

Figure 1-3 A Page from Justice Harry Blackmun's Docket Books

HOLD FOR	DEFER		CERT.			JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT				MERITS		MOTION		
	RELIST	CVSG	G	D	G & R	N	POST	DIS	AFF	REV	AFF	G	D	
Rehnquist, Ch. J.				✓							✓			
White, J.			3								✓			
Blackmun, J.			✓							✓				
Stevens, J.			✓							✓				
O'Connor, J.			3								✓			
Scalia, J.				✓							✓			
Kennedy, J.			✓							✓				
Souter, J.			✓								✓			
Thomas, J.				✓							✓			

Note: As the docket sheet shows, the justices have a number of options when they meet to vote on cert. They can grant (G) the petition or deny (D) it. They also can cast a “Join 3” (3) vote. Justices may have different interpretations of a Join 3 but, at the very least, it tells the others that the justice agrees to supply a vote in favor of cert if three other justices support granting review. In the MERITS column, REV = reverse the decision of the court below; AFF = affirm the decision of the court below.

Source: Dockets of Harry A. Blackmun, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.