SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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BLOM BANK SAL,)
Petitioner,)
v.) No. 23-1259
MICHAL HONICKMAN, ET AL.,)
Respondents.)
	_

Pages: 1 through 61

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 3, 2025

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6	MICHAL HONICKMAN, ET AL.,)
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10	Washington, D.	c.
11	Monday, March 3, 2	025
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13	The above-entitled matt	er came on for
14	oral argument before the Supre	me Court of the
15	United States at 10:56 a.m.	
16		
17	APPEARANCES:	
18	MICHAEL H. McGINLEY, ESQUIRE,	Washington, D.C.; on
19	behalf of the Petitioner.	
20	MICHAEL J. RADINE, ESQUIRE, Ha	ckensack, New Jersey; on
21	behalf of the Respondents.	
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:56 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument next this morning in Case 23-1259, BLOM
5	Bank versus Michal Honickman.
6	Mr. McGinley.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL H. McGINLEY
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. McGINLEY: Mr. Chief Justice, and
LO	may it please the Court:
L1	This Court has long held that Rule
L2	60(b)(6) requires extraordinary circumstances to
L3	reopen a final judgment and those circumstances
L4	cannot be the result of the movant's own
L5	strategic choices.
L6	The Second Circuit has diluted that
L7	stringent standard. In its view, courts must
L8	also give effect to Rule 15(a)'s liberal
L9	repleading policy when considering a 60(b)(6)
20	motion seeking to replead.
21	That outlier view is wrong. It has no
22	basis in law or logic. Rather than blurring the
23	two rules, the proper approach is to keep them
24	separate. If this Court's well-settled test for
) E	60/h)/6) is mot then Dule 15 semes into place

1	Collapsing the two steps undermines
2	finality. It creates inherently an
3	inherently contradictory test. It invites
4	inefficient, repetitive, and costly litigation
5	that is at odds with the Federal Rules'
6	overriding objectives.
7	Here, Respondents do not qualify for
8	Rule 60(b)(6) relief. They declined multiple
9	opportunities to amend their complaint in both
10	the trial court and on appeal. Instead, they
11	made the tactical choice to stand on their
12	pleadings even when the Second Circuit ordered
13	supplemental briefing after the Kaplan decision.
14	As a result, they received a final
15	judgment that was affirmed on appeal. Now they
16	seek to restart that process all over again.
17	Doing so would effectively treat the Second
18	Circuit's original decision as an advisory
19	opinion. And Respondents have offered no
20	justification other than that they mistakenly
21	believed that their that their original
22	complaint was sufficient. That hardly qualifies
23	as extraordinary circumstances.
24	It is litigator's remorse, and that is
25	not enough for Rule 60(b)(6) relief. This Court

- 1 should reverse and bring this case to an end.
- 2 I welcome the Court's questions.
- 3 JUSTICE THOMAS: Respondent seems to
- 4 have premised its argument on its view of the
- 5 earlier Second Circuit opinion, that it
- 6 announced a new rule. What do you think of
- 7 that?
- 8 MR. McGINLEY: That's not true, Your
- 9 Honor. There's no change in law here. Instead,
- 10 I would point you to my friend's brief on page
- 11 12 where they admit that it was just the
- 12 application of controlling law to their set of
- 13 facts.
- I would also mention, Your Honor, that
- what happened in this case is this case and
- 16 Kaplan were decided in close proximity to each
- 17 other both in the district court and in the
- 18 Second Circuit. When we went to oral argument
- in the Second Circuit in this case, Kaplan had
- 20 already been argued.
- I would point you to page 300 of the
- 22 JA, where the court in our case said to my
- 23 friend on the other side: You're aware that
- 24 Kaplan is sub judice before this court. You're
- 25 also aware, I believe, that the detailed

- 1 allegations in Kaplan are quite different than
- 2 what are at issue here in -- in Honickman. What
- 3 are we to do?
- 4 What the court ended up doing is
- 5 holding Honickman in abeyance until Kaplan was
- 6 decided. At that point, my friend on the other
- 7 side was fully aware that at least one member of
- 8 that court thought that their allegations were
- 9 lacking under -- as compared to Kaplan.
- The court ordered supplemental
- 11 briefing. At that time, they were fully
- 12 capable -- and they admit this on page 40 of
- 13 their brief -- of asking the court to -- to
- 14 simply remand for them to replead if they -- if
- 15 the court thought that their pleadings in this
- 16 case weren't sufficient under the rule that was
- 17 announced in Kaplan.
- In fact, that's what happened in the
- 19 last ATA/JASTA case that was in front of this
- 20 Court. This Court might remember that in the
- 21 Twitter case, it also had a companion case
- 22 called Gonzalez versus Google.
- 23 And at oral argument in the Google
- 24 case, Justice Barrett asked the plaintiff's
- 25 attorney: If we were to rule against your

- 1 client in the Twitter case, what would we --
- 2 what would you want us to do in this case? And
- 3 the attorney in that case said: We would ask
- 4 you to remand so that we could attempt to
- 5 replead.
- 6 The Court ended up doing that in the
- 7 Google case. It, of course, pointed out that
- 8 even in that case, the plaintiff had -- had
- 9 possibly waived their ability to amend because
- 10 they -- they sought review rather than amending
- when the court gave them the opportunity to.
- 12 But that shows that they could have done that in
- 13 this case.
- 14 There was no controlling law. It was
- a mere application. If they had wanted another
- 16 opportunity in the most efficient way that would
- have made sense, they could have done exactly
- 18 what the attorney in Google did. And they --
- 19 not only could they have done that at oral
- argument, when Judge Wesley, at page 300 of the
- 21 JA, pointed out that their pleadings came
- 22 nowhere close to Kaplan, they had a brief that
- 23 they could have filed in -- in the case, that --
- 24 that they did file where they didn't ask to
- 25 replead. Instead, they said exactly what they

- 1 said in the district court, which is: We're
- 2 happy to go forward on our pleadings. Please
- 3 render a judgment in our case.
- 4 Having done that, that is their
- 5 tactical choice. Under Ackermann and a number
- 6 of other cases from this Court, it's clearly not
- 7 enough to come in and say, under Rule 60(b)(6),
- 8 oops, I made a mistake, I want a chance to -- to
- 9 replead now.
- 10 That makes sense with the structure of
- 11 the rules. In Liljeberg and a number of other
- 12 cases including Crosby, this Court said the
- 13 reason you can't have a mistake or excuse,
- 14 excusable neglect, or some inadvertence that
- justifies 60(b)(6) relief is because all of
- those things are available under (b)(1) and
- 17 (b)(1) has a very strict one-year limitations
- 18 period.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, you're
- addressing a question that wasn't the question
- 21 presented. The question presented was, does
- 22 15(b) get folded into 60(b) the way the Second
- 23 Circuit said? And the answer to that, you're
- 24 asking us to say, is no. But you were asked --
- 25 in answering Justice Thomas, you want us to go a

- 1 step further and actually look at the facts here
- 2 and say they weren't extraordinary
- 3 circumstances, correct?
- 4 MR. McGINLEY: I'd say a few things on
- 5 that, Your Honor. So, in -- in our petition and
- 6 in the merits papers here, we fully raised the
- 7 merits question of whether or not they're
- 8 entitled to relief. I'd point you to page 13
- 9 and 26 of our cert papers.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that wasn't
- 11 addressed below. The court below did not say
- whether or not it thought 60(b) was met.
- MR. McGINLEY: I actually disagree
- 14 with that, Your Honor. So, certainly, in the --
- 15 starting in the district court, what the
- 16 district court did was it correctly said -- and
- 17 this is consistent --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I know what it
- 19 did. It did what you think is right. It
- 20 applied 60(b).
- MR. McGINLEY: Correct.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: When it got to the
- 23 Second Circuit, the Second Circuit says you
- apply 60(b) by looking at 15(b), correct?
- MR. McGINLEY: That's correct.

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And what you're 2 saying is no, they shouldn't have. Did they 3 look at this without the 15(b) lens? Did the Second Circuit look at it? 4 MR. McGINLEY: So that's how it was 5 presented and argued in the Second Circuit 6 7 because Mandala had not yet been decided. So it was fully aired in the Second Circuit. When the 8 Second Circuit rendered its decision in this 9 case, the only error that it pointed out was 10 11 what it perceived to be the legal error of not 12 considering 15(a). 13 And I want to point you to -- there's a footnote in the Second Circuit's decision that 14 15 I think is quite telling on this. The Second 16 Circuit couldn't even bring itself to say there 17 was an abuse of discretion here. What the 18 Second Circuit said is we're not saying there's 19 an abuse of discretion; we're saying that the district court exceeded its discretion 20 21 because -- solely because it made this legal --2.2 legal error. 23 And I think that's because the Second 24 Circuit realized there's nothing that remotely 25 approaches extraordinary circumstances here.

1 I would also --2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. McGinley, I'd 3 like to point you in a little different 4 direction. MR. McGINLEY: Sure. 5 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So I understand your 7 argument that 60(b) doesn't require consideration of Rule 15. Does it preclude it? 8 I mean, could a district court in its discretion 9 take into account a possible need -- or leave --10 11 leave to amend might be appropriate? I mean, 12 60(b)(6) says something like any other reason that justifies relief. 13 14 And you can imagine a district court 15 who perhaps sua sponte got a little fast out of 16 the gate and dismissed a case with prejudice. 17 Thirty days passes; 59's out the door. 18 Plaintiff comes in and says: I've got a good --19 I've got a good amended complaint here. Could -- couldn't a district court in 20 21 its discretion take into account the policies of 2.2 15 in those circumstances? 23 MR. McGINLEY: So a few answers on 24 that, Your Honor. The first --25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: How about pick your

- 1 best one.
- 2 MR. McGINLEY: Okay. So my best one
- 3 is: No if it's under 60(b)(6), because what
- 4 60(b)(6) says is it -- that it has to be
- 5 something other than what's available under the
- 6 other subsections of 60(b).
- 7 The -- the hypothetical that you posit
- 8 there seems to me like maybe there's an argument
- 9 under (b)(1). Maybe there's an argument that
- somebody made a mistake, there was inadvertence,
- 11 there was surprise. If that's brought within
- the one-year limitation for (b)(1), then it
- might be available.
- 14 And I think that's what you see in
- these 59(e) cases under Foman, is that the court
- is saying very close in time, before there's
- 17 been an appeal.
- In 59(e), of course, the Court points
- out in Banister what happens is the judgment is
- 20 actually suspended for a period of time. And so
- it's entirely appropriate in that circumstance
- 22 and efficient in that set of -- in that
- 23 circumstance to say: Okay, if somebody thinks
- there's been a mistake, we'll consider that. We
- 25 might give opportunity to replead there.

1 I do think you still have to satisfy the actual standard. This Court in -- in 2 3 Waetzig last week dealt with a 60(b) issue where there was also a motion to vacate an arbitral 4 award. And at pages 5 and 6 of the slip op, the 5 Court makes it very clear that you don't blend 6 7 the two analyses. Instead, you take 60(b) straight on. There, I think it was a mixed 8 (b)(1) and (b)(6) motion. 9 10 And so you decide whether 60(b) relief 11 is warranted. If so, then you can start looking 12 at liberal repleading --13 JUSTICE JACKSON: But, Mr. McGinley --14 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well --15 JUSTICE JACKSON: Oh. Mr. McGinley, I 16 quess what I'm a little worried about is this 17 notion of whether or not parties are being punished for exercising their right to appeal if 18 19 we accept the rule that you are positing. And the -- the way it comes up for 20 me -- and I understand the facts of this 21 2.2 particular case, but I'm -- I'm just thinking 23 about the normal, ordinary case in which a district court dismisses a complaint for 24 25 insufficient pleading.

1 And I guess, at that point, the 2 plaintiff has a choice, especially if the 3 district court gives them leave to amend or says: Hey, you can amend before I dismiss your 4 complaint. You could follow the district 5 6 court's recommendation and amend your complaint, 7 or you can choose to appeal. You can say: No, I actually think my complaint is sufficient and 8 9 I would like a court of appeals to weigh in on 10 that. 11 What I worry about is, if the district 12 court enters their judgment -- with or without 13 prejudice, I quess. I'm not sure it matters. 14 But, if they enter a judgment, they dismiss the 15 appeal, you -- I mean, excuse me, they dismiss the complaint, you exercise your right to appeal 16 17 and you lose, the court of appeals disagrees 18 with you, says the district court was correct, I 19 hear you saying that the part -- this particular 20 party should not necessarily have a chance to 21 amend, to cure, because they chose to appeal. 2.2 And I'm worried about that. 23 MR. McGINLEY: So it's not quite what 24 I'm saying. I think what I'm actually trying to 25 say might assuage your concerns because what I'm

- 1 saying is what a party can't do is say: I want
- 2 to stand on my pleadings no matter what --
- 3 whatever the decision is, and then file a Rule
- 4 60(b)(6) after --
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Why not? If the --
- 6 they're not -- what they're saying is: I
- 7 disagree with you, district court, that my
- 8 pleading is insufficient, and I have a right to
- 9 go to the court of appeals to have them weigh
- 10 in.
- 11 Once the court of appeals weighs in,
- then, obviously, they can do whatever is
- 13 necessary to cure, I think.
- MR. McGINLEY: Right.
- 15 JUSTICE JACKSON: And I'm worried that
- 16 they -- you're saying they can't.
- 17 MR. McGINLEY: No. What I'm saying
- is, if they think there's some ambiguity as to
- whether or not the facts that they've alleged
- 20 meet the standard that they think is the correct
- one, then they have two options.
- They can replead whatever facts they
- 23 think might clearly meet that standard. That's
- 24 the most efficient course.
- But the other option they have is

- 1 exactly what happened in this Court in Google
- 2 versus Gonzalez, where they can say: If you --
- 3 we think the law is such, and we think our facts
- 4 map -- meet that. But, if you disagree with us
- on whether our facts meet that law, then please
- 6 give us a chance to go back and replead.
- 7 The efficient way to do that is the
- 8 Court then says: Okay, fine, I'm going to
- 9 decide the case, but --
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: But I guess I don't
- 11 understand why that's not basically the same
- 12 thing. They just don't have that second
- 13 request. What they want to do is come back
- 14 after the -- we've cleared up what the standards
- 15 are and amend their complaint.
- MR. McGINLEY: No, the difference is
- 17 there's a final judgment at that point. And the
- Court has always recognized and Rule 60(b)(6)
- 19 makes it very clear that a final judgment
- 20 changes things. And once there's a final
- 21 judgment, then you have to satisfy one of --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But your -- your --
- 23 I guess what I'm -- what I'm -- it's a final
- 24 judgment only insofar as the -- the district
- 25 court at the beginning, when it issues the

- 1 judgment, understands that this is about
- 2 pleading. Most district courts say: I -- you
- 3 know, you -- you're going to have leave to amend
- 4 this complaint. It's not final in the sense of
- 5 you lose -- you forfeit your ability to bring
- 6 this claim.
- 7 And -- and I guess what I'm worried
- 8 about is that you are making the ability to
- 9 bring the claim contingent on whether or not you
- 10 pursue your right to appeal. You're saying:
- 11 It's okay to amend if you don't appeal. But, if
- 12 you appeal and you lose, you're not going to be
- able to amend anymore.
- 14 And I think that burdens the right to
- 15 appeal in a way that is not exactly the -- the
- 16 way these rules should be read.
- 17 MR. McGINLEY: Yeah. Respectfully, I
- 18 disagree because, you know, I think what -- what
- 19 we're really saying is, when you have
- 20 opportunities to ask, you have to ask, at a bare
- 21 minimum, to satisfy 60(b)(6).
- Remember what happened in Crosby,
- where this Court said even an actual change in
- 24 law that changed the statute of limitations that
- 25 opened the window for the -- for the petitioner

- 1 there to take advantage of the statute of
- 2 limitations, the Court said: No 60(b)(6) relief
- 3 because you could have asked a court to overrule
- 4 the Artuz decision, and you didn't. You could
- 5 have filed a cert petition at this Court, which,
- of course, is always discretionary for the Court
- 7 to grant it. But that was the basis on which
- 8 the Court said: No extraordinary circumstances.
- 9 So I don't think we're burdening the
- 10 right to appeal. Instead, what we're doing is
- 11 saying that a party doesn't get a -- get an
- opportunity at dress rehearsal, where they can
- 13 say: We're going to plead the bare minimum set
- of facts that we think can satisfy the law as we
- 15 see it, take it all -- take a defendant all the
- way through motion to dismiss or summary
- 17 judgment or trial or whatever it might be, go up
- 18 to the court of appeals, tell the court of
- 19 appeals we want it to decide the question on the
- set of facts that we've pled.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: No, but doesn't it
- 22 matter if it's just the motion to dismiss? If
- the judgment comes after the motion to dismiss,
- 24 we haven't had full litigation of the claim.
- We're in a situation in which, really, the core

- dispute is over whether or not they have pled
- 2 sufficient facts to meet whatever standard it
- 3 is. And the court of appeals says: No, you
- 4 haven't.
- 5 It's weird to me that after a ruling
- of the court of appeals saying your pleading is
- 7 insufficient, the party goes back to the
- 8 district court to say: Okay, we have this
- 9 ruling now, we're ready to amend. I don't
- 10 understand why they forfeit their claims
- 11 ultimately in that situation.
- 12 MR. McGINLEY: Because, if they
- 13 have -- I apologize, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah.
- MR. McGINLEY: Because they haven't
- 16 diligently pursued it in the -- in the forum
- where they could have, which is the court of
- 18 appeals. They can say to the court of appeals:
- 19 Here's what we think the rule is. Here -- we
- 20 think our facts satisfy the rule.
- In this case, they had supplemental
- 22 briefing that allowed them to do it. I'd also
- 23 point out the same counsel in Kaplan as in this
- 24 case. In Kaplan, they ended up surviving a
- 25 motion to dismiss because they pled facts that

- 1 survived it. So the notion that they had no
- 2 clue how to plead some set of facts that could
- 3 satisfy the standard they were advocating is
- 4 just fanciful.
- 5 But also, there's no -- there's no
- 6 suggestion here that the facts that they claim
- 7 that they want to now inject into the case
- 8 weren't available to them. And so allowing them
- 9 to do it now not only puts 60(b)(6) at odds with
- 10 (b)(1), but it puts it at odds with (b)(2).
- 11 What (b)(2) says is that you can,
- 12 within a year, seek to reopen for facts that
- were not previously available to you despite
- 14 diligent efforts.
- 15 Here, they admit the facts were
- 16 available to them. They admit that they didn't
- 17 plead them. They didn't raise them to the
- 18 Second Circuit when they had a chance to do it
- 19 after Kaplan.
- 20 And so I just don't think that they
- 21 can then come in and say: How could we have
- 22 known? Now we need the extraordinary medicine
- 23 of 60(b)(6) relief, and, you know --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. McGinley, can I
- 25 just make this more abstract --

Τ	MR. MCGINLEY: Sure.
2	JUSTICE KAGAN: take it out of the
3	facts of this case and go back to the question
4	that Justice Gorsuch asked, which I understood
5	to be something like the following: Look, get
6	your your principal argument that Rule 60 is
7	Rule 60 and Rule 15 is Rule 15 and there's not,
8	like, some strange combination in the way that
9	the that the Second Circuit thought here.
10	But, you know, does is Rule
11	60(b)(6) flexible enough so that a court can, ir
12	appropriate circumstances and maybe this case
13	is not one of those, but I really want to think
14	about this in the abstract in appropriate
15	circumstances, take into account matters
16	relating to amendment, like whether the party
17	has had a sufficient opportunity to amend?
18	And I understood you to say to Justice
19	Gorsuch: Well, they couldn't do it in a way
20	that evades 60(b)(1) or other of the year-long
21	provisions. And that seems totally right,
22	blackletter law.
23	But, if we put that aside, say that
24	this isn't something that falls neatly into
25	another 60(b) provision, why is it that that

2.2

- 1 your -- you seem to be saying: You can't even
- think about amendment in the 60(b)(6) inquiry.
- And that seems wrong the other way.
- 4 Like, why -- why not think -- you -- it's a high
- 5 bar, extraordinary circumstances. But there's
- 6 also a lot of latitude in what you can consider
- 7 or so I thought, and that latitude maybe should
- 8 include things relating to amendments in
- 9 appropriate cases.
- 10 MR. McGINLEY: So, yeah, and I don't
- 11 want to overstate our position because --
- 12 because I -- I don't think it's quite that you
- can never consider the fact that it's a 60(b)(6)
- in order to amend. What the Court has said is
- 15 that the extraordinary circumstances that are
- 16 required must match the thing that you're trying
- 17 to do.
- And so, if somebody comes in and says:
- 19 I want to amend and I want to have that
- opportunity through 60(b)(6), they have to show
- 21 extraordinary circumstances that justify that
- 22 desire to amend. You don't let liberality bleed
- into the analysis because that's just not
- 24 appropriate at that stage.
- 25 But what you could say -- and this may

- 1 sound like an extreme example, but it comes from
- 2 the facts of the first case to ever apply
- 3 60(b)(6). Imagine a circumstance like
- 4 Klapprott. What happened in Klapprott, which
- was decided one year, I believe, after 60(b)(6)
- 6 was adopted, is that the petitioner in that case
- 7 was someone who had his citizenship rights
- 8 stripped through a default judgment during a
- 9 period of time in which the U.S. Government, who
- 10 was his adversary in the default judgment case,
- 11 was detaining him and he was ill. And the Court
- 12 said that's enough for extraordinary
- 13 circumstances.
- 14 So you could imagine a scenario where
- somebody files a case, there's a motion to
- 16 dismiss filed, maybe they even oppose that
- motion to dismiss, they go abroad, they fall
- ill, they are -- they never find out that the
- 19 court has granted the motion to dismiss but
- 20 granted them leave to replead. They don't do
- 21 anything in time. The court enters a default
- 22 judgment. That becomes final.
- 23 Maybe in that set of circumstances the
- 24 person could come in and say: I had no idea
- 25 that this was entered against me. You gave me

- 1 the opportunity to replead. I had no ability to
- 2 take advantage of it, the same way that
- 3 Mr. Klapprott had no ability to oppose the
- 4 circumstances in his -- or the default judgment
- 5 in his case.
- 6 There, I would say I -- I think that
- 7 that may be appropriate under 60(b)(6).
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: So you're not saying
- 9 that a court has to blind itself to anything
- 10 remotely relating to amendments?
- MR. McGINLEY: No.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: You're saying the
- 13 60(b) standard, the extraordinary
- 14 circumstances --
- MR. McGINLEY: Right.
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- is the right
- 17 standard to use.
- 18 MR. McGINLEY: Right.
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: And, of course, you
- 20 can't try to evade 60(b)(1), et cetera, but
- 21 there's -- there's -- there's no
- 22 greater requirement or -- or strictures that
- 23 you're asking for.
- 24 MR. McGINLEY: No. All we're asking
- you to do is apply 60(b)(6) as you do in every

- 1 other circumstance that always takes into
- 2 account what the request is for.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I appreciate that
- 4 acknowledgment in Justice Kagan's question
- 5 because I think -- I do think it's one thing to
- 6 say the district court abuses its discretion in
- 7 60(b)(6) by not looking at Rule 15 and quite
- 8 another to say the district court abuses its
- 9 discretion to look at Rule 15 in some 60(b)(6)
- 10 cases.
- 11 MR. McGINLEY: Right. And I just want
- to be clear that I'm not now overselling in the
- other direction. We -- we want --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I think -- I
- think you were selling really well just a moment
- 16 ago.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- MR. McGINLEY: Okay. Good. Yeah.
- 19 All I want to say is --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: You might leave it.
- 21 MR. McGINLEY: Yeah. Okay. That's
- 22 fine, Your Honor.
- 23 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, what are
- 25 you -- what were you going to say?

Τ	(Laughter.)
2	MR. McGINLEY: I was just going to
3	say I was just going to say that we want to
4	be absolutely clear that doesn't mean liberality
5	creeps into the equation. All it means is that
6	the extraordinary circumstances that are cited
7	must match the request
8	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah, some
9	extraordinary circumstances in which somebody
LO	was denied the right to replead, and, at that
L1	point, one might take a look at at our
L2	general presumption, you can call it Rule 15,
L3	you can call it whatever, that somebody should
L4	have their day in court and a and a fair
L5	opportunity to do so. No?
L6	MR. McGINLEY: I want to be careful
L7	because I I just I think that
L8	JUSTICE GORSUCH: They're blameless.
L9	They meet all the 60(b) standards.
20	MR. McGINLEY: If they're blameless,
21	it's truly extraordinary circumstances, that, or
22	course, means that they didn't waive
23	opportunities, that they were diligent in their
24	pursuit, I don't know what the liberality would
25	add to the equation at that point I think that

- 1 60(b)(6) just gives them the opportunity to do
- 2 what they want to do. So --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But, if a district
- 4 court judge cited Rule 15 in a 60(b)(6) order,
- 5 that would not be an abuse of discretion --
- 6 MR. McGINLEY: Oh.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- would it?
- 8 MR. McGINLEY: No. If all they did
- 9 was cite it, no. If there's evidence that they
- 10 let the liberality creep in in a way that
- 11 changed the analysis that they were applying --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that.
- MR. McGINLEY: -- then yes. But --
- 14 but, no, if all they did was cite it. I also
- 15 would say that I think that a district court
- 16 could say -- if they thought it was more
- 17 efficient, they could say: I don't think
- there's any chance that you could possibly meet
- 19 Rule 15's standard, so I'm going to deny this
- 20 because, no extraordinary circumstances, it
- 21 would be futile.
- I think that's fine for them to do
- 23 that. What they can't do is grant it by
- diluting 60(b)(6).
- 25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I appreciate

1 that. 2 JUSTICE BARRETT: So is one way to say 3 what you're saying that when you're in 60(b) land with a 60(b) motion, the standard is always 4 extraordinary circumstances, not the liberality 5 6 under Rule 15, and just say no more? 7 MR. McGINLEY: For 60(b)(6)? JUSTICE BARRETT: Yes. 8 9 MR. McGINLEY: Yes, that's correct. 10 JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. 11 MR. McGINLEY: And -- and then, of 12 course, we believe that it's fully briefed here 13 as to whether they -- or not they meet it. 14 I wanted to say one more thing. I 15 think it was Justice Sotomayor asked why you 16 should decide it. It's what you did in 17 Crosby -- or -- yeah, in Crosby. There -- there was not a separate QP on whether 60(b)(6) relief 18 19 should be granted or not. The Court decided the 20 AEDPA issue, which was whether it's a second or 21 successive petition, and then it said: But he 2.2 can't meet 60(b)(6) here because there's no extraordinary circumstances. He wasn't diligent 23 24 in pursuing his effort to -- to do what he

25

wanted to do.

- That's precisely what has happened
 here, and we would ask the Court to therefore
- 3 reverse.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 5 counsel.
- Justice -- Justice Sotomayor, anything
- 7 further?
- 8 JUSTICE JACKSON: I have a question.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes. I guess what
- 11 I'm still a little worried about is that you are
- 12 characterizing the choice to appeal the district
- 13 court's determination about the sufficiency of
- 14 your pleading as a tactical waiver of your
- ability to amend if the court of appeals
- 16 disagrees with you. And I'm worried about that.
- 17 MR. McGINLEY: Yeah.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So let me give you a
- 19 hypo. So you have a plaintiff who files a
- 20 complaint that he thinks is sufficient. The
- 21 district court signals no, I actually think it's
- 22 not. The law is such and you haven't pled
- enough facts, but I'll give you the ability to
- 24 amend. And the plaintiff says: No. With --
- 25 with respect, Your Honor, I really do think it's

- 1 sufficient. I have a right to appeal your
- 2 ruling. If you'd like to rule that my complaint
- is dismissed, do so, and we'll go to the court
- 4 of appeals to get a ruling on that.
- 5 MR. McGINLEY: Yeah.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: They go to the court
- of appeals and the court of appeals agrees with
- 8 the district court.
- 9 What I don't understand is a rule,
- whether it's Rule 60(b) or 15 or whatever, that
- 11 prevents under those circumstances the plaintiff
- 12 from curing by pleading the facts that he
- originally thought and mistakenly thought were
- 14 not necessary. I don't know why he forfeits
- then the opportunity to proceed with his
- 16 litigation having gotten now a clear ruling from
- 17 the court of appeals about what is required.
- MR. McGINLEY: So I'd say, in that
- 19 circumstance where there's never a request to
- 20 replead either in the trial court or in the
- 21 court of appeals, I think that's Ackermann,
- 22 which says that if you make a tactical decision
- 23 to induce the court to do something or -- or you
- 24 make a tactical decision not to do something in
- 25 that --

1 JUSTICE JACKSON: But why -- is -- is 2 the tactical decision choosing to appeal the 3 district court's ruling? 4 MR. McGINLEY: No. JUSTICE JACKSON: That's my question. 5 6 MR. McGINLEY: No, no. It's choosing 7 not to plead the facts that you think might have satisfied even the rule that you're advocating. 8 9 That's what happened here. 10 I would also point out here -- and I'd 11 point you to JA 171 through 185 -- we raised all 12 of the issues that they say that they now want 13 to --14 JUSTICE JACKSON: No, I -- I don't 15 want this case. I'm just trying to understand 16 what --17 MR. McGINLEY: Well --18 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I just change 19 the hypo a little bit? 20 MR. McGINLEY: That's fine. 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: What if the court of 22 appeals actually partially agrees with the 23 plaintiff and changes and says neither of you is 24 right, the district court said you needed to do 25 a whole lot more, we don't think that's the

- 1 case, you only need to plead some subset of
- 2 facts?
- 3 MR. McGINLEY: Right.
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: In those -- in that
- 5 situation, does the plaintiff get to go back and
- 6 do what the court of appeals says is now
- 7 required?
- 8 MR. McGINLEY: They can ask to do so.
- 9 They admit this on page 40, I believe, of their
- 10 brief, that they could have asked the Second
- 11 Circuit to do that. They -- that's what
- happened in the Google case. It's what happened
- in the Schwab case that they cite.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, if they don't,
- 15 you're saying they can't go to the district
- 16 court and ask?
- MR. McGINLEY: Not on a 60(b)(6).
- Now, I mean, the other thing they could have
- 19 done here -- and this -- and I'm not just trying
- 20 to make this about this case. I'm saying a
- 21 plaintiff even in this -- the --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes.
- MR. McGINLEY: -- circumstances that
- 24 you're positing. Say they -- they mistakenly
- 25 think that they can meet even the standard that

- 1 the Second Circuit or the court of appeals is
- 2 advocating, but the court rules against them.
- 3 They could file a rehearing motion and they
- 4 could say: Your Honors, we're sorry, we should
- 5 have asked you at the outset, but we're asking
- 6 you now, we think there might be facts that
- 7 could replead.
- 8 Obviously, they're going to have to
- 9 labor under the rehearing standard at that
- point, but that's still better than a 60(b)(6),
- which is an attack on a final judgment that's
- 12 already been affirmed on appeal.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- MR. McGINLEY: Thank you. Thank you.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 16 counsel.
- 17 Mr. Radine.
- 18 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL J. RADINE
- 19 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- MR. RADINE: Mr. Chief Justice, and
- 21 may it please the Court:
- The answer to the question presented
- is that Rule 60(b)(6)'s standard does apply
- 24 here, and the circumstances of this case clearly
- 25 meet that standard. The plaintiffs here did

- 1 everything you'd want litigants to do. They
- 2 didn't waste the district court's time with
- 3 futile amendments given the district court's
- 4 erroneous standards. They appealed an incorrect
- 5 decision, secured a corrected pleading standard
- 6 and substantive legal standards from the
- 7 circuit, and then, armed with those
- 8 clarifications, promptly sought an opportunity
- 9 to amend from the court tasked with making those
- 10 decisions, the district court.
- 11 The circuit acknowledged that
- 12 plaintiffs faced an impossible situation,
- including the district court's soup-to-nuts
- incorrect standards, from every one of the
- 15 relevant JASTA standards to the direct evidence
- 16 knowledge pleading standard, which most
- 17 plaintiffs could not hope to meet.
- 18 And it acknowledged that the district
- 19 court was confused given ambiguous circuit law
- on JASTA. It's fundamentally unfair to lay the
- 21 consequences of that confusion at plaintiffs'
- doorstep.
- But when presented with a motion for
- 24 vacatur, the district court exalted finality
- 25 without balancing that principle against the

- 1 federal rule's preference for deciding cases on
- 2 their merits; a preference which is at its peak
- 3 at the initial stages of litigation where
- 4 discovery has not even begun.
- 5 The circuit recognized that the fair
- 6 thing to do was to give plaintiffs a chance to
- 7 meet the corrected standards in a first amended
- 8 complaint. The panel then issued the summary
- 9 order below, which included the author of the
- 10 prior affirmance and other grounds, effectively
- 11 undoing that affirmance, and attempting to clean
- 12 up a very strange and unfair situation.
- 13 That's why Petitioner was forced to
- 14 manufacture waivers by plaintiffs that the
- 15 circuit preliminary never found. Like many
- 16 cases involving extraordinary circumstances
- 17 under Rule 60(b)(6), crafting a universal rule
- 18 from unusual facts of this case is very
- difficult, but we know that Rule 60(b)(6) makes
- 20 an exception to finality intended for unusual
- 21 cases like this one.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Wouldn't you be in a
- 24 stronger position had you taken up the district
- 25 court's offer to amend your complaint?

1 MR. RADINE: The offer from the 2 district court was to meet the standards urged by defendant, which were entirely incorrect. 3 And as of oral argument, included the Kaplan I 4 standard for pleading knowledge that the 5 defendant read or was aware of the sources cited 6 7 to convey knowledge. That's something that we couldn't prove -- allege, much less plead to. 8 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: But even if -- if you look at the first opinion by the court of 10 11 appeals, didn't it affirm the district court? 12 MR. RADINE: On other grounds, Your 13 Honor. 14 JUSTICE THOMAS: I know, but is -- but 15 the point was that your complaint as it stood 16 did not even meet that standard, even if it 17 wasn't the correct standard. 18 MR. RADINE: It didn't meet the 19 clarified standard that the district court --20 sorry, the Circuit Court provided. The Circuit Court provided a standard that -- in what Judge 21 2.2 Wesley called it, a law that was recasting 23 itself in an ambiguous and evolving legal 24 situation, that gave us among other things a new 25 knowledge pleading standard, as near as we can

- 1 tell. This is the public sources versus
- 2 publicly-available evidence distinction. And it
- 3 identified specific and I'd add non-intuitive
- 4 defects in the complaint, defects that we can
- 5 remedy but not defects that necessarily should
- 6 have been obvious to us before.
- 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: The other side
- 8 says that once you have an affirmance of the
- 9 dismissal, though, that you should have sought
- 10 rehearing or asked the Second Circuit to modify
- 11 the decision to remand and to permit the -- you
- 12 all to amend the complaint.
- Why didn't you do that? And why isn't
- 14 that the answer?
- MR. RADINE: There's no obligation to
- 16 do that. And, in fact, in the Second Circuit
- 17 there's not only no obligation but it appears to
- 18 be a regular enough practice to go back to the
- 19 district court.
- 20 So, for example, in the Mandala en
- 21 banc dissent, four of the judges of that court
- 22 encouraged the plaintiffs to go back to the
- 23 district court and seek vacatur under Rule
- 24 60(b)(6) and amendment. The same thing we did
- 25 here.

1 The Ninth Circuit in Nguyen v. United 2 States relying on this Court's decision in 3 Rogers v. Hill said that so long as the mandate from the circuit doesn't say you can't amend, 4 then you are free to go back and ask the 5 district court for leave to do so under Rule 60. 6 7 And then the Tenth Circuit also commented this in Pierce v. Cook telling the 8 9 district court I understand you might have been 10 unsure if you could grant that relief, you can. 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Radine --12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel --JUSTICE KAGAN: -- if I understood 13 14 your introduction, you said the right standard 15 is 60(b)(6), extraordinary circumstances, and 16 here it's not. That's not what the Second 17 Circuit said, is it? 18 MR. RADINE: The summary order below, 19 I don't think is a picture of clarity. JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, it's kind of 20 21 clear. It just doesn't say what you say it 2.2 says. It says the district court erred because 23 -- and I'm quoting here -- "it evaluated Plaintiff's motion under only Rule 60(b) 24 25 standard." And then it says what was it

- 1 required to do instead? It was -- and I'm
- 2 quoting again -- "required to consider Rule
- 3 60(b) finality and Rule 15(a) liberality in
- 4 tandem."
- 5 So that's to say it's not just the
- 6 Rule 60(b) standard where the plaintiff comes in
- 7 and says it wants to amend, you know, that
- 8 there's some kind mishmash of a standard, which
- 9 is part 60(b) and part 15(a). And as I
- 10 understood your introduction, you have given up
- on that. And, I mean, we seem to have a lot of
- 12 people giving up on things, properly so, because
- we seem to have a lot of outlier positions
- 14 today.
- And if it's an outlier position, why
- don't we just say the outlier position is wrong,
- 17 go back and try it again?
- 18 MR. RADINE: Well, I think all that
- 19 the circuit meant about considering the rules in
- 20 tandem was balancing finality against Rule 15's
- 21 preference for hearing cases on their merits.
- 22 The -- I don't think that's contrary to Rule 60.
- Rule 60(b) doesn't have the word
- 24 "finality" in it. It doesn't have the word
- 25 "extraordinary circumstances" in it.

1 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well it -- it says --2 and this goes back to Justice Gorsuch's question 3 to Mr. McGinley -- I mean, it says you are required to consider what 15(b) tells you about 4 amendments. And you're -- and -- -- and -- and 5 6 and, you know, that provision, it really does 7 set forth a standard, which is like 60(b)(6), high bar; 15(b), low bar. Put them together, 8 medium bar. That's -- that's different from 9 10 what even you are saying is the right way to 11 look at this. 12 MR. RADINE: Yeah, I think that Rule 13 15 here helps illustrate what might be 14 extraordinary, as in denying the opportunity to 15 I think that Rule 15(a) also gives us amend. 16 some insight at the importance of the stage this 17 happens at. 18 At an early stage, amendment is freely 19 We're not asking for amendment to be freely given here, simply saying it reflects an 20 understanding that the court should be more 21 2.2 permissive at the early stages of litigation, 23 but ultimately those are all built in to Rule 60 as this Court --24 25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Ahh. So if they're

- 1 all built in, Mr. Radine, what objection would
- 2 you have to a short opinion from this Court
- 3 saying simply that the Rule 60(b) standard
- 4 applies, there isn't this mishmash, as Justice
- 5 Kagan I think referred to it, between 15 and 60,
- 6 go back and try again? Because I hear most of
- 7 your argument saying we can meet 60(b).
- 8 MR. RADINE: Yes. I think this Court
- 9 could issue a ruling saying that 60(b) governs;
- 10 Rule 15 is not governing here. But if I can
- 11 help with the opinion --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Period. Well, how
- about putting a period there?
- 14 MR. RADINE: Sure. I think so. I
- 15 mean, I think as this Court held in Witzig just
- the other day, that Rule 60 balances finality in
- 17 the interest of justice.
- 18 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's already in
- 19 there. It's baked in.
- MR. RADINE: It's already in there,
- 21 Your Honor.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Thank you.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I have you speak
- 24 to the genesis of the extraordinary
- 25 circumstances? I mean, that language doesn't

- 1 appear in (a)(6), any other reason that
- 2 justifies relief says the actual provision.
- 3 So I know we came up with it, I think.
- 4 MR. RADINE: Yeah.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can you just talk
- 6 about that a little bit?
- 7 MR. RADINE: Yes. As my friend
- 8 mentioned, it is from the case, Klapprott, where
- 9 a plaintiff essentially misses a summons because
- 10 he's in jail and ill. And the -- the reason why
- 11 the Court identified the extraordinary nature of
- 12 that was to point out the lack of fault.
- So it was extraordinary in that he
- wasn't just sitting around ignoring a court
- 15 order. There was a lack of fault issue.
- 16 It's not -- to be clear, the
- 17 extraordinary circumstances test is not a
- 18 frequency test. It's not that oh, this is very,
- 19 very rare. I don't think being sick or being in
- jail really necessarily is that rare.
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: I see. So it's more
- 22 like akin to you say lack of fault.
- MR. RADINE: Yes.
- 24 JUSTICE JACKSON: Counsel on the other
- 25 side kind of points the finger at you all and --

- 1 MR. RADINE: Absolutely.
- 2 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- says in this case
- 3 you were at fault.
- 4 MR. RADINE: Right.
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: So why is he wrong
- 6 about that?
- 7 MR. RADINE: Well, the two invitations
- 8 we get from the district court are, as Judge
- 9 Wesley said, impossible for us to meet. They're
- 10 premised on incorrect standards. The correct
- 11 thing to do there is to appeal.
- 12 Rule 60, for example, is not a
- 13 substitution for appeal. We -- moreover, I
- 14 think it's -- it would be needless to go back to
- the district court and say: Oh, I think you
- 16 made a mistake and got every single thing wrong.
- 17 The thing to do in that situation is
- 18 to appeal. When we get to the circuit, why
- 19 didn't we ask the circuit to amend? Naturally
- 20 we think we're right. We don't think we're --
- 21 that we have failed to meet some standard that
- 22 we're advocating for.
- And, indeed, where we fall down in the
- 24 Second Circuit is in what appears to be a new
- knowledge pleading standard, but also it's not

1 the Second Circuit's job to grant us leave --2 JUSTICE JACKSON: Was there an 3 opportunity for you to, as Justice Kavanaugh pointed out, ask the circuit even after they 4 clarified? I mean, I know that there's a --5 6 there's a point at which you come to the 7 circuit --8 MR. RADINE: Yeah. 9 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- and you could 10 have said or in the alternative, you know, let 11 us amend to begin with, but then once the Second 12 Circuit clarified, okay, so this is the 13 standard, was that the moment at which you were 14 supposed to ask about --15 MR. RADINE: We could --16 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- amendment? 17 MR. RADINE: -- have petitioned for a 18 panel rehearing, but, as I mentioned, it seemed 19 to be the practice in the circuit to take that back to the district court. And I don't see 20 21 that there's any rule that suggests that we 2.2 should be essentially punished for making a 23 reasonable choice of who to bring that issue to. 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, I think 25 Mr. McGinley would -- would probably object to

- 1 that on the grounds that we have a final
- 2 judgment. You know, you -- you didn't ask the
- 3 circuit to -- for leave. Now I'm not sure we
- 4 need to get into any of this for reasons we've
- 5 already discussed, but if we were to, not having
- 6 asked the circuit for any further relief beyond
- 7 we win or we lose, why wouldn't that normally be
- 8 the end of the case?
- 9 MR. RADINE: Well, I think -- first of
- 10 all, I think that just to note that in any
- 11 appeal where you think the standards are wrong,
- 12 I suppose it's implicit that the appellant --
- 13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You have a final
- 14 judgment in the district court on appeal --
- MR. RADINE: Right.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- yes or no, not
- asking for further proceedings, court says no.
- 18 That's usually it, right?
- 19 MR. RADINE: I think it's the Second
- 20 Circuit practice, as expressed in Mandala, to
- 21 take that back to the district court. It
- 22 certainly was something we reasonably relied on
- as an understanding of how the Second Circuit
- 24 operates.
- 25 If the Court were to -- this Court

1 were to make a rule --JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that 2 3 you think that's how -- I'm just struggling to understand how that -- how that might operate 4 given you have a final judgment that's been --5 6 MR. RADINE: Well, this is the 7 premise --8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you know, affirmed. 9 10 MR. RADINE: -- of -- of Rule 60(b). 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, that's 12 different. I'm asking about you didn't -- the 13 absence of leave to amend being requested in the 14 appeal. The appeal is over. It's done. Case 15 closed. 16 MR. RADINE: Right. The only time --17 the way to -- right. It's closed. We didn't 18 ask for an amendment because we didn't think we 19 needed one. Why would we? 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I appreciate 21 that the circumstances here might lead to a 22 60(b), but I think that would be the recourse, 23 right? I mean, it's -- you did not --MR. RADINE: Oh, to ask the --24

JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. You didn't --

1	MR. RADINE: the panel?
2	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah, in
3	otherwise, you're stuck with 60(b), right?
4	MR. RADINE: Yes, but I don't but
5	60(b)(6), I don't think, is is quite the
6	mountain that my friend wants it to be.
7	JUSTICE GORSUCH: I appreciate that.
8	I appreciate that.
9	JUSTICE BARRETT: So, speaking of
10	mountain, let me just ask you a follow-up
11	question about that which goes to some of your
12	responses to Justice Jackson.
13	Do you think the extraordinary
14	circumstances test is wrong?
15	MR. RADINE: No, Your Honor.
16	JUSTICE BARRETT: So you think the
17	extraordinary circumstances test is right, but
18	maybe it's just a lower mountain?
19	MR. RADINE: Yes, Your Honor.
20	JUSTICE BARRETT: Lower altitude?
21	MR. RADINE: A lower altitude
22	mountain, yes.
23	JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Well, our
24	precedent hasn't treated it that way, and pretty
25	much the uniform practice in the court of

- 1 appeals so far as I'm aware is to say
- 2 extraordinary circumstances really are
- 3 extraordinary because we do have a preference in
- 4 favor of letting final judgments be final.
- 5 MR. RADINE: Yes, Your Honor, but the
- 6 extraordinary circumstances show up more often
- 7 than just someone being ill and in jail. I
- 8 think they happen here, where a plaintiff has
- 9 not had an opportunity to amend his or her
- 10 complaint even once on the actual defects
- 11 identified in that case.
- 12 As my friend mentioned, you know, it's
- 13 not so extraordinary to have the law change over
- 14 time. That's true. But, when it happens in
- that case and then the same circuit essentially
- takes back the affirmance in the summary order,
- 17 as they did here --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: So is your argument
- 19 then that if you went back to the Second
- 20 Circuit, you would be able to satisfy the
- 21 extraordinary circumstances test? You don't
- 22 really need the liberality standard from Rule
- 23 15?
- MR. RADINE: I think it's -- it's
- built into Rule 60, which, as this Court says,

- 1 balances finality against the interests of --
- 2 JUSTICE BARRETT: So you're not giving
- 3 up that Rule 15's liberality standard is
- 4 peppered in in this circumstance?
- 5 MR. RADINE: I -- I think -- like
- 6 this Court said in Krupski, I think that it,
- 7 along with the rest of the Federal Rules, helps
- 8 express a preference for trying cases on
- 9 their -- on their preferences. Whether this
- 10 Court says that you get there by invoking the
- 11 words "Rule 15" or not I don't think changes
- 12 that analysis, though.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Are you arguing
- 14 that you were misled in some respects -- maybe
- "misled" is a little strong -- but by the Second
- 16 Circuit's practice?
- 17 MR. RADINE: Well, I think that the
- 18 normal case for a circuit in its position would
- 19 be to remand. So for -- on -- on its own. We
- see this in Marranzano, for example. The D.C.
- 21 Circuit says nobody's right here, go back and
- 22 try again. And I think that's what the circuit
- 23 should have done here. I think that's where,
- 24 once we get --
- 25 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But, once they

- 1 affirm, you said --
- 2 MR. RADINE: Once they affirm.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- you didn't ask
- 4 for rehearing because you thought -- and maybe
- 5 fill in the blank there -- you thought?
- 6 MR. RADINE: That that is a decision
- 7 for the district court in the first instance,
- 8 which the circuit agreed with. When we went
- 9 back on -- on the summary order below, the
- 10 circuit doesn't say: I don't know why you
- 11 bothered the district court with that. You
- 12 should have come to us.
- The circuit, which is in charge of its
- own, you know, docket and rules and so on, said:
- 15 You're right, you should probably get another
- 16 crack at that or at least a district court
- 17 should think further about it.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And, in Mandala,
- 19 that's what --
- 20 MR. RADINE: That's what four judges
- of the court recommended.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: -- that's what four
- judges of the court of appeals said.
- MR. RADINE: That's right.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: You should go back

- 1 to the district court, so --
- 2 MR. RADINE: That's right.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So the answer, I
- 4 think, is you feel like you were a bit misled by
- 5 the practice.
- 6 MR. RADINE: To the -- if that were to
- 7 be impermissible, then yes. I think we were
- 8 following the circuit instructions as shown in
- 9 the summary order itself.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Under (b)(4) and (5),
- 11 the circumstances are such that allowing the
- judgment to stand would arguably work a -- a --
- 13 a really serious injustice. The judgment is
- 14 void. The judgment has been satisfied, et
- 15 cetera.
- So do you think it would be fair to
- infer that the reason under (6) has to be of
- 18 comparable magnitude?
- MR. RADINE: Well, no, because, if it
- were, then why not just be comparable magnitude
- of (1), which excusable neglect does --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, because (1) has
- 23 the one-year limitation.
- MR. RADINE: I see. I don't think
- 25 that -- I think that what (6) is appreciating is

- 1 that cases can be strange and unusual, to quote
- 2 Judge Wesley, unusual and quirky, as they were
- 3 here.
- 4 I don't think that it means that it
- 5 has to be on a severity of (4) and (5). The
- 6 rule, 60(b)(6), still has a reasonable time
- 7 limitation, for example. Courts have rejected
- 8 this sort of relief in shorter periods of time
- 9 because the plaintiff didn't jump to seek the
- 10 amendment. We did. In 11 days, we were back
- 11 before the district court seeking relief.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I thought you
- said that extraordinary doesn't mean infrequent.
- 14 And then you said, well, it could be
- 15 extraordinary if it's quirky. So what is the
- 16 difference?
- 17 MR. RADINE: Well, I just mean that
- it's hard to fashion a rule about situations
- 19 like this. It's hard to say that extraordinary
- 20 circumstances are met when you were given
- incorrect standards and you appealed it and you
- 22 were largely vindicated, but then the circuit
- 23 adopted a new knowledge standard and identified
- some defects, and you promptly went back, but
- 25 they had affirmed. They didn't -- they undid

- 1 the affirmation essentially. You know, it's
- 2 a -- it's, to me, a textbook situation for the
- 3 circuit monitoring its own cases.
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: Mr. McGinley says
- 5 that you should have at least pled the facts
- 6 that you thought, you know -- under these other
- 7 hypothetical or potential standards. Like, why
- 8 didn't you do that?
- 9 MR. RADINE: Well, we did under the
- 10 standards that we understood to be the case.
- 11 The -- the allegations we pled were similar to
- 12 allegations that had survived motions to dismiss
- in other cases, like Weiss, as we point out in
- 14 our -- in our brief.
- 15 The -- the circuit court's
- 16 distinction, for example, about publicly
- 17 available evidence versus public sources, that
- 18 was not just new. I read it as, in fact,
- 19 contrary to their Nomura decision that says
- 20 publicly available information is sufficient to
- 21 show circumstantial knowledge.
- Or take the cash as untraceable. The
- 23 circuit said we had to specifically plead that
- 24 cash was untraceable. We didn't think that that
- was necessary. We thought that was an inherent

- 1 part of cash, but, fine, we can amend to meet
- 2 that.
- I think what we don't want is a rule
- 4 where plaintiffs have to load up dockets with
- 5 amended complaints trying every which
- 6 combination of facts. For example, what if the
- 7 circuit had said, you know, you say that Hamas
- 8 operates openly in Lebanon? How do you know?
- 9 What are the -- how does Lebanon react
- 10 historically to terrorist groups?
- We could have written 30 pages on
- 12 that. We are going to lose short and plain
- 13 statements if we have a rule that makes
- 14 plaintiffs try to essentially guess at every
- 15 future ruling or lose their right to amend
- 16 forever.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, I --
- 18 I -- I understood here that you came in in your
- 19 initial complaint and said basically, they knew
- that these people were tied to Hamas, the people
- 21 who were on their board of directors --
- MR. RADINE: Right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the money that
- 24 was given. The district court, I agree, said
- 25 that's not enough. Public information is not

- 1 enough to give knowledge. But even if it was --
- 2 this was their alternative reason -- there's no
- 3 reason to know that this information was in
- 4 their possession at the time of -- of the attack
- 5 that occurred here for which you're seeking
- 6 recompense.
- 7 I understood when you went up to the
- 8 Second Circuit, the Second Circuit agreed with
- 9 you that public information would be enough to
- 10 give knowledge, but its alternative ground for
- 11 affirming was: But the district court was
- 12 right, none of the information was clearly
- 13 present at the time the alleged aid to this
- 14 attack occurred.
- So you could have cured that below on
- 16 the first round. Nothing about that was a
- 17 surprise either in the district court or the
- 18 court of appeals. But you chose not to.
- MR. RADINE: Well, when the district
- 20 court told us that we had to plead that BLOM --
- or, you know, acts or statements from BLOM or
- 22 BLOM employees that they had read or were
- aware -- aware of sources, I don't think there's
- any benefit to us saying, well, we don't have
- 25 that, but here are just some more allegations

- 1 that are going to fail to meet your standard.
- 2 It's a frivolous amendment at that point.
- We had what we thought were
- 4 sufficient. And if you look at the actual
- 5 defects identified by this circuit, I -- I think
- 6 they're really quite narrow. For example, the
- 7 cash one. Or making clear at what time people
- 8 knew that Sheikh Qaradawi was the chair of the
- 9 Union of Good, which we took to be clear --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Those are not
- inconsequential facts. Those are the very
- 12 essence of the case.
- 13 MR. RADINE: I -- I -- for -- for
- 14 example, in Weiss, a case where -- that said it
- is reasonable to assume that a bank -- and banks
- have know-your-customer obligations and so on --
- 17 that a bank would look to foreign designations
- 18 of their customers or perhaps their
- 19 counterparties. And that's why these role
- 20 designations --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But your complaint
- 22 never said they had been identified at the time
- 23 at issue.
- MR. RADINE: Oh, no, no. The -- the
- 25 -- the complaint says that the Union of Good was

- 1 -- was designated by Israel in 2002, and that
- 2 the counterparties, which were sending millions
- 3 of dollars that BLOM was converting into cash
- 4 for these entities, were designated already by
- 5 Israel.
- 6 The AAF, Al-Aqsa Foundation, had been
- 7 shuttered by Germany in its own headquarters in
- 8 2002, during the relevant period. HLF was a
- 9 known Hamas financier that would soon get shut
- 10 down during the relevant period. Shut down at
- 11 the beginning of the relevant period.
- 12 And -- and when that's shut down by
- the U.S., there's -- the bank doesn't then say:
- 14 You know, my goodness, I can't believe we've
- been receiving millions of dollars from this
- 16 terrorist organization. What account is that
- 17 going into? Who are these people?
- They just move right over to the next
- 19 transferor, KindHearts, until that one's
- 20 eventually shut down years later.
- 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Thank you,
- 22 counsel.
- MR. RADINE: Sure.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 25 Thomas? Anything further? No?

1	Thank you, counsel.
2	MR. RADINE: Thank you, Court.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Rebuttal,
4	Mr. McGinley?
5	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL H. McGINLEY
6	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
7	MR. McGINLEY: I think my friend on
8	the other side has all but conceded the Rule
9	60(b)(6) question, and I think his very first
10	line standing before you today invited you to
11	rule on the merits of whether 60(b)(6) relief is
12	warranted here. I think everything he said
13	showed that it's not. There are not
14	extraordinary circumstances here.
15	I want to point out something that
16	didn't come up, I don't think, in either side of
17	the arguments, but it's really worth
18	emphasizing. The denial of 60(b)(6) is deny
19	is reviewed for abuse of discretion. And I
20	think that's why this Court can very easily cut
21	through and and reverse entirely in this
22	case, because there's no abuse of discretion
23	here whatsoever.
24	Even if my friend is right, that they
25	mistakenly thought that they didn't need to

- 1 plead the facts that turned out to be necessary
- 2 under the very standard that they claim that
- 3 they were advocating, that's at most a mistake,
- 4 it's inadvertence, it's excusable neglect under
- 5 (b)(1).
- 6 I would also point out that it's just
- 7 simply not true that they had no notice that
- 8 those defects existed before the district court
- 9 issued her decision. On pages 171 and -- to 185
- 10 of the JA -- this is our motion to dismiss.
- 11 This is before the district court has issued any
- 12 ruling -- we point out every single defect that
- 13 the Second Circuit ended up affirming based on.
- 14 And I think if you look at that and
- you match it up to pages 49 through 52 of the
- 16 JA, you'll see that everything the Second
- 17 Circuit said was a problem, we said was a
- 18 problem. At that point they had the opportunity
- 19 to amend.
- I also would say that the notion that
- 21 somehow their case is the one that changed the
- law is fanciful, not only because there is no
- change of law but really what they're saying is
- 24 Kaplan was some kind of new decision that they
- 25 needed a chance to address.

1 They had a chance to address it. 2 was the entire point of the supplemental 3 briefing. At page 300 of the JA, Judge Wesley said to them -- same counsel as in Kaplan -- he 4 said: You recognize that your facts pled here 5 6 are nowhere close to what's in Kaplan. 7 We agree they're nowhere close to 8 what's pled in Kaplan. Even the proposed 9 amended complaint is nowhere close to Kaplan. 10 As my friend's own argument shows today, all of 11 the allegations they want to make are about 12 non-customers. Not about BLOM's customers, but 13 about third parties. 14 And I would point you to footnote 20 15 in the Second Circuit's decision, which points out that even if they fixed the defects that 16 17 they think the Second Circuit was talking about, they still lose. Because when all you're doing 18 19 is talking about non-customers with nothing 20 more, that's not enough to plead general 21 awareness. 2.2 I'd also point out, just to make you 23 feel a little more comfortable, I think, that we also won on substantial assistance in the 24 25 district court. The Second Circuit didn't

1	address it because it affirmed on general
2	awareness. I think if you look at what was
3	alleged even in the amend the proposed
4	amended complaint, it's nowhere close to what
5	this Court required in Twitter.
6	The problem with their case is that it
7	simply does not meet the standards for JASTA.
8	And we won dismissal the case was filed in
9	2019. It's about events that occurred 25 years
10	ago. We won dismissal in 2021, we won
11	affirmance in 2022, and somehow we're here three
12	years later talking about a zombie case that
13	should have been over years ago.
14	They simply do not meet 60(b)(6). And
15	we would ask the Court to reverse and render
16	judgment in our favor. Thank you.
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
18	counsel.
19	The case is submitted.
20	(Whereupon, at 11:49 a.m., the case
21	was submitted.)
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23	
24	
25	

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