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*Lightfoot v. Cendant Mortgage Corp.*, No. 14-1055

The Federal National Mortgage Association—better known as “Fannie Mae”—is a quasi-governmental enterprise

that operates under a federal charter but that has private owners. Fannie Mae’s charter authorizes the entity to sue

and be sued “in any court of competent jurisdiction, State or Federal.” 12 U.S.C. § 1723a(a). The Supreme Court

has agreed to decide whether that provision confers original jurisdiction on the federal courts for any case in which

Fannie Mae is a party.

Such sue-and-be-sued clauses arise in a variety of federal statutes, involving individuals and entities such as the

Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. The

United States filed a certiorari-stage brief taking the position that Fannie Mae's charter does not provide district

courts with original jurisdiction of suits brought by or against Fannie Mae.