



connecting current events and popular culture with constitutional history

A Tale of Two Justices

Glossary

Associate Justice

A member of the Supreme Court of the United States other than the chief justice of the United States.

Precedent

An earlier event or action that serves as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.

Swing Vote

In the context of the Supreme Court, this is a vote made by a member of the Court which decides in favor of one side or another. Since the court is made up of nine members, if four justices have fallen on each side of the argument, the last (ninth) vote would be considered the swing vote.

Majority Opinion

A judicial opinion agreed to by more than half of the members of a court.

Dissenting Opinion

An opinion in a legal case written by one or more judges expressing disagreement with the majority opinion.