WHAT IS COURT CASE

JOHNSON V. GRANTS PASS

The most significant Supreme Court case regarding the criminalization of homelessness in the U.S. in decades

GRANTS PASS LEVIES TICKETS FOR "CAMPING"

38k

The city of Grants Pass, Oregon has a population of around 38,000

50%

Like most cities in America, about half of Grants Pass residents struggle to afford monthly rent

1

Only one program houses people who experience homelessness, which requires tenants to work 36 hours per week

$350

The City of Grants Pass can ticket individuals $350 for sleeping outside with a blanket, pillow, or cardboard box, **even when there are no safe, accessible beds**

CITY OF GRANTS PASS IS SUED

On behalf of themselves and other people with lived experience of homelessness (PWLEH) in Grants Pass, Debra Blake, Gloria Johnson, and John Logan sued the City of Grants Pass for punishing people based on their status of being involuntarily homeless.

9TH CIRCUIT COURT SIDES WITH PWLEH

On July 22, 2020, the 9th Circuit sided with the plaintiffs and ruled that it is cruel and unusual punishment to arrest or ticket people for sleeping outside when they have no other place to go.



APPEAL IS SUBMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT

On December 6, 2021, the City of Grants Pass argued and submitted an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. City officials say that the ruling has paralyzed their efforts to manage a public safety crisis (homelessness).

THE SUPREME COURT WILL HEAR THE CASE ON APRIL 22, 2024

CENTRAL QUESTION

Does a city's enforcement of public camping against involuntarily homeless people violate the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment?

IF IN FAVOR OF JOHNSON

Jurisdictions across the country will no longer be able to criminalize people for existing when they have nowhere else to go.

IF IN FAVOR OF GRANTS PASS

Cities and states will be able to punish people who are forced to sleep outside, even when they have no other safe option.

> **A RULING LIKE THIS WOULD NOT ONLY DO NOTHING TO END HOMELESSNESS, IT WOULD PUNISH PEOPLE FOR EXISTING IN PUBLIC SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.**
>
> National Homeless Law Center

hand