

# **“What Are the Odds?”**

## **Texas Supreme Court Docket Update 2020**

**Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse**

**© 2020 Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse**

Pamela Stanton Baron  
Attorney at Law  
Post Office Box 5573  
Austin, Texas 78763  
psbaron@baroncounsel.com  
512-479-8480

Don Cruse  
Law Office of Don Cruse  
1108 Lavaca Street, #110-436  
Austin, Texas 78701  
don.cruse@texasappellate.com  
512-853-9100

# **“What Are the Odds?” Texas Supreme Court Docket Update 2020**

**By Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. SCOPE.....	1
II. OVERVIEW OF DOCKET .....	1
A. Opinions.....	1
B. Petitions for review and mandamus .....	3
C. Time to disposition .....	5
D. Motion timing and odds .....	7
III. ODDS OF A GRANT AND REVERSAL.....	8
A. Baseline study: A cohort of 300 petitions as they move through the process .....	9
B. Database study: Looking at the Court’s decisions, across all petitions, during a term. ....	9
C. What are the odds of reversal or affirmance? .....	11
D. Gambler beware: Take these odds with a grain of salt.....	12

# **“What Are the Odds?” Texas Supreme Court Docket Update 2020**

**By Pamela Stanton Baron and Don Cruse**

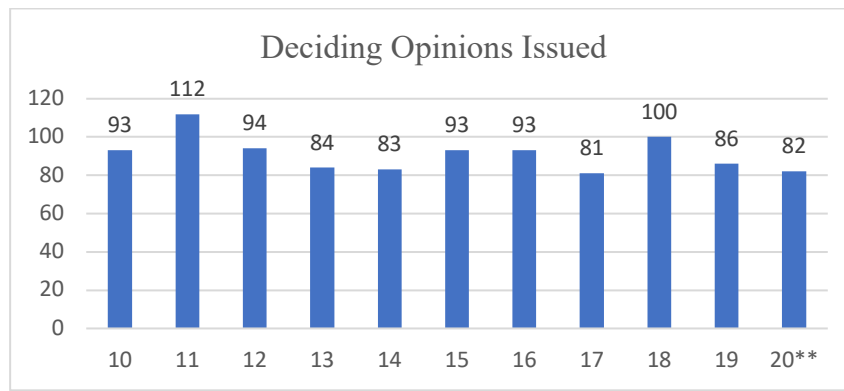
## **I. SCOPE**

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>.

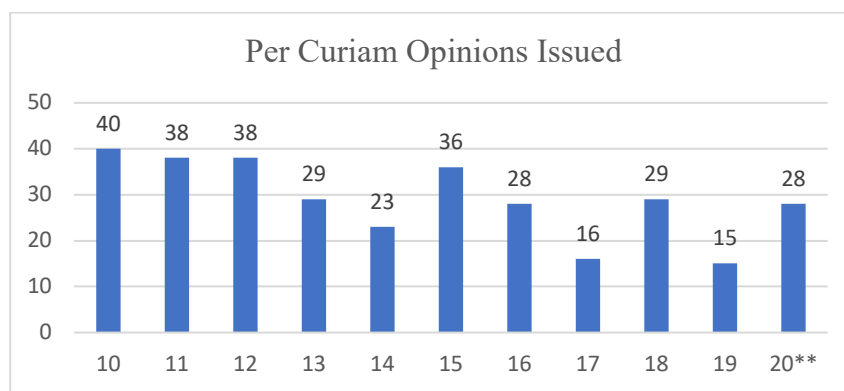
## **II. OVERVIEW OF DOCKET**

### **A. Opinions**

In the term ended August 31, 2019, the Court issued 86 deciding opinions. In the current term, as of May 31, 2020, the Court has issued 82 deciding opinions. 14 other cases had, as of May 31, 2020, been heard at oral argument but not yet decided.



Of the 86 deciding opinions issued in the term ended August 31, 2019, 15 opinions, or 18%, were per curiam opinions. In the current term, as of May 31, 2020, the Court has issued 28 per curiams.



Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

## Title search: "What Are the Odds?" Texas Supreme Court Docket Update 2020

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2020 Updates in Texas Appellate Law: Recent Cases and Developments](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session  
"What Are the Odds"