SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF T	HE UNITED STATES
MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP, LTD., ET A	L.,)
Petitioners,)
v.) No. 16-111
COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION	,)
ET AL.,)
Respondents.)

Pages: 1 through 102

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: December 5, 2017

HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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1220 L Street, N.W., Suite 206
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6	COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION,)
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8	Respondents.)
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11	Washington, D.C.
12	Tuesday, December 5, 2017
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14	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
15	argument before the Supreme Court of the United State
16	at 10:03 a.m.
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1	APPEARANCES:
2	KRISTEN K. WAGGONER, Scottsdale, Arizona; on
3	behalf of the Petitioners
4	GEN. NOEL J. FRANCISCO, Solicitor General,
5	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf
6	of the United States, as amicus curiae, supporting
7	the Petitioners
8	FREDERICK R. YARGER, Solicitor General,
9	Denver, Colorado; on behalf of the State
10	Respondent
11	DAVID D. COLE, Washington, D.C.; on behalf of
12	the private Respondents
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6	GEN. NOEL J. FRANCISCO	
7	On behalf of the United States,	
8	as amicus curiae, supporting the	
9	Petitioners	25
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:03 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument this morning in Case 16-111,
5	Masterpiece Cakeshop versus Colorado Civil
6	Rights Commission.
7	Ms. Waggoner.
8	ORAL ARGUMENT OF KRISTEN K. WAGGONER
9	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
10	MS. WAGGONER: Mr. Chief Justice, and
11	may it please the Court:
12	The First Amendment prohibits the
13	government from forcing people to express
14	messages that violate religious convictions.
15	Yet the Commission requires Mr. Phillips to do
16	just that, ordering him to sketch, sculpt, and
17	hand-paint cakes that celebrate a view of
18	marriage in violation of his religious
19	convictions.
20	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I ask you
21	JUSTICE GINSBURG: What if what if
22	it's if it's an item off the shelf? That
23	is, they don't commission a cake just for them
24	but they walk into the shop, they see a lovely
25	cake, and they say we'd like to purchase it for

- 1 the celebration of our marriage tonight.
- The Colorado law would prohibit that.
- 3 Would you claim that you are entitled to an
- 4 exception?
- 5 MS. WAGGONER: Absolutely not. The
- 6 compelled speech doctrine is triggered by
- 7 compelled speech. And in the context of a
- 8 pre-made cake, that is not compelled speech.
- 9 Mr. Phillips is happy to sell anything
- in his store, including --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, didn't --
- didn't he express himself when he made it?
- MS. WAGGONER: Yes, he did express
- 14 himself when he made it. And the purpose for
- which he expressed it is important to the
- 16 compelled speech doctrine and how it applies,
- 17 but when you --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, he did
- 19 refuse to sell --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, could I -- but
- 21 could I get the answer to the question? So --
- 22 so -- so if it -- if you agree that it's
- speech, then why can he not refuse to sell the
- cake that's in the window according to Justice
- 25 Ginsburg's hypothetical?

MS. WAGGONER: Well, in the context of 1 2 if it's already been placed in the stream of commerce in a public accommodation setting, his 3 speech has been completed. He -- he intended 4 to speak through that cake with the purpose of 5 whatever it was when he created it. 6 7 In contrast, though, when he has a different purpose, and is expressing a message 8 through a cake, it would render a different 9 result. It's still speech. 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, didn't 11 12 he refuse to sell cupcakes that he sells regularly to the public to some same-sex 13 14 couples who intended to marry? 15 MS. WAGGONER: That allegation was never involved in the complaint, the formal 16 charges, the ALJ's decision. 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But I thought --18 I'm a little bit surprised by what you're 19 saying because your briefs seem to suggest 20 differently -- that the couple was looking at 21 2.2 his already pre-designed cakes that he appears 23 to sell without any customization, and they sat down with him, and he said I don't supply cakes 24 of any kind to gay couples. 25

1 So I thought this cake was about his 2 refusal to supply a cake for any wedding 3 ceremony. MS. WAGGONER: Justice Sotomayor, 4 that's not how he responded to the couple. 5 couple came in and they requested a custom cake 6 7 for their wedding. At that point, they brought in a folder with all kinds of designs they 8 9 wanted to discuss and ended up purchasing a rainbow-layered cake or -- or received a free 10 rainbow-layered cake, which certainly is 11 12 expression. The order below requires Mr. Phillips 13 also to include words and symbols on his cakes. 14 It's that broad. So if, for example, 15 Mr. Phillips had used a Bible verse on a cake 16 17 in the past, he would be compelled to use that Bible verse in a different context. 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Where does -- where 19 does it say -- I thought that the requirement 20 was he supply a custom-made cake, as he would 21 2.2 to any other shopper, but that he didn't have 23 to convey somebody else's message; that is, he didn't have to write anything on the cake. 24 2.5 MS. WAGGONER: In Petitioners'

- Appendix 57(a), the order is provided, and that 1 2 order requires him to provide anything that he would provide on a cake in another setting for 3 a marriage between a man and a woman, which 4 includes words and images that he would provide 5 6 on --7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, suppose we exclude that and say let's make the assumption 8 that he -- if he makes custom-made cakes for 9 others, he must make it for this pair, but he 10 doesn't have to write anything for anybody. He 11 12 doesn't have to write a message that he 13 disagrees with. 14 MS. WAGGONER: Well, this Court has recognized in Hurley as well as in other 15 decisions that artistic expression doesn't need 16 17 to include words and symbols to express a message or to be protected speech. 18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, just -- just 19 one more thing, and then we'll leave this part 20 alone, at least as far as I'm concerned. 21
- Does he have to sell that cake?

2.2

23

MS. WAGGONER: Under our theory, he

Suppose the couple goes in and sees the cake in

the window and the cake has a biblical verse.

- 1 would need to sell that cake because he's
- 2 already created that cake with the message that
- 3 he intended for it, but we are drawing the line
- 4 prior to the compulsion -- there can be no
- 5 compulsion of speech.
- If the Court were to choose to draw
- 7 that line in a different place and protect more
- 8 speech, there certainly is precedent for that.
- 9 But under the compelled speech doctrine, when
- someone comes in and requests speech, if that
- 11 speech has already been created, then that
- 12 would be -- not be compelled.
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Could you tell me
- 14 how far --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: There's no --
- there's no compulsion of speech, but if he is
- 17 required to sell a cake in the window with the
- message already on it, that is compelling him
- 19 to associate that message with the ceremony.
- 20 And I thought that was something to which you
- 21 objected.
- MS. WAGGONER: There would possibly be
- an expressive association claim and potentially
- a free exercise claim if he was delivering the
- 25 case and there was other involvement. But in

1 terms of the Court's application of the 2 compelled speech doctrine, the compulsion is the trigger for that, but the Court could draw 3 that line at an earlier place and not force him 4 to sell that cake. 5 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But your --7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Go ahead. JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- the question 8 9 that I started out with, I -- I wanted to 10 clarify that what you're talking about is a custom-made cake. You are not challenging his 11 12 obligation to sell his ordinary wares, his, as 13 you put it, already-made wares? 14 MS. WAGGONER: Not at all. And, in fact, Mr. Phillips offered the couple anything 15 in his store, as well as offered to sell 16 17 additional cakes, custom cakes, that would 18 express other messages. 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Going --20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Ms. Waggoner --21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- you mentioned --

you brought up Hurley, but in Hurley, the

parade was the event. It was the speech, a

parade. At a wedding ceremony, I take it, the

speech is of the people who are marrying and

22

23

24

- 1 perhaps the officiant, but who -- who else
- 2 speaks at a wedding?
- MS. WAGGONER: The artist speaks,
- 4 Justice Ginsburg. It's as much Mr. Phillips's
- 5 speech as it would be the couples'. And in
- 6 Hurley, the Court found a violation of the
- 7 compelled speech doctrine.
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Who else then? Who
- 9 else as an artist? Say the -- the person who
- 10 does floral arranging, owns a floral shop.
- 11 Would that person also be speaking at the
- wedding?
- MS. WAGGONER: If the -- if they are
- 14 custom-designed arrangements and they are being
- forced to create artistic expression which this
- 16 Court determines is a message --
- 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: So could --
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How about the
- 19 person who designs the invitation?
- MS. WAGGONER: Yes.
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Invitation to the
- 22 wedding or the menu for the wedding dinner?
- MS. WAGGONER: Certainly, words and
- 24 symbols would be protected speech, and the
- question would be whether the objection is to

- 1 the message provided or if it's to the person.
- 2 JUSTICE KAGAN: So the jeweler?
- MS. WAGGONER: It would depend on the
- 4 context as all free-speech cases depend on.
- 5 What is the jeweler asked to do?
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Hair stylist?
- 7 MS. WAGGONER: Absolutely not.
- 8 There's no expression or protected speech in
- 9 that kind of context, but what it --
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Why is there no speech
- in -- in creating a wonderful hairdo?
- MS. WAGGONER: Well, it may be
- 13 artistic, it may be creative, but what the
- 14 Court asks when they're --
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: The makeup artist?
- 16 MS. WAGGONER: No. What the Court
- 17 would ask --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: It's called an artist.
- 19 It's the makeup artist.
- 20 (Laughter.)
- MS. WAGGONER: The makeup artist may,
- 22 again, be using creativity and artistry, but
- when this Court is looking at whether speech is
- involved, it asks the question of is it
- 25 communicating something, and is it analogous to

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1
      other protected --
 2
               JUSTICE KAGAN: But I'm --
               MS. WAGGONER: -- forms of speech.
 3
               JUSTICE KAGAN: -- I'm quite serious,
 4
      actually, about this, because, you know, a
 5
      makeup artist, I think, might feel exactly as
 6
 7
      your client does, that they're doing something
      that's of-- of great aesthetic importance to
 8
 9
      the -- to the wedding and to -- and that
      there's a lot of skill and artistic vision that
10
      goes into making a -- somebody look beautiful.
11
12
      And why -- why wouldn't that person or the
      hairstylist -- why wouldn't that also count?
13
14
               MS. WAGGONER: Because it's not
      speech. And that's the first trigger point --
15
               JUSTICE KAGAN: Some people may say
16
17
      that about cakes, you know?
               MS. WAGGONER: Some --
18
19
               JUSTICE KAGAN: But you have a -- you
      have a view that a cake can be speech because
20
      it involves great skill and artistry.
21
2.2
               And I guess I'm wondering, if that's
23
      the case, you know, how do you draw a line?
24
      How do you decide, oh, of course, the chef and
      the baker are on one side, and you said, I
25
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- 1 think, the florist is on that side, the chef,
- the baker, the florist, versus the hairstylist
- 3 or the makeup artist?
- I mean, where would you put a tailor,
- 5 a tailor who makes a wonderful suit of clothes?
- 6 Where does that come in?
- 7 MS. WAGGONER: Your Honor, the tailor
- 8 is not engaged in speech, nor is the chef
- 9 engaged in speech but, again, this Court --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, why -- well --
- 11 woah. The baker is engaged in speech, but the
- 12 chef is not engaged in speech?
- MS. WAGGONER: The test that this
- 14 Court has used in the past to determine whether
- 15 speech is engaged in is to ask if it is
- 16 communicating something, and if whatever is
- 17 being communicated, the medium used is similar
- 18 to other mediums that this Court has protected.
- 19 Not --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Does it depend
- 21 on --
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So that begs the
- 23 question, when have we ever given protection to
- 24 a food? The primary purpose of a food of any
- 25 kind is to be eaten.

1	Now, some people might love the
2	aesthetic appeal of a special desert, and look
3	at it for a very long time, but in the end its
4	only purpose is to be eaten.
5	And the same with many of the things
6	that you've mentioned. A hairdo is to show off
7	the person, not the artist. When people at a
8	wedding look at a wedding cake and they see
9	words, as one of the amici here, the pastry
10	chef said, there was a gentleman who had upset
11	his wife and written some words that said "I'm
12	sorry for what I did, " something comparable,
13	and the chef was asked, the cake maker was
14	asked, was that affiliated with you?
15	And she said no. It's affiliated with
16	the person who shows the cake at their wedding.
17	It's what they wish to show.
18	So how is this your client's
19	expression, and how can we find something whose
20	predominant purpose is virtually always to be
21	eaten? Call it a medium for expressive
22	expression. Mind you, I can see if they've
23	create a cake and put it in a museum as an
24	example of some work of art, that might be
25	different because the circumstances would show

- 1 that they want this to be affiliated with
- 2 themselves.
- 3 But explain how that becomes
- 4 expressive speech, that medium becomes
- 5 expressive speech.
- 6 MS. WAGGONER: Certainly not all cakes
- 7 would be considered speech, but in the wedding
- 8 context, Mr. Phillips is painting on a blank
- 9 canvas. He is creating a painting on that
- 10 canvas that expresses messages, and including
- 11 words and symbols in those messages.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You know, the
- other night I had some people over and one of
- 14 them brought a box of cupcakes and one of the
- 15 cupcakes was smashed against the box. That was
- 16 the only cupcake not eaten.
- 17 Now, I suspect that one of the reasons
- is the others were so much more attractive
- 19 whole. There is creation in serving food, in
- creating any type of edible product.
- 21 People -- there are sandwich artists
- 22 now. There are people who create beauty in
- 23 what they make, but we still don't call it
- 24 expressive and entitled to First Amendment
- 25 protection.

1 MS. WAGGONER: No, but when we have 2 someone that is sketching and sculpting and hand designing something, that is creating a 3 temporary sculpture that serves as the 4 centerpiece of what they believe to be a 5 religious wedding celebration, that cake 6 7 expresses a message. JUSTICE KAGAN: Is this just a --8 9 JUSTICE ALITO: What would you say about an architectural design; is that entitled 10 to -- not entitled to First Amendment 11 12 protection because one might say that the primary purpose of the design of a building is 13 14 to create a place where people can live or 15 work? MS. WAGGONER: Precisely. In the 16 17 context of an architect, generally that would not be protected because buildings are 18 functionable, not communicative. 19 JUSTICE ALITO: You mean an 20 architectural design is not protected? 21 2.2 MS. WAGGONER: No. Architect --23 generally speaking, architectural would not be 24 protected. 2.5 JUSTICE BREYER: So in other words,

- 1 Mies or Michelangelo or someone is not
- 2 protected when he creates the Laurentian steps,
- 3 but this cake baker is protected when he
- 4 creates the cake without any message on it for
- 5 a wedding? Now, that -- that really does
- 6 baffle me, I have to say.
- 7 MS. WAGGONER: Well, I did say
- 8 generally no in terms of architecture.
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, then, what is
- 10 the line? That's what everybody is trying to
- get at, because obviously we have all gone into
- 12 a Mexican restaurant. They have this fabulous
- Mole specially made for the people at the table
- 14 to show what important and wonderful evening it
- 15 was, which it did import -- impart.
- 16 There are all kinds of restaurants
- 17 that do that. And maybe Ollie's Barbecue, you
- 18 know, maybe Ollie thought he had special
- 19 barbecue.
- 20 All right. Now, the reason we're
- 21 asking these questions is because obviously we
- 22 want some kind of distinction that will not
- 23 undermine every civil rights law from the --
- 24 from -- from the year to -- including the
- 25 African Americans, including the Hispanic

- 1 Americans, including everybody who has been
- 2 discriminated against in very basic things of
- 3 life, food, design of furniture, homes, and
- 4 buildings.
- Now, that is, I think, the point of
- 6 the question, and I've tried to narrow it and
- 7 specify it to get your answer.
- 8 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you, Justice
- 9 Breyer. In terms of the test that would be
- 10 applied, the Court would first ask under the
- 11 speech analysis, is there speech? And by
- 12 asking that, you are asking is there something
- 13 that is being communicated and is it a
- 14 protection --
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: And there isn't one
- of the people I mentioned who doesn't think he
- 17 is communicating something. What do you think
- they're doing when they are making the Essow or
- 19 the building?
- MS. WAGGONER: It's not just about
- 21 what the individual thinks they are
- 22 communicating. This Court also routinely makes
- that inquiry in all kinds of situations in all
- 24 free-speech cases.
- 25 Second, though, the Hurley framework

- 1 provides a framework for this Court to make
- 2 those decisions and to protect individuals.
- 3 The way that it does that is it asks: Is the
- 4 individual who's being compelled to speak
- 5 objecting to the message that is contained in
- 6 that speech or the person? And that's usually
- 7 a very obvious inquiry. If it's connected --
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Would you stop --
- 9 would that belief that expresses speech trump
- 10 public accommodation laws against
- discrimination or protecting customers from
- 12 race? Yes or no.
- 13 MS. WAGGONER: This Court has never
- 14 compelled speech in the context of race, but if
- 15 it were ever to do so --
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Oh, it didn't in
- 17 Newman versus Piggie?
- 18 MS. WAGGONER: Not in terms of
- 19 compelling speech.
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: There was a -- he
- 21 claimed that he was religious, that he opposed
- 22 serving blacks because it mixed the races, and
- we basically refused both his free expression
- 24 and his free exercise clauses. So are you
- 25 saying that your rule now would trump

- 1 protection against race discrimination?
- MS. WAGGONER: Respectfully, Your
- 3 Honor, I don't think this Court has ever
- 4 compelled speech in the context of --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'll read Newman
- 6 myself.
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: I'm sorry, can I just
- 8 --
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Answer my
- 10 question.
- 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- understand --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Is your theory --
- is your theory that you -- that you -- public
- 14 accommodation laws cannot trump free speech or
- 15 free-exercise claims in protecting against race
- 16 discrimination?
- 17 MS. WAGGONER: That is not my theory.
- 18 That would be an objection to the person and
- 19 the Court may find a compelling interest in
- 20 that --
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: If I could just,
- 22 sorry, very quickly, I know your light is on
- and I'm sure you'll be given a little bit of an
- 24 adjustment. Is that okay?
- 25 (Laughter.)

1 JUSTICE KAGAN: I guess I just didn't 2 understand your answers to Justice Sotomayor's question. Same case or not the same case, if 3 your client instead objected to an interracial 4 marriage? 5 6 MS. WAGGONER: Very different case in 7 that context. JUSTICE KAGAN: Not the same. How 8 9 about if he objected to an interreligious? MS. WAGGONER: Similar case, assuming 10 11 that the objection is to --12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Similar to what? MS. WAGGONER: Similar to Mr. 13 14 Phillips. That would be protected under the 15 Compelled Speech doctrine if the objection is to the message being conveyed in that 16 17 expression. JUSTICE KAGAN: You are just saying 18 race is different? 19 20 MS. WAGGONER: I'm saying that --JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, I don't want 21 to put words in your mouth. I -- I just 22 23 really, you know, just want to know the answer. I think race is 24 MS. WAGGONER:

different for two reasons: one, we know that

2.5

- 1 that objection would be based to who the person
- is, rather than what the message is.
- And, second, even if that were not the
- 4 case, the Court could find a compelling
- 5 interest in the race inquiry just as it did in
- 6 the Pena-Rodriguez case.
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: So --
- 8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So how about
- 9 disability; I'm not going to serve cakes to two
- 10 disabled people because God makes perfect
- 11 creations, and there are some religions who
- 12 believe that?
- MS. WAGGONER: Well --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So how about
- 15 there?
- MS. WAGGONER: I'm not aware of any
- 17 religions that believe that but, if they did,
- that would clearly be based on who the person
- is and not the message in the final product
- that's -- they're being asked to create.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, your client
- 22 was saying that providing a cake to a same-sex
- couple was against his free-expression rights
- 24 because -- and his free-exercise rights,
- 25 because he cannot celebrate that kind of

- 1 marriage.
- 2 MS. WAGGONER: Mr. Phillips is looking
- 3 at not the "who" but the "what" in these
- 4 instances, what the message is. And for 25
- 5 years --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, actually,
- 7 counsel, that seems to be a point of
- 8 contention. The state seems to concede that if
- 9 it were the message, your client would have a
- 10 right to refuse. But if it -- the objection is
- 11 to the person, that's when the discrimination
- 12 law kicks in. That's footnote 8 of the
- 13 Colorado Court of Appeals' decision. I know
- 14 you know this.
- 15 So what do you say to that, that
- 16 actually what is happening here may
- 17 superficially look like it's about the message
- but it's really about the person's identity?
- MS. WAGGONER: I would say that in
- footnote 8, the court applies an offensiveness
- 21 policy, which allows the state the discretion
- 22 to decide what speech is offensive and what is
- 23 not, and it did not apply that in a fair way to
- 24 Mr. Phillips, which creates viewpoint
- 25 discrimination, as well as a violation of free

1 exercise -- the Free Exercise Clause. 2 But what's deeply concerning is that is not the theory that Respondents are 3 submitting to this Court today. They believe 4 that they can compel speech, of filmmakers, oil 5 painters, and graphic designers in all kinds of 6 7 context. If there are no further questions, I 8 would reserver -- like to reserve the balance 9 10 of my time. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll afford 11 12 you the full rebuttal time. 13 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you. 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure. 15 General Francisco. ORAL ARGUMENT OF GEN. NOEL J. FRANCISCO 16 ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE, 17 SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS 18 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Mr. Chief Justice, 19 and may it -- may it please the Court: 20 This case raises an important issue 21 for a small group of individuals; namely, 2.2 23 whether the state may compel business owners, 24 including professional artists, to engage in speech in connection with an expressive event 25

- 1 like a marriage celebration to which they're
- 2 deeply opposed.
- In those narrow circumstances, we
- 4 believe the Free Speech Clause provides
- 5 breathing space --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How narrow is it?
- 7 Consider Justice Kagan's question. I mean,
- 8 we've gotten the answer that the florist is in
- 9 the same place as the cake-maker, so is the
- 10 person who designs the invitations and the
- 11 menus. I don't see a line that can be drawn
- 12 that would exclude the makeup artist or the
- 13 hairstylist.
- 14 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- that's, of course, the question that the Court
- 16 -- Court has to answer at the threshold of
- 17 every Free Speech Case. Is the thing that's
- 18 being regulated something we call protected
- 19 speech? I think the problem for my friends on
- the other side is that they think the question
- doesn't even matter. So they would compel an
- 22 African American sculptor to sculpt a cross for
- 23 a Klan service --
- 24 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But the problem for
- you is that so many of these examples -- and a

- 1 photographer can be included -- do involve
- 2 speech. It means that there's basically an
- 3 ability to boycott gay marriages.
- 4 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- 5 I think what it boils down to is that in a
- 6 narrow category of services that do cross the
- 7 threshold into protected speech -- and I do
- 8 think it's a relatively narrow category -- you
- 9 do have protection. For example, I don't think
- 10 you could force the African American sculptor
- 11 to sculpt a cross for the Klan service just
- 12 because he'd do it for other religious --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well --
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: If you prevail,
- 15 could the baker put a sign in his window, we do
- 16 not bake cakes for gay weddings?
- 17 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Your Honor, I
- 18 think that he could say he does not make
- 19 custom-made wedding cakes for gay weddings, but
- 20 most cakes --
- 21 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And you would not --
- 22 GENERAL FRANCISCO: -- would not cross
- 23 that threshold.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- think that an
- 25 affront to the gay community?

1 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor, 2 I -- I agree that there are dignity interests at stake here, and I would not minimize the 3 dignity interests to Mr. Craig and Mr. Mullins 4 one bit, but there are dignity interests on the 5 other side here too. 6 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, sometimes it's not just dignity. A couple of the 8 briefs -- one of the amici briefs pointed out 9 that most military bases are in isolated areas 10 far from cities and that they're in areas where 11 12 the general population, service population, is of one religion or close to one religious 13 14 belief. So where there might be two cake 15 They name a couple of military bases bakers. like that. Or two florists or one 16 17 photographer. Very small number of resources. GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right. 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And in those 19 situations, they posit, and I don't think 20 probably wrongly, that it may come to pass 21 2.2 where the two cake bakers will claim the same 23 abstention here. So how do we protect the military men and women who are of the same sex 24 who want to get married in that town because 25

- that's where all their friends are, because the
- 2 base is there?
- 3 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right.
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right? How do
- 5 we protect those people?
- 6 GENERAL FRANCISCO: And, Your Honor, I
- 7 think that is precisely a situation where the
- 8 state would be able to satisfy heightened
- 9 scrutiny because their interests in providing
- 10 access to goods and services would be narrowly
- 11 tailored.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So -- but isn't
- 13 that -- isn't that the same for everybody?
- 14 Meaning, look, we live in a society with
- 15 competing beliefs, and all of our cases have
- 16 always said where LGBT people have been -- you
- 17 know, they've been humiliated, disrespected,
- 18 treated uncivilly. The briefs are filled with
- 19 situations that --
- 20 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right.
- 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the gay couple
- 22 who was left on the side of the highway on a
- rainy night, people who have been denied
- 24 medical treatment or whose children have been
- 25 denied medical treatment because the doctor

- 1 didn't believe in same-sex parenthood, et 2 cetera. 3 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm. JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: We've always said 4 in our public accommodations law we can't 5 6 change your private beliefs, we can't compel 7 you to like these people, we can't compel you to bring them into your home, but if you want 8 9 to be a part of our community, of our civic community, there's certain behavior, conduct --10 11 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right. 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- you can't 13 engage in. And that includes not selling 14 products that you sell to everyone else to 15 people simply because of their either race,
- So we can't legislate civility and rudeness, but we can and have permitted it as a

religion, national origin, gender, and in this

- 20 compelling state interest legislating behavior.
- 21 GENERAL FRANCISCO: And --

case sexual orientation.

- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why is not
- selling or selling to one group as opposed to
- another not behavior?

16

17

25 GENERAL FRANCISCO: And, Your Honor,

- if I could respond, I think it's because here
- 2 we have speech involved, and this case is
- 3 essentially the flip side of the Hurley case.
- In Hurley, we couldn't force a parade
- 5 to include a particular speaker. Here, we
- 6 don't think you can --
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That was a private
- 8 parade.
- 9 GENERAL FRANCISCO: And here, Your
- 10 Honor, we don't think you can force a speaker
- 11 to join the parade. Because when you force a
- speaker to both engage in speech and contribute
- that speech to an expressive event that they
- 14 disagree with, you fundamentally transform the
- 15 nature of their message from one that they want
- 16 to say to one that they don't want to say.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: How about if it's a
- 18 --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: So, General, you
- 20 started by --
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- if it's a
- 22 question of race? There's a certain irony in
- 23 here because one of the things that
- 24 anti-discrimination in public accommodations is
- 25 supposed to do is to protect religion, minority

- 1 religions. So you -- you have already said
- 2 that you put -- might put race in a different
- 3 category, right?
- 4 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Yes, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: How about gender?
- GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- 7 I think that race is particularly unique
- 8 because when it comes to racial
- 9 discrimination --
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, I asked you
- 11 what about --
- 12 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Sure. I think --
- 13 I think --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: I have your answer
- on race. How about gender? How about national
- 16 origin --
- 17 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right.
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- and religion?
- 19 GENERAL FRANCISCO: I think pretty
- 20 much everything but race would fall in the same
- 21 category, but as this Court made clear in the
- 22 Bob Jones case, the IRS could withdraw
- 23 tax-exempt status from a school that
- 24 discriminated on the basis of interracial
- 25 marriage, but I'm not at all sure that it would

- 1 reach the same result if it were dealing with a
- 2 Catholic school that limited married student
- 3 housing to opposite-sex couples only.
- I think when you get to this case, if
- 5 you agree with our test -- and I know that I
- 6 have a little bit of an uphill battle in
- 7 convincing some of you of that. If you agree
- 8 with our test, I think the heightened scrutiny
- 9 standard is particularly easy because they're
- 10 the same interests at stake as were at stake in
- 11 Hurley.
- 12 And if I could --
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: General, it -- it
- seems as though there are kind of three axes on
- which people are asking you what's the line?
- 16 How do we draw the line? So one axis is what
- 17 we started with, like what about the chef and
- 18 the florist --
- 19 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Speech,
- 20 non-speech.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: -- and -- and, you
- 22 know, everybody else that participates in a
- 23 wedding? A second axis is, well, why is this
- only about gay people? Why isn't it about
- 25 race? Why isn't it about gender? Why isn't it

- about people of different religions? So that's
- 2 a second axis.
- And there's a third axis, which is why
- 4 is it just about weddings? You say ceremonies,
- 5 events. What else counts? Is it the funeral?
- 6 Is it the Bar Mitzvah or the communion? Is it
- 7 the anniversary celebration? Is it the
- 8 birthday celebration?
- 9 So there are all three of these that
- 10 suggest like, whoa, this doesn't seem like such
- 11 a small thing. And so let me give you one
- 12 hypothetical and then you can answer more
- 13 broadly.
- 14 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Thank you.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: Which, you know -- so
- 16 I'll just pick one of those. It's like how
- 17 about a -- a -- a couple, a same-sex
- 18 couple goes to a great restaurant with a great
- 19 chef for an anniversary celebration, and the
- 20 great chef says I don't do this for same-sex
- 21 couples? How about that?
- 22 GENERAL FRANCISCO: So, Your Honor, if
- I could answer that question starting out with
- another example that illustrates the point in
- 25 a reply to your example --

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1
               JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I'd like my
 2
      example, please.
 3
               (Laughter.)
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: Sure. So in your
 4
      example I would first say, one, there's no
 5
      speech involved and, two, there's --
 6
 7
               JUSTICE KAGAN: No, there is.
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: -- no expressive
 8
 9
      event.
               JUSTICE KAGAN: The chef is expressing
10
      something about how he feels --
11
12
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: Right.
               JUSTICE KAGAN: -- about same-sex
13
14
      couples and same-sex marriage. He doesn't want
15
      to celebrate a same- -- the anniversary of a
      same-sex marriage.
16
17
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: And that's where
18
               JUSTICE KAGAN: Just like --
19
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: Sure.
20
               JUSTICE KAGAN: -- the baker doesn't
21
2.2
      want to celebrate a same-sex marriage.
               GENERAL FRANCISCO: And that's where I
23
24
      would go to something that I think that my
2.5
      friends on the other side have to deal with, is
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- often is the case in the First Amendment law
- 2 you are dealing with something that everybody
- 3 clearly agrees is speech. And what makes this
- 4 case difficult is because we're kind of on that
- 5 line. Is it speech or is it not speech?
- 6 We think it is on the speech side of
- 7 the line. But take, for example, the sculptor
- 8 who does not want to sculpt that cross.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I -- Mr. --
- 10 General, really, I mean, could we just -- I
- 11 guess I would like an answer to my
- 12 hypothetical.
- 13 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Sure. So the
- 14 answer to your hypothetical is, as this Court
- 15 has repeatedly said, not everything that
- 16 expresses a message is speech. I think when it
- 17 comes to --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: So the baker is
- 19 speech, but the great chef who is like
- 20 everything is perfect on the plate and it's a
- 21 work of art, it is a masterpiece?
- 22 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- you have to confront that issue in every First
- 24 Amendment case, if you're --
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: General, my colleagues

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1 I think go to more elite restaurants than I do,
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- 2 but my --
- 3 (Laughter.)
- 4 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Same here, Your
- 5 Honor.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: I think that if --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, Ollie's
- 8 Barbecue.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: If -- if in my -- if
- in my dreams I could go to a Michelin, I don't
- 11 know, one-tenth star, I don't know, two-star
- 12 restaurant, and there was a menu of wonderful
- dishes created by the chef with -- with great
- 14 creativity, and I said I really don't want any
- of these. Here is the recipe. I want you to
- 16 make this for me. Do you think he would do
- 17 that?
- 18 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Probably not, Your
- 19 Honor, but I think the critical question always
- 20 --
- JUSTICE ALITO: He's serving up -- he
- creates something when he makes -- when he
- devises those dishes and when somebody comes in
- and asks to buy one, he is just mechanically
- 25 producing another example of the thing that he

- 1 created earlier.
- 2 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Yes. Justice --
- 3 Mr. Chief Justice, may I answer?
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why don't you
- 5 take an extra five minutes and I'll accord the
- 6 same to your friends.
- 7 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, thank you.
- 8 And so what happens, though, in every
- 9 free-speech case you have got to make that
- 10 initial cut. Does it cross the line into
- 11 protected speech? And if it does, and I
- 12 understand --
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. How about the
- 14 same cake, if you don't -- if you want to, as I
- 15 understand it, you want to treat the chef
- 16 differently from the baker, but let's say the
- same cake, and a couple comes in, a same-sex
- 18 couple, and says it's our first-year
- 19 anniversary, and we would like a special cake
- 20 for it.
- 21 Can he then say no? No cake?
- 22 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- 23 if it is the exact same cake and it crosses
- 24 that threshold into speech, I would say --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: It's a great cake.

- 1 What do you mean is it the exact same cake?
- 2 GENERAL FRANCISCO: No, what I'm
- 3 saying is if it's the same type of
- 4 highly-sculpted stylized cake that Mr. Phillips
- 5 makes, such that in our view it crosses the
- 6 line into speech, then you can't force him to
- 7 create that any more than you can force the
- 8 sculptor --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So General, what --
- 10 what is the line? How would you have this
- 11 Court draw the line?
- 12 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Sure. There are a
- 13 couple of --
- 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You make a lot of
- 15 specifics --
- 16 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Yeah.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- but I'd -- I'd
- 18 appreciate a more abstract general rule that
- 19 the government suggests.
- 20 GENERAL FRANCISCO: I think there are
- 21 a couple of ways to draw that line, and this is
- 22 something that the Court has to struggle with
- in a lot of cases. I think the first way to
- 24 draw that line is you analogize it to something
- 25 that everyone regards as traditional art and

- 1 everyone agrees is protected speech. 2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Like the Jackson 3 Pollock? GENERAL FRANCISCO: Exactly. And here 4 you have a cake that is essentially synonymous 5 with a traditional sculpture except for the 6 7 medium used. But I also think that the Second Circuit's decision in the Mastrovincenzo case 8 9 provides a good and workable standard when 10 you've got something that is part art and part 11 utilitarian. 12 And what the Second Circuit asks is it 13 predominantly art or predominantly utilitarian? 14 And here people pay very high prices for these 15 highly sculpted cakes, not because they taste good, but because of their artistic qualities. 16 17 I think the more important point --JUSTICE GORSUCH: In fact, I have yet 18 to have a -- a wedding cake that I would say 19 20 tastes great. 21 (Laughter.) 2.2 GENERAL FRANCISCO: And, Your Honor,
- in our freezer, and I'm sure it no longer
- 25 tastes great.

23

my wedding cake, the top of it is still sitting

1	But I think the point is when you
2	cross that threshold into free speech, the
3	question is can you compel somebody to create
4	and contribute speech to an expressive event
5	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is it a purpose test
6	
7	GENERAL FRANCISCO: that they
8	JUSTICE KAGAN: How about this
9	JUSTICE GORSUCH: or is it would
LO	you say it's a predominant purpose or a
L1	predominant effect? How would you characterize
L2	that?
L3	GENERAL FRANCISCO: So if you're
L4	talking about the line between speech and
L5	non-speech
L6	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yes.
L7	GENERAL FRANCISCO: with the item
L8	that is part utilitarian and part art
L9	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yes, yes.
20	GENERAL FRANCISCO: I would say is it
21	predominantly expressive or predominantly
22	utilitarian?
23	JUSTICE GORSUCH: In its purpose or
24	its effect on others?
) 5	GENERAL ERANCISCO. I think both And

- 1 I think one of the key factors that the Second
- 2 Circuit looks to, it looks to a bunch of
- different factors, but one factor is price.
- 4 Are people paying for the utilitarian side of
- 5 it or are they paying for the artistic side of
- 6 it?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What --
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I'm not going to --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: What if somebody comes
- in, it's a baker who's and atheist and really
- 11 can't stand any religion, and somebody comes in
- and says I want one of your very, very special,
- 13 special cakes for a First Communion or for a
- 14 Bar Mitzvah. And the baker says no, I don't --
- I don't -- I don't do that. I don't want my
- cakes to be used in the context of a religious
- 17 ceremony.
- 18 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, and, again,
- 19 I think if you apply these tests, you first
- 20 have to decide whether --
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: I just want the
- answer.
- 23 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, what I'm
- 24 saying is that when you apply these tests you
- 25 first have got to decide if the cake rises to

- 1 the level of speech.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: It's a special,
- 3 special cake.
- 4 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, you know, if
- 5 so, and it rises to the level of speech, then I
- 6 think he has a claim just like that same baker
- 7 could refuse to sculpt that cake --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Would I -- could I
- 9 ask you your answer to what I think is the same
- 10 question going on in different forums.
- 11 Forget the doctrine for a minute.
- 12 There's a category of people called artisans.
- 13 An artisan is a kind of artist. They are in
- 14 many fields. They are also people who are
- discriminated against. And we're in a country
- of minorities, there are many different groups
- 17 that have been discriminated against.
- 18 For many years Congress has passed
- 19 laws saying, at least to the artisans: You
- 20 cannot discriminate on the basis of -- of race,
- 21 religion, dah, dah, dah.
- GENERAL FRANCISCO: Mm-hmm.
- 23 JUSTICE BREYER: Sexual orientation.
- 24 If we were to write an opinion for you, what
- would we have done to that principle? And, of

- 1 course, the concern is that we would have
- 2 caused chaos with that principle across the
- 3 board because there is no way of confining an
- 4 opinion on your side in a way that doesn't do
- 5 that. So tell me how?
- GENERAL FRANCISCO: Well, Your Honor,
- 7 I think that the way you do it is because none
- 8 of these Courts' cases has ever involved
- 9 requiring somebody to create speech and
- 10 contribute that speech to an expressive event
- 11 to which they are deeply opposed.
- 12 And if I could go back to my example,
- when you force that African-American sculptor
- 14 to sculpt that cross for a Klan service, you
- 15 are transforming his message.
- He may want his cross to send the
- 17 message of peace and harmony. By forcing him
- 18 to combine it with that expressive event, you
- 19 force him to send a message of hate and
- 20 division.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I am
- 22 very confused --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: What would the
- 24 government -- what would the government's
- position be if you prevail in this case, the

baker prevails in this case, and then bakers 1 2 all over the country received urgent requests: Please do not bake cakes for gay weddings. 3 more and more bakers began to comply. 4 Would the government feel vindicated 5 in its position that it now submits to us? 6 7 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Your Honor, I think in that case, the case for strict 8 9 scrutiny would be much stronger, because you'd be able to show that your -- that the 10 application of the law is narrowly tailored to 11 12 the government's interests in ensuring access. Here, of course, you have these 13 14 products that are widely available from many 15 different sources. And I would submit, just to finish up, that if you were to disagree with 16 17 our basic principle, putting aside the line about whether a cake falls on speech or 18 non-speech side of the line, you really are 19 envisioning a situation in which you could 20 force, for example, a gay opera singer to 21 2.2 perform at the Westboro Baptist Church just 23 because that opera singer would be willing to perform at the National Cathedral. 24 2.5 And the problem is when you force

- 1 somebody not only to speak, but to contribute
- 2 that speech to an expressive event to which
- 3 they are deeply opposed, you force them to use
- 4 their speech to send a message that they
- 5 fundamentally disagree with.
- And that is at the core of what the
- 7 First Amendment protects our citizenry against.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 9 General.
- 10 GENERAL FRANCISCO: Thank you, Mr.
- 11 Chief Justice.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Yarger.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF FREDERICK R. YARGER
- ON BEHALF OF THE STATE RESPONDENT
- 15 MR. YARGER: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 16 Justice, and may it please -- please the Court:
- 17 A decade ago Colorado extended to LGBT
- 18 people the same protections used to fight
- 19 discrimination against race, sex and a person's
- 20 faith. Masterpiece Cakeshop is a retail bakery
- 21 that is open to the public and subject to the
- 22 Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act.
- Yet, Petitioners' claim that they can
- 24 refuse to sell a product, a wedding cake of any
- 25 kind in any design to any same-sex couple.

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1
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: I don't want to --
 2
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, take
      an organization --
 3
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: Go ahead.
 4
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- I think
 5
      there are many different faiths, but Catholic
 6
 7
      Legal Services, they provide pro bono legal
      representation to people who are too poor to
 8
 9
      avoid it and they provide it to people of all
      different faiths.
10
               So let's say someone just like
11
12
      Respondents here, except needing the pro bono
      assistance, goes into Catholic Legal Services
13
14
      and say, we want you to take this case against
15
      Masterpiece Cakeshop. And the people at the --
      the lawyers say: well, we -- we're not going
16
17
      to, because we don't support same-sex marriage.
               Are they in violation of the Colorado
18
19
      law?
20
               MR. YARGER: No, Chief Justice, Mr.
      Chief Justice, they are not. Refusing to offer
21
22
      a particular service in that case when they
23
      wouldn't provide it to any other customer --
24
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no, they
      would provide it, if a -- if a heterosexual
25
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- 1 couple comes in and says we need a --
- 2 particular services in connection with our
- 3 marriage, they would provide it.
- It's only because, and they say this,
- 5 it's only because it is a same-sex marriage
- 6 that we're not going to provide pro bono legal
- 7 services to you.
- 8 MR. YARGER: In -- in the sense of a
- 9 -- services regarding maybe divorce or --
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Something in
- 11 connection -- something in connection with the
- 12 marriage. You know, they're having a -- a -- a
- -- whatever, a contract dispute with somebody
- in connection with their marriage, and the
- lawyer says we're not going to provide services
- in connection with same-sex marriage because we
- 17 have a religious objection to that.
- 18 MR. YARGER: Mr. Chief Justice, I
- 19 think there's an initial question that's asked
- in all of these cases, and it's the way that
- 21 states have been resolving these questions for
- 22 literally 100 years, and that -- the question
- is: Is this entity operating in the way of a
- 24 retail store in the sense that it is --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no.

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1
               MR. YARGER: -- inviting --
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It's
 2
      clearly -- it's clearly covered by Colorado's
 3
      law. It's not primarily religious. It's
 4
      primarily legal. It's provided to all faiths.
 5
      And there's nothing in the law that I can see
 6
 7
      that says it's limited to for-profit
 8
      organizations.
               MR. YARGER: And, Your Honor, again, I
 9
      -- I think the question is going to be is -- is
10
      that operating in the sense of a retail store?
11
12
      If it is, then, yes, a state can require a --
      someone offering a service to give the same
13
      services regardless of --
14
15
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So --
               MR. YARGER: -- the protected
16
17
      characteristics of -- of the customer. If that
18
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So -- so
19
      Catholic Legal Services would be put to the
20
      choice of either not providing any pro bono
21
22
      legal services or providing those services in
23
      connection with the same-sex marriage?
               MR. YARGER: If -- if it is operating
24
      in the same way as a retail store, I think the
25
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1 answer --2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Under Colorado 3 law, is --MR. YARGER: -- is yes, Your Honor. 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- are they or 5 6 are they not? 7 MR. YARGER: I don't -- I can't answer that question, because --8 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What facts 10 would you need besides the ones I've given you? MR. YARGER: I would have to 11 12 understand what the -- the purpose and the history is of that entity choosing customers 13 14 and how it works. If there's genuine 15 selectivity --16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They have 17 taken every other customer to date, except this is the first time someone has come in and wants 18 legal services in connection with a same-sex 19 20 marriage and they say we're not going to do it because, as a religious matter, we're opposed 21 22 to same-sex marriage. 23 MR. YARGER: And -- and, Your Honor, I 24 think -- I think if they were operating like a

retail store like that, then -- then Colorado

- 1 would have the ability to regulate them.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, the Chief
- 3 Justice --
- 4 MR. YARGER: If the answer were
- 5 otherwise --
- 6 JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- has introduced
- 7 the question of the Free Exercise Clause in
- 8 this case. We didn't talk about it earlier.
- 9 And perhaps you want to get on to
- speech, but in this case, pages 293 and 294 of
- 11 -- of the Petitioner appendix, the --
- 12 Commissioner Hess says freedom of religion used
- to justify discrimination is a despicable piece
- 14 of rhetoric.
- 15 Did the Commission ever disavow or
- 16 disapprove of that statement?
- 17 MR. YARGER: There were no further
- 18 proceedings in which the Commission disavowed
- or disapproved of that statement.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you disavow or
- 21 disapprove of that statement?
- MR. YARGER: I would not have
- 23 counseled my client to make that statement.
- 24 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Do you now disavow
- or disapprove of that statement?

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1
               MR. YARGER: I -- I do, yes, Your
 2
      Honor. I think -- I need to make clear that
      what that commissioner was referring to was the
 3
      previous decision of the Commission, which is
 4
      that no matter how strongly held a belief, it
 5
      is not an exception to a generally applicable
 6
 7
      anti-discrimination law.
               And if -- if the assertion that what
 8
 9
      is engaging in is speech is enough to overcome
      that law, you're going to face a situation
10
      where a family portrait artist can say I will
11
12
      photograph any family but not when the
      father --
13
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: But -- but -- in --
14
               MR. YARGER: -- is wearing a yarmulke
15
      because I have a sincere objection to the
16
17
      Jewish faith. That would be discrimination.
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: Suppose we thought
18
      that in significant part at least one member of
19
      the Commission based the commissioner's
20
      decision on -- on -- on the grounds that -- of
21
22
      hostility to religion. Can -- can your --
23
      could your judgment then stand?
               MR. YARGER: Your Honor, I don't think
24
      that one statement by the commissioner,
25
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- 1 assuming it reveals bias --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, suppose we --
- 3 suppose we thought there was a significant
- 4 aspect of hostility to a religion in this case.
- 5 Could your judgment stand?
- 6 MR. YARGER: Your Honor, if -- if
- 7 there was evidence that the entire proceeding
- 8 was begun because of a -- an intent to single
- 9 out religious people, absolutely, that would be
- 10 a problem.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How many
- 12 commissioners --
- MR. YARGER: But this was a complaint
- 14 filed by a couple --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How many
- 16 commissioners are there?
- 17 MR. YARGER: Excuse me, Justice
- 18 Sotomayor.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'd like you to
- 20 answer Justice Kennedy's question. How many
- 21 commissioners are there?
- MR. YARGER: There are seven
- 23 commissioners, Your Honor.
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. If one
- 25 -- if there was a belief, not yours -- stop

- 1 fighting the belief; accept the hypothetical --
- 2 that this person was improperly biased, what
- 3 happens then? I think that's what Justice
- 4 Kennedy is asking you.
- 5 MR. YARGER: If there is one person
- 6 that's improperly biased?
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: One of the
- 8 commissioners is improperly biased.
- 9 MR. YARGER: I think you're going to
- 10 have to ask whether the complaint filed with
- 11 the division, which was filed by a customer who
- was referred to a bakery to receive a product,
- and the ALJ and the commission in the appeal
- 14 were all biased in the sense that this was a
- 15 proceeding meant to single out a religious
- 16 person for his views.
- 17 And that is not the fact here.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We've -- we've
- 19 had this case before --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But you agree that
- 21 would be a problem --
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- in the
- 23 context -- the context of courts, I think it's
- 24 not just where you have a three-judge panel and
- 25 it turns out one judge was -- should have been

- 1 disqualified, whether -- for whatever reason,
- they don't say that, well, the vote, there were
- 3 two still, so it doesn't change the result
- 4 because it's a deliberative process, and the
- 5 idea is, well, the one biased judge might have
- 6 influenced the views of the other.
- 7 MR. YARGER: And, Your Honor, again, I
- 8 don't think that this -- that particular
- 9 phrase -- I wouldn't advise my client to make
- 10 that statement, but it was referring back to
- 11 the previous decision --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Yarger, you
- 13 actually --
- 14 MR. YARGER: -- where the commission
- 15 fully debated the issue --
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Yarger, you
- 17 actually have a second commissioner who also
- 18 said that he's -- if someone has an issue with
- 19 the laws impacting his personal belief system,
- 20 he has to look at compromising that belief
- 21 system presumably, as well, right?
- MR. YARGER: And, yes, Your Honor.
- 23 That's the same principle that this Court
- 24 recognized in cases --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But a second

1 commissioner? 2 MR. YARGER: -- cases like United 3 States versus Lee --JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- so we have two --4 two -- two commissioners out of seven who've 5 6 expressed something along these lines. 7 MR. YARGER: I don't agree that what was expressed in the record reveals the kind of 8 bias that existed in cases like the Church of 9 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What if we disagree 11 12 with --MR. YARGER: -- Lukumi Babalu Aye. 13 14 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What if we disagree with you; then what follows? 15 16 MR. YARGER: I think you have to do 17 that analysis and decide whether this proceeding was engineered in a way to single 18 out people with a certain faith and they're 19 not. This --20 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You --2.2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: This --23 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, the reason that 24

MR. YARGER: -- this law would apply

- 1 to protect people with religious beliefs. 2 JUSTICE BREYER: I see that. reason I want you to continue this is that many 3 of the civil rights laws, not all public 4 accommodations laws, though -- there are 5 6 exceptions, like, for example, with housing, a 7 person's own room, for example. And what people are trying to do with 8 9 exceptions is take the thing you're worried about, where they are genuine, sincere 10 religious views or whatever it is, and minimize 11 12 the harm it does to the principle of the statute while making some kind of compromise 13 14 for people of sincere beliefs on the other
- And we find that in -- in a lot of 16 17 them, but that's primarily a legislative job. And my impression of this is there wasn't much 18 effort here in Colorado to do that. 19
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And your --

15

25

side.

21 JUSTICE BREYER: My problem is can we do that in any way, or is there any way to get 22 23 to a place that without harming the law, and 24 its object, which is fine, you can have narrow

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1
      you see -- do you see what I'm driving at?
 2
               MR. YARGER:
                            I do.
               JUSTICE BREYER: And I can't think of
 3
      a way to do it. Maybe you can't think of a way
 4
      to do it, but I thought it's worth asking.
 5
 6
               MR. YARGER: Justice Breyer, I -- I do
 7
      not agree that this law, which was passed in
      2008, after literally a decade in the wake of
 8
 9
      Romer, was not an attempt sincerely to hear
      from all sides about a question of whether to
10
      grant the same protections to people who are
11
12
      discriminated based on race or faith to people
13
      of the LGBT community.
14
               JUSTICE ALITO: One thing that's --
15
               MR. YARGER: And if you look at the --
               JUSTICE ALITO: One thing that's
16
      disturbing about the record here, in addition
17
      to the statement made, the statement that
18
      Justice Kennedy read, which was not disavowed
19
      at the time by any other member of the
20
      Commission, is what appears to be a practice of
21
2.2
      discriminatory treatment based on viewpoint.
               The -- the Commission had before it
23
24
      the example of three complaints filed by an
      individual whose creed includes the traditional
2.5
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- 1 Judeo-Christian opposition to same-sex
- 2 marriage, and he requested cakes that expressed
- 3 that point of view, and those -- there were
- 4 bakers who said no, we won't do that because it
- 5 is offensive.
- 6 And the Commission said: That's okay.
- 7 It's okay for a baker who supports same-sex
- 8 marriage to refuse to create a cake with a
- 9 message that is opposed to same-sex marriage.
- 10 But when the tables are turned and you have the
- 11 baker who opposes same-sex marriage, that baker
- may be compelled to create a cake that
- 13 expresses approval of same-sex marriage.
- 14 MR. YARGER: Justice Alito --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counselor, in that
- 16 case --
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Maybe you
- 18 could answer -- maybe you could Justice Alito's
- 19 question.
- 20 MR. YARGER: Yes, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 21 The facts of that case are that someone walked
- 22 into a bakery and wanted a particular cake with
- 23 particular messages on it that that bakery
- 24 wouldn't have sold to any other customer.
- 25 Mr. Phillips would not be required to

- 1 sell a cake to a gay couple that he wouldn't
- 2 sell to his other customers.
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, but Mr. --
- 4 Mr. Phillips --
- 5 MR. YARGER: What he said in this
- 6 case --
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Phillips would not
- 8 -- do you disagree with the fact that he would
- 9 not sell to anybody a wedding cake that
- 10 expresses approval of same-sex marriage?
- MR. YARGER: I -- what he may not do
- as a public accommodation that offers to the
- 13 public --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Would you answer
- 15 the question?
- MR. YARGER: -- yes -- yes, Your
- 17 Honor -- is decide that he won't sell somebody
- 18 a product that he would otherwise sell because
- in his view the identity of the customer
- 20 changes the message.
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, he didn't say the
- 22 identity.
- MR. YARGER: That is discrimination
- 24 under our law.
- JUSTICE ALITO: He said the message.

- 1 He said the message.
- 2 MR. YARGER: Well, and the message in
- 3 this case, Your Honor, depended entirely on the
- 4 identity of the customer who was ordering the
- 5 cake. If he had said I have a deeply --
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, could
- 7 you answer the question asked? Let's assume
- 8 this couple did come in and wanted the rainbow
- 9 cake.
- 10 MR. YARGER: Yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And this gentleman
- 12 says one of two things: If you're same-sex,
- 13 I'm not going to provide you with a rainbow
- 14 cake or I don't create rainbow cakes for
- weddings because I don't believe in same-sex
- 16 marriage. I'm not going to sell it to you.
- 17 I'm not going to sell it to a same -- a
- 18 heterosexual couple. I just don't want to be
- 19 affiliated with that concept of rainbowness at
- a wedding, any kind of wedding.
- MR. YARGER: And Justice --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what are the
- 23 difference in treatment?
- MR. YARGER: Justice Sotomayor, in
- 25 that latter case, if that truly a product he

- 1 wouldn't sell to any other customer, he would
- 2 not have to sell it to this customer.
- But if it's a question of a cake he
- 4 would sell to any other customer, he cannot say
- 5 I have a very strong objection to interracial
- 6 or interfaith marriages and I don't want to
- 7 send message about those -- those events, and
- 8 so I'm not going to sell it to you. That's
- 9 discrimination. It wouldn't be appropriate
- 10 under Colorado law, and it would be a First
- 11 Amendment objection.
- 12 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Counselor, tolerance
- is essential in a free society. And tolerance
- is most meaningful when it's mutual.
- 15 It seems to me that the state in its
- 16 position here has been neither tolerant nor
- 17 respectful of Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs.
- 18 MR. YARGER: And, Your Honor, I --
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: And -- because
- 20 accommodation is, quite possible, we assume
- 21 there were other shops that -- other good
- 22 bakery shops that were available.
- MR. YARGER: Your Honor, I don't -- I
- don't agree that Colorado hasn't taken very
- 25 seriously the rights of those who wish to

- 1 practice their faith. I urge you to read the
- 2 legislative history that culminated in
- 3 literally ten years of debate about how to deal
- 4 with this question.
- 5 And what the legislature decided after
- 6 hearing from the faith community, after making
- 7 an exception for places of worship and doing --
- 8 making other exceptions decided we can't make
- 9 exceptions here for same-sex people who deserve
- 10 the same protections if we wouldn't make those
- 11 same exceptions for discrimination based on
- 12 race and sex and religion.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Yarger --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I'm asking can you do
- 15 this? Can a baker say do this? Could the
- baker say, you know, there are a lot of people
- 17 I don't want to serve, so I'm going to
- 18 affiliate with my friend, Smith, who's down the
- 19 street, and those people I don't want to serve,
- 20 Smith will serve. Is that legal?
- 21 Would that be legal under Colorado
- law? That'd be a kind of accommodation, so
- 23 they get the cake.
- 24 MR. YARGER: It would be, Your Honor
- 25 --

JUSTICE BREYER: It would be legal? 1 2 MR. YARGER: No, no. JUSTICE BREYER: It would be illegal? 3 MR. YARGER: You cannot turn away from 4 your storefront if you're a retail store. 5 JUSTICE BREYER: It's a -- it's a 6 7 joint venture. I have a regular affiliation with Smith. Smith and I work together. I 8 9 serve the people he doesn't like, he serves the 10 people I don't like. Does that violate the law? 11 12 MR. YARGER: I don't -- I would say 13 that there's -- there is a possibility that that does not violate the law if there is not 14 some other pretext there to ensure that a 15 disfavored class of customers receives lesser 16 17 service. And that's always a question in a case like this. 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Does it make a 19 difference, was -- was same-sex marriage 20 permitted in Colorado at the time of these 21 2.2 events? 23 MR. YARGER: It was not, Your Honor. 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Does that make a difference? 2.5

- 1 MR. YARGER: I don't think it does,
- 2 Your Honor.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Could he have
- 4 said I am not going to make a cake for, you
- 5 know, celebrating events that aren't permitted
- 6 in Colorado?
- 7 MR. YARGER: Well, Mr. Chief Justice
- 8 -- may I answer?
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You have five
- 10 -- more minutes.
- MR. YARGER: Oh.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: If you want.
- 13 (Laughter.)
- 14 MR. YARGER: I'll have to think about
- 15 that, Your Honor. But in the meantime, there
- 16 was nothing illegal about two gay people in
- 17 2012 in Colorado expressing their commitment to
- 18 each other and celebrating that commitment with
- 19 their loved ones.
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Would Colorado be
- 21 required to give full faith and credit to the
- 22 Massachusetts marriage?
- MR. YARGER: Well, it certainly would
- 24 today, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE ALITO: But it wouldn't at the

- 1 time.
- 2 MR. YARGER: No, it wouldn't.
- JUSTICE ALITO: It did not at the
- 4 time. This is very odd. We're thinking about
- 5 this case as it might play out in 2017, soon to
- 6 be 2018, but this took place in 2012.
- 7 So if Craig and Mullins had gone to a
- 8 state office and said we want a marriage
- 9 license, they would not have been accommodated.
- 10 If they said: Well, we want you to
- 11 recognize our Massachusetts marriage, the state
- 12 would say: No, we won't accommodate that.
- 13 Well, we want a civil union. Well, we won't
- 14 accommodate that either.
- And yet when he goes to this bake shop
- and he says I want a wedding cake, and the
- 17 baker says, no, I won't do it, in part because
- 18 same-sex marriage was not allowed in Colorado
- 19 at the time, he's created a grave wrong. How
- 20 does that all that fit together?
- MR. YARGER: Well, Your Honor, again,
- 22 it -- it -- the decision by this bakery was it
- 23 wouldn't sell any product --
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, that's not right,
- 25 Mr. Yarger. It is a disturbing feature of your

- 1 brief because this case was decided on summary
- judgment, and, therefore, you have to view the
- 3 facts in the light most favorable to Mr.
- 4 Phillips.
- 5 And the only thing he admitted and
- 6 what was said in the undisputed -- the list of
- 7 undisputed facts was he would not create -- he
- 8 was very careful to use the word "create." Is
- 9 that wrong?
- 10 MR. YARGER: That's not incorrect,
- 11 Your Honor. What -- what he has said is that
- 12 all of his wedding cakes are custom-made. And
- so what he said is that he would have a right
- 14 to refuse that service to anyone whose identity
- in his view means that the message has changed.
- And he does not want to sell it to them.
- 17 It would be akin to a --
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: And we have a history
- of -- in the questioning by -- of Petitioner's
- 20 counsel, we explored the line between speech
- 21 and non-speech, but as I understand your
- 22 position, it would be the same if what was
- involved here were words.
- 24 Am I wrong? If he would put a
- 25 particular form of words on a wedding cake, on

- 1 a cake for one customer, he has to put the same
- 2 form of words, the same exact words on a
- 3 wedding cake for any other customer, regardless
- 4 of the context?
- 5 MR. YARGER: That's right, just as he
- 6 would have to sell a Happy Birthday cake to a
- 7 member of the Jewish faith or an
- 8 African-American couple.
- 9 JUSTICE ALITO: So if someone came in
- 10 and said: I want a cake for -- to celebrate
- our wedding anniversary, and I want it to say
- 12 November 9, the best day in history, okay,
- 13 sells them a cake. Somebody else comes in,
- 14 wants exactly the same words on the cake, he
- 15 says: Oh, is this your anniversary? He says:
- No, we're going to have a party to celebrate
- 17 Kristallnacht. He would have to do that?
- 18 MR. YARGER: Your Honor, that wouldn't
- 19 be --
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: It is the same words.
- MR. YARGER: It is, Your Honor. I
- 22 haven't -- I don't -- that would be a question
- about whether there is a even-handed, genuine
- 24 policy applied by the baker that doesn't have
- 25 to do with the identity of the customer.

1 And if it has to do with a message 2 that is apart from the identity of the customer, then he can refuse that. Otherwise, 3 you'd have a circumstance in which he would 4 paint a picture of a couple but couldn't change 5 the skin tone of the -- of the couple that's 6 7 pictured on the cake. That would be discrimination. And there wouldn't be any 8 9 First Amendment problem with enforcing our law against that. 10 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I have a quick 12 question about the remedy. As I understand it, Colorado ordered Mr. Phillips to provide 13 comprehensive training to his staff, and it 14 15 didn't order him to attend a class of the government's own creation or anything like 16 17 that, but to provide comprehensive staff training. 18 Why -- why isn't that compelled speech 19 and possibly in violation of his free-exercise 20 rights? Because presumably he has to tell his 21 2.2 staff, including his family members, that his 23 Christian beliefs are discriminatory. MR. YARGER: He -- a training 24 requirement is a common remedy that is used in 25

- 1 many civil rights cases.
- 2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But this isn't
- 3 attending your training, Mr. Yarger.
- 4 MR. YARGER: He doesn't have to say
- 5 that his --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Yarger, again, I
- 7 agree with you, some sort of training by an
- 8 outside group, but this order was ordering him
- 9 to provide training and presumably compelling
- 10 him to speak, therefore, and to speak in ways
- 11 that maybe offend his religion and certainly
- 12 compel him to speak.
- 13 And given that, plus the
- 14 discriminatory language in the -- in the
- 15 Commission's discussion, I just -- that
- 16 concerns me, and I just wonder what you have to
- 17 say.
- 18 MR. YARGER: I understand, Your Honor,
- 19 if all that is required in these training
- 20 sessions is an understanding, and a
- 21 demonstrated understanding of the Colorado
- 22 Anti-Discrimination Act.
- It has nothing to do with a particular
- 24 person's belief. It has to do with ensuring
- 25 that the conduct that was found discriminatory,

- 1 and if that conduct can be regulated consistent
- with the First Amendment, I think that a
- 3 training requirement like that can be imposed.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Part of that speech
- 5 is that state law, in this case, supersedes our
- 6 religious beliefs, and he has to teach that to
- 7 his family. He has to speak about that to his
- 8 family.
- 9 MR. YARGER: He has to speak about the
- 10 fact that --
- 11 JUSTICE KENNEDY: His family who are
- 12 the employees.
- MR. YARGER: -- in running a public
- 14 accommodation that is open to all people, he
- 15 cannot use his faith to discriminate based on
- identity in selling a good he would otherwise
- 17 sell.
- 18 JUSTICE GINSBURG: The question does
- 19 -- he doesn't have to tell his family -- I
- 20 mean, his belief is his belief. All he has to
- 21 --
- MR. YARGER: That's correct.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- instruct them is
- 24 this is what the law of Colorado requires.
- MR. YARGER: Thank you, Justice

- 1 Ginsburg. That's precisely correct.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: You must adhere to
- 3 the law.
- 4 MR. YARGER: That's precisely correct.
- 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Nothing about I've
- 6 changed my belief in any way.
- 7 MR. YARGER: Absolutely not. That's
- 8 correct.
- 9 MR. YARGER: If there are no further
- 10 questions.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 12 counsel.
- 13 Mr. Cole.
- 14 ORAL ARGUMENT OF DAVID COLE
- ON BEHALF OF THE PRIVATE RESPONDENTS
- MR. COLE: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 17 it please the Court:
- 18 We don't doubt the sincerity of Mr.
- 19 Phillips's convictions. But to accept his
- 20 argument leads to unacceptable consequences.
- 21 A bakery could refuse to sell a
- 22 birthday cake to a black family if it objected
- 23 to celebrating black lives. A corporate
- 24 photography studio could refuse to take
- 25 pictures of female CEOs if it believed that a

- 1 woman's place is in the home.
- 2 And a florist could put a sign up on
- 3 her storefront saying we don't do gay funerals,
- 4 if she objected to memorializing gay people.
- Now, both Petitioner and the United
- 6 States recognize that these results are
- 7 unacceptable with respect to race.
- 8 And so they suggest that you draw a
- 9 distinction between race discrimination and
- 10 sexual orientation discrimination and the
- 11 state's ability to protect it. But to do that
- would be to constitutionally relegate gay and
- 13 lesbian people to second class status, even
- 14 when a state has chosen, as Colorado has done
- 15 here, to extend them equal treatment.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm not sure
- 17 he provides equal services outside the context
- of wedding -- weddings, to gay and lesbian
- 19 individuals. And the racial analogy obviously
- is very compelling, but when the Court upheld
- 21 same-sex marriage in Obergefell, it went out of
- 22 its way to talk about the decent and honorable
- 23 people who may have opposing views.
- 24 And to immediately lump them in the
- same group as people who are opposed to

- 1 equality in relations with respect to race, I'm
- 2 not sure that takes full account of that -- of
- 3 that concept in the Obergefell decision.
- 4 MR. COLE: So, Chief Justice Roberts,
- 5 the Court in Obergefell did, indeed, say that
- 6 individuals are free to express their
- 7 disagreement through speech with the notion of
- 8 same-sex marriage, but it did not say that
- 9 businesses who make a choice to open themselves
- 10 to the public can then turn away people because
- 11 they are gay and lesbian.
- 12 All the baker needed to know about my
- 13 clients was that they were gay and lesbian.
- 14 And, therefore -- or gay. And, therefore, he
- 15 wouldn't sell them a wedding cake which he
- 16 would sell, gladly --
- 17 JUSTICE BREYER: But is there an
- 18 answer to that? I was trying to get the answer
- 19 to that, and I think that they are proceeding
- 20 roughly on the line that, well, all that you
- 21 say is true, but that doesn't mean that under
- these laws, maybe the African American, et
- cetera, is separate, but it doesn't mean that
- the person could be hired to come to the
- 25 wedding and announce to the general people

- there, this is the most wonderful thing I've
- 2 ever been at.
- Now, that's where they say they have a
- 4 right not to do that. And then the second step
- of that is to say: And what's going on here is
- 6 the equivalent of that.
- 7 MR. COLE: Right.
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: I took that as -- I
- 9 may be unfair with them -- but I -- I took that
- 10 as -- as -- as the outlines of the answer to
- 11 what you're saying. So I'd like to hear what
- 12 you say in respect, if I'm right, about what
- 13 they say.
- MR. COLE: Yeah, thank you. No one is
- 15 suggesting that the baker has to march in the
- 16 parade, as Mr. Francisco said here. What the
- 17 Colorado law requires is that you sell a
- 18 product -- when a -- when a mom goes into a
- 19 bakery and says make me a happy birthday cake
- for my child, and then she takes that cake home
- for her four-year-old son's birthday party, no
- one thinks that the baker is wishing happy
- 23 birthday to the four-year-old.
- 24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Would that be true
- 25 -- would that be true if what the message --

- the message, let's say Craig and Mullins said
- 2 we would like to have on this wedding cake of
- 3 ours these words: "God bless the union of
- 4 Craig and Mullins."
- 5 MR. COLE: So if he would not put that
- 6 message on any other cake, then he doesn't have
- 7 to put it on that cake.
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: He would put --
- 9 MR. COLE: If he --
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- that message on
- 11 a cake that said: God bless the union of Ruth
- 12 and Marty.
- MR. COLE: Right. If he would -- if
- 14 he would say that, then he would have to say
- 15 God bless the union of Dave and Craig because
- the only difference between those two cakes,
- 17 Your Honor, is the identity of the customer who
- is seeking to purchase it.
- 19 It is the same cake otherwise. So --
- 20 so, yes, if he -- but, again, in this case --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Do we have to answer
- that question, Mr. Cole?
- MR. COLE: No, you don't, no, Justice
- 24 Kagan, you don't, because in this case, again,
- 25 the only thing the baker knew about these

- 1 customers was that they were gay. And, as a
- 2 result, he refused to sell them any wedding
- 3 cake.
- 4 There was no request for a design.
- 5 There was no request for a message. He refused
- 6 to sell them any wedding cake. And that's
- 7 identity-based discrimination. It is not a
- 8 decision to refuse to put particular words on
- 9 it.
- 10 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Suppose that either
- in this case or some cases you have a very
- 12 complex case -- cake, and -- case and cake --
- 13 (Laughter.)
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: That -- that -- and
- you need a baker, a baker's assistant to be
- 16 right there at the wedding so you cut it in the
- 17 right place and the thing doesn't collapse.
- Does the baker have to attend that
- 19 wedding and help cut the cake?
- 20 MR. COLE: So, I think, again, that --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Assume the hypo,
- 22 that the --
- MR. COLE: Right, right, that is not
- 24 necessary to decide this case, but I think in
- 25 -- I think in a future case that involved

- 1 physical participation in a -- in a -- in a
- 2 religious ceremony that an individual deeply
- 3 opposed, that a court -- this Court might draw
- 4 -- might create new doctrine and draw a new
- 5 line and say, no, that's not governed by Smith.
- 6 That's not governed by O'Brien. We're going to
- 7 make an exception. But -- in this --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: How do we do that?
- 9 You know, we can't have 42,000 cases, each kind
- 10 of vegetable --
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 JUSTICE BREYER: -- that the preparer
- or thinks is something special.
- So -- so here, is it an answer that
- satisfies you to say, well, you see, here, of
- 16 course, all custom goods, all custom goods have
- 17 an element of expression. An artisan is not
- 18 quite the same as an artist, but an artisan can
- be a great artisan and can produce good things.
- 20 But where the clash is between an important
- 21 public policy, the policy of opening the doors
- 22 to everyone, including minorities, in the
- public commercial area, well, there the speech
- 24 element of the artisan is not really sufficient
- 25 to outweigh that. Now, that's pretty

- 1 straightforward.
- 2 And I don't know how it fits within
- 3 the law and the so forth. But -- but if you're
- 4 looking at the policies here, it seems to me
- 5 the cases do support that. And they do have to
- 6 leave open the instance where the speech goes
- 7 farther than just preparing a specially-shaped
- 8 cake, admitted that a specially-shaped cake can
- 9 suggest approval, et cetera.
- 10 MR. COLE: So, Justice Breyer --
- JUSTICE BREYER: And if that's not
- 12 good, what is?
- MR. COLE: So, Justice Breyer, I think
- 14 the -- the -- the colloquy with my opponent
- 15 with respect to whether a cake artist is
- 16 different from a makeup -- makeup artist, or
- whether a highly-sculpted cake is different
- 18 from an unsculpted cake illustrates that it is
- just not possible to develop doctrine based on
- 20 how expressive, how artistic the speech is.
- 21 And that's --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Fine. Then what do
- 23 we do?
- 24 MR. COLE: This is what you do, Your
- 25 Honor. You do what you did in O'Brien, in

- 1 CCMV, in Fair versus Rumsfeld, and in Turner
- 2 Broadcasting.
- And what the -- what the Court has
- 4 done when it's expressive conduct, because
- 5 that's what we have here at most is expressive
- 6 conduct, we don't ask is it expressive from the
- 7 perspective of the baker or is it expressive
- 8 from the perspective of the -- of a customer.
- 9 We ask what's the state's interest in
- 10 regulating? What is the state doing?
- 11 And if the state is regulating conduct
- 12 because of what it expresses, well, now that's
- 13 strict scrutiny. That's --
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Are the words on the
- cake expressive conduct or are they not speech?
- MR. COLE: The -- the conduct, Your
- 17 Honor, that is regulated by Colorado here is
- 18 not the words on the cake. The conduct that --
- 19 that Colorado regulates is the sale by a
- 20 business that opens itself to the public,
- 21 invites everybody in, it's -- it's regulating
- 22 the conduct of refusing a transaction --
- JUSTICE ALITO: But you're --
- MR. COLE: -- to somebody because of
- who they are.

1 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, but --2 MR. COLE: It doesn't matter whether it's speech or whether it's not speech. 3 JUSTICE ALITO: But you just said, and 4 I understand Mr. Yarger's position for Colorado 5 to be the same, is that someone can be 6 7 compelled to write particular words with which 8 that person strongly disagrees. MR. COLE: If he --9 10 JUSTICE ALITO: That's your -- that is your position, isn't it? 11 12 MR. COLE: If he has written the same words for others, and the only difference is 13 14 the identity of the customer, yes, so, again, a 15 baker could sincerely believe that saying happy birthday to a black family is different from 16 17 saying happy birthday to a white family, but we would not say that, therefore, it is 18 permissible for a baker to say: birthday cakes 19 20 for whites only. 21 JUSTICE ALITO: There are services, I was somewhat surprised to learn this, but 22 23 weddings have become so elaborate, that will write custom wedding vows for you and custom 24 wedding speeches. 25

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1
               So somebody comes to one of these
 2
      services and says: You know, we're not good
      with words, but we want you to write wedding --
 3
      a vow -- vows for our wedding, and the general
 4
      idea we want to express is that we don't
 5
      believe in God, we think that's a bunch of
 6
 7
      nonsense, but we're going to try to live our
      lives to make the world a better place. And
 8
 9
      the -- the person who is writing this is
      religious and says: I can't lend my own
10
      creative efforts to the expression of such a
11
12
      message.
               But you would say, well, it's too bad
13
14
      because you're a public accommodation. Am I
15
      right?
               MR. COLE: What I would say, Your
16
17
      Honor, is that if that case were to arise, it
      would certainly be open to this Court to treat
18
      it differently, but this is not a case in which
19
20
      anyone is being asked to --
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: Differently on what
21
      -- differently on what basis --
2.2
23
               MR. COLE: I think, Your Honor --
               JUSTICE KENNEDY: On what -- what
24
      principle would we use to treat it differently?
25
```

MR. COLE: I think the principle would

1

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2 have to be some amendment to Smith versus Employment Division to say that even where 3 there's a generally applicable law, and even 4 where it's neutrally applied, if it has the 5 effect of compelling somebody to engage in a 6 7 religious ceremony that is against their deep religious commitment, we might treat that 8 9 differently, but under current law --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is that a 10 modification of --11 12 MR. COLE: -- that would not be the result under Smith versus Employment Division. 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is that -- is 14 15 that a modification of Smith? It sounds like an overruling of Smith. 16 17 MR. COLE: Well, I think it would depend on how broadly you wrote it, certainly. 18 But -- but I don't think in this case, where 19 all that's asked for is a product, that you 20 have to reach that question. 21 2.2 And the other thing I would say, Justice Alito --23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: How do you deal 24 under your hypothetical with hotels associated 25

- 1 with weddings? You know, hotels rent out
- 2 banquet hauls, their staff. Would they be
- 3 entitled to the exception you are imagining?
- 4 MR. COLE: No. And I'm not -- let me
- 5 say -- let me make it clear. I am not
- 6 advocating --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're not
- 8 advocating this?
- 9 MR. COLE: -- this exception at all.
- 10 I am saying that this case does not involve
- 11 that kind of participation, and so you don't
- 12 need to address it. If at some point a case
- 13 arises, then you might --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, let's take --
- let's take a case a little bit more likes ours,
- 16 and -- and it doesn't involve words, but just a
- 17 cake. It is Red Cross, and the baker serves
- 18 someone who wants a red cross to celebrate the
- 19 anniversary of a great humanitarian
- 20 organization. Next person comes in and wants
- 21 the same red cross to celebrate the KKK. Does
- the baker have to sell to the second customer?
- 23 And if not, why not?
- 24 MR. COLE: It's not identity-based
- 25 discrimination. If -- all -- all that Colorado

- 1 law and public accommodations law generally
- 2 requires is that you not discriminate on the
- 3 basis of particular protected classes, sexual
- 4 orientation, race, disability, religion, and
- 5 the like.
- And if I can go back to Justice
- 7 Alito's question --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, why is that
- 9 any different than our case? You say it's not
- 10 based on identity, but the baker might well say
- 11 I -- I -- I despise people who adhere to the
- 12 creed of --
- MR. COLE: Right.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- of the KKK.
- 15 That's one way of characterizing it. Another
- 16 way of characterizing it is saying I disagree
- 17 with the message of the KKK.
- 18 So too here. One could make the exact
- 19 analogy, I would think, that you could either
- 20 characterize it as I -- I don't like people of
- 21 a certain class or I -- or I have a religious
- 22 belief against this kind of union.
- 23 So how do I distinguish those cases?
- 24 MR. COLE: So I -- I think -- I think,
- 25 Your Honor, if -- if identity discrimination is

- involved -- and there's no question that
- 2 identity discrimination is involved here
- 3 because, again, the only thing the baker knew
- 4 was the identity of the people who were --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Cole, maybe I
- 6 --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I -- but --
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- I misunderstood
- 9 your answer to Justice Gorsuch. Did you say
- 10 you could refuse to sell the identical cake
- 11 with the red cross?
- 12 MR. COLE: If -- if he is not doing it
- on the basis of the identity -- a protected
- 14 identity. The Ku Klux Klan as an organization
- is not a protected class.
- So, yes, the LB -- the public
- 17 accommodations law does not say you must treat
- 18 everybody; it says you cannot discriminate on
- 19 the basis of protected categories.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, but this whole
- 21 concept of identity is a slightly -- suppose he
- 22 says: Look, I have nothing against -- against
- 23 gay people. He says but I just don't think
- they should have a marriage because that's
- 25 contrary to my beliefs. It's not --

1 MR. COLE: Yeah. JUSTICE KENNEDY: It's not their 2 identity; it's what they're doing. 3 MR. COLE: Yeah. 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I think it's -- your 5 6 identity thing is just too facile. 7 MR. COLE: Well, Justice Kennedy, this Court faced that question in Bob Jones 8 University. Bob Jones University said we're 9 not discriminating on the basis of race; we 10 allow black people to come into the school. We 11 12 just refuse to admit those who are engaged in interracial marriages or advocate interracial 13 dating. And this Court said that's race 14 15 discrimination. That's identity-based discrimination, even if you treat others 16 17 similarly. But -- but I think one way to think 18 about this case is -- is -- is analogize it to 19 O'Brien, right? In O'Brien, nobody disputed 20 that O'Brien's burning of the draft card to 21 22 protest the Vietnam War was expressive. It was 23 core political expression. But what the Court did was it didn't 24

say, well, how expressive is it? Is it

- 1 artistry; is it not? Is it core; is it not?
- 2 It said what is the state trying to do here?
- 3 Because it's expressive conduct. And if the
- 4 state's seeking to regulate conduct, then the
- 5 fact that it has an incidental effect on
- 6 Mr. O'Brien's expression is not a problem as
- 7 long as the state has a content-neutral reason
- 8 for regulating that conduct.
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: I take Justice
- 10 Gorsuch's question and substitute for the KKK a
- 11 religious group, bizarre perhaps, but a
- 12 religious group that unfortunately has the same
- 13 beliefs as the KKK. It doesn't -- then you can
- 14 ask your question --
- MR. COLE: Right.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: -- and the answer is
- 17 they do have to sell it to them, right?
- 18 MR. COLE: I think if the
- 19 discrimination is based on a -- a protected
- 20 characteristic, yes, they -- they can't say
- 21 because I object to the message that equal
- 22 treatment sends, right? Piggie Park objected
- 23 to the message that equal treatment sent. To
- 24 serve a -- a black person in a segregated --
- 25 previously segregated restaurant sent a

- 1 tremendous message, a message that Piggie Park
- 2 sincerely religiously objected to. And this
- 3 Court said that that's a frivolous claim in
- 4 that context.
- 5 So I don't -- I just -- I don't think
- 6 you can carve out exceptions to generally
- 7 applicable rules that regulate conduct in a
- 8 content-neutral way, as this does. And so just
- 9 as Mr. -- the fact that Mr. O'Brien's conduct,
- 10 burning the draft card, was expressive did not
- 11 give him a First Amendment exemption to a
- 12 content-neutral prohibition on draft card
- destruction, so the fact that Mr. Phillips
- 14 considers his cake-baking to be expressive
- doesn't give him a First Amendment exemption to
- 16 a content-neutral regulation of public
- 17 accommodation sales in the retail context.
- 18 This Court has already said that that
- 19 interest in prohibiting discrimination on the
- 20 basis of identity in public accommodations is a
- 21 interest unrelated to the suppression of
- 22 expression, said that in Roberts versus
- 23 Jaycees, it serves compelling interests,
- 24 Roberts versus Jaycees, even where race is not
- 25 involved.

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1
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is your -- is
      your answer to my hypothetical about the
 2
      religious legal services organization the same
 3
      as Mr. Yarger's?
 4
               MR. COLE: I think -- I -- I
 5
      think if -- if Christian Legal Services,
 6
 7
      Catholic Legal Services, sorry, Your Honor, has
      offered a service to the public generally,
 8
      let's say it was wills, and a -- and a
 9
      same-sex -- someone who died, the survivor of a
10
      same-sex couple --
11
12
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I just --
13
      you're -- you're changing the hypothetical just
      a little --
14
15
               MR. COLE: Well, I think it's the
16
      same.
17
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- I -- the
      services they offered was pro bono legal
18
      services --
19
20
               MR. COLE: Yeah.
21
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- to people,
2.2
      whether it's wills or --
23
               MR. COLE: Yeah.
24
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- contracts or
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landlord/tenant or anything at all.

1 MR. COLE: Right. So I -- I don't 2 think they have -- they obviously don't have to 3 argue for a position that they disagree with. But what they -- if they provide wills or they 4 provide landlord/tenant to a -- a straight 5 6 couple, then they have to provide that to a gay 7 couple. And --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So they 8 would -- if someone had a problem in connection 9 with their marriage, again, whatever it is, 10 contract dispute, something like that, they 11 12 would have to provide representative services to someone who had a similar problem in 13 14 connection with a same-sex marriage? 15 MR. COLE: So I'd say two things, Your Honor. First of all, I -- I think they would, 16 17 if they have provided the same services to couples who are straight. 18 But the Court might say that when what 19 20 you're regulating is only speech, not expressive conduct -- because, remember, the 21 O'Brien test, the CCMV test, the FAIR versus 2.2 23 Rumsfeld test --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But this not 24 only speech; it's providing legal services.

1 MR. COLE: Yeah, but the -- the legal services are speech, Your Honor, I don't know 2 what other than speech I'm engaged in, for 3 example, right now. 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, I would 5 6 say partly expressive conduct. You're engaged 7 in a representation before the Court, which involves a lot more than simply what you're 8 9 saying in response to the answers. Well, you know, if -- if 10 MR. COLE: you -- if you treat -- if you treat -- Hurley, 11 12 I think, illustrates that where the state is regulating only expression, no conduct at all, 13 14 just a banner that's in the parade, the Court 15 takes a different view, but where expressive conduct is involved -- and the reason the Court 16 17 takes a different view makes sense because, again, the -- the analysis this Court uses with 18 respect -- with respect to expressive conduct 19 20 is is the state regulating the conduct for some reason other than what it expresses or is it 21 2.2 regulating what it expresses? 23 And -- and when you only have expression, when all that's involved is 24 expression, as was the case with the parade in 25

- 1 Hurley, that's different because there's no --
- there's no neutral conduct to be regulated.
- 3 But here what we have is the sale of a good, a
- 4 cake to a -- to an individual. That's -- that
- 5 -- to the extent it's expressive, it's
- 6 certainly also conduct.
- 7 And Colorado's interest in ensuring
- 8 the bakeries and tailors and -- and other
- 9 public accommodations treat all people equally
- is a content-neutral interest in ensuring that
- 11 everybody has a right to participate in the
- 12 economic life of the community and that no
- one has this --
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: Along the same lines
- as the Chief Justice's question, would you say
- that Colorado can compel a religious college
- 17 that -- whose creed opposes same-sex marriage
- 18 to provide married student housing for a
- 19 married same-sex couple or allow a same-sex
- wedding to be performed in the college chapel?
- 21 MR. COLE: So I think that --
- JUSTICE ALITO: That's not -- those
- 23 are not free speech --
- MR. COLE: I think, again, under
- something like Hosanna-Tabor, they might be

- 1 religious-based exceptions for core religious
- 2 institutions, but a bakery that opens itself to
- 3 the public is not a church, is not -- you know,
- 4 it's --
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, this is not a
- 6 church. It's an educational -- it's a -- it's
- 7 an independent educational institution with a
- 8 religious heritage. And that's what they
- 9 believe.
- 10 MR. COLE: So, I think -- I think --
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So your answer is
- 12 they would be --
- 13 MR. COLE: I --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- they would be
- 15 required to do it?
- MR. COLE: Well, I think under this
- 17 Court's doctrine in Employment Division versus
- 18 Smith, the question would be is it a generally
- 19 applicable neutral law? And if it's a
- 20 generally-applicable neutral law, there would
- 21 not be a free exercise question at all. Right?
- 22 And so -- and -- and the reason for
- 23 that, as Justice Scalia said in -- in
- 24 Employment Division versus Smith is equally
- applicable here.

1	Once you open this up, once you say			
2	generally applicable regulations of conduct			
3	have exceptions when someone raises a religious			
4	objection, or in this case have objections			
5	where someone raises a speech objection, you're			
6	in a world in which every man is a law unto			
7	himself.			
8	And so the only sensible way to			
9	approach this is to say if the state is			
10	targeting religion, then we're going to be very			
11	careful about protecting religion. And if the			
12	state is targeting the message, is targeting			
13	the content of speech, then we're going to be			
14	very careful about protecting.			
15	But when the state is regulating			
16	conduct neutrally, unrelated to expression,			
17	which is what this Court has already said is			
18	the case with respect to public accommodations,			
19	then we can have a world in which everybody who			
20	raises an objection otherwise we would live			
21	in a society in which businesses across this			
22	country could put signs up saying we serve			
23	whites only, music lessons for Muslims need not			
24	apply, passport photos not for the disabled.			
25	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.			

1 Thank you, counsel. 2 MR. COLE: Thank you. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Ms. Waggoner, 3 five minutes. 4 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF KRISTEN K. WAGGONER, 5 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER 6 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Here the seller of the cakes is not Mr. Phillips, it's Masterpiece 8 9 Corporation. Does it -- in your arguments, who controls the expression here, the corporation 10 or its shareholders? 11 12 I always thought corporations were separate entities. And how do we impute to 13 14 this corporation, which is just a bakery, 15 doesn't purport to sell just religious items, it's a public place, how do we -- and how do we 16 17 make this decision with respect to the rights of individuals in a corporation that don't have 18 objections? 19 So can the chef at the Hilton -- and I 20 don't mean to demean the Hilton or anybody 21 22 else, I'm using it as an example -- can he say 23 I don't believe in same-sex marriage and I won't create a cake and can he be fired? 24 2.5 MS. WAGGONER: Justice Sotomayor, in

- 1 the context of your question regarding the
- 2 Hilton, there may be a religious accommodation
- 3 that is made to that employee; but in the
- 4 context of Masterpiece Cakeshop, this -- this
- 5 Court has found that corporations have free
- 6 speech rights, as well as closely family-held
- 7 corporations have free exercise rights.
- 8 And Mr. Phillips is also the speaker.
- 9 So they're both speaking when they're creating
- 10 --
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But who makes a
- 12 decision for the corporation? In -- in most
- 13 situations -- it may be easier in a
- 14 closely-held corporation, it may be the
- 15 shareholders. I don't know if it's the
- 16 corporate board or it's the shareholders.
- Who -- who decides?
- 18 MS. WAGGONER: Well, certainly I think
- 19 it -- again, if it's dealing with an employee,
- 20 the employee certainly decides what -- what
- 21 they're willing to express, and --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It can't be the
- 23 employee --
- MS. WAGGONER: -- and --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- speaking for

- 1 the corporation. The employee can be made an
- 2 agent of the corporation and speak on its
- 3 behalf, but the employee can't choose it on
- 4 behalf of the corporation.
- 5 MS. WAGGONER: Certainly. But if
- 6 we're talking about what the corporation will
- 7 speak, then the shareholders in an -- a small
- 8 family-held corporation, the shareholders would
- 9 decide that. And that's exactly what's at
- 10 stake in this case.
- 11 Mr. Phillips owns Masterpiece
- 12 Cakeshops. He designs most of the wedding
- 13 cakes himself by him -- -
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It's him and his
- 15 wife, right?
- MS. WAGGONER: Yes, it is.
- I have three brief points in rebuttal:
- 18 First of all, the bias of the
- 19 Commission is also evidenced in the unequal
- 20 treatment of the cake designers, the three
- 21 other cake designers who were on the squarely
- 22 opposite sides of this issue.
- 23 If -- if the Court looks at the
- 24 analysis that was provided by the Colorado
- court of appeals, line by line they take the

- opposite approach to Mr. Phillips that they do
- 2 to those who are unwilling to criticize
- 3 same-sex marriage --
- 4 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And they say they
- 5 wouldn't -- they would say no to anyone who
- 6 came with that request?
- 7 MS. WAGGONER: No. The Colorado court
- 8 of appeals said that they could have an
- 9 offensiveness policy, and they said that those
- 10 three cake designers were expressing their own
- 11 message if they had to design that cake.
- 12 In Mr. Phillips's case, they said it
- wasn't his message. It's simply compliance
- 14 with the law.
- In the other case, they said that the
- 16 cake designers, because they served Christian
- 17 customers in other contexts, that that was
- 18 evidence it was a distinction based on the
- 19 message, but in Mr. Phillips's case, they ruled
- the opposite way.
- 21 Professor Laycock's brief provides a
- good analysis of that as well. It was filed in
- 23 this case.
- 24 Second, the Compelled Speech Doctrine
- 25 and the Free Exercise Clause is anchored in the

- 1 concept of dignity and speaker autonomy. And
- 2 in this case dignity cuts both ways. The
- 3 record is clear on that.
- 4 Demeaning Mr. Phillips' honorable and
- 5 decent religious beliefs about marriage, when
- 6 he has served everyone and has a history of
- 7 declining all kinds of cakes unaffiliated with
- 8 sexual orientation because of the message, he
- 9 should receive protection here as well.
- 10 This law protects the lesbian graphic
- 11 designer who doesn't want to design for the
- 12 Westboro Baptist Church, as much as it protects
- 13 Mr. Phillips.
- 14 Lastly, political, religious, and
- 15 moral opinions shift. We know that. And this
- 16 Court's dedication to Compelled Speech Doctrine
- 17 and to free exercise should not shift.
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, the
- 19 problem is that America's reaction to mixed
- 20 marriages and to race didn't change on its own.
- 21 It changed because we had public accommodation
- 22 laws that forced people to do things that many
- 23 claimed were against their expressive rights
- 24 and against their religious rights.
- It's not denigrating someone by

- 1 saying, as I mentioned earlier, to say: If you
- 2 choose to participate in our community in a
- 3 public way, your choice, you can choose to sell
- 4 cakes or not. You can choose to sell cupcakes
- or not, whatever it is you choose to sell, you
- 6 have to sell it to everyone who knocks on your
- 7 door, if you open your door to everyone.
- 8 MS. WAGGONER: Mr. Chief Justice?
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You can
- 10 respond, if you'd like.
- 11 MS. WAGGONER: Justice Sotomayor, I
- 12 think that the gravest offense to the First
- 13 Amendment would be to compel a person who
- 14 believes that marriage is sacred, to give voice
- to a different view of marriage and require
- them to celebrate that marriage. The First
- 17 Amendment --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Then don't
- 19 participate in weddings, or create a cake that
- is neutral, but you don't have to take and
- offer goods to the public and choose not to
- 22 sell to some because of a protected
- 23 characteristic. That's what the public
- 24 anti-discrimination laws require.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A brief last

1	word, Ms. Waggoner.
2	MS. WAGGONER: A wedding cake
3	expresses an inherent message that is that the
4	union is a marriage and is to be celebrated,
5	and that message violates Mr. Phillips's
6	religious convictions.
7	Thank you. This Court should reverse
8	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
9	counsel. The case is submitted.
10	(Whereupon, 11:31 a.m., the case was
11	submitted.)
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