

Supreme Court Glossary

Authoring Justice	The Justice assigned to the case by the Chief Clerk of Court to make a recommendation for the final disposition of the case and to write the Court's formal written explanation of its decision in the case. The final decision may be an opinion, a decision, or a dispositional order.
Concurring Opinions	A separate opinion written by a Panel member who agrees with some or all of the disposition of the case but does not agree with some or all of the reasoning for a disposition.
Decision	An unpublished, nonprecedential Supreme Court final order from the Court, stating what the ruling is
Dispositional Orders – Dispositional Order of Affirmance (DOA); Dispositional Order of Reversal (DOR); or Dispositional Order	An unpublished, nonprecedential written order by an Authoring Justice disposing of a case filed in the Supreme Court.
Dissenting Opinions	A separate opinion written by a Panel member who disagrees with some or all of the disposition of a case.
Majority Decisions	When a decision is not unanimous, the majority decision is the controlling decision and has three or more Panel members who have cast votes in favor of the disposition and reasoning and who sign the decision according.
Majority Opinions	When an opinion is not unanimous, the majority opinion is the controlling opinion with three or Panel members who have cast votes in favor in of the disposition and reasoning and who sign the opinion accordingly.
Opinion	A written explanation of the Court's ruling, detailing the legal reasoning, facts, and precedent.
Opinions Concurring in Part, Dissenting in Part	A separate opinion written by a Panel member, who agrees with some aspects of the reasoning and disposition of a case, but also disagrees with some aspects of the reasoning and disposition.
Orders Quashing	A quashing order nullifies or sets aside a prior legal order or decision.
Panel	The group of Justices to whom a matter pending with the Supreme Court is submitted for a ruling, which may include a sitting judge or retired judge or justice designated to participate in the case.
Per Curiam	An institutional rather than individual opinion or decision. Per curiam opinions or decisions are issued without identifying an authoring Justice where the Panel is unanimous as to the disposition of the case.