## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SU	PREME COURT OF THE	E UNITED STATES
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AMGEN INC., ET A	L.,	)
	Petitioners,	)
v.		) No. 21-757
SANOFI, ET AL.,		)
	Respondents.	)
		_

Pages: 1 through 111

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 27, 2023

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4	Petitioners, )
5	v. ) No. 21-757
6	SANOFI, ET AL.,
7	Respondents. )
8	
9	
10	Washington, D.C.
11	Monday, March 27, 2023
12	
13	The above-entitled matter came on for
14	oral argument before the Supreme Court of the
15	United States at 10:05 a.m.
16	
17	APPEARANCES:
18	JEFFREY A. LAMKEN, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C.; on
19	behalf of the Petitioners.
20	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQUIRE, Alexandria, Virginia; on
21	behalf of the Respondents.
22	COLLEEN R. SINZDAK, Assistant to the Solicitor
23	General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
24	for the United States, as amicus curiae,
25	supporting the Respondents.

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:05 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 21-757,
5	Amgen versus Sanofi.
6	Mr. Lamken.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY A. LAMKEN
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
9	MR. LAMKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chief
10	Justice, and may it please the Court:
11	Amgen invented a new class of
12	antibodies that lower cholesterol that bind to a
13	small spot on PCSK9, the sweet spot, and thereby
14	block that protein from binding to and
15	destroying LDL receptors that remove
16	cholesterol. Amgen had in hand 384 examples
17	before the Texas article Sanofi cites as
18	hypothesizing such antibodies, before Sanofi
19	began researching PCSK9.
20	This case concerns the reason the
21	requirement that patents enable skilled artisans
22	to make and use the invention. The roadmap in
23	Amgen's patents allows skilled artisans to
24	easily make those antibodies every time using
25	two new anchor antibodies that cover the entire

- 1 sweet spot so skilled artisans can be certain to
- 2 make all the claims' antibodies, including
- 3 defendants' examples.
- 4 The Federal Circuit here never
- 5 identified a single actual antibody that's in
- 6 the claims that can't be made or requires undue
- 7 experimentation. Instead, it invoked something
- 8 that no one will defend is even relevant here:
- 9 the cumulative effort to make all or some large
- 10 group of an invention's potentially myriad
- 11 variations.
- 12 This Court's cases, however, reflect
- the Act's pragmatic boots-on-the-ground focus on
- enabling skilled artisans who want to practice
- 15 the invention on a concrete action, making and
- 16 using the invention. Patents thus satisfy the
- 17 law when sufficiently definite to guide
- 18 artisans' successful application of the
- invention wherein there's some practical way of
- 20 putting them into operation, requiring
- 21 reasonableness with due regard to the patent's
- 22 subject matter.
- In concrete terms, that means that
- 24 those who are seeking to overto the P --
- 25 overturn the PTO's issuance of the patents and

- 1 verdicts upholding them, here two verdicts, have
- 2 to do two things: one, at least have evidence
- of some variant of the invention, some category,
- 4 that require what this Court has called
- 5 painstaking experimentation, and, two, if they
- 6 identify that, show why that matters to skilled
- 7 artisans, because the statute is about skilled
- 8 artisans seeking to make and use the invention
- 9 and reasonableness, not theoretical far corners
- 10 never shown to affect the ability to do so.
- I, of course, welcome the Court's
- 12 questions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Lamken, would you
- take a minute and tell us exactly what the
- 15 invention is?
- 16 MR. LAMKEN: Yes. It's the class of
- 17 antibodies that bind to a particular spot --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, let's -- let's
- 19 deal with that. The -- you only have 26 that
- 20 you have invented, right?
- MR. LAMKEN: No, that's not correct.
- 22 The patent states that there -- that Amgen had
- 23 384. There are only 26 that are specified by
- 24 amino acid structure where you put out in the
- 25 patent, as an example, here's the structure of

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1 the -- the antibody.
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- 2 JUSTICE THOMAS: So does this process
- 3 only produce 386?
- 4 MR. LAMKEN: No, Your Honor. It --
- 5 the testimony was that it will produce every
- 6 antibody within the claims. And there's a
- 7 reason for that. Our expert explained that,
- 8 first, you get a -- if you do the
- 9 super-immunization protocol, you get a robust
- 10 response across the spectrum. And, in addition,
- if the mouse -- this is a humanized transgenic
- mouse. If it has the DNA in it to produce that
- antibody, it will produce that antibody.
- 14 And there was no evidence that there
- was some particular antibody that was harder to
- 16 make that, for some reason, you would expect it
- more difficult to come out of that.
- 18 JUSTICE THOMAS: So, in other words,
- 19 you can't say how many?
- 20 MR. LAMKEN: No, Your Honor, I think
- 21 we can say how many, and I think there's two
- 22 things. First, the evidence shows in this art
- 23 that about 400 you would get from -- coming out
- of the mouse. That's the number that we came up
- 25 with, the -- the number that Sanofi came up

- 1 with, and anybody else came up with. And that's
- 2 all that's known to date.
- And you wouldn't expect it to be a
- 4 large number because it's a very tight, small
- 5 sweet spot. It's got unusual hills and valleys.
- 6 It's 15 amino acids out of 700. So you wouldn't
- 7 expect there to be a lot to do there.
- 8 To get to a larger number, you would
- 9 have to engage in a process which is called
- 10 conservative substitution, which means you take
- one of the ones you know already works, and you
- 12 take one amino acid out or two amino acids out,
- and you swap in a very similar amino acid, one
- 14 that behaves very similarly, and you can --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: But I think you're
- 16 making the point, though -- excuse me for
- interrupting you. I just want to end my
- 18 consumption of the time. But -- but, in saying
- 19 that, you don't know how many there are because
- 20 that -- if you're going to -- the others are
- 21 going to add, if that's a part of your process,
- 22 whether it's conservative or random.
- MR. LAMKEN: No, Your Honor, I think
- that when you do the conservative substitution,
- antibody scientists aren't going to consider

- 1 those near-identical twins to be distinct
- 2 antibodies. They're 99.99 percent similar, and
- 3 nobody is going to consider them distinct.
- But even if you were to say, well,
- 5 gee, there's a large number out there, the
- 6 difficulty of making any next antibody is
- 7 straightforward. The -- the record is clear and
- 8 the -- and the patents points out that this is
- 9 sort of a routine process. It's very easy to go
- and say, I'm going to swap out this amino acid
- 11 for another. According to the table, it tells
- 12 you which ones to do. And it's routine to test
- 13 it. And so it only gets in the way of making
- 14 any antibody you want. If you're saying, gee --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry --
- 16 MR. LAMKEN: -- what's the cumulative
- 17 effort to make them all --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- if -- if
- it's so easy, why haven't you made all the 400?
- MR. LAMKEN: Pardon?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why haven't you
- 22 made the 400 if it's that easy?
- MR. LAMKEN: So it's easy --
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And what happened
- and why did it take you so long to do the

- post-filing discovery of more?
- 2 MR. LAMKEN: So the reason we -- we
- 3 only specified the 26 and you -- we came up with
- 4 384 is a skilled artisan in this area isn't
- 5 looking for every possible antibody. They're
- 6 just looking for ones that bind to the right
- 7 place and, therefore, block.
- And so, once you get those, your job
- 9 is done. You've got exactly --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Could you tell me
- 11 how your patent is different from finding
- 12 antibodies, the process? What's unique about
- 13 your process?
- MR. LAMKEN: Well, the patent isn't
- for process. It's for the class of antibodies
- 16 themselves, right?
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Oh, I know what
- 18 you're -- but -- but it sounds to me like it's
- 19 all about just process.
- MR. LAMKEN: Well, Justice --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're -- you're
- 22 telling researchers find all these antibodies.
- 23 And you tell me that process is common.
- 24 Everybody knows how to find those. And then
- what's your next step for the process?

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MR. LAMKEN: Well, Your Honor, when
1
 2
     you're talking about the --
 3
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Or the method?
               MR. LAMKEN: The -- yeah, the process
 4
      or method, which is --
 5
 6
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Right.
 7
               MR. LAMKEN: -- the -- the enablement,
     how you get those, and it starts with something
 8
      that didn't exist before, and that's these two
 9
10
      anchor antibodies that cover the two parts of
11
      the sweet spot, and that allows you to find
12
      anything that's going to bind the sweet spot
     because they'll compete with that, and that's
13
14
     the first step.
15
                After that, it sets forth a super
16
      immunization protocol --
17
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Except that you
18
      found and all of your disclosures only have
19
      three or four or five sweet spots, but you're
20
      claiming up to 26, and I don't think you've
21
     disclosed any -- any binding that's up to 26.
2.2
                MR. LAMKEN: Right. I think, if
23
     you're referring to the 16 amino acid residue --
24
               JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, I
25
     misspoke.
```

_	M. DAMKEN. ICAII.
2	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Sixteen, yes.
3	MR. LAMKEN: And and so that chart
4	that I think that you're referring to has two
5	key characteristics about it. The first is the
6	evidence was that everything on that chart is
7	enabled. The fact that our the ones that we
8	identified as the 26 examples in ours doesn't
9	mean that it doesn't produce it. The experts
10	explain exactly why you would get all of those.
11	And there was simply no evidence of anybody
12	immunizing mice and saying there's something
13	here missing, this doesn't work, I'm not getting
14	everything I want.
15	And so, on this record and in this
16	art, it's understood that that all of those
17	are enabled, all those can be made. And so the
18	chart doesn't work against us in that way.
19	And the nature of the chart itself
20	actually explains why there's full enablement
21	here. This is a chart of a bunch of a bunch
22	of antibodies that work. They bind to the sweet
23	spot and they block, and none of them is is
24	identified to work better or different than the
25	other. So, to the skilled artisan, they're all

- 1 the same, and --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Lamken, just a
- 3 few questions I hope that are quick ones. Do --
- 4 do you agree that a patent fails the enablement
- 5 test if it would force a person skilled in the
- 6 art to undertake undue experiment to produce the
- 7 claimed invention?
- 8 MR. LAMKEN: I think that's a -- a
- 9 fair statement of the law --
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You -- you accept
- 11 that?
- MR. LAMKEN: -- undue experiment --
- 13 painstaking experimentation to produce the
- 14 invention. And by that, I would mean the
- 15 various categories or classes within that
- invention that would be important to a skilled
- 17 artisan, yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'll take that as a
- 19 yes.
- MR. LAMKEN: Fair.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. Do you accept
- 22 the Wands factors? Do you think they're useful?
- 23 Do you think this Court should endorse them?
- MR. LAMKEN: So the Wands factors can
- 25 be useful in particular cases when properly

- 1 applied. The problem with the Wands factors is
- 2 they become something of a checklist that's
- 3 abstracted and therefore replaces the ultimate
- 4 statutory standard.
- 5 The statute's about looking at a
- 6 skilled artisan, a person there, a guy in a lab
- 7 coat in his lab or a mechanic in his office, and
- 8 it's about reasonably enabling them to make and
- 9 use the invention. It's not about this
- 10 checklist.
- 11 Now I'll give you one example how it
- 12 gets abstracted and doesn't work, and that's
- 13 predictability. The Federal Circuit tends to
- 14 say, gee, it's predictable or it's not
- 15 predictable in the art just generally.
- But that's not the question where
- 17 you're talking about enablement. The question
- is, can the skilled artisan using the patent and
- 19 the tools available reliably get to the
- 20 invention.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So sometimes is the
- answer for that one?
- MR. LAMKEN: Yeah, I think the answer
- is they once probably were, but they kind of
- 25 have outgrown their utility because they become

- 1 abstracted and tend to replace what really you
- 2 should ask every time.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That first test that
- 4 we talked about a moment ago?
- 5 MR. LAMKEN: The Wands test.
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 7 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah, the Wands factors.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, no, the Wands
- 9 factors are useful to the extent they illuminate
- 10 what we discussed as the standard but not when
- 11 they don't.
- MR. LAMKEN: I think that's right.
- 13 And then you need to ask each one with respect
- 14 to the standard itself, not in the abstract.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. And do you
- 16 agree that the broader the patent, the more
- 17 difficult it is to prove enablement?
- 18 MR. LAMKEN: Not necessarily, Your
- 19 Honor. You could have a relatively broad patent
- and you just have to have enablement
- 21 commensurate with its scope. And if the -- if,
- for example, if you have lots of categories
- 23 within that patent, then you would have to
- 24 enable what is important to the artisan within
- 25 the category.

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JUSTICE GORSUCH: But, as a general
1
 2
     matter, would you agree that the broader the
 3
      patent, the more you have to do to show what a
 4
      skilled artisan would have to undertake to
 5
     accomplish?
               MR. LAMKEN: You know, it -- it's hard
 6
7
     for me to agree with that in the abstract
     because it always depends --
8
9
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, I understand
10
11
               MR. LAMKEN: -- on the nature of the
12
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- it would be hard
13
14
     for you to agree with it.
15
                (Laughter.)
16
               MR. LAMKEN: No, it's --
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: But is it a fair
17
18
      statement of the law?
19
               MR. LAMKEN: It's -- it has to be
      commensurate at the start, but harder and
20
21
     broader aren't necessarily synonymous. You can
22
     have something that's harder because it's
23
     narrower because somebody leaves out a key thing
24
      to get that narrow part that's within the claim.
25
                So I think, yes, as a general matter,
```

- often, if you have a broader claim, it may be
- 2 harder, but it's hard to say that in every art
- 3 for every circumstance that makes it more
- 4 difficult.
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: It's always with
- 7 reasonableness with due nature of the art.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You mentioned
- 9 I think a couple of times there, and you do on
- 10 your reply brief at page 7, you said the --
- 11 where an invention has many embodiments, the
- 12 patent enables the invention's full scope if
- 13 skilled artisans can reasonably make and use
- 14 variations.
- Can you flesh out "reasonably" a
- 16 little bit for me?
- 17 MR. LAMKEN: Yes. I think that it
- means that when you're looking at it, you're
- 19 looking at what's important to the skilled
- 20 artisan. If you can find just some oddity that
- 21 can't be made, that doesn't invalidate the
- 22 patent because we're looking at what's important
- 23 to skilled artisans.
- So, for example, if a patent, for
- 25 example, taught you to make metal airplanes, you

- 1 wouldn't invalidate it because somebody said,
- gee, you know what, it would be really hard to
- 3 make one out of lead. That's the type of thing
- 4 you would automatically set aside.
- 5 So you always look at it from the
- 6 perspective of the skilled artisan, and you ask
- 7 two questions: Is there something here that
- 8 takes undue experimentation, what this call --
- 9 calls painstaking experimentation to make? And
- if you can find something, that might be
- 11 concrete enough.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, how long
- 13 --
- 14 MR. LAMKEN: And then the next
- 15 question is, does it matter? Does it somehow
- 16 impede the skilled artisan from practice --
- 17 reasonably practicing that full scope of the
- 18 invention?
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I don't
- 20 -- how -- how long? And that may be the wrong
- 21 measure, but, if you're judging reasonableness,
- 22 how much experimentation do you have to put into
- it? I mean, part of the allegation in -- in --
- in your case is that this is simply trial and
- 25 error. And so how long does it take?

1 MR. LAMKEN: Right. And I think the 2 answer is it always depends. You're looking at 3 the skilled artisan and you're saying what is a 4 skilled artisan in this art willing to do. might take a long time for a skilled mechanic, 5 6 for example, to build an old Buick from the 7 ground up, a year, but it's not unenabled because the instructions are there, he knows how 8 to do it --9 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well --11 MR. LAMKEN: -- there's no wrong turn. 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- how long 13 did it take Amgen to come up with the one? 14 MR. LAMKEN: With the 384? It's --15 from start to finish, injecting the mice and 16 coming out, it's a matter of months to produce 17 them. And I think it's important, and if the 18 Court will indulge me to describe how you get 19 from --20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Producing them is 21 one thing. Identifying them, do the whole 22 process, don't take a piece. 23 MR. LAMKEN: I'm sorry? 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Then continue with 25 Justice --

1 MR. LAMKEN: Okav. Yes. I -- it's --2 I think it's important to explain what's 3 involved in getting from the 3,000 that Amgen, for example, got by immunizing two panels of 10 4 mice or the 1500 that Sanofi got from injecting 5 a panel of mice down to the 384 that you're 6 7 looking for, because that's in concrete terms what we're talking about. 8 And so what -- what it is is not a 9 trial and error like you're going through one 10 11 after the other. You start with that 3,000 and you use our two anchor antibodies, and it simply 12 13 costs \$30 -- this is the record, according to Appeals Appendix 3909 -- to go through those 14 15 3,000 to knock it down to 384. 16 And why is that? It's because, in 17 2008, at the time, there's these high throughput 18 machines with wells of 384, and the testimony is 19 that the robotics do it very rapidly and very quickly, thousands of wells, hundreds of plates, 20 21 in a very short period of time. 2.2 So, if someone's going to say it's 23 undue experimentation to take these 3,000 24 antibodies that the mice produce, these 25 humanized mice produce, and put it in a machine

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- 1 and wait for it to -- at a cost of \$30, that's
- 2 undue experimentation, that is very odd. It's
- 3 totally divorced from the nature of the art.
- 4 And, in fact, the Wands decision that
- 5 we all have been citing back in 1988, back then,
- 6 35 years ago, described and said, look, the
- 7 process of filtering out the antibodies that you
- 8 don't want, getting rid of that byproduct, is
- 9 something that skilled artisans are prepared to
- 10 do in the ordinary course. This is just what
- 11 antibody scientists do. It's not due -- undue
- 12 experimentation.
- 13 The patent examiner that looked at
- 14 this understood that it was not undue
- experimentation, somebody who is himself skilled
- in the art. Two juries didn't think it was
- 17 undue experimentation.
- 18 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I ask you a
- 19 clarifying question, though, because I guess I'm
- just trying to understand your argument relative
- 21 to species versus genus.
- 22 So are you saying that if we find
- 23 undue experimentation with respect to a
- 24 particular species, you know, that should not be
- 25 enough to invalidate the patent?

1 In other words, doesn't that undue experimentation have to apply to every species? 2 3 MR. LAMKEN: No. We're not saying that it would have to apply to every species. 4 If you find undue experimentation to make a 5 particular species, the next question is, okay, 6 7 does that matter to the skilled artisan or is this just an outlier because the PTO, as they 8 9 say, it has to be commensurate with the scope, 10 it has to reasonably correlate. But, if you 11 just have a one-off that doesn't mean anything 12 to skilled artisans, you're not going to 13 invalidate the patent. 14 JUSTICE JACKSON: How many of those 15 one-offs can you have, though? 16 MR. LAMKEN: So, in -- in term -- in 17 sort of numerical terms, how -- how many one-offs can you have? 18 19 If you have so many that it means that 20 you're searching for a needle in a haystack and you don't have instructions on how to do it so 21 2.2 that it's -- it is that trial and error for 23 years on end, it's Edison and Consolidated 24 Electric going through every type of, then you 25 would not be enabled, and there's a case called

2.2

- 1 Atlas Powder from the Federal Circuit that
- 2 explains that.
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But I thought -- I
- 4 guess I thought you would have to have the undue
- 5 experimentation standard apply to every species.
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: No, Your Honor, I think
- 7 it would -- you would do it for every category
- 8 that matters. So, if there's meaningful
- 9 categories -- and there's a case from the
- 10 Federal Circuit called Auto Tech that explains
- 11 this. If there's meaningful categories, then
- 12 you would have to enable across those
- 13 categories, what FibroGen called across the
- 14 scope of the claim. So --
- 15 JUSTICE JACKSON: So what are the
- 16 categories here?
- 17 MR. LAMKEN: So, in -- in this case,
- 18 there isn't evidence before the jury that it
- 19 really matters whether you bind to two, three,
- 20 or seven. In fact, Sanofi's own expert
- 21 testified that it has no correlation, there's no
- 22 correlation between the number of amino acids
- that are bound and the blocking. And that's at
- 24 Court of Appeals Appendix 3787.
- So, in a case like this, where you

- don't have evidence that they are anything but
- 2 fungible, then you may only have one category.
- 3 But, in Auto Tech, for example, that was an --
- 4 it was an impact sensor patent, and there were
- 5 two types. There was mechanical and there was
- 6 electrical. And it only taught skilled artisans
- 7 how to do the mechanical sensors, not -- not the
- 8 electrical. And, for that reason, there was a
- 9 -- a requisite part of the invention that wasn't
- 10 taught, that skilled artisans couldn't do.
- And so, when you have that, then you
- 12 have an enablement problem. But the fact that
- 13 somebody can go and pick out one tiny
- enablement -- one tiny embodiment and say, oh,
- gee, this one would be hard to do, that swaps in
- 16 for the perspective of the skilled artisan, the
- 17 person who matters here, someone who wants to
- 18 practice the claim.
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: I quess I just -- I
- 20 -- I --
- 21 MR. LAMKEN: The creativity of an art
- 22 -- the creativity of --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: Yes, I understand
- your point, I think, but, I mean, you -- you've
- 25 -- you've claimed 26, you say there's 300 or

2.4

- 1 something antibodies, and then there's evidence
- 2 that, you know, millions more can be made.
- 3 So how is it that you've satisfied
- 4 enablement by focusing in on -- on the smaller
- 5 group?
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: So, no, Your Honor, I
- 7 think that when you're enabling, the question
- 8 is, can the skilled artisan, using the
- 9 instructions you have, make the various
- 10 embodiments, make the various variants? And --
- 11 JUSTICE JACKSON: With -- without
- 12 undue experimentation?
- 13 MR. LAMKEN: Without undue
- 14 experimentation, and that's exactly right, for
- any one who has to take undue experimentation.
- 16 And if you find one that takes undue
- 17 experimentation, the next question is, okay,
- does that matter? Does it really meaningfully
- impede somebody, the skilled artisan, the guy
- 20 who cares, from doing it?
- 21 And it's just never been the law --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: And that's in the
- 23 First -- the Federal Circuit's case law, or are
- 24 you just saying that right now?
- MR. LAMKEN: Well, actually, if you

- 1 look at page 11a of the appendix, where the
- 2 court quotes a decision called McRO, that's
- 3 actually the standard the Federal Circuit
- 4 ordinarily would use but departed from in this
- 5 case because it was --
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Lamken, putting
- 7 aside what the Federal Circuit said in -- in --
- 8 in the opinion here and the different views of
- 9 how that should be read, do you understand the
- 10 parties now all to agree on the appropriate
- 11 legal test, and are we simply arguing now about
- 12 how that test applies in this case?
- MR. LAMKEN: So I think the parties
- 14 all agree that the cumulative effort, the idea
- of reach the full scope, that that cannot be
- 16 sustained. Everybody agrees on that.
- 17 I think the next question --
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: And everybody agrees
- 19 also, I take it from your answers to Justice
- 20 Gorsuch's question, that there is a requirement
- 21 that the full scope of the invention has to be
- 22 embodied?
- MR. LAMKEN: Enabled.
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: Has to be enabled.
- MR. LAMKEN: I think that's right.

- 1 The content of that is the subject of some
- disagreement, and then the question, once this
- 3 Court says --
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, so I guess what
- 5 I'm asking is, putting aside any application to
- 6 this test, what do you think the parties don't
- 7 agree on at this point with respect to
- 8 principles of law?
- 9 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah. So I think the
- 10 differences are as follows: The government
- 11 would propose a requirement that you have a
- 12 structure that unifies your genus, and I don't
- 13 think that can be sustained under the law.
- It makes sense that if you have -- you
- 15 enable people to make your invention by
- 16 structure, they have to build it, that you would
- 17 teach the skilled artisan the structure that he
- has to build. But, when you have an invention
- that's biological in nature, that's made by the
- 20 mouse, the super-immunized mouse they do here,
- 21 you wouldn't describe it by structure; you would
- 22 describe the process --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Put that aside --
- MR. LAMKEN: -- of how to make that.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- put that aside.

2.7

- 1 Any other disagreements on law? And, if not,
- why isn't this just a fact-bound dispute?
- 3 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah, so it's not a
- 4 fact-bound dispute in the slightest because
- 5 there is a agreement also -- Sanofi's test is
- 6 what they call the specific undisclosed
- 7 embodiment test, where, if you hypothesize one,
- 8 that you -- that's it. That destroys the
- 9 patent. But that can't be right either. This
- 10 Court's cases don't go through and
- 11 hypothesize --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. So put that
- aside. Any -- any other disagreements on law?
- 14 MR. LAMKEN: Other than -- no, I don't
- think beyond that. But I think that the key
- 16 question on which we all agree and what's
- actually critically important for this Court to
- do, there should be no mistake that the court of
- 19 appeals' decision saying that you reach the full
- 20 scope or, page 15a, where they do this
- 21 evaluation and they say the evidence showed that
- the scope of the claims encompasses millions of
- candidates, and it would be necessary to first
- 24 generate and then screen each candidate antibody
- 25 to determine whether it meets the double

- 1 function limitations, that's a statement saying
- 2 you got to be able to make them all. That can't
- 3 be right.
- 4 And even having that -- even if
- 5 there's uncertainty as to what the Federal
- 6 Circuit meant by that, that uncertainty calls
- 7 for the Court to bring clarity, because you
- 8 should -- make no mistake: This is a very
- 9 damaging decision. The impact is tremendous.
- 10 You cannot -- the PTAB now has twice
- invoked the decision for the idea that you have
- 12 to be able to make them all within a reasonable
- 13 period of time. There has to be a cumulative
- 14 scope test.
- And companies can't invest billions of
- dollars in new therapies when they confront the
- 17 risk that their patents will be invalidated
- 18 based on the cumulative effort necessary to make
- 19 them all. And this is why you have, for
- 20 example, 14 amicus briefs on our side and
- 21 14 amicus briefs on the other side.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I've got a lot of
- 23 amicus briefs.
- MR. LAMKEN: Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I've got so many

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1
      friends I can hardly stand it.
 2
                (Laughter.)
 3
                MR. LAMKEN: It's --it's -- with
      friends like that, you end up staying up late
 4
 5
     reading.
 6
                The key is, on this, if there's
 7
      uncertainty about what the Federal Circuit did
      or are doing, the answer is actually to bring
8
 9
      clarity. The case is critically important to
10
      industry and at least that.
11
                And, once you get there, the question
12
      is, well, what other guidance can the Court
13
     bring? What other guidance should the Court
14
     give? And, for us, the critical guidance the
15
     Court can give is that you're looking from this
16
     Court's cases the perspective of the skilled
17
      artisan who's seeking to make it. It's a
18
     reasonableness standard, which means that you're
19
     not looking -- you're not from the perspective
20
      of somebody trying to create, oh, here's my
     hypothetical embodiment that won't work. It's
21
2.2
      from that perspective. And that means --
23
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's --
               MR. LAMKEN: -- in concrete terms --
24
25
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- let -- let's
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- 1 say -- let's say we think that the Federal
- 2 Circuit's decision is properly read to embody
- 3 the test we've -- we've discussed this morning
- 4 and that the fact -- the dispute really is
- 5 fact-bound. Do you want a remand for a redo
- 6 under the -- under -- if we were to clarify what
- 7 we understand the Federal Circuit's test to be
- 8 and that you agree on and that Mr. Clement may
- 9 -- may or may not agree on, we'll find out?
- 10 MR. LAMKEN: So --
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But would you want a
- 12 remand to try again?
- 13 MR. LAMKEN: -- so, at the very least,
- 14 we should have a remand so that we try again
- under the proper standard without the -- reach
- the full scope standard or try to hypothesize
- 17 how long it takes to make millions of antibodies
- 18 and then test each of them.
- 19 JUSTICE BARRETT: But why? If -- if
- 20 -- I mean, maybe I misunderstood Justice
- 21 Gorsuch's question.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I don't think you
- 23 did.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: But, if the Federal
- 25 Circuit got it right, I don't understand why

```
1
     you're saying a remand is in order.
 2
                MR. LAMKEN: Well, I don't think -- I
 3
     mean, the key is the Federal Circuit could not
     possibly have gotten it right because of what I
 4
      just read to you from page 15, where it looks at
 5
 6
      the effort to make each and every antibody of
 7
      the potential millions. And so, at the very
      least, it has taken into account a feature that
 8
 9
      everybody now before this Court says isn't even
10
      relevant. And we should go back for that.
11
                But I think, if you look at from what
12
      we're asking and what we think the Court's
13
      further guidance should be, at the very least,
14
     somebody who's trying to overturn a PTO-issued
15
     patent and two jury verdicts should at least say
16
     here's an actual antibody, an actual embodiment,
17
      that is difficult to make. It requires undue
      experimentation to get there.
18
19
                And then, if they have that, they
20
      should also say why it matters, why this is
21
      something that genuinely impedes skilled
2.2
      artisans from making and using the invention --
23
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can I quote --
               MR. LAMKEN: -- because --
24
25
                JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- two sections
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- 1 from the Federal Circuit -- two statements it
- 2 made, and you tell me whether they're right or
- 3 wrong.
- 4 The Federal said -- Circuit said: It
- 5 was "appropriate" to look at the amount of
- 6 effort needed to obtain embodiments outside the
- 7 scope of the disclosed examples.
- 8 Is that a correct statement of law by
- 9 the Federal Circuit?
- 10 MR. LAMKEN: So in part.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It said -- no,
- that's what it said, to look at the amount,
- appropriate to look at the amount.
- MR. LAMKEN: And, if you're talking
- about the amount to make all or some number, the
- 16 answer is no, it's not.
- 17 If you're talking about making another
- 18 embody -- another embodiment that's not
- 19 specifically characterized by amino acids --
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It said to look at
- 21 the amount of effort needed to obtain
- 22 embodiments outside the scope of the disclosed
- example.
- MR. LAMKEN: So I think, if it said an
- embodiment, that would be correct. Embodiments

- 1 means that you're looking at the -- the full
- 2 scope or the -- the -- what it called reaching
- 3 the full scope, and I think that is incorrect.
- 4 When you get --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All it said, it
- 6 was appropriate to look at.
- 7 MR. LAMKEN: Right. I don't think
- 8 anybody but this Court thinks that the effort to
- 9 make them all is --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why is it
- 11 inappropriate to at least look at it --
- 12 MR. LAMKEN: To look at --
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- as one of the
- 14 Wands factors?
- 15 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah. So the effort to
- 16 make every single embodiment within the
- invention simply means that if you have an
- invention of any scope, it's not going to be
- 19 enabled. There may be millions of ways to make
- 20 the James Watts steam engine, but you're not
- 21 invalidated simply because it would take a long
- time to make all of those different variants of
- 23 the steam engine.
- 24 This Court can do the best service for
- 25 the Federal Circuit if it does one thing beyond

- 1 simply saying this cumulative effort standard
- 2 has no place in the law, and that would be to
- 3 say, look --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's fine,
- 5 counsel.
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: I'm sorry?
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's fine. You
- 8 answered my question.
- 9 MR. LAMKEN: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: There's nothing
- 11 wrong with it. You just don't want them to do a
- 12 fairly simple one.
- MR. LAMKEN: No, I think it's -- it's
- 14 not correct if you're looking at embodiments in
- the plural. If you're looking at an embodiment
- in the singular, that would be correct. And
- what they did wrong was they looked at how long
- 18 it takes to make the supposed millions. If each
- of those is individually enabled, you can make
- 20 each one individually and reliably, test it
- 21 individually and reliably, that's an enabled
- 22 invention.
- 23 How long it takes to make all of them
- 24 cumulatively simply has no bearing, and this
- 25 Court can do a service and bring back to -- the

- 1 -- the incentives to create these life-saving --
- 2 these life-saving inventions by making it clear
- 3 that that just doesn't have a place, and --
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: And you said we can
- 5 do one thing beyond that, and what is that?
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: I think that by bringing
- 7 it back to the focus of this Court's cases,
- 8 which is we're looking at skilled artisans,
- 9 someone concrete trying to make the invention,
- and we're looking at reasonableness and not the
- 11 hypothetical efforts to try and figure out ways
- 12 to break the invention.
- 13 And so, if you're going to look at
- that, you're going to have to show two things if
- 15 you're going to invalidate a PTO patent. One is
- 16 you're going to have to show some embodiment,
- there's got to be something out there, some
- variant, something, some category that requires
- 19 undue experimentation to make.
- 20 And if you have that, you also have to
- 21 say why it matters to the skilled artisan, how
- does this really genuinely impede the guy in the
- lab coat from making and using your invention
- 24 across its scope.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: Is there something

- 1 unique about the Federal Circuit's decision in
- 2 this case, or has it been applying essentially
- 3 the same approach to the enablement of antibody
- 4 genus claims since around 2004?
- 5 MR. LAMKEN: So, as the Lemley article
- 6 points out, there's been sort of a trajectory as
- 7 it's been getting clearer and clearer what
- 8 the -- what the Federal Circuit's doing in its
- 9 basic hostility to the breadth of claims, and I
- think that this is basically the apogee, we've
- 11 reached an endpoint where, frankly, the industry
- 12 can't take it any longer because you can't
- invest \$2.6 billion if the breadth of your
- 14 claims is such that it means you can't get
- 15 adequate protection because, if you cover
- 16 everything you invented, then it's invalid
- 17 because it's too hard to make them all.
- 18 So, yes, I think it's been a -- a
- 19 trajectory as opposed to a point, but this is
- 20 actually the ultimate point.
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, if it isn't --
- 22 if what they did here isn't fundamentally
- 23 different from what they've been doing for quite
- 24 a period of time, would you stand by the
- 25 suggestion that the Federal Circuit has

- 1 inhibited research for antibody-based
- 2 pharmaceuticals?
- 3 MR. LAMKEN: I think the Federal
- 4 Circuit has been doing that for some time, but
- 5 it hasn't been quite so stark or quite so
- 6 apparent until now. And I think that's why the
- 7 Lemley article really was catching onto it. But
- 8 this brings in very stark contrast, stark
- 9 relief, exactly what the Federal Circuit is
- doing and why it has gone so far that you just
- 11 can't invest in antibody research if you can't
- adequately protect the scope of the antibodies
- 13 you invented.
- 14 Amgen had the first antibodies here.
- 15 Amgen -- before Amgen and before our patent,
- 16 these were not known antibodies. And our patent
- teaches everybody how to make each and every
- antibody you might ever want to make, including
- 19 the defendants' -- the competitor -- the
- 20 supposed competitor antibodies.
- 21 And if that's true, there's simply no
- 22 good reason why you would take away the patent.
- 23 You don't -- the patent depends on what the
- 24 skilled artisan can do, not to create a
- 25 hypothetical of the infringer who says, gee, you

- 1 know, I can imagine a hypothetical antibody that
- 2 can't be made.
- In this Court's cases, like Minerals
- 4 Separation, they don't hypothesize limits. Like
- 5 in Minerals Separation, the Court didn't
- 6 hypothesize, you know what, there might be an
- 7 ore out there for which this is going to be too
- 8 hard, even though there are infinite varieties
- 9 of compositions of ores and each presented its
- 10 own particular difficulties.
- 11 The Court -- Justice Dorian Carver
- 12 didn't say, gee, you know what, I can imagine a
- 13 type of cotton for this -- which this might not
- 14 work. The Court in Mowry didn't say, you know
- what, there might be some train wheels for which
- this cooling process won't work.
- 17 That isn't what the Court does. You
- 18 look at concrete evidence, what are the skilled
- 19 artisans doing, is there something here that
- 20 can't be done, and if there is, you ask if it
- 21 matters.
- 22 JUSTICE ALITO: Can you explain how
- your roadmap differs from the basic research
- 24 plan that you and your competitors have been
- using since the mid-2000s when you were all

- 1 attempting to discover or identify antibodies
- that bind to PCSK9 and block LDL receptors?
- 3 MR. LAMKEN: Yes. And I think the
- 4 first and most critical thing about the roadmap
- 5 is these two new antibodies that didn't exist
- 6 before our invention, one that sits a little bit
- 7 on the left of that -- of the PCSK9, one a
- 8 little bit on the right of PCSK9.
- 9 And what those do is they allow you to
- 10 find everything that will bind to the sweet spot
- in PCSK9 because they cover it completely. The
- way this is done is you do a competition assay.
- 13 If one antibody is covering it and it blocks the
- 14 other antibody from doing it, you know that
- they're binding to the same spot.
- By providing these two, that is a
- 17 shortcut to finding these because you run your
- 18 competition assays against these two. And
- 19 that's why in the roadmap the very first step
- are these two antibodies that didn't previously
- 21 exist but will lead you, they're your divining
- 22 rod, your magnetometer or whatever you want to
- 23 call it to all the antibodies within the claims.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 25 counsel.

1	Justice Thomas, anything further?
2	JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Lamken, several
3	times you referred to an invention of the
4	antibodies, and I think I'm somewhat confused as
5	to exactly what your invention is. You said
6	it's not just the 26, but it it definitely is
7	not millions. So what is it exactly? Because
8	we talk about enablement and we talk about
9	someone being able to replicate it, but we're
10	not talking about what has been invented with
11	any particular precision.
12	MR. LAMKEN: Right. And I think the
13	claims are that which define the invention,
14	the class of antibodies that bind to a
15	particular spot, what's called the sweet spot,
16	and therefore have what is a desired effect,
17	which is blocking this PCSK9 from interacting
18	with the
19	JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah, I understand
20	all that, but
21	MR. LAMKEN: And I think
22	JUSTICE THOMAS: which ones?
23	MR. LAMKEN: I could clarify a
24	little.
25	JUSTICE THOMAS: I mean

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1
                MR. LAMKEN: Yeah, I should clarify.
 2
                JUSTICE THOMAS: Yeah.
 3
                MR. LAMKEN: When you say an
      invention, like the James Watt steam engine, you
 4
      don't say which variant, which embodiment of the
 5
 6
      steam engine have you claimed. It's the steam
7
      engine, that principle, the invention which
8
      encompasses myriad types of inventions.
 9
                There might be -- and this Court's
      cases describe it -- there can be lots and lots
10
11
      of different variations on an invention, but to
12
      determine what the invention is, you look at the
13
      claim, and the claim tells you what the scope of
14
      that invention is here.
15
                And the fact that it's described in
16
      terms of what binds to a particular location
17
      which has been decried as functional, but that
      actually is an important way of doing things,
18
19
      the antibody science, because it leads to a
20
      shape -- a shape that fits into that unusual
21
      sweet spot.
2.2
                It's also -- also clear that you can
23
      do that because -- because 112(b) -- we're
24
      talking about 112(a) right now as that's
25
      enablement. But, when you talk about how the
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1 patents are claimed, that's a different section 2 of the Patent Act. It's Section 112(b). And it says that the claims have to be -- particularly 3 point out and distinctly claim the subject 4 matter which the invention regards as the 5 6 invention. That's just not at issue here. 7 The PTO regularly issues patents which have that sort of functional piece that says 8 things that fit in this location or have this 9 characteristic. And the very first --10 11 JUSTICE THOMAS: I know you refer to 12 the steam engine, but that's not -- it just seems as though -- I -- I grant you that, but it 13 14 seems as though you're actually trying to patent 15 the use of steam pressure and -- which you could 16 use for almost anything, and -- and that's --17 and that makes it very difficult because then you're looking at what can it be used for. 18 19 So, here, I'm -- I'm still not 20 getting, if you said we're just patenting the 26 21 that we have found or the 300 that we have 2.2 found, I don't think we would be having this

discussion, and what I'm trying to understand is

what it is that you're patenting beyond the

antibodies that are there, those 300 or those

23

24

- 1 26.
- 2 MR. LAMKEN: Right. And I think, if
- 3 you're asking what is the category or the group
- 4 of meaningfully distinct antibodies that fit in
- 5 that claim, that fit that claim, we're talking
- 6 something in the range of 400.
- 7 But, if the question is different, if
- 8 it's asking what -- what do you mean when you
- 9 say the antibodies that bind to a particular
- 10 sweet spot and therefore block, that category is
- 11 what we invented. That didn't exist before. We
- 12 teach the world how to --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So you invented the
- 14 category, so you're not claiming just the
- antibodies but the whole category of those
- 16 antibodies?
- 17 MR. LAMKEN: That -- that is the
- 18 nature of a -- a genus claim or any claim that
- 19 has considerable scope. We don't claim just the
- variants of the steam engine. You categorize
- 21 the steam engine -- and that's entirely
- 22 legitimate.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So let me ask you
- 24 this question. How do you respond to the
- 25 example in one of the amicus briefs about the --

- 1 the complicated lock and that you simply figure
- 2 out the combinations by trial and error?
- 3 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah. And I think the
- 4 answer is, for -- for enablement here, which is
- 5 the question, the roadmap gives you all of the
- 6 antibodies that are going to fit to that spot.
- 7 All the ones that are going to fit into those
- 8 hills and valleys, the evidence is the roadmap
- 9 gives them all because, if the mouse has the DNA
- 10 to produce them and the robust immunization
- 11 protocol is going to give you something across
- the full spectrum of the claims, that is within
- 13 the claims.
- 14 And I should -- I should point out
- that this enhances innovation. Look, the patent
- 16 means that others aren't going to go in
- separately -- they're going to look for things
- that are separately patentable. It pushes them
- 19 away from sort of copycat antibodies that
- 20 operate on identical principles and identical
- 21 ways with identical results.
- 22 If you truly want different therapies,
- 23 you protect this sort of patent, and it tells
- 24 people, well, if you're going to do this sort
- of -- sort of thing, it has to be better and

1	separately patentable as a result, or it pushes
2	them to completely different nonantibody
3	treatments.
4	Novartis, for example, has an siRNA
5	solution that they they're working on. Novo
6	Nordisk is looking at a small molecule, which
7	means you might be able to take it as a pill.
8	Or you have antibodies that work by a different
9	principle. So Novartis has an H1 fab that binds
LO	outside the sweet spot but blocks anyway, or
L1	Merck has something called 1G089 which binds on
L2	another location still, but it mitigates the
L3	impact of PCSK9 not by blocking but by affecting
L4	how it is actually absorbed into the matter.
L5	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
L6	Justice Alito?
L7	Justice Sotomayor?
L8	Justice Gorsuch?
L9	Justice Kavanaugh?
20	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Just a couple
21	things to make sure I'm clear. You said to
22	Justice Gorsuch, I think, that you accept the
23	Federal Circuit precedent in Wands. Are our
24	precedents also precedents that you accept, or
25	are there any that you would say have steered us

- in the wrong direction as we approach this?
- 2 MR. LAMKEN: Your Honor, I accept all
- 3 of this Court's precedents, and I think I should
- 4 be clear about Wands. We think those factors
- 5 can in individual cases be helpful on the facts,
- 6 but it's been abstracted to replace what is
- 7 actually the statutory text. And this Court's
- 8 approach was just to concretely look at actual
- 9 examples, the concrete -- look at the skilled
- 10 artisan, concrete -- look at reasonable --
- 11 reasonable enablement, not to look at the
- 12 abstract hypotheticals of, gee, is there some
- outer limit that I could find that has just no
- impact on what the skilled artisans really need
- to do, which is make and use to practice the
- 16 invention.
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: In the interest of
- 18 providing clarity, the Solicitor General's brief
- 19 at pages 14 and 15 had three hypotheticals about
- 20 cake, stew, and bread. I don't know if you're
- 21 remembering all three of those hypotheticals,
- 22 but do you agree with how they presented those,
- 23 if you remember them?
- 24 MR. LAMKEN: So I'm having a hard time
- 25 remembering what they were exactly, but,

- 1 certainly, if the skilled artisan knows what the
- 2 ingredients -- what the ratios for the
- 3 ingredients are for cake, you wouldn't
- 4 invalidate the patent simply because it doesn't
- 5 give the ratios. That's something the skilled
- 6 artisan can provide.
- 7 And when you're using something -- and
- 8 sometimes things like that, which are chemical
- 9 interactions, aren't particularly good analogies
- when you're dealing with a biological invention,
- which is the way you make and use this, the way
- you generate these antibodies isn't by following
- 13 a cake and bread formula. It's by
- super-immunizing the mice, taking the results
- and filtering them down using this high through
- 16 speed -- this high-throughput process that takes
- those very quickly down to the ones you desire.
- 18 And if that gets you every embodiment
- 19 within the claim or every embodiment that
- 20 anybody cares about, it's enabled. And someone
- 21 who has the clear and convincing burden before
- the jury, it's a critical point, and then, when
- 23 the jury rules against them, they have the
- 24 burden of proving that no reasonable juror could
- 25 think they failed to meet their clear and

- 1 convincing burden, that's a very high burden,
- and it means you're going to have to come with
- 3 something concrete that can't be made or
- 4 requires undue experimentation and explain why
- 5 it matters.
- 6 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 8 Barrett?
- 9 JUSTICE BARRETT: Just one question.
- 10 What if before the jury you have an expert who
- 11 shows why -- I mean, proving the negative would
- 12 be pretty hard for Sanofi to do, right? So what
- if you have an expert who can tell the jury this
- is why the function described would not be
- 15 capable of producing them all?
- 16 MR. LAMKEN: Yes. So I think that is
- one way to do it, and they could even also say
- it would take undue effort. But, in this case,
- 19 it's interesting because you have no testimony
- saying why it would be in principle, on some
- 21 reasoned basis, harder to make Praluent or the
- 22 competitor antibodies than what Amgen produced.
- 23 And, in fact, our expert, Dr. Reese, explained
- that he thought that even Praluent was among our
- original 384 because the mouse's DNA can make it

- 1 and you have a super-immunization protocol,
- which means you get a robust result across the
- 3 claims.
- 4 And so, against that evidence, when
- 5 they have the burden of proof, they're going to
- 6 have to explain pretty convincingly to the jury,
- 7 clear and convincing evidence, why there's
- 8 something out there that isn't easy enough to
- 9 make that it doesn't constitute undue
- 10 experimentation.
- 11 JUSTICE BARRETT: Thank you.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 13 Jackson?
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So I understand your
- burden points, but is there evidence in this
- 16 record that the experimentation required to
- 17 produce undisclosed species using your roadmap
- 18 is routine as it --
- MR. LAMKEN: Yes, Your Honor. It --
- 20 the methods disclosed in the -- in the -- in the
- 21 roadmap are routine as routine can be. This is
- 22 what skilled artisans have been doing since
- 23 1988, and the Wands factors, we said this is
- 24 routine. Filtering out what they call the
- 25 hybridomas or the antibodies that aren't wanted

- 1 to get the antibodies you want is routine.
- 2 And I give you one example. So our
- 3 expert explained that -- that all these machines
- 4 that are used for would be in any properly
- 5 organized lab and would do it rapidly and very
- 6 quickly, thousands of wells, hundreds of plates,
- 7 in a very short period of time. That's as
- 8 routine as routine can be. This is what
- 9 antibody scientists do.
- 10 JUSTICE JACKSON: And can I just go
- 11 back to Justice Thomas's point? So, given the
- 12 routine nature of this, can you just help me to
- 13 understand the numbers? So you did this and got
- 14 26, but you say there are 300.
- MR. LAMKEN: So the patent itself
- 16 explains -- and this is on page 236 of the court
- of appeals appendix -- that when we did around
- two panels of 10 mice, we got 3,000, which were
- 19 filtered down to 384. The 26 are something
- 20 different. The 26 are the ones where we went
- 21 through and figured out the exact amino acid
- 22 sequence and then listed them in the patent.
- 23 And there's a reason why you don't go
- and do 384 amino acid sequences for every one of
- 25 them in the patent. First is the patent law has

- 1 never required you to list all of your
- 2 embodiments in there. That's just never been a
- 3 rule. And it's not a rule for good reason. The
- 4 Patent Act requires you to make -- have your
- 5 patent be concise. Our patent is already 380
- 6 pages long with just those 26 amino acids.
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. But
- 8 isn't the -- is the question whether, starting
- 9 with the 26, someone without undue
- 10 experimentation could get to the 384 and then
- 11 possibly to the 3,000? Is that the way to look
- 12 at this?
- MR. LAMKEN: No, Your Honor. I think
- the 3,000 amount it initially produces, only 384
- are going to bind to the sweet spot, and so you
- don't want to go the reverse direction to the
- ones that don't bind to the sweet spot, so --
- 18 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right. But at
- 19 least to the 384?
- 20 MR. LAMKEN: Right. So you would go
- from your 3,000 to your 384, and that's where
- 22 you stop.
- Now, if you want to make variants of
- those that may not be meaningfully distinct, you
- 25 can do something called conservative

- 1 substitution, and the patent explains that that
- 2 is also a routine and well-known way of doing
- 3 it. You take one of the amino acids --
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: Can I just ask you
- 5 as a very simple --
- 6 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah.
- 7 JUSTICE JACKSON: So you say that you
- 8 are claiming the class of antibodies that bind
- 9 to a particular spot and therefore block.
- 10 That's my sort of --
- MR. LAMKEN: Mm-hmm.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: -- shorthand for
- what you've said. So is that class comprised of
- 14 384 species or more?
- MR. LAMKEN: You know, it's somewhere
- in the 400 range. I couldn't tell you if
- 17 there's -- that that's exactly 384. I would say
- that that 384 probably covers the full range of
- 19 meaningfully distinct antibodies. It was
- 20 probably --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: So, when we see
- 22 millions, someone said millions, you -- you say
- that's not even a reasonable estimation?
- 24 MR. LAMKEN: So it's important for me
- 25 that the millions comes from a different way of

- 1 making additional antibodies. You start with
- one that works, one of those 26, for example,
- and you swap out an amino acid or two for one
- 4 that's very similar according to a table that's
- 5 in our patent.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: So would you be
- 7 claiming those or not?
- 8 MR. LAMKEN: Yes. So those -- those
- 9 are fully enabled because it's very routine.
- 10 The patent describes that it's routine to swap
- 11 out one amino acid for another that's very
- 12 similar. And the evidence shows that those
- 13 routinely work.
- But even if it were, you know, you
- 15 could make millions that way and you could count
- 16 hypothetically by swapping out every single one
- of these amino acids along this chain, you can
- 18 have --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: So just to be clear,
- 20 you're -- beyond the 400, you claim all of the
- 21 swaps?
- MR. LAMKEN: Yeah. So those swaps are
- 23 all enabled. They're all within the claims.
- There's two pieces to it, though. First, an
- antibody scientist isn't going to look at that

- 1 near-identical twin and say that's a different
- 2 antibody. That's -- they're 99.99 percent
- 3 similar. That's going to be basically the same
- 4 antibody.
- But, even if you want to consider that
- 6 a different antibody, it's enabled because
- 7 everybody is able to do that routine process, a
- 8 swapping out of the amino acid, everybody. If
- 9 you want to test it to confirm that it works,
- 10 which is probably not necessary because the
- 11 evidence showed that they all reliably work,
- 12 Sanofi didn't identify a single one that doesn't
- work, that somehow breaks its ability to bind.
- 14 If you want to do testing, that's routine.
- So any one you want to make from those
- 16 26 by doing an amino acid swap, you can make it.
- 17 And that is the -- that is clearly enablement.
- 18 That's what you're looking for, the ability to
- make the next one and always succeed in making
- it and it's routine across the board.
- 21 JUSTICE JACKSON: And you think that
- 22 gives -- gives others enough notice as to what
- you've claimed? I mean, to the extent that you
- 24 could swap out any of the antibodies and
- 25 suddenly were in the millions, I guess I had

- 1 understood the patent also was -- to some
- 2 extent, your specifications were about notice to
- 3 other people and other inventors.
- 4 MR. LAMKEN: So, certainly, it's very
- 5 easy to determine whether or not you're inside
- or outside the claims, and there's two different
- 7 techniques you could use. One I talk about was
- 8 the competition assays. If you compete with
- 9 something that binds the sweet spot, if you
- 10 can't bind when that's already present on the
- 11 sweet spot, then you're within the claims
- because you also bind to the sweet spots.
- There's also something called alanine
- scanning. And alanine scanning in 2008 was very
- common, and it not only tells you if you bind to
- 16 the sweet spot; it actually tells you the
- 17 specific residues that you bind to in the sweet
- 18 spot. So, yes, we --
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: But I've got to do
- 20 the experiment in order to know this, right?
- 21 MR. LAMKEN: Yeah. You -- you would
- 22 have to do that, but it is routine to do that
- 23 and was routine in 2008. And it's not at all --
- 24 when you're dealing with some very -- something
- very small, you can't always just sort of hold

- 1 it up and look at it to see if it matches.
- 2 You're going to have to do a little bit of work
- 3 to make sure that it's --
- 4 JUSTICE JACKSON: All right.
- 5 MR. LAMKEN: But that's routine.
- 6 JUSTICE JACKSON: Thank you.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 8 counsel.
- 9 MR. LAMKEN: Thank you.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Clement.
- 11 ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL D. CLEMENT
- 12 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and
- 14 may it please the Court:
- 15 Section 112 sets forth the heart of
- 16 the patent bargain: The more you claim, the
- 17 more you need to enable. If you claim a lot and
- enable a little, the public is short-changed and
- 19 the patent is invalid. The Federal Circuit has
- long enforced that basic principle by requiring
- 21 the patentee to enable the full scope of the
- 22 patent without undue experimentation.
- 23 Amgen does not take issue with that
- 24 test, with the Juan factors, I think, or the
- 25 vast bulk of the federal circuit's enablement

- 1 precedent. But the full scope test, which they
- 2 don't take issue with, at least as I understand
- 3 it, dooms their claims here as well illustrated
- 4 by the chart on page 15 of the red brief.
- 5 Amgen claims antibodies that bind on
- 6 16 residues in the epitope, but their -- their
- 7 specification does not enable skilled artisans
- 8 to reliably produce them when they bind at ten
- 9 or more. And those aren't hypothetical
- 10 examples. Those are the competitive antibodies
- 11 that independently develop by their competitors
- in the four right-hand columns. They're
- disclosed embodiments, the 26 do not bind at
- 14 more than nine residues. They've overclaimed,
- they've underenabled, their patent is invalid.
- This Court has long applied the same
- 17 principle in Morse, in Lamp, and in Holland
- 18 Furniture. Samuel Morse invented the telegraph.
- 19 He did not invent the fax machine. That is why
- 20 this Court correctly rejected the final broad
- 21 functional claim and its patent.
- Thomas Edison discovered the key to
- incandescent light, but we'd all be fumbling
- 24 around in the dark if this Court had not
- 25 invalidated the broad unenabled claims in Sawyer

- 1 and Man's patent in the Lamp case. The stakes
- 2 here are comparable.
- 3 Pfizer independently developed its own
- 4 antibody and patented it by amino acid sequence.
- 5 It seemed like a promising candidate but it
- 6 failed in clinical testing.
- 7 If Pfizer had followed Amgen's lead
- 8 and claimed the whole genus for its own, we
- 9 would have no large molecule therapy for
- 10 cholesterol. We're better off with two
- 11 competing independently developed therapies.
- I welcome the Court's questions.
- 13 JUSTICE THOMAS: Mr. Clement, could
- 14 you just reiterate or at least expand on what
- 15 you said about what is being claimed here?
- You made the point that the more you
- 17 claim, the more you have to enable. And I think
- 18 it's important to -- since the starting point is
- 19 what you claim, I'd like to have a good sense of
- 20 exactly what we are talking about.
- MR. CLEMENT: So the numbers don't
- 22 lie, Justice Thomas. I mean, my friend likes to
- 23 come up with that 384 number. That is not the
- 24 scope of what they had claimed as their
- 25 invention.

1 The numbers don't lie. They have 2 claimed millions and millions of antibodies. 3 And their reassurance that, don't worry, all of those millions that you get with conservative 4 substitution, they're all going to work the 5 same, that's inconsistent with their own 6 7 expert's testimony in the Court below. Drs. Reese and Dr. Petsco testified to 8 this. Dr. Petsco, their expert, Court of 9 Appeals Appendix page 3891 says, if you change 10 11 one thing in the antibody sequence, you have to 12 retest it. You have to go through that whole experimental process again to confirm that it 13 14 binds in the right place. 15 And, I mean, look, I -- I can imagine 16 this is frustrating because Mr. Lamken and I are 17 going to tell you different things about the way 18 the science works here. Please don't take my 19 word for it. Please don't take Mr. Lamken's 20 word for it. 21 I urge you to read Sir -- Sir Gregory Winter's amicus brief. He has gotten a noble 2.2 23 prize for his contributions to this field, and

function, and part of the problem here is these

he will tell you that you can't look at

24

- 1 are purely functional claims.
- 2 You can't look at function and say,
- 3 oh, that tells me about the structure of
- 4 antibodies that are going to bind and block in
- 5 the right way, and you also can't look at the
- 6 structure of one antibody and say, oh, if I just
- 7 tweak it a little bit, it's going to do exactly
- 8 the same thing.
- 9 Sir Gregory Winter doesn't think that,
- 10 their own expert doesn't think that.
- 11 And if I could try to address one
- 12 thing that's come up. I do not agree with
- 13 Mr. Lamken that everybody here says that the
- 14 cumulative effort is irrelevant.
- 15 It is not an appropriate test standing
- 16 alone, which is why the Federal Circuit didn't
- apply it as the test, it never even used the
- word "cumulative," but as Justice Sotomayor in
- 19 her question said, is it an appropriate
- 20 consideration? Yes, it's an appropriate
- 21 consideration.
- 22 And if I could illustrate that with a
- 23 hypothetical. Here's a situation where the
- 24 cumulative effort to exhaust the species would
- 25 not be particularly relevant.

1 If I came up with a brand-spanking new 2 process for making paint and I claimed that 3 process in all the paints that were produced as a result of that as new compositions of matter, 4 and one step in my process patent was add 5 pigment for the desired color. 6 7 Well, then a skilled artisan would be able to use that, an actual roadmap, and they 8 9 would say, all right, I want robin egg blue and they could produce it every time. And if they 10 11 wanted chartreuse instead, they could produce it 12 any time. Now, obviously there's a lot of colors 13 14 in the rainbow, so to actually produce every one 15 of them would take a lot of time and it wouldn't 16 invalidate the patent because it enables the 17 skilled artisan to produce what they won't want 18 every single time. 19 But this patent does not work this 20 way. What they give you is their roadmap is trial and error. 21 2.2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Clement I 23 appreciate that clarification, but, as I understand it, there is a point of agreement 24

with respect to cumulative effort, that that

- 1 should not be dispositive.
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Absolutely --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is that right?
- 4 MR. CLEMENT: -- Justice Gorsuch.
- 5 That's not to --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's great.
- 7 That's enough.
- 8 The other -- the other point
- 9 Mr. Lamken suggested that we -- we should
- 10 clarify is that -- that there has to be a
- 11 reasonable embodiment, not an embodiment --
- 12 enablement, sorry -- in every instance, that it
- just needs to be reasonable.
- Do you agree with that as well? I
- don't know as it much turns on it in your case
- 16 because millions are millions and -- and
- 17 reasonableness is going to be somewhere --
- 18 you -- you could still prevail under that
- 19 standard, but do -- do you -- do you agree with
- 20 him that it's reasonable enablement, not -- not
- 21 down to every jot and tittle in every --
- MR. CLEMENT: Yes. I think reasonable
- is just maybe the flip side of undue
- 24 experimentation.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. Exactly. So

- 1 if we agree on the law, what's left for this
- 2 Court?
- MR. CLEMENT: Nothing, except maybe a
- 4 diq.
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 MR. CLEMENT: That seems -- and,
- 7 honestly --
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: Is there any other
- 9 point of law that you feel as though you and
- 10 Mr. Lamken are in disagreement on?
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I -- I think there
- is a disagreement as follows:
- 13 Mr. Lamken thinks it's very helpful to
- 14 his case that somebody who runs the -- the
- experiments necessary in the roadmap is going to
- 16 produce an antibody within the range every time.
- 17 And I think that can't be right, it
- 18 can't be particularly interesting, because that
- 19 rewards breadth. And what -- what skilled
- 20 artisans want is not to randomly generate
- 21 something within the broad range that's claimed,
- 22 but they want to be able to pick a specific
- 23 embodiment, not a hypothetical one, but a
- 24 specific one.
- 25 So just to give you a concrete

- 1 example. I mean, if -- if they claimed a 15
- binder, there are 15 binders in the real world.
- 3 If you want to use their roadmap to produce a 15
- 4 binder, you are consigned to trial and error.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: So I understand that
- 6 as a view of the inadequacy of their roadmap,
- 7 but are you trying to suggest that it's
- 8 reflective of a disagreement about what the
- 9 legal principles or legal standards are?
- 10 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I think it must be,
- 11 because Mr. Lamken is a very smart man, and he
- makes a big deal out of the fact that, don't
- worry, this produces something in the range
- 14 every time, and skilled artisans can produce
- something in the range every time, and if you
- 16 give them an infinite amount of time, they will
- 17 produce everything in the range.
- 18 And he seems to think that that's good
- enough as a matter of law to enable his patent.
- 20 And I think, wow, that is not close to good
- 21 enough. That consigns people skilled in the art
- 22 to Sisyphean tasks forever. And it's not what
- they do.
- I mean, one of the things that I find
- 25 particularly persuasive about Sir Gregory's

- 1 brief is he explains this roadmap is not a
- 2 shortcut at all. It just describes the routine
- 3 processes that people use to make independent
- 4 inventions, the same process that Pfizer used,
- 5 that Merck used, that we use to get our own
- 6 independent antibodies, and then it adds
- 7 additional steps that somebody skilled in the
- 8 art wouldn't want to do and are just basically
- 9 an additional step, additional test they have to
- 10 run to see whether they infringe, because the
- 11 people skilled in the art don't really care
- 12 where it binds. They -- they care that it
- 13 blocks.
- But figuring out where it binds,
- whether it binds to the 15 that they've claimed
- as part of their roadmap is actually a useless
- 17 process that slows down the artisan in the
- 18 field.
- 19 And -- and I do think there's an
- important point that shouldn't get lost in all
- 21 of this. Part of the reason, I agree, this
- isn't a close case, is because what they are
- trying to do, there's no meaningful structure in
- these genus claims, and the structure they've
- 25 given is an elaborate description of the

- 1 epitope, the 15 or 16 residues on the PCSK9
- where you want the antibodies to -- to bind.
- 3 The problem is and the reason they
- 4 can't claim that as an invention is because of
- 5 this Court's myriad case, because that exists in
- 6 nature. These antibodies are independently
- 7 generated by scientists, but the antigen and the
- 8 epitope, all of that exists, you know, in -- in
- 9 nature.
- 10 And so what you have before you is a
- 11 particularly pernicious kind of claim. Because
- 12 not only is it a -- a genus claim that's purely
- 13 functional or double functional, as the federal
- 14 circuit described it, but it's really a
- work-around of myriad. Because basically
- they're pointing to something that exists in
- 17 nature and they're saying, we claim everything
- 18 that works to bind there en bloc.
- 19 JUSTICE JACKSON: Mr. Clement --
- 20 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Clement, could
- 21 I -- I just take you back to what you said about
- 22 cumulative time and effort? Is time and effort
- 23 relevant at all, or is it the nature of the
- 24 effort that's required?
- MR. CLEMENT: So --

1 JUSTICE ALITO: You say cumulative 2 time and effort is -- is not the test, but at the other extreme is the relevant factor, the 3 effort necessary to make and use any individual 4 embodiment. So just -- would you just clarify 5 what -- what is the relevance of time and 6 7 effort? MR. CLEMENT: So I think they are both 8 9 relevant. I actually agree with Mr. Lamken that they're both sort of relevant evidence that gets 10 to the ultimate inquiry, which is, is there 11 12 undue experimentation? 13 And in some respects, the more 14 important word isn't "undue"; it's 15 "experimentation." And let me just contrast the particular claims that go by antibody sequence, 16 17 our claim to Praluent, their claim to Repatha, 18 the Pfizer claims. They give you the amino acid sequence. And so somebody -- a skilled, every 19 20 time, doesn't have to really engage in any independent experimentation. They can look at 21 2.2 They can reproduce the amino acid sequence. 23 Regardless of how time much it takes, there's no experimentation in there at all. 24

But under their broad genus claims,

- 1 you can't do that. You can do it as to the 26,
- and we'll give them the 26, but as the chart on
- 3 page 15 shows, we're not even close to
- 4 infringing the 26. We are structurally
- 5 fundamentally different.
- 6 So to get to the genus, what you do is
- 7 you go in a lab and you start injecting mice,
- 8 and you inject them with the -- the -- the
- 9 antigen, PCSK9, and then you get a bunch of
- 10 antibodies that are produced, then you pour them
- over and see which ones bind on PCSK9. And you
- 12 might be able to test them for blocking. And --
- JUSTICE JACKSON: But, Mr. --
- 14 Mr. Clement, isn't the -- isn't the issue
- 15 whether or not that is not routine or that's
- 16 undue? I mean, you sort of took undue out of
- 17 it, but, as I read the test or understood the
- 18 test, some experimentation by the skilled artist
- is allowed. So how do we know whether the steps
- that you're talking about are undue for the
- 21 purpose of this -- of the standard?
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, here's the thing,
- 23 Justice Jackson: I think the problem is,
- 24 certain -- in certain scientific areas, a -- a
- form of experimentation is routine, but it's

- 1 still experimentation and it's still not what
- 2 you're supposed to get in -- in a patent, you're
- 3 not supposed to just say, all right, do what we
- 4 did, start from scratch, start with mice --
- 5 JUSTICE JACKSON: Yeah, but it
- 6 sounds like you're -- you're -- it sounds like
- 7 you are going beyond the undue experimentation
- 8 test. You're saying that unless the claims in
- 9 this patent are such that a skilled artisan
- 10 could pick it up and go right from one to the
- 11 other without any experimentation, the patent is
- 12 invalid. And I didn't understand that to be the
- 13 case.
- MR. CLEMENT: And -- and --
- then I must have misspoke, because that is not
- 16 my position at all. Existing --
- 17 JUSTICE JACKSON: Isn't that what
- 18 predictability is about? Isn't the work of
- 19 predictability in your argument that you say,
- 20 unless you can predictably, by doing what the
- 21 roadmap says, reach this particular result, the
- 22 patent is invalid?
- MR. CLEMENT: No. Predictability goes
- 24 to experimentation and undue. If you have
- 25 something that enables the skilled artisan to

- 1 pick essentially any point in the genus, as in
- 2 my paint example. I want a particular shade of
- 3 paint. I can produce that one very readily. I
- 4 mean, maybe I have to do a little bit of mixing
- 5 with the pigment, but that doesn't -- that's not
- 6 the kind of thing -- that's the reasonableness.
- 7 That's not a problem.
- 8 But if you tell me that the way I have
- 9 to produce robin blue -- robin-egg blue paint is
- 10 to just throw in a pigment and wait until,
- 11 like -- I'll get a random color and wait until
- 12 robin-egg blue comes up, that is both undue and
- it's experimentation and it's not covered by the
- 14 patent. I was just trying to explain to Justice
- 15 Alito that I think both words are important,
- because, you know, there are some things that
- are -- involve time and effort, but they're
- 18 really just sort of tweaks at the margins.
- 19 And I don't think it's an accident --
- 20 just to go to this Court's cases and the cases
- 21 my friend relies on, I don't think it's an
- 22 accident that all his best cases are process
- 23 patents, because if you think about a process
- 24 patent, it's often going to be the case that, if
- it's -- you know, if you have a process patent

- 1 for making bricks or for cooling railroad tires,
- 2 well, if it's a humid day, it might react a
- 3 little bit differently. You might have to tweak
- 4 it a little bit to get the mix right on a humid
- 5 day that's different from a day when it's zero
- 6 humidity. And in the same way, if it's 90
- 7 degrees out, maybe your cooling process for the
- 8 -- the wheels differs if it's 30 degrees out.
- 9 And those are the kind of tweaks that
- 10 you expect a mechanic to be able to do. And
- 11 you'd say that's without undue experimentation.
- But it seems quite strange to me that,
- when you're claiming compositions of matter and
- millions and millions of them, that the only way
- that you can get there is to essentially
- 16 replicate the experimental process that the four
- innovative companies went through to come up
- 18 with these in the first place, plus, as Sir
- 19 Gregory Winter says, an additional step that
- doesn't help anybody, but just ends up taking
- 21 more time because you're basically testing as to
- 22 whether or not you infringe their patent.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Clement, could
- 24 you put things in simpler form for me? It -- it
- 25 sounded to me that your adversary was saying

- 1 that most of this work is done by computers,
- 2 that you inject the mice, the antigens appear,
- 3 and the computer then sorts them out to see
- 4 which have the sweet spot or not. That's what I
- 5 understood him to say.
- 6 And if that's true, I don't know why
- 7 that's undue experimentation or why it's costly
- 8 or why it's time-consuming. You're saying
- 9 there's more to this process than that.
- 10 So break it down to me into steps so
- 11 that I can understand why you're saying that
- 12 this is undue. I understand it with the
- 13 paint --
- MR. CLEMENT: Right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- but I'm not
- 16 understanding it with this process, so --
- 17 MR. CLEMENT: So in this process, let
- 18 me just hypothetically say what would happen if
- 19 I wanted to say -- if I were a scientist and I
- 20 wanted to say I want to use their roadmap to
- 21 produce a 15 binder because I want to test
- 22 whether the 15 binder is any better than the 7
- 23 binder, which is their Repatha. And I want to
- 24 be able to test that. I'm a scientist.
- 25 So here's what I would have to do.

1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.
2	MR. CLEMENT: I would have to
3	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So the difference
4	is, in his way of doing this, he's not telling
5	me how to find his he's not going to give me
6	a way to get to his drug without undue
7	experimentation; is that your point?
8	MR. CLEMENT: That is my point. It's
9	not my only point
10	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay.
11	MR. CLEMENT: because, you know,
12	I'm I think this most dramatically
13	illustrates it because I assume that's what
14	somebody in the field would want. They wouldn't
15	want a randomly generated one somewhere in the
16	genus. They'd want to say, well,
17	Mr. Lamken tells you
18	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, I don't
19	think we care about what people want. We care
20	about what's being claimed and okay
21	MR. CLEMENT: Okay. So but he's
22	the one actually who cares what a skilled
23	artisan wants.
24	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Okay.
25	MR. CLEMENT: And what's being claimed

- 1 is this entire genus. And if I want to pick a
- 2 spot --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So go back and
- 4 tell me --
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: Yep.
- 6 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what steps you
- 7 have to do to get to him.
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: Okay. So I have to
- 9 start by injecting mice --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: To his --
- 11 MR. CLEMENT: -- which is not just
- done with, like, you know, computers. It's done
- 13 by scientists in the lab. They inject the mice
- 14 with the antigen. Then they get --
- 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I did that and I
- 16 wasn't skilled, but go ahead.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 MR. CLEMENT: Okay. Well -- probably
- 19 more skilled than I am. But -- so -- so you get
- 20 the results of that. You get a whole bunch of
- 21 antibodies. And then you have to figure out
- 22 which ones are essentially candidates to bind on
- 23 PCSK9.
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So does a computer
- 25 do that? And why is it undue?

- 1 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I don't --
- 2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do they have to
- 3 look under a microscope? What do they have to
- 4 do?
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I -- I think it's a
- 6 process they do in the lab. I don't think they
- 7 actually do that with the computers. Then they
- 8 get to the next step, which is they have -- you
- 9 might think of it as like their candidate
- 10 antibodies. And then they have to test them to
- 11 figure out whether they bind on the -- the 16
- 12 residues that are claimed.
- And that is a time-consuming process.
- 14 It is not just a simple matter of like running a
- 15 computer. Again, people do that in the labs. I
- 16 don't understand all the details, to be -- to be
- 17 candid.
- 18 But -- but here's what I do
- understand, is, at that process, let's say they
- get, you know, 26 or 384. Then they -- then if
- 21 what they wanted was a 15 binder to start with,
- they got to figure out whether they got one.
- 23 And there's an excellent chance that they didn't
- 24 get one of those at all.
- 25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Can I ask this

- 1 question?
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Sure.
- 3 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So the 26, you
- 4 agree, fair enough, Mr. Lamken has got that in
- 5 the bag. What about the 384?
- 6 MR. CLEMENT: He doesn't get the 384.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No? Why?
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: He didn't disclose them
- 9 by -- I mean, he could have got them if he gave
- 10 me the anti- -- the -- the amino acid sequence
- for all of them. But the reason that he doesn't
- 12 get the 384 is because he doesn't tell us
- 13 anything about the 384. I --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let me just pause
- there for a second. I understand completely
- 16 your argument, or I think I understand
- 17 completely, let me put it that way, your
- 18 argument about conservative substitution and the
- 19 potential millions of variants and the trial and
- 20 error that's required there.
- 21 I'm not sure I understand how that
- 22 applies to the 384.
- MR. CLEMENT: So like -- honestly, the
- 384, I just have to take Mr. Lamken's word for
- it. I mean, he says that, oh, Praluent might

- 1 have been in there. I mean, please. If
- 2 Praluent were in there, their scientists would
- 3 have produced that evidence.
- 4 And if you look at the chart at page
- 5 15, it is not a surprise. I assume that the
- 6 26 --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's a nice
- 8 demonstrative.
- 9 MR. CLEMENT: Yeah.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I've got it.
- MR. CLEMENT: Yeah. It -- I assume
- 12 the 26 were -- must have been representative of
- the 384, right? Otherwise, why not make one of
- those other 384, the ones you do by amino acid
- 15 sequence?
- So you look at the 26 that they give
- 17 you the amino acid sequence, they look
- 18 structurally nothing like the 4 antibodies that
- were independently developed by other companies.
- 20 That is very striking to me.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 23 Thomas?
- 24 Justice Alito?
- Justice Sotomayor? No?

1 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, can I ask 2 you to address Professor Lemley's brief? He has a -- seems to have a very strong view that these 3 antibody genus claims are valuable -- patents 4 are valuable, or potentially so, and that the 5 Federal Circuit's test is going to pretty much 6 7 wipe them out across the board. So why is it that Professor Lemley is 8 9 wrong in your view? 10 MR. CLEMENT: So I think he's wrong on 11 a number of levels. I think he's wrong that the 12 existing federal circuit precedent is going to foreclose all genus claims. I mean, there's the 13 Bayer case that we cite in our brief that's an 14 15 example of the genus claim that the federal 16 circuit recently upheld. 17 Now it may be that in this particular 18 area of antibody science given the current state 19 of the science that you may not have an ability 20 to functionally claim a genus, and that's kind of -- at -- at some level nobody's fault, it's 21 2.2 just the way the science works. 23 And, personally, I think that's great, and -- because what it does is it allows 24

different companies to independently develop

- 1 different large molecule therapies to deal with
- 2 the same malady.
- 3 And if you look at the Fish &
- 4 Richardson brief, it goes through and shows that
- 5 there are a number of situations where there's
- 6 one antigen or pathogen that people are trying
- 7 to target and they target with different
- 8 multiple large molecules, and that can be hugely
- 9 important.
- I mean, I -- I want to make
- 11 clear, my friend and I do disagree on a factual
- 12 matter. He wants you to believe that everything
- in this genus is fungible. And, of course, it's
- 14 fungible with respect to the two functions
- 15 claimed, by definition, but it's -- they're not
- 16 functional. They are different compositions of
- 17 matter that can work in very different ways.
- 18 Somebody can tolerate one and not the other.
- 19 And the best evidence of that is the
- 20 Pfizer experiments, right? The Pfizer antigen
- 21 -- antibody is in this genus, and when it went
- 22 into clinical testing, it fell down.
- So if -- if Amgen's had fallen down
- 24 for the same reasons that -- that -- that
- 25 Pfizer's did, we'd be without the treatment

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1
     because it claimed the whole genus and --
 2
                JUSTICE KAGAN: So -- so --
 3
                MR. CLEMENT: -- they wouldn't able
      it.
 4
                JUSTICE KAGAN: So -- so tell me if
 5
 6
     this is wrong. As I understand it, Professor
7
     Lemley could be wrong for one of two reasons,
 8
     right? He could be wrong to say that the
 9
     federal circuit test is going to basically
10
      invalidate all these patents or he could be
11
      wrong in thinking that these patents are
12
     valuable.
13
                I hear you saying that he might be
14
      right about the federal circuit's test
15
      invalidating most of these patents, but that's
16
      okay, because we shouldn't want these patents
17
     around.
18
                MR. CLEMENT: You know, the truth has
19
      a way of leaking out. I mean, yeah, I mean, I
20
     understand --
21
                (Laughter.)
2.2
                MR. CLEMENT: -- that, because --
23
     because -- because I think functional genus
24
      claims are terrible. I think they retard the
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science. And I don't think you have to look

- 1 beyond this Court's cases.
- 2 The eighth claim in Samuel Morse's
- 3 claim, the other ones were nice species,
- 4 structure, good stuff. The eighth one was a
- 5 functional genus claim for everything that
- 6 allows letters to print somewhere else through
- 7 the use of electricity.
- 8 This Court deep-sixed it and, thank
- 9 goodness, because Samuel Morse is brilliant but
- 10 he didn't invent the fax machine.
- 11 And look at the Lamp case. I mean
- they claimed the entire genus of all fibrous
- 13 textiles. It turns out the one that they
- discovered didn't work very well and was a lousy
- 15 lamp. And Edison had to go through all this
- 16 different work to find out that there actually
- is like a subgenus. It's called bamboo. That
- 18 stuff all works and it all has the same
- 19 structurally common feature of really parallel
- 20 fibers. And that's the way -- I'm not against
- 21 all genus claims, but you got to get some
- 22 structure in there.
- 23 And as this Court's cases teach, it's
- 24 got to be structure that unifies the genus. And
- 25 what's -- I love Lemley but what -- you know,

- 1 I -- I take Sir Gregory Winter on the science.
- 2 And what he tells you is, in this area of
- 3 science, you just can't get that structural
- 4 commonality. It just doesn't work. It's -- I
- 5 mean, somebody will discover it and they will
- 6 get another Nobel Prize for discovering it.
- 7 JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 9 Gorsuch?
- 10 Justice Kavanaugh?
- 11 Justice Jackson?
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: So there are some
- 13 fields where there is a degree of
- 14 unpredictability or randomness and I guess I'm
- just a little worried that your view on this
- 16 would mean that we would not be able to have
- 17 patents where some experimentation was required.
- 18 Can you just speak to that a little
- 19 bit more? I mean, again, I hear you in some way
- 20 suggesting that the specification has to
- 21 absolutely get a skilled artisan to the endpoint
- 22 of every species in the genus 100 percent of the
- 23 time exactly as indicated.
- 24 And I'm just concerned because there
- are going to be some areas, and perhaps this is

- one of them, where there's a reasonable degree
- of unpredictability in terms of the outcome, but
- 3 you're sort of in the ballpark enough that we
- 4 would want to make sure that there was
- 5 innovation in this area with -- with these kinds
- of companies investing in -- in patenting these
- 7 kinds of developments.
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: So I -- I think what I
- 9 would say is, I do think the test should be
- 10 undue experimentation. It should not be zero
- 11 tolerance, no experimentation.
- 12 JUSTICE JACKSON: Okay.
- MR. CLEMENT: But I also do think, if
- 14 you're going to start with the text, which I
- assume you always do, then what you would say
- is, you start with the idea that you have to
- 17 make and use the invention, and the invention is
- 18 defined by the full -- by the -- by the claims
- in the invention, and, in that sense, Amgen is
- the master of their own claims, master of their
- 21 own patent. And then you look at those, and if
- 22 they claim a lot, then you -- you have to enable
- 23 the full scope of what you claim.
- 24 And then, from that starting
- 25 proposition, which might get you to the idea

- 1 that there's no experimentation, then I think
- 2 it's a little bit of, you know, de minimis non
- 3 curat lex reasonableness, a little bit of play
- 4 in the joints, but this is where Mr. Lamken and
- 5 I just see the facts completely different.
- 6 He wants to say, oh, this -- these are
- 7 just hypothesized things that couldn't be
- 8 invented here given the current state of the
- 9 science.
- 10 With all due respect, balderdash.
- 11 There are four disclosed patents here with
- 12 anti -- amino acid sequence that the competitors
- 13 have made that are on the chart.
- Now if you are a skilled artisan in
- the field and you want to produce the 15 binder
- that Pfizer did, you can produce it 100 percent
- of the time by duplicating the amino acid
- 18 sequence.
- 19 But if you want to use their roadmap
- 20 to get a 15 binder so you can test to see
- 21 whether his claim that all of this is fungible,
- is really right and it's no better than the 7
- binder, I mean, get a big cup of coffee because
- 24 it is going to take forever to run all of the
- 25 tests that are going to be necessary --

1	JUSTICE JACKSON: All right, one
2	MR. CLEMENT: and you could you run
3	them all, and you might not get a 15 binder and
4	then you have to start over.
5	JUSTICE JACKSON: One last question on
6	the facts. I understood that Amgen had trial
7	testimony in this case that the roadmap is
8	certain to make all of the claims antibodies,
9	including Sanofi's, Pfizer's, and Merck's.
LO	And I had understood, in terms of the
L1	way that the burdens work, a little complicated,
L2	but that you had to have evidence disproving
L3	that, by clear and convincing evidence.
L4	So do you and, if so, what is your
L5	evidence?
L6	MR. CLEMENT: So I I appreciate the
L7	question, and this really goes back to the
L8	suggestion that there is sort of a lurking legal
L9	difference here.
20	Because the reason I don't have
21	evidence that says that that claim is not true
22	is because it implicitly says, if you take
23	forever. I can't tell you that, if you run
24	these experiments, you won't eventually get
2.5	Praluent. Pfizer, the Merck embodiments, but.

- 1 unlike the paint where you can start and say,
- 2 all right, I'm going to -- I'm going to test
- 3 that, so I'm going to -- I'm going to reproduce
- 4 that. You can't do that.
- 5 So the -- the -- the twin claims that
- 6 my friend keeps making and he seems to think are
- 7 legally sufficient, and I definitely disagree,
- 8 are if you run the test, you're always going to
- 9 get something in the genus.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 11 counsel.
- MR. CLEMENT: Thank you.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Ms. Sinzdak?
- 14 ORAL ARGUMENT OF COLLEEN R. SINZDAK
- 15 FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 16 SUPPORTING THE RESPONDENTS
- 17 MS. SINZDAK: Mr. Chief Justice, and
- 18 may it please the Court.
- 19 I think I want to pick up where
- 20 Respondents' counsel left off with a very
- 21 important fact, and that is that, if an antibody
- 22 has already been created, a scientist who wants
- 23 to make that antibody is not going to go into a
- laboratory and inoculate a mouse.
- They're going to use the amino acid

- 1 sequence. That is the recipe for making an
- 2 antibody. That is why the government says that,
- 3 for the 26 exemplars within the patents, that
- 4 actually -- where they -- where Amgen had
- 5 actually listed the amino acid sequence,
- 6 those -- those antibodies are enabled, because
- 7 if a scientist wants to go into the lab and it
- 8 wants to make that antibody, it has the recipe,
- 9 it has the amino acid sequence.
- 10 And I also do not want you to take
- 11 my -- my word on the science, but I do want you
- 12 to take the expert testimony on the science.
- 13 And I think that if you look at trial
- 14 transcripts 20 -- 225 you will see that -- that
- 15 Respondents' expert explains that the amino acid
- 16 sequence is the recipe.
- 17 If you look at the Winter brief at 14,
- it explains that the amino acid sequence is the
- 19 recipe.
- 20 And if you look at Amgen's own brief,
- 21 at 13, it says, how should you start their
- 22 roadmap. You should go in and you should use
- 23 the amino acid sequence of the antibodies that
- they actually invented and make those
- 25 antibodies.

1	And then you should go through this
2	whole elaborate mouse inoculation process.
3	So the reason here, just on the on
4	the clear facts that this is not an enabled
5	genus, is that they have not given the
6	information that a person skilled in the art
7	would need to make and use all of the antibodies
8	within the genus.
9	It really is that simple. And I think
LO	that we need to be very careful about, when we
L1	hear claims that this is complicated science,
L2	and we need to start going beyond the sort of
L3	the basic text that says you have to be able to
L4	make and use the invention. We have to start
L5	relaxing the rules, and we have to say, not can
L6	you make and use every antibody within the
L7	genus, but, oh, do you really need a particular
L8	antibody? You know, does it really matter, I
L9	think, is what Petitioner's counsel said.
20	It is very dangerous, I think, to
21	start asking those kinds of questions because
22	the truth is we don't know if it matters. This
23	is an unpredictable field. This is a field
24	where developments are getting made every day.
25	And they haven't made certain antibodies within

- 1 this genus. We don't know if one of those
- 2 antibodies is going to be the one that really
- 3 works to beat the cholesterol problem that
- 4 causes heart attacks, that works better than
- 5 everything else, or the one that's going to be
- 6 tolerated by more patients or the one that's
- 7 going to be cheaper to manufacture.
- 8 We don't know that, and so we can't
- 9 say, oh, does it matter? What we have to ask
- is, is it different? And this isn't some new
- 11 rule that I'm coming up with. Under the patent
- 12 law, it has never been the case that you say,
- oh, is this better? Do you have -- you don't
- have to build a better mousetrap; you have to
- 15 build a different mousetrap.
- And, here, we know that the
- 17 Respondents, they built a different mousetrap,
- 18 right? Their antibody, it binds to different
- 19 parts of the antigen. So it is different. It
- is not simply the same.
- 21 And I actually think you -- you see in
- the reply brief that even Amgen knows it's not
- the same, because the government explained that
- 24 there is a doctrine out there that prevents
- 25 copyists, that prevents someone from making a

- 1 great invention and then having someone else
- 2 just make a tiny change and knock it off, and
- 3 it's called the doctrine of equivalents, and
- 4 it's been in this Court's cases for two
- 5 centuries.
- And Amgen says we can't use the
- 7 doctrine of equivalents here, and the reason is
- 8 because they're not equivalent, and because
- 9 they're not equivalent, you have to enable all
- 10 of the different antibodies.
- 11 So, again, this is just the basic
- 12 principles. It is the enablement requirement
- that has been in the law since the beginning.
- 14 And I think, Justice Kagan, you said,
- 15 well -- well, actually, Professor Lemley is very
- 16 worried that this enablement requirement is
- 17 going to harm innovation.
- 18 But Professor Lemley has a new article
- 19 from 2023, Yale Law Journal, which is called
- The Antibody Patent Paradox." And in that, he
- 21 says, you know, it doesn't look like these
- 22 antibody patents -- it doesn't look like these
- 23 genus patents are enabled. But there is this
- 24 doctrine of equivalents, and maybe it would take
- 25 care of all of these innovation problems.

1 And I think, honestly, even if you 2 look at Footnote 399 of that original Lemley 3 article, "The Death of the Patent Genus," in that footnote, it says, now there is a case 4 happening right now, it's -- it's Amgen versus 5 6 Sanofi, and it doesn't really seem like that 7 genus is enabled, but, you know, it's not enabled for a different reason. 8 So I think there are some concerns 9 going on with -- with the enablement 10 11 requirement. I still actually think that the --12 the concerns that Lemley is expressing can be 13 dealt with through the doctrine of equivalents, 14 and I can explain a little more what I think is 15 happening there with respect to chemical 16 genuses. But, whether you think that's true or 17 not, it's simply an entirely different question. 18 I think, Justice Jackson, you were 19 talking a little bit about the predictability and this is an unpredictable area of -- of -- of 20 -- of science and how are we going to deal with 21 2.2 those sorts of things. I think it is correct this is an undue 23 experimentation question, and we're going to 24 25 say, like, is this something that a person

- 1 skilled in the art is going to be willing to do?
- 2 And, quite honestly, at the time of Wands, I
- 3 think that people were a lot more comfortable
- 4 doing the mouse inoculation process, and the
- 5 reason for that -- and I hate to bring in yet
- 6 another complicated area of science -- but
- 7 recombinant DNA technology was in its infancy.
- 8 So I don't know that you really could use an
- 9 amino acid sequence to go into a lab and just
- 10 make a particular antibody. So, at that time,
- 11 actually, if you wanted to claim a particular
- 12 antibody, what you would do is deposit that
- 13 antibody -- or it's called a hybridoma of
- 14 antibody. You would deposit a hybridoma in a
- depository, and then, if another scientist or if
- another company wanted to make that antibody,
- 17 they could sort of check it out and clone it,
- and that's how you would make that particular
- 19 antibody.
- 20 But, if you wanted to kind of just go
- into a lab and make an antibody de novo, you
- 22 really would have to inoculate a mouse and hope.
- 23 But you don't have to do that anymore, right?
- 24 At this -- now we have a recipe. And because we
- 25 have that recipe, I think the idea that you

- 1 would tell scientists, well, just go and run
- 2 that mouse process until you get what you're
- 3 looking for is -- is really absurd.
- 4 And I would also caution, again, this
- 5 idea, which I think under- -- under- --
- 6 undergirds a lot of the arguments here on
- 7 Petitioners' side, that we need to make new
- 8 rules for new science. It's a -- it's a
- 9 dangerous idea. And it -- you know, you think
- 10 about Consolidated Edison, where the first
- 11 people who invented that light bulb with carbon
- 12 filter paper, they really thought they had the
- 13 best light bulb. They did, but they were wrong.
- 14 They were simply wrong.
- 15 And when we kind of make these
- 16 predictions, you can stifle innovation. And I
- 17 think this is another sort of response to the
- 18 Lemley brief. What happens when you allow a
- 19 genus patent that will -- that -- that -- that
- 20 -- that will -- will cover not just something
- 21 that has been invented but also things that have
- 22 not yet been made and used is that nobody else
- has the incentive to go out and make and use
- 24 them.
- So let's say you're look -- you have

- 1 this 15 binder, right? And if you look at
- 2 Amgen's patent and you look -- the only thing
- 3 you're going to be told to do is to go and
- 4 inject a mouse or there's another process, which
- 5 I do want to mention briefly, but you're going
- 6 to go inject a mouse -- a mouse and hope for the
- 7 best, right? But, if a scientist goes into a
- 8 lab and it takes all of the hard time and effort
- 9 and it goes through and it finds a 15 binder,
- 10 that 15 binder belongs to Amgen. And that's
- just not the basic patent quid pro quo.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, can I just
- ask you a question about the legal standard?
- MS. SINZDAK: Sure.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: You -- you -- you --
- 16 you've emphasized full enablement, and that's
- 17 certainly what Wood, for example, says from this
- 18 Court. But at least your -- your colleagues
- both seem to suggest that there might be some
- 20 elbow room, non curat lex room in there
- 21 somewhere, reasonableness. What do you think?
- What does the government think?
- MS. SINZDAK: I think there is always
- 24 room for reasonableness, but I do think that the
- 25 need to be reasonable needs to be tempered with

- 1 the need not to accept sort of pronouncements
- 2 about -- about what is and is not different.
- 3 So -- I -- I -- or what does -- what embodiments
- 4 do and do not matter. So I think, again, the
- 5 doctrine of equivalents is really, I think,
- 6 where a lot of this reasonableness concern gets
- 7 taken care of.
- 8 I would also say that -- that -- that
- 9 the Federal Circuit has -- and I think quite
- 10 correctly -- said that, you know, if you claim a
- genus of wooden baseball bats and every person
- 12 skilled in the art knows that you can't make a
- 13 baseball bat out of -- out of pine, then you
- don't have to say except pine because the -- the
- 15 -- the strict -- the plain text of the statute
- 16 says a person skilled in the art.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 18 MS. SINZDAK: So I think there you
- would have a little bit of reasonableness.
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And then a similar
- 21 question with respect to cumulative efforts.
- 22 There was some discussion about that and maybe
- 23 some -- some agreement that -- that cumulative
- 24 effort may not be the right -- it may be a
- 25 consideration, but it's not -- surely not a

- 1 dispositive one if the patent did clearly
- 2 specify every single time you're going to
- 3 produce a winner.
- 4 And the problem here, as I understand
- 5 Respondent, is that that's no guarantee.
- 6 There's -- even if you do everything right and
- 7 you follow all of it, conservative substitution,
- 8 you're going to have some winners and you're
- 9 going to have some losers.
- But, if -- if you could, for example,
- 11 every single time get a winner, then the fact
- that it would require a long time to get them
- 13 all wouldn't -- wouldn't necessarily defeat a
- 14 patent, would it?
- MS. SINZDAK: No.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 17 MS. SINZDAK: It certainly would not.
- 18 I do agree with Respondent it can be relevant,
- 19 and I think it can particularly be relevant if,
- 20 for example, you figure out that 10 of a million
- 21 types of -- there's a million types of ammonia
- in the world and 10 of them are going -- can be
- used instead of gasoline to run superefficient
- cars, right? But you don't know which 10, so
- you just claim the genus of ammonia that can be

- 1 used to run cars, and then what you're saying is
- 2 you have to go out there and try them. And you
- 3 may actually have to try all a million of them
- 4 so -- to get to those 10. And so there the
- 5 cumulative effort is relevant because you're
- 6 going to be there testing and testing and
- 7 testing.
- 8 So just a few minor factual points.
- 9 First of all, I think that 400 number is
- 10 misleading because, first of all, it's -- it's a
- -- or the 385 number. So that is, if you --
- 12 that's how many they got when they ran this
- mouse process once, but this is not a process --
- 14 a product by process claim. They're not only
- 15 claiming those, you know, 385.
- And it's not even -- they're not only
- 17 claiming antibodies made by mice; they're
- 18 claiming these antibodies that bind and block
- 19 made through any process.
- 20 And I also think that, you know, at
- 21 least looking at their expert testimony, I'm not
- 22 sure that all of the competitor antibodies can
- 23 be made with that mouse process, and -- and I
- 24 say that only because I look at Trial Transcript
- 25 758, and if you look at that, their expert is

- 1 talking about the various competitor antibodies,
- and it says, you know, you can run the mouse and
- 3 we think you would get Praluent by running the
- 4 mouse experiments. But, actually, you would
- 5 need to -- to get this phage library to -- to
- 6 find -- to -- to make another of the competitor
- 7 antibodies.
- 8 To me, that looks like they're saying
- 9 the mouse has some limitations, so you're going
- 10 to need to use a different process. And I
- 11 actually think you -- you heard Petitioners'
- 12 counsel up here conceding that you're not going
- to be able to -- you know, there -- you're not
- 14 necessarily going to make everything with the
- mouse because you're going to have some of these
- 16 conservative substitution -- you're going to
- 17 make some -- some antibodies with conservative
- 18 substitution, and I -- I think what he was
- 19 saying is that, you know, that -- that's --
- that's in addition to those 400.
- 21 So I -- I -- I do think just as a
- 22 factual point there -- there are -- we need to
- 23 be careful and precise. And what I would urge
- 24 the Court is to look at the Winter brief but
- 25 then to also just focus on the legal question

- 1 here, and I think answering that legal question
- 2 just means reiterating the enablement inquiry
- 3 that this Court has been applying and applying
- 4 and applying for 200 years.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, is
- 6 there anything that Mr. Clement said this
- 7 morning with which the government disagrees?
- 8 MS. SINZDAK: I did not hear anything.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay. And on
- 10 the doctrine of equivalents, wouldn't that be
- 11 less protective of the investment someone might
- make to pursue these inventions in terms of its,
- I would say, maybe I'm not remembering right
- 14 from earlier cases, but it seems to me that that
- would be less protective and, therefore, less of
- 16 an encouragement to investment.
- 17 MS. SINZDAK: I -- I mean, to the
- 18 extent that Petitioner is asking for protection
- 19 for things that they have not made -- enabled
- 20 people to make and use, I think you're right,
- 21 because I don't think the doctrine of
- 22 equivalents is going to get them things they
- haven't invented yet.
- 24 But I also think that -- that -- that
- 25 that's just the basic patent quid pro quo. You

- don't get a patent on anything that you haven't
- 2 enabled people to make and use. So I guess I
- 3 would say, yes, not being allowed to have their
- 4 patent is going to get them less -- less, but
- 5 that's exactly what the law requires.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 7 Thomas?
- 8 JUSTICE THOMAS: Would you comment
- 9 briefly on the relationship between the
- 10 enablement -- enablement inquiry and the claim
- 11 -- the invention, the claim?
- 12 It seems as though, as Mr. Clement
- 13 said, that the broader -- the more you claim,
- 14 the more you must focus on the enablement
- analysis. And I don't think you commented on
- 16 that.
- 17 MS. SINZDAK: I think that is often
- 18 the case. You need to provide enough
- information to enable a person to make any given
- 20 embodiment of your invention. And, you know,
- 21 if -- if you've claimed a lot of different
- things, you may have to put in a lot more
- 23 information.
- I would say that sometimes I think
- it's going to be more -- you're not going to

- 1 have to give a ton more information. My
- 2 understanding is that, for example, with respect
- 3 to a chemical genus, you might be able to say,
- 4 I'm talking about this family of chemicals that
- 5 have this helical ring structure, and, you know,
- 6 this -- this -- this chemical group that hangs
- 7 off of it can be one of these five things.
- 8 And -- and that's actually going to
- 9 enable a chemist, not me, to make tons and tons
- 10 and tons of different things, or you --
- 11 JUSTICE THOMAS: So the -- in this
- 12 area, I -- I think there's -- if I understand
- 13 your argument and Mr. Clement's, this area
- doesn't seem to have the same predictive quality
- that you would find in some of the other areas.
- 16 For example, his paint mixing would be
- 17 relatively easy. But, as you move along to the
- other antibodies in this area, it seems as
- 19 though it's trial and error. It's more each one
- 20 has to be assessed on its own terms.
- 21 So it would seem to me that the -- it
- 22 would be -- it would be more difficult to
- 23 achieve what you just said in this particular
- 24 area.
- MS. SINZDAK: I think that is exactly

- 1 right, but I don't think that that means that
- 2 you should bend the rules of enablement. And,
- 3 in fact, I think that could be very dangerous,
- 4 right, because one of the incentives right now
- 5 for scientists to figure out the
- 6 structure/function relationship in antibodies
- 7 beyond the Nobel Prize, but another incentive is
- 8 then you could claim broader genuses.
- 9 If somebody is able to figure out, oh,
- 10 well, when I identify this antigen, oh, I can
- 11 figure out what amino acid sequences for every
- 12 single different antibody that could bind to
- 13 that antigen, then they would -- they would have
- 14 a much better case for enablement.
- But, if you say, no, it doesn't
- 16 matter, you can claim all of those anyway,
- 17 there's less incentive to find that, sort of
- 18 that -- that magic key, which I should not say
- 19 magic, it's science.
- 20 (Laughter.)
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito?
- Justice Sotomayor?
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: A simple question,
- 24 maybe not so simple. Mr. Clement at one point
- in response to Justice Gorsuch said you should

1 DIG this case. If we didn't want to, what could 2 we say to have the Federal Circuit or anyone else who -- who's interested in this area --3 MS. SINZDAK: So --4 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what could we say that they didn't say? What could we 6 7 explain? Your Petitioners' counsel has told us 8 what he would wants us to say. What would you 9 want us to say? 10 MS. SINZDAK: So I -- I think, first 11 of all, you could DIG the case. We do not think 12 that the Federal Circuit said anything wrong 13 I think that some of the arguments that 14 we're hearing from Petitioners suggest that it 15 might be useful to clarify that you really do 16 need to enable each of the different embodiments 17 that you're claiming that you can't say these ones don't "matter," because that's simply not 18 19 the -- not -- first of all, it's hard to know 20 what that means other than if you're invoking 21 the doctrine of equivalents, which Petitioner 2.2 said he -- he can't invoke, but that requires 23 sort of a predictive judgment that could really 24 freeze innovation by saying, oh, don't worry,

don't -- don't find that 15 binder, it doesn't

```
1
     matter.
 2
               And -- and any -- and -- and, of
      course, what they're saying is it doesn't
 3
      matter, but, by the way, if you do find it and
 4
      it does something truly amazing, we own it.
 5
 6
               CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan?
 7
                Justice Gorsuch?
 8
                JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I quess, in
 9
     response to what you said to Justice Sotomayor,
10
      it would be important for this Court to say it
11
      essentially agrees with the Federal Circuit
12
     because there's been, as Justice Kagan points
13
      out, a lot of critiques of the Federal Circuit's
14
     approach, and if billions of dollars were on the
15
      line, this Court saying as much with -- along
16
     the lines that you propose would eliminate that
17
      uncertainty about the legal standard, and then
      everyone would know it's up to Congress.
18
19
               MS. SINZDAK: I -- I -- I agree
     with that completely. And I think also, with
20
21
      that final point, which is I -- I think an
2.2
      important one that maybe hasn't been discussed
     here, that to the extent you did think that the
23
24
      Petitioner had a good point that antibodies are
25
      just different and basic patent rules don't --
```

1	don't work, then the person then
2	then the body that needs to to make a special
3	antibody exception is going to be Congress, not
4	this Court.
5	I also completely agree that I do
6	think it would be helpful to the extent there
7	are scientists still out there making these
8	broad genus claims that are going to stifle
9	innovation, I I do think that that's a a
LO	danger to innovation and especially in the
L1	medical field, where, from what people who know
L2	better than me tell me, antibody innovation is
L3	key, and and we don't want people claiming
L4	more than they've really invented.
L5	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
L6	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
L7	Barrett?
L8	Justice Jackson?
L9	Thank you, counsel.
20	Rebuttal, Mr. Lamken?
21	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY A. LAMKEN
22	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
23	MR. LAMKEN: Thank you.
24	The key fact in this case is that
25	Sanofi has not identified one antibody that

- 1 would require undue experimentation to make.
- 2 Sanofi likes its chart. We like that chart as
- 3 well because the whole purpose of that retrial
- 4 was so that they could prove that those
- 5 competitor antibodies aren't made using the
- 6 roadmap. And the jury disagreed.
- 7 There is no evidence of anybody ever
- 8 saying, gee, I tried to make one of those
- 9 competitor antibodies, it didn't come out the
- 10 first time. I know the government points out
- 11 that you might use a phage display for one, but
- the patent's disclosures explain that you can
- 13 use the mice and you can use phage displays and
- 14 this is how you would get them.
- 15 And all this tells me at the bottom is
- there's a reason out there why we have trials,
- 17 why we have juries, and why we have patent
- 18 examiners, so that we're not retrying all the
- 19 elements of the case before this Court.
- 20 Before this Court, the question is did
- 21 they prove that there's something you can't make
- 22 or it takes undue experimentation to make, and
- 23 that evidence -- that proof is simply absent.
- In terms of Winter, I think it's very
- interesting to get the functional equivalent of

- 1 an expert report when you're in the Supreme
- 2 Court. If the Court's interested in a response
- 3 to that, it so closely parallels Sanofi's brief
- 4 in the court of appeals that I would commend the
- 5 Court to look at our reply brief there and it
- 6 will have the answers to virtually everything
- 7 that Mr. Winter has.
- 8 And turning -- turning to the issue of
- 9 millions, the question of millions matters only
- if you're looking at the cumulative effort to
- 11 get to the millions. If each one is
- individually enabled, you know how to get there
- 13 because you can do amino acid substitutions
- 14 through this conservative substitution, you can
- get to any one you want, that's enablement.
- 16 Each of those is enabled.
- 17 The -- the question of millions
- 18 becomes not enablement only if you're going to
- 19 look at the cumulative effort to make each and
- 20 every one, and I think that is a fundamental
- 21 point of disagreement. Is it even relevant how
- 22 hard it is to make all of them as opposed to how
- 23 hard is it for the skilled artisan to do what
- 24 skilled artisans do, which is make one that they
- want.

1	And, in this sense, I would like to
2	respond to Mr. Clement's point that somehow it
3	makes it hard our roadmap makes it harder.
4	No, the roadmap makes it much easier because, if
5	you know that it's going to bind to the sweet
6	spot and we give you those two antibodies, those
7	two anchor antibodies that help you figure it
8	out with high throughput testing, quick and easy
9	according to the testimony, if it binds there,
10	it blocks. That's it. You're done. You have
11	an antibody that works.
12	With respect to Morse's eighth claim,
13	yes, everybody forgets about Morse's seventh
14	claim, and Morse's seventh claim was, in effect,
15	you use electromagnetism using to produce the
16	motion of the machinery at distance to reproduce
17	letters. We're just like Morse's seventh claim
18	because we have a structure, you're using
19	monoclonal antibodies, and we tell you how to
20	produce them, and these are all monoclonal
21	antibodies that have a characteristic that you
22	can observe, that they bind to a particular
23	place, and by binding in that place, they
24	produce the function you want, blocking.
25	There's a lot of going a lot about

- 1 criticizing functional claiming here. But, in
- 2 terms of functional claiming, that's not a
- 3 112(a) question of enablement. That's a 112(b)
- 4 question, which describes what you have to do to
- 5 claim. If people don't like functional claims,
- 6 that's where it goes.
- 7 And this claim really isn't functional
- 8 in a relevant sense. The binding is a
- 9 characteristic you can observe, like what the
- 10 government called water absorptivity, when it
- 11 was talking about the -- the Holland Furniture
- 12 case. It's something you can observe. And if
- 13 you have that characteristic, you bind and,
- therefore, you block and you're exactly within
- 15 the claims.
- 16 As to the doctrine of equivalents, if
- 17 you have an antibody that has a different amino
- 18 acid sequence, that isn't protectable under the
- 19 doctrine of equivalents because it's not
- 20 equivalent. Because it has the same effect, it
- 21 may also block, it doesn't make it equivalent.
- 22 It's only equivalent if the limitations, the
- 23 requirements, are equivalent. And so you can
- swap out maybe one amino acid for one that's
- 25 very similar, but if an amino acid in your

- 1 claimed structure is just missing, you just
- 2 clipped it out, then you would be around, and
- 3 you would provide no protection whatsoever for
- 4 people who are creating the antibodies.
- 5 You invest \$2.6 billion investing and
- 6 determining that there's a sweet spot that if
- 7 you bind to you will block and you will be
- 8 saving lives. And the protection is listed to
- 9 -- limited to what? The 26 you describe by
- 10 amino acid sequence? That provides no
- 11 protection at all because you can always come up
- with a 27th, and that's the whole point of the
- 13 roadmap.
- 14 The roadmap is fully enabling because
- you can come up with that 27th, the 28th, or the
- 16 29th, whatever is out there. The testimony was
- 17 the roadmap will allow you to get to them all.
- 18 And it's not an infinite test because the
- 19 evidence in this trial, in this -- is there's
- just nobody who testified and said, gee, I ran
- 21 the roadmap, I tried, I didn't get what I
- 22 wanted, something was missing. No evidence that
- 23 Sanofi on its first panel didn't come up with
- 24 its -- its antibody, Praluent. No evidence that
- 25 Amgen on its first trial failed to come up with

its antibody. Or any of the other competitors.

1

25

2	When you run the roadmap, you get them. The 15
3	binder. If a 15 binder exists, it's going to
4	come out and it's going to be there.
5	If I could turn just very quickly to
6	the the issue of DIG.
7	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A minute.
8	MR. LAMKEN: Thank you so much.
9	This case, you should make no mistake
10	has incredible impacts. We have two decisions
11	from the PTAB, both characterizing it as a
12	cumulative effort to make all the embodiments
13	test. Nobody can invest billions of dollars
14	with this decision out there. Nobody can invest
15	billions of dollars if it's even relevant.
16	There's a legal dispute about the relevance of
17	that cumulative effort test, and this Court
18	should address it and excise it from the law.
19	Thank you, Your Honor.
20	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
21	counsel. The case is submitted.
22	(Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the case
23	was submitted.)
24	

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