

2. Congress also authorized the Attorney General to appoint special counsels in 28 U.S.C. § 533(1), which provides that he may appoint “officials” to “detect and prosecute crimes against the United States.” The district court found Section 533(1) inapplicable on the theory that “official” means only “nonofficer employee.” The ordinary meaning of the term “official,” however, naturally encompasses “officers,” and as used in Section 533(1), reaches both employees and officers. The court purported to draw support for its interpretation from the *noscitur a sociis* canon, but that canon applies only to clarify terms that are obscure—which “official” is not—and appear among a list of other terms with a common feature. The other subsections in Section 533—which address appointment of officials to protect high-level Executive Branch officers and to undertake investigations on behalf of the State and Justice Departments—share no such common attribute, which is unsurprising given Section 533(1)’s enactment history. Finally, the district court elevated Section 533’s title (“Investigative and other officials”) and placement within Title 28 (in a section addressing the FBI) above the provision’s plain text, in contravention of a congressional directive not to draw any “inference of a legislative construction” from Section 533’s location or caption. Pub. L. No. 89-554, 80 Stat. 378, 631 (1966).