Make-Up of the Merits Docket

The following charts depict different characteristics of the cases that were released with merits opinions. These charts include information about cases disposed of with signed opinions, summary reversals, or affirmances by an equally divided court.

Source of Jurisdiction

- Certiorari: 66 cases (96%)
- Appeal: 3 cases (4%)
- Original: 0 cases (0%)

Court Below

- U.S. Court of Appeals: 49 cases (71%)
- State: 17 cases (25%)
- Three-Judge District Court: 3 cases (4%)
- Original: 0 cases (0%)

Nature

- Civil: 47 cases (68%)
- Criminal: 12 cases (17%)
- Habeas: 10 cases (14%)
- Original: 0 cases (0%)

Docket*

- Paid: 59 cases (86%)
- In Forma Pauperis: 10 cases (14%)
- Original: 0 cases (0%)

* Technically, all paid and in forma pauperis cases have been on the same docket since 1971, with paid cases beginning each year with case number 1, and IFP cases beginning at number 5001. Accordingly, the first paid case of this term was numbered 15-1 and the first IFP case was numbered 15-5001. Original cases remain on a separate docket and follow a separate numbering convention. For more information on the dockets, see EUGENE GRESSMAN ET AL., SUPREME COURT PRACTICE 55–56 (9th ed. 2007).