

Stat Pack for October Term 2016

Index

Opinions by Sitting	2
Circuit Scorecards	3-4
Merits Cases by Vote Split	5
Make-Up of the Merits Docket	6
Total Opinion Authorship	7
Total Opinions Over Time	8
Opinions Authored by Each Justice	9
Workload	10-11
Summary Reversals	12
Majority Opinion Authorship	13
Strength of the Majority	14
Unanimity	15-16
Frequency in the Majority	17
5-to-4 Cases	18-21
Majority Opinion Distribution by Senior Justices	22
Justice Agreement - Tables	23-25
Justice Agreement - Highs and Lows	26
Time Between Oral Argument and Opinion	27
Pace of Grants	28
Pace of Opinions	29
Grants Per Conference	30
Opinions Per Week	31
Oral Argument - Justices	32
Oral Argument - Advocates	33-34
Voting Alignment - All Cases	35-42
Voting Alignment - 5-4 Cases	43

Summary of the Term

Total Merits Opinions Released	69
+ Signed opinions after oral argument	62
+ Summary reversals	7
Total Merits Opinions Expected	69
+ Petitions granted and set for argument	67
+ Summary reversals	7
- Cases dismissed before oral argument	-3
- Cases restored to the calendar for OT17	-2
Cases Set for Argument During OT17	28

* 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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