

## Majority Opinion Distribution by Senior Justices - OT16

For each case decided with a merits opinion, the author of the majority opinion is selected by the most senior justice who votes with the majority. For example, in *Moore v. Texas*, a 5-3 decision in which Justices Kennedy, Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan voted in the majority, Justice Kennedy (the most senior justice in the majority) assigned authorship duties to Justice Ginsburg (the author of the majority opinion). The tables below demonstrate how the five most senior justices on the court assigned majority opinions during OT16 when they had the chance. For unanimous cases we have showed only statistics for Chief Justice Roberts because he is always the most senior justice in the majority for unanimous opinions.

### Unanimous Cases

	Roberts	Kennedy	Thomas	Ginsburg	Breyer	Alito	Sotomayor	Kagan	Gorsuch
<b>Roberts* (34)</b>	3 9%	3 9%	4 12%	5 15%	4 12%	5 15%	5 15%	4 12%	1 3%

### Divided Cases

	Roberts	Kennedy	Thomas	Ginsburg	Breyer	Alito	Sotomayor	Kagan	Gorsuch
<b>Roberts (21)</b>	5 24%	3 14%	3 14%	2 10%	3 14%	2 10%	1 5%	2 10%	0 0%
<b>Kennedy (4)</b>		2 50%	0 0%	1 25%	1 25%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>Thomas (1)</b>			0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%
<b>Ginsburg (0)</b>				0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
<b>Breyer (0)</b>					0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

\*Chief Justice Roberts was recused in one unanimous opinion during OT16: *Life Technologies v. Promega*. In that instance, Justice Kennedy assigned the majority opinion to Justice Sotomayor.