SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UI	NIIED SIAIES
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DANIEL CAMERON, ATTORNEY GENERAL)
OF KENTUCKY,)
Petitioner,)
v.) No. 20-601
EMW WOMEN'S SURGICAL CENTER, P.S.C.,)
ET AL.,)
Respondents.)

Pages: 1 through 80

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: October 12, 2021

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3	DANIEL CAMERON, ATTORNEY GENERAL)
4	OF KENTUCKY,)
5	Petitioner,)
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8	ET AL.,
9	Respondents.)
10	
11	
12	Washington, D.C.
13	Tuesday, October 12, 2021
14	
15	The above-entitled matter came on for
16	oral argument before the Supreme Court of the
17	United States at 10:01 a.m.
18	
19	APPEARANCES:
20	
21	MATTHEW F. KUHN, Principal Deputy Solicitor General,
22	Frankfort, Kentucky; on behalf of the
23	Petitioner.
24	ALEXA KOLBI-MOLINAS, ESQUIRE, New York, New York; on
25	behalf of the Respondents.

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:01 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 20-601,
5	Cameron versus EMW Women's Surgical Center.
6	Mr. Kuhn.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF MATTHEW F. KUHN
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. KUHN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
10	it please the Court:
11	Two days after learning that another
12	state official had stopped defending Kentucky's
13	House Bill 454, the Attorney General moved to
14	intervene so that the Commonwealth could exhaust
15	all appeals in defense of its law.
16	The Sixth Circuit kept the Attorney
17	General out of court, and it made three
18	fundamental errors in doing so.
19	First, the panel overlooked that the
20	Attorney General simply sought to pick up where
21	the Secretary had left off in this litigation.
22	More to the point, the Attorney General, on
23	behalf of the Commonwealth, merely accepted a
24	handoff from another state official to exhaust
25	all appeals.

1	Second, the panel refused to consider
2	Kentucky's sovereign interests in enforcing and
3	defending its law. To be clear, the panel did
4	not merely weigh factors to arrive at its
5	timeliness holding. It affirmatively treated
6	Kentucky's sovereign interests as irrelevant to
7	that inquiry.
8	And, third, the panel expected the
9	Attorney General to have preemptively intervened
10	while the Secretary was vigorously defending
11	House Bill 454 with the Attorney General's
12	office as his counsel. That is contrary to what
13	this Court said in McDonald, and if accepted
14	more broadly, it would lead to a flood of
15	protective motions to intervene.
16	Before discussing the intervention
17	issue further, let me address the jurisdictional
18	argument that's been raised. This argument
19	overlooks that the Attorney General is here in
20	court today on behalf of the Commonwealth. This
21	Court's case law instructs that acting for a
22	state is a distinct capacity. Because everyone
23	agrees that the Attorney General did not
24	participate in that capacity in district court,
25	he is not jurisdictionally barred from doing so

1	now.
2	Even still, the Attorney General could
3	not have appealed the district court's judgment.
4	He had been dismissed from the case without
5	prejudice, he was not named in the district
6	court's judgment, and he had preserved his
7	ability to participate in any appeal and to
8	benefit from any favorable result on appeal.
9	I welcome the Court's questions.
10	JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Kuhn, you
11	there isn't much law for appellate intervention,
12	so what do we rely on? Do we rely on Rule 24,
13	which doesn't really apply? Would you give us
14	what would be your strongest case that we
15	should have a basis for this intervention that's
16	not in the rules of appellate procedure?
17	MR. KUHN: So the best case is the
18	Scofield case that's discussed in our briefing,
19	and what Scofield says is that even though Rule
20	24 is not technically applicable in appellate
21	courts, it serves as essentially a helpful
22	analogy to so I think Rule 24 is perhaps the
23	starting point of what we're looking at.
24	And our position is not that

intervention in district courts under Rule 24 is

- 1 always the same as intervention in appellate
- 2 courts. Our point is -- is that when we have a
- 3 handoff from one state official to another only
- 4 to exhaust all appeals, it doesn't make sense to
- 5 draw a firm line between district court
- 6 intervention and appellate intervention.
- 7 And that's why we think there's such a
- 8 strong analogy in this case to McDonald, where
- 9 Ms. McDonald moved to intervene as soon as she
- 10 learned that her interests were unprotected, and
- 11 this Court said that that was timely, even
- 12 though it was post-judgment.
- 13 JUSTICE THOMAS: But you still -- we
- 14 need a standard for timeliness. We need a basis
- for -- I think we're reviewing this on abuse of
- 16 discretion standards. We need a basis for
- 17 saying that the Sixth Circuit abused its
- 18 discretion. And I simply want to know if it's
- 19 -- Rule 24 does not apply on its own terms, what
- does apply that would give us the authority to
- 21 find abuse of discretion?
- 22 MR. KUHN: So I -- I think it is a
- 23 general equitable standard. I don't take my
- 24 friend on the other side to -- to argue that we
- 25 are categorically prohibited from intervening in

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1 an appellate court. So I think there is a
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- 2 general equitable standard.
- 3 As we pointed out in page -- at page
- 4 27 of the blue brief, this Court, on occasion,
- 5 allows intervention on its own docket, and it
- 6 does so in circumstances that are very -- very
- 7 similar to what we have here, where another
- 8 party had been representing the real party in
- 9 interest's interests. Up to that point, the
- 10 party that had been in court declined to seek
- 11 certiorari, and this Court has, on occasion,
- granted a motion to intervene on this docket to
- 13 allow the filing of a petition for certiorari.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You noted,
- 16 counsel, that the Attorney General intervened on
- 17 behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I -- I
- don't quite understand if that's different than
- 19 simply representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- 20 as its -- its counsel or if the Attorney General
- 21 is intervent -- intervening in his own capacity
- 22 as distinct from the Commonwealth?
- MR. KUHN: Mr. Chief Justice, we
- 24 followed the roadmap this Court laid in
- 25 Hollingsworth, which is to say that a state has

- 1 to have the power to act through its agent. And
- 2 so our position is that we are here as the agent
- 3 of Kentucky. And I think that's consistent with
- 4 how Hollingsworth talked about it; a state has
- 5 the power to act only through its agent.
- 6 I'll point this Court also to its
- 7 decision from last term in Brnovich, where the
- 8 Attorney General of Arizona came here for the
- 9 state, and the Court pointed out in discussing
- 10 it that the Arizona Attorney General "fits the
- 11 bill of someone who can stand in for the state.
- 12 I also think it's consistent with what
- this Court said in Bethune-Hill. In that case,
- 14 the -- the Virginia House of Delegates did not
- 15 have the authority that we have here, but the
- 16 Court talked about it as standing in for the
- 17 state.
- 18 And I think that's what we're doing
- 19 here. And I read Bethune-Hill to tell us that
- when we are here on behalf of the state, that is
- 21 a distinct representational capacity that is
- 22 separate and apart from whatever institutional
- interests the Attorney General may have.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is it the
- 25 normal -- if you take a typical run-of-the-mine

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1 case and the attorney general's representing,
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- 2 you know, any state entity, do they appear on
- 3 behalf of the, you know, Department of Social
- 4 Services or whatever it is, or is -- is there no
- 5 separate designation of that on behalf sort?
- 6 MR. KUHN: I -- I think it's
- 7 different. If we are retained as counsel --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Uh-huh.
- 9 MR. KUHN: -- the Attorney General's
- 10 Office, as we were by the Secretary before the
- 11 Sixth Circuit, we just appeared as counsel for
- 12 the Secretary.
- But, as a general matter, when
- 14 Kentucky's Attorney General comes into court for
- the Commonwealth, we note that it's often
- 16 through a Commonwealth Ex Rel Attorney General
- 17 action.
- 18 If you look at the cases we cited at
- 19 pages 4 and 5 of our blue brief, they are
- 20 Commonwealth Ex Rel Attorney General on behalf
- of the Commonwealth. And so, when we're
- 22 appearing for another state official, we're just
- 23 counsel.
- 24 And --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I --

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1 MR. KUHN: -- from a Kentucky law
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- 2 perspective, I think that makes sense because
- 3 the Attorney General is just not -- is not just
- 4 a lawyer for the Commonwealth. Kentucky law
- 5 tells us he is the chief law officer of the
- 6 Commonwealth. For that reason, there's a state
- 7 law reason as well as a federal law reason of
- 8 why we came in AG Cameron on behalf of the
- 9 Commonwealth.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, I -- I
- 11 understand that Virginia law permits the
- 12 Attorney General to step in but doesn't require
- it to, and it permits state agencies like the
- 14 Department of State to hire its own attorneys or
- 15 hire the Attorney General.
- In this case, I understand that four
- of the lawyers who are now part of the Attorney
- 18 General's Office were working for the Department
- of State but not as part of the Attorney
- 20 General's Office. The Secretary had hired his
- or her own attorneys, correct?
- MR. KUHN: That is correct, Justice
- 23 Sotomayor.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, when you were
- sued in the suit originally, you were sued as

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the Attorney General, correct?
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- 2 MR. KUHN: That's correct, as someone
- 3 who can enforce the challenged law.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And you said we
- 5 can't. And you signed a stipulation dismissing
- 6 yourself and saying that you would abide by the
- 7 decision of the Secretary of State, its
- 8 litigation, and abide by whatever judgment was
- 9 entered in this case, would be bound by any
- 10 final judgment in the action and -- is that
- 11 correct?
- 12 MR. KUHN: That is correct. There are
- 13 --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
- MR. KUHN: -- a couple qualifications
- 16 to that, but, yes, generally.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Generally. You
- 18 didn't appeal the judgment, correct?
- 19 MR. KUHN: That's correct.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why would we call
- 21 it an abuse of discretion for a court of
- 22 appeals, after it's rendered its judgment, to
- 23 say we don't really care what has happened in
- 24 the political arena. We don't want to be
- 25 dragged into it.

1	You agreed to be bound by this
2	judgment. You didn't appeal, even though you
3	were a party. Are you telling me you're now
4	willing to waive the sovereign immunity of the
5	state? Because that's what it sounds like,
6	because, if you're coming in as yourself, you
7	were here and left, you agreed to be bound by
8	whatever the Secretary of State did.
9	Under what theory of law would we be
10	able to say that the Sixth Circuit abused its
11	discretion in just respecting the very
12	stipulation you signed?
13	MR. KUHN: Justice Sotomayor, let me
14	start with the stipulation, and then I want to
15	step back and talk about Bethune-Hill and state
16	sovereignty.
17	But, with respect to the stipulation,
18	it was entered into in our capacity as someone
19	who can enforce House Bill 454. We were sued or
20	an ex parte Young theory. At pages 40 and 41 of
21	the red brief, EMW acknowledges that the
22	Commonwealth was not before the district court.
23	That acknowledgment, I think,
2./	overgomes the stipulation because the

stipulation --

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1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, it couldn't
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- 2 have been before the district court. The state
- 3 has sovereign immunity, correct?
- 4 MR. KUHN: That's --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So the state under
- 6 no circumstance, even now on appeal, unless it's
- 7 willing to waive sovereignty, and -- and you
- 8 haven't told me if you are or aren't or whether
- 9 you have or haven't. I don't think you put that
- 10 before the Sixth Circuit.
- 11 So I go back to my question: How do
- 12 we say it abused its discretion in saying that
- an individual party who had an opportunity to be
- in the litigation and chose to get out and chose
- to bind itself to the decisions of the Secretary
- of State -- how can we say it abused -- the
- 17 Sixth Circuit abused its discretion in honoring
- 18 that commitment by the Sec -- by the Attorney
- 19 General?
- 20 MR. KUHN: Justice Sotomayor, we don't
- 21 think that the Commonwealth is a party to the
- 22 stipulation because they had not been brought
- 23 before the court. They could have tried to sue
- the Commonwealth, and at that point, we would
- 25 have been able to invoke sovereign immunity.

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1 But we never got that chance.
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- 2 And if I can just engage with you a
- 3 bit --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It would have been
- 5 almost actionable for them to have sued the
- 6 state, wouldn't it have been? I mean, it would
- 7 have been in bad faith. Everyone knows you
- 8 can't sue a state. You can sue the officers who
- 9 enforce a law, correct?
- 10 MR. KUHN: That's correct. They
- 11 brought it --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And now -- by the
- way, you said you had no authority or duty to
- enforce the provisions as enacted, but now you
- 15 come back and give a contrary representation
- that you can enforce the provisions by defending
- 17 them, correct?
- 18 MR. KUHN: That's correct. The --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And so why
- 20 wouldn't that be judicial estoppel?
- 21 MR. KUHN: So one of the key elements
- of judicial estoppel is that a court has to
- 23 accept your argument. The previous Attorney
- 24 General, we admit, took the position that he did
- 25 not have the authority to enforce House Bill

- 1 454.
- 2 The district court did not rule on
- 3 that issue. If you look at the stipulation, the
- 4 stipulation notes that we agreed not to enforce
- 5 House Bill 454. And so the stipulation, I
- 6 think, overcomes any suggestion that the
- 7 district court ruled on that issue.
- 8 And if I can point you to two
- 9 particular provisions of the stipulation that
- 10 even if the Court were to say that the
- 11 Commonwealth is bound by it, I think that it
- 12 protects exactly what we're doing here.
- We reserved all rights to participate
- in this action and any appeals arising out of
- 15 this action. And we preserved our ability to
- benefit from any favorable result on appeal.
- 17 So those two provisions work together,
- 18 that even if the Attorney General --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you didn't
- 20 appeal on time.
- MR. KUHN: That's correct, but this
- 22 Court's general rule is that only a party or one
- who becomes a party can file an appeal. That's
- 24 from --
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You could have

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filed an appeal if you lost, couldn't -- you
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- 2 reserve the right to appeal if you -- if -- if
- 3 you won.
- 4 MR. KUHN: We -- we reserved the right
- 5 to -- we reserved all rights, claims, and
- 6 defenses --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you didn't --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel?
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- file a notice
- 10 of appeal on time.
- 11 MR. KUHN: We did not file a notice of
- 12 appeal, Justice Sotomayor. We had been
- 13 dismissed from the case without prejudice. We
- were not mentioned in the judgment.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Kuhn --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, could
- 17 I ask you, the stipulation concerning being
- 18 bound by a final judgment, what do you
- 19 understand "final judgment" to mean?
- It seems to me it can mean a number of
- 21 things. The district court ruling is a final
- judgment, for example, for purposes of appeal.
- On the other hand, there obviously are
- 24 subsequent proceedings that could take place, an
- 25 appeal, obviously, and -- and so on that would

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1 undermine the finality of the judgment.
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- When -- when you signed that
- 3 stipulation to be bound by a final judgment,
- 4 what is -- what are you being bound by?
- 5 MR. KUHN: The -- the language is that
- 6 we're bound by the final judgment in this matter
- 7 disposing of all claims and the exhaustion of
- 8 any and all appeals that may arise in this
- 9 action.
- 10 So we get the benefit of any favorable
- 11 result on appeal. So the notion would be that,
- 12 yes, we're agreeing to be bound, but we're
- 13 preserving our rights to come back in.
- I'll note that although the Sixth --
- 15 we disagree with most of what the Sixth Circuit
- 16 did, if you look at Joint Appendix 229, the
- 17 Sixth Circuit appears to have agreed with what
- 18 I'm saying here, where they noted that we had
- 19 preserved all claims and rights relating to
- 20 whether we -- claims and rights relating to
- 21 whether we can participate on appeal.
- 22 So I think that's one thing, reading
- 23 the stipulation, that the Sixth Circuit, in
- 24 fact, got right.
- 25 And if I can step back and talk about

- 1 Bethune-Hill, this Court has told us that
- 2 federal courts should respect how a state
- 3 structures itself when defending its laws.
- 4 Kentucky's put together a system where, as
- 5 Justice Sotomayor mentioned, state officials
- 6 oftentimes provide the front-line defense of
- 7 state laws, and this makes sense because they
- 8 have particular expertise in enforcing these
- 9 laws. But Kentucky, unlike Virginia had done in
- 10 Bethune-Hill, said it's not good enough for the
- 11 state that one official gets to make all
- 12 litigation decisions for the state.
- 13 What we as Kentuckians want is a
- fail-safe, a fail-safe that if a state official
- who enforces state law says, I'm not going to
- 16 appeal any further, Kentucky's Attorney General
- 17 can come in for the Commonwealth and say: No,
- 18 the Commonwealth wants to go farther.
- 19 This envisions a system of --
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Kuhn -- I'm sorry.
- 21 Complete your sentence.
- MR. KUHN: This -- this envisions a
- 23 system of state officials working together to
- defend Kentucky's law, which is what happened
- 25 here.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: Could could
2	could I assume for a moment that the Attorney
3	General's Office could have appealed? Okay?
4	Just let's assume with me that it could have
5	because it was bound by the judgment, because of
6	the stipulation, because of the combination of
7	the two, because of any number of other things.
8	Just assume with me that the Attorney General's
9	Office could have appealed.
10	In that case, would the Petitioner's
11	jurisdictional argument be correct?
12	MR. KUHN: No, Justice Kagan, I don't
13	think it would, and let me explain why.
14	Let's assume, instead of putting the
15	power to defend Kentucky on the Attorney
16	General, the General Assembly of Kentucky had
17	given it to itself. If that had happened and
18	everything had stayed the same in your
19	hypothetical, this Court would not be having a
20	jurisdictional discussion then because everyone
21	would understand that the Attorney General, in
22	his enforcement capacity, who, in your
23	hypothetical, had gone to final judgment, is
24	different than the General Assembly coming in or
25	behalf of the Commonwealth.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, I I guess I'm
2	not sure I understand the answer, so let me
3	reframe the question a little bit.
4	You know, take our decision in Torres,
5	right, which is the the case where we make
6	clear that the notice of appeal requirement is
7	jurisdictional and impose a very harsh rule
8	saying that if you don't appeal, even if it's
9	not your fault, you're out of luck. Okay?
10	So do you think if Torres had gone
11	further and Mr. Torres had filed a motion to
12	intervene that we would have said, oh, sure, go
13	ahead and intervene in the suit? Would we have
14	would the Court have said that?
15	MR. KUHN: Our our position is that
16	we do not think a notice of appeal for a party
17	who could have or, sorry, for a party who
18	could have appealed but failed to do so, we
19	don't think a motion to intervene in the ensuing
20	appeal that the party failed to take, we we
21	don't think that would be proper because of how
22	this Court talked about jurisdiction in Torres.
23	But my point is is that if you had
24	separated the power to represent the state from
25	the Attorney General, no one would think there's

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1 a jurisdictional problem. The only reason we're
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- 2 having a jurisdictional discussion here is
- 3 because two hats were put on the same official,
- 4 two hats, the language this Court use -- used in
- 5 Bethune-Hill.
- 6 And this Court told us in Bethune-Hill
- 7 that representing a state as the agent of the
- 8 state is distinct from your --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, but -- but you
- 10 --
- 11 MR. KUHN: -- institutional hat.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- but that's just
- 13 contesting the premise, which is that the
- 14 Attorney General could have appealed. If I
- understand your argument, it's the Attorney
- 16 General couldn't have appealed because he would
- 17 have been doing so in a different capacity than
- 18 he had taken in the first place.
- MR. KUHN: That's not my position. My
- 20 position is that, stepping outside of your
- 21 hypothetical, because of the way the stipulation
- 22 was written, the Attorney General could have
- 23 appealed because it's consistent with him
- 24 reserving his rights to -- claims and rights to
- 25 participate in any subsequent appeal and to

- 1 benefit from any favorable ruling.
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: I apologize for
- 3 pressing on this. I'm just maybe just not
- 4 understanding it. It might be my fault
- 5 entirely, but I'll just -- if you agree that in
- 6 the main -- mine run of cases in a Torres-type
- 7 case where the person could have appealed,
- 8 didn't appeal, if you agree that it would then
- 9 be improper to grant intervention rights, which
- 10 I take you to agree --
- MR. KUHN: Mm-hmm.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- okay, so that's a
- very simple case. And it seems to me that the
- 14 petitioners would say that's exactly what
- 15 happened here because the AG could have
- 16 appealed, didn't, and now is seeking
- 17 intervention.
- 18 And, you know, if -- if we assumed the
- 19 -- the point that the AG could have appealed,
- 20 why doesn't the same result follow?
- 21 MR. KUHN: Because this Court has told
- 22 us that different capacities should be treated
- 23 -- this Court's words are "different legal
- 24 personages." And, for example, in Bethune-Hill,
- 25 the fact that the Virginia House of Delegates

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1 participated in that case to defend its
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- 2 institutional interests did not mean that it
- 3 also brought any power it had to -- to appeal on
- 4 behalf of the state. The Court said the record
- 5 was silent about that issue.
- 6 The record here is silent as to the
- 7 Attorney General participating as an agent of
- 8 the state --
- 9 JUSTICE BARRETT: Mr. Kuhn --
- 10 MR. KUHN: -- and because we have --
- 11 JUSTICE BARRETT: -- could you have
- intervened on behalf of the state qua state,
- 13 recognizing, as Justice Sotomayor pointed out,
- 14 that that would have waived the state's
- 15 sovereign immunity? Would -- we wouldn't be
- 16 even having this discussion if you had
- intervened on behalf of Kentucky, with Kentucky
- being the named party and you being the lawyer
- 19 for the state. Could you have done that?
- 20 MR. KUHN: I think that is essentially
- 21 what we did. The reason we came in on behalf of
- the Commonwealth was because this Court told us
- in Hollingsworth that we need -- that states
- 24 have to act through their agents. So we
- 25 identified ourselves as the agent of Kentucky,

- and we came in on behalf of the Commonwealth,
- 2 just as Hollingsworth envisioned.
- 3 This Court noted in Hollingsworth that
- 4 state attorneys general are typically the people
- 5 who are tapped to defend the sovereign
- 6 interests, who speak for the people of Kentucky.
- 7 So, yes, I would agree with that, that
- 8 we could have come in as the Commonwealth, which
- 9 is essentially what we've done here. We were
- 10 just following this Court's direction from
- 11 Hollingsworth by identifying ourselves as the
- 12 agent of Kentucky.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So are you
- 14 answering yes? You've waived Kentucky's
- 15 sovereign immunity?
- 16 MR. KUHN: So I don't think this Court
- 17 has ever said that when we participate as an
- 18 agent of the Commonwealth or an agent of the
- 19 state, that that is, in fact, a waiver of
- 20 sovereign immunity.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If you're not a
- 22 party, you can't be the agent of anybody. You
- 23 can only be an agent of a party.
- MR. KUHN: I think that's -- so I
- agree that we're an agent of the party, and to

- 1 the extent that that does create a waiver of
- 2 sovereign immunity, I think it's a narrow waiver
- 3 related to whether House Bill 454 is
- 4 constitutional.
- 5 I -- it's not unprecedented for states
- 6 to come in and defend their laws. For example,
- 7 in Maine versus Taylor, this --
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If you had stayed
- 9 in this litigation, would you have been
- 10 defending this law? What other capacity would
- 11 you have served if you had stayed in the
- 12 litigation when you were sued?
- MR. KUHN: If we --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You were being
- sued as an agent of the state, correct?
- MR. KUHN: No. We were being sued
- 17 because we can enforce House Bill 454 under Ex
- 18 parte Young. If they had sued us as an agent of
- 19 the state, we would have been able to invoke
- 20 sovereign immunity.
- 21 Everybody agrees that Kentucky was not
- there in district court. Pages 40 and 41 of the
- 23 red brief. That concession being made, it
- 24 cannot be the case that Kentucky is
- jurisdictionally prohibited from coming in.

1 The only reason we're having this 2 discussion is because the Attorney General wears two hats, just like the -- the state official 3 wore two hats in Karcher, just like the -- the 4 hats that were discussed in Bender. This is not 5 a novel thing. We followed the Court's 6 7 direction in -- in Bethune-Hill to -- to bring us here. 8 If I can, in closing, just point out 9 that after reading the Sixth Circuit's decision, 10 I think one would for -- be forgiven for not 11 12 understanding the sovereign interests that are at stake. We've had a discussion about state 13 14 sovereignty now, and that fact went unmentioned 15 in the -- in the court of appeals' ruling. It 16 wasn't mentioned anywhere. In fact, in Footnote 17 4 of the opinion, they -- they said they were not going to consider the Attorney General's 18 19 ability to represent the state. We think that that was a relevant factor that the court of 20 appeals should have considered. 21 2.2 Keep in mind that we had been 23 representing the Secretary before the Sixth 24 Circuit. We weren't sitting on the sidelines. We stood up in the Sixth Circuit and argued in 25

- defense of House Bill 454. The Secretary
- 2 informed the Attorney General's Office seven
- 3 days after that decision came down that he would
- 4 not appeal further.
- 5 Two days later, we filed a 20-page
- 6 motion to intervene on behalf of the
- 7 Commonwealth. That's how we titled it in both
- 8 our intro and our conclusion. We said that we
- 9 were on behalf of the Commonwealth more than a
- dozen times in the motion. But that just went
- 11 unrepresented.
- 12 I think the only way we can understand
- 13 the Sixth Circuit's decision as making any sense
- is to treat us as if we were bringing to bear a
- new, previously unrepresented interest. We were
- 16 not doing that. The Secretary had been
- 17 defending Kentucky's interests. And we had been
- 18 counsel for some of that period. So, when we
- 19 stepped forward, we sought to defend the same
- 20 interests as the real party in interest that the
- 21 Secretary had been defending all along.
- 22 Under those circumstances, it was a
- 23 handoff of litigation authority to go the
- 24 distance.
- 25 And I'll point out that the Secretary

- 1 did not oppose our motion to intervene. The
- 2 Secretary said, I'm not going to appeal further,
- 3 but he let us go -- he said, I'm not going to
- 4 oppose you going further.
- 5 This is an example of Kentucky's
- 6 unique system of defending its sovereign
- 7 interests working as it was meant to: state
- 8 officials working together. One state official
- 9 says no further. We come in for the
- 10 Commonwealth and say we want to go the distance.
- If there are no further questions.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 13 counsel.
- Justice Thomas, anything further?
- JUSTICE THOMAS: None for me, Chief.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 17 Breyer?
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: If I understand your
- 19 argument -- was -- was it up to me? I'm sorry.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes, you're
- 21 up.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. Correctly, Mr.
- 23 Kuhn, it really does all come down to this two
- hats theory, is that correct?
- MR. KUHN: I think we've got two

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1 arguments on jurisdiction, the two hats theory
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- 2 and the argument that even if you disagree with
- 3 us on two hats, the Attorney General could --
- 4 could not have appealed --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay.
- 6 MR. KUHN: -- because of the
- 7 stipulation.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. Well, okay.
- 9 So, if you assume that the Attorney General
- 10 could have appealed, then it comes down to the
- 11 two -- two hats theory? Yes?
- 12 MR. KUHN: That's correct. If you
- assume our second argument is wrong, we're
- 14 resting on our first.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yes. So let -- just
- 16 -- just one question about the two hats theory,
- 17 which I -- I guess I'm just not sure I
- 18 understand because it seems to me that the
- 19 Secretary's role in this entire litigation
- 20 pretty much proves that the two hats theory
- 21 doesn't work because your theory is that the
- 22 Attorney General was stepping in to replace the
- 23 Secretary, who until that point was representing
- 24 the state's interest.
- 25 But the Secretary was sued in his

- 1 capacity as a state official who could enforce
- 2 state law. So doesn't it really come down to
- 3 the same thing? The Secretary was sued because
- 4 he could enforce state law. He was obviously
- 5 representing the state's interests. Nobody else
- 6 was doing that.
- 7 So the two seems completely
- 8 intertwined to me, and the Secretary's role in
- 9 the litigation prior to the Attorney General's
- intervention motion proves that, doesn't it?
- 11 MR. KUHN: No, it doesn't. The
- 12 Secretary has the power as a matter of Kentucky
- law to defend Kentucky law when challenged. But
- 14 he -- so their -- so the fact that he can take
- 15 actions consistent with -- with Kentucky's
- 16 interest in defending its law does not mean that
- 17 he has the power to stand in as the agent of
- 18 Kentucky.
- 19 Only the Attorney General under
- 20 Kentucky Revised Statute 15.020 has that power.
- 21 So I think the distinction to be drawn, Justice
- 22 Kagan, is that, yes, the Secretary took actions
- 23 consistent with Kentucky's interest by defending
- 24 Kentucky law.
- When he said no further, that's when

- 1 we stepped in, which is what we think
- 2 Ms. McDonald did in this Court's McDonald
- decision, and that's why we're consistent with
- 4 that.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 6 Gorsuch?
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, do you
- 8 agree that abuse of discretion is a proper
- 9 standard of review for this Court in analyzing
- 10 the Sixth Circuit decision?
- 11 MR. KUHN: So, as I mentioned with
- 12 Justice Thomas earlier, this Court has not ruled
- 13 on --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that.
- 15 That's why I'm asking the question.
- 16 MR. KUHN: So we have not contested
- 17 that point because of what this Court said in
- 18 NAACP versus New York. And if the position is
- 19 that Rule 24 is a helpful analogy, I think it's
- 20 a helpful analogy in that -- in that
- 21 circumstance. But we think this is an obvious
- 22 abuse of discretion because we were not treated
- 23 as --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay, okay.
- MR. KUHN: Yeah.

1	JUSTICE GORSUCH: And then and then
2	second question briefly, you rest heavily on
3	on the state's sovereignty interests here and
4	and citing Bethune-Hill to us quite a lot.
5	Where do those interests run out?
6	When when would it be proper for a court of
7	appeals under an abuse of discretion standard to
8	deny intervention by a state entity?
9	MR. KUHN: If we had sought rehearing
10	like we did, tendered our rehearing petition,
11	but we had filed it after the deadline, I think
12	that a court of appeals would be within its
13	discretion to say, no, you're delaying this
14	litigation.
15	If we had come in and said, court of
16	appeals, please remand this case to the district
17	court to let us put on more facts, I think that
18	the Court would be within its discretion to deny
19	a state's intervention.
20	But our point is, where we moved to
21	intervene and did not delay this case by even a
22	day and where we merely sought to pick up where
23	the Secretary left off and to exhaust all
24	appeals, in that circumstance, we think that is
25	an abuse of discretion.

Т	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: JUSTICE
2	Kavanaugh?
3	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Does the same kind
4	of rule apply in private litigation? So suppose
5	a private plaintiff sues a private defendant
6	under state tort law. The state the private
7	defendant argues that the state tort law is
8	unconstitutional, and the court on appeal rules
9	that the tort law is unconstitutional, okay?
10	And the state the private plaintiff, sorry,
11	chooses not to seek en banc or cert.
12	Can a state AG intervene in that
13	circumstance even though the private plaintiff
14	has chosen not to seek en banc or cert to argue
15	that the state tort law is, in fact,
16	constitutional?
17	MR. KUHN: I think this Court told us
18	in Hollingsworth that a private party defending
19	state law is just a different matter than a
20	state official who has sworn an oath to defend
21	Kentucky's constitution who is popularly
22	elected.
23	So I think the state in that
24	circumstance would
25	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: The state tort law

- 1 in that circumstance will be declared
- 2 unconstitutional. And I think, by saying it's
- 3 different, you're saying the state AG in that
- 4 case could not seek en banc or cert even though
- 5 the state tort law had been declared
- 6 unconstitutional?
- 7 MR. KUHN: Our position is not that he
- 8 could not do so but that it would not be as easy
- 9 of an argument in that circumstance. I think it
- 10 matters that we have a handoff from one state
- official to another, both of whom were sworn to
- 12 defend Kentucky law.
- I think a lot of the things I'm saying
- today would be consistent with the -- with the
- 15 hypothetical that you're talking about. But I
- think we're perhaps a half step beyond that and
- this is a much easier case than the one you've
- 18 hypothesized.
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 21 Barrett?
- JUSTICE BARRETT: I have a question
- 23 that's related to the question Justice Thomas
- 24 started out with and that Justice Gorsuch just
- 25 followed up on.

1	Justice Thomas asked you where we get
2	the authority to even impose these standards on
3	the courts of appeal. And I think we've treated
4	it as the lower court having some inherent
5	authority just pursuant to the judicial power to
6	manage its docket, and I heard you saying that
7	we have the authority to make sure that the
8	rules that the courts adopt and apply are not
9	abuses of their discretion, and that would be
LO	true whether we're talking about pre-judgment or
L1	post-judgment intervention. And and our role
L2	in that regard is pretty limited.
L3	I have a question specifically about
L4	how we should think about that relationship in
L5	the context of a post-judgment intervention
L6	motion because we've also asserted that we have
L7	some inherent supervisory authority over the
L8	courts of appeal. And in the post-judgment
L9	intervention context, we might also have some
20	concern that wouldn't be present in the
21	pre-judgment context about a court of appeals
22	trying to evade our review.
23	How, if at all, should we think about
24	that factoring into the analysis? Is that
25	it's more than just equity to the litigants,

- 1 arguably. So how -- does that play a role at
- 2 all?
- 3 MR. KUHN: I think it -- it does. And
- 4 if this Court wants to look to the Day opinion
- 5 from the Ninth Circuit that dealt with that,
- 6 that was when Hawaii came in, and the court
- 7 noted that Hawaii had come in later than they
- 8 would have let a private litigant. But the
- 9 court talked about its discomfort with saying
- 10 that a sovereign state could not seek en banc
- 11 relief and could not seek certiorari from this
- 12 Court.
- So I -- I read Day to basically create
- 14 a sovereignty tiebreaker when a state comes in
- 15 to seek further review.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: But that's
- 17 sovereignty. I mean, you've emphasized
- 18 sovereignty, and I get that. But my question
- 19 was a little bit different because it's one that
- 20 might apply even in the context of private
- 21 parties, as Justice Kavanaugh was positing.
- MR. KUHN: Mm-hmm. So I -- I think
- 23 so. And as you're thinking about the private
- 24 parties issue and the issue, Footnote 16 of this
- 25 Court's McDonald opinion talks about how its

Τ	analysis would apply outside of the
2	representational context, right?
3	Ms. McDonald there had been
4	represented by the non-named class members. The
5	Court gave two more examples of cases that would
6	apply post-judgment in the representational
7	context, but then it cited further cases and
8	said, outside of the representational context,
9	we think post-judgment intervention could be
10	allowed, and cited two cases and said this
11	Court's McDonald decision is consistent with
12	those other two cases to the extent the party
13	moves to intervene before any appellate
14	deadlines have run.
15	So I think the post-judgment part of
16	it and insulating a decision from further
17	review, especially for a sovereign state, is
18	something that matters quite a bit to the
19	analysis that we hope the Court adopts.
20	JUSTICE BARRETT: Thank you.
21	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
22	counsel.
23	Ms. Kolbi-Molinas.
24	
25	

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Т	ORAL ARGUMENT OF ALEXA KOLBI-MOLINAS
2	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
3	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Thank you, Mr.
4	Chief Justice, and may it please the Court:
5	The Attorney General agreed to be
6	bound by final judgment and chose not to appeal
7	it. Because he was expressly bound by the
8	judgment, he had a right to appeal, but he had
9	to do so within the 30-day timeframe set by
10	statute. He cannot now avoid his jurisdictional
11	failure by seeking to intervene instead.
12	The Attorney General does not directly
13	dispute that one who is bound by judgment and
14	fails to appeal cannot intervene. Instead, he
15	offers two responses, both insufficient.
16	First, he argues that he is exempt
17	from jurisdictional rules because he is wearing
18	a different hat on appeal than he wore when he
19	agreed to be bound. But the Attorney General
20	was sued and bound in his official capacity, and
21	the fact that a party has more than one job
22	responsibility does not allow it to evade a
23	jurisdictional bar.
24	Second, the Attorney General argues
25	that by reserving all rights, claims, and

- defenses relating to whether he is a proper
- 2 party, he reserved the right to participate in
- 3 the appeal. But you can only reserve the rights
- 4 that are available to you, and there's no right
- 5 to join an appeal after failing to satisfy the
- 6 jurisdictional rules for doing so.
- 7 However, even if intervention were not
- 8 jurisdictionally barred, the court of appeals
- 9 should be affirmed. Intervention is not a
- 10 revolving door that allows a party to agree to
- 11 be bound, procure their dismissal, fail to
- 12 appeal, and then gain reentry to the suit after
- 13 the court of appeals has ruled.
- Moreover, where the Attorney General
- was on notice of his interest in preserving the
- 16 third-party standing argument nearly a year
- 17 before the court of appeals ruled and did
- 18 nothing about it, the court did not abuse its
- 19 discretion in denying post-judgment intervention
- when it was based primarily on that argument.
- 21 Finally, it does not disrespectful to
- the Attorney General's and Kentucky's sovereign
- 23 interests to hold the Attorney General to his
- decision not to appeal, particularly when he can
- 25 make the same arguments he made in his

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1 intervention motion through Rule 60(b).
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- 2 I welcome the Court's questions but
- 3 will otherwise turn to the jurisdictional
- 4 argument first.
- 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: Just one brief
- 6 question. In your intro -- introduction --
- 7 introductory comments, you did not refer to
- 8 Eisenstein and how you would work around
- 9 Eisenstein if you think the Attorney General was
- 10 a party.
- 11 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I don't think
- 12 Eisenstein changes the Attorney General's
- obligation to appeal here because Eisenstein
- 14 recognized that what this Court held in Devlin
- 15 and what this Court held in Devlin and in the
- 16 three cases that it cited in Devlin is that when
- a person participates in proceedings before the
- 18 district court in a manner that results in them
- being bound, then they have a right to appeal.
- 20 And, of course, in Eisenstein, we were
- 21 talk -- you were talking specifically -- the
- 22 Court was talking specifically about the False
- 23 Claims Act context, where there is a statute
- that says the United States can't participate
- 25 unless it first intervenes.

Τ	so, if this Court in Elsenstein had
2	held that the United States was a party even
3	though it had not done what Congress had
4	required it to do to become a party, then that
5	would have been undermining the statutory
6	interests.
7	But, here, and as Devlin recognized,
8	the situation is different. It's
9	context-specific. And, here, you have the
LO	Attorney General, who moved for and obtained a
L1	court order expressly binding him to the final
L2	judgment, that final judgment was then entered
L3	by the same district court that originally bound
L4	him to it.
L5	JUSTICE THOMAS: But what was the
L6	effect of the order? Was the Attorney General
L7	retained as a party or dismissed as a party?
L8	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The Attorney
L9	General was dismissed as a named defendant but
20	not completely dismissed because, obviously,
21	when someone is completely dismissed, then they
22	have no more relation to the suit
23	JUSTICE THOMAS: Can you give me
24	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: and they
25	wouldn't be bound

1	JUSTICE THOMAS: an example of
2	another case where a party was dismissed but
3	also remained a party?
4	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I'm not sure that
5	this Court has ever considered such a case. I
6	do know that it's routine in the courts of
7	appeals for people who are bound by judgment,
8	even if they're not currently named defendants,
9	to be able to appeal. But I don't think there's
10	any court case that this Court has ever
11	considered.
12	JUSTICE THOMAS: And do you know of
13	any cases outside of class actions, for example?
14	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Where one who is
15	bound by judgment but not a named party?
16	JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah. Exactly.
17	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Yes. We've cited
18	cases in the red brief and in the amici
19	federal courts have cited decisions from the
20	courts of appeals I'm sorry if that was your
21	question but
22	JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah.
23	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: from the courts
24	of appeals, where people who are expressly bound
25	hy the judgment but not named as defendants have

- 1 a right to appeal.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: And, finally, the
- 3 Sixth Circuit seemed to rely primarily not on
- 4 the jurisdictional issue but on intervention,
- 5 that the reason it would not grant intervention
- 6 was because of prejudice, and it based that
- 7 prejudice to you on an argument, a third-party
- 8 standing argument, that the Attorney General was
- 9 raising.
- 10 Can you give me an example of a case
- 11 where a party wanting to -- who wants to
- intervene is prevented from doing so based on
- 13 prejudice because that party wanted to raise a
- 14 jurisdictional argument?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, Your Honor,
- 16 at that time, under the -- in the Sixth Circuit,
- 17 that party -- that argument was not a
- 18 jurisdictional -- the third-party standing
- 19 argument was not jurisdictional.
- 20 So -- but I'm not aware of any case in
- 21 which someone has been denied intervention to
- 22 raise a jurisdictional argument, but that
- 23 wasn't -- under Sixth Circuit precedent, that
- 24 wasn't a jurisdictional argument.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So what's the

- 1 prejudice?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The prejudice was
- 3 that the argument had been waived. The
- 4 Secretary had not made the argument about
- 5 third-party standing on appeal. It had been
- 6 part of the district court judgment. The
- 7 district court had held that the plaintiffs had
- 8 third-party standing. The Secretary chose not
- 9 to appeal it.
- 10 And that was clear as of July 2019,
- 11 nearly a year before the court of appeals ruled.
- 12 The Secretary filed their brief and did not make
- 13 the third-party standing argument.
- 14 Yet, throughout this time, the
- 15 Attorney General did nothing to try to intervene
- 16 and make the argument. He was on notice as of
- July 2019 that if someone else didn't make the
- 18 third-party standing argument before the Sixth
- 19 Circuit ruled, it would be waived.
- 20 And yet, even when he entered an
- 21 appearance on behalf of the Secretary, he
- 22 entered an appearance after briefing had been
- 23 completed. All he did was show up at argument.
- 24 But yet, he didn't request supplemental briefing
- on the third-party standing question. He didn't

- file a 28(j) about this Court's cert grant in
- 2 June Medical. He didn't ask the Sixth Circuit
- 3 to stay proceedings and at least wait for June
- 4 Medical so that there could be supplemental
- 5 briefing after that.
- 6 He was aware that the argument had
- 7 been waived and did nothing to try to raise it
- 8 before the court of appeals ruled. So it was
- 9 not an abuse of discretion for the Sixth
- 10 Circuit, under those circumstances, to hold that
- 11 when a party based virtually their entire
- intervention motion on an argument that they
- 13 could have moved to intervene and made
- 14 beforehand and didn't was not an abuse of
- 15 discretion to hold that post-judgment
- intervention in that context was untimely and
- 17 prejudicial.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Thank you.
- 20 Moving to the jurisdictional argument,
- 21 this Court has --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Maybe I should ask a
- 23 question --
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Okay.
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: Can I? Is this --

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1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes.
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- JUSTICE BREYER: -- appropriate?
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 Look, as I understand this -- and you
- 5 better correct me, please, because I'm not
- 6 certain I do -- look, there have been a lot of
- 7 party changes. First, the Republicans are in,
- 8 then the Democrats are in, and they have
- 9 different views on an abortion statute.
- 10 So -- so what happened was that, first
- of all, the clinics sue to say Kentucky's
- abortion statute's unconstitutional, and they're
- 13 defended -- it was defended by a person who
- doesn't feel that strongly about it, and he
- says, no, I can't -- the Secretary says, I can't
- 16 enforce this. And that's it.
- But, eventually, when they get around
- 18 to deciding it, the lower court says, yeah, it
- 19 is unconstitutional. And then the court of
- 20 appeals says, yeah, it is unconstitutional. At
- 21 that point, for the first time, we have an
- 22 Attorney General who thinks it's a pretty good
- 23 statute. He wants to defend it.
- 24 So two days after he learns that
- 25 nobody's going to defend it, he comes in and

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1 says, lets me defend it. And that's okay under
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- 2 Kentucky law apparently. Nobody says it isn't.
- And so, if there's no prejudice to
- 4 anybody, and I can't see where there is, why
- 5 can't he just come in and defend the law? How
- 6 does he defend it? One, he asks for rehearing.
- 7 It's still timely. And then, two, if they say
- 8 no, he comes to this Court.
- 9 Now he may lose on both those, and he
- 10 may lose for the reasons that you say, but I
- 11 don't see why he can't -- if Kentucky law allows
- 12 him to make the argument, why can't he make the
- 13 argument?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, Your Honor,
- 15 that would be -- that would be the case if we
- were talking about a true stranger or outsider
- 17 to the case. There were four defendants who
- were sued originally in this case. The Attorney
- 19 General, rather than defend or rather than take
- 20 a back seat, moved for and obtained a court
- order expressly binding him to the judgment.
- The Secretary did defend. It's not
- 23 that the statute wasn't defended. The
- 24 Secretary --
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: Though he defended on

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1 the ground I'm the wrong person.
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- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: No, that's not the
- 3 grounds on which the Secretary --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: What?
- 5 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The defend -- the
- 6 Secretary defended the suit all the way up --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: All the way on
- 8 everything?
- 9 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: -- through
- 10 decision based on the -- defending the
- 11 constitutionality of the statute. The Attorney
- General is the one who originally said he had no
- 13 enforcement authority but now admits that he
- 14 does. The Secretary -- it was vigorously
- defended through the court of appeals' decision.
- 16 The Attorney General, it is well
- 17 settled in this Court, stands in the shoes of
- 18 his predecessors. It is well settled that one
- 19 who is bound -- one -- a successor in office is
- 20 bound by the stipulations made by and judgments
- 21 against their predecessors. It doesn't matter
- that there's been a political party change.
- So, here, we're not talking about a
- 24 run-of-the-mill intervention case where the
- 25 Attorney General had not been involved, someone

- 1 else had backed out, and then the Attorney
- 2 General wants to come in.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I -- I thought -- was
- 4 I not right, then I'm -- I'm wrong, that -- that
- 5 before -- that there was still something to do,
- 6 but the Sixth Circuit says this is
- 7 unconstitutional. And somebody could have
- 8 filed, a defendant, a motion for rehearing, and
- 9 then they could have tried to come here.
- 10 But the Secretary of State said, I'm
- 11 not going to do that, because there had been a
- 12 political party change. And it's at that point
- 13 the Attorney General says, well, two days ago,
- 14 he says, nobody's going to defend this, so I
- 15 better.
- Is -- is that happened, or am I
- 17 totally wrong?
- 18 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The -- the
- 19 Secretary did make that decision not to continue
- 20 the defense, and the attorney --
- JUSTICE BREYER: But was I right in my
- 22 statement?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: In that the
- 24 Secretary -- there was a change in the
- 25 administration?

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1 JUSTICE BREYER: I -- I don't want to
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- 2 just repeat it again. I -- I -- I -- did
- 3 -- did you take it in, or shall I repeat it
- 4 again?
- 5 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I believe that it
- 6 is correct that the Secretary decided not to
- 7 appeal and the Attorney General then moved to
- 8 intervene.
- 9 The point is that the Attorney General
- is a former named defendant in the suit. He's
- 11 not a stranger. He already is bound by the
- 12 judgment and never appealed.
- JUSTICE BREYER: All right. But what
- 14 I read in the thing that he signed is he said
- 15 he'd be sign -- he would be bound by a final --
- 16 what is it called -- a final decision?
- 17 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Final judgment,
- 18 paragraph 3d.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: Final judgment of
- what?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Of the district
- 22 court.
- JUSTICE BREYER: It says "final
- 24 judgment of the district court"? I mean, is
- 25 there a final -- I thought perhaps you could --

- 1 that if -- if you had a lot of appeals to go,
- 2 you know, an awful lot -- not very many, but,
- 3 occasionally, a district court is reversed.
- 4 And, occasionally -- I'm not saying it happens
- 5 very often -- but even a court of appeals
- 6 sometimes is reversed.
- 7 And so is it a final judgment if there
- 8 still are appeals to take?
- 9 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: It is, Your Honor,
- in this Court's decision in Melkonyan, and the
- 11 term "final judgment" refers to final and
- 12 appealable. It is only unless -- unless you
- 13 clarify a final and unappealable judgment that
- 14 you're talking about a judgment that is not
- 15 final until all appeals have been exhausted.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: So, if he -- if he
- goes and asks them to rehear, a motion to
- 18 rehear, which is what he wants to do, then just
- 19 -- the court will just write what you just said?
- 20 No. Denied. Why? Because. And then they give
- 21 your reason.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The court could --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Is that what you --
- 24 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I would assume the
- court would deny it for being jurisdictionally

- 1 barred, but the court is, before that point,
- 2 jurisdictionally barred from allowing him to
- 3 intervene. He did the final.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I
- 5 thought -- I thought your friend on the other
- 6 side read additional language after the
- 7 stipulation to be bound saying subject to
- 8 preservation of rights to appeal and so on and
- 9 so forth. Isn't that --
- 10 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, he read two
- 11 different provisions, and so I think it's
- important to clarify. Paragraph 3b, which is on
- 13 page 29 of the Joint Appendix, is not the
- 14 paragraph that binds him to final judgment.
- 15 That is a separate agreement not to enforce
- 16 until all appeals were exhausted.
- 17 Paragraph 3d is where the Attorney
- 18 General agreed that he would be bound by final
- judgment and then says "subject to any vacating
- or reversal of that judgment on appeal." But
- that just means he wasn't being bound by the
- judgment, the final judgment, and, even if it
- was later changed, he would remain bound by the
- 24 original judgment.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, could

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1 you -- I -- I don't -- I can look up the
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- 2 language again, but it seems to me it's saying
- 3 he's being bound by the final judgment unless
- 4 it's reversed or vacated suggests that it's a
- 5 final judgment in the same way you have to have
- 6 a final judgment to appeal, but it's not
- 7 necessarily the last word on the subject.
- 8 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: But every
- 9 defendant is bound by the final judgment. And
- then, if that final judgment no longer exists,
- 11 then they can't be bound by it anymore. I mean,
- 12 there's an -- there are other defendants in this
- 13 suit. So, for example, the local prosecutor was
- 14 a defendant in this suit who stayed in the case
- 15 through the district court and then became bound
- 16 by final judgment but opted not to appeal.
- 17 If that final judgment is vacated on
- appeal, even though he never appealed, he would
- 19 no longer be bound by it anymore, but that
- doesn't mean he wasn't bound by the final
- judgment and, therefore, didn't have an
- 22 obligation to appeal it, and it didn't mean that
- 23 he didn't lose his right to appeal when he
- 24 failed to do so.
- 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: Counsel --

Τ	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel
2	JUSTICE KAGAN: could I take you
3	back to the original Justice Breyer question,
4	which does have to do with the change in party.
5	And I understand your answer that the
6	Attorney General remains the Attorney General,
7	and we have a lot of law saying that even though
8	the Attorney General, the person, has changed
9	and even the party has changed, it's still the
LO	same legal entity.
L1	And, indeed, I don't take Kentucky to
L2	disagree with that. No place in its briefing
L3	does it talk about the fact that, well, once
L4	there was a Democrat and now there's a
L5	Republican and he thinks completely different
L6	things.
L7	But there's a real-world way in which
L8	that seems to matter a lot. I mean, that
L9	creates the problem here, which is that there's
20	nobody left defending the state's law.
21	And I think what Justice Breyer was
22	saying is: Gosh, that would be an extremely
23	harsh jurisdictional rule or at least a
24	counterintuitive rule if it ended up in a place
25	where nobody was there to rep to to defend

- 1 Kentucky's law, even though there are
- 2 significant parts of Kentucky's government that
- 3 still want it law -- its law defended.
- 4 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, Your Honor,
- 5 first of all, harsh results don't change whether
- 6 or not a jurisdictional rule is imposed. Of
- 7 course, as this Court has repeatedly recognized,
- 8 jurisdictional rules often result in harsh
- 9 results and those results are imposed by
- 10 Congress. That doesn't mean that there can be
- 11 an exception to the jurisdictional rule.
- But, second, under Kentucky law, the
- 13 Attorney General has the authority to decline to
- 14 defend a statute. The Kentucky Supreme Court
- 15 has held that. And that is exactly what
- 16 happened when the Attorney General originally in
- 17 this case declined to defend the statute.
- 18 And it is not a violation of
- 19 Kentucky's sovereign authority to hold him to
- 20 that decision. As this Court recognized in
- 21 Bethune-Hill, the decision not to appeal is as
- 22 much an exercise of sovereign authority as the
- 23 decision to appeal. It wouldn't mean -- if a
- 24 subsequent Virginia Attorney General was to come
- 25 and say: Well, I would have made a different

- 1 decision than the Attorney General in
- 2 Bethune-Hill, that doesn't mean that this Court
- 3 was violating Virginia's sovereign authority
- 4 when it held that he had the authority to make
- 5 the decision not to appeal.
- I think, if anything, the fact that
- 7 different political parties might choose to
- 8 exercise that sovereign authority differently
- 9 calls for this Court to be neutral in the face
- 10 of that differential exercise of sovereign
- 11 authority.
- 12 And so, again, I think what separates
- 13 this case is the fact that, if the Attorney
- 14 General had never exercised that sovereign
- authority to decline to defend and to enter into
- 16 a court-ordered stipulation and dismissal
- 17 binding him to the judgment, then I think we
- would be more in the case of what Justice Breyer
- 19 was describing, of a case in which the sovereign
- 20 authority had -- the sovereign had never been
- 21 given the chance perhaps to exercise or defend
- 22 the statute and then now it was being taken away
- 23 from it.
- 24 But, here, the Attorney General
- 25 exercised the authority he had not to defend and

- 1 to agree to be bound. Another defendant chose
- 2 to continue to defend, chose to appeal, saw that
- 3 appeal all the way through, and then decided at
- 4 that point to lay down his sword.
- 5 None of that is a violation of
- 6 Kentucky's sovereign interests, and so that's
- 7 what I think sets this case apart and why, even
- 8 if this Court is concerned about the harsh
- 9 results that a jurisdictional rule might impose,
- 10 this is not that case because this is a case in
- which the jurisdictional rules are being applied
- 12 neutrally, as they should, to an appropriate
- 13 exercise of sovereign authority.
- It just happens to be that a different
- 15 political party -- a different Attorney General
- of a different political party after an election
- 17 would have exercised that authority differently.
- 18 But that's always the case when a successor in
- 19 office stands into the shoes of their
- 20 predecessor.
- 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel --
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: And so --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm -- I'm -- I'm --
- 24 I'm sorry. Finish your answer.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: That's okay.

- 1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's a good
- 2 stopping point?
- 3 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: That's a good
- 4 stopping point.
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. All right.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 My first question is put aside the
- 8 stipulation order. I -- I want to press further
- 9 where Justice Kagan and Justice Breyer were.
- 10 Put aside the stipulation order here. Assume
- 11 the Attorney General hadn't been involved
- 12 initially.
- Would it have been proper for the
- 14 Attorney General then to intervene on appeal two
- 15 days after getting notice?
- 16 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Would not have
- 17 been jurisdictionally barred.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 19 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: We cert -- we
- 20 certainly still think there's a timeliness
- 21 issue, but there would not be a jurisdictional
- issue if he had not been bound and failed to
- 23 appeal.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. And then do
- 25 you give any weight -- should this Court give

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1 any weight to the fact that we are dealing with
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- 2 a sovereign with the interests of defending a --
- 3 a -- a duly-enacted state law along the lines
- 4 Justice Kagan and Justice Breyer articulated?
- 5 Does that -- should that bear on our
- 6 consideration of this case at all?
- 7 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I think it's
- 8 certainly one of the considerations. I don't
- 9 think it gets dispositive weight. And I think
- 10 the D.C. Circuit in the Amador County case, I
- 11 think, struck the balance appropriately where it
- 12 said that it would be an abuse of discretion not
- 13 to consider the fact that a sovereign is -- the
- sovereign purposes behind intervention, but it's
- not an abuse of discretion to fail to give them
- 16 dispositive weight.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And then -- and
- 18 then, finally, I -- I -- I hope, with respect to
- 19 the conditions of dismissal, as I read it at any
- 20 rate, the Attorney General specifically reserved
- 21 rights relating to whether he's a proper party
- 22 in this action and in any appeals arising out of
- 23 this action.
- 24 The Attorney General obviously argues
- 25 that includes the -- the argument that he can

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1 later seek intervention, that that was expressly
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- 2 reserved. What do you do about that?
- 3 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Your Honor, that
- 4 -- he could only reserve the rights that were
- 5 available to him. And we believe he had a right
- 6 to appeal.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, but if --
- 8 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: So what we believe
- 9 --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But, counsel, I'm
- 11 sorry, let me just --
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Yeah.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- intervene there.
- 14 I'm sorry.
- But I think we agree that, absent the
- stipulation, one of the rights the Attorney
- 17 General would have had is to seek intervention
- on appeal. So why wasn't that one of the
- 19 reserved rights?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, Your Honor,
- 21 we don't believe that that's what the -- the
- 22 stipulation and dismissal contemplates because
- there is no right to intervene on appeal.
- 24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's a right to seek
- intervention on appeal as part of the bundle of

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1 rights I think we've all just agreed on that the
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- 2 Attorney General had and that may be
- 3 particularly powerful as a sovereign.
- 4 And why -- why didn't this language
- 5 adequately reserve those rights?
- 6 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Because if he was
- 7 -- and I'm -- I'm not trying to resist the
- 8 hypothetical -- but if he was bound by the
- 9 judgment, then he had to appeal, and if he
- 10 didn't, he couldn't come back to the suit. If
- 11 he wasn't --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So we should --
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: -- bound by the --
- 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- ignore the
- 15 reservation of rights here? Is that -- is that
- 16 the argument?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, I'm saying,
- if he wasn't bound by the judgment, he wouldn't
- 19 have needed a reservation of rights to reserve
- 20 the right to seek intervention. That's not
- 21 something you would need to reserve because any
- 22 stranger or outsider to the action could move to
- intervene. That's just not the context in which
- 24 this stipulation and dismissal was entered, Your
- Honor.

_	OUDITCE DARKETT. COURSEL, Call I ask
2	you a question about the premise of the
3	jurisdictional argument altogether? I guess I'm
4	struggling to see why 28 U.S.C. 2107 is the
5	right way to think about this, because it
6	doesn't seem to me that intervention necessarily
7	overlaps with 2107. I mean, he's not filing a
8	notice of appeal. He's seeking to intervene.
9	It seems like a different thing.
10	And it might be that the fact that he
11	styled signed this stipulation before might
12	be an equitable reason or one of the
13	considerations in this intervention calculation,
14	the Rule 24 analog for why the court might not
15	let him do it. Like a court might say: Hey,
16	you had your chance, you signed that away. No,
17	we're not letting you come in at this late date.
18	But I guess I don't understand why
19	it's jurisdictional, because it seems to me that
20	a motion to intervene is just a different way of
21	getting before the suit. So are you aware of
22	any other cases in which a court of appeals has
23	treated a motion to intervene as implicating
24	2107 at all? Because, I mean, after all, in the
25	language in 2107(a), it just says "unless notice

- of appeal is filed within 30 days."
- 2 So, presumably, even if you came in as
- 3 a stranger to the suit, someone not in the
- 4 Attorney General's strange two-hat position
- 5 here, would anyone invoke 2107 saying, well,
- 6 hey, even though you weren't a party below and
- 7 you didn't have the right to appeal, it was 30
- 8 days and that 30 days has run? It just seems
- 9 like a mismatch between what happened and -- and
- 10 2107.
- 11 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: So three
- 12 responses. First, just to briefly point you to
- 13 a case, the Tenth Circuit in Hutchinson did say
- that intervention cannot be used as an end-run
- or substitute to the ordinary rules of appellate
- 16 procedure and the person who was seeking
- intervention there could have appealed. They
- didn't use the -- they didn't cite Section 2107,
- so I don't want to suggest that that -- but they
- 20 did say that cannot -- intervention cannot be
- 21 used as a substitution or end-run around the
- 22 ordinary rules of appellate procedure.
- But, second, as this Court held in
- 24 Torres, one who is jurisdictionally barred from
- 25 achieving something directly is equally

- 1 jurisdictionally barred from achieving it
- 2 indirectly. The reason that this Court gave in
- 3 Torres for why the Petitioner was
- 4 jurisdictionally barred from rejoining his suit
- 5 was that to allow him to do so would have
- 6 been -- and the term this Court used -- would
- 7 have been the equivalent of allowing him to file
- 8 an untimely notice of appeal.
- 9 And because this Court didn't have the
- 10 authority to allow him to file an untimely
- 11 notice of appeal, it couldn't allow him to
- 12 achieve the result any other way because to do
- 13 so would render jurisdictional rules
- 14 meaningless.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: But -- but we didn't
- 16 talk about intervention in Torres, correct?
- 17 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: No, he was just
- 18 seeking to -- he was asking for an equitable
- 19 exception to rejoin his suit, though, of course
- 20 --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah. And Mr. Kuhn
- 22 said that he would not have been allowed to
- 23 intervene. But maybe Mr. Kuhn was wrong about
- that. Maybe the way around the harshness of
- Torres is just to allow people who don't file

- 1 their notices of appeal in time to come back and
- 2 say you should allow me to intervene?
- 3 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I disagree, Your
- 4 Honor, because the crux of the holding in Torres
- 5 was that anything that amounts to the equivalent
- 6 of filing an untimely notice of appeal is as
- 7 jurisdictionally barred as filing an untimely
- 8 notice of appeal.
- 9 So it wouldn't matter if it was asking
- 10 for an equitable exception to rejoin the suit or
- 11 asking for equitable intervention on appeal.
- Both of those are an end-run around filing an
- 13 untimely -- filing a notice of appeal, and
- that's why they're jurisdictionally barred. So
- 15 I don't think it would make a difference.
- 16 And the fact that intervention itself
- 17 requires some sort of threshold showing doesn't
- 18 change the fact that it would still be granting
- 19 an exception to someone who could have and
- 20 didn't file their notice of appeal and yet
- 21 letting them appeal anyway.
- 22 So I think that, at the end, it's this
- 23 anti-circumvention principle. If you are
- 24 jurisdictionally barred from achieving something
- 25 directly, you cannot achieve it through any

- 1 other means, regardless of what those means are.
- Otherwise, a jurisdictional rule, as this Court
- 3 held in Torres, would be meaningless.
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: So do you represent
- 5 that if the Attorney General had, in fact, filed
- 6 a notice of appeal within the 30 days that you
- 7 wouldn't have contested his right to do so?
- 8 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I don't see on
- 9 what grounds we could have, Your Honor.
- 10 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, now I'm
- 11 confused. I mean, I'm trying to find in your
- 12 brief where you make this jurisdictional
- 13 argument. Now, on page 15 or page, rather, 8 --
- 5, you say what it is. You say he agreed, the
- 15 Attorney General, that any final judgment about
- the constitutionality will be binding on the
- 17 Attorney General subject to any modification,
- 18 reversal, or vacation of the judgment on appeal.
- 19 That's what we're talking about,
- 20 right?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Yes.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Then I see
- 23 later that really they dismissed it on a
- 24 different ground, namely, that it was untimely.
- 25 And I don't see much argument about that point,

- 1 that -- that that bars him forever. Have I
- 2 missed something?
- Where -- where is it argued that that
- 4 -- that that's a promise, that's a promise that
- 5 I won't intervene later or do anything else, I'm
- 6 out of it? Whatever the district court holds,
- 7 I'm out of it? That's what you're saying, I
- 8 think.
- 9 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: If you fail to
- 10 appeal, you are out. That's the jurisdictional
- 11 rule.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. No, no, okay.
- 13 So I got the argument right. Where do you
- 14 discuss it in your brief?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The jurisdictional
- 16 argument?
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah. Yeah.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: The brief, it is
- 19 -- it's the first argument.
- 20 JUSTICE BREYER: The first. Okay.
- 21 I've got it then. I know the first argument.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: So it's -- yes.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. But they
- 24 didn't reach that as a ground, did they?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: No, the Sixth

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1 Circuit --
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- JUSTICE BREYER: I mean -- I mean,
- 3 because of this added language and so forth, it
- 4 -- what do you think of saying, look -- you --
- 5 you did it on a timeliness basis, but, really,
- 6 there's an argument here that they're barred
- 7 jurisdictionally because of this promise.
- 8 Effectively, they promise not to do it.
- 9 Please consider that.
- 10 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: It would be
- 11 appropriate to allow the Sixth Circuit to
- 12 consider the jurisdictional argument because I
- 13 agree they didn't consider it.
- I wanted to address the point about
- sovereignty and the waiver of sovereign immunity
- 16 that had been raised before because I think it
- is very clear that we are dealing with the
- 18 Attorney General, who is the party who is
- 19 intervening here.
- First, one need only look at pages 45
- 21 to 46 of the blue brief to see that the Attorney
- 22 General has cited his institutional interests.
- 23 He cited the fact that he has enforcement
- 24 authority under HB 454. He even cites that he
- is bound by the judgment as a basis for

- 1 intervening.
- But, second, every attorney general
- 3 knows the difference between moving for
- 4 intervention on behalf of himself and moving to
- 5 intervene for the state because, when a state
- 6 intervenes, it necessarily waives sovereign
- 7 immunity, which is significant and irreversible.
- 8 There is no such thing as essentially
- 9 waiving sovereign immunity. Sovereign immunity,
- it must be unambiguously and expressly waived.
- 11 And this Court has held that voluntary
- 12 intervention is such a waiver.
- And that's why I think it's not just a
- 14 mere technicality or formality that this case is
- 15 -- the intervenor is Attorney General Cameron
- 16 and this case is called Cameron v. EMW. The
- intervenor here is the Attorney General; it is
- 18 not the State of Kentucky.
- 19 And this Court should not construe --
- 20 where there is ambiguity and where there is
- 21 question of who the intervenor is, should not
- 22 construe it as the Commonwealth of Kentucky,
- 23 because that would be an irreversible waiver of
- 24 Kentucky's sovereign immunity, and, indeed, the
- 25 parties in this case have not even briefed the

- 1 circumstances under which the Attorney General
- 2 in Kentucky can waive the Commonwealth's
- 3 immunity.
- 4 So I think that it's very clear that
- 5 what we are dealing with here is the same party
- 6 who was sued is now the party who is moving to
- 7 intervene. The same party who was bound is the
- 8 party who is moving to intervene. And it's not
- 9 the Commonwealth of Kentucky who's moving to
- intervene here, and that's why the
- 11 jurisdictional issue cannot be ignored.
- 12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I thought he said
- that it could be construed as a limited waiver
- of sovereign immunity.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Under this Court's
- 16 precedent, in a -- voluntary intervention is a
- 17 waiver of sovereign immunity. It's not a
- 18 limited waiver of sovereign immunity.
- 19 So I don't know what that limited
- 20 waiver is that he's discussing, but if -- if the
- 21 Commonwealth of Kentucky is intervening here, it
- has waived its sovereign immunity irreversibly.
- I also want to go to this hat point,
- 24 Your Honor, because I think it makes just a hash
- of Ex parte Young and of jurisdictional rules.

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1 We sued the Attorney General because -- in his
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- 2 official capacity. There are only two
- 3 capacities, official capacity and personal
- 4 capacity. It doesn't matter how many job
- 5 responsibilities you have.
- 6 And it would make hash of Ex parte
- 7 Young if the Attorney General could say, well,
- 8 with my left hand, I'm exercising my authority
- 9 to defend the constitutionality of state law so
- 10 that, with my right hand, I can enforce that
- 11 same law, and then claim that he's two separate
- legal personas, one immune, one not. That would
- 13 render both Ex parte Young and jurisdictional
- 14 rules meaningless.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 16 counsel.
- 17 Just one more question. In another
- 18 suit, the Friedlander litigation, your client
- 19 opposed the Attorney General intervening prior
- 20 to a panel opinion on the basis that the
- 21 Secretary adequately represented the -- the
- 22 Commonwealth.
- 23 And in your papers, you -- you said
- that you criticized the Attorney General's
- 25 concern about rehearing and cert as -- as

- 1 speculative. Now, here, you're opposing the
- 2 intervention after the issuance of the prior --
- 3 of -- of a panel opinion.
- 4 And I wonder if that's -- I mean, I'm
- 5 familiar that lawyers argue in the alternative,
- 6 but I wonder if that's really putting him in a
- 7 catch-22. If it's prior to the opinion, the
- 8 Secretary will do it. If it's after the
- 9 opinion, he's waited too long.
- 10 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So which --
- 12 which is it?
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: So three responses
- 14 to that, briefly, Your Honor.
- 15 First, we did lose the -- the adequate
- 16 representation argument in that case. He was
- 17 permitted to intervene before.
- 18 Second, that case actually was
- 19 different because there was not the previous --
- 20 the Attorney General had never been involved in
- 21 that suit and had never sought their dismissal
- 22 in that suit. So the question of adequate
- 23 representation was slightly different in that
- 24 suit.
- But also, at the end of the day, we

- 1 would make whatever good-faith arguments were
- 2 available to us to oppose intervention under the
- 3 circumstances, but that doesn't ever relieve the
- 4 Attorney General from moving to intervene
- 5 timely. And the fact that we wouldn't have
- 6 consented to intervention doesn't relieve him of
- 7 his obligation to move timely.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I think
- 9 you -- you should lose one of those, whether
- 10 it's this one or that one, but I wonder why it
- doesn't make more sense to have the Attorney
- 12 General out of the case when the Secretary is
- 13 representing the state. You don't want the
- 14 state speaking through two different voices.
- But, once the Secretary's out of it,
- 16 Kentucky ought to -- maybe ought to be there in
- 17 some form, and the Attorney General is the one
- 18 that wants to intervene.
- MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Well, Your Honor,
- 20 I think that intervention law incentivizes early
- 21 intervention and penalizes late intervention.
- 22 And there is a significant thing that happens
- 23 when the court of appeals has ruled.
- I mean, intervention is as much about
- 25 the court of appeals being able to control its

- 1 docket and to control entry of new parties into
- 2 the suit late in the game.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah, well,
- 4 late in the game, yes, but, here, the Attorney
- 5 General filed a petition for rehearing on the
- 6 same date that it would have been due if the
- 7 Secretary had still been in the case.
- 8 So it seems a bit much to say that
- 9 they were delaying the proceedings.
- 10 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: No, I'm not
- 11 arguing and I don't think the court -- I don't
- think I'm arguing that they were delaying the
- 13 proceedings. But, nevertheless, part of docket
- 14 control is ensuring that you have all the
- parties who are going to be in the suit in as
- 16 early as possible.
- I mean, as this Court --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I guess
- 19 that's true, but, as Justice Breyer pointed out,
- 20 the situation changes a bit when the -- the
- 21 state representations are shuffled -- the -- the
- 22 deck is shuffled again after an election.
- 23 And the question is whether you want
- 24 to preclude the state from participating in the
- litigation that is still ongoing in a way that

- doesn't delay it to deny the state any
- 2 representation.
- It's sort of an estoppel. I mean, if
- 4 you had one party's position being pressed in
- 5 the case and there was another election, well,
- 6 the -- the state's still stuck with what the --
- 7 the people have rejected in the election.
- 8 MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I don't think it
- 9 was an abuse of the court of appeals' discretion
- 10 to hold that under the circumstances that the
- 11 Attorney General did wait too long to intervene,
- 12 not, again, as -- a delay -- I'm not saying
- 13 that -- but that he had the opportunity to enter
- the case and shape the decision before the court
- 15 of appeals ruled.
- 16 So I don't think it was an abuse of
- the discretion for the court of appeals to say
- that waiting until after judgment is entered to
- 19 try to make your arguments and to make a new
- 20 argument is waiting too long.
- 21 A different panel may have seen it
- 22 differently. But, as under the abuse of
- discretion standard, I don't think there was an
- 24 abuse there.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.

1	Justice Thomas?
2	JUSTICE THOMAS: None for me, Chief.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
4	Breyer, further?
5	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I have a question.
6	Counsel, assuming there's no jurisdictional
7	argument, meaning that they didn't have to file
8	a notice of appeal, Justice Breyer and I think
9	Justice Gorsuch and Justice Barrett have all
10	been concerned about never having given the
11	State of Kentucky the opportunity adequately to
12	defend this law after it was declared
13	unconstitutional because the Secretary of State
14	walked away from it.
15	How do you address that concern
16	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: Your Honor
17	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: and that
18	MS. KOLBI-MOLINAS: I don't I
19	don't think it's fair to characterize this case
20	as if there was some sort of default judgment or
21	some sort of abdication by the Secretary.
22	The Secretary was the sole defendant
23	who saw the case through to district court
24	judgment and then saw it all the way through on
25	appeal and defended it vigorously on appeal.

_	50 It's not as II the state was denied
2	its opportunity to defend the law. That
3	Secretary defended it all the way up until the
4	court of appeals and then decided, based on the
5	decision and based on whatever other
6	considerations, not to seek extraordinary
7	further appeals.
8	The Attorney General who had
9	putting aside whether or not he was bound
10	still had the opportunity to defend earlier, had
11	an opportunity to intervene earlier.
12	I don't think it's disrespectful of
13	Kentucky's sovereign interests for the court of
14	appeals to have held that at this point the case
15	has gone on too long and it's too late for
16	someone new to join.
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
18	Justice Gorsuch? Okay.
19	Okay. Thank you, counsel.
20	You have rebuttal, Mr. Kuhn?
21	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF MATTHEW F. KUHN
22	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
23	MR. KUHN: Thank you, Mr. Chief
24	Justice. Two quick points.
25	I want to start with Justice Breyer's

- 1 question and what the Chief Justice referred to
- 2 as the deck being reshuffled.
- I think, after the elections in 2019
- 4 and the reversal of positions with various state
- officials, we saw the wisdom of the way Kentucky
- 6 had structured its system of government, its way
- 7 of defending its sovereignty when its laws are
- 8 challenged, because the reversal of one party
- 9 was not good enough for Kentucky's law to go
- 10 away. It took two people. It took two
- 11 constitutionally elected, separately elected
- 12 officials to agree not to appeal further. The
- Governor's administration said no further, but
- 14 Kentucky created that fail-safe.
- 15 I think the effect of the Sixth
- 16 Circuit's ruling is to say to a sovereign state
- that you just can't structure your government
- 18 that way. You cannot defend your sovereign
- interests the way that you want to do so.
- I think that is directly contrary to
- 21 what this Court said in Bethune-Hill that we
- 22 respect how states structure their government.
- The second and final point that I want
- to make is to respond to some of the questions
- 25 that Justice Gorsuch and the Chief Justice asked

- 1 about the terms of the stipulation.
- 2 This Court has told us that a party is
- 3 bound -- that agrees to be bound by a -- a
- 4 non-party that agrees to be bound by a judgment
- 5 is bound in accordance with the terms of his or
- 6 her agreement. That's Taylor versus Sturgell.
- 7 So I think that we have to look very
- 8 closely at what the Attorney General agreed to
- 9 in his enforcement capacity.
- 10 And as the questions have pointed out,
- 11 we preserved our right to benefit from any
- 12 favorable result on appeal. That is in
- 13 Section 3d in response to the Chief Justice's
- 14 question, and we reserved our right to
- 15 participate in any appeal. We reserved all
- 16 claims and rights relating to whether we are a
- 17 proper party.
- I think, by reserving that, that can
- only be understood, to respond to Justice
- 20 Gorsuch's question, as to preserve our ability
- 21 to move to intervene if -- if circumstances
- 22 changed, which they did.
- 23 And so I think that if we're bound in
- 24 accordance with the terms of our agreement, I
- 25 think that we have the ability to come in and

Т	protect kentucky's interests when it became
2	unrepresented.
3	If there are no further questions, I
4	appreciate the Court's time.
5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
6	counsel. The case is submitted.
7	(Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the case
8	was submitted.)
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