

## Sec. 8—Powers of Congress

## Cl. 4—Naturalization and Bankruptcies

dant's property and comply with the injunction.<sup>1341</sup> A state law governing fraudulent transfers was found to be compatible with the federal law.<sup>1342</sup>

Substantial disagreement has marked the actions of the Justices in one area, however, resulting in three five-to-four decisions first upholding and then voiding state laws providing that a discharge in bankruptcy was not to relieve a judgment arising out of an automobile accident upon pain of suffering suspension of his driver's license.<sup>1343</sup> The state statutes were all similar enactments of the Uniform Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act, which authorizes the suspension of the license of any driver who fails to satisfy a judgment against himself growing out of a traffic accident; a section of the law specifically provides that a discharge in bankruptcy will not relieve the debtor of the obligation to pay and the consequence of license suspension for failure to pay. In the first two decisions, the Court majorities decided that the object of the state law was not to see that such judgments were paid but was rather a device to protect the public against irresponsible driving.<sup>1344</sup> The last case rejected this view and held that the Act's sole emphasis was one of providing leverage for the collection of damages from drivers and as such was in fact intended to and did frustrate the purpose of the federal bankruptcy law, the giving of a fresh start unhampered by debt.<sup>1345</sup>

If a state desires to participate in the assets of a bankruptcy, it must submit to the appropriate requirements of the bankruptcy court with respect to the filing of claims by a designated date. It cannot assert a claim for taxes by filing a demand at a later date.<sup>1346</sup>

<sup>1341</sup> *Ohio v. Kovacs*, 469 U.S. 274 (1985). Compare *Kelly v. Robinson*, 479 U.S. 36 (1986) (restitution obligations imposed as conditions of probation in state criminal actions are nondischargeable in proceedings under chapter 7), with *Pennsylvania Dep't of Public Welfare v. Davenport*, 495 U.S. 552 (1990) (restitution obligations imposed as condition of probation in state criminal actions are dischargeable in proceedings under chapter 13).

<sup>1342</sup> *Stellwagon v. Clum*, 245 U.S. 605, 615 (1918).

<sup>1343</sup> *Reitz v. Mealey*, 314 U.S. 33 (1941); *Kesler v. Department of Pub. Safety*, 369 U.S. 153 (1962); *Perez v. Campbell*, 402 U.S. 637 (1971).

<sup>1344</sup> *Reitz v. Mealey*, 314 U.S. 33, 37 (1941); *Kesler v. Department of Public Safety*, 369 U.S. 153, 169–74 (1962).

<sup>1345</sup> *Perez v. Campbell*, 402 U.S. 637, 644–48, 651–54 (1971). The dissenters, Justice Blackmun for himself and Chief Justice Burger and Justices Harlan and Stewart, argued, in line with the *Reitz* and *Kesler* majorities, that the provision at issue was merely an attempt to assure driving competence and care on the part of its citizens and had only tangential effect upon bankruptcy.

<sup>1346</sup> *New York v. Irving Trust Co.*, 288 U.S. 329 (1933).