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

(updated 12/16/2021)

Unit of Analysis: Case and side (a combination of caseLexCite and petSide is a unique identifier)

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| **Variable** | **Description** |
| **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. |
| **caseLexCite** | Lexis citation for the underlying Supreme Court opinion |
| **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. 247 missing values. |
| **constitutional** | Indicator variable: Whether a case involves an issue of constitutional law. |
| **side** | String variable that indicates “pet” or “resp” |
| **totMedCites** | Number of (verified) Supreme Court citations to cases in which the current median justice wrote the majority opinion. |
| **status** | Filer status: 0 = person; 1 = business; 2 = interest group or union; 3 = local government, Indian tribe, or state government, 4 = federal/national government. |
| **petSide** | Indicator variables: Whether the combined brief text summarized in the linguistic variables is on the side of the petitioner. |
| **simToMajOpin** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. |
| **simToLCOpin** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s). |
| **simToMajOpinAlt** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion. Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToLCOpinAlt** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s) . Does NOT collapse negations. |
| **simToMajOpinUQ** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the Supreme Court’s majority opinion calculated excluding quotations. |
| **simToLCOpinUQ** | Cosine similarity score between briefs and the lower court opinion(s) calculated excluding quotations. |
| **noBriefs** | Indicator variable: Whether no briefs at all were filed for the relevant side. |
| **docVocab** | Number of distinct words in the briefs. |
| **docWC** | Word count calculated by Python (excludes stop words, excludes tokens with non-alpha characters, and collapses 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. |
| **totalCites** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in briefs. Similar to word count. |
| **precVocab** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in briefs. Similar to vocabulary. |
| **fkgl** | Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level. |
| **cli** | Coleman-Lia Index of readability. (Used by Black, Hall, Owens, and Rignsmuth, JLC, 2016). |
| **fog** | Gunning Fog Index of readability. |
| **smog** | Simple Measure of Gobbeldygook readability measure. |
| **ari** | Automated Readability Index. |
| **dalechall** | Dale–Chall readability formula. |
| **readability** | Readability measure based on six separate measures (see Hinkle and Nelson, JSJ, 2018). |
| **coSignors** | Number of filers who signed briefs. |
| **maxPrevExp** | Number of previous briefs in data signed by most experienced filer. |
| **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. |
| **sideCons** | Indicator variable for whether the side in question is seeking a conservative case outcome. |
| **numBriefs** | Number of briefs filed for the relevant side. |
| **numAttys** | Number of attorneys who signed the briefs. |
| **totFutSG** | Number of attorneys on the briefs who became USSG in the future. |
| **totPastSG** | Number of attorneys on the briefs who have served as USSG in the past. |
| **maxAttyExp** | Number of previous briefs signed for the attorney on the briefs who has the most past experience in terms of brief writing. |
| **meanAttyExp** | Average number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **medAttyExp** | Median number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on a single brief within a particular side and case. |
| **minAttyExp** | Number of previous briefs signed for the attorney on the briefs who has the least past experience in terms of brief writing. |
| **totAttyExp** | Total number of previous briefs signed by all attorneys on the briefs. |
| **totClerks** | Total number of attorneys on the briefs who clerked for the Supreme Court (as listed in Art Ward’s data or on Wikipedia). |
| **currentSG** | Indicator variable: Whether U.S. Solicitor General signed a brief. |
| **future** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC category for future tense verbs. |
| **quant** | Percentage of words that are quantifiers (LIWC). |
| **number** | Percentage of words that are numbers (LIWC). |
| **posemo** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC (modified) category of posemo |
| **negemo** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC (modified) category of negemo |
| **cause** | Percentage of words that relate to causation (LIWC). |
| **Parenth** | Percentage of parentheses (LIWC). |
| **techLang** | Percentage of words in the briefs in the LIWC categories: quant, number, cause, or Parenth |
| **emoLang** | Percentage of word in the briefs in the LIWC categories posemo or negemo. |
| **medAligned** | 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. |
| **auAligned** | 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.) |
| **majMedAligned** | 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. |
| **logDocWC** | Natural log of the word count of all briefs filed on behalf of a side. |
| **logWC\_LCOpin** | Natural log of the word count of the lower court opinion(s). |
| **docVocab1k** | Number of distinct words in all briefs on a side, divided by 1,000. |
| **totalCites100** | Total number of citations to (verified) Supreme Court precedents in all briefs on a side, divided by 100. |
| **precVocab100** | Number of unique (verified) Supreme Court precedents cited in all briefs on a side, divided by 100. |
| **logNumAttys** | Natural log of the number of attorneys who signed all the briefs on a side. |
| **logCoSignors** | Natural log of the number of filers who signed all briefs on a side. |
| **logMedPrevExp** | Natural log of the median number of previous briefs signed among all co-signers to all the briefs on a side. |
| **logMeanAttyExp** | Natural log of the mean number of previous briefs signed by an attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for a side. |
| **logMedAttyExp** | Natural log of the median number of previous briefs signed by an attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for a side. |
| **logMaxAttyExp** | Natural log of the number previous briefs signed by the most experienced attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for a side. |
| **logMinAttyExp** | Natural log of the number previous briefs signed by the least experienced attorney among all attorneys on all briefs for a side. |
| **questions** | Total number of questions posed to a side by the justices at oral argument. |
| **invites** | Number of amicus briefs filed on behalf of a side at the specific invitation of the Court. |