SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPRI	EME COURT	OF THE	UNITED	STATES
			-	
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES	CO.,)	
Petit	cioner,)	
v.) No. 2	1-309
LATRICE SAXON,)	
Respo	ondent.)	

Pages: 1 through 74

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 28, 2022

HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE	UNITED STATES
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3	SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.,)
4	Petitioner,)
5	V.) No. 21-309
6	LATRICE SAXON,)
7	Respondent.)
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9		
10	Washington, D.C	
11	Monday, March 28,	2022
12		
13	The above-entitled matt	er came on for
14	oral argument before the Supre	eme Court of the
15	United States at 11:43 a.m.	
16		
17	APPEARANCES:	
18		
19	SHAY DVORETZKY, ESQUIRE, Washi	ngton, D.C.; on behalf
20	of the Petitioner.	
21	JENNIFER D. BENNETT, ESQUIRE,	San Francisco,
22	California; on behalf of t	he Respondent.
23		
24		
25		

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:43 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument next in Case 21-309, Southwest Airlines
5	versus Saxon.
6	Mr. Dvoretzky.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF SHAY DVORETZKY
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. DVORETZKY: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	Section 1 of the FAA exempts only
12	classes of workers that work on an
13	instrumentality of foreign or interstate
14	commerce, like a plane, ship, or train, as it
15	moves goods or people across borders.
16	That rule follows from Circuit City
17	and Section 1's text and structure. Circuit
18	City held that the exemption reaches only
19	classes of workers engaged in foreign or
20	interstate transportation. As then Judge
21	Barrett held in Wallace, that means an exempted
22	class of workers must perform work analogous to
23	that of seamen and railroad employees.
24	Seamen and railroad employees' key
25	characteristic was working on ships and trains.

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1 We know that because "seamen" was a term of art.
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- 2 It meant workers who predominantly worked on a
- 3 vessel. Vessels, by definition, transported or
- 4 were capable of transporting goods or people
- 5 over water. And the paradigmatic seamen, as the
- 6 Court noted in Chandris, sailed long voyages.
- 7 That made seamen as a class actively
- 8 engaged in foreign or interstate transportation.
- 9 Critically, seamen did not include land-based
- 10 maritime employees. By specifying seamen,
- 11 Congress excluded stevedores, who are land-based
- 12 cargo loaders.
- Now Saxon says the exemption covers
- 14 the entire airline industry. But Section 1
- 15 exempts classes of workers, not industries,
- engaged in foreign or interstate transportation.
- 17 It says "seamen," not maritime employees. It
- 18 repeats "foreign or interstate," emphasizing
- 19 border crossing. And placed among these other
- 20 words, "railroad employees" similarly means
- 21 workers who perform their duties on the train.
- 22 Saxon is not exempt from the FAA.
- 23 Cargo loaders don't work on planes, just as
- stevedores didn't work on ships. They load
- 25 cargo before other classes of workers, like

- 1 seamen and pilots, do the foreign or interstate
- 2 transportation. They may facilitate
- 3 transportation, but that's not the test Circuit
- 4 City requires.
- I'm happy to take the Court's
- 6 questions.
- 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Counsel, in
- 8 your brief and in your -- your opening here, you
- 9 seem to be very -- being very precise in one of
- 10 your phrases. You -- you say "emphasizing
- 11 border crossing" in -- in determining interstate
- 12 commerce.
- Does your test require that the worker
- 14 who wants to be covered actually cross the
- 15 border?
- MR. DVORETZKY: No, it does not. The
- 17 question, as then Judge Barrett explained in
- 18 Wallace, is whether movement of people or goods
- 19 through the channel of interstate commerce is
- 20 central to the job of the class of workers.
- 21 So you might have a particular worker
- 22 within that class who, on a particular day,
- 23 doesn't cross borders. But -- but the question
- 24 is whether -- whether -- the question is whether
- 25 border crossing and this kind of transportation

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1 analogous to what seamen and railroad employees
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- 2 did is central to the -- the job of the class of
- 3 workers.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, okay, so
- 5 what you're saying is you might have a worker in
- 6 a particular function who doesn't cross the
- 7 border, but if the other people on his team do,
- 8 then he -- it's okay?
- 9 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I -- I -- I
- 10 think, in that hypothetical, Mr. Chief Justice,
- it depends on whether your hypothetical worker
- 12 is in the same class of workers as the others on
- 13 the team.
- When you're talking about a class of
- 15 ramp agent supervisors, they -- they all have
- 16 the same job description, and their job
- 17 description doesn't involve getting on the plane
- 18 and --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah, well,
- 20 let's say it's a group and, you know -- but only
- 21 the -- the most senior members of the group are
- the ones that do the actual border crossing, and
- then the others have to, you know, have put in
- three or four years at the junior position that
- isn't crossing the border, but then they'll

- 1 eventually be on that.
- 2 I'm trying to figure out, when you say
- 3 emphasizing border crossing, exactly what you're
- 4 trying to sweep under the rug.
- 5 MR. DVORETZKY: So --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I don't mean
- 7 that in a pejorative sense.
- 8 (Laughter.)
- 9 MR. DVORETZKY: -- I think, when --
- 10 Congress emphasized border crossing by repeating
- 11 the words "foreign or interstate" before
- 12 "commerce." And so the particular type of
- 13 commerce that is at issue has to involve border
- 14 crossing of the sort, again, that seamen and
- 15 railroad employees did.
- You might have some seamen who didn't
- 17 cross borders, but if the class --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But they would
- 19 be -- they would be covered?
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: They would be covered.
- 21 They -- they would be covered. And, you know,
- as for why that makes sense, this is like the
- 23 dull knives point that -- that Judge Bress made
- 24 in dissent in the Ninth Circuit. Knives as a
- 25 sharp -- as a class are sharp. You might have a

- 1 dull knife. It's still a knife. You might have
- 2 a seaman that doesn't cross borders, but because
- 3 the -- the char- -- the central characteristic
- 4 of seamen is to travel on ships and to do so
- 5 typically across borders, that's what satisfies
- 6 the Section 1 exemption.
- 7 And so, when we're looking at another
- 8 class of workers, like ramp agent supervisors
- 9 here, the question that we're asking is whether
- 10 the work they do is analogous to that.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 12 That's very helpful.
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Counsel, I see
- 14 your main argument, and you've repeated it again
- today, is that stevedores weren't considered
- seamen, but cargo loaders were considered
- 17 railroad workers.
- 18 And in New Prime, we noted that one of
- 19 Congress's purpose for exempting transportation
- 20 workers was that there were special arbitration
- 21 proceedings with respect to railroad workers and
- seamen.
- 23 Why isn't it longshoremen? The -- the
- 24 Longshore Harbors Act has worker's compensation
- 25 for stevedores. So it would have surprised me

- 1 for Congress to have mentioned the seamen and
- 2 stevedores in that list of two transportation
- 3 workers because stevedores weren't even in the
- 4 arbitration realm. Is that correct?
- 5 So why don't I look at what was within
- 6 the definition of railroad workers, which
- 7 included cargo handlers?
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: Justice Sotomayor, I
- 9 think the -- the term "railroad employees," read
- in isolation, not in the context of Section 1,
- 11 could include cargo loaders, but it doesn't have
- 12 to. And so, when there are competing --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, stevedores
- are a part of commerce, we said, in Puget Sound,
- as much as the crew on the train. So cargo
- 16 handlers on the railroad are equally part of
- 17 transportation commerce. So I don't see the
- 18 difference.
- 19 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I don't think
- 20 that the Commerce Clause cases like Puget Sound
- 21 are really instructive for the question here for
- 22 a couple of reasons.
- One, in Puget Sound, the Court was
- 24 relying on Haverty for the notion that -- for
- 25 the notion that seamen included stevedores.

- 1 Haverty, as this Court later recognized in
- 2 Chandris and Wilander, was wrongly decided. And
- 3 the -- the -- as the Court reiterated in
- 4 Chandris and Wilander, the fundamental -- the
- 5 fundamental characteristic of seamen is
- 6 predominantly spending time on the ship.
- 7 And as the Court noted in Chandris and
- 8 Wilander, in Haverty, which, again, is the case
- 9 that Puget Sound relies on, the Court was using
- seamen not in its common -- common understanding
- 11 to include stevedores.
- 12 In addition to that, Puget Sound
- relied on Burtch, which is a FELA case, and FELA
- 14 for a number of reasons is -- is not instructive
- 15 here as well. The statutory text is different.
- 16 The decisions interpreting FELA were by their
- 17 very terms atextual and rather purposive --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The phrase is --
- 19 MR. DVORETZKY: -- looking at the
- 20 broad purpose of FELA.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- "except for
- 22 workers engaged in foreign and interstate
- 23 commerce."
- 24 If we define cargo handlers as
- 25 involved in interstate commerce and seamen and

- 1 longshoremen were also considered involved in
- 2 commerce, maybe not interstate because there's
- 3 no question most ships, not all, but virtually
- 4 all travel in interstate commerce, why doesn't
- 5 the same apply here, that cargo handlers do as
- 6 well?
- 7 MR. DVORETZKY: Because the -- the
- 8 commerce cases like Puget Sound are not
- 9 answering the same question that is at issue
- 10 here. They are not interpreting the statutory
- 11 term "engaged in foreign or interstate
- 12 commerce, " which, as this Court said in Circuit
- 13 City, is a term of art.
- 14 They are also, in -- they -- they are
- answering a different question. They're talking
- about what is the full extent of Congress's
- 17 commerce power and how does that interact with
- 18 the state's authority.
- 19 The Court said in Circuit City that
- the scope of Section 1, the Section 1 exemption,
- 21 does not reach the full extent of Commerce
- 22 Clause power. That's simply the wrong question
- 23 under Circuit City.
- And so, when the Court is saying in
- 25 these cases like Puget Sound that stevedores are

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1 a part of interstate commerce, they're doing so
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- 2 in a very different context that's not
- 3 instructive here.
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, let's say I
- 5 -- I agree with everything you just said, but I
- 6 still have a question about folks who unload
- 7 cargo from interstate commerce and bring it into
- 8 the state.
- 9 Now what evidence is there that
- 10 railroad workers who did that were or were not
- 11 covered by this statutory language? And, if
- they were covered by it, do you lose?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Well, if -- if I may
- 14 -- if I may just clarify the question. When
- 15 you're asking if they're covered by --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: You can try.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 MR. DVORETZKY: If they're -- if
- 19 you're asking about the statutory language --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yes.
- 21 MR. DVORETZKY: -- are you referring
- 22 to whether they are covered by the Section 1
- 23 exemption?
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yes.
- MR. DVORETZKY: Okay. So, again,

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1 railroad employees, if you just read it in
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- 2 isolation, could mean any number of things. But
- 3 --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I know -- I
- 5 know you like to talk about people who travel,
- 6 okay? And I'm saying put that aside.
- 7 What about the fellow who unloads
- 8 cargo that's come in interstate commerce from
- 9 the railroad and then hands it off to a carrier
- 10 locally, that person, and if that person was
- 11 exempted by the act, then why isn't the same
- 12 person unloading cargo from a plane in the same
- 13 position?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Well, Justice Gorsuch,
- 15 I don't think that person was exempted by
- 16 Section 1 --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: That's my question.
- MR. DVORETZKY: That -- that -- that's
- 19 why I wanted to --
- 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What -- what
- 21 evidence do you have of that?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Well, so that's why I
- 23 wanted to clarify exactly what statute we're
- 24 talking about.
- 25 I don't think that person was exempted

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1 by Section 1 because railroad employees can be
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- 2 used any number of different ways. And if you
- 3 look, for example --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that.
- 5 I'm talking very specifically and historically,
- 6 in 1925, what evidence do you have?
- 7 MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I would look at
- 8 the Hours of Service Act and the Boiler
- 9 Inspection Act. I would look at the Erdman Act.
- 10 These are all statutes in which Congress used
- 11 railroad employees to mean something less than
- 12 everybody who works for the railroad.
- 13 Likewise, in United States versus
- 14 American Trucking --
- 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Did those things
- specifically deal with the class of workers I'm
- talking about, or are they just acknowledging
- 18 that, of course, the back-office accountant
- 19 sitting in New York is not engaged in interstate
- 20 commerce?
- 21 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I -- I -- I
- 22 think those -- those statutes are actually
- 23 narrowing the class of railroad employees to --
- to exclude far more than just the back-office
- 25 accountant. They --

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1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I'm talking about
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- 2 the very particular class of workers that we
- 3 have at issue here, and -- and what evidence do
- 4 you have one way or the other with respect to
- 5 them, not -- not other people who do other
- 6 functions that have nothing to do with
- 7 interstate commerce?
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I -- I -- I
- 9 don't think we have either evidence or a
- 10 definition either way as to Section 1.
- 11 What we have, though, is statutory
- 12 context in which the term "railroad employees,"
- first of all, can be used to mean less than all
- 14 railroad employees.
- 15 Second of all, it comes alongside the
- 16 word "seamen," not maritime employees. So that
- shows us that Congress was not trying to exempt
- 18 everybody who works for a particular employer
- 19 but, rather, a specific class.
- We have "engaged in foreign or
- 21 interstate commerce," which, as this Court said
- in Circuit City, colors the understanding of
- 23 seamen and railroad employees.
- We also have the language "class of
- workers," which suggests, again, that we are

- 1 focusing on what workers do, namely, they -- the
- workers in particular have to be engaged in
- 3 foreign or interstate commerce rather than
- 4 sweeping --
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. I'm going to
- 6 take all that as, no, I don't have any evidence
- 7 of the past, unless I'm misunderstanding
- 8 something, and then I'll ask you this question
- 9 if that's the case.
- 10 Why wouldn't we naturally understand
- 11 someone who is loading and unloading cargo from
- 12 interstate commerce to be involved in interstate
- 13 commerce within the meaning of this -- this Act,
- 14 narrowly, as a class of persons?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Because such an
- 16 individual -- that would be a -- a sweeping
- interpretation of Section 1.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, you can call
- 19 it sweeping. You can call it narrow. Whatever
- 20 adjective or adverb you want to attach to it,
- 21 why wouldn't that be an appropriate reading of
- this statute, counsel?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Because the statutory
- 24 structure and text here suggests that Congress
- 25 had in mind a narrower understanding based on

- 1 all of the other cues that we are talking about.
- 2 If Congress meant -- rail -- "railroad
- 3 employees" can be read one of two ways.
- 4 "Seamen" can only be read one way. And so,
- 5 therefore, the understanding of seamen ought to
- 6 help the Court understand which understanding of
- 7 railroad employees is the right one.
- In Neal versus Clark, for example, the
- 9 Court looked at the word "fraud." Fraud
- 10 standing on its own can mean either positive
- 11 fraud or implied fraud.
- 12 The Court read it to mean positive
- fraud because it was used in the statute
- 14 alongside the word "embezzlement."
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: What do you --
- MR. DVORETZKY: So --
- 17 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- do with -- keep
- 18 going. I'm sorry, keep going.
- MR. DVORETZKY: Well, no, I was just
- 20 going to say so too here, railroad employees can
- 21 be read either way in isolation but should be
- 22 informed by seamen.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And on workers
- 24 engaged -- "class of workers engaged in foreign
- or interstate commerce," what do you do with the

- 1 Burtch case, which I realize is about FELA but
- 2 is dealing with similar language, "engaged in
- 3 commerce, and the Court said it is too plain
- 4 to require discussion that the loading or
- 5 unloading of an interstate shipment by the
- 6 employees of a carrier is so closely related to
- 7 interstate transportation as to be practically a
- 8 part of it, " which was, applying, of course, as
- 9 you know, the Shanks test, closely related test,
- to reach a conclusion, and that's 1924 when the
- 11 Court says that.
- 12 So what do we do with that?
- MR. DVORETZKY: So two points, Justice
- 14 Kavanaugh, one textual, the other
- 15 methodological.
- 16 Let me actually start with the
- 17 methodological point. You mentioned Shanks. In
- 18 Shanks, the Court said that it was interpreting
- 19 FELA not in a technical legal sense or --
- 20 speak -- or it was "interpreting interstate
- 21 commerce not in a technical legal sense but in a
- 22 practical one better suited for the occasion."
- Shanks by its terms is not a textual
- 24 opinion. It's a purposive opinion. The --
- 25 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Right. So we're

- 1 left -- I mean, I don't know if you listened to
- 2 the last case, but a similar situation where the
- 3 Court has a precedent interpreting the language.
- 4 And the question's whether -- I think,
- 5 whether we should think that precedent makes
- 6 sense with the exact or very similar language in
- 7 another contemporaneous statute. And I guess
- 8 I'll let you keep going on that.
- 9 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, so Shanks took
- one methodological approach, which was an
- 11 atextual one.
- 12 At the same time, in Circuit City, the
- 13 Court said the way to think about "engaged in
- 14 foreign or interstate commerce" is with
- 15 reference to the Gulf Oil and ABM cases, which
- 16 rejected the kind of closely connected standard
- 17 that Shanks adopted.
- 18 In addition to that -- I said I had
- 19 two points. That's the methodological. The
- 20 textual differences between FELA and Section 1
- 21 are also important. Obviously, FELA does not
- 22 have the kind of language that we have in
- 23 Section 1 about seamen and railroad employees
- 24 and a residual clause.
- 25 It doesn't use the word -- it doesn't

- 1 use the word "foreign or interstate commerce" in
- 2 the same way. It talks about a common carrier
- 3 engaged in trade or commerce.
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Between any of the
- 5 several states?
- 6 MR. DVORETZKY: Right. But it -- but
- 7 it doesn't have the same --
- 8 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And that sounds
- 9 like interstate.
- 10 MR. DVORETZKY: It -- it's not the
- same repetition of "foreign or interstate" that
- 12 we have here in the residual clause.
- In addition to that, FELA focuses
- 14 first and foremost on the employer's business.
- 15 It talks about every common carrier by railroad
- while engaging in commerce. So that is focusing
- on the employer in a way that the Section 1
- 18 exemption is not.
- 19 And, lastly, when FELA gets to
- 20 employees, it talks about them in their
- 21 individual capacity, whereas the FAA addresses
- 22 classes of workers.
- So, textually, there are a number of
- 24 differences here. And, methodologically, again,
- when the Court was looking at FELA, it wasn't

- doing so textually. It was doing so in a
- 2 purposive way. And Gulf Oil and ABM, which also
- 3 interpreted contemporaries of the FAA using
- 4 language like "engaged in foreign or interstate
- 5 commerce," they had a much narrower
- 6 understanding of what those words meant.
- 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But it's also
- 8 interesting the Court just says it's "too plain
- 9 to require discussion" that loading and
- 10 unloading is -- you know, it's, like, so obvious
- 11 to the Court in 1924 that loading and unloading
- is practically part of the interstate commerce.
- MR. DVORETZKY: It -- it --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That suggests an
- understanding of the terms as of 1924.
- 16 MR. DVORETZKY: Only in the context of
- 17 a test that itself said that FELA was "so broad
- 18 that it covered a vast field about which there
- 19 could be no discussion." That's a quote from
- 20 the Carr test. And --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, if you want to
- look more directly to the FAA, what do we do
- about wharfage, which Section 1 speaks about as
- 24 "agreements relating to wharfage or any other
- 25 matter in foreign commerce?"

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1 Wharfage contracts, as I understand
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- them, not being an expert in this area, have to
- 3 do with the loading and unloading of cargo. And
- 4 if that is considered in interstate or in
- 5 foreign commerce for purposes of Section 1, what
- 6 -- what -- what do I do about that? That seems
- 7 a rather specific textual clue.
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: So the reference to
- 9 wharfage comes up in the definition of maritime
- transactions, not in the definition of commerce.
- 11 Congress in Section 1 was separating out
- 12 maritime --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: It says "wharfage or
- any other matters in foreign commerce." That's
- 15 what it says.
- MR. DVORETZKY: It -- it does, but it
- 17 says that in the first part of Section 1
- 18 defining maritime transaction --
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand that.
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: -- before it gets to
- 21 commerce.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: But it -- it -- it
- 23 considers a wharfage agreement to be a matter in
- 24 -- in foreign commerce.
- MR. DVORETZKY: So --

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JUSTICE GORSUCH: Do you wish to
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 2
      address that?
 3
               MR. DVORETZKY: I do, and I disagree
     with that grammatical understanding of the
 4
      statute as well because, if you look at
 5
      everything that come -- if you look at the words
 6
7
      that come after wharfage, for example, "supplies
      furnished vessels or repairs to vessels" --
8
9
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: "Or any other
10
      matters" --
11
               MR. DVORETZKY: Well --
12
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- "of foreign
13
      commerce."
14
               MR. DVORETZKY: -- "supplies furnished
15
     vessels or repairs to vessels" are not something
16
     that you can think of as being in foreign
17
      commerce, which -- which suggests that "in
18
      foreign commerce" is really just modifying
19
     matters rather than characterizing everything
20
      that came before.
21
                It doesn't -- it doesn't make sense to
22
     think of a -- a repair to a vessel as being in
23
     foreign commerce. And if it did, what would
24
      that mean? That everybody somehow associated
25
     with the repair by virtue of -- of repairing a
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1 vessel was in foreign commerce? That's a pretty
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- 2 sweeping understanding of -- of foreign
- 3 commerce --
- 4 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I understand
- 5 your argument.
- 6 MR. DVORETZKY: -- contrary --
- 7 contrary to what Congress was doing in the rest
- 8 of the -- when it actually got to defining
- 9 commerce by specifying seamen, by repeating
- 10 "foreign or interstate" where it didn't need to
- in order to underscore the significance there of
- 12 border crossing.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Picking up on the
- 14 question on railroad employees that Justice
- 15 Gorsuch was asking, I think your theory is that
- 16 because "seamen" doesn't include everyone
- involved in shipping, we should interpret
- 18 "railroad employees" not to interpret everyone
- 19 who's involved in loading and unloading the
- 20 railroad, the cars as well. Is that my --
- MR. DVORETZKY: That's part -- that is
- 22 part of it, yes.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And why not just
- 24 rail -- read "railroad employees" to mean
- 25 railroad employees?

- 1 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, so, first of
- 2 all, "railroad employees" doesn't have to mean
- 3 all railroad employees. And, in fact, it
- 4 typically doesn't. Even in the RLA, when it
- 5 refers to employees, it's not talking about
- 6 everybody who works for the railroad.
- 7 Management is excluded. The RLA and
- 8 the Transportation Act both distinguish between
- 9 employees -- subordinate officials and railroad
- 10 -- and -- and management. And so just looking
- 11 at the term "railroad employees," the most
- 12 natural reading of that isn't everybody who
- works for the railroad.
- In addition to that, in Section --
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: And are -- and are you
- acknowledging that if railroad baggage handlers
- are covered, then you lose? There's no way to
- 18 separate those two out, is there?
- MR. DVORETZKY: I think there is a way
- 20 to separate those two out. Even if railroad
- 21 baggage handlers are covered, that doesn't tell
- you that Congress meant to exempt the entire
- 23 airline industry.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I mean, we may
- or may not be talking about the entire airline

- 1 industry, but at least airline ramp workers and
- 2 airline ramp supervisors. If railroad baggage
- 3 handlers are covered, is there any possible way
- 4 that air -- airline ramp workers would not be
- 5 covered?
- 6 MR. DVORETZKY: Yes, absolutely,
- 7 because even if you -- even if you ask me to
- 8 assume that railroad baggage handlers are
- 9 covered, we still have the fact that stevedores
- are not covered by use of the word "seamen."
- 11 And so, at that point, we look at those two
- words and maybe they point in other directions,
- 13 but how do you resolve that?
- You still look at "engaged in foreign
- or interstate commerce," which, under Circuit
- 16 City, is supposed to be given a narrow
- 17 construction. You still look at the fact that
- 18 the -- the Section 1 exemption is focusing
- 19 particularly on what the workers do rather than
- on the employer more generally.
- 21 And, in addition to that, you ought to
- interpret the Section 1 exemption consistently
- with -- with the FAA's pro-arbitration purposes.
- 24 There's no reason to think that when Congress
- 25 passed this statute in 1925 that it meant to

- 1 leave a gap to cover a class of workers that
- 2 would not be covered by any other federal
- 3 regime for years later.
- 4 JUSTICE KAGAN: Didn't we say not to
- 5 do that in New Prime? I thought that that was
- 6 one of the points of New Prime, is that you
- 7 don't get to just wave around the FAA's purposes
- 8 in order to construe the scope of Section 1.
- 9 MR. DVORETZKY: I think you don't get
- 10 to use the FAA purposes to contradict the plain
- 11 language of Section 1. But, here, I think that
- the language of Section 1 supports us and would
- 13 be informed by the broader understanding of what
- 14 Congress was trying to achieve in the FAA, which
- was to promote rather than undermine
- 16 arbitration.
- 17 The -- the purpose of the Section 1
- 18 exemption that the Court attributed to Congress
- in New Prime and Circuit City was not an
- anti-arbitration purpose. It was a purpose to
- 21 make sure the -- the vast majority of
- 22 individuals are covered by Section 2, and to the
- 23 extent that you're saying --
- 24 JUSTICE KAGAN: Right. But whatever
- 25 the FAA's general purposes are, we read the

- 1 exception fairly. Isn't that the proper way to
- 2 read a statute? There are -- there's a general
- 3 -- there are general provisions and then there's
- 4 an exception where they thought that the general
- 5 provisions of the FAA did not apply, and we read
- 6 that exception fairly. Isn't that what we're
- 7 supposed to do?
- 8 MR. DVORETZKY: Of course, but I would
- 9 submit that it's a not -- not a fair reading of
- 10 the exception here where you have a choice
- 11 between two -- two competing interpretations of
- 12 "railroad employees" in this context to choose
- the broader understanding of "railroad"
- employees, given, again, the juxtaposition with
- seamen, given, again, the focus on engaging in
- 16 foreign or interstate commerce, and the
- 17 understanding that Circuit City attributed to
- 18 that term in this very statute to require direct
- 19 participation in the movement of goods or
- 20 services.
- 21 And, again, when we're looking at what
- 22 seamen did, I don't think you can just look at
- railroad employees and ignore what seamen did.
- I think you have to look at them together.
- 25 With -- and then, with respect to the

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1 argument which we may hear that the -- the
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- 2 entire airline industry is covered by this,
- 3 again, the statute here doesn't speak in terms
- 4 of entire industries. It speaks in terms of
- 5 classes of workers and a focus on the work that
- 6 they do and, again, juxtaposing railroad
- 7 employees with seamen.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you.
- 9 Justice Thomas?
- 10 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 11 Justice. Just a couple of questions.
- 12 The -- you make quite a bit -- you --
- 13 you suggest that seamen have to actually travel
- interstate or internationally, right?
- 15 MR. DVORETZKY: I think seamen as a
- 16 class, the only understanding of that class is
- 17 that they traveled interstate or
- internationally, but, as I was trying to explain
- 19 to the -- to the Chief Justice at the beginning
- of the argument, you could have an individual
- seaman who didn't, yet that person would still
- 22 qualify as a seaman and fall under the
- 23 exemption.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, how would you
- 25 do that?

MR. DVORETZKY: I -- you would look at

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2
      -- you would look at the class of workers that
      the individual belongs to, and if -- if the
 3
      class of workers is that of seamen, then you
 4
      look at the traditional maritime law
 5
 6
     understanding of what a seaman was.
 7
                And cases like Chandris and Wilander
      tell us that the fundamental characteristic of
 8
 9
      seamen as a class was working on the vessel and
      typically crossing borders. But that doesn't
10
11
      mean that if you have an individual seaman who
12
     didn't cross borders that they're excluded --
      that they're excluded from the exemption.
13
14
                JUSTICE THOMAS: So let's just look at
15
      tugboat operators as a class. Would they be
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- 17 MR. DVORETZKY: I think they would.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Why? They don't
- 19 travel internationally.

considered seamen?

1

- MR. DVORETZKY: They -- they don't,
- 21 but, nonetheless, they -- they satisfy the --
- the basic conditions for the test under Chandris
- and Wilander. They spend the predominant amount
- of their time on a vessel, and the vessels that
- 25 they spend time on, move or are capable of

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1 moving people or goods across -- across water.
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- 2 The fact that they don't do so
- 3 internationally doesn't exclude them from the
- 4 class of seamen, given what the definition is
- 5 for "seamen" under this Court's case law and
- 6 under maritime law.
- 7 JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. Give me again
- 8 your limiting principle for railroad employees
- 9 as a class.
- 10 MR. DVORETZKY: Railroad employees are
- 11 those who ride the rails. They're the people on
- the train who move goods or people on the train.
- 13 Typically, that's going to be across
- borders, but, as with the discussion we were
- just having about seamen, you could have a
- 16 railroad -- you could have railroad employees
- 17 who don't cross borders as well.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: So there -- there
- 19 used to be a train that ran just from Savannah
- 20 to Atlanta and back. Now it's a railroad. It's
- 21 a train. It has employees.
- 22 So I'm -- I'm trying to understand why
- the employees on that dedicated intrastate train
- 24 would be treated differently from your class of
- 25 either internationally traveling or interstate

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1 traveling employees?
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- 2 MR. DVORETZKY: Justice Thomas,
- 3 because the employees who work on the train
- 4 between Savannah and Atlanta are not their own
- 5 class. The class of workers is still railroad
- 6 employees. And, typically, railroad employees
- 7 cross borders, but there are some, as in your
- 8 example, who don't. That doesn't make them part
- 9 of a different class.
- 10 JUSTICE THOMAS: So you're basically
- 11 saying you have a definition of a class that
- 12 includes international or interstate travel and
- 13 that you may have exceptions to that. Isn't
- that kind of an odd way to create a class?
- MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I don't
- 16 think it is because I think that's what followed
- 17 --
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Why wouldn't it be
- 19 the opposite -- that's what I'm asking -- that
- 20 the class is broader than those who travel
- 21 internationally or nationally?
- 22 MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I -- I think I
- would point you, again, to the use of the word
- 24 "seamen" in the statute. Seamen sometimes cross
- borders and sometimes didn't, but Congress in

- 1 the statute didn't distinguish between those
- 2 different types of seamen. It just talked about
- 3 seamen as a general class.
- 4 And so, when you're talking about
- 5 railroad employees, you're also talking about
- 6 them as a general class whether the particular
- 7 railroad employee goes from D.C. to New York or
- 8 from Atlanta to Savannah.
- 9 JUSTICE THOMAS: So one last question,
- 10 and this is back to what Justice Gorsuch alluded
- 11 to, and that is wharfage. I'm having some
- 12 difficulty understanding your argument there
- 13 because that seems to suggest that as a part of
- 14 the maritime transaction that we're talking
- about, it would include wharfage agreements, you
- 16 know, basically, shore agreements.
- 17 And you were giving -- I -- I don't
- 18 understand what your answer was to him.
- 19 MR. DVORETZKY: Justice Thomas, I
- 20 think the answer is that wharfage is part of
- 21 maritime transactions. But Section 1 separately
- 22 defines maritime transactions from commerce, and
- the Section 1 exemption that we're talking about
- 24 here today is an exemption from the definition
- of commerce, not from the definition of maritime

- 1 transactions.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. Finally, if --
- 3 let's just move away from wharfage a section --
- 4 a second. What would you do with drayage that
- 5 continues a journey of, say, a container from
- 6 the airport if it's a FedEx/UPS container or if
- 7 it's intermodal and it comes in on a container
- 8 ship, but then it's taken 2- or 300 miles away?
- 9 MR. DVORETZKY: Well, I -- I think, if
- 10 it came in on a ship, at that point -- at that
- 11 point, it could conceivably fall within the
- 12 definition of seamen.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: The drayage would be
- 14 considered a seamen?
- MR. DVORETZKY: I -- I think it would
- if -- if we're talking about moving across
- 17 water.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: No, a drayage would
- 19 be moving to a truck to be hauled.
- MR. DVORETZKY: Oh, oh, oh. So, no,
- 21 that -- that would not fall within the Section 1
- 22 exemption. That would not fall within the
- 23 Section 1 exemption because it is not part of
- 24 what the -- the seamen's duties -- well, it
- would depend, I suppose, who's doing that work,

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1 right?
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- I mean, if -- if -- if you have the
- 3 seamen who are actually the ones unloading the
- 4 ship, then I think the fact that they carried
- 5 out some loading or unloading duties would not
- 6 take them out from the exemption.
- 7 But, if you have individuals analogous
- 8 to ramp agents or stevedores, whose primary job
- 9 it is to be unloading the ship, then, no, under
- 10 the language of Section 1, they would not be
- 11 subject to the exemption, just as stevedores
- 12 were not -- were excluded from -- from the class
- of seamen.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 16 Breyer?
- 17 Justice Alito?
- Justice Sotomayor?
- 19 Justice Kagan?
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Railway signal
- operators, are they railway employees?
- MR. DVORETZKY: Not within the meaning
- of Section 1 because they're not riding the
- 24 train.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: So, I mean, you know,

- 1 the train doesn't go unless those signal
- operators are there going green light/red light,
- 3 right? But they're not railway employees within
- 4 the meaning of Section 1?
- 5 MR. DVORETZKY: Correct, because the
- 6 test is not how closely related or even how
- 7 necessary they are to transportation. The test
- 8 under Circuit City and under the language of
- 9 Section 1 is whether they actually are doing the
- 10 foreign or interstate transportation in the way
- 11 that seamen and railroad workers do.
- 12 Lots of different people are important
- 13 for transportation. You might need a travel
- agent to book your ticket. You wouldn't get on
- 15 the plane if you don't know how to use a
- 16 computer without the travel agent.
- 17 That doesn't mean that the travel
- agent is a transportation worker just because
- 19 they were necessary for you to get on that
- 20 plane.
- 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: So the -- the test is
- are you moving?
- MR. DVORETZKY: The -- the test is are
- 24 you moving on the -- the ship, the plane, the
- 25 truck, through the channels of interstate

- 1 commerce. That is what seamen and railroad
- 2 employees did.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 5 Gorsuch?
- 6 Justice Kavanaugh?
- 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Just -- I -- I
- 8 mentioned the Burtch precedent, but the other
- 9 side cites a number of other pre-1925 cases,
- 10 like Gloucester Ferry, Crutcher, Easton, Texas
- 11 Transportation, in -- in other fields but in all
- of them suggesting that loading and unloading is
- part of interstate commerce. So I don't know --
- 14 necessarily want you to go one by one, but just
- what's your response to that?
- 16 And they -- they say that just
- 17 reflects -- further demonstrates the common
- 18 understanding that loading and unloading is part
- 19 of interstate commerce.
- 20 MR. DVORETZKY: So I think those cases
- 21 were answering a different question. They were
- 22 not interpreting "engaged in foreign or
- interstate commerce," which the Court said in
- 24 Circuit City was a term of art that has to be
- 25 given its plain meaning.

1	Many of those are dormant Commerce
2	Clause cases. So what's going on in those cases
3	is the Court is saying a state, let's say, can't
4	regulate the loading or unloading of cargo
5	because, without the loading or unloading of
6	cargo, the the interstate commerce can't
7	happen.
8	And so, in that situation, regulating
9	the loading or unloading is stopping the
LO	interstate commerce from happening. That's
L1	simply answering a different question than
L2	whether the people doing the loading or
L3	unloading are themselves engaged in foreign or
L4	interstate commerce in the narrow way in which
L5	Section 1 uses that term.
L6	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.
L7	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
L8	counsel.
L9	Ms. Bennett.
20	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JENNIFER D. BENNETT
21	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT
22	MS. BENNETT: Mr. Chief Justice, and
23	may it please the Court:
24	If Congress wanted to exempt from the
25	FAA just those workers aboard an instrumentality

- of commerce crossing state lines, it easily
- 2 could have said so.
- Instead, it excluded the employment
- 4 contracts of seamen, railroad employees, and any
- 5 other class of workers engaged in foreign or
- 6 interstate commerce.
- 7 This Court made clear in New Prime
- 8 that we interpret this exemption just as we
- 9 would any other statute, by the meaning of its
- 10 words at the time it was passed. Those words
- 11 exempt airline employees who load and unload
- 12 cargo.
- Southwest can't dispute that by 1925
- it was blackletter law that the transportation
- of goods in commerce begins when they're given
- to a carrier and it only ends when they're
- 17 received at their final destination.
- 18 Indeed, this Court had repeatedly held
- 19 that loading and unloading cargo specifically is
- 20 part of that transportation, not ancillary to
- 21 transportation or connected to transportation,
- 22 but it is itself transportation, that it is
- 23 itself commerce.
- 24 And just the year before the FAA was
- 25 passed, as Justice Kavanaugh pointed out, this

- 1 Court held that it was too plain to require
- 2 discussion that a worker who unloaded a train
- 3 was a railroad employee and that that railroad
- 4 employee was engaged in interstate commerce.
- 5 Yet Southwest contends that workers
- 6 who load and unload airplanes are not part of
- 7 any class of workers engaged in commerce for
- 8 purposes of the FAA.
- 9 There's no support for this contention
- in the text of the statute. Southwest can't
- 11 point to even a single example from any time
- 12 period in which the phrase "engaged in foreign
- or interstate commerce" has ever been given the
- 14 meaning it proposes.
- So, instead, Southwest invokes the
- 16 statute's purpose. The FAA favors arbitration,
- 17 Southwest says, so the exemption must be given
- as narrow a reading as possible regardless of
- 19 what the text actually means.
- 20 But this Court rejected that very
- 21 argument in New Prime. And even if we were to
- 22 privilege purpose over text, on Southwest's
- interpretation, the exemption would do exactly
- 24 what Circuit City held it was designed to avoid,
- 25 unsettle developing and existing dispute

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1 resolution regimes at the time.
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- I welcome this Court's questions.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What about
- 4 ticket agents? Are they included as transport
- 5 workers under your approach?
- 6 MS. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor, in
- 7 1925 -- and by ticket agents, I assume you mean
- 8 people who work for the airline helping --
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, the -- the
- 10 person you, you know, go up and give your ticket
- 11 to and -- you know.
- MS. BENNETT: Oh. Yes, Your Honor.
- 13 In 1925, those people certainly would have been
- 14 railroad employees. If you look at, for
- 15 example, Decision Number 2 of the Railroad Labor
- 16 Board, which is the agency that set wages for
- 17 railroad employees at the time, you'll see those
- 18 people listed in the list of -- of employees.
- 19 Station employees were certainly included.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What about
- 21 somebody who isn't actually -- doesn't take your
- 22 ticket, doesn't put the little, you know, thing
- 23 on the -- the bag, but is there at an office for
- 24 the airline in -- in the airport?
- MS. BENNETT: I think it would depend

- on what that person is doing. But -- but what
- 2 we know about railroad employees, the ordinary
- 3 meaning was those people who did the customary
- 4 work of the railroad at the time. And what that
- 5 meant was that anybody whose function was
- 6 contributory to the transportation of the
- 7 railroad rather than, say, negligible or --
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, the
- 9 general counsel.
- 10 MS. BENNETT: The general --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Whose work is
- 12 -- is, whatever you just said, supportive of the
- 13 --
- MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: --
- 16 transportation or whatever.
- MS. BENNETT: The general counsel is
- 18 likely not a railroad employee, and the reason
- 19 for that is because "railroad employees" and --
- 20 excluded executives. There was really this --
- 21 as -- as Mr. Dvoretzky pointed out, there is a
- 22 labor/management divide, just as there is in any
- 23 other class of workers.
- 24 And so, for that reason, the general
- 25 counsel likely wouldn't be excluded.

1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: In your answers to
2	the Chief Justice, you have two arguments,
3	alternative arguments. Are you distinguishing
4	your broader "all airline workers" from your
5	narrower argument, or am I misreading how you
6	constructed your your argument?
7	MS. BENNETT: I think even if the
8	on the broader argument, what we mean by
9	"airline employees" is a category analogous to
LO	"railroad employees."
L1	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Right. So, on
L2	your narrower argument, maybe you can tell me
L3	what your narrower argument exactly is as you
L4	would articulate it.
L5	MS. BENNETT: Sure. So the narrower
L6	argument is that cargo loaders were engaged in
L7	foreign or interstate commerce in exactly the
L8	same way as seamen and railroad employees. And
L9	if we start with the phrase "engaged in" "in
20	commerce," we know that in 1925 people who
21	loaded and unloaded railroad trains were engaged
22	in foreign and interstate
23	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So on your
24	MS. BENNETT: commerce.
25	THETTOE KAMANAHOH: Sorry to

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1 interrupt.
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- 2 MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But, on your
- 4 narrower argument, just to follow up on the
- 5 Chief Justice's questions, on your narrower
- 6 argument, does that bring in then the gate
- 7 ticket agents, or is that a question for another
- 8 day, or where does that stand?
- 9 MS. BENNETT: On the narrower
- 10 argument, I think that's a much more difficult
- 11 question, and the question would be -- you know,
- 12 the -- the narrower argument would be, are those
- 13 people engaged in foreign or interstate
- 14 commerce? If we take the -- if we take the
- class of workers as the job you're doing, then
- 16 we would look at the flow -- I think we would
- 17 look at the flow of commerce, and -- and for
- 18 passengers, that really started when they --
- 19 they got to the airport and ended when they got
- 20 to their destination.
- 21 So likely even on the narrower
- 22 argument, I would say that ticket agents, people
- 23 who take your ticket when you get to the
- airport, are probably included.
- 25 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But we could leave

- 1 that open?
- 2 MS. BENNETT: But -- absolutely. You
- 3 could leave it open. And that's a much more
- 4 difficult question than cargo loaders. And we
- 5 know that cargo loaders are engaged in commerce
- 6 in 1925 because this Court said so.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Can -- can I ask
- 8 you, though --
- 9 MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you say "arrive
- 11 at their final destination." You've said that a
- 12 couple of times now. And -- and that brings to
- my mind -- and we have a lot of amici here from,
- 14 like, Lyft and Uber, and -- and Justice Breyer
- 15 referred to them. I can understand in 1925 that
- someone who loaded and unloaded a ship might
- 17 have been involved in -- engaged in commerce. I
- 18 understand that, the narrower version of that
- 19 argument. I can get my head around that.
- I'm not sure I can get my head
- 21 around -- and maybe you can explain to me
- 22 whether you think that necessarily includes the
- 23 last mile from -- from the dock, from -- from
- 24 the railyard to -- to the consumer.
- 25 Can you help me there?

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1
                MS. BENNETT:
                              Sure. So -- so, in
 2
      terms of Lyft and Uber specifically, you know,
      what this Court said in, for example, United
 3
      States v. Yellow Cab and what it says in Knight
 4
      as well is that the customary understanding of
 5
 6
      transportation by railroad, by boat, by plane is
 7
      that it ends -- by final destination for
     passengers, it ends at the station, your final
 8
      station, and that the -- the local sort of taxi
 9
      service afterwards was typically not understood
10
11
      as included in that transportation.
12
                And so it's different than, for
13
      example -- you know, there -- there were
14
      last-mile drivers of goods. There were
15
      last-mile railroad workers who took goods on the
16
     railroad for the last mile of a journey.
17
     Court has a case called Hancock, for example,
      that deals with last- and first-mile railroad
18
19
     workers, and in that case, where the -- the last
20
     mile is part of a continuous journey, what this
     Court held is -- is that -- that that last mile,
21
2.2
      even though it's entirely intrastate, is still
     part of the continuous journey.
23
24
                So, for workers like Lyft and Uber and
25
      other kinds of sort of last-mile drivers, what
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- 1 the question would be is, is it part of this
- 2 continuous journey in the same way that the
- 3 railroad worker in Hancock was, or, instead, is
- 4 it really a separate sort of local kind of
- 5 transportation?
- 6 And that's how I would address that --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay.
- 8 MS. BENNETT: -- that question.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And then seamen,
- 10 help -- help us out with that.
- MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: That is the -- the
- 13 -- your friend on the other side's strongest
- argument, that seamen were people who rode the
- waves and did not include stevedores, and we
- 16 need to take cognizance of that fact.
- MS. BENNETT: So -- so two -- two
- 18 things on that.
- 19 First is the ejusdem generis analysis
- is telling us we're looking for a commonality.
- 21 So we're looking for what is the same between
- 22 seamen and railroad employees. And -- and at
- the very least, we know that railroad employees
- were not necessarily people aboard a vessel.
- 25 Take the signalman, for example, the cargo

- 1 loader in Burtch; in Rhodes, the station agent.
- 2 And so that can't be a commonality between
- 3 seamen and railroad employees.
- 4 And even on the -- and even if -- on
- 5 the stevedores argument itself, a few things.
- 6 First, Ms. Saxon is not a stevedore. You know,
- 7 Mr. Dvoretzky said, if you're a seamen who
- 8 loaded and unloaded, if you're a railroad
- 9 employee who loaded/unloaded, then you would be
- 10 exempt. Here, she's an airline employee who
- 11 loads and unloads.
- 12 And so regardless of what happens with
- the separate category of stevedores, certainly,
- 14 airline employees who load and unload are no
- different than seamen or railroad employees who
- 16 do so.
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: You -- you accept
- 18 the premise, though, that -- that stevedores
- were separate from seamen in 1925?
- MS. BENNETT: Not always, Your Honor,
- and we have two pieces of evidence that they
- 22 weren't. So the first is this Court, the year
- 23 after the FAA was passed, interpreted the word
- "seamen" in the Jones Act, and what it said is
- 25 that includes stevedores. And so we know that

- 1 at least in some contexts seamen did include
- 2 stevedores where it didn't make sense to make a
- 3 distinction.
- 4 And we know particularly in this
- 5 context, if you look at the hearings on the FAA,
- 6 there are very few mentions of this exemption in
- 7 the hearings. But one of them is the reason you
- 8 would include this exemption is to ensure that
- 9 stevedores in particular are not subject to the
- 10 FAA.
- 11 So it seems quite likely that when
- 12 Congress used the word "seamen," it was using it
- in the same way that this Court understood it to
- 14 be used in the Jones Act at the time, which is
- 15 to exclude stevedores.
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: But whether or not
- 17 stevedores were considered to be seamen, would
- 18 you say that everybody who works for a shipping
- 19 company, a -- an ocean liner company, falls
- within the exemption?
- MS. BENNETT: Not everybody, but,
- certainly, those who do the customary work of
- 23 the company. So the -- the commonality between
- 24 seamen and railroad employees is they're both
- 25 classes of workers. You know, seamen do the

- 1 customary work of the shipping industry. That's
- why they're identified. That's the way in which
- 3 they're engaged in commerce.
- 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, no, a lot of
- 5 people do the customary work of a -- of a --
- 6 what's the word I'm looking for -- a maritime
- 7 company, a company that operates ships, besides
- 8 seamen. So what was the point of putting in
- 9 "seamen" if everybody was going to be included?
- 10 MS. BENNETT: So what seamen and
- 11 railroad employees both are were commonly
- 12 understood pre-existing categories of workers.
- 13 And -- and so Congress identified those
- 14 categories of workers because they existed in
- 15 the world.
- 16 The other -- the other reason is that
- seamen and railroad employees both already had
- dispute resolution statutes governing them, and
- 19 so Congress would have been specifically
- 20 thinking about them at the time.
- 21 But -- but we know that Congress
- didn't mean to limit the exemption to people who
- 23 were seamen or people who were railroad
- 24 employees because it also exempted any other
- 25 class of workers engaged in commerce.

_	UUDITCE ALITU: WHO DESIGES EXECUCIVES
2	who works for an airline do you think does not
3	fall within this exemption, or is there no such
4	is everybody other than the executives
5	included?
6	MS. BENNETT: No. So say Southwest,
7	for example, had a credit card points program.
8	I think they maybe do. The people who work for
9	the credit cards point program are not doing the
10	transportation work of Southwest. They're doing
11	something that is, at best, tenuously connected
12	to that, and so they would not fall within the
13	scope of the exemption.
14	JUSTICE ALITO: What about a
15	bookkeeper, somebody who schedules crews?
16	MS. BENNETT: I think somebody who
17	schedules crews is would fall within the
18	exemption, and and the reason for that is
19	is because, you know, that person would have
20	been a railroad employee in 1925. They would
21	have been doing the customary work of the
22	railroad.
23	And so, under the test for what counts
24	as a railroad employee that's been in place for
25	a hundred years and is now also employed to

- 1 applied to airline employees, that person would
- 2 also be exempt.
- 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: How about the people
- 4 who design or manage the website for Southwest?
- 5 MS. BENNETT: I think that's a more
- 6 difficult question, and -- and I will tell you
- 7 that this question actually does come up
- 8 occasionally under the Railway Labor Act today.
- 9 You know, I am aware of one decision
- 10 at least that says that that's really integral
- 11 to the transportation of passengers. And so
- 12 it's possible that that person is an airline
- 13 employee. If they are, it's really the outer
- 14 edge of what's at -- in this exemption.
- 15 Cargo loaders, on the other hand, are
- 16 the core of what's at this exemption. And --
- and not only are they -- do we know that they
- 18 were railroad employees at the time, we also
- 19 know that they were engaged in commerce at the
- 20 time.
- 21 So we not only have -- you know, Mr.
- 22 Dvoretzky pointed out that Burtch is a FELA
- 23 case. But I want to note that Burtch does not
- 24 articulate new principles in the context of
- 25 FELA. Burtch is relying on, you know, dozens of

- 1 cases of this Court that all held that
- 2 transportation has already begun once it's in
- 3 the hands of the carrier and it doesn't end
- 4 until it's delivered.
- 5 It's also relying on cases of this
- 6 Court that hold that loading and unloading
- 7 specifically count. So you have Gloucester
- 8 Ferry, you have Hays, you have a number of these
- 9 cases in a number of different contexts, all of
- which hold that loading and unloading
- 11 specifically are -- are -- people who do that
- 12 are engaged in commerce.
- 13 And what Southwest argues is that,
- 14 well, those cases aren't under this particular
- 15 statute. But, of course, they're not. This
- 16 particular statute didn't exist. But this --
- 17 but Congress, knowing how this Court had
- interpreted the phrase "engaged in interstate
- 19 commerce, " "engaged in foreign commerce, "
- 20 nevertheless used those words.
- 21 And -- and I want to -- I want to note
- 22 that, you know, Southwest presents the virtue of
- 23 its test as a bright-line rule. That's
- 24 essentially Southwest's argument, is that their
- 25 test is this bright-line rule that will be

- 1 easily administered.
- 2 And I think it's worth noting that, in
- 3 fact, in many cases, that's not true. And it's
- 4 not just a problem in these novel industries,
- 5 like Lyft or Uber, which I will say I don't know
- 6 how Southwest's test would apply there because
- 7 would it be a percentage of the rides, for
- 8 example? Would it be a percentage of the
- 9 people? Would the class of workers be Lyft
- 10 drivers? Would it be Uber drivers?
- 11 But even in heartland classes of
- workers, heartland categories of workers on the
- 13 railroad and the airline, it is difficult to
- 14 know how to apply Southwest's test.
- So, if you take, for example,
- 16 loadmasters, that's a really key airline
- function for freight airlines, and what they do
- is they balance the load of the air -- of the
- 19 airplane so it doesn't fall out of the sky, and
- 20 sometimes they're at airports and sometimes they
- 21 ride on the plane.
- 22 And sometimes the same person does
- both. Sometimes those are different people.
- It's not clear to me on Southwest's test what
- 25 the category of workers would be. Would it be

- all loadmasters? Would it be loadmasters on a
- 2 plane? Would it be Southwest loadmasters?
- 3
 It's not clear to me how you would
- 4 know on their test whether or not as a class
- 5 those people are on a vessel engaged in crossing
- 6 state lines, rather, would it be a percentage, a
- 7 percentage of each person?
- 8 And -- and that's true for a number of
- 9 categories. I haven't just cherry-picked, you
- 10 know, one particular group of workers that is
- 11 difficult -- that's particularly difficult.
- 12 Particularly on the railroad at the
- time, there were a number of workers who were on
- 14 and off the train, you know, flagmen, for
- example, people warning of danger. Some worked
- on the train. Some didn't. Baggage handlers,
- some worked on the train and some didn't.
- 18 And so there are a number of
- 19 categories of workers that actually would be
- 20 quite difficult under Southwest's test, and I --
- 21 and I recognize --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Would you just say
- 23 succinctly what your test is?
- MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: What test you would

- 1 recommend that we adopt?
- 2 MS. BENNETT: Sure. Airline employees
- 3 -- it's the same test that has been in effect in
- 4 the railroad industry for over a hundred years.
- 5 Airline employees are those who do the work of
- 6 the airline. They do the customary work
- 7 directly contributory to the airline's
- 8 transportation function.
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: And what's the
- 10 narrower test if we decide to go that route?
- 11 MS. BENNETT: Sure. So the narrower
- 12 test would simply be a -- a class of workers
- 13 that is engaged -- would be understood to be
- engaged in foreign or interstate commerce, which
- at the very least would be people who handle
- 16 goods while they're in commerce.
- 17 So anybody who handles goods while
- 18 they're in transportation from the -- the start
- 19 of the transportation, when they're given to the
- 20 carrier, to the end.
- 21 JUSTICE ALITO: So any -- would --
- 22 would -- would your test apply to any company
- 23 that engages in the -- the shipment or
- transportation of people or goods across state
- 25 lines?

1	MS. BENNETT: I I
2	JUSTICE ALITO: What to what
3	industries would it apply besides the airlines?
4	MS. BENNETT: So it would certainly
5	apply you know, I can think of two, I think,
6	major industries that that that are the
7	same, trucking and and bussing. And I I'm
8	not I can't think of any other industries.
9	Perhaps space travel will take off, and it would
10	apply to that industry. But it but it really
11	is, you know, still a narrow test.
12	JUSTICE ALITO: What about a company
13	that ships most of its products across state
14	lines to consumers, let's say?
15	MS. BENNETT: Would it work to
16	would it apply to the
17	JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah.
18	MS. BENNETT: So so what I would do
19	to answer that question is to look at whether
20	those people would have been engaged in commerce
21	in the same way as railroad employees and seamen
22	at the time.
23	And and if you look, in 1925, you

know, railroad employees and seamen were really

people who worked in industries that shipped

24

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1 goods for the public. So, if we're talking
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- 2 about a company that is shipping its own goods,
- 3 those people likely wouldn't have been railroad
- 4 employees or seamen at the time. And,
- 5 similarly, those people likely won't -- wouldn't
- 6 be exempt from the statute here.
- 7 And so -- and so, really, this is
- 8 still quite a narrow category. You know,
- 9 "transportation workers" is a narrow class --
- 10 category of workers, and "workers" themselves is
- a narrow category of the transactions to which
- 12 the FAA applies.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What about --
- 14 what about workers for a company like Amazon or
- something who are obviously shipping goods
- 16 across state lines? It doesn't sound like a
- 17 narrow group to me.
- MS. BENNETT: Well, so I -- I -- you
- 19 know, I think the way I would look at that is to
- 20 -- is to look at what they're doing and to see,
- 21 again, whether that is similar to what seamen
- 22 and railroad employees did in 1925. So --
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, they're
- 24 picking -- they get products and put them in a
- box and then ship them somewhere. That's what

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1 they're doing.
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- MS. BENNETT: Sure. So -- so,
- 3 certainly, you know, retail warehouse workers in
- 4 1925 would not have been seamen or railroad
- 5 employees. The only warehouse workers that
- 6 would have been seamen and railroad employees
- 7 were people who worked for the transportation
- 8 company itself who were handling the goods in
- 9 the warehouse while it was on its journey.
- 10 So -- so, to -- to the extent that --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I
- 12 thought -- I mean, I meant to hypothesize people
- 13 who were handling goods in the warehouse and
- 14 getting them into interstate transportation.
- 15 They would not be covered or --
- 16 MS. BENNETT: So -- so the -- I think
- it would depend on whether they were, you know,
- 18 retail warehouse workers, which -- which
- 19 certainly wouldn't have been -- wouldn't have
- 20 been railroad employees or seamen or engaged in
- 21 that way, or -- or whether they are, you know,
- 22 workers akin to the railroad workers at the
- 23 freight warehouse.
- 24 And --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Oh, so UPS and

- 1 FedEx and all those things would be covered?
- MS. BENNETT: That's right. And those
- 3 people would have been railroad employees in
- 4 1925. There are at least six decisions of the
- 5 Railroad Labor Board holding that those people
- 6 do the customary work of the railroad.
- 7 It was integral to railroad
- 8 transportation, just as it is -- is to trucking
- 9 and plane transportation today, that there is a
- 10 place for the -- the packages and the shipments
- 11 to be dropped off and to -- to be stored before
- 12 they go on their journey.
- 13 It's integral -- you know, it's a
- 14 place where they -- they rest in between
- 15 different legs of their journey. Justice Thomas
- 16 mentioned intermodal transportation. The
- 17 freight warehouse was integral to that too.
- And so, certainly, to the extent that
- we're talking about, you know, a warehouse that
- is in the middle of -- of the goods journey,
- 21 those people would have been railroad employees.
- JUSTICE BREYER: How -- how do you
- 23 distinguish -- trucking is in -- you say
- 24 trucking is in the exemption.
- MS. BENNETT: Yes, Your Honor.

- 1 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. A company does
- 2 just like the trucking, but they have other
- 3 parts, and they do their own shipping. That's
- 4 Amazon. So how -- how -- where -- where -- how
- 5 does that work?
- 6 MS. BENNETT: So the way I would
- 7 address that question --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: And not just Amazon.
- 9 I mean department stores, dozens.
- 10 MS. BENNETT: Sure. So -- so I think
- 11 those people are likely not exempt, and -- and
- 12 here's why. There was a -- this question came
- up in 1925, and it usually came up in the form
- of is this railroad actually a railroad
- 15 regulated under the Interstate Commerce Act or
- 16 the Transportation Act, and there was a
- 17 distinction that was made between railroads that
- shipped things for the public, and I think
- 19 that's how we normally understand seamen and
- 20 railroad employees, and say a coal's internal --
- 21 a coal company's internal railroads.
- 22 Coal companies had a lot of railroads
- 23 and they would take your coal from the place
- 24 where you mined it to the place where you
- 25 refined it. And -- and those were not really

- 1 understood to be railroads in -- in quite the
- 2 same way, and I don't think those employees
- 3 would have understood to be railroad employees.
- 4 And so what we would look at in a
- 5 company like that is to see, you know, what are
- 6 those workers doing? Are they really doing the
- 7 work that is like seamen and railroad employees
- 8 of -- of shipping goods for the public, or are
- 9 they really doing their own company's sort of
- internal work? And that's how I would analyze
- 11 that question.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: I mean, your argument
- 13 seems to be -- to shift back and forth. If we
- 14 look at employees who are engaged in interstate
- and foreign commerce as we understand those
- terms today, wow, that includes just about every
- 17 commercial activity.
- 18 On the other hand, if we look at
- 19 seamen, that's pretty narrow, and it may or may
- 20 not include stevedores. Let's say it -- you
- 21 know, you throw in stevedores.
- I don't see how it includes the person
- in the office who sells the ticket to take the
- Queen Mary across the Atlantic, unless -- so,
- unless that's surplusage, working in interstate

- 1 and foreign commerce has to have a narrower
- 2 meaning.
- 3 MS. BENNETT: I don't think that's
- 4 right, Your Honor, for two reasons.
- 5 First, it's not surplusage because, as
- 6 Circuit City tells us, you know, what seamen and
- 7 railroad employees are doing is saying the way
- 8 in which you're engaged in commerce is the
- 9 transportation branch.
- 10 And so -- and so that serves a
- 11 function. If it just said, for example --
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: If everybody who
- 13 worked for the Cunard line was covered, what
- 14 would be the point of -- or that's not a --
- that's a passenger shipping line.
- Some commercial shipping line,
- everybody who worked for that was covered, what
- would be the point of specifying that seamen are
- 19 covered?
- MS. BENNETT: You -- well, a couple
- 21 reasons. One, if you only had one category, it
- 22 would be actually very difficult to tell what
- 23 the commonality was.
- 24 If it just said railroad employees and
- any other class of workers, that would make it

- 1 much more difficult to understand, you know, how
- 2 that category reflected the -- the other classes
- of workers we're identifying. And this Court
- 4 has repeatedly said that we don't apply ejusdem
- 5 generis if you only have one category.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Suppose it said
- 7 seamen, railroad engineers, and others engaged
- 8 in interstate or foreign commerce.
- 9 Would everybody who worked for the
- 10 railroad be covered?
- MS. BENNETT: No, and the -- I -- I --
- or potentially not. That would be a much more
- 13 difficult question, and the reason is what that
- 14 would be -- that could be indicating to us that
- we're going job by job.
- Here, instead, we have seamen and
- 17 railroad employees, the two classes of workers
- 18 that had preexisting dispute resolution statutes
- 19 at the time and were -- and were -- were
- 20 commonly understood categories.
- 21 And so -- and so the way in which
- they're engaged in commerce and the way in which
- they're similar is that they're -- as a class,
- the seamen are the people who do the work of the
- 25 shipping industry. As a class, railroad

- 1 employees are people who do the work of the
- 2 railroad industry.
- And so, if you had railroad engineers,
- 4 that would shed some doubt on that linkage, and
- 5 it might suggest that, in fact, potentially,
- 6 we're looking for a more job-specific approach.
- Here, it doesn't say seamen, you know,
- 8 flagmen, railroad conductors. It says seamen
- 9 and railroad employees. And so we're talking
- 10 about the classes of workers that are specific
- 11 to the industry.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: So would -- would --
- assume two things for me.
- MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: Assume that the term
- 16 "railroad employees" does include baggage
- 17 handlers --
- MS. BENNETT: Mm-hmm.
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- so you win that
- one. But assume "seamen" does not include
- 21 stevedores, so Mr. Dvoretzky wins that one. And
- I think he said when this came up, well, then
- it's one on each side. It doesn't tell you very
- 24 much of anything.
- 25 How would -- if -- if you make those

- 1 two assumptions, how should we approach ramp
- 2 supervisors?
- 3 MS. BENNETT: So, if you make those
- 4 two assumptions, then what we know is that the
- 5 commonality between seamen and railroad
- 6 employees cannot be loading and unloading.
- 7 That's all that tells us, is seamen excludes
- 8 stevedores.
- 9 And -- and what we do know that the
- 10 commonality is, is that they both do the work of
- 11 the industry. And so, if you look at cargo
- 12 loaders, they do exactly the same thing.
- 13 And -- and what the statute itself
- tells us is that the commonality we're looking
- for is the commerce-related commonality. So, at
- 16 the very least, when we're talking about a group
- of workers who this Court had repeatedly said
- 18 are themselves engaged in commerce, then -- then
- 19 it would -- and not only that this Court has
- said they're engaged in commerce, that they're
- 21 engaged in commerce just in the same way that
- 22 seamen are, then we know that at the very least,
- these people are in the residual clause even if
- they're not seamen or railroad employees.
- 25 If what we're looking for is a class

- of workers engaged in commerce like seamen, like
- 2 railroad employees, well, this Court has already
- 3 answered that question in Puget Sound, where it
- 4 said that stevedores are engaged in interstate
- 5 commerce just like the crew of a ship.
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I have a historical
- 7 question you --
- 8 MS. BENNETT: Sure.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- you -- you
- 10 probably know the answer to.
- In -- in 1925, there were alternative
- 12 dispute resolution mechanisms that Congress had
- 13 approved for seamen and railroad workers.
- 14 Did the railroad workers, one, cover
- anyone who worked for the railroad, or was it
- more limited and, if so, how?
- 17 MS. BENNETT: It was limited by -- in
- 18 exactly the way -- in exactly the test we're
- 19 proposing applies here. In Railroad Labor Board
- 20 Decision 982, which was cited in New Prime, what
- 21 the Railroad Labor Board said is, by "railroad
- 22 employees," what the -- what Congress must have
- 23 meant is people who do the "customary work
- 24 directly contributory to the operation of the
- 25 railroad."

- 1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Right.
- MS. BENNETT: And -- and we know what
- 3 that means because we have the Railroad Labor
- 4 Board's orders saying who was in and who wasn't
- 5 in that -- subsequent to that decision.
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: The general counsel
- 7 wasn't in it.
- 8 MS. BENNETT: The general counsel
- 9 would not have been. I'm not aware of any order
- 10 even discussing that because it was well
- 11 understood that executives would not have been
- 12 in it. But we do know that cargo loaders are in
- 13 it. There are six decisions after that decision
- 14 saying "cargo loaders."
- We know that, you know, people on the
- train were in it. We know that people in the
- 17 yard were -- were in, and we know that people in
- 18 the station were in. On the other -- who at
- 19 least -- who worked -- did the transportation
- 20 work of the -- of the railroad.
- Yes, Your Honor?
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Justice Kagan's
- 23 question raises, I guess, an oddity in the
- statute here, which I think there are going to
- 25 be oddities no matter what, but -- which is, if

- 1 "seamen" doesn't include stevedores, but
- 2 "railroad workers" does include the people who
- 3 load and unload, that stevedores nonetheless in
- 4 your view come in through the residual clause,
- 5 is that accurate?
- 6 MS. BENNETT: That's accurate. And we
- 7 know that Congress didn't mean to limit the
- 8 exemption to people who actually were seamen or
- 9 actually were railroad employees because that's
- 10 why they included the residual clause.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: That -- that's
- 12 correct, although it is a little odd to have the
- seamen as a category and then say actually that
- doesn't include everyone who's going to be
- 15 covered within the shipping context, I guess.
- MS. BENNETT: Potentially, but, again,
- seamen and railroad employees were the people
- 18 who had dispute resolution statutes at the time.
- 19 Stevedores did not.
- 20 And I'll note that stevedores -- you
- 21 know, many stevedores were railroad employees.
- 22 Again, if you look at the wage orders of the
- 23 Railroad Labor Board, you'll see stevedores
- 24 listed there.
- 25 So another potential reason that

- 1 stevedores aren't listed is because they're, you
- 2 know, cross-cutting a class of workers, and so
- 3 that would actually make it difficult to
- 4 specifically list them. It would be a bit
- 5 confusing to have listed them.
- And so, for that reason too, it makes
- 7 perfect sense that Congress, you know,
- 8 specifically identified the classes that
- 9 themselves had dispute resolution schemes and
- 10 left everybody else to the residual clause.
- 11 And -- and I just -- to wrap up, I
- just, you know, want to note that Southwest has
- offered no evidence at all from any time period
- 14 either about what the phrase "engaged in
- interstate commerce" means or the phrase "seamen
- or railroad employees" means to show that these
- 17 people who are -- that these -- rather, these
- words are limited to people who are aboard a
- 19 vessel crossing state lines.
- Thank you.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 22 counsel.
- Justice Thomas, any questions?
- JUSTICE THOMAS: No questions, Mr.
- 25 Chief Justice.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
2	Breyer?
3	Justice Alito?
4	Justice Gorsuch, anything?
5	Justice Kavanaugh?
6	Thank you, counsel.
7	MS. BENNETT: Thank you.
8	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Dvoretzky,
9	rebuttal?
10	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF SHAY DVORETZKY
11	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
12	MR. DVORETZKY: Thank you, Mr. Chief
13	Justice. A few points in rebuttal.
14	First of all, Ms. Bennett and I agree,
15	of course, that "engaged in foreign or
16	interstate commerce" has to mean engaged in the
17	same way as seamen and railroad employees.
18	With respect to seamen, seamen as a
19	class are not those who did the work of the
20	maritime industry. They did a particular
21	function within the maritime industry, but it's
22	incorrect to to say that the commonality that
23	can be extrapolated to the residual clause is
24	simply doing the work of the industry.
25	With respect to railroad employees, I

- 1 want to give a few specific examples of how
- 2 railroad employees were understood at the time
- 3 more -- more narrowly than what Ms. Bennett is
- 4 suggesting.
- 5 Justice Gorsuch, you asked about the
- 6 Transportation Act. Under the Transportation
- 7 Act, it wasn't all railroad employees. There's
- 8 a decision from 1922 of the Railway Labor Board
- 9 in which train dispatchers were excluded from
- 10 the scope of the Transportation Act because they
- 11 had a supervisory role, much like, by analogy,
- 12 ramp agent supervisors have a supervisory role.
- 13 So even the Transportation Act did not
- 14 extend all the way to include everybody who in
- some way contributed to the work of the
- 16 railroad.
- 17 The Hours of Service Act from 1907
- applied by its terms to persons actually engaged
- in or connection with the movement of any train.
- 20 That's consistent with our test having to do
- 21 with being on the -- the plane or the -- or the
- 22 ship or the train.
- 23 The Erdman Act and the Newlands Act
- 24 likewise, that was from 19 -- from 1898,
- 25 referred to people who served on railcars. And

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1 so railroad employees, alongside seamen, ought
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- 2 to be understood narrowly in the way that --
- 3 that we're suggesting.
- With respect to administrability, our
- 5 test is clear. Does the class of workers
- 6 predominantly work on the plane or the train?
- 7 The way that would translate to the airline
- 8 industry is that -- is a distinction between
- 9 flight crew and ground crew. Flight crew are
- 10 analogous to seamen. Ground crew are not.
- 11 That approach is consistent with
- 12 Circuit City. It's a -- it's a clear rule that
- will avoid extensive litigation over the scope
- of the Section 1 exemption. It's also
- 15 consistent with purpose. You know, Ms. Bennett
- 16 suggested that the entire trucking industry
- 17 would be exempt. Of course, there is no federal
- 18 arbitration regime for the entire trucking --
- 19 for the -- for the entire trucking industry.
- 20 And so the Section 1 exemption ought not be
- 21 construed in a way that creates a gaping hole
- 22 undermining Congress's purposes in Section 2.
- 23 The -- the right approach for this
- 24 Court to follow here, I think, is the one that
- 25 then Judge Barrett adopted in Grubhub. Her test

1 is that transportation workers are those who are 2 actually engaged in the movement of goods in 3 interstate commerce. 4 It's not enough simply to have a 5 connection to the movement -- connection to the movement of the goods. It's not a goods-focused 6 7 inquiry under the statute. The statute under the inquiry -- the -- the inquiry under the 8 statute has to do with actually moving the 9 10 goods. 11 And, again, from -- from Justice 12 Barrett's opinion, the class of workers must 13 themselves be engaged in the channels of foreign 14 or interstate commerce and in the way that 15 seamen in particular were and that railroad 16 employees properly understood in this context 17 were. 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 19 counsel. The case is submitted. (Whereupon, at 12:51 p.m., the case 20 21 was submitted.)

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