

Oral Argument - Justices

For our purposes, the number of “questions” per argument is simply the number of times a given justice’s name appears in the argument transcript in capital letters. To account for the chief justice’s administrative comments – such as his call for an advocate to begin – his tally for each case has been uniformly reduced by three “questions.”

Average Number of Questions Per Argument

	Average
Sotomayor	23.8
Breyer	18.1
Kavanaugh	15.1
Kagan	14.9
Gorsuch	14.2
Roberts	13.3
Alito	13.1
Ginsburg	8.1
Thomas	0.0

Frequency as the Top Questioner or as a Top 3 Questioner

	Freq. Top 1	Freq. Top 3
Sotomayor	46%	78%
Breyer	16%	52%
Gorsuch	16%	41%
Kavanaugh	13%	37%
Roberts	6%	29%
Kagan	6%	42%
Ginsburg	5%	10%
Alito	4%	35%
Thomas	0%	0%

Cases With Most Total Justice Questions

	Questions
<i>Commerce</i>	219
<i>Am. Legion</i>	212
<i>PDR Network</i>	199
<i>Kaestner Tr.</i>	174
<i>Rehaif</i>	166
<i>Manhattan</i>	163
<i>Cougar Den</i>	161
<i>Davis</i>	153
<i>Murphy</i>	153
<i>Gamble</i>	152

Most Active Arguments

	Argument	Number of Questions (% of all questions)
Roberts	<i>Dawson</i>	33 (23%)
Thomas	<i>Flowers</i>	3 (2%)
Ginsburg	<i>Fort Bend</i>	34 (37%)
Breyer	<i>Halleck</i>	50 (31%)
Alito	<i>Benisek</i>	34 (23%)
Sotomayor	<i>Commerce</i>	58 (26%)
Kagan	<i>Am. Legion</i>	38 (18%)
Gorsuch	<i>Rehaif</i>	43 (26%)
Kavanaugh	<i>Emulex</i>	42 (30%)

Frequency as the First Questioner

	Frequency	
Ginsburg	24/ 60	40%
Sotomayor	27/ 70	39%
Roberts	9/ 70	13%
Alito	5/ 70	7%
Kagan	3/ 70	4%
Breyer	1/ 70	1%
Gorsuch	1/ 70	1%
Thomas	0/ 70	0%
Kavanaugh	0/ 62	0%