You Decide

11.2 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that arresting homeless individuals for "sitting, lying, or sleeping on a public street and sidewalks at all times and in all places within Los Angeles" is cruel and unusual punishment. The so-called Skid Row area of Los Angeles has the largest concentration of homeless in the United States, and there generally is a shortage of more than a thousand beds each evening. The area is dominated by single-residence hotels, which charge $379 per month. The monthly welfare stipend for single adults in Los Angeles County is $221. Waiting lists for public housing and for housing assistance vouchers in Los Angeles are from three to ten years. Does the Eighth Amendment prohibit Los Angeles "from punishing involuntary sitting, lying, or sleeping on public sidewalks that is an unavoidable consequence of being homeless without shelter in the City of Los Angeles"? See *Jones v. City of Los Angeles,* 444 F.3d 1118 (9th Cir. 2006). (The decision was withdrawn following a settlement between the plaintiffs and Los Angeles.)

You can find the answer at study.sagepub.com/lippmaness2e