

SUPREME COURT
OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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CYAN, INC., ET AL.,)
) Petitioners,)
) v.) No. 15-1439)
BEAVER COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT)
FUND, ET AL.,)
) Respondents.)

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9 - - - - -

10 Washington, D.C.
11 Tuesday, November 28, 2017

12
13 The above-entitled matter came on for oral
14 argument before the Supreme Court of the United
15 States at 10:04 a.m.

16
17 APPEARANCES:
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19 behalf of the Petitioners
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21 Department of Justice, Washington D.C.; on behalf
22 of the United States, as amicus curiae, in support
23 of affirmance
24 THOMAS C. GOLDSTEIN, Bethesda, Maryland; on
25 behalf of the Respondents

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (10:04 a.m.)

3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4 argument first this morning in Case 15-1439,
5 Cyan versus Beaver County Employees Retirement
6 Fund.

7 Mr. Katyal.

8 ORAL ARGUMENT OF NEAL K. KATYAL

9 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

10 MR. KATYAL: Thank you, Mr. Chief
11 Justice, and may it please the Court:

12 Congress in 1998 reacted to a new
13 problem. After its 1995 Reform Act, which
14 dealt with the crisis of abuse of federal
15 claims in federal court, plaintiffs had
16 responded by shifting their litigation to state
17 court. The upshot was that the pre-'95 abuses
18 were happening; they were just happening in
19 state court.

20 Congress, in the Securities Litigation
21 Uniform Standards Act, SLUSA, took three steps.
22 First, it precluded certain causes of action.
23 Second, it modified its anti-removal bar. And,
24 third, it eliminated concurrent jurisdiction
25 for many '33 Act federal claims in state court.

1 Respondents disagree with this third
2 one, but the text, structure, and purpose are
3 all against them. And the best way of
4 understanding our argument is this: If Beaver
5 County brought the exact same complaint that
6 they did here, alleging a federal '33 Act
7 claim, but did one thing differently, they also
8 brought a state law claim, they'd be knocked
9 out of state court. That's their own reading.

10 But, they say, because they didn't
11 bring their state law count, they are now --
12 the state law claim, they are now entitled to
13 bring their federal claim in state court.

14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Katyal --

15 MR. KATYAL: That makes zero sense.

16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, one could
17 say, with respect to your argument, that
18 Congress chose a rather obtuse way of saying
19 that federal courts shall have exclusive
20 jurisdiction. It could have simply said, in
21 covered class actions related to claims under
22 the '33 Act, federal courts shall have
23 exclusive jurisdiction, period, and that would
24 be clear and everybody would understand and you
25 would prevail.

1 But the Congress certainly took an odd
2 route to getting there.

3 MR. KATYAL: Justice Ginsburg, we
4 agree with you that this is an obtuse way of
5 getting there. And, you know, this body could
6 have written a much better statute than our
7 friends across the street or so on, but I do
8 think it's the best way of understanding the
9 text. I'll explain why in a moment.

10 And as I was saying a moment before,
11 the anomaly on the other side is far worse.
12 This would then -- in no other statute that
13 they point to, that I've ever heard of, does
14 bringing a state count force you out of state
15 court, but that's their reading. And if
16 Congress is going to do something that strange,
17 you would expect them to have said so --

18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, I
19 thought the whole purpose, the main purpose, of
20 SLUSA was just that, to ensure that claims of
21 this particular type were not covered under
22 state law but covered under federal law. If I
23 accept that that was the main purpose of
24 Congress's position, what difference does it
25 make who adjudicates the claim if both courts

1 are going to be bound by federal law?

2 MR. KATYAL: Justice Sotomayor, we
3 disagree with the premise and what it
4 eventually leads you to in your -- in your
5 question to me in terms of your conclusion. So
6 we disagree that the main purpose was
7 preclusion of state claims. They pointed to
8 nothing saying so. And I'll walk you through
9 the actual statutory findings in the text of
10 the statute which I think rebel at that.

11 And then even if it were a main
12 purpose to deal with the precluded claims,
13 there's certainly nothing to exclude, and I
14 think there's legislative history and the
15 statute itself is pretty clear that Congress
16 also had in mind the abuse that was going on
17 because these federal claims were being brought
18 to -- were being brought in state court. And,
19 you know, the text of the statute itself,
20 Justice Sotomayor, says that.

21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Doesn't your --
22 doesn't your reading contain an inherent
23 contradiction? If the first clause is supposed
24 to preclude or give exclusive jurisdiction to
25 the district courts over all covered class

1 actions, which under your reading includes even
2 those that are not federal --

3 MR. KATYAL: Yes.

4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- why then have
5 the second "except"? Isn't there a tension
6 between the two?

7 MR. KATYAL: No, I don't think there's
8 a tension. As our reply brief, you know, I
9 think, outlines, it's exactly actually the
10 compromise that was struck in the '34 Exchange
11 Act because the Exchange Act --

12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, you're --
13 there's an inherent tension in the two "except"
14 clauses otherwise. You're giving -- you're
15 saying the second "except" helps you, but --

16 MR. KATYAL: I don't --

17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- they're
18 contradictory on that.

19 MR. KATYAL: I don't think they're
20 contradictory. I think that what our reading
21 does is leave the '33 and '34 Acts in exactly
22 the same position; that is to say that both of
23 them say if you're bringing a federal claim,
24 either '33 or '34, you can't bring it in state
25 court. You're ousted of jurisdiction.

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I'm sorry.
2 Your -- your -- your reading of that first
3 "except" clause --

4 MR. KATYAL: Uh-huh.

5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- is that it
6 covers all covered class actions as defined in
7 p(f)(2). P(f)(2) defines covered class actions
8 only as those that have 50 or --

9 MR. KATYAL: Correct.

10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- 50 or more
11 people, a certain amount of damages.

12 MR. KATYAL: Correct.

13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That could include
14 federal or state law claims. Under your
15 reading, this reference to "except" is
16 definitional, p(f)(2).

17 MR. KATYAL: Justice Sotomayor, you're
18 right to say that under our reading the except
19 -- the jurisdiction that is ousted of the state
20 court is greater than what is precluded by
21 Congress. That was intentional. What I'm
22 trying to say is that's exactly what happened
23 in the '34 Act. And it's done so for good
24 reason, because as this Court said in
25 Chadbourne, when Congress is precluding

1 something, that's very strong medicine. That's
2 them saying to states you can't have this law
3 at all, the substantive law, but when we're
4 talking about jurisdiction over federal claims,
5 Congress is the master of that and can -- they
6 can decide, you know, where to bring a case and
7 so on.

8 Now, you had asked about the
9 legislative history and I want to get back to
10 that because -- and the purpose because I do
11 think it is very strong. The purpose is found
12 in our blue brief -- the statutory findings are
13 in our blue brief at page 20. I want to
14 isolate three of them. This is the text of the
15 statute.

16 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could we -- I'm sorry,
17 could we -- could we just talk about the text
18 before we speak about the purpose --

19 MR. KATYAL: Sure.

20 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- which -- because,
21 you know, "except as provided" in 77p, the
22 natural way to read that is we look at 77p, the
23 whole thing, and we see what's the "except"
24 that's provided in. We don't look to an
25 ancillary definitional provision that all it

1 does is define a term. We look for a rule that
2 might be in conflict, that could be taken to be
3 in conflict, with the jurisdictional provision.

4 MR. KATYAL: Right. So --

5 JUSTICE KAGAN: So, you know, it just
6 seems as though your interpretation does a very
7 odd thing, textually, when you read "except as
8 provided" in Section 77p to say let's look to a
9 definition in that section.

10 MR. KATYAL: So, Justice Kagan, you're
11 reading from Section 22(a), the "except"
12 clause, which is also v -- which is also
13 77v(a). It's found in our blue brief at page
14 8a. And you're absolutely right that the
15 clause says "except as provided" in Section 16.
16 And you'd say -- if that alone, which is the
17 part you read to me, were enough, you would
18 say, well, do you look to the definition? It's
19 unclear. But it's more than that because then
20 it says "with respect to covered class
21 actions." So there are two halves to this
22 "except" clause.

23 The first half is, you're right -- is
24 to say -- point you in the direction of where
25 to look, but it's the second part with respect

1 to covered class actions that I think our
2 reading gives effect to these words and theirs
3 does not. That is, it points you --

4 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Katyal, I had -- I
5 had a similar concern as Justice Kagan. Our
6 late colleague wrote a book called Reading Law,
7 which provides guidance about how you read
8 statutes. And I looked through that to see
9 what we are supposed to do when Congress writes
10 gibberish.

11 And that's what we have here. You
12 said it's obtuse. That's flattering.

13 (Laughter.)

14 JUSTICE ALITO: And we have very smart
15 lawyers here who have come up with creative
16 interpretations, but this is gibberish. It's
17 -- it is just gibberish.

18 It says -- the provision that was read
19 says that the state courts have jurisdiction
20 over federal claims, except as provided in
21 Section 77p, which says nothing whatsoever
22 about jurisdiction for state -- for federal
23 claims.

24 MR. KATYAL: So, Justice --

25 JUSTICE ALITO: So what are -- what

1 are we supposed to do with this?

2 MR. KATYAL: Justice Alito, I -- I
3 think I'd say three things about that. First
4 is -- as I was saying to Justice Ginsburg, I
5 don't think the statute's by any stretch a
6 model of clarity, but I don't go so far as to
7 say it is gibberish. Your late colleague in
8 that book did talk about how if you really
9 can't figure it out, then you look to, for
10 example, the statutory findings, that even as a
11 textualist as he was, said, you know, look to
12 that to try and figure out what Congress was
13 getting at. And this returns me to Justice
14 Sotomayor's claim -- question and the blue
15 brief at page 20, because the statutory
16 findings really do tell you, I think, what
17 Congress is doing.

18 They're as follows: "Since enactment
19 of that [Reform Act] legislation, considerable
20 evidence has been presented to Congress that a
21 number of securities class action lawsuits have
22 shifted from Federal to State courts."

23 And then "this shift has prevented
24 that Act from fully achieving its objectives,"
25 and then "it is appropriate to enact national

1 standards [...] while preserving the
2 appropriate enforcement powers of State
3 securities regulators and not changing the
4 current treatment of individual lawsuits."

5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, that
6 says nothing about ousting the state courts.
7 It says providing national standards that will
8 control state enforcement agencies.

9 So whether it's state court or federal
10 court, it's still the same national standards.

11 MR. KATYAL: Well, it's not the same
12 national --

13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But -- but -- but
14 going --

15 MR. KATYAL: -- standards because
16 Congress cared very much about the procedures.
17 The whole Reform Act did things like say you
18 can't have professional plaintiffs, there are
19 limits on attorneys' fees, all sorts of stuff
20 --

21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What was very
22 clear in the Act is that there are certain
23 sections that were clearly intended to be
24 national, certain things that were and were not
25 covered, and then there were, you're right,

1 some procedural aspects, but nowhere in those
2 procedural aspects did Congress say they have
3 to be followed both in state and federal court.

4 MR. KATYAL: In the Reform Act, you're
5 absolutely right, but I do think that is the
6 way of understanding what SLUSA was doing.
7 It's precisely because they weren't followed,
8 Justice Sotomayor, in state court --

9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Can we -- can we
10 go back to your definition? A covered class
11 action under, I call it 77p, it's just easier
12 for me, has a bunch of different subsections.

13 MR. KATYAL: Yes.

14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're relying on
15 the definitional one. But each of the
16 pertinent ones also talks about class action
17 limitations, removal of covered class actions
18 by referencing "p" in its entirety.

19 What is either illogical, contextually
20 wrong, or improper about looking at all of the
21 provisions of "p" that talk with respect to
22 covered class actions?

23 MR. KATYAL: I --

24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Because b and c
25 are certainly talking with respect to covered

1 class actions.

2 MR. KATYAL: So I certainly agree with
3 you, Justice Sotomayor, that when Congress used
4 the -- and pointed to the entire clause, it
5 could point to any part of the clause, you
6 know, and I think the definition does give you
7 the best indicia of it.

8 But there's nothing that says that you
9 should only look, as my friend on the other
10 side does -- says, only look at the preclusion
11 provisions.

12 After all, these are about
13 preclusions.

14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, he's not doing
15 that. He's saying you look at every provision
16 that mentions or talks about the covered class
17 action.

18 MR. KATYAL: And if you did, then
19 you'd look to the definition as well. And that
20 would say, as I was saying to Justice Kagan,
21 except as provided in Section 16, so you look
22 to Section 16, with respect to covered class
23 actions, and you look to what that is.

24 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, if your reading
25 were right, Mr. Katyal, it would be written

1 something like: Except with respect to class
2 actions as defined in -- not as provided by --
3 as defined in 77p(f)(2), not just 77p.

4 So there are two ways in which your
5 reading really does seem at odds with the
6 statutory text. First by not saying the -- the
7 text says provided in, you're saying defined
8 by, and, second, the -- the statute makes clear
9 you look to 77p as a whole, not to some
10 sub-subsection within it.

11 MR. KATYAL: So I don't think either
12 of those means that our reading is at odds,
13 Justice Kagan. I think all that suggests is
14 that, you know, as I was saying to Justice
15 Ginsburg, Congress had other ways of writing
16 the statute that are clear, that could have
17 been clearer, but this Court confronts this --
18 and this returns to Justice Alito's question --
19 all the time, in big cases like *Burwell*, in
20 small cases like *Perry versus Merit Systems*
21 *Protection Board* last term, you're dealing with
22 the statute that, maybe if you look at it one
23 way it's gibberish, maybe some of you could
24 have written it better, but it still has to be
25 given some meaning.

1 And our reading of --

2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Under your reading
3 -- under your reading, Mr. Katyal, are there
4 any 1933 Act claims that could be brought,
5 federal claims, under the 1933 Act that could
6 be brought in state court?

7 MR. KATYAL: Absolutely, Justice
8 Ginsburg. And that's why, to return to your
9 first question, why Congress didn't say
10 exclusive jurisdiction as they did in the '34
11 Act.

12 Congress in SLUSA made -- took care,
13 and this is Finding 5 that I had read to
14 Justice Sotomayor earlier, to say, look, we
15 want to preserve the vast majority of
16 concurrent jurisdiction in state courts.
17 That's individual lawsuits and class actions
18 that aren't covered. So that's derivative
19 actions or actions not seeking money damages or
20 actions for fewer than 50.

21 But if you accept their reading, what
22 you're essentially doing is saying, look,
23 Congress in this statute, they built this super
24 safe house, you know, in SLUSA with a front
25 door that was locked that had alarm systems to

1 bar against federal court abuse of federal
2 claims -- that's the Reform Act -- and then the
3 side doors they locked because they were
4 worried about state court abuse and federal
5 court abuse of state law claims -- that's
6 Justice Sotomayor's point -- but they didn't
7 even build the back of the house.

8 They didn't build even a door to deal
9 with the problem of all of this being repleaded
10 now in state courts. These are federal claims.

11 JUSTICE BREYER: -- kind of claims?

12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, but you're --
13 you're forgetting that most securities actions
14 are Exchange Act actions. They're not
15 Securities Act actions.

16 And for that, Congress did everything
17 it wanted because Exchange Act actions are all
18 in the federal courts. There is exclusive
19 jurisdiction there.

20 So essentially what was happening was
21 that in Exchange Act actions, it -- that
22 exclusive jurisdiction was being compromised by
23 the ability of people to bring state law
24 actions.

25 And Congress completely shut that

1 down. So Congress did everything it wanted
2 with respect to Exchange Act actions, which are
3 the lion's share of securities lawsuits.

4 MR. KATYAL: Justice Kagan, I don't
5 know about lion's share or not, but it is very
6 clear, manifestly clear, that SLUSA dealt with
7 both problems, '33 and '34. There are two
8 separate titles that deal with this.

9 And there is a good -- you know, as
10 the amici here say, this is a huge problem on
11 the ground. You know, the Alibaba brief says
12 that 50 percent now of these '33 Act claims
13 involving IPOs, which, you know, if it's an
14 IPO, it's usually a '33 Act claim, 50 percent
15 of them have parallel --

16 JUSTICE BREYER: All right --

17 MR. KATYAL: -- federal and state
18 court litigation.

19 JUSTICE BREYER: Let me ask one
20 textual question and one purposeful question.

21 All right. The textual question,
22 think of *v.*, okay, and *v.*, it -- it talks about
23 "except as provided in 77p," et cetera, and
24 covered, "suits in equity and actions at law,"
25 does that phrase specifically refer to the '33

1 Act?

2 MR. KATYAL: Yes.

3 JUSTICE BREYER: It says the '33 Act?

4 MR. KATYAL: Yes, so it says -- it's
5 all actions at law, and the next words -- and,
6 again, I'm reading at Blue Brief page 8a.
7 We're reading 22a or 77v(a): "Actions at law
8 brought to enforce any liability or duty
9 created by this subchapter." Created by this
10 subchapter.

11 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, does this
12 subchapter mean '34, '33 --

13 MR. KATYAL: Yes.

14 JUSTICE BREYER: -- or is it ambiguous
15 between the two?

16 MR. KATYAL: It's not ambiguous,
17 Justice Breyer. It is modifying the '33 Act.

18 JUSTICE BREYER: Yes.

19 MR. KATYAL: And that is crucial to
20 our argument. The title --

21 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah, it is crucial,
22 okay.

23 MR. KATYAL: Yes. The title of --

24 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah, yeah, yeah.
25 Your argument is stronger with that.

1 MR. KATYAL: Absolutely.

2 JUSTICE BREYER: I -- I -- I agree.

3 MR. KATYAL: The title of this act is
4 called -- this provision is called --

5 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.

6 MR. KATYAL: -- Jurisdiction of
7 Offenses in Suits. It is about federal claims.

8 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay, okay. I'll ask
9 my question to the other side. The -- the --
10 the -- the -- on the -- on the purpose, I -- I
11 assumed that you put the strongest legislative
12 history argument you could find on page 20 of
13 your brief -- and that's when President
14 Clinton, when he signed it and so forth and all
15 that stuff you have there -- and -- and it
16 seemed to me in reading through the legislative
17 history, I couldn't find anything that really
18 makes clear that it's referring to the '33 Act.

19 It could be just referring to the '34
20 Act, I think. Is there something you want to
21 point me to that -- that would absolutely make
22 clear that this is referring to the '33 Act?

23 MR. KATYAL: I think the conference
24 report does --

25 JUSTICE BREYER: Where?

1 MR. KATYAL: -- in its very first
2 lines.

3 JUSTICE BREYER: Says what?

4 MR. KATYAL: And I think it is talking
5 about both the --

6 JUSTICE BREYER: In respect to --

7 MR. KATYAL: -- '33 and '34 Act. And
8 there's no --

9 JUSTICE BREYER: It's -- it's
10 absolutely clear on -- it's pretty clear on
11 that fact?

12 MR. KATYAL: I do think it's clear. I
13 think that, you know, that -- I mean, and
14 Congress, again, this returns to my point to
15 Justice Kagan --

16 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Okay.
17 Okay.

18 MR. KATYAL: -- Congress affirmatively
19 --

20 JUSTICE BREYER: I'll go read that.
21 I'll read it. I'll read it.

22 MR. KATYAL: -- modified the '33 Act.

23 JUSTICE BREYER: Got it. I'll read
24 it.

25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Assuming --

1 JUSTICE BREYER: My textual argument
2 question is this. My textual question is that
3 what I think your argument, but perhaps not the
4 government's argument, requires us to read c in
5 a pretty unnatural way, that's -- that's p(c),
6 see, because it says "as set forth in
7 subsection (b)."

8 So what you want us to do is to look
9 at subsection (b) and you -- take that as
10 referring to -- which is possible, but it's
11 tough -- not having the words "based upon
12 statutory or common law of any state."

13 You see, because -- because if it --
14 if it picks that up, well, then -- then all
15 we're talking about is those actions that have
16 the state action within it are removable, which
17 explains the anomaly that you started out with
18 and it would just be an anomaly and you'd say,
19 well, it isn't a practical anomaly because no
20 sensible lawyer is going to include the state
21 one anymore. He'll just include the '33 one.

22 MR. KATYAL: Right. So, Justice
23 Breyer, I get --

24 JUSTICE BREYER: So how do I -- how do
25 I deal with that textual problem?

1 MR. KATYAL: Certainly, I think the
2 Solicitor General's way of dealing with that is
3 available to you, but I think that our argument
4 does not depend on, you know, on read --
5 reading the removal provision the way it does.

6 All our argument depends on -- it's a
7 straight-forward reading, and it -- you know, I
8 understand Justice Kagan --

9 JUSTICE BREYER: It says "a covered
10 security as set forth in subsection (b)." Now,
11 there are commas around the (b), around that
12 phrase I just read, I agree, but the most
13 natural thing is it's referring to those
14 covered actions that are referred to in (b).
15 And what it refers to in (b) are covered
16 actions all right, but -- but they're involving
17 state law.

18 MR. KATYAL: Right. So my only point
19 to you is the first -- our argument is really
20 about the first half, the jurisdiction clause.

21 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.

22 MR. KATYAL: And the jurisdiction
23 clause is all you need to look at. It says
24 that there's concurrent jurisdiction, that's
25 what the '33 Act said, except as provided in

1 Section 16 with respect to covered class
2 actions. And so, in order to decide does a
3 state court have jurisdiction, you look to
4 Section 16 and you look to the definition of a
5 covered class action.

6 Our argument is that is, you know,
7 it's not the -- you know, the usual way
8 "provided" is -- is written -- Justice Kagan's
9 right to say that -- but it's not such an
10 unusual way. There are other statutes that do
11 exactly this. You know, the National Guard
12 statute and the scholarship statute, vessels,
13 and the like, our example about -- you know,
14 about parking that's in our reply brief at page
15 5. These are ways of doing this.

16 And, again, I think that, you know, if
17 Congress was going to do what my friend on the
18 other side says --

19 JUSTICE BREYER: Uh-huh.

20 MR. KATYAL: -- which is to say that
21 by bringing a state law count in your federal
22 complaint, you now are ousted out of state
23 court, one would expect that --

24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right.

25 JUSTICE BREYER: You --

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So why not -- why
2 not make the second "except" clause read
3 identically? But the Congress didn't. Under
4 your theory, assume somebody brings a 1933 Act
5 claim, in state court, tied to a non-1933 state
6 law action.

7 Under your theory, what happens to
8 that case?

9 MR. KATYAL: Yep.

10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It can't get
11 removed because under (c) you can only remove
12 those claims that are -- state law claims that
13 are based on 1933. And this says you can't
14 remove them. So now what happens?

15 MR. KATYAL: Right. So, Justice
16 Sotomayor, you're exactly right that, under our
17 reading, the preclusion is narrower than the
18 ousted jurisdiction in SLUSA so that there is a
19 category of cases, non-covered securities or
20 claims that aren't about fraud, in which there
21 is no preclusion, but we believe there is no
22 state court jurisdiction over these federal
23 claims.

24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So your theory is
25 that on those claims they just get ousted out

1 of court, even though they have a non-covered,
2 completely viable non-'33 state law action?

3 MR. KATYAL: Exactly. And that's
4 exactly the balance --

5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's -- that's a
6 fairly extreme result on a reading that bucks
7 the presumption, and one that exists when
8 there's an ambiguity, that says we presume in
9 favor of concurrent jurisdiction.

10 So you're taking a very strong
11 presumption, turning it on its head, and saying
12 we're ousting state courts over jurisdiction of
13 securities actions that have nothing to do with
14 federal law.

15 MR. KATYAL: So -- so two things.

16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's -- that's
17 what you're saying.

18 MR. KATYAL: Well, I don't think
19 that's exactly right. So two things. First is
20 --

21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why is it not
22 exactly right?

23 MR. KATYAL: Because, first, I don't
24 think this is some anomalous reading. This is
25 reading the '33 Act exactly the way the '34

1 does. Now, you say --

2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, this Act does
3 not preempt those state law non-1933,
4 non-federal actions.

5 MR. KATYAL: Justice Sotomayor, with
6 -- with respect, it actually does. SLUSA has a
7 removal provision and a preclusion provision
8 for the 1934 Act.

9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: For those state
10 law claims that relate to federal claims --
11 that relate to federal claims. But it
12 explicitly exempts out those that don't.

13 MR. KATYAL: With respect to state
14 claims, it's precluding --

15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Exactly. State
16 claims.

17 MR. KATYAL: -- in the '34 Act, it's
18 precluding the same basket of state claims as
19 the '33 Act, and the jurisdiction, the way we
20 read it, is exactly the same. That is, that
21 same category of cases, non-covered securities,
22 non-fraud cases, there's no jurisdiction in
23 state courts for them, but they are -- but they
24 don't happen to be precluded under both the '33
25 and '34 Act.

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Exactly.

2 MR. KATYAL: Now, you -- and now, you
3 had asked about the presumption about
4 concurrent jurisdiction. And I don't think
5 that presumption even applies here. Those
6 cases that my friend cites are cases --

7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So how about --

8 MR. KATYAL: -- in which the statute's
9 silent --

10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: --
11 anti-commandeering cases? In what other
12 situation where we do not have a federal law
13 that preempts a state law have we ever
14 permitted the federal government to tell the
15 states that they can't adjudicate a case under
16 their own law?

17 MR. KATYAL: Well, my friend on the
18 other side hasn't even made that argument, but
19 I do think preclusion --

20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I --

21 MR. KATYAL: -- and preemption --

22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- I think it's a
23 very natural argument. Under what --

24 MR. KATYAL: Preclusion and preemption
25 are pretty natural concepts in the law. And --

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it's not --
2 you just said to me the '33 and the '34 Act do
3 not preclude certain state law securities
4 actions. If they're not precluded, how can we
5 give a reading to this provision that would
6 stop the state courts from adjudicating
7 those cases?

8 MR. KATYAL: Justice Sotomayor, I'd
9 caution the Court into adopting a ruling that
10 would call into question the constitutionality
11 of not just the '33 Act --

12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No --

13 MR. KATYAL: -- but the '34 Act.

14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- you can -- you
15 can pass a federal law that says this federal
16 law precludes these actions. But if you don't
17 have one that says that --

18 MR. KATYAL: But I think --

19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- how can you
20 order the state court not to adjudicate a claim
21 that is not precluded --

22 MR. KATYAL: So the --

23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- that is
24 expressly not precluded.

25 MR. KATYAL: The answer to this is

1 found in the Senate report brief -- Senate
2 report at page 4 in which they said we are very
3 concerned for federalism reasons about
4 preclusion because it's such strong medicine.
5 But when we're dealing with jurisdiction, we
6 have the ability to paint with a broader brush
7 without interfering with federalism principles.

8 Here, we're only talking about federal
9 court count -- federal court causes of action,
10 and all Congress is saying is that they are the
11 master of that and you can't bring those in
12 state court when it's subject to very different
13 standards than you can in federal court.

14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. -- Mr. Katyal,
15 you make this as a -- as taking -- allowing a
16 state court to hear a federal claim that
17 shouldn't be there. But on your reading of
18 this statute, the cure is in your own hands,
19 because you agree with the government that you
20 could remove this case to federal court and
21 then you'd have your federal forum. But you
22 didn't do that. You didn't --

23 MR. KATYAL: So -- so you're about to
24 hear from the government about their -- their
25 theory. We do think it does solve a lot of the

1 policy concerns that Congress was getting at.

2 We think our textual reading is better
3 because we actually give effect to the 12 words
4 in the -- in the modification of federal court
5 jurisdiction. And so we think that's why you
6 should adopt our reading over the Solicitor
7 General's.

8 If I may reserve.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
10 counsel.

11 Mr. Kedem.

12 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ALLON KEDEM

13 ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,

14 IN SUPPORT OF AFFIRMANCE

15 MR. KEDEM: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
16 it please the Court:

17 Petitioners are correct that Congress
18 enacted SLUSA to reestablish federal courts as
19 the preferred venue for large class actions
20 involving nationally traded securities.

21 But it did so not by eliminating state
22 court jurisdiction over suits involving federal
23 claims but by permitting removal of such suits
24 from state to federal court.

25 Perhaps a good place to start, Justice

1 Breyer, would be with your question about the
2 removal provision and how, under the text of
3 that provision, removal of actions that only
4 involve federal claims is permitted. And I
5 think it's easiest to understand if you're
6 looking directly at it, 77p, subsection (c), on
7 page 1a of the red brief.

8 I think the question for the Court is
9 whether the limiting clause, as set forth in
10 subsection (b), modifies the phrase immediately
11 before it, "involving a covered security," or
12 instead modifies the phrase that comes at the
13 beginning of the sentence, "any covered class
14 action."

15 If it modifies "any covered class
16 action," Justice Breyer, I think you would be
17 correct that what Congress would mean by that
18 is the type of class action that's specified at
19 subsection (b), which would have all of the
20 criteria, including that it would be pleaded
21 under state law.

22 But if we're correct that instead it
23 modifies "involving a covered security," then I
24 think you would look to subsection (b) to
25 answer the question what type of connection to

1 a covered security did Congress have in mind
2 when it used that phrase?

3 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, why, if all
4 they wanted -- the parenthetical "as set forth
5 in subsection (b)" -- that's the words we're
6 talking about, right?

7 MR. KEDEM: That's correct.

8 JUSTICE BREYER: And it's in commas.

9 MR. KEDEM: That's correct.

10 JUSTICE BREYER: Why wouldn't they say
11 "as set forth" and then they'd refer to (2)(a),
12 the definition of covered class action?

13 MR. KEDEM: I think what we're talking
14 about is not just the definition of covered
15 class action. It's what Congress meant by the
16 phrase "involving a covered security," which is
17 a phrase that doesn't have its own definition.

18 JUSTICE BREYER: Ah.

19 MR. KEDEM: And to figure out what
20 that means, you look at (b)(1) and (b)(2),
21 which talk about certain types of misconduct in
22 connection with the purchase or sale of a
23 covered security. We think that's --

24 JUSTICE BREYER: True, but then --
25 then -- suppose, all right, involving a covered

1 class action. Now --

2 MR. KEDEM: But it's not involving a
3 covered class action.

4 JUSTICE BREYER: What --

5 MR. KEDEM: It's involving a covered
6 security.

7 JUSTICE BREYER: Involving a covered
8 security.

9 MR. KEDEM: And we think -- we think
10 for a few reasons it makes the most sense to
11 read the limiting clause as applying to that
12 phrase.

13 First of all, based on the rule of the
14 last --

15 JUSTICE KAGAN: So, Mr. Kedem, so now
16 I understand your argument, but -- but still it
17 doesn't really fit with (b)(1) and (2). I
18 mean, if it were just involving a covered
19 security, as set forth in subsection (b), you
20 would look to something which told you what a
21 covered security is.

22 But (b)(1) and (2) don't do that.
23 They talk about, you know, the kind of conduct
24 that's illegal.

25 MR. KEDEM: That's right.

1 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.

2 MR. KEDEM: Because it's not just
3 modifying "covered security." It's modifying
4 the phrase "involving a covered security." And
5 you have to figure out what does it mean to
6 involve the security in the relevant sense.

7 Perhaps it would be useful to consider
8 an example of a hypothetical statute in which
9 Congress imposed liability for "impeding
10 interstate commerce as set forth in Section
11 100."

12 In that case, I think you would want
13 to look to Section 100 --

14 JUSTICE BREYER: Ah, I see. Okay.

15 MR. KEDEM: -- and the type of
16 impeding acts that are described there to tell
17 you what it means to impede in the relevant
18 sense.

19 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. So your point
20 -- your point is involving a covered security?

21 MR. KEDEM: That's right.

22 JUSTICE BREYER: So you have to both
23 know what a covered security is, and you also
24 have to know is what kind of involvement.

25 MR. KEDEM: That's right. The first

1 part is very --

2 JUSTICE BREYER: And so for covered
3 security you could have just referred to (3)
4 where they define it, but you have to know a
5 second thing, which is how is it involved?

6 MR. KEDEM: That's correct.

7 JUSTICE BREYER: And (1) and (2) in
8 (b) tell you how it is involved?

9 MR. KEDEM: That's right. We think
10 that's the better reading, first --

11 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay, I see.

12 MR. KEDEM: -- based on the rule of
13 the last antecedent --

14 JUSTICE BREYER: I see, I see, I see.

15 MR. KEDEM: -- under which the
16 limiting clause is most naturally applied to
17 the thing that comes immediately before it,
18 rather than to something that comes earlier in
19 the sentence.

20 JUSTICE BREYER: I see.

21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Should we pass on
22 -- pass on that in a case where there was no
23 effort to remove? Removal isn't part of this
24 case.

25 MR. KEDEM: That's right. It's not

1 squarely presented, but we do think that it's
2 covered by the question presented in the
3 following sense: both Petitioners and
4 Respondents make structural arguments about the
5 relationship between the except clause and the
6 anti-removal provision in the penultimate
7 sentence of 77v, subsection (a). And this is
8 an explanation that responds to both of those
9 arguments.

10 Moreover, Petitioners make a very
11 powerful policy-based argument that Congress
12 could not have intended for federal claims to
13 be stuck in state court where they wouldn't
14 benefit from the protections of the Reform Act.
15 That was the whole point of SLUSA. This is
16 also a powerful response to that.

17 In addition, we do think that it would
18 be very useful --

19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So you --

20 MR. KEDEM: -- that the lower court --

21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you understand
22 the -- the legislative history that Justice
23 Breyer was asking about is relevant to the '33
24 Act, not just the '34 Act?

25 MR. KEDEM: That's -- that's right.

1 Congress was concerned about both acts.

2 In addition to the rule of the last
3 antecedent, I would point to the fact that in
4 between our two candidates for the limiting
5 clause, "any covered class action" at the
6 beginning of the sentence and "involving a
7 covered security" later on, there's an
8 intervening phrase, "brought in any state
9 court."

10 And that phrase doesn't have any
11 obvious analog in subsection (b), which, as the
12 Court is well aware, applies regardless of
13 whether you're in federal or state court. And
14 we think that strengthens the inference that
15 the limiting clause should be applied to the
16 thing adjacent to it.

17 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could -- I just want
18 to get the -- the best version of your
19 argument.

20 MR. KEDEM: Sure.

21 JUSTICE KAGAN: (1) and (2) involve a
22 covered security because what?

23 MR. KEDEM: Because they involve
24 certain types of misconduct in connection with
25 the purchase and sale of a covered security.

1 In other words, what does it mean to involve a
2 covered security in a sense that's relevant for
3 the removal provision? It has to have an
4 omission with regard to that covered security,
5 a false statement with regard to that covered
6 security, and the like, the types of misconduct
7 specified in those two provisions.

8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, what do
9 you do with our statement in Kircher? And I
10 know you try to distinguish it.

11 MR. KEDEM: Sure.

12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it very
13 explicitly says removal and jurisdiction to
14 deal with removed cases is limited to those
15 precluded in the terms of subsection (b).

16 MR. KEDEM: That's right.

17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And that was the
18 very argument that was raised there.

19 MR. KEDEM: Well, the Court said it
20 both ways in Kircher. It said it that way,
21 that the two provisions, the scope of them is
22 identical, but it also said that they were
23 identical in that they both require certain
24 types of misconduct.

25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, that's a

1 bit of a stretch. When I read the --

2 MR. KEDEM: Well --

3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- opinion, every
4 time it related to, itself to (1) or (2), it
5 would say something like, like (1) and (2), or
6 (1) and others. It would not limit itself to
7 just (1) and (2). It would just --

8 MR. KEDEM: I think it was talking
9 about the types of misconduct at issue in 1 and
10 2. And the reason I think that is because the
11 specific argument that the Court was
12 considering in Kircher was the argument that
13 the plaintiffs made that the case did not
14 belong in federal court because it didn't
15 involve the purchase or sale of a covered
16 security.

17 The defendants responded: Even if
18 true, that's an argument about preclusion under
19 subsection (b), not an argument about removal
20 under subsection (c).

21 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you really think
22 that whoever wrote this removal provision
23 thought about all this stuff that you're
24 telling us now?

25 MR. KEDEM: I'm not sure that they

1 thought about the rule of the last antecedent
2 and the like. But I do think that --

3 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, they set out
4 to do what you say this does, and they decided
5 this is the way we're going to do it.

6 MR. KEDEM: I think it's --

7 JUSTICE ALITO: It is SO far from
8 reality that it really strains credulity.

9 MR. KEDEM: I think even if you think
10 that our reading is a little bit of a stretch,
11 I think the contrary reading is also a little
12 bit of a stretch. I think --

13 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, all the
14 readings that everybody has given to all of
15 these proceedings -- provisions are a stretch.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. KEDEM: I think -- I think --

18 JUSTICE ALITO: I'm serious. Is there
19 at a certain point at which we say this means
20 nothing, we can't figure out what it means,
21 and, therefore, it has no effect, it means
22 nothing?

23 MR. KEDEM: Justice --

24 JUSTICE ALITO: Can we not -- we have
25 to say it means something?

1 MR. KEDEM: I would caution the Court
2 against saying it means absolutely nothing. I
3 do think that if the Court is concerned about
4 the policy arguments that Petitioners raise,
5 which we think are very important arguments,
6 and based on the findings of fact in SLUSA
7 these -- they are things that Congress was
8 concerned about, we think that our removal
9 argument gets to essentially the same place as
10 a policy matter but with a much more plausible
11 textual basis.

12 JUSTICE BREYER: Part of the problem,
13 I mean, I don't think -- I don't find this as
14 confusing as -- I mean, I might be wrong in how
15 I'm looking at it -- but as Justice Alito.

16 I'm thinking the drafter is given a
17 task and his task is to do two things,
18 economically, efficiently, I mean, that is
19 efficiently with words.

20 One thing he has to do is get rid of
21 these state actions. That's one. And the
22 second thing he has to do is to remove the
23 federal act cases into federal court. Okay?
24 And that's whether they're mixed, or not mixed,
25 or so forth.

1 MR. KEDEM: Right.

2 JUSTICE BREYER: If he was given that
3 task, this is the language that does it. But I
4 would expect there would be a report, and in
5 this report there would be an explanation such
6 as you gave me of the word "involving." And my
7 guess is there is no such report.

8 MR. KEDEM: That's correct.

9 JUSTICE BREYER: That moves me and --

10 MR. KEDEM: There is no such
11 explanation, but there's also no contrary
12 explanation that we're aware of.

13 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, that's true.
14 That's true.

15 MR. KEDEM: If I could add two more
16 textual points --

17 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.

18 MR. KEDEM: -- that support our
19 reading of the statute.

20 If what is meant is the contrary
21 reading, any covered class action of the sort
22 that's specified in subsection (b), it's not
23 clear what the words "involving a covered
24 security" would be doing in that sentence.

25 At best, it would be superfluous and

1 at worst confusing and distracting.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
3 counsel.

4 Mr. Goldstein.

5 ORAL ARGUMENT OF THOMAS C. GOLDSTEIN
6 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chief
8 Justice, and may it please the Court:

9 When the Petitioners' lawyer stands up
10 and says in the first minute that his reading
11 is obtuse and when the Solicitor General's
12 lawyer spends the entire time on an argument
13 that isn't in any of their briefs in the case,
14 you know that the lawyers are scrambling to try
15 and figure out what the statute means.

16 And the way we think you would resolve
17 that is to recognize that these words actually
18 mean something. They may target a null set.
19 They may not accomplish anything. But this
20 Court has said in cases like Manning that if
21 Congress is going to change this kind of law
22 significantly, you don't find elephants in
23 mouse holes.

24 You don't say that obtuse language
25 disrupts and takes away from the state courts a

1 long-standing form of jurisdiction, and that's
2 what the other side wants to happen here.

3 The Securities Act of 1933, unlike the
4 '34 Act, always has provided for state court
5 jurisdiction. That is the way it has always
6 been. And if Congress wanted to disrupt that
7 and get rid of that, it would say so quite
8 expressly.

9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I -- I can see the
10 importance of deciding the removal issue here
11 because it's central to the interpretation of
12 the question -- the answer to the question
13 before us.

14 On the other hand, as Justice Ginsburg
15 pointed out, the case wasn't removed. Could
16 the -- a clear opinion be written and reserve
17 the removal question?

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, Justice Kennedy,
19 I have learned that the answer to the question
20 can the Supreme Court do X is always yes.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: You -- you can write
23 an opinion that says we agree, for example,
24 with the government and the Respondents that
25 this language at the very least isn't clear

1 enough to accomplish this result. We reserve
2 for another day the removal question.

3 To be -- and that honestly as a matter
4 of jurisprudence is probably the right thing to
5 do. You're talking about two things. They
6 didn't remove it and it's not in the question
7 presented.

8 And if you want to signal to the
9 lawyers how it is that we're supposed to
10 litigate these cases, that's probably not the
11 -- the best signal to send.

12 On the other hand, it's true, for
13 example, that if the Court were to understand
14 the Kircher decision that we do and the
15 structure between (b) and (c) in 77p as having
16 a parallel in v(a), one could effectively
17 resolve the removal question, but you could
18 only, essentially, resolve it in the favor of
19 non-removal. I -- it would be very hard, I
20 think, to write an opinion honestly that says
21 what should happen here is these cases should
22 be removed under 77p(c).

23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Goldstein,
24 speaking of gibberish --

25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes?

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- aren't we stuck
2 with gibberish your way too? I mean, it seems
3 like it's gibberish all the way down here --

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It --

5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- because --
6 because under your version, as I understand it,
7 v(a), that first "except" clause, is
8 superfluous. It doesn't -- doesn't do
9 anything. And also we render "involving a
10 covered security," that language, potentially
11 superfluous in (c).

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. So --

13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So help me out with
14 that.

15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I -- I --

16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And -- and I know --
17 I know we generally -- you know, we -- nobody
18 likes gibberish, but it is our job to try and
19 give effect whenever possible to Congress's
20 language. It's not for us to assume that
21 Congress's language means nothing --

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- and was a waste
24 of time. It went through bicameralism and
25 presentment. And, normally, respect for the

1 legislative process dictates that we afford
2 some meaning to these words.

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Fair -- fair enough.
4 I will say, however, just to be clear, that you
5 do have a background presumption that Congress
6 would do something like this clearly and these
7 are conforming amendments. To be sure, if you
8 decided that my reading just came up with
9 nothing and his was perfectly sensible --

10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But --

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: -- we would have a
12 problem.

13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- doesn't yours --

14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No.

15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- indeed come up
16 with nothing --

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No. It doesn't.

18 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- with respect to
19 that first "except" clause and also with
20 respect to the "provided" -- "involving covered
21 securities" --

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure. So two things
23 about that --

24 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- language? Help
25 me out with that.

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. So the phrase
2 "except as provided in section X with respect
3 to subject matter Y" appears throughout the
4 U.S. Code a bunch of times.

5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm talking about
6 this one now.

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay, I promise that
8 --

9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's get there.

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Mixed cases is
11 one example. Also the cases like those
12 described in your Merrill Lynch versus Manning
13 decision. So there are cases that involve
14 either a state law claim that isn't expressed
15 -- that -- that relies on the Securities Act of
16 -- the '33 Act, for the substantive standard or
17 a case that combines a '33 Act case with also a
18 state law case. And so --

19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Help -- help me out.
20 How -- how --

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. So what would
22 happen is that if Congress had not amended
23 v(a), what you would have had is, in 77p(b), a
24 prohibition on a complaint that combines a
25 state law --

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Right. It's a --
2 it's a straight prohibition, this Court has
3 said, in Kircher. It's not -- it has nothing
4 to do with jurisdiction.

5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well --

6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's a preclusion
7 provision.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Fair enough.

9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So -- so --

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It is -- it is much
11 closer to a jurisdiction --

12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You don't need it.

13 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It is much closer to a
14 jurisdictional provision than the definition in
15 (f)(2). It says shall not be --

16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, this Court --
17 this Court has said it's a preclusion
18 provision.

19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So we're stuck with
21 that --

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. But it is --

23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- all right? Work
24 with -- work with -- just let me -- work with
25 me, all right?

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You can't refer to
3 (c) because we have another "except" clause
4 that refers to (c). So it has to refer to (b),
5 but there's no point in referring to (b) if
6 Kircher is right and this is just a preclusion
7 provision.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I would disagree. And
9 so, if you were to ask -- to Justice Breyer's
10 point, if -- if you gave a drafter a mission,
11 what would they do? If I -- if this is the
12 mission and that is (b) -- under 77p(b), what
13 we're going to do is bar complaints, call it
14 preclusion, bar complaints that combine a state
15 law claim that involves a covered security and
16 is a covered class action with a -- some other
17 claim, so a '33 Act claim.

18 And if what you wanted to do is avoid
19 confusion about what you do with the concurrent
20 jurisdiction under v(a), because that same
21 complaint would both be precluded under p(b)
22 and within the concurrent jurisdiction of the
23 states under v(a), it makes perfect sense to
24 have a conforming amendment that says, okay,
25 the -- the concurrent jurisdiction doesn't

1 include the cases that we just barred in p(b).

2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But that's stating
3 the blindingly obvious.

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh, well, you know, to
5 Mr. Katyal's point about closing doors --

6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's superfluous.

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: -- and windows and
8 everything -- it is not superfluous.

9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: It's closing a door
10 twice. It's not closing a window.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It is not superfluous,
12 sir, because, remember, jurisdiction says the
13 courts don't have jurisdiction no matter if the
14 defendant invokes this matter -- this provision
15 or not. It is a categorical instruction to the
16 courts; whereas p(b) is something that --

17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. You haven't
18 helped me out much there. Maybe you can help
19 me with the -- the language in -- in (c),
20 "involving a covered security."

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

22 JUSTICE GORSUCH: How is that not
23 superfluous on your reading?

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It is only an
25 indication of where it is that you look in p --

1 in 77p, because there are a lot of provisions
2 that are in 77p. So, if you say look at 77p,
3 what happens to covered securities? If I just
4 -- if you just take the language in these terms
5 and you ask what does 77p provide with respect
6 to covered securities --

7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I think we're
8 speaking past each other again, because I --
9 I'm referring to, I'm sorry, 77p(c), all right?

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh.

11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Which says "any
12 class -- covered class action brought in a
13 state court involving a covered security as set
14 forth in subsection (b)." The government's
15 position is that the words "involving a covered
16 security" must be doing some work. And it
17 seems to me --

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh, I -- I -- I'm not
19 sure what you're reading from, sir. You're
20 talking about in v(a) --

21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The removal.

22 JUSTICE GORSUCH: The removal
23 provision.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Of v(a)?

25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No.

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Of 77p(c)?

2 JUSTICE GORSUCH: P(c).

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Great.

4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay? Still p(c).

5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. Right.

6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right? "Any
7 covered class action brought in a state court
8 involving a covered security as set forth in
9 (b)." The government makes the argument that
10 if, in fact, all you were doing was referring
11 to (b), including state law classes -- state
12 law causes of action, you wouldn't need
13 "involving a covered security."

14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: There's going to be --

15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That language would
16 be superfluous.

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, there would be
18 superfluity on anybody's reading because
19 "brought in any state court" would also be
20 arguably superfluous; "any covered class
21 action" would be superfluous. If all you're
22 doing is saying pick up the cases in (b) --
23 what Kircher says and I do think it does --
24 Justice Sotomayor is right that it --

25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, no, because

1 we're talking about removal here. So you have
2 to identify cases that are in state court in
3 order to do any of that.

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Well, then any
5 covered class action. Okay?

6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Any covered class
7 action could be one in federal court. So it
8 makes sense to put it --

9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, I'm just saying in
10 terms of it would be superfluous as -- as well.

11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I don't see why, any
12 covered class action brought in state court may
13 be removed.

14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, everything --

15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That makes sense.

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, every -- (b),
17 everything that is in (b) is with respect to a
18 covered class action. To the point that this
19 statute is not drafted with incredible
20 precision, what Kircher says is going on in
21 SLUSA is in (b) we're going to ban a set of
22 cases; in (c) we're concerned that we might
23 have recalcitrant state courts; the cases that
24 are banned in -- in (b) can be removed under
25 (c).

1 And I don't even think this last
2 antecedent argument would help the other side
3 very much for two reasons. The first is the
4 last antecedent is "covered securities." It's
5 not "involving a covered security."

6 And the second is you have to ask,
7 Justice Kagan, when -- when they refer to
8 involving a covered security, it's not just
9 involving a covered security in the air; it is
10 an action involving a covered security. And
11 that action has to be one that's based on state
12 law.

13 JUSTICE KAGAN: I'll -- I'll add to
14 that. I mean, as I stare at it a little bit
15 more, I wish I had asked Mr. Kedem, "and shall
16 be subject to subsection (b)," because that
17 suggests that it has to be dismissed, and you
18 wouldn't want to dismiss the kind of cases that
19 Mr. Kedem wants to remove.

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: His whole point is
21 that you wouldn't dismiss them, but that's Your
22 Honor's point.

23 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yeah, but that would
24 make "and shall be subject to subsection (b)"
25 superfluous and -- and essentially mean

1 nothing.

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. So just to
3 circle back around to the question, and,
4 Justice Alito, you -- you have pointed out that
5 maybe this thing does nothing at all. That may
6 well be true. We do think it picks up the
7 mixed cases. The mixed cases did exist
8 previously, but --

9 JUSTICE ALITO: What sense does that
10 -- what sense does that make? The fed -- the
11 state courts have concurrent jurisdiction over
12 '33 Act claims, except if a lawyer is foolish
13 enough to include in the state court complaint
14 state claims that fall within the -- the
15 prohibition? What -- what sense does that
16 make?

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, Justice Alito,
18 it would make sure that there isn't confusion.
19 It would resolve an ambiguity.

20 It's not intended to do very much.
21 It's a conforming amendment. We don't think
22 that the statute -- this provision, which isn't
23 discussed anywhere in the legislative history
24 at all, is intended to accomplish very much.

25 All it's intending to do, we think,

1 and it obviously didn't do it, is --

2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Which -- which
3 provision are we talking about?

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: The v(a) amendment of
5 the jurisdictional provision.

6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: So you -- are you
7 answering the road to nowhere?

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. I'm answering
9 the road to nowhere. We don't think that it is
10 a road to nowhere because it does make clear
11 that the courts, without regard to whether or
12 not the defendant invokes p(b), do not have
13 jurisdiction. It actually accomplishes that
14 result. But no matter --

15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Is it just matching
16 the jurisdictional to the preclusion and
17 removal?

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: All right. If you --
19 if you told someone to write a statute that
20 says modify v(a) to make sure there isn't
21 jurisdiction over the cases we just banned, you
22 would use this exact language.

23 And the one thing I do want to be
24 clear on is that this phrase -- we do start
25 just with the simple text, that phrase, "except

1 as provided in section X with respect to
2 subject matter Y," everywhere in the U.S. Code
3 it's used refers to the -- the person to a
4 rule. It's the opposite of a "notwithstanding"
5 clause.

6 It always has some measure of
7 superfluity -- superfluity. What it's doing is
8 just -- you've got two different provisions and
9 it tells you which one controls. A
10 "notwithstanding" provision --

11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Goldstein, why
12 -- why would Congress want to do that, given
13 that if the federal claim is in federal court,
14 there are, as Mr. Katyal pointed out, all these
15 restrictions on counsel and who's the
16 represented party? You have the same -- the
17 federal claim in state court, and none of those
18 restrictions apply.

19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That's the usual rule,
20 Justice Ginsburg. And, remember, we have a
21 really good indication that's what Congress
22 intended, because that's the PSLRA. Congress,
23 when it wrote the PSLRA against the backdrop of
24 state law -- state court secured -- '33 Act
25 class actions, wrote it to say that the

1 procedural protections apply in cases that are
2 -- are subject to the Federal Rules of Civil
3 Procedure.

4 What it decided to do is it matched
5 the same compromise that's in the '33 Act
6 itself, which is it allowed these cases to be
7 decided in state court. And as we explained,
8 state courts have their own discovery stays.
9 They have it in their rules.

10 JUSTICE BREYER: There, I -- I see
11 that. But, look, I have one textual question
12 on your side.

13 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

14 JUSTICE BREYER: My textual question,
15 which we're discussing now, is we go to v.

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah.

17 JUSTICE BREYER: And let's look at the
18 second part, which says "except as provided" in
19 p(c) --

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah.

21 JUSTICE BREYER: -- you can't remove
22 it.

23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

24 JUSTICE BREYER: So that means if it's
25 provided -- "except" as provided in p(c).

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yep.

2 JUSTICE BREYER: And it's talking
3 about the '33 Act.

4 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

5 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. So now
6 let's go over to -- to c. And since they're
7 talking about removal of a '33 Act case --

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: A case with a '33 Act
9 claim.

10 JUSTICE BREYER: With a '33 Act claim.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

12 JUSTICE BREYER: A case with a '33 Act
13 claim, we look to (c) and say (c), therefore,
14 must refer in part to cases with '33 Act
15 claims.

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

17 JUSTICE BREYER: And if that's so,
18 since -- involving a covered security --

19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: So, it would be a
20 mistake --

21 JUSTICE BREYER: -- if it refers to --
22 if it refers to all of v, including the state
23 law problem, there is virtually no scope.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, that's not true.
25 It's the mistake.

1 JUSTICE BREYER: Ah, you're going to
2 -- I get it. I get it. You're going to say --

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Here's what I think
4 happened.

5 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Is this
6 the answer?

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah. So SLUSA is a
8 door-closing statute.

9 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah.

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It looks back to the
11 PSLRA and says we've had a statute that's been
12 evaded a bunch. We just don't want it to
13 happen again. So we're going to ban a set of
14 cases that have shifted from federal to state
15 court. Those are '34 Act cases by and large.
16 We're going to ban those. What might a clever
17 plaintiff's lawyer do?

18 Well, what they might do is slap a '33
19 Act claim on here and say it's still within the
20 concurrent jurisdiction of the state courts.
21 So we're just going to make clear that's not
22 true. That's all --

23 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: -- that this provision
25 does.

1 JUSTICE BREYER: Now, this is my
2 choice then. All right. The choice is reading
3 v for '33 Act, back to c, and when they talk
4 about (c), which refers to (b), they either
5 mean all of (b), which is a case with a state
6 law claim in it --

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

8 JUSTICE BREYER: -- and also a '33 Act
9 claim.

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

11 JUSTICE BREYER: That's your view.

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

13 JUSTICE BREYER: Or the government's
14 view is that involving just refers to (1) and
15 (2) in (b) and so it refers to '33 Act claims
16 sitting there by themselves in state court,
17 too.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right.

19 JUSTICE BREYER: That's my choice,
20 right?

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

22 JUSTICE BREYER: And I've got to see
23 which of those two makes more sense in terms of
24 the Act, which is why I started out with I want
25 to know what they want to do --

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

2 JUSTICE BREYER: -- with '33 Acts --

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

4 JUSTICE BREYER: -- because a '33 Act
5 is a big deal here.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right.

7 JUSTICE BREYER: Then the -- the SG's
8 position looks better.

9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

10 JUSTICE BREYER: And if it's a not
11 much of a deal, a throwaway --

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right.

13 JUSTICE BREYER: -- then yours looks
14 better.

15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. And so --

16 JUSTICE BREYER: Is that right?

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes. So here is why
18 you know that the '33 Act is the tail and the
19 '34 Act is the dog. The -- the legislative
20 history and the findings that my friend talks
21 about refer to the shift of cases from federal
22 to state court. These are not cases that
23 shifted. '34 Act case shifted.

24 The '34 Act requires you to file in
25 federal court. What happened is people instead

1 brought securities fraud cases under state law
2 in state court to avoid the PSLRA. Fine. But
3 that's not what happened here.

4 Our case was under the Securities Act
5 -- the '33 Act. It was fine in state court
6 before the PSLRA. Congress didn't change that
7 in the PSLRA. It's not an evasion of any
8 existing standard. All the rules that applied
9 to the '33 Act continue to apply to it.

10 So what Congress was concerned about
11 is a body of cases moving out of federal court
12 to state court. These cases have been within
13 the concurrent jurisdiction, non-removable, of
14 the state courts since the day the statute was
15 enacted. That's the compromise.

16 JUSTICE ALITO: If a plaintiff files a
17 third -- files a claim in state court under a
18 state law cause of action that mirrors the '33
19 Act in the -- in the respects that are set out
20 in the statute, the state court can't entertain
21 that. Am I right?

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That is correct.

23 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. Now given that,
24 why in the world would Congress want the state
25 court to be able to entertain the real thing,

1 an actual '33 Act?

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Because what Congress
3 is targeting is it just doesn't want this
4 resolved under state law. It wants it resolved
5 under the '33 Act. It does want these
6 nationally-traded securities cases to be
7 litigated under federal law.

8 JUSTICE ALITO: I thought it -- what
9 it wanted was it to be resolved under federal
10 procedural law?

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, that is not
12 uniformly true. Remember, we're talking about
13 a concern of the evasion of the PSLRA. And
14 Congress quite --

15 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, they wanted to
16 -- they wanted to resolve in accordance with
17 the PSLRA.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. And the PSLRA
19 --

20 JUSTICE ALITO: Which wouldn't apply
21 in state court.

22 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Exactly right. And so
23 that's our point and, that is, this is not an
24 evasion of the PSLRA. If Congress wanted to
25 delete the phrase in the PSLRA in cases that

1 are subject to the Federal Rules of Civil
2 Procedure and extend the PSLRA to the state
3 court, or if it wanted to make all these cases
4 removable or if it wanted to refer to a
5 definition, there are 10 different easier ways
6 and more clear ways, rather than to pick up a
7 phrase that is not used in this way in the U.S.
8 Code anywhere at all.

9 I did want to just respond to an
10 anomaly, it's akin to the one that you just
11 described as possible, that my friend talks
12 about. He says this: Look, under the
13 Respondents' view, if what you did was combine
14 a '33 Act claim with a state law claim, then we
15 admit that case would be litigated in federal
16 court. That is not correct.

17 Under 1441, this is what would happen,
18 is that the case would be removed to federal
19 court and under 1441(c) would mandate severing
20 out the prohibited state law claim and the case
21 would be remanded to state court and it would
22 be litigated in state court as a matter of law.

23 JUSTICE ALITO: The whole mixed case
24 thing doesn't make the first bit of sense to
25 me, that you've got the federal -- you have the

1 '33 Act claim and you have the prohibited state
2 act claim in state court.

3 So then the state court knows -- has
4 no jurisdiction whatsoever. What's going to
5 happen? The defendant moves to dismiss. The
6 plaintiff says, okay, fine, I dismiss my -- my
7 -- my state act claim.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right.

9 JUSTICE ALITO: Or the judge is going
10 to say, oh, it's too late. You combined them
11 to start out. The whole thing is dismissed.
12 And then, if the statute of limitations hasn't
13 run, the plaintiff can just come back and file
14 the federal -- the '33 Act claim in state court
15 by itself. Right?

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes, but that's only
17 because of SLUSA because what SLUSA is doing is
18 barring the state law claim. That wouldn't be
19 true if SLUSA didn't exist.

20 And I just think that you just have to
21 -- look, this is a narrow provision, not
22 discussed in the legislative history. You
23 can't ask it to do the world, which is to undo
24 the jurisdiction of the '33 Act that has
25 existed a long time and, that is, it's another

1 anti-evasion principle.

2 I do want to respond as well to my
3 friend's statement that what he -- he says the
4 exact opposite thing. He says his position
5 produces a direct parallel between the '33 and
6 '34 Act, and then to Justice Ginsburg says it
7 treats the '33 and '34 Act wildly differently.

8 It does treat them quite differently,
9 and that is he is pointing to statements in the
10 legislative history that suggest that some
11 members of Congress believe that all securities
12 cases would be litigated in federal court. But
13 he leaves behind all of the non-class actions
14 and he picks up cases that SLUSA clearly was
15 not intended to apply to, and that is
16 non-covered securities.

17 SLUSA is quite clear about this, that
18 it is intended to respond only with respect to
19 the nationally-traded securities that are
20 defined as covered securities. But this
21 reading somehow picks up, according to the
22 Petitioners, all of the covered class actions,
23 even if it's not a nationally-traded security
24 at all.

25 And it would be incredibly weird to

1 write a statute that says, except as provided
2 in 77p with respect to covered securities, and
3 to do something radically different from what
4 77p does with respect to covered securities.

5 What it does is it causes them to be
6 dismissed, not removed, and it applies only
7 with respect to those that involve
8 nationally-traded securities. And their
9 reading doesn't.

10 It is really, really obtuse. It is an
11 extraordinarily unusual way to accomplish this
12 result, which is a big result. Mr. Katyal
13 believes the statute does something quite
14 important. It changes how the '33 Act
15 functions with respect to a large body of
16 cases.

17 And you just don't -- your
18 jurisprudence helpfully tells the Congress, if
19 you want to do something like that, do it the
20 simple way. Say as defined in or say it's
21 removable or say it's within the exclusive
22 jurisdiction.

23 If you find out that -- if you
24 believe, Justice Gorsuch and Justice Alito,
25 that this -- our reading would produce -- would

1 apply to a null set, which we disagree with,
2 nonetheless, it is the case that we do give
3 meaning to the phrase, it wouldn't pick up any
4 cases, but their reading is not -- the words
5 that Congress used aren't nearly clear enough
6 to accomplish that result.

7 If there are no further questions.

8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I have one. What
9 do you think -- what would be the null set if
10 you read the government's reading of the
11 removal -- the involving -- if you read it --

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Its reading -- its
13 reading today in argument?

14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Its reading today.

15 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I assume you
17 understand it.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. If we
20 read it the government's way --

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah.

22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what would we
23 make -- what would be left of the second
24 "except" clause in -- in 77v(a)?

25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: The removal except

1 clause?

2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yes.

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: So --

4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Second "except"
5 clause.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: So the second "except"
7 clause, just to walk this through, says
8 basically whatever we're doing in 77p(c)
9 controls.

10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Right.

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay? And I do think
12 it's very useful that, except as provided and
13 should be read the same way in 77v(a), so it
14 does, you know, tell you to look somewhere
15 else.

16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If you read this
17 the way the government does --

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. Yeah.

19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- it says you
20 can't remove these cases in (a) --

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah.

22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- right, so you
23 can't remove them, but (c) says you can remove
24 them. So is there anything then that is not
25 removable? Why write the second "except"

1 clause at all?

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Well, it is the case
3 that it would be completely unnecessary because
4 (c) controls. I do think that probably in the
5 -- a point in the government's favor that
6 ultimately is in our favor is that there are
7 parts of v that don't do anything. Okay? And
8 the -- the removal provision is an example of
9 that.

10 If you didn't have the amendment to
11 the removal provision, you would still know
12 that you could remove under p(c). They're just
13 closing doors, locking them, crossing T's and
14 dotting I's a couple of times. That's how this
15 provision works.

16 Don't ask it to do more than it was
17 intended. Thank you.

18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Could I ask you, Mr.
19 -- Mr. Goldstein, also on this (c) provision,
20 and -- and this really ought to be a question
21 for Mr. Kedem, but he sat down. But I don't
22 want you to agree with me just for the sake of
23 --

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

25 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- agreeing with me.

1 But if I understand what he said, it's these
2 class actions with this last antecedent
3 principle, you're only referring to (1) and
4 (2), so now you -- you make those class actions
5 removable. But the way this provision works --
6 and you think kind of that makes sense, right?
7 We would want those -- those actions to be
8 removable, be consistent with Congress's other
9 purposes --

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: No, but --

11 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- but -- I'm sorry?

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I -- I don't think
13 that, but you might.

14 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. I'm -- I'm
15 saying what --

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Hypothetically.

17 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- in his view, right?

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

19 JUSTICE KAGAN: But then it says "and
20 shall be subject to subsection (b)." And all
21 that subsection (b) does, the way this (c)
22 provision works is it makes a category of cases
23 removable only so that a court can dismiss
24 them. That's the point of subsection (c).
25 It's like they were worried that state courts

1 wouldn't just dismiss these actions, so it made
2 them removable to be dismissed.

3 But then you're getting those cases up
4 there. You say, okay, we'll get them removable
5 because these cases really ought to be in
6 federal court, but under (c), now they have to
7 be dismissed.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That's right. I will
9 say -- I -- I'll give you the answer that I
10 think he might, and that is what he would say
11 is, okay, subject it to subsection (b) and some
12 of them get dismissed, and the rest of them
13 aren't subject to it. That's just not the
14 structure of this statute. And that's not what
15 Kircher says. Kircher says that this is a
16 anti-recalcitrant -- recalcitrance -- whatever
17 -- provision.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That if state courts
20 just aren't obeying the statute. There isn't
21 any indication that it was intended to pick up
22 a set of cases and deposit them in federal
23 court to litigate --

24 JUSTICE BREYER: There has to be.
25 There has to be, because the mixed case ends up

1 in part being in federal court.

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It does not because
3 under 1441(c) it gets remanded. The federal
4 part of the case, as a matter of law, gets
5 cleaved off and gets sent back to state court.
6 It does not stay and get litigated in federal
7 court.

8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry --

9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Mr. Katyal was just
10 wrong about that.

11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what provision
12 are you citing?

13 MR. GOLDSTEIN: 14 -- 28 U.S.C.
14 1441(c), it's the removal provision. So what
15 happens is if you have a mixed case, the
16 combined federal and state cases that are
17 subject to p(b), it gets removed. And federal
18 law, 1441(c), says if you have a otherwise
19 non-removable provision combined -- claim
20 combined with a removable claim, that what you
21 do is you break them in half and you send the
22 non-removable case back -- claim back. And so
23 this --

24 JUSTICE BREYER: No, so that's --
25 that's major.

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

2 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, either on the
3 one hand, your view, this is designed just to
4 get rid of the state actions.

5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.

6 JUSTICE BREYER: On their view, it is
7 designed to do two things. One is to remove
8 the fed part to the feds, and also to get rid
9 of the state.

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right. And so if you
11 just --

12 JUSTICE BREYER: Is there any history?

13 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Not -- not about the
14 amendment to v, there's no history, and we
15 don't think there's any history that suggests
16 moving the cases to federal court.

17 Thank you.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
19 counsel.

20 Four minutes, Mr. Katyal.

21 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF NEAL K. KATYAL
22 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

23 MR. KATYAL: Thank you.

24 Four -- four points. First, Congress
25 took the affirmative step of modifying the

1 preexisting concurrent jurisdiction provision
2 in Section 22. We're the only ones who give
3 that some meaning.

4 Justice Gorsuch, this is not about
5 surplusage, the canon of surplusage. This is
6 obliteration. They can't give you an
7 explanation for what Congress did when it added
8 those 12 words.

9 And that's why my friend says, oh,
10 there's some canon against doing -- a canon
11 that you have to do things a simple way. There
12 is no such canon in this Court's jurisprudence.
13 The closest, as Justice Sotomayor said, is the
14 presumption about concurrent jurisdiction, but
15 that presumption has never been held to apply
16 when a statute isn't silent. Those are only
17 when the Congress is silent. This is one in
18 which Congress has affirmatively taken the step
19 to remove 12 words -- to -- to remove some
20 subset of what was preexisting jurisdiction in
21 the state courts.

22 And, in addition, as this Court in
23 Kircher said, when you don't have a long
24 history of state court adjudication in the
25 area, presumptions about preemption don't

1 apply -- indeed, presumptions about
2 preemptions, Justice Breyer, your opinion in
3 Geier says they don't apply when you have an
4 express statute that deals with preemption.

5 And I think the same analogy is true
6 here. You have a specific statute that deals
7 with -- you know, which deals with the amount
8 of jurisdiction. So, I don't think this Court
9 could apply the presumption about concurrent
10 jurisdiction.

11 Second, Justice Breyer, you asked
12 about the legislative history. And, Justice
13 Alito, you asked who do you think -- do -- do
14 you think the person who wrote this statute set
15 out to do what you think you're saying it did?

16 And we're the only ones who are
17 telling you a story that is in the legislative
18 history itself. The first line of the
19 conference report: "Title 1 of SLUSA makes
20 federal court the exclusive venue for most
21 securities class action lawsuits." The manager
22 in the Senate, Senator D'Amato, and the chair:
23 "There shall be a uniform standard and there
24 should be a uniform procedure, and that's why
25 you move these nationally-traded securities to

1 a federal forum." President Clinton's signing
2 statement: "Since the uniform standards
3 provided by this legislation state that class
4 actions generally can only be brought in
5 federal court, will be governed by federal law,
6 clarity on the federal law to be applied is
7 particularly important."

8 There is nothing in there saying this
9 is only about the '34 Act. This is my friend
10 on the other side's invention. Congress
11 affirmatively took the step to modify the '33
12 Act jurisdictional provision, not just the '34
13 Act.

14 Justice Kennedy, this is my third
15 point, you asked about removal and whether or
16 not if you didn't accept our view of 22(a),
17 would that mean that, you know, we'd
18 effectively be out of luck. And I think you
19 shouldn't reserve that question because of the
20 reasons that my colleague from the Solicitor
21 General's Office said, and indeed it may take
22 years for another case to come up precisely
23 because there's a bar on interlocutory appeals
24 from removal decisions, as this Court in
25 Kircher made clear.

1 And, in addition, the Ninth Circuit in
2 a case called Rea versus Michaels Stores in
3 2014 said, when this Court, the Supreme Court,
4 makes removal available for the first time,
5 then we as litigants can go and seek that
6 removal. There's a lot of precedent which
7 barred us from seeking removal before, but,
8 obviously, we would do that if this Court were
9 to accept the alternative reading.

10 And last and finally, ultimately you
11 are left with Justice Alito's question: What
12 sense does their statutory reading make? Why
13 would bringing a state court count oust a
14 plaintiff out of state court when a mixed one
15 would not?

16 And Justice Ginsburg asked why would
17 Congress, when they're so concerned about
18 procedure and things like abusive litigation
19 and serial plaintiffs and massive attorneys'
20 fees, and took all these steps to regulate that
21 in the federal court context, why would they
22 just leave the back door gaping and wide open?
23 That is not the way to read a statute.

24 I understand the statute is a hard one
25 to read, but we're the only ones giving it a

1 reading that, A, makes sense; and that is, B,
2 consistent with the legislative history; and,
3 C, most importantly, is textual. We give
4 effect to those 12 words. They obliterate
5 them.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
7 counsel.

8 The case is submitted.

9 (Whereupon, at 11:10 a.m., the case
10 was submitted.)

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