








COLORADO SUPREME COURT

Justices							
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Strong Democrat	Indeterminate	Strong Democrat	Indeterminate	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat
Opinion Partners	✓		✓				
Dissenting Minority	✓		✓		✓		
Determining Majority		✓		✓		✓	✓
Lone Dissenter						✓	

SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **91**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **68.1% (62)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Samour and Gabriel (19)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **6**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **3**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **24**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Gabriel (6)**

COURT CONTENTION

The Colorado Supreme Court experienced some contention in 2020. At least one justice disagreed with the majority's ruling in 31 cases, which was 32 percent of the time the court issued a ruling. At least one justice dissented 24 percent of the time.

Opinion partners

The two justices who allied most often were Justices Coats and Boatright, who agreed 91 times in 2020, which was 94 percent of the time. Justices Coats and Boatright also dissented together more than any other pair of justices on the court. They dissented together seven times, which was 23 percent of all cases with dissents. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study we tracked the partisanship data on every state supreme court justice in the United States and

used that data to assign a partisan Confidence Score. Justice Coats recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and Justice Boatright recorded an indeterminate partisan Confidence Score.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, the Colorado Supreme Court decided 12 cases 4-3. Justices Boatright, Coats, and Samour were in the minority in four of those cases, which was more frequently than any other group of three justices. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Boatright and Samour recorded Indeterminate Confidence Scores and Coats recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In the cases decided by split decision Justice Hood was in the majority ten times, which was more frequently than any of his colleagues. Justice Márquez was in the majority nine times. The group of four justices most frequently allying together in the majority were Justices Gabriel, Hart, Hood, and Márquez. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study Justices Gabriel and Hart recorded Mild Democratic Confidence Scores, and Justices Hood and Márquez recorded Strong Democratic Confidence Scores.

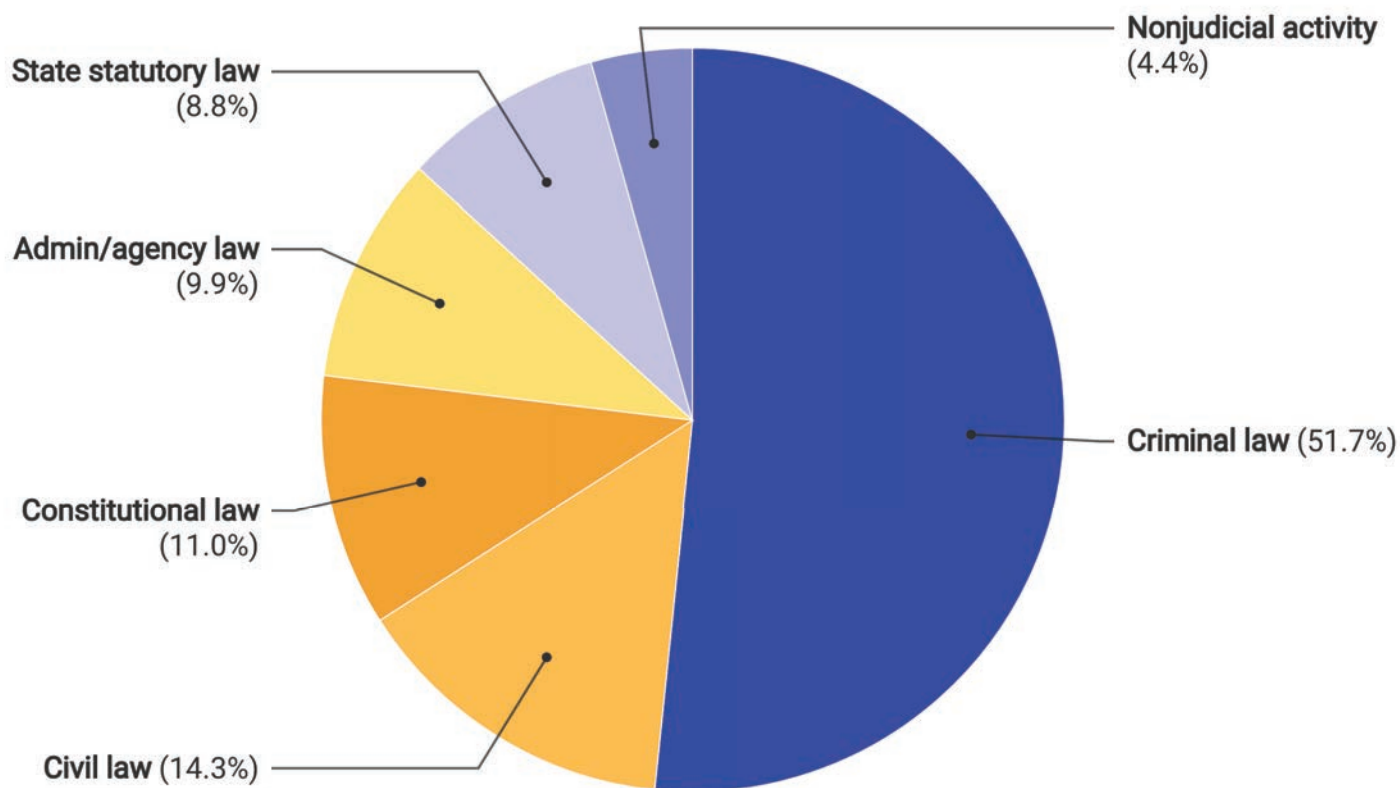
Lone dissenter

In 2020, the Colorado Supreme Court decided five cases 6-1. Justice Gabriel was the lone dissenter in four of those cases.

COURT JURISDICTION

Most of the cases that come before the court are appeals of decisions issued by the Colorado Court of Appeals. However, Article VI of the Colorado Constitution also gives the court jurisdiction over certain matters.

Case types decided by Colorado Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Colorado Supreme Court in 2020 were criminal law cases. Of the 91 cases it heard, 47 were criminal cases, or 51.6 percent of its total 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 civil law cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Colorado Supreme Court heard 13 civil law cases in 2020, or 14.3 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were constitutional law cases. A constitutional case is one that involves the violation of a right expressly protected by the Constitution of the United States. The Colorado Supreme Court heard 10 constitutional law cases in 2020, or 11.0 percent of its total caseload for the year.