

Imbler v. Pachtman

424 U.S. 409 (1976)

Supreme Court of the United States

Issue: *Related absolute immunity (prosecutorial)*

Holding on Judicial Immunity

Extending the logic of judicial immunity, the Court held that prosecutors have absolute immunity from § 1983 damages for conduct 'intimately associated with the judicial phase of the criminal process' — even the knowing use of perjured testimony. The Court openly acknowledged that this leaves some wronged defendants with no civil remedy.

Key Quotations (verbatim)

“[A] prosecutor enjoys absolute immunity from § 1983 suits for damages when he acts within the scope of his prosecutorial duties.”

— Imbler v. Pachtman, 424 U.S. 409, 420 (1976).

“To be sure, this immunity does leave the genuinely wronged defendant without civil redress against a prosecutor whose malicious or dishonest action deprives him of liberty.”

— Imbler v. Pachtman, 424 U.S. 409, 427 (1976).

Note / Caveat: Adjacent doctrine: prosecutorial immunity, derived directly from judicial immunity.

Full opinion (authoritative source): <https://www.courtlistener.com/opinion/109387/imbler-v-pachtman/>

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