






## NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT

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

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **23**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **87.0% (20)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Barbara Vigil (9)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **0**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **0**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **3**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Judith Nakamura (3)**

### COURT CONTENTION

#### Opinion partners/dissenting minority

In 2020, no cases before the New Mexico Supreme Court were decided by split decision.

#### Determining majority

In 2020, no cases before the New Mexico Supreme Court were decided by split decision.

#### Lone dissenter

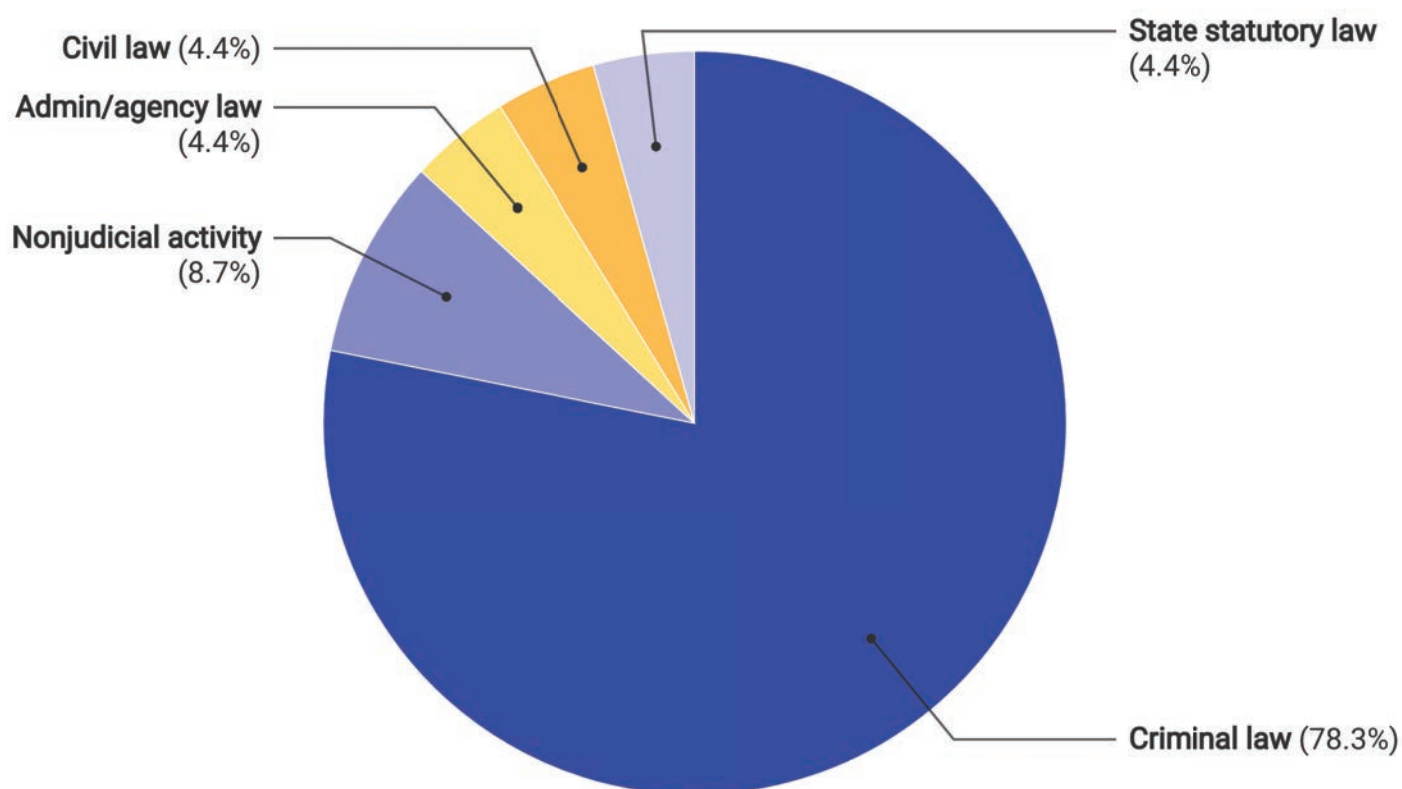
In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in three cases before the New Mexico Supreme

Court. Justice Nakamura was the lone dissenter in all three of those cases.

## COURT JURISDICTION

The New Mexico Supreme Court has mandatory appellate jurisdiction over cases including life sentence and death penalty appeals, Public Regulation Commission appeals, and appeals regarding election challenges. The court has discretionary appellate jurisdiction to grant writs of certiorari to review judgments of the New Mexico Court of Appeals, and it has superintending control over lower courts.

### Case types decided by New Mexico Supreme Court, 2020



**BALLOT**PEDIA

The most common case category heard by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2020 was criminal law. Of the 23 cases it heard, 18 were criminal cases, or 78.3 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 nonjudicial activity. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court. The New Mexico Supreme Court heard two nonjudicial activity cases in 2020, or 8.7 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were administrative law cases, civil law cases, and state statutory cases. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The New Mexico Supreme Court heard 1 case, or 4.3 percent of its total caseload for the year, in each category in 2020.