

United States”).⁴ Despite acknowledging the ordinary understanding that “official” is broader than “officer,” *see* Dkt. 672 at 44 (“[W]hile all officers may be officials, not all officials are officers.”), the district court artificially narrowed the term “official” in Section 533 to mean only “nonofficer employees.” Dkt 672 at 43. That construction finds no support in statutory text.

Nor does the *noscitur a sociis* canon support that strained interpretation. *See* Dkt. 672 at 45-47. That canon is used only to construe terms that are “of obscure or doubtful meaning,” not to change the meaning of an unambiguous term such as “officials.” *See Russell Motor Car Co. v. United States*, 261 U.S. 514, 520 (1923). Moreover, the canon may be invoked only “when a string of statutory terms raises the implication that the words grouped in a list should be given related meaning.” *S. D. Warren Co. v. Maine Bd. of Env’t Prot.*, 547 U.S. 370, 378 (2006) (internal quotation marks omitted); *see Beecham v. United States*, 511 U.S. 368, 371 (1994) (“That several items in a list share an attribute counsels in favor of interpreting the other items as possessing that attribute as well.”). It has no application to Section 533, which consists of four separate subsections that permit appointment of different types of officials who share no common

⁴ Multiple statutes that vest the appointment of officers in the President, a court of law, or a Head of Department, U.S. Const. art. II, § 2, cl. 2, use the term “official” to refer to officers. *See* Dkt. 640 at 2-4 (providing examples).