

Stat Pack for October Term 2014

Index

Opinions by Sitting	2
Circuit Scorecards	3-4
Merits Cases by Vote Split	5
Make-Up of the Merits Docket	6
Term Index	7
Total Opinion Authorship	8
Total Opinions Over Time	9
Opinions Authored by Each Justice	10
Workload	11-14
Summary Reversals	15
Merits Opinions	16
Majority Opinion Authorship	17
Strength of the Majority	18
Unanimity	19-20
Frequency in the Majority	21
5-to-4 Cases	22-23
5-to-4 Case Majorities	24-25
Majority Opinion Distribution by Senior Justices	26-27
Justice Agreement - Tables	28-30
Justice Agreement - Highs and Lows	31
Time Between Cert. Grant and Oral Argument	32
Time Between Oral Argument and Opinion	33
Pace of Grants	34
Pace of Opinions	35
Grants Per Conference	36
Opinions Per Week	37
Oral Argument - Justices	38
Oral Argument - Advocates	39-40
Voting Alignment - All Cases	41-49
Voting Alignment - 5-4 Cases	50-52

Summary of the Term

Total Merits Opinions Released	74
+ Signed opinions after oral argument	66
+ Summary reversals	8
Total Merits Opinions Expected	74
+ Petitions granted and set for argument	69
+ Summary reversals	8
- Cases dismissed before oral argument	-2
- Cases consolidated for decision	-1
Cases Set for Argument During OT15	26

* You can find past Stat Packs here: <http://www.scotusblog.com/reference/stat-pack/>. A few matters regarding our methodology are worth mentioning at the outset. First, SCOTUSblog treats consolidated cases as a single case, as determined by the case with the lowest docket number (prior to the release of an opinion) or the case that is captioned with an opinion. To the extent that two cases are argued separately but later decided with only one opinion, we will remove one of the cases from this Stat Pack, except to include it in the Pace of Grants chart to maintain cross-conference comparisons. The most unusual way we manage these later-consolidated cases is to merge the oral argument data for the two cases. We combine the questions asked by each Justice in the separate oral argument proceedings into one “consolidated” session. Second, this Stat Pack frequently uses the term “merits opinions,” “merits docket,” or “merits cases.” Those three terms are used interchangeably, and signify the set of cases decided “on the merits.” Those cases include signed opinions after oral argument (the bulk of all merits cases), most per curiam opinions released after oral arguments, summary reversals (cases decided with per curiam opinions after the certiorari stage), and cases decided by an equally divided (4-4) Court. Cases that are dismissed as improvidently granted are not included in our tally of merits cases.

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