

McLaughlin Vs. Fowler

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Court : US Supreme Court

Decided On : Dec-13-1880

Appeal No. : 154 U.S. 663

Appellant : McLaughlin

Respondent : Fowler

Judgement :

McLaughlin v. Fowler - 154 U.S. 663 (1880)

U.S. Supreme Court McLaughlin v. Fowler, 154 U.S. 663 (1880)

McLaughlin v. Fowler

Nos. 94, 95

Argued December 2, 1880

Decided December 13, 1880

154 U.S. 663

ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SYLLABUS

In cases brought here from state courts, this Court can only look beyond the federal question when that has been decided erroneously.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WAITE delivered the opinion of the Court.

The only federal question in these cases is whether the patents to the Western Railroad Company for lands within the limits of the Moquelomnes grant are valid. If that question was not decided by the court below, we have no jurisdiction; if it was, the judgment was right because in accordance with *Newhall v. Sanger*, [92 U. S. 761](#) , brought here in 1875 for the determination of the same identical question. Such being the case, the judgment must be affirmed. We can only look beyond the federal question when that has been decided erroneously, and then only to see whether there are any other matters or issues adjudged by the state court sufficiently broad to maintain the judgment notwithstanding the error in the decision of the federal question. [Murdock v. Memphis](#), 20 Wall. 590.

The judgment in each of these cases is affirmed on the authority of Newhall v. Sanger.