

#### IV. DECISIONAL PROCESS

After a case has been argued, the Court will have a Conference, and the case will be assigned to a Justice to write the majority opinion. Opinions may be handed down at any time after the argument. The only information the Clerk or his staff can give you in this regard is that cases argued during the Term are usually decided before the end of June.

Opinions are released in the Courtroom on any day the Court is sitting, but usually on Tuesday or Wednesday when the Court sits for oral argument and on Monday when the Court sits for the announcement of orders and group Bar admissions. Counsel should also be aware that in June the Court frequently adds additional sittings during the week to announce opinions. Counsel may call the Clerk's Office or Public Information Office on Friday afternoons to learn the schedule for the coming week. Opinions are typically announced at 10 a.m. and are released to the public and news media—in both written and electronic form—as they are read from the Bench. When an opinion is announced, an Assistant Clerk will call arguing counsel and advise them of the ruling. However, due to time zone differences, counsel might not be notified until several hours after the media have had access to an opinion.

Please do not ask the Court to telefax or read the entire opinion to you. Opinions are available on several websites and from commercial vendors who disseminate them by electronic means. You can arrange for someone in the Washington metropolitan area to pick up a copy of the opinion at the Court. The Clerk's Office will e-mail and mail a copy of the opinion to arguing counsel and counsel of record the day it is released.

The judgment or mandate of the Court will be issued by the Clerk following the end of a 25-day period after the release of the opinion, unless a petition for rehearing has been timely filed. Rule 45.

If the petitioner prevails, the Clerk will provide for an award of costs, if appropriate, in the judgment or mandate.

Rule 43. Only the costs of printing the joint appendix and the docketing fee may be awarded.

## V. INFORMATION

The Clerk and the staff wish to be helpful to counsel and will endeavor to answer all requests to assist them in their visit to the Supreme Court.

The Court's Website ([www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)), provides access to the docket, slip opinions, Court calendar, argument calendar, Bar admission forms and instructions, Rules of the Court, guides to filing paid and *in forma pauperis* petitions, order lists, granted/noted lists, the automated docket, merits briefs in cases to be argued, this Guide, and other information about the Court. Counsel can also obtain the status of cases on the Supreme Court docket by calling the Clerk's Automated Response System (CARS) at 202-479-3034. Callers should have the Supreme Court docket number available. A synthesized voice will provide callers with current case status information.

The Supreme Court is located at the corner of First Street and Maryland Avenue, N. E., directly across from the United States Capitol, and is easily reached by taxi or Metro (subway) from Ronald Reagan (National) Airport. The Union Station rail terminal and the Capitol South rail and Metro terminal are within walking distance. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Arguing attorneys and co-counsel may enter through the north door (Maryland Ave. side of the building) after 7:30 a.m. The building is closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. It is accessible to persons with disabilities through the Maryland Avenue entrance. There is virtually no parking available in the vicinity of the Supreme Court building.

Topcoats, raincoats, umbrellas, hats, cameras, and recording devices are not permitted in the Courtroom. Members of the Bar and spectators in the public section can use writing materials. A checkroom is located at the front of the building on the Courtroom level.