1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	KENTUCKY, :
4	Petitioner :
5	v. : No. 09-1272
6	HOLLIS DESHAUN KING :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Wednesday, January 12, 2011
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 11:00 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	JOSHUA D. FARLEY, ESQ., Assistant Attorney General,
16	Frankfort, Kentucky; on behalf of Petitioner.
17	ANN O'CONNELL, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor General,
18	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on
19	behalf of the United States, as amicus curiae,
20	supporting Petitioner.
21	JAMESA J. DRAKE, ESQ., Assistant Public Advocate,
22	Frankfort, Kentucky; on behalf of Respondent.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:00 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	next this morning in Case 09-1272, Kentucky v. King.
5	Mr. Farley.
6	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOSHUA D. FARLEY
7	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
8	MR. FARLEY: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
9	please the Court:
10	The issue before you today, of whether or
11	not police can impermissibly create exigent
12	circumstances, arises from the improper suppression of
13	reasonably seized evidence after a reasonable
14	warrantless entry. The test set forth by the Kentucky
15	Supreme Court is improper for several reasons, the first
16	of which is that this Court has routinely held that the
17	subjective intent of police officers when effecting a
18	warrantless entry is irrelevant.
19	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Where did the where
20	did the Kentucky Supreme Court where did the Kentucky
21	Supreme Court say that it was looking to a subjective
22	state of mind on the part of the police?
23	MR. FARLEY: Well, the Kentucky Supreme
24	Court's first prong of their test and I believe it's
25	in our petition appendix on page 26 I'm sorry.

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- 1 Their -- their discussion starts on page 44a and carries
- 2 over to 46a. The first question of their test is
- 3 whether or not the officers acted in bad faith in an
- 4 attempt to purposefully evade the warrant requirements.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: That didn't -- that
- 6 didn't apply in this case?
- 7 MR. FARLEY: That is correct.
- 8 The second prong of the Kentucky Supreme
- 9 Court's test is whether or not the actions of the
- 10 Respondent in this case or the occupant of the home
- 11 would have been foreseeable by the police officers
- 12 before they knocked and announced their presence.
- Now, the problem with the foreseeability
- 14 test --
- 15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But why is -- why is that
- 16 subjective? Why isn't that -- would it be foreseeable
- 17 to a reasonable police officer similarly situated?
- 18 MR. FARLEY: Well, Justice Ginsburg, it --
- 19 it isn't directly a subjective inquiry. However, police
- 20 officers are trained to expect and foresee illegal
- 21 activity so that they may carry out the duties of their
- job in protecting the citizens. So under a
- 23 foreseeability test, a reasonable officer will always
- 24 foresee illegal activity in response to his actions, be
- 25 it walking down the street or knocking on your door. A Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 reasonable officer will always foresee illegal activity,
- 2 and for that reason, the Kentucky Supreme Court's test
- 3 is completely unworkable.
- 4 Several of the other circuits and the lower
- 5 courts have adopted tests that also attempt to add an
- 6 extra exception, an unwarranted closure of the exigent
- 7 circumstances exception that narrows the use of that
- 8 exception by police officers. The test that the
- 9 Commonwealth would propose is a simple lawfulness test.
- Now, under this test, as long as an officer
- 11 behaves lawfully, there should be no suppression of
- 12 evidence seized after an otherwise reasonable search.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So, you have an
- 14 apartment building where the police know from experience
- 15 there's a lot of illegal activity, a lot of drugs, drug
- 16 transactions. Every 2 weeks, they walk through and
- 17 knock on every door and wait for evidence of the
- 18 destruction of -- of drugs. Is that all right?
- MR. FARLEY: Well, there's -- I would say
- 20 "yes," if there's probable cause as well as exigent
- 21 circumstances.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, the probable
- 23 cause, of course, comes when they hear the, you know,
- 24 flushing and the, you know, hiding or whatever behind
- 25 the door.

- 1 MR. FARLEY: Well, I would assert that there
- 2 are -- there are two separate issues here. You must
- 3 have probable cause separate from the existence of
- 4 exigent circumstances. In this case, there was probable
- 5 cause due to the smell of marijuana.
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: They go to the apartment
- 7 building, and they sniff at every door, and when they
- 8 sniff, when a strong smell of marijuana emanates from
- 9 the door, then they go through this routine, but they do
- 10 it as a matter of every 2 weeks, as the Chief said, as a
- 11 routine matter. They don't just knock on every door,
- 12 but they knock on the doors where they smell marijuana,
- and they do that just as a routine, in all the buildings
- 14 where they suspect there may be drug -- drugs being
- 15 stashed.
- 16 MR. FARLEY: Justice Ginsburg, under a
- 17 simple lawfulness test, since the officers have not
- 18 violated the Fourth Amendment prior to the exigency
- 19 arising, there would be no need to suppress any
- 20 evidence. That would be perfectly fine for the officers
- 21 to do that. It may not be the most --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to the Chief Justice
- 23 when he said -- and I think this was the Solicitor
- 24 General's position -- that the police can routinely
- 25 knock at a door and wait to see if they hear a toilet
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- 1 flushing. I -- I've taken it out of this case but --
- 2 because I don't know what noise means. But your answer
- 3 would be "yes"?
- 4 MR. FARLEY: Yes, if -- if probable cause
- 5 exists, because --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, that's what --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, why -- why do you
- 8 need the probable cause inquiry? What does it have to
- 9 do with anything?
- 10 MR. FARLEY: Well, under the Fourth
- 11 Amendment, for a reasonable warrantless search to occur,
- 12 a police officer must have --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Before they can go in --
- 14 MR. FARLEY: Yes. The police officer must
- 15 have --
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- because they've just
- 17 heard the toilet flushing?
- 18 MR. FARLEY: They must have probable cause
- 19 coupled with exigent circumstances.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sorry. I think
- 21 I've got two different probable causes that's caused --
- 22 causing me some confusion. I understand their
- 23 requirement of probable cause, and that they hear sound
- 24 of evidence being destroyed and therefore enter. Is
- 25 that -- or are you talking about the probable cause to Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 think there's something going on in the first place?
- 2 MR. FARLEY: There are two separate issues
- 3 here. They must have probable cause aside from exigent
- 4 circumstances. Then they must also have --
- 5 JUSTICE KENNEDY: To knock on the door?
- 6 MR. FARLEY: -- a reasonable belief --
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: They must have probable
- 8 cause to knock on the door?
- 9 MR. FARLEY: No, Justice Kennedy.
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: No. All right.
- 11 MR. FARLEY: They can -- just as citizen
- 12 could --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Okay. Take us --
- MR. FARLEY: -- they could knock on the
- 15 door. However --
- 16 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Take us through it -- take
- 17 us through it chronologically. The policeman is walking
- 18 through the hallway. He has no probable cause. He --
- 19 he --
- MR. FARLEY: He could knock on the door.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: He smells marijuana --
- MR. FARLEY: The smell of --
- 23 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- then he knocks on the
- 24 door. When did the probable cause arise and when must
- 25 it arise?

- 1 MR. FARLEY: Well, the smell of marijuana
- 2 would give probable cause to obtain a search warrant.
- 3 Once he knocks on the door and hears noises consistent
- 4 with the destruction of physical evidence, then an
- 5 exigency has arised. Now the officer has both probable
- 6 cause and an exigent circumstance. And under the --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: But I don't understand why
- 8 the smell of marijuana is necessary. This goes back to
- 9 what Justice Sotomayor was saying, you don't need
- 10 probable cause to knock on a door. Knocking on a door
- 11 is perfectly lawful. So, if there's just a lawfulness
- 12 test, the knock is fine. And then when you hear
- 13 whatever it is that you hear that you think creates
- 14 exigent circumstances, whether it's a toilet flushing or
- 15 whether it's just noise, that, too, gives you the
- 16 ability to go right in.
- 17 So -- so if it's just lawfulness, you don't
- 18 need the marijuana smell even, do you?
- 19 MR. FARLEY: Well, I think -- I think we're
- 20 confused. In order to enter with exigent circumstances,
- 21 you must also have separate probable cause, and it's
- 22 that you could have gotten --
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: Probable cause beyond
- 24 thinking that the evidence --
- MR. FARLEY: Beyond the reasonable belief -Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- is being destroyed?
- MR. FARLEY: Yes. Correct.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay.
- 4 MR. FARLEY: That is correct.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: It might just be somebody
- 6 going to the toilet, right?
- 7 (Laughter.)
- 8 MR. FARLEY: It could be. It could be. It
- 9 could very well be.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: So, you have to suspect
- 11 that the reason the toilet is flushing is somebody is
- 12 trying to get rid of evidence. And in order for that to
- 13 be the case, you have to have smelled the marijuana?
- 14 MR. FARLEY: Yes, Justice Scalia, you're
- 15 absolutely correct.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So there's only one
- 17 probable cause, right?
- 18 MR. FARLEY: Yes.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay.
- 20 MR. FARLEY: Yes. The exigent circumstances
- 21 is a reasonable belief based upon the totality of the
- 22 surrounding circumstances. Here, given that the
- 23 officers had a reasonable belief that they were chasing
- 24 a fleeing felon, they had a reasonable belief that this
- 25 was the doorway he had entered, then you couple that Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 with the noises that they heard, they testified were
- 2 based on their training --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: May --
- 4 MR. FARLEY: -- and experience --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: May we just go back
- 6 over -- you're putting in the fleeing felon, but as far
- 7 as I understand from this record, it was never shown
- 8 that the dealer that the police were following was aware
- 9 that he was following and that he was fleeing from them.
- 10 This is the -- it's not part of the question you
- 11 presented, because we granted only on the exigent
- 12 circumstances, but I didn't think that there was -- the
- dealer wasn't called, and he wasn't asked did you even
- 14 know that the police were following you?
- 15 MR. FARLEY: That -- that's correct, Justice
- 16 Ginsburg. However -- and we cannot divorce the
- 17 officers' chase of this suspect, regardless of whether
- 18 he knew of their hot pursuit or not, we cannot divorce
- 19 those facts from what the officers knew when they
- 20 knocked on the door.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure, you can.
- 22 There's nothing illegal about walking down the hall and
- 23 knocking on somebody's door. And if as a police officer
- 24 you say I smell marijuana, and then you hear the
- 25 flushing, then there's probable cause. You don't need Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 any business about the dealer and the breezeway and all
- 2 that at all.
- 3 MR. FARLEY: Certainly. Certainly, Mr.
- 4 Chief Justice. You're absolutely correct. I was -- I
- 5 was just speaking in terms of this case, saying that
- 6 there were -- there was ample evidence that exigent
- 7 circumstances existed here, coupled with the probable
- 8 cause.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: May I ask a question --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And in your view --
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: May I ask a question that
- 12 goes back to what you said? You have clarified very
- 13 nicely that there has to be probable cause to think that
- 14 there's something wrong going on in the -- the
- 15 apartment. And you said that is, at that point when
- 16 they -- the marijuana -- a strong smell comes from the
- 17 door, at that point the police could go and get a
- 18 warrant. Then they don't have to, because then they
- 19 knock on the door.
- We start out with a strong presumption that
- 21 the Fourth Amendment requires a warrant, a strong
- 22 preference for getting the warrant. So why in this
- 23 situation wouldn't the first response of the police
- 24 be -- instead of knocking, because once they knock they
- 25 alert the people in there: Let's get a warrant; we'll Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 come back.
- 2 MR. FARLEY: Well, the officers testified
- 3 under these circumstances that they believed that they
- 4 were in hot pursuit of this felon. So at the time they
- 5 were at the door, they believed he had entered this
- 6 apartment and was aware of their presence and was
- 7 destroying evidence of his deal of crack cocaine, so
- 8 this is a fluid, evolving --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, how does this
- 10 -- how does this holding by us not become a simple
- 11 warrantless entry in any drug case? Meaning: Police
- 12 knock on the door, suspect doesn't answer it, gets up
- 13 and moves to their bedroom. Because there's no noise
- 14 that was described by this police officer. It was
- 15 simply not answering the door and moving. So if that's
- 16 all it takes, any police officer will come in and say:
- 17 In my experience, most drug dealers destroy the evidence
- 18 when we knock.
- MR. FARLEY: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Aren't we just doing
- 21 away with Johnson? And aren't we just simply saying
- 22 they can just walk in whenever they smell marijuana,
- 23 whenever they think there's drugs on the other side?
- 24 Why do we even bother giving them a -- a warrant?
- MR. FARLEY: Well, I would disagree with Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 you. I think that when determining whether an exigent
- 2 circumstance exists, you look at the totality of the
- 3 circumstances. So -- and there would be a myriad of
- 4 cases in which a court would determine that, simply
- 5 based upon the testimony or the noises that were heard,
- 6 with no surrounding circumstances, that exigent
- 7 circumstances may not have existed.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: What if -- what if the
- 9 defendants here had not flushed the evidence down but
- 10 had answered the door and said "Yes?"?
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 JUSTICE SCALIA: Would the policemen have
- 13 been able to do anything just because they had smelled
- 14 marijuana?
- 15 MR. FARLEY: They could have sought a
- 16 consensual encounter with the occupant.
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Oh, yes, but they'd say:
- 18 Oh, heck, no, you can't come in --
- MR. FARLEY: Well, then --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: -- do you have a warrant?
- 21 MR. FARLEY: Then the officers would not
- 22 have been able to force entry.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: So basically the -- the
- 24 police were taking advantage of the stupidity of the
- 25 criminals; is that right?

- 1 MR. FARLEY: Well, I don't know about --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: That's terrible. That's
- 3 not fair, is it?
- 4 MR. FARLEY: I don't know that I would
- 5 phrase it -- there is no -- there is not a requirement
- 6 to inform an occupant of a right to denial. However,
- 7 the officers could not have forced their way into the
- 8 home. That would have made this a case like Johnson.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What if the officers had
- 10 simply knocked, said "We're going to kick the door in if
- 11 you don't open it"?
- 12 MR. FARLEY: I believe that's still fine
- 13 under a lawfulness test, unless the occupant of the home
- 14 submits to that show of authority and comes to the door
- 15 and allows entry. Now, if that --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, after -- after
- 17 they've heard the -- the movement inside or the flushing
- 18 or whatever. You can't just kick it in because you've
- 19 smelled marijuana. You -- can you do it, because you --
- 20 you knock on the door because you smell marijuana,
- 21 nobody answers, and you kick the door in?
- 22 MR. FARLEY: Well, I believe that the noises
- 23 that they heard were consistent with destruction of
- 24 physical evidence based upon their training and
- 25 experience.

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, but without that
- 2 noise. Just --
- MR. FARLEY: Then, no. No.
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: No, of course not.
- 5 MR. FARLEY: No, of course not. They would
- 6 have to obtain a warrant at that point. If the person
- 7 came to the door and denied them consent, they would
- 8 have to obtain a warrant. If the person did not come to
- 9 the door and made -- no exigency arose, then the
- 10 officers would still have to go and obtain a warrant --
- 11 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But -- this may be a bit
- 12 rudimentary, but can you tell me why isn't the evidence
- 13 always being destroyed when the marijuana is being
- 14 smoked? Isn't it being burnt up?
- 15 (Laughter.)
- 16 MR. FARLEY: I -- Justice Kennedy, I -- I
- 17 would tend to -- I would tend to agree with you.
- 18 However, I know this Court in Johnson stated that the
- 19 smell of burning opium was not the destruction of
- 20 evidence, and the only thing they could have obtained
- 21 would have been the fumes or the vapors. I tend to
- 22 agree -- disagree with that personally. However, from a
- 23 legal viewpoint, the simple smell of burning marijuana
- 24 is not --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: So the distinction is

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- 1 being destroyed as opposed to being consumed?
- 2 MR. FARLEY: Correct, that is -- that is
- 3 correct.
- 4 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And how is it -- you
- 5 mention Johnson.
- 6 MR. FARLEY: Yes.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And I think the other
- 8 side says it was the same thing except it was a hotel
- 9 room instead of an apartment building. The police
- 10 smell -- in that case, it was -- what was it?
- 11 MR. FARLEY: Well, what occurred in Johnson,
- 12 I believe, is -- is completely different than what
- 13 occurred here. What occurred in Johnson was the
- 14 officers forced their way into the occupant's apartment
- 15 -- the occupant's hotel room and then said: Consider
- 16 yourself under arrest.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Didn't they smell
- 18 marijuana or opium or something?
- 19 MR. FARLEY: Well, they did, and they
- 20 knocked on the door, and she came to the door and
- 21 they -- they forced their way in. There was no -- there
- 22 was no "let us in," there was no demand for entry, there
- 23 was no even ask-for consent to enter. They then said:
- 24 Consider yourself under arrest. They searched, and then
- 25 held her under arrest based upon the evidence that they Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 obtained.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: You left out one thing.
- 3 I thought they heard ruffling noises before they
- 4 attempted to get into the apartment -- into the hotel
- 5 room. There was something about noises.
- 6 MR. FARLEY: Well, I believe they heard
- 7 sounds when they knocked on the door. But she actually
- 8 came to the door, and then the officers forced entry.
- 9 Here we don't have that. We have no forced entry.
- 10 These are two different circumstances. In Johnson, an
- 11 exigency did not exist. Here an exigency does exist.
- 12 If there are no further questions, I'd like
- 13 to reserve the remainder of my time.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr.
- 15 Farley.
- MR. FARLEY: Thank you.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Ms. O'Connell.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF ANN O'CONNELL,
- 19 ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 20 SUPPORTING THE PETITIONER
- MS. O'CONNELL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 22 it please the Court:
- 23 If police officers act lawfully in
- 24 conducting their investigation, they may respond to any
- 25 exigencies that arise. It is up to police officers to Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 determine how they will collect evidence in any given
- 2 case as long as they stay within the confines of the
- 3 Fourth Amendment. Although securing a warrant --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Could you -- does a
- 5 ruling in this case that any lawful conduct by the
- 6 police mean that the police knock, somebody gets up on
- 7 the other side and walks through a closed door, and
- 8 closes a door in the back, and police say, "In my
- 9 experience it's -- it's consistent with the destruction
- 10 of property that drug dealers will go into a closed room
- 11 to get rid of it" -- is that enough?
- 12 MS. O'CONNELL: I don't think so, Justice
- 13 Sotomayor. I think that in any case --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Why -- why not? I mean
- 15 people -- you know, when there's a knock on -- on the
- 16 door, is the normal human reaction to walk into the
- 17 other room and shut the door?
- 18 MS. O'CONNELL: Well, a person might not --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, that's peculiar
- 20 behavior, isn't it?
- MS. O'CONNELL: A person doesn't have to
- 22 answer the door. A person might come to the door; they
- 23 might also ignore whoever is at the door. Both of those
- 24 options are fine.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Is that a common Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 experience, that you knock on a door and all you hear is
- 2 somebody walking out of the room and shutting a door?
- 3 MS. O'CONNELL: I mean, I -- I guess that a
- 4 person is entitled to do that.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: I don't recall it ever
- 6 happening to me, but maybe -- maybe I'm a likable fellow
- 7 and people open the door.
- 8 (Laughter.)
- 9 MS. O'CONNELL: I mean, I think that that --
- 10 that's certainly a lawful option that somebody has when
- 11 the police officers knock at their door. And,
- 12 certainly, in this case --
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: They could say "Go away."
- 14 They could do a lot of stuff. But walk in the other
- 15 room and shut the door?
- MS. O'CONNELL: That's --
- 17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Strange.
- 18 MS. O'CONNELL: I quess some people might do
- 19 that if they don't want to give consent to police entry.
- 20 I think that in order to go in, based on an exigent
- 21 circumstance, the police would have to be able to
- 22 articulate to a court that they objectively, reasonably
- 23 believed that there was destruction of evidence
- 24 occurring inside.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: And what was that here?

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- 1 Because it was kind of vague. They heard movement.
- 2 What kind -- what kind of movement? It didn't -- it
- 3 said nothing about a toilet flushing --
- 4 MS. O'CONNELL: Justice Ginsburg, it's our
- 5 position that the Court should assume that there was an
- 6 exigency in this case.
- 7 In the Respondent's brief in opposition, he
- 8 argued that there was insufficient evidence of exigency.
- 9 The Court nonetheless granted cert on the question of
- 10 whether a police-created exigency would be okay under
- 11 the Fourth Amendment. The Solicitor General believes
- 12 that the Court should assume there was an exigency, and
- 13 if it agrees with Kentucky on the question presented and
- 14 then reverses, it should remand to the Kentucky Supreme
- 15 Court for a determination of whether an exigency
- 16 existed.
- 17 The trial court in this case certainly found
- 18 that the movement inside of the apartment was enough for
- 19 the officer to reasonably conclude that somebody inside
- 20 was destroying evidence. The Kentucky Supreme Court
- 21 assumed that that was so in order to reach the question
- 22 presented in this case that the Court granted cert on.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Ms. O'Connell, if I could
- 24 ask you about the government's proposed standard: You
- 25 say that as long as each step in the police conduct is Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 lawful, that's sufficient. And each step would -- the
- 2 way the Fourth Amendment works, each step -- we're
- 3 asking, essentially, whether each step is reasonable.
- 4 What some courts have done, in addition to
- 5 that -- and this was not the approach of the court
- 6 below -- but what some courts have done is to say we
- 7 also ask a more holistic reasonableness question. We
- 8 say: Is the whole process by which the police operated
- 9 with respect to this person reasonable? So, for
- 10 example, we might say, you know, was there time to get a
- 11 warrant, or did it look like the police were just --
- 12 they preferred not to have to deal with a magistrate?
- So what's wrong with that sort of standard?
- 14 In addition to asking whether each step is reasonable,
- 15 to say, look, is the whole pattern here of what the
- 16 police did to come up with this evidence reasonable?
- 17 MS. O'CONNELL: I think the problem with
- 18 that test, Justice Kagan, is that police officers have
- 19 options of how they can conduct searches and seizures.
- 20 Getting a warrant is one way that they could do that.
- 21 Getting consent to conduct a search or a seizure is
- 22 another way. There's no justification in this Court's
- 23 precedents for requiring police officers to choose one
- 24 of those options over another if both options are
- 25 lawful.

- In this case, the police officers knocked on
- 2 the door, not sure which apartment the person that they
- 3 were pursuing fled into, in order to determine whether
- 4 that was the correct apartment. There's no reason why
- 5 they needed to get a warrant before knocking on the door
- 6 and seeking cooperation of the people inside.
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Is it your position that
- 8 the police can do anything that's lawful, even if the
- 9 purpose of doing so is to create exigent circumstances?
- 10 MS. O'CONNELL: Yes, I think that under this
- 11 Court -- the way that this Court has interpreted Fourth
- 12 Amendment warrant exceptions, as long as there is no
- 13 violation of the Fourth Amendment, that is okay. The
- 14 police officers can rely on any ensuing exigency.
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: The -- the guestion
- 16 presented in the blue brief used the word
- 17 "impermissible," and we're talking about "unlawful." I
- 18 take it that there is a difference in those -- or no
- 19 difference?
- MS. O'CONNELL: Well, yes, there is a
- 21 difference. I think that that comes up in Respondent's
- 22 argument that if there was an impermissible demand for
- 23 entry -- for example, if the police officer said "I have
- 24 a warrant, let me in, "even though he didn't, as in
- 25 Bumper v. North Carolina -- that that could still be Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 okay under a lawfulness test as long as the suspect
- 2 reacted by destroying evidence instead of by coming to
- 3 the door, like in Bumper or Johnson, and going about
- 4 with a --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: What are the objections to
- 6 adding in the alternative "or in bad faith"?
- 7 MS. O'CONNELL: Justice Breyer, the
- 8 objection to that is simply that in all cases that are
- 9 founded upon probable cause that are not programmatic
- 10 searches that are conducted without any individualized
- 11 suspicion, this Court has repeatedly rejected prongs of
- 12 a Fourth Amendment test that -- that rely on the
- 13 subjective assessment --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Objectively? I mean, what
- 15 we're trying to rule out is they -- they hitch -- they
- 16 get this bright idea, the police: We'll go knock at
- 17 every door. You know. So what about that, objectively
- 18 determined bad faith?
- 19 MS. O'CONNELL: I'm sorry. I don't --
- JUSTICE BREYER: My point is a solely
- 21 unlawfulness test would allow the police to get into the
- 22 habit of just knocking at every door, but if you say
- 23 that also it has to survive a bad-faith test, where bad
- 24 faith is objectively, not subjectively, determined, then
- 25 you will rule out the possibility of the police Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 hatching -- which I don't know if they would, but
- 2 hatching such a plan.
- 3 MS. O'CONNELL: I quess that it's not
- 4 totally clear what bad faith would mean in this
- 5 context --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, there are circuits
- 7 who have adopted a bad-faith test in the alternative
- 8 with other things than the word "unlawful." The Second
- 9 Circuit uses only the word "unlawful," and I thought we
- 10 took this case to iron out that discrepancy. And if we
- 11 did, I'd like to know your objection to ironing it out
- 12 by taking the Second Circuit test but adding on an
- objectively determined bad-faith rule.
- 14 MS. O'CONNELL: Justice Breyer, I don't -- I
- 15 don't know what it means to act in bad faith in a case
- 16 like this as a police officer.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Maybe it could mean having
- 18 no reason for knocking on the door other than to create
- 19 exigent circumstances.
- MS. O'CONNELL: Well, Justice Alito, I think
- 21 that it would be difficult to determine objectively
- 22 whether that was the case. Certainly --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, the police say: Oh,
- 24 I don't want to get a warrant. It's such a bore. We
- 25 have other things to do. I have a great idea; let's Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 knock at the door, and then as soon as he starts moving
- 2 around, I know what his going to the -- going into the
- 3 bathroom means, and we'll hear that, and we'll be able
- 4 to get in.
- 5 MS. O'CONNELL: I think that --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Hey, great idea.
- 7 Okay? Now suppose that's the record.
- 8 MS. O'CONNELL: I think that there's already
- 9 a significant risk built into the Fourth Amendment that
- 10 police officers, if they knock on the door and they
- 11 don't hear somebody destroying evidence inside, they're
- 12 going to have to leave and get a warrant. I think
- 13 that's enough of a deterrent.
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: You don't know that they're
- 15 destroying evidence unless you have reason to believe
- 16 that there is contraband inside. I mean, the -- the
- 17 hypothetical is an unrealistic one. They knock on the
- 18 door, and somebody moves inside -- that doesn't give
- 19 them any exigency --
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. I mean to add:
- 21 And, in fact, there's probable cause.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Okay. They --
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: In addition, he smelled the
- 24 marijuana. I just was trying to stick to the relevant
- 25 points.

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, that's a different
- 2 hypothetical.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes. All right. Add that
- 4 to the hypothetical.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: There's a hypothetical in
- 6 which they knock on every door under which they smell
- 7 marijuana.
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Correct. That's what I
- 9 mean, and I don't always spell it out.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: Perfectly okay?
- 11 MS. O'CONNELL: Right, and I think that
- 12 there's -- the Court shouldn't be concerned, and
- 13 certainly shouldn't be concerned enough to adopt a
- 14 bad-faith or a subjective motivation prong to a test
- 15 that it creates which is --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But what makes that
- 17 different than knocking on the door and saying "Open the
- 18 door or I'm going to kick it in"? You're saying that's
- 19 lawful because until the person submits, you're
- 20 suggesting there's no coercion in that whatsoever.
- 21 MS. O'CONNELL: That's true, and, Justice
- 22 Sotomayor, to be clear --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why wouldn't that
- 24 objectively be bad faith if what we find out is that
- 25 they now have a tactic which is they go through this Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 building, and every time they smell marijuana, hash, or
- 2 -- I don't know if crack cocaine smells or not when
- 3 they're smoking it -- but whenever they smell something,
- 4 they just do that.
- 5 MS. O'CONNELL: I think the -- the fact that
- 6 if the person actually does what the police officer says
- 7 and answers the door will mean that the evidence would
- 8 be excluded as a coerced consent search is enough of a
- 9 deterrent to that sort of conduct.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So there's no bad-faith
- 11 measure whatsoever in your analysis --
- 12 MS. O'CONNELL: I don't think it's
- 13 necessary.
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- and lawfulness is
- 15 defined by actual physical seizure. So if we have cases
- 16 that suggest something else, a command to submit, your
- 17 argument would be lost, correct?
- 18 MS. O'CONNELL: I think that's right, if the
- 19 person submits to the command.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, no. I --
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 22 Ms. O'Connell.
- Ms. Drake.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF JAMESA J. DRAKE
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
  Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 MS. DRAKE: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 2 please the Court:
- 3 The odor of burnt marijuana, coupled with
- 4 Officer Cobb's cursory and equivocal testimony about the
- 5 sounds of movement he couldn't discern exactly and that
- 6 his training and experience led him only possibly to
- 7 conclude was consistent with the destruction of
- 8 evidence, is insufficient to establish exigent
- 9 circumstances.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Although you're --
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: The -- I'm sorry.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You're describing
- 13 what you think the evidence was to support exigency, and
- 14 the suggestion we've heard on the other side is that
- 15 that's an issue that can be addressed on remand once we,
- 16 according to the other side, correct the State court's
- 17 error in that this -- you -- the police cannot create
- 18 exigent circumstances.
- 19 So I -- I don't know that it's terribly
- 20 relevant what the underlying facts about what they heard
- 21 was. That will be relevant depending, or not --
- 22 depending on what our opinion says.
- 23 MS. DRAKE: It's relevant because it goes to
- 24 whether exigent circumstances existed. And as to the
- 25 question of whether a remand would be appropriate in Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 this case, the question of whether exigent circumstances
- 2 existed is logically antecedent in any created exigency
- 3 case.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, it's -- it's not
- 5 at all. The court said: I don't care whether exigent
- 6 circumstances existed; you cannot create exigent
- 7 circumstances; so I don't care whether they were or not.
- 8 The legal standard is antecedent to the
- 9 application of the facts.
- 10 MS. DRAKE: There's no point in delving into
- 11 whether an exigency was created by the police if there
- 12 is no exigency to begin with.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, I -- I think the
- 14 Court is interested in taking the case on the question
- 15 whether or not the police may create exigent
- 16 circumstances and use those exigent circumstances to
- 17 enter. Now, whether or not there were exigent
- 18 circumstances here because of the sound is -- is, it
- 19 seems to me, a subsidiary question.
- 20 MS. DRAKE: The other problem with remanding
- 21 this case for further determination on this issue is, as
- 22 this Court is aware, the procedural posture of this case
- 23 is troubling. The case has already been dismissed.
- 24 There is no potential for further proceedings here.
- 25 There is no --

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Oh, sure, there is.
- 2 It was dismissed because the State supreme court held
- 3 you can't bring this evidence in. If we say, oh, yes,
- 4 you can, then the issue becomes live again.
- 5 MS. DRAKE: That conclusion is dependent on
- 6 the notion that an indictment is merged with the
- 7 judgment such that a decision in the Commonwealth's
- 8 favor in this case would vacate the decision of the
- 9 Kentucky Supreme Court, which in turn vacates the
- 10 underlying suppression order. But there is no authority
- 11 for the notion that an indictment and a judgment merge
- 12 as a matter of Kentucky law, and so a decision --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: This is the argument
- 14 you presented to us in the letter, right?
- MS. DRAKE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And yet, we
- 17 nonetheless decided to have argument.
- MS. DRAKE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So maybe it would
- 20 be -- it's your case, but maybe it would be best to move
- 21 on to the legal issue.
- MS. DRAKE: If we move to the question of
- 23 whether the police have created exigent circumstances,
- 24 it's important that we're all operating on the same
- 25 understanding, the facts in this case. This case does
  Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 not involve a simple knock at the door, and -- and the
- 2 distinction is important. In this case, at 9:50 p.m.,
- 3 the officers banged on the door as loudly as they could.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Did the trial court make
- 5 those findings? I know that you said it in your brief,
- 6 and I thought I read the trial court record. I know
- 7 they knocked loudly.
- 8 MS. DRAKE: Yes.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But what else did they
- 10 do?
- 11 MS. DRAKE: Yes. And this is located at the
- 12 appendix to the petition in the bottom of page 3a
- 13 carrying on to 4a. The trial court found: Detective
- 14 Maynard, who was accompanying Officer Cobb in the
- 15 breezeway attempting to locate and arrest the suspect in
- 16 question, banged on the door of the apartment on the
- 17 back left of the breezeway, identifying themselves as
- 18 police officers and demanding that the door be opened by
- 19 persons inside.
- 20 Officer Cobb testified at the suppression
- 21 hearing -- and this is at page 22 of the joint appendix:
- 22 Detective Maynard made contact with the door, announced
- 23 our presence, banged on the door as loud as we could,
- 24 announced "Police, police, police."
- This is not the case where -Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Where's -- no "Open
- 2 up." I thought you said earlier they said "Open up."
- 3 MS. DRAKE: Yes. Then Officer Cobb later
- 4 goes on to explain -- and this is on page 24 of the
- 5 joint appendix: Detective Maynard with Sergeant
- 6 Simmons, we explained to them -- referring to the
- 7 occupants of the apartment -- we were going to make
- 8 entry inside the apartment.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is that after --
- 10 after the exigent circumstances or the alleged exigent
- 11 circumstances were presented? And that's after they
- 12 heard what they thought -- and I know you disagree --
- 13 was the destruction of evidence.
- 14 MS. DRAKE: It's -- it's unclear from the
- 15 trial court's factual finding what the order of events
- 16 was. The trial court found: Banged on the door of the
- 17 apartment, identified themselves as police officers,
- 18 and --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: Loudly. Is any of that
- 20 unlawful? Is -- is knocking loudly on the door
- 21 unlawful?
- 22 MS. DRAKE: It's unreasonable conduct.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Is it -- is it unlawful?
- 24 Is -- is saying "Open up, police" -- is that unlawful?
- MS. DRAKE: Well, it's certainly not Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 unlawful in the sense that it violates any provision of
- 2 the penal code. But this is a Fourth Amendment case, so
- 3 the question is whether it's reasonable.
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Ms. Drake, the problem I
- 5 have is there are a lot of constraints on -- on law
- 6 enforcement, and the one thing that -- that it has going
- 7 for it is that criminals are stupid.
- 8 (Laughter.)
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: And we had a case some
- 10 years ago in which the issue was whether the Washington
- 11 police could enter buses arriving from -- from the south
- 12 and -- and randomly ask passengers, do you mind if we
- 13 look in your luggage? And the -- the mules who
- 14 were carrying marijuana were stupid enough to say, oh,
- 15 of course. Just to show that they had nothing to fear.
- 16 And an enormous number of arrests were -- were effected
- 17 in that fashion.
- 18 We didn't say that's not fair because you're
- 19 taking advantage of the -- of the ignorance of these --
- 20 these poor criminals. We said that's perfectly okay.
- 21 And it seems to me the same thing is going on here.
- These people could have answered the door --
- 23 there's a policeman knocking on the door; all he's
- 24 saying is "Open the door, open the door" -- and say
- 25 "Yes, what do you want?" Say -- you know, blah, blah, Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 blah. They say "Well, get a warrant." Shut the door.
- 2 They didn't do that. But everything done
- 3 was perfectly lawful. It's unfair to the criminal? Is
- 4 that -- is that the problem? I really don't understand
- 5 the problem.
- MS. DRAKE: I have two responses to Your
- 7 Honor's question. The first is that -- and along with
- 8 this notion that criminals are stupid and so that's why
- 9 we get all these criminal cases, there is no difference
- 10 between what happened in this case and how an innocent
- 11 person would respond.
- 12 Recall Officer Cobb's testimony is simply
- 13 that, after banging, he heard movement. Any innocent
- 14 person at 10:00 at night would have to move in order --
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: Could I ask you this? It
- 16 might -- it might make a difference to me whether the
- 17 police demanded entry prior to the time when the alleged
- 18 exigent circumstances arose. And the only testimony on
- 19 this point that I am aware of is on pages 22 and 23 of
- 20 the appendix, when police banged on the door as loud as
- 21 they could and announced "Police, police, police," and
- 22 then Detective Maynard banged on the door and said "This
- 23 is the police."
- Now, is there any -- anything more in the
- 25 record? Any evidence that they -- prior to the time Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 when they heard what they allegedly heard, that they
- 2 said "Open the door"?
- 3 MS. DRAKE: The portion of the Joint
- 4 Appendix that I quoted to the Court -- we explained to
- 5 them we were going to make entry -- appears on page 24.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Right.
- 7 MS. DRAKE: So, if Your Honor keeps
- 8 reading --
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: It starts -- it says: We
- 10 knew that there was possibly something that was going to
- 11 be destroyed inside the apartment. At that point
- 12 Detective Maynard -- this is after they heard the
- 13 sounds, after they claim to have heard the sounds.
- 14 MS. DRAKE: Yes. Officer Cobb's testimony
- 15 suggests that the demand came after they heard the sound
- 16 of movement. The finding by the trial court, however,
- 17 is that this was all happening simultaneously and in
- 18 very quick fashion.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Is there any -- is there any
- 20 evidence of that? Did anybody else testify to what
- 21 happened?
- 22 MS. DRAKE: No, Your Honor. Officer Cobb's
- 23 testimony was -- was all the Commonwealth offered.
- 24 But the chronology of the demand is not
- 25 dispositive in this case because the demand itself is Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 not dispositive. The demand removes any doubt that the
- 2 officers were not seeking a consensual encounter, but
- 3 you still have the behavior of banging on the door.
- 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, does it -- does it
- 5 turn on how loudly they knocked? If they just knock on
- 6 the door and say "This is the police," is -- is that --
- 7 is there anything wrong with that?
- 8 MS. DRAKE: It -- it depends entirely on
- 9 whether a reasonable person would interpret that
- 10 behavior as the officer conveying the impression that
- 11 entry was imminent and inevitable. And this feeds back
- 12 to Justice Scalia's question, which is, well, what --
- 13 what is unreasonable about what the officers did here?
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: What was there here to make
- 15 a reasonable person believe that -- that entry was
- 16 imminent and inevitable, if -- if all that's done is a
- 17 knock on the door and they say "Police, police, police,
- 18 this is the police"? Maybe it turns on how loudly they
- 19 spoke or how loudly they -- they knocked; is that the
- 20 point?
- 21 MS. DRAKE: That is the point. Those are
- 22 all relevant criteria because, in every Fourth Amendment
- 23 case, we're considering the totality of the
- 24 circumstances.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It seems to me that Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 you're trying to change the case. I mean, this is not a
- 2 case where they come in and, in effect, demand entry.
- 3 My understanding is that the issue in the case is
- 4 whether or not, after a request for entry, they can then
- 5 base probable cause in dispensing with the warrant based
- 6 on what they hear from behind the door.
- 7 Now, I know you think that they -- whatever
- 8 they hear is perfectly innocent; but the issue is
- 9 whenever they knock on the door, "Police" or "Can we
- 10 come in or whatever, and then they hear that, the
- 11 activity behind the door, they have reason and can --
- 12 can enter.
- Now, what you're -- it seems to me what
- 14 you're arguing is, well, they did something else. They
- 15 banged on the door, they yelled "Police"; it wasn't
- 16 simply knocking on the door and seeking entry. And you
- 17 may be right, again, on the facts, but it seems to me
- 18 that's for -- for later on.
- I want to know what your position is on
- 20 whether they can assume, at least for me, they knock and
- 21 say "Can we come in" or knock and say "Police" -- no
- 22 demand to get in.
- 23 MS. DRAKE: If I understand Your Honor's
- 24 question, the officers are engaging in what we would
- 25 call a true "knock and talk." They're seeking -- Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 they're on -- the scenario is such that no one would
- 2 doubt they're attempting a consensual encounter.
- 3 Our position is because that behavior is
- 4 reasonable, it is not made unreasonable by the fact that
- 5 evidence may be destroyed, and so suppression would not
- 6 be the remedy. Well, then, here --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. So you agree
- 8 that -- that the court below is wrong because what they
- 9 say, as I read it, is irrespective of how reasonably the
- 10 police behave, if it is reasonably foreseeable that
- 11 their tactic will create exigent circumstances -- and I
- 12 would think it's reasonably foreseeable, when you knock
- on the door very politely and say "The police," that
- 14 somebody might shout out "Hide the pot"; all right?
- 15 (Laughter.)
- JUSTICE BREYER: That if that's reasonable
- 17 foreseeable, says the court, then that violates the
- 18 Fourth Amendment. But we have the Second Circuit that
- 19 says as long as the police behaved unlawfully, it --
- 20 lawfully, lawfully -- it does not violate the Fourth
- 21 Amendment; and we have the First Circuit that has some
- 22 kind of bad-faith test plus an unreasonable or improper
- 23 test; and we have the Fourth and Eighth circuits that
- 24 yet have some different kind of test.
- 25 And one of the things I'd be interested in Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 hearing your view on at some point is just what the
- 2 Chief Justice said, that assuming from your point of
- 3 view this is a hypothetical case, nonetheless we would
- 4 like your view on which of those tests or some other
- 5 test is the appropriate test and why. That was the
- 6 question he started with and Justice Kennedy started
- 7 with, and I'd also be interested in your view on that.
- 8 MS. DRAKE: The appropriate test is the test
- 9 that we propose. Under our test, the police act
- 10 unreasonably when they convey the impression to an -- to
- 11 a reasonable person that entry is imminent and
- 12 inevitable. Our test follows directly from the Fourth
- 13 Amendment requirement that people in their homes deserve
- 14 precision.
- 15 By conveying the impression that entry is
- 16 imminent and inevitable, the police are -- and they
- 17 don't have judicial authority for doing that -- there --
- 18 there's no warrant -- they are engaging in behavior that
- 19 would confuse an ordinary citizen and make him or her
- 20 uncertain about whether the assertion of right to
- 21 privacy and security in the home --
- 22 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, Ms. Drake if that's
- 23 the case, in some way you're agreeing with the
- 24 Government. You, too, are saying that -- that there's a
- 25 lawfulness test. You're just disagreeing about what's Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 lawful.
- 2 MS. DRAKE: And to the extent that "lawful"
- 3 is defined as a synonym for "unreasonable" and to the
- 4 extent that there does not need to be a completed
- 5 antecedent Fourth Amendment violation, we would agree.
- 6 There is area of agreement between the Commonwealth and
- 7 I, and it is on the issue of this "knock and talk." Of
- 8 course, police officers need to have the investigative
- 9 tool of a knock and talk. There's nothing wrong with an
- 10 officer attempting to gain consensual entry. And our
- 11 position is that that's not made unreasonable by factors
- 12 outside the officer's control, no matter how
- 13 foreseeable.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: So what took this outside of
- 15 the category of the ordinary knock and talk?
- MS. DRAKE: This is not a knock and a --
- 17 knock and talk case; this is a knock and announce case
- 18 or a knock and demand case, which is how the trial court
- 19 characterized it. And the staff --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I don't know about the
- 21 labels, but what did they -- what did the police do that
- 22 went beyond what would be permitted under your
- 23 understanding of a pure knock and talk? It's -- it's
- 24 the volume of the -- of the knocking?
- MS. DRAKE: Yes, it's the -- it's the Alderson Reporting Company

- banging, not knocking. It's announcement --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Banging, not knocking?
- 3 MS. DRAKE: Banging, not a soft -- not the
- 4 knock that you would expect a reasonable person to
- 5 engage in, in the ordinary discourse with another
- 6 person, or that you would expect from an officer
- 7 attempting to gain consensual --
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: But I -- you -- you might
- 9 have considerable support on the Court for the
- 10 proposition that if the exigent circumstance is created
- 11 by unlawful activity by the police, which would include
- 12 conveying the impression that they are about to kick the
- 13 door in, then -- then you have a different case. But --
- 14 but I thought the case we had before us is what if the
- 15 police officers are behaving perfectly lawfully and
- 16 they're not threatening to kick down the door, and they
- 17 smelled the marijuana and then they hear the motion
- 18 inside, does that justify their going in?
- 19 And that's what I thought we took the case
- 20 for, and that's a different question. You're trying to
- 21 -- you're trying to make the police officers' actions
- 22 unlawful, and I will stipulate that if their actions
- 23 were unlawful you have a different case, and probably
- the evidence would have to be suppressed, but I didn't
- 25 think we were here to decide that, whether they knocked Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 too loud, whether they threatened to kick in the door.
- 2 The opinion below says if they created the exigent
- 3 circumstances, whether they did so lawfully or
- 4 unlawfully, they cannot go in. And that's, that's the
- 5 issue.
- 6 MS. DRAKE: What the officers did in this
- 7 case is the functional equivalent of saying "We're going
- 8 to kick in the door." Now, I wouldn't go that -- that
- 9 far, but it -- it's the functional equivalent of a knock
- 10 and announce, which is exactly the behavior the police
- 11 engage in when they are executing a warrant. And it is
- 12 that behavior that conveys the impression that an
- occupant has no authority to keep the officers at arm's
- 14 length.
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: That wasn't the basis for
- 16 the decision below, though. The court below didn't say
- 17 these police officers were behaving as though they had a
- 18 warrant and were about to kick in the door. The opinion
- 19 below just said, yes, there were exigent circumstances,
- 20 but they were the result of the police knocking on the
- 21 door and saying "We're the police."
- MS. DRAKE: I don't disagree that the lower
- 23 court did not analyze the problem in this fashion, did
- 24 not analyze the question in this fashion, but it's a
- 25 legal question that calls for an examination of how a Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 reasonable person would interpret the behavior, and
- 2 so --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But what does that have
- 4 to do with the -- the police officers' lawfulness? Now,
- 5 I -- I grant you that attempting -- that there is
- 6 something troubling about the police attempting to
- 7 coerce entry as opposed to requesting entry, but as my
- 8 colleagues have pointed out, it's not clear from this
- 9 record which of the two the police did, in a loud voice
- 10 or not.
- 11 You're saying just a loud knock, a scream,
- 12 "Police," that that would be coercive? That's how I'm
- 13 reading you.
- 14 MS. DRAKE: I --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Or -- or are you going
- 16 further and trying to say that, as a matter of fact, the
- 17 testimony's critically clear that they knocked loudly,
- 18 said "Police," and said "Let us in or we're going to
- 19 bust it"?
- MS. DRAKE: The factual record is clear.
- 21 The -- Officer Cobb testified he banged as loud as
- 22 possible. This is -- this not the normal knock that an
- 23 officer engages in when he's seeking consensual --
- 24 consent, you know, consent to search, and this is at
- 25 10:00 at night. He's saying we announced "Police, Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 police, police!" -- exclamation point. That -- that's
- 2 how it appears in the record. Again --
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So just assume, for
- 4 my sake, that the police comes to the door. It's not
- 5 10:00 at night; it's, you know, 6:00 at night. Knocks
- 6 quietly on the door and says "We're the police. Can we
- 7 talk?" And then there was the smell of marijuana. And
- 8 then he hears the sounds that do convey to a reasonable
- 9 police officer that evidence is being destroyed. At
- 10 that point can they enter without a warrant?
- MS. DRAKE: Yes.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay.
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: But you said -- just add on
- 14 to that. Look, the question presented that they raised:
- 15 Which of the five tests currently being used by the U.S.
- 16 court of appeals is proper? Now, you've said something
- 17 about your view on that, but I'd like you to say
- 18 anything else you'd like to say about that, which of the
- 19 five tests, or some sixth test if you like, and you tell
- 20 me the words that you would like us to use when we
- 21 answer that question.
- 22 MS. DRAKE: I would like this Court to adopt
- 23 the test that we have proposed.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Which is?
- MS. DRAKE: Which is that an officer acts
  Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 unreasonably when he or she conveys the impression that
- 2 entry into a home is imminent and inevitable.
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, no, no. But the test
- 4 you're using there, the key word is "unreasonable."
- 5 MS. DRAKE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. And the reason you
- 7 choose the word "unreasonable" rather than the Second
- 8 Circuit's test of "unlawful" is?
- 9 MS. DRAKE: Because, frankly, I'm not sure
- 10 what that means, and I think that's become clear in the
- 11 context of this briefing. Does "unlawful" mean the
- 12 police have had to violate a portion of the penal code?
- 13 Does "unlawful" mean, as the Commonwealth is contending,
- 14 that there has to be a completed Fourth Amendment
- 15 violation --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You know -- you
- 17 don't know what --
- MS. DRAKE: -- the seizure went forward.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You don't know what
- 20 "unlawful" means, but you know what "unreasonable"
- 21 means.
- 22 MS. DRAKE: Yes. Unreasonable is the
- 23 touchstone of every, you know, Fourth Amendment case,
- and so we're saying there does not have to be an
- 25 antecedent completed Fourth Amendment violation. The Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 question is, as is the case in every Fourth Amendment
- 2 case, did the officers act --
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: Do you have any doubt that
- 4 it's unlawful for a police officer to threaten to burst
- 5 into a home?
- 6 MS. DRAKE: No, Your Honor.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: So why do you need
- 8 unreasonable? If, indeed, there -- there was a threat
- 9 of imminent entry -- we're going to bust down the -- if
- 10 that was the threat, then it's unlawful, surely.
- MS. DRAKE: Yes, and that's why my answer to
- 12 Justice Kagan's question was to the extent that
- "unlawful" and "unreasonable" are synonyms, we would
- 14 agree.
- 15 Now, if the Court is not terribly -- does
- 16 not find our test convincing, the next-best test, we
- 17 believe, is a foreseeability test.
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Is your test is something
- 19 novel? I mean, Justice Breyer mentioned that there are
- 20 some five tests in the different circuits, and the
- 21 foreseeability test is the one that the Kentucky Supreme
- 22 Court used, but is your -- does your test coincide with
- 23 the tests of any other circuits, or is it different?
- MS. DRAKE: Our test is a novel test. It
- 25 has not been, to my knowledge, considered by any of the Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 other circuits.
- JUSTICE BREYER: But your test is -- I mean,
- 3 it's not wild. It just says it says "unreasonable" in
- 4 the Fourth Amendment. Probably when they act lawfully,
- 5 they are acting reasonably and not unreasonably, but it
- 6 could be sometimes they're not. That's your view?
- 7 MS. DRAKE: That's correct, and by the
- 8 way --
- JUSTICE BREYER: No test. All right.
- 10 MS. DRAKE: -- we're not saying that --
- 11 we're essentially saying the police shouldn't act as
- 12 though they have a warrant when they don't have one,
- 13 which is exactly what they did in this case. And that
- 14 proposition is not new. In Bumper, this Court made
- 15 clear that if the police act as though they have a
- 16 warrant when they don't have one, any consent would be
- 17 coerced.
- 18 So reviewing courts are already making these
- 19 determinations about how loud was the knock and how
- 20 aggressive was the demand, simply in another context.
- 21 And by the other -- on the other hand, police officers
- 22 are already receiving the same instruction that they
- 23 would need in order to apply our rule, which is, don't
- 24 act as though you have a warrant. Don't engage in the
- 25 functional equivalent of a knock and announce if you do Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 not have prior judicial authority.
- 2 And what is appealing about our test, unlike
- 3 the foreseeability test, which we believe it's a
- 4 refinement of, is it allows for conduct by the police
- 5 that's reasonable at its inception to remain reasonable
- 6 regardless of the suspect's response, no matter how
- 7 foreseeable.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What is -- what is
- 9 an example of conduct that you would consider
- 10 unreasonable resulting in suppression of the evidence
- 11 that would not be unlawful?
- MS. DRAKE: Well, it's very hard -- it's
- 13 very hard to conceive of where the daylight would be --
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Right.
- 15 MS. DRAKE: -- between those terms,
- "reasonable" and "unlawful," so long as "unlawful"
- 17 doesn't mean violation of a penal code provision and so
- 18 long as it doesn't mean, as the Commonwealth is
- 19 suggesting, that there has to be -- that the defendant
- 20 would have to first demonstrate that the police were
- 21 seized in order to be able to convincingly argue that
- the search was unreasonable.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you can't --
- 24 can't give me one example of some conduct that's
- 25 unreasonable under your test that would not be unlawful?

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- 1 MS. DRAKE: I can't -- I can't think of one,
- 2 Your Honor.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: The problem is that as
- 4 reasonable as the test is, it's not the test that was
- 5 used by the court below, and you want us to affirm the
- 6 decision below, which simply said if the exigent
- 7 circumstances are -- are the consequence of the police
- 8 action, whatever the police action was -- lawful,
- 9 reasonable, whatever -- the evidence has to be excluded.
- 10 How can we affirm that decision as you want
- 11 us to do, even -- even applying your test?
- MS. DRAKE: Well, the factual record in this
- 13 case is fully developed, and how a reasonable person
- 14 would interpret the scenario is a mixed question of law
- 15 and fact, which -- this Court would review the decision
- 16 of the Kentucky Supreme Court in that regard de novo
- 17 anyway. In that regard, it's no different than any
- 18 other case that makes its way to this Court where this
- 19 Court is asked to review the record, make a
- 20 determination of how an ordinary person would interpret
- 21 the officers' conduct.
- It is simply unreasonable and unlawful for
- 23 purposes of the Fourth Amendment for an officer to
- 24 convey the impression that he has the authority of a
- 25 warrant when he doesn't have one and when that prompts,
  Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 as it obviously would, an occupant of a home to move,
- 2 and then that movement is used as evidence that exigent
- 3 circumstances exist and warrantless search is justified.
- 4 If this Court were to, you know, adopt the framework the
- 5 Commonwealth is arguing for, the exception to the
- 6 warrant requirement would be the rule.
- 7 So we would ask this Court to affirm the
- 8 decision of the Kentucky Supreme Court.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 10 Mr. Farley, you have 4 minutes remaining.
- 11 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JOSHUA D. FARLEY
- 12 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- MR. FARLEY: My time is short, so I would
- 14 just like to make a few quick points.
- I believe Mr. Chief Justice and Justice
- 16 Kennedy were absolutely, absolutely correct. The
- 17 question before this Court is: Can lawful police action
- 18 impermissibly create exigent circumstances? And the
- 19 answer to that question is no.
- There is never a circumstance in which
- 21 lawful police behavior under a Fourth Amendment analysis
- 22 can impermissibly create an exigency. I would point the
- 23 Court to Hodari D., which I believe Justice Scalia wrote
- 24 for the Court, that we should not punish police officers
- for attempted Fourth Amendment violations or Fourth
  Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 Amendment violations that do not reach fruition, because
- 2 it does not serve the point of the exclusionary rule.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Farley, one of the
- 4 points of the Fourth Amendment is to ensure that when
- 5 people search your home, they have a warrant. And, of
- 6 course, there are exceptions to that. But if there is
- 7 one place where the warrant requirement has real force,
- 8 it's in the home.
- 9 And I think that the concern here -- and you
- 10 have some strong arguments on your side, but the concern
- 11 here is that your test is going to enable the police to
- 12 penetrate the home, to search the home, without a
- 13 warrant, without going to see a magistrate, in a very
- 14 wide variety of cases, that all the police really have
- 15 to say is: We saw pot, we heard noise. Or: We think
- 16 there was some criminal activity going on for whatever
- 17 reason, and we heard noise.
- 18 How do you prevent that from happening? How
- 19 do you prevent your test from essentially eviscerating
- 20 the warrant requirement in the context of the one place
- 21 that the Fourth Amendment was most concerned about?
- 22 MR. FARLEY: Well, Justice Kagan, I would
- 23 disagree with you. I don't think that it would. I
- 24 believe that what the Commonwealth is asking for is no
- 25 more or no less than reviewing courts have done for Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 generations. You look to determine whether there was a
- 2 Fourth Amendment violation, whether there was an
- 3 unlawful entry, whether there was an unlawful seizure,
- 4 or whether there was a coercion that then they gained
- 5 consent for entry.
- If those things occurred, they are clearly
- 7 Fourth Amendment violations. There should be a
- 8 suppression of the evidence. The exigent
- 9 circumstances --
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: It wouldn't technically be
- 11 a Fourth Amendment violation, would it, if the police
- 12 gave the impression that they had a warrant and were
- 13 about to kick in the door? Is that a Fourth Amendment
- 14 violation in and of itself?
- 15 MR. FARLEY: I don't believe so.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: So your -- the -- the
- 17 unlawfulness test would not prevent that then?
- 18 MR. FARLEY: No, Justice Scalia, it would
- 19 not.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: It would not prevent it?
- 21 MR. FARLEY: It would not prevent --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Oh, whoa. Maybe we have to
- 23 come up with an unreasonable test, then.
- MR. FARLEY: Well, I believe, under
- 25 Hodari D., if the officers demand entry and there is no Alderson Reporting Company

- 1 response to that demand, there is no -- been no
- 2 completion of the Fourth Amendment violation. The
- 3 officers could stand outside the door --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Oh, it's perfectly okay for
- 5 officers to do that? To pretend that they have a
- 6 warrant and "Open the door or we'll kick it in" --
- 7 that's perfectly okay?
- 8 MR. FARLEY: Well, I believe that there are
- 9 -- there are large restrictions and prohibitions to
- 10 that, that officers are well aware of, because if the
- 11 person does answer the door, the officers know, well,
- 12 everything is going to be suppressed. Or if the
- 13 officers do --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: But why? You say that what
- 15 they've done is not unlawful. Why would it be
- 16 suppressed?
- 17 MR. FARLEY: Well, if they demand entry and
- 18 entry is given, that is then a Fourth Amendment
- 19 violation, because they've demanded entry without a
- 20 warrant. And in that case, suppression -- once they
- 21 have entry, the evidence would be suppressed.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But they can't gain
- 23 entry by deception. They can't knock on the door and
- 24 say "Pizza"; right?
- 25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. FARLEY: No. 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no? Okay. MR. FARLEY: We would just assert that under 3 the lawfulness test, we aren't asking for anything more 4 5 or less than this Court has done or other reviewing 6 courts have done for generations, and this is a simple 7 Fourth Amendment analysis. 8 There was no demand in this case. This was 9 a simple knock-and-announce case, regardless of the time 10 of day. There was no coercion. There was no seizure. 11 There was no consent given. Officers should not be held accountable for unlawful reactions by suspects. 12 13 Thank you very much. 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel. 15 You will have noticed that Justice Kennedy 16 left the bench a few minutes early. He is going to 17 Tucson to represent the Court as the Circuit Justice for the Ninth Circuit at the memorial service there. He 18 will review the tapes and transcripts of the rest of the 19 20 argument and fully participate in the decision. 21 This case is submitted. 22 (Whereupon, at 11:58 a.m., the case in the

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above-entitled matter was submitted.)

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