

# Review of the U.S. Supreme Court's Term – 2018-19

## “The Court in Transition”

--Prof. Rory K. Little  
UC Hastings, June



2019

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# “Headlines”

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1. Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s first Term.
2. And Justice Gorsuch’s second.
3. The Work of the Court and where do they sit?
4. Any retirements coming? The “Trump Court”? 😱
5. “Stare Decisis” – what does it mean? Are there any “neutral principles”?



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT – PROF. LITTLE



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# The newest Justices:

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Justice Neil Gorsuch -- 51



Justice Brett Kavanaugh -- 54

# October Term 1993-94

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Neil M. Gorsuch (J. White, ret.)

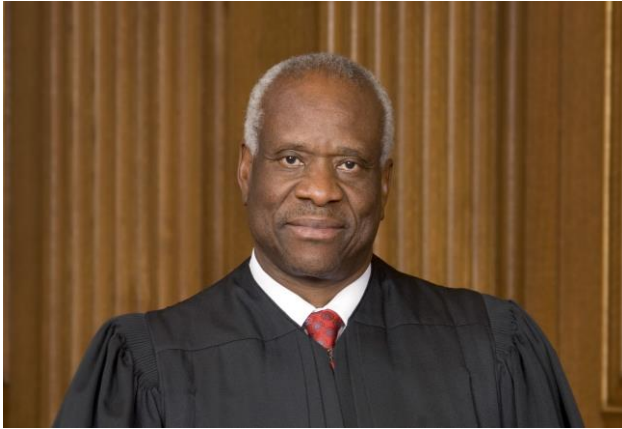
Brett Kavanaugh

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/courtroomseating.aspx](https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/courtroomseating.aspx)



# Possible retirements/vacancies?

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Justice Thomas? 71



Justice Ginsburg? 86



Justice Breyer? 80

Justice Robert P. Jackson, concurring, in  
*Brown v. Allen*, 344 U.S. 443 (1953):

“Reversal by a higher court is not proof that justice is thereby better done. There is no doubt that if there were a super-Supreme Court, a substantial proportion of our reversals ... would also be reversed.”

“We are not final because we are infallible. We are infallible only because we are final.”



# “Gerry”mandering.

-- 1812 Massachusetts Governor



# How “packing” and “cracking” work

