Supreme Court Statpack
October Term 2024-2025
(Extended Version)

Require Guidance Re: Licensing of Logos

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Preface

The enclosed report represents the culmination of a ten-month effort to provide summary statistics and corresponding analysis for the Supreme Court's 2024 Term (October 2024 to MONTH 2025), which we hope to replicate for future terms.

Our goal was to provide a comprehensive overview of the term while recognizing that much of what we offer remains surface-level data. In recent years, some have taken exception to how data such as these are used, particularly as it relates to drawing generalizable claims of the Court and its Justices. We would like to take the time to state our position on these concerns:

First, we fully recognize that our data provides only surface-level inferences. As many have pointed out, the Court retains considerable discretion with respect to the size and scope of its docket. Indeed, a considerable majority of the Court's decision-making is determining which appeals will *not* receive review, rather than what will. It is not lost on us that the population of orally argued and decided cases in the 2024 term are not fully emblematic of the Court's broader decision-making. While we do provide statistics on the docket more generally, we advise pursuing additional scholarship focusing on this area.

Second, our summary analyses do not make distinctions between cases of varying importance to the national discourse. Not because we fail to recognize that these distinctions obviously exist, but because our goal is to provide an overview of the Justices' most observable decision-making behaviors – irrespective of the broader importance some of these decisions may have compared to others. In short, they are numbers – nothing more, nothing less. There is no underlying agenda in our decision to present topline statistics.

Finally, we recognize that these data do not belong to us in perpetuity. Once we have published our report, any person, outlet, or entity are free to use them - just as we have been facilitating open access to our data throughout the term. Nonetheless, we ask those who read our report to be conscientious of the fact that we cannot control - nor do we particularly wish to control - how they are used. The Supreme Court retains special significance in our national discourse, and its decisions can surely draw considerable divisions among observers. Some readers may take exception to how others choose to interpret these data. We ask that you not hold it against us.

We would like to thank all of those who aided in the development of this report – particularly REVIEWERS – who offered guidance, research assistance, and constructive criticism.

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[1] Adam Feldman serves as chief proprietor of the EmpiricalSCOTUS blog and the Legalytics Substack. He is also the principal for the legal data consulting firm *Optimized Legal*.

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Data Availability & Disclosure

We are particularly grateful to the organized efforts of those maintaining the Supreme Court Database, which is principally hosted by Pennsylvania State University and Washington University (St. Louis, Missouri).[3] Their data was pivotal for constructing longitudinal analyses that place the Justices' decision-making during the 2024 term into the broader scope of history.

Apart from data used to develop longitudinal analyses, this report was compiled independently and drew on a multitude of resources to sufficiently track developments and behaviors expressed in the Court's oral arguments, decisions, and docket, among other things. These include, but are not limited to, the Supreme Court's Official Website, Oyez, and Justia, among others.

All data used to compile this report will be available HERE. There you will find a collection of CSV (.csv) files containing data relevant to the accompanying analyses on *Decisions* provided in this report. An extended report providing more comprehensive analyses, including those related to the Court's oral arguments and its docket, will be available at EmpiricalSCOTUS.com

We are, of course, happy to provide any additional insights and guidance on replication of data and other analysis in this report. For help, please Contact Us.

We ask that any publication incorporating these data or other material from our report provide a corresponding citation acknowledging the authors, SCOTUSBlog, The Dispatch, EmpiricalSCOTUS, and any relevant data sourcs indicated with the enclosed tabular information.

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[3]Harold J. Spaeth, Lee Epstein, et al. 2023 Supreme Court Database, Version 2023 Release 1. URL: Supremecourtdatabase.org