximately 2:45 p.m. 2 The judge tock O'Malley's oath and signed the 3 affidavit to that effect. The trial judge found as fact 4 that the judge had concluded upon the affidavit that 5 probable cause existed to search the premises and fcr 6 7 the items listed. QUESTION: Listed where, in the affidavit? 8 MISS SMITH: In the affidavit. 9 O'Malley explained the problem to the judge 10 about the warrant form that he had. He showed the judge 11 the controlled suspstance form, and the judge then 12 13 attempted to search his library for a proper form. He was unable to find one, and he took the form from 14 O'Malley assuring him that he would make the necessary 15 changes. 16 He did make some minor alterations as to the 17 name of the judicial district and the judge. He 18 signed --19 QUESTION: Was this person, Miss Smith, a real 20 judge? 21 MISS SMITH: Yes, he was a real judge. 22 QUESTION: In Massachusetts, Miss Smith, what 23 is the rule with respec to the action of a judicial 24 officer. That is, the general rule is that the action 25

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1 of a judicial officer is presumptively valid and binding until it is set aside by some higher authority. 2 3 MISS SMITH: That is the position in 4 Massachusetts. QUESTION: So when this warrant was served, 5 6 executed it had the tenefit of the presumption of validity. 7 MISS SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. 8 QUESTION: Miss Smith, what would have been, 9 if they had been successful, the real form? 10 MISS SMITH: We would not be here. 11 QUESTION: I know. What is the difference 12 between it and the one they used? 13 MISS SMITH: The proper form has a space in 14 which you fill in the items listed in the affidavit or 15 make a simple notation, "See affidavit incorporated cr 16 attached herein" and then staple the affidavit to the 17 form. 18 QUESTION: Is that the only distinction 19 between the form actually used and the real one? 20 MISS SMITH: This form used here has printed 21 in reference to controlled substances in the aspect of 22 23 the form --QUESTION: In the body of the warrant those 24 items were not listed, the items to be searched for and 25

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1 seized.

2 MISS SMITH: That is right. QUESTION: Nor was the affidavit attached to 3 4 the --MISS SMITH: The affidavit was not attached. 5 The only correlation between the warrant that we have is 6 in the affidavit. Marijuana was named. Marijuana is a 7 controlled substance. 8 QUESTION: Sc the warrant really was 9 defective? 10 MISS SMITH: Yes, as far as the items 11 reflecting the specific items specified in the 12 13 affida vit. QUESTION: If you presented it to the owner of 14 the premises to be searched and he said, "What are you 15 searching for?", you could not tell that from the 16 examination of the warrant itself. 17 MISS SMITH: Officer O'Malley could tell that 18 because he was the one who applied for it and specified 19 the items to be searched. 20 QUESTION: But the owner of the premises 21 presumably could not tell what items a search had been 22 authorized for. 23 MISS SMITH: That is right. They could only 24 tell that a search had been authorized for controlled 25

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1 substances and, therefore, the only areas that could be searched are areas that could accommodate controlled 2 3 substances, and it was limited --4 OUESTION: Miss Smith, is it not correct that when they executed the warrant they had the affidavit 5 with them? 6 MISS SMITH: Yes, they did. 7 QUESTION: So they could have showed them the 8 affidavit which would then have given them a bill of 9 10 particulars. MISS SMITH: Absolutely, Your Honor. 11 12 QUESTION: If I understand it, all that the 13 judge had to do was simply in that space that said "controlled substances" was strike it cut and put in 14 "see attached affidavit"? 15 MISS SMITH: That is right. That is all he 16 17 had to do. QUESTION: It would have made a perfect 18 19 warrant then. MISS SMITH: That would have made a perfect 20 warrant, but as the court found through total 21 inadvertence the judge failed to do that in the rush. 22 QUESTION: He was a real judge. 23 MISS SMITH: He was a judge. 24 (Laughter) 25

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1	MISS SMITH: Possibly he was too detached a
2	judge at this particular point.
3	Pardon me, Your Honor?
4	QUESTION: I was just going to observe he was
5	not a member of this court.
6	(Laughter)
7	MISS SMITH: No, he was not.
8	The trial judge returned the warrant and the
9	affida vit to O'Malley informing him, as found by the
10	trial judge, that he had the authority to carry out the
11	search as requested. The search was then executed under
12	the direction of O'Malley.
13	It was limited in fact to what O'Malley
14	understood the warrant to permit. In the hedroom area a
15	blocdstained boot was seized. In the cellar area a
16	blocdstained scatter rug, pieces of blocdstained cement,
17	women's earrings, women's leotards, bloodstained jockey
18	shorts, a hair piece that was later identified as being
19	very similar to one worn by the victim were found as
20	well as a piece of the wire similar to those found cn
21	the body and in the trunk of the car.
22	After the search was completed O'Malley
23	inventcried the items and a return was made to the
24	Roxbury District Court on Monday morning. It seems
25	clear to us that the police fully complied under urgent

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1 circumstances with the warrant process.

2 However, the judge issuing the warrant through 3 error and inadvertence, as found by the trial court judge, failed to restate in the warrant the items 4 5 specified cr tc incorporate the affidavit by reference --QUESTION: Miss Smith, did the police have an 6 obligation to execute the warrant as it's written? 7 MISS SMITH: I believe they do, Your Honor. I 8 believe that once that warrant is signed --9 QUESTION: So that is in a sense some kind of 10 11 an error that occurred when the police did not read it and say, look, that is not what is listed in the 12 13 warrant. MISS SMITH: Your Honor, I --14 QUESTION: I guess if the police had read it 15 at the time the magistrate or judge could have corrected 16 it. 17 MISS SMITH: Yes. He might have, but I dc not 18 think there is any obligation --19 20 QUESTION: Well, there is no doubt that he would have, is there? 21 MISS SMITH: I would hope that he would have. 22 I mean, I think once this was brought to his attention 23 he would see the mistake that was made and correct it. 24 QUESTION: Of course, if you are a policeman 25

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the chance that you may feel who am I to tell the judge
 what form of warrant to use --

MISS SMITH: Absolutely. The police knew what
they had asked for. They were assured that they gct
what they asked for, and they left with both the
affidavit and the warrant.

7 I think that the police have no obligation to
8 do anything further than secure the warrant. I think
9 the constitutional obligation stops there. In the
10 general case there is simply nothing more they could
11 do.

12 QUESTION: You think the police have no
13 obligation whatever to comply with what is written on
14 the fact of the warrant?

MISS SMITH: I am not saying that, Your
Honcr. I am saying in this case they did not read the
warrant. They knew exactly what they needed to get.
They were moving quickly before this evidence was
destroyed. They did not read the warrant.

20 QUESTION: Well, if, as you told us, the law 21 of Massachusetts is that the warrant is presumptively 22 valid once signed then it is valid on the instant it was 23 served.

24 MISS SMITH: That is right. I think since the
25 warrant is presumptively valid there really is no

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1 obligation on the police to, in a sense, secondquess or 2 judge the judge. 3 QUESTION: Yes, but, Miss Smith, it is presumptively valid to seize what the warrant says may 4 5 be seized, is it not? MISS SMITH: Yes, Your Honor, and the --6 QUESTION: Is it presumptively valid to seize 7 something that is not listed in the warrant? 8 MISS SMITH: Not once that is determined after 9 10 the fact, but the police do not wait until another court has reviewed the warrant. They have the warrant as 11 12 issued by the judge, and what I am suggesting --QUESTION: But this warrant did not authorize 13 them to seize the matters listed in the --14 MISS SMITH: Affidavit. That is why it is 15 defective. 16 QUESTION: But they thought it did. 17 MISS SHITH: They thought it did absolutely. 18 There can be no question of that. They were very 19 specific in their affidavit, and that is why, we 20 submit --21 QUESTION: Did they show the person the 22 affida vit? 23 MISS SMITH: No, they did not. They did nc 24 show the person either the warrant or the affidavit. 25

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1 They did not ask to see it.

2 QUESTION: What weight does that have? MISS SMITH: I do not think it really has any 3 weight. I think what we have here is a case in which 4 the police from any objective analysis acted in 5 reasonable good faith reliance upon a judicially issued 6 7 warrant. QUESTION: Isn't one of the base reasons for 8 9 the affidavit to show somebody authority? MISS SMITH: They had authority to enter these 10 11 premises. QUESTION: What authority did they have? The 12 13 affidavit? MISS SMITH: The authority in the warrant 14 15 placed them on the premises. QUESTION: Weren't they obliged to show the 16 warrant? 17 MISS SMITH: If scmecne had asked to see it. 18 I do not believe there is any chligation that they go in 19 20 holding the warrant out. They say we have a warrant. We are here to search this particular area. The mother 21 22 and, I belive, sister who were present had no problem. QUESTION: The policemen were armed? 23 MISS SMITH: I'm sorry? 24 QUESTION: The policemen had weapons? We 25

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1 assume so.

2	MISS SMITH: I would imagine police officers
3	
	would not go on a search without a weapon.
4	QUESTION: That is right.
5	MISS SMITH: Did they have drawn weapons, I
6	would say no.
7	QUESTION: Well, could they be admitted
8	because of the weapon or because of the warrant? How do
9	you know which one?
10	MISS SMITH: There is absolutely nothing in
11	the record to support even speculation that they were
12	admitted because they were waiving weapons at the
13	people. They went in peacefully.
14	QUESTION: Isn't that the reason for having
15	the warrant?
16	MISS SMITH: They have a warrant.
17	QUESTION: I mean they show it.
18	MISS SMITH: They said, we have a warrant,
19	which in fact is true, and that was enough for the
20	
	people on the premises. There was no question raised by
21	the people on the premises. There was no question raised by
21	the people on the premises. There were no threats, no
21 22	the people on the premises. There were no threats, no need for threats.

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presumptively valid warrant? No, I would doubt that,
 Your Henor.

QUESTION: No, they said we have a warrant. 3 MISS SMITH: We have a warrant, which they 4 had, which was later, later determined to be found 5 6 defective because of the omission by the issuing judge. QUESTION: Was there any requirement by 7 statute under Massachusetts law that the officer show 8 the warrant without a request? 9 MISS SMITH: Not that I know of, Your Honor. 10 I do not believe --11 12 QUESTION: But if requested what would be the normal practice? 13 MISS SMITH: I think the normal practice would 14 be for the police to go on the premises, say, "We have a 15 warrant to search the particular area." If a request is 16 made, "I want to see the warrant", then they should show 17 the warrant. There was no request made. 18 QUESTION: Under the Massachusetts law they 19 are not required to deliver the warrant or a copy of 20 it? 21 MISS SMITH: No. 22 QUESTION: Or to show it. 23 MISS SMITH: No. 24 QUESTION: Miss Smith, there is no question, I 25

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guess, that the police were acting with subjective gcod
faith here. Is it fair to say that a policeman acts
with objective good faith in executing a warrant to
seize items not mentioned on the face of the warrant?
Do you think that that generally would amount to
objective good faith?

7 MISS SMITH: I cannot give you an absolute blanket answer to a question like that, Your Honor. I 8 think it would be limited to examination of the totality. 9 of all the circumstances surrounding the officers' 10 obtaining and executing the warrant. I think in this 11 12 instance under an objective test the officers acted in a reasonable manner in executing the warrant they had 13 14 obtained.

15 They established probable cause. They listed 16 the items specifically in their affidavit. They 17 presented them to a neutral and detached magistrate who 18 made a determination that probable cause existed tc 19 seize those particular items.

He took the warrant. He told them that he would adopt it. The trial judge found that he told them they had the authority to do what they had requested. He gave them back the warrant. He gave them back the affidavit, and I think under the circumstances the fact the police did not read the warrant does not render

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their conduct objectively unreasonable. I think when
 they got that warrant there was nothing more they could
 dc.

QUESTION: May I ask you a question here? May I for the moment just put the exclusionary rule to one side. Assume we have got a warrant that is defective for the reasons that we have talked about.

8 In your opinion did the police officers
9 conduct an unreasonable search within the meaning of the
10 Fourth Amendment?

MISS SMITH: In my opinion if and only if this 11 12 Court were to extend its holding in Gates where the Court announced a totality of the circumstances test for 13 determining the probable cause aspect, if you were to 14 extend that to determining the reasonableness of a 15 search in this instance, I think, yes, we would have a 16 reasonable search because the police complied with the 17 warrant process. The police executed the search 18 consistent with what they authority they told they had. 19

There were exigent circumstances. This was easily destroyed evidence. The defendant was going to understand very, very shortly that his alibi had been, in effect, blown out of the water, that he had been identified with a car with human blood on it and practically simultaneously with a body being deposited

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1 and burnt in a vacant lot, and I think, yes, indeed --QUESTION: If you are right on that that there 2 is a reasonable search here then there is no need to 3 reach a good faith exception to the exclusionary rule. 4 MISS SMITH: If the Court is going to extend 5 Gates considered under a --6 QUESTION: Well, Gates really dealt with what 7 8 kind of showing of probable cause is necessary. MISS SMITH: That is right. 9 QUESTION: Here there is admittedly probable 10 cause and there is also admittedly a defect in the 11 warrant. 12 MISS SMITH: Absolutely. 13 QUESTION: The ultimate holding in Gates was 14 that the warrant was okay. 15 MISS SMITH: That is correct, Your Honor. 16 QUESTION: Sc it is a little bit different. 17 MISS SMITH: It is different. That is why I 18 cannot say without the Court extending Gates to this 19 type of situation that this would be necessarily a 20 reasonable search withcut the warrant. 21 QUESTION: I did not necessarily mean to say 22 without the warrant. I am just saying taking all the 23 facts together would you say this is a reasonable or an 24 unreasonable search? 25

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MISS SMITH: Exactly, Your Honor. Taking all
 the facts together including the existence of the
 warrant under the totality of the circumstances, I would
 say it was a reasonable search.

However, we are talking here about the
application of the exclusionary rule. In a case in
which there was no police misconduct, no turn effect can
be achieved by application of the exclusionary rule.

9 I think it is also in appropriate to extend 10 the deterrent rationale to judicial mistakes given that 11 a judge is not a proponent of either side. He is not a 12 member of the law enforcement team.

I would suggest that appellate determination
or identification of the judicial error is sufficient to
deter future conduct.

16 QUESTION: I suppose in answering Justice 17 Stevens I suppose if you just said any time an officer 18 makes a reasonable mistake there is no violation of the 19 Fourth Amendment because it is a reasonable search. You 20 really arrive at the same result.

21 MISS SMITH: We would.

QUESTION: Except then you hold that there hasbeen no violation of the Fourth Amendment at all.

24 MISS SMITH: Well, the Fourth Amendment only
25 precludes unreasonable searches so if the search is

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fcurd to be reasonable with or without a warrant - QUESTION: No, but usually in searching a
 house you need a warrant.

MISS SMITH: I believe all of the case law says that ordinarily. Except if you can establish a specific exception a warrant is required for the search of a home, which is why I focused on the application of the exclusionary rule to this type of reasonable mistake.

10 QUESTION: So you are saying any time it is 11 reasonable for an officer to believe that he has 12 complied with a warrant requirement there is no 13 violation of the Fourth Amendment.

MISS SMITH: I do not think that guite --14 QUESTION: But that was your submission to 15 Justice Stevens. It was a reasonable search. The 16 officers reasonably believed they had a good warrant. 17 MISS SMITH: Yes, Your Honor, but --18 QUESTION: Because they had the affidavit. 19 MISS SMITH: They had the affidavit. They had 20 gone through the whole warrant process. They 21 established probable cause. 22 QUESTION: The only trouble was that the two 23 pieces cf paper were not put together. 24

MISS SMITH: Yes. That is the size of the

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whole error in this case, and that is one reason that we 1 2 would argue that the exclusionary rule should not apply because it is totally contrary to the idea of 3 proportionality, which I think is central to our concept 4 of justice. It deflects the truth-finding process and 5 6 affords a windfall to, in this case, a guilty defendant of cutrageous proportions. It is a remedy that is 7 simply not consistent with the degree, the extent or the 8 effect of the error committed in this case. 9

Commonwealth, therefore, requests this Court 10 11 to recognize an exception to application of the eexclusionary rule where the police act in 12 reasonably-based good faith, not merely subjective good 13 faith at all, in obtaining a warrant. Such an 14 exception, it is submitted, is not inconsistent with the 15 concerns which gave rise to the exclusionary rule in the 16 first instance for it would have no effect under 17 dispositions of these cases involving warrantless 18 rummaging through a person's belongings or other 19 flagrant violations as were the case in Weeks and Mapp, 20 nor would it permit police falsification of the facts 21 according a finding of probable cause because by 22 definition that would not be reasonable good faith. 23 It would simply be an explicit recognition 24 that exclusion of evidence at the expense of the public 25

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1 where police have complied with the warrant process in
2 an objectively reasonable manner simply has no
3 legitimate justifications. The exception would not be
4 inconsistent with prior recent rulings of this Court
5 which have implicitly recognized that the deterrent
6 purpose of the rule is not effectuated where the police
7 have acted in a reasonable manner.

Finally, I would suggest that the exception 8 would serve two salutory purposes. First, the exception 9 will serve to foster this Court's stated preference for 10 warranted searches so that a neutral and detached 11 magistrate is interposed between the police and the 12 individual. Second, by granting consideration to the 13 extent and effect of the error rather than the mere fact 14 of the error, it will restore some degree of 15 proportionality to our criminal justice system and 16 acknowledge the that truth-finding function of our 17 system will not be unreasonably impaired by inflexible 18 mechanistic application of the exclusionary rule. 19 Thank you very much. 20 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOHN REINSTEN, ESQ., 21 ON BEHALF CF RESPONDENT 22 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Mr. Reinstein, let me 23 ask you a question right at the outset if I may. 24 Suppose this affidavit had been attached to the warrant 25

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with a clip -- what would you say then -- and if the
 warrant had said see attached affidavit?

MR. REINSTEIN: The key, I think, is the 3 4 sufficiency of the words of incorporation whether on the face of the warrant there is an indication by the 5 magistrate that he cr she intended to adopt the language 6 of another document so that if there is sufficient words 7 of description in the warrant itself sufficient to 8 identify either by saying "see attached" and the 9 document is attached or "see a document" and describes 10 the document by date and author, then I believe that 11 12 that would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the particularity requirement. 13 QUESTION: But without that cross reference 14 the warrant would be invalid you say? 15 MR. REINSTEIN: That is right. 16 QUESTION: Dc you agree with your friend that 17 the law of Massachusetts gives presumptive validity to 18 that warrant? 19 MR. REINSTEIN: I do not agree with Miss 20 Smith --21 QUESTION: It is not presumptively valid, the 22

24 MR. REINSTEIN: I believe that it is clear
25 that a police officer may not treat as presumptively

act of a judge?

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1 valid a document which he knows --

2	QUESTION: Forget about the police officer.
3	Is it the law of Massachusetts that the action of a
4	judge within the scope of his lawful authority is
5	presumptively valid until it is set aside on review?
6	MR. REINSTEIN: As a general proposition that
7	would be true.
8	QUESTION: So this warrant would fall within
9	that rule, would it not?
10	MR. REINSTEIN: Nc, it would not.
11	QUESTION: Why not?
12	MR. REINSTEIN: The police officer in this
13	case, Letective O'Malley, who knew from the very cutset
14	what this investigation was about. He knew that it was
15	a murder investigation and knew what they were looking
16	for. He knew what he asked for in his application fcr a
17	warrant.
18	QUESTION: I thought you conceded that if a
19	clip like this or anything like it had attached the two
20	together it would be all right.
21	MR. REINSTEIN: No, not a clip alone. The
22	proximity is not enough to make it sufficient. There
23	has to be some indication that the magistrate who
24	reviewed the application actually adopted its language
25	and the scope of the search which it contemplates. I

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suggest that a paper clip, a staple, or some other 1 mechanical attachment is not sufficient to do that. 2 There has to be words of description and incorporation. 3 QUESTION: If the words were "see affidavit 4 attached"? 5 MR. REINSTEIN: If the words were "see 6 affidavit attached" and the affidavit were attached I 7 8 believe that that would be sufficient. QUESTION: Thank you. 9 MR. REINSTEIN: I would like to respond at the 10 outset to the description of some of the facts, which 11 counsel for the State has described in her 12 presentation. The State says that there was probable 13 cause for this search and that the search described in 14 the application was, in fact, authorized by the 15 magistrate. 16 Because there is no proper warrant executed by 17 the magistrate in this case, something which reflects on 18 its face that certain findings were made by the 19 magistrate after consideration, the facts set forth in 20 the affidavit, we are forced to rely in this case on 21 after-the-fact reconstruction based on a police 22 officer's testimony approximately one year later in the 23 proceedings related to the motion to suppress the 24 evidence. 25

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1 That evidence shows as follows: that the 2 police officers with the wrong warrant form in hand went 3 to the magistrate's home on a Sunday afternoon; that 4 they knew of the problems with the warrant form at that 5 time and, in fact, they told the magistrate. They said, 6 "We have the wrong form. Something will have to be done 7 about this."

8 The magistrate locked at it, and he 9 acknowledged that this was the wrong form. He said 10 that, in the police cfficer's words, he would adjust the 11 warrant. That is all that is in the record about what 12 the magistrate told the police officers about this 13 changes in the warrant.

14 There is nothing in the record about telling 15 them what the scope of their authority was or that he 16 would grant full approval for the search that they had 17 described in the application. The officers then took 18 that warrant, and the State concedes today that it was 19 never read. They simply put it in their pocket and went 20 out to execute it.

21 Now, let me mention first the question of
22 exigent circumstances. The police obtained the final
23 link of evidence, which they put in their application
24 for the warrant, early on Sunday morning in their
25 interview with the owner of the car where the blood was

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1 found on the trunk.

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2	It was shortly after that time that they made
3	a decision to arrest the defendant and to seek a warrant
4	for the search of his home. They made no attempt at
5	that time to locate the defendant who was not at that
6	point at his home. He was at the gaming house where
7	they found him the previous day.
8	They went to the judge's house sometime early
9	in the middle afternoon still not having, as I
10	understand it, made any attempt to find out where the
11	defendant was. It was only when they returned to the
12	District Two police station that they discovered by
13	asking cne cf the witnesses that they had interviewed
14	that morning where is the defendant.
15	He made a telephone call to the gaming house
16	and learned that he was there. So the police knew at
17	least from that point on, at least from the point at
18	which they should have known of the defects in the
19	warrant where the defendant was, that he was not in a
20	position to interfere with a search or to tamper with
21	any evidence they might be seeking.
22	With respect to the finding of probable cause,
23	there is, of course, nothing in the warrant which

25 which were described in that application, and all that

reflects a finding of probable cause as to the items

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1 the motion judge found, the trial judge, found in this
2 case was -- He found as a fact on the basis of the
3 affidavit that the magistrate found that there was
4 probable cause to search the second floor premises of
5 the house at 42 Deckard Street and the playroom, which
6 was in the basement.

7 That is obvious from the face of the search 8 warrant, which does in the application part of it 9 mention the premises at 42 Deckard. It says 42 Deckard, 10 second and basement. There is a photocopy of the 11 warrant itself which appears on page 74a of the record 12 appendix, which appears as an appendix to Justice 13 Liacos' concurring opinion in the Supreme Judicial Court.

14 With respect to the marijuana and the question of whether there was probable cause to search for 15 marijuana, we do not concede that there was probable 16 cause to search for marijuana. The only evidence 17 supporting the application for the warrant on that was a 18 statement made by the defendant on Saturday that on 19 Tuesday, some five days before the warrant was executed 20 and three to four days before the murder took place, 21 that the victim and the defendant had gone to his house 22 and before going there they had purchased some 23 marijuana. 24

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But the defendant also told the police, which

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1 is not reflected in this affidavit, that when the victim
2 had left his house --

QUESTION: Counsel, I was just looking at the
opinion of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts
at page 49a in the joint appendix. This, I believe,
Justice Wilkens, if I am not mistaken, describing the
findings of the trial court. He says on the matter of
the search warrant he concluded that the warrant was
issued on probable cause.

MR. REINSTEIN: The findings of the trial
10 MR. REINSTEIN: The findings of the trial
11 court are contained --

12 QUESTION: Was Justice Wilkens simply mistaken13 then in making that observation?

MR. REINSTEIN: I think that that slightly 14 overstates the extent of the findings, and in some 15 respects I think the findings of the trial court go well 16 beyond the testimony that was actually given in the 17 Superior Court. The only evidence about what took place 18 in the proceedings before the magistrate was the 19 testimony of Detective O'Malley who based it on his 20 recollection of what had harpened a year earlier. 21

The only statement that he says that the judge made to them was that after receiving the warrant that he would adjust it. There were not statements about findings of probable cause or comments on the substance

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1 of the application.

2	All of the rest of the findings of both the
3	trial court and the conclusions of the Supreme Judicial
4	Court are based on infèrences drawn from those facts.
5	QUESTION: We do not ordinarily take a case to
6	review a question of whether or not there was probable
7	cause when the lower courts have made a finding either
8	that there was or was not.
9	MR. REINSTEIN: Well, in this instance the
10	finding of probable cause invariably is first made by
11	the magistrate. The problem with this case is that
12	there is nothing to reflect what the magistrate did so
13	that as a result the Superior Court, the Supreme
14	Judicial Court and now this Court are forced to rely on
15	this after-the-fact reconstruction of what happened.
16	That is what is before the court.
17	QUESTION: When you are talking about probable
18	cause you are always talking about after-the-fact
19	reconstruction, are you not? When a search warrant is
20	challenged in court it is always after it has been
21	executed.
22	MR. REINSTEIN: But the preliminary decision
23	is made before the fact, before the search is actually
24	carried out by the magistrate. That is the function of
25	the warrant requirement to have that determination made

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1 before there is some intrusion.

2 QUESTION: But that is always ex parte, is it 3 not?

MR. REINSTEIN: Invariably that is exparte.
QUESTION: There is no doubt, is there really,
6 that the magistrate if he had noticed the error at the
7 time would have corrected it and authorized the search
8 for the items listed in the affidavit?

9 MR. REINSTEIN: That is certainly a
10 possibility. Certainly if the --

11 QUESTION: Well, it is much more than a
12 possibility. You have direct evidence, do you not, that
13 he expressed his intention to authorize the search for
14 the scope spelled out in the affidavit?

MR. REINSTEIN: Authorized a search. There is
nothing to indicate that he intended to authorize the
full search for each of the items that were specified in
the affidavit.

19 QUESTION: We are not here to argue about the
20 rule in Shelley's case or scmething that goes back tc
21 Chittie in pleading. We have got more important things
22 in mind in granting this writ, I think.

23 QUESTION: Can we assume that the judge looked24 at the affidavit?

25

MR. REINSTEIN: Yes, we can assume the judge

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1 looked at the affidavit.

2 QUESTION: Then he knew at least what kind of3 a search he was authorizing.

MR. REINSTEIN: We can assume that the judge
knew generally not only what kind of a search was
authorized but what it was that the police had found
thus far. He knew there was a murder investigation.

8 QUESTION: Counsel, before you go on. There
9 is no question of prejudice to your client in this case,
10 is there?

MR. BEINSTEIN: I believe there are several
ways of looking at the prejudice. There is definite
prejudice. First --

QUESTION: Let me ask a follow up with this question. If the affidavit had been attached to the warrant in the way you suggested to the Chief Justice would be appropriate, would the search have been any more extensive or different in any respect?

19MR. REINSTEIN: I do not believe it would20have.

21 QUESTION: You doubt that it would?
22 MR. REINSTEIN: I do not believe that it would
23 have.

QUESTION: Sc in what way was that prejudice,
actual prejudice, apart from the theoretical argument

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that we are addressing here today and that is whether 1 any technical violation of the warrant procedure 2 requires exclusion of obviously probative evidence? 3 MR. REINSTEIN: I do not think that this is a 4 technical viclation. 5 QUESTION: You would agree it was inadvertent, 6 would you not? 7 8 MR. REINSTEIN: It was careless. OUESTION: You are not suggesting that the 9 judge deliberately ommitted --10 MR. REINSTEIN: Nc, I am not suggesting that. 11 QUESTION: Right. 12 MR. REINSTEIN: The requirement in the Fourth 13 Amendment that a warrant particularly describe the items 14 to be seized serves a number of important functions. It 15 is tied to the requirement of probable cause. The 16 magistrate is expected to find probably cause and then 17 to evidence that finding and to give direction to the 18 police officers. The magistrate is expected to record 19 that in the written warrant document. 20 It serves several functions, none of which 21 were met in this case. That is why there was some 22 prejudice to the defendant. 23 First, the warrant which was the equivalent of 24 a warrant in blank since it described something 25

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1 completely different from what was described in the 2 affidavit. It did not give notice to the members of the 3 defendant's family who were home when the police 4 came --QUESTION: Did they ask to look at the 5 6 warrant? MR. REINSTEIN: The police officer testified 7 8 that it was showed to them. QUESTION: Did he ask? My guestion was did 9 anyone ask to see the warrant and read it? 10 MR. REINSTEIN: The record does not show 11 whether anyone read it. Detective O'Malley testified 12 that when he went to the defendant's home he was met by 13 the defendant's sister and mother and that he showed 14 them the warrant. Presumably they examined it and read 15 it. 16 I should add that --17 QUESTION: Well, you find facts in the 18 findings. I did not find any fact that they presumably 19 read it. 20 MR. REINSTEIN: There is nothing in the record 21 which suggests they presumably read it. The record says 22 only that it was shown to them. 23 QUESTION: That is all? 24 MR. REINSTEIN: That is all. 25

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The second point on the question of prejudice 1 is that although Detective C'Malley knew what he wanted 2 to search for the warrant did not give specific 3 direction to the police officers who were responsible 4 for executing the search. I should add that there were, 5 I believe, ten police officers who went to the 6 defendant's home, some of whom went to the cellar. 7 8 Others went to the second floor.

I believe that Detective O'Malley went to the 9 cellar and led the group that conducted the search there 10 and that a number of other police officers went to the 11 12 second floor and were on their own so that while Detective O'Malley may have known what it was that he 13 was locking for, the rest of the police officers and to 14 some extent Detective C'Malley were forced in conducting 15 this search to determine its limits by their impression, 16 not of what was written in the warrant, but their 17 impression of what they had asked for, what they thought 18 they had probable cause for and their impression of what 19 the judge had let them do, what he had said, whether 20 there was some clear indication that they could do such 21 and such a search. 22

QUESTION: Mr. Reinstein, let me go back just
a minute. I do not know if this has a great deal cf
bearing on the case, but there seems to be numerous kind

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of conflicting versions of the facts. Now, I am looking
 at page 28a of the record, which I believe is the trial
 justice's findings of fact.

On page 28a it says with respect to the manner in which the warrant was served, "The defendant's mother and sister were present at the time. C'Malley orally informed them of the fact he had a warrant authorizing the search of the second floor premises and area occupied by the defendant."

10 I understood you to say that there was a 11 finding that the detective showed the warrant. Did you 12 not say that just a minute ago?

13 MR. REINSTEIN: Nc, I did not say there was a14 finding. I said that the testimony was.

QUESTION: Well, this finding certainly does
not support any conclusion that the detective showed the
warrant.

18 MR. REINSTEIN: That is correct.

19 The record before the Court includes the full 20 testimony that was considered by the trial judge, and I 21 suggest that the Court is not bound to accept a finding 22 which is not based on any evidence at all where the sole 23 evidence is something else, that the judge's finding is 24 clearly erroneous and is not necessarily to be accepted 25 by this Court.

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There is a third reason why there is if not 1 prejudice to the defendant some concern why a warrant, a 2 written warrant, should be required in every case, and 3 4 that is that as in this case we are trying to determine several years after this event took place what it was 5 6 that happened. The Superior Court had that problem, and now this Court is going to have to determine whether 7 there was probable cause, what the judge said and what 8 the effect of the judge's instructions or comments to 9 the police may be. 10

That raises the possibility if that is an 11 acceptable procedure that in any case where a search 12 warrant is challenged as being defective on its face 13 that the police officers and the prosecution can attempt 14 to bring in additional evidence to go behind the warrant 15 to show that the warrant did not mean what it said and 16 that a search completely different than the search 17 authorized by the warrant was in fact authorized by the 18 magist rate who issued it. 19

20 QUESTION: You have been advancing the 21 familiar arguments in favor of the strict exclusionary 22 rule. We have heard those before. I suppose the 23 reasoning behind my initial question was whether if the 24 Court responds to the request that it made in this case 25 and in the case that follows for some relaxing of the

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strictness of the present exclusionary rule, it is
 relevant or irrelevant that the defendant in the case
 suffered personal prejudice.

I take it your answer is there is no evidence
in this case of any such prejudice, personal prejudice.
If the search warrant had been in perfect condition, the
search would have been the same.

8 MR. REINSTEIN: I agree that if the search
9 warrant had been precisely as applied for then the
10 search that was conducted would have, in fact, been
11 fine.

12 QUESTION: Right. I would make the same 13 argument you are making for the strictness of the 14 exclusionary rule if I had your responsibility.

MR. REINSTEIN: There is a second 15 consideration in dealing with the application of the 16 exclusionary rule in this particular case. The 17 formulation and the standard suggested by both the State 18 and by the Solicitor General as amicus in this case and 19 as the Fetitioner in the Leon case is that the conduct 20 of police officers should be judged by a standard of 21 what a reasonably well-trained police officer would do. 22 A reasonably well-trained police officer under 23 the circumstances of this case should have been expected 24 to stop, to lock at the warrant, to read it and to say, 25

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1 "This is not the warrant that we requested. This is a 2 different warrant than we requested" and to go back to 3 the magistrate and to get the correct warrant.

QUESTION: The trial judge made a finding here 4 or made a reference, not a finding, a reference to the 5 law of Massachusetts saying a search warrant may be read 6 with the complaint where it is attached to the warrant 7 to provide sufficiency of the description of the place 8 to be searched. That, I suppose, was the basis of your 9 response that if these two pieces had been put together 10 their problem would have been solved. 11

MR. REINSTEIN: That is right so long as there 12 was sufficient description there to incorporate it. I 13 believe the Fourth Amendment would place some 14 restriction --

QUESTION: Absent a staple or clip or a 16 reference it falls? 17

15

MR. REINSTEIN: It is the reference which is 18 the key point. It is the intent to incorporate. 19

QUESTION: This statement of the law of 20 Massachusetts does not say anything about the 21 reference. 22

MR. REINSTEIN: No, I do not believe that --23 QUESTION: A search warrant, said the judge, 24 may be read with the complaint, that is, here the 25

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1 affidavit, where it is attached to the warrant.

MR. BEINSTEIN: That is correct. That would 2 3 be the law of Massachusetts. However, --

QUESTION: He does not say it must be referred 4 5 to. There must be a reciprocal reference.

MR. REINSTEIN: I suggest that the Fourth 6 Amendment requires some appropriate words of description 7 so that it is the clear intent of the magistrate to 8 adopt the language of the affidavit. 9

Because the police officers in this case knew 10 or should have known that the Fourth Amendment requires 11 12 that a warrant describe what it is to be seized, because they were put on notice by that language by the parallel 13 14 language of the state constitution and by a state statute, which also requires that search warrants 15 16 describe what it is that is going to be seized, there is no claim in this case that they had no hasis for 17 knowing. 18

You do not have to be a constitutional 19 schclar. You do not need the advice of the judge or of 20 the district attorney's office to read what is guite 21 explicit in the Fourth Amendment. 22

QUESTION: Is there any evidence of bad faith 23 on the part of the police officers? 24 MR. REINSTEIN: The trial court made a finding

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of good faith, and the officers testified at several
 points that they believed what they were doing was
 proper. However, I believe the trial court's finding is
 clearly limited to the subjective good faith of the
 police officers, which we do not question.

6 QUESTION: Well, your submission then includes 7 a suggestion that an officer would be unreasonable to 8 think that since he had the affidavit in one hand and 9 the warrant in the other that he was authorized to 10 search for the items in the affidavit.

11 MR. REINSTEIN: I do not believe that that is 12 a reasonable proposition absent something in the warrant 13 executed by the magistrate which would tell him that the 14 magistrate had approved the search which is described in 15 the application.

16 QUESTION: You also would think that the 17 officer should not have taken the magistrate's word for 18 saying, "I'm going to do what you asked." They had to 19 read the warrant.

20 MR. REINSTEIN: They had to read the warrant 21 and --

QUESTION: As it was issued and not just readthe affidavit.

24 MR. REINSTEIN: That is right. They had to
25 rely on something in writing from the magistrate and

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then even if they had read it, they would have been on
 notice. They cannot execute something which they kncw
 of their own personal knowledge is not valid.

For example, if a magistrate issues an arrest warrant which authorizes the arrest of John Doe and the police know either after the fact or contemporaneously that John Doe is not the person either that they applied for or that they have later information which tells them that John Doe is not guilty of the offense.

10 QUESTION: Sc if there is an affidavit that 11 asks for a warrant to search a certain address and the 12 warrant comes cut and is one number off -- there has 13 been a typographical error -- the officers should have 14 picked that up.

MR. REINSTEIN: It depends on whether the
error in the warrant is in the nature of an ambiguity
which --

18 QUESTION: There is nothing ambiguous about
19 it. There is a difference between 17 Plack Street and
20 18 Black Street.

21 MR. REINSTEIN: If there is a 17 Black Street 22 and an 18 Black Street then they cannot conduct the 23 search. If there is only one house on Black Street then 24 the variance between the affidavit and the warrant would 25 probably not be significant.

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QUESTION: If the affidavit is attached to the
 warrant and says 18, and the warrant on its face says
 17, they should not go searching?

4 MR. REINSTEIN: They should not conduct the
5 search in that case. They are faced with a
6 contradiction and it should be resolved by the
7 magistrate rather than by the police.

8 QUESTION: Well, there are cases against you
9 on that, I believe, are there not, incorrect address in
10 the affidavit where there really is a place --

11 MR. REINSTEIN: The underlying principle of 12 all the cases dealing with misdescription and ambiguity 13 is that there has to be something which permits the 14 officers on the scene to make a reasoned choice and to 15 understand that the court made a finding of probable 16 cause and granted them the authority to conduct the 17 search. If there is a choice to be made --

18 QUESTION: But surposing you have a case that 19 everybody involved from the magistrate to the officer to 20 the executing officer on down intended 17 Black Street 21 to be searched -- that is the place where the defendant 22 lives and all the rest -- and they type in 18 Black 23 Street, which is next door. They go out and execute 24 that affidavit.

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There is a lct of cases saying that is nct a

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defective warrant, are there not? It does not, in fact,
 authorize the search of 17, but does in fact authorize
 the search of the place that was intended to be
 searched. Maybe I am wrong. I thought there were such
 cases.

6 MR. REINSTEIN: There are some cases about
7 partial misdescriptions, but where, as I understand it,
8 the misdescription is misleading --

9 QUESTION: What you are saying it is the
10 information on the face of the warrant that makes it
11 clear that they --

MR. REINSTEIN: If there is something on the face of the warrant which would either mislead or makes the police officers make a choice on the scene and leaves doubt about the intention of the magistrate, then they cannot execute the warrant.

QUESTION: Mr. Reinstein, do you not think 17 there may be a point at which you get -- I do not doubt 18 the cases say what you say they say -- but you are 19 getting away from kind of Fourth Amendment values that 20 are mandated by the federal constitution and get into 21 something that is really quite finicky almost like the 22 law of wills about misdescription. Do you think that is 23 all Fourth Amendment law as well as, say, State cf 24 Massachusetts law or some other state law? 25

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1 MR. REINSTEIN: I am glad that I am not in a 2 position of having to defend that entire body of law 3 today. I do not think that the Court needs to reach 4 that issue, and I do not think that the Fourth Amendment 5 necessarily requires pickiness. But rejection of this 6 warrant is not being picky. This is a warrant which is 7 just plainly defective on its face.

8 QUESTION: May I ask another question? Is
9 there any evidence in this record of a practice of
10 police officers in this jurisdiction serving warrants
11 that contain no specification of the items to be
12 seized?

13 MR. REINSTEIN: There is no evidence in the14 record of that.

15 QUESTION: I asked you a little while agc 16 about good faith, and you agreed that the court below, 17 the trial court I suppose, found good faith. There is 18 no evidence of willful omission of the items to be 19 searched, is there?

20 MR. REINSTEIN: There is nothing to indicate 21 that the police officers deliberately used this warrant 22 for some ulterior motive. In fact, as the State now 23 suggests they did not read it.

QUESTION: Just one question. Is your only
complaint -- Do you admit that if they had written on

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1	the warrant "see the attached affidavit" everything
2	would be all right? Dc you admit that?
3	MR. REINSTEIN: And they had attached the
4	affidavit.
5	QUESTION: Yes.
6	MR. REINSTEIN: So that
7	QUESTION: Is that your only complaint?
8	MR. REINSTEIN: That is the substance of the
9	criticism of this warrant.
10	QUESTION: That is your only complaint?
11	MR. REINSTEIN: That is correct.
12	Thank you.
13	CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Very well.
14	Do you have anything further, Miss Smith?
15	MISS SMITH: No, Your Honor. Thank you.
16	CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, gentlemen.
17	The case is submitted.
18	(Whereupon, at 11:57 a.m., the case in the
19	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 elactronic sound recording of the oral argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the Matter of: 82-963 - MASSACHUSETTS, Petitioner v. OSBORNE SHEPPARD

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