 Granted Cases

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2020-2021 Granted Cases

On this page, you will find the cases granted thus far by the Supreme Court for the 2020-2021 year organized by subject matter with related links. (Last updated: August 13, 2020)

First Amendment Cases

Carney v. Adams (No. 19-309)

Issues: (1) Whether the First Amendment invalidates a longstanding state constitutional provision that limits judges affiliated with any one political party to no more than a "bare majority" on the state's three highest courts, with the other seats reserved for judges affiliated with the "other major political party"; (2) whether the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit erred in holding that a provision of the Delaware Constitution requiring that no more than a "bare majority" of the state courts may be made up of judges affiliated with any one political party is severable from a provision that judges who are not members of the majority party on those courts must be members of the other "major political party," when the former requirement existed for more than 50 years without the latter, and the former requirement, without the latter, continues to govern appointments to two other courts; and (3) whether the respondent, James Adams, has demonstrated Article III standing.

- Overview of Carney v. Adams - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to Decide if a State Can Consider Political Affiliation in Appointing Judges - Adam Liptak, The New York Times
- Supreme Court will study whether states may require partisan balance for courts - Robert Barnes, The Washington Post
- SCOTUS Will Hear Case Regarding Governors' Authority to Appoint Judges - Lisa Soronen, National Conference of State Legislatures Blog

Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (No. 19-123)

Issues: Whether free exercise plaintiffs can only succeed by proving a particular type of discrimination claim – namely that the government would allow the same conduct by someone who held different religious views – as two circuits have held, or whether courts must consider other evidence that a law is not neutral and generally applicable, as six circuits have held; (2) whether Employment Division v. Smith should be revisited; and (3) whether the government violates the First Amendment by conditioning a religious agency’s ability to participate in the foster care system on taking actions and making statements that directly contradict the agency’s religious beliefs.

- Overview of Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to Hear Case on Gay Rights and Foster Care - Adam Liptak, The New York Times
- Supreme Court adoption case could have broad nondiscrimination impact - Julie Moreau, NBC News
- Justices to hear Philly dispute over same sex foster parents - Mark Sherman, Associated Press News
- Trump admin to Supreme Court: Let adoption agencies reject LGBTQ+ families - Christ Johnson, Los Angeles Blade
- The fight over whether religion is a license to discriminate is back before the Supreme Court - Ian Milhiser, Vox
- SCOTUS May Give Foster Care Agencies a Right to Refuse Same-Sex Couples - Mark Joseph Stern, SLATE

Tanzin v. Tanvir (No. 19-71)


- Overview of Tanzin v. Tanvir - SCOTUSblog
- At Supreme Court, a Case on Abuse of the No-Fly List - Adam Liptak, The New York Times
- Supreme Court to consider whether FBI agencies can be sued for money damages for religious freedom violation - Debra Cassens Weiss, ABA Journal

Administrative Law


Consolidated with Federal Trade Commission v. Credit Bureau Center, LLC

Issues: Whether Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, by authorizing "injunction(s)," also authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to demand monetary relief such as restitution—and if so, the scope of the limits or requirements for such relief.

- Overview of AMG Capital Management, LLC v. Federal Trade Commission - SCOTUSblog
- U.S. Supreme Court to Weigh FTC Restitution Authority - Gibson Dunn
- Making Them Pay: The Supreme Court to Consider FTC’s Restitution Authority - The V&J Report
- Maybe the FTC Can’t Take That to the Bank: The Supreme Court’s Decision in Lu v. SEC and Its Implications for the FTC’s Ability to Seek Equitable Monetary Relief - Thomas Dillick & Joy O. Siu, Antitrust Law Blog
- Pending U.S. Supreme Court Cases May Restrict FTC’s Pursuit of Monetary Relief in Privacy and Cybersecurity Matters - Jonathan Dinoffeld & David Cohen, Omnitech Blog

CIC Services, LLC v. Internal Revenue Service (No. 19-930)

Issue: Whether the Anti-Injunction Act’s bar on lawsuits for the purpose of restraining the assessment or collection of taxes also bars challenges to unlawful regulatory mandates issued by administrative agencies that are not taxes.

- Overview of CIC Services, LLC v. Internal Revenue Service - SCOTUSblog
Collins v. Mnuchin (No. 19-422)
Consolidated with Mnuchin v. Collins
Issues: (1) Whether the Federal Housing Finance Agency's structure violates the separation of powers; and (2) whether the courts must set aside a final agency action that FHFA took when it was unconstitutionally structured and strike down the statutory provisions that make FHFA independent.

- Overview of Collins v. Mnuchin - SCOTUSBlog
- Rahim Fredric Pipit Sweeps Win in Dual Appeals to High Court - Greg Stohr & Elizabeth Dexheimer, Bloomberg
- FHFA's Challenge: Convincing Supreme Court it's not CFPB - Hannah Lang, American Banker
- Supreme Court to take up FHFA constitutionality - Hannah Lang, National Mortgage News

Salinas v. U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (No. 19-199)
Issue: Whether, under Section 5(f) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and Section 8 of the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Retirement Board's denial of a request to reopen a prior benefits determination is a "final decision" subject to judicial review.

- Overview of Salinas v. United States Railroad Retirement Board - SCOTUSBlog

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service v. Sierra Club (No. 19-547)
Issue: Whether exemption 5 of the Freedom of Information Act, by incorporating the deliberative process privilege, protects against compelled disclosure of a federal agency's draft documents that were prepared as part of a formal interagency consultation process under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and that concerned a proposed agency action that was later modified in the consultation process.

- Overview of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service v. Sierra Club - SCOTUSBlog
- Supreme Court to Review Endangered Species FOIA Case - Ellen M. Gillmor, Bloomberg Law
- Supreme Court to Hear Trump Administration's Appeal About Endangered Species Report - Matthew Vaudum, The Epoch Times

Business

City of Chicago, Illinois v. Fulton (No. 19-357)
Issue: Whether an entity that is passively retaining possession of property in which a bankruptcy estate has an interest has an affirmative obligation under the Bankruptcy Code's automatic stay, 11 U.S.C. § 362, to return that property to the debtor or trustee immediately upon the filing of the bankruptcy petition.

- Overview of City of Chicago, Illinois v. Fulton - SCOTUSBlog
- Supreme Court to Decide Bankruptcy Case Affecting Local Governments - Lisa Soronen, Cities Speak: National League of Cities
- Supreme Court Will Tell Us Soon if Creditor Violates Automatic Stay by Passively Retaining Debtor's Property - Ronit Berkovich & Zoe Essner, Lexology Bankruptcy Blog

Google LLC v. Oracle America Inc. (No. 18-956)
Issues: (1) Whether copyright protection extends to a software interface; and (2) whether, as the jury found, the petitioner's use of a software interface in the context of creating a new computer program constitutes fair use.

- Overview of Google LLC v. Oracle America Inc. - SCOTUSBlog
- Supreme Court to Hear Google and Oracle Copyrights Case - Adam Liptak, The New York Times
- Supreme Court will hear Google's appeal in massive copyright suit brought by Oracle - Tucker Higgins, CNBC
- Google v. Oracle: What the companies will argue before the Supreme Court - Samantha Ann Schwartz, CIO Dive

Henry Schein Inc. v. Archer and White Seals Inc. (No. 19-963)
Issue: Whether a provision in an arbitration agreement that exempts certain claims from arbitration negates an otherwise clear and unmistakable delegation of questions of arbitrability to an arbitrator.

- Overview of Henry Schein Inc. v. Archer and White Seals Inc. - SCOTUSBlog
- Supreme Court will decide [again!] if courts or arbitrators determine arbitrability - Alison Frankel, Reuters
- Supreme Court to Decide Whether Reference to Injunctive Relief in Arbitration Clause Gives Court Power to Rule on Arbitrability Dispute - Max B. Chester & Charles W. Niemann, Foley & Lardner LLP
- Supreme Court Returns Schein To Its Docket With a Focus on Arbitrability - Russ Blaemire & Heather Cameron, CPR Speaks (Conflict Prevention & Resolution Institute)

Civil Liberties

Brownback v. King (No. 19-546)
Issue: Whether a final judgment in favor of the United States in an action brought under Section 1346(b)(1) of the Federal Tort Claims Act, on the ground that a private person would not be liable to the claimant under state tort law for the injuries alleged, bars a claim under Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics that is brought by the same claimant, based on the same injuries, and against the same governmental employees whose acts gave rise to the claimant's FTCA claim.
Overview of Brownback v. King - SCOTUSblog
A 1989 Supreme Court ruling is unintentionally providing cover for police brutality - Charles Lane, The Washington Post
Excessive Force Claim From Mistaken Identity Gets SCOTUS Look - Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, Bloomberg Law
The Only New Case SCOTUS Just Granted Could Seriously Limit Who Can Sue Cops for Excessive Force - Eliura Nanors, Law & Crime
After Almost Beating Student To Death, Cops Demand Legal Immunity - Nick Sibilla, Forbes

California v. Texas (No. 19-480)
Consolidated with Texas v. California
Issues: (1) Whether the individual and state plaintiffs in this case have established Article III standing to challenge the minimum-coverage provision in Section 5000A(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA); (2) whether reducing the amount specified in Section 5000A(a) to zero rendered the minimum-coverage provision unconstitutional; and (3) if so, whether the minimum-coverage provision is severable from the rest of the ACA.

Overview of California v. Texas - SCOTUSblog
Supreme Court to Hear Obamacare Appeal - Adam Liptak & Abby Goodough, The New York Times
Trump administration asks Supreme Court to strike down Obamacare - Meagan Flynn & Tim Efrink, The Washington Post
Trump administration asks Supreme Court to invalidate Obamacare - Ariane de Vogue, Tami Luhby, & Sarah Mucha, CNN
Trump Administration Asks Supreme Court to Strike Down Affordable Care Act - Sharyl Gay Stolberg, The New York Times
Trump administration asks Supreme Court to strike down Affordable Care Act amid pandemic recession - Sahil Kapur, CNBC
Supreme Court will hear major challenge to Obamacare - Susannah Luthi, Politico
Everything you need to know about the Supreme Court's new Obamacare case - Dylan Scot, Vox
The fate of Obamacare is in the Supreme Court's hands yet again - Ian Milhiser, Vox
The Entire ACA Must Fall: Trump's DOJ Demands at US Supreme Court - Marcia Cole, The National Law Journal
Will The ACA Case Now Before The Supreme Court Make It Harder for ERISA Fiduciary Breach Plaintiffs To Establish Standing? - Mark Casclari & Namrata Ketwani, JD Supra

Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Ass'n (No. 18-540)
Issue: Whether the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit erred in holding that Arkansas' statute regulating pharmacy benefit managers' drug-reimbursement rates, which is similar to laws enacted by a substantial majority of states, is preempted by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, in contravention of the Supreme Court's precedent that ERISA does not pre-empt rate regulation.

Overview of Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association - SCOTUSblog
The Solicitor General Weighs In on ERISA Preemption Battle Over PBMs: State Statutes - Michele Noble & Kimberly Donovan, The National Law Review
Arkansas Drug-Pricing Law Will Get Supreme Court Review - Jacklyn Wilde, Bloomberg Law

Van Buren v. United States (No. 19-783)
Issue: Whether a person who is authorized to access information on a computer for certain purposes violates Section 1030(a)(2) of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act if he accesses the same information for an improper purpose.

Overview of Van Buren v. United States - SCOTUSblog
High Court to Hear Case Testing Scope of Anti-Hack Law - Jon Reid, Bloomberg Law
U.S. Supreme Court to consider limiting reach of computer fraud law - Lawrence Hurley, Reuters
U.S. Supreme Court Will Finally Weigh In on Scope of Computer Fraud and Abuse Act - Clifford Atlas, Jason Gavoian, Ravindra Shaw, Erik Winton, & Maya Atrekhv, The National Law Review
The CFAA will soon have its day before the Supreme Court - Jeff Stone, Cyber Scoop

Civil Procedure
Department of Justice v. House Committee on the Judiciary (No. 19-1328)
Issue: Whether an impeachment trial before a legislative body is a "judicial proceeding" under Rule 6(e)(3)(E)(i) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Overview of Department of Justice v. House Committee on the Judiciary - SCOTUSblog
Supreme Court will hear arguments over Mueller's secret evidence, a delay for House Democrats investigating President Trump - Robert Barnes, The Washington Post
Supreme court to decide if House needs Mueller grand jury material - Pete Williams, NBC News
Supreme Court to decide whether House Democrats can get Mueller grand jury docs - Tucker Higgins, CNBC
Supreme Court Acts To Postpone More Controversies, From Mueller Report To Abortion - Nina Totenberg, NPR
High Court Accepts Trump Appeal, Keeps Mueller Materials Sealed - Greg Stohr, Bloomberg

Ford Motor Company v. Montana Eighth Judicial District Court (No. 19-368)
Consolidated with Ford Motor Company v. Bandemer
Issue: Whether the "arise out of or relate to" requirement for a state court to exercise specific personal jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant under Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz is met when none of the defendant's forum contacts caused the plaintiff's claims, such that the plaintiff's claims would be the same even if the defendant had no forum contacts.

Overview of Ford Motor Company v. Montana Eighth Judicial District Court - SCOTUSblog
Supreme Court Will Address Personal Jurisdiction After States Courts Interpret BMS Decision - Brett Clements & Elizabeth Runyan Geise, The National Law Review

Ford Will Get High Court Input on Where It Can Be Sued - Martina Barash, Bloomberg Law

Are Airplanes Like Automobiles? Supreme Court to Hear Cases of Interest To The Aviation and Auto - J. Denny Shupe, Chambers and Partners

Niz-Chavez v. Barr (No. 19-863)
Issue: Whether, to serve notice in accordance with 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a) and trigger the stop-time rule, the government must serve a specific document that includes all the information identified in Section 1229(a), or whether the government can serve that information over the course of as many documents and as much time as it chooses.

- Overview of Niz-Chavez v. Barr - SCOTUSblog
- Non-Citizen Wins Chance to Expand Recent High Court Ruling - Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, Bloomberg Law
- Supreme Court Case Could Change Lives of Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S. - Renata Castro, Castro Legal Group

Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski (No. 19-968)
Issue: Whether a government's post-filing change of an unconstitutional policy moots nominal-damages claims that vindicate the government's past, completed violation of a plaintiff's constitutional right.

- Overview of Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski - SCOTUSblog
- Campus Speech-Claim Revised as Justices Agree to Hear Challenge - Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, Bloomberg Law
- SCOTUS will consider free speech damages in case of evanaglizing college student - Debra Cassens Weiss, ABA Journal
- Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Christian Student's Case Against Restrictive Campus Speech Policy - Matthew Vadum, The Epoch Times
- Supreme Court to Hear Case of Georgia Students Denied First Amendment Rights - Rachel del Guidice, The Daily Signal
- Supreme Court to decide if constitutional rights are only valuable when a price tag is on them - John Bursch, The Washington Times

Criminal Law

Edwards v. Vannoy (No. 19-5807)
Issue: Whether the Supreme Court's decision in Ramos v. Louisiana applies retroactively to cases on federal collateral review.

- Overview of Edwards v. Vannoy - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to Explore Limits of Its Juicy Unanimity Ruling - Jordan S. Rubin, Bloomberg Law
- Reformers Seek Reversal of Past Non-Unanimous Crime Verdicts - Kevin McGill, U.S. News

United States v. Briggs (No. 19-108)
Consolidated with United States v. Collins
Issue: Whether the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces erred in concluding - contrary to its own longstanding precedent - that the Uniform Code of Military Justice allows prosecution of a rape that occurred between 1986 and 2006 only if it was discovered and charged within five years.

- Overview of United States v. Briggs - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to take up military rape cases - Catherine Valentine, CNN
- Supreme Court to weigh reversals of military rape convictions - Patricia Kime, Military Times
- She recorded her racist’s confession. Now the Supreme Court could hear it - Catherine Valentine, CNN

Criminal Procedure

Borden v. United States (No. 19-5410)
Issue: Whether the “use of force” clause in the Armed Career Criminal Act encompasses crimes with a mens rea of mere recklessness.

- Overview of Borden v. United States - SCOTUSblog

Facebook Inc. v. Duguid (No. 19-511)
Issue: Whether the definition of an “automatic telephone dialing system” in the Telephone and Consumer Protection Act of 1991 encompasses any device that can “store” and “automatically dial” telephone numbers, even if the device does not “use[s] a random or sequential number generator.”

- Overview of Facebook Inc. v. Duguid - SCOTUSblog
- What’s in an Autodialer? Facebook Again Seeks High Court Clarity - Jon Reid, Bloomberg Law
- Supreme Court will hear Facebook robocalling case - Adi Robertson, The Verge

Torres v. Madrid (No. 19-292)
Issue: Whether an unsuccessful attempt to detain a suspect by use of physical force is a "seizure" within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment, as the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 8th, 9th and 11th Circuits and the New Mexico Supreme Court hold, or whether physical force must be successful in detaining a suspect to constitute a "seizure," as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals hold.

- Overview of Torres v. Madrid - SCOTUSblog
International Issues

Albence v. Guzman Chavez (No. 19-897)
Issue: Whether the detention of an alien who is subject to a reinstated removal order and who is pursuing withholding or deferral of removal is governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1231, or instead by 8 U.S.C. § 1225.

- Overview of Albence v. Guzman Chavez - SCOTUSblog
- Challenge to Deportation Procedures Heeded to High Court - Megan Mineo & Tim Ryan - Courthouse News

Federal Republic of Germany v. Philipp (No. 19-351)
Issues: (1) Whether the "expropriation exception" of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which abrogates foreign sovereign immunity when "rights in property taken in violation of international law are in issue," provides jurisdiction over claims that a foreign sovereign has violated international human-rights law when taking property from its own national within its own borders, even though such claims do not implicate the established international law governing states' responsibility for takings of property; and (2) whether the doctrine of international comity is unavailable in cases against foreign sovereigns, even in cases of considerable historical and political significance to the foreign sovereign, and even when the foreign nation has a domestic framework for addressing the claims.

- Overview of Federal Republic of Germany v. Philipp - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to Decide Federal Courts' Authority Over Claims From Overseas Atrocities - Jess Bravin, The Wall Street Journal
- U.S. Supreme Court to Rule on Medieval Treasure Bought by Nazis - Christopher F. Schuetze, The New York Times
- Justices to Consider Suit to Recover Art Looted by Nazis - Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, Bloomberg Law
- U.S. Supreme Court takes up Germany's appeal in Nazi art dispute - Jan Wolfe, Reuters

Nestlé USA, Inc. v. Doe I (No. 19-416)
Consolidated with Cargill, Inc. v. Doe I
Issues: (1) Whether an aiding and abetting claim against a domestic corporation brought under the Alien Tort Statute may overcome the extraterritoriality bar where the claim is based on allegations of general corporate activity in the United States and where the plaintiffs cannot trace the alleged harms, which occurred abroad, to the acts of unidentified foreign actors, to that activity, and (2) whether the judiciary has the authority under the Alien Tort Statute to impose liability on domestic corporations.

- Overview of Nestlé USA, Inc. v. Doe I - SCOTUSblog
- Child Slavery Appeals by Nestle, Cargill Draw High Court Inquiry - Greg Stohr, Bloomberg Law
- Supreme Court Will Consider New Carbs on Human Rights Lawsuits - Greg Stohr, Bloomberg Law
- Supreme Court will hear case on US companies aligned by using slave labor in Ivory Coast - Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle

Pereida v. Barr (No. 19-438)
Issue: Whether a criminal conviction bars a noncitizen from applying for relief from removal when the record of conviction is merely ambiguous as to whether it corresponds to an offense listed in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

- Overview of Pereida v. Barr - SCOTUSblog
- SCOTUS to Consider "Burdens of Proof" for Relief Where Crime Is in Dispute - Andrew R. Arthur, Center for Immigration Studies
- Supreme Court to Hear Case Involving Grounds for Deportation - Matthew Vdem, The Epoch Times

Republic of Hungary v. Simon (No. 18-1447)
Issue: Whether a district court may abstain from exercising jurisdiction under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act for reasons of international comity, in a matter in which former Hungarian nationals have sued the nation of Hungary to recover the value of property lost in Hungary during World War II but the plaintiffs made no attempt to exhaust local Hungarian remedies.

- Overview of Republic of Hungary v. Simon - SCOTUSblog
- Supreme Court to Decide Federal Courts' Authority Over Claims From Overseas Atrocities - Jess Bravin, The Wall Street Journal
- Justices to Consider Suit to Recover Art Looted by Nazis - Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, Bloomberg Law

Texas v. New Mexico (No. 22065)*
Issue: Whether the River Master correctly allocated evaporation losses under the Pecos River Compact.

- Overview of Texas v. New Mexico - SCOTUSblog
- Texas, New Mexico Water Fight Gets Supreme Court Date - Ellen M. Glimer, Bloomberg Law

*Texas v. New Mexico does not involve an international dispute but rather a dispute between two states. This means the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over the dispute.