PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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MEETING

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 15, 2021

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The Commission met via

Videoconference, at 10:00 a.m. EDT, Robert Bauer and Cristina Rodriguez, Co-Chairs, presiding.

PRESENT

ROBERT BAUER, New York University School of Law, Chair

CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ, Yale Law School, Chair MICHELLE ADAMS, Cardozo School of Law KATE ANDRIAS, University of Michigan

(Rapporteur)

JACK M. BALKIN, Yale Law School WILLIAM BAUDE, University of Chicago Law School ELISE BODDIE, Rutgers University GUY-URIEL E. CHARLES, Duke Law School ANDREW MANUEL CRESPO, Harvard University WALTER DELLINGER, Duke University JUSTIN DRIVER, Yale Law School RICHARD H. FALLON, JR., Harvard Law School CAROLINE FREDRICKSON, Georgetown Law HEATHER GERKEN, Yale Law School NANCY GERTNER, Harvard Law School THOMAS B. GRIFFITH, Hunton Andrews Kurth TARA LEIGH GROVE, University of Alabama School of Law BERT I. HUANG, Columbia University SHERRILYNN IFILL, NAACP Legal Defense and

Educational Fund, Inc.

OLATUNDE JOHNSON, Columbia Law School MICHAEL S. KANG, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law ALISON L. LaCROIX, University of Chicago Law School MARGARET H. LEMOS, Duke Law School DAVID F. LEVI, Duke Law School TREVOR W. MORRISON, NYU School of Law CALEB NELSON, University of Virginia School of Law RICHARD H. PILDES, New York University School of Law MICHAEL D. RAMSEY, University of San Diego School of Law KERMIT ROOSEVELT, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School BERTRALL ROSS, University of California, Berkeley School of Law DAVID A. STRAUSS, University of Chicago LAURENCE H. TRIBE, Harvard University MICHAEL WALDMAN, NYU School of Law ADAM WHITE, George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School KEITH E. WHITTINGTON, Princeton University DANA FOWLER, Designated Federal Official

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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Roll Call
Opening Remarks Co-Chair Rodriguez 9 Co-Chair Bauer
Session Overview
Discussion of Materials
Membership and Size of the Court
Length of Service and Turnover of
Length of Service and Turnover of Justices on the Court
Justices on the Court
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Justices on the Court

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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(10:00 a.m.)
3	MS. FOWLER: Good morning. Welcome to
4	the fourth meeting of the Presidential Commission
5	on the Supreme Court of the United States. My
6	name is Dana Fowler and I am the Designated
7	Federal Officer for this Advisory Committee.
8	We would like to thank all of our
9	public attendees and stakeholders for joining us
10	today, including those who have provided public
11	comment. Discussion materials that will be the
12	focus of today's meeting are available on our
13	website at whitehouse.gov/pcscotus.
14	Before we begin, a few reminders.
15	This meeting is being recorded via video
16	conference and is also being streamed live on our
17	website at whitehouse.gov/pcscotus. This
18	Commission is considered a Federal Advisory
19	Committee and is governed by the requirements
20	under the Federal Advisory Committee Act or FACA.
21	My role as the Designated Federal
22	Officer is to manage the day-to-day

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administrative operations of the Committee, 1 2 attend all Committee meetings and ensure the Committee operates in compliance with FACA. 3 **All** of our commissioners have received training 4 5 regarding FACA requirements and their ethics obligations as Special Government Employees. 6 In 7 addition, each Commissioner has completed a 8 financial disclosure report that has been 9 reviewed by ethics attorneys to identify any potential conflicts of interest. 10 Now, in order to begin, I'll take roll 11 12 call. Commissioners, if you would please turn on 13 your cameras. I will call each of you in 14 alphabetical order. Please unmute when you hear 15 your name and let us know you're present by 16 stating here. Michelle Adams. 17 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Here. 18 MS. FOWLER: Kate Andrias. 19 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Here. 20 MS. FOWLER: Jack Balkin. 21 COMMISSIONER BALKIN: Here. 22 MS. FOWLER: Bob Bauer.

1		CO-CHAIR BAUER: Here.	
2		MS. FOWLER: Thank you. William	
3	Baude.		
4		COMMISSIONER BAUDE: Here.	
5		MS. FOWLER: Elise Boddie.	
6		COMMISSIONER BODDIE: Here.	
7		MS. FOWLER: Guy-Uriel Charles.	
8		COMMISSIONER CHARLES: Here.	
9		MS. FOWLER: Andrew Manuel Crespo.	
10		COMMISSIONER CRESPO: Here.	
11		MS. FOWLER: Walter Dellinger.	
12		COMMISSIONER DELLINGER: I'm here.	
13		MS. FOWLER: Justin Driver.	
14		COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Here.	
15		MS. FOWLER: Richard Fallon.	
16		COMMISSIONER FALLON: Here.	
17		MS. FOWLER: Caroline Frederickson.	
18		COMMISSIONER FREDERICKSON: Here.	
19		MS. FOWLER: Heather Gerken.	
20		COMMISSIONER GERKEN: Here.	
21		MS. FOWLER: Nancy Gertner.	
22		COMMISSIONER GERTNER: Here.	

1	MS. FOWLER: Thomas Griffith.
2	COMMISSIONER GRIFFITH: Here.
3	MS. FOWLER: Tara Lee Grove.
4	COMMISSIONER GROVE: Here.
5	MS. FOWLER: Bert Huang.
6	COMMISSIONER HUANG: Here.
7	MS. FOWLER: Sherrilyn Ifill.
8	Sherrilyn unfortunately had an unavoidable
9	conflict this morning. She'll be joining us a
10	little later on. Olatunde Johnson.
11	COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Here.
12	MS. FOWLER: Michael Kang.
13	COMMISSIONER KANG: Here.
14	MS. FOWLER: Alison LaCroix.
15	COMMISSIONER LaCROIX: Here.
16	MS. FOWLER: Margaret Lemos.
17	COMMISSIONER LEMOS: Here.
18	MS. FOWLER: David Levi.
19	COMMISSIONER LEVI: Here.
20	MS. FOWLER: Trevor Morrison.
21	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Here.
22	MS. FOWLER: Richard Pildes.

1	COMMISSIONER PILDES: Here.
2	MS. FOWLER: Michael Ramsey.
3	COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Here.
4	MS. FOWLER: Cristina Rodriguez.
5	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Here.
6	MS. FOWLER: Kermit Roosevelt.
7	COMMISSIONER ROOSEVELT: Here.
8	MS. FOWLER: Bertrall Ross.
9	COMMISSIONER ROSS: Here.
10	MS. FOWLER: David Strauss.
11	COMMISSIONER STRAUSS: Here.
12	MS. FOWLER: Laurence Tribe.
13	COMMISSIONER TRIBE: Here.
14	MS. FOWLER: Michael Waldman.
15	COMMISSIONER WALDMAN: Here.
16	MS. FOWLER: Adam White.
17	COMMISSIONER WHITE: Here.
18	MS. FOWLER: Keith Whittington.
19	COMMISSIONER WHITTINGTON: Here.
20	MS. FOWLER: Thank you, Commissioners.
21	You may now turn off your cameras. I now have
22	the pleasure of introducing our Co-Chairs,

Commissioner Bauer and Commissioner Rodriguez for opening remarks.

CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Good morning everybody. Welcome to all the commissioners. My Co-Chair, Bob Bauer, and I are very happy to see you today. Welcome to all who are watching.

7 We are gathered here today for our 8 first set of deliberations as a Commission. As 9 my Co-Chair, Bob Bauer, will explain shortly, the rich and wide ranging materials we have before us 10 11 are not the work of the Commission as a whole, 12 but were prepared to provide a foundation for 13 this deliberation today. We will be discussing 14 the issues and questions raised within them throughout the day in order to learn from, and to 15 16 inform, each other.

17 Before we begin those deliberations, 18 I first want to thank Dana Fowler and Patrick 19 McConnell and their team at the General Services 20 Administration. They again were outstanding in 21 facilitating our work in our meetings and we are 22 deeply grateful for their partnership.

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1	I also want to say something about
2	charge and our process. So this Commission was
3	formed on April 9, 2021, by President Biden
4	through an executive order and that order tasks
5	us with providing him an account of the
6	contemporary public debate over the role of the
7	Supreme Court and our Constitutional system. We
8	are charged with providing an analysis and an
9	appraisal over the principle arguments for and
10	against reforming the Court. We are considering
11	the legality, efficacy and potential consequences
12	for our system of government of the reading
13	before proposals that are under a public
14	discussion.
15	We have been asked to draw from a
16	broad range of views and to assess a broad
17	spectrum of ideas. We are not charged with
18	making specific recommendations, but rather with
19	providing an appraisal of the arguments and
20	proposals that are animating today's debate.
21	Over the summer, we held two days of
22	hearings and during those hearings we heard from

44 witnesses. Their testimony and that of an
 additional 23 experts is posted on the Commission
 website that Ms. Fowler mentioned earlier and I
 highly recommend reading them.

We have also received approximately 5 6,500 comments from the public, from members of 6 7 Congress and public officials, from advocacy 8 organizations, subject matter experts and members 9 of the general public. The comments support a variety of reform proposals as well as retaining 10 the status quo. We continue to welcome comments 11 12 from the public and we will be receiving them throughout the life of the Commission. 13 The 14 Commission will continue to accept public comment until November 14. However, it is most helpful 15 16 to the Commission if submitted before November 1 17 or so.

Public comments may be submitted to the Commission via regulations.gov and all of the comments received to date are available for the public to view on regulations.gov and to find them, you can Google PSCOTUS or you can put that

title into regulations.gov or go to the 1 2 Commission's website where you will find a link to the public comment page. 3 So, at this point, I will hand it over 4 5 to my Co-Chair, Bob Bauer, to frame the meeting for today and to tell everyone what we're going 6 7 to do. 8 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 9 Co-Chair Rodriguez. I thought I'd make a few preliminary remarks here about the nature and 10 purpose of this deliberative meeting. 11 There will 12 be five sessions today to discuss five sets of 13 draft materials prepared by working groups within the Commission. The Commission was divided into 14 15 five separate groups to research and prepare 16 materials directing different aspects of the reform debate, for the whole Commission's 17 18 consideration as collectively prepare the report 19 for the President. 20 Today, for the first time, the 21 Commission as a whole is meeting to exchange

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views and discuss these prominent reform issues

and proposals as framed and discussed in these
 materials. The Commission has not edited the
 material and the material should not be
 understood to represent the Commission's views or
 those of any particular commissioner.

To this point and particularly in 6 light of some confusion and uncertainty since the 7 8 posting of these materials, we refer you to the 9 front page of each of the drafts that have been publically posted that clearly set forth these 10 11 They emphasize that these are not the points. 12 Commission's drafts, nor a draft report of the Commission. They're materials for deliberation. 13 14 Those materials attempt to set forth the broad range of arguments that have been made in the 15 16 course of public debate about court reform. Thev 17 were designed to be inclusive in their discussion 18 of these arguments to assist the Commission in 19 robust, wide ranging deliberations.

20 The deliberations of the full 21 Commission on these materials, toward the 22 development of a report to the President, begins

today. One further statement about the
difficulty and sensitivity of the task ahead of
the Commission. As we open these deliberations,
we note that we will of course be discussing
issues of great importance to the country and to
our system of government at a challenging time
for the conduct of public discourse.

The views that we have heard expressed 8 9 on the subject of the Supreme Court and witness 10 testimony and public comments are wide ranging, sometimes in conflict and deeply held. 11 12 Commissioners themselves hold various and 13 sometimes on some issues very different views. 14 As a Commission, we are committed to deliberating 15 over these matters with respect for disagreement 16 and for complexity. We hope that these 17 deliberations will help us produce a report for 18 the President that fairly represents the full 19 scope of the reform debate and advances public 20 discussion. Thank you, with those preliminary 21 marks done, I'd like to turn it back to 22 Commissioner Rodriguez.

1	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,
2	Commissioner Bauer. I want to underscore what
3	you said about the difficulty and complexity of
4	the issues that we're debating, but also express
5	high confidence based on the work we have already
6	done together within our groups and in this
7	group's ability to have very rigorous and
8	interesting and respectful discussion of these
9	critical matters that are of interest to the
10	country and also to the President, who charged us
11	to have this discussion.
12	What I want to do before we begin our
13	first session is just explain a little bit about
14	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each
14 15	
	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each
15	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and
15 16	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and then invite commissioners to speak to the issues
15 16 17	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and then invite commissioners to speak to the issues explored in each of them. We will take 10-minute
15 16 17 18	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and then invite commissioners to speak to the issues explored in each of them. We will take 10-minute breaks in between the sessions and an hour break
15 16 17 18 19	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and then invite commissioners to speak to the issues explored in each of them. We will take 10-minute breaks in between the sessions and an hour break for lunch between 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock.
15 16 17 18 19 20	the mechanics of the day. We will take up each of the sets of draft materials one by one and then invite commissioners to speak to the issues explored in each of them. We will take 10-minute breaks in between the sessions and an hour break for lunch between 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock. The subjects for discussion include

debates over the Court and outline the criteria 1 2 for evaluating reform proposals and situate those proposals and today's debates in American 3 4 history. The second session will be devoted to 5 a discussion to a discussion of court expansion 6 7 and other proposals for structural reforms to the 8 Court. The third session will be devoted to 9 whether and how to apply term limits to the 10 11 Justices' tenures in office. 12 The fourth session will involve 13 proposals that would in some way reduce the power of the Court in relation to the role of the other 14 15 branches, including proposals to impose different 16 limits on the Court's jurisdiction, to change its 17 voting rules or give Congress the power to 18 override Supreme Court invalidations of laws. 19 Finally, we'll take up a set of materials that raises issues and questions 20 21 involving the Court's internal operations 22 including its emergency orders docket, its

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management of recusal, conflicts of interest and other ethical standards and questions of transparency.

With that, we will begin our first 4 5 session. In this session, as I've already noted, we will discuss the materials that lay out the 6 7 genesis of the debate over the Supreme Court and 8 its reform and articulate the Commission's 9 mission. As Co-Chair Bauer emphasized, these materials were prepared by a working group within 10 the Commission and do not reflect the work or 11 12 views of the Commission as a whole or of any particular commissioners. 13 They were designed to 14 be inclusive in our discussion of the arguments or the accounts of why we're debating this 15 16 question today and to promote wide-ranging 17 deliberations.

I will first invite a commissioner to provide us with a summary of the materials after which the commissioners, who have indicated their interest in addressing the topics in the materials, will be invited to begin the

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discussion.

2	With that, I will call on Commissioner
3	David Strauss, who will summarize what is in
4	these materials and what will be up for debate in
5	this first session. Commissioner Strauss, please
6	turn on your camera.
7	COMMISSIONER STRAUSS: Thank you, Co-
8	Chair Rodriguez and Co-Chair Bauer. As
9	Commissioner Rodriguez said, I've been asked to
10	summarize the first chapter of these discussion
11	materials. Just let me reiterate what
12	Commissioner Rodriguez said, that these are
13	discussion materials designed to facilitate
14	deliberation among the commissioners and should
15	not be taken to reflect the views of the
16	Commission or any one of us.
17	This first chapter is designed to
18	provide background to the work of the Commission.
19	It has three parts. The first part gives an
20	account of the events that lead to the
21	Commission's being established. This part
22	discusses, of course, the controversy surrounding

recent nominations to the Supreme Court and the Senate's treatment of those nominations. It describes the extent to which Supreme Court nominations have increasing become subject to partisan disagreement and then the further disagreement about which side is responsible for that.

8 The second part of this chapter 9 outlines the categories of reform proposals that have been brought to the Commission's attention 10 and the criteria by which reform proposals might 11 12 be evaluated. This part of the chapter identifies the four categories of reform 13 14 proposals that Co-Chair Rodriguez just described. First, the proposal is concerned with size and 15 16 composition of the Court, including the number of 17 Justices.

Second, reform proposals about the Justices' tenure, for example, whether instead of having what amounts to life tenure, they should serve only for a specified number of years. Third, proposals concerning the power

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1	of the Court in our system including proposals
2	that the Court's power to declare laws
3	unconstitutional be limited or qualified in
4	various ways.
5	Fourth, proposals about the Court's
6	internal operations which encompass judicial
7	ethics, live transmission of oral arguments and a
8	subject of much recent discussion, the Court's
9	procedures in deciding cases without full
10	briefing or argument.
11	This part of the chapter then outlines
12	the various criteria that might be used to
13	evaluate these reform proposals and it identifies
14	four such criterialegitimacy judicial
15	independence, democracy as it pertains to the
16	work of the Court and concerns about efficacy and
17	transparency. The chapter notes that these
18	motions are difficult to define and raise complex
19	questions. Several of them have given rise to an
20	extensive an illuminating academic literature
21	that the report does not claim to summarize or
22	come to grips with.

1	Just, for example, legitimacy might
2	refer to the Court's ability to have people
3	follow its decisions, even people who disagree
4	with the decisions or it might mean something
5	more evaluative, such as whether there are
6	circumstances in which people should not accept
7	that the Court has the final word on what the law
8	is. And questions about the Court's relationship
9	to democracy raised in those fundamental issues
10	about the role the Court should play in enforcing
11	our Constitution in ways that secure individual
12	rights, protect minorities or ensure that our
13	democracy works as it should, sometimes in
14	opposition to role of elected representatives.
15	The final section of this first
16	chapter gives a more comprehensive account of the
17	history of controversies about the Court and of
18	reform proposals. Debates about the Court have
19	been a feature of our constitutional history from
20	the beginning. They became particularly
21	prominent in times of political conflict. Right
22	at the founding in the early 1800s after the

transfer of power from the Federalist Party to
 the Jeffersonians. During the Jackson
 Administration, in the run up to the Civil War,
 of course, and in the aftermath of the Civil War
 in the Progressive era, in the New Deal era and
 closer to our own time.

7 In each of these episodes, there were 8 proposals to change the Court's structure or its 9 Sometimes those proposals were powers. successful, sometimes they were not. 10 There was 11 intense controversy in each of these periods over 12 the relationship of the Court to the political 13 system and to partisan politics. Some people at 14 the various times in our history felt strongly 15 that the reform proposals presented an 16 existential challenge to the Court. Others 17 contended, on the contrary, that without reform, 18 the Court would undermine the American democratic 19 project.

20 President Biden's charge to this 21 Commission is to provide an analysis of the 22 issues in today's debate about these subjects.

1	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very
2	much, Commissioner Strauss, for that excellent
3	account of some really interesting foundational
4	materials.
5	At this point, I'll invite all
6	Commissioners to turn on their cameras and we'll
7	begin our deliberations. It's great to see you
8	all, and we will first hear from Commissioner
9	Richard Fallon.
10	COMMISSIONER FALLON: Thank you very
11	much, Co-Chair Rodriguez. I'm grateful to you
12	and to the other Co-Chair, Bob Bauer, and to the
13	entire Commission for the opportunity that you
14	have afforded and the wonderful leadership that
15	you have provided.
16	I wanted to say just a few things
17	about the criteria for evaluation, that David
18	Strauss just very ably laid out, with a central
19	focus on the criteria for evaluating proposals of
20	legitimacy, judicial independence and democracy.
21	Because it seems to me that thinking about how
22	these concepts figure both into debates and into

the thinking and evaluation that the Commission 1 2 is going to do, are crucial both to our thinking clearly about these matters and to presenting a 3 clear report to the public. Along that line, it 4 5 is my sense that there is a kind of ambiguity about the role that these organizing values of 6 7 legitimacy, judicial independence and democracy play in our thinking and in the report. 8 9 In one sense, it seems to me that the 10 draft of chapter one very successfully and ably establishes that many of the people who are 11 12 promoting and resisting various particular 13 reforms have cast their arguments as ones that 14 are supported or validated by arguments from legitimacy judicial independence or democracy. 15 16 When the report does that, when the 17 draft does that, I think as David Strauss just 18 pointed out, the draft is wonderfully effective 19 in noting that different people use these terms 20 in different ways. So that, for example, some 21 people want to measure legitimacy in terms of 22

what they take to be the justifiability of

results by reference to deep constitutional 1 2 values, whereas other people want to use term legitimacy as a gauge of the faith that people 3 have in the Supreme Court and how good a job the 4 Supreme Court is doing at any particular time. 5 These are just fundamentally different gauges. 6 7 Then, as we go forward, from Chapter 8 One to the rest of the report, talking about the 9 way the different proponents cast their arguments, I think we ought to try to be as clear 10 as we possibly can about which arguments are 11 12 using the term legitimacy in one way or another. More than that, I think one of the 13 14 particular analytic contributions that we can make is to point out that in so far as people are 15 16 using the term legitimacy to refer to popular 17 confidence in the Supreme Court as reflected, for 18 example, in public opinion polls. We may be in a

19 polarized situation in which there is no possible 20 reform that would improve everybody's faith in 21 the Supreme Court.

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There may be reforms that would

improve the faith of some people but diminish the faith of others and so forth. I think it suffices we're talking about legitimacy as something involving public faith in the Supreme Court. We should be clear about that, not only in the first chapter but in subsequent chapters when we are talking about legitimacy.

8 But now I want to switch to the issue 9 of our evaluative criteria. I started talking about the vocabulary that we're going to use 10 11 largely tracking public discourse to summarize 12 and describe people's proposals. Do we mean these analytical criteria of legitimacy, judicial 13 14 independence and democracy to be embraced in the first chapter as the evaluative criteria that we 15 16 are going to use? One of the difficulties of 17 embracing it as the evaluative criteria that we 18 are going to use, is it might seem to involve us, 19 from the very outset, in needing to make a choice 20 that is partly substantive, but partly verbal 21 about the best, most appropriate way to use the 22 terms legitimacy, judicial independence and

democracy.

2	So as we're thinking about these
3	problems, as we tell the public what to expect in
4	terms of the thinking we're going to be
5	presenting when they start reading with chapter
6	one, do we mean to be buying into these as the
7	most useful analytical rubrics. My sense in
8	response to that question would be in many cases
9	no and if so, then starting the chapter when we
10	have to try to explain how we're going to try to
11	transcend them in one way or the other.
12	Now I've mostly said everything that
13	I wanted to say using legitimacy as my example,
14	but I just want to say a couple of things very
15	quickly about judicial independence and democracy
16	to illustrate how the problems recurs in those
17	cases as well.
18	With respect to judicial independence,
19	I think everybody agrees judicial independence
20	minimally means that no judge or justice should
21	ever be punished for a particular position that
22	he or she took in a particular case on the

merits, but there are huge debates, partly substantive and partly terminological about whether, for example, an expansion of the size of the Supreme Court or a reduction in the scope of its jurisdiction would reflect an intrusion on judicial independence.

7 I think as early as the first chapter, we might want to note that debate and suggest, 8 9 this would be my view, that the right way to think about it is not in terms of the best verbal 10 11 understanding of what judicial independence is, 12 but some substantive balance of values that we 13 might either be able to agree about or not be 14 able to agree about. Then with respect to 15 democracy, some people use that term such that 16 the more public influence on the way the Supreme 17 Court decides cases at any particular time, the 18 better from the perspective of democracy. Other 19 people would say that ultimate democratic act 20 underlying our Constitution was its drafting and 21 ratification and that when Justices of the 22 Supreme Court deviate from originally intended or

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originally understood meanings, they are
 undermining democracy.

Once again, I think we need to 3 4 recognize different people use the terms in 5 different ways and think hard about how if we are going to try to mediate these disputes in any way 6 what vocabulary we want to use and whether it is 7 8 to echo this vocabulary of legitimacy, judicial 9 independence and democracy or to try to find some way to transcend it. I think it is crucial to 10 11 lay out that vocabulary, but I think it may be 12 equally crucial to discuss ways in which we move 13 to somehow try to transcend it. Thank you. 14 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so 15 much, Commissioner Fallon. We will next hear 16 from Commissioner Maggie Lemos. 17 COMMISSIONER LEMOS: Thanks, Co-Chair 18 Rodriguez. I'd also like to thank the 19 commissioners who prepared these discussion 20 materials. They're really excellent and clearly 21 the result of a great deal of hard and careful work. 22

I think this introductory chapter is 1 2 poised to add a lot of value to the report as a whole, both by situating the current reform 3 proposals and recent events as well as broader 4 historical context, but also and importantly 5 laying out this conceptual frame work for our own 6 7 evaluation of the proposals. 8 Building on Commissioner Fallon's 9 comments, I wanted to add a few additional words about the conceptual framework because I think 10 11 now that we have these preliminary materials that 12 sort of sketch out an analysis of all four 13 categories of reform proposals, we're in a much 14 better position than we have been up until now to refine and maybe expand on this discussion. 15 16 Then, as Commissioner Fallon suggests, to make use of it in later chapters as well. 17 18 Let me start by saying just a quick 19 word about one of the criteria we discussed, but not as much as the first three and that's the 20

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last one on efficacy. The draft currently

focuses on questions of the Court's efficacy by

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focusing on the topics that are covered in the 1 2 draft of chapter five right now. But as I read the discussion materials, I see recurring 3 4 attention in several of the chapters to the 5 question of how different kinds of reform proposals might affect the efficacy of the Court, 6 7 for good or for ill, including, for example, the 8 Court's ability to oversee and provide guidance 9 for lower federal courts and state courts and its ability to provide and promote uniformity in 10 11 federal law. We might think about expanding the 12 frame somewhat on the discussion of efficacy in the introduction. 13 14 Mostly I wanted to say a little bit more about judicial independence so as to draw in 15 some of the more familiar themes in the 16 17 commentary without, of course, trying to 18 summarize a vast literature and also I think to 19 better track or, I guess, preview what we will 20 likely say about independence later in the 21 report.

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As it is, the discussion of

independence in chapter one focuses primarily on 1 2 the demands independence might place on judges For example, an imperative that 3 themselves. judges not be or not be perceived to be playing 4 5 for one political team. So on that view, I take it judges themselves might pose threats to 6 7 judicial independence or might compromise independence, as it is put on page nine of the 8 9 draft, advancing a partisan agenda. All of that strikes me as important, 10 but I tend to think about independence more as a 11 12 protection against external threats or 13 inducements to judges. In other words, I think 14 it would be possible to say that a judge is quite biased, but also guite independent and actually 15 16 the more independent she is, the more freedom she 17 might have to decide cases and corrupt or 18 partisan way. In part because of that, I think a lot of the commentary on judicial independence is 19 20 wrestling with how to strike a balance between 21 independence on the one hand, which at the 22 extreme might include a freedom to act in ways

unbecoming a judge, and some of accountability or constraint or check on the other.

We heard testimony that adopted that 3 framing that referred to this balance between 4 5 independence and accountability and argued that one of the causes of the current agitation about 6 7 the Court is that the political branches in 8 recent decades have been too reluctant to use the 9 tools at hand to provide some kind of check on Then, of course, the concern on the 10 the Court. 11 other side is that tools like court expansion or 12 jurisdiction stripping pose too much of a threat 13 to judicial independence by giving the political 14 branches too much power vis-a-vis the Court.

So those are the kinds of concerns I 15 16 see us discussing currently in later chapters of 17 the draft and I think it would help to preview 18 them more in this introductory chapter as well as 19 to note the concerns on the other side of the 20 ledger about the dangers of a completely 21 unchecked judiciary. If we did that, I think we 22 could make good use of the distinction some

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commentators have drawn between decisional independence, that is the ability of the individual judge to decide cases without fear or favor and institutional independence that has more to do with the place of the judiciary as a whole in our constitutional system.

I think decisional independence is 7 8 probably what most people think of when or if, I 9 suppose, they think about judicial independence. But I suspect most of what we will end up 10 11 discussing in this report actually will have more to do with the independence or autonomy or lack 12 13 thereof of judicial institutions and it might be 14 helpful for us to be more clear about that at the 15 outset.

16 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very 17 much, Commissioner Lemos. We will now hear from 18 Commissioner Michael Ramsey.

19 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well thank you 20 very much and I want to start off by echoing the 21 appreciation for the draft that we have in front 22 of us. I think it is an outstanding chapter here

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in the draft form and in particular I think it does an admirably balanced job of describing both the current debates over the Court and setting the scene for that and also for describing the historical events that have sort of lead us to this position. I think it's really well done.

7 I have two comments on the third part, which is the historical part, which I think it's 8 9 a very challenging part because it tries to cover a lot of history in a short space of time 10 necessarily and I think, on the whole, it does an 11 12 excellent job. But I worry that in doing so, we 13 may be oversimplifying in some respects and we 14 may be inadvertently perhaps taking positions on matters of historical controversy that perhaps 15 16 are not necessary for us to take in order to set My suggestion is that we think 17 the stage. 18 carefully about this historical account 19 generally. Perhaps it should be just a very thin 20 descriptive account and I would be nervous about 21 some of the more detailed analysis, which I think 22 is perhaps not necessary.

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Let me give one example, it's not the 1 2 only example I have though, though it was maybe the one that jumped out at me because in my area 3 4 of specialty, and that's the discussion of 5 Hamilton's Federalist 78, which is on pages 13-14 of the draft. The draft has a quote from the 6 7 famous Federalist 78 and then there's an 8 extensive discussion afterwards in which it 9 attempts to explain what Hamilton intended in I'm not sure I agree with all of 10 Federalist 78. that discussion, but more importantly, I'm not 11 12 sure that Hamilton scholars would all agree with that discussion. I also don't think it's really 13 14 necessary for our project. I think all we really need to do, and this is my idea of a sort of a 15 16 thin account, is just to say that Hamilton made 17 these comments about the role of the judiciary in 18 the founding era and that's sort of a useful 19 starting point. 20 I also think in that regard that it

20 I also think in that regard that it 21 would be helpful to then pair those statements by 22 Hamilton with a sort of counterpoint perhaps from

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the anti-Federalist Brutus essays, in which 1 2 Brutus expresses a much more statute-able view of the role and the capacity of the federal courts 3 4 than Hamilton does and then just sort of leave it 5 at that, without trying to draw any deep conclusions because I don't know that they are 6 7 necessary for our purposes and may just get us 8 into controversy that we don't need or want to be 9 involved in.

10 So that's just an illustration from 11 the discussion of Federalist 78, but I would go 12 through the draft generally with an eye towards 13 are there ways that we can simplify the analysis 14 so we don't get ourselves into controversies that 15 we don't need to be in.

16 Then just real quickly, my second 17 comment is about the end of the chapter, which I 18 thought sort of ended sort of oddly and abruptly 19 after the FDR court packing episode and then with 20 a very brief reference to Brown v. Board. I 21 think there's a lot more to be said about that 22 time, in particular, for example, I think that

the Court Justices appointed by Roosevelt adopted a much more deferential approach to particularly acts of Congress, for better or for worse, you know, for better in some cases, for worse perhaps in cases of Korematsu.

Then there was a revival of the 6 Court's power, the Court's intervention against 7 8 the political branches lead by Brown v. Board. 9 In particular, I think some discussion of Cooper v. Aaron would be a good idea here and then 10 leading in to the Warren Court, the controversies 11 12 that it inspired up to then under the Burger 13 Court in Roe v. Wade.

14 So I think there's just a lot of very rich material here and consistent with my first 15 16 comment, I don't think we should engage in a lot 17 of analysis to try to say what happened here in 18 an analytical way so much, it's just to describe 19 these are things that happened and they are part 20 of our current controversy. They are background 21 to our current controversy.

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In any event, I thought the decision

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1	to sort of trail off the discussion in the post
2	New Deal period, was unusual and left out some
3	things. I would encourage another couple of
4	pages at the end to bring us up to the modern
5	era.
6	Thanks a lot and again I want to go
7	back to saying this is a great way to start us
8	off with these materials and thank you so much
9	for it.
10	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so
11	much, Commissioner Ramsey. Next, we will hear
12	from Commissioner Justin Driver.
13	COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you, Co-
14	Chair Rodriguez. I'd like to add my voice to the
15	chorus of appreciation for these discussion
16	materials. I know a tremendous amount of thought
17	and hard work went into completing this and I am
18	truly grateful.
19	I'd like to begin where Commissioner
20	Ramsey left off and that's to echo his idea that
21	the history section that arrives toward the end
22	would benefit from greater elaboration. Like

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Commissioner Ramsey, I felt that it ended quite 1 2 abruptly and I believe that disputes over the Warren Court's legacy cast a long shadow over our 3 4 modern constitutional order. One of the great 5 virtues of these materials is that it gives readers an opportunity to understand a thumbnail 6 7 history of the Supreme Court of the United 8 States, but to more or less omit the last, you 9 know, seven or so decades seems unwise to me. Ι 10 agree that another couple of pages would be 11 advantageous. 12 At the beginning of the chapter, there is a discussion of conflict over the Court and 13 14 some particularly controversial nominations. I'd like to propose adding the failed nomination of 15 16 Judge John J. Parker to the Supreme Court in 17 1930. Civil Rights groups opposed Judge Parker's 18 nomination in large part because of his position 19 on black equality. 20 When he was running for Governor of 21 North Carolina, he suggested that black participation in politics was a source of evil 22

and his nomination to the Supreme Court of the 1 2 United States went down in no small part because This episode has been largely 3 of those views. forgotten to history and I think it shouldn't be 4 5 in part because it's important to note this nomination in that it helps to, in my view, make 6 Judge Robert Bork's defeat in the 1980s look less 7 8 Indeed, it seems to be that his views anomalous. 9 on racial equality played some role in preventing him from making his way to the Supreme Court of 10 the United States. 11 12 In our discussion of what happened to 13 Judge Bork, I'm not sure that I recognize it as

14 what actually happened from the eyes of many who 15 were watching at the time. Certainly Judge 16 Bork's credentials were impeccable--a member of a 17 leading law school, former solicitor general, a 18 judge on the D.C. Circuit.

At the same time, Bork also, as a
professor, wrote an article in a national
magazine opposing what would become Title 2 of
the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This is, of course, a

public accommodations measure that ensured that 1 2 black people would be able to gain access to restaurants and hotels, things of that nature, 3 Professor Bork called this movie theaters. 4 5 measure, which was again designed to ensure that black people could be full citizens in the United 6 7 States, he called it a measure that was 8 predicated on a principle of unsurpassed 9 Many of us can imagine other ugliness. 10 principles that are uglier than a measure that 11 was designed to ensure that black people could 12 buy hamburgers.

It's also true that during his 13 14 hearings, which he received, Judge Bork when asked about why he wanted to be on the Supreme 15 16 Court of the United States, said that it would be I think that many people 17 an intellectual feast. 18 found that answer to not give full voice to the 19 importance of the Supreme Court of the United 20 States, not as some sort of abstract intellectual 21 endeavor, but instead as we see in these very 22 helpful draft materials, that the Court has an

extraordinary impact on the lives of Americans generally.

Given his prominence in these debates, 3 I think that it would behoove us to have a more 4 5 expansive recounting of the opposition to Judge Indeed, it's not clear to me that Judge 6 Bork. 7 Bork was actually borked, as we define that 8 concept in these materials. We talk about unfair 9 treatment and I understand that his views were criticized, but I want to emphasize that Judge 10 11 Bork's article in the New Republic magazine in 12 the 1960s, this wasn't some sort of student 13 newspaper article that he wrote as a high school 14 senior, he was a member of the Yale Law School faculty. Supreme Court Justices are deciding 15 16 matters in the heat of the moment not sort of 17 retroactively trying to account for honored parts 18 of our constitutional tradition. 19 The next thing that I would say is 20 about the history that, again I think, is 21 generally quite helpful for offering readers an

overview. I would suggest refraining a bit the

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treatment of Dred Scott and the Reconstruction 1 2 Amendments. Our sort of quotation and treatment of Dred Scott in these discussion materials seems 3 to me to sanitize some of the odious language of 4 Dred Scott, which makes that opinion so deeply 5 reviled by many of us today. Obviously, Chief 6 Justice Taney's opinion speaks about black 7 8 inferiority and black people being reduced to 9 slavery for their benefit and I would propose adding that language to this material. 10 11 I would also like to suggest making

11 I would also like to suggest making 12 clear that the 14th Amendment repudiated the Dred 13 Scott opinion and provided for Earth citizenship 14 in the very first section of the 14th Amendment. 15 I don't think that that idea, a relatively rare 16 phenomenon in our constitutional history, I don't 17 think that phenomenon comes through with the 18 clarity that I might have hoped for.

Finally, I would think that it would
make sense to mention Frederick Douglass as an
important constitutional voice of the 19th
century. He made claims on the Constitution and

rejected the Dred Scott decision and said that he had no fear that our national conscience will accept such an open, glaring and scandalous decision.

5 So adding voices of extraordinary 6 Americans to our thumbnail sketch of our 7 constitutional history who did not sit on the 8 Supreme Court of the United States, it seems to 9 me would improve that history, but let me end 10 where I began by thanking you all for these 11 materials and I'm very grateful, so thanks.

12 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so 13 much, Commissioner Driver. We have three more 14 commissioners who have expressed their interest 15 in speaking to these materials and we have 15 16 minutes left. So we will go next to Commissioner 17 Adam White.

18 COMMISSIONER WHITE: Thanks and thanks
19 everybody. Like all of us, I've been thinking
20 about our role in the Commission and President
21 Biden's executive order going back to what
22 exactly he has tasked us to do. He directed us

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to study "the commentary and debate about the role and operation of the Court" among other things. There's an important nuance there, it's the difference between studying the Court itself versus being a commentary debate about the Court and, of course, we need to do both: study the Court and the debate surrounding it.

But I do worry that this first 8 9 document setting the stage frames things too heavily in terms of the public's perception of 10 the Court without first considering the Court 11 more directly. I'm referring specifically to the 12 13 discussion paper, pages five to six, where we discuss the "stakes" of the reform debate and 14 pages eight to 12, where we suggest a few 15 16 "criteria" for evaluating the Court's work.

I think this attempt to frame the
debate inadvertently reinforces a narrative about
the Court as a primarily political body with
political stakes. Our discussion lacks, I think,
a sufficient anchor in the fundamental duties and
powers of the Court as entrusted with the

Constitution's judicial power and like Richard
 Fallon, I worry about the document's unclear
 notions of legitimacy.

I worry that it actually entrenches 4 5 inadvertently a heckler's veto theory of the Court's legitimacy. These problems come through 6 7 most clearly at page 12, I think, in our 8 discussion of democracy where we state that 9 "there's no obvious way of determining when Justices have reflected the views of an earlier 10 11 generation and when they have provided a valuable 12 counterweight to majoritarian accesses." I think 13 a lot of people think that there are criteria by 14 which we can determine these things. We disagree of course. 15

16 I'm an originalist and a textualist 17 and that's how I tend to begin to approach these 18 issues, or at least as the foundation for judging 19 the Court's work. I know that we're not all 20 textualists here and our report can't possibly 21 exhaust the timeless debates about how to 22 interpret laws and decide cases. But I do think

we should not declare bankruptcy on these issues at the very outset. I think we needn't exhaust them here, but we should at least acknowledge them before moving on to the perceptions and debates around the Court's work.

More generally, I just want to say at 6 7 the outset of our discussions that I think the 8 Commission's work should always be governed by 9 the same basic question: what reforms, if any, 10 would do justice to the Court as a court, what 11 would bring out the best aspects of the Court's 12 constitutional character among the Justices 13 individually and collectively in terms of their I've gone on a 14 powers and their constraints? 15 little longer than I meant to, so thank you very 16 much.

17 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so
18 much, Commissioner White. We will next hear from
19 Commissioner Alison LaCroix.

20 COMMISSIONER LaCROIX: Thank you, Co-21 Chair Rodriguez. I have a few thoughts to add to 22 the discussion as well and I think there are many

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things obviously to say. There's so much rich 1 2 material here, but I'll make three main points. First, I think is to be mindful. 3 We 4 all have to be mindful as we work through these 5 draft materials and work towards producing a draft report, of course, of just the length 6 7 constraints. I think we'll see that throughout 8 today's discussions. We will inevitably, as we 9 have all sort of said many times, end up not talking about or not being able to talk about or 10 11 having to make choices. So, I think that's 12 something that one typically doesn't have to do 13 in quite the same way perhaps in one's own 14 writing, but certainly we're all, I think, faced 15 with, especially at this stage in the 16 deliberations. Second, I've thought a lot about this 17 18 point about where should a sort of historical 19 treatment of the Court maybe stop, and the

20 current day, how did we get here discussion begin
21 and this goes to some of the comments about where
22 the third part of this chapter leaves off.

1	You know, in my view, there is a
2	certain point at which one is talking much more
3	about the origins of the current moments debates
4	and I think this is something that people have
5	many different views on. Is it the 1980s? Is it
6	1937? Is it 1787? But I think somewhere around
7	the period of the sort of post Brown v. Board,
8	which of course is indeed a Warren Court
9	decision, but somewhere around that point, maybe
10	after, the 1960s perhaps, seems like the point at
11	which we're getting very close to what people
12	think of as the now of the report.
13	We see in other parts of the report
14	discussion of the 1960s, for instance, or the
15	sort of later Warren and Burger Courts and so
16	that's, I think, a real question of when does the
17	history and the now begin. Another thing that I
18	think the historical section really can add is
19	fleshing out this sort of history before, say
20	1937. So in 1937 Franklin Roosevelt and the
21	attempt to expand or pack the Court and the
22	response is something that's been discussed in

the public discourse, the media. People may have some general sense of that at least.

Going further back, I think, is guite 3 useful especially to flesh out my third point, 4 5 that, I think, one thing that this chapter needs to do, and especially the historical part, is to 6 7 convey the sense that debates about reform began 8 with the first moment when Article 3 of the 9 Constitution was written. Reform or change or restructuring all came together with the kind of 10 11 creation of the modern Supreme Court. I think 12 that's very useful to lay out.

13 Lastly on, I think, a related note 14 I'll just say it would be, I think, difficult to think of a historical section as purely 15 16 descriptive. I think we've been charged to 17 provide analysis. There's always, of course, 18 selection, but there's also something that 19 requires interpretation and, indeed, we've been 20 asked to provide that so, I think, we have to 21 embrace that and make difficult choices in my 22 view and keep having these discussions, so thank

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CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Commissioner LaCroix. We will now hear from Commissioner Trevor Morrison.

5 COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Thank you, Co-6 Chair Rodriguez. I want to echo the thanks that 7 everyone has expressed this morning and add to 8 that, thanks for the comments I've heard from my 9 fellow commissioners this morning. I think we're starting off in a very helpful and constructive 10 11 way.

12 Of course, as we're all aware across 13 the country there's deep disagreement on just 14 about every single issue that we will end up 15 taking up in our report ultimately and real 16 disagreement, I think, across this Commission and 17 one of our challenges then is to both represent 18 that disagreement, but to work towards 19 collectively achieving the objectives set out for us in the President's executive order. 20 I'm 21 encouraged on the basis of the discussion materials and the discussion this morning thus 22

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far that we will be able to do that.

2 Some of the points I wanted to make have already been made. I don't want to simply 3 repeat them, but I'm thinking in particular about 4 5 Commissioners Fallon, Lemos and White and their discussions of aspects of the evaluative 6 7 criteria, I thought was very, very helpful. What everyone has said this morning is helpful. With 8 9 respect to these evaluative criteria, legitimacy, 10 judicial independence, democracy, efficacy, I'm 11 coming away from the discussion materials and 12 what I've heard this morning with a thought that 13 we do need to strive to be precise about the ways 14 in which disagreements could manifest themselves across these criteria. 15

16 One could be simply an agreement on 17 the meaning of legitimacy, but a disagreement 18 about whether any particular reform proposed or 19 decision not to pursue a reform proposal, how 20 that would bear on legitimacy. Another is 21 disagreement on the content of legitimacy and I 22 thought Commissioner Fallon was very instructive

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this morning and his comments along those lines. 1 2 My own view is that I think we need to try and do two things. One is to account for the 3 4 ways in which legitimacy is understood by 5 participants in the public debate. As Commissioner White said, part of our charge is to 6 7 represent the public debate, but that's not our 8 only charge. We are also meant as a body to 9 provide our analysis and evaluation and so I think there we're going to, if we can, need to 10 11 strive to provide some kind of account of what we 12 understand legitimacy to mean. Understanding that there may be some difference between that 13 14 and how it is used by other participants in public debates. 15

Then finally, there could be another kind of disagreement as well which is not over the meaning of the term and not over the likely impact of a particular reform with respect to that criterion, but just whether that impact is a good or a bad thing. Judicial independence might be an example here, depending on how that's

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2	There might be agreement that a
3	particular reform proposal or a decision not to
4	pursue a particular reform proposal might
5	increase or decrease judicial independence or
6	enhance or encumber judicial independence, but
7	there might then be disagreement over whether
8	that is desirable or not. Those are not the same
9	kinds of disagreement.
10	Those three types and I think more
11	just as an analytical matter, we can be crisp
12	about the differences and in this introductory
13	chapter in particular, note those different
14	domains of potential disagreement and divergence.
15	I'm hoping that that can helpfully set the stage
16	for later discussion where my expectation is in
17	different chapters, the sort of crux of the
18	debate will look different with respect to these
19	forms of disagreement.
20	The more we can try and have
21	terminological and conceptual clarity at the
22	outset, I think, the more helpful the first

1	chapter will be to the balance of the report.
2	I'll leave it there. Thank you.
3	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so
4	much, Commissioner Morrison. We have four
5	minutes left and so I want to invite any other
6	commissioner who would like to make a very brief
7	comment or observation based on the conversation
8	we've already had. So, if you would like to do
9	that, please use the raise hand function.
10	Seeing no takers at the moment, I will
11	thank profusely those who assisted in preparing
12	these materials and those who offered their
13	observations on what we have before us. I think
14	what you've highlighted is two things. First, is
15	the challenge we face in how we describe an
16	institution and its value. How we describe a
17	problem and how we describe a history that might
18	be contributing both to our understanding of that
19	institution and to the nature of the problem.
20	But secondly, as a Commission, we have the
21	challenge of figuring out how, in fact, to
22	appraise what will inevitably be different

1	accounts of those things and how to fit them
2	together in a way that informs the debate on the
3	role of the Supreme Court in the American system
4	and in American life.
5	So, thank you for starting us out in
6	that way. We will now take what will be a 12-
7	minute break and we will reconvene at 11:10 to
8	talk about court expansion.
9	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10	went off the record at 10:58 a.m. and resumed at
11	11:10 a.m.)
12	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Welcome back from the
13	break. We will resume our deliberations today.
14	We are going to turn next to the materials and
15	the issues raised in those materials there on the
16	reform proposals directed to the membership and
17	size of the Court.
18	Let me begin by saying because
19	different members of our audience may in fact
20	call in or tune in at different times, you'll
21	hear reference to discussion materials. These
22	were prepared by a group within the Commission

for deliberation and they don't reflect the views 1 2 of the Commission as a whole or those of any particular commissioner. They were designed to 3 be inclusive in the discussion of arguments for 4 and against reform and to assist the Commission 5 in robust, wide-ranging deliberations. 6 7 After reading the materials in preparation for this deliberation, we have 8 commissioners who have indicated their interest 9 in the topics raised and discussed in these 10 materials, so after a brief summary of the 11 12 contents of this set of materials, I will call on commissioners to raise their hands and speak to 13 14 these issues. But first, I would like to turn things 15 16 over to Commissioner Grove for a summary of the contents of this section of the draft materials. 17 18 So, Commissioner Grove, the floor is yours. 19 COMMISSIONER GROVE: Thank you, Co-20 Chair Bauer. So there have been calls to expand 21 the Supreme Court beyond its current size of nine members by, for example, adding four seats. 22 The

draft materials explore how to the calls for 1 2 court expansion have increased dramatically in recent years as well as the scope of Congress' 3 4 power to modify the size of the Court and 5 prudential arguments for and against court The draft materials also discuss 6 expansion. 7 several other proposals for restructuring the 8 Supreme Court which I will describe at the end of 9 my remarks.

Let's start with some constitutional 10 11 text in history. The Constitution does not saw 12 how many judges should be on the Supreme Court. 13 Instead, the Constitution gives Congress 14 considerable discretion to shape the Court and 15 history shows that Congress exercised that power 16 quite a bit throughout the nation's first 17 century.

In 1789, the Court had six members.
In subsequent decades, Congress changed the size
of the Supreme Court seven times, setting the
Court's size at between five and 10 members.
These changes were made for a mix of what we

might call institutional and political, maybe 1 2 even partisan, reasons. That is, Congress adjusted the Court size in part to provide more 3 judicial personnel to serve a growing nation, but 4 5 Congress also tended to do so when it trusted the sitting President to select the nominees, that 6 7 is, when Congress and the President were from the same political party. For example, in 1807, a 8 9 Democratic-Republican Congress expanded the Court from six to seven members, when its party leader, 10 Thomas Jefferson, would fill the vacancy. 11 12 In 1837, a Congress controlled by 13 Jacksonian Democrats, expanded the Court from 14 seven to nine members, when its party leader, President Andrew Jackson, was in charge. 15 In the 16 1860s, a Republican Congress changed the size of 17 the Supreme Court on three different occasions, 18 moving the Court up to 10 to allow President 19 Abraham Lincoln to shape the Supreme Court in 20 1863. In 1866, Congress reduced the size of the 21 Supreme Court from 10 to seven members to prevent 22 a political opponent, President Andrew Johnson,

from selecting Justices. Then in 1869, Congress 1 2 moved the number back up to nine in order to allow its fellow Republican, Ulysses S. Grant, 3 4 who was then in office, to select nominees. Now the Supreme Court has consisted of 5 nine members since 1869, but in 1937 there was a 6 7 prominent effort to reshape the Court what came 8 to be known as President Franklin Roosevelt's 9 effort to pack the Court with up to six additional members. President Roosevelt 10 11 initially claimed that he sought to expand the 12 Court with more and younger personnel so that the 13 Justices could get their work done. But he soon 14 acknowledged that his Court reform plan was 15 really designed as a response to the Supreme 16 Court's rulings invalidating his New Deal 17 programs. Now there was some support in Congress 18 for this plan, but ultimately the 1937 Plan was 19 rejected. 20 Two decades later in the 1950s, 21 Congress also rejected a Constitutional amendment that would have fixed the size of the Supreme 22

1 Court at nine members.

2	Now, starting in the mid-20th century,
3	there was a pretty strong norm that said Congress
4	should not modify the size of the Supreme Court,
5	but Congress continues to have very broad power
6	to structure the Supreme Court.
7	One question today is whether Congress
8	should exercise that power to add seats to the
9	Supreme Court. I will very briefly summarize
10	some of the debates which are discussed in the
11	draft materials. We'll hear far more on these
12	issues throughout this session.
13	Advocates of court expansion argue in
14	part that the Supreme Court faces a legitimacy
15	crisis because of the controversy surrounding
16	recent nominations to the Court. For example, in
17	2016, the Senate failed to hold hearings on
18	President Obama's nominee, Judge Merrick Garland,
19	thereby leaving a vacancy for the next President.
20	Another concern is the direction of
21	the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the issues,
22	such as voting rights, affirmative action,

reproductive justice and other areas. Advocates argue that court expansion could help restore balance to the Court and help prevent a potential jurisprudential crisis.

5 Opponents of court expansion respond 6 in part that there is no legitimacy crisis from 7 their perspective, but that court expansion could 8 create one. Opponents also argue that court 9 expansion today could launch a cycle of similar 10 efforts going forward and more generally 11 compromise the independence of the Court.

Now court expansion is not the only structural reform that has been suggested. I will briefly sketch out other proposals to restructure the Supreme Court, which are described in more detail in the draft materials.

One reform aims to ensure more partisan balance in the Court. A second proposal calls for a rotation system, that is, a system by which judges would rotate between service on the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts and a third would create a panel system, that is, the

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Justices would decide some cases in panels of, 1 2 for example, three members. One legal question is whether these rotation or panel systems 3 comport with the Constitutional requirement that 4 5 there be, to quote Article III, one Supreme Court. 6 7 We will explore some of these 8 questions as well and with that, I will turn the 9 proceedings back to you, Co-Chair Bauer. 10 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, Commissioner Grove. 11 That was extremely helpful 12 and we're going to turn now to the Commissioners 13 who have indicated a desire to speak to these 14 issues. We have an extended period for the 15 discussion of these issues. When we get to the 16 conclusion, if you have not spoken and you've 17 heard something you'd like to address or a point 18 you'd like to raise and we have time remaining, 19 just indicate that by using the raise the hand 20 function. But we'll begin now with Commissioner 21 Driver. 22 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you, Co-

Chair Bauer and thanks also to Commissioner Grove 1 2 for that incredibly lucid overview of these discussion materials. I'm grateful to you for 3 teeing us up for, I'm sure, a lively discussion. 4 Expanding the Supreme Court has 5 garnered a great deal of attention in this area 6 7 and I'm sure it will during this session. Ι wanted to jump on the queue relatively early to 8 9 talk about a matter that may seem picayune, but I don't believe that it is and that is exactly 10 11 where Commissioner Grove left off in thinking 12 about panel systems and their constitutionality with respect to Article III's requirement that 13 14 there be one Supreme Court. You know, I fear that the discussion materials as a whole cast 15 16 grave doubt on the constitutionality of panel 17 systems and I think that the answer may be more 18 ambiguous and I would propose having sort of a 19 greater balance in the assessment of 20 constitutionality. 21 I want to be clear here that I'm

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speaking about the constitutionality of panel

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systems rather than the desirability of panel 1 2 systems. A bad idea is not necessarily an unconstitutional one and I fear that, as it's 3 phrased here, it leaves little room for doubt 4 that a panel system would be unconstitutional. 5 The constitutional text is, of course, quite 6 7 spare here when we're thinking about one Supreme 8 Court and I fear that the approach is excessively 9 formalist and wooden.

The D.C. Circuit routinely decides 10 11 matters by a panel and those panel decisions are 12 understood to speak for the entire Circuit, the 13 one D.C. Circuit, and especially if there were 14 under the panel system at the Supreme Court of the United States a mechanism for deciding things 15 16 en banc, I'm not sure that the panel system at 17 the Supreme Court of the United States would 18 appreciably different than the panel system at 19 the D.C. Circuit and, therefore, that would not 20 run afoul, at least potentially, of having one 21 Supreme Court.

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I would also note that we have several

Supreme Court Justices who in the history have 1 2 said that a panel system would, in fact, violate Article III's language requiring one Supreme 3 Court. That doesn't strike me as especially 4 5 surprising that Supreme Court Justices would be invested in retaining their power and moving to a 6 7 panel system may serve to diminish that power so 8 I would tend to not put a great deal of emphasis 9 on that and I would also note that these statements are presumably coming without the 10 11 benefit of briefing and sometimes though the 12 adversarial process, questions that seem easy at 13 first blush are more complicated upon review. 14 I would also say that I want to be careful about what people have referred to as the 15

16 normative power of the actual. This is a term 17 that Professor Paul Mishkin has used and he 18 defines it as that which is law tends by its very 19 existence to generate a sense of being also that 20 which ought to be the law. It's true that we 21 haven't had panel systems at the Supreme Court of 22 the United States for our history, but that

doesn't necessarily mean the decision would be unconstitutional and I would prefer it if the analysis of this section were more even handed than it currently is. Thank you again, Co-Chair Bauer.

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CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, Commissioner Driver. Then we'll turn next to Commissioner Ramsey for his comments.

9 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Well, thank you 10 very much and again I want to say how impressed I 11 am with the quality of the materials that we're 12 reviewing here and how helpful this section is. I have to think that this is the most challenging 13 section for us to draft and discuss because the 14 proposals that we're considering here are very 15 16 controversial and made different perspectives on. 17 I think the materials we have here, they've done 18 just an admirable job of giving us a balanced 19 discussion of the many different things that are 20 going into the debate here.

I do have one place in the draft whereI think a bit more could be said. Although

1	parenthetically I'd like to endorse the comments
2	that you just heard from Commissioner Driver,
3	that I think more could be said on this panel
4	system as well, although that's not where I'm
5	going to focus, but I am inclined to agree that
6	perhaps the discussion of the panel system could
7	be enhanced a little bit along the lines that he
8	says.
9	The area that I'd like to focus on is
10	the constitutionality of increasing the size of
11	the Court. This is the discussion that is in
12	part three at pages 11 and 12 of the draft. I
13	think the Constitution analysis here, I would
14	suggest, is a little bit thin in the following
15	sense.
16	I think to begin it's useful to
17	identify precisely what the source of Congress'
18	power here is, which is the power to regulate as
19	necessary and proper. In this case to enhance
20	and to carry into effect the powers of other
21	branches of Government; in this case, the Supreme
22	Court, that's the source of the power that

Therefore, I think it is quite Congress has. true, as the draft says, that everyone agrees that this gives Congress the power to, for example, set the size of the Court and in other 4 respects regulate the design of the Court so that the Court is its most effective and efficient. 6

7 I do think that there is an issue that 8 has been raised before us by Professor Barnett in 9 his testimony, which is the question of whether 10 Congress goes beyond this power when it, or if 11 it, were adjust the size of the Court merely for 12 the purpose of achieving particular partisan 13 results. I, myself, am not necessarily endorsing 14 this argument, but I think this is an argument that deserves more consideration than has been 15 16 given currently.

17 In the draft, there is a reference to 18 Professor Barnett's testimony in a footnote, 19 quite a long footnote, that isn't mostly about 20 him, in footnote 113. I would suggest that this 21 be brought up into the text in a paragraph or so, 22 in which we distinguish between the argument that

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1 Congress can set the size of the Court to make it 2 the most efficient and effective it can be, which 3 Congress clearly has that power and distinguish 4 that from Congress using that power to attempt to 5 compel particular political outcomes. I think 6 these are two different arguments as Professor 7 Barnett has testified to us.

I think that it's worthy of our time 8 9 briefly to highlight the difference and to highlight this argument. 10 I do think, 11 notwithstanding my own views of the merits of 12 this argument, that if there was a serious 13 proposal acted on in Congress to enhance the size 14 of the Court, that this constitutional argument, identified by Professor Barnett, would be raised 15 16 against it. And to the extent that Congress made 17 arguments relating to particular political 18 outcomes for its plan to enhance the size of the 19 Court, that would make it more subject to 20 constitutional challenge than if Congress were 21 changing the size of the Court in order to effect 22 an institutional design that it thought was more

I think it's appropriate for us to 1 appropriate. 2 foreground these potential arguments against the Court expansion plan rather than putting them in 3 4 a footnote, whether or not we, ourselves, agree 5 with them. That's my suggestion for just a very 6 7 brief addition to the discussion in Part 3A of 8 the draft, I would just enhance a little bit in 9 that respect. But, otherwise again to say what a 10 great job. Thanks very much, this has been so 11 helpful in our discussions. 12 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 13 Commissioner Ramsey. Now I'd like to recognize 14 Commissioner Baude. Thank you, thank 15 COMMISSIONER BAUDE: I have two comments about the 16 you very much. 17 draft materials here. One of them amplifies 18 something that Mike Ramsey just said about the 19 legality. It seems to me that one of the most 20 important things we as a Commission have to 21 contribute are our views about the law given that 22 this is Commission mostly of legal scholars and

that's one of our areas of core expertise and it's a place where we have, I think, a special obligation to try to be as careful and consistent and avoid special pleading as possible, given the political nature of the topic. I worry that the current section regarding court packing would not do that and we should rethink a lot.

8 Again, like Mike actually, I don't 9 think there is a limit on Congress' ability to change the size of the Court, but I have my 10 reasons for thinking and I'm not sure whether the 11 12 report reflects currently any reasons for 13 thinking that. There does seem like there are 14 plausible arguments either that Congress' power 15 under the necessary and proper cause can be 16 limited when Congress acts for bad reasons and/or 17 relatedly, that a norm has solidified in the past 18 50 to 100 to 150 years imposing some limits on 19 Congress' ability to use its power. Now I think, 20 as an originalist, I have a sense of why I don't 21 necessarily think either of these things are true, but this is not an originalist Commission 22

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and it's not adopting sort of an originalist 1 2 perspective on the Constitution. So I think we need to know, for those 3 4 who don't, why there aren't such arguments. 5 Clearly, we would really not want to have the appearance that members of the Commission endorse 6 7 non-originalist arguments based on constitutional 8 norms or endorse implicit limits on what the 9 legislature done for bad motives sometimes, but then mysteriously don't do so here. 10 11 There are at least three 12 possibilities. One possibility is there are no 13 limits on Congress' ability to use any of its 14 enumerated powers, no sort of implicit, purpose-15 based practice-based limits. I'm not sure we 16 think that. 17 Another possibility is there are 18 limits on some powers of Congress, but for some 19 reason the Court's size changing power derives 20 necessary and proper clause is free of these 21 limits. I'm not sure where that would be. 22 The third would be there actually are

limits and maybe Congress can't do it, as 1 2 Commissioner Ramsey said, for partisan reasons, but would envision that all these proposals 3 4 comply with those limits and so that will be 5 important, then we actually have to clarify that there is not a preliminary power that they were 6 7 envisioning reforms that would comply whatever 8 the limits are. I think whatever is going on 9 here we should especially elect people to think 10 through it and explain it.

11 Now I do also worry about the draft's 12 discussion about the prudent efficacy and 13 consequences of changing the size of the Court. 14 I do appreciate that the draft acknowledges a lot of the arguments against changing the size of the 15 16 Court and I'm very glad it doesn't do less of 17 that and that it doesn't do more in suggesting 18 that there is any reason to change the size of 19 the Court, but I do really worry that even given 20 as much oxygen as we do, as seriously as we do, 21 the argument for substantive court packing is 22 dangerous and wrong.

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1	So at the risk of an analogy that
2	people won't like, I think if there were an
3	election commission that was considering the
4	question, should Republican state legislatures
5	cancel elections and appoint the electors
6	themselves rather than having people vote for the
7	President. I think one could write a report
8	saying well it's probably lawful under Article
9	II, there's an argument they can't but it's
10	probably lawful, but is it prudent? Well
11	probably it would be bad for democracy, but if on
12	the other hand, some people think it would be a
13	really good idea. We could write a report like
14	that, I think it would not be a good idea to
15	write a report like that. I think that would
16	itself sort of contribute to destroying a norm
17	that I think many of us believe in and support.
18	Now I could be wrong about where we
19	have standard admission on that, I mean there are
20	places were the Commission notes that we're
21	divided and this is one of our first chances to
22	really talk as a Commission about that or think

1	about that. So if I'm wrong about that, I
2	probably owe it to the country to tell them, but
3	if I'm right about that and the number of
4	commissioners who think that it is currently
5	prudent to pack the Court is very small, we
6	probably ought to clarify that so as to avoid
7	misleadingly contributing to destruction of one
8	of the most important norms in American politics.
9	So I guess I think we need to talk more about
10	that or figure out what we think or be very
11	careful. I think this draft really goes much
12	farther in a dangerous direction than it should.
13	I've talked for a long time so I'm
14	just going to add one last example of why I think
15	about this. I recently have been reading John
16	Harty Ely's work including his famous critique of
17	Roe v. Wade, and one of the points he makes there
18	is about the dangers of crying wolf. And to the
19	Court, he put it as people kept telling the Court
20	over and over again that it was, in a word,
21	Lochnering, which he thought it was not, but not
22	fair. One possible judicial response was to this

style of criticism was to conclude that you might as well be hanged for a sheep as a goat. That as long as you're going to be told no matter what 4 you do, that all you do is Lochner, you might as well Lochner. And while the Court may not think quite that explicitly about it, the chance that it sort of slides in that direction is really too high.

9 I do worry that's true of a lot of the criticisms of the Court as being at war with 10 11 democracy and many other things which we heard 12 from testimony, some of which we acknowledged, I 13 think, more than we should. I worry that if we 14 take those critiques too seriously, unless we really think they're true, unless we really think 15 16 we're in that moment, if we take those critiques too seriously we will lose the ability to make 17 18 those critiques when they become true. Thanks. 19 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 20 Commissioner Baude. Commissioner Ifill. Ι 21 thought I'd seen you join.

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COMMISSIONER IFILL: I'm here.

1	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Oh, good.
2	COMMISSIONER IFILL: Good morning and
3	thank you. I will try to be brief and I think my
4	comments fall into two buckets.
5	First and foremost that I actually
6	don't think that the text of the chapter
7	ultimately reads as a balanced presentation of
8	the issue. I think all of the arguments are
9	marshaled, but the architecture of the section
10	and the way in which it is framed leads to a
11	conclusion that I think is not warranted by the
12	arguments presented in the text, nor do I know it
13	to be warranted by a collective decision of the
14	Commission that expanding the Court is unwise,
15	but that seems to be the conclusion at the
16	beginning and then the various arguments follow.
17	I think it leads one reading it to
18	believe that that is the collective view of the
19	Commission, when I feel much more comfortable
20	with laying out the various arguments for and
21	against and laying them out in a way that does
22	not suggest the Commission has collectively come

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to an answer.

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2	One of the ways in which the report
3	slants in that way is that all of the arguments
4	in favor of court expansion are first presented
5	in a paragraph and then each paragraph ends with
6	but here are all the reasons why that might be
7	problematic, difficult, unwise. The result is
8	that the last word is always to that position and
9	I think even just the architecture of mixing that
10	up a bit in the paragraphs, mixing up the
11	arguments for and against in terms of which leads
12	and which ends, will create a different feeling
13	and tone.
14	My second concern is a bigger one and
15	that is that this entire discussion is framed in
16	the context of partisan politics and I actually

15 that is that this entire discussion is framed in 16 the context of partisan politics and I actually 17 think that is a disservice to the exploration of 18 this issue and to the argument. I do think that 19 there are people who have genuine concerns about 20 the Court, about the discussions that are 21 happening in the public and in the profession 22 about the Court, who care about the reputation of

the Court, who care about the legitimacy of the Court and who care about the rule of law. Τ count all of us on the Commission as those people. 4

I don't think any of us who are busy 5 people joined this Commission because we want to 6 7 advance one partisan objective or another. We 8 joined it because we care about our democracy and 9 at a time in which respect for the rule of law really has been at an all-time low, that we 10 11 recognize that respect for the law, very often 12 explicitly kind of expressed and seen through respect for the United States Supreme Court, is 13 14 an important place where people can discern the signals about respect for the rule of law. 15

16 I think that's the project that we are 17 about and so to read a chapter in which all of 18 the calculations are about one political party or 19 another to give the Democrats this to give the 20 Republicans this, as though there are no 21 arguments that go to court balanced, that go to the fact that lifetime tenure means that Justices 22

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are locked in for decades in ways that they are 1 2 not in any other workplace. Often for good reason in terms of impartiality and so forth, but 3 nevertheless ensuring that the personnel of the 4 5 Court is always kinds of decades out of step with the general population of the country. 6 There are 7 reasons that relate to diversity of background and of profession, of race and of gender, of 8 9 geography, of law school. There are many reasons 10 why one might support the idea of expanding the 11 Court that don't have to do with your being 12 beholden to a particular partisan agenda or 13 another.

To the extent that this report frames the entire discussion that way, I think it does a disservice and actually silences what are the arguments that I think might be raised by people who are operating in that space of thinking about democracy and respect for the rule of law.

For those of us who represent communities that came to see the Court's role in the context of kind of footnote four in Caroline

Products, who saw the Court being a place where 1 2 one could be heard when the political processes were closed or were malfunctioning, the Court 3 carries a certain kind of imprimatur in our 4 5 Therefore, we have a stake and an committees. interest in respect for the Court. For all of 6 7 those reasons, my greatest concern beyond the 8 lack of balance in terms of the presentation of 9 the arguments is that the framing of this as a purely partisan exercise, I think does a 10 disservice to the Commission and does a 11 12 disservice to this issue.

13 Once you put it in that category that 14 this is purely an issue about whether the 15 Democrats should get a greater advantage or 16 whether the Republicans should get a greater 17 advantage, you've basically allowed people to 18 check out from the arguments that actually relate 19 to the legitimacy of the Supreme Court, not its 20 own legitimacy in its eyes, but its legitimacy in 21 the eyes of the public and the public sense that the Supreme Court is a forum and a place where 22

1	they feel they can be heard and where they see
2	themselves. So I'll stop there.
3	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
4	Commissioner Ifill.
5	COMMISSIONER GRIFFITH: Commissioner
6	Bauer, I can't hear you, but I think you said
7	it's my turn.
8	CO-CHAIR BAUER: I did indeed.
9	COMMISSIONER GRIFFITH: Okay, great.
10	Great. Let me echo the voice of Nettie in
11	thanking you and Chair Rodriguez, and all those
12	who participate. This is a remarkable
13	undertaking.
14	My experience with my working group
15	has just been remarkable, as we carried on
16	passionate disagreement with civility and
17	respect. And I, it's been a, really been a
18	wonderful experience for me.
19	I did not see the product of the other
20	working groups until they were circulated
21	recently. So, my comments are largely addressed
22	to some of the assumptions that make up their

2	And in that regard I want to associate
3	myself first with Commissioner Baude's comment
4	about, we need to be really careful here about
5	the way we describe arguments, and the way we
6	frame this. This has real consequences.
7	And although my guess is that
8	Commissioner Ifill and I disagree on the merits
9	of court expansion, I couldn't agree more with
10	her comment about the way the issue is framed.
11	And that's, I'd like to, that's what I'd like to
12	speak about.
13	It's framed in this partisan way of
14	looking at this is democrats versus republicans.
15	And I object to that in this respect and
16	throughout.
17	In my view too much of this discussion
18	draft reinforces the assumptions of many that the
19	Justices are partisans, just looking for ways to
20	advance policy agendas of the President who
21	appointed them, and the political parties that
22	supported them.

1	There are at least two problems with
2	this view. First, it's inaccurate. It's just
3	not the way it happens. And second, those who
4	maintain this view I believe do great damage to
5	the Supreme Court, which I believe is an
6	institution that has been largely successful in
7	performing its role under the Constitution.
8	Frequently these criticisms, which I
9	think are rarely more than expressions of
10	dissatisfactions with the outcome of a particular
11	case, frequently they're couched in terms that
12	question the legitimacy of the Court.
13	This is a ploy that can only serve to
14	undermine confidence in the Court in a dangerous
15	moment in the Republic's history.
16	Let me give you an example. I was on
17	the three judge panel of the D.C. Circuit whose
18	decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in
19	Shelby County versus Holder. I think the Supreme
20	Court was gravely mistaken in its decision.
21	And yet, I totally reject the idea
22	advanced by some that those who took the view

1	that the pre-clearance requirements of the Voting
2	Act needed updating by Congress were somehow part
3	of a nefarious Republican strategy to limit
4	Democratic electoral success.
5	That view is A, inaccurate, and B,
6	it's harmful. I joined Judge Tatel to form the
7	majority in Shelby County. Judge Stephen
8	Williams dissented.
9	Our opinions were the product of
10	months of discussion among the three of us. We
11	went back and forth on both the outcome and the
12	reasoning.
13	To coin a phrase, I was in the room
14	where it happened. And let me assure you that no
15	thought was ever given to how our decision would
16	advance or blunt the electoral things that were
17	the requirements.
18	And I'm confident the Supreme Court
19	approached the matter in the same way, even
20	though I disagree with their outcome. Let me
21	tell you one reason why I'm confident the Supreme
22	Court approached it in the same way.

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1	At her confirmation hearing Justice
2	Kagan flatly rejected the idea that there might
3	be some room for personal preferences in judicial
4	decisions.
5	We remember she said, it's law all the
6	way down, she declared. And she was right. And
7	so was Justice Breyer when he explains, as he's
8	done in his recent book, that Justices are not
9	political partisans.
10	Justice Sotomayor said much the same
11	at her confirmation hearing, when she described
12	her judicial philosophy. Simple, she said,
13	fidelity to the law. The task of the judge is
14	not to make the law, it's to apply the law.
15	Now, judges do have different views
16	about how to read a provision of the
17	Constitution, the text of a statute or a
18	regulation. But those views are grounded in
19	their view of the role of a judge under the
20	Constitution, and not as a means to partisan
21	ends.
22	Too much of the language in this draft

not only disregards this facts, but assumes the 1 2 contrary. The Republic is in choppy waters. And ominous storm clouds are on the horizon with the 3 4 revelations that each day we are reminded just 5 how fragile our Republic is. If we are to withstand the approaching 6 storm we need our institutions of Government to 7 8 be true to the roles assigned them in the 9 Constitution. The Supreme Court has played well its 10 It has repeatedly demonstrated a 11 vital role. 12 commitment to the rule of law if it engages in 13 reasoned discourse, expressed civilly. 14 And despite their vigorous 15 disagreements the Justices respect and have 16 genuine affection for one another. These are 17 public virtues in short supply these days. 18 I believe the Supreme Court can be a 19 bulwark against the sinister forces of division 20 and contempt that have been let loose, and infect 21 our public discourse. 22 Now is the time to build confidence in

1	the Court. Too frequently elements of this draft
2	report does just the opposite. Thank you.
3	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
4	Commissioner Griffith. We had some audio issues
5	earlier. I thought my co-chair, Commissioner
6	Rodriguez, would make up the difference here.
7	But if I am audible, I would like to send it to
8	Commissioner Charles.
9	COMMISSIONER CHARLES: You are
10	audible. Thank you, Commissioner Bauer. And
11	thank you to all of those who have worked on this
12	chapter.
13	In some respects this draft chapter
14	may reflect what this Commission comes to be
15	associated with. And so, I think the task of
16	those who have worked on it is quite difficult.
17	I think much of it is thoughtful.
18	I do have two comments that actually
19	follow from the previous comments of
20	Commissioners Griffith and Ifill.
21	I was struck by the partisan framing
22	of this chapter. I won't say much more about

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that, because I think it's been very nicely and 1 2 eloquently articulated. So, I will amend those parts of my comments. 3 But I do urge and join those, join the 4 5 previous comments and urge that upon revision that we think very deeply about an alternative 6 7 frame for this chapter. 8 The second point then, I'll just focus 9 on that, which is on the policy considerations. And I think this is, this does present a 10 11 challenge for this chapter. 12 So, if we take into account 13 Commissioner Baude's comments, that to take some 14 of the arguments against, in favor of court expansion is to legitimate them in a way that is 15 16 difficult and dangerous. And then to think about Commissioner 17 18 Ifill's comments, which is that, look, there are 19 substantive -- we are in a moment in our polity 20 in which very thoughtful people are considering 21 the role of the Court in this democratic system, and the sense that those arguments have to be 22

taken seriously and they have to be given voice. 1 2 And so the question, then, for this chapter, and the challenges, is how do we think through and 3 tie together both of those points? 4 And I think the way that the policy 5 discussion is currently framed in this chapter 6 makes it hard to do that real work. Because it 7 seems to me that the policy discussions, they 8 9 shade very much against court expansion, which is not really what I found disturbing from my 10 11 perspective. 12 What I found disturbing was more of a 13 shade against court expansion without sufficient 14 basis for doing so. So, it makes it harder to actually surface the underlying tensions here. 15 16 To say, okay, how do we take seriously 17 the arguments in favor of court expansion, while 18 also worrying and thinking about the 19 institutional role of the Court, and how court 20 expansion might or might not impact those 21 institutional roles, so that institutional role. 22 And I don't think we can perform that

function in this chapter and as a Commission if
 the policy considerations are speculative. And
 if they're not sufficiently even handed and
 balanced.

5 So for example, with respect to the descriptive diversity claim of court expansion. 6 7 That expanding the Court might lead to 8 descriptive representation on diversity grounds. 9 The draft simply states that there's no reason to believe that court expansion would 10 produce benefits, because there's no guarantee 11 12 that a larger Court would be drawn from a diverse 13 group.

But there's no basis it seems to me 14 for that conclusion. I don't know how it arrived 15 16 at that conclusion. And it seems to move the 17 ball. It raises the standard by saying, well, 18 proponents of court expansion would have to 19 guarantee that diversity result as a consequence 20 of expansion. 21 And I think it's, you know, that

doesn't seem to me to be warranted. The

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1	conclusion is drawn by simply changing the burden
2	of proof, and placing it on the reformers.
3	I think it is important for, on the
4	policy considerations for there to be even
5	handedness for us to think about the deep sets of
6	questions. And the tension that is raised,
7	right, and you see eloquently expressed by
8	Commissioner Ifill, and eloquently expressed by
9	Commissioner Baude.
10	But we can't have that even handedness
11	in addressing those tensions forthrightly without
12	better balance, and without assuring that
13	conclusions are not based on speculation.
14	So, those were the two reactions that
15	I had. And in thinking through I think there's
16	so much great work here. I think the draft
17	really in many respects, you all deserve our
18	thanks. Because in many respects this is what we
19	will be associated with. This is the core
20	argument of the day.
21	But nevertheless, I think achieving
22	what we would like to achieve will be made

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easier, and much more effective if we reframe and 1 2 take out the partisan balance, partisanship of the framework. And then, think much more broadly 3 and carefully in getting more even handedness in 4 the policy considerations. Thank you for 5 listening to me. 6 7 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 8 Commissioner Charles. I would like now to turn 9 to Commissioner Crespo. You have the floor, sir. 10 COMMISSIONER CRESPO: Thank you, Commissioner Bauer. I agree with Commissioners 11 12 Ifill and Charles that the current draft in its 13 substance, in its structure, and in its tone 14 communicates a clear position against expanding 15 the Court. 16 And I was surprised to see this when the draft was circulated to the full Commission 17 18 for the first time a few days ago. 19 The arguments in favor of expansion 20 are presented tentatively and at a distance, in 21 the voice of unnamed others. And in every instance they're teed up really just to be 22

knocked down by arguments against expansion, 1 2 which received more comprehensive treatment, and are stated in the Commission's own voice as its 3 4 clearly favored position. In this respect Chapter 2 strikes me 5 as different from the other chapters, which 6 7 present more balance, and in my view considerably 8 more fair accounts of the arguments on both sides 9 of the debate. Of course, expanding the Court is the 10 one reform that gets the most attention in that 11 12 debate, and with good reason. 13 As the current draft in my view 14 correctly explains, it's the one structural intervention most clearly within Congress's power 15 16 to enact. 17 Chapter 2s rejection of court 18 expansion thus shapes, and in my view distorts 19 not just the chapter, but the entire report. The 20 overarching message sent to those who see deep 21 problems with the current Court, and with how its most recent seats have been filled seems to be, 22

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don't do the one thing you can do to address the 1 2 problem, court expansion, but consider trying some things that probably won't work, like 3 amending the Constitution, or passing statutes of 4 questionable efficacy or constitutionality. 5 I think it's impossible to divorce 6 7 such a message from an underlying judgment about 8 whether there is in fact a serious problem 9 inherent. Dismissing the most salient and most 10 11 viable intervention on the table cannot help but 12 send a message that the underlying problem the intervention is trying to address is neither 13 14 urgent nor serious, if it even exists. 15 Suffice to say there are a great many 16 people who disagree with that conclusion, 17 including multiple elected leaders at the federal 18 level, multiple leading scholars, numerous 19 witnesses to our Commission, and millions of our fellow citizens. 20 21 We were not asked to resolve this 22 debate, which in addition to being salient and

serious, implicates a complicated and complex set 1 2 of interbranch dynamics in which Congress's ability to consider using its powers, its ability 3 4 to keep all of its lawful options on the table is 5 itself an element of the analysis. Against that backdrop I think it would 6 be presumptuous and unwise for the Commission to 7 8 try to knock this particular reform off the table 9 by marking it as legal but wrong, as the current draft does. 10 11 My hope is that as we reflect on 12 today's deliberations, and prepare our final 13 report in the coming weeks, this chapter will be 14 substantially revised to present a more even 15 handed and fair engagement with both sides of the 16 Court expansion debate. There are a number of revisions that 17 18 I think would help achieve that goal. I'll flag 19 just two of them now. 20 First, I think the chapter should be 21 restructured to avoid treating the pro-expansion 22 arguments as set ups for anti-expansion

1 knockdowns. And that the Commission, to avoid 2 using its own voice to stick the arguments on only one side of the debate. 3 4 Second, as to substance. I think the 5 major arguments in favor of expansion should be 6 give full and fair treatment. I can't give them 7 each full and fair treatment right now. So, I'll 8 just focus on one that I think the current draft 9 treats too dismissively. To proponents of court expansion 10 11 increasing the number of seats on the Court is 12 not a violation of existing laws. It's an 13 attempt to enforce, and thus reestablish those 14 norms. 15 The current draft rejects this 16 framing, and thus rejects a core premise of the 17 Court expansion argument, when it says there is a 18 decades long and unbroken norm against court 19 packing. 20 To proponents of expansion this is just not true. The norm has been broken 21 22 recently. If one defines court packing as

Congress using its legislative power to change 1 2 the size of the Supreme Court of political or partisan reasons there is a fair argument that 3 the Senate violated that norm when it shrunk the 4 size of the Supreme Court to eight seats for the 5 last year of President Obama's term, when it 6 7 threatened to keep it at eight seats if Hillary 8 Clinton were elected President in 2016, when it 9 returned the Court to nine seats when President Trump was elected, and when it then violated its 10 own newly crafted precedent against election year 11 12 confirmations by confirming Justice Barrett just weeks before the 2020 election, while voting was 13 14 already underway. Put more simply, there is an 15 16 intelligible, coherent, and to many people 17 persuasive argument that the Supreme Court has 18 been packed twice in the past five years. 19 Expansion proponents take the 20 reasonable, and to my mind correct view that

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norms are only norms if their violation means

something if the violations are acknowledged and

corrected through action that aims to prevent the 1 2 norm from being violated again. To be effective such action needs to 3 4 neutralize the benefit that those who broke the 5 In this instance decades long norm seek to reap. super majority control of a powerful branch of 6 7 Government. 8 Any number of actions might 9 hypothetically be taken to enforce a broken norm. But as the report in its current draft makes 10 11 clear court expansion for all its potential down sides, for all its potential dangers, is the one 12 13 response most clearly within Congress's power. 14 This is one prominent argument in favor of court expansion that the draft I believe 15 16 treats dismissively. There are others. The 17 overarching effect though is a report that will 18 fairly be read as rejecting court expansion. 19 That at least is how I read it. I think this is a mistake. 20 It is not 21 what we were asked to do. It is not what I expected us to do. And I don't think that a 22

final report submitted in this form would be 1 2 presenting a fair or constructive account of the debate on this important issue. 3 So, I hope our deliberations will 4 yield substantial revisions to this chapter. 5 Thank you again, Commissioner Bauer. 6 Thank you very much, 7 CO-CHAIR BAUER: 8 Commissioner Crespo. I would like now to turn to 9 Commissioner Gertner. 10 COMMISSIONER GERTNER: Thank you. Τ want to start where others have left off. 11 The 12 meeting today is not just to give the public a 13 taste of our work. It is literally the first chance that we all have had to actually 14 deliberate face to face. 15 16 We received the full report only seven 17 days ago. As the discussion has reflected, there 18 are real differences of opinion with respect to 19 the nature of the problem with the Supreme Court, 20 and the nature of the remedy. 21 And I don't think that the draft, I join in this with Commissioners Ifill, and 22

1	Charles, and Crespo. I don't think the current
2	draft reflects, adequately reflects that debate.
3	There's certainly some people who
4	believe there is no issue, that changes in the
5	composition of the Court should not prompt major
6	reform. And in any event, there will be new
7	administrations in the future that will perhaps
8	tilt the Court in a different direction.
9	Others believe there are problems with
10	the Supreme Court. But they are limited, easy
11	cured by minor fixes. Still others, and I'm
12	among them, who believes that there are
13	substantial problems that are particularly unique
14	at this moment in time, in part for the reasons
15	that Commission Crespo has described, that we are
16	at a tipping point where reform is crucial. And
17	that curing these problems, as I said, require
18	major fixes.
19	I don't believe that the draft
20	adequately reflects the latter position. I take
21	Commissioner Griffith's concern. But I don't
22	think that this discussion is about partisanship.

We really are looking back from a distance of the 1 2 Court to look at structural changes, and why those structural changes are necessary. 3 4 We're looking at the net effect of 5 changes in the polity, changes in the Government, and the net effect of rulings that the Supreme 6 7 Court has made that will impact the Court for 8 decades, and decades to come. 9 Let me focus on Chapter 2. And I agree with what others have said. Rather than 10 taking a neutral stance the draft tilts rather 11 12 dramatically in one direction. Others have said 13 this. 14 The arguments in favor of expansion are set up as straw men, struck down in 15 16 subsequent sentences. Let me give you one 17 example. At one point in the comparative section 18 the draft talks about, this is in B4, the risk 19 that authoritarian regimes may use our example to 20 undermine their own Court's legitimacy. 21 It doesn't mention that those jurisdictions didn't meet our example. 22 They were

already doing that. It doesn't matter, it didn't
 matter what we do to their efforts to undermine
 their democracies.

But let me focus on two specific objections. There is a false equivalency in both the introduction and in Chapter 2. A distorted view of how we got here.

8 It talks about how the Republicans 9 breached norms guiding the confirmation process 10 when they blocked a hearing for Merrick Garland, 11 because President Obama had proposed him during 12 an election year, namely ten months before the 13 2016 election.

And then it says that Republicans breached confirmation norms, arguably, when they raced through their nomination just months before the 2020 election, even as people were actually voting.

19 If cites to a Wall Street Journal 20 editorial. This is the introduction, which 21 asserts that after all the Republicans were only 22 doing what Democrats have done in the past. And

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somehow this was ordinary politics.

2 Chapter 2 reflects the same false equivalence. I'll talk about that in a moment. 3 But so, my first point is about a false 4 equivalent on one side, on the other, which I 5 don't think is true. 6 7 My second point is about democracy. 8 It's not about democracy in the sense of the 9 legitimacy of the institution, the extent to which courts overturn legislation. 10 11 The draft doesn't talk about how 12 unique this moment is for our democracy, when one 13 party apparently is seeking to embed its power 14 for years and years to come through voting 15 changes. 16 And where the current Supreme Court, 17 whether intentionally or unintentionally, whether 18 in good faith or not is enabling that. So, this 19 is not about the usual ebb and flow of our 20 politics. This is about distorting the electoral 21 process itself, and ensuring that one, the Court 22 will remain as presently constituted for years,

1	and years, and years to come.
2	Let me just talk for a moment about
3	the false equivalency problem, which is Page 3
4	and 4 of the introduction and in Chapter 2.
5	Again, the general produce that the
6	Democrats after all have done what the
7	Republicans have done before, which contributes
8	to what Commissioner Ifill said about this sense
9	that this is really just partisan jabbering.
10	It's really not the case. The quote
11	that the Wall Street Journal article rests on was
12	from Senator Schumer who said, let's reverse the
13	presumption of confirmation in an election year.
14	Look more critically at it.
15	It doesn't say no confirmations in an
16	election year. He doesn't say too close to an
17	election. And in fact, he urged the nomination
18	of a consensus candidate, not like someone on one
19	side or the other on the ideological spectrum.
20	I would suggest that the draft reflect
21	what he said, as opposed to characterizing it as
22	they're both wrong.

1	And while the Republicans fault the
2	Democrats for their criticisms of Republican
3	nominee Bork, the fact is he had a hearing. He
4	had a hearing. That it seems to me is a major
5	difference.
6	The second point I want to make, just
7	because of the time, is about this unique moment
8	in time. Unique threats to democracy, which I
9	don't think the draft adequately represents.
10	And again, it's not just a question of
11	disagreeing with this or that ruling. I
12	understand that that's not, should not motivate
13	our conversations. I appreciate the concern
14	about that.
15	This is not about the Court
16	overturning legislative enactments. It is not
17	only about legitimacy. It really is that the net
18	effect, whatever the motive, whatever the basis,
19	the net effect of rulings of this Court,
20	ratifying efforts to restrict the voting of
21	racial minorities, to regulate money in politics,
22	restrict partisan gerrymandering, the net effect

of those rulings is to enable one party, the 1 2 party supported by a minority of citizens to secure a tactical advantage for a long time, 3 4 regardless of demographic trends. 5 Whatever balance is usually created by future appointments will be lost for years and 6 years to come. But simply the usual self-7 8 correcting mechanisms of the Court will not work 9 now when confirmation norms are ignored, and when the net effect is to ensure on party's 10 11 continuation in power. 12 I appreciate the work in putting 13 together Chapter 2. But as others have said, 14 when you read Chapter 2 in connection with the 15 other chapters you're left with a sense, you 16 know, there's not really anything we can do, or 17 even there's anything we should do. I don't 18 think that that's the case. And I surely would 19 hope --20 The purpose of this Commission was to 21 encourage discussion, as opposed to stop it. Ι 22 think that the current chapter as currently

drafted stops that discussion, at least with 1 2 respect to expansion. And I don't think that that adequately, accurately reflects where the 3 4 Commissioners are. Thank you. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, 5 Commissioner Gertner. I just want to make one 6 7 quick comment, because we may have people tuning 8 in at various points during the proceedings and 9 they'll hear some very intense commentary focused on the drafts. 10 11 This draft obviously addresses a very 12 sensitive and controversial issue. As all the 13 Commissioners know, and as some Commissioners 14 have noted, this working group draft was intended 15 to jump-start deliberations on a very sensitive 16 issue. I think we can agree from this energetic 17 conversation that it has precisely succeeded in 18 that objective. 19 Those who did work on the draft 20 certainly understood they were not speaking for 21 the Commission, or in the voice of the Commission. 22 They were framing the issues. And

criticism of the kind that we're hearing on both
 sides are precisely what we would expect to hear
 in a vigorous debate.

4 But I want to make sure, because, 5 again, I don't know who's getting on when, that they understand that the draft under discussion 6 7 is a working group draft for deliberative 8 purposes. And was not written by those who are 9 involved in the preparation of the draft to 10 forecast in any way, or to head count in any way, 11 how Commissioners thought about this particular 12 issue.

13 They were there to lay these issues 14 There have been questions of balance raised out. Perfectly reasonable. And that's an 15 here. 16 excellent debate currently taking place, and 17 precisely the one I would hope we would have. 18 But I just wanted to clarify for 19 people tuning in: we're not talking about a draft

20 report. We're talking about a working group
21 deliberative document that is, by the way,
22 accomplishing its purpose. It is certainly

1	motivating a very, very active conversation.
2	So, with that, I'd like to turn to
3	Commissioner Tribe. Commissioner Tribe, I think
4	your audio's off, I believe.
5	COMMISSIONER TRIBE: Sorry. Thank
6	you, Commissioner Bauer, and Co-chairs Bauer and
7	Rodriguez. I join everyone in complimenting you
8	on the quality of the working groups that you've
9	put together.
10	And I am emphasize as you did that we
11	don't really have a draft report in front of us.
12	This is our first opportunity to deliberate. And
13	I think something that Commissioner Driver said
14	earlier about Judge Bork makes me think about the
15	nature of this discussion, which is
16	intellectually lovely.
17	It is indeed an intellectual feast.
18	But just as the nation was distressed when Judge
19	Bork described that as his reason for wanting to
20	be on the Supreme Court, I'm somewhat distressed
21	by the meta level of this discussion.
22	We're talking about balance. We're

talking about theme, and tone, and style, and
 sequence, and how some arguments are set up only
 to be knocked down.

I appreciate all of those discussions. But I think the time has come to talk about the merits. That is, what really are the pros and cons of various important changes?

I take as a central theme the point 8 9 that many people, and I include myself in this, who believe that we are indeed at a break the 10 11 glass moment, a moment when we cannot simply 12 treat disagreements about particular trends of 13 decisions as matters of more or less, but a 14 moment at which, as Commissioner Gertner suggests we may be on an irreversible path, the kind of 15 16 one way ratchet in which a series of decisions 17 suppressing voting rights, saying that the courts 18 are powerless to deal with gerrymandering, eliminating the pre-clearance provision of the 19 20 Voting Rights Act, then gutting what is left of 21 the Voting Rights Act.

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And these aren't always along partisan

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One of the first decisions in that 1 lines. 2 series, a 2008 decision in the Crawford case, which essentially gave the Court's blessing to 3 4 photographic identification in voting, regardless of disparate racial impact. 5 The entire series of decisions, the 6 7 whole body of law is profoundly constrictive of 8 democratic self-government. It is not just like 9 any line of decisions, however important, that one might disagree with. The affirmative action 10 decisions, the reproductive rights decisions, the 11 12 gay and lesbian rights decisions. 13 These decisions that many of us regard 14 as putting us on a collision course with a kind of wall, or a cliff over which we dare not fall, 15 16 lest we lose our democracy, these decisions go to 17 the very fabric of the American form of 18 Government. 19 And for those who believe that that is 20 the course on which the current Court has put us, 21 whether because of the games that one political party or another played, for those who believe 22

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1 that it is not just a question of the style of a 2 report, it's a question of the survival of what 3 we care the most about.

That's why the discussions in which Commissioner Baude and Commissioner Griffith say that essentially they don't want to give so much oxygen to the view that people like me express. They think this reports gives this too much oxygen.

And Commissioner Ifill, and Charles, 10 11 and Crespo, and Gertner I think rightly say the 12 report gives too little oxygen to the positive side of doing something fairly drastic to the 13 14 Court. It's not just a matter of the distribution of oxygen. It's a distribution of 15 16 voting power in American society.

So, I think it's important to focus on
the merits of decisions. Not individual ones
like Shelby County. I appreciate that
Commissioner Griffith was in the room when it
happened.

22

And my objection to it is not that the

ultimate result in Shelby County was somehow 1 2 designed to help the Republican party. It's the combined effect of those decisions to dismantle 3 the Voting Rights Act. 4 And that to cement malapportionment 5 and partisan gerrymandering, the combined effect 6 7 is to endanger the survival of self-government. Now, I understand that there is no 8 9 obvious match between increasing the number of Justices and reversing that course of decisions. 10 Among the things that the current 11 12 working group's paper suggests is that if you add Justices they might still feel bound by decisions 13 14 like Crawford and Shelby County and Brnovich. For all we know, we will continue along that 15 16 course. 17 But for those who believe that the 18 course is profoundly misguided, to say that the 19 only clearly constitutional path is blocked is 20 essentially saying, stop worrying about the The situation isn't all that drastic. 21 Court. And for this report to send that message when one 22

believes the opposite I think would be a profound mistake.

And when I say this is the one clearly 3 4 constitutional step that could be taken, the 5 addition of the Justices to overcome what happened with the vacancy that was left for an 6 7 entire year, followed by the sudden filling of a 8 seat during an election, when I say it's clearly 9 constitutional I obviously am in part addressing Commissioners Ramsey and Baude, who are not ready 10 11 to say that it's beyond Congress's power to 12 expand the Court, but who are adding fuel to the 13 fire that will confront anyone who urges court 14 expansion. It will be said, even that is not 15 clearly constitutional. Because some might 16 17 question the motives that Congress has. If its 18 motives were simply to improve the efficiency of 19 the courts, that would be fine. But if the motive relates to the substance of the series of 20 21 decisions, somehow that's wrong. 22

But it seems to me there's a big

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difference between doing something to a Judge because you disagree with her ruling, and responding in a democratic way to an antidemocratic course of jurisprudence. 4 The first compromises traditional independence. The second does not.

7 It seems to me also rather dubious to 8 think that one could ferret out the motives of a 9 multitudinous body like Congress. People will have different motives for doing something. 10

11 And the jurisprudence that I'm familiar with suggests that you don't invalidate 12 13 an Act of Congress because you have doubts about 14 the reasons that it had for doing what it did.

And while we're at it, what would be 15 16 the reasons for a Court invalidating an 17 enlargement by Act of Congress? Would one then 18 not worry about the motives of individual 19 Justices, about diluting their power by expanding their number? 20

21 I say, set aside those questions of 22 motive, and ask, does it make structural sense in

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terms of the survival of democracy to keep on the table the one obviously clear exercise of constitutional power available to Congress, to send a signal of profound disapproval with a jurisprudential trend that threatens an important core value of our democratic system.

7 It's for that reason that I am 8 troubled by these working papers. They create 9 the impression that although as a theoretical 10 matter enlarging the Court is a possibility, the 11 arguments for it are swamped by the arguments 12 against, including now we are told that it may be 13 unconstitutional if you don't do it for the right 14 reasons.

I think a report that pours cold water 15 16 on the one clearly legitimate exercise of 17 Congressional power to respond to a dangerous 18 jurisprudential trend, a report that poured cold water on that would be a report that I would have 19 20 trouble signing. Thank you very much. 21 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, Professor Tribe. And let me now turn to 22

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Commissioner Whittington.

2	COMMISSIONER WHITTINGTON: Thank you.
3	I appreciate the work that my colleagues have put
4	in to getting us to this point. We are tasked
5	with difficult and divisive issues in the report,
6	issues that divide not only the country at large,
7	but the Commission itself. And I appreciate the
8	efforts of the Commissioners in wrestling with
9	the challenges of navigating those disagreements
10	as best we can.
11	I understand that there are those who
12	think we face Flight 93 choices, and dramatic
13	actions will be needed to avert disaster. In
14	such circumstances it is hard to find common
15	ground. And I hope that we are able to continue
16	trying to make progress to find that common
17	ground.
18	I've been a sizable force to my
19	scholarly career damning the informal workings of
20	our constitutional order. By design and by
21	necessity legal powers and duties of Government
22	officials laid out by the text of the

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Constitution have been supplemented over time 1 2 with a flexible and sometimes less durable, but critically important set of understandings, 3 practices, norms, and conventions, what I would 4 call constructions that form and guide the 5 operation of the constitutional system. 6 There are many occasions in which the 7 8 Constitution delegates substantial discretion to 9 Government officials that just like power. The framers understood that such delegations of power 10 11 risked the possibility the power might be abused.

But they thought correctly that thoserisks had to be borne.

14 In many instances we have constructed 15 a set of norms that have reduced the likelihood 16 of abuse and hem in the range of choices that we 17 think Government officials can responsibly make 18 within the constant order.

19 These norms might not be judicially 20 enforceable. But they are nonetheless viable to 21 preserving the proper functioning of the 22 constitutional order, and in some cases of a

constitutional democracy itself.

2	The violation or alteration of some of
3	those norms would have immediate dire
4	consequences. Commissioner Baude mentioned one,
5	the possibility of state legislatures replacing a
6	slate of presidential electors because they did
7	not like the outcome of a popular election.
8	In other cases the violation or
9	alteration of those norms would put us on a
10	dangerous new path, with unpredictable and
11	potentially grim results.
12	I do not think that the current
13	materials do enough to acknowledge how big of a
14	departure from deeply rooted constitutional norms
15	court expansion under present circumstance would
16	be, and how great the down side risk of going
17	down that path would be.
18	I hope the final report will explain
19	more the scope of the Congressional power in
20	regard to court expansion. And also set out
21	clearly the potential dangers of using the
22	legislative power to reshape the membership of

the Supreme Court and alter the substance, in 1 2 order to alter the substance of the Court's jurisprudence. Thank you. 3 4 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 5 Commissioner Whittington. And I'd like now to turn to Commissioner Grove. 6 7 COMMISSIONER GROVE: All right. Thank 8 I've learned a lot from you. Thank you so much. 9 all the comments today. And I think this chapter in particular underscores something about our 10 11 larger society. 12 This discussion is kind of a microcosm 13 of our broader society that the level of 14 disagreement, not just what to do about some problem, but whether there's a problem at all. 15 And I think it's valuable that we've 16 17 been talking about these things. I don't think 18 people in our society talk enough about issues on 19 which they fundamentally disagree. And we have 20 brought people together who do fundamentally 21 disagree. 22 So, of course for those who are

working on these materials, whether it's Chapter 1 2 1, Chapter 2, or some other part of the draft materials makes it a challenge. Because we can 3 do certain things in terms of tone and balance. 4 5 And I thought Commissioners Ifill, and Charles, and Griffith made wonderful comments along this 6 7 line. They were very constructive. But when people fundamentally disagree 8 9 on the basics that makes it hard to find compromise. I nonetheless believe that we as a 10 11 Commission can do so. 12 And I think this discussion shows just 13 how committed we all are to finding these points 14 of agreement. So, I think that we can. And I believe that we will. 15 16 Just a couple of comments about the 17 specific parts of Chapter 2. I agree with 18 Commissioner Driver that there's more to say 19 about the panel systems. 20 And one thing that we don't say is 21 actually a point that matters a lot to some of this constitutional interpretation. 22 That is the

fact of, that it, it just has been historical
 practice.

We have historical practice from 1789 3 4 to the present that says that the Supreme Court 5 sits as a single unit, rather than in panels. And when panel systems have been proposed they 6 have been consistently rejected. And I think 7 8 that's another point that one could have in this 9 chapter. And I hope as it gets revised we include that. 10

11 And I'm very interested in the 12 arguments that were articulated saying that court 13 expansion might be unconstitutional if it's done 14 on partisan grounds, or because members of 15 Congress are concerned about Supreme Court 16 decisions.

And I think that's a very interesting argument that seems to have percolated in very recent years. It's a very hard argument to make about court-packing legislation writ large, which usually is based on the necessary and proper clause of Article 1.

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Virtually every time in American 1 2 history, from 1789 to the present, when members of Congress or the Executive Branch have proposed 3 reform to the Supreme Court, those reforms have 4 5 been supported more by one political party than another political party. 6 7 It doesn't mean they're partisan. It 8 just means that political parties represent 9 different perspectives and ideologies. That has been true of jurisdiction stripping legislation. 10 11 And I've actually done the math on this to look 12 at the votes on jurisdiction stripping 13 legislation. 14 For example, proposals in 2004 and 2006 to take away the Supreme Court's 15 16 jurisdiction over certain constitutional issues 17 were overwhelmingly supported by House 18 Republicans, and overwhelmingly opposed by House 19 Democrats. 20 One can explain this in part on 21 partisanship grounds. But it's also different 22 perspectives on constitutional issues. So, I

want to associate myself with Commissioner 1 2 Tribe's arguments. But it would be extremely hard in this context, and probably many others, 3 4 to say that any particular legislation is 5 unconstitutional because it is partisan. So, those are just a couple of 6 7 comments. I do think on the merits there's a lot 8 of work to be done in this chapter, not only in 9 tone, and I think Commissioner Crespo pointed to one argument that could be fleshed out far more 10 than it is, and in powerful ways. 11 12 But I also see that people disagree 13 substantially on these issues. And it's going to 14 be a challenge, but one that I think we can meet. And I'll stop there. 15 16 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 17 Commissioner Grove. I would like to now invite, 18 we do have time, and we wanted to make sure we 19 So, Commissioners who would like to had time. 20 use raise the hand function and join the 21 conversation, please do so. And we can begin with Commissioner Baude. 22

1	COMMISSIONER BAUDE: Thanks. First,
2	I have two examples about the constitutional
3	point, and two thoughts on common ground.
4	So, on the constitutional point I
5	think jurisdiction stripping is a good analogy.
6	So, there's a lot of ink spilled. Congress has
7	power to (audio interference) the federal courts
8	more explicitly than it does over the power to
9	control the size of the federal courts. And yet
10	there's a ton of ink spilled in scholarly
11	theories about when jurisdiction to bring
12	legislation might still be improper, because it
13	gerrymanders the disfavored norm, or has an
14	improper intent, or is designed to control the
15	Court's decisions. We'll talk about that of
16	course later on at this meeting.
17	And I just note, none of that sort of
18	nuance, or complications, or complexity has yet
19	been brought to the court-packing debate. So, I
20	think one just obvious question would be, are
21	there similar analogies?
22	You know, if one thinks it would be

unconstitutional for the Court to, for Congress 1 2 to strip jurisdiction of our free speech cases with the intent to disfavor our free speech 3 rights, would it be similarly unconstitutional 4 5 for Congress to do the same through court packing, to try to overturn a free speech 6 7 decision or do something else? 8 Maybe not. Maybe there's some reason 9 that the two are disanalogous. But I think right

10 now we're willing to treat the discussion much 11 more complexly in other areas, and maybe have 12 missed this same kind of complexity or 13 distinctions that are on here.

Another example would be partisan gerrymandering. I think a lot of people believe that there should be some constitutionally recognized norm against partisan, some type of partisan districting behavior, at least for the state legislatures. I assume also by the federal legislature.

21 If one things that's true, then if 22 there's some norm about partisan gerrymandering

via the Supreme Court maybe those puzzles 1 2 wouldn't count as part of the gerrymandering because they're, you know, changing the numbers 3 4 in a good way, rather than a bad way, or something. 5 But these are not sort of fanciful 6 7 arguments. They're arguments that are taken 8 seriously in other areas. And I think we need to 9 think about why they don't apply here. 10 I'll just say, I don't mean to be 11 anti-common ground. I actually think the best 12 arguments for court packing are something like a combination of what Commissioners Crespo and 13 14 Tribe have said. I think if one things we are at the 15 16 break glass moment, and this is the only way to 17 break the glass, that is a very good argument for 18 court change. 19 And I think maybe it's, if we just 20 acknowledge them in those terms that the only 21 reason to do so is, this is that set of extreme circumstances, then of course we're too 22

deadlocked to, you know, to disagree whether 1 2 we're there. That might actually be more helpful than a lot of what was said. 3 Thank you. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 4 5 Commissioner Baude. And now I'd like to turn to Commissioner Ross. 6 7 COMMISSIONER ROSS: Thank you, 8 Commissioner Bauer. A lot of the points that I 9 would have made have been helpfully made already. So, I'll just make a small point that might be 10 helpful to include in this chapter of the report. 11 12 There's a lot of discussion about the 13 inevitability of a tit-for-tat following a sort 14 of court expansion that would lead to a slippery slope regarding the number of Justices in the 15 16 future, with one report citing, one study citing 17 60 to 65 Justices in the future. 18 And one thing I would love the report 19 to expand upon is the context of the 1860s, where 20 we did see an expansion, and a contraction, and 21 then the expansion of the Court that didn't 22 ultimately lead to a tit-for-tat and a slippery

slope of number of Justices to 60 or 65. 1 2 I think it would helpful to kind of get a sense of what might have been different 3 4 about that context that might lead us to think in 5 this context we might head down that slippery 6 slope. 7 Because often that argument is used as 8 a conversation stopper with any sort of court 9 expansion. Because I think many people fear, and recognize that a Court tit-for-tat expansion 10 approach would be damaging to the legitimacy and 11 12 the standing of the Court. 13 So, some reflections to the extent 14 that there are any available about that 15 particular era, and what stopped that particular 16 kind of contraction and expansion. And whether 17 proposals that just a gradual expansion of the 18 Court that are also mentioned in this chapter of 19 the report, that talk about expanding the Court 20 one Justice at a time per administration might be 21 used as tools that could resist any sort of tit-22 for-tat game.

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1	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
2	Commissioner Ross. Commissioner Fallon.
3	COMMISSIONER FALLON: I can't express
4	my thanks deeply enough to everybody who's
5	participated in this conversation. I can
6	scarcely remember a conversation that I felt more
7	informed by, as we come to the end of the time
8	allotted.
9	And I hope that some of what has come
10	out in the conversation could be reflected in the
11	report, perhaps in the following way. I
12	completely understand that there are large issues
13	about how to structure the chapter about which
14	compromise may be very difficult. But one of the
15	things that has been so helpful to me in
16	listening to this conversation is, coming to
17	understand better than I had before the
18	perspectives from which people making some of the
19	arguments were coming. And the great disparity
20	in the perception of the relevant background
21	facts between people on opposing sides.
22	As I said, I don't think that there's

any possible way that this Commission could 1 2 reconcile those, or come to a consensus conclusion. But I think it would be so helpful 3 to other people trying to understand what's going 4 5 on here if the positions could be formulated with the nuance, and in some instances the passion 6 that we've heard over the past hour or so. 7 And so, to my fellow Commissioners, if 8 9 some of you who have spoken so marvelously, informatively, and passionately would be willing 10 to write a few paragraphs, casting into writing 11 12 what you have put before us here orally 13 And if there was some way to weave 14 these together so that everybody reading the report would have the benefit of those nuanced 15 16 and passionate perspectives, I think it would be 17 a great, great, great step forward for this 18 Commission toward accomplishing the most that we 19 reasonably hope to accomplish. 20 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 21 Commissioner Fallon. I'd like to turn now to Commissioner Boddie. 22

1	COMMISSIONER BODDIE: Yes, hi. So
2	first of all I, this has been a very powerful
3	exchange, and a really important debate. And I
4	just want to make a few quick points.
5	One is, obviously this is an issue
6	that is very much in the public eye. And so I
7	think, especially to Commissioner Ifill's point
8	about the need to acknowledge that this is a
9	matter to which there's significant public
10	attention.
11	And that to the extent that we are
12	privileging a very elite frame of these views,
13	that we really need to be much more attentive to
14	how, you know, folks who don't necessarily, or
15	are not necessarily well versed in constitutional
16	law or don't teach constitutional law, how
17	they're perceiving that debate.
18	So, in terms of the language that we
19	use, and in terms of how we frame these debates I
20	think it's critically important.
21	The other question that I had, and
22	then I'll be quiet, is the, I'm not sure that

1 I've heard a response to the points that 2 Commissioner Crespo made about the decision by the Senate to disregard essentially, or to refuse 3 4 to act on Judge Garland's nomination, and the consequences of that decision, which was to leave 5 the Court at the number of eight. 6 7 And so, that was already a disruption 8 And I'm not sure that I've heard a of a norm. 9 response to that. So, if anyone cares to give 10 it, that would be great. 11 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, 12 Commissioner Boddie. If somebody does want to 13 give a response I have a couple of other people 14 in the queue here. But let me go now to Commissioner LaCroix. 15 16 COMMISSIONER LACROIX: Yes. I have a 17 few thoughts related to both this discussion, and 18 I think what we'll be discussing with Chapter 4 a 19 little bit later. 20 And I guess I want to say something 21 about this doctrinal and legal analysis of court 22 expansion, and of Congressional control more

1	broadly, which again we'll talk about in Chapter
2	4. And that is, so first I think this is
3	something that the chapter, both chapters could
4	profitably talk about more.
5	But I think something that is very
6	difficult in this case law, and in the
7	constitutional law of this area is distinguishing
8	between political and partisan efforts.
9	So something, you know, those of us
10	who teach constitutional law or, obviously all of
11	us are equally engaged in these debates, so we
12	encounter this.
13	But it's just, a difficult distinction
14	I find in teaching is to convey to students the
15	appropriateness of political control, which is
16	distinct from partisan control.
17	And that the political branches,
18	understood as the President and Congress, have a
19	constitutional role to play. And this is why we
20	have checks and balances as one of our kind of
21	key values.
22	And so, if political means something

different from partisan, what might that mean? 1 2 And this ties in with some of the comments that have just been made. Is it appropriate for the 3 Court to be acted upon by the other two branches 4 of Government? I think the Constitution says 5 yes, in fact, that is entirely appropriate. 6 7 And so, the people's mechanisms, we 8 the people's mechanisms of control come through

9 the President and Congress, the other branches.
10 It doesn't necessarily mean that those are
11 therefore partisan. Although, as Commissioner
12 Grove pointed out, they may have worked out that
13 way, or track that way.

14So, one could say the Commission is15engaged in that, because we have been convened by16the Executive to think about precisely these17sorts of, if not controls, sort of discourses18with the Judicial Branch, the Court itself.19And then I'll just say as another note20about doctrine, one of the big cases about

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Congressional control of the Supreme Court, again

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you go to another Commissioner, and let me see if 1 2 I can fix this problem. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Is Commissioner Adams 3 4 generally audible to people? I can hear her 5 clearly, yes. You are audible. No? Turning We'll come back to you, Commissioner Adams, 6 off. 7 momentarily. 8 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Commissioner 9 Bauer, you turned your audio off. CO-CHAIR BAUER: 10 Yes. Here I am. Commissioner Rodriguez, and then Commissioner 11 12 Tribe. 13 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Bauer. I first wanted to venture a 14 kind of answer to Elisa's questions that she 15 16 posed at Commissioner Boddie's questions. She 17 posed it. 18 And the individual groups have had 19 debates about how to situate the recent nominations. How to tell an account of them that 20 21 explains why we are where we are. 22 And this particular doc chapter tells

one version of that story, in an effort to explain why the calls for court packing began in 2017, 2018, the kinds of calls that have not been heard until relatively recently, by telling the story of these nominations.

6 But even reconstructing this recent 7 past requires interpretation. And it also raises 8 a hard question to answer, which is what 9 determines when a norm has been violated. And 10 perhaps more importantly, when is it appropriate 11 for norms to give way to new understandings?

12 And as much of this discussion I think 13 underscores, no one will be satisfied with one 14 version of that story. But it is relevant in 15 thinking through how to understand the Court 16 today, and the possibilities of reforming it.

I also wanted to raise a point that
has been raised to us in public commentary quite
forcefully. And that is that there is support
not only for keeping the Supreme Court at nine,
but for enacting a Constitutional Amendment to
fix the number of Justices at nine.

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1	And there are members of Congress,
2	hundreds of members of Congress who support this
3	amendment
4	And I think the amendment reflects
5	what Commissioner Driver said in the last session
6	about the normative power of the actual. But the
7	reason given by those who support this amendment
8	is so that Congress can never interfere with the
9	size of the Court for partisan reasons, or
10	reasons that favor one point of view, or one
11	political party.
12	And so, that's the principle behind
13	taking away Congress' power through a
14	Constitutional Amendment. And in some way, by
15	implication, the proposal of the amendment
16	suggests that Congress might well in fact have
17	that power absent a change to the Constitution.
18	But I think that this question about
19	whether we should fix the Constitution to never,
20	to not allow Congress to ever interfere with the
21	size of the Court for partisan or political
22	reasons leads to the central question that is

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animating this discussion.

2	And that is, is it possible in this
3	moment to pursue expansion without seeming
4	partisan, or without, because of seeming
5	partisan, to prompt retaliation?
6	And even if the motivation for
7	expansion is not partisan, and follows what
8	Commissioner LaCroix just said about the
9	difference between partisan and political, how do
10	we decide if it's based on disagreement with the
11	Court's jurisprudence? And how do we know if it
12	is based on much more fundamental concerns, as
13	have been expressed by some Commissioners?
14	And I think one of the things that
15	we're learning from this conversation is that as
16	a Commission we're only going to be able to
17	answer that question as a collective. And it may
18	not be possible to answer it at all to all
19	people's satisfaction. But it is a question on
20	which people's points of view ought to be
21	expressed.
22	And then the last thing I want to say,

1 that some of this conversation brings to mind, 2 and it relates back to this question of 3 conventions or norms.

And that is, when thinking about expansion of the Court as a potential reform, or not even imaging it as a reform, but thinking about introducing it into public discussion, in that discussion where does the burden lie?

9 Does it lie with those who would 10 purport to change the structure of the Court, to 11 address what they think of as either a threat to 12 the future of democracy, or something less than 13 that, but still justifying expansion?

14 That doing so would in fact, or is 15 likely to serve the institution, but in fact or 16 is likely to serve the people? Would pursue or 17 solidify the value of criteria that we talked 18 about in the last session?

19 Or is the burden of persuasion instead 20 on those who would raise the risks of expansion 21 as a way of trying to prevent that conversation 22 from proceeding, to prove that those risks would

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in fact materialize?

2	And again, I don't think that either
3	of these questions is one that we as a Commission
4	could answer. But those are the kinds of
5	questions on which we I think are well suited,
6	and have begun to offer perspectives that should
7	hopefully inform the debate.
8	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
9	Co-Chair Rodriguez. I am, I have in the queue
10	Commissioner Tribe and Commissioner Charles.
11	What I would like to do is just quickly double
12	check to see whether the audio has been fixed for
13	Commissioner Adams. Because I know
14	COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Hi. Can you hear
15	me?
16	CO-CHAIR BAUER: We can hear you.
17	COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Oh, that's
18	wonderful. I'm going to make a very, very short
19	intervention. So, I want to make sure that we're
20	going to have time for everybody who is queued to
21	be able to speak.
22	I simply want to go back to a point

that Commissioner Fallon raised, which was about
 trying to capture some of the texture of this
 conversation in this chapter.

I think it's pretty clear that it's going to be difficult to get consensus on the Commission around Chapter 2. But what I do think we've done today is model something that I think is increasingly rare in our political consciousness.

And that is the ability to talk to each other, notwithstanding our differences. And so, it might be useful in framing the chapter, both taking up Commissioner Fallon's idea of having maybe some short excepts of some of the presentations that have come today.

But to also say that even if we cannot reach some level of agreement or consensus on the chapter, that there's a good faith ongoing desire to engage in the kind of discussion that are the hallmarks of a democratic republic, one which I very much believe in.

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CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,

I	ц — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
1	Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Tribe,
2	Commissioner Charles, and then Commissioner Levi.
3	But I'll come back and recognize each of you.
4	Begin please, Commissioner Tribe.
5	COMMISSIONER TRIBE: The reason I put
6	my hand down is that I've decided I didn't really
7	have to speak.
8	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay.
9	COMMISSIONER TRIBE: Silence is
10	sometimes golden, I suppose.
11	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you,
12	Commissioner Tribe. Commissioner Charles.
13	COMMISSIONER CHARLES: Seconding the
14	comments of Commissioner Adams, and always taking
15	the opportunity to associate myself with
16	Commissioner Fallon, I do think that there is a
17	common ground in terms of surfacing the
18	questions.
19	Resolution is, may not be possible.
20	But just articulating and surfacing the various
21	questions that we are surfacing today and now I
22	think is important and beneficial, both for us,

but for the country as a whole. 1 2 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, Commissioner Charles. Commissioner Levi. 3 COMMISSIONER LEVI: This is not 4 5 intended, this really is a response to Commissioner Crespo. But just to give a bit of 6 7 context. 8 Speaking as a former federal judge, 9 and as a chief judge in a highly impacted district, one of the frustrations that members of 10 the judiciary have had is that Congress has been 11 12 unwilling to confirm nominees, many of whom, from 13 my point of view were quite obviously well 14 qualified for the position, whatever their party, 15 during the run up to an election. 16 And it's just quite commonplace to 17 hear members of Congress say that the door has 18 And sometimes they think the door has shut shut. 19 at six months, sometimes it's at eight months. 20 Whatever it is, this has become something of a 21 tradition. 22 And I don't say that it's a justified

tradition. In fact, I feel quite the reverse 1 2 about it. But they do not feel that they have changed, for example, the size of the D.C. 3 4 Circuit when they refuse to confirm or act on a 5 nomination to the Circuit. And I suspect that at least one way to 6 7 view the nomination of such a qualified person as 8 Merrick Garland is that they did not consider 9 that they were changing the size of the Court, but they were simply waiting for the election, as 10 11 they do in so many other judicial nominations. 12 Not that I think it's a good practice, because I 13 don't. Thank you. 14 Thank you very much, CO-CHAIR BAUER: 15 Commissioner Levi. I want to give, we have a few 16 more minutes. And I'm going to also just take 17 one concluding remark, if I can abuse my position 18 as moderator. But let me invite any further 19 comments along these lines. Commissioner 20 Gertner. 21 COMMISSIONER GERTNER: This is a bit 22 along the lines of what Commissioner Levi just

1	said. I think it's important that what we do,
2	even if we can't come to a resolution, that what
3	we do enables the conversation to go forward.
4	That's what I thought the task of this
5	Commission was going to be. Not necessarily
6	coming up with a slate of recommendations, but to
7	enable the conversation going forward.
8	The concern that criticism of the
9	Court, and I say this as a formal federal judge,
10	is while the criticism somehow undermines
11	judicial independence, I think is just not true.
12	If the institution is so fragile that criticism
13	undermines it, then we are really in trouble.
14	Likewise, I fear that worrying about
15	partisanship in these conversations also stops
16	the conversation. And particularly the argument
17	that partisanship even flows into our
18	conversations here will, you know, doom the
19	constitutionality of any reform.
20	I think that those are really
21	conversational stopping. And I think that's not
22	where we ought to be. Everything should be on

the table. All criticisms should be on the 1 2 table. Not this or that decision. I appreciate But criticisms about structural issues, 3 that. 4 the impact of a series of decisions on the 5 political process, that's a fair criticism. And it seems to me that could enter into our 6 7 discussion. I agree with others that we're not 8 9 going to come to a resolution of this. The most 10 that we can come to is, it seems to me, the ability to fairly describe all sides of the 11 12 debate, so that the conversation can continue. 13 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, 14 Commissioner Gertner. Is there any other Commissioner who would like to speak to the issue 15 16 in the few minutes that we have remaining? 17 Let me just close this out by saying, 18 I want to associate myself with, first of all, 19 those who think this conversation has been 20 extremely constructive. 21 I want to associate myself 22 particularly with what Commissioner Adams said

about just precisely this kind of engagement being so important to this country at this particular time, and with Commissioner Fallon's suggestion that if we capture this conversation in our draft, then we would be doing what our charge called upon us to do, to inform the public debate.

8 And that's what the President asked us 9 to do, to provide a thorough, balanced, critical 10 appraisal and account of that debate. And so, I 11 really am very impressed with what I've heard 12 over the last more than an hour. And I think it 13 is an experience that we should all take with us 14 into the next round of conversations.

And I just want to emphasize again for those who tuned in later, this is the first day of deliberations. And as you can see, they're going to be informative, constructive, and engaged. So, I'll concluded on that note. We

20 So, 1'll concluded on that note. We 21 will recess for lunch, and return at 1:00 p.m. 22 COMMISSIONER TRIBE: He means 2:00

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1	p.m.
2	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Right, 2:00 p.m.
3	Sorry about that.
4	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5	went off the record at 12:50 p.m. and resumed at
6	2:00 p.m.)
7	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Welcome back,
8	everyone. Hi, welcome back. My name is Kate
9	Andrias. I serve as the Rapporteur for the
10	Commission as well as a Commissioner. Thank you
11	to everyone for an extraordinarily productive
12	deliberation this morning.
13	In this session, we will discuss the
14	materials on term limits. As with the prior
15	sessions, these discussion materials were
16	prepared by a working group within the Commission
17	and do not reflect the work or views of the
18	Commission as a whole or of any particular
19	Commissioner.
20	They were designed to be inclusive in
21	their discussion of the arguments for and against
22	reform to assist the Commission in robust, wide

1 ranging deliberations.

2	We will once again begin with a brief
3	summary of the content of this set of materials,
4	after which point I will call on the
5	Commissioners who have indicated, in preparation
6	for this meeting, their interest in addressing
7	the topics.
8	Commissioner Rick Pildes will start us
9	off by summarizing the materials. Commissioner
10	Pildes?
11	COMMISSIONER PILDES: Thanks very
12	much, Kate. And I want to, like everybody else,
13	thank the co-chairs of the Commission and also
14	all my fellow Commissioners.
15	So I'll summarize the discussion
16	materials that have been distributed regarding
17	proposals that the country should consider
18	changing the current system of life tenure for
19	Supreme Court Justices to a system in which the
20	Justices would serve for a fixed term of a
21	specific number of years.
22	I'll refer to this as a system of term

limits for Supreme Court Justices, and it's one
 of the proposals that has been central in
 discussion of possible Supreme Court reform going
 back at least the last 20 years or so. So it's a
 proposal that pre-dates the more recent
 controversies around the Court.

7 I think it'll be clear as first to 8 describe how a system if term limits for the 9 Supreme Court would work, and then I'll briefly summarize some of the main reasons materials 10 11 discuss as to why a system of term limits would 12 be better for the Court and for the country as 13 well as some of the concerns that a term limit 14 proposal raises.

The main term limits proposal that the materials address is one in which Justices would be appointed to terms of office that would last for 18 years. This proposal, that would mean that each President, in a four-year Presidential term, would have the opportunity to nominate two Justices to the Court.

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Most proposals suggest that the

President's first nomination should arise in year one of a new presidential term, and the second in year three, to avoid nominations arising during election years. So in short (audio interference) would serve for 18 years. Each President, in a presidential term, would have a similar number to nominations.

8 The materials first survey the 9 practices in our state Supreme Courts and the top 10 courts in other major constitutional democracies. 11 And as the materials describe, every state but 12 one imposes either term limits, or mandatory 13 retirement ages, or both, for their state Supreme 14 Court judges.

And similarly, the United States is the only major Constitutional democracy that does not impose either term limits, or mandatory retirement ages, or both, on the judges for their highest courts.

The materials that discuss the following main justifications for term limits, and I'll highlight a few in the short time here,

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first, term limits would regularize the appointments process and make appointments more predictable.

Under the current system, there's a 4 great deal of randomness in the number of 5 nominations that a President has the opportunity 6 to make during a four-year presidential term. 7 8 Whether seats on the Court become vacant during 9 any presidential term depends on the vagaries of 10 when Justices just happen to leave the bench, whether it's through illness, retirement, or 11 12 death.

Some Presidents have the opportunity
to fill several seats during a four-year term.
Other Presidents end up with no vacancies during
a four-year presidential term.

Given that the Constitution has
created a political mechanism for filling seats
on the Court, that is presidential nomination and
Senate confirmation, term limit proponents argue
there's no obvious justification for why
different Presidents should have such different

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opportunities to nominate members for the Court. 1 2 In addition, the current system creates a risk that some members of the public 3 will perceive Justices to be retiring, or failing 4 to retire, for what materials call strategic 5 That is the Justices can be perceived 6 reasons. as choosing to retire based on the timing of 7 8 whether they prefer a particular President to 9 fill their seat. Whether this occurs or not, the perception that it occurs could undermine 10 public confidence in the Court. 11 12 By regularizing Supreme Court 13 appointments, a system of term limits would make 14 the appointments process, in the view of 15 supporters of this proposal, appear to be more 16 fair, less arbitrary, more predictable and, in 17 addition, since all Justices would serve 18 years 18 and only 18 years, term limits would also remove 19 the incentive that currently exists for 20 Presidents to consider only relatively young 21 nominees who have the potential to serve for many decades. 22

1	The materials provide additional
2	justifications for term limits, but to keep these
3	comments brief, I also want to highlight some of
4	the concerns about term limits the materials
5	discuss. One is a concern about whether a system
6	of term limits would compromise at all the
7	extremely important value of judicial
8	independence.
9	Another concern the materials discuss
10	is whether term limits might destabilize judicial
11	doctrine, because there would be more frequent
12	turnover on the Court.
13	Yet another concern is that when it
14	known that each President will have the
15	opportunity to nominate two Justices, will that
16	make the Court even more of an issue in electoral
17	politics? And how would this affect public
18	perceptions of the Court as an institution?
19	Finally, the materials discuss the
20	important issue of whether the adoption of term
21	limits would require a constitutional amendment
22	or whether it would be constitutional as well as

1	prudent for Congress, through ordinary
2	legislation, to change the system of life tenure
3	to one of (audio interference) appointments to
4	the Court.
5	The materials also discuss in detail
6	various practical issues that would have to be
7	addressed in implementing a term limits proposal.
8	But I'll stop here to provide as much opportunity
9	for discussion as possible.
10	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you,
11	Commission Pildes. I'd like to invite all
12	Commissioners who are able to turn their cameras
13	on, we will hear from those Commissioners who
14	have indicated a desire to address this issue.
15	And then with any time remaining, please feel
16	free to raise your hand, and I'll call on you.
17	Commissioner Michael Kang?
18	COMMISSIONER KANG: Hi, thank you,
19	Commissioner Andrias. So I had a question about
20	whether changing the Supreme Court term from a
21	lifetime tenure determines the type of justice we
22	end up with on the Court.

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1	So changing the term obviously changes
2	the job to a degree. And you might expect
3	Presidents to nominate a slightly different set
4	of candidates. The job might become more
5	attractive to some candidates, less attractive to
6	others, with an 18-year term. And it might not
7	be safe to assume that Congress can impose a term
8	limit, and we end up with the same people on the
9	Court as Justices.
10	So for example, without life tenure
11	the job becomes less of a career capper leading
12	directly into retirement. A worry might be that
13	a term limit shifts the candidate pool toward
14	nominees who hope to leapfrog to other offices.
15	Maybe they're more ideologically extreme or
16	partisan in connection with that worry. Maybe
17	they're less focused on their jobs with the
18	Supreme Court and a little bit more worried about
19	what happens after their 18 years on the Supreme
20	Court.
21	Now, there is some reason to think
22	that this is what happens with some elected

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offices that are term limited at the state and 1 2 local level. And having raised that concern, I wanted to take a shot at helping to address it. 3 A co-author and I have proposed term 4 5 limits for state supreme courts. And in our work, we actually conclude that a term limit at 6 state level probably wouldn't significantly 7 8 change the candidate pool in the ways that I'm 9 wondering about here. And there we argue that high judicial 10 11 office still requires candidates to reach a 12 certain level of experience and seniority, at which point a sufficiently long single term still 13 14 allows them to reach the same tenure length and retirement age that they do now without a term 15 16 limit. At the state level, the average term is 17 about 12 and a half years, average tenure. And they typically retire, on average, around 64 18 19 years old. 20 In other words, state justices would 21 still be retiring after a similar number of years

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in office, similar age as they do without a term

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limit. And if that's right, a term limit 1 2 wouldn't dramatically change career incentives for state justices. 3

Now, of course, state Supreme Court 4 5 and the U.S. Supreme Court are really different institutions. State justices, for instance, 6 7 typically need to be elected. But that said, I 8 think there might be similar arguments here at 9 the federal level why an 18-year term wouldn't necessarily change everyone's incentives in a 10 problematic direction. 11

12 So for one thing, an 18-year term is 13 probably long enough, and most viable Supreme 14 Court nominees old enough when they're nominated, that an 18-year term would probably put most 15 16 Justices in striking range of retirement anyway 17 after 18 years. And if that's true, we might end 18 up with a similar set of Justices, because it's 19 not changing their career trajectory too much. 20 It still leads, effectively, to retirement at a 21 similar age.

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And what's more, as Commissioner

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1	Pildes said, with a term limit, as opposed to
2	life tenure, Presidents would no longer be
3	incentivized to nominate younger nominees.
4	They'd probably nominate, on average, people who
5	are a little bit older than maybe now.
6	And older Justices mean that Justices
7	are a little bit closer to retirement on average,
8	and maybe they wouldn't be as influenced by what
9	they're going to do after their 18 years are up
10	and their post-Court, or at least their post-
11	junior Justice, career is over.
12	So I think there are good answers,
13	actually, to the concern I raised, including the
14	ones that I've brought up and others, but I
15	wondered if it made some sense to address these
16	points in the chapter itself. Thanks.
17	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
18	Commissioner David Strauss.
19	COMMISSIONER STRAUSS: Thank,
20	Commissioner Andrias. And thanks to the members
21	of the Commission who put together this chapter
22	which I thought did really a marvelous job of

marshaling evidence from other places, and the term limits there, and also the part of the chapter that works through all the complexities in imposing term limits.

5 I had two concerns, and they really 6 are directed more to the report than to the way 7 Commissioner Pildes presented the report, which 8 to some degree are maybe these concerns. But 9 they did strike me when I read the draft. So let 10 me try to articulate them.

11 One is small, one is bigger. The 12 smaller one is that I think there are arguments 13 for term limits beyond those made in the draft. 14 The ones made in the draft really are focused on kind of the political aspects of appointments, 15 16 not using that many the majority of the way, but Presidents will make -- the number of 17 18 appointments a President makes will be arbitrary. 19 There will be various kinds of political 20 machinations around appointments. 21 There are reasons for term limits that 22 really don't have anything to do with courts or

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with political appointments. So my impression is
that, if you look at the boards of corporations
or of not for profit entities, that term limits
are common and, I think, are considered best
practice. And the reasons for that should apply
to courts to some extent as well.

7 You want -- and with what I'm trying 8 to articulate, that when people stay in a job too 9 long they recycle old ideas, they basically stop thinking. Term limits can provide some of the 10 11 benefits that mandatory retirement ages do 12 without running into some of the complications of 13 natural retirement ages like forcing the age of 14 appointment lower.

They can provide a kind of generational diversity which is generally a good thing. And just in the idea that you want, it's useful to have a fresh set of eyes looking at problems that are complicated and require the exercise of good judgment.

And the fact that this is accepted inthese other realms where people have

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responsibilities that obviously are not -- but they aren't completely different either, maybe furnishes some additional arguments for that side, not necessarily to say that they are conclusive arguments.

6 The bigger concern I had, which is a 7 little bit related to that, is that what comes 8 through to me from the chapter is that the main 9 argument for term limits is maintaining a long 10 term political balance on the Court.

11 As the report says, as the chapter 12 says, not the report, the chapter says, the draft 13 chapter, says at one point the parties who win 14 the White House should have the same or roughly 15 equal chance to shape the Supreme Court through 16 new nominations. And that's essential argument in the draft. It's repeated in various ways a 17 18 couple of times.

19 And I get the point. It's an 20 important point, but my concern is that it will 21 normalize the idea that appointments are kind of 22 an extension of a party's agenda into the courts,

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that judicial appointments are the judicial wing of that party, or that administration, or that movement. And I think we should not normalize that.

Now, there are some shades of gray 5 here which make this a difficult kind of point to 6 7 make. One shade of gray is, you know, we do want, as the draft says, the draft says we do 8 9 want the Court, long-term, to be in some way responsive to public opinion. We don't want it 10 to be completely out of touch with public 11 12 opinion. I think that is generally accepted. Ι think, for what it's worth, it's right. 13 But it's 14 not easy to (audio interference) should be. If 15 we really wanted to be responsive to long term 16 public opinion, or public opinion as it ebbs and 17 flows, then that Justice should stand for 18 election. And since that's not something that is 19 being widely advocated, we want some limit on the 20 extent to which there is this political 21 responsiveness.

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But it's hard to specify exactly where

that line should be. My own preference would be 1 2 to put it in negative terms, that it's a bad thing if the Court gets too far out of line with 3 4 public opinion for too long, granted that we want 5 some mechanism to make sure it stays up with public opinion, which is a little bit the flavor 6 I got from some passages in the draft. 7 But however we do that, I think it is 8 9 a difficult question. But we should be careful not to present it as simply a matter of, you 10 11 know, if you win a lot of elections you get to 12 make a lot of appointments. If you don't, you 13 don't. It's more complicated than that. 14 And the other question is to what extent a President's anticipation of how a 15 16 prospective Justice will vote plays a role in the 17 appointment. Where, again, the sort of absolute 18 position is, oh, it should play no role whatever, 19 or, oh no, that is exactly what the President should be thinking about. 20 21 You know, my own view at least would 22 be we need to reject both of those. The first

one is both not realistic and not really what our system seems to envision. And I also think the latter one, which is that the President should be intently focused on the specific positions that a nominee would take, that we have to make sure this person is, quote, unquote, "sound."

7 I think that has crept into the system, maybe not crept. It's become, in some 8 9 ways I think, central to appointments. You see symptoms of that, this very careful vetting, not 10 11 just to make sure that this is a person whose 12 general orientation the President is comfortable 13 with, you know, forget the President, our folks, 14 our movement folks don't like this opinion, take that person off the list. I think some of that 15 16 is going on and I think it's a bad thing.

You also see it in the cries of betrayal when an appointee votes in a way that people of the party that appointed him or her don't like, the idea they betrayed us and they were disloyal to the team. And the cry of let's not have anymore of Justice X, referring to a

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previous appointee who was a disappointment. Let's make sure that we don't get a Justice X again.

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4 I think all of these are symptoms 5 something very unfortunate. And I think, to some degree, the argument that the point of term 6 limits is to give Presidents a chance to shape 7 8 the Court normalizes that. And I think we should 9 not normalize that. I think we should -- at least my view is we should not -- my view is that 10 11 should not be normalized as far as what position 12 the Commission should take. I think the position should be surfaced that there are concerns about 13 14 normalizing that, even if there are arguments on the other side. 15

16 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Strauss.

Commissioner White, Adam White.
COMMISSIONER WHITE: Thank you.
Thanks again, everyone. My comments actually
pick up a bit where Commissioner Strauss left
off. The proposals in this document for term

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limits, they do present profound risks, I think. 1 2 Some of them are foreseeable, and they're foreseen in the document. But other risks are 3 subtler, and I think they should be highlighted 4 in the final report. 5 The document describes new processes 6 7 for judicial appointments to help guarantee that 8 every presidential election delivers not just two 9 new Supreme Court vacancies but also two Justices. And the document identifies some of 10 11 the practical problems inherent in those 12 proposals. 13 COMMISSIONER WHITE: But more 14 fundamentally, the new process for judicial appointments would further expand and entrench 15 16 presidential power at the cost of the Court, and 17 the Court's reputation, and at the cost of the 18 Senate and, I think, at the cost of our 19 Constitutional politics which are already very, 20 very presidentially centric. And I think that 21 we, the Commission, should recognize and consider 22 these problems.

1	As was just noted, the term limits
2	framework would cement a notion that Presidents
3	are entitled, eventually, to Justices of their
4	choosing. Our Constitutional system's never
5	guaranteed this, and for good reason. And in an
6	era when Presidents wield ever more power and
7	political weight, relative to the rest of
8	government, we shouldn't vest them with even more
9	power and political weight.
10	The proposal would also cement a
11	notion that the Senate should jump into action
12	whenever the President (audio interference) and
13	our constitutional system has never guaranteed
14	this and, again, for good reason. Our system
15	requires Presidents to persuade the Senate to
16	act, and that creates better incentives for both
17	the Presidents and the Senates. The nation
18	should preserve constitutional processes that
19	empower the Congress and not create still more
20	trends to further disembowel Congress.
21	Finally, there's real danger in
22	treating seats on the (audio interference)

expecting two of them to be delivered 1 2 automatically after every inauguration. Our Constitution doesn't map judicial vacancies onto 3 the cycles of presidential elections. Professor 4 5 Feldman noted this in his testimony when he observed that the vacancies, quote, "are 6 7 distributed roughly randomly across time." They 8 are therefore, in an important way, accents. 9 Any accidental feature preserves the 10 independence of the judiciary, even in the face of the reality of the political appointment 11 12 process. Who controls the Court, 13 jurisprudentially speaking, is at least, to some 14 degree, the result of chance. Now of course, we know that it's not 15 16 completely random, and that there is a trend of 17 judges, at all levels of the judiciary, leaving 18 their court at a time that seems politically or 19 ideologically convenient. To the extent that this Commission 20 21 sees that as a problem, I do think it is a 22 problem. I think we ought to confront it

directly, and I don't think that can be solved through the changing of the laws so much as changing of norms and pushing back against that kind of mindset among judges.

But I think it would be a mistake to 5 try to actually entrench that mindset, not just 6 the minds of judges and the minds of the rest of 7 Presidents shouldn't treat the 8 the system. 9 Supreme Court (audio interference) own office's 10 property, nor should the Justices themselves, nor 11 should the rest of us. And our reports shouldn't implicitly or explicitly endorse reforms that 12 reinforce a mistake in a dangerous (audio 13 14 interference) power over the Courts and a presidential election's power over our 15 16 constitutional order.

17 The reason why I asked to speak to 18 this issue in particular is, I have to admit, I 19 came to the Commission with, I think, instincts 20 in favor of term limits, recognizing some of the 21 problems that have been identified in the report 22 and thinking that maybe the time has come for a

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change.

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2	I have to admit the more that we've
3	studied it as a Commission, and as I've thought
4	through the draft document here, I've been, I
5	think, convinced strongly in the other direction,
6	precisely for the underlying constitutional norms
7	regarding presidential power that I think this
8	document inadvertently entrenches.
9	Thank you.
10	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
11	Commissioner Griffith?
12	COMMISSIONER GRIFFITH: Thank you,
13	Commissioner Andrias. And I just want to
14	associate myself with everything that
15	Commissioner White said. He said it better than
16	I would. I won't repeat. I'll try and find some
17	distinctive points.
18	I want to start with one that the
19	Commission has been repeatedly told that we're
20	not to make recommendations. This chapter comes
21	awfully close to me to seeming like we're making
22	a recommendation. I think it crosses that line.

1	I think the points that you had
2	opposed term limits are not given as much
3	discussion as they should be. So that would be
4	my first comment.
5	Second, I agree with Commissioner
6	Strauss that the discussion assumes that party
7	control of the Court is a given and it's not
8	something to be resisted. It implies that the
9	membership of the Court needs to keep changing to
10	keep in step with election results.
11	As I said earlier today, I thoroughly
12	reject that idea of judging. Now, I don't deny
13	that Presidents, Congress, view Supreme Court
14	appointments as political spoils. But I think we
15	should do what we can to resist that and move
16	away from it where we can. I think the way that
17	the term limits discussion is teed up here, that
18	doesn't do that.
19	Just two quick points in closing.
20	Will shorter term limits, terms lead to less
21	contentious set of confirmation hearings? I'm
22	not certain of that. That's not clear to me. In

1	fact, it might make the appointment of Justices
2	even more deeply embedded in the politics of the
3	moment. And I agree with Professor Feldman here,
4	I don't think that's a good thing. I think it's
5	likely to lead to less judicial independence.
6	And, finally, just to note, I think
7	there's much that would be lost by limiting a
8	Justice's service to 18 years. Here's just a
9	partial list of the Justices who served more than
10	18 years: Chief Justice Marshall, Chief Justice
11	Story, Justice Holmes, Brandeis, Brennan, Scalia,
12	and Ginsburg.
13	I think most of us would agree that
14	their service, as varied as their views were,
15	were a great public service to the nation. And
16	I'd hate to lose the benefit of those sorts of
17	careers, with the experience that comes with them
18	and even more. So, thank you.
19	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
20	Commissioner Whittington?
21	COMMISSIONER WHITTINGTON: This
22	section grapples with an important and

fundamental feature of constitutional design. 1 2 And I think the draft materials do a reasonable job of exposing many of the complexities. 3 Determining how to design the process 4 5 of filling judiciary, and more generally how to design an appointment system, was difficult 6 enough in 1787, but it's probably even more 7 8 difficult for us. The framers could assume, or 9 at least hope that both parties would not plan an important role in how the Constitutional system 10 11 would work. They're wrong about that. 12 And we would have to grapple with that 13 reality in designing an alternative framework. 14 I'm not very enthusiastic about the current way in which we fill vacancies in the judiciary. 15 But 16 I'm not yet convinced that we've really grappled with all the difficulties of the alternatives 17 18 either. 19 In this particular context we have to 20 deal with two particular problems. First the 21 Court has become a much more powerful and important institution within our constitutional 22

system than it once was. That has developed over a long period of time.

But we are also faced with a second 3 and much more recent development, and that is 4 that we have deep partisan polarized divides over 5 how to think about constitutional adjudication 6 7 and the substance of the constitutional rules. I'm not sure that the current 8 9 materials do enough to grapple with that reality. 10 In particular, the materials are written in a way that ties the discussion very closely to 11 12 presidential elections and the presidential 13 election cycle. But it is not clear why 14 presidential dominance and a presidential 15 perspective should be our starting point if we 16 were thinking anew about how to staff the 17 judiciary from scratch.

And given the setup of the argument on behalf of term limits in particular, the bill is also going to regularize the timing of changes in the membership of the Court. The term limits only really, and really only partially, addresses

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half of that equation, the timing of vacancies. 1 2 But the whole plan is thrown into disarray if the other half of the equation is not (audio 3 interference) appointments. And obviously the 4 real problem here is the prospect the vacancies 5 occurred during a period of divided government. 6 And I think we have to grab that bull by the 7 horns and actually deal with it much more 8 9 directly than the current materials do. I think solving that particular 10 11 problem has to be front and center. And the 12 chapter might need to be bolder and more 13 ambitious to actually meet that challenge. For 14 example, should we want to preserve anything like the current Senate confirmation process if we 15 16 were starting fresh and knowing what we know now. 17 If we want to take into account Senate 18 elections as well as presidential elections, then 19 that would push us in one direction. If we 20 really want to avoid giving any (audio 21 interference) effect of divided government, then that would push in a very different direction. 22

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1	It is not obvious to me, at the end of
2	the day, that there's a better alternative than
3	what we have now. But I think we'll need to do
4	more to expose the difficulties of the
5	alternative proposals. Thank you.
6	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
7	Commissioner Roosevelt?
8	COMMISSIONER ROOSEVELT: Thank you,
9	Commissioner Andrias. I'd like to start by
10	agreeing with some of what Commissioners Griffith
11	and Commissioner Strauss have said. Because I
12	don't think the Commission should endorse a view
13	of judges as partisan actors or of appointments
14	as a way to maximize political power. I don't
15	think we should say that those are good things.
16	And I think the report can make clear that we
17	aren't doing that.
18	Now, that said, I think we do have to
19	acknowledge that it matters who the judges are.
20	People wouldn't care so much about the Court,
21	they wouldn't fight so much over the appointment
22	process if it didn't matter.

Now that doesn't mean that judges are
partisan. As Commission Griffith mentioned
earlier, Justice Breyer recently wrote a book
warning against a partisan understanding of
judging. But part of what he said there was
that, of course, judges differ. Different people
have different backgrounds and experiences that
shape their world views. And that can affect
judging.
And then they have different
jurisprudential philosophies about constitutional
interpretation or about when and whether judges
should defer to the views of political actors.
And they may resolve tensions between
constitutional values in different ways. So the
constitutional (audio interference) individual
liberty, and state sovereignty, and democratic
participation, and federal supremacy, and lots of
other things that are sometimes intentioned. And
sometimes judges have to balance those values.
There are different ways of doing
that. And within some bounds, they're all

plausible, they're all legitimate, they're all 1 2 based in a reasonable attempt to find the right answer under the Constitution. So they're not 3 partisan, but they are different. 4 And I think everyone would agree, for 5 instance, that the Warren Court and the Rehnquist 6 7 Court, and the Roberts Court are different. And taking them as an example, the question that term 8 9 limits presents really, I think, is what should determine which of those courts we have. 10 11 Under our current system, some of it 12 is random chance if Justices can't control the 13 time of their departure from the Court. Some of 14 it is strategic behavior if they can control the Some of it is partisan hardball as the 15 timing. 16 political parties fight to fill vacancies or stop 17 the other side from doing so. 18 And I think it would make more sense 19 to connect it, in a consistent and predictable 20 way, to the outcome of presidential elections. 21 And I don't think that's just my view. I think it's the Constitution's view too. Because as 22

Commissioner LaCroix mentioned earlier, the
 framers quite deliberately gave the appoint power
 to the President and the Senate.

Now they could have allowed judges to
pick their own successors. They could have set
the Courts completely apart from the democratic
process. But a feature of the system they
designed was to give the political branches the
power to determine not how the judges decide but
who the judges are.

11 And they did that for a reason, 12 because they were creating a system that would make not individual judges but the institution of 13 14 the judiciary ultimately responsive to the results of national elections. And they weren't 15 16 thinking about partisanship there, because they 17 didn't foresee our party system, as Commissioner 18 Whittington just mentioned.

But they were thinking that elections should have consequences. And I think that there are strong arguments, and if fact I think the emergence of the party system has made them

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1	stronger, that a term limits approach would help
2	that system work better. Thank you.
3	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
4	Commissioner Johnson?
5	COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes, hi. Thank
6	you. So I thought these have been a great set of
7	comments that have been raised about the
8	discussion draft on term limits.
9	I wanted to emphasize some components
10	that really are in line with the very specific
11	concerns that I've raised about term limits but
12	also, I think, are responsive or at least attempt
13	to be somewhat responsive to the broader concerns
14	we've been talking about all day around
15	legitimacy, democracy, political responsiveness,
16	and partisanship.
17	So, I mean, one concern that I really
18	hear about term limits is that it may sacrifice
19	judicial independence or make the Court appear,
20	to either the political process or to voters, as
21	more partisan. We don't want a normalize those
22	kinds of perceptions of the Court. And I really

hear that.

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2	I do want to point out one practical
3	thing about the discussion draft that I think is
4	important which is that (audio interference) 18-
5	year term limit. And that's still quite long. I
6	mean, it's longer than most Americans stay in
7	their jobs, of course. It's maybe seven years
8	short of a generation. It's longer than most
9	elected bodies, the presidency, two terms of a
10	presidency, two terms of Senate. It's long in
11	comparative terms. I mean, look at the state
12	constitutional approaches, most of them anyway.
13	And when you look at other countries,
14	functionally and formally, 18 years is long.
15	And so the point here is that with
16	that length, I'm not sure if 18 years is the
17	perfect length. But it at least reflects an idea
18	that you can balance out this concern around
19	judicial independence with some degree of
20	political responsiveness.
21	And so I think that that question of
22	length should maybe give some solace or really

not minimize or take away, but maybe soften some of the concerns about it seeming just like a partisan process.

I also think it's a lot of time to develop a kind of wisdom that you get both through that length of term and also through maybe prior experience as a lawyer or as a lower court judge. And this maybe incentivizes putting people in, as has been mentioned, that are a bit older.

11 I do think that these questions around 12 separation of powers, responsiveness to national 13 elections maybe need to be thought more in terms 14 of the language, perhaps, of the final draft. Ι need to understand more what it is about an 18-15 16 year term that would create more weakening of the 17 Senate's role, because I don't see it that way, 18 or overplaying the President's role which is a 19 concern that I have as well.

20 And I don't actually see how 18-year 21 term limits themselves affect that. Separation 22 of power is a calculus. But I hear very much

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Commissioner Strauss' recommendation that perhaps 1 2 softening the language around political responsiveness to also put it in the negative 3 might be helpful. 4 And then just the last thing I wanted 5 to say is that throughout this discussion, I am 6 7 thinking we have to careful about how we think about these terms of politics, partisanship, 8 9 ideology. And none of us like the idea that 10 judges are mere partisans, but in some ways I 11 think we should stop saying that, because we all 12 maybe would agree with that. 13 I think that the questions really are 14 about the way in which partisans attempt to place on the Court people of particular ideology, or 15 16 judicial methodology, or judicial philosophy. 17 And that is something that has, in fact, did 18 process. 19 And then this is the very last thing

17 And then this is the very last thing 20 I'd say is that, I think, that with regard to 21 term limits, even if we didn't have the problems 22 around confirmation that we've had in recent

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years, and some of the conflicts that we had 1 2 discussed earlier, I think there would be strong arguments, nevertheless, for considering term 3 4 limits in terms of any time you were, like, 5 taking a fresh look at optimal constitutional design. And I think some of the lessons from 6 7 other jurisdictions tell us that, that they're 8 worth taking seriously on that measure. So thank 9 you. 10 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. Commissioner Balkin? 11 12 COMMISSIONER BALKIN: Thank you, Commission Andrias. I wanted to add a few words 13 14 to what Commissioner Whittington has said. Although he should not be held responsible for 15 16 what I'm about to say. 17 I myself have supported the idea of 18 term limits for the Supreme Court for a very long 19 time. But like Mr. Whittington, I agree that we 20 can't just think about court reform without 21 paying attention to the confirmation process. And today, that process is broken. 22

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1	And this is not just a problem for
2	term limits proposals. It's also a problem for
3	other forums that might change the Court's
4	jurisdiction, its size, its structure, or its
5	vetting rules.
6	If the Senate simply refuses to act,
7	or if it simply refuses to appoint new Justices,
8	almost all of these proposed reforms can be
9	undermined in one way or another. At the very
10	least, we now need a speedy confirmation act that
11	guarantees regular consideration of an action on
12	the Supreme Court nominees.
13	Now, although the Commission was not
14	asked to propose changes in the Senate's
15	procedures for the reasons I just suggested, the
16	inquiry is pretty much unavoidable. The current
17	draft discusses some aspects of reform, but there
18	is much more we could say, and I hope that we
19	will.
20	Even so, there are real limits to what
21	this Commission can suggest. We live in a period
22	of high polarization and intense party

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competition that we haven't seen since the middle of the 19th century. And our Constitution was not designed for such politics. And indeed, as has been pointed out before, the framers did not even expect that there would be political parties of the kind that we have today.

7 The muscles and the connective tissue in our democracy are under intense strain and, in 8 9 some cases, are simply failing. The larger reason why the appointments process is broken is 10 11 that the United States Senate is broken. And it 12 has been broken for some time. This point is not 13 a new one. It has been made repeatedly by 14 political scientists, by students of the institution, and by former senators themselves. 15

People often think of the courts as a counter majoritarian institution in American democracy. And that's why they think its powers need special justification. But in today's America, the most powerful counter majoritarian institution is not the Supreme Court. It is the United States Senate.

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The Senate no longer functions 1 2 according to the famous metaphor, as the saucer that cools the passions of the public. 3 Today, it functions more like a black hole. It is where 4 the democratic wheel of the American public goes 5 to die. 6 And this is true whether you are a 7 conservative or a liberal, a Republican or a 8 9 Democrat. Not just the confirmation process, but the senate itself is a broken institution. 10 And 11 many of our current fights over the courts are a 12 consequence of its disrepair. 13 Now as Commissioners, we have been 14 asked to discuss the pros and cons of potential 15 reforms to the Supreme Court and not reforms to the other branches. We were not asked to, nor 16 17 can we solve the deeper problems that threaten 18 American democracy. 19 But in considering reforms to the 20 courts, we must understand their relationship to 21 other parts of our political structure which are 22 increasingly counter majoritarian and decrepit.

Thank you.

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. 3 Commissioner Gerken?

COMMISSIONER GERKEN: Thank you. I thought I would just say a few words about this discussion and how it relates to the rest of the day.

8 Like Commissioner Johnson, I was 9 heartened to see how much commonality there is in the discussions across each chapter as we're all, 10 11 in different parts of this, wrestling with the 12 same challenging questions. And it's been incredibly useful to hear this conversation 13 14 unfold as we try to figure out where there's 15 common ground.

I also just wanted to say that I really appreciate all of the Commissioners who commented on this set of the deliberative materials in their efforts to not just offer a critique but to help offer a solution, as we all try to find our way to something that we can agree upon.

1	And finally, I'll just note that,
2	about this conversation in particular, that it
3	largely is not exclusively centered around
4	questions of the prudential rather than
5	traditionally legal. And that is, of course, I
6	think, where all of the law professors, at least
7	in this room, are most tentative, because we
8	understand that this is where expertise is
9	probably weakest.
10	And we're all making our best
11	judgments based on the set of institutions that
12	we know well and the set of structures that we
13	know well. But we are all making predictions
14	that we are not always accustomed to doing. And
15	so I actually think that fact makes it easier for
16	us to come to common ground, because we are less
17	sure-footed here.
18	And this is an opportunity for us
19	really to think through to get this together and
20	to recognize the potential weaknesses of our
21	arguments and to recognize the potential
22	unanticipated consequences that we are trying to

think through. So I just wanted to thank all the 1 2 Commissioners for the really excellent discussion. 3 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. 4 We 5 have some time remaining. Is there anyone else who would like to address this material. 6 Commissioner Fredrickson? 7 COMMISSIONER FREDRICKSON: 8 Thank you 9 very much to everyone for these great materials. And it's been a very interesting discussion. 10 And 11 I just want to add very briefly that one of the 12 things I think is real interesting about this particular area of discussion is how very broad 13 14 the spectrum is of those who think that term 15 limits is an idea worth entertaining. 16 And so, you know, I think although it definitely raises a whole host of differences 17 18 among different people, nonetheless, the 19 differences don't necessarily center on a right 20 or left, Democrat or Republican, conservative or 21 liberal. They're really about sort of the merits 22 of the proposal.

1	I think it makes it very interesting
2	for the discussion that we can have here. You
3	know, does it make sense, how would you go about
4	doing it if so. And just as someone who is
5	currently a law professor, but hasn't been one
6	for very long, I know this is something that
7	resonates very broadly among the American public
8	as well.
9	And so I just say that to put it out
10	as an issue that may engage a much broader swath
11	of the great, large audience that we have now,
12	that will continue, I think, the subject of
13	discussion going forward. And it's just
14	something for this Commission to think about.
15	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
16	Commissioner Ramsey?
17	COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: Thanks. I just
18	wanted to quickly echo what Judge Griffith said,
19	I think, about the tone of this draft. I found
20	it, like Judge Griffith, that it seemed almost an
21	implicit endorsement of term limits, and
22	particularly because the section that discusses

the pros of term limits is cast in the voice of 1 2 the Commission rather than in the voice of proponents of term limits. And there was an 3 implication of a consensus of the Commissioners 4 5 behind the idea of term limits. And I would encourage the final draft 6 7 not to take that view. First, because I think 8 it's not our role to decide what we favor but 9 rather, simply, to set out arguments and considerations on both sides. 10 11 And second, to the extent there is any assumption of a consensus in favor of term limits 12 13 among the Commission, I wanted to disassociate 14 myself from that consensus. Like Professor White, I have found 15 16 that, in thinking about this more closely, that 17 term limits seem less a good idea than I once 18 supposed. And indeed, I find them to be 19 something in the nature of a solution in search 20 of a problem with, as Professor Whittington has 21 pointed out, on the back end some very serious 22 implication problems were we to go down that

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1	path. So I think that we should not present this
2	in any way as sort of an idea that we were all
3	rallying around.
4	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
5	Commissioner Levy.
6	COMMISSIONER LEVI: Thank you. I'll
7	try not to repeat other people's points. There
8	are some rhetorical lapses, I think, in this
9	section that can be fixed. I think we should
10	avoid talking about the parties taking control of
11	the Court. That's quite inflammatory, at least
12	for me. It pushes my buttons.
13	I think also that it would be useful
14	for the drafters to consider whether the
15	arguments they make concerning the Supreme Court
16	are equally availing as to the lower courts, to
17	the circuit courts and to the federal courts
18	where, I may say, most of the action is in our
19	legal system. And if the arguments don't fly
20	there, then I think we have to explain why this
21	is.
22	Now, this probably goes back to

Commissioner Strauss' point. There are arguments 1 2 for term limits which are not made here. I don't wish to seem as if I support term limits, because 3 4 reading these materials actually convinced me 5 that I don't, at least not at this point. But you might just say that Supreme 6 7 Court Justices have so much authority now, and 8 it's a very American kind of impulse to say that 9 people should not have authority for a very long We have term limits for Presidents and 10 time. 11 Lord Acton told us that absolute power corrupts, 12 and we have a feeling that people who have 13 extraordinary power, maybe there should be limits on their time in office. 14 But that is not the theory of this 15 This chapter is about 16 chapter. 17 representativeness. And that I cannot, I don't 18 agree to and, I think, would apply to the lower 19 courts as well equally. And again, I don't think it flies. 20 21 Finally, I think some attention should 22 be given to, I think, what Commissioner Balkin

was talking about. In a system that is as rough 1 2 as our current system, having regular confirmation hearings, and more of them, is a 3 4 bold move. More of what we have now is not going to be beneficial, I don't think, to the country. 5 And I fear that we've seen sort of a 6 7 version of this in recent history which is if 8 Presidents who are presidential candidates know, 9 and the public knows, I will have, I will certainly have two appointments in the next four 10 11 years, then I think we're going to get very close 12 to a system in which those candidates identify 13 the exact people that they will appoint, and will 14 encourage them to join them on the campaign trail. And we will have a version of elected 15 16 Justices. 17 And that is not something, I think, 18 any of us really wants to see. But it's very 19 hard to, for me anyway, to see that something 20 very close to that would happen. Because we've 21 already experienced it to some degree when

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President Trump knew that he would have an

appointment when he was a candidate. 1 He put 2 together a list of people. And it's just a very short step to identifying a list of a person or 3 4 two people. Thank you. COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. 5 Commissioner Waldman. 6 7 COMMISSIONER WALDMAN: Thank you. 8 First of all, I want to also thank all those who 9 worked on these papers, and on this paper, for all the volume of skilled analysis and for 10 wrestling with some difficult issues. 11 12 I want to -- what I'm going say, in a 13 sense, is to associate myself with what was just 14 said, but to say that that isn't all bad. One of the things that I think that this paper could do 15 16 more is to really take a look at what this would 17 mean for the interplay between the presidency, 18 and presidential elections, and Supreme Court 19 nominations. 20 I think it is right that the fact that 21 each winner gets to make two nominations would be front and center in presidential elections. 22 Ι

think though that that is a norm that has largely
 been shattered already, whether overtly or by sly
 innuendo. We know that President Trump, in
 effect, announced his potential list of nominees.
 We know that candidates of both parties talk
 about, in effect, litmus tests on issues like
 abortion rights and other matters.

And I think that, I think in a sense it would be not necessarily an increased politicization of these nominations but a regularized and honest interplay between the political process and the nominations. And in any case, I think that the paper could benefit from a little bit of addressing that.

The other point relating to that, as 15 16 well as to the notion of partisan balance, simply 17 without accepting the properness, the propriety 18 of parties viewing seats as theirs or needing a 19 partisan balance, it is nevertheless an empirical 20 fact that regularized appointments simply will 21 bring greater partisan balance in terms of who 22 appoints and nominates the Justices.

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1	In all likelihood, simply by dint of
2	how voters vote, or even how the Electoral
3	College chooses people, certainly over the last
4	half century, voters and the Electoral College
5	have divided the presidency far more evenly among
6	parties than the nominations for Supreme Court
7	Justices.
8	So it would have, in that way as well,
9	and I think this can be addressed, something of a
10	function of pulling the Court more in line,
11	overall and in an general terms, with public
12	sentiment a balanced way, again without it being
13	mechanistic. But, again, thank you to everybody
14	who worked on all of these, and on this paper in
15	particular.
16	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
17	Commission Baude.
18	COMMISSIONER BAUDE: Thank you. I do
19	just want to share the views of several other
20	people who don't necessarily think term limits
21	are a wise or prudent thing to do. But I, you
22	know, I don't have any special expertise on that

issue.

2	And I do think it's different from
3	some of these. It's different from other
4	proposals in that this may well be harmless as to
5	some of the sort of prudential arguments against
6	it are the, you know, question of whether there's
7	really enough of a problem or if this is a
8	solution in search of a problem.
9	I'm not entirely sure that term limits
10	would be harmless, especially because of the
11	possibility of Justices doing other things after
12	they serve, which is something that the draft is
13	quite right to grapple with, and the questions
14	of, you know, what else Justices might go on to
15	do.
16	But I worry that the draft doesn't
17	have quite enough imagination. I mean, there was
18	a time when Supreme Court Justices were
19	interested in running for the presidency. And
20	it's, you know, easy to imagine people being on
21	the Supreme Court and becoming tempted for that
22	kind of limelight. And that could change

1	incentives. I suppose a constitutional
2	amendment, not a statute, could say that a former
3	Supreme Court Justice could never run for
4	President, that would be something.
5	And even the draft currently retains
6	the possibility that, well, it would harmless if
7	they go on to do something like became a law
8	school lecturer. And I'm not sure that's true
9	either. I don't think we'd want Supreme Court
10	Justices worrying about whether or not, sort of,
11	their law school lectureship is in jeopardy if
12	they say something contrary to the norms of the
13	Legal Academy or, you know, their Fox News
14	commentaryship, or whatever.
15	But even just the roles of sort of
16	commentary and public intellectualism, I think
17	might we might want the Justices to care less
18	about what people like us think rather than more.
19	But I do think another good thing
20	about this proposal is that it, you know, it's
21	better than a lot of the other proposals. And so
22	focusing on it might be much more healthy.

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1	Another thing I'm just struck by
2	listening to this discussion, especially
3	Commissioner Balkin and Commissioner
4	Whittington's comments, is term limits seem to be
5	an area where there is a broad by-partisan
6	consensus among a lot elites that it would be a
7	good idea.
8	But I think it's right that they would
9	require a similar form of the confirmation
10	process. And then there's very little by-
11	partisan or elite consensus about what the form
12	of the confirmation process would look like.
13	And this becomes illustrated when we
14	have to start coming up with schemes like letting
15	a randomly selected set of chief judges of the
16	courts of appeals somehow get involved in the
17	process as the way to fix it or other things like
18	that.
19	So I do worry that, you know, the
20	actual consensus would rest on details upon which
21	is actually it's much more of a sandy defense
22	than it appears. And that makes me nervous about

1	the whole thing.
2	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. Co-
3	Chair Rodriguez. And then if there's time, we'll
4	hear from Commissioners Tribe and Ross.
5	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: I'd just make two
6	observations by way of appreciation quickly so
7	that Commissioners Tribe and Ross can have a say.
8	The first is that one of the things I
9	especially appreciate about these materials is it
10	has required us to grapple with this question of
11	responsiveness and the extent to which the Court
12	ought to be either responsive or reflective of
13	the political process.
14	And it's obviously quite difficult to
15	articulate what the value of responsiveness
16	entails. And it's easy for that to slide into a
17	notion that we think of the Court as solely
18	partisan or as representing the views of the
19	party.
20	But as we've talked about throughout
21	the day, there is a difference between a court
22	that is motivated to advance the agenda of a

particular party and court that is responsive to the people in some sense. And how you specify that sense, I think, is the challenge.

And this chapter in particular 4 5 requires us to figure out how to articulate that and may encourage us to continue to try to do 6 7 that in a way that is both capacious but also 8 reflective of what someone already invoked as 9 part of the original design, which is that the 10 political appointment process injects a measure of accountability over the judiciary. 11

12 The second observation I want to make 13 is that these materials are especially helpful in 14 the way that they provide a blueprint for a major constitutional reform. And for that reason, I 15 16 think that we can make a big contribution by 17 demonstrating the kinds of questions that would 18 have to be answered were someone to want to 19 pursue this line of reform.

Now, the debate in part revolves
around whether a constitutional amendment would
be required. And the fact that this would

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dramatically restructure the Supreme Court might be a reason, regardless of the merits of that issue to pursue it through an amendment.

But the note that I wanted to end on 4 5 is to say that the fact that a change, that might actually make a system better, would require a 6 7 constitutional amendment is not a reason not to 8 pursue it, and not to debate it, and that one of 9 the valuable functions of a Commission like this one is to contribute that kind of insight to a 10 11 debate that might not be resolved in the next 12 It might not be resolved in our lifetime. vear. 13 But it's certainly something that should continue 14 to be debated as we figure out how to make our Constitution better than it is. 15

16COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.17Commissioner Tribe?

18 COMMISSIONER TRIBE: I began by
19 thinking that, despite the assumption of some,
20 that this could be done without a constitutional
21 amendment. It probably would require one.
22 My view on that hasn't really changed.

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I began as someone who did, including 1 2 Commissioner White, with an assumption that, of all the possible changes, this would be the most 3 obvious one that would be relatively 4 uncontroversial, widely supported across the 5 spectrum, and probably beneficial. 6 7 The course of reading and studying what has been generated in this chapter convinced 8 9 me to lean very much in the other direction. Ι no longer think it's likely that this would be a 10 I think what's really broken, as 11 qood idea. 12 Commissioner Balkin points out, is the Senate. I don't think we could solve that 13 14 problem by having more confirmation hearings. 15 And I think that the difficulties of 16 implementation, how one would deal with the 17 paralysis of the Senate with the vacancies that 18 might not be filled, and with the unintended side 19 effects of term limits, lead me to conclude, in 20 an exercise that really illustrates the value of 21 this process, lead me to conclude that something 22 I began by thinking was a good idea, I end by

thinking is probably a bad one.

2	But again it's, as everyone has said,
3	not our job to make recommendations. I think
4	though, that a fair statement of the pros and
5	cons, a fair appraisal would lead people to
6	emerge from this report less enthusiastic about
7	term limits than they began.
8	And I think that's quite a healthy
9	thing, subject to my one worry that, if we end up
10	reducing enthusiasm about any major change, that
11	may well be dispiriting in the extreme to those
12	who are convinced that there is a problem that
13	needs to be addressed.
14	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
15	Commissioner Ross? You'll have the final word.
16	COMMISSIONER ROSS: Thank you. So I
17	think that in terms of thinking about this
18	particular chapter and this working group's
19	responsibility, I think what it's run into is the
20	problem that the accidents that Professor Feldman
21	described with respect to Supreme Court vacancies
22	are becoming fewer and fewer.

1	And even those that are associated
2	with a passing in office have become
3	opportunities for strategic behavior. And one of
4	the things that this group has to wrestle with,
5	and I don't know, maybe term limits are or are
6	not the answers, I don't know what a better
7	answer is, is to respond to the fact that
8	strategic behavior has become a predominant mode
9	of turnover on the Supreme Court which can
10	contribute to the entrenchment of power of one
11	particular political perspective over the other.
12	I think that we're still struggling,
13	as Professor, or Commissioner LaCroix identified,
14	with the differentiation between what's partisan
15	and what's political. But I do want to associate
16	myself with Commission Roosevelt's point that the
17	Court is a political institution comprised of
18	political actors who have a different set of
19	political beliefs that tend to, tend to, but not
20	necessarily always, associate with, at least in
21	these days, the partisan preferences of our two
22	dominant political parties.

1	And so if we have a turnover process
2	that's dominated by strategic behavior, and that
3	can lead to the entrenchment of particular
4	political perspectives on the Court, then the
5	question has to be, well, what do we do?
6	Commissioner White described changing
7	the norm to guarding strategic retirements. And
8	I completely support that. I just don't know how
9	that can be done. And I don't know how do we
10	change the sort of political hardball tactics
11	that I predict will become a more endemic feature
12	of our confirmation processes in the future.
13	So those are kind of the challenges
14	and difficulties that I struggle with. And
15	abandoning term limits kind of leaves us in the
16	situation that we're in that could undermine,
17	over time, the legitimacy of the Court because of
18	the declining popular support for a Court that's
19	seen not only in political terms, in which it
20	appropriately is seen, but more in partisan
21	entrenched terms over time. And so that's just a
22	point that I want to raise regarding this

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particular chapter.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you. 3 Thank you to everyone for those really helpful 4 comments.

5 I wanted to make just two brief remarks in closing. One is to thank the drafters 6 7 of these materials for engaging not only with 8 these very important credential considerations 9 but also, with the legal arguments aside, regarding whether or not term limits could be 10 11 accomplished by statute or rather whether they 12 would require a constitutional amendment. The 13 draft goes into some detail on those points. 14 And second, I just wanted to highlight that we did hear testimony about prudential 15 16 reforms to the confirmation process. And that 17 might be something to keep in mind as we continue 18 in our deliberations. We will reconvene promptly at 3:10. 19 20 And thanks to everybody for your comments. 21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

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went off the record at 3:01 p.m. and resumed at

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3:10 p.m.)

2	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: We will now
3	resume our deliberations with our fourth set of
4	materials. In the session, we will be discussing
5	the materials that present an analysis of
6	proposals that would in some way reduce the power
7	of the Court in relation to the role of the other
8	branches of government.
9	As we've been emphasizing throughout
10	the day, these materials were prepared by working
11	groups within the Commission and do not reflect
12	the work or views of the Commission as a whole or
13	of any particular Commissioner and they were
14	designed to be inclusive in the arguments they
15	raised for and against reform.
16	After hearing a brief summary of the
17	contents of these materials, I will again call on
18	the Commissioners who've expressed an interest in
19	raising their views.
20	And for an initially summary of what's
21	presented in these materials I turn to
22	Commissioner Carolina Fredrickson. Commissioner

Fredrickson, you have the floor.

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2	COMMISSIONER FREDRICKSON: Thank you
3	so much, Commissioner Rodriguez and Co-Chair
4	Bauer as well as the other Commissioners. I'm
5	very grateful of all of the hard work that has
6	been put in to prepare these materials and for
7	this very rich discussion.
8	This chapter looks to the proposals
9	that would actually reduce the power of the
10	Supreme Court or of the judicial branch as a
11	whole.
12	Many of the proposals for reforming
13	the Court accept the scope of its power more or
14	less as a given. By contrast, the proposals that
15	this chapter examines would curve the Justices'
16	capacity to invalidate legislation as a way of
17	shifting power to resolve major social, political
18	and cultural issues from the Court to the
19	political branches.
20	It does not look at all possible
21	mechanisms to do so, but looks most closely at
22	jurisdiction stripping, super majority voting

requirements, as well as other rules that would require greater deference to political branches, and legislative overrides by Congress of Court decisions.

5 We analyzed how central forms might 6 affect the Courts for the Courts' role in 7 relation to the other branches of Government, 8 potential benefits and costs of the proposals, 9 and whether they could be achieved without 10 constitutional amendment.

11 These proposals generally rest on two 12 interrelated assumptions. First, a determination 13 that a statute violates the constitution 14 typically requires exercising judgment about the 15 meeting of the constitution.

16 And that's actually something that 17 people can disagree on as the Justices themselves 18 so frequently do in constitutional cases. 19 And second, that in a democracy, the

judiciary as well, needs to be subject to checks
and balances. Some even argue that the
principals of democracy require that a final

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3	branches.
4	There's also a view that the Court
5	should be checked because the Court has itself
6	stepped into political battles that are better
7	resolved by elected officials and that includes
8	issues from abortion to voting rights.
9	In addition, as has been mentioned
10	earlier, Supreme Court Justices can be viewed as
11	most always drawn from a certain elite and not
12	representative of the population as a whole.
13	Those who would check the Court's
13 14	Those who would check the Court's power also note that because of what's called
14	power also note that because of what's called
14 15	power also note that because of what's called judicial supremacy, the view that the Court has
14 15 16	power also note that because of what's called judicial supremacy, the view that the Court has held that has the last word on constitutional
14 15 16 17	power also note that because of what's called judicial supremacy, the view that the Court has held that has the last word on constitutional interpretation and then its decisions by not only
14 15 16 17 18	power also note that because of what's called judicial supremacy, the view that the Court has held that has the last word on constitutional interpretation and then its decisions by not only the parties in a particular case, but also future
14 15 16 17 18 19	power also note that because of what's called judicial supremacy, the view that the Court has held that has the last word on constitutional interpretation and then its decisions by not only the parties in a particular case, but also future action by the President, Congress and the states,

legislation should be left to the political

determination on the constitutionality of

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1	itself is so difficult to amend. And as the
2	Justices serve for life, that they become
3	increasingly unrepresentative over time.
4	So as I mentioned, we focused on
5	jurisdiction stripping, supermajority voting
6	requirements and Congressional overrides. Some
7	of these even within these proposals specifically
8	target the Supreme Court while others would apply
9	to the lower courts.
10	Some would insulate broad categories
11	of legislation from judicial review. Others
12	would limit judicial power only with respect to
13	specifically identified issues.
14	So the chapter looks at the extent to
15	which such proposals would affect the Supreme
16	Court's rule or that of the judiciary as a whole
17	in relation to other branches of government to
18	resolve important questions as well as the
19	counterarguments for those proposals.
20	Those who criticize these proposals
21	worry that such reforms might undermine
22	protections for individual rights, in particular,

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minority rights.

2 Or that because of the possibility of competing interpretations, the law could become 3 less settled or reflect less well-reasoned 4 constitutional decision making. 5 Critics also emphasize that these 6 7 reforms could undermine the rule of law by 8 eliminating the Court's role in ensuring 9 officials' accountability. 10 And, of course, as you've heard 11 already, some might question whether in fact 12 courts necessarily operate in ways that are anti-13 democratic. 14 That is, is there a problem here? Our discussion is predominately analytical rather 15 16 than purporting to resolve the fundamental 17 questions of democratic and political theory that 18 any substantial disempowering of the Courts have 19 raised. 20 But instead, we analyze the extent to 21 which the various proposals to disempower the 22 Courts would reach the goals proponents hope to

achieve and identify some of the potential costs, 1 2 including from the perspective of those who emphasize the importance of the Courts in 3 protecting individual rights, federalism or other 4 constitutional values and structures. 5 And finally, the chapter discusses the 6 7 constitutional issues they pose and evaluate 8 whether the proposals could be achieved without 9 constitutional amendment. Ultimately, the efficacy of the 10 proposals seems to depend on the details, 11 12 including whether they also affect lower court and state court decision making. 13 And the mechanisms that would most 14 15 directly reduce the Supreme Court's and other courts' power are also the ones that the Courts 16 17 themselves would most likely find 18 unconstitutional absent constitutional amendment. 19 Without taking a position on the 20 ultimate merits of these proposals, the chapter 21 aims to help inform public debate about whether 22 such reforms would be worth pursuing and how such

	2.
1	a system might be designed consistent with
2	broader constitutional principles.
3	So thank you so much for allowing me
4	to present the summary of the chapter.
5	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very
6	much, Commissioner Fredrickson. If you haven't
7	already, I now invite the Commissioners to turn
8	on their cameras. And we'll turn first to
9	Commissioner Grove for her observations.
10	COMMISSIONER GROVE: All right. Thank
11	you so much Commissioner Fredrickson for that
12	terrific summary and thanks so much to all those
13	who worked on these draft materials.
14	They're very meticulous and
15	comprehensive and very impressive. So I have two
16	relatively minor comments on this chapter and
17	then kind of an overall broader observation about
18	our discussions thus far.
19	So my two smaller observations on the
20	chapter, in jurisdiction stricken section, it
21	says on Page 6, in this section, we consider
22	proposals to strip courts of their jurisdiction

to renew the constitutionality of executive and
 legislative enactments.

And then it goes on to review the constitutionality of taking away jurisdiction over legislative enactments at both the federal and the state level, but it doesn't really go on to talk much about executive action.

8 And it seems to me that questions 9 about democracy and concerns about legitimacy 10 might be very different if we're taking away 11 federal jurisdiction to review legislative 12 enactments as opposed to say, an executive order 13 or proclamation or other Presidential directive.

Something that we've seen more frequently in recent times. So that's just something that might warrant more discussion in the chapter.

18 The second that might warrant more 19 discussion in the chapter is in the supermajority 20 section, the chapter invokes fair quite a bit and 21 then goes on to talk about whether we have 22 supermajority requirements for review of federal

legislation only federal and state legislation potentially.

And what I want to suggest is the invocation of James Bradley Thayer is not entirely appropriate in that context because Thayer was arguing that there should be strong deference toward Congress.

8 But he expressly said there should not 9 be strong deference toward the states and so I 10 think the draft could use a little bit more work 11 on why a supermajority requirement might be 12 appropriate if it's appropriate in the context of 13 state legislation as opposed to federal 14 legislation.

15 So those are the two comments. The 16 broader comment as I've been listening to our 17 discussions over the last several sessions, 18 picking up on things that Commissioner Rodriguez 19 and Commissioner LaCroix and Commissioner Ross 20 have said, I think this, one of the challenges that we face as a commission is we're dealing 21 22 with some of these challenging issues.

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We talk about terms like judicial 1 2 ideology and principle and we talk about terms like partisanship and politics. And what I have 3 found in looking at Court-curbing legislation, 4 5 including jurisdiction stripping legislation is that to, what is to one person principle, is to 6 7 another person partisanship. 8 And you see this repeatedly in debates 9 over Court-curbing legislation from 1789 to the present. People saying, well I'm asking to take 10 away the Court's jurisdiction because as a matter 11 12 of principle, it's power needs to be reduced and 13 the other side accuses it of partisanship. 14 And I think we've seen that kind of 15 divide and disagreement in usage of terms in this 16 conversation as well. And I just want to suggest 17 that I think it's a very healthy debate to talk 18 about are we talking about principle or 19 partisanship and it really, it may depend on 20 one's perspective. 21 I also want to suggest that it's a 22 challenge for us as we continue in the writing

going forward to try to be sensitive to the fact 1 2 that what is to one person principle is to another person a partisan attack on the 3 4 judiciary. 5 And I think it makes it a challenge 6 for us to be as we need to do a good job of 7 representing both sides, but it can be a 8 challenge in doing so. 9 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so much, Commissioner Grove. We'll next hear from 10 Commissioner Richard Pildes. 11 12 COMMISSIONER PILDES: Thanks, Chairman 13 Rodriguez. I want to first echo Professor 14 Grove's praise for the care and detail in these 15 materials. But the materials discuss the view of 16 17 some constitutional scholars that the system of 18 judicial review in the United States was not 19 meant to be one of judicial supremacy. And I think that there needs to be a 20 21 lot of clarification that's brought to the 22 discussion that's currently in the materials

about that complicated issue.

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2 So and this has concrete implications for the discussion of whether Congress has the 3 4 power to override a Supreme Court decision by 5 statute. So the issue concerning judicial 6 supremacy that the scholars that the materials 7 8 cite, like Professor Kramer and Professor Worman 9 raise, is the issue about whether the Supreme Court should be understood to have the exclusive 10 11 power to interpret the Constitution. 12 And the alternative that they put 13 forward and I don't have any substantial 14 disagreement with them about this in terms of the 15 history that they describe, but the alternative 16 is what is typically called departmentalism which 17 means other parts of the Government also have the 18 power to interpret the Constitution. 19 And very importantly, that they don't 20 have to agree with the Supreme Court's 21 interpretation of the Constitution. So the

classic example for the 19th Century is the

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1 Supreme Court says Congress has the power to 2 create a National Bank of the United States. President Jackson then vetoes the 3 4 second bank of the United States legislation 5 because he disagrees with that view of the Constitution and that's all fine. 6 But everyone, as far as I know in this 7 8 discussion, agrees the Court issues a specific 9 order to specific parties in a specific case. Those orders have to be complied with. 10 11 And if the rule of law means anything, 12 it means that at the very least. And I think there's confusion about that in this 13 presentation. 14 15 So what does this mean for Congress's 16 power, vis-...-vis the Court, even if we accept the 17 departmentalist view or the view of the critics 18 of judicial supremacy as a description of how our 19 system was designed and how it operated for many, 20 many years. 21 It means that if Congress enacts a 22 statute making it a crime to burn the flag of the

United States, for example, the Supreme Court 1 2 holds that the First Amendment is violated when the Government tries to prosecute someone for 3 burning the flag, that the Supreme Court decision 4 doesn't mean that Congress has to just lie down 5 and play dead and that's the end of the matter. 6 7 Congress would still have the power to 8 say we disagree with the Court's interpretation, 9 we're going to re-enact this law, we're going to challenge the Court's view. 10 11 But it also means that if the Court 12 sticks to its view, and again, enjoins the criminal prosecution of someone for burning the 13 flag or overturns a criminal conviction because 14 someone has burned the flag, the Court's order 15 has to be complied with. 16 And so I think all scholars agree on 17 18 that. Including the departmentalists that these 19 materials cite. And so this means Congress 20 cannot override a Supreme Court decision by 21 statute at least in the way the report presents this. 22

	2
1	At least as I understand the arguments
2	in the scholarship here. If Congress cannot by
3	statute do what is permitted by the Constitutions
4	of some other countries that are cited here like
5	the Canadian system where there can be a
6	legislative override and the override has the
7	final legal effect.
8	That cannot happen in our system. And
9	I don't believe anyone actually argues for that.
10	So again, maybe I misunderstand these arguments,
11	but as I understand them, Congress can disagree
12	with the Court, it can pass a statute expressing
13	that disagreement.
14	But if the Court adheres to its
15	position on the meaning of the Constitution and
16	issues an order that the statute is
17	unconstitutional or can't be enforced, the rule
18	of law requires that be accepted.
19	And in fact, I think it's quite
20	dangerous to suggest otherwise. So I think that
21	concluding paragraph for example on Page 31 is
22	not clear as the earlier discussions also are not

clear about what people who argue against 1 2 judicial supremacy actually are arguing and what the consequences are of the diction. 3 And I very much hope that this is 4 5 something we can clear up when we redraft unless I'm misunderstanding something about the 6 7 arguments. 8 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very 9 much, Commissioner Pildes. I will next hear from Commissioner Whittington. 10 11 COMMISSIONER WHITTINGTON: That's verv 12 convenient because I've written quite a lot about 13 judicial supremacy and departmentalism and I 14 certainly share some of Commissioner Pildes' concerns with some of the language currently in 15 16 this section. 17 What I wanted to spend a couple of 18 minutes talking about though is something that's 19 slightly adjacent, but touches on some of the 20 same issues focusing on this question of 21 legislative of overrides of judicial decisions. 22 Legislative overrides I think have

some difficulties in general, but they have
 particular difficulty in the specific American
 context in which the Supreme Court exercises the
 power of interpreting both constitutions and
 statutes and construes an appliance of the
 Constitution in the context specific and concrete
 cases and controversies.

8 As for term limits, I am concerned 9 that we are unclear on what problem we are trying 10 to solve here and as a consequence, not as clear 11 as we should be about the nature of the potential 12 solutions.

13 If we are going to address the 14 possibility of legislative overrides, it seems to 15 me that we ought to address what I think is the 16 obvious alternative for accomplishing basically 17 the same goal which is making it easier to amend 18 the Constitution.

Article V of the Constitution creates a high hurdle to amending the Constitution that has benefits and drawbacks, but it seems to me that Article V is the real source of the problem

that legislative overrides are trying to solve. 1 2 And if think that the real problem that needs to be solved is lowering the barrier 3 to constitutional amendments, then actually 4 lowering that barrier is the better solution. 5 There is hydraulic pressure to 6 movements to constitutional change. We should 7 want to channel such pressure as I think through 8 9 the constitutional amendment process so that we can have Democratic deliberation and decision 10 making on what our fundamental rules should be. 11 12 But if it is too hard to formally 13 amend the Constitution, the hydraulic pressure 14 will find other outlets to try to achieve the same results. That is what we see today. 15 16 We should try to redirect those 17 pressures through the amendment process. 18 Moreover, constitutional amendments would focus 19 our attention more squarely on the key issue. What do we think the constitutional 20 21 rules should be going forward let's say if overrides are much messier? They are too closely 22

tied to the specific details of particular controversies.

And it is not clear what exactly we 3 4 should be hoping to override in such cases. If 5 what we really want is a political mechanism for reconsidering the constitutional rules as they 6 7 have been interpreted by the Court and the best 8 mechanism is constitutional amendment. If we think the barrier to amendment 9 10 is currently too high, then we should consider 11 amending Article V to lower that barrier to some 12 degree. 13 And, frankly, I think a consideration 14 of amending Article V would be a more valuable 15 direction for a forum than anything else 16 currently being considered in the court, at least 17 when we are talking about things that might 18 require constitutional amendment to accomplish. Thank you. 19 20 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very 21 much, Commissioner Whittington. We'll next hear

22 from Commissioner Boddie.

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COMMISSIONER BODDIE: 1 Thank you. So 2 first of all, I'd just like to add my thanks for all the terrific, hard, extraordinary work that 3 has been done on this chapter. 4 I have two quick points. 5 So I want to, various talk about the drafts discussion, the 6 7 possible disadvantages of a supermajority voting requirement for Court decisions that strike down 8 9 legislation on constitutional grounds. And I just want to quickly frame my 10 11 remarks as applied to the rights of people of 12 color. Excuse me. As the draft indicates, 13 skeptics of the supermajority voting requirement 14 have pointed to the long-standing conventional view that courts play a valuable role in checking 15 16 or limiting the excesses of political majorities 17 that disadvantage individual rights. 18 I'd urged the working group to examine 19 the empirical basis for the conventional view 20 that the Court is better at protecting rights, 21 individual rights as applied to people of color. 22 Not just that the Court is

theoretically better suited, but that it is and
 it has in fact been better at protecting
 individual rights.

As some of our witnesses have argued, the Court's overall record could be read to suggest that the Court has been hostile to minority rights referring here specifically to racial minorities as shall be counted being only the most recent example.

10 My second point is about the use of 11 the term minorities when referring to people of 12 color because the term can obscure the political 13 or the power dynamic in the political process.

14 There are instances when people we 15 think of as minorities are, in fact, the 16 numerical majority in the places where they vote, 17 but because they are subject to voter 18 suppression, they are disempowered in the 19 political process.

20 And the term minorities doesn't really 21 capture that distinction. We might consider 22 using the term minoritized which captures a

context in which racial and ethnic groups who 1 2 might have strength in numbers don't have strength that alliance with their actual power in 3 4 the political process. Thank you so much. CO-CHIAR RODRIGUEZ: 5 Thank you so much, Commissioner Boddie. We'll hear next from 6 Commissioner Baude. 7 8 COMMISSIONER BAUDE: Thank you. Ι 9 think I agree with just about everything that's 10 been said so far. I really appreciate all of the 11 comments. 12 I was just going to say a couple of 13 small things about jurisdiction stripping I 14 So the, you know, the issue of the power think. of Congress over the jurisdiction of Federal and 15 16 State Courts has probably 100 times more of a 17 developed literature at its legality than almost 18 everything else which the Commission has 19 considered, you know, combined. 20 So it is one big problem here that the 21 Justices have to oversimplify in order to present it useful to anybody, including the public. 22 But

I think Commissioner Grove is right. 1 That the 2 oversimplification of the legislative review of an executive question is probably one 3 4 oversimplification too far. And then especially the kind of the 5 democratic urge that causes some people to think 6 7 that this jurisdiction strip about legislation wouldn't necessarily fall onto the President or 8 9 it could be more complicated to mimic. Maybe in some cases it would. But that seems like a point 10 11 worth picking up. Thanks. 12 CO-CHAIR RIDRIGUEZ: Thank you very 13 much, Commissioner Baude. I will next hear from 14 Commissioner Ramsey. Yes, thanks a 15 COMMISSIONER RAMSEY: 16 lot and these are some great comments and I want 17 to continue a little bit in thinking about the 18 points that Professor Grove raised and that 19 Professor Baude just commented on. 20 One thing in thinking about the role 21 of reducing the role of the Court and the role of the Courts because I think this is more a 22

question of the judiciary versus what we think of 1 2 as the elected or the political branches. But I think there is a question of why 3 you would do that and I think there are at least 4 5 two answers and the materials try to grapple with this, but perhaps could do a better job. 6 On the one hand, you might think that 7 8 Congress, sorry, that the Courts owe a particular 9 deference to Congress, that Congress is a particularly well-placed institution to make 10 11 constitutional judgments and that the courts 12 should stay out of the way. 13 Except in unusual circumstances this 14 might be reflected in jurisdiction stripping and might be restructured in supermajority rule 15 16 targeted at acts of Congress and might be 17 reflected in that and an idea of deference to 18 Congress. 19 And that is the view that's associated 20 with Thayer and if the draft implies that Thayer 21 went beyond that, it shouldn't. But that is what I think what one might call Thayerism although 22

Thayer didn't suggest that Congress should impose this rule.

He suggested that the Courts
themselves should adopt a rule of deference as to
Congress. But that raises the question of why
Congress.

7 It's not clear to me why there should 8 be special deference to Congress as opposed to 9 special deference to the political branches. Ι understand the argument for juridical, not to say 10 11 that I endorse it, but I understand it, is the 12 special deference to political branches rising out of the idea of that there should be more 13 14 democracy, more political decisions as to 15 important matters of social and cultural policy.

And those social decisions shouldn't go to the Courts, but if that's your view, of why the power of the Court should be reduced, there isn't any reason to limit this to acts of Congress.

21 And instead, it seems like it should 22 go more broadly both to the deference to the

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executive branch or the supermajority rules, the executive branch or however you want to put the limit.

So and indeed it should also go to the States because in recent times, some of the greatest intrusions by the Courts into social, political and cultural policy have been in respect of state laws.

9 So if the concern is about protecting
10 democracy, and protecting the political branches,
11 it doesn't seem to make a ton of sense to me to
12 limit the proposals to Congress.

13 That is limit the proposals to 14 judicial review of acts of Congress. But now on 15 the other hand, I understand that the proposals 16 in this regard have very often been limited to 17 acts of Congress going back to Thayer and back 18 into the supermajority proposals from the 19th 19 Century as well.

20 So I think that's a dilemma or a 21 attention I suppose I would say that the draft 22 needs to make clear that it recognizes and it is

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1	dealing with and that the language needs to be
2	precise.
3	That on the one hand there is a
4	proposal for reducing the power of the judiciary,
5	visvis specifically acts of Congress.
6	And on the other hand, a proposal to
7	reduce the role of the judiciary much more
8	broadly. And I think there is an attempt by the
9	draft to do that, but I think it needs to make
10	sure if it does it successfully.
11	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,
12	Commissioner Ramsey. I will now recognize
13	Commissioner Andrias.
14	COMMISSIONER ANDRIAS: Thank you.
15	First I wanted to react just briefly to
16	Commissioner Ramsey's comment and I think the
17	Commissioner Groves' earlier comment to say that
18	I do think that there are reasons why one might
19	think that more deference to Congressional
20	actions is warranted than to state actions.
21	Reasons relating to the nation's
22	history and the reconstruction amendments and the

floor, among other developments, and I think that it's worth the draft.

Now the only thing more precise in 3 4 whether it's talking about deference to a 5 supermajority rules with regard to federal legislation, they're also thinking a bit about 6 7 why one might think the deference in one case and 8 not in the other, not necessarily taking up 9 position on that question. I do think that those are arguments 10 11 worth disentangling. Second, I just wanted to 12 step back for a moment to underscore that our, 13 the topics we discussed earlier today in 14 particular proposals to extend the Court didn't 15 impose time limits or topics that have received a 16 great deal of attention, both in the academic literature and also in the media and in the 17 18 public debate. 19 And the topics that were discussed now

And the topics that were discussed now have garnered much less attention. They have garnered some. Certainly there's a lot of law review articles written about jurisdiction

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stripping and so on.

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2	But the kind of the concrete thinking
3	about how these kinds of performs would actually
4	operate and put together legislative overrides
5	have very received almost no attention although
6	they've been kind of invoked recently in public
7	debate.
8	So in my view, I think the draft
9	materials already provide them really with
10	revision can provide a very useful analysis that
11	can help frame not only the President's thinking
12	on these issues, but a longer term by the
13	Republic debate on the role of the Court and its
14	relationship to the political branches.
15	And I agree with Commissioner Pildes
16	that the just discussion of judicial supremacy
17	and departmentalism should be clarified along the
18	lines he suggests.
19	I think the current draft in its
20	effort to achieve brevity also ends up being
21	maybe perhaps a bit misleading, but I would note
22	that Commissioner Pildes' clarification goes, in

particular, to help legislative overrides can be 1 2 accomplished without constitutional amendment. Right? 3 4 How they can be achieved through the 5 process of bicameralism and presentment of the ordinary legislative process which I think is 6 7 extremely important given how hard an amendment 8 is to achieve. 9 And so kind of offering at least the arguments for how Congress could achieve some of 10 11 these strategies now the amendment is important. 12 But in order to do that, that nuance 13 that Commissioner Pildes pointed out must be clarified in the draft. And that relates to 14 15 Commissioner Whittington's point about constitutional amendment. 16 17 I certainly have some sympathy with 18 the arguments about making it easier to amend the 19 Constitution. But I worry that topic was beyond 20 our charge. 21 Although I think it certainly bears 22 mention in the draft and I think more attention

must be given to why legislative overrides may 1 2 have advantages over a broader change to the constitutional amendment process or may have 3 4 disadvantages as Commissioner Whittington was suggesting. 5 But I would hesitate or I would be 6 reluctant to see us kind of start venturing into 7 8 a discussion of all the various constitutional 9 amendments that are needed beyond those relating 10 to the Supreme Court. 11 I'm sure we can all think of some. 12 And then, just finally, I wanted to say that I 13 agree with Commissioners who spoke in earlier 14 sessions that we ought not to, just that particular forms are off the table. 15 16 That we should try to identify the 17 arguments that would enable reform both with 18 amendments or without amendment and really think 19 the kind of elaborate the arguments for and 20 against both legally and preventably to help 21 inform public debate going forward. Thank you. 22 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: If there are

1	other Commissioners who would like to make an
2	observation or comment about this chapter, I
3	invite you to raise your hands and do so.
4	Commissioner Tribe?
5	COMMISSIONER TRIBE: Yes, I too think
6	that this is an extraordinarily well done portion
7	of the materials and I am particularly impressed
8	by its intricacy.
9	But there is an important analytical
10	point that seem to me to be missing. And that is
11	that in our system, the power of the Supreme
12	Court to review the validity of legislation
13	either under a departmental view or under a view
14	that adopts the position of judicial supremacy
15	arises from its authority to resolve that cases
16	or controversies.
17	Take Marbury itself as a thought
18	experiment. The Supreme Court did not in a sense
19	invalidate the judiciary act of 1789. It held
20	that Act could not constitutionally be applied to
21	find original jurisdiction in circumstances like
22	those posed by Mr. Marbury.

1	Now what would a provision, whether
2	statutory or constitutional purporting to deprive
3	the Supreme Court of the authority to invalidate
4	an act of Congress or purporting to require a
5	supermajority which wouldn't have been an issue
6	in the days of John Marshall, but would be an
7	issue now, or purporting to authorize an override
8	mean on facts like that.
9	The distinction between facial
10	invalidation then as applied invalidation
11	occupies dozens of volumes of the United States
12	reports and hundreds of articles.
13	I don't think the chapter as currently
14	conceptualized, deals as fully as it needs to
15	with that distinction. And the related point is
16	the importance of constitutional avoidance.
17	When the Supreme Court as it often
18	does, as it did in the NFIB vs. Sebelius case, or
19	in a number of others, upholds the law, but only
20	to avoid what it thinks would be a constitutional
21	problem with interpreting it otherwise.
22	And when constitutional avoidance is
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used to reach result X rather than result Y, is 1 2 the Court exercising the power to invalidate an act of Congress or is it not? 3 4 I offer no answer to that, but I think 5 that's a conceptual question that needs to be answered in this chapter. And relatedly, a point 6 7 that Commissioner Pildes made, strikes me as worth thinking about. 8 9 When he said, essentially a court that is invalidated, let's say a flag burning law, has 10 for all practical purposes, erased it from the 11 12 statute books. 13 Well, that's not the way most judges 14 think of it and I gather perhaps not the way Commissioner Pildes does. The statute is still 15 16 there and that leads to a huge literature about 17 non-acquiescence. 18 It is not always regarded as 19 inconsistent with the rule of law for an executive branch, either of the state or of the 20 21 federal government to keep returning to the judicial system with the constitutional argument 22

that it has been rejected and saying that you 1 2 should reconsider as it's not clear even under a view that makes the judiciary supreme in the 3 4 exposition of the meaning of the law exactly how 5 one deals with repeated encounters between litigants and either the legislative or the 6 executive branch. 7 8 And I think that too needs to be 9 considered in working out the final version of a draft of this chapter to be considered by the 10 11 Commission. 12 CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Are there any 13 other Commissioners who wish to speak? So in 14 closing, I'll just say one word about legislative 15 overrides. 16 As with the term limits materials, I think the introduction of that idea in this 17 18 chapter, if we leave aside whether it's possible 19 to have something of that sort through statute. But then think instead in terms of 20 21 might we amend the Constitution to enable 22 legislatures, Congress in particular, to overcome

a constitutional decision of the Court is worth 1 2 considering to the extent we think the underlying questions of democratic theory are ones that 3 should motivate reform. 4 And in that sense, it could be 5 fruitful to look at the way this constitutional 6 7 feature functions in the community and system and 8 that's something the draft gestures at. 9 It isn't something that's enshrined in their Constitution and if a Court invalidates a 10 provincial or a parliamentary law on 11 12 constitutional grounds, there are certain types 13 of decisions that can be overcome for a five-year 14 period. And what that means is that regardless 15 16 of what the parties said, the law comes back into 17 effect and there's no difficulty with enforcing 18 it in any way. 19 And that's facilitated by the fact 20 that they have a parliamentary system and there's 21 an independent judgment necessarily being made about whether to enforce a law. 22

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1	for our final session at 4:10. We'll see you
2	then.
3	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4	went off the Record at 3:46 p.m. and resumed at
5	4:10 p.m.)
6	CO-CHAIR BAUER: So I'm happy to
7	welcome you back from the break. And we're now
8	going to move to the next session where we will
9	discuss materials that bear on the practices and
10	procedures used by the Court to make case
11	selection and to review cases.
12	These materials were prepared by a
13	working group within the Commission as we've said
14	because we want to make sure anyone who's tuned
15	in understands the materials that we're
16	discussing.
17	The materials we're discussing
18	prepared on these issues do not reflect the views
19	of the Commission or those of any particular
20	Commissioner.
21	They were designed, however, to be
22	inclusive in their arguments for and against

reform to assist the Commission in wide-ranging
 and robust deliberation.

So after reading the materials in 3 preparation for this deliberation, Commissioners 4 have indicated their interest to us in addressing 5 these topics and I will recognize them shortly. 6 7 But first, I would like to turn to 8 Commissioner Huang who is going to provide us 9 with a summary of this draft that's also posted to the website for your review. 10 And then I will call on the individual 11 12 Commissioners for their comments. Commissioner 13 Huang, the floor is yours. 14 COMMISSIONER HUANG: Thank you, 15 Commissioner Bauer. Thanks everyone. As you 16 know, the range of public debates about the 17 Supreme Court go beyond the structural reforms 18 we've been discussing so far today. 19 Public discussion as well as proposals for reform have also addressed the Court's 20 21 procedures and practices. This includes issues which have drawn lots of public attention lately 22

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such as the Court's views of emergency orders in 1 2 cases of great public importance. It also includes long-standing 3 4 questions such as how to help the public observe 5 the Supreme Court's proceedings in real time also known as cameras in the Courtroom. 6 7 And so ever since the Commission's 8 formation in May, Commissioners have been tasked 9 with considering a wide range of debates and proposals relating to the Court's procedures and 10 11 practices. 12 As you'll recall, the Commission heard 13 from expert witnesses on many of these issues 14 over the course of several testimony panels 15 during two sets of hearings this past summer on 16 June 30th and on July 20th. 17 If you like, you can go back and watch 18 them online. Today's discussion materials also 19 draw on commentary from lawyers, scholars, 20 judges, and some of the Justices and their 21 written opinions or public statements as well as 22 hearing separately held by the House and the

1 Senate this past year.

2	The issues covered and the discussion
3	materials prepared for today fall onto four
4	categories. First, emergency orders, second,
5	case selection, third, judicial ethics, and
6	fourth, courtroom transparency.
7	In the first category, the discussion
8	materials surveyed the public debates which have
9	intensified over the past few years and
10	especially this past summer about the Court's use
11	of emergency rulings.
12	Most notably, those that allow or
13	don't allow a new law to take effect while legal
14	challenges about that law continue forward in the
15	Courts.
16	These discussion materials point out
17	recurring concerns raised by the public debates
18	most of which have to do with how these emergency
19	rulings differ from the way the Court usually
20	decides cases on its very third docket, or merits
21	docket.
22	For example, the debates have focused

on how emergency rulings have less briefing. 1 2 They usually don't involve oral arguments by the lawyers. And often do not provide much public 3 explanation of the Court's reasoning. 4 While recognizing that emergency 5 procedures are necessary and that they may need 6 to differ from the usual procedures, commentators 7 and commission witnesses have offered a variety 8 9 of proposals for addressing such concerns. The ones discussed in these materials 10 11 include calls for more public explanation of the 12 Court's reasoning as well as clarifying whether 13 emergency rulings have the sort of precedential 14 effect of the Court's regular opinions do. Proposals from the Commission 15 16 witnesses that apply specifically to capital 17 cases and more generally, proposals aimed at 18 reducing pressure on the Court to decide cases of 19 great public importance on an emergency basis. 20 In the second category, case 21 selection, these materials focus on concerns about the informational inputs of the Court at 22

the point when it's deciding which cases to hear. Known as the certiorari stage.

The materials addressed proposals to broaden or improve the informational inputs such as by allowing more input from the public, or by allowing more direct input from other Federal judges who are often in a good position to know what legal issues need guidance from the Supreme Court.

10 The third category is judicial ethics. 11 These discussion materials acknowledge public 12 attention to the fact that the Justices of the 13 Supreme Court are not formally bound by a code of 14 conduct though they may informally consult the 15 code that applies to other federal judges.

Also, unlike other federal judges,
they are not subject to the federal statute that
governs judicial discipline. Over the years, for
various proposals, including Congressional bills
have been directed at these topics.
These discussion materials also

considered a public debate and proposals about

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recusals of the Justices from individual cases to 1 2 the potential conflicts of interest. Fourth and finally, there's a long-3 4 standing issue about cameras in the courtroom or 5 if not cameras, at least the possibility of continuing the audio live streaming of the Court 6 7 started last year. Thank you. Commissioner 8 Bauer, back to you. 9 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 10 Commissioner Huang. I'd like to begin by 11 recognizing Commissioner Driver. 12 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you, Co-Chair Bauer and thanks also to Commission Huang 13 14 for that characteristically incisive framing of 15 the issues. I'll be brief. I wanted to speak 16 about the issue of financial recusals and 17 Justices owning individual stocks. 18 I thought that the discussion 19 materials were somewhat diffident on this 20 particular issue and I would promote a more 21 straight-forward maybe a more straight-forward 22 approach.

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1	We say in the discussion materials on
2	about Page 28 or so, the Commission notes the
3	consensus among observers that no Justice or
4	their spouses and dependent children should own
5	or continue to own individual publicly traded
6	securities.
7	And I would say that I would not be
8	comfortable merely noting the consensus, but I
9	would like to endorse that consensus as well.
10	Seems to me that the scope of the problem is
11	reasonably significant.
12	The discussion materials note that at
13	least one recusal has happened in 10 percent of
14	the cert petitions that involve a Forbes 100
15	company.
16	And that seems like, as I say, a
17	reasonably large number. I understand that this
18	could be, you know, a delicate matter given that
19	we are dealing with individual Justices,
20	finances, but I do think that there are
21	mechanisms that are in place that when a conflict
22	arises, it offers Justices the opportunity to

divest themselves of the individual stock without
 incurring capital gains.

3 So we identify two potential 4 solutions, you know, Congress could either 5 require divestment when conflict arises or the 6 more far-reaching solution which would prohibit 7 Justices and their families essentially from 8 owning individual stocks.

9 I would personally be willing to go 10 farther and prohibit the owning of individual 11 stocks. And I should say, I don't believe that 12 this would succeed in transforming the judicial 13 oath into anything like a vow of poverty.

14 It seems to me that Justices would 15 still be capable of owning index funds and things 16 of that nature. And this would be a viable 17 solution to something that gives, I think, many 18 people concerns.

Having said that, I also note that
there are several of my fellow Commissioners who
were judges and may be more attune to these
issues and I would really invite comment on these

sorts of matters so as to, you know, air them 1 2 here in our deliberations so. Thanks for hearing 3 me. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 4 5 Commissioner Driver. Commissioner Adams? 6 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Thank you, co-Thank you, Co-Chair Rodriguez. 7 Chair Bauer. And 8 thank you, Commissioner Huang for the able 9 summary of this portion of the draft report. 10 I just have one short intervention And I think it makes sense given the 11 here. amount of time that we, this chapter spends on 12 13 the Court's use of emergency orders, a/k/a, the 14 shadow docket. For instance, there is a great deal of 15 16 depth here. The chapter goes into inadequate 17 procedure for important cases, lack of 18 transparency, the problem of Presidential affect, 19 the fallout from Holloman's health, et cetera. 20 And I think that's all to the good 21 given how much attention has been paid to the 22 Court's use of emergency orders more recently.

But this is the intervention that I'd like to
 suggest.

I do think that this section and I 3 4 know, I can imagine the drafters were concerned 5 about length. I do think this section would 6 benefit from more context and history, particularly because as I've said, the Court's 7 8 use of emergency orders has been so much in the 9 news of late. 10 I think it's an opportunity for this 11 Commission to provide a real public service 12 which, of course, we are doing but even underlining it here so that the public 13 understands for instance whether this is a 14 15 significant deviation from the way the Court used 16 to behave. 17 There is some discussion a couple of sort of right into the chapter about the Court's

18 sort of right into the chapter about the Court's 19 practice in the '50s and '60s, but there's not a 20 really thick substantive account of that and it 21 would, I think that the chapter would do well to 22 compare and contrast.

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1	There's a significant different, why	
2	is that so, the chapter says the number of	
3	emergency orders have multiplied in recent years	
4	and has increased dramatically.	
5	I think a few statistics here raised	
6	into text would be very useful in connection with	
7	these assertions. And I think the report also,	
8	the draft report also notes that the number of	
9	merits decisions is declining.	
10	I think it would be helpful to know	
11	what percentage of the overall docket is	
12	comprised of merits versus emergency orders, have	
13	those percentages changed over time, and finally,	
14	as I indicated before, there's this sort of	
15	connection with '50s and '60s and it would be	
16	interesting to know if there's been significant	
17	changes.	
18	Again, I think that the draft	
19	chapter's covering a lot of ground and I think,	
20	like the other chapters in the report, it's a	
21	significant triumph in terms of the level of	
22	analysis and sort of real sort of erudition that	

1	is there, but I think that the chapter would be
2	improved if we added a little bit more history
3	and context in the first portion. Thank you.
4	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
5	Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Griffith?
6	COMMISSINER GRIFFITH: Yes, thank you,
7	Commissioner Bauer. I do agree with everything
8	Commissioner Adams said. I think this is an
9	important issue that's not well understood.
10	The only thing I would add is I really
11	think we should, with all due respect to
12	Professor Baude, I think we ought to drop the
13	terminology shattered document.
14	It just makes it sound so sinister and
15	yet Commissioner Huang didn't use the term in
16	describing the then set up. I think they, I
17	think the report would be improved by getting
18	away from that.
19	But having said that, I think we
20	should add that this is exactly right, that this
21	an area that public doesn't know a great deal
22	about.

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1	And because of the increased use of it
2	by the Court, I think it's, I think it would be
3	worthwhile to have more context than this. Thank
4	you.
5	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
6	Commissioner Griffith. Commissioner White?
7	COMMISSIONER WHITE: Thanks again and
8	thanks everyone. On this document I would like
9	to raise two concerns. First, about the
10	emergency docket and second, about case
11	selection.
12	First off the emergency docket, I
13	think our, the document downplays the connection
14	between the Supreme Court's emergency docket and
15	the lower court injunctions.
16	Our document alludes to the one
17	specific issue of district court's nationwide
18	injunctions and that's an important aspect of the
19	issue I think, but it's only one aspect.
20	And what I'm getting at is it seems
21	that the Supreme Court's exercise of equitable
22	powers with abbreviated procedures on issues of

national importance is just an echo of a broader issue of federal courts exercising equitable powers with abbreviated procedures on issues of 4 national importance.

In that sense, the Court's emergency 5 docket or shadow docket, apologies Commissioner 6 Griffith, is just a special example of the bigger 7 8 question of how Court's ought to carry out the 9 responsibilities as courts in our constitutional 10 system.

11 At the Supreme Court and in lower 12 courts, judges face constant requests for swift 13 and energetic judicial intervention on a 14 discretionary basis under equitable standards that leave the judges with immense power and with 15 16 decisions that leave confusing precedential 17 effects.

18 And so whether the Supreme Court or 19 the lower courts are the ones exercising this 20 discretionary power, it strikes me as somewhat 21 antithetical to the constitutional design of a judiciary created to exercise neither force nor 22

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1 will but merely a judgment.

2	And I also think it would be a mistake
3	to attempt as this document attempts, to afford
4	profoundly different treatment to one part of the
5	emergency docket, namely capital cases, than to
6	the rest of the emergency docket.
7	I understand that death is different.
8	But there are many differences among the various
9	kinds of cases on the emergency docket and so
10	even for someone like me who would like to see
11	the death penalty abolished and the federal
12	government and in all the states, this part of
13	the report strikes me as special pleading.
14	Now, my second point on the Court's
15	case selection process, I have similar concerns
16	here about the Court's discretion in deciding
17	which cases it's going to hear.
18	The discussion document highlights
19	many problems inherent in the Court's
20	discretionary power to hear or not hear cases. I
21	worry that this aspect of the Court's work shapes
22	the public's perception of the Justices and also

the Justice's own perception of their
 constitutional roles.

Reading that part of the document, I 3 thought as I went, well, maybe the best solution 4 5 here is not to encourage the Justices to wield this power and discretion differently, but to 6 7 just reduce their power and discretion by 8 reforming statutes and increasing their mandatory 9 docket. 10 But as I page through the document, 11 through a number of possible solutions, I never 12 reached that one. Instead, we seized our more 13 targeted discussions of how to reallocate 14 discretion. Again, I think as I said in my first 15 16 comment today which feels like a very long time 17 ago, admittedly, I think the basic challenge for 18 the Commission in all five of the topics we're 19 discussing, is how we should think about the 20 Court as a Court as a deliberative body entrusted 21 with judicial powers.

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Courts should receive cases not claim

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them, Courts should decide cases deliberately, 1 2 not swiftly and we should always look for opportunities to reduce the judiciary's 3 4 discretion, not enlarge it. 5 And I hope that this aspect of our report in particular which I think is especially 6 7 relevant to those considerations is re-oriented 8 accordingly. Thank you. 9 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, Commissioner White. Commissioner Baude. 10 11 Thank you. COMMISSIONER BAUDE: I'm 12 sort of reluctant to speak up about this chapter 13 because I worry that my comments are going to be 14 destructive rather than helpful, but I do feel sort of compelled to do so. 15 16 So I think there are a lot of things 17 about the approach these materials take that are 18 not a good way to approach it at a sort of a high 19 and systematic level. 20 So in discussing the emergency docket, 21 and I'm not at all led into calling it the shadow 22 docket, I'd be happy not to call it the shadow

docket.

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2	We're discussing the emergency docket,
3	I worry that we started acknowledging the point
4	in a few places, that the draft materials still
5	don't do a very good job of disentangling what
6	critiques really reduce to just the figuring out
7	what the merits of particular objections, you
8	know, that the Court showed a different view
9	about SBA than it does or a different view about
10	free exercise than it does and which ones
11	actually have some sort of, you know, trans
12	substantive non-partisan, non-political content.
13	You know, even and then, seems like
14	it's probably exacerbated to the fact that here's
15	the one part of our materials where we sort of
16	trying to talk through a specific about recent
17	cases.
18	Something that managed this data to
19	help us find common ground in other areas, but I
20	think it makes it harder to do here when we start
21	actually having to adjudicate a bunch of cases in
22	a recent memory that we have views about.

1	Then, another problem is that when it
2	comes to the hammer reform, much of the reforms
3	to Justices here are focused really on telling
4	the Court what to do, telling the Court to behave
5	differently which is again, not an approach we've
6	otherwise taken and I think we've not taken it
7	for good reason.
8	We were commissioned by the President
9	to provide advice to President and then to the
10	public about some reform possibilities, most of
11	what we're talking about here is not addressed to
12	the President really or the public so much as the
13	Justices.
14	And I worry that's made worse by the
15	fact that we haven't really heard any form of
16	capacity from the Justices and haven't had them
17	to sit in this process.
18	And that makes it even harder for us
19	to sort of come in and tell them that they should
20	be doing their jobs differently when we don't
21	really know what they think that they're doing or
22	what they're confronting or why they're doing

what they're doing.

2	So I think it sort of ends up being
3	both misdirected and potentially uninformed.
4	Beyond that, I do, I share Commissioner White's
5	concern that singling out how capital cases for
6	sort of separate structural treatment just make
7	us appear guilty of the same kind of picking and
8	choosing particular causes that we worry about
9	when the Court does it.
10	And that's not great. And then as to
11	other parts, I won't spend some time on them, but
12	I don't think we've done enough to show there's
13	any problem in the Supreme Court bar or case
14	selection process that really merits discussion
15	at all.
16	The same thing is true for judicial
17	ethics where we haven't really shown there's some
18	sort of judicial ethics problem or even really
19	appearance of judicial ethics problem with the
20	Court that requires us to address it or requires
21	to the Court to do anything differently.
22	So I'd like to propose a different

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approach that, by looking at a different approach which would be to not issue or to neither pursue any report on this topic, to just take, you know I think it was a right thing to do to have a working group to study it and to try to amass a bunch of materials I think.

You know, that will, of course, be 7 8 part of the whole record of discussion that's on 9 the record, but I think in the interest of trying to find a way to move forward some things that 10 11 we've already talked about which there's a lot, I 12 wonder if it would be best if we just not have 13 this chapter be a part of our final report and 14 leave that for some, you know, different body, different people to consider on their own was my 15 16 suggestion.

17 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much, 18 Commissioner Baude. Commissioner Boddie? 19 COMMISSIONER BODDIE: Yes, hi. So 20 thank you. I thought this was another terrific chapter and want to commend everyone who 21 contributed to it. 22

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I just want to say a quick word about 1 2 the section on capital cases. I thought that this section could benefit from acknowledging 3 4 more explicitly the high complexity of capital 5 cases which is important context for understanding the consequences of emergency 6 7 rulings in this area. 8 And although I know this is a report 9 to the President, it does have a public audience and it may not be clear to lay audiences that 10 11 this is a highly specialized and thorny area of 12 law that really does limit the pull of lawyers in 13 the lower courts who can expertly represent 14 people on death row which is another reason why 15 death is different. 16 And also, why, you know, based on my 17 view, the Court should err on the side of pausing 18 executions. It would be interesting to note if 19 there were empirical studies that talk about the 20 availability of lawyers who have expertise in 21 this area.

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I have to imagine that they exist.

I'm not personally aware of them. I knew that in 1 2 the draft, there is sort of somewhat oblique preference to the special context of capital 3 4 cases. 5 But I think that could be drawn out more specifically and I just note that the 6 7 testimony from the federal habeas, sorry, Federal 8 Capital Habeas Project does provide some language 9 to that effect if you wanted to insert that in the draft. 10 11 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, very much, 12 Commissioner Boddie. And I would like to now 13 recognize Commissioner Ifill. Or do I, have I 14 missed --15 COMMISSIONER IFILL: I'm here. 16 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Oh, did you have 17 your, are you in the queue or --? 18 COMMISSIONER IFILL: I'm in the queue. 19 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay. The floor is 20 yours. I think 21 COMMISSIONER IFILL: Okay. 22 first of all, I'm grateful to all of you for

They actually spark my thinking. 1 those comments. 2 I wanted to respond to two observations made by William Baude. The first 3 4 one is one, you know, that's not surprising 5 because, you know, we see it all through the 6 literature. And we see it all in the commentary. 7 8 You know, is the concern about the Supreme Court 9 shadow docket procedures really just a concern about the merits of the cases that are being 10 11 taken. 12 And I guess I would presume to begin 13 kind of from the area that the way in which Adam 14 White talked about what judges do. And I would begin by talking about what we think are the 15 16 benefits of adjudication and what those elements 17 of adjudication are. 18 I think we are in agreement as lawyers 19 that we mostly think that adjudication consists 20 of certain elements that we think actually surface the critical issues in cases and allow 21 22 judges to be in the best position to make good

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2	And that could include trial,
3	briefing, argument, appeals and so on and so
4	forth. Most of us would be unemployed if we
5	didn't think that those things were important.
6	Obviously, when you're dealing with
7	emergency orders, you are truncating a process in
8	which those elements are not happening and I left
9	out one element.
10	One element, another element is the
11	written decision of a judge which I think in our
12	profession we tend to think actually is a form of
13	discipline because the judge is essentially
14	showing her work, is showing the reasoning, is
15	allowing us to walk through a process and
16	understand the meaning of the decision.
17	Emergency orders are different and I
18	think it said throughout the text obviously you
19	need the answers quickly and so there's a
20	truncated process.
21	So when the question is raised about
22	isn't this just about the merits, my reaction to

that is always, yes, partially it is about the 1 2 merits. It's not just about the merits, but partially it is. 3 All of the commentators, those who 4 5 criticize the Court's shadow docket procedures and those who condemn them or those who defend 6 7 them, excuse me, all recognize that this issue 8 has become uncomfortable as these emergency 9 orders emerge in recent years in matters of national significance, involved in areas that 10 involve the rights of millions of people. 11 12 If we think about the COVID prison 13 cases, the election cases, the religious liberty 14 cases, the abortion case, that these are highprofile substantive matters. 15 16 And that is drawing our attention to 17 the Court's procedures in the emergency orders 18 realm. So it seems to me it asks that question 19 as to say yes, that is part of it. 20 It's not just it, but it is part of it 21 and it's what it's revealing is what is bumping 22 together is the reality that emergency orders

don't allow us to get all of the elements that we 1 2 tend to feel comfortably belong in the adjudication of important substantive matters. 3 4 And yet we are getting decisions from 5 the Court that are having the effect of, in many cases, conclusively deciding the issue because in 6 the election cases, the election is going to 7 8 happen because in the COVID cases, you're either 9 going to get it or you're not in that short 10 period and so on and so forth. 11 So I don't think that's really a 12 criticism. I think that's a concession. We 13 recognize that the fact that the merits cases are 14 so, the substance of the cases are so important that it actually raises the stakes on these 15 16 issues. 17 And then the question is, well, what 18 do you expect the Court to do about it and I 19 think that what this section tries to suggest is 20 that it is not inappropriate for us to expect the 21 Court to notice that these are happening in areas that involve the substantive rights of millions 22

2	And therefore, to take care to be
3	consistent, consistent in whether the Court
4	reveals the standards it's using, consistent in
5	whether the Court actually offers even a brief
6	explanation of the decision, consistent in
7	whether the Court purports to believe that the
8	emergency order has precedential effect or not.
9	So I think the fact that the merits
10	are involved is of a piece. Not in terms of one
11	side or another, but in terms of the fact that
12	these are important cases.
13	And then the last part about focusing
14	on telling the Court what to do, I don't really
15	see it that way. You know, I think we're charged
16	in each of these chapters with trying to explore
17	the possibility of reforms on important issues
18	related to the Court that have become the subject
19	of tremendous controversy and that are related to
20	the issues of Court expansion in the minds of
21	people who believe that something must be
22	corrected and those who believe that nothing

must, needs to be corrected.

2	And it seems important that in the
3	exploration of this set of issues, we identify if
4	there were to be reforms, how would they happen.
5	It so happens, that because of the
6	subject matter of this section, that most of the
7	power to make reforms actually sits in the power
8	of the Court.
9	This is not a circumstance in which it
10	is actually something that should fall into the
11	area of Congress or in which the President has
12	the power.
13	These are actually internal matters
14	that are churning a tremendous amount of
15	discussion that touch on the legitimacy of the
16	Court in the eyes of the public.
17	And so, I don't think, I don't see it
18	as telling the Court what to do. I see it as
19	identifying for the President and for the public,
20	if reforms were to happen, how they would happen
21	and who would be responsible for making them
22	happen.

1	So I feel quite comfortable with that.
2	I understand why it's different than other
3	chapters, but I think it's different than other
4	chapters because of the subject matter.
5	That doesn't make it, in my view,
6	right for disqualification from the report. But
7	I think it's just right for recognition that it
8	is different and therefore in the reforms
9	proposed and how they're set forth, it's going to
10	necessarily be different.
11	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
12	Commissioner Ifill. Commissioner Lemos?
13	COMMISSIONER LEMOS: Thanks, Co-Chair
14	Bauer. I'm going to end up echoing I think some
15	of what Commissioner Ifill just said. Because I
16	wanted to speak to the same issues that she just
17	addressed.
18	But I'll try not to just repeat. So
19	as others have mentioned at earlier parts of
20	discussion today, we can't possibly talk about
21	everything that might be relevant to an account
22	of contemporary commentary and debate about the

role and operation of the Supreme Court. 1 2 We have to make some line-drawing decisions and in this chapter in particular, 3 4 seems to pose the line-drawing challenge in 5 particularly stark form. And I think that's been reflected in 6 7 some of the other comments we've just heard. 8 Commissioner White says, you know, there's more we should address here and Commissioner Baude 9 said, no, there's a whole lot less we should be 10 11 addressing here. 12 My own view is that it is useful and 13 appropriate for this chapter to consider 14 proposals that the Court could implement itself voluntarily. 15 16 For sure that's a different approach 17 to reform than proposals for new legislation or 18 for constitutional amendments. But it strikes me 19 as a valuable approach for us to consider 20 especially in a chapter focused on the Court's 21 own internal process use. 22 Since the Court sets its own

procedures, it would seem odd to my eye at least 1 2 to talk about those kinds of issues without considering changes the Court itself might opt to 3 4 take up. And then putting that together with 5 constraints of space and time and the need to 6 7 draw some lines, it then makes some sense to me 8 for the chapter to focus primarily if not 9 exclusively on proposals that are addressed to the Court itself. 10 11 And I take it that may be one reason 12 for the draft not to include a lengthy discussion 13 of mandatory jurisdiction, but it seems the more 14 important reason for not focusing on mandatory 15 jurisdiction in any detail in this chapter is 16 that to my knowledge at least it has not been a 17 significant theme in current debates about the 18 Court. 19 And is also not something that we 20 heard about from the many witnesses who submitted 21 testimony to us. Those witnesses were instead focused on the sort of information environment in 22

which the Court operates at the certiorari stage 1 2 and on mechanisms that the Court itself could use to expand that environment or process the 3 4 relevant information more effectively. So that's the first thing I wanted to 5 The other topic I wanted to touch on was to 6 say. pick up on Commissioner Baude's and Commissioner 7 8 Ifill's comments about the relationship between 9 debates about the shadow docket so called and debates about the merits of the Court's 10 11 decisions. 12 And I, here I want to associate myself 13 with Commissioner Baude's suggestion that one way 14 our report can and I think should be helpful is by clarifying when and why those debates overlap. 15 16 So when and why debates about the 17 Court's emergency orders are in a sense really 18 debates about the merits of the Court's 19 decisions. 20 And I think to some extent they are 21 and unsurprisingly so because the standards the Court is applying in this context include an 22

inquiry into the merits by asking whether the applicant has shown a likelihood of success on the merits.

And we also heard what to my ear was really useful testimony about the unavoidably normative and contestable judgments that go into other parts of the test including on the assessment of irreparable harm and the weighing of the public interest.

And so it follows, I think, that disagreements with how the Court is applying those tests are to some extent and again unavoidably going to be disagreements with the Court's judgments about contested questions of law and about how to weigh computing values and interests.

And I think our report can be helpful in clarifying that point. And also being clear about its limits. And so here I really am echoing some of what Commissioner Ifill said, but as I understand the pulse for the Court to offer more explanation for its emergency orders are not

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intention on the merits.

2	In other words, arguments about
3	transparency are not, as I understand them,
4	grounded in or limited to disagreements on the
5	merits, but are driven by a desire for more
6	explanation largely so that the public can
7	understand what the Justices' views of the merits
8	are.
9	And understand what judgments the
10	Justices are making about how to weigh computing
11	interests and understand how the different prongs
12	of the relevant standards work together including
13	just how much work the merits are doing in the
14	Court's own assessments.
15	I'd say the same thing about arguments
16	about precedential effect of the Court's
17	emergency decisions. I take the general thrust
18	of those arguments to be independent of the
19	merits or outcome of any given case and to have
20	more to do with kind of generalized
21	considerations about the strength and scope of
22	precedent.

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1	And so, I hope as we move forward with
2	these drafts that as we get toward a more final
3	draft of this chapter, we can better clarify that
4	interaction.
5	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,
6	Commissioner Lemos. I would like now to
7	recognize Commissioner Crespo.
8	COMMISSIONER CRESPO: Thank you, Chair
9	Bauer. I thought I'd offer just two comments in
10	response to Commissioner's Baude and also the
11	Commissioner White first on the capital portion
12	of the chapter and then on the issue of
13	addressing the Court.
14	On the capital portion, I take
15	Commissioners Baude and White to be responding to
16	the fact that the capital cases are broken out to
17	their own section. And the concern being at this
18	endorsed view of it, to use an often-stated
19	phrase, death is different. Don't you just think
20	it's important on this point to distinguish
21	between a descriptive use of that phrase and a
22	normative use of that phrase and to talk about

how I read the report actually using or which I
 see the report sort of embracing.

On the descriptive point, the idea 3 4 that death is different, I think, is just 5 important to note and to front and center. Something that the Court itself has said numerous 6 times since the 1970s when its own modern capital 7 8 jurisprudence sort of started. Is that as 9 recently as 2012 in Miller v. Alabama, that was Justice Kagan that said it; in 1991 in Homeland 10 v. Michigan, that was Justice Scalia. 11

12 I think each time the Court says it, 13 it seems to be at least at a minimum addressing 14 the descriptive observation that death is in fact 15 different. This is a point that Professor Bray 16 made to the Commission when he was talking about 17 the basic fact that an execution is irreversible.

Now, of course, in many of the
emergency order cases, there are instances where
it seems practically irreversible, but in this
respect death is actually different and if an
execution goes forward it is final.

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1	There is no way to undo an execution.
2	And I think that's the point that again,
3	Professor Bray was making. I think he was
4	echoing the Court again itself when it says that
5	it is different because it's unremittable. It
6	cannot be undone.
7	Now, that's different than a motive of
8	claim which was also brought forward to the
9	Commission. Again, Professor Bray said not only
10	that death is different, but that the fact that
11	death is different should matter.
12	His testimony to the Commission was
13	that "the Justices should be much more willing to
14	give shadow docket orders that delay an execution
15	than shadow docket orders that accelerate one."
16	Now this he was saying because death
17	is different, the Court should treat it
18	differently. I think the report from the
19	Commission could have been written to embrace
20	that normative view.
21	I expect that perhaps unlike some
22	other issues there are many people in the

Commission who could coalesce around such an idea 1 2 perhaps in part because the Court itself has treated death differently because it thinks it is 3 different and should be treated differently. 4 But with, I think with due respect to 5 Commissioner White, I don't think the report 6 7 actually does embrace this normative point. Ι 8 think it acknowledges a descriptive point, but I 9 don't think the Commission does actually say that 10 it agrees with Professor Bray. 11 Rather it quotes him, it quotes those 12 who disagree with him and it lays out the two 13 sides of the argument without stating a position. 14 The only other thing I'll say on capital point, is that I agree with Commissioner 15 16 Boddie. There, I think actually that there is 17 quite a bit of empirical evidence on the 18 complexity of capital cases and on why that often 19 times impacts the timing in which these cases are 20 brought. 21 The current report cites empirical 22 evidence on this from Professor Lee Kovarsky

1	which I'll just speak for myself. I find
2	persuasive on this point.
3	This is in the endnotes of the report.
4	I think it's something that I would personally
5	welcome seeing elevated to the text of the
6	chapter, but I imagine that for all sorts of
7	space and other reasons, it wouldn't surprise me
8	if it stays there, but I just wanted to say to
9	Commissioner Boddie that I think it's an
10	important point and that it trains some of this

12 One other point I wanted to make to 13 Commissioner Baude on the question of addressing 14 the Court, you know, it was thinking that this is 15 as you were speaking and it strikes me that 16 there's maybe more analytic similarity across the 17 issues addressing the chapters here than might 18 meet the eye.

issue surrounding capital litigation.

You know, Commissioner Lemos describes
the issues in this chapter as things that the
Court itself could implement and I agree that
these are things the Court itself could

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1	implement. I just think it may be worth
2	observing that a number of the things we spoken
3	about all day are things that the Court itself
4	could implement.
5	For example, if there were Justices
6	listening to this who actually were persuaded by
7	the normative force of term limits, that's
8	something that the Justices could implement.
9	They could embrace a norm of all
10	retiring after 18 years. Indeed, you can imagine
11	Justices taking leadership and announcing that
12	they were retiring at 18 years in order to
13	instantiate for precisely such a norm.
14	Likewise, we've been in jurisdiction
15	stripping or Congress taking certain matters off
16	of the Court's docket, but the Court has an
17	almost entirely discretionary docket.
18	If it was persuaded by any of those
19	arguments, it could also take steps to do the
20	same thing. So I think really all I'm trying to
21	say is that I think it's perhaps a matter of
22	emphasis that in this chapter, there are matters

as in other chapters, the Court itself could take up if it wanted to.

Likewise, those things could be 3 4 imposed on the Court externally. And this 5 chapter also talks of ways that many of the interventions with respect to the emergency 6 7 docket could be imposed externally by Congress. 8 So I just wanted to observe that point 9 that this may be more a matter of framing our language than some sort of deep analytical 10 11 distinction that separates these chapters from 12 the others. 13 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, 14 Commissioner Crespo. Commissioner Gertner? COMMISSIONER GERTNER: Let me start 15 16 where Commissioner Crespo ended. I think that 17 this in one sense, this is another chapter in 18 which we are talking about issues of legitimacy of and as well as judicial independence. 19 20 And so to some degree, it's broadly 21 framed in exactly the way that the rest of the 22 chapters are. A Court that has no rules that are

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apparent to anyone else governing what they do, 1 2 and no mechanisms to enforce ethics is a Court that could well suffer from a legitimacy problem. 3 4 So I agree with Commissioner Crespo 5 that there is, that this really is sort of a consistent part of the other themes of the other 6 7 chapters. 8 In addition, this, I think that this 9 chapter has a unique role in the overall report. Because this is a chapter with sort of much more 10 11 concrete, this is what you can do tomorrow kinds 12 of suggestions. And I think it's really critical that 13 14 we speak to that. That we do more of the this is 15 what you can do tomorrow kinds of observations 16 and that's where this one is going. 17 I also, as a District Court Judge, I 18 wasn't sure that I completely understood the 19 point that somehow the shadow docket was related to the effect that district court judges and the 20 21 courts of appeals are issuing nationwide 22 injunctions.

The fact of the matter is that a 1 2 district court that issues an injunction has to write an opinion. It has to write an opinion. 3 4 And that a court of appeals that affirms it has 5 to write an opinion. Only the Supreme Court doesn't. 6 And 7 it seems to me that that's critical. It's 8 critical to the guidance to the lower courts and 9 I'm not sure that, who said this, maybe it was Commissioner Ifill, but writing opinion changes 10 11 the decision. 12 I do some arbitrations now and I think 13 it's hysterical that arbitrations the parties 14 that are involved in an arbitration will say to 15 me, you know, I'm supposed to ask whether they 16 want a reasoned opinion or unreasoned opinion. 17 And I've always, the, I never knew 18 what to say about that. I feel like saying, 19 okay, you want an unreasoned opinion? You win, 20 you lose, I'm out of here. 21 Essentially, not writing an opinion enables a different kind of decision making. 22 And

so that is, I think, a key is an issue of 1 2 transparency, there's an issue of legitimacy, but it changes the nature of the decision making if 3 4 you have to say it out loud on paper on the front 5 pages of the newspapers. So I think that is a broad critique of 6 7 the so-called shadow docket. As to the concern 8 of some that we are intruding into the territory 9 of the Supreme Court Justices: so be it, is my 10 comment. Judges and Justices are responsive to 11 the public, and they can no more be in a tower 12 than any of us can be. 13 CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you, 14 Commissioner Gertner. Commissioner Baude? COMMISSIONER BAUDE: Thanks. 15 So I 16 just, I have three quick comments. I take off 17 the suggestive points about sort of the 18 descriptive and different. I guess, part of that 19 said, I think there's a land in which everything 20 is different from everything. 21 You know, the Court also has things it says about, you know, how it's free exercise 22

right is different from other things, that it's 1 2 like to enjoy possibly how the abortion right is different, and other parts of the report with 3 4 regard those are just kind of lumped together. 5 We move past those. But as, I'm sorry, I'm still not sure that we're sort of 6 7 being consistent in how we think about what's 8 different from what and what's similar to what. 9 Of course, you know, some people would say that abortion cases involve death too. 10 It's 11 not my view, but that's part of the debate. 12 I mean the transparency is actually a 13 good illustration of part of the problem. So I 14 totally agree that asking for just transparency seems like it doesn't allow us to get into the 15 16 merits. 17 And yet, I think you would get a very 18 misleading impression from those materials about what kind of transparency the Court provides. 19 20 So in the past few years, the Court 21 has taken to writing opinions and in a lot of the shadow docket decisions. And the report does not 22

1 try to do this systematic way.

2	So you know here are all of the, you
3	know, contested emergency orders the Court has
4	issued. Here are the ones they issued an
5	opinion, here are the ones they didn't.
6	Of course, once they did issue them in
7	Holman Power vs. Jackson, the second eviction
8	moratorium case, a New York eviction moratorium
9	case.
10	Several of probably the most
11	consequential of the Church COVID cases. I think
12	if we were to line them up, I mean, this is
13	upsetting here, but I think if you were to line
14	them up, it wouldn't be obvious that the Court is
15	making the wrong choices.
16	We don't really have any basis for
17	saying that something's wrong here. Especially
18	since the report itself sort of professes
19	agnosticism about how the Court should draw the
20	line. So it sort of comes across as a calling
21	upon the Court to do better without even really
22	showing that the Court is not doing well.

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1	And my impression, and again, it is
2	just an impression because we haven't heard from
3	the Court itself, is that this is a self-
4	conscious attempt to put reform on the Court over
5	the past couple of years.
6	So I think we come across as being
7	sort of out of touch with what the Court is
8	actually doing or, you know, potentially sort of
9	leisurely following the news account that the
10	Court rather than ourselves is something to
11	actually figure out what's going on.
12	And I, I mean, I have many criticisms
13	of the Court. I am happy to intrude on this,
14	this territory, all the time. I probably do it
15	too much.
16	But I do think we're not doing it here
17	in an informed and careful way.
18	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much
19	Commissioner Baude. Commissioner White?
20	COMMISSIONER WHITE: Thanks. Since I
21	already spoke once, I don't want to try people's
22	patience, but quickly just to respond to a few

things that have been said, I do think the issue 1 2 of mandatory jurisdiction is on the table for the Commission aspects that have been explored and 3 testimony submitted by Michael Kuhn (phonetic). 4 He alluded to proposals and had very 5 eloquent criticisms of it. The committee of 6 7 Supreme Court practitioners wrote on it at length 8 and noted that we had specifically invited their 9 testimony on the subject of mandatory jurisdiction and questions of death penalty 10 11 cases. 12 So I do think it's a live issue. Ι 13 don't think we necessarily need to explore 14 exhaustively in our report. With respect to Commissioner Crespo's comments, the points are 15 16 very, very well taken and the difference that I 17 see and the thrust of the first part of the 18 emergency docket discussion and the capital cases 19 part, I might just be putting my own gloss on it 20 as a reader. 21 If that's not the case, to the extent that there is a real difference in the thrust of 22

the first part of this document and the second, I 1 2 don't think it's really enough to just invoke the, you know, the justifiable line that death is 3 4 different. First of all, because as Commissioner 5 Baude said, there's a lots of differences between 6 7 different kinds of cases on the emergency docket. And we can't just say that the rock is 8 9 heavier than the stick is long. I think we need 10 to grapple with these as part of our unified whole of the emergency docket. And as 11 12 Commissioner Baude said, death, matters of life 13 and death arise in any number of issues on the 14 Court's emergency docket. Questions of national security, 15 16 questions of abortion which present matters of life and death and all the different dimensions 17 18 for different people, matters of the criminal 19 process and the COVID cases and so on. 20 And so again, this might just be my 21 gloss that I'm putting on it as a reader on the Commission, but it did strike me in the reading. 22

And then finally, Commissioner
Gertner's comments on my attempt to draw a
connection between the shadow docket and the
equitable powers of lower courts is well taken
and I don't want to overstate the similarity.
Yes, it is a good thing that the lower
courts offer opinions to accompany their
preliminary injunctions and TROs and the lower
court should do it as well.
But for me, the point I was really
getting at, and I want to be clear. It's not so
much the fact of a written opinion which is
important, but it's just the quality of the
process.
The abbreviated process in both cases
and also I think the nature of the decision in
these equitable matters where it's not just an
interpretation and application of law and facts,
but it's a mix of discretionary equitable
considerations that often confuse as much as they
clarify in the written opinion. Thank you.
CO-CHAIR BAUER: Thank you very much,

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Commissioner White. Commissioner Ifill. 1 2 COMMISSIONER IFILL: Thank you. Ι just wanted to one more time respond to 3 Commissioner Baude because I don't want to leave 4 5 the impression that there's kind of shoddy work here that is responsive to kind of the fad of 6 7 talking about the shadow docket. The transparency argument is actually 8 9 connected with the consistency argument. There are a number of cases and I think it's explained 10 in the materials in which the Court has offered a 11 12 brief and short explanation and including in the most recent abortion case. 13 14 I think you will discover that those cases as I think even you indicate, are quite 15 16 recently and have begun to happen with more 17 consistency because of perhaps not because of, 18 but certainly it correlates with the increasing 19 criticism of the shadow docket. 20 And I think the argument that is being 21 raised is that should happen more consistently. 22 That you shouldn't be, jury, you know you

shouldn't be picking between different cases. 1 2 Some getting an explanation and some So I think that's the point of it. 3 not. Not to suggest that the Court doesn't do it. And as I 4 5 have said when we've, you know, talked about this issue, you know two or three cases doesn't 6 7 necessarily mean a trend. You know, we've been tasked with 8 9 studying something. We see it, we have a pretty heavy body of work to look at and we see it in 10 consistency and so it's great if the Court has 11 12 gotten the messages and is beginning to do it. 13 But we really have no way of knowing 14 whether they intend to consistently apply that. So I don't think we're out of touch. 15 I think 16 we're quite aware of the cases that went to the 17 Court is writing those short explanations and 18 we're approving of them. 19 We think that should happen and it 20 should happen more consistently. And then I 21 would just say, on the death is different piece, 22 you know, it goes to Commissioner Boddie's

comments and Commissioner Crespo's on the issue of process.

3	When I'm hearing death is different
4	for purposes of this particular section, it is
5	not only that it cannot be reversed. It is that
6	the process of capital punishment cases is
7	distinct from almost every other of the
8	procedures by which a capital case gets to the
9	Supreme Court is governed by a very particular
10	body of law.
11	One and a particular process, one
12	which the Court itself has critiqued which
13	encouraged Congress to pass a statute to try to
14	change what that process would be like, and
15	frankly, I think the effort was to try to be
16	respectful of that.
17	To be respectful of the fact that
18	capital cases sit in a very specific and
19	identifiable procedural lane. But otherwise, I
20	take the comments to be actually quite helpful
21	and the need to add more of the empirical data to
22	explain more in part because of what was said at

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1	the top by Commission Huang which is that this an
2	area that many lay people don't understand.
3	And therefore showing all the work and
4	giving the back story is important. And if
5	Commissioner Bauer will allow greater space for
6	the report, I think that your suggestions are
7	well taken.
8	CO-CHAIR BAUER: That you,
9	Commissioner Ifill. I just have a couple of
10	quick I know I shouldn't prolong what has been
11	a long and extraordinary day. I apologize. I'm
12	also having some audio issues.
13	So if I'm shouting, I'm
14	overcompensating. I apologize, but what I would
15	say just very quickly is the concluding remark on
16	my part about this conversation and then I will
17	turn it over to Co-Chair Rodriguez for some final
18	remarks.
19	I just want to say something about our
20	charge which is implicated in some of the
21	comments that have just been made. First of all,
22	as we note in the draft, or has been noted in the

draft, particularly reflected in the comments 1 2 that we've made about the executive order and how the charge should be understood by the terms of 3 4 the executive order, we as a Commission, have not 5 been charged with making a recommendations. We've been charged however, with 6 7 providing the President with an informed and 8 critical account of the current debate about the 9 Supreme Court. And that naturally brings us to issues 10 11 like the ones that we've been discussing just in 12 this last hour. However, it obviously does involve us both in the case of confirmations in 13 14 the Senate and in cases involving internal 15 operations of the Court. 16 It involves us in speaking carefully with the President to inform them of the issues 17 18 that we really do have to address, but attempt to 19 do so in a manner that is institutionally 20 respectful. 21 We're not speaking to the Court, we're 22 speaking to the President and of course, the

President intends for the report to inform the
 public.

3	So I do think these are issues
4	appropriately touched upon, but how we go about
5	it is significant. It was my impression that as
6	Commissioner Driver noted, that the phrase
7	appearing in the draft on judicial stockholding,
8	I hear people are having huge trouble hearing me.
9	Is that correct? Is there a problem
10	with the audio?
11	CO-CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: I can hear you
12	well, Bob.
13	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay.
13 14	CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay. COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we
14	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we
14 15	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we couldn't hear you so well, but now it seems fine.
14 15 16	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we couldn't hear you so well, but now it seems fine. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay, very good.
14 15 16 17	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we couldn't hear you so well, but now it seems fine. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay, very good. Thank you. That, well and Commissioner Driver
14 15 16 17 18	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we couldn't hear you so well, but now it seems fine. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay, very good. Thank you. That, well and Commissioner Driver was referring to the text. I don't have it in
14 15 16 17 18 19	COMMISSIONER MORRISON: Before we couldn't hear you so well, but now it seems fine. CO-CHAIR BAUER: Okay, very good. Thank you. That, well and Commissioner Driver was referring to the text. I don't have it in front of me, where there was a note made about

group to be an attempt to come to terms with 1 2 precisely this question of how you inform the President, how you show critically the direction 3 of the debate has taken on a particular point. 4 But that you do so in a careful and 5 respectful way that also doesn't cross into the 6 7 line of recommending a particular course of action directed at the Supreme Court. 8 9 And similarly, I think we heard very powerful testimony about the confirmation 10 I think we ought to bring that to the 11 process. 12 public's attention in a variety of ways which are noted in the draft materials. 13 14 Anyway, I will conclude and simply say that I am very impressed with how this last day 15 16 qoes. I'm going to turn this over to Co-Chair 17 Rodriguez, but you have heard today Commissioners 18 talking about how this process has affected their view of the issues as they've read the vast 19 20 materials, thought about these issues and 21 listened to one another, views that they thought 22 that they were bringing into the process have

changed.

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2	And that's in fact what a deliberative
3	process is supposed to be. And I've been really
4	impressed on all sides at all comments today,
5	sober, careful and very much to the benefit of
6	the Commission as a whole.
7	So with that, I'm going to pause and
8	turn it over for closing remarks to Co-Chair
9	Rodriguez.
10	CO-CHAIR RODRIGEZ: I will keep this
11	brief and first say that we will reconvene in
12	approximately a month's time to deliberate over
13	what will be a draft report for the Commission
14	that will reflect today's debate and will
15	transform the discussion materials into something
16	that will inform the President as well as the
17	public debate.
18	The date and time will be announced in
19	the coming weeks and we will publish a draft
20	report in advance of that meeting. I'd also like
21	to issue a final invitation for further public
22	comments.

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1	We welcome public comments and will be
2	receiving them throughout the life of the
3	Commission and looking to accept them until
4	November 14th.
5	However, I should note that comments
6	most helpful to the Commission if submitted
7	before November 1st and they may be submitted via
8	regulations.gov.
9	And to find them, again, you may go to
10	the Commission's website where the links are
11	posted. Or you may go directly to
12	regulations.gov.
13	And then the last thing that I will
14	say is that I very much enjoyed spending the day
15	with all of you. The last time we were together,
16	the last two times we were together, we were
17	listening passively to others and asking
18	questions of some of them, but this was our first
19	real opportunity to talk as a Commission and I
20	think it was enormously productive.
21	We have points of conflict that are
22	difficult and challenging, but also lots of basis

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1	for providing the appraisals that we were asked
2	to provide.
3	I wish we could have been in the same
4	room today and perhaps one day we will be. But I
5	thank you for your attention, your time and your
6	incredible work. I hope everyone has a great
7	weekend. And we will be in touch soon.
8	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9	went off the record at 5:06 p.m.)
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In the matter of: Commission Meeting

Before: Presidential Commission on SCOTUS

Date: 10-15-21

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