

Majority Opinion Distribution

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 *Herrera v. Wyoming*, a 5-4 decision in which Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor, Kagan and Gorsuch voted in the majority, Justice Ginsburg (the most senior justice in the majority) assigned authorship duties to Justice Sotomayor (the author of the majority opinion). The tables below demonstrate how the five most senior justices on the court assigned majority opinions during OT19 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 a unanimous majority.

| Unanimous Cases | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-----------|
| | Roberts | Thomas | Ginsburg | Breyer | Alito | Sotomayor | Kagan | Gorsuch | Kavanaugh |
| Roberts (18) | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 |

| 5-4 Cases | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-----------|
| | Roberts | Thomas | Ginsburg | Breyer | Alito | Sotomayor | Kagan | Gorsuch | Kavanaugh |
| Roberts (11) | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Thomas (0) | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ginsburg (1) | | | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Breyer (0) | | | | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Alito (0) | | | | | - | - | - | - | - |

*Although the court issued 22 unanimous and 14 5-4 opinions this term, four of the unanimous opinions (*IBM, Thompson, Davis* and *Archdiocese*) and two of the 5-4 opinions (*RNC, Lee*) were “per curiam” opinions, meaning they were unsigned and attributed to the court as a whole minus any justices who explicitly note disagreement.