

No. 22A-

IN THE

*Supreme Court of the United States*

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CHEVRON CORPORATION, *et al.*,

*Applicants,*

*v.*

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO., *et al.*,

*Respondents.*

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**APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME  
WITHIN WHICH TO FILE A PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

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TO THE HONORABLE ELENA KAGAN, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CIRCUIT JUSTICE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT:

Pursuant to Rules 13.5 and 30.2 of this Court, Applicants apply for a 60-day extension of time, to and including November 25, 2022, within which to file a petition for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in this case. The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on April 19, 2022, App., *infra*, 17a, 57a–58a, and a petition for rehearing was denied on June 27, 2022, *id.* at 64a. Unless extended, the time for filing a petition for a writ of certiorari will expire on September 26, 2022. The jurisdiction of this Court would be invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

1. This Court’s decisions establish that federal common law necessarily and exclusively supplies the rules of decision for certain narrow categories of claims implicating “uniquely federal interests,” including where “the interstate or international nature of the controversy makes it inappropriate for state law to control.” *Tex. Indus., Inc. v. Radcliff Materials, Inc.*, 451 U.S. 630, 640–41 (1981) (citation omitted). Interstate pollution is “undoubtedly” one such category. *Am. Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut*, 564 U.S. 410, 421 (2011). Indeed, this Court has stated that “the basic scheme of the Constitution . . . demands” that “federal common law” govern disputes involving “air and water in their ambient or interstate aspects.” *Ibid.* And under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, federal district courts have jurisdiction over claims “founded upon federal common law.” *Nat’l Farmers Union Ins. Cos. v. Crow Tribe of Indians*, 471 U.S. 845, 850 (1985) (citation omitted).

The federal courts of appeals have reached conflicting results on the application of these jurisdictional principles in the context of cases removed from state to federal court. In particular, the courts of appeals are in conflict on the question whether a federal district court has removal jurisdiction over a claim necessarily governed exclusively by federal common law but artfully pleaded under state law. That conflict has come into particular focus in the context of climate-change litigation, where another conflict has arisen: namely, over the question whether federal common law necessarily and exclusively supplies the rule of decision for claims that seek redress for harms allegedly caused by global greenhouse-gas emissions.

2. Applicants in this case are thirty oil-and-gas companies.<sup>1</sup> Respondents are the County of San Mateo; the City of Imperial Beach; the County of Marin; the County of Santa Cruz; the City of Santa Cruz; and the City of Richmond. Each Respondent filed a separate action against Applicants in California state court, alleging that the companies' "extraction, refining, and/or formulation of fossil fuel products; their introduction of fossil fuel products into the stream of commerce; their wrongful promotion of their fossil fuel products and concealment of known hazards associated

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants comprise Anadarko Petroleum Corporation; Apache Corporation; BP P.L.C.; BP America Inc.; Chevron Corporation; Chevron U.S.A. Inc.; CITGO Petroleum Corporation; ConocoPhillips; ConocoPhillips Company; Devon Energy Corporation; Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.; Eni Oil & Gas Inc.; Exxon Mobil Corporation; Hess Corporation; Marathon Oil Company; Marathon Oil Corporation; Marathon Petroleum Corporation; Occidental Chemical Corporation; Occidental Petroleum Corporation; Orintiv Canada ULC (*f/k/a* Encana Corporation); Phillips 66 Company; Repsol Energy North America Corporation; Repsol Trading USA Corporation; Rio Tinto Energy America Inc.; Rio Tinto Minerals Inc.; Rio Tinto Services Inc.; Shell plc (*f/k/a* Royal Dutch Shell plc); Shell Oil Products Company LLC; TotalEnergies E&P USA, Inc.; and TotalEnergies Marketing USA, Inc.

with use of those products; and their failure to pursue less hazardous alternatives available to them; is a substantial factor in causing the increase in global mean temperature and consequent increase in global mean sea surface height.” App., *infra*, 78a–79a. Asserting numerous causes of action ostensibly under California tort law, including product-liability claims and claims for public and private nuisance, Respondents demand compensatory and punitive damages, disgorgement of profits, abatement of the alleged nuisances, and other relief. *Id.* at 7a.

Applicants removed the actions to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The notices of removal asserted various grounds for federal jurisdiction, including (1) that Respondents’ claims are governed by federal common law; (2) that Respondents’ claims necessarily raise disputed and substantial federal questions; and (3) that federal-officer removal is authorized under 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a). *See* App., *infra*, 101a–07a. Respondents filed a motion to remand, which the district court granted, and Applicants appealed.

In its original decision in this appeal, the Ninth Circuit addressed only federal-officer removal, concluding that it did not have appellate jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1447(d) to review any other basis for removal. *Cnty. of San Mateo v. Chevron Corp.*, 960 F.3d 586, 598 (9th Cir. 2020).

On May 17, 2021, this Court announced its decision in *BP P.L.C. v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore*, 141 S. Ct. 1532 (2021). The Court clarified that, when a party seeks appellate review of an order remanding a “case . . . removed pursuant to section

1442 or 1443,” “the whole of [that] order bec[omes] reviewable on appeal.” *Id.* at 1538 (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1447(d)).

Thereafter, on May 24, 2021, this Court vacated the Ninth Circuit’s judgment in this appeal and remanded for further proceedings in light of its decision in *Baltimore*. See *Chevron Corp. v. San Mateo Cnty.*, No. 20-884, 2021 WL 2044534 (U.S. May 24, 2021). On remand, the panel affirmed the district court’s remand orders, App., *infra*, 17a, 57a–58a.

As relevant here, the Ninth Circuit held that respondents’ claims did not arise under federal common law because, *inter alia*, any relevant federal common law had been displaced by the Clean Air Act. App., *infra*, 25a. In so holding, the court of appeals expressly departed from the Second Circuit’s decision in *City of New York v. Chevron Corp.* 993 F.3d 81 (2d Cir. 2021), which held that federal common law necessarily governs claims seeking redress for harms from global climate change, to the exclusion of state law, even when the Clean Air Act displaces any remedy available under federal common law. See *id.* at 94–95.

The Ninth Circuit also concluded that the well-pleaded complaint rule prevents the removal of claims necessarily and exclusively governed by federal common law but artfully pleaded under state law to avoid federal jurisdiction. See App., *infra*, 21a–26a. That conclusion conflicts with decisions of other courts of appeals holding that artfully pleaded claims governed by federal common law are removable. See, e.g., *Sam L. Majors Jewelers v. ABX, Inc.*, 117 F.3d 922, 923 (5th Cir. 1997).

3. The undersigned counsel respectfully request an additional 60-day extension of time, to and including November 25, 2022, within which to file a petition for a writ of certiorari. This case presents significant and complex issues concerning the proper forum to litigate putative state-law claims that seek to hold energy companies liable for the effects of global climate change. A 60-day extension of time is necessary to allow Applicants' counsel to prepare the petition addressing these important issues and detailing the widening conflict among the courts of appeals, and to coordinate among the petitioning parties, who comprise 30 distinct entities represented by 21 different law firms, all of whom must approve the petition for certiorari before it can be filed. The current deadline also overlaps with national and religious holidays that will make coordination among these parties and their counsel more difficult.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the time to file a petition for a writ of certiorari be extended by 60 days, to and including November 25, 2022.

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