

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

Justices	 Robert Brutinel	 Andrew W. Gould	 Ann Timmer	 Clint Bolick	 John Lopez IV	 James P. Beene	 Bill Montgomery
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Mild Republican	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Strong Republican
Opinion Partners							
Dissenting Minority							
Determining Majority	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lone Dissenter				✓			

SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **52**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **92.3% (48)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Brutinel (13)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **0**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **4**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Bolick (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **5**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Bolick (2)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, no justices on the Arizona Supreme Court allied in dissent.

Dissenting minority/determining majority

In 2020, the Arizona Supreme Court did not decide any case by split decision.

Lone dissenter

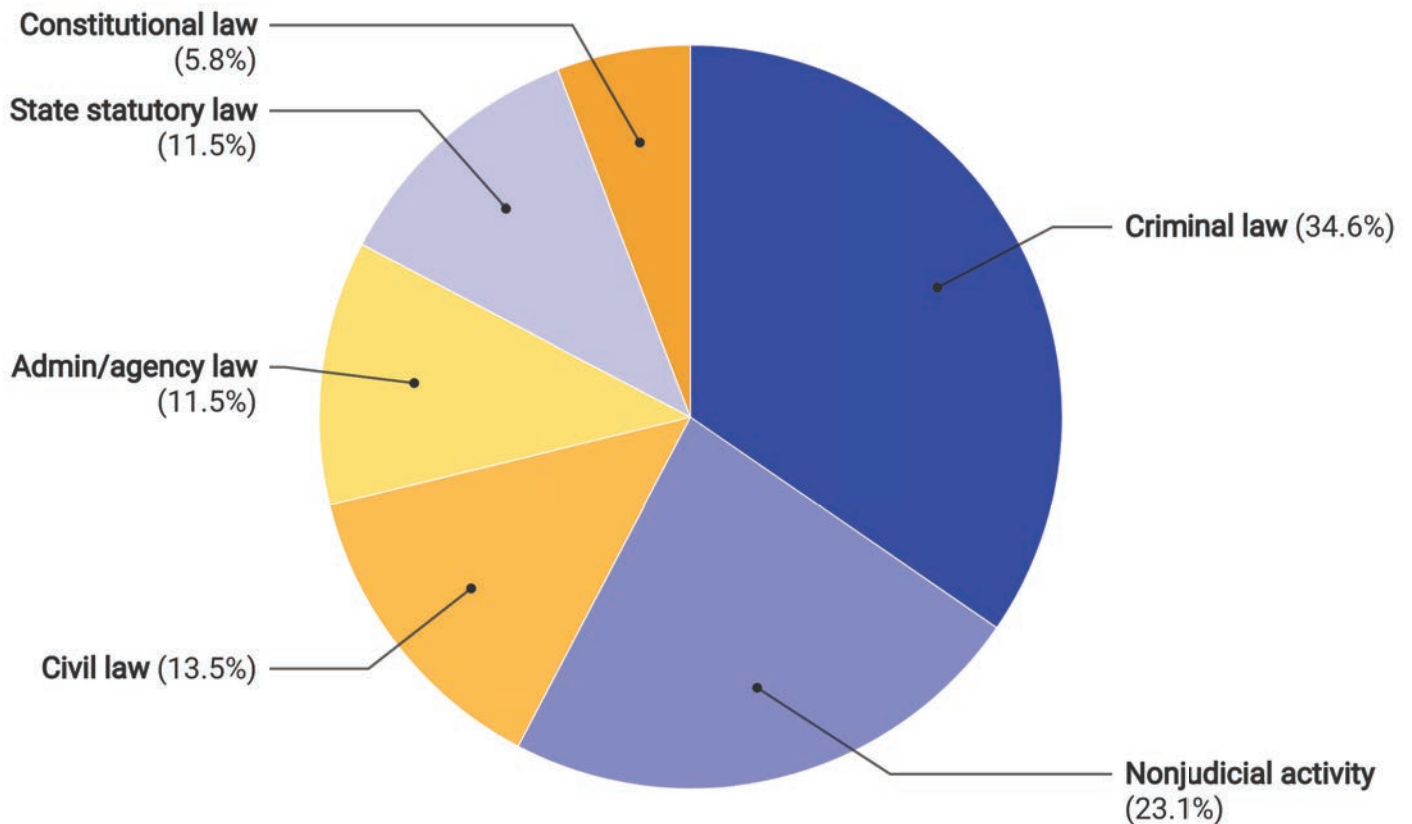
Justice Bolick departed from the majority more frequently than any justice on

the Arizona Supreme Court in 2020. He wrote a dissenting opinion in two cases, wrote a concurring opinion in three cases, and concurred in part and dissented in part in one case. In our Ballotpedia Court: State Partisanship study, Justice Bolick recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

Under Article 6, Section 5 of the Arizona Constitution, the supreme court has discretionary jurisdiction to review the decisions reached by lower courts within the state. Discretionary jurisdiction allows the court to refuse to review a lower court case unless the defendant in the case is sentenced to death, in which case the supreme court must hear the case. The court has a supervisory role over the Arizona Bar Association, other courts in the state, and the Commission on Judicial Conduct and is responsible for making rules governing administration, practice, and procedure in all courts. Under Article 8, Part 2, Section 1 of the constitution, the chief justice of the court also has a role in the impeachment process of public officials who are accused of crimes. The chief presides over senate impeachment trials but does not offer a decision on guilt or innocence of the official.

Case types decided by Arizona Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Arizona Supreme Court in 2020 were criminal cases. Of the 52 cases it heard, 18 were criminal cases, or 34.6 percent of its caseload for the year. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the

court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were nonjudicial activity. Nonjudicial activity involves a formal hearing and discussion before the court. The Arizona Supreme Court issued 10 such opinions in 2020, or 19.2 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were civil law cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Arizona Supreme Court heard seven civil law cases in 2020, or 13.5 percent of its total caseload for the year.