

Justices					
	Sabrina McKenna	Richard Pollack	Paula Nakayama	Michael Wilson	Mark Recktenwald
Confidence Score	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat	Strong Republican
Opinion Partners			✓		✓
Dissenting Minority			✓		✓
Determining Majority	✓	✓		✓	
Lone Dissenter				✓	

SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **411**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **89.5% (368)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Sabrina McKenna (38)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **324**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **3**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Michael Wilson (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **42**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Mark Recktenwald (15)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

In 2020, the Hawaii Supreme Court decided four cases by split decision. In three of those cases, Justices Nakayama and Recktenwald allied in dissent. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Nakayama recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score and Justice Recktenwald recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In the cases decided by split decision, Justices McKenna, Pollack, and Wilson allied in the majority more frequently than any other three justices. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices McKenna, Pollack, and Wilson recorded Mild Democratic Confidence Scores.

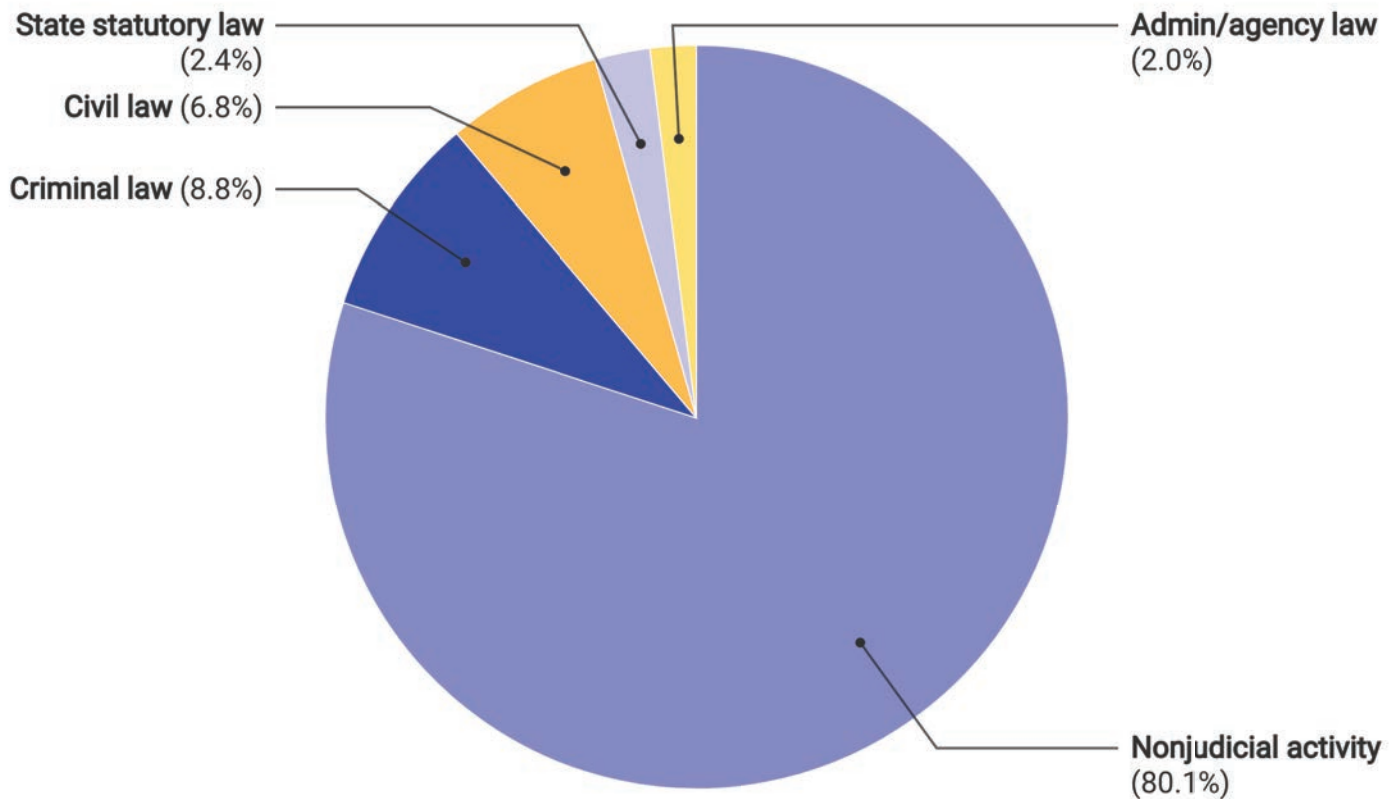
Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in 16 cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court. In ten of those cases Justice Wilson was a lone dissenter. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Wilson recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The Hawaii Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction over cases decided in lower courts within the state. These appeals come in the form of reserved and certified questions from lower courts or federal courts and writs of certiorari. The court has exclusive jurisdiction over election cases, rules governing the procedures of all state courts, and regulation and discipline of attorneys and judges.

Case types decided by Hawaii Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 2020 was nonjudicial activity. Of the 411 cases it heard, 329 were nonjudicial activity cases, or 80.0 percent of its total caseload for the year. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Hawaii Supreme Court heard 36 criminal cases in 2020, or 8.8 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were civil cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Hawaii Supreme Court heard 28 civil cases in 2020, or 6.8 percent of its total caseload for the year.