

## CL. 2—Supremacy of the Constitution, Laws, and Treaties

arrangement maintained by the Act—and because the state law could be justified as an economic rather than a safety regulation.<sup>52</sup>

A city's effort to enforce stiff penalties for ship pollution that resulted from boilers approved by the Federal Government was held not preempted, the field of boiler safety, but not boiler pollution, having been occupied by federal regulation.<sup>53</sup> A state liability scheme imposing cleanup costs and strict, no-fault liability on shore facilities and ships for any oil-spill damage was held to complement a federal law concerned solely with recovery of actual cleanup costs incurred by the Federal Government and which textually presupposed federal-state cooperation.<sup>54</sup> On the other hand, a comprehensive regulation of the design, size, and movement of oil tankers in Puget Sound was found, save in one respect, to be either expressly or implicitly preempted by federal law and regulations. Critical to the determination was the Court's conclusion that Congress, without actually saying so, had intended to mandate exclusive standards and a single federal decisionmaker for safety purposes in vessel regulation.<sup>55</sup> Also, a closely divided Court voided a city ordinance placing an 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew on jet flights from the city airport where, despite the absence of preemptive language in federal law, federal regulation of aircraft noise was of such a pervasive nature as to leave no room for state or local regulation.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>52</sup> *Pacific Gas & Elec. Co. v. Energy Resources Comm'n*, 461 U.S. 190 (1983). Neither does the same reservation of exclusive authority to regulate nuclear safety preempt imposition of punitive damages under state tort law, even if based upon the jury's conclusion that a nuclear licensee failed to follow adequate safety precautions. *Silkwood v. Kerr-McGee Corp.*, 464 U.S. 238 (1984). See also *English v. General Electric Co.*, 496 U.S. 72 (1990) (employee's state-law claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress for her nuclear-plant employer's actions retaliating for her whistleblowing is not preempted as relating to nuclear safety).

<sup>53</sup> *Huron Portland Cement Co. v. City of Detroit*, 362 U.S. 440 (1960).

<sup>54</sup> *Askew v. American Waterways Operators*, 411 U.S. 325 (1973).

<sup>55</sup> *Ray v. Atlantic Richfield Co.*, 435 U.S. 151 (1978). *United States v. Locke*, 529 U.S. 89 (2000) (applying *Ray*). See also *Exxon Corp. v. Eagerton*, 462 U.S. 176 (1983) (preempting a state ban on pass-through of a severance tax on oil and gas, because Congress has occupied the field of wholesale sales of natural gas in interstate commerce); *Schneidewind v. ANR Pipeline Co.*, 485 U.S. 293 (1988) (Natural Gas Act preempts state regulation of securities issuance by covered gas companies); *Bonito Boats, Inc. v. Thunder Craft Boats, Inc.*, 489 U.S. 141 (1989) (under Patent Clause, state law extending patent-like protection to unpatented designs invades an area of pervasive federal regulation).

<sup>56</sup> *City of Burbank v. Lockheed Air Terminal*, 411 U.S. 624 (1973).