SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THI	E SUPREME	COURT	OF.	THE	ONTIEL) STATES
					_	
JOHN MONTENE	GRO CRUZ,)	
	Petition	ner,)	
7	<i>J</i> .) No.	21-846
ARIZONA,)	
	Responde	ent.)	
					_	

Pages: 1 through 65

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: November 1, 2022

HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	E UNITED STATES
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3	JOHN MONTENEGRO CRUZ,)
4	Petitioner,)
5	V.) No. 21-846
6	ARIZONA,)
7	Respondent.)
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10	Washington, D.C	
11	Tuesday, November	1, 2022
12		
13	The above-entitled matt	cer came on for
14	oral argument before the Supre	eme Court of the
15	United States at 11:23 a.m.	
16		
17		
18	APPEARANCES:	
19	NEAL K. KATYAL, ESQUIRE, Wash	ington, D.C.; on behalf
20	of the Petitioner.	
21	JOSEPH A. KANEFIELD, Chief Der	outy Attorney General,
22	Phoenix, Arizona; on behal	lf of the Respondent.
23		
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:23 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument next in Case 21-846, Cruz versus
5	Arizona.
6	Mr. Katyal.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF NEAL K. KATYAL
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. KATYAL: Thank you, Mr. Chief
10	Justice, and may it please the Court:
11	In 2005, John Cruz was sentenced to
12	death. The judge instructed jurors that,
13	without a death sentence, Cruz would face "life
14	imprisonment with a possibility of parole." The
15	judge did so despite this Court's decision 11
16	years earlier in Simmons. Cruz's jury labored
17	under a seriously wrong idea. Indeed, the jury
18	foreman the very next day said: "We wanted a
19	reason to be lenient, and many of us would have
20	rather voted for life, but we were not given an
21	option to vote for life in prison without the
22	possibility of parole."
23	Cruz wasn't the only one. Twelve
24	separate times, 12 separate times, the Arizona
) E	Current Court whethe designing refuging to apply

- 1 Simmons. In 2016, this Court summarily reversed
- 2 all this in Lynch, fundamentally changing
- 3 capital trials in Arizona. Cruz then used Lynch
- 4 to seek post-conviction relief under Arizona
- 5 Rule 32.1(g). Yet, the Arizona Supreme Court
- 6 refused, saying Lynch didn't change the law; it
- 7 just changed the application of the law.
- 8 That interpretation of Rule 32 is not
- 9 an adequate and independent state ground for
- 10 three separate reasons. First, to be adequate,
- an interpretation must be firmly established and
- 12 regularly followed. This hair-splitting
- distinction between changes in the law and
- 14 applications of the law is entirely novel,
- 15 entirely hand-crafted. The state doesn't even
- 16 defend it.
- 17 Second, the decision below
- 18 discriminates against federal rights. It places
- 19 defendants like Cruz in a catch-22. To prevail
- 20 under federal law, they have to argue that Lynch
- 21 applied a settled rule, but that very argument
- 22 dooms their claims under state law. It also
- 23 discriminates against decisions of this Court by
- 24 giving them narrower effect. And, finally, the
- decision below is not independent; it's

- 1 interwoven with federal questions.
- 2 The Arizona Supreme Court's analysis
- 3 of Rule 32 turned on its reading of this Court's
- 4 precedents. Simmons was the law of the land in
- 5 49 states, all except Arizona. Arizona is an
- 6 extreme outlier, and for that reason today, it
- 7 stands alone in this Court. None of the other
- 8 49 states, not a single one, is supporting them.
- 9 If I could start with the first point
- 10 about novelty.
- 11 JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, let's just talk
- 12 about what we're considering. I understand
- 13 Simmons and Lynch, but what I understand the
- 14 Arizona Supreme Court to be saying, it does not
- 15 -- under our rules, there's nothing more here,
- 16 that they simply interpreted their Rule 32. How
- 17 do we get from that interpretation of their rule
- 18 to a federal question -- federal issue?
- 19 MR. KATYAL: Right. Each of these
- three arguments, Justice Thomas, are things this
- 21 Court has used before to get to the federal
- 22 issue. So, first, with respect to novelty, if a
- 23 state enacts a procedural rule that is only
- 24 about state law, but it is a barrier to federal
- 25 claims or is novel in some way, this Court time

- 1 and again, starting with Justice Holmes in 1904,
- 2 going to this Court's much more recent
- decisions, have said that it's got to be firmly
- 4 established and regularly followed.
- 5 And that's so for two reasons. One
- 6 is, if it's a novel rule, it might be
- 7 discriminating against federal rights, and
- 8 that's a tell. The other is that you have to
- 9 provide fair warning to the defendant. And the
- 10 case law talks about both. And in case after
- 11 case, Your Honor, this Court has done exactly
- 12 that on novelty. So that's the first point.
- 13 The second is the other way -- the
- 14 second way you get to a federal issue is that
- this Court polices, indeed, the Court in Walker
- 16 said it's regularly said that if an
- 17 interpretation discriminates against a federal
- 18 right, even if it's purely a matter of state law
- 19 -- take, for example, this Court's decision just
- 20 last year in Espinoza versus -- versus Montana.
- 21 That was purely interpreting a state -- a state
- 22 constitutional provision, but there was a
- 23 federal question lurking under that. And that
- 24 is true here as well because of the
- 25 discrimination.

1 And then the third is that it's interwoven with federal law. It's not actually 2 3 a purely -- and I would fight the premise of your question -- a -- a state interpretation --4 it's not just a state interpretation. 5 6 And these are three separate 7 arguments. You can disagree with me on any one, but they have to run the table and win all three 8 of them. 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, counsel --10 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, you 12 phrased this and present it, for understandable reasons, as hostility to a particular federal 13 14 rule. But you can also look at it as a neutral 15 rule, a procedural rule. I mean, the state 16 doesn't have to provide collateral review of 17 this particular claim, and they're -- they've decided they're not going to. And that doesn't 18 19 exhibit hostility. It's just shaping the 20 availability of collateral review, just as AEDPA 21 does in the federal system. 2.2 MR. KATYAL: Absolutely, Your Honor, 23 it could be seen that way. But, here, of 24 course, this is a novel interpretation, and that alone, even apart from whether it discriminates

- or is neutral, that's enough to reject it under
- this Court's precedents. And then, with respect
- 3 to whether or not this is even-handed, we
- 4 obviously don't think it is for the reasons our
- 5 brief says, we agree with you, Mr. Chief
- 6 Justice, that if it were truly a neutral rule
- 7 that withdrew from the field, for example, all
- 8 post-conviction review, that would be one thing.
- 9 But, here, Arizona holds out Rule 31.2
- 10 and says to defendants like Cruz, if there's a
- 11 significant change in the law, you can come and
- 12 bring your post-conviction proceeding. Cruz did
- 13 exactly that, and now it becomes a shell game
- 14 because then they say, oh, that rule was so
- 15 clearly established that it didn't -- it's not
- 16 actually a significant change in the law.
- 17 That's, of course, the opposite of
- 18 what the Arizona Supreme Court did in Cruz's
- very case back in 2008. In 2008, when Cruz
- 20 brought this, they said -- they -- they said the
- 21 reverse. And so, you know, the Arizona Supreme
- 22 Court has been essentially talking out of both
- 23 sides of its mouth.
- 24 You said in Simmons this is the rule
- of the land. Cruz was convicted after Simmons.

- 1 You said it again in Lynch after the Arizona
- 2 Supreme Court in 12 published opinions refused
- 3 to apply Simmons. And now the Arizona Supreme
- 4 Court turns around and says, oh, because it's so
- 5 clearly established, now you can't have a 31.2
- 6 petition. And that's pulling --
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. -- Mr. Katyal, you
- 8 --
- 9 MR. KATYAL: -- the chair -- chair out
- 10 from under the --
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm sorry. You began
- with three points, and if I remember correctly,
- the first two require us to analyze the opinions
- of the Arizona Supreme Court as to whether it's
- 15 novel and -- and I -- but -- but assume that it
- 16 was always the rule in Arizona that a
- 17 significant change in the law, whether federal
- 18 or state, would be covered and that a
- 19 significant change in the law is different from
- 20 a significantly new application of the law.
- Okay. Suppose that was always the
- 22 rule. Then what would be -- what -- what is
- 23 left of your argument?
- MR. KATYAL: Well, Your Honor, it
- 25 would be hard for me to understand exactly what

- 1 they had said before. I can tell you what the
- 2 Arizona Supreme Court actually has said before
- 3 if you look at a case like Rendon, because in
- 4 Rendon, what the Arizona Supreme Court said --
- 5 and this is true in many different cases -- they
- 6 say the archetype of a significant change in the
- 7 rule -- in the law is overturning of precedent.
- 8 And, in Rendon, that's what happened. They --
- 9 they overturned an intermediate Arizona Supreme
- 10 Court precedent. This was just on one thing,
- 11 the definition of burglary.
- 12 And what that court said, the Arizona
- 13 Supreme Court said is, ha, that is something
- that allows a 31.2(g) petition, and they said
- 15 this even though "it is not a new rule but
- 16 rather a corrected definition of the crime."
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, as I said, you
- 18 have arguments that require us to analyze what
- 19 they've done. And I've looked at that. We will
- 20 look at it again.
- 21 But assuming for the sake of argument,
- 22 this is a hypothetical, that the rule has always
- 23 been what the Arizona Supreme Court now says the
- 24 rule is, what is your remaining argument?
- MR. KATYAL: Yeah. So -- so that

- 1 would make it -- take away the novelty because
- that would be firmly established, regularly
- followed, assuming that that's part of -- built
- 4 into your hypothetical -- it wasn't, but we can
- 5 assume that -- it would still discriminate, I
- 6 think, in practice and operation against federal
- 7 rights. And what this Court said in Walker is
- 8 that's the test, not whether it's neutrally
- 9 written or --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I meant to make
- 11 that part of my hypothetical too. So they say
- 12 that there's no discrimination. We treat
- changes in federal law the same way we change --
- 14 we treat changes in state law.
- MR. KATYAL: It's almost impossible,
- 16 Your Honor, to imagine that hypothetical
- 17 because, you know, like, basically, you know,
- 18 how can a decision be dictated by Arizona
- 19 Supreme Court precedent if a decision is
- 20 overruling Arizona Supreme Court precedent.
- I mean, the way in which the court
- 22 below got to what it did is it said at Petition
- 23 Appendix page 7A that when we overturn precedent
- that's generally the archetype of a significant
- 25 change in law.

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1
                And then they said, well, it's not a
 2
      significant change in law because Lynch was
 3
      always the law of the land. It didn't change
      anything. Simmons was always the law of the
 4
 5
      land.
                That -- I think that rationale could
 6
 7
      only apply to decisions of this Court. I think
      it's a decision handmade, you know,
8
 9
      jerry-rigged, to use Justice Kagan's word from
10
      the last argument, only for really a
      circumstance like this in which the U.S. Supreme
11
12
      Court is overturning something.
13
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Katyal --
               MR. KATYAL: So I just don't think it
14
      could be written neutrally.
15
16
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- I -- I thought I
17
     had understood you to respond to the Chief
18
     Justice before your colloquy with Justice Alito
19
      that if there were an independent and
20
     adequate state ground, if they had such a rule,
     then it would be barred. Is that right?
21
2.2
                MR. KATYAL: If -- if there were --
23
      what's the --
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: If the State of
24
```

Arizona had an independent and adequate rule

- 1 that it consistently followed, then -- then your
- 2 claim would be barred?
- 3 MR. KATYAL: If -- if there truly was
- 4 one.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah.
- 6 MR. KATYAL: These are three reasons
- 7 why --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I understand.
- 9 MR. KATYAL: Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But you -- you can
- 11 see that there's a world in which --
- MR. KATYAL: Sure.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- Arizona wouldn't
- 14 have to supply this.
- MR. KATYAL: Correct. Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And, in fact, the
- 17 federal district court found this argument
- 18 procedurally barred under 2244, right?
- 19 MR. KATYAL: Oh, oh, Mr. -- Justice
- 20 Gorsuch, I don't think that has anything to do
- 21 with it. There, they found that there was --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But it's plausible
- 23 that it could be procedurally barred.
- 24 MR. KATYAL: In fed -- in federal
- habeas court, maybe there's a federal habeas

- 1 barrier. We don't think that there is for
- 2 reasons our brief explains --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well --
- 4 MR. KATYAL: -- but -- but --
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- but 2244 speaks
- of requiring a decision of this Court to be
- 7 declared retroactive by this Court.
- MR. KATYAL: Well, we're --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And the district
- 10 court found that there was no such decision in
- 11 this case.
- MR. KATYAL: But, Justice Gorsuch, the
- district court is a totally separate proceeding.
- 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that.
- MR. KATYAL: Here, your grant of --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I quess I'm just
- 17 wondering how we can fault Arizona for having a
- 18 rule if it were consistently followed that would
- 19 effectively parallel the federal rule.
- 20 MR. KATYAL: Well, Justice Gorsuch, I
- 21 don't think that whatever is going on in the
- 22 federal habeas bears on the jurisdiction of this
- 23 Court under 1257. They're two separate
- 24 proceedings.
- 25 And to answer the question presented,

- 1 which is simply whether or not there is an
- 2 adequate and independent state ground from the
- 3 petition of the -- from the -- from the Arizona
- 4 Supreme Court, I don't think matters to federal
- 5 habeas.
- 6 With respect to that, look, we don't
- 7 doubt that there could be waiver arguments that
- 8 are available even from direct -- even from
- 9 review of a state's post-collateral review
- 10 proceeding. We're not questioning any of that.
- 11 What we're saying here is that Cruz
- 12 did everything right. He preserved his argument
- 13 at every turn, starting from when he was --
- starting from trial and when he was convicted
- 15 and then for --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, what do we do
- 17 about that actually? I -- that raises another
- 18 point in my mind, which is the trial court,
- 19 admittedly not the Arizona Supreme Court, but
- 20 the trial court here did find that your client
- 21 failed to present a jury instruction along these
- 22 lines to preserve this argument.
- 23 And so even if we were to find for you
- and say there was no independent and adequate
- 25 state bar, all we'd be doing is sending it back

- 1 to the Arizona Supreme Court to find that he
- 2 waived the argument in the first place and we've
- 3 accomplished very little.
- 4 MR. KATYAL: Well, that -- that was
- 5 just wrong under this Court's decisions in
- 6 Simmons and in Lynch. So, in Simmons, it
- 7 applied --
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But we wouldn't be
- 9 able to review that. That would just be a
- 10 waiver under state law, and if the Arizona
- 11 Supreme Court were to affirm it --
- MR. KATYAL: No.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you think it's
- 14 wrong and you could appeal, I understand, but
- that would be all state law, right?
- MR. KATYAL: No, Justice Gorsuch.
- 17 That's exactly a federal question. This Court
- in Simmons and in Lynch said --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Waiver is a federal
- 20 question?
- MR. KATYAL: Well, the -- the -- the
- reason that they're claiming waiver, which is
- 23 you didn't seek a jury instruction --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Right.
- MR. KATYAL: -- here, Cruz sought to

- 1 present evidence about his parole ineligibility,
- 2 and at pages 163 to 167 of the plurality in
- 3 Simmons and at 175 to 179 of Justice O'Connor's
- 4 concurrence, it says either suffices, seeking
- 5 evidence of parole ineligibility or a jury
- 6 instruction. It definitely can't be the case
- 7 that you couldn't or a federal court couldn't
- 8 review that. That is a purely federal matter.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Last question, I
- 10 hope. In Beard, Justice Kennedy said that when
- 11 we -- when we approach the question of the
- 12 consistency of state courts' decision-making in
- this area, adequate -- interpreting their own
- laws, their own procedural rules, 32.1, whatever
- it is, we have to give those state supreme
- 16 courts some leeway to develop their own
- jurisprudence that we would expect to allow
- 18 ourselves and other federal courts.
- What's your response to that?
- 20 MR. KATYAL: We -- we absolutely agree
- 21 with all of that, Justice Gorsuch. The test has
- 22 always been --
- 23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So we should take
- 24 that as a given?
- MR. KATYAL: -- firmly established,

- 1 regularly followed. That's what Justice Kennedy
- 2 says in that case. That's what their own brief
- 3 in opposition admits at page 11 is the standard.
- 4 There is no way you can get to regularly
- 5 followed and firmly established, this
- 6 application of the law concept. That's entirely
- 7 hair splitting.
- And if you want to note just how hair
- 9 splitting it is, because you mentioned the trial
- 10 court proceedings, look at what these
- 11 prosecutors said to the trial court. This is
- 12 Joint --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But I -- I -- I
- just -- on my question is, just you agree with
- 15 Justice Kennedy in Beard?
- 16 MR. KATYAL: Yes.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 18 MR. KATYAL: I mean, so you could --
- 19 you know, so as long as it's predictable,
- 20 provides fair warning and firmly established,
- 21 absolutely. This is the opposite.
- This is what the prosecutor said at
- Joint Appendix page 307: "Lynch overruled a
- 24 well-established line of Arizona Supreme Court
- opinions holding Simmons did not apply in

- 1 Arizona. It was an unambiguous rule that the
- 2 Defendants were not entitled to Simmons
- 3 instructions."
- 4 That's what they said then. Take a
- 5 look at now what they're saying at red brief,
- 6 page 1. They say the exact opposite. They say
- 7 Simmons was well-established.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I ask you, how
- 9 much of your -- the -- the firmly established
- 10 and regularly followed principle relies on bad
- 11 faith by Arizona?
- Does it -- does it matter? You know,
- 13 you say novelty is one thing and you define it
- in this way, and then discrimination, the result
- is unfair. Does any of that turn on Arizona
- 16 doing this on purpose?
- MR. KATYAL: No, no, not at all. So
- it's purely about whether it's regularly
- 19 established and firmly -- firmly established and
- 20 regularly followed.
- 21 And the reason for that is it's kind
- of almost like, you know, other doctrines in law
- in which you're using it as a tell. You can't
- 24 actually figure out motivations. You're not
- 25 worried about that.

1	You just simply ask, is there fair
2	warning for the defendant? Is this a
3	predictable rule? This is the very opposite of
4	a predictable rule, and, indeed, it's so
5	unpredictable that after the prosecutor said
6	this in the trial court, the trial court on
7	post-conviction review said, quote, and this is
8	at Petition Appendix 15A, "The rule announced in
9	Simmons and Lynch is not a well-established
10	constitutional principle."
11	The Arizona Supreme Court's
12	consistently held otherwise in at least nine
13	separate opinions. So this is essentially
14	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Katyal, I
15	thought I thought I'm sorry to interrupt,
16	but I I thought that that why they were
17	doing this was important. Whether we're looking
18	for hostility or just finality is kind of the
19	question.
20	And Justice Kennedy in Beard said that
21	what we should be looking for is a showing of a
22	purpose or pattern to evade constitutional
23	guarantees. I thought you agreed with that.
24	MR. KATYAL: Oh, he certainly does
25	so that's essentially gravy, Justice Gorsuch.

2.1

- 1 So we don't need to show hostility. That's what
- 2 he's saying is one way in which you can show
- 3 that the novelty doctrine is enough. But it is
- 4 certainly not the only means.
- 5 And I think going all the way back to
- 6 Justice Holmes' opinion in Rodgers in 1904 all
- 7 the way through all of the different cases,
- 8 sure, some of them, like the NAACP cases, do
- 9 talk about hostility, but it has never been a
- 10 requirement, and for one very simple reason,
- 11 half of the novelty doctrine is based on fair
- warning to the defendant. Another part is based
- on hostility to federal rights.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. KATYAL: And so --
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could you show a
- 17 hostility in this case?
- MR. KATYAL: Oh, absolutely. This is,
- 19 I think, the quintessential example, Justice
- 20 Kagan. Again, it doesn't turn on it. It's
- 21 sufficient but not necessary.
- 22 And so, if you think about just what
- 23 the Arizona Supreme Court did here and, you
- 24 know, Cruz brings his direct review petition,
- 25 they say Simmons doesn't apply in 2008. Twelve

2.2

- 1 separate defendants bring their cases, all of
- them, they say Simmons doesn't apply.
- 3 This Court then summarily reverses
- 4 that in Lynch in 2016, so then now they've said
- 5 twice, hey, Simmons does apply, this rule does
- 6 apply, and then the Arizona Supreme Court turns
- 7 on a dime and says, oh, actually, Simmons has
- 8 been the law all along, the exact opposite of
- 9 what they've been saying, the exact opposite of
- 10 what even the trial court on post-conviction
- 11 review in this case said. This is a very
- 12 unusual case, which is why I suspect Arizona
- 13 stands alone in this Court.
- And to be sure, there are broader
- arguments we're making about discrimination in
- 16 federal law and so on. We don't think you have
- 17 to reach any of that.
- We think you can just simply say this
- is a jerry-rigged interpretation for this case
- 20 only. There's not -- the opposite of regularly
- 21 followed and firmly established and leave it at
- 22 that.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel --
- 24 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Katyal, whether
- 25 Arizona stands alone or not doesn't have much to

- 1 do with the question that we have to decide.
- 2 But why would we expect other states to file in
- 3 a case that involves the kind of stuff that
- 4 you've been talking about the interpretation of
- 5 a -- one particular state procedural rule?
- 6 MR. KATYAL: Well, because my friend
- 7 on the other side says, if you do this, it's
- 8 going to open federal court review to other
- 9 states and things like that.
- 10 And our only point here is to just
- simply say, you know, no other state's worried
- 12 about it because I think this is a really unique
- 13 fact pattern. There are 27 states that have the
- 14 death penalty. Nothing about that. Sixteen
- 15 states have --
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. Well, I -- I
- 17 don't --
- 18 MR. KATYAL: -- parole ineligibility.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: -- if it's a really
- 20 unique fact pattern, then I don't know what --
- 21 whether -- why it matters whether other states
- 22 are here or not.
- 23 To get back to the question I was
- trying to address in my prior question, suppose
- 25 Arizona says or any state says that we will

- 1 limit this form of collateral review to
- 2 situations in which we, in our judgment, believe
- 3 that there has been a significant change in the
- 4 law, including federal law. So it's solely
- 5 their judgment as to whether there's been a
- 6 significant change or not. Is there anything
- 7 wrong with that?
- 8 MR. KATYAL: I think there could be
- 9 under this Court's precedents in Danforth and
- 10 Yates. We don't think you have to get there,
- 11 but I think those cases do set forth a minimum
- 12 amount -- a minimum floor of retroactivity. And
- if the state post-conviction review proceeding
- isn't open to them, to certain federal claims,
- then I think it could present a problem under
- 16 this Court's decisions.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: So this is your
- 18 argument about independence?
- 19 MR. KATYAL: It's an argument -- I
- think it would probably be more about adequacy,
- 21 Justice Alito, that basically the state is not
- 22 offering an adequate ground because that -- that
- forum is only open to certain claims.
- Now, again, our point is you don't
- 25 need to have post-conviction review, but if you

- do so, it's got to be even-handed. It's got to
- 2 be done in advance with notice for a defendant.
- 3 Someone like Cruz did everything right, making
- 4 his objection at the trial, making it at
- 5 sentencing, making it after sentencing on direct
- 6 review, filing his post-conviction review
- 7 proceeding soon after this Court's decision in
- 8 Lynch. And yet they turn on a dime and say, oh,
- 9 no, now there's a new interpretation of 32.1.
- 10 And I think you should, if you'd like,
- 11 ask my friend on the other side, name one
- 12 precedent ever when the Arizona Supreme Court,
- indeed, any court in Arizona, said 31.2(g) is
- 14 not met when precedent has been overturned.
- They can't point to a single example.
- 16 We point to many the other way, including most
- 17 prominently the Rendon decision. And so --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Katyal, before
- 19 your time, your regular time is up, why isn't
- 20 the situation that I posited the same as the
- 21 situation in Stewart versus Smith?
- 22 MR. KATYAL: I'm so sorry, Justice
- 23 Alito. I'm not familiar with Stewart versus
- 24 Smith.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Okay.

1 MR. KATYAL: I don't think that was 2 briefed in this case. 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 4 counsel. Justice Thomas, anything further? 5 Justice Alito? 6 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Just one question, Mr. Katyal. I think underlying some of Justice 8 9 Alito's questions and Justice Gorsuch's questions was a view, not a belief, that the 10 11 Arizona Supreme Court interpretation of Rule 12 32.1(g) isn't completely novel interpretation but only a reasonable extension of that court's 13 14 Rule 32.1(g) jurisprudence to a new context. 15 Why do you think that's wrong? 16 MR. KATYAL: Because it's literally 17 the opposite of the rule that's been applied in cases like Rendon, in which they say overturning 18 19 precedent is the archetypal example of a significant change in law. This idea that 20 21 there's -- that application of the law is somehow the distinction, whatever that is, it's 2.2 not regularly followed. It's certainly not 23 24 firmly established. 25 This rule, 31.2(g), has been around

- 1 for decades. Not a single court has ever
- 2 interpreted it this way. And it has been the
- 3 time-honored rule, Justice Sotomayor, of this
- 4 Court, starting with Justice Holmes in 1904 but
- 5 going to Ward versus Board, going to Patterson,
- 6 going to Flowers, going to Bouie, going to Ford
- 7 versus Georgia, in which Justice Thomas was on
- 8 that unanimous decision. All of these cases are
- 9 ones in which this Court says that's a novel
- interpretation, you can't do it. Maybe going
- 11 forward you can, but certainly not to people
- 12 like Cruz, and we know it made a difference in
- 13 this case.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Now Stewart versus
- 15 Smith was briefed in the red -- was mentioned in
- 16 the red brief on page 16. Do you want to take a
- 17 look at it? After your --
- 18 MR. KATYAL: I'll have a rebuttal --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay.
- 20 MR. KATYAL: -- if I could.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Oh, you will.
- 22 Okay.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- Okay. Thank you, counsel.
- Mr. Kanefield.

1	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOSEPH A. KANEFIELD
2	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
3	MR. KANEFIELD: Mr. Chief Justice, and
4	may it please the Court:
5	On May 26, 2003, the Petitioner
6	murdered Tucson Police Officer Patrick Hardesty
7	in the line of duty by shooting him five times
8	at point-blank range. He comes here today on
9	appeal of a successive state post-conviction
10	judgment to obtain a new penalty phase so that
11	he can request the parole ineligibility
12	instructions under Simmons v. South Carolina, a
13	case which predated his trial by over a decade.
14	The Arizona Supreme Court's holding
15	that Rule 32.1(g) precludes Petitioner's request
16	for successive post-conviction relief is
17	grounded in the core principle of finality
18	and is adequate and an independent state ground
19	for its judgment.
20	The holding is adequate because Rule
21	32.1(g) has been firmly established and
22	regularly followed. Under the rule, Arizona's
23	indisputable interest in finality of criminal
24	convictions can only yield to a claim based on
25	those rare decisions announcing a new rule of

- 1 law or a significant statutory or constitutional
- 2 amendment. Here, Petitioner did not make that
- 3 showing.
- 4 This Court's 2016 decision in Lynch
- 5 did not change the Simmons right. Instead, it
- 6 merely corrected the Arizona Supreme Court's
- 7 erroneous application of the Simmons rule in the
- 8 unique context of Arizona's sentencing and
- 9 parole statutes. Thus, the Arizona Supreme
- 10 Court held that Lynch was not a significant
- 11 change in the law under the rule, which is a
- 12 state law holding.
- 13 The Arizona Supreme Court's holding is
- 14 also independent because its significant change
- analysis under the first prong of Rule 32.1(g)
- 16 does not require any determination on the merits
- 17 of Petitioner's federal law claim. This Court
- 18 looked only to whether Lynch significantly
- 19 changed existing law, which is a state
- 20 procedural question.
- 21 For these reasons, this Court should
- 22 find that the Arizona Supreme Court's ruling was
- 23 adequate and independent.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 25 JUSTICE THOMAS: If the Arizona

- 1 Supreme Court had decided Lynch, would it have
- been a significant rule?
- 3 MR. KANEFIELD: No, Your Honor. It
- 4 would have --
- 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: Significant change?
- 6 MR. KANEFIELD: It -- it would have
- 7 been the same as this Court, same analysis.
- 8 JUSTICE THOMAS: Have there been
- 9 examples where the Arizona Supreme Court changed
- one of its precedents or overruled one of its
- 11 precedents and then said it wasn't a significant
- 12 change?
- MR. KANEFIELD: We haven't found any
- 14 specific example of where that's occurred, Your
- 15 Honor. But this -- that doesn't say --
- 16 JUSTICE JACKSON: So then how can you
- so -- be so confident that if they had decided
- 18 Lynch, that wouldn't be a significant change? I
- mean, if that's not the way the rule has been
- 20 applied in other situations, then -- then why
- 21 was the answer to Justice Thomas's first
- 22 question I know for sure that if Arizona had
- 23 decided Lynch, that would not count?
- MR. KANEFIELD: Well, I guess we don't
- 25 know for sure, but we --

1 JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay. 2 MR. KANEFIELD: -- we can only 3 speculate, Your Honor. But I -- I -- this just doesn't come up that often. So I want to make 4 sure I'm -- I'm understanding the Court's 5 6 question. 7 There are situations where the Arizona Supreme Court has applied the rule where a case 8 9 has interpreted a statute for the first time, 10 like the Shrum case, and said that that was not 11 a significant --12 JUSTICE JACKSON: But what about the 13 -- so what about the application of 32.(g)? In situations in which Arizona announces a new 14 15 legal rule, substantively, are those situations in which 32.(g) has ordinarily been applied 16 17 because there was a significant -- there was a 18 change in the law? 19 MR. KANEFIELD: Yes, Your Honor. I 20 quess the case that comes to mind is the Slemmer 21 case cited where -- it wasn't a court decision. 2.2 It was -- well, let me make sure I'm getting 23 this right. The Arizona Supreme Court -- there 24 was a subsequent decision involving the 25 burden-shifting self-defense instruction where

- 1 the court, an Arizona appellate court,
- 2 determined that it had been getting it wrong,
- 3 and the court did hold that that was a -- a
- 4 significant change because the rule changed
- 5 before --
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: But that -- why
- 7 isn't that this very situation if you take
- 8 Justice Thomas's hypothetical? I understood him
- 9 to say Arizona had been applying -- had been
- 10 rejecting the Simmons principle so that the law
- in Arizona was that you don't get this jury
- instruction, and then, hypothetically, if -- if
- 13 the Arizona court decided Lynch, suddenly
- they're saying, okay, now you do get that
- principle, why isn't that the case in which
- 16 32.(q) would apply?
- 17 MR. KANEFIELD: Because, Your Honor,
- 18 the rule only applies in significant changes,
- 19 and the -- and the Arizona Supreme Court has
- 20 made that very clear, that that requires a clear
- 21 break from the past, a transformative event.
- 22 And, yes, the archetype is overruling prior
- 23 precedent, but, here, the rule was the rule in
- 24 Simmons. It has never changed. This --
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, but it wasn't --

1 JUSTICE BARRETT: But doesn't the --JUSTICE KAGAN: -- the rule in Simmons 2 3 in Arizona. I mean, you know, maybe I'm just being simple-minded about this, but at point A, 4 Simmons was not operative in Arizona, and in 5 6 point B, Simmons was operative in California. A 7 change in the law. MR. KANEFIELD: Well, not a -- every 8 9 precedent is a change to some extent, but they 10 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: That's a big change. 12 MR. KANEFIELD: Yes. Well --13 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, the right is 14 not there to be invoked. Now the right is there 15 to be invoked. And that happened as a result of 16 Lynch. Now it's true it should have happened 17 earlier, but in Arizona, Simmons could not be 18 invoked. The -- you know, the -- the defendant 19 would have been told too bad. Now the right can 20 be invoked. That's as big a change of law that 21 there is. 2.2 MR. KANEFIELD: Your Honor, I just 23 respectfully disagree. That's not the way 24 the -- the Arizona Supreme Court approaches the 25 interpretation of the significance for purposes

- of Rule 32.1(g). It has to be a change to the
- 2 underlying rule, not just a change to the
- 3 application, which Arizona clearly got it wrong.
- 4 This Court told the Arizona Supreme Court so.
- I think the other thing I would point
- 6 out was just, obviously, the rule in Simmons
- 7 never changed, but the -- the --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: The rule in Arizona
- 9 was that Simmons did not apply. Then the rule
- in Arizona became Simmons did apply.
- 11 Significant change?
- 12 MR. KANEFIELD: Not --
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: It sounds like a
- 14 significant change.
- MR. KANEFIELD: It's not a significant
- 16 change. It's a -- it's a -- it was a
- 17 misinterpretation. And maybe it would help to
- 18 look back at what happened in Simmons, where the
- 19 South Carolina law clearly said that if you had
- 20 a prior conviction, you were parole ineligible.
- 21 And this Court held in Simmons that the state
- law has to absolutely prohibit the defendant's
- 23 release on parole. So that was clear. But, in
- 24 Arizona, it wasn't -- it wasn't clear because --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So you're saying

- 1 it's a change, it's just not significant, we're
- 2 focused on the significant.
- 3 MR. KANEFIELD: Absolutely, Your
- 4 Honor. That -- that is what -- that's a
- 5 threshold to coming into state habeas court in
- 6 Arizona, that there has --
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: So what are your
- 8 hallmarks for significant? So, as we're all
- 9 agreeing now, there's definitely a shift in
- 10 Arizona because now they're recognizing Simmons,
- 11 but in order to be significant for the purpose
- of Rule 32.(g), what -- what do we have to see?
- Or what does Arizona say they have to see?
- 14 Because, I mean -- yeah.
- MR. KANEFIELD: So the -- the --
- it's -- the Shrum case of 2009, Arizona Supreme
- 17 Court case which you cited, that's where the
- 18 court set forth what the -- how -- what the rule
- is in interpreting that, and that's that there
- 20 has to be a clear break from the past. There
- 21 has to be a transformative event. It has to be
- 22 a rare occurrence where the rules actually
- change.
- 24 JUSTICE JACKSON: A clear break from
- whose perspective? I mean, clearly, it's a

- 1 clear break from the courts of Arizona's
- 2 perspective. Do you at least concede that?
- 3 MR. KANEFIELD: It's -- yes.
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- 5 MR. KANEFIELD: And the example that
- 6 the court give is -- gave below is the Ring case
- 7 from this Court. Before Ring, jury
- 8 aggravator -- death sentence aggravators could
- 9 be decided by a judge. After Ring, they had to
- 10 be decided or determined by a jury. That was a
- 11 significant change.
- 12 JUSTICE BARRETT: But, counsel, don't
- 13 you think this distinction -- I mean, as I
- 14 understand it, it's this application of law
- 15 versus the underlying law itself that drives
- 16 your determination that this wasn't a
- 17 significant change for purposes of 32.1(g).
- 18 It seems kind of artificial, and as I
- 19 understand it, you know, the -- the novelty of
- 20 it is you hadn't had it before. This was an
- 21 extension of the law, extension of interpreting
- 22 32.1(g). It just seems like hair splitting.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Well, Your Honor, it's
- 24 not -- we just don't read this Court's
- interpretation of novelty the same way. This

- 1 obviously is the first situation that it's been
- 2 presented to the Arizona Supreme Court in this
- 3 context.
- 4 I think Justice Gorsuch was pointing
- 5 out how this Court said in Beard it's got to --
- 6 you've got to give the state some flexibility,
- 7 especially when it's applying and it's fleshing
- 8 out its rule for the first time.
- 9 So, here, you've got a situation where
- 10 the rule in Simmons was never changed, but this
- 11 Court came in and summarily reversed the Arizona
- 12 Supreme Court and said you've got -- you've got
- it wrong. You're -- you're looking at your
- statutes the wrong way in light of what we said
- in Simmons. So they clarified that going
- 16 forward.
- 17 But the underlying rule never changed.
- 18 So I -- I -- it -- it doesn't seem to be novel.
- 19 And one thing I'd point out --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How can you say
- 21 that, counselor? Up until this decision, all
- 22 prior Arizona cases applying Rule 32.1(g) asked
- whether there had been a significant change in
- 24 Arizona law.
- 25 And Mr. Katyal is right that it was

- 1 always was precedent overruled. And we even had
- 2 it in a federal case, State versus -- this is an
- 3 Arizona case, State versus -- I'm pronouncing it
- 4 wrong, Poblete -- P-O-B-L-E-T-E -- federal
- 5 law --
- 6 MR. KANEFIELD: Poblete.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How do you say it?
- 8 MR. KANEFIELD: Poblete.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Poblete. Okay. I
- should have said it in Spanish to start with.
- 11 It is Poblete.
- MR. KANEFIELD: I had it wrong too,
- 13 Your Honor.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's what
- 15 happens when -- that's what happens when I try
- 16 to Americanize phrases.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Poblete. Federal
- 19 law changed Arizona's view, okay, changed
- 20 Arizona's law on the Padilla question. And
- 21 there Arizona applied 32.1(g). Here, however,
- 22 Arizona says, nah, it asks whether there's been
- 23 a significant change in Supreme Court -- Supreme
- 24 Court law, not on Arizona law.
- 25 How is that not a novel

- 1 interpretation? It's not a different context.
- 2 It's a different test altogether.
- 3 MR. KANEFIELD: Yes.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, when you're
- 5 applying a new test, you're missing all the
- 6 issues of why novelty is important because we
- 7 want to give people fair notice, right, and how
- 8 could anyone have imagined the hair splitting
- 9 that Arizona went through right now. All it has
- said in the past is, if our precedents have been
- overturned, that's 32.(g).
- MR. KANEFIELD: Well -- well, Your
- 13 Honor --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: 1.(g) I mean.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Sorry. I didn't miss
- 16 --
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yeah. I quess the
- 18 bottom line is, how is that not merely something
- 19 radically different? It's a new test, it's not
- 20 a new context.
- 21 MR. KANEFIELD: Your Honor, I just
- 22 respectfully disagree. I mean, we --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I know you
- 24 disagree, but explain it to me.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Yes. The -- again,

- 1 the -- we see that test as simply a restatement
- 2 or an extension of the test that the Arizona
- 3 Supreme Court long ago said was how the court
- 4 was going to approach interpretation --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Show me one
- 6 Arizona case before this one where either the
- 7 Supreme Court of the United States or the
- 8 Supreme Court of Arizona had overruled a
- 9 precedent and it had not applied 32.1(g).
- 10 MR. KANEFIELD: I -- I can't point you
- 11 to that, Your Honor. I -- all I can is echo the
- 12 point made by Justice Gorsuch that in this
- 13 Court's decision in Beard and subsequently in
- 14 Walker that these -- at -- at some level, you've
- got to give the Arizona Supreme Court a chance
- 16 to flesh out its own rule, and that's what it
- 17 was doing. This was a very unique situation.
- 18 You know, once it --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it's the only
- 20 unique situation where, for seven cases, it
- 21 refused to apply our precedent where today there
- 22 is an amicus brief by the Arizona Capital
- 23 Representation Project that says that it's even
- 24 refusing to apply Lynch today. It's finding
- every reason not to apply Lynch.

Τ	MR. KANEFIELD: Yean.
2	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: At a certain
3	point, don't we say stop?
4	MR. KANEFIELD: Well, Your Honor, I
5	don't I disagree with that characterization.
6	The the Arizona Supreme Court has absolutely
7	applied Lynch, and we cite to all the cases
8	where they have. There there's and
9	remember, there's factual issues that underlie
10	the Simmons claim. There has to be a showing of
11	future dangerousness.
12	And so there's issues that have
13	that have to be vetted in these cases. It's
14	not it's not simply just you get a new
15	resentencing as a result of the Lynch case. So
16	every case has to stand on its own facts and is
17	going to apply differently.
18	JUSTICE JACKSON: But can I go back
19	to to Justice Sotomayor's main point there,
20	which is I understand the concept of we have to
21	give states flexibility, this is a new
22	situation, in the idea of application versus
23	something else is kind of new and so we're
24	announcing it here for the first time.
25	But I wonder whether this isn't a

- 1 place where the bad faith part of it comes in,
- 2 that to the extent that you would have otherwise
- 3 had a presumption that you needed some time to
- 4 work out your interpretation of this rule, in
- 5 this very unique situation, why shouldn't we say
- 6 you don't really get that presumption because
- 7 your friend on the other side says 12 times the
- 8 court told you what the law was and you refused
- 9 to apply it?
- 10 MR. KANEFIELD: Well, Justice Jackson,
- 11 maybe -- it might help by putting some context
- into how this came about, because before 2002 --
- 13 before Ring, this was really a nonissue in
- 14 Arizona, so even though Simmons was decided in
- 15 1994, until -- from 1994 to 2002, judges
- 16 made these determinations --
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: I'm sorry, what is
- 18 the "this"? This is -- you mean whether or not
- 19 you get to have this instruction?
- MR. KANEFIELD: Well, before -- yes,
- 21 before it ever was an issue in Arizona,
- 22 because -- because judges made the determination
- of -- of death and aggravators and sentencing,
- 24 right.
- 25 So then Ring comes out and now Arizona

- 1 now has to apply Ring. Juries are going to make
- 2 the -- the aggravator determination. So the
- 3 first time that the issue came up was actually
- 4 in this case itself. So this is -- now we're
- 5 in -- the crime was committed in 2003. His
- 6 trial was in 2005.
- 7 So the Arizona Supreme Court's trying
- 8 to figure out how the -- the Simmons claim
- 9 applies here. It -- it was not properly
- 10 presented below. I'd respectfully disagree with
- 11 my friend --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So why doesn't that
- 13 undermine your claim then? I thought you were
- saying ultimately that the reason why this is
- 15 not a -- a significant change is because this
- 16 was the way the law always was and so that's how
- our rule -- why our 32(g) now bars him.
- 18 But you're suggesting with this part
- of the story that Arizona wasn't really sure of
- 20 what the law was before, that they can't now
- 21 say, oh, it was so settled that you don't get
- the benefit of collateral review because they
- 23 hadn't really sorted it out early on.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Yes, Your Honor, I
- 25 understand the question, but the -- the -- I

- 1 mean, the Simmons rule is -- is clear. I mean,
- 2 the holding is clear that if the future
- dangerousness is at issue, then the defendant
- 4 can ask for a parole ineligibility instruction
- 5 through either instruction or argument.
- 6 What was unclear was whether parole
- 7 was unavailable in Arizona. It -- because the
- 8 problem was the -- in the criminal sentencing
- 9 statutes, these are the statutes that the judges
- 10 and the -- and the prosecutors and the defense
- 11 counsel are looking at, it said at the time that
- 12 there were three options. There was either --
- there was either the death penalty, there was a
- 14 natural life sentence, or there was life with
- the possibility of release or parole after 25
- 16 years. It said that.
- 17 The -- the issue was in a separate
- 18 title, Title 41, the administrative section for
- 19 how parole is actually undertaken by the Arizona
- 20 Board of Executive Clemency, the legislature --
- 21 the Arizona legislature flipped off the switch.
- 22 So it's not even clear to us if -- if -- if
- anyone was necessarily even aware of that early
- 24 on in the case.
- 25 So -- and then -- and then take -- you

- 1 have to remember, in Simmons, and as I -- as I
- 2 read this before, this Court, you know, very
- 3 clearly said that the state law has to prohibit
- 4 the defendant's release on parole, so -- it
- 5 didn't, though. It had that -- that --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: I see. So you're
- 7 not at fault. It was confusing. You didn't
- 8 really know. It was possible that he wasn't
- 9 getting parole, or he would -- would get parole,
- 10 and so it may not apply.
- MR. KANEFIELD: He might get it after
- 12 --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: I understand.
- MR. KANEFIELD: -- 25 years, but --
- 15 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. So
- 16 forget the bad faith then. I mean, you were --
- 17 you were doing your best in all of this time.
- 18 MR. KANEFIELD: It was definitely not
- 19 bad faith.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- 21 MR. KANEFIELD: Absolutely not bad
- 22 faith by the Arizona Supreme Court.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So then we come now
- 24 to today, and the Supreme Court makes -- this
- 25 Court makes very clear that in this situation he

- 1 is supposed to get it. I'm just still wondering
- 2 why the rule for collateral review does not
- 3 allow for that to be considered a change from --
- 4 a significant change from the time in which
- 5 Arizona was confused about whether he gets it or
- 6 not.
- 7 MR. KANEFIELD: I -- I understand.
- 8 It's just not the way the Arizona Supreme Court
- 9 approaches significance. I mean, this is a --
- 10 the Arizona -- remember, and this point was made
- in some of the questioning to my colleagues,
- 12 that Arizona doesn't have to allow for this PCR
- 13 process to begin with, but they do in Rule
- 14 32.1(g). They allow for a successive PCR to
- occur, and in that rare situation -- and I'm
- 16 quoting Justice Hurwitz's majority opinion in
- 17 the Shrum case -- it's got to be a rare
- 18 situation where the underlying rule of law has
- 19 changed.
- It's not going to happen very often,
- 21 so it doesn't mean just because it doesn't
- 22 happen very often or it has to be this -- this
- 23 -- the way -- the context in which it's come up
- 24 here, that it's -- that it's somehow inadequate.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: I thought --

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, Mister
2	JUSTICE JACKSON: we I thought
3	we agreed there was a change, there was just not
4	significance. So now we're saying it has to
5	change?
6	MR. KANEFIELD: Well, every every
7	appellate decision interpreting a statute is
8	is a change in some respect. So that it's not
9	just whether there's a new case that maybe a
LO	defendant would have benefited from had that
L1	case been in existence at the time of his trial.
L2	That's that happens all the time. They
L3	you know, they they they finalize their
L4	direct appeal. They finalize their as-of-right
L5	habeas. Maybe they're even finalizing their
L6	federal habeas. But it doesn't mean that a
L7	subsequent case, just because it comes out and
L8	may maybe it involved an interpretation of
L9	statute that would have benefited the defendant,
20	that that's a significant change. That's just
21	not how the Arizona Supreme Court approaches
22	that rule.
23	JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Kanefield
24	MR. KANEFIELD: Yes.
25	JUSTICE KAGAN: had had faith or

- 1 not, I think Kafka would have loved this. Cruz
- 2 loses his Simmons claims on direct appeal
- 3 because the Arizona courts say point-blank
- 4 Simmons has never applied in Arizona. And then
- 5 he loses the next time around because the
- 6 Arizona courts say Simmons always applied in
- 7 California. I mean, tails you win, heads I
- 8 lose, whatever that expression is? I mean, how
- 9 -- how can you run a railroad that way?
- 10 MR. KANEFIELD: I -- Your Honor, it's
- 11 the nature of successive habeas that he
- 12 absolutely had an opportunity. He was never
- deprived of his ability to exercise his claim.
- 14 He didn't do it right. He didn't present -- he
- didn't do like the defendant in Lynch did on
- 16 direct appeal, on habeas. He didn't even do it
- in his federal habeas. And so --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, he didn't have a
- 19 claim in Arizona. I mean, Arizona had made
- 20 completely clear you don't have a Simmons claim.
- 21 Then, after Lynch, after this Court says we
- 22 don't know what Arizona is doing -- I mean, a
- 23 summary reversal is pretty -- that's a high --
- 24 that's a high bar. We don't know what Arizona
- 25 is doing. It's clearly violating our law. And

- 1 then Arizona says, well, we're still not going
- 2 to allow you to bring the claim because Simmons
- 3 always applied. I mean, they just said Simmons
- 4 never applied.
- 5 MR. KANEFIELD: Your Honor, I -- in --
- 6 in -- in this context, obviously, it applied to
- 7 Lynch, it applied to every defendant whose
- 8 appeal are pending on direct appeal
- 9 subsequently. It's -- this is a very unique
- 10 situation with this rule that the Arizona
- 11 Supreme Court has said in these rare
- 12 situations --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I hope it's a
- 14 unique situation, honestly, because this kind of
- 15 -- it's not really consistent with the legal
- 16 system that, you know, you win no matter what.
- 17 MR. KANEFIELD: But, Your Honor, I --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: You win when -- when
- 19 they say they -- it never applied. You win when
- 20 you say it always applied. Whatever you say,
- 21 you win.
- MR. KANEFIELD: But, Justice Kagan,
- 23 had he -- had he presented the claim properly
- 24 like Lynch -- he did it in a -- he -- he tried
- 25 -- whether he tried or not, we don't think he

- 1 did. They say he did. He -- he asked the judge
- 2 before the trial even began to presentence him,
- 3 before any evidence was heard. Well, that
- 4 obviously wasn't proper. And then -- and then,
- 5 during the sentencing phase, he -- he tried to
- 6 get testimony from the clemency -- chairman of
- 7 the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency, which
- 8 would have been totally speculative.
- 9 But, at the time when he needed to
- 10 raise this issue, when the jury -- actual jury
- instruction was being drafted and presented,
- 12 there was no objection. And -- and the judge
- instruct -- you know, that was the time to say,
- 14 Your Honor, this violates Simmons. There's --
- we don't believe there's any parole eligibility
- ever, despite what the statute says, because the
- 17 statute in Title 41 says otherwise. But nobody
- 18 did that. He didn't do that. So to imply --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I'm sorry,
- 20 counsel, 12 other people did before Lynch, and
- 21 each and every one of them, at least one, and I
- 22 think multiple ones of them, told you you were
- 23 wrong. They all said you're misstating in
- 24 Simmons -- you're misstating the rule in this
- 25 state. And Arizona repeatedly refused to look

- 1 at that. It took Lynch finally before we
- 2 granted cert. Some of those other people had
- 3 asked for cert and didn't get it.
- 4 So you can't say that somehow Arizona
- 5 was sandbagged by Mr. Cruz. It had a rule that
- 6 Simmons didn't apply. It took us telling them
- 7 in Lynch all your reasons are wrong. We have
- 8 said why they were wrong before. Your state
- 9 law's clear. Now get it straight. Now Arizona
- is given enough opportunity knowing everything
- 11 that's available to apply a rule it's always
- 12 said, when our laws are overruled, you get
- 13 32.1(g). And it's saying no.
- So I don't know where -- why what
- 15 Mr. Cruz did or didn't do before should inform
- how we read what Arizona's doing under 32.1(g).
- 17 MR. KANEFIELD: Justice Sotomayor, I
- 18 -- I think it -- it just comes back to the
- 19 context the question present -- that the
- 20 Court asked us to -- it's not the question that
- 21 they presented. You asked us whether the
- 22 Arizona court's judgment -- the Arizona Supreme
- 23 Court's judgment below was independent and
- 24 adequate. So we approached the answer to that
- 25 question from this Court's jurisprudence in --

- 1 under adequacy, where there certainly is an
- 2 interest, a state interest, in finality.
- 3 And -- and, here, the -- there's
- 4 nothing to show that -- that -- the way the --
- 5 the way we read the adequacy cases from this
- 6 Court is that if the state courts are -- are
- 7 trying to deprive the defendant of exercising a
- 8 federal right or claim, then that's when this
- 9 Court will intervene and say that the state
- 10 rule, even though it's a valid procedural
- 11 rule --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But -- but --
- MR. KANEFIELD: -- is inadequate.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- don't you think
- 15 that all of the factors we've ever talked about
- 16 working together here do suggest that we should
- 17 find this inadequate?
- MR. KANEFIELD: No.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And not
- 20 independent? I mean, there's pieces in this
- 21 that it's totally novel, no notice given that
- there would be this new thing, this new test
- 23 created. Federal law seems to be discriminated
- 24 against because it's now a new test on what --
- 25 federal law has to be new in some substantial

- 1 way. There is some elements of bad faith here.
- What's the third factor? I've forgotten it now,
- 3 but there's at least a third factor where
- 4 there's arguments being raised.
- 5 Wouldn't the combination of all of
- 6 this suggest that we shouldn't?
- 7 MR. KANEFIELD: I don't -- I just
- 8 disagree, Your Honor. I mean, one thing I would
- 9 point out, I failed to mention earlier, is to
- 10 the extent there's this idea that the Arizona
- 11 Supreme Court was doing something unusual by
- 12 coming -- by -- by using the application
- language, one --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, it's
- 15 certainly a new test.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Well, and so, if the
- 17 -- if you look at the Arizona Supreme Court's
- opinion below paragraph 17, you will see that
- 19 Justice Montgomery cites to four federal habeas
- 20 cases where, post-Lynch, where defendants in
- 21 habeas asked their habeas proceedings to be
- 22 stayed so that they could file a successive PCR
- 23 in Arizona Supreme Court and raised the Rule
- 24 32.1(q) argument.
- 25 And in every case, the court said no,

- 1 that that's not -- Lynch is not a significant
- 2 change in the law. So three different federal
- 3 court judges in four different cases before the
- 4 Arizona Supreme Court held the exact same thing.
- 5 So this isn't just the Arizona Supreme Court --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yeah, except that
- 7 Arizona got it wrong 12 times before Lynch.
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Mr. Katyal makes a
- 9 big point, that you don't have any amicus
- 10 support from other states. Do you want to
- 11 respond to that?
- 12 MR. KANEFIELD: Your Honor, we're not
- aware of any other state that has a rule similar
- to Rule 32.1(g), so it didn't surprise us -- you
- 15 know, I don't -- neither did we solicit other
- 16 states, which is common for Attorney Generals
- 17 offices to do, if we think that there was --
- 18 that would help the Court in some way, but we
- 19 don't -- we don't see the reason other than we
- 20 certainly would have enjoyed having some more
- 21 support.
- We thought we got some pretty good
- 23 support from the professors who made some
- 24 excellent points about why taking the case in
- 25 this posture is sort of unusual rather than

- 1 letting it play itself out through the direct
- 2 appeal, state habeas, and then federal habeas,
- 3 but --
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: But, with respect to
- 5 other states, one thing I'm a little worried
- 6 about is that if we rule in your favor in this
- 7 case, that it will be giving other states
- 8 essentially a roadmap for defying this Court's
- 9 criminal law decisions because that, you know,
- 10 bad faith or no, that's what happened as a sort
- of conceptual matter in this case, that we had
- so many times in which the Supreme Court made
- 13 clear, you know, Simmons made clear that this is
- 14 what the law was.
- So many times Arizona said we're not
- 16 following it. And we had to have Lynch in order
- 17 to really cinch the deal. And what I'm a little
- worried about is that that ultimately, when we
- 19 read our rule, if we read our -- your rule in
- the way that you're saying, amounts to Arizona
- 21 having said no one convicted between 1994 and
- 22 2016 is going to get the benefit of Simmons,
- that that's sort of the ultimate way in which it
- 24 plays out.
- 25 And that is a little troubling because

- 1 why couldn't another state do the same thing
- 2 with respect to a criminal law rule that -- of
- 3 this Court that they don't like. They just read
- 4 their procedural rule in this way.
- 5 MR. KANEFIELD: Justice Jackson, I
- 6 think the way I'd answer that is just to remind
- 7 the Justice that the state doesn't even have to
- 8 have this post-habeas process. That's pretty
- 9 clear. My -- my colleague hasn't --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, if they do --
- if they do, can they read it, can they read the
- 12 rules related to it to deny federal criminal --
- deny state defendants their federal rights as
- announced by the Supreme Court?
- MR. KANEFIELD: They can't deny
- 16 federal rights. That's crystal clear. And I
- 17 thought I made that point that -- that Mr. Cruz
- 18 was never denied his ability to exercise his
- 19 federal claim.
- It's just in the context of a
- 21 successive PCR there has to be a significant
- 22 change before the court's going to allow, you
- 23 know, to -- to reopen a long final judgment.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Kanefield, can I
- ask you about a footnote in your brief? So this

- is on 27 at Footnote 1, and it says: The state
- 2 maintains that Lynch was wrongly decided. And
- 3 then you associate yourself with Justice
- 4 Thomas's dissent in that case, and it says:
- 5 Lynch perpetuated the Court's error in Simmons
- 6 by imposing a magic words requirement.
- 7 I mean, I guess I was a little bit
- 8 shocked by that, that you're still arguing that
- 9 Lynch was wrongly decided, because, to me, it
- 10 suggests that the -- the state in its -- in its
- 11 many forms, many actors, is -- is just insisting
- on not applying Lynch.
- You know, first, you didn't apply
- 14 Lynch -- excuse me, not applying, you know,
- 15 Simmons or Lynch. You know, first, you don't
- 16 apply Simmons. We come in. We summarily
- 17 reverse you. We say, you know, here's -- here's
- 18 the deal. Simmons applies. That's what we say
- in Lynch.
- Then you contort your procedural rule
- 21 to say, oh, well, you know, there's a difference
- between changes in law and changes in
- 23 application in law. And then, in this case,
- 24 you're still saying, like, Lynch is wrongly
- 25 decided. Simmons is wrongly decided. We can't

- 1 really -- we just really hate all this stuff.
- 2 It sounds like you're thumbing your nose at us.
- 3 MR. KANEFIELD: Justice Kagan,
- 4 absolutely no disrespect was intended by that
- footnote to the Court, and I apologize if that's
- 6 the way it came across.
- 7 I -- I think the state -- we -- we
- 8 were surprised by the Lynch ruling, I think
- 9 because of the fact that this Court had to get
- 10 in -- a little bit into the weeds of Arizona,
- interpreting Arizona statutes, even though it
- was in the context of applying the Simmons rule.
- 13 And I think this may be a remnant of that, of
- 14 that confusion.
- But understand we absolutely respect
- 16 the Lynch decision and the Arizona Supreme Court
- 17 has applied it. But we don't think that that
- implies any kind of bad faith or any effort to
- 19 deprive a defendant, this Defendant, of his
- ability to exercise his federal rights.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 22 counsel. You said in response to a question
- 23 that Arizona courts may not deny federal rights.
- You correctly answered yes.
- MR. KANEFIELD: Yes, Mr. Chief

- 1 Justice.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But isn't the
- 3 issue here whether the Arizona -- Arizona can
- 4 limit the availability of collateral review to
- 5 particular types of claims? That's a very
- 6 different question, isn't it?
- 7 MR. KANEFIELD: It -- it can limit the
- 8 -- the successive claim to particular -- well, I
- 9 don't know how -- I want to make sure I say this
- 10 right. I want to make sure I'm answering your
- 11 question, Your Honor, Mr. Chief Justice. It
- 12 just has to --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Either one
- works.
- MR. KANEFIELD: -- it has to be -- it
- has to be across the board. I mean, obviously,
- 17 we wholeheartedly agree that the Arizona Supreme
- 18 Court cannot promulgate a PCR rule in -- in a
- 19 way that treats the precedent from this Court
- 20 any different from the precedent of its own
- 21 court.
- 22 And so I think the -- the -- the
- 23 Petitioner is incorrect to read the way this
- 24 Court -- the Arizona Supreme Court applied its
- 25 rule in this context to be -- to mean any kind

- of disrespect or any kind of mistreatment. It
- just found itself in a very unique situation
- 3 with the -- with the summary reversal in Lynch.
- 4 And so I hope I answered your question.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 6 counsel.
- 7 Justice Thomas?
- 8 Justice Alito?
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: I thought that the
- 10 point of the Chief's question -- maybe I -- I
- 11 didn't understand it -- was -- concerns the --
- the distinction between your obligation to apply
- 13 federal retroactivity rules if you -- at least
- 14 federal retroactivity rules if you entertain the
- 15 claim. If you entertained this claim, you
- 16 couldn't apply a retroactivity rule different
- 17 from the federal retroactivity rule.
- 18 But you say that we don't have to
- 19 entertain it at all because of a procedural rule
- that categorizes claims in a way that we choose
- 21 to adopt, correct?
- MR. KANEFIELD: Yes, Your Honor.
- 23 Well, I -- again, if I'm not answering the
- question, it's only because I don't understand.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Okay.

- 1 MR. KANEFIELD: So let -- let me just
- 2 -- can I just make a point, though, that Rule
- 3 32.1, there's three prongs to it. So the
- 4 Arizona Supreme Court never got past one. It
- 5 has to be a significant change. It has to
- 6 apply. And that's where the retroactivity
- 7 question would -- would ordinarily be
- 8 addressed.
- 9 And then it has to probably change the
- 10 outcome. So even if we get past significance,
- 11 there's a very real possibility that Mr. Cruz
- 12 will not survive the other components of that
- 13 rule.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: You could -- no one
- 15 contests, I -- I assume, that you could impose
- 16 some sort of temporal limitation or whatever --
- 17 whatever you choose, right? That the --
- MR. KANEFIELD: Yes, and that's what
- 19 -- that was what the -- sorry.
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, go ahead.
- MR. KANEFIELD: That's what the Court,
- 22 you know, essentially addressed in Walker versus
- 23 Martin. And we see some parallels because
- 24 there, there was a note, the time to bring
- 25 habeas in California was without substantial

- delay, so the Court had to wrestle with what was
- 2 substantial and what was insubstantial, and
- 3 there was arguments that it wasn't being applied
- 4 in a -- in a -- in a uniform way. We see a lot
- 5 of parallels to the significance and
- 6 insignificance distinction in Rule 32.1(g). So
- 7 the court has to be given the opportunity to
- 8 flesh that out in -- in -- in case -- on a
- 9 case-by-case determination.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 11 Sotomayor?
- 12 Justice Kagan?
- 13 Thank you, counsel.
- 14 Rebuttal, Mr. Katyal.
- 15 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF NEAL K. KATYAL
- 16 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 17 MR. KATYAL: Thank you. Four points.
- 18 First, my friend began by -- began his
- argument by admitting that there's "no example"
- of what Justice Barrett called a hair-splitting
- 21 application and interpretation. He later
- 22 conceded this was the "first time" this
- interpretation of Rule 32.1 had ever been given.
- 24 That is the opposite of regularly followed and
- 25 firmly established every day of the week.

- 1 Rule 32 has been around for decades.
- 2 It's never once been interpreted this way. It's
- 3 always been interpreted as overturning
- 4 precedent. And you don't need to speculate
- 5 about this because the Arizona Supreme Court in
- 6 Rendon had a very similar circumstance, except
- 7 it involved state law. That was a burglary
- 8 statute. The law had always stayed the same.
- 9 The statute always stayed the same. What
- 10 changed was the interpretation of the statute.
- 11 That court found -- the Supreme -- Arizona
- 12 Supreme Court said obvious significant change in
- 13 the law.
- 14 Lynch works the same way, as Justice
- 15 Kagan said. At point A, the law is one thing;
- 16 at point B, it's another. At point A, 12
- 17 different criminal defendants are -- their death
- 18 sentences are affirmed. At point B, they should
- 19 now be reversed under this Court's decision in
- 20 Lynch.
- 21 Second, with respect to the question
- 22 about Stewart versus Smith, Justice Alito,
- there's no novelty issue at all in that case, no
- 24 discrimination against federal law issue in that
- 25 case. That was just about a procedural rule

- 1 that just categorized a claim. It wasn't about
- 2 applying that law or applying that rule in any
- 3 way to federal law, which is, I take it, why my
- 4 friend never even mentioned it during his oral
- 5 argument.
- 6 Third, the jury instruction point that
- 7 he made. As I said to Justice Gorsuch, as a
- 8 matter of federal law, it's wrong under Simmons
- 9 and Lynch, and, also, it's wrong factually.
- 10 Cruz cited Simmons by name in his trial, Joint
- 11 Appendix page 54 and 55. And, also, there's
- 12 another cert petition pending with six more
- 13 criminal defendants from Arizona raising the
- same issue, and his brief in opposition admits
- that two of them don't even have the jury
- instruction issue because they sought the jury
- 17 instruction. So I think this case is briefed
- and decided, ready to -- you've got the merits
- 19 there.
- 20 And, finally and most importantly, I
- 21 want to pick up on what Justice Kagan said about
- 22 the Kafkaesque rule here. It is striking that
- they still have not explained why they are so
- 24 resistant to giving Cruz his Simmon rights --
- 25 Simmons rights, rights that they now say he was

1 always entitled to. They're now calling them 2 well-established, but they've been arguing the 3 contrary for decades. In the end, this is about one thing, making sure that Simmons rights 4 aren't extended to Cruz and people like him, 5 6 even though we know in this very case from the 7 jury foreman it would have made a massive difference. 8 9 I know this argument gets technical about all this stuff about application of rules 10 11 and stuff, but here's what the state's saying. 12 In plain English, they're saying that John Cruz 13 should be put to death even though, in fact, 14 because his claim was too good, that it was so 15 powerful, that it was well-established at the 16 time. That is not something the Arizona Supreme 17 Court has ever said anything like before. It is 18 the essence of novel. It is the essence of 19 discrimination against decisions of this Court. 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, The case is submitted. 21 counsel. 2.2 (Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., the case 23 was submitted.) 24

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