1	COURT OF APPEALS
2	STATE OF NEW YORK
3	
4	PEOPLE ex rel. RYAN, o/b/o SHAVER,
5	Respondent,
6	-against-
7	No. 183 CHEVERKO,
8	Appellant.
9	
10	20 Eagle Street Albany, New York 12207 October 9, 2013
11	OCCODET 9, 2013
12	Before:
13	CHIEF JUDGE JONATHAN LIPPMAN ASSOCIATE JUDGE VICTORIA A. GRAFFEO
14	ASSOCIATE JUDGE SUSAN PHILLIPS READ ASSOCIATE JUDGE ROBERT S. SMITH
15	ASSOCIATE JUDGE EUGENE F. PIGOTT, JR. ASSOCIATE JUDGE JENNY RIVERA
16	ASSOCIATE JUDGE SHEILA ABDUS-SALAAM
17	Appearances:
18	LINDA M. TRENTACOSTE, ESQ. WESTCHESTER COUNTY ATTORNEY
19	Attorneys for Appellant 148 Martine Avenue
20	6th Floor White Plains, NY 10601
21	ANNE BIANCHI, ESQ.
22	LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY Attorneys for Respondent
	One North Broadway
23	9th Floor White Plains, NY 10601
24	Penina Wolicki
25	Official Court Transcriber

1	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: 183, People, Ryan
2	Shaver v. Cheverko?
3	Counselor, would you like any rebuttal
4	time?
5	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes, Your Honor. One
6	minute, please.
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: One minute, sure.
8	Counsel, explain to us in layman's terms
9	what the statute means.
10	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Just for the court, my
11	name is Linda Trentacoste.
12	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Go ahead.
13	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes, Your Honor. The
14	County believes that the statute's actually quite
15	clear, quite easy to apply.
16	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: What is tell us
17	exactly what it means, if it's quite clear?
18	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well well,
19	apparently it's not quite clear, since we're here
20	before the court.
21	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay.
22	MS. TRENTACOSTE: But when when the
23	County was reviewing this section, we were seeing
24	that there were two alternatives that needed to be
25	applied, Your Honors. The first was that the terms

were to be added to arrive at the aggregate term and satisfied by a discharge of the aggregate term, and the second was two years of imprisonment. In fact, in the calculation sheets, I believe we have in A-70 of our appendix, it actually shows how the correction officers calculate this term.

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This particular individual, as you all know, was sentenced to four years - - - consecutive years - - - five years actually, four of which were to be served consecutively, and had a considerable amount of good-time credits and time served. That took - - when the correction officers actually calculated the four years, subtracting the good - - - time served and subtracting the good-time credits, that arrived them to a date of March 2014.

Then on that same form, there's another sec - - - little line that just says "intervening statutory provision". So the officers looked at the intervening statutory provision and saw two years.

Two years from the date of sentencing was October 13th, 2013. So - - - or October 27th, I'm sorry.

JUDGE SMITH: 24th.

MS. TRENTACOSTE: Thank you. So when the officers see that, that - - - that's how they calculate it. It's, you know, not rocket science for

the off - - - for the officers - - -1 JUDGE SMITH: Isn't it unfair not to give 2 3 him credit for time served? MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, Your Honors, in a 4 5 way they did give him credit for the time served. When they did the calculations, what they saw they -6 7 8 JUDGE SMITH: But you didn't give him 9 credit against the cap. You gave him credit off the 10 top but not off the bottom. 11 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, they - - - well, 12 they were looking - - - since the statute, as it 13 reads, talks about the lesser of the two, that's how 14 they calculated. The second provision doesn't talk 15 about an aggregate term. It doesn't clar - - -16 classify it - - -17 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: But the defendant - -18 19 MS. TRENTACOSTE: - - - as a - - -20 CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: - - - shouldn't be 21 penalized for not having - - - not being able to make 22 bail, right? 23 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, no, Your Honor. 2.4 mean, we're not saying that he is being penalized for 25 What we're saying is that unfortunately, the

1	way the calculation works
2	JUDGE SMITH: If he'd made
3	MS. TRENTACOSTE: he wasn't
4	JUDGE SMITH: if he'd made bail, he'd
5	be doing significantly less time.
6	MS. TRENTACOSTE: If he had made bail.
7	Your Honors, unfortunately our system isn't a hundred
8	percent. A person can be incarcerated and be not
9	found guilty and
10	JUDGE RIVERA: Okay, but
11	MS. TRENTACOSTE: let off, and that
12	person
13	JUDGE RIVERA: but this is an
14	interpret
15	MS. TRENTACOSTE: has served.
16	JUDGE RIVERA: yeah, but this is the
17	interpretation of this statute. Or we can avoid
18	exactly what you're saying we can't avoid.
19	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, Your Honors, and
20	then and that's one of the reasons why we're
21	here. We we want clarification from the
22	courts. We disagree with that that is actually
23	a misservice of justice
24	JUDGE GRAFFEO: Shouldn't those two
25	categories of accused be treated the same, those that

1 can afford to pay bail and those that end up 2 incarcerated because they can't? 3 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, but I don't - - - I don't think it's - - - it's just that, Your Honor. 4 5 think, you know, unfortunat - - -6 JUDGE GRAFFEO: I mean, there's nothing in 7 the legislative history that would show they intended to make that - - -8 9 MS. TRENTACOSTE: No, and I - - -10 JUDGE GRAFFEO: - - - distinction. 11 MS. TRENTACOSTE: - - - I would agree with 12 Your Honor. What I think the statute was trying to 13 do was really trying to - - - trying to affect all 14 these different periods of incarcerations. There 15 were some individuals whose sentences went five, six, 16 seven years, periods of incarceration. And, you know 17 - - - and they were trying to reduce that. It's not 18 because they were poor. And that's - - - that's kind 19 of the way that they would like you to - - -2.0 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: But what about - - -21 excuse me - - -22 MS. TRENTACOSTE: - - - think about this. 23 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: - - - what about those 2.4 - - - the part of the statute that we're talking 25 about now is for inmates who serve their time in a

1 single institution. 2 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes. 3 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: And then there's 4 another part of the statute that says that if you 5 serve your time in different institutions, the 6 aggregate time is, you know, reduced to two years, 7 and your incarceration will not exceed two years. MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes. 8 9 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: So that already states 10 very clearly for people who move around to different 11 institutions, that they are not going to be serving 12 more than two years. 13 MS. TRENTACOSTE: But - - - but, Your 14 Honor, that actually goes from the date of the 15 sentence, which is exactly what we did here. We 16 calculated the two-year period, that October date, 17 from the date of the - - -18 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: So you're saying - - -19 MS. TRENTACOSTE: - - - sentence. 2.0 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: - - - that people - -21 - people who move around to different institutions, 22 if they have time served, they're not going to have 23 that time - - -2.4 MS. TRENTACOSTE: It's - - -25 JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: - - - reduced from - -

1	-
2	MS. TRENTACOSTE: it's from
3	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: the two years?
4	MS. TRENTACOSTE: it's from the date
5	of the sentence. They're going they're still
6	going to be calculated in the same way as here. In
7	other words, the two years will be calculated from
8	the date of the sentence. And the aggregate time
9	will be will be calculated in the same way. So
10	I'm I'm not seeing
11	JUDGE SMITH: So you're saying that if this
12	guy had been serving in two different his
13	sentences had been in two different county jails, it
14	would he would still do that would not
15	affect the total time he would serve?
16	MS. TRENTACOSTE: That's correct.
17	JUDGE SMITH: In your view, it would be the
18	same?
19	MS. TRENTACOSTE: That's correct, Your
20	Honor.
21	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: But what but why
22	does that mean if that person has time served,
23	then they're going to exceed the two-year maximum
24	under that portion of the statute.

MS. TRENTACOSTE: But it's - - - it's not

	really it's not exceeding the two-year maximum,
2	because again, the two-year maximum commences from
3	the date of the sentencing. That's how that's
4	how the officers were calculating it. So in I
5	guess to to make it more like here's an
6	aggregate time is the pie, and under all
7	circumstances, this is what the aggregate time is.
8	If but if you if your aggre if the
9	pie is more than two years, you'll just serve that
10	two years. But it starts from the date of the
11	JUDGE PIGOTT: I think that's
12	MS. TRENTACOSTE: the commitment.
13	JUDGE PIGOTT: that's one of the
14	issues. You're dealing in dates.
15	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes.
16	JUDGE PIGOTT: If we dealt in the abstract
17	and we said, if if someone's got thirty-five
18	consecutive one-year sentences and that
19	actually happened up in my neck of the woods one time
20	
21	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes.
22	JUDGE PIGOTT: he's going to
23	the max he's going to do is two years.
24	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Exactly.
25	JUDGE PIGOTT: So you got the two years,

1 and you say so no matter what, he's doing two. 2 What's happened in between? And they say well, he 3 spent - - - he spent thirty days trying to make bail. 4 All right. We're going to take that thirty days off 5 the two years. But you wouldn't do that. You - - -MS. TRENTACOSTE: We wouldn't do that. 6 7 JUDGE PIGOTT: You would say, well, you got 8 sentenced on July 1st, and we're going two years from 9 July 1st, and whatever happens in there happens. 10 anything that predates that doesn't count. 11 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Well, no, it depends on 12 how - - - it depends on how - - -13 JUDGE SMITH: You - - -14 MS. TRENTACOSTE: - - - it works. 15 JUDGE SMITH: - - - you'd take the thirty 16 days off the thirty-six years? 17 MS. TRENTACOSTE: Exa - - - well, yeah. And in a situation - - - say Mr. Shaver had only been 18 19 ser - - - I think I give this example in the brief -20 - - if he had only been sentenced for three years, 21 actually, if you had reduced his time from three 22 aggregate years, and reduced the time served and all 23 the credit, that would have actually gave him time 2.4 less than the two years. That would - - - that would 25 have been his release date. He would've - - -

1	JUDGE SMITH: Well
2	MS. TRENTACOSTE: been released
3	before
4	JUDGE SMITH: you're that's if
5	you give him the good and can we distinguish
6	between the time served and the good behavior time?
7	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes. And and there
8	is both of them seem both good jail time
9	and good behavior time seem to use the same language
LO	of having them separated from the aggregate term. So
L1	the good time, though, can only be
L2	JUDGE SMITH: But but the the
L3	time served uses the some term like minimum
L4	term of imprisonment?
L5	MS. TRENTACOSTE: The time served I
L6	believe
L7	JUDGE SMITH: The minimum aggregate term of
L8	
L9	MS. TRENTACOSTE: The min
20	JUDGE SMITH: the word minimum is in
21	there.
22	MS. TRENTACOSTE: minimum aggregate,
23	right.
24	JUDGE SMITH: Yeah. Yeah.
25	MS. TRENTACOSTE: But with respect to the

good time, though, we had another - - - there's 1 2 another question there, because that cannot exceed 3 one third. In this situation, given the way that the 4 respondents want to apply this, the actual 5 individuals ended up serving, I believe, seventy 6 percent less of the four years - - -7 JUDGE SMITH: Well, they - - - you read 8 them as asking for credit for one-third of the four 9 years? 10 MS. TRENTACOSTE: No. They wanted one 11 third - - - oh, the one-third of the - - - because it 12 was the aggregate term. Yes, Your Honor. 13 JUDGE SMITH: Yeah, that - - - and that's -14 -- I can see, that's -- that's a little 15 overreaching. You'd wind up owing them time under 16 some circumstances. 17 MS. TRENTACOSTE: But even - - - but even 18 looking at what actually was served, Your Honor, if 19 you only look at the two years, he ended up only - -20 21 JUDGE SMITH: Well, why does it make - - -22 well, why can't - - - I mean, I - - - should we read 23 the statute to mean that he gets one-third off the 2.4 two years for good behavior, that is, he gets two-25 thirds of a year off, eight months, for good

1	behavior?
2	MS. TRENTACOSTE: And minus also the good
3	time. That would have that would have taken
4	him further down, Your Honor.
5	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: Well, couldn't that be
6	solved by capping the good time the good
7	behavior credit?
8	MS. TRENTACOSTE: And then you good
9	behavior credit is not required either, Your Honor.
10	It's the
11	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: That's discretionary -
12	
13	MS. TRENTACOSTE: statute says "may",
14	you know
15	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: it's
16	discretionary.
17	MS. TRENTACOSTE: yes. Absolutely.
18	So
19	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: But the problem that
20	you raise could be solved by capping the good
21	behavior credits.
22	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yeah, it as much
23	clarification from this court would help our
24	officers, correction officers who are going to be the
25	ones actually doing these calculations, would be very

1	helpful.
2	JUDGE READ: You just want a rule a
3	certain rule.
4	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Absolutely, Your Honor.
5	JUDGE READ: Okay.
6	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Thank you.
7	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counsel, thank
8	you.
9	MS. BIANCHI: May it please the court, good
10	afternoon. My name is Anne Bianchi. I'm
11	representing Richard Shaver in this matter.
12	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counsel, what's the
13	rule? Your adversary wants a rule. What's the rule?
14	MS. BIANCHI: The rule is the effective
15	aggregate is two, under 70.30(2)(b)and 70.30(2)(d).
16	That's the rule.
17	JUDGE SMITH: So you get credit for your -
18	you get credit for your jail time against the two
19	years?
20	MS. BIANCHI: Yes.
21	JUDGE SMITH: And you also get one-third -
22	assuming good behavior, you get one-third of what
23	number against the two years?
24	MS. BIANCHI: Two is the
25	JUDGE SMITH: One-third of two years.

1 MS. BIANCHI: - - - effective aggregate. 2 JUDGE SMITH: Eight months, in other words? 3 MS. BIANCHI: Correct. No matter - - -4 JUDGE SMITH: You're not asking for one 5 third of the four years? 6 MS. BIANCHI: No, Your Honor. That's an 7 artificial aggregate. I think the commission staff 8 notes clearly reflect the legislative intent in this 9 The legislature considered - - - actually 10 considered making the effective aggregate one year, 11 but compromised and settled on two years as being a 12 reasonable number, adding the language "plus any term 13 imposed for a new offense." 14 JUDGE SMITH: But did - - - I guess I'll 15 ask the same question I asked your adversary. Can we 16 distinguish between the good time - - - on the jail 17 time, I think everyone can at least see the equitable 18 appeal of your argument. It doesn't seem fair to 19 give him no credit for time he actually served in 20 jail. But when the legislature said "minimum of two 21 years", maybe it meant minimum of two years, not two 22 years less good behavior. 23 MS. BIANCHI: I disagree. I think that the 2.4 good-time credit and the jail time credit are both

earned credits in their own ways and should be - - -

1	under this particular fact pattern, in this
2	situation, should be treated the same. Just as you
3	earn jail time credit by sitting in a cell for a
4	number of days good-time credit is not a gift
5	by the Department of Corrections. It's earned by
6	obeying the rules of the facility, and by
7	JUDGE SMITH: Okay, but you wouldn't
8	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: It is discretionary -
9	
10	JUDGE SMITH: and you're theory then
11	
12	MS. BIANCHI: It's discretionary.
13	JUDGE SMITH: anyone who does
14	everyone who does behave well, gets a year and four
15	months, maximum?
16	MS. BIANCHI: Yes. Any if they get
17	sentenced to anything over two years, correct.
18	JUDGE PIGOTT: How does how is good
19	time calculated good behavior?
20	MS. BIANCHI: It's one-third off the
21	under 70.30(4)(b), good time is one-third of the term
22	or the effective aggregate.
23	JUDGE PIGOTT: Do you is there any
24	possibili let's assume that, you know, he's
25	sitting in jail for nine months and now you end up in

1	one of these two-year situations. He gets credit for
2	the nine months. Does he get credit for another
3	three months for good behavior while he was in for
4	nine?
5	MS. BIANCHI: If he obeyed the rules of the
6	facility and he earned that good time, yes.
7	JUDGE READ: I assume this problem doesn't
8	just come up in Westchester County?
9	MS. BIANCHI: Well, Your Honor, we don't
10	know that, because neither the County nor the
11	Sheriff's Association provided any data to this court
12	to determine
13	JUDGE READ: Well, that's what I was going
14	to ask. Do we know if it's uniform across the state,
15	even, the way it's calculated?
16	MS. BIANCHI: We know that Nassau County
17	does not calculate their time the way that the County
18	would like to, because they follow Serfaty v.
19	Jablonsky. But other than that, I don't know.
20	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: And by that you mean
21	it's a two-year aggregate
22	MS. BIANCHI: Yes.
23	JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: and they take
24	jail time and good time credits off of the two years?
25	MS. BIANCHI: Yes. There's also I

believe that there are public policy considerations in making good-time credit and jail time credit accessible to the defendants. These facilities just a practicality, they were never intended as long-term facilities. They're simply for people who cannot post bail, who are awaiting trial, and for those individuals who are convicted of misdemeanors or low-level felonies, usually nonviolent felonies, who get short-term sentences.

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So you want to encourage people who are in these facilities to participate in programs and abide by the rules. If a defendant knows that no matter what he does there's no way he's going to get his good-time credit and he's not going to get his jail time credit, there's no incentive for him to give his best efforts to abide by the rules of the facility.

JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: But would there be a problem in capping the good-time credits if they - - - if they would reduce the number of days served or amount of time served - - - if they conflicted with the two-thirds provision under subdivision (4)?

MS. BIANCHI: I believe - - - well, subdivision (4) just says that the cap is - - - the good-time cap is one-third of the term, assuming you get less than two years, so you get six months - - -

that's the term - - - or the aggregate, the effective aggregate, which we know from the legislative history, is two.

JUDGE ABDUS-SALAAM: But isn't there something about seventy percent of - - -

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MS. BIANCHI: That was, I believe, the County's mathematical assertion in their reply brief. And I would just note in response to that, their example of a defendant who receives three consecutive one-year terms, that's Serfaty v. Jablonsky. And that decision clearly says the aggregate is two.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay. Anything else, counsel?

MS. BIANCHI: Yes, Your Honor. I believe

Your Honor did bring up the issue of the disparity
- the way that the County wishes to calculate good
time and jail time credit, presents an issue of a

violation of equal protection and discrimination

against poor defendants.

And we see that very clearly here in the Shaver case where because he could not post bail and sat in jail for 106 days, accumulating jail time credit, the way that the County calculates the time, subtracting his good-time credit and jail time credit from this artificial number, four, he ends up serving

1 2 years plus 106 days, whereas a bail posting 2 defendant with the exact same charges would only end 3 up doing 2 years - - -4 JUDGE SMITH: Some inequities like that are 5 unavoidable, of course. If he serves thirty days in 6 jail and then he gets probation, you can't give him 7 his thirty days back. 8 MS. BIANCHI: That's correct, Your Honor. 9 JUDGE SMITH: But you're saying that when 10 it can be avoided it has to be, Constitutionally? 11 MS. BIANCHI: Yeah. And I think it's quite 12 avoidable here. And just on this issue of fairness, 13 I just want to point out, Mr. Shaver was convicted of 14 two felonies here. So the Supreme Court judge was 15 not limited in imposing definite terms of 16 incarceration. The judge could have imposed state 17 prison consecutively if he felt that that was the 18 appropriate sentence or the fair sentence to impose 19 in this case. 20 JUDGE SMITH: So what - - - after he'd 21 already given - - - given the guy - - - he gave him a 22 total of two years consecutive on the first three - -23 - on the October 24th sentence - - -2.4 MS. BIANCHI: Correct.

JUDGE SMITH: - - - what was the point of

making the other two consecutive? Doesn't add to his time.

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MS. BIANCHI: The court realized that. But I believe that they felt state prison was not the appropriate term here. But they simply didn't want to say one year concurrent, so they said one year consecutive.

JUDGE SMITH: If they'd said one year concurrent, it would have made no difference at all, right?

MS. BIANCHI: Well, I think he would have ended up in the same position, because the County would have still subtracted his good-time and his jail time credit, then, from the aggregate of three.

Just the very last thing that I just want to mention, because - - - only because the County made reference to it in their papers regarding the - - - the perceived financial implications here or financial liability. As I indicated earlier, we don't have any data indicating what other counties are doing this or not doing this. And that question of financial liability really should not play into the court's decision here. That's a question for another day. We're here to - - not to talk about money, but to talk about Mr. Shaver's liberty.

And with reference to the equal protection

matter, if this court declines to uphold the

Appellate Division in this case, I would respectfully

ask that the matter be returned to the Appellate

Division to consider the Constitutional issue,

because they did not reach that question.

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CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay, counsel. Thanks, counsel.

MS. BIANCHI: Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Counselor, rebuttal?

MS. TRENTACOSTE: Yes. A couple of things,

Your Honor. I know the four years, counsel said was

- - - the County's calculations were fathomable. But

those were based on the fact that the judges had

ordered four years of confinement. So it was not

that we just came up with the number. We had - -
the correction officer had a real basis for that.

As for the statistics, I don't know about statistics of the other counties. However, I can tell you that I have gotten calls from other county jurisdictions since this Shaver case is being circulated among the inmates now. So I'm not so sure that that - - this rule of law has been applied previously. Because now the inmates seem to be aware of it.

1	And then, again, aside from the calculation
2	issue, it is respectfully submitted that the Second
3	Department erred when it stated that he was being
4	illegally detained. The phrase "illegally detained"
5	implies that the County falsely imprisoned Mr.
6	Shaver. And to establish a cau a claim of
7	false imprisonment, they must establish, among other
8	things, that confinement was not otherwise
9	privileged.
LO	Here again, we had the five certifica
L1	five certificates of incarceration for four
L2	consecutive years. We had the Supreme Court, who
L3	agreed with our calculation
L4	JUDGE SMITH: You would be happier if it
L5	were clear that when they said "illegally detained",
L6	it didn't mean that he necessarily wins his false
L7	imprisonment case?
L8	MS. TRENTACOSTE: Thank you, Your Honor.
L9	Absolutely. And well
20	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Okay.
21	MS. TRENTACOSTE: if the Court has
22	further questions
23	CHIEF JUDGE LIPPMAN: Thanks, counselor.
24	(Court is adjourned)

1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	I, Penina Wolicki, certify that the
4	foregoing transcript of proceedings in the Court of
5	Appeals of eople ex rel. Ryan, o/b/o Shaver v.
6	Cheverko, No. 183 was prepared using the required
7	transcription equipment and is a true and accurate
8	record of the proceedings.
9	
10	D
11	Penina Waich
12	
13	Signature:
14	
15	Agency Name: eScribers
16	
17	Address of Agency: 700 West 192nd Street
18	Suite # 607
19	New York, NY 10040
20	
21	Date: October 16, 2013
22	
23	
24	