

Interim Stat Pack for October Term 2019: April 3, 2020

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* You can find past Stat Packs here: <<https://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 argument, summary reversals (cases decided with per curiam opinions without briefing or oral argument, often to reverse a lower court) and cases decided by an equally divided court. Cases that are dismissed as improvidently granted are not included in our tally of merits cases.