Codebook

State High Court Justices Database

Version 11

Dataset Description

This dataset contains information on judges who served as full-time judges on the 50 state supreme courts between 1990 and 2015. The unit of analysis is the individual judge.
N = 981

These data were collected with support from the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation:

Gibson, James L., and Michael J. Nelson. Co-Principal Investigators. "Testing Models of Representation and Institutional Design in State Courts' Consideration of Inequality." National Science Foundation, 2015-2020. Approximately $226,355. SES-1456568 and SES-1456580.

Gibson, James L., and Michael J. Nelson. Co-Principal Investigators. "Judging Inequality." Russell Sage Foundation. 2018-2021. Approximately $150,000. G-1962.

Identifiers

judgecode

Text. The unique identifier for the judge in ST-## format (e.g., AL-13).

judgestate

Numeric. The state in which the judge served on the state supreme court.

1 Alabama
2 Alaska
3 Arizona
4 Arkansas
5 California
6 Colorado
7 Connecticut
8 Delaware
9 Florida
10 Georgia
11 Hawaii
12 Idaho
13 Illinois
14 Indiana
15 Iowa
16 Kansas
17 Kentucky
18 Louisiana
19 Maine

20 Maryland
21 Massachusetts
22 Michigan
23 Minnesota
24 Mississippi
25 Missouri
26 Montana
27 Nebraska
28 Nevada
29 New Hampshire
30 New Jersey
31 New Mexico
32 New York
33 North Carolina
34 North Dakota
35 Ohio
36 Oklahoma
37 Oregon
38 Pennsylvania
39 Rhode Island
40 South Carolina
41 South Dakota
42 Tennessee
43 Texas
44 Utah
45 Vermont
46 Virginia
47 Washington
48 West Virginia
49 Wisconsin
50 Wyoming

Name

lastn

Text. The judge's last name.

firstn

Text. The judge's first name.

middlen

Text. The judge's middle name or initial, where available.

suffix

Text. A suffix (e.g., III or Jr.) appended to a judge's last name.

Demographics

gender

Numeric. The judge's gender.

0 Female
1 Male

Race

Categorical. The judge's race.

Asian
Black
Hispanic
Other
White

birthyear

Numeric. The year in which a judge was born where available or an ascribed birth year based on a news report.

Service on the Bench

joinmanner

Numeric. The method by which the judge actually joined the state supreme court.

1 Won a seat through an election of any sort
2 Initially selected through elite appointment (typically gubernatorial)
3 Initially selected by the legislature

nterms

Numeric. Whether the judge served one or more non-consecutive terms.

1 No non-consecutive terms
2 At least one non-consecutive term

StartDate_1

Date. The date on which the judge began their first (or only) term on the court.

StartDate_2

Date. The date on which the judge began their second term on the court.

sysmis No second non-consecutive term

EndDate_1
Date. The date on which the judge ended their first (or only) term on the court.

EndDate_2
Date. The date on which the judge ended their second term on the court.

sysmis No second non-consecutive term

Partisanship/Ideology

judgedemocrat
Numeric. Whether the judge is a Democrat.

0 Republican
1 Democrat

cfscorec2
Numeric. The Bonica and Woodruff (2014) cfscore ideology score for the judge. Supplemented with imputed scores for judges not in the Bonica/Woodruff dataset.

Education

ugnclean
Text. The name of the judge's undergraduate school. When a judge attended multiple schools, the school from which the judge graduated is used.

ugradst
Numeric. The state in which the judge's undergraduate school is located.

1 Alabama
2 Alaska
3 Arizona
4 Arkansas
5 California
6 Colorado
7 Connecticut
8 Delaware
9 District of Columbia
10 Florida
11 Georgia
12 Hawaii
13 Idaho
14 Illinois

15 Indiana
16 Iowa
17 Kansas
18 Kentucky
19 Louisiana
20 Maine
21 Maryland
22 Massachusetts
23 Michigan
24 Minnesota
25 Mississippi
26 Missouri
27 Montana
28 Nebraska
29 Nevada
30 New Hampshire
31 New Jersey
32 New Mexico
33 New York
34 North Carolina
35 North Dakota
36 Ohio
37 Oklahoma
38 Oregon
39 Pennsylvania
40 Puerto Rico
41 Rhode Island
42 South Carolina
43 South Dakota
44 Tennessee
45 Texas
46 Utah
47 Vermont
48 Virginia
49 Washington
50 West Virginia
51 Wisconsin
52 Wyoming

ugtuition Tuition cost at the judge's undergraduate educational institution

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

ugquality Quality of the judge's undergraduate educational institution

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

0 Only ability to profit from attendance
1 High school graduation or equivalent (of category 6)
2 High school graduation plus superior academic aptitude (or category 4)

uginstate Whether the judge's undergraduate educational institution is located in the same state in which the judge served as a supreme court justice

0 Out-of-State School
1 In-State School

lawnclean

Text. The name of the judge's law school. When a judge attended multiple schools, the school from which the judge graduated is used.

lawst

Numeric. The state in which the judge's law school is located.

1 Alabama
2 Alaska
3 Arizona
4 Arkansas
5 California
6 Colorado
7 Connecticut
8 Delaware
9 District of Columbia
10 Florida
11 Georgia
12 Hawaii
13 Idaho
14 Illinois
15 Indiana
16 Iowa
17 Kansas
18 Kentucky
19 Louisiana
20 Maine
21 Maryland
22 Massachusetts
23 Michigan
24 Minnesota

25 Mississippi
26 Missouri
27 Montana
28 Nebraska
29 Nevada
30 New Hampshire
31 New Jersey
32 New Mexico
33 New York
34 North Carolina
35 North Dakota
36 Ohio
37 Oklahoma
38 Oregon
39 Pennsylvania
40 Puerto Rico
41 Rhode Island
42 South Carolina
43 South Dakota
44 Tennessee
45 Texas
46 Utah
47 Vermont
48 Virginia
49 Washington
50 West Virginia
51 Wisconsin
52 Wyoming

lawtuition Tuition cost at the judge's law school educational institution
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

lawinstate Whether the judge's law school educational institution is located in the same state in which the judge served as a supreme court justice

0 Out-of-State School
1 In-State School

lawt14 Whether the judge's legal school educational institution is among the 14 most elite law schools in the country

0 Not Elite Law School
1 Elite Law School

totaltuition The sum of the tuition costs of the judge's undergraduate and law school educational tuition

ugcost Total cost of four years of undergraduate school

lawcost Total cost of three years of law school

edcost Total cost of undergraduate and law school

ugtype Type of undergraduate institution

1 Publicly controlled
2 Privately controlled
3 Religious affiliation

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

lawtype Type of law school institution

1 Publicly controlled
2 Privately controlled
3 Religious affiliation

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

ugquality Quality of undergraduate institution

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (created by the National Center for Education Statistics)—see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ [accessed 5/15/2020].

Career Experiences

wasjudge
Numeric. Whether the justice served as a judge before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

wasprosecutor
Numeric. Whether the justice worked as a prosecutor before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

waspd

Numeric. Whether the justice worked as a public defender before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

wasclerk

Numeric. Whether the justice worked as a law clerk before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

waslawprof

Numeric. Whether the justice worked as a law professor before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

wasprivatepractice

Numeric. Whether the justice worked in private practice before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

wasmilitary

Numeric. Whether the justice served as in the U.S. military before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

wasbusiness

Numeric. Whether the justice worked in business before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience

waselected

Numeric. Whether the justice served in elected office before ascending to the state supreme court.

0 No evidence of having this professional experience
1 Had this professional experience