



Supreme Court of California
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summary of Cases Accepted and Related Actions for Week of January 19, 2015

[This news release is issued to inform the public and the press of cases that the Supreme Court has accepted and of their general subject matter. The statement of the issue or issues in each case set out below does not necessarily reflect the view of the court, or define the specific issues that will be addressed by the court.]

#15-06 *People v. Rinehart*, S222620. (C074662; 230 Cal.App.4th 419; Plumas County Superior Court; M1200659.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed a judgment of conviction of criminal offenses. This case presents the following issue: Does the Mining Act of 1872 (30 U.S.C. § 22 et seq.) preempt California Fish and Game Code sections 5653 and 5653.1 with respect to the use of vacuum and suction dredging equipment?

#15-07 *Gottschall v. Crane Co.*, S222887. (A136516; 230 Cal.App.4th 1115; San Francisco County Superior Court; CGC10275486.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal reversed the judgment in a civil action. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in *Webb v. Special Electric Co., Inc.*, S209927 (#13-48), which includes the following issue: Should a defendant that supplied raw asbestos to a manufacturer of products be found liable to the plaintiffs on a failure to warn theory, or is there a “sophisticated intermediary” defense in such cases?

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The Supreme Court of California is the state’s highest court and its decisions are binding on all other California state courts. The court’s primary role is to decide matters of statewide importance and to maintain uniformity in the law throughout California by reviewing matters from the six districts of the California Courts of Appeal and the fifty-eight county superior courts (the trial courts). Among its other duties, the court also decides all capital appeals and related matters and reviews both attorney and judicial disciplinary matters.