



connecting current events and popular culture with constitutional history

# *A Year in the Supreme Court*

POP CIV 9

## Glossary

### **Sitting**

The period of time in which the Supreme Court hears cases and justices deliver opinions.

### **Recess**

The period of time when Supreme Court justices consider the business before the Court and write opinions.

### **Docketed case**

A case that has been written into the schedule for the Supreme Court to hear.

### **Writ of certiorari**

A request that the Supreme Court order a lower court to send up the record of a case for review.

### **Law Clerk**

These individuals work for the Supreme Court justices, researching legal issues and appeal cases before the Supreme Court. Their work includes compiling statutes, case law, and citations to laws to help determine legal issues, summarizing relevant facts and law, and recommending proposed dispositions.

### **Opinion**

The term “opinion” can refer to several types of writing by Supreme Court justices, the most well known of which are the opinions of the Court announced in cases in which the Court has heard oral arguments. Each sets out the Court’s judgment and its reasoning. The justice who authors the majority or principal opinion summarizes the opinion from the bench during a regularly scheduled session of the Court.

### **Slip Opinion**

A slip opinion is an expedited opinion published in near-final draft form, reflecting the substance of the court's decision, but subject to further editing to correct typographical or other formal errors.

### **Dissenting Opinion**

A dissenting opinion is an opinion written by a justice who disagrees with the majority opinion. In the U.S. Supreme Court. Any justice can write a dissenting opinion, and this can be signed by other justices.

### **Concurring Opinion**

Concurring opinions are written by justices who agree with the result of the main opinion, or the resolution of the dispute between the two parties, but base their decision on a different rationale.