








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

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **106**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **74.5% (79)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice McKeig (78)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **13**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **8**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Thissen (4)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **16**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Gildea (5) and Anderson (5)**

## COURT CONTENTION

### Opinion partners

In 2020, 11 cases before the Minnesota Supreme Court were decided 5-2. Justices Gildea and Anderson dissented together in those cases eight times in 2020. They also allied together in one case decided 4-3 and in six cases **concurring in part and dissenting in part**. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study they both recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores. They were the only justices on the court who recorded Republican Confidence Scores.

### Dissenting minority

In 2020, one case before the Minnesota Supreme Court was decided by split decision. In that case, Justices Anderson, Gildea, and McKeig were in the minority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Anderson and Gildea recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores and Justice McKeig recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score. They were the only justices on the court who did not record Democratic Confidence Scores.

### Determining majority

In the one case decided by split decision, Justices Chutich, Hudson, Lillehaug, and Thissen were in the majority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Chutich and Hudson recorded Mild Democratic Confidence Scores and Justices Lillehaug and Thissen recorded Strong Democratic Confidence Scores.

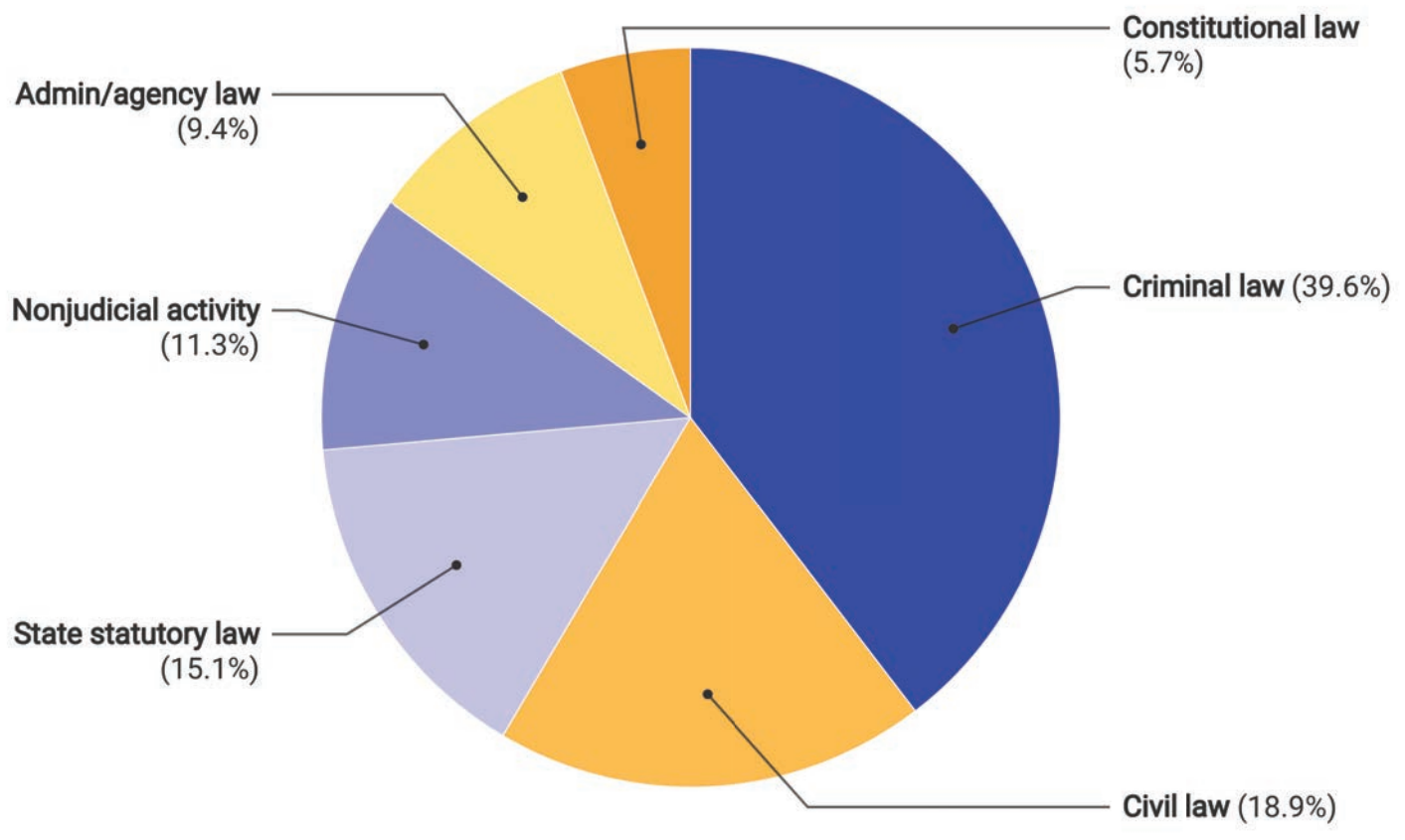
### Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in four cases before the Minnesota Supreme Court. Justice Thissen dissented alone twice, which was more than any other justice on the court.

## COURT JURISDICTION

The state supreme court hears appeals from the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, Minnesota Tax Court, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, and Board of Judicial Standards. The court also takes direct appeals for first degree murder and election contest appeals. Additionally, the supreme court has jurisdiction over the administration of the state's judicial system.

## Case types decided by Minnesota Supreme Court, 2020



**BALLOT**PEDIA

The most common cases heard by the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2020 were criminal cases. Of the 106 cases it heard, 42, or 39.6 percent, were criminal cases. A criminal case is any case involving a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were civil cases. A civil case is a case that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Minnesota Supreme Court heard 20 civil cases in 2020, which was 18.9 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case is a case which involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The Minnesota Supreme Court heard 16 state statutory cases in 2020, which was 15.1 percent of its total caseload for the year.