**CODEBOOK for “brief\_level.dta”**

(updated 12/16/2021)

Unit of Analysis: brief (briefID as unique identifier)

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| **Variable** | **Description** |
| **briefID** | unique identifier for brief |
| **caseLexCite** | Lexis citation for the underlying Supreme Court opinion |
| **briefType** | Type of brief |
| **source** | Whether brief was obtained from Westlaw, Lexis, or Cornell archives |
| **coSignors** | Number of filers who signed a brief |
| **maxPrevExp** | Number of previous briefs in data signed by most experienced filer. |
| **person** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a person (including expert). |
| **federal** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a national government. |
| **state** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a state government. |
| **localGovt** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a local government. |
| **business** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a business. |
| **interestGroup** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is an interest group. |
| **union** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a union. |
| **tribe** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a Indian tribe. |
| **expert** | Indicator variable: Whether one (or more) filers is a person who holds themselves out to be an expert. |
| **pluralEst** | Indicator variable: Whether the number of cosignors was calculated using an estimate. |
| **meanPrevExp** | Average number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **medPrevExp** | Median number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **totPrevExp** | Total number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **numFed** | Number of filers who are a national government. |
| **numState** | Number of filers who are a state government |
| **numLocal** | Number of filers who are a local government. |
| **numPerson** | Number of filers who are a person. |
| **numBus** | Number of filers who are a business. |
| **numIG** | Number of filers who are an interest group. |
| **numTribe** | Number of filers who are an Indian tribe. |
| **numUnion** | Number of filers who are a union. |
| **numExpert** | Number of filers who are a person who holds themselves out as an expert. |
| **numAttys** | Number of attorneys who signed the brief. |
| **totFutSG** | Number of attorneys on the brief who became USSG in the future. |
| **totPastSG** | Number of attorneys on the brief who have served as USSG in the past. |
| **currentSG** | Indicator variable: Whether U.S. Solicitor General signed brief. |
| **maxAttyExp** | Number of previous briefs signed for the attorney on the brief who has the most past experience in terms of brief writing. |
| **meanAttyExp** | Average number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the brief. |
| **medAttyExp** | Median number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the brief. |
| **minAttyExp** | Minimum number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the brief. |
| **totAttyExp** | Total number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the brief. |
| **firstNamedExp** | Total number of previous briefs signed by the first-named attorney on the brief. |
| **totClerks** | Total number of attorneys on the briefs who clerked for the Supreme Court (as listed in Art Ward’s data or on Wikipedia). |
| **caseId** | Case identifier from SCDB data. (Note capital “I”.) |
| **dateDecision** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **decisionType** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **usCite** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **sctCite** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **ledCite** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lexisCite** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **term** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **naturalCourt** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **chief** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **caseName** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **dateArgument** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **dateRearg** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **petitioner** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **respondent** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **jurisdiction** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **caseOrigin** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **caseSource** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lcDisagreement** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **certReason** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lcDisposition** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lcDispositionDirection** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **declarationUncon** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **caseDisposition** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **caseDispositionUnusual** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **partyWinning** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **precedentAlteration** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **issue** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **issueArea** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **decisionDirection** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **decisionDirectionDissent** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **authorityDecision1** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **authorityDecision2** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lawType** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lawSupp** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **lawMinor** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **majOpinWriter** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **majOpinAssigner** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **splitVote** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **majVotes** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **minVotes** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **amicusLC** | Indicator variable: Whether the lower court opinion(s) lists counsel for one or more amici or the opinion text itself references one or more amicus briefs being filed in the case. |
| **nytSalience** | New York Times measure of case salience (only available through 2011). |
| **cqSalience** | CQ measure of case salience (only available through 2011). |
| **CLRearlySalience** | Clark, Lax, and Rice measure of case salience (pre-decision), only available through 2008. |
| **medMQ** | Martin-Quinn ideology score for median of the Court. |
| **medSC** | Segal-Cover ideology score for median of the Court. |
| **medMajMQ** | Martin-Quinn ideology score for the median of the majority. |
| **medMajSC** | Segal-Cover ideology score for the median of the majority. |
| **auMQ** | Martin-Quinn ideology score for the author of the majority opinion. |
| **auSC** | Segal-Cover ideology score for the author of the majority opinion. |
| **LCfilename** | Filename of full lower court opinion. (Blank where there is more than one lower court opinion for the case.) |
| **WC\_LCopin** | LIWC word count of the lower court opinion(s). |
| **WPS\_LCopin** | LIWC words per sentence of the lower court opinion. |
| **Sixltr\_LCopin** | LIWC percentage of six letter or longer words in lower court opinion. |
| **Dic\_LCopin** | LIWC percentage of words in LIWC dictionary in lower court opinion. |
| **dissentLC** | Indicator variable: Whether there was a dissent in the lower court opinion(s). Note: better than SCDB measure |
| **noLCopin** | We do not have the lower court opinion for the relevant SCDB case. (We have no such opinion for 146 cases.) |
| **WC** | Word count calculated by LIWC. |
| **ipron** | Percentage of words that are impersonal pronouns (LIWC). |
| **future** | Percentage of words that are future-tense verbs (LIWC). |
| **quant** | Percentage of words that are quantifiers (LIWC). |
| **number** | Percentage of words that are numbers (LIWC). |
| **posemo** | Percentage of words that are positive emotion words (using legal dictionary, LIWC). |
| **negemo** | Percentage of words that are negative emotion words (using legal dictionary, LIWC). |
| **cause** | Percentage of words that relate to causation (LIWC). |
| **Parenth** | Percentage of parentheses (LIWC). |
| **uDocVocab** | Number of distinct words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion. |
| **uDocWC** | Number of total words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion. |
| **docVocab** | Number of distinct words in the brief. |
| **docWC** | Word count calculated by Python (excludes stop words, excludes tokens with non-alpha characters, and collapses negations). |
| **uWCinWN** | Number of total words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion and do appear in the WordNet dictionary. |
| **WCinWN** | Number of total words that appear in the WordNet dictionary. |
| **uDocVocabAlt** | Number of distinct words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **uDocWCAlt** | Number of total words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **docVocabAlt** | Number of distinct words in the brief. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **docWCAlt** | Word count calculated by Python (excludes stop words, excludes tokens with non-alpha characters). Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **uWCinWNAlt** | Number of total words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion and do appear in the WordNet dictionary. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **cfidf\_norm\_50** | Median normalized cf-idf score for all citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in a brief. Higher numbers indicate cites in brief are more novel compared to all other briefs and lower court opinions in the case. |
| **totalCites** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in a brief. Similar to word count. |
| **totalUCites** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents not cited in any other brief or lower court opinion in the case. |
| **precVocab** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in a brief. Similar to vocabulary. |
| **totMedCites** | Number of (verified) Supreme Court citations to cases in which the current median justice wrote the majority opinion. |
| **meanCitedAuMQ** | Average Martin-Quinn score of all majority opinion authors (from the year the cited opinion was written) of cited (verified) Supreme Court precedents. |
| **fkgl** | Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. |
| **cli** | Coleman-Lia Index of readability. |
| **fog** | Gunning Fog Index of readability. |
| **smog** | Simple Measure of Gobbeldygook readability measure. |
| **ari** | Automated Readability Index. |
| **dalechall** | Dale–Chall readability formula. |
| **wps** | Words per sentence calculated by LIWC. |
| **readability** | Readability measure based on six separate measures (see Hinkle and Nelson, JSJ, 2018). |
| **tfidf\_norm\_50\_1000** | Median normalized tf-idf score for all words in a brief. Higher numbers indicate words in brief are more novel compared to all other briefs and lower court opinions in the case. Multiplied by 100 for more convenient scaling. |
| **tfidf\_norm\_50\_1000Alt** | Median normalized tf-idf score for all words in a brief. Higher numbers indicate words in brief are more novel compared to all other briefs and lower court opinions in the case. Multiplied by 100 for more convenient scaling. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToMajOpin** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. |
| **simToLCOpin** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the lower court opinion(s). |
| **simToMajOpinAlt** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToLCOpinAlt** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the lower court opinion(s) . Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToMajOpinUQ** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion calculated excluding quotations. |
| **simToLCOpinUQ** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the lower court opinion(s) calculated excluding quotations. |
| **simToMajOpinPrec** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion calculated using Supreme Court precedents cited as tokens. |
| **simToLCOpinPrec** | Cosine similarity score between brief and the lower court opinion(s) calculated using Supreme Court precedents cited as tokens. |
| **citesInLC** | Number of total citations to Supreme Court precedent that are to cases that are also cited in the lower court opinion(s). |
| **propCitesInLC** | Proportion of citations to Supreme Court precedent in a brief that are to cases that are also cited in the lower court opinion(s). |
| **wordsInLC** | Number of total words that also appear in the lower court opinion(s). |
| **propWordsInLC** | Proportion of total words in a brief that also appear (at least once) in the lower court opinion(s). |
| **LCprecVocab** | Number of unique Supreme Court precedents cited in the lower court opinion(s). |
| **party** | Indicator variable: whether brief was filed by a litigant. |
| **amicus** | Indicator variable: whether brief was filed by an amicus. |
| **reply** | Indicator variable: whether brief was a petitioner’s reply brief. |
| **petWon** | Indicator variable: whether petitioner won the case. 247 missing values. |
| **consOutcome** | Indicator variable: whether the Court’s ultimate ruling was conservative. |
| **petSide** | Indicator variable: Whether the brief was filed on behalf of the petitioner. |
| **filerCons** | Indicator variable: Whether the brief was filed seeking a conservative outcome. |
| **dissentBelow** | Indicator variable: Whether there was a dissent in the case being appealed (based on SCDB measure that only counts what the Supreme Court talks about). |
| **affirmBelow** | Indicator variable: Whether court being appealed affirmed the trial court. |
| **unanBelow** | Indicator variable: Whether all lower court judges agreed. Equals zero if there was either a dissent or reversal. Uses dissentLC, not dissentBelow. |
| **numFilerAllyBriefs** | Number of briefs advocating the same type of outcome (liberal or conservative) as the brief filer. |
| **constitutional** | Indicator variable: Whether a case involves an issue of constitutional law. |
| **techIssue** | Indicator variable: Whether a case involves a technical issues (tax, patent, antitrust, or bankruptcy law). |
| **logWC\_LCOpin** | Natural log of the word count of the lower court opinion(s). |
| **logWC** | Natural log of the word count of the brief. |
| **logMaxFilExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the most experienced filer. |
| **logMaxAttyExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the most experienced attorney. |
| **logMedPrevExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the median filer. |
| **logMedAttyExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the median attorney. |
| **logMeanAttyExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the mean attorney. |
| **logMinAttyExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the least experienced attorney. |
| **logFirstAttyExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the first-named attorney. |
| **status** | Filer status: 0 = person; 1 = business; 2 = interest group or union; 3 = local government, Indian tribe, or state government, 4 = federal/national government. |
| **futSG** | Indicator variable that equals one if one or more attorneys on a brief later became the U.S. Solicitor General. |
| **pastSG** | Indicator variable that equals one if one or more attorneys on a brief were previously the U.S. Solicitor General. |
| **anySG** | Indicator variable that equals one if one or more attorneys on a brief served as the U.S. Solicitor General at any point. |
| **techLang** | Percentage of words in a brief in the LIWC categories: quant, number, cause, or Parenth |
| **emoLang** | Percentage of word in a brief in the LIWC categories posemo or negemo. |
| **anyClerks** | Indicator variable that equals one if one or more attorneys on a brief clerked for a Supreme Court justice. |
| **docVocab1k** | Number of distinct words in the brief, divided by 1,000. |
| **totalCites100** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in a brief, divided by 100. |
| **precVocab100** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in a brief, divided by 100. |
| **logNumAttys** | Natural log of the number of attorneys who signed the brief. |
| **logCoSignors** | Natural log of the number of filers who signed a brief |
| **majMedAligned** | The ideological alignment between the brief and the median of the majority of the Court, using Martin-Quinn scores. |
| **medAligned** | The ideological alignment between the brief and the median of the full Court, using Martin-Quinn scores. |
| **uWCK** | Number of distinct words that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion, divided by 1,000. |
| **dupWCK** | Number of shared words that do appear in at least one other brief in the case or the lower court opinion, divided by 1,000. |
| **totalUCites100** | Number of distinct citations to Supreme Court precedent that do not appear in any other brief in the case or the lower court opinion, divided by 1,000. |
| **dupTotalCites100** | Number of shared citations to Supreme Court precedent that do appear in at least one other brief in the case or the lower court opinion, divided by 1,000. |
| **counter** | Variable that equals one for every row; used to count number of rows that satisfy any stated criteria. |
| **numBriefs** | Number of briefs filed in the case. |
| **logMaxPrevExp** | Natural log of the previous experience of the most experienced filer. |
| **briefByInvite** | Indicator variable: Whether the brief was filed in response to a specific invitation from the Court. |
| **questionP** | Number of questions posed to the petitioner at oral arguments in the case. |
| **questionR** | Number of questions posed to the respondent at oral arguments in the case. |
| **oralArgQues** | Total number of questions at oral argument in the case. |
| **oralArgQuesAdv** | Number of oral argument questions directed to the side the brief is advocating for minus the number of oral argument questions directed to the other side. |
| **rawQuestions** | Number of oral argument questions directed to the side the brief is advocating for. |
| **propQuestions** | Proportion of oral argument questions directed to the side the brief is advocating for. |
| **type** | Filer type: 0 = person; 1 = business; 2 = interest group or union; 3 = local government, Indian tribe, or state government, 4 = federal/national government. |
| **sideWon** | Indicator variable that equals one if the side the brief is advocating for won the case and zero otherwise. |
| **sideVotes** | Number of justices who voted for the side for which the brief advocated. |