

Imani Gandy: Hello, fellow law nerds. Welcome to a very special episode of Boom! Lawyered, a Rewire News Group podcast hosted by the legal journalism team that is recording this live at the Summit for Religious Freedom. Woo. I'm Rewire News Group's editor-at-large, Imani Gandy.

Jess Pieklo: And I'm Jess Pieklo, Rewire News Group's executive editor. Rewire News Group is the one and only home for expert repro journalism that inspires you to keep church and state separate. And the Boom! Lawyered podcast is part of that mission. So a big thanks to our subscribers and welcome to our new listeners and viewers, and welcome everyone from the Summit for Religious Freedom. Thank you to Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, for putting this conference on together and hosting us. We have so much to talk about.

Imani Gandy: So much.

Jess Pieklo: So, I originally pitched this panel as how the Roberts court is catapulting us to a theocracy. Like, that's really sexy, right? And they are. And we're definitely gonna talk about that. But in the middle of the prep and all of this, a pretty important abortion rights and access case happened. And it just so happens that that case also has theocracy at its very center. So we're gonna talk about it.

Imani Gandy: We are. The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. the FDA. This is a ginned up legal fight over the FDA's approval of mifepristone over two decades ago. Let me repeat. That over two decades ago. And it's a bunch of dangerous nonsense, essentially. So let's get into that, Jess.

Jess Pieklo: Okay, so let's start with who these folks are. AHM is a shadow group, basically. They were formed for the purposes of bringing this specific lawsuit.

Imani Gandy: They were formed in Tennessee.

Jess Pieklo: Tennessee.

Imani Gandy: Tennessee. I mean, besides starting with tea, what does Tennessee have to do with Texas?

Jess Pieklo: Not much. They claim that the FDA rushed mifepristone to the market over 20 years ago, as we said. And you'll hear us talk about that a lot because literally.

Both: Over 20 years.

Jess Pieklo: They're bringing this challenge now. But also that each step taken since to make the drug more available has been well beyond the agency's power. Like, the FDA is acting so far outta bounds. It's functionally what these groups are saying. And they claim that mifepristone is dangerous and unsafe, like Tylenol.

Imani Gandy: Right.

Jess Pieklo: Basically. But here's where the rubber really meets the road though. They also claim that pregnancy isn't an illness and instead is a natural condition that most women, and this is a specific choice of language here, because what they are trying to do is ingrain gender essentialism into the law here. But they say that pregnancy is a natural condition that most women will experience at some state in their life. And that really, you know, no need for the FDA to take these steps.

Imani Gandy: And they're making a really big deal about this claim that, you know, woke leftists think that pregnancy is an illness. And really that's not relevant. That's a red herring. That's just something they say to kind of try to make fun of woke leftists. The relevant FDA regulations apply to life-threatening conditions, which pregnancy obviously is, given that the Black maternal mortality rate in this country is basically LOL, good luck.

Jess Pieklo: Oh my God.

Imani Gandy: I mean it is. They've also argued that this shadow group actually had legal standing to bring these claims because they basically have really big feelings about abortion. And abortion makes them sad. And when abortion makes you sad you need a legal remedy.

Jess Pieklo: You need a legal remedy.

Imani Gandy: You gotta go to court. You gotta get somebody like Sam Alito or Matt Kacsmaryk to say it's okay that you hate abortion, we do too.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, I feel some kind of way about abortion. So I have standing.

Imani Gandy: Right, it's like "I'm triggered" standing.

Jess Pieklo: Yes. Yeah, I mean, and this is the same group that, if you have been following abortion rights litigation and know the Texas SB 8 law, the bounty hunter law, they brought us what we on the podcast lovingly refer to as "ARM" standing. What's "ARM" standing Imani?

Imani Gandy: "ARM" standing is any random motherfucker standing, basically. And I gotta give a shout out to Andrea Grimes. She's a journalist and amazing woman. She's the person who came up with that phraseology. But essentially Texas conferred standing to any random motherfucker who has, feels some kind of way about abortion. And that's just, that's just not what Article III of the Constitution contemplated. I'm pretty sure that's not what they contemplated.

Jess Pieklo: Ah, you know, I think you might be onto something there.

Imani Gandy: Might be onto something.

Jess Pieklo: So this shadow group found a friend in theocrat on the bench, Matt Kacsmaryk.

Imani Gandy: And I love the like, he found a friend in Matt Kacsmaryk, 'cause it really does remind me of like a Randy Newman song, right?

Both: You've got a friend in Matt. You've got a friend in Matt. If you get the notion that you hate abortion, you've got a friend in Matt.

Jess Pieklo: Amazing. But it's true, it's true. And so Matty K, as we like to call him, because frankly, that's about the level of respect that I think he's earned on the bench so far. If you missed it, he issued the most bonkers ruling in this case. And it not only threatens mifepristone approval, but the FDA regulatory process in general by basically accepting AHM's claims almost entirely. And I just really wanna reiterate that because what we are seeing from conservative legal advocacy groups in particular is a weaponizing of abortion as a way to really come after other rights and powers that they don't like. And this case is a perfect example of that.

Imani Gandy: And so then after an emergency appeal filed by the Biden administration and drug manufacturers like Danco, the Fifth Circuit said to Matty K, hold my beer. And decided to really tee this issue up for the Supreme Court. The Fifth Circuit's decision put on hold part of Matty K's ruling, but accepted entirely the anti-choice advocates' position in how they read the Comstock Act, right? They are reading the Comstock Act as a federal criminal ban on mailing abortion pills.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, who knew that the Grant administration was still relevant, but that's when the Comstock Act was passed.

Imani Gandy: It really is. And frankly, the Comstock Act does not prohibit the mailing of anything related to abortion, right? It prohibits the mailing of materials, devices, equipment used for illegal abortions, right? I mean, if you think about it, the FDA couldn't possibly have any sort of prosecutorial role when it comes to the Controlled Substances Act, right?

Like, there are certain controlled substances that the government has said, "No, you can't use them even though the medical community uses them." Let's talk about ketamine for example, right? Ketamine's a big party drug, so I've heard. Also, something that is used for some PTSD treatments, right? There're actual mental health uses. It's also used for horses. So you can't say the FDA has some kind of prosecutorial role when it comes to ketamine just because it has some actual uses. That's just, it's ridiculous to expect the FDA to be the DOJ is what I'm saying.

Jess Pieklo: I love that on the script here, it just says, let's all do cocaine and ketamine sidebar, this is great. So maybe you heard that the Supreme Court was involved. We got an emergency petition to the Supreme Court. Justice Sam Alito, who handles cases out of the Fifth Circuit, decided to give himself a little extra time to write what was maybe the snarkest and most bad

faith dissent coming from a conservative on the bench. And wow, that's really saying something when we have Thomas and Alito up there. But he did.

Thankfully the Supreme Court has put Matty K's order on hold for a while now. So it has to go through final disposition to the Supreme Court. So either writ that the Supreme Court will accept, or quite frankly what my concern is, is writ that they will turn away after the Fifth Circuit issues, some truly bonkers ruling, which is where the case goes next. And so this case that we are, that we're talking about right now is headed down to the Fifth Circuit on expedited oral arguments that'll take take place in the middle of May. Imani is conveniently overseas.

Imani Gandy: I'm going to France to see Beyonce and Matty K is not stopping me.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, right? So we find ourselves less than a year from the Supreme Court deciding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, and for the first time in this country's history ever, taking away a fundamental right that it had previously granted. The case gets up to the Supreme Court and it looks like they're gonna step in and then they didn't.

Imani Gandy: Right.

Jess Pieklo: Why do you think that is?

Imani Gandy: Honestly, I think it's because, someone came up and said, are you gonna talk about how much Clarence Thomas sucks? And yes, I am a little bit right now because.

Jess Pieklo: Sidebar.

Imani Gandy: I think that the Supreme Court is really under the gun when it comes to ethics right now, right? We had the reporting about how it's pretty cool that Clarence Thomas hangs out with someone who collects Nazi memorabilia and takes \$500,000 vacations on his yacht. We've got revelations coming out about Matty K himself, who apparently lied and switched the names of the authors of an law review article because the law review article was trash and anti-trans apparently he thought it was bad enough that he felt that he needed to lie about it in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. So that's something.

I think Roberts is probably in a position where, considering that he wanted to be the guy who sort of shored up the institutional, like, legacy and gravitas of the Supreme Court, he has failed miserably. And I think that this case is such bullshit. The standing arguments are so absurd that perhaps maybe they wanna wait for a better case so that they can kill medication abortion without looking like absolute jack asses for doing so.

Jess Pieklo: Or at least wait and not do it on the shadow docket, right? I honestly think that had Sam Alito gotten his way on this petition that we would see court reform and expansion front and center on the Democratic platform in 2024. And it would be one of the things that

progressive advocacy organizations are talking the most about is the need to fix a broken judicial system. And I just don't think John Roberts wants that smoke.

Imani Gandy: Nope. I don't think he does either. So there's been a fair amount of reporting on this case, and nearly all of the reporting has missed a couple key things. First, this case is about fetal "personhood," and that's the brass ring, right? That's the next brass ring for the anti-choice movement. And second, this case will help usher in a national abortion ban. Once the case sort of meanders its way back to the Fifth Circuit, perhaps back to the district court and back up. That's what this case, that's what this case forbodes, a national abortion ban.

Jess Pieklo: That's definitely what Erin Hawley wants out of this. And yikes Imani and-

Imani Gandy: And who's Erin Hawley?

Jess Pieklo: Oh, Josh Hawley's wife and one of the lead attorneys at the Alliance Defending Freedom who is litigating this case.

Imani Gandy: And Alliance Defending Freedom, for those who haven't heard of them, although, but most of you probably, I would imagine everyone has. But just in case maybe some of our virtual audience. Alliance Defending Freedom is a conservative law firm, and they are behind some of the most gross incursions of civil rights when it comes to abortion rights, when it comes to trans rights. They are essentially trying to usher in a Christofascist theocracy. And they've been successful at doing it so far. And so that's real concerning.

Jess Pieklo: They're not even shy about.

Imani Gandy: They're not shy about it at all. I mean, they will admit it. The Southern Poverty Poverty Law Center has categorized them as a hate group due to their actions when it comes to LGBTQ people filing lawsuits. They're terrible. Needless to say.

Jess Pieklo: Bad dudes all around. So what do we mean when we say that this is a personhood case? It's not even subtle. The very first footnote in Matt Kacsmaryk's opinion, and I know that there are a lot of lawyers and lawyer-adjacent people in the room and likely for the virtual audience as well. Y'all understand the importance of a footnote, right? We drop those very intentionally when we're writing, right?

So Judge Kacsmaryk takes the very first opportunity in this decision to say, oh, by the way, I'm rejecting the term fetus throughout this opinion, not gonna use fetus. I don't like it. I think it's unscientific. I'm gonna use unborn person and unborn human instead. Now, we'll get into some of this in a little bit, but I wanna remind folks that medication abortion is typically used up to about ten weeks of pregnancy max. So we've got that going for it. All right? Now that footnote is catnip for people like Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas.

Imani Gandy: It is catnip for them. And I just wanna reiterate that he dropped in a footnote that the word fetus is unscientific. Let's just let that sit for a while. The word fetus is unscientific.

Jess Pieklo: Breathe it in.

Imani Gandy: Breathe it out.

Jess Pieklo: But it really is and and like, and accepting AHM's theory that mifepristone is dangerous, is only dangerous if you accept that it's the fetus at the center of it, right? Because the science is overwhelming that mifepristone is safe and effective. But Judge Kacsmaryk's opinion talks about the dangers of mifepristone to the unborn.

Imani Gandy: To the unborn human.

Jess Pieklo: The "pre-born."

Imani Gandy: The "pre-born humans." It's truly absurd, if you think about it. There is something like 5.6 million medication abortions that have occurred over the last 23 years. There have been 28 recorded deaths. Some of those deaths may not even be due specifically to the mifepristone. So mifepristone is obviously not dangerous unless you're Matty K. And you count the 5.6 million abortions as something that's dangerous, right? So Mifepristone doing what it does, has killed 5.6 million babies. And that's why we're here, essentially.

Jess Pieklo: And the argument that ADF is making, that pregnancy isn't an illness that requires medical intervention via abortion. Like, sit with that for a second. That's dangerous because, oh, I don't know, good luck treating that life-threatening pregnancy, right? It's in God's hands, is the position that they are arguing. And that is now getting ingrained into constitutional law.

Imani Gandy: And another thing that they're arguing, which is absolutely mind boggling, is that medication abortion serves no therapeutic benefit over the alternative. The alternative is surgery, it's procedural abortion. So they're trying to argue that these 5.6 million abortions that have taken place before ten weeks are somehow, there's no benefit to those over the abortions that would've otherwise occurred, which are procedural abortions. And Jess loves to talk about the reason why they're trying to push people into procedural abortions. I'm gonna let her talk about that right now.

Jess Pieklo: It's the punishment, obviously, right? The conservative legal movement wants to make accessing fundamental health care, generally, but reproductive health care specifically, inconvenient, expensive, dangerous, and funneled into religious social services institutions. This is about breaking a lot of public institutions and using abortion as one means to do it, right? As Adam Stewart has been, coined during the Trump administration, the cruelty is the point. The cruelty is absolutely the point here. I mean, it's a good thing if people die in childbirth, according to the religious right. That's where we're at. And that my friends, is how fetal "personhood" gets ingrained in the law.

Imani Gandy: And this is not accidental, right? One of the cases that Matty K cites in his opinion is the prosecution of Purvi Patel.

Jess Pieklo: Oh God.

Imani Gandy: Purvi Patel was a woman in Indiana who essentially, who had a pregnancy loss, went into a hospital, and at the hospital she said that the health-care worker snitched on her. So she was in the hospital having this pregnancy loss, dealing with the aftermath of this pregnancy loss. The police show up, grab her cell phone, start rifling through her text messages, the doctor themselves, and I'd forgotten this until Jess reminded me of this and actually wrote about it. But I've been writing so many things about these cases, you sometimes forget.

Imani Gandy: And this case was a while ago.

Jess Pieklo: This is when Mike Pence was in Indiana, so long ago.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, that is a long time ago. One of her doctors went dumpster diving to try and look for the quote unquote "pre-born human" to be used as evidence. And it gets even more bizarre. During her trial, they used this unscientific method called the float test, right? They had to try to figure out if the baby had taken a breath after it had been born. So what do they do? You inflate the lungs to see if they float. I mean, it's essentially-Is she a witch? Right, it's exactly. It's exactly what it is. We're going back to Salem witch trial times here where we're trying to figure out if the lungs are floating, then she's a witch who had an abortion and must be punished. And she was sentenced to something like 41 years.

41 years. Some of it was concurrent. So I think she ultimately, it was a 20 year sentence. Which she eventually pled out. And so she didn't serve any time besides the time that she was in jail waiting for all of this to be dealt with. But I mean, this is the sort of malevolence that we're dealing with here, and that's the sort of also malevolence that we're dealing with in the health-care industry, right? If you are a religious person and you work in the health-care industry, then you can go ahead and snitch on the people who you don't like, snitch on the people who may have made a decision about their bodily autonomy that you don't agree with.

Jess Pieklo: And I just really wanna drive home the fact that the state of Indiana was willing to sentence this woman to, 20 to 40 functionally for a pregnancy loss. And here we are now with Judge Kacsmaryk using that prosecution as evidence that women and people who become pregnant can't be trusted to manage their own pregnancies and abortions.

Imani Gandy: Right, absolutely.

Jess Pieklo: Ooh, that's some rough stuff. Well, the good news is, is it's not, is the case isn't before the Supreme Court right now. The bad news is, is it's before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and they're gonna take a whack at it, including the Comstock Act claim, which we are

already seeing anti-choice advocates try and use in other litigation to come after states that have passed proactive protections around access to abortion and contraception. Jonathan Mitchell, our friend who came up with ARM standing that we referred to earlier, has filed a lawsuit in New Mexico, challenging an ordinance there and arguing that the Comstock Act is an avenue to go in and undercut state protections on abortion rights. So this isn't a coincidence, it is a coordinated campaign.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, I mean, they were gonna throw it back to the states, remember that old chestnut?

Jess Pieklo: Throw it back. Throw it back to the states and the electeds because Sam Alito big fan of democracy right there. Huge fan, okay, so we hit through some of "personhood." Imani, how does this case tee us up for a possible national ban?

Imani Gandy: Well, in a couple of ways, if plaintiffs really get their way here, ultimately, mifepristone approval will be withdrawn and the drug theoretically comes off the market, right? Even in blue states and states that have some kind of legal abortion, legal abortion remaining. So that's a de facto national ban, right? Jess once called, Jess called it on Twitter, a low-key seven week ban, because that's what it is. There are still some states that permit the use mifepristone for off-label use. But essentially what this case could end up as is a national seven week abortion ban.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, if you take away medication abortion, then you are, you know, forcing folks to not only carry pregnancies, but those who do end up having any ability to access abortion care beyond that are in later abortions. Good luck in most states accessing that. And importantly, and I think this is a really, this is one thing that I haven't seen talked about enough in the media and in the legal commentary around this current campaign, again, because I'm using that word intentionally.

This is a campaign. They are using the courts to do what they can't get done otherwise through a democratic process, it moves the Overton window, right? Because now suddenly there's a national conversation, whether it's in good faith or not, around the "safety" of abortion after six weeks. It's ginned up controversy designed to get folks who aren't plugged in the way that folks at this conference are, the folks who are attending virtually. It's to get them to just not understand, right? Create chaos and confusion.

I mean, even Alito's dissent was like, it's fine if we just go back to 2016, which is one of, which is functionally what one of the options was with the FDA approval. Because I mean, what's that gonna change that much? It would've changed everything. Like the mifepristone in the market right now would not have been able to be distributed because that would've been labeled wrong. And the you know, the manufacturers were like guys.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, and it would've been essentially also a trial balloon, right? Like, think of the leak of the Dobbs opinion, right? It leaked May of last year, a good two months before the actual

opinion dropped, and it gave people time to sort of get mad about it. And then I think the hope was that they would stop being as mad. So two months would pass, and by the time the Dobbs decision actually dropped, they would've already been used to it.

I think the same thing applies here, right? If you just roll back the FDA regulations to the 2016 levels where you cannot get abortion up to ten weeks, you have to stop at seven, where you have to go in person to get it dispensed, you can't get it mailed or through telehealth, that sort of gives the country, gives advocates, gives people a way to get used to that regime, so that it doesn't seem so obnoxious when the ultimate decision comes down that yeah, that's how we're gonna keep it, we're gonna keep it at these 2016 levels. That rolls back access. That is not something that's good, but it's less bad than completely disapproving it or withdrawing authorization.

Jess Pieklo: And it's so cynical too, because then the anti-choice community can use it as a way to sort of cover their own asses, right? To say, well, look, I mean the FDA says six weeks, so who are we to argue with the government agency? Even though that's exactly what they're doing is arguing with the government agency this entire time. So it's wild. And I saw a lot of commentary last night around the Supreme Court's decision, to let the, the litigation proceed in terms of like, this is gonna be great. Guys it was seven to two. Like, obviously this bodes well and I need folks to take a breath and maybe take a walk outside and reconsider who is still on the bench. Because if you are gonna tell me that justice Amy Coney Barrett is gonna be like, oh yes, I love medication abortion. She's not.

Right? Like, she is absolutely not. Or Justice Kavanaugh, who any single time has had an abortion rights case come before the court has let the clock run out in his analysis, right? Do you remember the Garza case?

Imani Gandy: Do I remember the Garza case? Yeah, the case where they essentially held an undocumented, minor hostage in a detention center and refused to let her go and get an abortion, even though under Texas law where the detention center was, she'd already gone through the legal rigamarole through the judicial bypass, went to the court, the court took a look at her, said, yeah, sure, you're mature enough to, they do that thing where they look at you and say, well, you're too immature to get an abortion, but I guess you're mature enough to raise a kid.

Well, this girl actually got permission from the state of Texas to get an abortion. And Justice Kavanaugh said, wait a minute, wait a minute, let's slow your roll. We're not gonna let, I mean, the man can't be trusted. And so when I see people potentially arguing that maybe he might side with medication abortion. I really have to ask you to go outside and just maybe breathe some fresh air.

Jess Pieklo: Breathe some fresh air. And I mean, Justice Gorsuch, Imani and I conveniently have managed to bookend Justice Gorsuch in Colorado.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, yeah. He lives about exactly midway between our two houses.

Jess Pieklo: We didn't plan it that way, but it's sure is.

Imani Gandy: We've got him surrounded is what we're saying.

Jess Pieklo: Right. Glitter bombs. But, like, Justice, where is Justice Gorsuch gonna land on this case? Imani riddle me this.

Imani Gandy: God, yeah, it's not good. It's not good.

Jess Pieklo: So that's why I do think the court punted. I honestly think Alito is trying to scare up a couple extra votes, which is why he gave himself a little more time. And then when he couldn't get it just got mad.

Imani Gandy: He got very mad.

Jess Pieklo: And sassy, the ladies on the court were saying things he didn't agree with. It's bad, bad. And Joe Biden wasn't gonna abide by the law, which I mean, as though that's not intentional to undercut everything. It's not great Bob.

Imani Gandy: It's not great Bob.

Jess Pieklo: It's not great. But like we said, the good news is the Court didn't take the case for now. The storm clouds are forming though, and the Comstock Act is not anything that I thought I would be talking about ten-plus years into my career as a legal journalist for real. Like, it's an academic exercise. But here we are. It's suddenly a very live thing that the anti-choice community in particular sees as a very important weapon in their arsenal.

Imani Gandy: And it's an important weapon in their arsenal for their fight against birth control too. Because, Jess and I have been saying for years, they're coming for birth control and one of the, the Comstock Act was used, for example, to put Margaret Sanger in jail when she was spreading her the birth control word back in the 1920s. So I think we can expect that sort of carceral response to come back in vogue.

Jess Pieklo: I just had a flash of a Thomas opinion.

Imani Gandy: Oh God, I don't even wanna think about it.

Jess Pieklo: A occurrence or a dissent that absolutely manages to talk about Comstock Act, Margaret Sanger.

Imani Gandy: And how Margaret Sanger was essentially in the basement of every Black family trying to eradicate Black people. I mean, that is something they will never stop lying about. And

that is not true. Margaret Sanger was wildly ableist. She was not this grand racist who was trying to use abortion or birth control to decimate the Black community. But you know, the religious right, they love to pretend to care about Black babies when it suits their purpose, but they don't really care about Black babies. And I think we all in this room know that.

Jess Pieklo: It is a wild time.

Imani Gandy: It's a wild time.

Jess Pieklo: So wild, in fact, I'm gonna just, I'm gonna start to close on one story 'cause I imagine that folks in this room and virtually don't get some of the press releases that I get from the anti-choice community. And so one of the things that we are seeing, right, and this isn't, this isn't just left to the abortion and repro spaces, but is a full reclaiming of a lot of concepts and framings that progressives have made good progress on. And so now you should all know that the anti-choice community is very concerned about environmental racism.

Imani Gandy: Oh, of course they are.

Jess Pieklo: Students for Life has an FDA petition that they are filing that is claiming that there is massive environmental damage due to abortion pill runoff functionally in our water supply.

Imani Gandy: I mean, just to say it, it's to recognize its absurdity, right?

Jess Pieklo: This is my face. It's doing some things in response to that kind of claim, but.

Imani Gandy: It's hysteria, right? The water is abor-is an abortifacient, is essentially what they're trying to say.

Jess Pieklo: Yeah, I mean, one of our tech team here, I was reading the petition in the press release to the whole crew because I had to just share it, right? I can't keep that to myself when you're reading it and one of the members of our tech team was like, well yeah, the water's making the frogs gay. Patrick, that was very good. I mean, it is, it is functionally where we're at. But so a place where up is down, left is right and faith is science and science does not matter, is where the anti-choice community is taking us.

And unfortunately there seems to be a conservative majority on the Supreme Court that is willing to go along with that. And when they get the opportunity to impose that view, they will. I mean, we don't talk about Dobbs as a theocratic decision enough, but it is, if you look at the folks who were cited in the majority opinion by Alito, whether they're legal scholars or theologians, it's a very particular view of faith and who participates. And that's one of the things that Imani and I talk about on the podcast a lot, is that this push by the conservative legal movement is really about erasing folks from the full civic- or their ability to fully participate in civic life. And that is why it is a full frontal assault on our bodies, our ballots, our rights. That was a fucking grim point to close on.

Imani Gandy: Let's take some questions.

Jess Pieklo: Yes. But we are gonna wrap up the like, show portion of this because we do wanna leave time, Imani, this is the first time that Imani and I have been in front of an audience like this with the podcast. So A, thank you all, in person and virtually for going through and getting to see some of the show that we absolutely just adore and love. Six seasons.

Imani Gandy: Six seasons, 200. This is our 201st episode. This was gonna be our 200th, but then the Supreme Court screwed it up for us.

Jess Pieklo: Yeah, way to go, Sam Alito. Thanks a lot. Actually, we could probably find a way to get mad at Anthony Kennedy about that.

Imani Gandy: I'm still mad at Anthony Kennedy. That's a podcast topic for another time.

Jess Pieklo: It is another time. But we do wanna wrap up and leave some questions. And also because we realized that we talked about a case that was different than what we were originally coming here to talk about. I was like, we'll do some big sweeping thing and then I was like, nope. We are talking about abortion, which we do all the time and love and think everybody should talk about abortion all the time. But yeah, so. Thank you.

Imani Gandy: Thank you so much.

Jess Pieklo: This has been a blast. We are actually releasing this episode on Monday, so if you don't know the Boom! Lawyered podcast, please subscribe to it wherever you get your podcast. I'm stepping on your lines.

Imani Gandy: It's okay. It's okay, you're doing them well. Apple Podcast, Spotify, we're everywhere. We're everywhere you wanna be. We also have a video, we're also on video now, so if you subscribe [youtube.com/rewirenewsgroup](https://www.youtube.com/rewirenewsgroup), you can get notifications when we go live, especially as what we like to call sweaty SCOTUS season begins. We'll be doing live streams in response to the big cases. So for example, when Clarence Thomas, who benefited from affirmative action, decides that nobody else should and rules that way in the Harvard case will be on live talking about that.

Jess Pieklo: I cannot wait to see what Sam Alito has to say about 303 Creatives and the woman who doesn't create websites for gay couples.

Imani Gandy: But she might.

Jess Pieklo: But she might someday.

Imani Gandy: And so she has standing because she might someday. I mean, it's just this season is going to be, it's gonna be sweaty. That's why we call it sweaty SCOTUS season quite frankly.

Jess Pieklo: But thank you so much. We are being pulled off by our producer because like I said, if you give lawyers and journalists a mic, we will not shut up. So thank you, sincerely.

Imani Gandy: Thank you very much.