1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES	
2	x	
3	ANITA ALVAREZ, COOK :	
4	COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY :	
5	Petitioner :	
6	v. : No. 08-351	
7	CHERMANE SMITH, ET AL. :	
8	<u>-</u> <b>x</b>	
9	Washington, D.C.	
LO	Wednesday, October 14, 2009	
L1		
L2	The above-entitled matter came on for ora	ıl
L3	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States	
L4	at 10:03 a.m.	
L5	APPEARANCES:	
L6	PAUL CASTIGLIONE, ESQ., Assistant State's Attorney,	
L7	Chicago, Ill.; on behalf of the Petitioner.	
L8	WILLIAM M. JAY, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor	
L9	General, Department of Justice, Washington,	
20	D.C.; on behalf of the United States, as amicus	
21	curiae, supporting the Petitioner.	
22	THOMAS PETERS, ESQ., Chicago, Ill.; on behalf of the	
23	Respondents.	
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:03 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 08-351, Alvarez v.
5	Smith.
6	Mr. Castiglione.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL CASTIGLIONE
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. CASTIGLIONE: Mr excuse me.
10	Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court:
11	Despite the holding in Von Neumann that the
12	civil forfeiture hearing itself is all the process that
13	is due for the seizure of personal property, the Seventh
14	Circuit struck down Illinois's Drug Asset Forfeiture
15	Procedure Act specifically because it does not require
16	an additional adversarial hearing that takes place
17	post-seizure but before the forfeiture hearing.
18	As far back as this Court's decision in
19	Gelston v. Hoyt and Slocum v. Mayberry, this Court has
20	recognized that the civil forfeiture hearing itself is
21	the single unitary hearing, where all persons having an
22	interest in the property are present and the following
23	questions are resolved: One
24	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Is there any other
25	area is there any other area of law where we permit a

4			7 /		_	i i
1	prejudament	attachment	and/or	seizure	ΟĪ	property

- 2 without a neutral magistrate reviewing the reason for
- 3 that seizure?
- We don't permit a pretrial attachment, do
- 5 we, except in some narrow circumstances?
- 6 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Except in some narrow
- 7 circumstances, and I note -- and certainly in
- 8 garnishment cases and in replevin cases that you would
- 9 have to have that type of hearing. But the interests
- 10 are different here. The State's interests in the -- in
- 11 the seized property takes --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that's --
- 13 MR. CASTIGLIONE: I'm sorry.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I don't deny that
- 15 there's a State interest. The question is who tests
- 16 that interest? In what time frame? Meaning you can
- 17 assert an interest, but someone has to determine whether
- 18 it really exists or not.
- 19 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Your Honor, historically,
- 20 that has always been at the civil forfeiture hearing,
- 21 and that's going -- as I say, going back to Gelston,
- 22 because what -- what Gelston recognized is that --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Castiglione, you have
- 24 been asked to address the mootness question -- both
- 25 counsel.

1	MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes, Your Honor.
2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Have forfeiture
3	proceedings occurred in the plaintiffs' cases? Is there
4	any lingering question concerning the status of the
5	property?
6	MR. CASTIGLIONE: No Your Honor, the
7	forfeiture cases have concluded, it's true. We
8	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Have concluded?
9	MR. CASTIGLIONE: They have concluded.
10	The there are three three of the Respondents
11	sought the return of cars. Three had had cash seized.
12	In the three car cases, the cars had actually been
13	returned. In two of the cash cases, the Respondents
14	defaulted, and in one of the cash cases, the the
15	State and the Respondent reached an agreement. So those
16	cases are over.
17	But we would submit, Your Honor, that this
18	case is not moot because, subsequent to the Seventh
19	Circuit decision in this case, the plaintiffs filed an
20	amended motion for class certification, and that's at
21	Docket 49 Docket Number 49 of the Northern District
22	docket, filed on June 19th, 2008, specifically asking
23	for damages and restitution, in addition to declaratory
24	and injunctive relief.

JUSTICE ALITO: Well, has there ever been a

25

1	case	in	which	this	Court	has	considered	the	merits	of	а

- 2 dispute where the individual claims of the named
- 3 plaintiffs expired before we heard argument and a -- and
- 4 a class had not yet been certified?
- 5 MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's not the case here,
- 6 Your Honor. At least one of the -- one of the
- 7 Respondents, a certain Tyhesha Brunston -- her
- 8 forfeiture case ended in 2009, so at the time the
- 9 amended motion for class certification was filed asking
- 10 for damages and restitution.
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, but that wasn't my
- 12 question. The class has not yet been certified, has it?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: No, it has not, Your
- 14 Honor. That's true.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: And the -- the claims of all
- 16 the named plaintiffs are -- have expired?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, the injunctive
- 18 claims may have expired, with the possible exception of
- 19 the two Respondents whose -- whose cash cases were
- 20 defaulted. But, no, the damage claims, I think were --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: There were no damage
- 22 claims when the final judgment was entered in the
- 23 district court?
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's correct, Your
- Honor.

1	JUSTICE GINSBURG: So it was a final
2	judgment, and it went up on appeal. And at what point
3	did they seek to I mean, while the case was in the
4	court of appeals, the final judgment dismissing the
5	case, there was nothing for the district judge to do.
6	MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, but after the the
7	Seventh Circuit reversed the district judge's decision
8	granting the motion to dismiss, upon upon remand, the
9	plaintiffs then, at that point, asked for a
LO	certification of the damage class and a restitution
L1	class and expressly stated that they wished to pursue
L2	a claim a claim for damages and restitution based on
L3	
L4	JUSTICE GINSBURG: But
L5	JUSTICE SCALIA: It wasn't granted then, and
L6	it still hasn't been granted.
L7	MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's true, Your Honor.
L8	And
L9	JUSTICE SCALIA: So you have nobody before
20	this Court with a live claim, neither the original named
21	plaintiffs nor a certified class.
22	MR. CASTIGLIONE: I would well
23	JUSTICE SCALIA: So who's here?
24	MR. CASTIGLIONE: For for mootness
25	purposes, Your Honor, I think the the fact that

- 1 plaintiffs were allowed to ask for damages and -- and
- 2 filed a pleading asking --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: They did not ask for
- 4 damages originally.
- 5 MR. CASTIGLIONE: No, they did not.
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So as the case comes to
- 7 us, we have a district court final judgment dismissing
- 8 the case. The case was only for injunctive relief. It
- 9 goes to the Seventh Circuit. It's in that shape. We
- 10 are taking the case from the Seventh Circuit.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I -- I suppose, if
- 13 the case is moot, then you are entitled to a Munsingwear
- 14 order.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: I would --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So there's no
- 17 controlling authority.
- 18 MR. CASTIGLIONE: We would -- that's our
- 19 position, Your Honor.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And then I suppose
- 21 the district court doesn't know whether to award damages
- 22 or not until it gets a final decision from -- or a
- 23 decision from the Seventh Circuit or this Court.
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's correct, Your
- 25 Honor. I mean, the -- whether or not a damage claim

- 1 could go forward would depend on the -- on the validity
- 2 of the Seventh Circuit decision.
- And our view, Justice Scalia, is that the
- 4 -- when -- the -- upon -- even though they did not
- 5 formally amend the complaint -- that's true; we
- 6 acknowledge that, but in the -- in the motion for
- 7 class -- in the amended motion for class cert, I think
- 8 the assertion of the claim for damages, at least for
- 9 mootness purposes, is enough to give this Court
- 10 jurisdiction over -- over those claims.
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: If it been there
- 12 originally, but the problem is it wasn't there. The
- 13 case comes to us on a complaint that is simply for
- 14 injunctive relief. And that is moot.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: That -- with the possible
- 16 exception of the two Respondents whose claims defaulted,
- 17 Your Honor, in that it's unclear what it -- to the
- 18 extent they were seeking the return of their property,
- 19 their situation has not changed. Their property never
- 20 was returned.
- 21 JUSTICE SCALIA: What were they seeking to
- 22 have enjoined?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: They were seeking, Your
- 24 Honor -- they were asking the court to declare that the
- 25 Illinois statute was unconstitutional for not providing

- 1 an interim hearing, and an injunction preventing --
- 2 preventing Illinois from enforcing the statute.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: But -- I -- since they
- 4 defaulted in the -- in the final hearing, how can -- can
- 5 they possibly have any claim left with regard to an
- 6 interim hearing?
- 7 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, I just think the
- 8 nature of their claim hasn't changed. To the extent
- 9 they were seeking the return of their property through
- 10 such an injunction, that hasn't changed for those two
- 11 plaintiffs, Yunker and Williams. But we rest our -- our
- 12 response, Your Honor, and we will --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So am I forgetting, but
- 14 didn't this start out as a class action and wasn't the
- 15 claim -- wasn't the class action denied?
- 16 MR. CASTIGLIONE: It was denied as moot,
- 17 that's correct, Your Honor.
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And you didn't appeal
- 19 that?
- 20 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, we didn't -- we
- 21 didn't appeal at all. The plaintiffs appealed the
- 22 district court's order, which -- it was a single order
- 23 that granted -- I'm sorry -- that granted our motions to
- 24 dismiss and denied plaintiffs' motion for class
- 25 certification as moot. That was the order.

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And the plaintiffs -- the
- 2 plaintiffs didn't appeal the denial of certification.
- 3 MR. CASTIGLIONE: The two -- well, no, Your
- 4 Honor, they did not. They appealed the order -- they
- 5 appealed the denial of the motion to dismiss -- I'm
- 6 sorry -- the granting of the motion to dismiss. Excuse
- 7 me.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, maybe we should --
- 9 we should ask the plaintiffs about that. But you're
- 10 saying that the two cases that were defaulted are not
- 11 moot? Isn't a default the end of it?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: I'm saying they may not be
- 13 moot, Your Honor, in that the claim for relief has not
- 14 -- and they defaulted before, in at least one of the
- 15 cases, before the complaint was even filed. So nothing
- 16 has really changed in the status of their case. I
- 17 believe Mr. Williams -- nothing has changed in his case
- 18 from the time the complaint was filed.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You said in your opening
- 20 that there is just the one proceeding, and that's the
- 21 petition for forfeiture. But in your brief you
- 22 suggested that there is a means that these plaintiffs
- 23 could get back their property pending the ultimate
- 24 forfeiture proceeding. You mentioned a Slocum type
- 25 hearing, a petition for return of their property. So I

- don't understand your argument that there's one and
- 2 only procedure, the forfeiture procedure, when on the
- 3 other hand you are telling us that there is a means.
- 4 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, maybe I can explain,
- 5 and I think it also goes to the -- what is -- why
- 6 the 8,850 -- the use of 8,850 and the Barker speedy
- 7 trial factors makes sense. The one hearing where these
- 8 issues are resolved is a civil forfeiture hearing, it's
- 9 true. But I think what Slocum does, just in a similar
- 10 way to how speedy trial factors operate, it gives the
- 11 claimant an opportunity to come in and ask the court to
- 12 tell the government to fish or cut bait. So you either
- 13 file an action or release the property. I think it
- 14 operates much the same way that the speedy trial factors
- 15 would operate in a criminal case.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: And they -- and they can do
- 17 that before the -- before the time period has expired?
- 18 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Absolutely, Your Honor.
- 19 And they can certainly do that. That's a remedy that's
- 20 available up until -- up until the forfeiture case is
- 21 filed, and from that --
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But surely your
- 23 position is going to be that the statutory procedure
- 24 pre-empts and takes the place of any Slocum hearing,
- 25 isn't it? I mean, somebody comes in and files a

- 1 petition saying, here I'm raising this right under, you
- 2 know, an early 19th century procedure, and you're not
- 3 going to say, okay, here's our position or here's the
- 4 property. You are going to say, wait until the
- 5 forfeiture proceeding that is provided under Illinois
- 6 law.
- 7 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, I -- the -- what
- 8 Slocum does, Your Honor, we think -- we believe that
- 9 Illinois has recognized for at least over 50 years that
- 10 a property owner has a common law right to come in.
- 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: But that was before the
- 12 statute was enacted.
- 13 MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's certainly true,
- 14 Your Honor, but that --
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: The statute is a dead
- 16 letter if you allow a Slocum action. All you -- all you
- 17 need is a Slocum action, and the fact that the statute
- 18 says you have to wait for -- you know, that the
- 19 government has 40 days, is meaningless.
- 20 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, Slocum I think is a
- 21 way of getting into court, getting the government --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Exactly. It's a way of
- 23 defeating the statute.
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, once -- once the
- 25 government does act, Your Honor, then at that point I'd

- 1 say if in fact the government's being -- once the
- 2 government files a forfeiture action, if the
- 3 government's dilatory, there's remedies under under
- 4 Illinois law, our Code of Civil Procedure, or even
- 5 perhaps a motion to dismiss for --
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: But the statute says the
- 7 government isn't dilatory until -- until the time
- 8 period, 40 days. It has 40 days. What does that mean
- 9 if it doesn't mean that the government has 40 days?
- 10 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Oh, the -- I think -- I
- 11 think certainly, Your Honor, the government does have
- 12 the time periods. Yes, I agree with that. The
- 13 government certainly has the time periods. But if the
- 14 case were to somehow to fall through the cracks and
- 15 nothing would happen, I think what -- what the common
- 16 law remedies provide is a safety net for property owners
- 17 to be able to get into court.
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: Before the 40 days?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: No, I would say after the
- 20 40. I would say --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Oh, okay. Well, that's a
- 22 different story. These people are asking for a hearing
- 23 before the elapsing of the 40 days, and if all -- if all
- 24 you say that Slocum provides is a hearing after the 40
- 25 days have elapsed and nothing has occurred, that doesn't

- 1 satisfy what they are asking for.
- 2 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, I would say Slocum
- 3 provides a hearing after 40 days, Your Honor. I would
- 4 say, if the government does nothing, it's a way of
- 5 getting into court.
- 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: It doesn't have to do
- 7 anything for 40 days, is what the statute says.
- 8 MR. CASTIGLIONE: And we don't dispute that.
- 9 And --
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: But you say if it -- you
- 11 don't dispute that doesn't have to do anything, but you
- 12 -- you assert that if it does nothing, you can bring a
- 13 Slocum action. I mean, which is it? One or the other?
- 14 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, Slocum is an
- 15 equitable remedy. If someone can establish -- I don't
- 16 think before the time has run out in our procedures one
- 17 could probably establish that, but it's possible if a
- 18 case were to -- were to fall through the cracks, and it
- 19 gives --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Slocum then is the
- 21 answer to a very different case. It's a case where
- 22 you have a class action of people whose cases fell
- 23 through the cracks and never got the procedures they
- 24 were entitled to. It doesn't seem at all responsive to
- 25 the claim that they are entitled to procedures before it

- 1 falls through the cracks.
- 2 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, our position, Your
- 3 Honor, is that the -- the statute -- is the regime that
- 4 Illinois has adopted with the time periods, does -- does
- 5 comply with due process. It provides a way of dealing
- 6 with some number of the issues Respondents have raised.
- 7 JUSTICE STEVENS: But isn't the basic
- 8 argument that you make that a forfeiture hearing is all
- 9 the process that is due?
- 10 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: Now, let me ask you this
- 12 question: Suppose your statute said there shall be a
- 13 forfeiture hearing with all the procedures you want, but
- 14 the forfeiture hearing shall take place 1 year after the
- 15 seizure. Would that be adequate?
- 16 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Under this Court's view --
- 17 decision in FDIC v. Mallen, I don't think you would look
- 18 to the outer limits, Your Honor. But I think --
- JUSTICE STEVENS: Yes, I'm saying the
- 20 minimum. The hearing will take place 1 year after the
- 21 seizure, nothing earlier or nothing later. Would that
- 22 be constitutional?
- 23 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Again, applying -- well,
- 24 if it is possible for the States to do it in a shorter
- 25 fashion --

- 1 JUSTICE STEVENS: Clearly, it's possible to
- 2 do it in less than a year.
- 3 MR. CASTIGLIONE: And if a State -- if a
- 4 State's practice were to do so, but I would say --
- 5 JUSTICE STEVENS: Well, there is no
- 6 practice, no background practice. This is a new
- 7 statute. So this -- you have to have a forfeiture
- 8 hearing, as you describe it, that shall take place 6
- 9 months --
- 10 MR. CASTIGLIONE: One year later.
- 11 JUSTICE STEVENS: -- or a year later. Would
- 12 that be constitutional?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, that's shorter than
- 14 the time period that this Court found complied with due
- 15 process in 8,850 --
- 16 JUSTICE STEVENS: Well, I understand what
- 17 the Court has held. I'm asking your view of that
- 18 hypothetical statute.
- 19 MR. CASTIGLIONE: I think -- I think --
- 20 JUSTICE STEVENS: And if you agree that it's
- 21 unconstitutional, then you have to agree that time is --
- 22 is relevant to the question whether the forfeiture
- 23 hearing --
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: I would not agree -- I
- 25 would not agree that it's unconstitutional.

<pre>would be constitutional to say one hearing 1 year later?  MR. CASTIGLIONE: I think facially it is.  JUSTICE SCALIA: Ten years?  MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, I think, again, I'd  go back to FDIC v  JUSTICE SCALIA: Ten years?  MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, no, I would say 10  years without any judicial intervention</pre>
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JUSTICE SCALIA: You've you've given up
the position, then. You've said time does matter. So
we are just arguing over what the time is, whether it's
10 years, 1 year, or 40 days, right?
MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, 40 days I think is
consistent, is I think a reasonable
JUSTICE SCALIA: It may be, but that's a
different argument. It's it's not an absolute.
It's we have to consider whether the time period is
reasonable, right?
MR. CASTIGLIONE: If if I would say
MR. CASTIGLIONE: If if I would say this: If the statute said you can't come in the
this: If the statute said you can't come in the

JUSTICE ALITO: I ask you this about the

25

- 1 government's interest involved here and the practicality
- 2 of the situation, and I want to put aside the innocent
- 3 owner defense, which I hope to ask your adversary about.
- 4 But putting that aside, let's take what I envision as
- 5 sort of the typical case where the police officer
- 6 arrests someone in a vehicle for a drug offense and --
- 7 without a warrant -- and then has to file a complaint in
- 8 court.
- 9 What -- what is the government -- what is
- 10 the burden on the government, and what would be the
- 11 burden on Chicago or the State of Illinois in a
- 12 requirement that within some reasonably brief period of
- 13 time after that that there must be the equivalent of the
- 14 filing of a complaint in court, just as you would for
- 15 the arrest of an individual without a warrant, where the
- 16 only issue would be whether there was probable cause for
- 17 the seizure, not whether there, you know, is some
- 18 innocent owner defense, but just whether there's
- 19 probable cause?
- 20 MR. CASTIGLIONE: I think there are several
- 21 burdens. One, I think that hearing would be duplicative
- 22 of the ultimate forfeiture hearing. I think if it's an
- 23 adversarial hearing, it might be a way of doing, like, a
- 24 -- like, almost back door discovery in the -- in the
- 25 attendant criminal case if we had to do an adversarial

- 1 hearing in a civil forfeiture case. I think it
- 2 disregards the State's interest, Your Honor, in -- in
- 3 promoting informal negotiation and settlement. And
- 4 that's something I had hoped to talk about.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, he was just talking
- 6 about probable cause. How could that be duplicative?
- 7 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, just something along
- 8 the line --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Look, I thought this case,
- 10 though I grant you I could well be wrong, is not about a
- 11 final forfeiture hearing where you have to show that
- 12 it's more probable than not that the car was used for
- 13 drugs. But under the Illinois law, just as Justice
- 14 Alito said, you can seize a car without a warrant.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: And there are lists of
- 17 circumstances. But in the Florida statute that Justice
- 18 Thomas wrote about, it said that a person whose car it
- 19 is, is entitled to a hearing, I thought, in a brief time
- 20 to see if there was probable cause, just as a person
- 21 arrested. You have to bring them before a magistrate
- 22 within a short time to see if there's probable cause.
- Now, how do you do that in Chicago?
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, first of all,
- 25 Justice Breyer, we say the complete deprivation of one's

- 1 liberty is not the same as the deprivation of property.
- 2 The way we do it under our statute -- the way we deal
- 3 with this issue is there's -- the statutory regime
- 4 really has two concepts, one for property, seized
- 5 property, that -- whose value exceeds 20,000, and one
- 6 where --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: So you're saying the answer
- 8 to the question is there is no way? A person who doubts
- 9 this probable cause has no way. He has to wait 6 months
- 10 until there's a forfeiture hearing. He's out of luck
- 11 because then it merges with the merits.
- 12 MR. CASTIGLIONE: It does merge with the
- 13 merits. That's historically --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. That's your answer.
- 15 There is no way.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, there's still a --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Then I don't see why you
- 18 win this case.
- 19 MR. CASTIGLIONE: -- there's no formal
- 20 hearing.
- JUSTICE BREYER: What?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: I'm sorry, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, is there a way or
- 24 not? You have pointed to three statutes. Do they give
- 25 him any way?

- 1 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Those statutes are a way
- 2 to getting into -- to getting into court --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Look --
- 4 MR. CASTIGLIONE: -- to expedite the
- 5 hearing. And once the hearing is filed, Your Honor, it
- 6 is certainly possible to -- you know, to move to
- 7 expedite the trial.
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How do you get an
- 9 expedited hearing? I thought -- I thought for property
- 10 under 20,000, the State -- the time before the
- 11 forfeiture proceeding could be 187 days.
- 12 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Forty-five of those days,
- 13 Your Honor, is what would be the property owner deciding
- 14 whether to file a claim. And if -- I mean, one of the
- 15 possibilities -- it's at section 6 of our statute, which
- 16 is actually nonjudicial in rem forfeitures. If one were
- 17 to simply file -- a property owner simply file a claim
- 18 but not a cash bond, then there wouldn't be a judicial
- 19 proceeding. It would just be informal negotiations with
- 20 the State's attorney. One could always go to court by
- 21 filing a cash bond.
- 22 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And the bond is for
- 23 costs, not to get your car back.
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: The bond is for costs,
- 25 right. But the --

- 2 procedure for putting up a bond for the car so you can
- 3 get the car back, for the full value of the car?
- 4 MR. CASTIGLIONE: There isn't, Your Honor.
- 5 I would briefly address that. I know I have 1 minute
- 6 remaining. I would like to -- to reserve the time for
- 7 rebuttal. I would like to answer this question.
- No, Your Honor. For bond, about 80 to 85
- 9 percent of our cases are cash, seizures of cash, and as
- 10 the Seventh Circuit recognized, posting a cash bond for
- 11 cash is an absurdity.
- 12 With respect to cars, Your Honor, the
- 13 problem is the State's duty is to be able to preserve
- 14 and prevent the destruction or dissipation of the
- 15 property prior to the forfeiture hearing. If we bond it
- 16 out, we can't guarantee that at the ultimate forfeiture
- 17 hearing, that property would be -- would be preserved.
- 18 Your Honor, I would like -- if I may, I
- 19 would like to reserve the remainder of my time.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will afford you
- 21 additional time because the Court's questions have
- 22 intruded upon your rebuttal time.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Jay.
- 25 ORAL ARGUMENT OF WILLIAM M. JAY

Τ	ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES,
2	AS AMICUS CURIAE,
3	SUPPORTING THE PETITIONER
4	MR. JAY: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
5	please the Court:
6	I would like to begin, if I may, with the
7	colloquy that Justice Stevens and Justice Scalia had
8	with my co-counsel about the hypothetical where the
9	State mandates a minimum time
10	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I would think
11	you'd begin with the mootness question.
12	MR. JAY: I would be happy to begin with the
13	mootness question, Your Honor. And I although I
14	think that it's, to some degree, a question for the
15	Respondents what precisely they are seeking. Because
16	there are two Respondents, Yunker and Williams, who have
17	lost their property. The property is in the possession
18	of the State. And if their position is that unless a
19	hearing is held within 10 days, which is what they
20	originally asked for in their complaint, a probable
21	cause hearing within 10 days, if after that no
22	forfeiture is possible because timely post-deprivation
23	process has not been afforded, if that's their claim,
24	then it appears their claim is still alive because the
25	State still has their property.

- 1 If, however, their claim expires when the
- 2 forfeiture proceeding is actually held, then that
- 3 proceeding is over and we agree that their injunctive
- 4 claims are moot.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, what were they
- 6 seeking to enjoin?
- 7 MR. JAY: It's not entirely clear from their
- 8 complaint, Your Honor. They were -- they were asking
- 9 for the imposition of this 10-day hearing requirement,
- 10 but it -- and they are -- they were contending -- now,
- 11 each of these was filed after the 10 days had run. The
- 12 most recent seizure had occurred 2 months before the
- 13 class action complaint was filed in district court.
- 14 So it appears they were contending that they
- 15 wanted the forfeiture proceeding stopped because a
- 16 hearing had not been held within 10 days. So the
- 17 complaint doesn't make perfectly clear what kind of
- 18 injunction they were seeking except that they wanted the
- 19 imposition of this 10-day procedure.
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What did the Illinois
- 21 court do? Didn't it remand for an appropriate hearing
- 22 to be given?
- MR. JAY: Your Honor, the Seventh Circuit
- 24 remanded for the district court to fashion -- to fashion
- 25 some kind of procedure, that's right. And after that

- 1 remand order the plaintiffs, interpreting what the
- 2 Seventh Circuit had said, filed the amended motion for
- 3 class certification that Mr. Castiglione referred to,
- 4 and in that they said they wanted a class certified to
- 5 pursue damages for the time that their property was
- 6 detained, and they wanted the court to certify a class
- 7 of anyone who had had their property held for more than
- 8 7 days this time without -- without a proper hearing.
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Am I right that what is --
- 10 what is the rationale your supporting it for the
- 11 following: My car was parked on the street. There
- 12 happened to be some big drug crime nearby, and the
- 13 policeman took my car. In my opinion, there was no
- 14 probable cause. I would like my car back.
- Now, I take it that in Illinois there is no
- 16 proceeding, as there was in Florida, so that I can claim
- 17 there was no probable cause, and I -- none at all. I
- 18 never get that determination made; and, moreover, I have
- 19 to wait, for 6 months possibly, before I get a different
- 20 determination made, which is whether they had -- more
- 21 likely than not, whether that's entitled to forfeiture
- 22 on the merit.
- Is that the law? If anything like it is the
- 24 law, what's the constitutional justification for it?
- MR. JAY: Well, let me begin, Your Honor, by

- 1 pointing out that it's not the law, because the State's
- 2 ultimate burden at the hearing is not preponderance of
- 3 the evidence; it's probable cause. It's -- it's
- 4 precisely the same burden that --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: You mean they can keep my
- 6 car even if it's more likely than not that it was never
- 7 involved?
- 8 MR. JAY: When the -- when the State shows
- 9 probable cause, the burden shifts to the claimant to
- 10 prove by a preponderance -- so the ultimate burden is by
- 11 a preponderance.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: But it's still -- okay,
- 13 fine.
- MR. JAY: But it's --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Thank you. That is all
- 16 right. That's a burden of proof thing at the final
- 17 thing. That's not the thrust of my question.
- 18 The thrust of my question is: Do I have to
- 19 wait for up to 6 months before I have any magistrate,
- 20 any neutral official, pass on my claim there was no
- 21 probable cause to take my car?
- MR. JAY: And, Justice Breyer, you --
- JUSTICE BREYER: And the Florida statute, by
- 24 the way, doesn't do that. It says of course you get a
- 25 hearing on probable cause.

Τ	MR. JAY: The Florida statute
2	JUSTICE BREYER: Am I right?
3	MR. JAY: The Florida statute you are
4	correct unique as far as I know among all the
5	statutes legislated by the 50 States that use asset
6	forfeiture or the Federal Government, does provide an
7	adversarial probable cause hearing within the
8	JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. So nobody gives you
9	they go around taking cars even without probable
10	cause. There's no way to do it happens in every
11	State.
12	What's the constitutional justification for
13	making a person wait for 6 months before he gets a
14	neutral judicial official to say whether there was even
15	cause to take his car?
16	MR. JAY: The constitutional justification,
17	Justice Breyer, requires that a reviewing court look at
18	each step in the process, and it's not just a matter of
19	6 months from beginning to end. That process in
20	Illinois and in many other systems has different steps.
21	The first step is investigation and notice.
22	The and then the second step is deciding whether to
23	pursue this. The third step is completely in the hands
24	of the claimant, where the claimant decides whether to
25	pursue a judicial hearing. And the fourth

- 1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. You take the
- 2 car and then you investigate?
- 3 MR. JAY: Your Honor, there's more to
- 4 investigate than just the probable cause to seize. In
- 5 many cases, the probable cause to believe the car is
- 6 forfeitable is ironclad, but there is more to
- 7 investigate because, for example, an innocent owner in
- 8 Illinois by statute is entitled not to have her car or
- 9 her gun or her personal -- other personal property -- it
- 10 could be currency -- forfeited. And that --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But -- but you are --
- 12 but you're sort of begging the question. You are saying
- 13 to me that initial period is for the government to
- 14 figure out if it made a mistake or not, and we're
- 15 entitled to that time. You're not entitled, meaning
- 16 you, property owner, to go to a neutral magistrate who
- 17 will make that decision without a personal interest in
- 18 the outcome, because the person who seized does have an
- 19 interest of some sort. Many local police departments do
- 20 in seizing property, because they keep the proceeds.
- 21 So what you're saying is that
- 22 constitutionally it's okay for the party holding on to
- 23 property without a warrant to decide whether or not it
- 24 wants to give something back, whether or not there's
- 25 -- there's a viable defense. I'm a little confused.

- 1 MR. JAY: Let me respond to that in a couple
- 2 of steps. And the first is to respond to your point
- 3 about the incentives that local police departments may
- 4 face. There is no incentive to -- to hold property
- 5 longer than necessary because, while the property is
- 6 being held, there is no ability to access that property.
- 7 If it's currency, for example -- as Mr. Castiglione
- 8 pointed out, 85 percent of their seizures are -- the
- 9 currency is held in a suspense account and is not
- 10 accessible by the -- by the seizing government at all.
- 11 So the government has no interest in delaying longer
- 12 than necessary, especially for cars. The government has
- 13 to take care of the car, maintain it in a lot, you know,
- 14 preserve it from -- from harm.
- 15 Second, on the basic question of what is the
- 16 government doing during this time? The government has a
- 17 due process obligation, especially in an in rem
- 18 proceeding like this one, which deals with a piece of
- 19 property to which there may be competing claims. The
- 20 government has a -- itself has a due process obligation
- 21 to notify everyone who has a claim to this property that
- 22 it's in the government's custody and that there will be
- 23 a proceeding to adjudicate the competing claims to it.
- I mean, this Court in Robinson v. Hanrahan,
- 25 a decision in 1972, held that Illinois under its

- 1 forfeiture statute had violated due process by not
- 2 providing notice to the owner -- to the registered owner
- 3 of a car, because it sent notice to that owner at his
- 4 address when in fact he was in the custody of the State
- 5 of Illinois in a criminal proceeding.
- The State has an obligation to notify -- to
- 7 investigate, especially after a seizure, even if it is a
- 8 car which only a minority of seizures are -- even if it
- 9 is a car. Identifying the driver is not enough to
- 10 identify who has a claim to that car. There may be a
- 11 registered owner. There may be -- there may be a
- 12 security interest. In currency cases, it's even more
- 13 difficult, because on the face of currency there is no
- 14 indication who owns the currency --
- 15 JUSTICE STEVENS: May I just get you to
- 16 answer what I thought you were going to do at the
- 17 beginning of the argument. How do you answer my
- 18 hypothetical? You have a forfeiture hearing, but you
- 19 have a provision that it shall not take place for 6
- 20 months.
- MR. JAY: And that, of course, as I think
- 22 the hypothetical recognizes, Justice Stevens, is
- 23 different from a statute like we have here where there's
- 24 a maximum time, but it may well take place within --
- 25 JUSTICE STEVENS: I understand it's

- 1 different. I'm just curious to know what your answer
- 2 is.
- MR. JAY: My answer, Justice Stevens, is
- 4 that it might well be unconstitutional as applied. And
- 5 the Court, in 8,850, says --
- 6 JUSTICE STEVENS: Wouldn't it be
- 7 unconstitutional on its face?
- 8 MR. JAY: It wouldn't be unconstitutional on
- 9 its face, Justice Stevens, because sometimes the State
- 10 has a valid interest in holding property for more than a
- 11 year, as Mr. Castiglione said. In 8,850 itself, the
- 12 property was held for 18 months. The Court has said in
- 13 any due process case --
- 14 JUSTICE STEVENS: Would that justify a
- 15 statute that says in all cases it shall be held for at
- 16 least 18 months without telling the owner?
- MR. JAY: I think, Your Honor, that if the
- 18 State responded to an 8,850 defense and said -- and said
- 19 nothing other than the statute says 18 months or
- 20 10 years, and -- you know, and we have done nothing
- 21 during that time, I think that it would be
- 22 unconstitutional as applied.
- 23 But as a practical matter, States and the
- 24 Federal Government are not sitting around doing nothing
- 25 after seizing property. They are actively investigating

- 1 who has a claim, they are notifying all claimants, they
- 2 are allowing -- allowing those claimants to file claims
- 3 if they wish. A majority of all seizures are
- 4 uncontested.
- 5 And then whenever a claimant wants one, that
- 6 claimant is entitled to an in rem judicial hearing,
- 7 where all -- all claimants come into court and have --
- 8 have the government's right to seize the property
- 9 adjudicated and also the affirmative defenses, such as
- 10 the innocent owner defense. Now --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Suppose a situation in
- 12 which the property taken is really essential to the --
- 13 to the living of the person from whom -- who owns it --
- 14 a car -- and the person needs a car to get to work every
- 15 day. And -- and there is really no reason why the --
- 16 why the government has to wait that long.
- 17 Is there no procedure by which he can say,
- 18 you know -- do it quickly. You don't have to wait so
- 19 long. I'm the owner. I'm the only owner. I can -- I
- 20 can prove that. Let's have a quick hearing.
- 21 MR. JAY: I think that as the Federal
- 22 framework reflects, that is the kind of situation that
- 23 is -- that can be addressed by legislation. And the
- 24 Federal hardship provision, 18 U.S.C. 983(f), is a good
- 25 way of illustrating that; that the government has

- 1 competing interests in all these cases that compete with
- 2 the claimants' interests and in cases such as currency,
- 3 where the government can't be secured against the
- 4 possibility that the property will disappear, then --
- 5 then there's no hardship exception. And -- but the
- 6 government -- Congress, after extensive study, has
- 7 made a hardship provision for other forms of personal
- 8 property.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: There is no -- there's
- 11 no hardship under the Illinois statute? There is no
- 12 provision comparable to the Federal legislation for
- 13 hardship, is there?
- 14 MR. JAY: You are correct, Justice Ginsburg,
- 15 that there is no statutory provision, no.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 17 Mr. Peters.
- 18 ORAL ARGUMENT OF THOMAS PETERS
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- MR. PETERS: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 21 please the Court:
- 22 This case is not moot. It's not moot
- 23 because at the time that the plaintiffs filed the case
- 24 they clearly had standing. They immediately moved for
- 25 class certification. And although their motion for

- 1 class certification was denied, it was denied because
- 2 the merits of the case were simultaneously denied. And,
- 3 in fact, this Court has addressed a situation remarkably
- 4 similar to this in United States Parole Commission v.
- 5 Geraghty.
- In the Geraghty case, the class was not
- 7 certified. It was denied, as it was here. The case
- 8 became moot because the plaintiff in that case was a
- 9 Federal prisoner, had been released on parole, and
- 10 nonetheless the Court allowed the case to proceed. And
- 11 the reason the Court allowed the case to proceed, as I
- 12 understand it, is that the "capable of repetition, yet
- 13 evading review" doctrine was invoked. Once that
- 14 document is invoked, the claim -- the standing relates
- 15 back to the time of the filing of the complaint. At the
- 16 time of the filing of the complaint, there was standing,
- 17 and the putative class --
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: And you say it was likely
- 19 to -- these same named plaintiffs were likely -- likely
- 20 -- to face this same situation again?
- 21 MR. PETERS: No, that's not what I'm saying,
- 22 Your Honor. What I'm suggesting --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, if you are relying
- 24 on -- on, you know, "capable of repetition, yet evading
- 25 review, "that's -- that's the test, whether -- whether

- 1 indeed these people stand a chance of having the same
- 2 thing happen.
- 3 MR. PETERS: I respectfully beg to differ,
- 4 Your Honor. With respect to class actions and cases
- 5 where the plaintiff has timely requested to certify a
- 6 class, the "capable of repetition" relates to the class.
- 7 There is right now today a class of people in the city
- 8 of Chicago who have their cars impounded. That -- their
- 9 claims are repeating daily.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: You are begging the
- 11 question. That is, you are assuming that the class is a
- 12 valid class. It hasn't been certified. How -- how can
- 13 you make that -- that argument when there is no class?
- 14 MR. PETERS: Well, I -- I can make that
- 15 argument --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Just an asserted class on
- 17 your part. There's no class.
- 18 MR. PETERS: Yes, and that was also true in
- 19 Geraghty, Your Honor. There were -- the motion for
- 20 class --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, it wasn't. The
- 22 appeal in Geraghty included an appeal of the denial of
- 23 class certification.
- MR. PETERS: Yes, it did, Your Honor.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So both issues both

- 1 the merits and the denial of the class certification --
- 2 were still active before the Court. Here you didn't
- 3 appeal the dismissal of the class certification or the
- 4 mootness of it.
- 5 MR. PETERS: Well, we couldn't, Your Honor,
- 6 because it was inextricably linked to the merits. In
- 7 Geraghty --
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But -- but in many
- 9 appeals parties plead in the alternative and say, if you
- 10 -- if we win on the merits, reverse the dismissal of the
- 11 class certification because we still want to proceed as
- 12 a class. You didn't do that. You waited for the merits
- 13 to be adjudicated and then filed a new class action.
- 14 It's a very different procedural step.
- 15 MR. PETERS: I don't think that it is
- 16 significantly different when one considers the concerns
- 17 that animated the Court's decision in Geraghty. The
- 18 concerns that were at issue in that case were the fact
- 19 that the plaintiff was representing a class that was
- 20 going to continue to exist and that as to that class
- 21 there was constantly going to be a claim repeating; and
- 22 that that person, even though the class was denied -- in
- 23 that case it truly -- it was denied on the merits,
- 24 because he had an opportunity to litigate the merits.
- 25 We did not have a -- opportunity to litigate the merits

- 1 of the Rule 23 issue.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Peters, I think the
- 3 Court in Geraghty said it split the interests. And they
- 4 said his interests in challenging the denial of class
- 5 action status continued even though he was no longer
- 6 incarcerated.
- 7 So they were concentrating on his right to
- 8 appeal the denial of class action certification. And
- 9 that's what you don't have here. And that's what
- 10 distinguishes this case from Geraghty.
- 11 MR. PETERS: I -- I certainly agree that it
- 12 is not an identical situation, Your Honor. But I
- 13 think -- as I said before, I think again that the
- 14 concerns that caused the Court to reach that position in
- 15 Geraghty are in fact the same because in this case
- 16 the -- there is a continuing activity with respect to
- 17 the class. There is some -- there are a group of people
- 18 who are aggressively pursuing the rights of that class.
- 19 There is a live controversy between the government and
- 20 that class.
- 21 So in all of those respects, which are
- 22 similar to what --
- 23 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But we must take it as it
- 24 came into the Seventh Circuit, which is no appeal from
- 25 the denial of class certification. So we have

- 1 individual plaintiffs who are seeking to overturn the
- 2 denial of injunctive relief. And that's all that's
- 3 before the Seventh Circuit.
- 4 MR. PETERS: That was -- that was all that
- 5 was before the Seventh Circuit because I don't -- it
- 6 seems to me that it is just sort of a gratuitous gesture
- 7 to say, I am appealing the denial of the class
- 8 certification ruling, when the class certification
- 9 ruling is itself based entirely on the denial of the
- 10 merits.
- 11 If there had not -- if there had been any
- 12 inkling, any ruling that suggested that the Rule 23
- 13 aspect, the class aspect, was being denied on
- 14 class-related grounds, then of course there would be an
- 15 appeal. But what --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: As it turns out it -- it
- 17 wouldn't have been gratuitous.
- 18 (Laughter.)
- 19 MR. PETERS: Well -- I understand Your
- 20 Honor's position, although I --
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: But if I have a different
- 22 position, which is I'd like to see if it's practical
- 23 to decide this case now, two things stand in the way in
- 24 my mind which I'd like you to address. The first
- 25 is your opponents are saying, no, you shouldn't really

- 1 address this issue now because there are three Illinois
- 2 statutes which actually give them, anyone who wants it,
- 3 a right to a hearing at least on probable cause. And
- 4 that's a matter of Illinois law. And although the
- 5 statutes don't seem to say it, they might.
- And the second is that this seems mixed up
- 7 in my mind -- not necessarily your fault; it may be my
- 8 mind -- but it seems to me there are two quite separate
- 9 questions: when you are entitled to a final hearing of
- 10 whether forfeiture is right or wrong; and whether you
- 11 are entitled to a preliminary hearing on whether there
- 12 was probable cause under the statute to obtain the car.
- 13 Now, that latter question I think might be
- 14 impractical in many cases to work out until there's been
- 15 a trial of an individual who's accused of a crime, which
- 16 may be much later.
- But the former question is where I think you
- 18 have a point, that there are five instances here in this
- 19 statute where a policeman could seize a car without a
- 20 warrant and he has to have probable cause under most of
- 21 them nonetheless. So your clients might say: He did
- 22 not have probable cause; I want a neutral magistrate to
- 23 contest it.
- Now, in my mind that reaches -- that's a
- 25 different question than the final hearing about who's

- 1 entitled to the car. And I also see the three statutes
- 2 and now I see a case where here in front of me
- 3 everything is mixed up. So I think -- perhaps I'm just
- 4 seeing it that way, but those issues are mixed up
- 5 confused and not separated out. So why don't we
- 6 wait? What's your answer now?
- 7 MR. PETERS: I think that -- that waiting
- 8 would be the prudent thing to do. And it's
- 9 unquestionably true that what we're suggesting with
- 10 respect to the preliminary hearing is not identical to
- 11 the final hearing. The final hearing is -- is on the
- 12 merits. It decides where the property is going to,
- 13 finally and ultimately. The hearing we are talking
- 14 about is a conditional release hearing, similar to what
- 15 happens in Krimstock, similar to what happens under the
- 16 Civil Asset Forfeiture Review Act.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but then if
- 18 it's -- if it's money that is being conditionally
- 19 released, there's no security for the government. If
- 20 it turns out later on it shouldn't have been released,
- 21 it's probably gone.
- 22 MR. PETERS: Well, there -- there could be
- 23 grounds for -- there could be ways of getting security
- 24 for it. I mean, perhaps a person would post some other
- 25 collateral because they desperately needed the cash at

- 1 that moment. I certainly agree with Your Honor that the
- 2 bond procedure is much more in tune with and much more
- 3 likely to work with cars than with other property.
- JUSTICE ALITO: May I ask you --
- 5 MR. PETERS: Sure.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: -- exactly what you think
- 7 needs to take place at this hearing? And the hearing
- 8 you think has to take place within 10 days? Is that
- 9 your figure?
- 10 MR. PETERS: No, Your Honor. In the
- 11 complaint we did reference 10 days, and the reason we
- 12 did that is because we thought that that was an
- 13 appropriate time frame.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, whatever the period
- 15 is: 10 days, 14 days, whatever. Some short period.
- MR. PETERS: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: I have two questions: Must
- 18 it be an adversarial hearing, and must the State
- 19 disprove the innocent owner defense?
- 20 MR. PETERS: No and no. I think that
- 21 the -- with respect to whether it's an adversarial
- 22 hearing, I -- what we envision is a hearing similar to
- 23 what happens in Krimstock where basically the
- 24 government's burden is met by having police reports
- 25 which on their face establish probable cause to at least

- 1 seize the car.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, but my understanding
- 3 of Krimstock is that a lot of those seizures -- and
- 4 others know more about this than I do -- were for DWI,
- 5 and that it is possible to assert an innocent owner
- 6 defense there. And that's where I see a great
- 7 impracticality in this. I -- I don't see how you can
- 8 expect the State to come into court within such a short
- 9 period and have any burden of contesting an innocent
- 10 owner defense without compromising a criminal
- 11 investigation.
- MR. PETERS: Well, if there was -- my answer
- 13 to that, I think, Your Honor, is in two parts: One is
- 14 the Federal Government is already doing something like
- 15 that with the CAFRA. There are hardship provisions, and
- 16 part of the hearing could include showing by the car
- 17 owner or the property owner that they are in fact likely
- 18 to prevail as an innocent owner. Now --
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought that -- I
- 20 thought the government said it doesn't apply to cash.
- 21 So that -- which we are told is 85 percent of the
- 22 seizures involved.
- MR. PETERS: The CAFRA doesn't apply to
- 24 cash. That's true.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Right.

- 1 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, let me give you this
- 2 example which is pretty much based on something that you
- 3 -- you wrote in your own brief. Joe is arrested on a
- 4 drug offense driving a car, and there are drugs in the
- 5 car. But Joe isn't the owner of the car; John is the
- 6 owner of the car. Then John comes in 10 days later or
- 7 14 days later and says, well, you know, I never had any
- 8 inkling that Joe was using the car to deal in drugs and
- 9 had no reason to know that. And you think that within
- 10 that short period of time the State has to disprove
- 11 that, you know, that John didn't have --
- MR. PETERS: No, Your Honor.
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: -- reason to believe that
- 14 Joe was involved in drug dealing?
- 15 MR. PETERS: No, Your Honor. I think the
- 16 burden will be on the property owner to establish first
- 17 that that the person is the owner of the property, and
- 18 second to establish to some yet-undefined degree that
- 19 they have a likely innocent owner defense.
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: I thought you said -- I
- 21 thought you said the innocent owner defense didn't have
- 22 to be inquired into in the probable cause here. I
- 23 thought that was your position.
- 24 MR. PETERS: It -- it is not ordered
- 25 by the Seventh Circuit but I -- we would believe that an

- 1 innocent owner --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Okay, you want --
- 3 MR. PETERS: -- argument should be included,
- 4 and --
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Okay. That makes it
- 6 harder. You're challenging this -- this statute on its
- 7 face, isn't that right?
- 8 MR. PETERS: No, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: No?
- MR. PETERS: As applied.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Just as applied?
- MR. PETERS: Yes, we made that clear in the
- 13 complaint. There has never been any argument --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: No, how can you have an --
- 15 MR. PETERS: -- to the contrary until this
- 16 Court.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: How can you have an
- 18 as-applied challenge to an entire class?
- 19 MR. PETERS: Well, first of all, Your Honor,
- 20 what we're suggesting, the order of the Seventh Circuit
- 21 does not invalidate any provision of this Act and in
- 22 fact it's entirely consistent with section 2 of the
- 23 Act, which incorporates by reference Federal remedies
- 24 which include interim remedies. So it is not how the
- 25 Act on its face is written. It's how it is being

- 1 applied to these people. And in addition to that, we
- 2 are not suggesting that every --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Why -- why -- to -- to have
- 4 an as-applied challenge, regardless of whether the
- 5 Illinois law provides a -- a remedy, wouldn't you be
- 6 able to individually assert under section 1983
- 7 unconstitutional action?
- I mean, isn't there a Federal remedy? If
- 9 all you're concerned about is as-applied, you mean you
- 10 are being treated unconstitutionally by a State and you
- 11 have no remedy?
- 12 MR. PETERS: There is a Federal remedy, Your
- 13 Honor, but that is not --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why isn't that enough?
- 15 MR. PETERS: That's -- that's certainly not
- 16 enough, Your Honor, for the following reason: It is
- 17 largely impractical for most people -- many of the
- 18 people who are involved in drug forfeiture seizures are
- 19 people with modest to low incomes, probably little to no
- 20 access to attorneys. The likelihood of them
- 21 understanding, first of all, that they may have this
- 22 right, then contacting an attorney and getting an
- 23 attorney to litigate --
- 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: But they will know about
- 25 the probable cause hearing that you want to -- that you

- 1 want set up, right?
- 2 MR. PETERS: If -- this is why it should be
- 3 a class, and it clearly applies to a large class of
- 4 people.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Which -- which is why you
- 6 are asking for a facial challenge. You want these
- 7 hearings in all cases --
- 8 MR. PETERS: No, Your --
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- regardless of what the
- 10 individual circumstances are; isn't that so?
- MR. PETERS: No, that is not so.
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: It is not so?
- MR. PETERS: Yes, and the reason is --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, what are the
- 15 individual circumstances of all the other people in
- 16 the class? We don't know what they are. We don't know
- 17 whether it's a car that has been taken, money that has
- 18 been taken, whether they are millionaires, whether they
- 19 need the car. We know nothing about them.
- MR. PETERS: That's correct, Your Honor.
- 21 But that's a function of the fact that this case came to
- 22 the Court without the benefit of discovery, without
- 23 having an opportunity to identify.
- 24 But what I was -- what I would suggest to
- 25 Your Honor is this: We are not suggesting that every

- 1 single person who has a piece of property taken is
- 2 necessarily entitled to this hearing. If, for example,
- 3 the police seize my favorite baseball card, I would not
- 4 be entitled to a hearing under the Mathews criteria
- 5 because my favorite baseball card does not justify
- 6 putting the government through the expense. On the
- 7 other hand, there are categories of people -- say they
- 8 seized \$5,000. There is some limit below which the
- 9 hearings may not apply. But if all --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What if -- what
- if at your innocent owner or the hearing that you are
- 12 seeking, you establish, well, I was going to sell my
- 13 baseball card to give me the money to -- to survive, to
- 14 get food?
- 15 That was my -- I mean, what happens then?
- 16 MR. PETERS: There would have to be -- first
- of all, we don't know how that would administratively be
- 18 handled because of the posture of the case, but my
- 19 suggestion, Mr. Chief Justice, would be this: That the
- 20 likely result in a case -- in this case, is that there
- 21 should be hearings for all car owners and that there
- 22 should be a baseline dollar value below which a person
- 23 is not entitled to a hearing. Now, how that --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So just to get back
- 25 to the cars, I thought your answer to Justice Alito was

- 1 a little abstract. In the absolute concrete case, where
- 2 the drug -- the suspect is driving the car, there are
- 3 drugs in the car.
- 4 MR. PETERS: Yes.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: At your hearing, the
- 6 -- it's not registered to him. The registered owner
- 7 comes in and says, that's my car, I had no idea it was
- 8 being used for drugs.
- 9 Who wins, the State or the registered owner?
- 10 MR. PETERS: Well, in -- in those
- 11 circumstances and that's the only car, I would say,
- 12 most likely, the property should be returned to the car
- owner.
- 14 However, I would add that, if the government
- 15 has some concerns about -- for example, that they need
- 16 additional time to investigate this innocent owner
- 17 claim, then by having the hearing in front of a neutral
- 18 and detached person --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, aren't they
- 20 always going to say that? They are going to say, well,
- 21 we don't know if the registered owner is involved in the
- 22 drug conspiracy. We don't know how closely he is tied
- 23 with the owner, so it's reasonable to assume he knew
- 24 what was going on, and besides, we've got a lot of other
- 25 bigger fish to fry during this period.

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- 2 conspiracy. We are trying to find out where the sales
- 3 were going to take place. Why do you force us to -- to
- 4 focus our energies on the relationship between a
- 5 registered owner and the guy driving the car?
- 6 MR. PETERS: Well, I don't think that that
- 7 is likely to happen, and I think what's going on in New
- 8 York is proof that that is not how it works out, and I
- 9 think --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, the situation is much
- 11 worse than that, that they don't have the -- that they
- 12 need time to investigate. They may have the registered
- 13 owner under investigation.
- 14 They may think he is involved in the drug
- 15 conspiracy as well. They may have him on wiretaps.
- 16 They may be preparing to arrest him. Now, you want to
- 17 force them to come into court within 10 or 14 days and
- 18 disclose the details of a -- of a pending criminal
- 19 investigation and prepare to -- that makes a great --
- 20 MR. PETERS: No, Your Honor. I'm not
- 21 suggesting that at all.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, then I don't
- 23 understand how this -- how you can possibly have the
- 24 innocent owner issue adjudicated at this quick hearing.
- 25 I can understand the argument that you have

- 1 to have the filing of the equivalent of a -- of a
- 2 complaint when you -- that has to be filed when someone
- 3 is arrested without a warrant, where it's not
- 4 adversarial and you establish probable cause for the
- 5 seizure.
- 6 But when you start to go beyond that in drug
- 7 forfeiture cases, at least, not -- not DWI cases, I just
- 8 don't see how that's workable.
- 9 MR. PETERS: Well, except --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, can you
- 11 unpackage for me this hearing? Because there is a
- 12 confusion in it that appears, both in your papers and in
- 13 this argument.
- There's a probable cause component, which
- is the police coming before a neutral magistrate and
- 16 saying, this is the reason I seized; I have probable
- 17 cause to believe that this car was involved in an
- 18 illegal activity, and this is why.
- 19 And then there is what sounds like, to me, a
- 20 sort of remission-type component to the hearing you are
- 21 looking at, which is a magistrate saying, okay, you have
- 22 probable cause, but there's no reason for the seizing
- 23 authorities to keep the car because you can post a bond
- 24 instead, or something else should be done to mitigate
- 25 the damage to you during this process of forfeiture.

- 1 Am I correct that there are two components
- 2 to your request? And if there are, I understand the
- 3 probable cause component, but I'm not sure how you get
- 4 to the second component of how and why due process would
- 5 require the State to have a -- I'm calling it
- 6 remission -- but a remission-like proceeding?
- 7 Am I correct? Am I understanding what --
- 8 what it is you're --
- 9 MR. PETERS: Yes, Your Honor, but let me go
- 10 back in response to your question and, I think, in
- 11 part to Justice Alito's.
- 12 The Seventh Circuit hasn't ordered any
- 13 specific hearing, so I am, at this point, advising the
- 14 Court of what I think this hearing should look like.
- 15 It could well be, upon remand and discovery,
- 16 that what I am suggesting the -- the hearing should look
- 17 like, it may -- it may not look like that at all. It
- 18 could be that --
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Isn't that one of the
- 20 problems with the Seventh Circuit decision? That it
- 21 covers the waterfront. It covers cash, as well as any
- 22 property. It's not concentrated on cars.
- 23 And what your complaint asks for -- you said
- 24 it was as applied, but you are asking for a declaration
- 25 that defendants must hold a post-seizure probable cause

- 1 hearing within 10 business days, and you are asking the
- 2 Court to enjoin the defendant's current practice of
- 3 seizing property and retaining custody without a
- 4 judicial determination of probable cause.
- 5 That sounds, to me, like a facial challenge
- 6 to this statute, and you are asking for a declaration
- 7 that the statute is invalid, not as applied to any
- 8 particular person.
- 9 MR. PETERS: I think it's invalid as applied
- 10 to categories of people, but I would continue to
- 11 maintain --
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: You think -- you think it's
- 13 unconstitutional as applied to everybody who is not
- 14 given this -- this preliminary hearing. That's --
- 15 that's what the complaint says.
- 16 Your -- the class you want certified is the
- 17 class of everybody who has not been given a preliminary
- 18 hearing. I don't know the difference between that and
- 19 saying that this statute is unconstitutional as
- 20 applied.
- MR. PETERS: On that --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, just -- just
- 23 because you don't say in your complaint, this is a
- 24 facial challenge, it amounts to a facial challenge. You
- 25 say, everybody who has not been given a preliminary

- 1 hearing is entitled to relief because the statute is bad
- 2 as to all of them.
- 3 MR. PETERS: The Seventh Circuit, however,
- 4 did not endorse completely what we alleged in the
- 5 complaint. We, of course, in the complaint, like most
- 6 complaints, ask for as much as you think you might be
- 7 able to get.
- 8 But the Seventh Circuit did not order
- 9 hearings across the board for every single person whose
- 10 property is taken. And I'm not suggesting that every
- 11 single person whose property is taken will necessarily
- 12 be entitled to a hearing.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay, can we --
- MR. PETERS: There are --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Go ahead. Finish.
- MR. PETERS: There are going to be
- 17 circumstances when the value of the property is de
- 18 minimis as compared to the cost of the hearing. And --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: That is not the class you
- 20 asked to be certified. You asked to certify everybody
- 21 who had been denied a preliminary hearing.
- 22 MR. PETERS: Yes, I -- I did, Your Honor,
- 23 and in that regard, I was mistaken, but the Seventh
- 24 Circuit corrected my mistake and only ordered a remand
- 25 for a determination as to who it would be, who would be

- 1 entitled to --
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Where -- where does the
- 3 Seventh Circuit --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: It doesn't change this --
- 5 this action from a class action -- from a facial
- 6 challenge into a nonfacial challenge. They can't change
- 7 your complaint.
- 8 You were either asking this to be struck
- 9 down on its face, or you weren't. And what -- what the
- 10 Seventh Circuit did doesn't change that.
- 11 MR. PETERS: Well, Your Honor, I think what
- 12 the Seventh Circuit did does change it because now the
- 13 ruling is what was determined by the Seventh Circuit,
- 14 and the Seventh Circuit did not say that every single
- 15 person is entitled to a hearing.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, can I get to the
- 17 merits for a second?
- 18 MR. PETERS: Yes, sir.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Go back to what Justice
- 20 Alito and Justice Sotomayor were asking. This
- 21 statute gives a policeman the right to seize some
- 22 property without a warrant if it's a circumstance where
- 23 you could seize a person without a warrant.
- 24 That's basically what it says, doesn't it?
- MR. PETERS: Yes.

- 1 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. In that kind of
- 2 situation, I would think maybe you are entitled to a
- 3 quick hearing where the only subject would be: Was that
- 4 language carried out? Was that policeman right? Was
- 5 there probable cause, or wasn't there?
- Now, if that's the issue, I don't see why
- 7 you give up at all on the baseball card. I mean, if
- 8 somebody comes into my house and takes a baseball card,
- 9 and he's supposed to have probable cause and he doesn't,
- 10 I don't see why I can't go get a judge or a magistrate,
- 11 determine whether he had at my baseball card, and pretty
- 12 quickly, too.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Some of them are worth --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: But if you go to the other
- 15 --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- a lot of money. Yes.
- JUSTICE BREYER: If you go to the other,
- 18 which is whether there's an innocent owner or whether
- 19 in fact you should give bail to the property -- I mean,
- 20 that's -- I know we give bail to people, but I don't
- 21 know that we give bail to property. Maybe real
- 22 property, but that seems a much more complex argument.
- 23 So I want to know: What's your authority
- 24 that we should give bail to the property and have a
- 25 hearing on that?

- 1 MR. PETERS: I don't --
- 2 JUSTICE BREYER: And why do you give up in
- 3 respect to baseball cards or anything in effect to the
- 4 first?
- 5 MR. PETERS: Well, I wouldn't like to give
- 6 up my favorite baseball card, but the reason that I said
- 7 that, Your Honor, is this: The Mathews criteria, which
- 8 we are espousing here, require a cost-benefit analysis,
- 9 and if the value of the property under that -- using
- 10 that criteria does not warrant a hearing, then as to
- 11 that property, there shouldn't be a hearing. So there
- 12 doesn't have to be a hearing in every case. There may
- 13 --
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So it's as -- so
- 15 it's as applied in every case, which I think ties in a
- 16 little bit to the mootness question that we began with.
- 17 Because it focuses on the circumstances of the
- 18 individual claimants, and if the individual claimants
- 19 have already had their property returned, I think it
- 20 accentuates the mootness issue.
- 21 MR. PETERS: I -- I continue to maintain,
- 22 Your Honor, that the -- as long as there was standing
- 23 when the case was filed, and as long as there is a live
- 24 class that could be represented by these class -- or
- 25 putative class --

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: "My potential class," you
- 2 should call it.
- 3 MR. PETERS: Potential class. Yes, Your
- 4 Honor.
- 5 Then there is standing on -- and I believe
- 6 that the standing can be established through the
- 7 Geraghty decision. I agree that it is not literally
- 8 identical to Geraghty, but I think the underlying
- 9 circumstances that animated the Court's decision in that
- 10 case are the same and that, therefore, these people
- 11 maintain standing.
- 12 If, however, in response to a question
- 13 that you asked Mr. Castiglione earlier, if the case
- 14 became moot as a result of the return of the property,
- 15 then it wouldn't be a Munsingwear situation. It would
- 16 be a Bancorp v. Bonner situation, because if it became
- 17 moot as a result of the settlement of the case after the
- 18 Seventh Circuit's decision, then the Seventh Circuit's
- 19 decision should stay in place.
- 20 So if -- I do not agree that the case is
- 21 moot, but if hypothetically the case were moot, then we
- 22 are not in a Munsingwear situation; we are in a Bancorp
- 23 situation, because the mootness --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, that's an
- 25 interesting -- that's an interesting question. I mean,

- 1 is it becoming moot through their voluntary cessation or
- 2 activity when the State law requires them to take
- 3 particular action?
- 4 MR. PETERS: No, what -- what I'm saying,
- 5 Your Honor, is if we're -- if we're defining mootness as
- 6 the ultimate return of the property, then the property
- 7 was returned pursuant to settlements in four of the
- 8 cases. The plaintiffs agreed, we'll pay \$400 instead of
- 9 \$20,000, if you return our car. The car was returned.
- 10 So if the case was settled and became moot
- 11 because of the settlement, it is not a situation in
- 12 which the Court can adopt the Munsingwear position. It
- 13 really is a Bancorp situation, and the Seventh Circuit's
- 14 decision remains --
- 15 JUSTICE STEVENS: Of course, all of these
- 16 problems really arise out of the fact that the effect of
- 17 the court of appeals' decision basically was to overrule
- 18 the motion to dismiss, left everything open on remand.
- 19 So if we said it is moot, you'll just get another
- 20 plaintiff and bring another lawsuit, which is what you
- 21 do if the Court -- we are trying to get into the case
- 22 much earlier than we should, it seems to me. Just let
- 23 the proceedings go ahead on remand and find out what all
- 24 the -- all these factual answers that -- or these
- 25 questions that should be answered.

- 1 MR. PETERS: I certainly agree with that,
- 2 Your Honor. The -- there are many --
- JUSTICE STEVENS: The mootness -- the
- 4 mootness decision won't really decide anything. You'll
- 5 just say you've got to file another lawsuit and start
- 6 over again.
- 7 MR. PETERS: Yes.
- 8 JUSTICE STEVENS: But if you just say, we --
- 9 probably, in my judgment, we ought to dismiss this writ
- 10 as improvidently granted and let the record be developed
- 11 and the case go by, and we could decide the issues.
- 12 MR. PETERS: That, it seems to me, is a very
- 13 wise choice of action.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But where you said -- you
- 15 said that --
- 16 MR. PETERS: For obvious reasons. But
- 17 beyond that --
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- the Seventh
- 19 Circuit -- your complaint, you say, is -- you asked for
- 20 the universe, every kind of property of due process
- 21 hearing within 10 days or a short period. But you said
- 22 the Seventh Circuit narrowed the relief. And I'm
- 23 looking at the Seventh Circuit decision, and I really
- 24 don't see what was narrowed. I think they left
- 25 everything open for the district Court.

- 1 MR. PETERS: Well, they --
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Where -- where is there
- 3 any narrowing?
- 4 MR. PETERS: Well, the narrowing, as I
- 5 perceive it, Your Honor, is this: I believe the Court
- 6 said at different times whether an appropriate remedy
- 7 can be fashioned. The Court did not say for whom. It
- 8 didn't say it must be for everybody. It didn't say what
- 9 would be necessary to trigger the right to the hearing.
- 10 It didn't say how much time would elapse.
- It left -- it did leave, in that sense,
- 12 everything open, but by leaving everything open, it also
- 13 allows the court to narrow the categories of people who
- 14 would be entitled to this hearing that -- in such a way
- 15 that it would be an effective practical remedy.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- MR. PETERS: Thank you.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Castiglione, why
- 19 don't you take 3 minutes?
- 20 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL CASTIGLIONE
- ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- Well, Your Honor, initially, two of the
- 24 claimants here lost their property. They defaulted.
- 25 Three had their property returned. This is not a case

- 1 where the matter -- the underlying matter is concluded
- 2 by voluntary cessation.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: I thought they didn't. I
- 4 thought some didn't have it returned, but there was a
- 5 settlement.
- 6 MR. CASTIGLIONE: One did, Your Honor, but
- 7 it wasn't in response to the Federal litigation. So our
- 8 position would be if this is moot, this is really --
- 9 Munsingwear would apply.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: The mootness was not a
- 11 result of any settlement between the city and --
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: That's correct. Well, I
- 13 mean -- it didn't settle because of the lawsuit.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Your -- your friend said
- 15 the opposite. I mean --
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, it settled, Your
- 17 Honor, just as through a normal course. It was not a
- 18 response to the Federal litigation that was going on
- 19 independently.
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't understand.
- 21 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Well, I'm --
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: They got all of their
- 23 property back?
- 24 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Oh, no, no. In most
- 25 cases, yes, Your Honor. The private -- the hearing --

- 1 the cases went to hearing and the three -- with the
- 2 three car owners and they ultimately received their cars
- 3 back.
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: No, I don't understand.
- 5 They got their cars back, right?
- 6 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: The people who had money at
- 8 stake, what happened to the money?
- 9 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Two of them -- two
- 10 defaulted and one reached a settlement with the State.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: A settlement?
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes, sir.
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: So you have at least one
- 14 case where the mootness is attributable to a settlement.
- 15 You have at least one plaintiff, and you can't get the
- 16 kind of remand for mootness that you are asking for.
- 17 MR. CASTIGLIONE: No, I understand, Your
- 18 Honor. I'm just making the point that if this case --
- 19 if the Court finds it's moot, that we would want --
- 20 would ask for an entry of an order vacating the
- 21 orders below pursuant to -- pursuant to Munsingwear.
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: But we don't do Munsingwear
- 23 orders where -- where the mootness is a result of a
- 24 settlement.
- MR. CASTIGLIONE: Our position, Your Honor,

- 1 is that the settlement wasn't in response. We didn't
- 2 settle the Federal -- we didn't settle the Federal
- 3 litigation. The -- the underlying forfeiture case was
- 4 -- was resolved.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I thought your
- 6 answer is that they didn't all settle.
- 7 MR. CASTIGLIONE: They all didn't settle.
- 8 That's right. In fact, that's a better answer, I think,
- 9 Your Honor.
- 10 JUSTICE STEVENS: Well, what good would a
- 11 Munsingwear order do, anyway? They'll just file another
- 12 lawsuit, won't they?
- 13 MR. CASTIGLIONE: They could.
- 14 JUSTICE STEVENS: Yes.
- 15 MR. CASTIGLIONE: They certainly could, if
- 16 you -- they have the right to do that, Your Honor.
- 17 JUSTICE STEVENS: And then if the district
- 18 judge said -- having read this opinion, which was
- 19 vacated, says, well, I guess it states a cause of
- 20 action, I will deny the motion to dismiss -- we would
- 21 be exactly where we are now.
- 22 MR. CASTIGLIONE: We -- and we would. There
- 23 is no doubt about that.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I just get
- 25 clarification?

- 1 Under your State law, there is no way for an
- 2 owner to come in and challenge probable cause to seize?
- 3 MR. CASTIGLIONE: There --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Not a defense --
- 5 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Right.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- but the examples
- 7 Judge Breyer said: My car was just sitting there.
- 8 MR. CASTIGLIONE: There is not, Your Honor.
- 9 I mean, the forfeiture is not going to help.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. And, second,
- 11 is there any procedure under your State law to do the
- 12 second half of what your adversary said he was looking
- 13 for, a remission-type proceeding that would balance the
- 14 government's need to hold the property and the
- 15 individual's need for it, and whether there is a bond
- 16 that could be posted or not?
- 17 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Not that we -- Illinois
- 18 doesn't provide for a bond, Your Honor. As we
- 19 indicated, there are problems with bonds, certainly for
- 20 cash and for -- and for other personal property as well,
- 21 but --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, that may be part
- of the Mathews issue, that once you prove probable
- 24 cause, giving away -- giving back money just never would
- 25 probably be rational to hold a hearing about, but that

- 1 might not be true for real property, correct?
- 2 Under -- even under Mathews, under -- in a
- 3 Mathews analysis.
- 4 MR. CASTIGLIONE: I'm not sure I understand
- 5 Your Honor's question.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If you apply a Mathews
- 7 analysis --
- 8 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Yes.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the multifaceted item
- 10 would say for the seizure of cash, maybe only the
- 11 hearing has to address probable cause, but for real
- 12 property it has to go further. Not real property, in
- 13 the sense of real personal property. It has to go
- 14 further, because there has to be some sort of
- 15 protection of the interest of the individual, pending --
- 16 MR. CASTIGLIONE: Let me attempt to address
- 17 that. The -- the statute does contemplate, Your Honor,
- 18 section -- especially section 6 of DAFPA, nonjudicial
- 19 remedies, and then essentially if the amount of property
- 20 is under 20,000 or if we are dealing with a car, which
- 21 falls under section 6, those cases are routinely dealt
- 22 with by negotiation, Your Honor.
- 23 And I think that's the best way to deal with
- 24 hardship -- the hardship examples given -- is that both
- 25 through negotiation and a speedy hearing --

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Counsel
2	The case is submitted.
3	MR. CASTIGLIONE: Thank you, Your Honor.
4	(Whereupon, at 11:09 a.m., the case in the
5	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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