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"What Are the Odds?" Texas Supreme Court Docket Update 2020

By Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse

Disposed (2018-2019)

petition from Most Cases Fall

I. SCOPE

This paper
provided are
docket sheets

II. OVERVIEW

A. Opinions

In the term,
term, as of May
May 31, 2020

By Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse

I. SCOPE

This paper examines the Texas Supreme Court's docket as of May 31, 2020. The statistics provided are unofficial numbers, compiled by the authors with assistance from public data, case docket sheets, and data compiled on Don Cruse's website <https://scotxblog.com>.

Year	Opinions
10	62
11	38
12	38
13	28
14	28
15	31
16	28
17	16
18	20
19	15
20	28

Of the 86 deciding opinions issued in the term ended August 31, 2019, 15 opinions, or 17%, were per curiam opinions. In the current term, as of May 31, 2020, the Court has issued 28 per curiam.

Year	Opinions
10	40
11	38
12	38
13	28
14	28
15	31
16	28
17	16
18	20
19	15
20	28

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the first week of May 2020, before the internal case management system.

258 days

request from the Court are
When a response is requested,
be filed and for the petition to be
step to full briefing take roughly
grant or deny. By contrast, for
the petition to be denied.

EBs only

Days from Oral Argument to Decision
173
157
111
123
114
115 days (5 months)

in minor corrections to the

practice in terms of the work
to a petition, if requested;
ing oral argument and then

at this from the Court's point
e decision points facing the
without a response; (2) once a
y review; and (3) once merits
per curiam, or deny review

ward in the review process, it
being granted (generally 9%
a false sense of security to
annually, without review

fter understand how the odds
not captured on the Court's
dds" is not how courts view
a given term, and they tend
aps of the review process.

2020 YTD ²
204
322
39%

Term is staying
as well. What
See, the percentage has been falling.

8 years, the percentages from 2018,
response request are roughly 38%.

must fall briefing on the merits. The
petition for review (or, in rare cases,
sic case). The following chart shows

August 31
2018
2019
57%
47%
60%
45%
39%

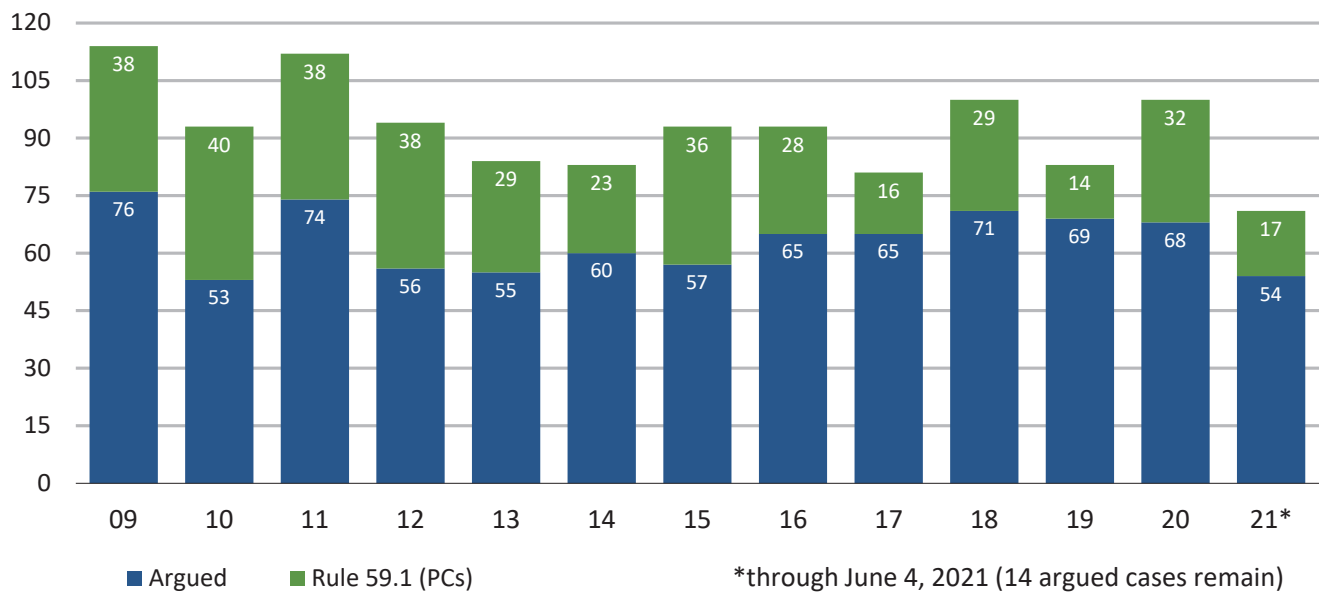
ense has been filed, hovers close to
ne member of the Court has already
r than 50%. The response rate is
s been voluntarily filed, rather than
al of the voluntarily filed responses

10

The Court has adhered to its seasonal patterns during COVID

3

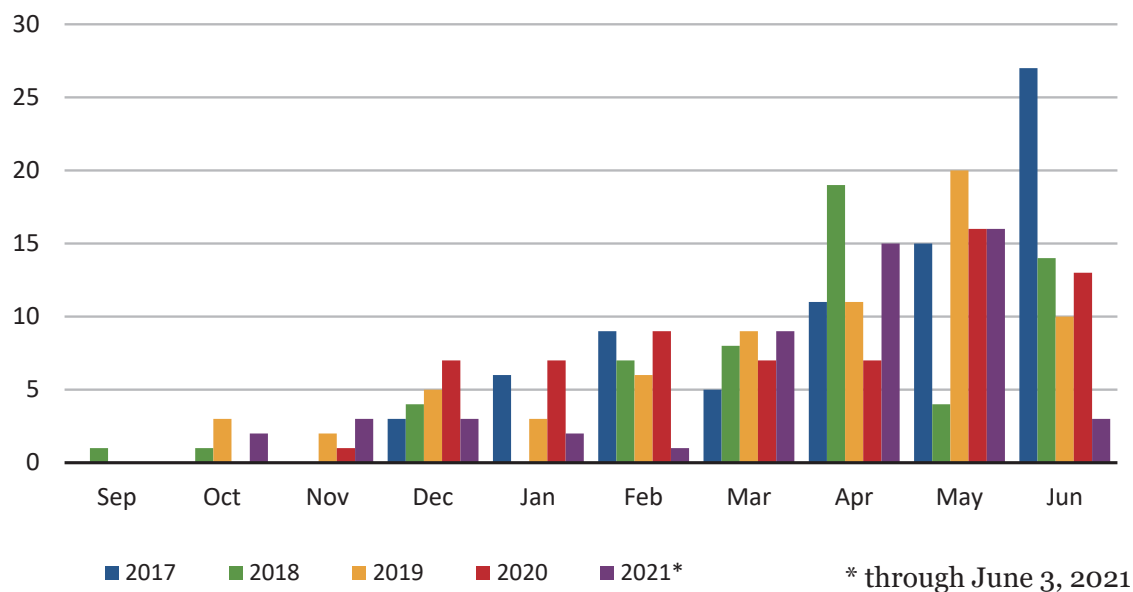
Opinion Output Is Steady



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When are opinions issued?

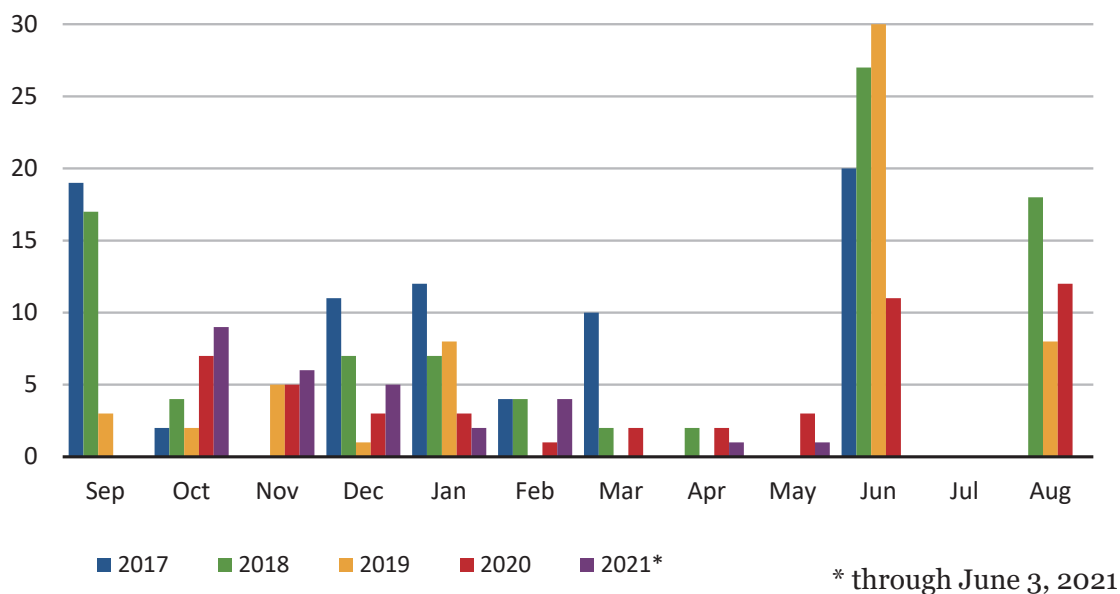
Excluding Rule 59.1 cases and “corrected” opinions



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When are grants of review made?

Petitions for review only



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31st Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session
"Texas Supreme Court by the Numbers"