1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	DOYLE RANDALL PAROLINE, :
4	Petitioner : No. 12-8561
5	v. :
6	UNITED STATES, ET AL. :
7	x
8	Washington, D.C.
9	Wednesday, January 22, 2014
10	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:04 a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	STANLEY G. SCHNEIDER, ESQ., Houston, Texas; on behalf of
16	Petitioner, appointed by this Court.
17	MICHAEL R. DREEBEN, ESQ., Deputy Solicitor General,
18	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
19	Respondent United States.
20	PAUL G. CASSELL, ESQ., Salt Lake City, Utah; on
21	behalf of Respondent Amy Unknown.
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1	PROCEEDINGS				
2	(10:04 a.m.)				
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument				
4	first this morning in Case 12-8561, Paroline v. United				
5	States.				
6	Mr. Schneider.				
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF STANLEY G. SCHNEIDER,				
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER,				
9	APPOINTED BY THIS COURT				
10	MR. SCHNEIDER: May it please Mr. Chief				
11	Justice, and may it please the Court:				
12	This is a case about statutory construction.				
13	Specifically, under 18 USC 2259, must a victim's				
14	victim's losses be proximally caused by a defendant's				
15	offense conduct before a sentencing judge can award				
16	restitution? The short answer to the question is all				
17	losses must be proximately caused.				
18	Eleven courts of appeals and the government				
19	agree that this circuit ignored the plain text of the				
20	statute and the enumerated enforcement provisions of				
21	3664 to craft a restitution scheme where the possession				
22	of two images of child pornography resulted in the award				
23	of \$3.4 million to Doyle Paroline which was strictly				
24	jointly and severally liable.				
25	In my time before the Court, I wish to				

- 1 address, first, why the Fifth Circuit decision is
- incorrect, and second, why the government's concept of
- 3 aggregate causation conflicts with its statutory burden
- 4 of proof contained in 3664(e).
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, before -- before you
- 6 do that, could you explain why there is an issue of
- 7 proximate causation here? Why -- why isn't there
- 8 clearly proximate cause? Why is it -- why does it
- 9 matter?
- 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, I think there has to
- 11 be -- in all restitution cases, the issue is whether or
- 12 not the person's conduct caused the harm and losses, and
- 13 harm and losses are two different things.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Yes. But why -- why isn't
- 15 the issue here a question of factual causation? What
- 16 losses proximately caused -- is proximately caused by
- the possession of child pornography?
- 18 MR. SCHNEIDER: That's a fact-intensive
- 19 question, and that's what the district court has to
- 20 determine, whether on the facts presented, there are
- 21 identifiable losses that were caused by the defendant's
- 22 conduct, and there can be.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It seems you're
- 24 confusing proximate cause with cause in fact. They are
- 25 two legal requirements, but not the same. Proximate

- 1 cause is foreseeability.
- There's no argument, I think, that anyone
- 3 who possesses child pornography knows that the
- 4 individual depicted is going to feel invaded by that
- 5 viewing, so there's no issue that the person is hurt.
- 6 The question is a different one, which is
- 7 the cause in fact. I think that's what my colleague Sam
- 8 Alito was talking about. So why do you continue to talk
- 9 about proximate cause when it's a different concept
- 10 that's at issue?
- 11 MR. SCHNEIDER: Well --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Is her treatment -- I
- 13 think you're arguing that her treatment has to be a
- 14 "but-for" this possession.
- 15 MR. SCHNEIDER: I think they go hand-in-hand
- 16 because when dealing with proximate cause, would the
- 17 conduct -- is the losses the natural sequence from the
- 18 conduct and the result? And what we're dealing with is
- 19 would the losses have occurred, but for the conduct.
- 20 And in this situation -- in this case, where
- 21 the damage model was created six months before the
- 22 notice is received, then you don't have the relationship
- 23 between the loss and the conduct or the notice of the
- 24 conduct. And it's a real problem.
- 25 But the -- the important consideration in

- 1 interpretation of the statute is the government's burden
- of proof under 3664(e).
- 3 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Why do we -- why would we --
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Would you agree -- would
- 5 you agree that the --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kennedy.
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- the losses here were the
- 8 proximate result at least of the aggregate actions of
- 9 all the offenders? Would you go that far?
- 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: Justice Kennedy, the problem
- 11 with aggregate causation does not apply --
- 12 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Would -- would you agree
- 13 that it is the proximate result of the aggregate actions
- of all the offenders?
- MR. SCHNEIDER: It would be a harm, but
- 16 not --
- 17 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Pardon me. A proximate
- 18 harm, right?
- 19 MR. SCHNEIDER: But the problem is when
- 20 you're dealing with aggregate causation, that conflicts
- 21 with the statutory burden of proof that the government
- 22 has, under 3664(e), which is made applicable to the
- 23 2059, under Section (b)(2), and you'll find 3664(e) at
- 24 Appendix 22 to our merits brief.
- 25 The --

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Why -- why should we get
- 2 to that question, when we have what seems to be a clear
- 3 order from Congress, and it is in 2259(a). It says,
- 4 "The court shall -- shall order restitution for any
- 5 offense under this chapter."
- 6 It sounds like that's a direction that, if
- 7 there's an offense under this chapter -- which is
- 8 undisputed, there is -- the court shall order
- 9 restitution.
- 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: Only if -- if the losses are
- 11 the result of the offense because the government's
- 12 burden of proof is that they must demonstrate, by a
- 13 preponderance of the evidence, that the losses sustained
- 14 by the victim are the result of the offense.
- 15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, it doesn't --
- 16 JUSTICE KENNEDY: My question is -- my
- 17 question is why isn't it -- and you were going to point
- 18 to the statute -- why isn't it at least the result of
- 19 the aggregate number -- aggregate offenders?
- 20 MR. SCHNEIDER: It's on the indictment.
- 21 Only one person is charged and --
- 22 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But he is -- he is one of
- 23 the offenders in the aggregate.
- 24 MR. SCHNEIDER: He's not -- it's not in the
- 25 indictment. No one else is in -- is in front of the

- 1 sentencing judge. The statute 3664(e) and Section
- 2 (f) -- (b) (3) (F), all talk about "the offense," and "the
- 3 offense" is normally -- this Court has recognized that,
- 4 when you talk about "the offense," it's the offense of
- 5 conviction.
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Schneider, on your view,
- 7 if only one person viewed the pornography, that person
- 8 would be responsible for the entire damages, but if a
- 9 thousand people viewed the pornography and the harm was
- 10 that much greater, nobody would be in -- would be on the
- 11 hook for restitution.
- 12 How could that possibly make sense?
- 13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Justice Kagan, that's not
- 14 what -- there are numerous cases where someone who looks
- 15 at -- possesses child pornography has been shown to be
- 16 liable for losses and restitution and some individual
- 17 cases that it's not. And it's fewer cases than not are,
- 18 again, no restitution because there's no losses. The
- 19 losses in -- it all depends on the facts.
- In this case, the district judge carefully
- 21 weighed the evidence. In this case, --like un -- unlike any other
- 22 case, there are competing experts that the judge,
- 23 district judge, played -- acted as a gatekeeper of the
- 24 forensic science and with the challenge to the
- 25 methodology that was presented by Amy's experts, the

- 1 judge left no alternative because there was no
- 2 explanation.
- 3 And that methodology -- faulty methodology
- 4 was part of his decision that he recognized.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, what's the answer,
- 6 though, to the problem, forgetting this case? There's a
- 7 problem in child pornography cases. Congress clearly
- 8 wants restitution. Makes sense to me.
- 9 But if a thousand people look at it, then
- 10 each one can say, but I didn't cause more than a tiny
- 11 fraction at most, and so there virtually is no
- 12 restitution; right? Now, every one of the thousand says
- 13 that, truthfully, and so therefore the victim gets no
- 14 restitution -- opposite of what Congress wanted.
- But their answer in the lower court was,
- 16 we'll make each one of those thousand liable for the
- 17 whole thing. The government's answer is aggregate
- 18 cause. It's called a concept that they've sort of
- 19 created, but it's there to answer the problem.
- 20 What's your answer to the problem?
- 21 MR. SCHNEIDER: It's a -- it's a very
- 22 difficult question.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah, it is.
- 24 (Laughter.)
- 25 MR. SCHNEIDER: And -- and the answer is

- 1 to -- is multifaceted because the government's burden of
- 2 proof for restitution applies to all restitution
- 3 statutes. It's the same standard.
- 4 And you can't carve out one standard of
- 5 causation for one crime because it's a heinous crime
- 6 and, as repugnant as child pornography is, the standard
- 7 of causation has to be the same --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. I
- 9 suppose that it does. If you have the same problem, you
- 10 have the same problem. Where there -- you understand.
- 11 So how -- how do we answer this problem? And the
- 12 difficulty of saying -- dividing -- the government
- 13 doesn't find a thousand -- you know, it only finds two
- 14 or three. And so you're going to be 997 who escape.
- 15 And those three, what should they pay?
- 16 What -- should they pay nothing? Should they pay the
- 17 whole thing? Should we do it somewhere in-between?
- 18 How -- just restating the problem and -- and you have
- 19 experience in this field.
- 20 So what do you really think?
- 21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, in some of the cases,
- 22 there's evidence that -- of not -- of the victim having
- 23 knowledge of an individual, and in that case -- those
- 24 cases, there have been awards of restitution, some of
- 25 them 3,000, 5,000, 15,000, 30,000. But there's some

- 1 knowledge and there's some evidence for a judge to base
- 2 a finding of causation to the award of restitution.
- 3 And it's a fact-based determination. There
- 4 has to be some evidence for which the judge makes his
- 5 determination.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: But your answer is in a
- 7 large category of cases, and this may be -- these may be
- 8 the typical cases, where there's a digital image, and
- 9 it's out there, and you don't even know that there are a
- 10 thousand people who've seen it. It's impossible to tell
- 11 how many people have seen it and certainly impossible to
- 12 see how many people will see it in the future. It -- it
- 13 exists, and it apparently is impossible to eradicate it.
- 14 Your answer is that, in those cases, the
- 15 victim gets nothing. I mean, that's your honest answer.
- 16 And that may be where the statute points, but I think
- 17 that's your answer to Justice Breyer's question. The
- 18 victim gets nothing in those cases because it's
- 19 impossible to determine what percentage of the harm is
- 20 attributable to this one defendant's possession of the
- 21 child pornography.
- MR. SCHNEIDER: I don't -- and that's not
- 23 what I'm saying. In the Second Circuit, in Lundquist,
- 24 was an Amy case where there was a finding of losses and
- 25 restitution. And the court -- the Second Circuit

- 1 specifically addressed how to calculate it. It doesn't
- 2 have to be precise.
- We're not saying it has to be a precise
- 4 determination, but there has to be some evidence for
- 5 which a judge can base a determination that ties the
- 6 losses in this case to the conduct. Now --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what exactly -- give
- 8 me an example of what you're talking about. Now, here,
- 9 you're saying because she didn't know the name of your
- 10 defendant, you win because you can't say any harm was
- 11 caused by him because she didn't know his name, correct?
- 12 Is that your position?
- MR. SCHNEIDER: No, Your Honor. My position
- 14 is that the district judge made a determination as the
- 15 gatekeeper of the forensic science that the government
- 16 didn't prove its case.
- 17 If you look --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So give me an example of
- 19 how the government in the hypothetical that Justice
- 20 Alito spoke about and Justice Kagan, you've got -- or --
- 21 or Justice Breyer.
- MR. SCHNEIDER: Lundquist is a perfect
- 23 example, where there are two reports by their expert
- 24 explaining how the knowledge of -- of an individual of
- 25 Lundquist affected her treatment, affected her

- 1 day-to-day life, and their specific report talks about
- 2 knowledge of the -- this individual.
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: The particular individual?
- 4 She has to know each individual who -- who has been
- 5 viewing her rape on -- on these pornographic items that
- 6 have been distributed widely? She has to know each
- 7 individual, or she can't be covered?
- 8 MR. SCHNEIDER: By --
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: The woman has undergone
- 10 serious psychiatric harm because of her knowledge that
- 11 there are thousands of people out there viewing her
- 12 rape, but you say she can't -- why isn't your client at
- 13 least responsible for some of that?
- 14 Even without her knowing him, he had two of
- 15 her pictures. He's one of the thousands of people who
- 16 viewed -- who viewed her rape. So why can't she recover
- 17 some amount from him?
- 18 I mean, the other side says she ought to be
- 19 able to recover everything from him. You say she ought
- 20 to be able to recover nothing. What about something
- 21 in-between? What -- what about figuring out how much
- 22 of -- of her total psychiatric damage and all the
- 23 expenses and what-not are attributable to this
- 24 particular person?
- 25 MR. SCHNEIDER: Justice Scalia, the answer

1	to your question is is multifaceted and					
2	JUSTICE SCALIA: You said that for another					
3	question.					
4	MR. SCHNEIDER: I understand.					
5	JUSTICE SCALIA: Give me one facet.					
6	(Laughter.)					
7	MR. SCHNEIDER: And Congress dictated that					
8	all victims who are identified receive notice, and that					
9	notice goes to her lawyer. And in the later cases in					
10	the recent cases, she's been notified of every single					
11	one of those notices that are received, and appropriate					
12	counseling has been given in all the later cases.					
13	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Let me ask you. You're					
14	mentioning this case. There was another case that also					
15	involved and came up at the same time, the Wright case,					
16	and there was a settlement there, and it was for what					
17	was the amount of money? The amount of damages in the					
18	Wright case?					
19	MR. SCHNEIDER: I think, in Wright, it was					
20	\$500,000, was the court's order, I believe.					
21	JUSTICE GINSBURG: Now, but was there something					
22	in the evidence there that made it proper to award					
23	restitution in the Wright case, but not in this case?					
24	MR. SCHNEIDER: No.					

JUSTICE GINSBURG: They're the same?

25

- 1 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 2 I'd like to reserve the remainder of my
- 3 time.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 5 Mr. Dreeben.
- 6 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL R. DREEBEN
- 7 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
- 8 MR. DREEBEN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 9 please the Court:
- 10 As Justice Breyer indicated, there really
- 11 are three stark choices before the Court in this case.
- 12 Paroline's position is that, because of a proximate
- 13 causation requirement, Amy can obtain nothing in
- 14 restitution.
- Amy's position is that, because multiple
- 16 people have contributed to her single loss, she can
- 17 obtain the full restitution for all of her losses from
- 18 every criminal defendant.
- 19 The government's position is that there is a
- 20 solution that tort law has developed for providing some
- 21 restitution for Amy, not the entire restitution that
- 22 would be owed on account of her entire loss.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. Well, now -- not
- 24 because tort law has developed that, I mean, I frankly
- don't agree with what you say modern tort law is

- 1 supposed to allow, and -- and Keeton -- you know,
- doesn't really establish that that's what the courts now
- 3 do.
- But even without agreeing with that, can't I
- 5 find that is the system that this statute intended
- 6 to impose? I mean, we're dealing here with a question
- 7 of statutory interpretation. So the question is not
- 8 what does modern tort law allow, but the question is
- 9 what, reasonably, could Congress have meant by this
- 10 statute?
- 11 MR. DREEBEN: I agree with that, Justice
- 12 Scalia.
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: Because I'm not going to go
- 14 along with you on -- you know, modern tort law. I think
- 15 that's nonsense. I don't think it's true.
- 16 MR. DREEBEN: Okay. The -- the tort law
- 17 issue is not really all that modern. It dates back to
- 18 the Restatement (Second) of Torts in Section 443(a).
- 19 And this Court applied that section in the
- 20 Burlington Northern case, which was a CERCLA case, to
- 21 hold that apportionment of the damages was required in a
- 22 pollution case, where all the pollution had merged into
- 23 a single --
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But how do you square
- 25 your position with the statutory language? The

- 1 statutory language requires mandatory restitution order
- for the, quote, "full amount of the victim's losses."
- 3 It also forbids courts to -- to decline to issue an
- 4 order, double negative, but it can't -- a court can't
- 5 refuse to issue an order on the ground that the victim
- 6 has been compensated by any other source.
- 7 It seems to me that that language, as crazy
- 8 as it seems, to you or -- to you, compels joint and
- 9 several liability because it's saying any -- all losses,
- 10 full amount of losses, and you can't offset her
- 11 compensation from any other sources.
- MR. DREEBEN: Justice Sotomayor, I think
- 13 that the key to reading the statutory language is that
- 14 the definition of "victim" refers to a victim of the
- 15 offense in this case. So the term "victim" means the
- 16 individual harmed as a result of a commission of a crime
- 17 under this chapter.
- 18 The government's burden of proof in Section
- 19 3664(e) refers to demonstrating the amount of the loss
- 20 sustained by a victim as a result of the offense. So it
- 21 refers to the defendant's offense, not to the collective
- 22 harm that the --
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why isn't that a
- 24 but-for cause? I mean, if you're going to argue that,
- 25 you have to be arguing but-for --

- 1 MR. DREEBEN: I don't think so.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- that their damages
- 3 have to be the but-for cause.
- 4 MR. DREEBEN: I hope that the Court will
- 5 read the "as a result of" language to require causation,
- 6 but to interpret it in light of the way causation has
- 7 been understood in the unique circumstances that you
- 8 have here.
- 9 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, you don't deny
- 10 but-for. I haven't understood your submission to be
- 11 that there need not be but-for cause here.
- 12 MR. DREEBEN: There's collective, aggregate
- 13 but-for cause. And the way that tort law dealt with
- 14 this is not to accept Paroline's position that, even if
- 15 it -- you took me out of the equation, Amy's harm would
- 16 be very severe. Unquestionably true.
- 17 What tort law said is that, if a
- 18 multiplicity of actors inflict a single harm and one of
- 19 them comes forward with a reason that, if accepted,
- 20 would exonerate all of them, then that cannot be a
- 21 proper test of causation.
- The proper test is aggregate causation,
- 23 where the aggregate group of offenders is the but-for
- 24 cause, and each one of the individuals in that set can
- 25 be regarded as --

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But doesn't --
- 2 doesn't the individual at least cause some harm without
- 3 regard to the harm caused by the others?
- 4 MR. DREEBEN: Yes.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Of course, yes.
- 6 Now, why isn't it the case -- why can't the -- why can't
- 7 Amy have an expert that comes in and testifies, as a
- 8 result of their experience, that the psychological harm
- 9 caused by knowing that those images are available to
- 10 others, have been viewed by someone else, will require,
- 11 on average, whatever, a certain amount of counseling for
- 12 a certain amount of time? So that the one individual is
- 13 responsible for that harm, regardless of what else
- 14 happens.
- Now, he may say, well, it's kind of unfair
- 16 to stick me with that, but that's a different question
- 17 than the aggregate causation issue that you're
- 18 addressing.
- 19 If you have expert testimony, and there will
- 20 be expert testimony on the other side, that says it
- 21 normally requires counseling for someone, when they find
- 22 out, without regard to anything else, that an individual
- 23 has viewed this, why doesn't that require -- or at least
- 24 allow assessment of the -- the whole amount?
- MR. DREEBEN: Mr. Chief Justice, that would

- 1 allow assessment of some of the damages. I -- I don't
- 2 think that it would allow assessment of the entire
- 3 amount because, again, we regard this -- this statute as
- 4 enacted against the backdrop of tort law principles that
- 5 recognized you can have aggregate causation, but it's
- 6 not appropriate to hold each person in the set
- 7 responsible for all.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: My -- I'm sorry. My
- 9 hypothetical is not aggregate causation. It is that
- 10 this individual caused this harm.
- 11 MR. DREEBEN: If there's a specific amount
- of harm caused and if Amy could find an expert who would
- 13 testify to that respect and it would require, say, six
- 14 counseling sessions, and it would set her back in
- 15 employment for a year, then I guess a court could, if it
- 16 found that credible, conclude that a certain amount of
- 17 loss is attributable directly --
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, you're -- you're
- 19 confusing whether there's a specific amount of harm
- 20 caused with whether it is easy to measure that harm.
- 21 The -- the tort cases you refer to are cases in which
- 22 there is a result produced that is not severable. You
- 23 can't say this person is -- you know, accounts for this
- 24 much of it, such as pollution, all the pollution there.
- 25 The stream is polluted.

- 1 That's quite different from this case
- 2 where -- where this -- this young woman has been
- 3 subjected to psychological harm because of thousands of
- 4 people viewing her rape.
- 5 Now, this -- she would be subjected to less
- 6 psychological harm if it was just one person or ten
- 7 people or a hundred people. In other words, each person
- 8 increases the amount of her psychological harm. It is
- 9 severable the way the tort cases you refer to are not.
- And so why shouldn't the question in this
- 11 case be simply he caused a certain incremental amount of
- 12 psychological harm to -- to this woman and he should pay
- 13 for it and it's up to the district court to decide what
- 14 the proper amount of that payment ought to be.
- 15 MR. DREEBEN: Justice Scalia, I think that
- 16 is consistent with the conclusion that the government
- 17 reaches, although we take a different route to it --
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: I understand.
- 19 MR. DREEBEN: -- than Your Honor's position.
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, is it consistent with
- 21 human psychology? Are psychologists really able to do
- 22 this? If it's known that this image has been viewed
- 23 by -- even if you could figure out how many people have
- 24 viewed it, and I think, in the age of the Internet
- 25 that's impossible, but if you knew that it had been

- 1 viewed by a thousand people, is a psychologist able to
- 2 say that her knowledge that it has been viewed by a
- 3 thousand people causes this much harm?
- 4 And once she learns that it's now been
- 5 viewed by a thousand and one people, there's a little
- 6 bit of additional harm or some increment of additional
- 7 harm, and we can figure out how much that is. Can a
- 8 psychologist do that?
- 9 MR. DREEBEN: Justice Alito, that is why the
- 10 government has proposed a different approach to getting
- 11 to the same conclusion.
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Dreeben, I would
- 13 really like you to tell us, concretely, what the
- 14 government's approach would be; that is, we have all is
- one position, nothing is another position, and the
- 16 middle. The government comes down in the middle, and
- 17 what I gather from your brief, you say there should be a
- 18 reasonable formula to arrive at a starting point for
- 19 further analysis.
- 20 So I don't know what you propose as a
- 21 starting point. What is the reasonable formula that the
- 22 Court should use for its starting point?
- 23 MR. DREEBEN: Justice Ginsburg, the courts
- 24 have approved several different formulas as not being an
- 25 abuse of discretion. One camp of courts approves a view

- 1 in which the government submits the number of people who
- 2 have been ordered to pay restitution to Amy, and that
- 3 number is then divided into the total harm, measured by
- 4 monetary means, that Amy has established. And that
- 5 provides a starting point.
- 6 So, for example, in this case, that starting
- 7 point would be around \$18,000, and then courts can
- 8 adjust that.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How do you get to the
- 10 18,000?
- MR. DREEBEN: By considering the number of
- 12 defendants who have been ordered to pay restitution to
- 13 Amy because that provides some certainty in the face of,
- 14 as Justice Alito pointed out, the great difficulty in
- determining how many people have actually viewed these
- 16 pictures --
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How does that -- I'm
- 18 sorry.
- 19 MR. DREEBEN: -- the number of people who
- 20 have been ordered to pay to restitution represents a
- 21 judicial finding that, in fact, her picture is involved
- 22 in that person's offense.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: And so it wouldn't --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How does that work
- 25 for -- go ahead.

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: It wouldn't include the
- 2 people who are not prosecuted, and it wouldn't include
- 3 the people who, in the future, are prosecuted.
- 4 MR. DREEBEN: That is correct. And some
- 5 courts, Justice Ginsburg, have, therefore, required that
- 6 the formula be adjusted to make some sort of reasonable
- 7 estimate of the total pool of violators. And so I --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Can I ask you one --
- 9 just one moment. How does that work for the first
- 10 person?
- 11 MR. DREEBEN: It doesn't work very well for
- 12 the first person, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: All right.
- 14 (Laughter.)
- 15 MR. DREEBEN: And for that reason, I think
- 16 there are other approaches that do work.
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Can we with ease say, look,
- 18 it's very complicated. I can think of some answers, but
- 19 they're too complicated for me to tell you what they
- 20 are. And Justice Scalia has a possible answer. Justice
- 21 Alito, it seemed to me, is pointing out that the second
- 22 person to look at the thing, if they're only two,
- 23 probably adds a lot of damage, but the 1000th person
- 24 compared to 999 is near zero.
- Now, do we count this defendant as Number 2

- 1 or do we count him as Number 1000? Very hard to answer,
- 2 no answer, really. But can we say, we can't answer how
- 3 you do this in practice. Leave it to the sentencing
- 4 commission. That's their job.
- 5 Now, can we say that?
- 6 MR. DREEBEN: The Court can certainly say
- 7 that the statute requires reasonable apportionment --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.
- 9 MR. DREEBEN: -- and the districts courts
- 10 have jurisdiction to experiment with different
- 11 formulations.
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: But can we say -- can we
- 13 suggest that the sentencing commission -- you can't
- order them to do it, of course not.
- But can we suggest that this is the kind of
- 16 problem, very difficult, technically several ways to do
- 17 it, that they can go into this. Is that true, that they
- 18 could go into it and recommend or perhaps order?
- 19 MR. DREEBEN: They could recommend a -- an
- 20 approach. What the sentencing commission actually did
- 21 was recommend to Congress that it fix it because the
- 22 disagreements now pertain to the understanding of the
- 23 statute.
- Our submission is that there are a variety
- of ways to approach this problem. None is perfect.

1	JUSTICE	KAGAN:	Well.	could v	VO11	sav	more
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- 2 about that? You said that the Chief Justice's question
- 3 was right, that it doesn't work for the first person,
- 4 and you said there are better ones. What are the better
- 5 ones?
- 6 MR. DREEBEN: The alternative that I would
- 7 propose in that instance is to look at other similarly
- 8 situated child pornography victims and take a look at
- 9 what district courts have been awarding to those victims
- 10 in similar types of cases and provide some sort of an
- 11 average range.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: But -- you know -- I mean,
- 13 it struck me, when I read your brief, that it said, I
- don't know why these courts started where they started,
- whether each violation is worth 1,000 or 5,000 or
- 16 50,000.
- 17 And it seems as though somebody just plucks
- 18 an initial number out of the air and then everything is
- 19 pegged to that initial number, but that the initial
- 20 number has nothing in particular behind it or am I -- is
- 21 it more sensible than that?
- 22 MR. DREEBEN: I hope that it's not quite as
- 23 arbitrary as plucking it out of the air, but the reality
- 24 is --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: But they're certainly

- 1 not using your theory. Even though it's not plucked out
- of the air, they're certainly not using your theory.
- 3 MR. DREEBEN: On the first one, it's
- 4 impossible to --
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. So they're using some
- 6 theory.
- 7 MR. DREEBEN: They are using some theory.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: And you have no idea what
- 9 that is and can't suggest one, right?
- 10 MR. DREEBEN: I think that, sometimes, they
- 11 articulate various considerations, and other times, they
- 12 rely on basically a consensus -- a judicial consensus
- 13 that in a world in which perfect information and
- 14 mathematical computations are not going to happen, a
- 15 reasonable approximation that accords with the judgments
- of 200 other Federal judges is a sensible way to do
- 17 this.
- 18 And I --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But that makes no --
- 20 I mean, how do you tell the difference --
- 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm not sure what
- 22 sensible --
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How do you tell --
- 24 your model, how does it work if it turns out that the
- 25 damages are a million dollars, as opposed to \$3.4

- 1 million? Is it still \$1,200 per offender?
- 2 MR. DREEBEN: We would, as I indicated,
- 3 start with a -- a division problem and approximate
- 4 the -- the number of damages that are allocable to that
- 5 individual and then adjust it because these defendants
- 6 are not all identical.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So you start with --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So you would
- 9 expect -- you would expect the defendant in a case where
- 10 the restitution sought is a million dollars to pay 50
- 11 percent of what he would pay if the damages were \$2
- 12 million.
- MR. DREEBEN: Not necessarily because, as I
- 14 indicated, Mr. Chief Justice, the defendants aren't all
- 15 identical. Mr. Paroline possessed two images. Some
- 16 defendants may possess a hundred images. Some
- 17 defendants may be distributors, as well as possessors,
- 18 and courts have taken those factors into account.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What about taking into
- 20 account that the perpetrator, the uncle, that the
- 21 restitution was something like \$6,000; right?
- 22 MR. DREEBEN: Yes, that's correct, Justice
- 23 Ginsburg.
- 24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So if there's any kind of
- 25 proportionality, it seems that the possessor of two

- 1 images should not be responsible for more than the
- 2 person who perpetrated -- perpetrated this horrendous
- 3 crime.
- 4 MR. DREEBEN: Well, his -- his restitution
- 5 may have been predicated on a very early period, where
- 6 it was not clear that Amy would be as victimized as she
- 7 has turned out to be. The very vice of child
- 8 pornography possession and distribution is that it
- 9 continually re-inflicts the abuse on the victim, so that
- 10 she cannot make a fresh start and say it's finally over,
- 11 I've put this behind me, I can now move on with my life.
- 12 The continuing re-victimization of her is
- 13 what justifies and creates the increased harms.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I would like you to, to
- 15 the extent that you can, to help district judges get a
- 16 handle on this, what formula should they use and what
- 17 adjusting factors should they take into account after
- 18 they have that starting formula?
- 19 MR. DREEBEN: Justice Ginsburg, the -- the
- 20 formula that I proposed is the one that the government
- 21 has been suggesting to district courts around the
- 22 country.
- 23 Look at the number of convicted defendants
- 24 who have been ordered to pay restitution to Amy, divide
- 25 that into the total harm that the district court finds

- 1 was the result of the community of child pornography
- 2 possessors and then adjust it based on the severity of
- 3 the offense.
- 4 Courts of appeals have said that other
- 5 formulations are also not abuses of the district court's
- 6 discretion, and I would emphasize --
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: And that's wonderful
- 8 and -- you know, I -- I want to go along with you. This
- 9 is a bad guy, and -- and he ought to be punished, and he
- 10 ought to give restitution, but there is such a thing as
- 11 due process of law.
- 12 And what you're saying is -- I have no idea
- 13 how much he's going to be required to turn over, whether
- 14 it's going to be -- what was it in this case, \$3
- 15 million?
- MR. DREEBEN: That's the amount of money
- 17 that Amy has asked for.
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: I have no idea what he's
- 19 going to be socked with, and that's not what we usually
- 20 do with criminal statutes.
- 21 MR. DREEBEN: Well, in criminal --
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: You just can't say leave it
- 23 up to the district judge -- you know, and they all come
- 24 out different ways, but who cares, it's -- you know, so
- 25 long as it's within some --

- 1 MR. DREEBEN: Well, Justice Scalia --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: -- some reasonable amount.
- 3 MR. DREEBEN: Post Booker --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's just not the way we
- 5 do law.
- 6 MR. DREEBEN: -- post Booker, that is what
- 7 happens in criminal sentencing. District judges have an
- 8 enormous amount of discretion about how much
- 9 imprisonment time and fine time to use to apply to a
- 10 defendant. And there is appellate review that helps
- 11 establish some norms that can look to sentencing
- 12 guidelines as starting points.
- But in criminal sentencing, imprecision and
- 14 estimation is the order of the day. And when you're
- 15 dealing with --
- 16 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's because the statute
- 17 says so. It says you get from -- you know, 10 to 20
- 18 years, okay? But the statute here doesn't say -- you
- 19 know, you'll -- you'll get between this and this,
- 20 whatever the district judge likes. It doesn't say that.
- 21 It says you -- you should compensate the victim for
- 22 what -- for what you've caused her.
- 23 MR. DREEBEN: But there are two background
- 24 principles that I think reinforce that a reasonable
- 25 estimation is better than all or none. The first

- 1 background principle is that, in criminal restitution,
- 2 exactitude is not required. Reasonable estimates are
- 3 the order of the day. Courts have recognized that.
- 4 And it's reinforced here by the fact that
- 5 this restitution provision is kind of a crime/tort
- 6 hybrid. It's criminal sentencing, but it's enacted
- 7 against the background of compensatory tort law. And in
- 8 compensatory tort law, reasonable estimates have long
- 9 been accepted.
- 10 In the Burlington Northern case that I
- 11 referred to earlier, the district court made an effort
- 12 to do some calculations, and then, at the end, he
- 13 applied a 50 percent "fudge factor" for estimations that
- 14 reflected possible calculation errors.
- 15 JUSTICE SCALIA: We have a fudge factor
- 16 here? Can a -- can a district judge use what he calls a
- 17 fudge factor -- this is a criminal statute. It's not a
- 18 tort case.
- 19 MR. DREEBEN: It is a criminal provision --
- 20 JUSTICE SCALIA: We're going to be liable
- 21 for a fudge factor.
- 22 (Laughter.)
- 23 MR. DREEBEN: -- that is -- that is placed
- 24 into criminal sentencing with a goal of both
- 25 compensating victims and determining that each defendant

- 1 comes face to face with the fact that that person has
- 2 inflicted some harm on a particular victim.
- 3 That's a valuable criminal sentencing
- 4 purpose, and to the extent that the only thing that
- 5 courts can do in this situation is attempt reasonable
- 6 approximations, that will not be exact, it's a better
- 7 solution than saying nothing, as Paroline would do, or
- 8 saying Amy -- everything, as Amy would do.
- 9 That is not proportionate to what the
- 10 defendant has done, but zero is also grossly
- 11 disproportionate to what the defendant has done.
- 12 Thank you.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Mr. Cassell.
- 15 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL G. CASSELL
- 16 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT AMY UNKNOWN
- 17 MR. CASSELL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 18 please the Court:
- 19 Remarkably, this morning, the other parties
- 20 have taken a statute that promises Amy she will receive
- 21 restitution for all of her losses and interpreted it to
- 22 be a statute that has fudge factors, imprecision,
- 23 estimation, to produce some kind of an award that, in
- 24 the government's view, is fair.
- 25 That's not what Congress provided in this

- 1 particular statute. Congress answered the question
- 2 presented. You were asking, Justice Breyer, what's the
- 3 amount? The text of the statute tells us. It is the
- 4 full amount. Here, Amy has put forward --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: Why? I mean, the person
- 6 didn't cause the full amount. I mean, do you think
- 7 Congress didn't intend -- do they want to have people
- 8 pay for injury they didn't cause?
- 9 MR. CASSELL: We disagree with your premise
- 10 there, with all respect.
- 11 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, if you think he
- 12 caused the full amount, fine. But, I mean, immediately,
- 13 you'll say at least they have four other people that
- 14 they prosecuted for this, and those people caused it
- 15 just as much, and so let's divide it by five.
- 16 MR. CASSELL: The solution to the point that
- 17 you're raising, Justice Breyer, is to recognize that
- 18 Petitioner was a contributing cause to all of Amy's
- 19 losses.
- 20 Amy's losses come from a vast, faceless,
- 21 anonymous crowd of thousands of people scattered around
- 22 the globe, from Denver to Denmark, who are looking at
- 23 pictures of her being raped as an eight-year-old girl.
- 24 And that aggregate group of people all contribute to a
- 25 loss.

- 1 And I'm sure that Your Honor is familiar
- 2 with cases from this Court, for example, the Norfolk &
- 3 Western case, where asbestos manufacturers all
- 4 contributed to a particular loss. The result in that
- 5 case was joint and several liability. Each person who
- 6 contributed to the loss was on the hook for the damages
- 7 in their entirety.
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So -- so Congress assumed
- 9 that this defendant could be liable, in part, for other
- 10 people's crimes?
- 11 MR. CASSELL: No, Justice Kennedy. What
- 12 Congress assumed is that he would contribute to a single
- 13 loss, and then, at that point, he would be
- 14 responsible --
- 15 JUSTICE KENNEDY: A single law or loss?
- 16 MR. CASSELL: I'm sorry. Loss. He
- 17 contributed to the loss, and it's important to
- 18 understand --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: He had two pictures. He
- 20 did not distribute at all. He was not a distributor,
- 21 right?
- MR. CASSELL: That's right.
- 23 JUSTICE SCALIA: He was just convicted of
- 24 possessing two pictures. And -- and the statute doesn't
- 25 even require intentional possession, just knowing

- 1 possession, right? He could have gotten them by
- 2 accident. He knew he got them, but he never took them
- 3 off of his computer, but he's still guilty of the crime.
- 4 So I -- he's quilty -- he's quilty of the
- 5 crime. But to sock him for all of her -- all of her
- 6 psychiatric costs and everything else because he had two
- 7 pictures of her?
- 8 Congress couldn't have intended that.
- 9 MR. CASSELL: Congress did intend that, Your
- 10 Honor. They said that he is responsible for the full
- 11 amount of the losses.
- There's a two-step process here. First, did
- 13 this particular defendant caused harm to this particular
- 14 victim? That's the victim definition found in 2259(c).
- 15 And there are findings of fact by the district court in
- 16 this case that the defendant, Petitioner, did harm --
- 17 did harm Amy.
- 18 And then, at that point, the only question
- 19 left under this mandatory restitution statute is how
- 20 much restitution does she get? And Congress has
- 21 answered that question. She gets the full amount, for
- 22 five itemized categories of losses, psychological
- 23 counseling being the most prominent.
- 24 She's documented, with detailed submissions,
- 25 that she is going to bear --

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but
- 2 responsible for those as a proximate result of the
- 3 offense.
- 4 MR. CASSELL: That --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The only offense
- 6 shown here in this case is the possession of the two
- 7 pictures. So how -- how can all of those amounts be the
- 8 result of the possession of two pictures?
- 9 MR. CASSELL: The language you have quoted,
- 10 Mr. Chief Justice, is from Subsection (F). Amy is not
- 11 seeking any recovery under Subsection (F).
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you understand
- 13 the statutory principle, that it says, "any other losses
- 14 suffered by the victim as a proximate result of the
- offense," which suggests that the prior losses are also
- 16 limited as a proximate result of the offense.
- 17 MR. CASSELL: No, Mr. Chief Justice, and we
- 18 would ask you to affirm the Fifth Circuit's En Banc
- 19 decision, which disagreed with that reading. There are
- 20 numerous canons of statutory construction --
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why would-- Why would it make
- 22 sense to say that he's liable for lost income, whether
- 23 or not it's a proximate result, but when it comes to
- 24 other losses suffered by the victim, they have to be the
- 25 proximate result?

- 1 MR. CASSELL: There are a number of answers
- 2 to that question, Mr. Chief Justice. "Any other losses"
- 3 is potentially open-ended. It includes such things as
- 4 emotional distress damages that could be potentially
- 5 uncapped.
- 6 (A) through (E), however, are all
- 7 out-of-pocket pecuniary costs. They are defined. And
- 8 in this case, we have defined, with precision, what the
- 9 course of lifetime psychological counseling costs will
- 10 be for Amy.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Does your case fall if
- 12 we don't buy your argument, if we read into (F)
- 13 proximate causation?
- MR. CASSELL: No, Justice Sotomayor --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why are you wasting
- 16 time on the argument if you win either way? Tell us
- 17 without it.
- 18 MR. CASSELL: I think we win either way, and
- 19 obviously, I have to anticipate that there may be a
- 20 variety of views on this very difficult question. But
- 21 let's assume that the Court wants to read proximate
- 22 cause into other parts of the statute where it does not
- 23 appear. At that point, the question simply becomes what
- 24 do we mean by proximate cause?
- 25 Proximate cause is a legal shorthand for

- 1 scope of the risk -- a legal duty. And Congress has
- 2 defined the legal duty here. For those criminals who
- 3 commit a serious 10-year Federal felony, the scope of
- 4 their risk is they will pay the full amount of the
- 5 psychological counseling costs --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Can I get back to --
- 7 your point was that all of the (A) through (E) is
- 8 limited, and you don't need -- well, it's not. One of
- 9 the losses that can be gained -- recovered is lost
- 10 income.
- Now, if you take away proximate cause, the
- 12 argument can be, well, I had to undergo counseling in a
- 13 particular period, so I wasn't able to get a master's
- 14 degree in this. Because I didn't get a master's degree,
- 15 I wasn't able to get a better-paying job, and therefore,
- 16 I'm entitled to the income from the better-paying job
- 17 that I would have gotten if I had a master's degree, if
- 18 I didn't have to take the counseling.
- Now, unless you limit that by proximate
- 20 cause, it's entirely open-ended. It's not confined, as
- 21 you said.
- MR. CASSELL: Well, there -- you're talking
- 23 about the problem of but-for causation, then what kind
- 24 of additional limitation will placed on this.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no. I'm talking

- 1 about proximate causation.
- 2 MR. CASSELL: Right. So there would be an
- 3 additional cause, which the government argues should be
- 4 a proximate cause limitation, but there are other
- 5 limitations that could be attached, and that's what the
- 6 Fifth Circuit En Banc did. It said, for example, that
- 7 if Amy suffered a car accident on the way to therapy,
- 8 that that would not be included.
- 9 Why? Because, contextually and
- 10 conventionally, we would not refer to those types of
- 11 losses as stemming from child pornography. That's
- 12 proximate cause.
- 13 JUSTICE SCALIA: Like Justice Sotomayor and
- 14 like the government here, I think, even if there is a
- 15 proximate cause requirement, it has been -- it has been
- 16 met, once you adopt the aggregate offense notion. But I
- 17 wanted to ask you about Subsection (F).
- 18 My -- it doesn't seem to me that you --
- 19 whether or not you read the proximate cause element in
- 20 (F) into (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E), it seems to me
- 21 what you have to read into (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E)
- 22 is the portion of (F) which says, "any other losses
- 23 suffered by the victim as a result of the offense." "Of
- 24 the offense."
- Is it only (F) that is limited to the

- 1 particular offense, and (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E)
- 2 means those -- those items that come from anybody else's
- 3 conviction?
- 4 MR. CASSELL: No. The linkage -- the
- 5 particular defendant's conviction comes from Subsection
- 6 (C). A victim such as Amy has to establish that she's
- 7 been harmed as a result of this defendant's crime. That
- 8 establishes -- there's been a reference to aggregate
- 9 cause. We think the way to look at this would be --
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And is that another way of
- 11 saying as a result of this defendant's offense?
- MR. CASSELL: As a result of this
- defendant's offense -- we agree that Subsection (C)
- 14 requires Amy to show that she was victimized by this
- 15 defendant.
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: But you -- you are not
- 17 claiming, are you -- or are you? -- that she's been
- 18 victimized to the tune of 3.4 million, as a result of
- 19 this particular defendant's offense?
- 20 MR. CASSELL: We are saying that she -- that
- 21 the Petitioner in this case, the defendant, contributed
- 22 to all of the losses that she suffered.
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, contributed to.
- MR. CASSELL: Yes.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But I take it that the point

- 1 of the government's submission is only contributed to,
- 2 and now, we have to sort of approximate what the
- 3 contribution was. And you come in and you say, no, it
- 4 shouldn't be -- notwithstanding that this particular
- 5 offense was responsible for only a part, you think the
- 6 defendant should be liable for the whole.
- 7 MR. CASSELL: We think that the defendant
- 8 contributed to all her losses.
- 9 Let me give you a quick illustration. Next
- 10 week, when Amy goes to her therapist and is billed \$100,
- 11 the defendant contributed to all \$100. And of course,
- 12 all we have when we get to the additional numbers down
- 13 the road is simply the fact that she's going to be going
- 14 to therapy, not just next week --
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: I quess I'm just not sure
- 16 what that means, contributed to \$100. Does that mean
- 17 she's -- the defendant is responsible for the entire
- 18 \$100 --
- MR. CASSELL: Yes.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- as a matter of fact? Or
- 21 does it mean that the defendant is responsible as a
- 22 matter of fact for some lesser part of the entire harm?
- 23 MR. CASSELL: No, the first. He's
- 24 responsible -- he is a contributing cause of the entire
- amount.

- 1 JUSTICE KAGAN: I -- I guess I'm -- when I
- 2 say responsible, I don't mean as a legal conclusion. I
- 3 mean did the defendant cause the entire \$100 of harm?
- 4 MR. CASSELL: He contributed to the entire
- 5 \$100, just as multiple polluters contribute to
- 6 asbestosis --
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, that's --
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: So he should contribute to
- 9 the payment. You're saying he contributed to the harm,
- 10 but he makes 100 percent of the payment. That doesn't
- 11 seem to me to make much sense.
- 12 MR. CASSELL: Well, Justice Scalia, we're
- 13 pure textualists on this. When you look at the text of
- 14 the statute, Congress has answered that question.
- 15 Congress could have written the statute different ways,
- 16 but they said that she is entitled to recover the full
- 17 amount of her loss --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, full amount --
- 19 JUSTICE SCALIA: They don't say from that
- 20 person.
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- from the particular
- 22 offense, Mr. Cassell, so that it's the full amount of
- 23 whatever the particular offense caused. But you're not
- 24 saying that this Defendant caused the entire 3.4.
- MR. CASSELL: We're saying he contributed to

- 1 the entire 3.4 --
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, let me give you
- 3 this --
- 4 MR. CASSELL: -- along with the other
- 5 people.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to
- 7 interrupt you.
- 8 MR. CASSELL: No, I -- you can't
- 9 disaggregate them, and that's the fundamental problem
- 10 here. If you look at, for example, our amicus brief
- 11 with the American professional association involved with
- 12 the sexual abuse of children, what they say is that you
- 13 cannot tease out this particular defendant or this
- 14 particular harm.
- 15 They all come together to --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: So -- so contributed, also,
- 17 a person who didn't have a picture of her, but watched
- 18 other victims.
- 19 MR. CASSELL: Well, no --
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: That person contributed to
- 21 her, too, because it creates a market for the entire
- 22 situation. So some limiting principle has to come into
- 23 play, and the limiting principle that I think people are
- 24 driving at is, because there's a terrible crime, we
- 25 don't convict the person who didn't do it, all right?

- 1 And similarly, because this is a terrible crime, you
- 2 don't require a person to pay what he didn't cause.
- Now, that's sort of a principle going on.
- 4 Now, if you accept that, at least hypothetically, can
- 5 you give any answer -- I'm afraid you can't and you're
- 6 going to say --
- 7 MR. CASSELL: No, I'm --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: But answer to what seems to
- 9 be bothering me and a lot of others is, okay, let's
- 10 accept the notion of cause, but what is a -- this is
- 11 called restitution --
- MR. CASSELL: Yes.
- 13 JUSTICE BREYER: -- it isn't called fines.
- 14 And so, given that, what -- how do you do it? How do
- 15 you distinguish, so she gets some reasonable amount?
- 16 How do you do it that you're -- I can think of -- we've
- 17 had about four different suggestions here. But what's
- 18 your opinion, if you lose on the first? What's the best
- 19 way to do it?
- That's what I think people are struggling
- 21 for -- with.
- 22 MR. CASSELL: The best way to do it is to
- 23 give Amy the full amount of her losses in this case.
- 24 JUSTICE BREYER: That's what I suspected you
- would say.

- 1 (Laughter.)
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, let me give you --
- 3 Mr. Cassell, let me give you this example. There are
- 4 pictures like this, and it's known that they are out on
- 5 the Internet, and so therefore, they are probably always
- 6 going to be available and who knows how many people are
- 7 going to view it.
- 8 And so the first person is caught for
- 9 possession of some of these pictures and is convicted,
- 10 and the psychologist testifies that -- you know, my
- 11 client -- that the victim in this case knows that these
- 12 things are out there, and there's an unknown -- an
- 13 unknown quantity of people are going to view it, and my
- 14 estimate is that the -- the treatment she is going to
- 15 need for this is going to be \$5 million. All right. Or
- 16 3 million -- \$3 million, whatever it is.
- 17 Now, the first person is convicted, so the
- 18 first person is assessed restitution in the amount of
- 19 \$3 million, right? But then, shortly after that, ten
- 20 more people are convicted for possessing the same
- amount.
- 22 They all pay nothing because the first
- 23 person paid everything? That's your answer?
- 24 MR. CASSELL: That's our answer, and that's
- 25 exactly what Congress wanted. Congress wanted to take

- 1 these vulnerable victims, of child pornography crimes,
- 2 Federal sex offense crimes, and domestic violence, and
- 3 get them full restitution as quickly and effectively as
- 4 possible.
- 5 And then, after that, if there's a need to
- 6 send an additional message to a defendant, he can be
- 7 fined up to a quarter of a million dollars or sent to
- 8 prison for a longer period of time.
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What about at least the
- 10 amount of the judgments she has already received? The
- 11 total amount, I think, was 3.4 million that you're
- 12 seeking?
- MR. CASSELL: Yes.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And she has, so far,
- 15 collected how much?
- 16 MR. CASSELL: As of yesterday, 1,752,000.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Would you at least deduct
- 18 that from the --
- 19 MR. CASSELL: Certainly. Absolutely. No,
- 20 we're not asking for double recovery. Amy simply wants
- 21 to be made whole. She wants to recover her
- 22 psychological counseling costs and her losses.
- 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: Usually, when we approve
- 24 joint and several liability, we do so against a
- 25 background of a functioning system of contribution,

- 1 where one defendant pays the entire thing, but then can
- 2 go after --
- 3 MR. CASSELL: Right.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- other defendants and be
- 5 pretty well assured that he gets their share. Now,
- 6 here, there's nothing like that, and the question -- I
- 7 guess the question is you're asking us to impose that
- 8 kind of system without the usual thing that goes along
- 9 with it, which is a sharing mechanism.
- MR. CASSELL: We disagree with the premise
- 11 here. The background principle for intentional
- 12 tortfeasors is they got stuck with the entire liability
- jointly and severally. That was the common law
- 14 approach. Now, if you want to deviate from the common
- 15 law approach and read a contribution action into the
- 16 statute, we're certainly not opposed to this.
- 17 But the overriding goal of Congress, as it
- 18 always is when they deal with criminal, intentional
- 19 tortfeasors, is to pay more attention to the victims and
- 20 less about some notion of distributing losses among
- 21 criminally culpable defendants.
- Congress doesn't give you any indication in
- 23 this statute that they were concerned that one
- 24 particular defendant might pay more than his, quote,
- 25 "fair share," or whatever that means. And the

- 1 fundamental problem with the government's position is
- 2 that, after four-and-a-half years of litigation, we
- 3 still don't have any indication as to how much Amy is
- 4 going to receive in this particular case.
- 5 What the government proposes to do is to
- 6 cast district courts adrift, as they have been for the
- 7 last four and a half years, to look at a variety of the
- 8 factors, including, remarkably, if we read the
- 9 government's brief correctly, one of the factors is the
- 10 need to get the victim full -- full recovery.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: In my example, suppose that
- 12 the first person, who has a restitution order for the
- 13 full amount, seems unlikely ever to be able to pay that.
- 14 Does that mean that they -- you would impose the same --
- 15 keep imposing the same judgment on everybody else, so
- 16 everybody would be hit with \$3 million?
- 17 MR. CASSELL: Precisely, until -- until the
- 18 victim recovers the full amount.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, what about doing --
- 20 what you'd say is make the department, you can find out
- 21 figures, you could find out from figures what's the
- 22 likelihood that X number of people will be caught. And
- 23 say it's 3 out of 1,000.
- Then what you do is you divide by three. I
- 25 mean, that way, everybody would be treated fairly, and

- 1 moreover, the victim would at least have a shot at
- 2 getting --
- 3 MR. CASSELL: But the problem is, in this
- 4 particular case, the numbers show that at least 70,000
- 5 people have viewed Amy's images.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: And how many -- how many
- 7 are going to get caught and convicted?
- 8 MR. CASSELL: We have no way of knowing.
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, you can find out.
- 10 There's no -- it's not an impossible question for people
- 11 to come in and use the numbers and figure it out. My
- 12 guess would be a very tiny percent.
- MR. CASSELL: A tiny percentage --
- 14 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Fine. Then
- 15 she's going to get a lot of her -- then she's going to
- 16 get from each one a pretty good share, only --
- MR. CASSELL: What you're assuming, though,
- 18 is that there's going to be a steady stream of cases,
- 19 that criminals aren't going to discover new encryption
- 20 techniques to keep their nefarious activities secrets.
- 21 We don't know whether there are going to be
- 22 convictions next year or the year following. And
- 23 Congress acted against that understanding and said she
- 24 recovers the full amount from the very first person, and
- 25 if she gets her compensation, then she's out of the

- 1 picture.
- 2 And one of the beauties of our approach is
- 3 that we estimate, within 2 to 3 years, if you affirm the
- 4 Fifth Circuit, her restitution requests will be done.
- 5 If you adopt the government's approach, you could be
- 6 looking at literally thousands and thousands of cases
- 7 where Amy will have to -- will have to be filing
- 8 piecemeal restitution requests, collecting as little as
- 9 \$47 under some of the calculation theories that the
- 10 government has proposed, and there's no certainty that
- 11 she's ever going to get the psychological counseling
- 12 costs that she desperately needs and the lost income.
- Now, certainly, Congress could have drafted
- 14 the statute in different ways, but every single word or
- 15 every single phrase of this statute at least indicates
- 16 to you that Congress had one goal and one goal alone in
- 17 mind, that is, that victims get the full amount of
- 18 restitution that they desperately need.
- And we're not talking here about reworking
- 20 an entire restitution scheme for the broad swath of
- 21 Federal crime. We're talking about three crimes covered
- 22 by the Violence Against Women Act, the child pornography
- 23 cases, Federal sexual assault cases, and domestic
- 24 violence cases.
- 25 And it's hardly a surprise to discover, when

- 1 you look at the Violence Against Women Act, that
- 2 Congress created a particularly expansive restitution
- 3 regime for the victims of these particular crimes.
- 4 And we would direct your attention, for
- 5 example, to the bipartisan amicus brief of a group of
- 6 senators who were involved in the drafting of the
- 7 Violence Against Women Act, and they indicated that
- 8 their overriding goal here was to make sure that these
- 9 vulnerable victims --
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: This is subsequent
- 11 legislative history? Is that what this is?
- MR. CASSELL: Some of the members of the
- 13 Court reviewed --
- 14 JUSTICE SCALIA: Even those that like
- 15 legislative history don't like subsequent legislative
- 16 history.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- MR. CASSELL: Well, then, if you want to go
- 19 the with the textual approach, this is a simple case,
- 20 Your Honor.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, it's not a
- 22 simple case. You said, rhetorical exaggeration, every
- 23 word in the statute leads to that. But the key words
- 24 don't. The key words are "proximate result of the
- 25 offense."

- 1 And it's difficult to argue that the entire
- 2 amount is a proximate result of the offense of two
- 3 pictures.
- 4 MR. CASSELL: Well, what happened was the
- 5 Petitioner in this case contributed to the entire
- 6 amount.
- 7 And then the way the statute operates is a
- 8 very conventional way. He becomes jointly and severally
- 9 liable for the full amount. That's not some kind of
- 10 innovation. This Court, for example, in the Norfolk &
- 11 Western case unanimously said that joint and several
- 12 liability is the traditional approach.
- 13 And so what Congress has done here is not
- 14 create some newfangled regime. It has simply taken a
- 15 joint and several liability regime that this Court has
- 16 routinely applied against negligent tortfeasors and
- 17 said, when it comes to criminals who act with scienter,
- 18 act knowingly or intentionally and cause harm, that
- 19 they're going to have to make sure that the victims are
- 20 fully compensated.
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But the point has already
- 22 been made that it isn't a typical joint tortfeasor
- 23 situation, where you can seek contribution from people
- 24 who equally contributed. How would --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You can please

- 1 answer.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How would -- how would
- 3 the defendant here go about seeking contribution?
- 4 MR. CASSELL: Well, the defendant would --
- 5 if there was a wealthy defendant, who was unhappy with
- 6 the share he'd been ordered to pay, he could simply try
- 7 to find other wealthy defendants out there and
- 8 interplead them in some kind of a case.
- 9 We admit that's going to lead to litigation
- 10 burdens, that Congress wanted those burdens on guilty
- 11 criminals, rather than innocent victims.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- 13 Mr. Schneider, five minutes.
- 14 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF STANLEY G. SCHNEIDER,
- 15 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER,
- 16 APPOINTED BY THIS COURT
- 17 MR. SCHNEIDER: Thank you.
- 18 This -- this is a criminal sentencing
- 19 problem. And Congress, in 1996, apparently codified --
- 20 codified this Court's opinion in Hughey, in creating a
- 21 burden of proof on the government to demonstrate that
- 22 the losses sustained by the victim are the result of the
- 23 offense and created a number of new mandatory
- 24 restitution statutes that apply, and that doesn't
- 25 change.

- 1 So as the reading -- the plain reading of
- 2 the statute point (59) -- with the government's burden of proof,
- 3 requires that the government demonstrate that, for
- 4 example, the medical services losses of the victim of
- 5 child pornography are caused by -- are the result of the
- 6 defendant's offense. And that's what Congress intended
- 7 by adopting -- of 3664(e) and placing it as the
- 8 enforcement provision of each of the restitution
- 9 statutes that it created in 1996. It codified Hughey.
- 10 And what the idea of contribution suggests
- 11 that convicted sex offenders across the country are
- 12 going to get together and see who pays what to whom.
- 13 That's not what Congress intended. This is a sentencing
- 14 proceeding that requires a particularized,
- 15 individualized sentence based upon criminal conduct.
- And that's what -- what the -- what Congress
- 17 intended when it created all these statutes. The ideal
- 18 solution is to say, Congress, make each defendant pay
- 19 \$1,000 per image. That would be -- into a fund for
- 20 restitution for victims.
- 21 And that --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, you're right back to
- 23 the question Justice Kagan began, that if you have two
- 24 offenders, that there's going to be recovery. If you
- 25 have 1,002, there won't be.

1 MR. SCHNEIDER: The	ere will always be if	f
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- 2 there's two offenders that are caught, you may get
- 3 restitution from one of them. But if -- but you're
- 4 looking at what a single judge has to sentence someone.
- 5 A single judge, like Judge Davis, had one defendant.
- 6 He didn't have a defendant in Florida or
- 7 Maine or Oregon to see what that person's background
- 8 was, doesn't have the benefit of a PSR. He has to look
- 9 at one person. And in this case, the district court
- 10 balanced two experts and the methodology that was
- 11 challenged and simply said, I find she was a victim, I
- 12 find that she was harmed.
- But the government didn't meet its statutory
- 14 burden of proof in this case, and in many other cases,
- 15 there is losses proved. And there's a difference
- 16 between harm and loss.
- 17 In this case, the district court did exactly
- 18 what the government wanted them to do: Weigh the
- 19 evidence, listen to the evidence, look at the defendant
- 20 and see if the government met its burden. And we'd ask
- 21 the Court to reverse the Fifth Circuit and affirm the
- 22 district court.
- 23 Thank you very much.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- The case is submitted.

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