SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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TAE D. JOHNSON, ACTING DIRECTOR)
OF U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS)
ENFORCEMENT, ET AL.,)
Petitioners,)
v.) No. 19-896
ANTONIO ARTEAGA-MARTINEZ,)
Respondent.)

Pages: 1 through 73

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: January 11, 2022

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9	Respondent.)
10	
11	
12	Washington, D.C.
13	Tuesday, January 11, 2022
14	
15	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
16	argument before the Supreme Court of the United
17	States at 10:00 a.m.
18	
19	APPEARANCES:
20	AUSTIN RAYNOR, Assistant to the Solicitor General,
21	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
22	on behalf of the Petitioners.
23	PRATIK A. SHAH, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
24	of the Respondent.
25	

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:00 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Breyer
4	and Justice Sotomayor are participating
5	remotely this morning.
6	We'll hear argument first in Case
7	19-896, Johnson versus Arteaga.
8	Mr. Raynor.
9	ORAL ARGUMENT OF AUSTIN RAYNOR
10	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
11	MR. RAYNOR: Mr. Chief Justice, and
12	may it please the Court:
13	Section 1231(a)(6) states that certain
14	categories of non-citizens, including
15	inadmissible non-citizens like Respondent here,
16	"may be detained beyond the removal period."
17	The question presented in this case is
18	whether that language requires that
19	non-citizens detained under Section 1231(a)(6)
20	be afforded a bond hearing before an
21	immigration judge after six months of
22	detention, at which the government bears the
23	burden of proving by clear and convincing
24	evidence that the non-citizen is either a
25	flight risk or a danger to the community. That

- 1 question answers itself.
- 2 Respondent implicitly recognizes the
- 3 absence of any textual support for his position
- 4 on the question presented. He accordingly
- 5 focuses on an altogether different issue,
- 6 namely, whether he is entitled to outright
- 7 release under this Court's decision in Zadvydas
- 8 because his removal is not reasonably
- 9 foreseeable.
- 10 That argument would require modifying
- 11 the judgment below, which afforded Respondent a
- bond hearing, not outright release. Because he
- did not file a cross-petition for a writ of
- 14 certiorari, that argument is not properly
- 15 presented here, and this Court should reject it
- 16 for that reason alone.
- In any event, the argument is
- 18 mistaken. Unlike in Zadvydas, the detention
- 19 here pending a proceeding is not indefinite.
- 20 It has a logical termination point, the
- 21 conclusion of the proceeding. It therefore
- does not trigger the Zadvydas rule.
- This Court should reverse the judgment
- 24 below.
- 25 Starting with the text, here, in order

- 1 to succeed, Respondent has to both rewrite the
- 2 substantive standard contained in the statute,
- 3 as well as the procedural standard. The
- 4 statute enumerates four substantive bases for a
- 5 --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I mean,
- 7 as an initial matter, haven't we crossed that
- 8 bridge in Zadvydas?
- 9 MR. RAYNOR: I don't think so, Mr.
- 10 Chief Justice. On his Zadvydas argument, it's
- 11 true the Court held that there is an implicit
- 12 limitation in the statute, that once removal is
- not reasonably foreseeable, detention isn't
- 14 authorized. That argument isn't presented
- 15 here.
- 16 If the Court wanted to go down that
- 17 road, it would have to assess whether detention
- 18 pending a proceeding is indefinite within the
- 19 meaning of Zadvydas, and Demore answers that
- 20 question in the negative.
- 21 But, on the argument that responds to
- the question presented and that was decided
- 23 below, he wants a bond hearing that affords him
- 24 release if he's not a flight risk or a danger
- 25 to the community, and that is a separate

- 1 substantive standard than was at issue in
- 2 Zadvydas.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I -- my
- 4 question is -- in your objections in your
- 5 brief, of course, is that the -- the provisions
- 6 that are at issue here are not in the statute,
- 7 and your -- your objection is that we shouldn't
- 8 read -- read them all in. And I just wonder if
- 9 we've already decided that the statute can be
- 10 expanded beyond its plain terms in Zadvydas.
- MR. RAYNOR: I don't think so, Mr.
- 12 Chief Justice. In Jennings, this Court said
- 13 that Zadvydas was not a license to read in
- 14 whatever protections you think are warranted
- 15 under the Constitution.
- And I think it's important here to
- 17 distinguish between the two different parts of
- 18 his claim. One is procedural. He wants a bond
- 19 hearing before an immigration judge at which we
- 20 bear the burden of proof by clear and
- 21 convincing evidence. Those are procedural
- 22 protections that he's trying to read into the
- 23 statute.
- 24 But the other portion of his claim is
- substantive, and that doesn't involve reading

- 1 something into the statute. It involves a
- 2 rewriting of the statute.
- 3 So the statute enumerates four bases
- 4 for detention: inadmissibility, deportability
- on specified grounds, flight risk, or danger.
- 6 But, according to Respondent, the first two
- 7 bases for detention stop at six months, and
- 8 only the latter two bases continue to apply
- 9 after six months.
- 10 So there's a serious Clark v. Martinez
- 11 problem with this approach because he's reading
- the "may be detained" language to have
- different meanings as applies to different
- 14 categories of non-citizens covered by the
- 15 statute. So, under Respondent's
- interpretation, "may be detained" means may be
- detained for up to six months to the extent
- 18 you're detained on inadmissibility or
- 19 deportability grounds. But, to the extent
- 20 you're detained on flight risk or danger
- 21 grounds, "may be detained" means may be
- 22 detained indefinitely as long as you are
- 23 accorded certain procedural protections.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: But I -- I quess, you
- 25 know, just following up on what the Chief

- 1 Justice said, we're -- we're dealing here with
- 2 the same statute as we were dealing with under
- 3 -- in Zadvydas, a different statute from the
- 4 one we were dealing with in Jennings.
- 5 And -- and Zadvydas says "may"
- 6 involves some ambiguity. It gives discretion
- 7 but not unlimited discretion. And I can see
- 8 how one might argue with that conclusion in
- 9 Zadvydas, but that's very clearly what we said
- 10 in that case.
- So, here, same statute, same word. It
- 12 seems as though -- you know, Zadvydas says
- 13 there's some ambiguity, there's -- the
- 14 discretion is not entirely unlimited. We get
- 15 to take into account constitutional
- 16 considerations because of that ambiguity that
- 17 Zadvydas found.
- 18 And that's what Mr. Shah is saying we
- 19 should do here, is -- is, you know -- and the
- 20 -- the reason it applies to only a couple -- you
- 21 know, one category and not the other category
- 22 is because the Constitution has nothing to say
- about the other category.
- So why isn't that right?
- MR. RAYNOR: Zadvydas is distinct in

- 1 an important respect in that there the Court --
- 2 it drew its interpretation from the logic of
- 3 the statute, and it said the purpose of this
- 4 statute is to ensure that the non-citizen is
- 5 present at the time of removal. And if removal
- 6 isn't reasonably foreseeable, the purpose is no
- 7 longer served, so the statutory authority runs
- 8 out. So there was a connection there between
- 9 the interpretation that the Court adopted and
- 10 the internal logic of the statute.
- 11 And that connection is absent here.
- 12 No one has attempted to draw a connection
- 13 between the purpose or the function of this
- 14 statute and the entire procedural framework
- 15 that the lower court engrafted onto the
- 16 statute.
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, is -- was
- 18 Zadvydas really limited to that? I mean,
- 19 Zadvydas first talks about if removal is not
- 20 reasonably foreseeable, but then Zadvydas goes
- on and there's a sentence in Zadvydas that says
- 22 even if -- even if removal is reasonably
- foreseeable, the -- the court should consider
- 24 the risk of the alien's committing further
- 25 crimes, you know, essentially pointing to a

- 1 factor that's a very common factor in bail
- 2 hearings.
- 3 So Zadvydas seems to -- seemed to
- 4 think of itself as extending beyond that very
- 5 sort of core purpose of inquiry that you
- 6 referred to.
- 7 MR. RAYNOR: That second line that you
- 8 referenced, Justice Kagan, we agree with it.
- 9 The statute says that danger is a
- 10 consideration. And so, when it said you should
- 11 consider danger, the Court was just reiterating
- one of the considerations in the statute.
- 13 And we definitely don't think that
- 14 that single line from Zadvydas can be read to
- 15 nullify the other three considerations in the
- 16 statute. Zadvydas didn't purport to do that.
- 17 And even if we were to focus in isolation on
- that line, it doesn't support Respondent's test
- 19 because it doesn't mention flight risk. It
- 20 only mentions danger. It doesn't reiterate all
- of the bond criteria that Respondent thinks are
- 22 traditional.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, maybe. I mean,
- 24 maybe it could have been a little bit more
- 25 comprehensive or a little bit more exact about

- 1 what it was referring to, but it seems to be
- 2 pretty clear in saying, you know, the kinds of
- 3 things that you worry about when you worry
- 4 about releasing people, which is exactly what a
- 5 bond hearing is supposed to do.
- 6 Now it didn't go through all the
- 7 procedures that Mr. Shah is asking for here
- 8 today. But, again, you know, it says "may" is
- 9 ambiguous. That ambiguity allows us to import
- 10 constitutional considerations. In doing that,
- 11 we should be thinking about bond hearing type
- 12 things.
- 13 You put all that together, it seems
- like, you know, there's a reasonable argument
- 15 here that Zadvydas points, you know, pretty
- 16 straight -- straightforwardly in the
- 17 Respondent's direction.
- 18 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Kagan, even if
- 19 you thought "may" was a license to pour in
- these procedural protections, I still don't
- 21 think that would get you to the substantive
- 22 rewrite. So Zadvydas's rule applies across the
- 23 board to all non-citizens covered by the
- 24 provision. Once removal isn't reasonably
- foreseeable, statutory authority runs out.

1 But, again, here, there's a Clark v. 2 Martinez problem that was not present in Zadvydas, and that is "may be detained" means 3 one thing when it applies to inadmissible or 4 deportable non-citizens, but it means something 5 different when it applies to flight risk or 6 7 danger non-citizens. So they're trying to parse this language and apply different rules 8 to different categories, and that's what Clark 9 v. Martinez rejects, and that wasn't present in 10 11 Zadvydas. 12 And although you -- you mention that Jennings involves a different provision, I do 13 think it's instructive because 1226(a) is the 14 15 most on-point aspect of Jennings. There, the 16 language is "may be released on bond." And the 17 Court said the word "may" isn't a license to 18 just pour in whatever procedural protections 19 you want. At issue there were periodic bond 20 hearings and clear and convincing evidence 21 requirements, so very similar requirements to 2.2 the ones that the Court here poured in, and 23 Jennings said that wasn't permissible. 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, you're 25 talking about pouring in all of these rewrites.

- 1 But, in essence -- and I think this is the
- 2 question that Zadvydas answered and that
- 3 Justice Kagan was alluding to -- the basic
- 4 point of Zadvydas is you really can't keep
- 5 someone indefinitely without a reason
- 6 basically.
- 7 And that reason, I think you would
- 8 concede, can't be just whim. We don't like
- 9 this person because -- easy to point to a
- 10 racial reason, but it could be something as
- 11 simple as we just don't like him.
- 12 Is it your position that there is no
- process by which that type of judgment could be
- 14 challenged?
- MR. RAYNOR: That is not our position,
- 16 Justice Sotomayor. We agree that, for example,
- 17 there -- I mean, there is a robust internal
- 18 review process here, and, obviously, a habeas
- 19 suit would be permissible if the non-citizen
- 20 wanted to challenge whether he fell within one
- of the statutory grounds for detention.
- 22 And to the extent you're worried about
- 23 indefinite detention --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what you're --
- what you're worried about is that you think

- 1 that the government has no obligation, except
- 2 internally, to explain to a neutral arbitrator
- 3 at a certain point why they're keeping an
- 4 individual?
- 5 Because most of what procedures at the
- 6 Zadvydas hearing that the courts have
- 7 fashioned, except for the burden of proof, and
- 8 we can go to that later, are pretty sensical:
- 9 Government, come in and tell us why you're
- 10 keeping this person. This is a "may." It's
- 11 discretionary. But there can't be arbitrary
- 12 and capricious. Explain it.
- 13 And that to me seems like a fairly
- simple process, not one that we're rewriting,
- but which is in the nature of the question
- 16 presented, which is can you keep them
- 17 indefinitely.
- 18 MR. RAYNOR: To be clear, Justice
- 19 Sotomayor, the Zadvydas rule doesn't permit
- 20 courts to review an exercise of discretion.
- 21 All it permits courts to review is this --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But a discretion
- can't be arbitrary and capricious, and so there
- 24 has to be a basis for the exercise of
- 25 discretion. And what these hearings are doing

- is putting you to that test, isn't it?
- MR. RAYNOR: No, Justice Sotomayor.
- 3 The purpose of a Zadvydas hearing is to
- 4 determine whether removal is reasonably
- 5 foreseeable. And that's -- that's just a limit
- 6 on statutory authority, and if --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's not quite
- 8 true, because Zadvydas doesn't say you have to
- 9 let them out if they're a danger to the
- 10 community.
- 11 MR. RAYNOR: Correct. There is an
- 12 exception mentioned in Zadvydas for -- for
- 13 specially dangerous non-citizens, and that's --
- that's an entirely separate set of regulations.
- But the basic Zadvydas rule is about statutory
- 16 authority.
- 17 And we agree that the question of
- 18 statutory authority could be raised in a habeas
- 19 suit here. Respondent obviously hasn't done
- that, because we clearly do have the statutory
- 21 authority to detain him. He is inadmissible,
- 22 which is one of the grounds for detention.
- 23 And to the extent you're -- you're
- 24 worried about indefinite detention, Zadvydas
- 25 already solves this problem. Zadvydas says, if

- 1 it's not reasonably foreseeable, you can't
- 2 detain the non-citizen.
- 3 That's fundamentally different than
- 4 what's going on here because this is detention
- 5 pending a proceeding, which Demore says has an
- 6 immigration-related purpose and is not
- 7 indefinite in the sense that the open-ended
- 8 detention in Zadvydas was. But --
- 9 JUSTICE BARRETT: But what if it --
- what if it still doesn't have a reasonably
- 11 foreseeable conclusion? I mean, to pick up on
- one theme of Justice Sotomayor's question, what
- if the withholding of removal proceedings
- continue to drag on and on and on or, you know,
- in Zadvydas, there was no country willing to
- 16 take him, but he -- he was removable.
- 17 Are you arguing that the Zadvydas
- 18 right is particular only to that situation, or
- 19 would you concede that there's some point at
- 20 which, when someone is held in removal
- 21 proceedings and has, you know, sought
- 22 withholding of removal, that at some point a
- 23 Zadvydas-type determination must be made?
- MR. RAYNOR: Our position is that
- 25 Zadvydas is limited to that first situation,

- 1 where it's just open-ended detention. Zadvydas
- 2 does not apply to detention pending a
- 3 proceeding. I think Demore makes this pretty
- 4 clear. But we would acknowledge the
- 5 possibility of an as-applied constitutional
- 6 challenge in extreme circumstances.
- 7 So, if the detention went on and on,
- 8 as you say, if the government were seeking
- 9 continuances, if the government were
- 10 responsible for the delay, there would be a
- 11 host of factors that a court could potentially
- 12 consider, and the lower courts are actively
- 13 considering these kinds of claims. We would
- 14 acknowledge that might be permissible.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I -- I don't
- 16 understand. If I can interrupt for a second.
- 17 I mean, this -- this individual here has
- 18 applied for -- for staying here, for asylum,
- 19 isn't that what it is?
- MR. RAYNOR: No, Justice Breyer.
- JUSTICE BREYER: What has he applied
- 22 for?
- MR. RAYNOR: This is a withholding
- 24 only determination. He -- he has no
- opportunity to have a legal entitlement to be

- 1 in the United States. This is not an asylum
- 2 application.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well --
- 4 MR. RAYNOR: He's subject to a final
- 5 order of removal, and that's -- that's not
- 6 going anywhere.
- JUSTICE BREYER: And he's not said
- 8 that he's going to be persecuted -- and maybe I
- 9 have the wrong case here. This is --
- 10 MR. RAYNOR: He -- so he has asserted
- 11 the likelihood of persecution.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.
- MR. RAYNOR: But this is a withholding
- only proceeding, which means the only form of
- relief he has the ability to apply for --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.
- 17 MR. RAYNOR: -- is withholding under
- 18 the convention against torture.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. So
- 20 withholding of removal. So he wants to -- if
- 21 you withhold removal, he stays, right?
- MR. RAYNOR: He does not obtain a
- 23 legal entitlement to stay.
- 24 JUSTICE BREYER: I know. Is he here
- or does he go to Mexico if, in fact, they're

- 1 going to kill him when he gets to Mexico?
- MR. RAYNOR: He will not go to Mexico.
- 3 But we retain the discretion to remove him to
- 4 another country.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah, you do. Okay.
- 6 And I would like to know when you think, as far
- 7 as the record is concerned, or anybody else,
- 8 he's going to breach -- you're going to reach a
- 9 decision as to whether he gets to stay in the
- 10 United States until you find another country,
- and how long is it before you're likely to find
- 12 another country?
- MR. RAYNOR: Justice Breyer, if -- so
- 14 his withholding only proceedings are still
- ongoing. He has not obtained that relief.
- 16 But, if he were --
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: I -- I asked you for
- an estimate by the government as to when the
- 19 government is likely to find a place. I don't
- 20 care what place. Any place in the world
- 21 besides the United States where you will send
- 22 him.
- MR. RAYNOR: The likeliest place that
- 24 we will send him, Justice Breyer, is to Mexico.
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: And I asked you --

- 1 MR. RAYNOR: I mean, that's the 2 overwhelmingly --3 JUSTICE BREYER: -- when it is likely that the government will reach a final decision 4 on that. 5 6 MR. RAYNOR: So he's currently on the 7 non-detained docket, Justice Breyer, which moves much more slowly. And his withholding 8
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm asking you for an
- 11 estimate as just -- I -- I know these are
- 12 difficult to make. I'm not being -- trying to
- 13 be difficult. I want to know, as far as you
- 14 know, when do you think he will be finally sent
- 15 out of this country?

only --

- MR. RAYNOR: His next withholding only
- hearing is scheduled for 2023, which is on the
- 18 non-detained docket.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Oh, I see. That's
- about a year or so. Now, frankly, it's rather
- 21 hard for me to see the difference between the
- 22 person who they were trying to send to
- 23 Cambodia, I think, and finished his jail
- 24 sentence in Zadvydas, and we said, yeah, hey,
- 25 fine, go look around for a country for six

- 1 months or so, and if you can't find a country
- 2 and there isn't one right on the horizon, let
- 3 him out. Or -- but -- now there are
- 4 exceptions, a lot of analogies to bail.
- 5 Okay? Why wouldn't that same thing
- 6 apply here? I mean, that's what it said. Same
- 7 situation.
- 8 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Breyer, with
- 9 respect, I don't agree that it's the same
- 10 situation.
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: Because?
- 12 MR. RAYNOR: This is detention pending
- 13 a proceeding, which Demore says is --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, so what?
- MR. RAYNOR: Demore says that it is
- 16 fundamentally different from open-ended
- 17 detention in Zadvydas. These same arguments
- 18 were made by the dissent in Demore and
- 19 rejected. And dissent says that --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: You mean Demore
- 21 overruled Zadvydas?
- MR. RAYNOR: No, Demore did not
- 23 overrule Zadvydas.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I didn't think --
- 25 MR. RAYNOR: It dealt with a different

- 1 situation.
- JUSTICE BREYER: -- it did either. I
- 3 didn't -- or, if I decide that they are the
- 4 same, then we should have the same result,
- 5 right?
- 6 MR. RAYNOR: If you --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: In my opinion.
- 8 MR. RAYNOR: -- wanted to overrule --
- 9 I think that would require overruling Demore
- 10 because --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I don't
- 12 understand the difference between Demore and
- 13 Zadvydas on your theory.
- MR. RAYNOR: The difference, Justice
- 15 Breyer, is that Demore dealt with detention
- pending proceedings, so there's a logical
- 17 termination point.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, there was a --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: Was Demore --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: -- logical
- 21 termination point in Zadvydas when they send
- 22 him to another country.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Has he actually
- obtained withholding relief? Because there
- 25 would be a distinction, right, between --

1	JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.
2	JUSTICE BARRETT: proceedings that
3	are dragging on when he has not yet been said
4	to qualify for withholding of removal, and
5	then, if he is, I think, you know, Justice
6	Breyer's point about the similarity between
7	this situation and Zadvydas would be most acute
8	if he were determined eligible for withholding,
9	but you couldn't find a country besides Mexico
10	that would take him.
11	MR. RAYNOR: Correct
12	JUSTICE BARRETT: Is that right?
13	MR. RAYNOR: Justice Barrett. We
14	agree with that. If he were to obtain
15	withholding-only relief, he wouldn't be in
16	in Zadvydas land, so the
17	JUSTICE BREYER: So, before he obtains
18	that, you can you can keep him in jail for
19	50 years? Is that your your your
20	response?
21	MR. RAYNOR: No, Justice Breyer. The
22	general rule under Demore is that we can keep
23	him in detention pending his proceeding. But,
24	as I discussed with Justice Barrett, if
25	JUSTICE KAGAN: Was was Demore, Mr.

- 1 Raynor -- and I might be wrong about this. Was
- 2 Demore the one where the Solicitor General
- 3 provided wrong information to the Court and,
- 4 basically, the Court was operating on a false
- 5 understanding of how long some of these
- 6 detentions lasted?
- 7 MR. RAYNOR: You're correct, Justice
- 8 Kagan, that the Executive Office for
- 9 Immigration Review later provided updated
- 10 statistics to this office, which we provided to
- 11 the Court in Jennings.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: So -- so, when Demore
- said that, when Demore said, look, it's pending
- 14 a proceeding, Demore was thinking of, you know,
- a proceeding that was going to happen pretty
- 16 soon.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Six weeks.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: And I think the -- the
- 19 question here is, what if we're in a different
- 20 situation than that? What if, in fact, it's
- 21 not going to happen pretty soon, 2023? We just
- 22 started 2022. That's a year away. He's
- 23 already been detained for some time.
- I mean, now we're talking about, you
- know, some significant time. And I'm not sure

- 1 it quite matters to the person who's in
- 2 detention whether you're in detention because
- 3 they can't find a country or whether they're in
- 4 detention because the immigration system is
- 5 backed up.
- 6 MR. RAYNOR: I think that, Justice --
- 7 Justice Kagan, Demore -- its front line
- 8 position was that detention pending proceeding
- 9 is different. And then it adverted to the
- 10 statistics, which were later modified, although
- 11 not in significant respects.
- Here, even if you wanted to focus on
- 13 the empirical aspect of this, the data that
- 14 Respondent has submitted just suggests there's
- 15 not a -- not a big problem here. About
- 16 80 percent of these non-citizens don't appeal
- 17 IJ determinations from withholding-only
- 18 proceedings, and they're detained for an
- 19 average of 114 days according to Respondent's
- 20 data.
- 21 And then, even if you look at the
- 22 entire category of non-citizens, some who
- appeal, some who do not, still the average
- length of detention is 157 days. And both of
- 25 those numbers are well below the six months

- 1 that Zadvydas found presumptively reasonable.
- 2 So we don't --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's what I
- 4 -- thank you. No, no, I -- thank you. That's
- 5 very helpful, the 157. And I think that's what
- 6 Demore thought, that all these people are
- 7 released within six months anyway. Those are
- 8 the figures the SG gave us. So that's not a
- 9 problem.
- 10 But, here, you're telling me that
- 11 maybe this person is going to be -- 2023 before
- 12 he gets a hearing? That's much more than six
- months.
- MR. RAYNOR: That's just --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Let me ask you a
- 16 different question, and what -- what -- as to
- 17 what kind of proceeding you ought to have if
- 18 you -- if you can't keep the person there
- 19 forever and you're going to keep him for more
- 20 than six months or more than eight months or
- 21 something.
- 22 What Zadvydas actually says -- let me
- 23 find it here. What it actually says is -- and
- 24 this is still true. It's -- it's in the -- the
- 25 C.F.R. It says the sole procedural protections

- 1 available to the alien are found in
- 2 administrative proceedings where the alien
- 3 bears the burden of proving he is not dangerous
- 4 without, the government says, any significant
- 5 later judicial review, and then there's some
- 6 cites, et cetera.
- 7 And then it says the Constitution
- 8 demands greater procedural protection even for
- 9 property. And the serious constitutional
- 10 problem arising out of a statute that in these
- 11 circumstances permits an indefinite, perhaps
- 12 permanent, deprivation of human liberty without
- any such protection, which means an independent
- body deciding it or an independent person and
- 15 no burden of proof against the individual, is
- 16 obvious. The constitutional problem is
- 17 obvious.
- 18 All right. That's what Zadvydas says.
- 19 So what I don't see is how can the government,
- 20 given that language in Zadvydas, continue to
- 21 say, oh, yes, whether it's the Zadvydas type
- 22 case or anything else under (a)(6), continue to
- say, oh, we will give you a hearing, oh, well,
- 24 not quite a hearing, well, you have the burden
- of proof and, well, there is no judicial

- 1 review. I can't find an analogy for such a
- thing in habeas corpus law or in bail law or in
- 3 any other detention law.
- 4 Now I -- I -- I'm not wedded to
- 5 what -- it sounds as if I am, but I'm saying
- 6 this because I want to hear what you say.
- 7 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Breyer, you're
- 8 correct that 241.4, which is the post-order
- 9 custody review regulations, as well as 241.13,
- 10 which are the Zadvydas regulations, both
- 11 provide purely for an administrative review
- 12 process.
- But that doesn't mean that the
- 14 non-citizen couldn't seek habeas review of
- 15 statutory authority. So, if the non-citizen
- 16 thinks, for example, that removal is not
- 17 reasonably foreseeable, that is a statutory
- 18 limit on our authority and he can file a habeas
- 19 suit for that, just like he did in Zadvydas.
- 20 Similarly here, if he thinks he's not
- 21 within one of the four grounds of detention, he
- 22 can file a habeas suit. He's not going to do
- that because he is within the four grounds of
- 24 detention. There's no dispute. He is
- 25 inadmissible. Congress has authorized his

- 1 detention.
- 2 So I think this goes back to what I
- 3 was saying earlier to Justice Kagan, which is
- 4 that a critical piece here is that more process
- 5 doesn't do him any good. He has to rewrite the
- 6 substance of the statute in order to get
- 7 relief. He has to delete the first two grounds
- 8 for detention.
- 9 And that's what he can't do. In both
- 10 Demore and Reno v. Flores, this Court says that
- 11 detention pending proceedings is permissible so
- long as it has a rational relationship to a
- 13 legitimate government purpose.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah. All right.
- 15 Just I'll -- just once, last time. I'm not
- 16 worried about why you say delete the ground.
- 17 What -- what Zadvydas seemed to say was, fine,
- 18 you have good grounds for holding him,
- 19 Government. Hold him. You're thinking of
- 20 sending him out of the country. Well, see if
- 21 you have -- can do it, and do it if you can.
- But, while you're deciding that, don't keep him
- 23 forever in jail without a bail hearing. I
- 24 mean, maybe it's six months. Maybe it's five
- 25 months. Maybe it's seven months. Or maybe it

- depends upon how likely it is that you will
- 2 reach a final decision soon.
- Now, as I read Zadvydas, that's all it
- 4 says. And I don't see why that wouldn't apply
- 5 to all the grounds under (a)(6) since (a)(6)
- 6 has language that's open to that. It uses the
- 7 word "may," not the word "shall," as is in --
- 8 true of Rodriguez and -- et cetera. That's
- 9 really the basic question in my mind.
- 10 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Breyer, Zadvydas
- 11 does not entitle a non-citizen to a bail
- 12 hearing about flight risk and danger to the
- 13 community. The only thing non- -- Zadvydas
- 14 entitles a non-citizen to is a hearing about
- whether removal is reasonably foreseeable. And
- 16 Zadvydas quite pointedly says that you can
- detain someone until removal is reasonably
- 18 foreseeable.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 20 counsel.
- 21 Justice Thomas?
- Justice Breyer, anything further?
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, thank you.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito?
- 25 Justice Kagan?

1	Justice Sotomayor?
2	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: One question
3	well, a question, counsel. You said that the
4	next hearing in this case, in this particular
5	Petitioner's case, was scheduled for 2023.
6	But earlier you said that the average
7	detention rate is below the six months. But
8	that's not true. Average means that it's true
9	for a lot of people, but it's not true for a
10	lot of people as well.
11	As I understood some of the figures I
12	reviewed, it when you talk about reasonably
13	foreseeable, some of these proceedings can last
14	years and years, couldn't they?
15	MR. RAYNOR: It is possible, but,
16	Justice Sotomayor, I just want to clarify his
17	current hearing date is because he's on the
18	non-detained docket. That hearing date was set
19	after he was released on bond.
20	So, when he was still in detention,
21	his hearing was much more imminent. But it is
22	true that the non-detained docket moves more
23	slowly.
24	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You keep talking
25	about an individual challenge is adequate to

- 1 protect the rights of these individuals. Most
- of these non-citizens are overwhelmingly
- 3 non-lawyers, and for virtually all of them,
- 4 English is not a first language. Most of them
- 5 are impoverished.
- 6 And without the ability, given that
- 7 the only opportunity they have is
- 8 administrative, and so they're unlikely to be
- 9 represented by lawyers, how are these aliens,
- 10 without the help of the courts and lawyers,
- 11 supposed to protect their rights?
- 12 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Sotomayor, the
- 13 regulations provide for an interpreter if the
- 14 non-citizen needs it. The non-citizen is
- 15 entitled to be represented if he so chooses.
- 16 And the non-citizen can submit information.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: They are not
- 18 entitled to lawyers. They have to go find one.
- 19 MR. RAYNOR: It is correct that the
- 20 government does not pay for lawyers in this
- 21 context. But that -- that's obvious --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's hard to see
- 23 how impoverished people, unfamiliar with the
- workings of this government, of this country,
- 25 are going to find lawyers. It seems like a

1 theoric offering to say that an individual 2 hearing is of any benefit to them, counsel. 3 MR. RAYNOR: Justice Sotomayor, I 4 don't think Respondent agrees with that. Respondent thinks an individual hearing is very 5 6 important. Respondent is represented, and 7 Respondent hasn't suggested the absence of government-funded counsel is fatal to the 8 9 system here. 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan, 11 anything further? 12 Justice Gorsuch? 13 Justice Kavanaugh? 14 Justice Barrett? No? 15 Thank you, counsel. 16 Mr. Shah. 17 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PRATIK A. SHAH 18 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT 19 MR. SHAH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may 20 it please the Court: 21 Zadvydas interpreted the exact same 22 statutory provision at issue here to require 23 release, subject to conditions of supervision, not outright release, when, after six months of 24

detention, there is no significant likelihood

- of removal in the reasonably foreseeable
- 2 future. That is exactly the position my client
- 3 was in.
- 4 DHS determined that Mr.
- 5 Arteaga-Martinez had demonstrated a reasonable
- 6 fear of torture if removed to his home country,
- 7 a threshold standard that only 13 percent of
- 8 applicants satisfy.
- 9 That determination entitled him to
- 10 immigration court adjudication of his claim for
- 11 relief, which often takes a year or, as in this
- 12 case, much longer, during which time he cannot
- 13 be removed.
- 14 After six months of detention, without
- any independent review, he had not yet even
- 16 received a hearing on his withholding claim,
- 17 let alone a decision or subsequent appeals, at
- 18 the end of which he might not be removed at
- 19 all.
- Now, three years later, the government
- 21 still seeks the power to imprison him, despite
- 22 his significant family ties and lack of any
- 23 criminal record, pending his modified yet still
- unadjudicated withholding-of-removal claim.
- 25 Section 1231(a)(6), as definitively

- 1 construed in Zadvydas, forecloses his unchecked
- 2 prolonged detention. The government responds
- 3 that Zadvydas dealt only with the risk of
- 4 permanent detention.
- 5 Although that risk certainly raised
- 6 due process concerns motivating the Court's
- 7 statutory construction, its construction was
- 8 not limited to that extreme scenario.
- 9 Section 1231(a)(6) prohibits continued
- 10 detention after six months where, as here,
- 11 there is "no significant likelihood of removal
- in the reasonably foreseeable future, " not at
- just some point ever.
- 14 As Justice Scalia, who dissented in
- 15 Zadvydas, confirmed in Clark v. Martinez, that
- same construction must apply to all
- non-citizens subject to Section 1231(a)(6),
- 18 including Mr. Arteaga-Martinez.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, you
- 21 didn't mention 1231(h). How do you get around
- 22 that?
- MR. SHAH: Sure, Your Honor.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Nothing in
- 25 this -- nothing in this section shall be

- 1 construed to create any substantive or
- 2 procedural right or benefit that is legally
- 3 enforceable by any party against the United
- 4 States or its agencies or officers or any other
- 5 person.
- 6 MR. SHAH: Sure. A couple responses
- 7 on 1231(h).
- 8 First of all, that provision was also
- 9 raised in Zadvydas, and this Court rejected its
- 10 application. It rejected its application
- 11 because what 1231(h) is doing is it's saying
- 12 you can't have some separate -- use -- use this
- 13 statute to create some implied cause of action.
- 14 Here, we're not talking about any
- 15 implied cause of action. This is a habeas
- 16 claim. And so habeas is how he got into court.
- 17 And now the question is, can you just enforce
- 18 what the statute says? And, of course, the
- 19 answer is you can enforce whatever limits --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, what the
- 21 stat --
- 22 MR. SHAH: -- are within the statute.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- what the
- 24 statute says, I mean --
- 25 MR. SHAH: Or how the statute has been

- 1 construed by this Court in Zadvydas. And what
- 2 this Court said in Zadvydas is, even though it
- 3 read a substantive limitation you can't detain
- 4 after six months, 1231(h) isn't a bar. 1231(h)
- 5 applies equally to substantive or procedural
- 6 limitations. That's the exact text of 1231(h).
- 7 So, if 1231(h) worked in -- did not
- 8 work in Zadvydas, it cannot work here. And, by
- 9 the way, the --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but --
- 11 well, Zadvydas, I mean, so the statute has been
- 12 construed to create a substantive or procedural
- 13 right and it was defined in Zadvydas.
- MR. SHAH: Correct.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you think
- 16 because it was done in that respect in Zadvydas
- that all bets are off and that 1231(h)
- 18 essentially has been read out of the statute
- 19 books?
- MR. SHAH: Two responses.
- 21 First of all, Your Honor, this Court
- did reject the 1231(h) argument in Zadvydas.
- 23 It has to apply equally here because the
- 24 1231(h) applies equally to substantive or
- 25 procedural limitations.

1 Point number two is we haven't read 2 it, neither this Court --3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, hold --Because the statute says you can't 4 create substantive or procedural limitations --5 6 MR. SHAH: Correct. 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- and what did it do in Zadvydas? Which of those types 8 did it --9 10 MR. SHAH: Well --11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- provide? 12 MR. SHAH: -- the government describes 13 Zadvydas as a substantive right, a substantive 14 decision, but a substantive limit on detaining 15 after six months of detention. 16 So what I'm saying here, the Court 17 rejected 1231(h), and the government says, well, this case is different because it's 18 19 procedural limitations. 20 But 1231(h) says -- applies equally to substantive or procedural limitations. So, if 21 2.2 the Court said --23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, did it 24 in Zadvydas? 25 MR. SHAH: The Court rejected it. It

- 1 said it doesn't apply.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no, but
- 3 both substantive and procedural?
- 4 MR. SHAH: Well, Zadvydas --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I mean, when
- 6 I'm looking at it --
- 7 MR. SHAH: Yeah.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- I mean, if
- 9 -- if -- obviously, the force of Zadvydas is
- 10 central to the --
- 11 MR. SHAH: Yeah.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- discussions
- 13 here.
- MR. SHAH: Yes.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And I'm
- 16 wondering if Zadvydas -- if you think that
- 17 Zadvydas should be limited, as opposed to
- 18 Zadvydas should be overruled, my question is,
- 19 how do you distinguish the applicability of
- 20 1231(h)?
- 21 And you're saying, well, Zadvydas did
- 22 this. But how much of 1231(h) did Zadvydas --
- 23 MR. SHAH: It's --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: One might --
- 25 your friend on the other side might say

- 1 obliterate. The other, you presumably would
- 2 say construed.
- 3 MR. SHAH: Right. So, if we're
- 4 talking about 1231(h), the bar provision, as I
- 5 said, this Court rejected its application. But
- 6 it -- it didn't read it out of the statute.
- 7 What 1231(h) was designed to do -- and this is
- 8 explained in the legislative history of 1231(h)
- 9 -- it was specifically --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, it gets
- 11 better. But go on.
- 12 MR. SHAH: It specifically was enacted
- 13 to address the Ninth Circuit's use of mandamus
- 14 at that time to require the government to do
- 15 expeditious removal of aliens because the
- 16 predecessor to this statute had language that
- 17 said expeditious removal.
- 18 And what Congress did is said we
- 19 disagree with that Ninth Circuit practice of
- 20 using mandamus to enforce this limitation, what
- 21 the Ninth Circuit had perceived as a
- 22 limitation.
- So we're not reading 1231(h) out of
- 24 the statute. 1231(h) still does work. You
- 25 can't use it as an implied cause of action to

- 1 willy-nilly enforce a statute. This is a
- 2 habeas petition, just like in Zadvydas.
- 3 And habeas, of course, you can enforce
- 4 the statute. That's the purpose of -- of -- of
- 5 habeas. So I don't think 1231(h) does the
- 6 government any good here.
- 7 I think the central point here is the
- 8 one that Justice Kagan made when ask -- when
- 9 questioning the government, which is this
- 10 statute has already been construed.
- 11 The test -- and this is at page 701 of
- 12 -- of -- of -- of Zadvydas -- the test is
- crystal-clear in interpreting 1231(a)(6).
- 14 Here is what the Court says: "After
- the six-month period, once the alien provides
- 16 good reason to believe that there is no
- 17 significant likelihood of removal in the
- 18 reasonably foreseeable future, the government
- must respond with evidence or release him with
- 20 -- subject to conditions of supervision."
- 21 That is precisely the situation. In
- 22 Clark v. Martinez, this Court said that
- 23 provision, even though it was written with the
- 24 Zadvydas-type petitioners, it has to apply to
- all people subject to 1231(a)(6) because that

- 1 was a statutory construction.
- 2 Certainly, the Zadvydas petitioners
- 3 are one class of people whose removal was not
- 4 reasonably foreseeable after six months of
- 5 detention. My client is yet another example of
- 6 someone who -- there was no significant
- 7 likelihood of removal in the reasonably
- 8 foreseeable future after he had been detained
- 9 at six months.
- 10 And that is because he had not even
- 11 been given a hearing while detained. We're not
- talking about the non-detained docket; we are
- 13 talking about detained. He had been detained
- 14 not -- for six months, the government had not
- 15 given him a hearing on his withholding claim.
- 16 There is no chance he could have been
- 17 removed in the reasonably foreseeable future
- 18 because you can't remove him until he has a
- 19 hearing, has an IJ decision, has his BIA
- 20 appeal. We are talking months, if not years,
- 21 until that happens.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Shah, this
- 23 argument that you make, and it's the first
- 24 argument you make in your brief, that there's
- 25 no reasonable likelihood -- no reasonable

- 1 foreseeability of -- of -- of removal, was that
- 2 the way this case was presented below? Has
- 3 anybody -- has any other court had an
- 4 opportunity to deal with the claim as you're
- 5 making it now?
- 6 MR. SHAH: Your Honor, it wasn't
- 7 pitched in this way below, and that's because
- 8 of the procedural posture of this case. How
- 9 this came -- case came up to the Third Circuit,
- 10 it came up on an unopposed motion filed by my
- 11 client for summary affirmance after he had
- 12 already been released. The government didn't
- 13 oppose it because of binding Third Circuit
- 14 precedent.
- So what happened here, he has already
- been released on bond. He files an unopposed
- 17 motion for summary affirmance. The government
- 18 consents. He has then continued to be on
- 19 release. So there wasn't any occasion to kind
- of air out any of these arguments, actually,
- 21 because it was unopposed motion of summary
- 22 affirmance.
- So the answer is your question is no,
- it wasn't fleshed out below, but none of this
- 25 was.

Т	JUSTICE KAGAN: Yean. So, Ior
2	whatever reason, if it wasn't fleshed out below
3	and it it sounds awfully factual the way
4	you're making it and not the kind of thing we
5	usually do, to decide a a pretty fact-bound
6	question that's never really been addressed by
7	anybody else.
8	MR. SHAH: Sure.
9	JUSTICE KAGAN: What does that
10	suggest?
11	MR. SHAH: So I guess two responses.
12	First, let me just address the
13	predicate of the question that it's fact-bound.
14	Your Honor, I don't think it's really all that
15	fact-bound because the question is again,
16	the test is significant likelihood of removal
17	in the reasonably foreseeable future.
18	Nobody, not even the government, can
19	get up here with a straight face and tell you
20	after six months that his removal would happen
21	in the reasonably foreseeable future, however
22	you want to define "reasonably foreseeable
23	future." He hadn't been given a hearing, let
24	alone an IJ decision, let alone a BIA appeal.
25	We know from Zadvydas this Court's

- opinion said it's presumptively
- 2 unconstitutional after six months. We know
- 3 that at the six-month point, we are talking
- 4 months, if not years, before he could be
- 5 removed.
- 6 So it's not really factual at all
- 7 because, if "reasonably foreseeable" means
- 8 anything, it has to mean at least within a
- 9 year. And -- and the government cannot say --
- 10 Justice Breyer asked him, even on the detained
- 11 docket -- and we have statistics from --
- through 2015, if you talk to any immigration
- lawyer, those numbers have skyrocketed since
- then. The government has that data. It hasn't
- 15 disclosed it. You -- we can ask them again,
- 16 how long does it take?
- 17 JUSTICE BARRETT: Well, can I ask you
- 18 a question about that --
- 19 MR. SHAH: Yes.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: -- Mr. Shah,
- 21 because, when I asked Mr. Raynor about
- 22 proceedings that would drag on like this --
- MR. SHAH: Yeah.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: -- he said, well,
- 25 the government doesn't rule out, in fact,

- 1 accepts, the possibility of as-applied
- 2 constitutional challenges to extend to
- detentions of the sort that you're identifying.
- 4 So could you have brought that kind of
- 5 challenge, and do you think it would have
- 6 succeeded and -- and, if so, why didn't you?
- 7 MR. SHAH: Well, Your Honor, we are
- 8 here on an as-applied challenge. This
- 9 challenge was brought after six months of
- 10 detention. It's an as-applied challenge to his
- 11 continuing detention.
- Now it can't be the case -- Your
- Honor, the test is, at the six-month mark, is
- 14 there a significant likelihood of removal in
- the reasonably foreseeable future? Again,
- there is no one could argue that there was a
- 17 reasonably foreseeable prospect of removal in
- 18 the reasonably foreseeable future.
- 19 That was his as-applied challenge, and
- it should be granted. There isn't any magical
- 21 --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: But is that the --
- is that a -- that's not a constitutional claim?
- MR. SHAH: No. It -- it's the
- 25 statutory provision that was -- that's a

- 1 statutory test that this Court used,
- 2 constitutional avoidance, in light of due
- 3 process concerns to interpret 1231(a)(6).
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: But I guess, unless
- 5 I misunderstood what Mr. Raynor was saying, I
- 6 thought I understood him to be saying that
- 7 there could be an as-applied constitutional
- 8 challenge, that at some point, it would violate
- 9 your client's constitutional rights.
- 10 MR. SHAH: Sure. If the government
- 11 could keep him locked up for years and you
- denied the statutory claim, perhaps after some
- indefinite time that the government believes
- has to be close to permanent detention, perhaps
- 15 he could bring an as-applied due process
- 16 challenge that he's been locked up years.
- 17 But you shouldn't have to be wait --
- 18 you shouldn't have to wait until you're locked
- 19 up for years. Under Zadvydas, the six-month
- 20 mark is when you can bring the claim. And if
- there's no significant likelihood that you're
- going to be removed in the reasonably
- 23 foreseeable future --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: How are you
- defining "reasonably foreseeable future" and on

- 1 what are you basing that?
- 2 MR. SHAH: Sure. So I think the best
- 3 place to look is Zadvydas itself, and what
- 4 Zadvydas says is, well, is 90 days when it's
- 5 presumptively unconstitutional? Is it six
- 6 months? And Zadvydas takes the longer limit,
- 7 right? At page 701, it says we're going to
- 8 presume that six months is when it's
- 9 presumptively unconstitutional. But we're not
- 10 going to hold that court -- the government to
- 11 that rigid line because we realize that
- 12 sometimes removal is in the works. So we're
- going to ask after the six-month period, is
- there a significant likelihood he'll be removed
- in the reasonably foreseeable future? And then
- 16 the next sentence says that period shrinks as
- 17 the detention grows longer.
- 18 So I think the one thing, Justice
- 19 Kavanaugh --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, what --
- 21 MR. SHAH: -- that we can safely
- 22 say --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- I mean, are we
- 24 -- in terms of the lower courts, if we are --
- MR. SHAH: Yeah.

1 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- fleshing out 2 reasonably foreseeable future --3 MR. SHAH: Sure. JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- I think there 4 could be chaos unless we say something more 5 6 specific. 7 MR. SHAH: So --8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And what would you 9 advise and on what are you basing that? 10 MR. SHAH: Sure. Okay. So two -- two 11 things. 12 One thing, I think what you can safely say is "reasonably foreseeable" has to be less 13 14 than six months because the Court already set 15 the presumptive constitutional line at six 16 months and then said we're going to allow a 17 residual buffer. So it would be weird to think 18 that the reasonably foreseeable period can be 19 longer than the presumptively constitutional 20 period. That's one possible line. 21 But the other line you could adopt, 2.2 which is clear as day, as applied to our 23 client, is when you are in withholding of 24 removal proceedings, which, again, often take 25 years, if you had not even had a hearing by the

- 1 time of the six-month mark, then you satisfy
- 2 that test.
- 3 That is a bright line that would apply
- 4 in a lot of these cases because, as the
- 5 government can tell you, you can ask them, how
- 6 many of these people get hearings by the
- 7 six-month mark, the answer is not very many
- 8 today if you talk to any immigration lawyer.
- 9 So that is another bright line.
- 10 If they haven't even had a hearing on
- 11 their withholding-of-removal claim, let alone
- an IJ decision, let alone appeals, they're not
- 13 going to be released in the reasonably
- 14 foreseeable future.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: One of the
- 16 government's arguments is that these procedural
- 17 requirements that you are reading into the
- 18 statute would violate Vermont Yankee. And you
- 19 didn't respond to that. Do you have a response
- 20 to it?
- MR. SHAH: Your Honor, yeah. So I --
- 22 I guess two things.
- One is now we're not talking about the
- 24 antecedent argument. I think we're talking
- about the bond hearing argument.

1 Our bond hearing argument, Your Honor, 2 just flows from the other part of the Zadvydas 3 decision, not -- putting aside all other kind of reading in implicit limitations and all of 4 that, if you just look at Zadvydas at page 700, 5 6 what it says is this -- and we've now been 7 arguing mostly about the -- the holding that says if there's no significant likelihood 8 9 of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future, which, again, I don't think there's any 10 11 argument that we're not in that box, but we're 12 -- if we're not in that box, then the question is, even if removal is reasonably foreseeable, 13 14 then what happens? And --15 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I'm not sure I 16 really understand your -- your answer. One --17 we took this to decide about bond hearings and 18 about the clear and convincing evidence 19 standard. Are those requirements consistent 20 with Vermont Yankee? 21 MR. SHAH: So, Your Honor, here's what -- I guess my response is here's what the Court 2.2 23 If removal is reasonably foreseeable, so 24 we're assuming we're in that second box, the 25 habeas court should consider the risk of the

- 1 alien's committing further crimes as a factor
- 2 potentially justifying confinement within that
- 3 reasonable removal period.
- 4 So I would just ask that this Court
- 5 apply that part of Zadvydas if you disagree
- 6 with me somehow that we're not in the
- 7 reasonably foreseeable removal box. And then
- 8 the question is --
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: So you -- you read
- 10 Zadvydas to alter what the Court said in
- 11 Vermont Yankee?
- 12 MR. SHAH: Well, Your Honor, I -- I
- don't -- I don't view it as altering or not. I
- think it's a separate sort of inquiry here.
- We're in a habeas court. The habeas court has
- 16 to -- and -- and the Court specifically talks
- about the court making this inquiry, resolving
- 18 -- looking at, in order to justify continued
- 19 detention, those factors.
- 20 So I'm not sure how you -- I don't --
- 21 I think you just apply -- in -- in a case
- that's directly on point, you apply those
- 23 circumstances. I guess that would be my
- 24 response.
- 25 And, Justice Kagan, I never finished

- 1 my response to your question because I was
- 2 fighting the predicate that there had to be
- 3 factual development.
- But you asked me, okay, look, if -- if
- 5 you decide there -- this is too messy to
- 6 decide, well, the right thing to do is not, as
- 7 the government suggests on page 12 of their
- 8 reply, just to remand this issue to the Third
- 9 Circuit to decide.
- 10 But I think you would have to DIG the
- 11 case, because it doesn't make sense to decide
- the logically downstream issue of bond hearings
- and all the procedural requirements that might
- 14 go into that without deciding the logically
- 15 antecedent question is, do they satisfy the
- 16 main test of Zadvydas?
- 17 There is no significant likelihood of
- 18 removal in the reasonably foreseeable future
- 19 for a client -- for someone like my client.
- 20 You have to decide that first before deciding
- 21 the downstream question about bond hearings.
- 22 So, to answer your question directly,
- 23 I think, if the Court is not inclined to decide
- 24 that logically antecedent and, to me, a -- a
- 25 slam-dunk inquiry, if the Court isn't inclined

- 1 to decide that, then I think it should DIG both
- 2 this case and the Aleman Gonzalez case because
- 3 in neither case was this threshold issue
- 4 litigated because of the unique posture of how
- 5 those cases came to this Court.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, Mr.
- 7 Shah, if -- if we do decide the downstream
- 8 issue before the upstream one, it would hardly
- 9 be the first time. And it's not necessarily an
- inappropriate use of our certiorari
- jurisdiction to resolve downstream
- disagreements or other reasons for cert while
- 13 not addressing upstream ones. We do that -- I
- don't want to say all the time -- but --
- MR. SHAH: Sure.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- no one is
- 17 shocked when it happens.
- 18 MR. SHAH: Well, I think -- Your
- 19 Honor, I think there's a couple specially good
- 20 reasons not to do that here. One is because
- 21 what you say in the downstream, resolving the
- downstream issue, it's hard to do that without
- thinking about the upstream issue, if you will,
- 24 about whether there is a significant likelihood
- of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future

- 1 because, again, those two inquiries in Zadvydas
- 2 are connected, right?
- It was the -- they're in the same
- 4 paragraph. They're logically connected. And
- 5 it's hard to put yourself to -- to assume
- 6 you're not even going to think about that
- 7 before deciding the bond hearing question.
- 8 The reality is there was no -- not
- 9 even close to a significant likelihood of
- 10 removal in the reasonably foreseeable future
- when you haven't had a bond hearing. And then
- to decide what the procedural protections are,
- if you artificially assume that he could have
- 14 been removed in the reasonably foreseeable
- 15 future, I think, is a difficult inquiry to
- 16 undertake.
- 17 And I would -- I would also mention
- 18 that the Sixth Circuit, at the time this
- 19 Court -- the government filed its petition,
- 20 there was no circuit split. There were only
- 21 two circuits that decided this issue. Since
- then, to my knowledge, only one other circuit
- has come into play even on the bond hearing
- 24 issue.
- 25 And so I think these entire slate of

- 1 issues would benefit from further percolation
- and development if this Court isn't going to
- decide the logically antecedent issue. And, in
- 4 fact, the dissent in the Sixth Circuit case
- 5 adopted our view of reasonable foreseeability,
- 6 that if you haven't had a hearing at six
- 7 months, you can't say that there's any
- 8 likelihood, let alone a significant likelihood,
- 9 of release in the reasonably foreseeable
- 10 future. We're talking about years, years here.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Shah, another
- 12 upstream issue for you.
- 13 MR. SHAH: Yes.
- 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What is the status
- of your client? Has he, in fact, received a
- bond hearing and is he, in fact, at liberty
- 17 currently?
- 18 MR. SHAH: Yes, Your Honor. So what
- 19 happened, Your Honor, is, after the six-month
- 20 mark, under the Third Circuit's precedent, he
- 21 did receive a bond hearing. He was released.
- The government never appealed his release, by
- 23 the way. And so he has been free under
- 24 supervised conditions of release since that
- 25 time.

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So I -- I certainly 2 understand we have similar issues in the next 3 case where we have someone who is currently being detained, as I understand it. 4 But, with respect to your client, does 5 6 that moot his claim and, if not, why not? 7 MR. SHAH: I don't think, legally, it moots the claim, Your Honor, because the 8 9 government still seeks the power to re-detain 10 him. And so, if you were to rule against us, in the government's view, it could simply put 11 12 him back into custody. JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is it --13 14 MR. SHAH: And so, from a legal standpoint --15 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I under -- I 17 understand that. 18 MR. SHAH: Yeah. 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But -- but normally 20 we -- we ask about how speculative that would 21 be. And so we'd have to speculate, I think, 22 that the government would detain him, or we'd 23 have to -- we'd have to be -- have some assurance he -- he -- he's likely to be 24 25 detained again and that he would be held for

- 1 more than six months without another bond
- 2 hearing, having already received one at six
- 3 months.
- 4 MR. SHAH: Well, the -- the six-month
- 5 limit --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is that a bit of a
- 7 --
- 8 MR. SHAH: Sorry, Your Honor.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm just -- I'm just
- 10 curious.
- MR. SHAH: Yeah.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is that, under our
- 13 -- our precedents in terms of how speculative
- something has to be before it's moot or not
- moot, where does that fall on the line?
- 16 MR. SHAH: So, Your Honor, I -- I
- don't think it is actually a mootness problem
- 18 because, again, I think, from the government's
- 19 standpoint, this is a question of their power
- 20 and they exercise their discretion either way
- in all sorts of cases. Perhaps that might be
- 22 better directed to the government.
- 23 But what will I -- what I will say is
- it's not a question of whether he'll receive a
- bond hearing within six months. It's whether

- 1 he'll receive a hearing on his substantive
- 2 claim for withholding relief. And I don't
- 3 think that's at all certain that he would get
- 4 that within six months given the backlog in the
- 5 immigration courts even on the detained docket.
- 6 The --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But you have no
- 8 information that he's likely to be detained
- 9 again or that he wouldn't receive at least a
- 10 bail hearing again if he were detained after
- 11 six months?
- MR. SHAH: Your -- Your Honor, under
- the government's view, that would be purely
- 14 within their discretion, and I don't know how
- 15 they would exercise their discretion.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Thank you.
- 17 MR. SHAH: One other point I want to
- 18 make is about Demore v. Kim.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry,
- 20 counsel.
- MR. SHAH: Oh, sorry.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think your point
- is, if the Court rules in the government's
- favor in this case, there will be no
- 25 opportunity for a further hearing, bond

- 1 hearing, correct?
- 2 MR. SHAH: Correct. The government
- 3 has made clear that it does not believe --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, to be clear, I
- 5 understand that.
- 6 MR. SHAH: Okay, yeah.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: My question to you
- 8 was not if we rule in the government's favor
- 9 but whether we should rule in this --
- 10 MR. SHAH: Sure.
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- particular case
- 12 as opposed to the next one. You understood
- 13 that, right?
- MR. SHAH: Yeah. Yes, Your Honor.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 The -- the one other point I would
- make is about Demore v. Kim. The government
- 18 argues that Demore v. Kim is now somehow more
- 19 on point than Zadvydas.
- 20 First of all, Demore v. Kim dealt with
- 21 a different statute, 1226(c), and -- and that's
- 22 fundamentally important because that dealt with
- 23 mandatory detention of criminal aliens.
- 24 The -- Congress -- and this is heavily
- 25 -- this is the main rationale in Demore v. Kim.

- 1 There are two rationales in Demore v. Kim for
- 2 allowing that detention. One is Congress had
- 3 made the categorical judgment that categorical
- 4 -- that criminal aliens were too dangerous to
- 5 release, one major distinction.
- 6 Second major distinction is the period
- 7 of detention. The Court functioned on the
- 8 premise that in the vast majority of cases
- 9 these people were detained less than two
- 10 months, about a month or month and a half.
- 11 And in the outer limit case, they were
- detained at five months. So they didn't even
- 13 hit the presumptive unconstitutional line that
- 14 this Court set up in Zadvydas. So I don't see
- 15 how Demore v. Kim is even in the ballpark of
- 16 why we would be talking about it because
- 17 Zadvydas kicks in only for people who have been
- 18 detained longer than six months.
- 19 That is not the Demore class, the
- 20 class of criminal aliens that Congress had
- 21 categorically said we can't release because
- they're a danger to society.
- Here, we're talking about 1231(a)(6),
- 24 a statute that has discretionary detention,
- and, here, we're talking about my client, who

- 1 has no criminal record at all. 2 If there are no --JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. -- Mr. Shah --3 MR. SHAH: Yeah. 4 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- suppose that this 6 Court thinks about Zadvydas as, you know, a 7 precedent that needs to be applied but not one that is altogether comfortable and should not 8 be extended. 9 10 MR. SHAH: Yeah. 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, suppose that 12 that's the view of Zadvydas on this Court. 13 What does that suggest about your case? 14 know, is even the preliminary argument you 15 make, let alone the second argument, an 16 extension of Zadvydas? If not, why not? 17 MR. SHAH: Your Honor, I am not asking 18 this Court to extend Zadvydas one millimeter.
- 19 And in Clark v. Martinez, this Court was
- 20 situated in a very similar place. It was not
- 21 fond of Zadvydas at that time. Justice Scalia
- 22 wrote Clark v. Martinez. He dissented in
- 23 Zadvydas. And what he said is this, is, like
- it or not and whether you disagree with it or
- not, Zadvydas construed 1231(a)(6). And you

- 1 cannot pick and choose.
- 2 It's ironic that the government
- 3 invokes Clark v. Martinez because it is
- 4 categorically violating Clark v. Martinez,
- 5 saying that it only -- that Section 1231(a)(6)
- 6 interpretation of Zadvydas only applies to
- 7 petitioners who are situated like Zadvydas.
- 8 Clark v. Martinez says, no, it applies
- 9 to all people who fall within 1231(a)(6)
- 10 because it's a statutory -- it's a statutory
- 11 construction.
- 12 So what I'm asking you to do, Justice
- 13 Kagan, what I'm asking this Court to do, is not
- 14 revisit Zadvydas at all, not extend it at all,
- but apply the test that is set out in black and
- white at page 701 of Zadvydas.
- 17 This is the core holding of Zadvydas:
- 18 At the six-month period, once the alien
- 19 provides good reason to believe there is no
- 20 significant likelihood of removal in the
- 21 reasonably foreseeable future, the government
- 22 must respond with evidence or release them
- 23 subject to conditions of supervised release.
- 24 JUSTICE BARRETT: What about the
- burden of proof, the clear and convincing?

1 MR. SHAH: Well, Your Honor, under --2 under -- under this inquiry, that would fall 3 away. The -- the burden of proof is -- is just this, the alien has to provide good reason to 4 believe there's no significant likelihood of 5 6 removal, and then the government has to rebut 7 it. 8 And so we -- we accept that in that 9 situation, under the logically antecedent 10 argument, we have to show a good reason of no 11 significant likelihood of removal in the 12 reasonably foreseeable future, but we've amply met that here given that he had not even been 13 14 given a hearing on his substantive claim at the 15 six-month mark. 16 There is no chance, not even a 17 significant likelihood, there is no chance he 18 could have been removed in the reasonably 19 foreseeable future because the law bars you to 20 be removed until you've gotten a hearing, an IJ 21 decision, and a BIA appeal. So we're talking comfortably months, if not years, from that 2.2 23 six-month mark. So, Justice Kagan, hopefully, I've 24 25 answered the question.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: So I think you did
2	MR. SHAH: Yeah.
3	JUSTICE KAGAN: answer it as to
4	your primary argument. I think what Justice
5	Barrett may have asked you about is your
6	secondary argument and suggesting that the
7	clear and convincing evidence standard, some of
8	these other procedures
9	MR. SHAH: Sure.
10	JUSTICE KAGAN: that have been
11	articulated by the Ninth Circuit, that that
12	goes beyond what Zadvydas said as to the second
13	category of people.
14	MR. SHAH: Sure. So, as to the as
15	to the bond hearing-related argument, I don't
16	think the core of our argument has to do with
17	the the burden of of proof and clear and
18	convincing evidence, which I agree with you is
19	not articulated in Zadvydas.
20	Quite frankly, Your Honor, I don't
21	think this Court has to reach that issue
22	because the government has never argued that
23	the bond hearing in our case turned on whether
24	it had a clear and convincing burden of proof.
25	The government didn't even submit a brief in

- 1 opposition to the bond hearing. It didn't even
- 2 appeal our client's release on a bond.
- 3 Clear and convincing had nothing to do
- 4 with it. He had no criminal record. And,
- 5 again, the government didn't contest it in
- 6 writing or on appeal.
- 7 So I don't think you would have to set
- 8 forth clear and convincing. And as we know, in
- 9 the vast majority of statutes which don't set
- 10 forth a burden of -- of -- of -- a burden
- of proof, courts figure it out. And so I don't
- 12 think the Court has to reach that.
- 13 I think the core part of the second
- 14 argument, the bond hearing requirement, is the
- 15 requirement of a neutral adjudicator in that
- 16 adversarial hearing. That's the core part of
- 17 that.
- 18 And Zadvydas does speak directly to
- 19 that at page 700 when it says even in -- if you
- assume removal were reasonably foreseeable,
- 21 unlike in this case, but even if you were to
- 22 assume removal were reasonably foreseeable,
- 23 then the court -- the court should consider the
- 24 risk of aliens committing further crimes as a
- 25 factor potentially justifying continued

- 1 confinement.
- 2 And so -- so that's the part of
- 3 Zadvydas that I think you would be applying if
- 4 you were in the logically downstream argument
- 5 of bond hearings.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 7 counsel.
- 8 Justice Thomas?
- 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Shah, would you
- 10 prevail had Zadvydas not been decided?
- 11 MR. SHAH: Your Honor, if this Court
- 12 -- if Zadvydas had not been decided, I think we
- 13 would need the Court to embrace the same
- 14 holding that Zadvydas did reach in order for us
- to prevail at least under our logically
- 16 antecedent argument. It's built directly upon
- this Court's holding in Zadvydas.
- So, yes, the answer to your question
- is our argument does depend on applying
- 20 Zadvydas as it was written.
- 21 JUSTICE THOMAS: So you would have to
- 22 make the Zadvydas arguments under the statute
- 23 but for our precedent?
- 24 MR. SHAH: Yes, Your Honor. If this
- 25 Court were to overrule Zadvydas, we lose. But,

1 of course, the government has not asked this 2 Court to overrule Zadvydas. It has asked this 3 Court to apply it just as we do. 4 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice 5 6 Breyer, anything further? 7 JUSTICE BREYER: No. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito? 8 9 Justice Sotomayor? 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No. 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan? 12 Justice Gorsuch? Justice Barrett? No. 13 14 Thank you, counsel. 15 MR. SHAH: Thank you, Your Honors. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Rebuttal, Mr. 17 Raynor. 18 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF AUSTIN RAYNOR 19 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS 20 MR. RAYNOR: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice. 21 2.2 I'd like to begin just by focusing on 23 the two different arguments in this case. The 24 argument on which we sought certiorari and 25 which the lower court ruled on was the argument

- 1 that, after six months of detention, a
- 2 non-citizen is entitled to a bond hearing at
- 3 which he can prove that he's not a flight -- or
- 4 at which the government has to prove that he's
- 5 not a flight risk or that he is a flight risk
- or a danger to the community.
- 7 Now Respondent has virtually abandoned
- 8 his defense of the court of appeals' decision
- 9 on that point. His entire presentation ignored
- 10 that argument and focused on a new argument
- 11 that they interjected at the merits stage in
- 12 this Court, that under a straightforward
- 13 application of Zadvydas, removal is not
- 14 reasonably foreseeable.
- 15 That argument is procedurally barred.
- 16 They didn't file a cross-petition, and it would
- derail this Court's consideration of the OP.
- 18 It is a narrower argument. It is specific to
- 19 non-citizens in withholding only proceedings.
- 20 And it would not allow this Court to decide the
- 21 broader question that it granted cert on and
- that we sought cert on about the Third
- 23 Circuit's ruling that all non-citizens covered
- 24 by Section 1231 are entitled to a bond hearing.
- 25 Setting aside the fact that it is

- 1 procedurally barred, it's also incorrect on the
- 2 merits. Removal here is reasonably foreseeable
- 3 because this is detention pending proceedings.
- 4 This is just fundamentally distinct from the
- 5 open-ended detention in Zadvydas.
- 6 If this Court were to hold that
- 7 Zadvydas applies to detention pending
- 8 proceedings, that would be a watershed ruling
- 9 in immigration law. Detention pending
- 10 proceedings is common in immigration. We have
- 11 1225(b), we have 1226(a), we have 1226(c), we
- have 1231 as it applies to withholding-only
- 13 non-citizens. And if the Court were to import
- 14 Zadvydas to that realm, it would upset all of
- 15 these statutory frameworks.
- Respondent has suggested that if the
- 17 Court is not willing to decide his new
- 18 argument, it should DIG the case. With
- 19 respect, that's a preposterous argument. The
- 20 Court sought cert on a question -- excuse me --
- 21 the government sought cert on a question. This
- 22 Court granted cert on the question. Respondent
- 23 should not be able to come in and derail the
- 24 consideration of that question with an
- 25 altogether new argument.

1	Lastly, I just want to speak briefly
2	about Demore. Respondent suggested that Demore
3	is not on point because it dealt with criminal
4	non-citizens, and Congress had before it
5	findings about criminal non-citizens. But,
6	here, I think it's important to remember that
7	Congress also had good reasons for treating
8	this category of non-citizens differently, just
9	as, in Demore, Congress had good reasons for
LO	treating those non-citizens differently.
L1	In Guzman Chavez, at page 2290, the
L2	Court says precisely this. It says: Look,
L3	1231 applies only to non-citizens with final
L4	orders of removal. Categorically, they have a
L5	heightened flight risk because they lack any
L6	meaningful opportunity to obtain the legal
L7	entitlement to be in the United States.
L8	And that is especially true with
L9	respect to the narrower class of non-citizens
20	at issue here, which are those in
21	withholding-only proceedings with reinstated
22	removal orders. For people like Respondent,
23	they were already removed, they were already
24	subject to a removal order, they illegally
25	reentered the United States, that is a

- 1 statutory condition for reinstatement. You
- only get reinstatement if you illegally reenter
- 3 the United States.
- 4 And then, once back in the United
- 5 States, they were apprehended again and ordered
- 6 removed again. We know, by definition, those
- 7 non-citizens pose a greater risk of flight
- 8 based on their past conduct.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I ask one
- 10 question?
- MR. RAYNOR: Yes.
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: You -- you said
- 13 the reasonably foreseeable standard doesn't
- work in this detention pending proceedings
- 15 context, would be watershed and upend the
- 16 immigration system. Can you explain that,
- 17 spell that out a little bit?
- MR. RAYNOR: Yes, Justice Kavanaugh.
- 19 So, as we discussed, in Demore, the Court says
- 20 detention pending proceedings is just a
- 21 different beast than open-ended detention. And
- detention pending proceedings is very common in
- 23 the immigration system. There's a host of
- 24 different provisions that allow for it. And
- 25 this Court addressed several of them in

1	Jennings.
2	1225(b) allows for detention pending
3	proceedings for a certain category of
4	non-citizens. 1226 allows for detention
5	pending proceedings. 1231 is a mixed bag. For
6	Zadvydas category non-citizens, they don't have
7	any pending proceedings. But, for people like
8	Respondent, who are in withholding-only
9	proceedings, that is detention pending a
10	proceeding.
11	So, in Jennings, a good example of
12	this, the Court didn't talk about Zadvydas, the
13	Court didn't suggest that Zadvydas was a
14	limitation, the Court didn't even reach the
15	constitutional concerns in Jennings. It just
16	stuck with the text, and it stopped with the
17	text being unambiguous.
18	And we submit that the Court should do
19	the same thing here.
20	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
21	counsel. The case is submitted.
22	(Whereupon, at 11:06 a.m., the case
23	was submitted.)
24	

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