1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	MICHAEL B. KINGSLEY, :
4	Petitioner : No. 14-6368
5	v. :
6	STAN HENDRICKSON, ET AL. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Monday, April 27, 2015
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:01 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	WENDY M. WARD, ESQ., Madison, Wis.; on behalf of
16	Petitioner.
17	JOHN F. BASH, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor General,
18	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for United
19	States, as amicus curiae, supporting affirmance.
20	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
21	Respondents.
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 (10:01 a.m.)
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
- 4 argument this morning in Case 14-6368, Kingsley v.
- 5 Hendrickson.
- 6 Ms. Ward.
- 7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF WENDY M. WARD
- 8 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 9 MS. WARD: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 10 please the Court:
- 11 The core of the liberty interest protected
- 12 by due process is the right to be free from unjustified
- 13 bodily restraint and harm. It's hard to imagine
- 14 anything more inconsistent with these core rights than
- 15 the use of a weapon on a restrained detainee, and that
- is why Respondents urge this Court to import a
- 17 subjective intent element that doesn't relate to due
- 18 process, but is instead drawn from the test for
- 19 violation of a convicted prisoner's Eighth Amendment
- 20 rights.
- 21 Respondents candidly admit that they favor
- 22 this test because it better insulates guards from
- 23 liability, but that is no reason to ignore meaningful
- 24 constitutional distinctions between those who have been
- 25 convicted and those who have not.

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1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, why isn't the
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- 2 safety of the detainee, why isn't that just a facet of
- 3 the use of excessive force? I think that's how the
- 4 district court treated it.
- 5 MS. WARD: The -- the safety of the detainee
- 6 was the stated objective for the use of the force in --
- 7 in this case. And that is a legitimate interest, but
- 8 the determination of whether the -- the force itself was
- 9 excessive is based on the Bell test for legitimate
- 10 purpose, legitimate penological objectives. So then the
- 11 test is objectively, then, whether or not the use of
- 12 force was excessive to the state -- stated need and the
- 13 Fourth Amendment test provides a -- a -- a good familiar
- 14 workable standard that can be used to determine that
- 15 question.
- 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You -- you mentioned the
- 17 Fourth Amendment now, but as I understand it, the
- 18 complaint just alleged a due process violation. It
- 19 didn't -- it didn't refer to the Fourth Amendment.
- 20 MS. WARD: That's correct, Your Honor. And
- 21 -- and the Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process
- 22 test as articulated in Bell does provide the clearest
- 23 application by the Court of the rights of detainees in
- 24 the prison context.
- 25 And the Court has stated that Bell does

- 1 apply to the excessive force claims of pretrial
- 2 detainees and it makes perfect sense because, like a
- 3 prison policy that goes too far, it's easy to see how
- 4 a use of force can be administered as punishment.
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So suppose you have a
- 6 detainee being held in a prison population. And --
- 7 is -- is your point that the prisoners can be punished,
- 8 but the detainee cannot be?
- 9 MS. WARD: That's correct, under the --
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: All right. Now -- now --
- 11 now suppose the prisoners are misbehaving. They're
- 12 unruly. They're yelling and throwing things at the
- 13 guards and the guards say, alright, lockdown for 24
- 14 hours; you can't go to the mess hall. Now, the detainee
- 15 raises his hand and says, Oh, excuse me. I'm a
- 16 detainee. I -- I have a different standing.
- 17 Is that your -- is that what has to happen
- 18 here.
- 19 MS. WARD: Yes, but -- but the problem with
- 20 the hypothetical is that the -- that's a legitimate
- 21 penological objective. So under either test, neither
- 22 the prisoner --
- 23 JUSTICE KENNEDY: That was my next question.
- 24 So there can be punishment for simply not -- in order to
- 25 maintain discipline within the prison population. You

- 1 can be deprived of your exercise or your right to go to
- 2 the mess halls. So you can, quote, "punish" for that
- 3 purpose, even if it's a pretrial detainee.
- 4 MS. WARD: If it's a pretrial detainee,
- 5 you -- you can discipline for -- to enforce legitimate
- 6 objectives. If it's a convicted prisoner, even harsh
- 7 conditions are --
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: You use the word
- 9 "discipline;" I use the word "punish." Are they the
- 10 same?
- 11 MS. WARD: They're not the same. Punishment
- 12 is the end result of application of the Bell test.
- 13 Discipline is what happens to you if you fail to follow
- 14 the rules.
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: And it doesn't matter if
- 16 the -- if the punisher, so to speak, is simply an
- 17 individual guard at the prison versus the -- the State,
- 18 which will run a prison that it knows has these cruel
- 19 quards. It doesn't matter. The -- the tortification of
- 20 the Due Process Clause, right?
- 21 MS. WARD: Right. It -- it doesn't matter.
- 22 And, in fact, guards are probably entitled to even less
- 23 deference than prison administrators who are making
- 24 policy for the Court. In footnote 38 of Bell, the Court
- 25 acknowledged that -- or suggested that individual

- 1 instances of abusive practices might be -- the guards
- 2 might be given --
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's a substantive due
- 4 process you're arguing, right? Not procedural due
- 5 process.
- 6 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: And it's not the Eighth
- 8 Amendment. You're not relying on the Eighth Amendment?
- 9 MS. WARD: That's right, other than to
- 10 distinguish --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Right.
- 12 MS. WARD: -- what you can do with a
- 13 convicted prisoner versus a detainee.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I just have to tell you, I
- 15 find it very difficult to understand how it would be a
- 16 different standard if these same facts occurred, but it
- 17 was an inmate who was serving a sentence. What -- what
- is the rationale for why they should be different?
- 19 MS. WARD: The rationale for why they should
- 20 be different is it's a -- it's an after-the-fact
- 21 analysis. And the Constitution requires that detainees
- 22 not be punished. And it allows --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. Why is
- 24 anybody --
- 25 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But -- but you said that

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1 they could be disciplined and now -- and that's --
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- 2 MS. WARD: I think the -- I think the
- 3 difference --
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: You use the -- I -- where
- 5 am I going to read to find a difference between
- 6 discipline and punishment?
- 7 MS. WARD: I think the difference is
- 8 punishment is the result of applying the Bell
- 9 rationally-related test. If use of force is not
- 10 rationally related to a legitimate objective, we can
- 11 define that as punishment. If the act complained of
- 12 fails the Bell test, objectively, we can call that
- 13 punishment.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But even --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm having a problem
- 16 with trying to understand why we're talking about a
- 17 difference between any of the Amendments, the Fourth,
- 18 the Fourteenth, or the Eighth. The cruel and unusual
- 19 punishment, I thought, was generally -- generally
- 20 applicable to the sentence a prisoner receives.
- 21 That's very different than to the
- 22 application of -- of force separate from the -- from the
- 23 sentence. We're talking about whether and under what
- 24 circumstances a prison guard or a prison is liable for
- 25 using unnecessary force on another person.

- I don't think that taking any prisoner and
- 2 for no reason -- arbitrary reason banging his head on
- 3 the wall because you think that'll send the message to
- 4 other prisoners would be acceptable, do you, under any
- 5 of the Amendments?
- 6 MS. WARD: That's correct.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. So I -- I
- 8 just don't quite understand the difference. I think the
- 9 issue is one, how -- how you instruct the jury. And the
- 10 government is saying you instruct the jury by saying you
- 11 have a subjective intent to punish the prisoner -- you
- 12 just want to beat him up; or you're inflicting harm
- 13 that's not necessary or reasonable for a legitimate
- 14 penological reason, correct?
- 15 MS. WARD: That's correct. That's correct.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do you have a different
- 17 standard than the government?
- MS. WARD: We do, Your Honor.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Then yours
- 20 is broader.
- MS. WARD: Well --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And explain why. Why is
- 23 the government standard not good enough?
- 24 MS. WARD: I misspoke. I'm sorry. I
- 25 misspoke. We agree with the government as to what the

- 1 appropriate standard is, but we disagree with the
- 2 government as to how the standard was improperly applied
- 3 in the jury instructions in this case.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That I -- I understand.
- 5 I'm just talking about the standard now.
- 6 MS. WARD: We -- we are in agreement with
- 7 the Solicitor General on the standard.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: What if -- what if I don't
- 9 agree with the Solicitor? Is there anybody here to
- 10 argue for a different standard? No? We -- we just have
- 11 to pick between two people who argue for the same
- 12 standard, right?
- 13 MS. WARD: I -- I -- I believe the
- 14 Respondents have a different standard in mind, Your
- 15 Honor.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. Okay.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is it possible -- I
- 18 hadn't thought about it too much -- that you would have
- 19 different priorities in training, depending on whether
- 20 you're dealing with people who've already been convicted
- 21 of crimes and people who are being detained, like,
- 22 perhaps people who have been convicted tend to engage in
- 23 particular activity more than people just awaiting
- 24 trial?
- 25 MS. WARD: I think the detainees can be as

- 1 dangerous as prisoners. But as to your point about
- 2 training standards, currently, as the amici former
- 3 corrections officers point out, they are trained to an
- 4 objective standard. And it's -- it's difficult to even
- 5 comprehend how you would train officers in view of
- 6 particular subjective maliciousness element. Do you --
- 7 do you explain to them how they can use force as long as
- 8 they're not malicious, as long as they never admit to --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I know -- of
- 10 course you're not going to say you can't act with --
- 11 with malice, but it would seem to me if the standards
- 12 are broader with respect to people who have been
- 13 convicted, you might tell the officers, look, you have
- 14 more flexibility with respect to people who are already
- 15 subject to a conviction. You have to be -- you phrase
- 16 it the other way -- you have to be more careful with
- 17 respect to people who are simply being detained.
- But it's very complicated in a case like
- 19 this because the Respondents make a very persuasive case
- 20 that the convicts are actually less of a threat than
- 21 the -- often than the pretrial detainees. You go to --
- you're going to go to jail if you've got 10 days on a
- 23 DUI or something like that, but the people who are
- 24 detained preconviction may be multiple murderers.
- 25 MS. WARD: That's certainly true. They

- 1 certainly may be dangerous folks who are deserving of --
- 2 you know, in the prison context, if they're dangerous
- 3 and -- and discipline needs to be imposed, that's --
- 4 that's a possibility. The -- the question is: How do
- 5 we evaluate their excessive force claims after the fact?
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I still go back to my
- 7 question: Why is there a difference at all? What you
- 8 seem to be suggesting is that gratuitous violence,
- 9 unnecessary violence, can be directed to pretrial and
- 10 post-trial detainees. Isn't your objection that
- 11 unreasonable, unnecessary force is not permissible? Why
- 12 are we giving a license to prison guards to use
- 13 unreasonable or unnecessary force --
- MS. WARD: We are --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- against anybody?
- 16 MS. WARD: I think I understand your
- 17 question, Justice Sotomayor. Convicted prisoners
- 18 actually can be punished. That is one of the legitimate
- 19 objectives with respect to convicted prisoners.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But they can't be
- 21 punished corporally. They can be denied good credit --
- 22 good time credit. Do you think we could put them -- you
- 23 can knock them against the wall as punishment?
- MS. WARD: No.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Not -- not in terms of

- 1 discipline. It may be that some matter, immediate need
- 2 justifies that action, but are you suggesting that as
- 3 punishment they could do it for unnecessary force?
- 4 Unnecessary, not punishment -- or even punishment.
- 5 They -- they looked -- they -- they said the -- a bad
- 6 word to the prison officer.
- 7 MS. WARD: The egregious use force will fail
- 8 both tests.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, that's what I wanted
- 10 to ask about. As a practical matter, in evaluating
- 11 excessive use of force claims, how much difference does
- 12 it make whether there's a purely objective standard or a
- 13 subjective standard. It will be the rare case, I would
- 14 imagine, where there's direct evidence of the officers'
- 15 subjective intent. So the subjective intent is going to
- 16 be inferred from objective factors.
- 17 So what -- give me an example of an excessive
- 18 use of force claim that would involve the unreasonably --
- 19 a use of force that's objectively unreasonable, but there
- 20 is not the subjective intent to harm.
- MS. WARD: Mr. Kingsley's case might be just
- 22 such an example. It was unreasonable for him to be
- 23 Tased, and under our jury instructions, the jury well
- 24 could have found that that use of force was
- 25 unreasonable. But yet the subjective element that was

- 1 injected to our jury instructions could have made it --
- 2 it could have resulted in the -- the finding for the --
- 3 the verdict for the Respondents.
- 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, in a case where
- 5 there's -- where the jury thinks that there was force
- 6 that was objectively unreasonable, and in particular, if
- 7 it's a -- if it's a 1983 claim or a Bivens claim, where
- 8 the officer has qualified immunity, it doesn't seem to
- 9 me that there are going to be very many cases where the
- 10 difference between these two standards will result in a
- 11 different outcome. Am I wrong?
- MS. WARD: I think you are wrong. I think
- 13 that juries give a lot of deference to officers. And if
- 14 they can -- if they're allowed to inject their
- 15 subjective good faith as part of a response to the
- 16 elements for proving the -- the case by the -- by the
- 17 prisoner, that would result in a lot more findings and
- 18 verdicts in favor of quards, even in instances where
- 19 objectively unreasonable, unjustified force is used.
- 20 In the in the
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I don't see how you could
- 22 use excessive force -- unreasonably excessive force and
- 23 be acting in good faith.
- MS. WARD: Well, there's the issue -- the
- 25 issue of qualified immunity with respect to mistake of

- 1 law. They could believe that the law actually allows
- 2 for them to engage in whatever use of force that
- 3 they're -- that they're using, but --
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But no -- but we're asking
- 5 what the standard ought to be. We don't talk about
- 6 qualified immunity until we know and until the officer
- 7 knows the standard.
- 8 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And as of this point, I -
- 10 I do not know why the standard should be different for
- 11 convicts as opposed to pretrial detainees, other than
- 12 for purposes of rehabilitation. And even that has to be
- 13 reasonable. You want to us say that under these facts,
- 14 the result might be different, depending on if it's a
- 15 pretrial detainee or an inmate, and that's just very
- 16 difficult for me to understand why that should be.
- 17 MS. WARD: It's -- it's -- using the
- 18 objective test for a pretrial detainee is faithful to
- 19 the Constitution. It's faithful to due process. Due
- 20 process talks about deprivations of life, liberty, or
- 21 property. Deprivations are X. The Eighth Amendment,
- 22 which governs the use of force with respect to convicted
- 23 prisoners, talks about cruel and unusual punishment.
- 24 There's a -- there's a -- an inherently subjective
- 25 element to cruel and unusual punishment.

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: But -- but Ms. Ward, you've
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- 2 said a few times that we're supposed to be looking to
- 3 see whether something counts as punishment. And in the
- 4 Eighth Amendment context, we've suggested that that term
- 5 "punishment" does indeed have a subjective component;
- 6 that it requires some kind of intent to chastise or to
- 7 deter. So I'm a little bit with Justice Kennedy, that
- 8 I'm not quite sure what the word "punishment" is doing
- 9 in this context, but if we're looking for punishment, we
- 10 have indicated that punishment is a subjective concept.
- 11 MS. WARD: Yes. In the Eighth Amendment
- 12 context, because the word "punishment" appears in the
- 13 Eighth Amendment, but as it's used in Bell, it's
- 14 referring to X. It's referring to evaluation of prison
- 15 policies or uses of force that go too far.
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, but you -- you -- you
- 17 brought punishment into this discussion. We didn't.
- 18 Justice Kagan didn't. Your brief is full of references
- 19 to punishment. You say it's punishment that's bad.
- 20 You -- you want to abandon all of that? That's --
- 21 that's not the criteria?
- 22 MS. WARD: No, that is the -- that is the
- 23 criteria.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I don't understand it,
- 25 either. It seems to me that there is some circumstances

- 1 where a guard is trying to punish someone, but there are
- 2 many circumstances where a guard has something totally
- 3 else in mind. He's trying to keep order in the prison.
- 4 A policeman might try to stop a fleeing felon. That has
- 5 nothing to do with punishment.
- 6 And so what a guard -- normally, the
- 7 provision that governs the policeman is the Fourth
- 8 Amendment. I would guess that if you're talking about
- 9 trying to keep order in a prison, the Due Process Clause
- 10 may have something to do with it. This person who may
- 11 be awaiting a lawyer is there, his liberty confined, and
- 12 you cannot use excessive force.
- 13 I I don't see what punishment had to do
- 14 with it. But I -- but I did think, and I don't know the
- 15 answer, but I looked it up in the Model Penal Code, that
- 16 either the policeman who's trying to stop someone, or
- 17 perhaps the prison guard who's trying to keep order,
- 18 cannot use excessive force.
- 19 Now, what is excessive force? It is force
- 20 that is objectively unreasonable. Now, suppose he does.
- 21 The next question is: Is a state of mind required? We
- 22 can imagine -- it would be a weird case -- but we can
- 23 imagine a very weird case where the force is objectively
- 24 unreasonable, but the policeman is totally innocent.
- 25 Somebody told him, that is a Taser, but it's really a

- 1 gun. He uses it. Objectively unreasonable. State of
- 2 mind, innocent. Is he liable?
- 3 As far as I can tell, the government thinks
- 4 he should be. As far as I can tell, you think he should
- 5 be. End of case. We just say everybody agrees. Is
- 6 that where we are? Because I'm rather worried about
- 7 holding the policeman in this weird case, where his
- 8 state of mind is a hundred percent innocent. What here
- 9 happened is that they read in a little bit of
- 10 culpability, the least onerous subjective intent. It's
- 11 called recklessness. You have to be aware of the risk.
- 12 So I'm rather tempted to say, yes, there should be
- 13 something guilty about this policeman. Now, there's
- 14 where I am at the moment, and I'd like you to explain
- 15 where I should go.
- 16 MS. WARD: The Fourth Amendment doesn't
- 17 require any inquiry into the subjective state of mind.
- 18 And the Fourth Amendment test, in the case of a police
- 19 officer on the street, does the job adequately. It
- 20 provides the adequate amount of deference, and it -- it
- 21 protects people from excessive uses of force. That same
- 22 analysis can do the job in the prison situation when a
- 23 pretrial detainee's interests are at stake as well. A
- 24 subjective intent element shouldn't be required of the
- 25 test at all, because that only comes in when there is a

- 1 question of cruel punishment.
- 2 JUSTICE BREYER: At least in a prison, I
- 3 would think a prison guard would have a pretty tough
- 4 time thinking that if this person is in prison because
- 5 he's been convicted of a crime, I can try to control his
- 6 riotous behavior as long as I reasonably believe that
- 7 what I'm doing is correct, even if it turns -- but now I
- 8 have a totally different standard, where this person's
- 9 in the same cell, doing the same thing, but he hasn't
- 10 yet had his trial. He's just there waiting for his
- 11 lawyer or he's been there because bail has been denied.
- 12 I -- I don't see how you administer such a rule.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I --
- JUSTICE BREYER: What's the answer to that?
- 15 MS. WARD: It's okay for the standards to be
- 16 different, because it's more faithful to the
- 17 Constitution. It's okay for the analysis of the
- 18 excessive force claim in both situations to be
- 19 different, and -- and I will --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I -- I'm still
- 21 struggling because we're trying to create boxes in a way
- that makes no sense to me. There are all sorts of
- 23 reasons for doing things, and the Eighth Amendment cases
- that we have, have to do with punishment qua not
- 25 bringing control, not responding to a prison outbreak,

- 1 or a fight, or anything else, but the types of
- 2 conditions that are imposed on prisoners as punishment,
- 3 i.e., you've broken an administrative rule, and now
- 4 we're going to put you in shackles in the dark dungeon.
- 5 We've already said in one case you can't do
- 6 that. You may subjectively and legitimately think that
- 7 that will keep you constrained, but that's too far.
- 8 It's not -- it's unwanted and unnecessarily cruel and
- 9 unusual. All right?
- 10 MS. WARD: Yes.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that's very
- 12 different than this situation. Whether it's a pretrial
- 13 detainee or post-trial detainee, I don't think the
- 14 Constitution gives you a free pass to punish a prisoner
- 15 by inflicting unwanted corporal punishment. I'm not
- 16 talking about the conditions of -- of punishment; i.e.,
- 17 good time credit, solitary confinement, segregation of
- 18 some sort, deprivation of a prison job you have. That,
- 19 clearly, you need an Eighth Amendment, sort of
- 20 subjective intent element.
- 21 I'm talking about the use of force for
- 22 purposes of restoring discipline. That's what this was
- 23 about, wasn't it?
- MS. WARD: Yes.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So I keep saying why are

- 1 we thinking about the necessity to impose subjective
- 2 standards or any other standards or that they have to be
- 3 different?
- 4 MS. WARD: I see that I have used my time.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes.
- 6 MS. WARD: And can I respond --
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- 8 MS. WARD: -- briefly?
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll -- we'll give
- 10 you an extra minute since --
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- the Court
- 13 intruded on your time.
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- The Court could decide that the standard for
- 16 all excessive force cases should be an objective
- 17 standard. I think that the -- the jurisprudence related
- 18 to convicted prisoners has already shut that door that
- 19 require -- in requiring a subjective intent element for
- 20 a convicted prisoner, but it's more faithful to the
- 21 Constitution to actually give effects to the rights of
- 22 detainees which are much closer to the rights of free
- 23 citizens because they haven't received all of their due
- 24 process pursuant to a legal conviction.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.

- 1 Mr. Bash.
- 2 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOHN F. BASH
- 3 ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES,
- 4 AS AMICUS CURIAE, SUPPORTING AFFIRMANCE
- 5 MR. BASH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 6 please the Court:
- 7 If there's one point I would like to convey
- 8 to the Court this morning which I think is responsive to
- 9 a number of questions that were asked in the opening
- 10 presentation, it's that there are two relevant
- 11 differences between the standard we're advancing and the
- 12 standard Mr. Clement is about to get up and talk about.
- One goes to what sort of purpose is
- 14 required, and the other goes to how you establish that
- 15 purpose.
- On the first, Mr. Clement says it is
- 17 malicious and sadistic intent. We say it is a punitive
- 18 purpose. It is clear as day in the Court's Eighth
- 19 Amendment cases, Farmer, Wilson, Whitley, that malicious
- 20 and sadistic comes from the wantonness requirement of
- 21 Eight Amendment, cruel and unusual.
- He is just wrong about that. The only
- 23 argument he has on that -- that it should be malicious
- 24 and sadistic is Judge Friendly's opinion that this Court
- 25 cited in a couple Eighth Amendment cases. But if you

- 1 look at Judge Friendly's analysis -- this is on page 28
- 2 of the red brief -- he very clearly says that there's a
- 3 whole list of factors relevant. Malicious and sadistic
- 4 is one factor. It's not dispositive, and all of the
- 5 other factors are objective.
- 6 So I don't think you can extrapolate from a
- 7 few citations to Judge Friendly that malicious and
- 8 sadistic is appropriate for a due process claim for
- 9 someone who has not convicted of an offense.
- 10 And by the way, I think --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: This is a due process case,
- 12 right?
- 13 MR. BASH: It --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's not a Fourth Amendment
- 15 case, and it's not an Eighth Amendment case; is that
- 16 right?
- 17 MR. BASH: That's correct. Now, Justice
- 18 Scalia --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: It's just that you want to
- 20 bring into the due process analysis --
- 21 MR. BASH: Justice Scalia, you characterize
- 22 it as substantive due process, and --
- 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes.
- 24 MR. BASH: -- I think a couple cases have
- 25 talked about it like that, but it's not exactly

1 substantive due process. I mean, the rule this Court has

- 2 established is that before you go through the procedures
- 3 of the Bill of Rights conviction or a guilty plea and so
- 4 forth, you may not be punished. So it really sounds a
- 5 little more in procedural due process than I think your
- 6 question gave it credit for.
- Now, the other point is how you establish
- 8 that purpose. Under the Eighth Amendment standards this
- 9 Court has set forth, it has interpreted cruel and unusual
- 10 punishment to require a degree of subjective intent.
- 11 Although it has used the term "punishment" to describe
- 12 the general legal standard under the Due Process Clause,
- 13 of course, that clause does not say the word
- 14 "punishment." What's required --
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And -- and your -- your
- 16 standard in this case as to the pretrial detainee is
- 17 that he is entitled to what protection?
- 18 MR. BASH: He is --
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: What -- what is your
- 20 standard?
- 21 MR. BASH: It -- it's exactly what Justice
- 22 Rehnquist said for this Court in Bell, which is that
- 23 either an intent to punish, which I take to be shorthand
- 24 for an intent to achieve objectives that are -- are not
- 25 reasonable -- reasonable at that point for that person's

- 1 status in the system, or, objectively, there's no
- 2 reasonable relation between the use of force and those
- 3 objectives.
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Wait, wait, wait.
- 5 The first one, that's the -- I mean, now you've run --
- 6 just run -- I could say the objective part has to be
- 7 objectively unreasonable force. Now, the question is:
- 8 Is there also some kind of subjective part? And at this
- 9 moment, it seems to me, on the one hand, you say, yes,
- 10 and on the other hand, no.
- MR. BASH: No. I'm saying no on both hands.
- 12 It's --
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: No. No. In other words --
- 14 MR. BASH: It -- it is --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: -- even though this man,
- 16 the defendant, is completely innocent, it wasn't his
- 17 fault in the slightest, he wasn't even negligent, the
- 18 quard is nonetheless liable. I can't find anywhere --
- 19 not even in Fourth Amendment cases could I find a case
- 20 where that actually occurred.
- 21 MR. BASH: Because, Justice Breyer, that's
- 22 not what we're saying.
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: All right.
- MR. BASH: I think the premise of the
- 25 question conflates two different types of intent. And

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1 this is exactly what the court of appeals did below.
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- 2 There's the intent to actually do the act. So if I --
- 3 if he had accidentally Tasered him --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Obviously --
- 5 MR. BASH: -- or if --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: -- you have the intent to
- 7 do the act, that obviously --
- 8 MR. BASH: But -- but --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: -- isn't the problem.
- 10 MR. BASH: -- that was the premise of your
- 11 question about --
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: No.
- 13 MR. BASH: -- if you think it is --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: -- it isn't. It isn't.
- MR. BASH: Well, the Taser gun question -- I
- 16 mean --
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Can I ask my question?
- 18 MR. BASH: Yes.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: It is objectively
- 20 unreasonable. But it is an odd case where the policeman
- 21 is -- or warden or whoever, is totally reasonable in
- 22 thinking the contrary, and that focuses you on the
- 23 question of whether there is some kind of either
- 24 purposeful, knowledgeable, or reckless, that being the
- 25 weakest, requirement in respect to the use of

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1 objectively unreasonable force, not the act, but knowing
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- 2 that it is objectively or reckless in respect to. You
- 3 see?
- 4 MR. BASH: Well, let -- let me describe
- 5 how --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: I want to know what your
- 7 view is on that.
- 8 MR. BASH: My view is this: One, it has to
- 9 be an intentional act. That -- that's the less --
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's --
- MR. BASH: And -- well, and intent --
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Do you mean -- do
- 13 you mean -- just to -- you mean voluntary?
- MR. BASH: Well -- well, not --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Not -- not a -- a
- 16 mistake with a Taser or gun?
- 17 MR. BASH: And it -- no. A mistake with a
- 18 Taser or gun would not be an intentional application of
- 19 force. It would be a negligent application of force.
- 20 And I think under Daniels v. Williams -- that's the slip
- 21 on the pillow case case -- that would not count.
- The question we're asking is: What does the
- 23 connection have to be between that intentional use of
- 24 force and any legitimate penological objective?
- 25 And bear in mind, the officer has to know

- 1 all the relevant facts. So if you have an eggshell
- 2 prisoner who has some special medical condition that
- 3 nobody knows about, that's not going to bear on the
- 4 constitutional analysis. It's the facts that the
- 5 officer is aware of.
- 6 And I think what this Court's decisions in
- 7 Bell, Block, say is that an objectively unreasonable
- 8 deprivation of liberty violates the Due Process Clause.
- 9 And just as confirmation that that is an objective
- 10 standard in both Bell -- this at page 561 -- and
- 11 Block -- this is a page 585 -- the Court said there's
- 12 not even an allegation here that there was a punitive
- intent or some ill intent. Therefore, we're going to
- 14 analyze it under an objective test.
- 15 And the opinion --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why is this different for
- inmates as -- as opposed to detainees?
- 18 MR. BASH: Because what the Due Process
- 19 Clause --
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: What's the test for
- 21 inmates? You -- you don't apply the same test.
- 22 MR. BASH: The -- the malicious and sadistic
- 23 intent test that Mr. Clement is asking you to apply to
- 24 pretrial detainees.
- 25 But remember, this would probably not only

- 1 apply to pretrial detainees, certainly not only
- 2 pretrial detainees in mixed populations. It would also
- 3 probably apply to immigration detainees, juveniles who
- 4 have not been subject to a criminal punishment, and a
- 5 host of other people who have not gone through the
- 6 rigors of the Bill of Rights, who have not been
- 7 convicted of a crime, and never --
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you agree that the
- 9 pretrial detainee can be deprived of -- of privileges
- 10 because of bad behavior that's disruptive to the
- 11 confinement?
- MR. BASH: Yes. And that's what I was
- 13 getting at when I said the way that I think Justice
- 14 Rehnquist used the term "punishment" in the due process
- 15 cases is as shorthand for a deprivation of liberty in
- 16 the prison context that has no reasonable relation to
- 17 any legitimates objectives. So if it was --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Why wouldn't -- why wouldn't
- 19 persons who were being arrested and persons who have
- 20 been convicted and are incarcerated have the same due
- 21 process rights as detainees?
- 22 MR. BASH: Because the Due Process Clause
- 23 permits the punishment of people who are convicted. And
- 24 as this Court interpreted that in the context of
- 25 convicted prisoners, it's that convicted prisoners may

- 1 be subject to hasher conditions than pretrial detainees.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So it's -- so it's okay
- 3 to use excessive force in the case of a prisoner,
- 4 somebody who has been convicted? I mean, the question
- 5 here is did -- what did the police -- was it
- 6 objectively unreasonable to use the extent of force that
- 7 was used in this case. So are you saying that in the --
- 8 in the case of a convicted prisoner, that it would be
- 9 okay to use excessive force?
- MR. BASH: Well, it probably almost always
- 11 violate the Eighth Amendment if there was an actual
- 12 intent to punish, and the punishment was carried out by
- 13 the use of force.
- But I think often what we're talking about
- is these cases on the margin, where the officer maybe
- 16 had mixed motives or whatever. And the idea behind the
- 17 Eighth Amendment jurisprudence is that we're going to
- 18 amp the standard up when you're talking about someone
- 19 who is subject to the penological force of the State.
- 20 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Can you give us an example
- 21 of what a guard could do to an inmate and a guard could
- 22 not do to a pretrial detainee, other than for
- 23 rehabilitation purposes?
- MR. BASH: I don't think the use of force as
- 25 discipline is ever appropriate. But, you know, in a --

- 1 in a max prison where you only have felony convicts, I
- 2 think, at the margins, officers are willing to be able to
- 3 use slightly more force than they can with pretrial
- 4 detainees where people who are held, as this Court said
- 5 in Salerno, in regulatory detention. Admittedly --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I think it's
- 7 pretty unusual, isn't it, to have a pretrial detainee in
- 8 a maximum security prison?
- 9 MR. BASH: No. I -- I was just trying to
- 10 identify for Justice Kennedy how the standard at the
- 11 margins might be different, so when you're talking
- 12 about --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And you come up with
- 14 a hypothetical, I think, is quite unrealistic, so I'm
- 15 not sure it's responsive.
- 16 MR. BASH: I I didn't mean to come up with a
- 17 hypothetical.
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm even not sure why
- 19 that's right. Why -- you get a free -- the Constitution
- 20 permits you to get a free kick in?
- 21 MR. BASH: That -- that's -- that is
- 22 certainly --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So if you walk by a
- 24 prisoner and, you know, I want to establish discipline
- 25 so I can freely kick them any time I want?

- 1 MR. BASH: That's certainly not what we're
- 2 saying. What we are saying is that the prohibition on
- 3 what officers can do to convicted prisoners is they
- 4 cannot punish them cruelly and unusually. And it makes
- 5 sense that this Court has upped the subjective intent
- 6 standard with respect to convicted prisoners because it
- 7 reflects that the constitutional prohibition is only
- 8 cruel and unusual punishment. Here is a --
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Bash, would you
- 10 explain? I mean, you agree that it's only the objective
- 11 standard, use of excessive force, but then your bottom
- 12 line is the same as the Respondent, that is, you think
- 13 that this -- this verdict should hold and it should not
- 14 be any new trial. Can you explain how your bottom line
- is the same as Respondent, but your standard is the same
- 16 as Petitioner?
- 17 MR. BASH: I would take the Court to page
- 18 277 and 278 of the Joint Appendix, which lists the
- 19 pertinent jury instructions. And the -- the jury was
- 20 instructed to find four elements, three of them no one
- 21 is contesting at this stage. The third one is the key
- 22 element. This is on page 278. And it said, "Defendants
- 23 knew that using force presented a risk of harm to
- 24 Plaintiff, but they recklessly disregarded Plaintiff's
- 25 safety. If it" -- full stop there, I would agree you

- 1 naturally infer that, at least on this review, as
- 2 importing a subjective element. But then it tells you
- 3 exactly what recklessly disregarded Plaintiff's safety
- 4 means. By failing to take reasonable measures to
- 5 minimize the -- the risk of harm to Plaintiff. And I
- 6 see that as no different than the proportionality
- 7 standard that Bell itself requires.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 9 Mr. Clement.
- 10 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MR. PAUL D. CLEMENT
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 13 please the Court:
- 14 This Court should adopt -- adopt the
- 15 subjective test fashioned by Judge Friendly in Johnson
- 16 against Glick in addressing a due process claim for
- 17 excessive force by a pretrial detainee.
- 18 This Court has already adopted that standard
- 19 in the Eighth Amendment context for convicted prisoners,
- 20 and both doctrinal and practical reasons strongly
- 21 suggest that it should apply the same test in the due
- 22 process context in which that test originated, and the
- 23 contrary propositions are simply not compatible with
- 24 this Court's precedents.
- 25 JUSTICE GINSBURG: In Johnson and Glick, the

- 1 bottom line was that there was reliability; isn't that
- 2 so?
- 3 MR. CLEMENT: No, Justice Ginsburg. The
- 4 bottom line was a remand so that there could be a -- a
- 5 factual determination based on the Four Factor Test that
- 6 Judge Friendly articulated.
- 7 So in the lower courts, they dismissed the
- 8 claim. Judge Friendly recognized that the Due Process
- 9 Clause does provide protection, and then he articulated
- 10 that Four Factor Test, one important part of which is a
- 11 subjective factor that, I think, sensibly tries to
- 12 distinguish those situations where an officer is trying
- 13 to use force in a good faith effort to maintain order
- 14 and discipline and contrast that with a situation where
- 15 the force is being used sadistically or maliciously for
- 16 the very purpose of inflicting pain.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But if we look at
- 18 this -- this case, the conduct was deliberate, using the
- 19 Taser was deliberate. The effect known to the officer
- 20 was that it would cause pain. So what subjective
- 21 element other than when using -- I'm deliberately using
- 22 force, I know it will cause pain. What beyond that?
- 23 MR. CLEMENT: So the question is: Is this a
- 24 good faith effort to try to get these handcuffs off, or
- 25 is this somebody who's acting simply to punish the --

- 1 the detainee? And I think that's what the good faith
- 2 test really gets to. It gets to what, I think, in some
- 3 respects is the nub of the issue here.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, let's put the nub
- 5 of the issue here. Let me give you the fact -- let's
- 6 use this actual situation.
- 7 The -- the defendant says, I wasn't
- 8 resisting, I wasn't spreading my arms apart, I was just
- 9 laying there, and they came and Tased me. All right.
- 10 The officers say instead he was pulling his arms and
- 11 resisting it so we couldn't get the handcuffs open. So
- 12 assuming a jury credits the Petitioner, what would that
- 13 do under -- how would that be evaluated under your test?
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, I suppose that if the
- 15 jury actually credited Petitioner's versions of events,
- 16 they might be able to find liability under the John --
- 17 Johnson v. Glick standard. I think it's worth recognizing
- 18 that there was a jury trial here, and under a recklessness
- 19 standard, they ruled in favor of our clients, and it
- 20 seems to me that it would be very odd to have to have a
- 21 new jury trial.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Let's go back
- 23 to -- that's why I keep trying to go back to what is
- 24 the -- what are the -- under what circumstances and how
- 25 does your test get to the gratuitous use of violence or

- 1 the excessive use of violence where it's unnecessary?
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think it gets to it in
- 3 a way that provides a degree of deference to the
- 4 difficult decisions that the guard has to make, which is
- 5 it recognizes that unlike the arrest context in other
- 6 situations, prison environment's different. There are
- 7 going to be lots of situations where guards are going to
- 8 use force and legitimately.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that instruction is
- 10 going to be given anyway.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: What's that?
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Under -- under the Bell
- 13 v. Wolfish case, that presumption was given anyhow.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, but I -- I don't -- I
- 15 mean, I think there are real differences between the
- 16 instruction, and if you look at the way -- the clearest
- 17 way to illustrate this is if you look at Joint Appendix
- 18 page 78 and you look at the instruction that was offered
- 19 by the Petitioners below, it flat out says you can't take
- 20 into account the good faith intent of the officer. It's
- 21 irrelevant.
- Now, I think that's perfectly appropriate in
- 23 a Fourth Amendment instruction where there's objective
- 24 reasonableness, and this Court said a bunch of times
- 25 that the subjective intent of the officer doesn't

- 1 matter.
- 2 But in the difficult context of a prison, I
- 3 think Judge Friendly got it right, I think this Court
- 4 got it right with respect to convicted prisoners, which
- 5 is you give the guard a little bit of flexibility
- 6 because it's a difficult situation. And if you say
- 7 after the fact, maybe they shouldn't have used the
- 8 Taser, or if, in a case where they used the Taser twice,
- 9 maybe they should've used it once, but not twice, those
- 10 questions of degree ought to be some degree of
- 11 deference.
- This test allows for that. It gives a jury
- 13 a landing place. If they look at this in hindsight and
- 14 say, you know, I wish they hadn't used the Taser, but I
- 15 think they were doing it to get the handcuffs off. This
- 16 isn't a case like Hudson against McMillan where they
- 17 were just taking the guy out and beating him up
- 18 punitively. So I don't think there should be a
- 19 Constitutional violation here.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's true -- you
- 21 know, what you say is equally true where you're running
- 22 a jail, isn't it? And it's equally true where the
- 23 person in the jail is -- has been convicted or hasn't
- 24 been convicted. The need for order is the same.
- 25 So how would it apply in a circumstance

- 1 where there's a claim of excessive force to someone who
- 2 has been convicted, but it has nothing to do with
- 3 punishment. No one thinks it has to do with punishment.
- 4 The situation was one where they were trying to maintain
- 5 order, or the situation was one where they were trying
- 6 to give medical treatment, or the situation was any one
- 7 of a thousand.
- 8 What I can't see is why the punishment
- 9 standard should apply whether he's been convicted or
- 10 not. And I also can't see why they should be different
- 11 whether he's been convicted or not.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think the punishment
- 13 standard applies in both cases, Justice Breyer, because
- 14 the relevant constitutional text has been interpreted to
- 15 require punishment. In the Eighth Amendment context --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: But suppose you brought a
- 17 lawsuit under the Due Process Clause? I mean -- and
- 18 there are instances where people are seized in jail, so
- 19 it was under the Fourth Amendment.
- I mean, why is punishment in these other
- 21 situations? I can't figure that one out. I can't
- 22 figure out -- and then I looked at the Model Penal Code.
- 23 The Model Penal Code seems to require both excessive
- 24 force and some kind of state of mind, which could be
- 25 recklessness, which is what the judge said here or maybe

- 1 even negligence.
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Well, obviously, if you adopt,
- 3 as this Court has in the Eighth Amendment context, the
- 4 understanding that punishment inherently requires some
- 5 subjective mental state, the lowest available mental
- 6 state is recklessness and under that standard, which the
- 7 jury clearly was instructed under, we would prevail. So
- 8 that would lead to an affirmance.
- 9 Now, I would still think, since it is
- 10 well-established that the relevant standard for
- 11 excessive force in cases involving convicted prisoners
- 12 is the Johnson v. Glick standard, I think since that's
- 13 established and nobody here is asking for Whitley or
- 14 Hudson to be overruled, and there are so many practical
- 15 imperatives for treating pretrial detainees and
- 16 convicted prisoners the same, I think this Court should
- 17 apply the Johnson v. Glick standard in the due process
- 18 claims of pretrial detainees.
- 19 In a subsequent case, if the Court wants to
- 20 reconsider what the test should be even under the Eighth
- 21 Amendment and apply it uniformly across pretrial
- 22 detainees and convicted inmates, that may make some
- 23 sense.
- I also think there's some very interesting
- 25 questions lurking out there about what kind of objective

- 1 evidence of unreasonableness is enough in an Eighth
- 2 Amendment case, or if we prevail, a Fifth Amendment
- 3 case, what kind of objective evidence is enough to get
- 4 to the jury on the subjective intent question. I think
- 5 those are all questions that this Court may eventually
- 6 have to confront, but I think the first step in a case
- 7 where nobody wants to overrule Hudson and Whitley is to
- 8 suggest that since the imperatives that the officers
- 9 face with respect to pretrial detainees and convicted
- 10 inmates are essentially identical.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why is that? Why don't you
- 12 tell us why that's so?
- 13 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I'll -- I'll tell you
- 14 why that's so. And it's so in these -- particularly in
- 15 a -- in a local jail like Monroe County, Wisconsin,
- 16 where you have these individuals, they're housed side by
- 17 side. As the Chief Justice has alluded to, in this kind
- 18 of jail, the only way you can serve their sentence as a
- 19 convicted individual is if you've been convicted for a
- 20 relatively minor offense. But if you're there pretrial,
- 21 awaiting your trial, any -- any -- any book -- any --
- 22 any offense in the criminal book could be your charge of
- 23 -- that -- where you're being held for, so it could be a
- 24 murderer. And I think this Court has recognized, and
- 25 this -- I mean, this is empirically true -- this Court

- 1 has recognized this empirical fact, first in Bell
- 2 against Wolfish, then in Block against Rutherford,
- 3 and -- and more recently, in the Florence County case.
- 4 When you --
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, sorry. There's
- 6 a lot to what you say that sometimes the practical
- 7 concerns are the same for pretrial detainees and for
- 8 convicted criminals. There's also something to the
- 9 other point of view, which is that in our cases, we've
- 10 consistently said that if you're a pretrial detainee, if
- 11 you haven't been found to have committed wrongful
- 12 conduct, you shouldn't be treated the same way as people
- 13 who have been found to have committed wrongful conduct;
- 14 that for the convicted criminals, it's kind of, you
- 15 know, we're allowed to punish them, because they've done
- 16 something wrong. And we haven't found that yet for the
- 17 pretrial detainees.
- And so what place in your system is there
- 19 for that, you know, very commonsensical, and also, you
- 20 know, normatively attractive proposition that people who
- 21 haven't been found to have done anything ought not to be
- 22 treated with the same level of disregard for their
- 23 interests as people who have been?
- 24 MR. CLEMENT: Justice Kagan, there is a
- 25 place for that in the doctrine. I would submit it's not

- 1 in the excessive force cases. So let me tell you where
- 2 I think it is. I mean, Sandin against Conner is a good
- 3 example. There the Court said that with convicted
- 4 individuals, it was perfectly permissible to move them
- 5 from minimum security to maximum security as a punitive
- 6 matter, and you didn't even have to give them any
- 7 process to do that. I don't think that same analysis
- 8 would apply to pretrial detainees.
- 9 Another example is footnote 17 of the Bell
- 10 against Wolfish case, where I think it's understood that
- 11 at least if the statutory law provides for it, that if
- 12 you're convicted, you can be sent out to the work gang
- 13 and have to pick up trash along the highway. I don't
- 14 think you can do that to a pretrial detainee. But
- 15 whatever differences there are, I don't think they arise
- 16 in an excessive force context. I think if you think
- 17 about this Court's cases, and start with Whitley. If
- 18 you're trying to quell a prison riot, and you have an
- 19 inmate who's going up the stairs, trying to go where
- there's an unarmed quard, it doesn't make a whit of
- 21 difference whether that inmate is a pretrial detainee or
- 22 a -- a -- a convicted individual.
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: So that might be, but let's
- 24 take another comparison. And the comparison is two
- 25 people who have been indicted for the same offense, and

- 1 one makes bail and he's out on the street, and the other
- 2 doesn't make bail, and so he is in an institutional
- 3 facility. And the one who's out on the street has some
- 4 kind of encounter with a police officer, and he reaches
- 5 into his pocket to take out something, and the police
- 6 officer shoots him. And let's just imagine that
- 7 circumstances are such that this is utterly
- 8 unreasonable.
- 9 And then the same -- the same person
- 10 indicted for the same offense, not convicted of that
- 11 offense, same circumstances, the police shoot him, now
- 12 he's not going to be treated in any respect the same
- 13 way. Why should that be so?
- 14 MR. CLEMENT: I think because the fact of
- incarceration really is a game-changer. When that
- 16 person's out on bail, nobody is going to know that, so
- 17 he has exactly -- or she, the exact same expectations as
- 18 any reasonable individual. The same expectations as the
- 19 individual in Graham v. Connor, who's doing nothing more
- 20 than trying to buy orange juice in a convenience store.
- 21 There are rules that apply to that, and they
- 22 should be sufficient and they should be objective, and
- 23 that's the Fourth Amendment standard.
- When you're in the incarceration context,
- 25 things are different. The margin for error for the

- 1 quards is quite different. The need to protect the
- 2 other inmates from a potentially violent person doesn't
- 3 have the same kind of direct analogue when something's
- 4 unfolding on the streets. Sometimes it can, but the
- 5 quarters, I think, are -- are going to be different, in
- 6 the main, in the incarceration context. And so I think
- 7 it makes sense to apply a standard that's slightly more
- 8 forgiving of the prison guards than of the police
- 9 officers.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And I -- I still find it
- 11 very hard to understand how use of force can be excessive
- 12 without being at least reckless. It's -- it's confusing.
- 13 For excessive use of force, but yet what -- what does the
- 14 reckless add to it? If -- if it's an excessive use of
- 15 force, isn't that at least reckless by definition?
- 16 MR. CLEMENT: I think often it will be.
- 17 We're not here to defend the recklessness instruction as
- 18 the platonic sort of form. We actually think that
- 19 applying Judge Friendly's instruction from Johnson
- 20 against Glick is the right way to go, which we think
- 21 provides a little more separation between the two.
- I don't think, though -- I mean, we can --
- 23 we can obviously come up with hypothetical situations
- 24 where there are going to be different applications. I
- 25 think the principal difference here is this instruction,

- 1 both in the Eighth Amendment context, and in the due
- 2 process context in Johnson v. Glick, I think it gives
- 3 the jury a practical landing place when they think, you
- 4 know, with the benefit of hindsight, I wish the police
- 5 -- I wish the corrections officer hadn't done that, but
- 6 I don't think it was completely outside of the bounds of
- 7 what was reasonable. I certainly don't think it's so
- 8 purposeless and so arbitrary that it gives rise to an
- 9 inference that it had a punitive motive.
- 10 That gives the jury kind of a reasonable
- 11 landing place, and I think this case is actually a
- 12 pretty good illustration of this. I think if you look
- 13 at this and you ask yourself, was it reasonable to use
- 14 the Taser? That's a debatable question. Was it really
- 15 punitive? Was it unrelated to an interest in trying to
- 16 get the handcuffs off? Of course not.
- 17 And so I do think in cases like this, it
- 18 gives the jury an appropriate landing place to come up
- 19 and make a judgment that doesn't second guess the
- 20 officers. And this Court has said so many times that
- 21 deference to prison officials is an important value.
- 22 And I think this test that we've proposed that, again,
- 23 originates with Judge Friendly in a due process case
- 24 gives --
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you're giving --

- 1 you're -- you're loading the deck completely, because
- 2 you're instructing the jury first to give the police
- 3 officers deference, and then you're now giving them an
- 4 instruction that assumes that whatever they do is okay.
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: I don't think so. I think --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I mean, there's no --
- 7 there's -- by adding that kind of subjective intent that
- 8 you want, maliciousness and wantonness, which are not --
- 9 are only one part, as your -- as the Assistant Solicitor
- 10 General said, only one part of the Johnson test.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: But -- but if I -- if I
- 12 could --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're -- you're -- the
- 14 way you've articulated in your brief has really loaded
- 15 the deck completely.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, in -- in fairness, and
- 17 to correct the Assistant Solicitor General, the
- 18 instruction we asked for, which is at Joint Appendix 65,
- 19 it has all of the Johnson factors. Now, it focuses, as
- 20 we think -- and that's the pattern jury instruction in
- 21 an excessive force case for a prisoner in the Seventh
- 22 Circuit, we think it gets it right, which is it focuses
- 23 the ultimate inquiry on this, is it a punitive intent or
- 24 is it a good faith effort to restore order.
- 25 But then if you look for the factors that

- 1 the jury can consider, all four -- all the rest of the
- 2 Johnson factors are there. And we think that's actually
- 3 the best reading of Bell v. Wolfish, too, which is to
- 4 say it provides objective factors, but then it's
- 5 basically asking, you can look at those objective
- 6 factors and it allows -
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Except that -
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: -- you to infer a punitive intent.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Bell v. -- Bell v.
- 10 Wolfish, the first part of the application section of
- 11 that opinion goes to whether there's an intent to
- 12 punish. It assumes there's not, and then it goes to the
- 13 objective test and says, in that particular case, that
- 14 the conditions met that -- those conditions as well, but
- 15 it treated it as alternative. That's --
- 16 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I think alternative ways
- 17 to prove a punitive intent. And if you look at Bell v.
- 18 Wolfish, when it talks about those objective factors, it
- 19 then says, so if you have purposeless or arbitrary
- 20 government action, the court may infer an intent to
- 21 punish. So it's objective factors in service of what is
- 22 ultimately a subjective inquiry.
- 23 The other thing I think that needs to be
- 24 added, though, is that Bell v. Wolfish, you know, we
- 25 think we win under it. But it is a test that was really

- 1 designed to judge some conditions questions. And we
- 2 think Johnson against Glick, and we think, in the -- in
- 3 the Eighth Amendment context, Whitley and -- and Hudson,
- 4 are directed at the unique dynamic that you have in
- 5 excessive force cases.
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Am I right that the
- 7 pattern instruction in -- in this case, the pattern
- 8 instruction asked only the excessive force question,
- 9 asked the jury to decide whether the force was excessive
- 10 in light of the particular facts and circumstances?
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, okay. So there were two
- 12 pattern instructions, neither of which were used. There
- 13 was the pattern instruction which my friends wanted to
- 14 have, which was the Fourth Amendment pattern
- 15 instruction. There was the pattern instruction that was
- 16 the Eighth Amendment standard that we wanted to have.
- 17 And Judge Crabb essentially split the difference and
- 18 came up with this nonpattern jury instruction that asked
- 19 the excessive force question, and baked in this notion
- 20 of recklessness.
- Now, we think obviously that the lowest
- 22 standard of intent that could be compatible with the Due
- 23 Process Clause is recklessness, and so we think you
- 24 should affirm if you think recklessness is the standard.
- 25 But in fairness, we think the most coherent way to

- 1 approach this issue is to apply a single unitary
- 2 standard to pretrial detainees and post-convicted
- 3 inmates when you're talking about these kind of
- 4 excessive force claims.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, why not look at
- 6 it this way? I mean, you said -- and it's really the
- 7 basis of your argument -- that being in an institutional
- 8 setting is the game-changer. There's no doubt it's
- 9 important.
- 10 But there's another potential game-changer
- 11 as well, and that is this question of have you actually
- 12 been convicted? Has the legal system found that you're
- 13 a person who is a wrongdoer?
- 14 So if we say that both of these things are
- important, why shouldn't we adopt a set of principles
- 16 that say it is -- we're -- we're looking for objectively
- 17 reasonable conduct, but in looking for that, of course
- 18 we take into account the prison circumstances. Of
- 19 course we take into account the context in making that
- 20 evaluation, so that the person on the street does not
- 21 necessarily come up with the same result as the person
- in prison because the contexts are different.
- 23 But still, the test, the basic test is the
- same because they are both people who have not been
- 25 found to have done anything wrong.

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1 MR. CLEMENT: Well, a couple of responses,
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- 2 Justice Kagan. I mean, obviously, you could try to take
- 3 the Fourth Amendment test and you could adjust it -- try
- 4 to adjust it for the prison conditions.
- 5 We don't think that that's going to work in
- 6 a way that gives sufficient deference to the prison
- 7 officials. We do think -- this Court has said so many
- 8 times they are in a unique environment. It's not
- 9 something that the normal jury is going to have any sort
- 10 of insight into. So I think if you just ask them was it
- 11 reasonable in hindsight, I don't think you're going to
- 12 get sufficient deference. So that's one reason.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: I would think that the jury
- 14 would give a lot of deference to prison officials, in
- 15 part because they are unfamiliar with the circumstances.
- 16 And folks will come in and will say, you know, here's --
- 17 I think that there's -- that -- that that will be the
- 18 natural tendency.
- 19 MR. CLEMENT: I mean, I hope you're right
- 20 for the sake of my clients, but I think that tendency is
- 21 going to be embodied much more if you let them take into
- 22 account good faith. And I think that's a really
- 23 important way of thinking about the question here,
- 24 because if you look at their proposed jury instruction,
- 25 at JA 78, it's the one thing the jury is told they can't

- 1 take into account, is whether there was good faith. And
- 2 that does not seem particularly productive.
- 3 Another point you made was that, you know,
- 4 there is this difference that these individuals are --
- 5 have not been convicted. And I do think that's
- 6 important, and I've talked about a couple of instances
- 7 where I think that that makes an outcome-determinative
- 8 difference.
- 9 But you also have to take into account that
- 10 the Bell decision itself said the presumption of
- 11 innocence has nothing, really, to do with this. And I
- 12 think that was a reflection of the reality that when
- 13 the -- an institution is trying to deal with pretrial
- 14 detainees and inmates, it's not dealing with different
- 15 entities.
- Another thing I'd like to say about Bell v.
- 17 Wolfish is I do think it's an analysis that applies most
- 18 readily to conditions cases. And there are a number of
- 19 cases we cite in footnote 9 of our red brief involving
- 20 the lower courts' applications of various tests
- 21 requiring subjective intent. There's a D.C. Circuit
- 22 case called Norris against the District of Columbia. I
- 23 paid more attention on rereading it because I noticed
- 24 that Justice Ginsburg had written the opinion.
- 25 It's decided in 1984, and I think it's

- 1 actually quite instructive because in 1984, the D.C.
- 2 Circuit had the benefit of Bell v. Wolfish. It also
- 3 had the benefit of Johnson against Glick. And when it
- 4 confronted an excessive force claim, as opposed to a
- 5 conditions claim, the D.C. Circuit looked to Johnson
- 6 against Glick and not to Bell v. Wolfish, which it
- 7 doesn't even cite, to provide the relevant standard.
- 8 And I think that just shows that
- 9 Judge Friendly got this one right. He has an analysis
- 10 that of course looks to objective factors in terms of
- 11 the amount of force used, the need for the force, the
- 12 relationship of the two, but also says, was this a good
- 13 faith effort to maintain or -- or restore order, or was
- 14 this something that was just sadistic and malicious with
- 15 the intent to cause harm?
- 16 My friends from the Solicitor General
- 17 Office, I guess, don't like the words "salist -- sadistic
- 18 and malicious." I looked them up. I mean, they sound
- 19 kind of rough, but they actually -- you know, Judge
- 20 Friendly got that right, too. I mean, they're words
- 21 that basically mean exactly what he said in the rest
- 22 of the sentence --
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: But if you really --
- 24 MR. CLEMENT: -- which is there's no
- 25 intent --

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- if you really --
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- 2 MR. CLEMENT: -- other than to cause harm.
- 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- want to take the
- 4 Judge Friendly test -- and I guess you've talked about
- 5 this before, but it is a multifactor test where the
- 6 question of sadisticness is counting as a plus factor,
- 7 a thumb on the scales. But it's clear under that test
- 8 that even if that sadistic quality isn't there, it's
- 9 still allowable to hold the prison official to have
- 10 violated the law.
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I don't think that's the
- 12 right reading of it, which is I think the ultimate
- 13 question under that test, and that's certainly the way
- 14 it's been applied by this Court in the Eighth Amendment
- 15 context, and you see that in this pattern jury
- 16 instruction that we propose.
- 17 The ultimate test is, is this a good faith
- 18 effort to maintain order, or is this an effort to
- 19 inflict punishment just for the sake of punishment? And
- 20 then the rest of the factors inform that as, of course,
- 21 they always would.
- 22 And I think one way of thinking about the
- 23 question before the Court in this case is that this
- 24 Court has already borrowed the -- the Johnson v. Glick
- 25 factors that were due process factors -- they've already

- 1 borrowed them and used them in the Eighth Amendment
- 2 context.
- 3 And the question in this case is should they
- 4 take that due process test and apply it in a due process
- 5 case? And that doesn't sound like a difficult question,
- 6 and I really don't think it is. I think this Court got
- 7 it right in Hudson and Whitley. You think about those
- 8 cases. Whitley, it wouldn't matter whether or not that
- 9 individual going towards an unarmed guard was pretrial
- 10 or post-conviction. But in Hudson it's the opposite. I
- 11 mean, Hudson is this case where you have somebody who is
- 12 singled out for a punitive beating in response to an
- 13 altercation with the quard.
- 14 Again, it makes no difference. That's not
- 15 acceptable behavior, whether or not they are an inmate
- 16 who's been convicted or pretrial detainee. Applying one
- 17 test to both of these very similar individuals seems to
- 18 be the appropriate response.
- 19 If there are no further questions.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Ms. Ward, 4 minutes.
- 22 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF WENDY M. WARD
- ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER
- MS. WARD: Thank you.
- 25 Justice -- Justice Kagan got it exactly

- 1 right. The institutional setting is not the
- 2 game-changer. The game-changer is the fact of lawful
- 3 conviction pursuant to due process. That's -- that's
- 4 the -- the dividing line between the right test and the
- 5 wrong test.
- 6 Justice Ginsburg also was looking at
- 7 recklessness in our jury instructions, and you -- you got
- 8 it right also. Disregard -- reckless disregard of
- 9 someone's rights has no place in a jury instruction that
- 10 should be objective.
- 11 And I want to step through the jury
- 12 instructions because we part ways with Mr. Bash on the
- 13 jury instructions in particular. If you look at -- part
- 14 of the confusion comes in in the three different uses of
- 15 recklessness in the jury instructions, as the dissent
- 16 below noted. There's three different ways that
- 17 recklessness is used.
- 18 If you look at 277 of the Joint Appendix,
- 19 the first use of recklessness is that force is applied
- 20 recklessly. Well, here we're asking whether force is --
- 21 force is less than deliberate if you look at how force
- 22 applied recklessly is -- is used in Farmer, for example,
- 23 deliberate indifference. You're looking at -- you're --
- 24 you're conflating deliberate indifference with a
- 25 deliberate act. That's confusing.

- 1 And Question No. 1 of the special verdict
- 2 questions, excessive force means force applied
- 3 recklessly that is unreasonable. So the -- again, this
- 4 is what I was talking about, force applied recklessly;
- 5 that's also not deliberate.
- 6 And then the -- the plaintiff is required to
- 7 prove each of the following factors by a preponderance
- 8 of the evidence. Factor 2 is the reasonableness test.
- 9 Factor 3, which is in addition to the reasonableness
- 10 test, is reckless disregard of plaintiff's safety, which
- 11 is, again, a different use from acting recklessly.
- 12 And -- and it's that reckless disregard for plaintiff's
- 13 safety language that the Court said in Farmer was
- 14 unquestionably related to a culpable state of mind.
- 15 And then if there's any question about
- 16 whether reckless in our jury instructions were related
- 17 to a bad intent, the third use of recklessness, which is
- 18 on 278 about halfway down the page, acted with
- 19 recklessness disregard of plaintiff's rights. The jury
- 20 instructions defined that specifically not in the -- the
- 21 special verdict itself, but in the -- the instruction on
- 22 punitive damages, which is found on page 281, where the
- 23 court said to the jury that an action is in reckless
- 24 disregard of plaintiff's rights if, under the
- 25 circumstances, it reflects complete indifference to the

Т	praintiff's safety or rights. If you find that
2	defendant's conduct was motivated by evil motive or
3	intent, unquestionable bad intent related to that
4	element of reckless or that version of recklessness
5	that was used in the jury instructions.
6	If the Court has no further questions.
7	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
8	The case is submitted.
9	(Whereupon, at 11:01 a.m., the case in the
LO	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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