SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

| IN 7 | THE SU | PREME | COURT | OF | THE | UNITE |) STATES |
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| JASON SMIT | Н, | | | |) | | |
| | | Petit | ioner, | |) | | |
| | v. | | | |) | No. 2 | 22-899 |
| ARIZONA, | | | | |) | | |
| | | Respo | ondent. | |) | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Pages: 1 through 102

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| 1 | IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE | E UNITED STATES |
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| 3 | JASON SMITH, |) |
| 4 | Petitioner, |) |
| 5 | v. |) No. 22-899 |
| 6 | ARIZONA, |) |
| 7 | Respondent. |) |
| 8 | | - |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | Washington, | D.C. |
| 11 | Wednesday, Janua | ary 10, 2024 |
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| 13 | The above-entitled matt | er came on for |
| 14 | oral argument before the Supre | eme Court of the |
| 15 | United States at 10:04 a.m. | |
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| 1 | APPEARANCES: |
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| 2 | HARI SANTHANAM, ESQUIRE, Chicago, Illinois; on behalf |
| 3 | of the Petitioner. |
| 4 | ERIC J. FEIGIN, Deputy Solicitor General, Department |
| 5 | of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for the United |
| 6 | States, as amicus curiae, supporting neither |
| 7 | party. |
| 8 | ALEXANDER W. SAMUELS, Principal Deputy Solicitor |
| 9 | General, Phoenix, Arizona; on behalf of the |
| 10 | Respondent. |
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| 1 | PROCEEDINGS |
|----|--|
| 2 | (10:04 a.m.) |
| 3 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear |
| 4 | argument this morning in Case 22-899, Smith |
| 5 | versus Arizona. |
| 6 | Mr. Santhanam. |
| 7 | ORAL ARGUMENT OF HARI SANTHANAM |
| 8 | ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER |
| 9 | MR. SANTHANAM: Mr. Chief Justice, and |
| 10 | may it please the Court: |
| 11 | Jason Smith was denied his Sixth |
| 12 | Amendment confrontation right when the State |
| 13 | used a substitute expert, Gregory Longoni, to |
| 14 | convey the out-of-court testimonial statements |
| 15 | of the witness who actually analyzed the |
| 16 | evidence in his case, Elizabeth Rast. Longoni |
| 17 | had no personal knowledge of the testing that |
| 18 | Rast performed. And in terms of what Rast did, |
| 19 | Longoni Longoni had no personal knowledge of |
| 20 | what Rast did in terms of her testing. |
| 21 | But what he did do was he conveyed |
| 22 | Rast's statements from her own documents, from |
| 23 | her report and notes, where he conveyed |
| 24 | specifically the tests that she performed, the |
| 25 | specific items that she tested, the procedures |

- 1 that she used. And when he purported to give
- 2 his own opinions, Longoni was actually reciting
- 3 verbatim the same statements that Rast made in
- 4 her report to set forth her conclusions.
- 5 Rast's statements were testimonial
- 6 because any reasonable, objective person would
- 7 understand that she prepared those statements
- 8 for the primary purpose of creating evidence to
- 9 use against Smith in his prosecution. The
- 10 State's request in this case at Pet. App. 127a
- 11 specifically identified Smith, the charges
- 12 against him, that trial had been set in his
- case, and as the record shows at Pet. App. 99a,
- 14 the -- the State's attorney actually coordinated
- 15 with Rast on her testing.
- 16 And it is no wonder that in this case
- that the United States agrees that the judgment
- 18 below cannot stand.
- 19 The court of appeals nonetheless found
- 20 that Longoni's testimony was permissible, and it
- 21 did so applying the legal fiction that an expert
- 22 may state the basis for his underlying
- 23 conclusions and opinions under Rule 703 without
- 24 offering that basis for the truth.
- 25 That legal fiction, as this -- as the

- 1 plurality in this Court recognized in Williams,
- 2 is unrealistic. It's unrealistic to expect that
- 3 a jury such as Smith would understand that
- 4 fiction. And, in this case, for the jury to
- 5 have understood what Longoni's opinions were and
- 6 to have evaluated those opinions, it necessarily
- 7 had to have considered the truth of those
- 8 underlying statements that were offered to
- 9 support them.
- 10 The State here made a strategic choice
- 11 to make Rast a witness against Smith, and in
- doing so, it -- it elicited Rast's statements
- 13 from -- through Longoni, and when it did so, it
- 14 was required to present Rast for
- 15 cross-examination. Its failure to do so
- 16 violated Smith's confrontation right.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Would you take a step
- 19 back and explain why you, first, think that this
- is -- that the -- is testimonial and, two, how
- is it different from the report in Williams?
- MR. SANTHANAM: Sure. Rast's
- 23 statements here are testimonial because any
- 24 reasonable, objective person would understand
- 25 that they were prepared for the primary and,

- 1 indeed, sole, exclusive purpose of creating
- 2 evidence for Smith's prosecution.
- 3 Again, that -- that's -- that's set
- 4 out from the State's initial request identifying
- 5 Rast, the charges against him, that trial had
- 6 been set, she coordinated with the State's
- 7 attorney, and it was all generated through a
- 8 formalized process in which she prepared notes
- 9 and a report all on typewritten DPS letterhead
- 10 bearing the seal of the DPS. And it bears
- 11 emphasis that these are documents that were
- served as part of discovery in this case, you
- 13 know, to prove the facts that the prosecution
- 14 was going to put on.
- 15 So all of those circumstances meet the
- 16 primary evidentiary purpose test, they meet the
- 17 targeted individual test, and they also meet any
- 18 requirement of solemnity that's required of
- 19 Rast.
- JUSTICE ALITO: If we're --
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I was just
- 22 going to ask, why isn't it enough for the
- defense counsel to be able to ask Longoni about
- 24 what happened in the lab? And he's going to
- 25 have to say, you know, I don't know. Well, then

- 1 you're just relying on, you know, what something
- 2 -- somebody told you, right? Well, what basis
- do you have for that? You -- you say you're
- 4 relying on, you know, this particular type of
- 5 test. How do you know that was done? How long
- 6 -- how do -- do you know how long that was kept
- 7 in whatever?
- 8 In other words, it seems to me that
- 9 there is a -- it's a two-edged sword. I mean,
- 10 you put somebody up there like Longoni, whose
- 11 knowledge is very limited. It seems that he's
- 12 ripe for cross-examination. It could be pretty
- 13 effective.
- MR. SANTHANAM: Right. So there's a
- 15 -- yeah, Mr. Chief Justice, to answer your --
- 16 your question, this is not a scenario where the
- 17 State put on Longoni to testify about data that
- 18 he reviewed in the abstract, that, you know --
- 19 and that would have been fine. There are a lot
- 20 of things that -- that the State could have done
- 21 here that would have been fine. They could have
- 22 had Longoni retest the evidence. They could
- have asked for a continuance so that they could
- 24 secure Rast's presence.
- But, at the end of the day, what they

- 1 could have done was simply had Longoni take the
- 2 stand and testify that I reviewed certain data
- 3 in the abstract and that is consistent with
- 4 certain illicit substances.
- What the State couldn't do through
- 6 Rast -- through Longoni was to say recount
- 7 Rast's statements that I -- that she performed
- 8 certain tests on specific evidence in Smith's
- 9 case. Those came from her testimonial
- 10 documents, and that's what implicates the
- 11 confrontation issue here.
- So we're not suggesting that a expert
- witness cannot rely on others. It's the moment
- when they introduce the testimonial statement of
- someone else where the confrontation right is
- 16 implicated.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, that --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- there's --
- JUSTICE ALITO: -- that's an
- 21 interesting -- I mean, that's an interesting
- 22 point, and I think it's correct. And if it is
- 23 correct, then I don't understand why, in your
- 24 brief and in your introductory statement this
- morning, you've gone out of your way to trash

- 1 Rule 703. I mean, you just -- what are you
- 2 trying to do?
- 3 MR. SANTHANAM: Well, under Rule
- 4 703 -- I think Rule 703, Justice Alito, operates
- 5 in conjunction or in parallel with the Sixth
- 6 Amendment. Rule 703, you know, it -- as a rule
- 7 of evidence, it can prohibit certain evidence,
- 8 and if you pass the hurdle in Rule 703, when you
- 9 deal with testimonial statements, you have to
- 10 pass the higher burdle -- burden of the Sixth
- 11 Amendment confrontation.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, of course. But
- 13 703 does not provide that the facts on which an
- 14 expert relies in reaching his or her expert
- opinion are put before the trier of fact for the
- 16 truth of the matter asserted. Isn't that
- 17 correct?
- MR. SANTHANAM: We disagree with that.
- 19 Logic tells us, commentators, jurists, legal
- treatises all tell us, that when you put forth
- 21 an expert's underlying statements that are
- 22 offered -- on which the expert bases an opinion
- 23 and the -- those statements can only support the
- 24 expert's opinion insofar as they're true, then
- you're necessarily offering those statements

- 1 for --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Oh, okay. Well, I
- 3 understood you in your introductory statement to
- 4 retreat from that, so that's what I want to
- 5 pursue.
- 6 You can win this case if you establish
- 7 that Rast's notes were intro -- were testimonial
- 8 and introduced -- therefore, introduced for the
- 9 truth of the matter asserted. You don't have to
- 10 take -- you don't have to take out Rule 703 in
- 11 order to do that.
- Now suppose Longoni had testified in
- the old style by answering a hypothetical
- 14 question, which is what I understood you to talk
- 15 about before.
- 16 Would there be a Confrontation Clause
- 17 problem there?
- 18 MR. SANTHANAM: If it was simply he
- 19 was asked to assume certain facts before
- 20 providing his opinion, we don't think there
- 21 would be a confrontation violation.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. All right.
- 23 Step 2. This is a trial. Now this was a jury
- 24 trial. And a lot of the stuff that was done is
- 25 kind of mind-boggling. There was no request for

- 1 an instruction to the jury that they should not
- 2 accept Rast's statements -- the information in
- 3 Rast's reports or notes for the truth of the
- 4 matter asserted, right? There was no request
- 5 for that?
- 6 MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct,
- 7 Justice Alito, but our position is that there
- 8 was no need for it because, in this case, the --
- 9 when you get to an instruction --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: I -- I understand.
- 11 But, really, I don't understand why competent
- 12 defense counsel wouldn't at least do that.
- 13 There was not a request for a judgment of
- 14 acquittal on the ground that there was no
- competent evidence to show that the substances
- 16 that your client possessed were controlled
- 17 substances.
- 18 MR. SANTHANAM: There was a judgment,
- 19 a motion for a judgment of acquittal.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, on other
- 21 grounds. All right. Let me get to the step 2,
- 22 beyond the hypothetical.
- So let's say it's a -- it's a bench
- 24 trial before a very experienced trial judge, and
- 25 the trial judge says: Look, I've been a judge

- 1 for 25 years, and I don't -- I don't need to do
- 2 with this business with the hypothetical. I
- 3 know that you, Mr. Expert, Ms. Expert, you've
- 4 looked at an -- an actual report, so tell me
- 5 what's in the report and the conclusion --
- 6 excuse me -- that you drew from the report, and
- 7 I will not consider the underlying facts for the
- 8 truth of the matter asserted. Swear on the
- 9 Bible, I'm not going to consider them for that
- 10 purpose. I've been a judge a long time. I -- I
- 11 can do that.
- 12 Confrontation Clause problem there?
- MR. SANTHANAM: Well, you know, first
- off, it's important to remember this was a jury
- 15 trial. But our --
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: I -- I understand.
- 17 But what's the answer to the hypothetical?
- 18 MR. SANTHANAM: Our answer is that
- 19 regardless of whether this case or any case is
- tried to a judge or a jury, there will still be
- 21 a confrontation violation here because, at the
- 22 end of the day, the underlying statement is
- offered for the truth to prove the -- the basis
- of the expert's opinion.
- 25 And I think there's a -- to -- to kind

- of explain that, if we look at the delta between
- 2 a scenario where the expert offers an opinion
- 3 based on a hypothetical set of facts and what
- 4 occurred here, which is where Longoni
- 5 specifically stated Rast did certain things,
- 6 reached certain results, used certain
- 7 procedures, the delta between that is the truth
- 8 of the statements.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: I -- I understand
- 10 that. But get back to my bench trial. You --
- 11 you don't believe the trial judge? The trial
- judge says, I'm not going to consider this for
- 13 the truth of the matter asserted. If you
- 14 Ms. Prosecutor, Mr. Prosecutor, want to prove
- that this was meth or marijuana, you're going to
- 16 have to produce other evidence.
- 17 MR. SANTHANAM: The problem --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Confrontation Clause
- 19 problem there?
- 20 MR. SANTHANAM: Yeah, the problem --
- 21 we -- we do think so. And the problem I have
- 22 with that hypothetical, Justice Alito, is that
- even when it's a judge that's the trier of fact,
- 24 when you begin with the premise that you're
- offering a statement for the truth, it makes no

- 1 sense to say, I'm not considering it for the
- 2 truth.
- JUSTICE ALITO: If you're offering it
- 4 for the truth. What if you're not offering it
- 5 for the truth and the judge says, I'm not going
- 6 to consider it for the truth?
- 7 MR. SANTHANAM: Right. And -- and our
- 8 position is, as we've laid out in the briefing,
- 9 if a expert's underlying statements are
- 10 presented and those statements only support the
- 11 expert's opinion insofar as they're true, then
- 12 they are offered for the truth in all -- all
- 13 respects.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, the
- common law is very different from Rule 703. 703
- is a modern rule, isn't it?
- 17 MR. SANTHANAM: Yes, it is.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: In the common law,
- an expert couldn't even often do a hypothetical.
- In the common law, they had to be evidence
- 21 presented at trial from which the expert then
- offered an opinion, correct?
- MR. SANTHANAM: That -- that is
- 24 correct.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And so we've now

- 1 very -- strayed very far. I -- I take your
- 2 point in your brief that the Confrontation
- 3 Clause under anybody's theory on the bench
- 4 that's been articulated previously, if -- if she
- 5 -- if the lab technician had written an
- 6 affidavit, I swear under the penalties of
- 7 perjury that I did X, Y, and Z tests, that these
- 8 were the results, these are my notes, I attach
- 9 them hereto, and the expert got up and read that
- 10 affidavit without saying, I hereby say, that
- 11 that would be a clear Confrontation Clause
- 12 violation?
- 13 MR. SANTHANAM: Yes. That's -- that's
- 14 the Court's holdings in Melendez-Diaz and
- 15 Bullcoming.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. So the
- fiction of 703 that somehow you read somebody
- 18 else's notes, procedures, conclusions -- I think
- 19 this is your argument, isn't it?
- MR. SANTHANAM: Yes, it is.
- 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Is just that,
- 22 correct?
- MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct,
- 24 Justice Sotomayor.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: It's a fiction --

| 1 | JUSTICE SUTUMATOR: So they gave the |
|----|--|
| 2 | rule |
| 3 | JUSTICE ALITO: Go ahead. |
| 4 | JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: they gave the |
| 5 | game away according to you when they said this |
| 6 | was testimonial, correct? |
| 7 | MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct. |
| 8 | JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Because, once you |
| 9 | just give someone else's testimony and it is the |
| 10 | only basis for your opinion, then it's really |
| 11 | you being a conduit. |
| 12 | It's the policeman getting up at the |
| 13 | Star Chamber and reading your notes and saying: |
| 14 | This guy is guilty because of that. Put this |
| 15 | guy away because he did all these things. |
| 16 | That's what a policeman did in the |
| 17 | Star Chamber, right? |
| 18 | MR. SANTHANAM: That that's |
| 19 | correct, Justice Sotomayor. And and to to |
| 20 | carry your your hypothetical for forward, |
| 21 | we can imagine a scenario where a police officer |
| 22 | goes to a crime scene and records notes of his |
| 23 | or her observations at the crime scene, even |
| 24 | generates an affidavit summarizing what he or |
| 25 | she had observed. |

- 1 Now, under this Court's precedent, it 2 would be a violation of the confrontation right 3 if the report were introduced without confrontation. It would be a confrontation 4 violation if the notes are introduced without 5 6 confrontation. 7 JUSTICE BARRETT: Why would that be? Let's imagine that he takes the notes, but he 8 9 never actually produces the affidavit. I -- I think it depends how close -- I mean, if -- if 10 11 you stretch out primary purpose tests too far, 12 then it covers every antecedent. 13 I mean, if he's just taking notes, 14 like window was open, footprint was outside, I 15 mean, that's not created as a substitute for 16 trial testimony anyway. MR. SANTHANAM: Well, a -- a couple of 17 18 answers, Justice Barrett. In that hypothetical
- 22 would be improper.

 23 But, to answer your -- Your Honor's -
 24 JUSTICE BARRETT: But it has to be the

 25 notes, right? The notes then would be the --

of the police officer, we would also submit that

if a second police officer took the stand and --

and recited statements from the notes, that too

19

20

- 1 the statement that mattered, the testimonial
- 2 statement on the notes?
- 3 MR. SANTHANAM: That is -- that is
- 4 correct. And -- and the -- if -- there
- 5 shouldn't be a distinction drawn in this case
- 6 between the notes and the report.
- 7 JUSTICE BARRETT: Not this case. You
- 8 -- you said -- I -- I'm taking your
- 9 hypothetical. And you said it wouldn't be any
- 10 different if a police officer went to the scene
- and jotted some notes down, that there would be
- 12 no functional difference between the notes and
- 13 the affidavit.
- 14 That doesn't seem right to me, so I'm
- 15 wondering why.
- 16 MR. SANTHANAM: The -- the reason is
- is that the police officer's recording those
- 18 notes, depending on the circumstances, for a
- 19 primary evidentiary purpose, that, you know,
- 20 this -- these statements could later be used at
- 21 trial --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: But everything --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, that --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: -- in an
- 25 investigation is done for the purpose of

- 1 establishing a case against the defendant. So
- 2 you're saying everything, everything you jot
- 3 down?
- 4 MR. SANTHANAM: Well, not everything.
- 5 It has to be a primary purpose, right?
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well --
- 7 MR. SANTHANAM: So, if the police
- 8 officer, as -- as the Court has addressed in
- 9 past cases like Davis, Hammon, Bryant, Clark --
- 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: He jots it down for
- 11 himself. He's never intending to produce it to
- 12 anyone. He jots it down for himself because,
- when he goes back and thinks about the case and
- thinks about who he's going to target, he wants
- to have his notes there about what the scene
- 16 looked like.
- 17 MR. SANTHANAM: Right. And -- and if
- we can imagine how that would translate here to
- 19 the scenario of a forensic examiner.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: No, no, no, no, no.
- MR. SANTHANAM: Yeah.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Stick with the
- 23 hypothetical.
- MR. SANTHANAM: Right. From our
- 25 perspective, that would be testimonial because

- 1 the police officer is going there with a
- 2 objective, primary purpose of recording
- 3 observations at a crime scene knowing that that
- 4 will be --
- 5 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: On the -- on the
- 6 --
- 7 JUSTICE BARRETT: How --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: But it must depend on
- 9 the facts, right? I mean, it must depend on the
- 10 facts as to whether the notes are sufficiently
- 11 closely tied to the report to fall within the
- 12 same umbrella or not. I mean, there are some
- notes that wouldn't and some notes that would.
- 14 MR. SANTHANAM: I -- I agree,
- 15 Justice Kagan.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: But you just said
- the notes in that hypothetical would under your
- 18 test.
- MR. SANTHANAM: Well, I -- yeah,
- 20 Justice Barrett, I'm assuming in that
- 21 hypothetical that the notes were prepared in
- 22 conjunction knowing that an affidavit would be
- 23 prepared.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I just --
- 25 JUSTICE BARRETT: That -- that wasn't

2.2

- 1 the hypothetical I gave you, though. I said it
- 2 was just for himself and he wanted to take it
- 3 back as he thought about who to target in this
- 4 investigation, and you said that would be
- 5 testimonial.
- 6 MR. SANTHANAM: Yeah. From -- from --
- 7 from our perspective, that -- there's a link
- 8 there between their notes and the report if it
- 9 --
- 10 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: On the question of
- 11 what is testimonial, I guess one question I
- have, which goes back a ways, is what tests to
- 13 apply. And so I just have a question, why
- shouldn't we adopt the test that Justice Thomas
- has been advocating in his opinions since White,
- 16 and under Justice Thomas's test, under that test
- about formality and solemnity, why don't you
- 18 lose here?
- 19 MR. SANTHANAM: Well, first off, as we
- 20 understand Justice Thomas's opinions in -- in
- 21 White, in Williams and -- and Clark, the
- 22 circumstances matter. It's -- it doesn't have
- 23 to be that the statements are necessarily in a
- 24 formalized affidavit or deposition testimony.
- 25 The circumstances matter.

1 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Why shouldn't we 2 adopt that test was the first question. 3 MR. SANTHANAM: Because I think it strikes too narrowly. It would preclude the 4 Sixth Amendment from applying to a vast swath of 5 6 the types of problems that inspired the 7 Confrontation Clause to begin with. It -- it would -- it would provide a means for 8 9 prosecutors to come up with ways to introduce 10 statements simply by making things less formal, 11 and they -- you know, they don't necessarily 12 have to do it in a way that is deceptive. They could enact policies where everything is done 13 14 instead of just --15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: It seems like it 16 would be more predictable, more easily applied 17 and, therefore, helpful in that respect. Do you 18 agree with that? 19 MR. SANTHANAM: It certainly would 20 draw brighter lines. I -- I agree with that. But, at the end of the day, it strikes too 21 2.2 narrowly for the protections that are intended 23 by the Sixth Amendment Confrontation Clause. JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And under that 24 25 test, suppose that test, why do you win here?

2.4

- 1 MR. SANTHANAM: Right. In the -- in 2 this case, the notes, the report, however you 3 want to consider them, they were created as part of a formalized process, a formalized dialogue, 4 if you may. The prosecuting attorney, the 5 6 State's attorney, coordinated with Rast on her 7 testing. She prepared her statements as part of a formalized process at a crime lab that 8 9 resulted in her typewriting nine pages of 10 reports, three pages -- of notes, three pages of a report, all on DPS letterhead. These things 11 12 were served. These weren't handwritten notes on 13 scrap pieces of paper. They were served as part 14 of discovery in this case to prove facts.
- reflect a level of formality and solemn -solemnity that we feel meets the -- whatever
 tests members of this Court have -- have
 articulated.

All of those circumstances together

- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: This -- in this
 report, this is very close to Bullcoming, isn't
 it?
- 23 MR. SANTHANAM: Our view is that it 24 is.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And not to

- 1 Williams. Williams, the report wasn't signed,
- 2 wasn't admitted into evidence, nothing else,
- 3 correct?
- 4 MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct.
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Here, like in
- 6 Bullcoming, which Justice Thomas signed onto, it
- 7 was signed, even though it wasn't an affidavit
- 8 in its traditional sense?
- 9 MR. SANTHANAM: The report was signed.
- 10 That's correct.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And the notes --
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Not the notes,
- 13 though.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- here were
- 15 attached to that report?
- MR. SANTHANAM: Pardon me?
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And the notes here
- were attached to that?
- 19 MR. SANTHANAM: Yes. The notes
- 20 essentially were an appendix to the report that
- 21 Rast prepared. She --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: There might be an
- argument that we don't really know when they
- 24 were appended, but that's -- they -- that's how
- 25 they were introduced.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 2 counsel. 3 Justice Thomas, anything further? Justice Alito? 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, just to follow 5 6 up on your answer to something that Justice 7 Sotomayor asked, I thought that when -- when we 8 finished our little questioning that you -- you 9 were saying that Rule 403 -- I'm sorry -- 703 10 created a problem under the Confrontation 11 Clause, but do you want to go further than that 12 and say that experts not only can't answer 13 hypothetical questions but also that they can't 14 take into account any facts that are not proved 15 at trial in their presence? 16 MR. SANTHANAM: I -- I don't think we 17 would go that far. So I -- I think, under Rule 703, a hypothetical question is fine so long as 18 19 you're not saying -- reciting Rast's statements that I did X, got X, Y -- Y results. I think 20 21 that's fine. 2.2 Where, again, the problem arises is 23 when someone like Longoni takes the stand and --24 and provides those statements.

JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. You're not

2.7

- 1 making the argument that that's what the common
- 2 -- that was the state of the common law in 1791
- and, therefore, that's what the Confrontation
- 4 Clause incorporates? You're not making that
- 5 argument?
- 6 MR. SANTHANAM: We're not making that
- 7 argument, but also we --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Okay.
- 9 MR. SANTHANAM: -- we ought to be
- 10 mindful that the notion that you can introduce a
- 11 statement through an expert under Rule 703 also
- 12 wasn't around at the time.
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. Thank you.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 15 Sotomayor?
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: There's a circuit
- 17 split on two separate questions. The first is
- 18 what test exists for an out-of-court statement
- 19 to be testimonial. That's Justice Thomas's
- 20 position and the one that Justice Kavanaugh
- 21 asked you about, does it have to be sworn and
- 22 signed, sworn how and signed, et cetera, et
- 23 cetera.
- 24 Here, I understand Arizona conceded
- 25 that. I know in its brief it raises that

- 1 question. But the Question Presented,
- 2 everything, centers around that concession that
- 3 it was testimonial, right?
- 4 MR. SANTHANAM: Well, the State of
- 5 Arizona, the State did not challenge whether any
- 6 of these statements were testimonial in the
- 7 proceedings below. That's correct.
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So the question
- 9 before us is whether, under the facts of this
- 10 case, the statements were offered for the truth?
- 11 MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's a separate
- 13 question, and that's the second part of the
- 14 split among the circuits, right?
- MR. SANTHANAM: That is correct,
- 16 Justice Sotomayor. And, you know, to the extent
- 17 that there is a consensus on the Court, we do
- 18 think the Court should decide the full issue
- 19 here and condemn this practice of, you know,
- 20 using a substitute expert to convey testimonial
- 21 statements. But the Court may, for prudential
- reasons, decide to just write an opinion that's
- 23 narrower.
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Just on the second
- 25 split, which is --

| 1 | MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct. |
|----|--|
| 2 | JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: whether this is |
| 3 | testimonial the way it was done? |
| 4 | MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct. |
| 5 | JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. |
| 6 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan? |
| 7 | Justice Gorsuch? |
| 8 | Justice Kavanaugh? |
| 9 | Justice Barrett? |
| 10 | Justice Jackson? |
| 11 | JUSTICE JACKSON: Good morning. Can I |
| 12 | just I want to give you an opportunity to |
| 13 | speak to the administrative burden point. As I |
| 14 | read some of the arguments on the other side, |
| 15 | there's a concern about criminal defendants |
| 16 | challenging every piece of forensic evidence and |
| 17 | bringing the criminal justice system to a halt |
| 18 | under your rule. |
| 19 | Are they right about that? And if |
| 20 | if not, why not? |
| 21 | MR. SANTHANAM: So we respond with, |
| 22 | you know, that there are three significant |
| 23 | practical limitations on the confrontation right |
| 24 | that would prevent the sorts of outreach that |
| 25 | the State and the United States complain of |

1 The first is that you'd have to deal 2 with statements. Most of what experts deal with are physical evidence, photographs, things found 3 at a crime scene. And we're not suggesting that 4 an expert can't rely on that simply because 5 someone else collected that physical evidence. 6 7 The second is, is that the -- even if a statement is involved, it has to be 8 testimonial. So, as this Court has recognized 9 in Melendez-Diaz, Bullcoming, statements that 10 11 are made in a hospital context, for example, for 12 treatment purposes aren't testimonial. 13 Similarly, most statements in a -- in the course of the business that isn't directed to 14 15 generating evidence isn't going to be 16 testimonial. And experts can rely on all of 17 that. 18 And then, third, I think very critically, the State, the prosecution does not 19 20 have to put on every statement to prove its 21 case. And to kind of provide an example here 2.2 with this case, what -- you know, again, what 23 the State could have done was simply have 24 Longoni testify in a hypothetical, abstract 25 fashion that he reviewed certain data and that's

- 1 consistent with the -- the findings of -- that
- 2 this is a illicit drug.
- But they went further than that. They
- 4 had Longoni actually recount, recite statements
- 5 saying Rast did X, she used Y procedures, and
- 6 she reached Z results. And that, in our sense,
- 7 underscores the truth of the matter asserted.
- 8 That is the reason that they are presenting it,
- 9 because without --
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: And is it your
- 11 position as well that that really raises the
- 12 Confrontation Clause problem? Because to what
- 13 extent could a defendant actually challenge
- 14 those statements --
- MR. SANTHANAM: Yes.
- 16 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- that she did X or
- 17 Y, because the person who's testifying doesn't
- 18 know. He's just looking at the report that says
- 19 that.
- MR. SANTHANAM: That's correct,
- 21 Justice Jackson.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 24 counsel.
- 25 Mr. Feigin?

| 1 | ORAL ARGUMENT OF ERIC J. FEIGIN |
|------------|--|
| 2 | FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE, |
| 3 | SUPPORTING NEITHER PARTY |
| 4 | MR. FEIGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chief |
| 5 | Justice, and may it please the Court: |
| 6 | We agree with Petitioner that |
| 7 | Longoni's testimony here may have gone too far. |
| 8 | Our principal interest is in making clear that |
| 9 | careful application of the federal rules can |
| LO | avoid confrontation concerns. |
| L1 | Two main points on that. Number one |
| L2 | is that there's no confrontation problem when ar |
| L3 | expert comes up and testifies to the expert's |
| L 4 | bare fact of the bottom-line conclusion that the |
| L5 | expert's drawn, like these are drugs. The |
| L6 | problem comes in when evidence surrounding that |
| L7 | so-called basis evidence or methodology evidence |
| L8 | comes in. |
| L9 | The second point is that methodology |
| 20 | evidence can sometimes come in subject to |
| 21 | careful limiting instructions in some |
| 22 | appropriate cases. |
| 23 | It's a little bit hard for me to tell, |
| 24 | admittedly, but I think Petitioner largely |
| 25 | agrees with us on the first point and to some |

- 1 degree on the second point. So I think the
- 2 Court can resolve this case narrowly without
- 3 suggesting that we need Justice Pryor --
- 4 Breyer's parade of 13 witnesses every time we
- 5 want to introduce a DNA match.
- 6 JUSTICE THOMAS: Do you think that
- 7 Ms. Rast's notes are testimonial?
- 8 MR. FEIGIN: So I'd like to -- Justice
- 9 Thomas, I think it's very important there to
- 10 break this into pieces. There are actually
- 11 three different pieces of Rast's materials in
- 12 the appendix, and we think that you could
- potentially go different directions with each of
- them, and they kind of match how we do it in the
- 15 federal system as well.
- So there is an attested report on --
- or a close to, you know, signed report on
- 18 stationery that's three pages long. That may
- 19 well be testimonial.
- 20 There are some further lab notes about
- 21 -- they aren't quite notes, but they're a little
- 22 more data about what the material -- how the
- 23 material was tested and so forth. Those may or
- 24 may not be testimonial. I'd need to know more
- about exactly how they were prepared and for

- 1 what purpose. They may not be testimonial if
- 2 all that was intended to go into court is that
- 3 one report I mentioned earlier, which is like
- 4 the first three or four pages of the Pet. App.
- 5 And then, third, you have kind of just
- 6 Rast's notes, and, by and large, we think those
- 7 probably aren't testimonial. In particular,
- 8 they contain materials the Petitioner appears to
- 9 agree don't implicate the Confrontation Clause,
- 10 like the graphs from the gas chromatographer
- 11 mass spectrometry machine.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: So why do you --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And so there
- 14 -- there are a lot -- so there are a lot of
- "mays" and "probablys" in your presentation this
- 16 morning and there were in your brief as well.
- 17 You said -- began by saying you agree with
- 18 Petitioner that, you know, that may have gone
- 19 too far.
- 20 Petitioner's position's actually a
- 21 little more than that. They think it did go too
- 22 far. What -- what is the basis of your
- 23 reservation?
- 24 MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I think
- 25 there is some dispute between the parties as to

- 1 how the jury would have understood this, the
- 2 degree to which Rast may have been testifying --
- 3 I'm sorry, Longoni may have been testifying sort
- 4 of verbatim from Rast's notes or how well the
- 5 jury might have understood that to be the case.
- 6 And we're not really taking a position on any of
- 7 that.
- 8 All -- all that said, you know, if the
- 9 Court wanted to narrowly reverse this case, we
- 10 think this is a much easier case than a case
- 11 that we think would follow scrupulously under
- 12 the federal rules.
- And we think, under the federal rules,
- 14 you could have done something like this in -- in
- 15 a case like this. There'd -- there'd be
- 16 basically three steps to it. Longoni testifies
- 17 to his independent conclusion that these
- 18 materials are drugs, saying that he reviewed the
- 19 GCMS data that even Petitioner agrees is not
- 20 testimonial.
- 21 Second, there'd need to be some chain
- 22 of custody evidence that could come in as it did
- in this case from Longoni himself based on his
- 24 personal familiarity with the procedures at the
- lab that would at least supply circumstantial

- 1 evidence that connected up the bottom-line
- 2 conclusion he's drawing with the case. And
- 3 then, at that point, as you pointed out, Mr.
- 4 Chief Justice, the defense could just savage him
- 5 for not having an -- an appropriate basis here.
- But we think those two things would at
- 7 least get you over the line to sufficiency,
- 8 which is a -- in any event, a state law or -- or
- 9 federal law evidence issue, and it wouldn't
- 10 present any confrontation concerns because, even
- if you gave the jury a not for the truth of the
- matter instruction in a case like that, I think
- 13 the jury would be very confused.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 15 counsel.
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, what am I not
- 17 considering?
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: But if -- if I can
- 20 understand, Mr. Feigin, your position and why it
- is that you're not supporting the State as you
- 22 do in most cases. I'm -- I'm -- I'm just going
- 23 to read you a -- a portion of the testimony and
- 24 you tell me whether this is appropriate or not
- and, you know, whether -- oh, that -- that's

- fine or no, that's the reason why we're not
- 2 supporting the State as we usually do.
- 3 So this is after Mr. Longoni gets up
- 4 and they establish that he's reviewed the -- the
- 5 Rast report and also the Rast notes. So the --
- 6 the prosecutor says: Did you notice whether the
- 7 policies and practices that you've just
- 8 described were followed? Because he's also
- 9 described the lab's policies and practices.
- 10 And he says: Yes.
- 11 Prosecutor: Were they followed?
- 12 Yes.
- From your review of the lab notes in
- 14 this case, can you tell me what scientific
- method was used to analyze Item 26?
- 16 Answer: Yes. The microscopic
- 17 examination and the chemical color test were
- 18 used.
- 19 Ouestion: That was done in this case?
- 20 Answer: Yes, it was.
- 21 Question: Was there a blank done to
- 22 prevent contamination?
- Answer: According to the notes, yes.
- Now is that the kind of thing that you
- 25 think there's no other -- that there's nothing

- 1 else going on there than the truth of the matter
- 2 asserted?
- 3 MR. FEIGIN: So, for that, Justice
- 4 Kagan, I'm going to go with Option B. That is
- 5 why we are not supporting the State as we
- 6 usually would. But I'd emphasize that if there
- 7 were more --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: Because explain that a
- 9 little bit further. I mean, get to the second
- 10 part of your answer. I don't mean to cut you
- off. But that is why you're not on the other
- 12 side, because what?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, so, as I was
- explaining in response to the Chief Justice, we
- do think that you could introduce circumstantial
- 16 evidence about what procedures and tests might
- 17 have -- were likely run in a particular case by
- just saying every time we get something that we
- 19 think might be methamphetamine --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, I understand
- 21 that, but I was asking --
- MR. FEIGIN: They went much further
- 23 here, and we don't think that's the way this
- 24 should come in, and that's not how we would try
- to introduce it in federal court or, if we did,

- we'd have someone who could testify from
- 2 personal knowledge to that.
- There, you might have a problem, and
- 4 that's not even the kind of thing we necessarily
- 5 think you could get in not for the truth of the
- 6 matter asserted.
- 7 The kinds of things you might be able
- 8 to get in not for the truth of the matter
- 9 asserted, to take a couple of -- of simpler
- 10 conceptual examples, are, number one, you could
- imagine some ballistics evidence where one
- 12 expert does it by taking some measurements and
- 13 calculating based on math and another expert
- sets up some sort of experimental setup.
- The jury might not be able to
- 16 understand the -- either the math or the
- experimental physics, but they might have some
- intuition as to which methodology they thought
- 19 was more reliable.
- 20 Another example might be a case where
- 21 both the --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Feigin, I'm
- 23 sorry to interrupt you, but --
- MR. FEIGIN: I'm sorry. No, no.
- 25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- I just want to --

1 MR. FEIGIN: You have every right, 2 Justice Gorsuch. 3 (Laughter.) JUSTICE GORSUCH: Whether I have a 4 right or not, I'm still sorry. But, before you 5 go on, I just wanted to make sure I understood 6 7 your answer to Justice Kagan. And I -- I think the distinction 8 9 you're drawing -- and I just think this -- is, 10 on the one hand, if the expert had gotten up and 11 said industry standards or forensic standards 12 require these tests and assuming they were done, 13 then, yes, the -- I believe this was a controlled substance. Permissible. 14 15 I hear that more or less as what 16 you're saying you want to reserve and make sure 17 is possible versus saying, Ms. Rast ran these 18 tests, Ms. Rast found that they -- they meet the 19 criteria, and, therefore, I believe they are controlled substances. 20 Is that a fair distinction that you're 21 2.2 -- is that a fair understanding of the 23 distinction you're drawing with Justice Kagan? MR. FEIGIN: Yes, if -- I -- I 24 25 think that is basically fair. If I could just

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1
      qualify it in slightly --
 2
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Sure.
 3
               MR. FEIGIN: -- two ways? I think the
 4
     problem with the second -- with the second one
 5
      is simply testifying that Rast did something.
 6
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Did these things,
7
     yes.
               MR. FEIGIN: And as to the first one,
 8
      I'd just add on something -- I think the expert
 9
10
      could testify or someone else could provide this
11
      testimony that not only do forensic standards
12
     require this, but our lab is accredited, our
13
      accreditation requires it, this is what we
14
      invariably do.
15
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Based on his
16
     personal knowledge?
17
               MR. FEIGIN: Based on his personal
18
     knowledge of what the lab does.
19
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: So it's either
20
     personal knowledge, an industry standard, or a
21
     hypothetical would be all okay. The line is
22
      saying, I -- I am telling -- I am sitting here
```

23

24

25

that?

telling you what Ms. Rast did for the truth of

MR. FEIGIN: That's correct, Your

42.

- 1 Honor.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right. Perfect.
- 3 MR. FEIGIN: But we do think that the
- 4 former evidence would be sufficient under the
- 5 federal rules --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Right.
- 7 MR. FEIGIN: -- because it's evidence
- 8 that --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I just wanted to
- 10 make sure --
- 11 MR. FEIGIN: Yeah.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- I understood the
- 13 distinction. I'm sorry for interrupting.
- 14 Perhaps when I --
- 15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I -- can I
- 16 take you -- oh, I won't.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 18 Thank you, counsel.
- 19 Justice Thomas?
- Justice Sotomayor?
- 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's just a
- follow-up at the end of the questioning of
- 23 Petitioner's counsel.
- I understand that only about 3 percent
- of criminal drug cases ever go to trial?

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MR. FEIGIN: I think that's true.
1
 2
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Generous actually?
               MR. FEIGIN: I think that's true of
 3
     most federal trials, yes, Your Honor.
 4
 5
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So most -- most
 6
     people -- most cases go by plea and you don't
7
     need an expert at all, correct?
               MR. FEIGIN: I don't think that's
8
9
      quite correct, Your Honor, because, of course,
10
     we don't know when they're going to plead, and
11
     we've had cases where we get all the witnesses
12
     lined up that we need --
13
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Absolutely. But
14
15
               MR. FEIGIN: -- and they plead at the
16
     last minute. And they have every right. And I
17
     don't contest the --
18
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But we're still
19
     talking --
               MR. FEIGIN: Yeah.
20
21
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- I mean --
22
               MR. FEIGIN: Sorry.
23
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the statistic
24
     is at least 85 percent are pleas, correct?
25
               MR. FEIGIN: Well --
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1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: California has the 2 rule that Petitioner wants. Are you aware of 3 some massive problem in California with --4 MR. FEIGIN: Well, Your Honor, I don't 5 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the prosecution 7 being able to prove its case? MR. FEIGIN: I don't think they have a 8 9 rule that either precludes an independent expert 10 from -- an independent reviewer from testifying 11 or a -- a rule that requires a parade of 12 witnesses. 13 And you don't have to take my word for it. You can look --14 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, that's --16 MR. FEIGIN: -- at the Alameda PD 17 brief --18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mm-hmm. 19 MR. FEIGIN: -- which just describes 20 the California rule as really going to the kind of basis evidence that I've been talking about 21 22 today that may or may not be problematic. 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Then I phrased the 24 question wrong. California follows the rule as you understand it and we don't have a parade of 25

- 1 witnesses, correct?
- 2 MR. FEIGIN: I think California may
- 3 follow a somewhat stricter rule than the one
- 4 we'd urge in the federal courts, but they don't
- 5 go all the way to a point where I -- I don't
- 6 even think Petitioner's urging the Court to go,
- 7 but they really don't go all the way to a rule
- 8 that says this kind of thing is out.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Feigin, my
- 10 bottom line --
- 11 MR. FEIGIN: Yeah.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- is the parade
- of horribles is not happening.
- MR. FEIGIN: The parade of horribles
- 15 --
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You paint it as
- 17 you --
- 18 MR. FEIGIN: -- is not happening, but
- if this Court were to suggest to us that -- or
- 20 to suggest to the lower courts either that you
- 21 can't have even a "substitute expert" who, to be
- 22 clear, is doing the exact same thing a reviewer,
- a second reviewer at the time would be doing, or
- if the Court were to suggest that we really do
- 25 need a parade of witnesses in these cases, I

- 1 think it would get substantially worse, not
- 2 necessarily because the cases would go to trial
- 3 but because defendants -- and I -- I don't
- 4 begrudge them this -- would have every right to
- 5 put us to our proof, see if we can actually come
- 6 up with the 13 witnesses we need at once and
- 7 only then deciding to plead. And I -- I think
- 8 it --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. You --
- 10 MR. FEIGIN: -- there would be
- 11 agencies --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- want to qualify
- 13 everything.
- MR. FEIGIN: Yeah.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You've answered
- 16 the question.
- 17 MR. FEIGIN: Thank you.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: No.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 21 Gorsuch?
- Justice --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I'm -- I'm
- 24 sorry, Chief.
- I did interrupt you. You wanted to go

- 1 say something else entirely. Here's your shot,
- 2 if you can still remember.
- 3 MR. FEIGIN: Thank you, Justice
- 4 Gorsuch. I believe, if -- if I recall
- 5 correctly -- I'm tempted to go any number of
- 6 directions with this, but --
- 7 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, no.
- 9 MR. FEIGIN: I believe, when I was
- 10 interrupted --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That is not -- that
- is not the invitation I gave you, Mr. Feigin.
- 13 (Laughter.)
- MR. FEIGIN: Understanding what you're
- 15 asking me, I believe I was in the middle of
- 16 giving a second example of methodology evidence
- that a jury might be able to separate -- easily
- 18 separate out from any -- for truth purpose.
- 19 And the -- the second -- the second
- one would be where, for example, both sides
- 21 might be relying on the same piece of evidence,
- and one side thinks it proves one thing and the
- other side thinks it proves another thing.
- 24 They're both applying the same -- you know,
- 25 they're both looking at the same X-ray. One

- 1 radiologist thinks the carcinoma was caused by
- 2 this. The other thinks it was caused by this.
- 3 And I would emphasize that under the
- 4 federal rules, you are entitled under Rule 105
- 5 to a limiting instruction that it not be used
- for the truth, and we presume that juries follow
- 7 those instructions.
- 8 Thank you, Justice Gorsuch.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, thank you.
- 10 MR. FEIGIN: I appreciate it.
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Appreciate it.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 13 Kavanaugh?
- 14 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Can I take you
- 15 back to your answers to Justice Thomas at the
- 16 beginning about whether it's testimonial? What
- 17 test were you applying?
- 18 MR. FEIGIN: There, I was applying
- 19 what I think the Court has announced as its
- 20 test, which is the primary purpose of creating
- 21 an out-of-court substitute for trial testimony.
- 22 I think that's basically a direct quote from
- 23 Bryant.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Do you have a
- 25 position on whether the test that Justice Thomas

- 1 articulated in Williams versus primary purpose
- 2 is more consistent with the constitutional --
- 3 Constitution or better in application?
- 4 MR. FEIGIN: We don't have one that
- 5 we're -- we don't have a position that we're
- 6 presenting today because that hasn't really been
- 7 the focus of the case. I think one thing on
- 8 remand would be whether the testimoniality of
- 9 the statements is still open to question.
- But, as between the two of them, you
- 11 know, if the Court wanted to open that up again
- or to adopt Justice Thomas's test, we -- we
- wouldn't oppose it doing that. We just haven't,
- 14 as we admittedly might sometimes do, exceeded
- our focused amicus by suggesting the Court take
- this case as an opportunity to do so.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 19 Barrett?
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Mr. Feigin, you said
- 21 at one point, I can't remember in response to
- 22 who, perhaps Justice Thomas, that Rast's notes
- 23 came in a couple of different categories and you
- 24 stepped through them -- maybe it was Justice
- 25 Thomas -- and you stepped through them and you

- 1 said some might be testimonial, et cetera. You
- 2 would need to know more, I think you said, about
- 3 the circumstances under which they were
- 4 prepared.
- 5 Could you say a little bit more about
- 6 that? Is that just the application? I guess I
- 7 just want to make sure -- let's say that I think
- 8 --
- 9 MR. FEIGIN: Sure.
- 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- they're all being
- introduced for their truth. Are you saying that
- 12 you would need more information to figure out
- whether they were created with the primary
- 14 purpose of creating a substitute for trial
- 15 testimony?
- 16 MR. FEIGIN: That's -- that's right,
- 17 Justice Barrett, and let me -- maybe I can go a
- 18 little bit further and explain that. The sort
- of bare report of these are drugs, this was the
- 20 weight, I'm signing this, this is on our
- 21 stationery, to the extent that was created with
- 22 an understanding that it go into court as
- opposed to, I don't know, some, like, national
- 24 security purpose or something like that, I mean,
- 25 that's probably going to be testimonial.

| Τ. | JUSTICE BARRETT: Yean. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. FEIGIN: Then you have these two |
| 3 | other pieces of it. One is just kind of a |
| 4 | further explication of what the expert did, and |
| 5 | then the other is what we might call raw data. |
| 6 | We think the raw data is very unlikely |
| 7 | to be testimonial. And the middle kind of, you |
| 8 | know, here's a little more detail could or could |
| 9 | not be. And the things you might want to know |
| 10 | are, number one, was this just being written |
| 11 | down because of lab procedures or to document it |
| 12 | for someone else or for some later internal |
| 13 | review as opposed to for the purpose of it ever |
| 14 | coming into court. |
| 15 | And another one just might be, what do |
| 16 | the accreditation requirements require? |
| 17 | Because, for a lot of forensic science, there |
| 18 | are accreditation requirements that require that |
| 19 | notes be notes be gathered and and made so |
| 20 | that they can do, for example, reviews of |
| 21 | whether you're following your accreditation |
| 22 | provisions. |
| 23 | JUSTICE BARRETT: So it sounds like |
| 24 | your answer would be different. You know, |
| 25 | Petitioner said in in response to the |

- 1 hypothetical he raised about a police officer
- 2 taking notes at the scene of the crime that
- 3 because those would be made with the primary
- 4 purpose of creating evidence or establishing a
- fact material to the case, that those would be
- 6 testimonial. It sounds like, under your
- 7 definition and your approach to Rast's notes,
- 8 you would disagree with that?
- 9 MR. FEIGIN: Well, I -- I would agree
- 10 with Justice Kagan that it would depend on the
- 11 facts and circumstances under which the
- 12 notes were taken.
- 13 JUSTICE BARRETT: Right, but the facts
- and circumstances being he's jotting notes down
- that he's not doing because he anticipates
- 16 incorporating them into a later affidavit. He's
- 17 just jotting them down so that when he goes back
- and he looks, he can say, you know, here is the
- 19 lay of the land, who do I think the suspect
- 20 might be.
- I understood Petitioner to say that's
- 22 testimonial.
- MR. FEIGIN: Yeah, I think something
- that is created for an investigatory purpose, as
- 25 opposed to with a focus on court, may well be --

- 1 not be testimonial.
- 2 JUSTICE BARRETT: And so, in your
- 3 response to me about Rast's notes, it's kind of
- 4 like the further away the notes get from the
- 5 report she was creating, that's some evidence or
- 6 a factor to take into account in determining
- 7 whether they were created for the primary
- 8 purpose of being a substitute for testimony?
- 9 MR. FEIGIN: I think that's a very
- 10 important factor, Your Honor, because
- 11 particularly -- I mean, there's admittedly a
- 12 little bit of a chicken-and-egg thing going on
- 13 here with the Court's ruling versus how I'm
- 14 answering this question --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Right.
- 16 MR. FEIGIN: -- because I think, you
- 17 know, a lot of experts are fairly likely to be
- 18 aware of how the Court is construing these
- 19 things, but to the extent that you have what you
- 20 have in basically every case, no scientist is an
- 21 island, some collaborative lab work, and I'm
- 22 just preparing some work for you to look at, and
- 23 then you're kind of running the show, I -- I --
- I don't know that what I'm preparing for you are
- 25 just careful documentation in accord with

- 1 accreditation or internal review procedures. I
- 2 don't think that's going to be testimonial.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Thank you,
- 4 Mr. Feigin.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 6 Jackson?
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: So I found Justice
- 8 Gorsuch's question very, very helpful, and I'm
- 9 just trying to bear down again on the
- 10 government's position about methodology --
- 11 methodological evidence, as you've articulated
- 12 it.
- So I think I hear you saying that when
- an expert testifies in general about, as -- as
- Justice Gorsuch said, you know, industry
- standard, this is the way this kind of testing
- 17 is ordinarily done, this is from my own personal
- 18 knowledge how the methodology is typically taken
- 19 care of in these situations, that that could be
- 20 okay and no Confrontation Clause problem but
- 21 that the problem arises, I guess in this case,
- 22 when the expert's testimony actually relies on
- 23 the statements in this lab report about what was
- done to this evidence and sort of vouches for
- 25 that, right?

- 1 When the expert says not this is the
- 2 way things are normally tested and I'm telling
- 3 you that from my expert view, but in this
- 4 particular case, the evidence that was collected
- 5 was tested in a certain way, I'm assuming that
- 6 that's actually true and now my testimony is X
- 7 on the basis of that assumption.
- 8 Is it the government's view that that
- 9 is not being offered for truth or it is in the
- 10 latter scenario?
- 11 MR. FEIGIN: Well, let me just make
- one thing clear on your first scenario.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes.
- MR. FEIGIN: The general evidence that
- the witness could testify about through personal
- knowledge, essentially, they're a fact witness
- on this, it doesn't even need to be the same
- 18 expert, could be very specific to this lab as
- 19 well. It doesn't just --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes, yes.
- 21 MR. FEIGIN: -- have to be about
- 22 accreditation.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: It doesn't have to,
- 24 but -- but -- but it's not specific to the
- testing of this evidence necessarily. That's

- 1 the distinction I'm trying to make.
- 2 MR. FEIGIN: Okay. And then the -- as
- 3 to the second, I guess I would -- that -- there
- 4 were a couple of different pieces in there. One
- 5 would be, if you really just had testimony like
- 6 this was done in this case, I know it, that
- 7 would be -- we -- we don't -- we're not
- 8 arguing that that would be permissible.
- 9 If -- depending on exactly how it --
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: And that's because
- 11 why?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, there, you're
- testing something outside the personal
- 14 knowledge. You really are just repeating the
- 15 statement -- in effect repeating the substance
- of out-of-court statements.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: And offering it for
- its truth, right? Because you're assuming that
- 19 it actually was done in that way, in the way
- that you're testifying.
- 21 MR. FEIGIN: So where the statement is
- to the jury, you know, Expert B, who is not me
- and you're not hearing from, did these tests,
- 24 that's a problem -- that's problematic.
- I think there might be -- I would

- 1 reserve, Justice Jackson, just depending on how
- 2 it comes in as trial -- at trial and how it
- 3 actually winds up being shaped and what kind of
- 4 limitations there are on it, something like the
- 5 notes purported to say that these tests were run
- 6 in this case, I have no reason to believe
- 7 otherwise and I have proceeded on that
- 8 assumption, that that --
- 9 JUSTICE JACKSON: Why is that --
- 10 and -- and your objection or the reason why you
- 11 think that's okay is because why?
- MR. FEIGIN: Well, there, the expert
- is making clear that the expert is not making
- 14 this direct testimony about what, in fact,
- 15 happened in the case. I think it may well in
- 16 that -- those circumstances be a lot closer to
- 17 the circumstantial evidence. And it's -- it
- 18 shows what --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: But isn't he still
- offering it for truth to the extent that he's
- 21 assuming that it is -- that it did happen in
- that way?
- 23 MR. FEIGIN: I think, in that
- 24 circumstance, all the expert's offering for the
- 25 truth is that the expert's assuming it.

1 I think, to get back to the Chief 2 Justice's point that these people can be savaged 3 on cross-examination, you'd say you're just assuming that because that's what -- because 4 that's what usually happens and that's what 5 6 purported to happen in this case, but, actually, 7 you -- you don't know for a fact that that 8 happened, do you? 9 And I think you could --10 JUSTICE JACKSON: How would a 11 defendant ever, without the lab technician, 12 actually challenge the assumption? Are you saying the Confrontation Clause doesn't speak to 13 14 the defendant's ability to challenge the 15 assumption in a meaningful way? 16 MR. FEIGIN: First of all, Your Honor, 17 I -- I -- I just want to be quite clear that we don't think that testimony has to come in in the 18 19 way I was just describing to you for the expert 20 to testify. I think the expert can testify very simply at a somewhat higher level of abstraction 21 2.2 in line with what I was --23 JUSTICE JACKSON: Right. But, if he doesn't --24 25 MR. FEIGIN: -- explaining to the

- 1 Chief Justice.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- my question is --
- 3 yeah.
- 4 MR. FEIGIN: But, if he does, then I
- 5 think where the defense gets its opportunity to
- 6 cross-examine -- and, again, nobody is actually
- 7 saying in this circumstance that the expert did
- 8 these things. The -- the -- sorry, that the
- 9 testing analyst actually did these things. The
- 10 testifying expert is simply saying, I am -- you
- 11 know, this is how we usually do it. I've
- 12 reviewed a case file that says it was done in
- 13 this case. I've no reason to disbelieve that.
- 14 But makes clear I don't personally -- I can't
- personally tell you that's exactly what happened
- 16 in this case.
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 18 MR. FEIGIN: Okay. Thank you.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 20 counsel.
- 21 Mr. Samuels.
- 22 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ALEXANDER W. SAMUELS
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
- 24 MR. SAMUELS: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 25 Justice, and may it please the Court:

| 1 | This Court has long been clear and |
|----|--|
| 2 | Petitioner I don't think disputes that evidence |
| 3 | that is not offered for the truth of the matter |
| 4 | asserted, is not offered to prove the truth of |
| 5 | the matter asserted, does not implicate the |
| 6 | Confrontation Clause. |
| 7 | Meanwhile, Arizona law has long been |
| 8 | clear that evidence offered only for the purpose |
| 9 | of explaining the basis of an expert's opinion |
| LO | is not and cannot be offered for the truth of |
| L1 | the matter asserted. |
| L2 | In a case like this, everyone agrees |
| L3 | that a testifying expert like Longoni cannot |
| L4 | serve as a mere conduit for the conclusions of a |
| L5 | testing expert like Rast. That's just not what |
| L6 | happened here, though. |
| L7 | Longoni explicitly testified that he |
| L8 | could form independent conclusions and then |
| L9 | testified that he had formed independent |
| 20 | conclusions and revealed what those conclusions |
| 21 | were. He based those conclusions on information |
| 22 | in Rast's notes and the computer-generated |
| 23 | graphs from her testing. |
| 24 | The trial judge who heard that |
| 25 | testimony thus correctly found that Longoni had |

- 1 testified to his own opinion and correctly held
- 2 that there was no Confrontation Clause
- 3 violation.
- 4 The judgment below could also be
- 5 affirmed on the independent ground that Rast's
- 6 notes were non-testimonial. That is not
- 7 something that the State has ever affirmatively
- 8 conceded in this case.
- 9 The notes, which were the source of
- 10 the statements here, were neither prepared to be
- 11 a substitute for trial testimony, nor were they
- 12 sufficiently formal or solemn to qualify as
- 13 testimonial.
- 14 The notes differ in many key ways from
- the report, and Petitioner, perhaps recognizing
- this, repeatedly tries to make the report the
- 17 focus of this Court's inquiry, but there is just
- 18 nothing in the record to support the assertion
- 19 that any statements from the report were
- 20 referenced at trial here.
- 21 The closest they get to coming to that
- 22 is they say that he recited the conclusions from
- the report. There's no indication in the record
- 24 that's what he did. He said the same words, but
- it's just a standard conclusion, it's the

- 1 standard language that a lab analyst would use
- 2 that a substance has a usable quantity of fill
- 3 in the blank.
- 4 In this way and in other ways,
- 5 Petitioner encourages the Court to look well
- 6 beyond the unique facts of this case, and he
- 7 sets his sights instead on a far-reaching new
- 8 rule without any real workable limiting
- 9 principle. We don't think the Confrontation
- 10 Clause requires the anomalous results that would
- 11 result from Petitioner's rule.
- 12 And we think this Court should decline
- 13 Petitioner's invitation to greatly expand the
- 14 reach of the Confrontation Clause, which is what
- 15 they think they -- what we think they invite.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 17 JUSTICE THOMAS: You put quite a bit
- of weight on the argument that Ms. Rast's
- 19 statements or notes were not in -- introduced
- 20 for the truth of those state -- of those notes.
- 21 But, if they were inaccurate or just flat out
- wrong, what would be the value of Mr. Longoni's
- 23 testimony?
- 24 MR. SAMUELS: We don't dispute, Your
- 25 Honor, that the value of Longoni's testimony is

- 1 very much directly related to Rast's notes and
- 2 -- and whether they are reliable or not. But we
- 3 think that's exactly what 703 gets at, which is
- 4 that the jury can use that information, the
- 5 underlying, what we've called basis evidence
- 6 here, to evaluate Longoni's opinion, but not for
- 7 other purposes.
- 8 JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, you don't think
- 9 that in the context of this trial, of a criminal
- 10 trial, that that has some friction with the
- 11 Confrontation Clause, if the truth does -- is
- 12 necessary in order for the opinion to be useful?
- MR. SAMUELS: No, Your Honor. I -- I
- think it's helpful to take a step back and think
- 15 about what this case would have looked like if a
- limiting instruction had been given, because a
- 17 limiting instruction is something that the
- 18 defendant would have been entitled to if he had
- 19 asked for one.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Mm-hmm.
- 21 MR. SAMUELS: And if one had been
- 22 given, I -- I think this Court would presume
- that a limiting instruction would be followed.
- 24 It presumes that in nearly all cases, with the,
- 25 you know, one exception I think of Bruton.

1 And we think, you know, counsel for 2 criminal defendants have stood at this lectern 3 and have argued many times in other contexts that certain instructions are very difficult for 4 a jury to follow and, nonetheless, the 5 6 presumption applies. 7 And we think it would similarly apply in this case. That -- that then begs the 8 9 question, well, why does that matter here because there was no limiting instruction here, 10 11 but I think the answer to that question is 12 simply that the Petitioner never requested the 13 limiting instruction, and for that reason, I --I think there's not a Confrontation Clause 14 15 violation here. 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, can I go 17 back to one point and that was your argument 18 that this is non-testimonial. The government 19 says that's not unclear. To be frank with you, 20 I don't see it argued anywhere below and anywhere at trial actually. 21 2.2 You didn't -- I don't see it anywhere 23 in your cert stage briefs in the courts below. I see it in your red brief, and you argue it 24 25 here, but you sort of have a footnote on that

- 1 argument and that's all.
- 2 I -- I don't know of any time that
- 3 we've ever addressed a question that wasn't
- 4 raised in the cert brief in opposition here,
- 5 wasn't raised by the courts below, was raised in
- 6 a footnote at best in the red brief.
- 7 Isn't the entire premise of the
- 8 question before us that the information was
- 9 testimonial?
- 10 MR. SAMUELS: I don't think so, Your
- 11 Honor, and I'd like to say a couple things about
- 12 that. Let me start with the red brief and maybe
- 13 rewind.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, why don't
- 15 you -- why don't you work with the court below.
- MR. SAMUELS: Well --
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Where did you
- 18 argue that in the court below?
- MR. SAMUELS: Happy to proceed in the
- 20 other fashion.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay.
- MR. SAMUELS: So, in the court of
- 23 appeals, there was a citation to Justice
- 24 Thomas's concurrence in Williams, which was only
- 25 helpful for the State on the testimonial

- 1 question.
- 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Have we ever had a
- 3 case where a mere citation preserves such a
- 4 consequential argument as overturning precedent?
- 5 Where did you point out that this --
- 6 that all components of this report were
- 7 non-testimonial or testimonial?
- 8 MR. SAMUELS: Candidly, Your Honor, we
- 9 didn't further develop the argument in the
- 10 Arizona court of appeals. There was --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay. So now come
- 12 here.
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: Or in the trial court,
- 14 am I right?
- MR. SAMUELS: No. I mean, I don't
- 16 think that there was any reason to discuss it in
- 17 the trial court given that the -- the trial
- 18 court's ruling was what it was on the other
- 19 question. And that --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah. I mean, but in
- 21 both the Arizona courts and then also in your --
- 22 in -- in -- in your -- the filing that you filed
- in the Arizona Supreme Court, although they
- 24 never took the case, but in all these filings,
- 25 everything was about the truth of the matter

- 1 asserted? 2 MR. SAMUELS: Well, in the trial 3 court, that was the focus. In the court of appeals, like I said, it was except for this 4 citation. In the Arizona Supreme Court --5 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah. I mean, it's a 7 citation in, like, a 30-page brief which clearly focuses on, you know, the first question that 8 9 you started your -- your -- when you got up to 10 the podium, you started with. It was all about 11 It was all about the hearsay question. 12 MR. SAMUELS: I take the point. 13 was certainly the primary focus in the state 14 courts. I -- I would like to explain why, which 15 is it had been settled for, I think, a little 16 more than a decade at this point in the Arizona 17 courts that that first preliminary question, the -- the not for the truth question, settled this 18 19 I mean, this was a case decided in an 20 unpublished opinion without oral argument in the Arizona court of appeals on that question. 21 2.2 And so the State didn't develop a
- 25 be any relevance to that argument unless the

23

24

testimonial argument right there. But I think

there was -- frankly, there was never going to

- 1 very unlikely event that this Court granted
- 2 certiorari.
- Now I would like to talk about what --
- 4 (Laughter.)
- 5 MR. SAMUELS: Perhaps that looks less
- 6 unlikely now.
- 7 (Laughter.)
- 8 MR. SAMUELS: But I -- I would like
- 9 to, though, brief --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: In hindsight.
- MR. SAMUELS: Yes. Our briefs here --
- 12 because I think I would disagree with some of
- 13 the premises of your question, Justice
- 14 Sotomayor. In the red brief, I think we spend
- 15 nine or 10 pages talking about whether these
- 16 statements were testimonial or -- or not.
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Eleven pages.
- 18 MR. SAMUELS: Eleven pages. Thank
- 19 you, Justice Kavanaugh.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Yeah.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: No, I agree with you.
- 22 It's been totally briefed here. The question is
- 23 whether it's been forfeited below.
- MR. SAMUELS: Understood. And -- and
- last thing I'll say, because this is maybe the

- last brief I haven't mentioned yet, is, in our
- 2 brief in opposition at the cert stage, I think
- 3 even Petitioner understood us to be arguing that
- 4 Justice Thomas's view supported our case here.
- 5 Again, that's only helpful on the testimonial
- 6 question.
- 7 In their reply at the cert stage, they
- 8 say -- they assert that we didn't dispute that
- 9 this was testimonial under the tests applied by
- 10 the plurality or the dissent in Williams.
- 11 Notably absent from that is Justice Thomas's
- 12 view and which we laid out and -- and talked
- 13 about how it -- you know, again, not developed
- with very, very specific facts, I don't dispute
- that, but did talk about how that supports the
- 16 --
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Can I talk about the
- 18 substance of the testimonial question for a
- 19 minute? I want to start with this -- the report
- 20 question, which I think Mr. Feigin said, you
- 21 know, on any test that we've ever used in this
- 22 Court is pretty clearly testimonial.
- 23 And I think you -- you sort of
- 24 acknowledged that by suggesting that the real
- thing is, oh, he'd only relied on the notes.

- 1 But is -- is that really true? I mean, I'm just
- 2 looking -- I'm just going to read you some
- 3 places where the witness really couldn't seem to
- 4 answer questions without, you know, reviewing
- 5 the report.
- 6 So there's a question: Did your
- 7 review help show how State's Exhibit 26 was
- 8 tested in this case?
- 9 And Longoni says: May I review the
- 10 report, Your Honor?
- 11 The court says: You may.
- 12 Another question: Do you know who was
- 13 responsible for intake?
- Longoni says: If I may refer again to
- 15 the report, Your Honor?
- The court says: You may.
- 17 Another question: Did you also look
- 18 at what was done to Item 28?
- 19 Longoni says: Again, can I refer to
- the report, Your Honor?
- 21 The court says: You may.
- I mean, this report is all over the --
- 23 the -- the transcript.
- MR. SAMUELS: The word "report,"
- 25 Justice Kagan, is all over the transcript, and I

- 1 -- we made this point in the brief, but I want
- 2 to emphasize a close look at the record reveals
- 3 he couldn't possibly have been looking at the
- 4 report for those statements. So I think you're
- 5 looking at Pet. App. 40. That first question,
- did you review how State's Exhibit 26 was tested
- 7 in this case? And he's, you know, referencing
- 8 to the report at that point. That information
- 9 is not in the report.
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: So I -- I -- I take
- 11 that point, but it just sort of shows how, in
- this case, he's up there on the stand and he has
- both the official report and some of the notes
- in an -- essentially an appendix, and he's kind
- of going back and forth between them.
- And, you know, that just shows how
- 17 closely related the two were. That's what he
- 18 prepared from. You know, he reviewed the report
- 19 and he reviewed those underlying notes, which --
- 20 which basically, you know, went through --
- 21 because the -- the report, as you say, is just
- the conclusions, but it's the notes that tell
- 23 you exactly what Ms. Rast did in the case. And
- 24 he is repeating the -- the notes
- essentially to say this is how it was tested,

- 1 this is the -- you know, this -- this is
- 2 what Rast did.
- 3 MR. SAMUELS: We don't dispute that
- 4 he's relaying some information from the notes,
- 5 certainly. But, as it relates to the notes
- 6 versus report question, you know, we're not
- 7 saying here that he never would have looked at
- 8 the report or that he was totally ignorant of
- 9 it. But there's no indication in the record
- 10 that he ever relayed anything from it.
- 11 The only thing in the report was the
- 12 conclusions, and --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: And he does state the
- 14 exact same conclusions in the exact same words
- 15 after using the notes to say -- you know, to go
- through essentially in the same words again
- 17 everything that Rast said about what she did.
- MR. SAMUELS: He uses the same words.
- 19 I made the point in my opening, and I -- and I
- think it's an important one, that this is just
- 21 standard language for this. You know, usable
- 22 quantity of X is the legal thing that you have
- 23 to prove in a case like this. And I think the
- 24 folks at the lab know that.
- 25 I think it's -- it's also the case

- 1 that if you think about what it is that he is
- 2 actually testifying to, if you look at his
- actual testimony, he's asked specifically if he
- 4 can form an independent opinion. I don't think
- 5 he would have said yes to that question if he
- 6 couldn't form it from, for example, the graphs,
- 7 which he specifically says he looked at.
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: But we don't have to
- 9 -- we don't have to just accept his word for it,
- 10 right? I mean, we -- we do have to kind of
- 11 figure out the extent to which his opinion is
- independent, and I guess that takes me back to
- 13 Justice Thomas's initial question about your
- 14 argument with respect to this being offered for
- 15 the truth of the matter asserted.
- 16 And I created a hypothetical that I'm
- hoping you can respond to that would help me to
- 18 understand what you mean about it not being
- 19 offered for truth.
- 20 So suppose we have a murder that the
- 21 police believe was committed with some kind of
- 22 unconventional weapon that they find in the
- 23 defendant's possession. So I'm envisioning
- 24 something like a unique 3D-printed gun or
- something. And at trial, the state puts on a

- 1 ballistics expert who has not examined the
- 2 weapon himself, but he bases his opinion on a
- 3 report of a lab technician who has tested this
- 4 weapon.
- 5 And the lab report says how the weapon
- 6 works, it explains how the technician figured
- 7 that out, it says that the technician took the
- 8 weapon in both of his hands, he stood three feet
- 9 away from the target, he lifted it at a certain
- 10 angle, pointed it, the projectile came out at a
- 11 certain angle and velocity, and here is the
- 12 photographs even of the final result, et cetera,
- of how it entered, here are the measurements,
- 14 the scatter plot.
- On the stand, the expert says, I
- 16 reviewed the report and the photos and the
- measurements and also the pathologist's report
- of the wound on the victim, and in my expert
- 19 opinion, this is the weapon that killed the
- 20 victim.
- I take it that your argument is that
- the underlying lab reports are not being offered
- 23 for truth in that situation, but I quess I don't
- 24 understand why. The lab report is what is
- 25 explaining to the expert how this weapon

- 1 actually worked since he never tested it, and
- 2 he's unquestionably assuming the truth of the
- 3 testing as the technician laid it out.
- So why -- why is it that he's not --
- 5 that -- that -- that it's not being offered for
- 6 truth in this way?
- 7 MR. SAMUELS: Well, in -- in talking
- 8 about that hypothetical, I think it's important
- 9 to emphasize these cases can be very
- 10 fact-specific in evaluating a question like
- 11 that. It's easy to think about two poles, but I
- think there really is a spectrum. And there's a
- 13 spectrum in part because, you know, as we've
- said, mere conduit testimony is not permitted.
- 15 And so I think there's an evaluation
- that's required in any case and in a case like
- that one to figure out is the expert who's
- 18 testifying really adding something and is his --
- is his testimony really the central thing that
- 20 matters.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes, he's adding
- 22 something in my hypothetical because the
- 23 technician is not saying anything about whether
- this is the actual gun that killed the victim.
- 25 The technician is just saying this is how this

- 1 machine that you found in the defendant's
- 2 possession works.
- But that's a basis, right? The expert
- 4 is saying, I have to assume that it works in
- 5 this way because I never -- I never tested it
- 6 myself, and on the assumption that it works in
- 7 the way that the technician says it does, my
- 8 testimony is that this is the murder weapon.
- 9 MR. SAMUELS: So it's possible that
- 10 testimony like that, obviously, might not come
- in because of Daubert or other reasons, but --
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes.
- MR. SAMUELS: -- setting that aside,
- if -- if the expert was not familiar at all with
- the type of weapon involved, I'm not quite sure
- 16 how they could offer a completely independent
- opinion. But, again, assume that they have
- 18 enough expertise in -- in this particular type
- of 3D printing or something like that to do
- 20 that. I do think it's possible that the
- 21 different basis evidence that you're talking
- 22 about there could be referenced.
- 23 And, again, the defendant --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But let me ask you,
- isn't -- isn't this exactly the Confrontation

- 1 Clause problem that the Constitution worries
- 2 about? Because the expert gets up and he relies
- 3 on this report that explains how this machine
- 4 works, but he has not actually tested it. So
- 5 the defendant could say, I agree with you, Mr.
- 6 Expert, that if the machine worked in this way,
- 7 it is the murder weapon. What I'd like to do is
- 8 interrogate whether or not the testing of this
- 9 machine was accurate. And what -- what you
- 10 haven't done, State, is presented to me the
- 11 person who actually tested it.
- I want to say, says the defendant,
- that the photographs that are here are not
- 14 really the photographs, this is not what
- happened, or that you didn't really stand only
- three feet, you stood a lot closer in order to
- make this result. But I can't do that because
- 18 the expert is not -- the person who tested it is
- 19 not before me.
- I feel like that's the real problem
- 21 that -- that the Confrontation Clause is about
- 22 and that you'd say I couldn't do without a
- 23 Confrontation Clause issue.
- 24 MR. SAMUELS: I -- I just think expert
- 25 testimony is different in several ways, and I

- 1 think that is well established for -- for quite
- 2 some time. And it -- it's different in a few
- 3 ways, I think, that really matter here.
- 4 One is, under 703, there's going to be
- 5 an instruction if the defendant requests it, and
- 6 the jury, we would presume, would follow it.
- 7 And -- and I think that that's really important
- 8 in this context.
- 9 And so I -- I'm just not sure that it
- is what the Confrontation Clause is designed to
- 11 get at because the jury would be told not to
- 12 consider it as substantive evidence.
- I also think, in the context of expert
- 14 testimony, this is maybe a less important point,
- but -- but it's still worth noting that there
- 16 are other ways to confront expert testimony that
- 17 are available that are not available in other
- 18 contexts. So it's, you know, folks from this
- 19 Court and others have noted that the defendant
- 20 could subpoena the analyst, but set that aside
- 21 for a moment. It's also the case that
- defendants can hire defense experts. They'll
- 23 have disclosures about this testing before
- 24 trial. They can attack this in other ways.
- 25 And so I -- I'm not sure that that

- 1 necessarily is critical to the Confrontation
- 2 Clause analysis, but I do think it's worth
- 3 noting that it makes expert testimony -- it's
- 4 yet another way that expert testimony is
- 5 different from the percipient witness testimony
- 6 that we think lies really at the heart of the
- 7 Confrontation Clause.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Samuels --
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: What about --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you mentioned --
- oh, I'm sorry, please.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: An expert's -- an
- expert's opinion is always worthless unless the
- 14 facts on which the expert relied in reaching the
- 15 opinion are -- are true.
- And so, if we were to say that an
- 17 expert cannot -- that anytime an expert
- 18 testifies based on -- on facts, that that
- 19 suggests that the facts are true, regardless of
- 20 whether they are -- the -- the facts are
- 21 omitted because of a hypothetical or the trier
- of fact knows or is instructed that they're not
- 23 admitted for the truth of the matter asserted.
- I don't know what's left of expert testimony,
- but there's the problem of whether those facts

- 1 are proved.
- So, here, what evidence in the record
- 3 shows that the substances in question were meth
- 4 and marijuana?
- 5 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And if -- if I
- 6 may, I'd like to address the first -- the first
- 7 part of that question just briefly, which is
- 8 I -- I do think, and -- and some commentators
- 9 have observed, that if this Court were to adopt
- 10 a rule like what Petitioner proposes, it doesn't
- 11 necessarily just have criminal law implications
- 12 because it really does change the landscape of
- 13 Rule 703. And so it could have implications
- 14 beyond that.
- To get to the -- the last part of your
- question about what evidence was in the record,
- 17 I -- I want to be clear, but I take Your Honor
- 18 to be asking about the evidence that -- that
- 19 this particular substance was tested, or are you
- 20 asking about that this particular substance was
- 21 what it --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Was. So, if the --
- 23 you know, the facts on which the expert -- on
- 24 which Longoni relied as an expert in reaching
- 25 his conclusion were not offered for the truth of

- 1 the matter asserted, then what evidence is there
- 2 in the record that the substances were meth and
- 3 marijuana?
- 4 MR. SAMUELS: So there is -- there's
- 5 Longoni's opinions, first of all, which
- 6 obviously are offered for the truth of the
- 7 matter asserted. And I do think there's, as
- 8 there was in Williams, independent evidence from
- 9 which the jury could draw the conclusion that
- 10 this was the evidence that was tested.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: And what is that?
- MR. SAMUELS: So that would be --
- there's a line drawn all the way literally from
- 14 the crime scene to the courtroom.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah.
- MR. SAMUELS: So, if I start at the
- end there, the three substances, Items 20, 26,
- and 28, were admitted as physical exhibits at
- 19 trial. So they were present in the courtroom
- 20 for the jury.
- 21 Photos of that -- of those --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, what good does
- 23 that do? I mean, the -- the jury would taste it
- 24 or sample these --
- 25 (Laughter.)

MR. SAMUELS: I should hope not. 1 2 JUSTICE ALITO: -- sample these drugs 3 and see what they were? 4 MR. SAMUELS: But I think, in terms of 5 them being able to draw the conclusion that 6 these really were the substances that were 7 tested and thus, you know, Longoni had something relevant to rely on in terms of the testing, so 8 9 starting at the crime scene, photographs of those exact same items were admitted at trial so 10 11 the jury could see that these are the same 12 things. 13 JUSTICE ALITO: All right. 14 MR. SAMUELS: There's chain-of-custody 15 evidence that was testified to by law 16 enforcement about how it got from the crime 17 scene to an evidence locker --18 JUSTICE ALITO: Right. 19 MR. SAMUELS: -- that the only reason 20 it left an evidence locker, the only time --21 JUSTICE ALITO: Right. 2.2 MR. SAMUELS: -- was to go to the lab. 23 And then the physical exhibits actually bear 24 initials and a date that's just a few days after 25 the evidence got to the lab.

JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, okay. So that 1 2 those exhibits were the ones that were taken from the scene, and let's say they -- those are 3 the exhibits that were sent to the -- to the 4 lab, okay? What -- what evidence is there that 5 6 they were tested at the lab and they -- and --7 and this is -- this data is the -- the data that 8 was produced? MR. SAMUELS: So, in terms of evidence 9 10 that these particular items were actually tested 11 by Rast, I think, in terms of substantive 12 evidence, a lot of the details that are in the record obviously couldn't be considered as 13 14 substantive evidence, but I do think Longoni, 15 even if you set all that basis aside, basis 16 evidence aside, and pretend it never was 17 referenced at all, Longoni testified that he was asked to evaluate the materials from a 18 19 particular case, a particular case number. case number was otherwise in the record from law 20 21 enforcement. 2.2 And I think, if you imagine no basis 23 evidence at all, I think at the very least he 24 could say, as he did here, that he reviewed the records from this particular case number, he 25

- 1 independently reviewed the materials that were
- there, and these are his independent
- 3 conclusions. And I think --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Certainly --
- 5 MR. SAMUELS: -- that's what I
- 6 understand --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- certainly, if he
- 8 had done so himself and -- and replicated the
- 9 tests, I -- I follow everything you're saying.
- 10 I get it.
- I also understand that if he had said,
- 12 well, I -- as Mr. Feigin indicated, that I
- assumed that traditional processes were followed
- and here's what those traditional processes are,
- it would still be incumbent upon the State to
- 16 prove up that that assumption's a valid
- 17 assumption because, as it was done in common
- law, a hypothetical is only as good as the
- 19 hypothetical, right, the hypothetical opinion?
- 20 And if -- if the hypo -- if the bases
- 21 aren't proven up, then the expert's opinion can
- 22 be stricken even at common law.
- 23 And, here, I -- I think Justice Alito
- is just pointing out how could it -- the only
- 25 thing that this testimony could have been

- 1 offered for does seem to be the truth that Rast
- 2 did these tests and found these results.
- And I'm just struggling with how is it
- 4 not the truth, counsel?
- 5 MR. SAMUELS: Sure. And -- and let me
- 6 try to explain why. If you think about the
- 7 hypothetical I just posed where none of that
- 8 basis evidence was ever referenced at trial,
- 9 and -- and assume Longoni was permitted to
- 10 testify that he reviewed the case records for
- 11 this case --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, no, no, no.
- But, see, that's the whole point. I -- I -- he
- 14 -- let's put Rast aside. Rast doesn't exist.
- 15 He -- he just comes in and says, I think this is
- 16 meth and marijuana. That would be stricken,
- 17 right? I -- I -- I assume something happened
- and you never prove up the assumptions of what
- 19 happened. That would be stricken?
- 20 MR. SAMUELS: I think the link I'm
- 21 talking about, which is to say he reviewed the
- 22 records from a particular case number, I think
- 23 would be required in order to make the evidence
- 24 relevant. I -- I'd point out that relevance is
- 25 really not a constitutional concern, but --

JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, of course not. 1 2 We're not talking about relevance. talking about Confrontation Clause, right, to 3 confront the witnesses against you, right? 4 doesn't say witnesses who put their testimony 5 6 with wax seals. It says witnesses, all 7 witnesses. And -- and, here, it just -- he 8 completely and utterly, as I think even the 9 10 federal government recognizes, it's quite 11 unusual to come in not with the State, as 12 Justice Kagan points out, and this is what -well, in this case, there's a lot of stuff in 13 14 which he -- he says Rast says this and Rast says 15 that, the report says this, the report says 16 that, and I'm taking it as true and that's 17 important for my opinion. 18 MR. SAMUELS: And that's why I think 19 there's a critical difference potentially 20 between him just being able to say that he 21 reviewed these materials and not reveal anything 2.2 about them and him revealing so many details 23 about the materials. That's what I understand the United States' concern to be. 24 25 Obviously, we don't think they're

- 1 right about that. We think they misread the
- 2 record a little bit here. But set that
- 3 disagreement aside. I still think under the
- 4 United States' view that, you know, one of the
- 5 options that really should be preserved even if
- 6 Petitioner were to succeed in this case, and
- 7 this would require a significant narrowing, I
- 8 think, of Petitioner's suggested rule, is that
- 9 the independent opinion testimony should still
- 10 be possible even if the detailed basis evidence
- 11 can't be revealed.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I -- I -- I --
- 13 again -- well, I'm sorry. I'll get back to it.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But it seems --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 16 Thomas?
- 17 Justice Alito?
- Justice Sotomayor?
- 19 Justice Kagan?
- 20 Back to you, Justice Gorsuch.
- 21 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I've almost
- 23 forgotten where I was at.
- 24 I -- I -- I certainly took the United
- 25 States and understood them to say, all right, he

- 1 can testify based on assumptions, hypotheticals,
- 2 he can -- that have to -- all those have to be
- 3 proven up later to the satisfaction of the jury
- 4 that -- that they're true in order for the
- 5 opinion to be valid.
- 6 And, here, again, the only thing -- he
- 7 didn't do that. He said, Rast did this and,
- 8 therefore, I have this opinion. He didn't say,
- 9 well, if somebody did this and then the State
- 10 later comes back and proves Rast did this
- 11 because they called Rast or something else, that
- 12 didn't happen here. So I -- I get that there
- are many ways to skin the evidentiary cat, but
- 14 this case just seems to fall on the wrong line
- 15 of it.
- And -- and then, when we get to the
- testimonial question, whether it was preserved
- or not preserved, it's a big question, and the
- 19 Court has splintered on -- on that in the past.
- 20 And you're asking us to essentially adopt a --
- 21 a -- a very thoughtful view of one of my
- 22 colleagues, but one of my colleagues, and -- and
- that's -- that's a heavy lift in a case where it
- hasn't been argued below, isn't it?
- MR. SAMUELS: Well, a couple things.

- 1 One is, you know, we briefed both Justice
- 2 Thomas's view and the primary purpose tests in
- 3 the briefs, and -- and we think ultimately these
- 4 are non-testimonial under either view. And
- 5 so --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So we don't need to
- 7 decide that question?
- 8 MR. SAMUELS: Well, in terms of what
- 9 the test is, I mean, we do think Justice
- 10 Thomas's view is persuasive, but we don't think
- 11 you need to revisit the primary purpose test
- because we think, even under the primary purpose
- test, for some of the reasons that I think
- 14 Justice Barrett was getting at with some of her
- 15 questioning, the notes here just are
- 16 non-testimonial under that test as well. So we
- don't think you necessarily need to confront
- whether to get rid of the primary purpose test
- 19 or anything like that.
- 20 And as to the preservation question, I
- 21 do think it's well established that this Court
- 22 has the discretion to affirm on alternative
- 23 grounds. And this really is a subsidiary
- 24 question to the Question Presented. I mean,
- 25 ultimately, the Question Presented here --

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JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Thank you,
1
 2
      counsel. I appreciate it.
 3
                CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
 4
     Kavanaugh?
 5
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Finish that.
 6
               MR. SAMUELS: Yeah. Thank you,
7
      Justice Kavanaugh.
8
                (Laughter.)
 9
                MR. SAMUELS: My point was, you know,
      that this Court's rule, 14.1, says that a
10
11
     Ouestion Presented comprises every subsidiary
12
     question. Really, at its core, the Question
     Presented here was, was there a Confrontation
13
14
     Clause violation? And deciding that question
15
     without the testimonial issue just doesn't make
16
     a lot of sense. Even Petitioner, as I
17
     understood them this morning, encourages the
18
      Court to reach that question, I think, unless
19
      it's going to come out against them, and then
20
     maybe issue a narrow ruling. And I -- I just
      think that this Court really should reach that
21
2.2
     question. I think there's adequate briefing in
23
      front of it.
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24

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And I would also point out, to the

extent that the Court is concerned that the test

- 1 -- the Question Presented assumes that
- 2 statements are testimonial, as it's framed by
- 3 Petitioner, that was exactly true in Bullcoming.
- 4 Nonetheless, it was a significant focus in this
- 5 Court. And again, in Williams, Petitioner tried
- 6 to reframe the question that way. Five Justices
- 7 found that this was non-testimonial.
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And you said you
- 9 had briefed both the primary purpose test and
- 10 the historical test that Justice Thomas had --
- 11 has advocated. If you were to lose under the
- 12 primary purpose test but prevail under the
- 13 Justice Thomas test, then you -- you would say
- 14 we should consider which test is the better
- 15 test, I assume.
- MR. SAMUELS: Yes, and I'll do one
- 17 better and make it less blatantly
- 18 outcome-determinative in that --
- 19 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: No, there's
- 21 nothing wrong with being -- I mean, that's --
- that's -- you're -- as an advocate, that's fine.
- 23 But go ahead.
- MR. SAMUELS: Well, my point is only
- 25 that, you know, we think Justice Thomas is right

- 1 regardless. But we just ultimately don't think
- 2 the Court necessarily needs to revisit the
- 3 primary purpose test. And we recognize that's
- 4 the test the Court has applied. And so, you
- 5 know, while we think Justice Thomas is right, we
- 6 just don't think you need to reach that question
- 7 here.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 10 Barrett?
- 11 JUSTICE BARRETT: You didn't ask us to
- overrule Davis and the cases setting forth the
- 13 primary purpose test, did you?
- MR. SAMUELS: No. I -- and -- and,
- 15 again, I think the reason for that is that under
- our view, we win under either of the tests.
- 17 These are just non-testimonial statements either
- 18 way. And so we just don't think it's a question
- 19 that this Court needs to confront in this case.
- 20 It might want to confront it down the road.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 22 Jackson?
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah, I just am
- 24 trying to understand the extent to which it
- 25 matters that the testifying witness in this case

- 1 actually revealed the source of the statements.
- 2 There's been a lot of talk about how -- and this
- 3 was primarily from the SG, and I apologize
- 4 because I didn't ask him this -- but, you know,
- 5 what's really problematic here is that when he
- 6 was on the stand, he was basically saying:
- 7 Well, the lab technician said X, Y, and Z. The
- 8 report she wrote said X, Y, and Z.
- 9 And I guess I'm not sure that it
- 10 really matters in terms of whether or not we
- 11 think it's problematic. So could you speak to
- 12 that?
- MR. SAMUELS: Certainly. So I -- I --
- I do think the core disagreement between us and
- 15 the United States is, you know, they say in
- 16 their brief that Longoni appears to have
- 17 possibly served as a mouthpiece for Rast's
- 18 conclusions, testimony, et cetera. Obviously,
- 19 we disagree with that assessment of the record,
- 20 but we do think it matters to some extent.
- 21 So assume the Court is, you know,
- 22 persuaded by the United States' view or at least
- is heading in that direction and thinks too much
- of the basis evidence came out here or the way
- it came out is problematic in some ways. We do

- 1 think it's still important to preserve the
- 2 possibility to offer independent opinion
- 3 testimony even if the basis evidence itself
- 4 can't be revealed. And this was what I was
- 5 trying to get at with Justice Gorsuch.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: But is that really
- 7 possible? And, again -- yes, you were trying to
- 8 get at that with Justice Gorsuch. And I guess
- 9 I'm trying to understand. So you think there's
- 10 a difference between an expert who says my
- opinion is that this is drugs because the lab
- 12 report said so, right -- that's world one; he --
- he's testifying to that on the stand -- versus
- 14 the opinion -- the expert who says my opinion is
- 15 that this is drugs, period, but it turns out
- that the only reason, the basis for him saying
- that, was because the lab report said so?
- MR. SAMUELS: Well, in the -- in the
- 19 hypothetical scenario I'm envisioning, he would
- 20 reveal what he's looking at. He would say, I --
- 21 I was asked to pull the records from this case
- 22 number, I pulled them, I looked at them, and
- 23 here's my independent conclusion, without
- 24 telling you anything about --
- 25 JUSTICE JACKSON: That he'd say it was

- 1 independent. But that's the question. Is it
- 2 really independent if he hasn't done the -- the
- 3 testing on his own? If he has no other basis
- 4 for determining that this is drugs other than
- 5 what the lab report says, does it matter that he
- 6 revealed that or that he just says this is my
- 7 "independent position"?
- 8 MR. SAMUELS: I think it matters a
- 9 lot, especially as a practical perspective. So
- 10 take this out of the drug context and put it in
- 11 the DNA context for a second. Oftentime the key
- 12 witness in the DNA context who -- who is
- evaluating things at the end wasn't necessarily
- involved in the testing or maybe performed one
- out of five key steps, and then, ultimately,
- 16 they evaluate the materials and reach an
- independent opinion, which is what we think
- 18 Longoni did here.
- 19 And so, if the Court were to conclude
- 20 that, in fact, in order for an expert to rely on
- 21 underlying materials when they weren't involved
- in the testing, that's where we really get
- 23 afraid of the multi-analyst scenario where you
- 24 have a --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: What if the

| 1 | conclusion is not that he can't rely on it? | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | Sure, he can be put up there, he can rely on it, | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | but you have to make available the person who | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | actually did the testing, because what I want to | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | do is, as the defendant, challenge the veracity | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | or reliability of the testing, and I think | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | that's what the Confrontation Clause allows me | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | to do. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | MR. SAMUELS: Well, the Confrontation | | | | | | | | |
| LO | Clause, of course, is a procedural and not a | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | substantive right. And I think that type of | | | | | | | | |
| L2 | reasoning starts to put it more in substantive | | | | | | | | |
| L3 | territory to say that he's allowed to do a | | | | | | | | |
| L4 | certain thing rather than to confront the | | | | | | | | |
| L5 | evidence that's offered against him. And we | | | | | | | | |
| L6 | perceive the key evidence being offered against | | | | | | | | |
| L7 | him in | | | | | | | | |
| L8 | JUSTICE JACKSON: Is the testimony? | | | | | | | | |
| L9 | R. SAMUELS: in a case like this | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | one is the testimony. | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you. | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | counsel. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

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Rebuttal, counsel?

| 1 | REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF HARI SANTHANAM |
|----|--|
| 2 | ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER |
| 3 | MR. SANTHANAM: Yes. Thank you, Mr. |
| 4 | Chief Justice. |
| 5 | My friend agreed that that there |
| 6 | was never an argument in the proceedings below |
| 7 | that the evidence was was testimonial. Maybe |
| 8 | a citation here or a citation there. No |
| 9 | argument in the proceedings below. So, as the |
| 10 | case comes here to this Court, it comes here on |
| 11 | the assumption that the statements were |
| 12 | testimonial, and the Court can treat it as such |
| 13 | in deciding this case. |
| 14 | But, to the extent that the Court does |
| 15 | reach the testimonial question, we recognize |
| 16 | that there is going to be a difficulty. There |
| 17 | are going to be marginal cases where |
| 18 | circumstances are different, and it's going to |
| 19 | be difficult to apply either the primary purpose |
| 20 | test, the targeted individual test, or Justice |
| 21 | Thomas's solemnity test. |
| 22 | But I'd like to emphasize here that |
| 23 | this is not a marginal case. This is a case |
| 24 | where, under any of those tests, the statements |
| 25 | here are testimonial. And I'd urge the Court to |

- 1 take a look at Pet. App. 127a. That is the
- 2 prosecution, the State, telling Rast that this
- 3 trial has been set in Smith's case, that these
- 4 are the charges against him, and that she needs
- 5 to create forensic analyses, evidence, to
- 6 support the prosecution's case against Mr.
- 7 Smith.
- 8 And it also bears emphasis, if you
- 9 look at the notes in this case, they start on
- 10 page 88 of Petitioner's Appendix, and if you
- 11 look at the notes, they are written -- these are
- 12 not scrap pieces of paper; they're written on
- 13 letterhead of the Arizona Department of Public
- 14 Services with their seal. They're typewritten.
- 15 And they were created on the exact same day that
- 16 the report was created as essentially an
- 17 appendix to that report.
- 18 And so these are not some scraps of
- 19 paper that were scrounged up and provided in
- 20 this case. They are formalized documents that
- 21 reflect the solemnity of Rast's statements in
- 22 those -- in those documents. And so all of
- those factors, we emphasize, were not present in
- 24 Williams with respect to the report in that
- 25 case.

| 1 | Now, to the extent that and I I |
|-----|--|
| 2 | do want to go back to the hypothetical that I |
| 3 | was discussing with Justice Barrett. And we are |
| 4 | not suggesting that notes, any and all notes |
| 5 | that are created, are going to be testimonial. |
| 6 | It is, of course, going to be |
| 7 | circumstance-dependent. But what is equally |
| 8 | true is that a set of notes cannot be said to be |
| 9 | non-testimonial simply because they use |
| LO | shorthand to set forth factual statements. |
| L1 | So going back to the example of the |
| L2 | police officer, if the police officer is taking |
| L3 | statements from a witness and this is a |
| L4 | hypothetical that comes right out of Davis if |
| L5 | the police officer is taking statements from a |
| L6 | witness and happens to do so in shorthand, that |
| L7 | does not give the prosecution right to put on |
| L8 | that police officer to introduce those |
| L9 | statements from a witness. Nor does it provide |
| 20 | a license to the prosecution to put on a |
| 21 | different police officer and read statements |
| 22 | from those notes, interpreting those shorthand. |
| 23 | But, at the end of the day, you're conveying a |
| 24 | set of testimonial statements, out-of-court |
|) E | statements that have not been senfronted |

| 1 | Now I want to address a few few |
|----|--|
| 2 | other points. The the United States made the |
| 3 | point that there there may be circumstantial |
| 4 | evidence. And, in fact, in Williams, the |
| 5 | plurality recognized that there was ample |
| 6 | circumstantial evidence in there that that |
| 7 | the prosecution might have relied on in addition |
| 8 | to those testimonial statements. And that's |
| 9 | likely to be true in a lot of cases, but, you |
| LO | know, that is not what was done here. |
| L1 | In this case, they didn't rely on |
| L2 | circumstantial evidence. They they could |
| L3 | have said Longoni looked at certain data and |
| L4 | reached certain conclusions based on that data |
| L5 | in the abstract, but they went further. They |
| L6 | went further by having Longoni recite and |
| L7 | recount from Rast's statements the specific |
| L8 | items she tested, the particular procedures she |
| L9 | used, and the results she reached. |
| 20 | And the reason and, of of |
| 21 | course, if if the State rested on |
| 22 | circumstantial evidence, their case would be |
| 23 | much not as strong, certainly not as strong. |
| 24 | But the strength of their case, as been as |
| 25 | has been noted is not a confrontation issue |

- 1 and it doesn't raise a confrontation violation.
- 2 The reason that the State recognized that it
- 3 needed to introduce Rast's statements into the
- 4 record through Longoni is that it strengthened
- 5 their case, and that in a nutshell underscores
- 6 why her statements were being offered for the
- 7 truth of the matter asserted.
- 8 One other point I'd like to address,
- 9 which is this notion of a limiting instruction.
- 10 My friend at the State indicated that several
- 11 times that Smith did not request a limiting
- 12 instruction.
- 13 It bears emphasis that you get to
- 14 the -- the -- the notion of a limiting
- instruction only after you have a legitimate
- 16 non-hearsay purpose for admitting the statements
- 17 in the first place. If in the first instance
- 18 they are offered for the truth, such as when the
- 19 statement is -- you know, would support the
- 20 expert's opinion only insofar as it is true,
- 21 then it makes no sense from a logical standpoint
- 22 to tell the jury do not consider it.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 24 Thank you, counsel.
- The case is submitted.

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