1	COURT OF APPEALS
2	STATE OF NEW YORK
3	
4	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
5	Respondent,
6	-against- No. 67
7	CARLOS L. DAVID,
8	Appellant.
9	20 Eagle Street Albany, New York September 13, 2023
10	Before:
11	CHIEF JUDGE ROWAN D. WILSON ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY RIVERA
12	ASSOCIATE JUDGE MICHAEL J. GARCIA ASSOCIATE JUDGE MADELINE SINGAS ASSOCIATE JUDGE ANTHONY CANNATARO
13 14	ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHIRLEY TROUTMAN ASSOCIATE JUDGE CAITLIN J. HALLIGAN
15	Appearances:
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CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: And the last matter today is Number 67, People v. Carlos David.

MR. TALIA: Good evening again, Your Honors.

Once again, I'm Guy Talia on behalf of appellant, Carlos

David. I'd like to reserve three minutes for rebuttal, if

I may?

CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Yes.

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MR. TALIA: So at the outset, I'd like to note that we are making a facial invalidity challenge that is distinct and separate from any of the arguments that have come before us today by any of the appellants. It does not depend on — the validity of it does not depend in any way, shape, or form on the invalidation of the proper cause requirement. It is based upon the foundational holdings of Bruen that led the court there to invalidate the proper cause requirement. And that is the extension of the Second Amendment for the first time to carrying an outside — — carrying a loaded weapon outside your home. And also the new test that it articulated for determining whether the — — any restrictions on that are valid.

Now, there are serious but uncomplicated consequences of that extension. The - - - the prime one that we are relying on is that it substantively prohibits the State from defining the mere possession of a firearm outside your home as a crime. Section 265.03(3) defines



1	the mere possession of carrying a firearm outside your			
2	home as a crime. And my client was convicted on proof of			
3	nothing more than carrying a firearm outside his home.			
4	Now, the fact that there is an exemption and that the			
5	licensing provision could have relieved him from that			
6	liability			
7	JUDGE RIVERA: Your position is that licensing			
8	is not an element?			
9	MR. TALIA: Correct, Your Honor. That's exactly			
10	our position. And			
11	JUDGE GARCIA: And there was a failure to charge			
12	that element, that the jury had to find that element to			
13	convict your client, right?			
14	MR. TALIA: The jury did not have to find that			
15	element to convict my client.			
16	JUDGE RIVERA: Why why isn't it obvious			
17	from Hughes that it is an element?			
18	MR. TALIA: Why why isn't it			
19	JUDGE RIVERA: Obvious that it's that it			
20	is an element?			
21	MR. TALIA: So			
22	JUDGE RIVERA: Why weren't we clear there? Why			
23	wasn't the court clear there that what is criminalized is			
24	not someone carrying a gun, someone without a license			
25	carrying a gun.			



MR. TALIA: Sure. Yep. So Hughes did state that is not merely possession but unlicensed possession that's a crime. And we - - - we do acknowledge that that was at a time that Heller existed, and it involved in-home possession.

JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh.

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MR. TALIA: But the reason why Hughes does not foreclose our argument here is because that was not an issue in Hughes. The court was kind of observing - - - it read the statutes together. It cited both 265.03 and 265.20(a)(3) for that proposition. So everyone admits that when Hughes made that statement, which was not an issue in the case - - I mean, the case was about whether the - - the sentence can be enhanced by a prior conviction. So the - - - the - - - the plaintiff and - - - or the defendant in Hughes never made the argument that there was an improper burden shift or that there was a due process violation because he was convicted on non-criminal conduct.

He acknowledged - - - he accepted his conviction and - - - and assumed that the State could prosecute him, that - - - that the burden - - - that there was no problem with the burden shift there. So it observed that, but it wasn't - - - it didn't - - - the issue wasn't squarely before the court in Hughes. And so I don't think that you

can consider that a holding in Hughes. And the same issue actually occurred in - - - in Guardado in the Massachusetts court. JUDGE RIVERA: I'm sorry. You're saying that at post-Hughes, it was an open question as to whether or not licensing is an element of the - - - the - - - the crime of carrying - - - possessing unlawfully a gun outside - -- public carry - - - that it was an open question? MR. TALIA: Yes. I mean I - - - I don't think it - - - I don't think it addressed the open carry at all. There was - - - it was - - - it was addressing in-home - -

JUDGE RIVERA: That's what I'm saying. It left that question open - - -

MR. TALIA: Yes.

JUDGE RIVERA: - - - whether or not what the legislature intended to do? What the language of the statute does is criminalize public carry regardless of licensure.

MR. TALIA: I - - - I think it - - - to answer your question - - - the first question, it's an open - - - it was an open question after Hughes. Yes. Absolutely. It was not - - it was not definitively decided by the court in Hughes that - - - Hughes did not make the unlicensed - - - the unlicensed aspect an element of the

crime of two - - - of 265.03(3). It - - - it merely observed that you - - - if you're - - - you know, if you were possessing, you have the opportunity to raise as a defense, licensure, and you can relieve yourself of that liability. But I don't - - - it wasn't saying it - - - the court couldn't read into 265.03 an additional element. And that's why it cited both provisions when it - - - when it did make that observation.

JUDGE HALLIGAN: But could a defendant stipulate to the lack of a license, and therefore, create a situation where the jury would not need to be instructed that it had to find the lack of a license? In the same way you might, for example, stipulate to a prior conviction without having to prove it.

MR. TALIA: Well, I don't think a stipulation would be necessary because the jury is not - - - is not instructed on - - - on licensure at all. The jury - - - our whole argument is the jury - - -

JUDGE HALLIGAN: Well, I mean - - - I mean going forward, could - - - could a defendant stipulate to a lack of a license? Or is it your position that a jury has to make a finding either way?

MR. TALIA: Our position is that - - - that the lack of a license is an element that has to be pleaded and proven by the State. I - - - I don't know why a defendant



would stipulate to the lack of a license and then subject himself to that - - - that crime.

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JUDGE RIVERA: That proof could be circumstantial evidence that need not be, right, an admission? It may not be anything other than what might otherwise be sufficient circumstantial evidence.

MR. TALIA: I'm not sure I'm following your question, Your Honor. But - - - but our position is - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: Well, it was - - - I guess in what way would the government prove, is what I'm talking about. So it strikes me that there's no reason to carve a distinction out here for this particular crime. You can prove it through circumstantial evidence.

MR. TALIA: Well the point is - -
JUDGE RIVERA: You can't envision - - -

MR. TALIA: - - - they don't have to prove it at all.

JUDGE RIVERA: - - - that a defendant would stipulate - - - would concede that there - - - they had no license, let's put it that way. I'm saying you might not necessarily need that from the defendant. You could have some other way of proving, right, circumstantial evidence - - - that could be reasonable inferences - - - that the prosecutor might argue to establish this lack of licensure?



MR. TALIA: Well, there's many ways you could probably establish the lack of licensure. But - - - JUDGE RIVERA: Sure.

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MR. TALIA: - - - but the problem that we're - - that we're - - - are arguing is that there is absolutely
nothing right now - - - no reason for the State to do that
at all. They're - - -

JUDGE SINGAS: Yeah. But shouldn't he have produced the license? The 400 requires a production of a license. So is that burden of production a burden shift and is that what you're arguing?

MR. TALIA: We're making two - - - two arguments, Your Honor, yes. So the first argument is that because the State is substantively prohibited from defining the mere possession of a firearm in public as a crime, and that's all that 265.03(3) requires, that it's a due process violation to basically convict him only on proof of that alone because you've convicted of a conduct that's not criminal. It can't be criminal anymore. Now the - - respect to the burden of production, once - - - you know once a state is substantively prohibited from defining conduct as a crime, it can't shift the burden to the defendant to - - to - - as a defense to say that they're relieved from that liability or they're - - or they're subject to an exception.



CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Well, that's the question, is which burden can't they - - can't they shift? Both burdens, production and proof, or just proof?

MR. TALIA: We're arguing that - - - that it's both burdens. They - - - they cannot shift the burden of persuasion or even production in this - - - in this case.

And - - - and that is because - - - I think the nature of defense is to justify conduct that is otherwise permissibly prohibited. Let's say the State is permissibly permitted to generally prohibit public carrying which, prior to Bruen, it - - - it was and that's what it did. And then the nature of the defense is to say, oh, well I'm justifying conduct that is otherwise - - - the State may otherwise permissively prohibit.

But when the State can no longer permissively prohibit the public carry of a loaded firearm all - - - all burden shifts are off. They - - - they have to - - - they have to plead and prove not only the possession but also the reason making that possession unlawful. And - - and the reason for making that possession unlawful is either you're unlicensed or you're subject to some other disqualifying factor.

So our position is that you cannot shift either - - either the burden of production or persuasion in these circumstances. Now Mullaney is cited by the



Attorney General is arguably the only case where you could say that they allowed a production - - - a burden of production shift on what's - - - what they can - - call an essential element of the crime. But Mullaney, I would note - - - and the distinction there is that - they're - - - the - - - the conduct at issue there was other what the State was well within its right to prohibit the intentional killing of someone. And then they chose to add an additional element in the definition of that crime. And in that situation where the - - - where the State was allowed to permissively prohibit the underlying conduct, it was a little - - - it was a little unclear. But it seems like they did allow them to shift the burden of production to the defendant to say, oh, well I did it under extreme emotional disturbance. And then the State -- - the burden would go back to the State.

But here we have a completely different situation. After Bruen, the State is no - - - can no longer permissively prohibit the mere possession of a weapon outside your home. They have to prove something else, something more making that possession unlawful. And in that situation, I think the case law is clear as Bailey, McFarland, Morrison - - - they're all Supreme Court cases - - - all make that - - make that point quite clearly, I think. When the underlying conduct - - -



the State may not permissively prohibit that conduct - - they can't shift either the burden of production or - - or persuasion. And that - - - that applies even with - - the compared convenience test and with the rational
connection - - - rational connection test.

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So in - - - in light of that, we feel that you know, the - - - the - - - the conviction needs to be reversed and the indictment dismissed.

I can address preservation issues if you --- if I may? I still have a little bit of time, I see.

So the futility item has been discussed extensively today. I mean, we have that as well. But we also - - - this - - - this also has the - - - the mode of proceedings. The fundamental organization of the courts under Martinez, convicting someone on conduct that cannot be defined as criminal. If there's nothing more fundamental to the organization of courts - - - of the courts than doing that. That's the Martinez case. then we also - - - it is also fair squarely - - - falls squarely within the mode of proceedings in Patterson. exact issue in Patterson was did - - - did he get the procedure mandated by law. And that - - - and that was a burden shift. They said, you know, is the State required to prove this as an essential element or can they shift the burden - -



JUDGE HALLIGAN: Wasn't that a shift there in both the burden of production and the burden of proof? MR. TALIA: It was, Your Honor. It was. Patterson involved shift of both the burdens. But - - -but in terms of the mode of proceedings there, that's the distinction without a difference. So it's - - - it's still in the operational - - -JUDGE CANNATARO: Why doesn't it make a difference? JUDGE HALLIGAN: Why - - -JUDGE CANNATARO: I'm sorry. I think it was the same question. MR. TALIA: Well, because we're in terms of the

mode of proceeding, he's entitled to the procedure
mandated by law. In this case, as I just explained, we
don't think they can shift the burden of either production
or persuasion. So the procedure would be that the State - - the State needs to prove all the essential elements of
a crime. That's under Winship. And Patterson involved
persuasion, but in terms of the - - - the procedure, it's
the same. If you can't shift the burden of production or
persuasion, it's - - - it's the same procedural problem.

JUDGE CANNATARO: What's to say that the - - - the - - - the defendant in this scenario can't put into issue the licensure, which is the burden of production, not



really the burden of proof? No one's denying that, you know, if - - - if there's an issue in the case, it's the People's burden to prove it. But why can't we ask the defendant to put the People on notice that they have to do that?

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MR. TALIA: I think that goes to the - - - the things that I - - - the things that I've stated so far.

It's a violation of the wing - - - the principle in

Winship. It says the State must prove all the elements of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. And if you shift the burden of - - - of even production to the defendant to produce a license, the State is relieved of - - - of that - - - of that burden to prove all the elements because if - - - if we all agree that only unlicensed possession is unlawful, then the State - - - we're saying the State has to prove possession, and that it was unlicensed, or similar disqualifying factors.

it's obvious, but isn't - - - do we have to actually get to that question? Because if there's no instruction - - - no instruction at all about license or forget about who's carrying the burden - - - just no instruction at all to the jury that you've got to find that the defendant did not have a license, isn't - - - doesn't that end the issue?

Isn't that enough for you to prevail on this question? Do

1	we have to get to this question of the burden shifting?			
2	MR. TALIA: No. You don't.			
3	JUDGE RIVERA: If it's if we agree it's an			
4	element.			
5	MR. TALIA: Right. Your Honor, they're exactly			
6	correct. I mean that's that's that's the			
7	first core part of our argument. There the inquiry			
8	can arguably end there.			
9	JUDGE GARCIA: But did you have to object to the			
10	jury instruction? Especially if it was unclear whether			
11	this was an element or not.			
12	MR. TALIA: Well, I have to			
13	JUDGE GARCIA: Do you have an obligation to			
14	preserve? Because we said you have an obligation to			
15	preserve objections to jury instructions, right?			
16	MR. TALIA: Yeah. I believe that is correct,			
17	Your Honor. But here it's it's there would be			
18	no grounds to object to the jury instructions because			
19	there was it was clearly the procedure in the State			
20	as as			
21	JUDGE GARCIA: We never made clear that that was			
22	sufficient that you could prove without proving a license,			
23	given Hughes? Have we said that had we ever said			
24	that, that you could do what they did here?			



MR. TALIA: That - - - to convict without - - -

1	without proving element? No, I don't I don't
2	believe this Court has ever said that that that can
3	that could be done.
4	JUDGE RIVERA: I don't have we ever said
5	you have to
6	MR. TALIA: No. I don't think this issue
7	JUDGE RIVERA: that that
8	conviction can stand if an element wasn't charged to the
9	jury, regardless of whether or not you preserve an
LO	objection to the lack of an instruction?
L1	MR. TALIA: Exactly correct. Yeah. It cannot
L2	stand if the if the someone cannot be
L3	convicted on proof of conduct that cannot be defined as
L4	criminal, which is what which is
L5	JUDGE GARCIA: Do we have a case where we've sai
L6	we you don't have to preserve an objection to that
L7	type of jury instruction? I mean
L8	MR. TALIA: Well, I'm not sure
L9	JUDGE GARCIA: I know there's a federal case tha
20	says exactly the opposite in terms of a very similar issue
21	that if you want to insulate your convictions, then enforc
22	the rule about objecting to the jury instruction.
23	MR. TALIA: Well, I'm not I'm not sure what
24	exactly the objection to the jury instruction would



would be here. I mean, it would be I guess - - -

JUDGE GARCIA: I'm not charging a crime.

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MR. TALIA: Well, like I said, this goes back to the - - - there were no grounds to make that objection prior to Bruen. Prior to Bruen, I think it was widely accepted that the process that we're complaining about now was okay, because prior to Bruen there - - - there was no constitutional, fundamental core right to carry a handgun outside your home. It was freely regulated by the State. So the State - - - if - - - prior to Bruen, it fell in the category of the State's ability to define how they want to prosecute their crimes and - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: If - - - if we disagree - - - if we disagreed in your interpretation of Hughes and thought that Hughes made it clear that this is an element, would you then have had to preserve?

MR. TALIA: Well, I'm - - - I can't - - - I find it hard to answer that question because I - - - I don't see Hughes as - - - as saying that there - - - that this was an element - - - an element. If Hughes said that this was an element, I don't think it could've allowed the - - - the burden shift or the conv - - - it would be a different problem with that conviction if - - - if - - - if Hughes said it was an element. And I don't think Hughes - - - like I said, can't rewrite the statute to include an additional element. It was reading two



statutes together. And the - - - the - - - the consequence of it being in two separate statutes is the burden - - is the burden shift. So I'm not sure if that answers your question or not, Your Honor, but - - -

JUDGE RIVERA: Thank you.

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CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you, Counsel.

MR. TALIA: Thank you, Your Honors.

MS. GRAY: May it please the court. Good evening, Your Honors. I'm Lisa Gray for the People. Just with respect to the Hughes matter, you know - - - and Hughes was pretty clear that, you know, a person who possesses - - - you know, a person who has a valid license commits no crime. And it's our position that 265.03(3), read together with 265.20, which is a proviso, the People don't have to plead in the first instance lack of licensure in order to establish all the elements of 265.03(3).

JUDGE CANNATARO: Even post-Bruen?

MS. GRAY: Even post-Bruen, because unlicensed possession of a firearm is not cause - - - in - - - in public - - - unlicensed possession of a firearm, in public, is not constitute - - - constitutionally protected conduct under Bruen. Bruen said law abiding - - - ordinary, law-abiding citizens have a right to publicly carry firearms. In this case, Mr. David did not have a



license. And he carried his - - - he carried his unlicensed weapon in public. And he actually had two in his motor vehicle. He was engaged in conduct that was not constitute - - - constitutionally protected, even after Bruen. JUDGE CANNATARO: So it's the intention of your office to continue to charge CPW and go to trial in these cases without proving as an element of your prima facie case that the defendant lacked a license? MS. GRAY: We don't have to prove lack of

MS. GRAY: We don't have to prove lack of licensure because 265 - - - 265.20 exists. Because if the - - if the person who is suspected of possessing an unlicensed firearm has a license, present that license. It's a bar to prosecution.

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JUDGE CANNATARO: Otherwise - - - and if not, we get to assume that you didn't have one?

MS. GRAY: Correct, which I think kind of goes to your point a little bit, Justice Hall - - - just - - - Judge Halligan, when talking about a stipulation. We don't necessarily need a stipulation because 265.20 exists.

JUDGE HALLIGAN: If - - - but doesn't that - - - doesn't that really sidestep the question of whether or not the lack of a license is an essential element because otherwise I - - - I think one could read Bruen as saying



2 MS. GRAY: Of an ordinary, law-abiding citizen. 3 And I think - - -4 JUDGE HALLIGAN: But what makes - - - it seems 5 to me, if I'm understanding your argument, that what makes 6 the citizen in your example not law abiding is the lack of 7 a license? 8 MS. GRAY: Because they - - - yes, because they 9 did not submit themselves to the - - - to the licensing 10 scheme. 11 JUDGE HALLIGAN: And - - - and so I'm not sure I 12 see, if you can help me, how the fact that the - - - the 13 person is therefore not law abiding, advances the ball in terms of whether the lack of a license is an essential 14 15 element or not. 16 JUDGE CANNATARO: There is this circularity to 17 the reasoning, isn't there? 18 MS. GRAY: I mean, I - - - I think when we're 19 prosecuting CPW statutes, 265.03(3) and 265.20 go hand in 20 hand. I've never come across a case where somebody has 21 been prosecuted under 265.03 and they've had a valid 22 They've carried that - - - they - - - they've 23 carried a - - - a lawfully licensed, loaded handgun in 24 public and was still prosecuted under 265.03. 25 JUDGE HALLIGAN: But he - - - but I'm not sure

that public carry is presumptively protected.



1 that that answers the question or maybe I'm missing it. 2 And I realize it is also late in the day. I'm not sure 3 that that answers the question of whether or not the lack 4 of a license is an essential element. I understand your 5 point, I think, about how the ordinary defense works in 6 operation of 265.03. But what about whether it's an 7 essential element? 8 MS. GRAY: It - - - I'm trying to - - - I'm 9 trying to choose my words carefully. Lack - - - the lack 10 of licensure is not an element in our statute. It's not -11 - - it's criminal possession of a weapon. Unlike some of 12 the other states, there was a reference to the 13 Massachusetts case. That is unlicensed possession of a -14 - - of - - - of a weapon. I might be paraphrasing a 15 little bit. But the word unlicensed appears in that 16 In New York, it's criminal possession of a 17 weapon. 18 JUDGE GARCIA: But isn't the point it can't be 19 criminal if you don't show you don't have a license? 20 JUDGE HALLIGAN: License - - -2.1 JUDGE GARCIA: I mean, I think there are - - -2.2 MS. GRAY: It's so - - - it's so -23 JUDGE GARCIA: I think if I - - -24 MS. GRAY: - - - minimal - -



JUDGE GARCIA: - - - boil it down a little is

what we used to criminalize in New York before is now not only not criminal, it's constitutionally-protected conduct. So in order for you to prove a crime, you need to prove the unlicensed element. Otherwise, all you're proving is someone exercised their Second Amendment right.

MS. GRAY: But when the - - - when the person

simple -

MS. GRAY: But when the - - - when the person who's accused of criminally possessing a weapon in public, they can present their pistol permit easily. They can - - - that burden of production that - - - that - - - that - - - that - - that - - and it serves to then, you know, ultimately, you know - - again, ultimately would - - - would - - would bar any then further intrusion or - - - JUDGE RIVERA: It's - - it's - - it's just as

 $\mbox{MS. GRAY: } \mbox{ --- or arrests or subsequent} \\ \mbox{litigation.}$

JUDGE RIVERA: - - - it's just - - - it's just even if that was the way to approach the question, it's - - it's just as simple for the People to make the argument you're making now, it's - - - that's circumstantial evidence. He never produced a license. You didn't find it on the wallet. You didn't find it anywhere in their vehicle. You didn't find it on their person, correct? Okay.



1	MS. GRAY: And and but it's just as		
2	simple for for for investigative		
3	purposes, for the person who has that look who has		
4	that gun in public to produce that license. When it's		
5	found in the		
6	JUDGE RIVERA: Oh. I understand.		
7	MS. GRAY: when it's found in the glove		
8	box.		
9	JUDGE RIVERA: I understand that. Okay. So jus		
10	to be clear, your position is that post-Hughes, it was		
11	either absolutely clear that this was not an element, or		
12	was not certain it was an element?		
13	MS. GRAY: It's my position that it		
14	JUDGE RIVERA: You'll agree with		
15	MS. GRAY: it was clear it wasn't an		
16	element.		
17	JUDGE RIVERA: him that Hughes did not		
18	decide that licensing is an element.		
19	MS. GRAY: Hughes did not decide that licensing		
20	is an element. That's my position. That		
21	JUDGE RIVERA: You agree with him.		
22	MS. GRAY: lack lack of licensing is		
23	not an element for criminal possession of a weapon		
24	JUDGE RIVERA: Okay.		
25	MS. GRAY: in New York.		



1 JUDGE RIVERA: Okay. 2 JUDGE GARCIA: Even now? 3 MS. GRAY: Even now because you - - - because 4 it's still - - - I guess I've said it now three times. 5 But it's still unprotected conduct because Bruen spoke 6 only to ordinary, law-abiding citizens who, you know, when 7 they went to go apply for their public carry permit had to 8 then go, sort of, jump through the extra hoop of - - -9 of - - - of proper cause to, you know, obviously establish 10 an elevated need for public carry. 11 But again, it didn't speak to the criminal 12 statutes. And Bruen didn't - - - and sort of - - - it 13 didn't magically decriminalize criminal possession of a 14 weapon in the second degree here in New York State. 15 People still have to submit themselves to licensing 16 schemes. Now they have to be constitutional. And - - -17 and Mr. - - - Mr. David, he - - - he didn't do that. He, 18 you know - - -19 JUDGE RIVERA: So you say then it's a defense? 20 Your point, that it's a defense? 2.1 MS. GRAY: I don't - - - I - - - I mean, 2.2 I - - - it's a bar - - - it's a bar to prosecution. 23 don't know that it's necessary. It's an ordinary defense. 24 It's a - - - it's a bar to prosecute - - - it's a proviso



that exists outside the statute. It isn't - - - lack of

licensure is not an element for criminal possession of a 1 2 weapon in the second degree. And even post-Bruen, it 3 still exists that way. Bruen did not affect - - -4 JUDGE RIVERA: I am having difficulty 5 understanding this distinction that you're making, that 6 it's not an element but you can't prosecute it unless 7 they're unlicensed? MS. GRAY: Because it's such a - - - it's such a 8 9 minimal thing for the accused to do. Show us your license 10 and we can all go on our way. And we won't get - - - you won't be criminally prosecuted. 11 12 JUDGE RIVERA: Sounds to me like that - - - like 13 that means the nature of the crime is if you're unlicensed, 14 you've - - - you're in criminal possession of a weapon. 15 MS. GRAY: Well again, you know, it has to be read in conjunction with 265.20. It's - - -16 17 JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh.

MS. GRAY: --- it's --- it is possession of a weapon not outside your home or place of business. But it's a bar of prosecution if you've produced your pistol permit for that particular firearm that you're possessing in public. And you know Mr. --- Mr. David didn't have a pistol permit for either one of these firearms. He certainly didn't produce anything to indicate that he had them. He didn't submit himself to any licensing scheme,

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1	which so so you know, the People's position is			
2	that, you know, none none of these I don't			
3	want to go I certainly don't want to go back to			
4	preservation and standing. The court has heard, I think,			
5	almost every single argument to be made.			
6	JUDGE HALLIGAN: Can I ask you one specific			
7	question			
8	MS. GRAY: Sure.			
9	JUDGE HALLIGAN: on preservation. If I			
10	am am understanding correctly tell me if I'm			
11	not I believe that the defendant looked to file a			
12	supplemental brief in the Appellate Division; is that			
13	right?			
14	MS. GRAY: Oh. Judge Halligan, I think you got			
15	me on that one. I			
16	JUDGE HALLIGAN: I was trying to understand if			
17	that if that was correct, how that might affect			
18	our			
19	MS. GRAY: I			
20	JUDGE HALLIGAN: understanding of of			
21	preservation.			
22	MS. GRAY: Okay. I'm I'm unaware of his -			
23	of his attempts to file any supplemental brief at the			
24	Appellate Division. I am unaware of that. Going briefly			



with respect to preservation and whether or not lack of

licensure is an element of the crime, you know, to your - to your point, Judge Garcia, there was no objection to
the jury instruction. There was no trial order of
dismissal that perhaps defense - - - defense attorney
could have raised to say the People input forth prima
facie evidence of a crime; they didn't put in sort of any
evidence with respect to lack of licensure. Defense
counsel never did any of that. So to a certain - - - to - so it is unpreserved. These claims are all
unpreserved on - - - on many levels. And unless there are
any other questions, I think that's it. Thank you.

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CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you.

MR. AMEND: May it please the court. Andrew

Amend again for the Attorney General. Defendant Carlos

David's statements that were part of the People's case-in
chief in this prosecution were flatly inconsistent with

his - - flatly inconsistent with his having a license

for those guns. In New York, handgun licenses are

particular to the weapon. They have to specify, among

other things, the caliber, make, model, and serial number

for the weapons.

JUDGE TROUTMAN: And what do you say about it being - - - whose burden is it after Bruen?

MR. AMEND: Our - - our position is - - and I'll explain this - - it is the defense's burden to put

licensure in issue. Bruen did not - - -2 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Well, if having a license is a 3 bar, why don't the People have to establish that he doesn't 4 have one? 5 MR. AMEND: The way that New York has long - - -6 this court has long interpreted its statutes, including 7 for criminal possession of a weapon, is that if the 8 defense is - - - or if the offense and provisos that 9 provide an exemption from prosecution for that offense are 10 located in different statutes, that is what it - - - that 11 puts on the defendant what is called an ordinary defense. 12 JUDGE HALLIGAN: But isn't the question whether 13 they - -14 They have to put in an issue. MR. AMEND: 15 JUDGE HALLIGAN: - - - that's permissible in - -16 - in light of Bruen if - - - if we conclude in light of 17 Bruen that the lack of a license is an essential element? 18 MR. AMEND: It would be - - - no, it - - - it 19 I would also say that - - - that what - - -20 what my client or what my adversary is assuming are a 2.1 couple of things. One, that New York is, through this 2.2 mechanism, actually punishing lawful, licensed, or 23 otherwise authorized conduct. It is not. When police arrested the defendant here - - -24

1

25



Okay.

But - -

JUDGE TROUTMAN:

2 JUDGE TROUTMAN: - - - accepting that - - -3 MR. AMEND: Yes. 4 JUDGE TROUTMAN: - - - that that's certainly not 5 their intent, to punish otherwise lawful possession, why 6 isn't it the People's burden to prove that I'm not lawfully 7 carrying it because I don't have a license? Bruen did not establish - - - and 8 MR. AMEND: 9 Bruen itself was clear about this - - - the right to have 10 any weapon at any place in any manner. It is subject to 11 restrictions by the State - - -12 JUDGE TROUTMAN: No, no. That - - -13 MR. AMEND: - - - and - - -14 JUDGE TROUTMAN: I agree with you there. But I'm 15 asking you about the - - - you - - - you did say or -16 or are you disagreeing that absence of the license is what 17 makes it a crime? 18 MR. AMEND: Absence of authorization of which 19 licensure is one type, but of which there are many 20 different categories, all of which, you know, the People 2.1 would, I think, under defendant's reasoning have to 2.2 disprove. And there's nothing in Bruen that says that a 23 State which can impose all of these lawful restrictions 24 cannot enforce those restrictions by saying carrying a 25 weapon is a crime unless you have an exception. And then

MR. AMEND: - - - it was clear that that - - -



placing a minimal burden of - - - of proof. 1 2 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Why is it a minimal burden - -3 MR. AMEND: Pardon me. Not burden of proof - -4 - a minimal burden of proof - - -5 JUDGE TROUTMAN: Why is it a minimal burden on 6 the defendant and not the People? That - - - they have 7 licensing apparatuses all over the State. I'll admit that 8 they're different upstate versus downstate, having 9 participated in that process. But why - - - why can't - -10 - why isn't it the People's burden to prove that - - -MR. AMEND: If --- if ---11 12 JUDGE TROUTMAN: - - - you don't have a license? 13 MR. AMEND: If we're talking about the - - - the 14 comparative convenience test, it is what I think is 15 indisputable is that someone knows right away whether they 16 have a gun license. It's not the type of thing that you 17 forget. 18 JUDGE HALLIGAN: But can you get to that test if 19 it's an essential element? 20 MR. AMEND: Yes. 2.1 Okay. So what's - - - tell us, JUDGE HALLIGAN: 2.2 if you would, what's the best case that supports that 23 proposition that - - - that comparative convenience 24 could - - - could allow for the out - - - for - - - for



that specific element not to be charged?

MR. AMEND: Morrison v. California itself. What that case said, it actually it - - - it took out of the statute, unless the defendant raised the issue, occupational ownership of farmland by someone who was of a race that was ineligible for naturalization. And what the - - - that was not a crime if the person was a natural born citizen. And what the U.S. Supreme Court said was permissible was that if those other factors were proved, then the element of not being a citizen could be - - - that burden could be shifted to the defendant. And the test it articulated was the State shall have proved enough to make it just for the defendant to be required to repel what has been proved with excuse or explanation.

CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: So you did - - -

MR. AMEND: And that - - -

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CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: You did quickly pass through something that I found a little helpful, which is that in just the licensure, there are other ways that somebody is entitled to possess a firearm publicly. For example, if you're a police officer, that's a statutory exemption, right?

MR. AMEND: Yes.

CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: So I mean, taking the defendant's argument here on this point to its logical conclusion, you might also then have to prove that the



1 defendant was not a police officer, was not a federal 2 agent, was not all the other things that are exclusions? 3 MR. AMEND: That is correct. 4 CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: And that seems a little 5 unreasonable. It - - - I couldn't say it better 6 7 myself. What I would also say is that in any given case 8 the circumstances - - - no one comes to court charged with 9 CPW, you know, just having walked off the moon. circumstances that are going to be presented as were 10 11 presented here. And if those circumstances on the - - -12 on their face suggests authorization, then it is a very 13 easy thing indeed for a defendant to do - - - to say the 14 People's case proves that - - - that I am authorized to do 15 this. And People then have the burden of disproving that 16 beyond a reasonable doubt. 17 JUDGE RIVERA: But I - - - I- - -18 MR. AMEND: Under the circumstances -

JUDGE RIVERA: - - - I - - - I can't see even - - even with this question about then you'd have to disprove all those other bases for authorization, why that doesn't go just to circumstantial evidence. One would think that an individual who's an officer would say so.

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MR. AMEND: Yeah. Indeed. One would think so.

But this is - - - this gets back to the Morrison test. If



2	conduct	
3	JUDGE RIVERA: Okay.	
4	MR. AMEND: which is criminally	
5	prescribable without authorization	
6	JUDGE RIVERA: Yes.	
7	MR. AMEND: and the individual, then the	
8	State has proved enough to make it just for the defendant	
9	to be required to repel what has been proved with excuse	
10	or explanation. The defendant then says I am a police	
11	officer. We naturally expect that. And then the People	
12	have to disprove that beyond a reasonable doubt. That is	
13	an orderly	
14	JUDGE RIVERA: It just strikes me as you have	
15	your circumstantial evidence. The defendant can choose to	
16	put up a defense or not. The jury can draw whatever	
17	inferences appear reasonable given the evidence presented.	
18	MR. AMEND: Yes. And I'm saying that that is -	
19		
20	JUDGE RIVERA: That's different from saying that	
21	they have they have to shoulder a particular burden.	
22	MR. AMEND: What you're talking about what	
23	we're talking about, Your Honor, is is a burden of	
24	coming forward. It is a minimal burden. I would point	
25	out that in People v. Anonymous, that's a 2020 case cited	

the circumstances do not suggest authorization for the



on page 22 of the District Attorney's brief, the defendant made essentially the same arguments here about proof of licensure on appeal from a conviction for possessing a gun in a residence.

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The First Department observed, first of all, that the defendant is essentially raising unpreserved issues of legal sufficiency, statutory interpretation, and constitutional law. This court denied leave. The First Department also rejected the claim on the merits, remarking that the statutory scheme placed only a minimal burden on defendants to raise exemptions from prosecution in the first instance. This is like giving notice of an alibi defense, it - - it lets the People know what's in the case and - - and what is not. It operates, as Judge Halligan suggested, as a stipulation that the possession was in fact unlawful, and the People need not be put to the proof of disproving all of these types of authorization unless one is - -

JUDGE RIVERA: What about the jury instruction issue?

MR. AMEND: The defendant, by his own conduct, has chosen to remove that issue from the jury's consideration. And there is - - - that is what a burden of coming - - - how the burden of coming forward works here. And there's nothing unfair about that. If the

defendant is on notice of the need to do so, and the means to do so are - - are easy.

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JUDGE RIVERA: Well, then you would have a conviction without a jury finding that the individual is unauthorized or has a license; is that - - -

MR. AMEND: That is correct. But that is a result of the defendant's own conduct and the - - - the circumstances, you know, under which he has chosen to let that case go to the jury. In this case it - - - just as in People v. Anonymous, the defendant could have said, wait, you haven't charged the jury on my lack of licensure. His defense was, I didn't possess the guns. He's now saying - - but in the alternative, if I did, they were licensed. They - - - the - - -

JUDGE TROUTMAN: So you're saying it's - - - it was a strategic decision not to request it?

MR. AMEND: And not - - - not to raise the argument not to pursue the defense, this again - - - the case parallels in this regard, People v. Easley where the defendant argued in the trial court that the victim of his sex offense was not incapacitated and then argued that it was improper to - - - because the - - - the statutory scheme put the burden on him of establishing that he didn't know that the victim was incapacitated. His defense took that issue out of the case.



JUDGE GARCIA: Just - - just to go briefly to
the - - the burden of disproving each of these various - you know, any law enforcement officer. Let's say the
People come in and they prove as an element unlicensed.
You didn't have a license. At least in that situation
you've proved on its face what's a crime, what's not
authorized, right? What's not protected conduct. Then I
think you can say okay if you're going to come in and show
an exception to the licensing requirement, that's more on
the line of the defense. At least you have to raise it.
But once you've proved unlicensed conduct, I don't see the
need arguably to disprove every other exception to having a
license.

JUDGE RIVERA: Uh-huh.

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MR. AMEND: I think the question is at what point have the People proved enough to require the defendant to repel what has been - - - what has been proved. In this instance, first of all, the - - - the People's proof in fact established a lack of licensure. There is no way you can read this record in which, if he had a license, he would have been required to carry it with him. There's no dispute he didn't have one. And then he was - - - and the license - - -

JUDGE HALLIGAN: Where in the record specifically, is the proof that you're referring to, if



1	you would?		
2	MR. AMEND: I I		
3	JUDGE HALLIGAN: Briefly elaborate.		
4	MR. AMEND: Sure. I I cited it's		
5	it's cited in our brief. And I		
6	JUDGE HALLIGAN: Okay.		
7	MR. AMEND: I regret not having the tech		
8	JUDGE HALLIGAN: If it's in the brief, that		
9	- that's fine.		
10	MR. AMEND: But his police interview was played		
11	JUDGE HALLIGAN: Okay.		
12	MR. AMEND: And he said about the guns, I didn't		
13	know they were there, I don't know anything about them,		
14	they're not mine. If he had had a license for those guns,		
15	it would have been specific to those guns.		
16	JUDGE HALLIGAN: So you're referencing the		
17	police interview which was played at the trial; is that		
18	right?		
19	MR. AMEND: Correct.		
20	JUDGE HALLIGAN: Okay.		
21	MR. AMEND: As part of the People's case-in-		
22	chief.		
23	JUDGE RIVERA: If they're not yours, you're not		
24	going to have a license for them, right?		
25	MR. AMEND: Correct. You		



1 JUDGE RIVERA: Yeah. I can't get a license for 2 something that is not my property. 3 MR. AMEND: I can't get a license for something that's not my property. And if I had a license, it would 4 5 be specific to that property. So if I have no knowledge 6 or ownership of those guns, I can't have gotten a license 7 for them. It doesn't make sense. 8 JUDGE RIVERA: Understood. 9 MR. AMEND: And for that reason we would ask 10 that the court, if it were to find any error, would at most find that the error is harmless and that it's not an 11 12 ideal case for this court to pronounce a broad new rule of 13 constitutional law. 14 CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you, Counselor. 15 MR. TALIA: Thank you, Your Honors. Just briefly - - -16 17 JUDGE RIVERA: The last word on a long day. 18 MR. TALIA: Yes. Yes. 19 JUDGE RIVERA: Last word. Relish it. 20 MR. TALIA: Thank you, Your Honor. I don't want 2.1 to talk too much about our argument. I think the court has articulated it and understands it. I would just point 2.2 23 out that the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts



invalidated a similar scheme on almost identical

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reasoning.

1 JUDGE GARCIA: It was a trial also, right, in 2 Massachusetts? 3 MR. TALIA: Yes. I believe - - - I believe that 4 was after a trial. 5 JUDGE GARCIA: Does this analysis apply to pleas? 6 MR. TALIA: I'm sorry? 7 JUDGE GARCIA: Would it apply to a plea? 8 MR. TALIA: I think it would apply to a plea, 9 Your Honor, because the plea would be to the same - - -10 the same elements. The plea would - - - in order to be 11 convicted, the plea would just be to possess the - - -12 possess the weapon outside the home and that's it. 13 don't - - - I've - - - I've done pleas. And they don't 14 ask about - - -15 In that though - - - in this case JUDGE GARCIA: 16 you've had a trial. And the argument would be the 17 government hasn't met its burden of proof. And you got a 18 verdict and I think you're done, right; if you win, you're 19 done. In a case with the plea, you just get your plea 20 back? 21 MR. TALIA: Your Honor, I - - - I believe there 22 is a case on this and it's not coming to me at - - - at 23 the moment. And that talks about the - - - the 24 applicability of this to a - - - a plea as well. And I -



- - I - - - I'm sorry, I don't have it.

JUDGE GARCIA: But would the remedy for plea be 1 2 that you get your plea back or would it be it's over? 3 MR. TALIA: Well actually, you're - - - you're 4 talking about obviously convictions that are either on 5 direct appeal or if there's - - - if it supports a 6 collateral tax. So we're not talking about going forward, 7 just going forward if there's an - - - if it's an element, 8 it wouldn't be an issue. So if the plea is vacated on - -9 - on these - - - on the grounds that they - - - that the -10 - - that the defendant did not plea to an essential element of the crime - - -11 12 JUDGE GARCIA: You get your plea back, right? 13 MR. TALIA: I'm not sure. The People may be 14 able to - - - to retry them again or go back to the 15 original indictment. But if they're going back to the 16 original indictment, it wouldn't help them. They would 17 have to retry him under a reformer - - - reformulated 18 statute that the legislature would have to - - -JUDGE GARCIA: Why can't they retry him and prove 19 20 that he's unlicensed? 2.1 MR. TALIA: Well I think that a retrial, that 22 under a new - - - a reformulated statute, I think there 23 might be ex post facto issues that the old statute - - -24 JUDGE GARCIA: Let's say there was a case where 25 even under the old statute they made - - - the People were



put to the burden of proving this element and the jury was charged that it was an element. But we're operating five years ago. Is that conviction okay, or no?

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MR. TALIA: So you're saying where they voluntarily decided to prove the element that they weren't required to prove? That - - - that raises - - - that raises a different set of issues. I think you're correct in that. If - - - if they did gratuitously go ahead and say, well we're going to voluntarily ask him to either plea to that element but - - - it doesn't - - - it doesn't solve the problem because it's a facial - - - it's a facial - - - the statute is facially invalid. So I don't think it completely solves the problem. And - - - and the fact that they voluntarily decided to do it in a particular case doesn't prevent them from not doing it in the next case. So if the statute is bad, then the statute has to go. So I think - - - I don't think that would - -

JUDGE SINGAS: Could we read Bruen to say that in order for you to be law abiding you have to be subject to a licensing scheme?

MR. TALIA: No. I don't think we can, Your

Honor. I think - - - I mean Bruen in itself - - - and

Justice Alito's concurrence even says law-abiding people

were forced to violate the licensing scheme because of the



proper - - - when he was referring to the proper cause requirement. And so I don't think that they view your non-compliance with the licensing statute to be making somehow law - - - non-law-abiding person.

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You know, whether you're - - - whether you're ineligible or disqualified, that might be a different - - - a different situation. But the - - - the mere fact of - - on licensure doesn't make you a non-law-abiding person. I don't believe Bruen - - Bruen would - - - would find that as well.

One final point with respect to the disproving exemptions. The - - - the authority to carry a loaded handgun in public is - - - does not derive from an exemption to a general prohibition. And that's how New York currently is. But after Bruen, that's not where it comes from. The authority to carry a loaded handgun in public comes from the Second Amendment. So a state doesn't - - - the State doesn't have to disprove all these exemptions. It has to prove that you're disqualified. So I don't think that that's - - - that's - - - I don't think that - - - that we would have that situation here where we have to disprove all these exemptions. They would - - - the authority derives from the Second Amendment. And the State has to show why you're disqualified.

JUDGE GARCIA: So would you agree then if they



proved that you didn't have a license, they wouldn't have to disprove all the others? There could be a burden at least of production to come forward with evidence that I'm a law enforcement officer, for example.

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MR. TALIA: Yes. I think I would agree with that, Your Honor. I hope the - - - but I think that the - - a properly-drafted statute could - - - could have, in the first instance, that the State has to prove possession plus unlicensure. And then I think that - - - that Bruen would allow for the burden to go back to the defendant at that point to rebut that. But about that presumption, that they're - - - that - - - that they are not disqualified even though they didn't have a license, yes. I don't know if - - - I know it's late.

I - - I did want to discuss the suppression issue. There's another ground for, you know, dismissing this indictment as well because my client was subject to an invalid search. It's because the police did not follow their own procedures in conducting the inventory search. I don't think the People even dispute that he didn't follow the procedures to the extent - - and we think that that could be a, per se, unreasonable violation of the inventory search.

Even if they're arguing that the failure to follow their own procedures wasn't necessary because the



1	Constitution doesn't require them to seek alternatives, we			
2	still think the the search was unreasonable. My			
3	client hadn't even committed a crime. So the the			
4	expectation of his privacy was not significantly lowered.			
5	And the justification for towing the car was, you know -			
6	- it did not did not warrant, you know, not			
7	not least asking him, where is the owner and/or is there			
8	someone else that can drive the car.			
9	So I'd just like to make sure I mention that			
10	- that suppression issue, as well.			
11	CHIEF JUDGE WILSON: Thank you. No further			
12	questions.			
13	MR. TALIA: Thank you, Your Honors.			
14	(Court is adjourned)			
15				
16				
17				
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23				
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1		CERTIFICATION	
2			
3	I, Anne Manscill, certify that the foregoing		
4	transcript of proceedings in the Court of Appeals of Carlos		
5	David v. Monroe County, No. 67, was prepared using the		
6	required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate		
7	record of the proceedings.		
8	Λ_{r} , α_{r}		
9	Anne Mansciel		
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