

**Figure 1-1 The Processing of Cases**

**OCCURS THROUGHOUT TERM**

**Court Receives Requests for Review (6,000–8,000)**

- appeals (e.g., suits under the Voting Rights Acts)
- certification (requests by lower courts for answers to legal questions)
- petitions for writ of certiorari (most common request for review)
- requests for original review

**OCCURS THROUGHOUT TERM**

**Cases Are Docketed**

- original docket (cases coming under its original jurisdiction)
- appellate docket (all other cases)

**OCCURS THROUGHOUT TERM**

**Justices Review Docketed Cases**

- chief justice prepares discuss lists (approximately 20–30 percent of docketed cases)
- chief justice circulates discuss lists prior to conferences; the associate justices can add but not subtract cases

**THURSDAYS OR FRIDAYS**

**Conferences**

- selection of cases for review, for denial of review
- Rule of Four: four or more justices must agree to review most cases

**BEGINS MONDAYS AFTER CONFERENCE**

**Announcement of Action on Cases**

**Clerk Sets Date for Oral Argument**

- usually not less than three months after the Court has granted review

**Attorneys File Briefs**

- appellant must file within forty-five days from when the Court granted review
- appellee must file within thirty days of receipt of appellant's brief

**SEVEN TWO-WEEK SESSIONS, FROM OCTOBER THROUGH APRIL ON MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS**

**Oral Arguments**

- Court typically hears two cases per day, with each case usually receiving one hour of the Court's time

**THURSDAYS OR FRIDAYS**

**Conferences**

- discussion of cases
- tentative votes

**Assignment of Majority Opinion**

**Drafting and Circulation of Opinions**

**Issuing and Announcing of Opinions**

**Reporting of Opinions**

- *U.S. Reports* (U.S.) (official reporter system)
- *Lawyers' Edition* (L.Ed.)
- *Supreme Court Reporter* (S.Ct.)
- *U.S. Law Week* (U.S.L.W.)
- electronic reporter systems (WESTLAW, LEXIS)
- Supreme Court website (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/>)