

# A Case's Journey Through the Supreme Court

State Supreme Courts

Federal Courts of Appeals

Appeals come to Supreme Court

Briefs from parties & Amicus Curiae briefs submitted

October Supreme Court meets in conference to look at appeals  
Done in total secrecy

Rule of 4  
Four Justices must vote to hear case to be approved

If case receives 4 votes, it is granted a writ of certiorari

Case is placed on Supreme Court Docket or Calendar  
2 wks - arguments  
2 wks - conference

Arguments are heard before the Supreme Court  
Appellant - 30 mins  
Appellee - 30 mins

Conference Justices hear comments in order of seniority on the court

Once a decision is made, the writing of opinions is assigned by the Chief Justice or the most senior justice for that opinion

Majority, Concurring or Dissenting  
Per Curiam - decision of entire court with little or no explanation

June Presentation of Decisions