Behind the Scenes at the U.S. Supreme Court

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Agenda/Road Map

• Why care about the Supreme Court?
• What happens inside the Court?
Why Care About the Court?

The Judicial Branch

“scarcely any political questions arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question.”

–Alexis de Tocqueville
Why Care About the Court?

It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.

Marbury v. Madison
1803
Stages of Supreme Court Decision Making

Agenda Setting → Grant → Briefs Submitted

Deny → Oral Argument

Lower court decision affirmed → Conference Vote

→ Opinion Writing

→ Opinion Released

{Public

{Private

{Public
How Do We Know?
Mr. Forever

U - yes, the papers state replacement.
C - did it start on ground?
R - what if rep is for 1st of 2 yrs?
C - why is just 6 free and e can we pay w/ rent?
Supreme Court of the United States
Memorandum

13 Act, 1993

Questions

92-757
RGB  12 + 9 = 21
AS   9 + 9 = 18
DNS  0 + 7 = 7
      46

92-1168
RGB  14 + 13 = 27
AS   13 + 2 = 15
DNS  4 + 7 = 11
      53

Copy was placed in each file.
Constant talk (BRW-WJB) on bench about stories in National Lawyer and similar publications. They are read on the bench. Such eagerness!
No. 90-1577, United States v. R.L.C.
Argued: December 10, 1991

1st. 21st line 52 5
3-5 mid 4.2 left under 1 more 35 work yes

gets no auth.
CJ mention JPS & F3 as talk too much
cj takes USC & shuts up while he is only as

123
From WHR: Have you noticed that only three out of the nine “new lights” are on?
After 12th:

Rose grounded to 2nd.
Morgan walked.
Driessen singled on.
Morgan took 3rd.
Driessen took 2-3.
Perce struck out.

Buch walked intentional.
Grippy flied to c.
No score.

Mets 2
Reds 0

1½ innings gone

Mets 2
Reds 0

NBC News is source of
Agnew story
Do you remember where you were 40 years ago about right now?

Driving down the Outer Drive in (?) Chicago - headed to Colorado from Detroit
C.J. thinks Congress has not signed by appropriate act the law or any authorizing relocation center as place of confinement. H might order use within power on Hirohata.

H might consider relocation provisions. It would consider statute to secure law or can not question detention.

H might valid anyway. Y keep P area - may keep in another.

Affirm.


H might also declare. Ends consideration when could not stay. Could not go must go into armed authority.
Justice Powell -
I am working on your opinion in the speedy trial case, US v. Lourd Hawke.
Your "yellow paper" talking points expressly state that you would never change
appeal time unless the government’s appeal is plainly frivolous. But I
read conference notes as suggesting
a more elaborate inquiry (HAB, WHR, SOC
& perhaps - CS).

Your wish is my pleasure.

Cabell
No. 73-690, Air Pollution Variance Bd.
v. Western Alfalfa

Dear Bill,

I trust you will be willing to add something like the following clause to the final sentence of the text on page 2 of your opinion:

"... made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth. Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643."

With this addition, I shall be glad to join your opinion for the Court.

Sincerely yours,
Today, the law of abortion stands perfectly still. Today, the women of this Nation retain the liberty to control their destinies. Oh, but an icy wind blows.

I dissent.

But the signs are evident and sometimes, not a chill wind blows.
7-6-89

MR. JUSTICE BLACKMUN: CONCENTRATE ON RENDERING DECISIONS AND LEAVE THE WEATHER REPORTS TO THE METEOROLOGISTS. THANK YOU.

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Resources

http://www.scotusblog.com
http://www.wnyc.org/shows/radiolabmoreperfect
http://blogs.kentlaw.iit.edu/iscotus
https://verdict.justia.com
https://www.supremecourt.gov

Nina Totenberg – National Public Radio
Dahlia Lithwick – Amicus Curiae Podcast
Adam Liptak – New York Times
Jess Bravin – Wall Street Journal