STATE OF NEW YORK : COUNTY OF NIAGARA FAMILY COURT : PART 1

IN THE MATTER OF A PATERNITY PROCEEDING

PETER MARK DIARBAKERLY DOCKET NO.: P-03391-17

Petitioner,

-against-

KATIE LYNN RIFORD

Respondent.

PETER MARK DIARBAKERLY,

DOCKET NO.: V-03388-17

Petitioner,

-against-

KATIE LYNN RIFORD,

Respondent.

KATIE LYNN RIFORD,

DOCKET NO.: V-00103-18

Petitioner,

-against-

PETER MARK DIARBAKERLY,

Respondent.

Niagara County Courthouse 175 Hawley Street Lockport, New York 14094

March 9, 2018

HELD BEFORE: HONORABLE ERIN P. DELABIO

Family Court Judge

APPEARANCES:

RANDY S. MARGULIS, ESQ.

Appearing for Peter Mark Diarbakerly

DANA L. HERRINGTON, ESQ.

Appearing for Katie Lynn Riford

JASON J. CAFARELLA, ESQ.

Appearing as Attorney for Child

PRESENT:

KATIE LYNN RIFORD, Petitioner/Respondent

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THE COURT: All right. This is the matter of Peter Mark Diarbakerly --

MR. MARGULIS: Diarbakerly.

THE COURT: -- Diarbakerly against Katie

Riford in a paternity action. We have Randy Margulis
as his attorney. Mr. Diarbakerly is not here. We have

Dana Herrington here for the respondent Miss Riford.

Mr. Cafarella is the attorney for the child.

We also have visitation proceedings with both of your clients being petitioners. So, can I just basically ask the lawyers, on behalf of both your clients — let me just enter denials on behalf of your clients with respect to the custody and visitation proceeding.

MS. HERRINGTON: That's correct, your Honor.

MR. MARGULIS: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: So I'll enter denials on behalf of both of your clients. You guys are acknowledging receipt of the petitions?

MR. MARGULIS: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And the paternity docket was already entered a denial but we'll just continue a denial, I believe, on behalf of your client?

MS. HERRINGTON: I believe that we can consent to paternity because paternity has not yet been

established for the son.

THE COURT: For Mason.

MS. HERRINGTON: For the older daughter, yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Did you want to do that without your client here, Mr. Margulis?

MR. MARGULIS: Sure.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MARGULIS: In fact, I think we spoke about that last time and I believe that Miss Herrington indicated that she was likely prepared to acknowledge paternity, so I think that was expected anyway.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, on behalf of your client, Miss Herrington, your client -- you had a chance to speak with her. She does understand she has a right to a hearing in this matter but instead of going forward with a hearing, she is just going to acknowledge paternity that Mr. Peter Mark Diarbakerly is the father of Mason.

MS. HERRINGTON: That is correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: So that will resolve the paternity action. With respect to the -- so I realize that -- I guess I got to ask the obvious question, which is: The visitation/custody proceedings are just with respect to your daughter Olivia, or is -- are we involving Mason, too?

1 MS. HERRINGTON: Well, the petition currently, it's my understanding, is strictly for 2 3 Olivia. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 MS. HERRINGTON: As the paternity of Mason 6 had not yet been established. 7 MR. MARGULIS: Right, because we had lacked standing, so I'll probably amend it. 8 THE COURT: Do you want to just orally amend 9 10 it today? 11 MR. MARGULIS: Sure. I hereby amend it. 12 THE COURT: Do you have a problem with that, 13 Miss Herrington? 14 MS. HERRINGTON: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. I mean both of you have 15 cross-petitions. Do you both want to orally amend your 16 petitions just to include Mason based on the fact that 17 18 paternity has just been established? 19 MR. MARGULIS: Absolutely. 20 MS. HERRINGTON: Yes. 21 THE COURT: Okay. MR. MARGULIS: Thank you for the opportunity 22 23 to do that, by the way. 24 THE COURT: Okay. And then I guess the 25 question is: Where are we going with this? Did

Mr. Cafarella get a chance to meet with everybody or the clients?

MR. CAFARELLA: I have, Judge. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CAFARELLA: And, your Honor, I believe I will need to be appointed as attorney for the child on the V docket for Mason, the baby.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. CAFARELLA: I believe, in speaking with counsel prior to coming in today, that everybody agrees that there will be a mental health evaluation on both parties. I believe hopefully through Dr. Tyrrell, if the court is inclined to order it.

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. CAFARELLA: We were talking about some sort of supervised access if dad is able to come to Western New York. We didn't get a chance to really talk about times, but I guess I threw out there whether or not mom's -- maternal grandmother would be willing to supervise for a short period of time while dad is visiting, and hopefully we can set this down for a pretrial, pick some trial dates up in the future in case we can't resolve this.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CAFARELLA: On my end I've met with mom a

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couple times. I've met with my client. I've spoken with dad on the phone conference. One thing,

Miss Herrington is going to give me an authorization to speak with mom's doctor about some ancillary issues, but that's something that we'll work on until the next court appearance.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MARGULIS: Could I go next?

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MR. MARGULIS: Just since we're on the record. So, for the record, I just want to clarify what Mr. Cafarella said. We discussed temporary supervised access. We never agreed to temporary supervised access. So --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MARGULIS: -- I'm not suggesting that
Mr. Diarbakerly has ever consented to supervision, so
what I'm requesting is a temporary order of
unsupervised access. I understand there's an objection
to Mr. Diarbakerly -- who lives in Massachusetts, by
the way -- there's an objection to any request that he
might have to take the child to Massachusetts during
the pendency of these proceedings for access there,
which by the way in the past, the child had been, and
together with mom, had been on a number of occasions in

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his home in Massachusetts. But, be that as it may, on a temporary basis I wouldn't oppose that objection, so -- so any temporary access would take place in the Western New York area, but I do oppose the suggestion that it should be supervised. There's no history, to my knowledge, of any diagnoses of mental health against my client. I'm unaware of any arrests, calls to the police, domestic violence reports. My client denies any -- denies all of the allegations that suggest he's been violent toward the child or toward the mother in the past, so I'd be requesting an order granting, upon notice -- I don't know if my client's yet prepared to enter into a regular schedule of access, but I wouldn't want him to be prejudiced from that either. request a temporary order permitting him to have unfettered access maybe on, you know, during weekends in Western New York, upon reasonable notice to the mother.

And I would also ask that his -- there have been some interruptions in any continuity of telephone access that he had previously had maintained with the child. I would also ask in an order that my client be granted the right to reasonable telephone access with the child, private conversations -- I'm told that that's been an issue -- but private conversations. The

child is old enough, she should be able to have a private conversation by phone with her father for a reasonable period of time and with some reasonable frequency. I'm anticipating an objection. Most cases I have, regardless which side I'm on, I don't think it's unreasonable for a noncustodial parent to have nightly phone access to say hello and goodbye to the child. That's what I'd be requesting but that it be unfettered.

I'd also ask the court, and what we did talk about before coming in here, I have no objection to both parties submitting to a mental health evaluation by the same provider. And I would ask the court if we could, for scheduling purposes, if we could schedule a report back conference to the court, and in anticipation of a likelihood that this matter will proceed to a trial, if we could ask the court for that to be scheduled as well, just in the interest of time so when we do come back, we don't have to move into 2019 calendar.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MARGULIS: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Miss Herrington.

MS. HERRINGTON: Yes. Thank you, your Honor. Unfortunately there is a very lengthy history of domestic violence in this case, your Honor. That is

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violence by dad against mom and also physical violence by dad against the child. And I know that the father has alleged that, you know, he was more involved in these children's lives than has been the case, and while he's only traveled here to Western New York maybe three times, four times a year to be involved with the children, mom did travel one time a year around Christmastime with Olivia to the father's home in Massachusetts, and there were problems there with violence, not only with the father but the father and his family members. It's a very violent tumultuous turbulent household. It's my understanding that the father does have a history of anger management issues.

And as far as whether or not there's been a mental health diagnosis — and just because he has not sought treatment does not mean there isn't something there.

As my petition lays out in great detail and with text messages, the father has expressed suicidal tendencies, and we do fear that that might translate to harm of the children in the father's care if that is not supervised. The father has not spent a great deal of time alone with the children. I don't know that he's ever been alone with Mason. And when he's been alone with Olivia, that was during the time that the mother was giving birth to Mason, and there were very serious

issues with the father being violent with Olivia. She does not respond well to the father. She's had very serious emotional and behavioral issues which she is currently in the process of addressing with the counselor.

With respect to the phone access, this is not something that the father has ever requested in the past. He has never called regularly. Mom has tried to get him involved and he's always responds he's too busy with work, he was involved with a project.

He did recently commence telephone access with Olivia and he was trying to call numerous times a day, very early in the morning before school, during dinnertime, homework time, so I did attempt to resolve this issue outside of the court's resources, and I did write to both attorneys with the proposal that the telephone access occur at very specific times during the week which would not interfere with Olivia's schedule, so she would know that it's occurring. The mom of course denies the false allegations regarding any interference with those telephone calls. I do think that the mental health evaluation is a priority.

THE COURT: For both parties, correct?

MS. HERRINGTON: Absolutely. And my client

would consent.

THE COURT: Okay. And, Mr. Margulis, with 1 respect to the mental health evaluation if we're using Diane Tyrrell, your client's willing to come back from 3 Massachusetts to do this? 4 5 MR. MARGULIS: Sure. Hopefully we can schedule something like on a Friday or a Monday with 6 7 her and then maybe it will coincide with an access 8 period. 9 THE COURT: Okay. And, Miss Herrington, 10 you're agreeable to the mental health. So are you 11 saying that you're agreeable to the telephone access as 12 long as it's at a specified time of the day? 13 MS. HERRINGTON: That is correct, and I can 14 provide the specifics. 15 MR. MARGULIS: I don't object to that, by the 16 way. 17 MS. HERRINGTON: Taking Olivia, to the 18 proposal that was set forth in my February letter. 19 MR. MARGULIS: I don't remember it offhand. 20 MS. HERRINGTON: Okay. 2.1 THE COURT: And then what about access? 22 You're requesting that it be supervised? 23 MS. HERRINGTON: It absolutely has to be 24 supervised at this time, that's correct. And I, just 25 preliminarily upon Mr. Cafarella's suggestion, started

to speak with Miss Riford's mother, the suggested proposed supervisor, if she would be comfortable. I don't know that she's entirely comfortable with the idea. She indicated she would. I think what would add to her level of comfort if Miss Riford's brother was also present during the visits.

THE COURT: Okay. I just need to ask this question. Mason was born this past September, correct?

MS. HERRINGTON: That's correct.

MR. CAFARELLA: Correct.

MS. HERRINGTON: And if I could just address that. There was a major eruption of violence by the father at the hospital, and those are the records that Mr. Cafarella was referencing that mom would provide the HIPAA authorization for the release of those records. It was so severe that there was actually a safety protocol put in place by the nurses on staff at the time of the incident.

THE COURT: I guess my question is: When did -- has he been in Massachusetts all this time? Did he just recently move?

MS. HERRINGTON: The child -- oh. The father has always lived in Massachusetts. It was a long-distance on-again/off-again relationship over a period of years.

THE COURT: All right. Because I guess my question would have been if he was here up until at least September, he would have seen Olivia consistently.

MS. HERRINGTON: Correct.

THE COURT: But that is not what happened.

MS. HERRINGTON: Exactly.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, let me do the easy ones. We will do -- we will do the mental health evaluation. We'll do an order. What will happen is that I think our court will contact both the clients to look for dates that Tyrrell's -- no -- that won't be -- so, they'll figure out what the dates are so Dr. Tyrrell's office will give us dates. So, for your client, Mr. Margulis, any date that I can get on Monday or Friday or close to a weekend, we'll give him that day.

MR. MARGULIS: Hopefully that will work.

THE COURT: We just basically pass off the dates. We just don't -- we don't call to see what works, I guess. So they'll get a notice in the mail about what date they have to see Dr. Tyrrell.

With respect to a pretrial, what I think we should do is bring you back for a pretrial quickly with Miss DeWitt so that maybe you can kind of, if everybody

needs opportunity, if Mr. Cafarella needs opportunity to look at these records with respect to the hospital and things like that, maybe we could just have you sit down with my law clerk to just, I guess, wean through some issues that can be taken care of.

With respect to telephone access, give me times, Miss Herrington, that your client is willing to allow the child to speak with her father.

MS. HERRINGTON: We have proposed, your Honor, that the father have telephone access with Olivia on Tuesdays at 3:30 and Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

THE COURT: Okay. Let's increase that a little bit more. That's only two days a week, and I know that you're saying that he just recommenced these phone conversations but let's do at least one more day a week. So you got Tuesday and Friday at what time?

MS. HERRINGTON: Tuesdays at 3:30 and Fridays at 6:30.

THE COURT: Does that work for your client, Mr. Margulis?

MR. MARGULIS: He works so I'm not sure about the 3:30. I'm not sure why it couldn't just be the same time each evening. I don't know what the children -- obviously he's not going to be speaking to Mason so we're talking about the daughter. 6:30 is

probably doable. Just out of habit, I probably usually -- in other cases I usually propose 7 and 7:30, but 6:30 is probably a good time, so if we could just be consistent, that would be easier, I think, for everybody.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Cafarella, you look like you got something to add to this?

MR. CAFARELLA: No. Judge, I mean I guess I agree with Mr. Margulis. I think for routine purposes I think it's better just to have the expectation that my client will receive a phone call from her father at a specific period of time, whether it's three or four days a week or every day, but not 3:30 or 6:30 on alternating days, basically.

THE COURT: How many days do you think?

MR. CAFARELLA: Three or four, Judge.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. CAFARELLA: I mean she's almost eight years old. I'm sure that the phone conversations are not going to last too long but --

MR. MARGULIS: Right.

MR. CAFARELLA: -- part of this is that dad has not had a -- a very integral relationship with his daughter up until -- I mean at least the phone conversations recently, and he's seen her maybe a few

times a year. Maybe this would help at least establishing a little bit better relationship.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So let's do four days a week and let's do one particular time each day.

MS. HERRINGTON: If I could, your Honor. Since I wrote this letter on February 22nd, the father has not attempted any type of telephone access, and Olivia's mood and behavior and status has improved dramatically, so I do believe that there is some sort of link to the father grilling her with the questions during the telephone access. I'm sure Mr. Margulis will be able to speak with him as far as appropriate behavior and content and interaction with Olivia during this access so as not to upset her further. She is making some progress.

THE COURT: Okay. Not -- without knowing what really is going on here, I'm going to order the four days at 6:30. Let's do -- let's see. Let's do -- you said Tuesday so let's do Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. One, two, three, four -- I'm sorry. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

MR. MARGULIS: And I will have no objection.

THE COURT: Father to call child.

MR. MARGULIS: Sure.

established that he is not taking advantage of this access, then we're going to just dispense with it.

Okay? So I'll leave it as a future issue to deal with, if he is not — if he's not calling the four days at 6:30. And those are the only times he can call:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30. If he is not using all the days and it can be established, then I will consider not — dispensing with the four days her having —

MR. MARGULIS: Understood.

THE COURT: -- to be at a phone waiting for dad to call. If dad doesn't call by 6:45, she does not have to wait for a phone call any more. I'll give him a 15-minute leeway, that's it.

MS. HERRINGTON: Your Honor, if I could raise one issue, the Thursday date, that is the date that Olivia participates in a group counseling session at the Y.

THE COURT: Okay. So how about -- give me a day.

MR. MARGULIS: Saturday.

THE COURT: Huh?

MR. MARGULIS: How about Saturday instead of

Thursday?

	Last property	
1	de a sidoi serri escolo companione escolo.	MS. HERRINGTON: Sunday would work.
2		THE COURT: Sunday would work. Okay. So it
3	ang de managang	will be Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday?
4		MS. HERRINGTON: Friday, correct.
5	est principality of the second property of th	MR. MARGULIS: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,
6	Section and the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a second section in the second section is a second section in the second section in the second section is a section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section in the section is a section in the section in the section in the section is a section in the section in t	Friday.
7		THE COURT: Do you want to do Sunday, Monday,
8	distribution	Wednesday, Friday to kind of split it up?
9		MR. MARGULIS: That would be belter.
10		THE COURT: Okay. Here we go. Sunday,
11		Monday, Wednesday, Friday is what I said?
12		MS. HERRINGTON: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday
13		Friday, correct.
14		THE COURT: At 6:30. By 6:45 mother does not
15	gelermanische der Einstallantij	have to wait for a phone call
16	erkaniski mali makanja kodyla austo	MR. MARGULIS: Okay.
17	es and photosophy and flow	THE COURT: if he has not called by then.
18	University data in the december	Okay. With access here, when is the last time did he
19	ang wallandown debug eng sancop	see Olivia and what was the access like? Was it
20	enisse partitions property	unsupervised? Was it supervised? How long?
21	eruden algestadest seeplikket	MS. HERRINGTON: The last visit was in
22	ni, e ni archite na femini practical desi	September at Mason's birth. That was the time of the
23	inacopris procisione in the control of the control	incident of the
24	stiller delegional transfer servicio in anciente del construir del const	THE COURT: That's when the incident occurred
25	anglis sole popelirane	in the hospital, correct?

1 MS. HERRINGTON: And it was in the presence 2 of Olivia. 3 MS. KATIE RIFORD: Yeah. 4 MS. HERRINGTON: The daughter was present for 5 that also. 6 THE COURT: Okay. 7 MR. MARGULIS: Well, what I'm told is he came 8 in at the -- around the time of the son's birth and it was he who had the daughter unsupervised. I believe 10 she was with him while mom was in the hospital 11 delivering another child, so there was a period of 12 unsupervised access. 13 THE COURT: So when father is here with unsupervised access, where does the father stay? Does 14 15 he have family here, friends? Where does he stay? MR. MARGULIS: He does not have family here. 16 MS. HERRINGTON: No, he does not have family 17 here, and mom is relaying the information to me that he 18 was not unsupervised but just for a short period of 19 time. It was Miss Riford's mother who cared for 20 Olivia. The father I believe transported the child 21 22 with mom --MS. KATIE RIFORD: No, not me. 23 MS. HERRINGTON: Or transported Olivia to the 24 hospital to meet Mason. Picked her up from school, 25

brought her to the hospital.

THE COURT: Temporarily, no prejudice to your client because I don't know everything that's going on and it doesn't sound as though he has come here very often to be such an inconvenience to him, I'm going to do supervised access -- I'm going to do general supervision. Generally supervised access so that when he is in town, Miss Riford's mother, maternal grandmother, will be -- so when he's in town, they can go somewhere in a public place, and she does not have to be on top of him and in the mix, involved in the actual access but she can just be able to see where they are from a distance. So, a public library, McDonald's, something with a little playground, whatever it is. And if it's warm weather, park.

MR. CAFARELLA: And I don't know if
Miss Herrington's client is comfortable but I know her
client resides with maternal grandmother. If the
access was to be permitted at her house, it's up to
them, but I would like that to be an option also --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CAFARELLA: -- because there is the baby. The baby is six months old, I believe. So at least --

THE COURT: And he should be allowed to have access, too.

1 MR. CAFARELLA: And then there's a little bit 2 more comfort level, if they're comfortable in having 3 dad in their home. 4 THE COURT: All right. I'm -- well, I'm not 5 going to specify anything. I will just say general supervision by Miss Riford's mother to take place as 6 7 the parties can agree and arrange. Is that comfortable 8 for everybody? 9 MR. MARGULIS: Sure. Can I add language in 10 there that says upon reasonable notice and -- you know 11 what happens, Judge, when you have language that isn't 12 agreed and arranged --13 THE COURT: It's not going to happen. MR. MARGULIS: So could we have some kind of 14 15 language that says --THE COURT: Not to be unreasonably withheld. 16 17 MR. MARGULIS: Yes. Yes. THE COURT: Yes. 18 MR. MARGULIS: And I'm sure mom won't object 19 to this, I would probably propose that the 20 communication between the parents be by text and 21 22 there's a record. THE COURT: How about do you want your client 23 maybe to communicate with her mother? Does that make 24 25 it safer? I don't know.

7	alacimula (anijobini webici	MC HEDDINGTON: Cho is indicating has more
1		MS. HERRINGTON: She is indicating her mom
2	points annual parametris estal (a)	wouldn't be comfortable.
3	es Georgia de Caración de Cara	THE COURT: Wouldn't be comfortable with
4		what?
5	desger@itsperies projektion-salki	MS. HERRINGTON: Communicating directly with
6	admidde satter chemissockook	him.
7	24 Charles on the control of the state of th	THE COURT: Okay.
8	es egit kontrizanisan ett ja plantier	MR. MARGULIS: By text
9	iliya jarka to carbon siste	THE COURT: She'll be the general supervisor.
10		MR. MARGULIS: he can say, can I come at
11	And the second s	9:00?
12	dent y med (Art Adversor) and	MS. HERRINGTON: She doesn't text.
13	netican-pinalicus provincimo nel	THE COURT: Okay. Just text messages between
14	And the second s	the parties.
15		MR. MARGULIS: Sure.
16	and the latter and th	MS. HERRINGTON: Yes.
17	The state of the s	THE COURT: Mom and dad.
18		MS. HERRINGTON: Yes, that is necessary.
19	end-Vanig-enormous all/Versions	Thank you.
20	dyagjaowana magnida	THE COURT: Okay. Let's go off the record
21	efection de characteristic de l'acceptant	for a date.
22	egit indonen mana-enincis si	(Discussion off the record.)
23	norte dibetical polacebous sectida	THE COURT: Okay. We'll go back on the
24	eljanisti ocitikarjinaristi od	record. So we'll be back here on May 18th at 9:30 a.m.
25	ne acustos enematos está (ne de la constante en esta constante en está (ne	That will be a pretrial conference with Miss DeWitt.

1 We have hearing dates on June 18th and June 19th 2 beginning at 1:30, half-day trial dates only. On the 3 May 18th date, if you want a pretrial with me, just let 4 Miss DeWitt know, or you can come back with a pretrial 5 with her. But if you need to be back in front of me 6 before the hearing dates, just schedule that with her 7 or she will reach out to Kendra that day to find out 8 what dates are good. 9 MS. HERRINGTON: Thank you. 10 THE COURT: Okay? MR. CAFARELLA: Thank you, Judge. 11 THE COURT: All right. Just wait and we'll 12 have a notice for your client, Miss Herrington. 13 MR. MARGULIS: So am I preparing the order or 14 15 is the court? THE COURT: No. We'll do it. 16 17 MR. MARGULIS: Okay. THE COURT: It's just a temporary order. 18 19 Have a good weekend. set. MR. CAFARELLA: Thank you, Judge. 20 MS. HERRINGTON: Thank you. You too. 21 (Proceedings concluded at 10:15 a.m.) 22 23

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1	The foregoing is certified to be a true and accurate
2	transcript according to my stenographic notes.
3	Milella Ca Jacob
4	Michell A. Jacob  Official Supreme Court Reporter
5	Official Supreme Court Reporter
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