**CODEBOOK for “case\_vote\_level.dta”**

(updated 12/16/2021)

Unit of Analysis: Case and Justice (a combination of caseLexCite and justice is a unique identifier)

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| --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Description** |
| **caseLexCite** | Lexis citation for the underlying Supreme Court opinion |
| **totMedCitesPet** | Number of (verified) Supreme Court citations to cases in which the current median justice wrote the majority opinion. |
| **statusPet** | Filer status: 0 = person; 1 = business; 2 = interest group or union; 3 = local government, Indian tribe, or state government, 4 = federal/national government. |
| **simToMajOpinPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. |
| **simToLCOpinPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s). |
| **simToMajOpinAltPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToLCOpinAltPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s) . Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToMajOpinUQPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion calculated excluding quotations. |
| **simToLCOpinUQPet** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s) calculated excluding quotations. |
| **noBriefsPet** | Indicator variable: Whether no briefs at all were filed for the relevant side. |
| **docVocabPet** | Number of distinct words in the briefs. |
| **docWCPet** | Word count calculated by Python (excludes stop words, excludes tokens with non-alpha characters, and collapses negations). |
| **docVocabAltPet** | Number of distinct words in the brief. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **docWCAltPet** | Word count calculated by Python (excludes stop words, excludes tokens with non-alpha characters). Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **totalCitesPet** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in briefs. Similar to word count. |
| **precVocabPet** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in briefs. Similar to vocabulary. |
| **fkglPet** | Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. |
| **cliPet** | Coleman-Lia Index of readability. (Used by Black, Hall, Owens, and Rignsmuth, JLC, 2016). |
| **fogPet** | Gunning Fog Index of readability. |
| **smogPet** | Simple Measure of Gobbeldygook readability measure. |
| **ariPet** | Automated Readability Index. |
| **dalechallPet** | Dale–Chall readability formula. |
| **readabilityPet** | Readability measure based on six separate measures (see Hinkle and Nelson, JSJ, 2018). |
| **coSignorsPet** | Number of filers who signed briefs. |
| **maxPrevExpPet** | Number of previous briefs in data signed by most experienced filer. |
| **meanPrevExpPet** | Average number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **medPrevExpPet** | Median number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **totPrevExpPet** | Total number of previous briefs signed by all filers. |
| **numFedPet** | Number of filers who are a national government. |
| **numStatePet** | Number of filers who are a state government |
| **numLocalPet** | Number of filers who are a local government. |
| **numPersonPet** | Number of filers who are a person. |
| **numBusPet** | Number of filers who are a business. |
| **numIGPet** | Number of filers who are an interest group. |
| **numTribePet** | Number of filers who are an Indian tribe. |
| **numUnionPet** | Number of filers who are a union. |
| **numExpertPet** | Number of filers who are a person who holds themselves out as an expert. |
| **sideConsPet** | Indicator variable for whether the side in question is seeking a conservative case outcome. |
| **numBriefsPet** | Number of briefs filed for the relevant side. |
| **numAttysPet** | Number of attorneys who signed the briefs. |
| **totFutSGPet** | Number of attorneys on the briefs who became USSG in the future. |
| **totPastSGPet** | Number of attorneys on the briefs who have served as USSG in the past. |
| **maxAttyExpPet** | Number of previous briefs signed for the attorney on the briefs who has the most past experience in terms of brief writing. |
| **meanAttyExpPet** | Average number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **medAttyExpPet** | Median number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **minAttyExpPet** | Minimum number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **totAttyExpPet** | Total number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **totClerksPet** | Total number of attorneys on the briefs who clerked for the Supreme Court (as listed in Art Ward’s data or on Wikipedia). |
| **currentSGPet** | Indicator variable: Whether U.S. Solicitor General signed a brief. |
| **futurePet** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC category for future tense verbs. |
| **quantPet** | Percentage of words that are quantifiers (LIWC). |
| **numberPet** | Percentage of words that are numbers (LIWC). |
| **posemoPet** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC (modified) category of posemo. |
| **negemoPet** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC (modified) category of negemo. |
| **causePet** | Percentage of words that relate to causation (LIWC). |
| **ParenthPet** | Percentage of parentheses (LIWC). |
| **techLangPet** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC categories: quant, number, cause, or Parenth |
| **emoLangPet** | Percentage of word in the briefs in the LIWC categories posemo or negemo. |
| **medAlignedPet** | Martin-Quinn score of the median of the Court if the side in question is pursuing a conservative case outcome and the MQ score times -1 if the side in question is pursuing a liberal case outcome. |
| **auAlignedPet** | Martin-Quinn score of the author of the majority opinion if the side in question is pursuing a conservative case outcome and the MQ score times -1 if the side in question is pursuing a liberal case outcome. (Median of the Court is used for per curiam opinions.) |
| **majMedAlignedPet** | Martin-Quinn score of the median of the Court majority if the side in question is pursuing a conservative case outcome and the MQ score times -1 if the side in question is pursuing a liberal case outcome. |
| **winnerPet** | Indicator variable that equals 1 if the side one and zero otherwise. |
| **logDocWCPet** | Natural log of the word count of all briefs filed on behalf of the side. |
| **docVocab1kPet** | Number of distinct words in all briefs on the side, divided by 1,000. |
| **totalCites100Pet** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in all briefs on the side, divided by 100. |
| **precVocab100Pet** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in all briefs on the side, divided by 100. |
| **logNumAttysPet** | Natural log of the number of attorneys who signed all the briefs on a side. |
| **logCoSignorsPet** | Natural log of the number of filers who signed all briefs on a side. |
| **logMedPrevExpPet** | Natural log of the median number of previous briefs signed among all co-signers to all the briefs on the side. |
| **logMeanAttyExPet** | Natural log of the mean number of previous briefs signed by an attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for the side. |
| **logMedAttyExpPet** | Natural log of the median number of previous briefs signed by an attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for the side. |
| **logMaxAttyExpPet** | Natural log of the number previous briefs signed by the most experienced attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for the side. |
| **logMinAttyExpPet** | Natural log of the number previous briefs signed by the least experienced attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for the side. |
| **questionsPet** | Total number of questions posed to the side by the justices at oral argument. |
| **invitesPet** | Number of amicus briefs filed on behalf of the side at the specific invitation of the Court. |
| **totMedCitesResp** | Number of (verified) Supreme Court citations to cases in which the current median justice wrote the majority opinion. |
| **statusResp** | All variables with the suffix “Resp” have the same definition as the corresponding variables with the suffix “Pet”. |
| **simToMajOpinResp** |  |
| **simToLCOpinResp** |  |
| **simToMajOpinAltResp** |  |
| **simToLCOpinAltResp** |  |
| **simToMajOpinUQResp** |  |
| **simToLCOpinUQResp** |  |
| **noBriefsResp** |  |
| **docVocabResp** |  |
| **docWCResp** |  |
| **docVocabAltResp** |  |
| **docWCAltResp** |  |
| **totalCitesResp** |  |
| **precVocabResp** |  |
| **fkglResp** |  |
| **cliResp** |  |
| **fogResp** |  |
| **smogResp** |  |
| **ariResp** |  |
| **dalechallResp** |  |
| **readabilityResp** |  |
| **coSignorsResp** |  |
| **maxPrevExpResp** |  |
| **meanPrevExpResp** |  |
| **medPrevExpResp** |  |
| **totPrevExpResp** |  |
| **numFedResp** |  |
| **numStateResp** |  |
| **numLocalResp** |  |
| **numPersonResp** |  |
| **numBusResp** |  |
| **numIGResp** |  |
| **numTribeResp** |  |
| **numUnionResp** |  |
| **numExpertResp** |  |
| **numBriefsResp** |  |
| **numBriefsResp** |  |
| **numAttysResp** |  |
| **totFutSGResp** |  |
| **totPastSGResp** |  |
| **maxAttyExpResp** |  |
| **meanAttyExpResp** |  |
| **medAttyExpResp** |  |
| **minAttyExpResp** |  |
| **totAttyExpResp** |  |
| **totClerksResp** |  |
| **currentSGResp** |  |
| **futureResp** |  |
| **quantResp** |  |
| **numberResp** |  |
| **posemoResp** |  |
| **negemoResp** |  |
| **causeResp** |  |
| **ParenthResp** |  |
| **techLangResp** |  |
| **emoLangResp** |  |
| **medAlignedResp** |  |
| **auAlignedResp** |  |
| **majMedAlignedResp** |  |
| **winnerResp** |  |
| **logDocWCResp** |  |
| **docVocab1kResp** |  |
| **totalCites100Resp** |  |
| **precVocab100Resp** |  |
| **logNumAttysResp** |  |
| **logCoSignorsResp** |  |
| **logMedPrevExpResp** |  |
| **logMeanAttyExResp** |  |
| **logMedAttyExpResp** |  |
| **logMaxAttyExpResp** |  |
| **logMinAttyExpResp** |  |
| **questionsResp** |  |
| **invitesResp** |  |
| **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. |
| **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 |
| **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. |
| **unanBelow** | Indicator variable: Whether all lower court judges agreed. Equals zero if there was either a dissent or reversal. Uses dissentLC, not dissentBelow. |
| **CLRearlySalience** | Clark, Lax, and Rice measure of case salience (pre-decision), only available through 2008. |
| **petWon** | Indicator variable: whether petitioner won the case. |
| **constitutional** | Indicator variable: Whether a case involves an issue of constitutional law. |
| **logWC\_LCOpin** | Natural log of the word count of the lower court opinion(s). |
| **simToMajOpinDiff** | All variables with the suffix “Diff” are calculated using the formula variableDiff = variablePet – variableResp. |
| **logWordsDiff** |  |
| **vocabDiff** |  |
| **totalCitesDiff** |  |
| **casesCitedDiff** |  |
| **numBriefsDiff** |  |
| **logFilersNumDiff** |  |
| **logAttyNumDiff** |  |
| **logMedAttyExpDiff** |  |
| **logMedPrevExpDiff** |  |
| **logMeanAttyExpDiff** |  |
| **logMaxAttyExpDiff** |  |
| **logMinAttyExpDiff** |  |
| **questionDiff** |  |
| **totMedCitesDiff** |  |
| **techLangDiff** |  |
| **futureDiff** |  |
| **readabilityDiff** |  |
| **smogDiff** |  |
| **emoLangDiff** |  |
| **totClerksDiff** |  |
| **currentSGDiff** |  |
| **pastSGDiff** |  |
| **invitesDiff** |  |
| **statusDiff** |  |
| **justice** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **justiceName** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **vote** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **opinion** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **direction** | See SCDB codebook. |
| **mqScore** | Martin-Quinn score of the justice. |
| **petCons** | Indicator variable that equals one if the petitioner sought a conservative outcome and zero otherwise. |
| **voteForPet** | Indicator variable that equals one if the justice voted for the petitioner and zero otherwise. |
| **IDalign** | Equals the Martin-Quinn score of the justice if the petitioner seeks a conservative outcome and otherwise equals the Martin-Quinn score times -1. |