# State Supreme Court Justices, 1960-2016

Description: The **justices.tab** file contains background information on everyone seated to a state supreme court from 1960 through 2016. Data were collected from a variety of sources, including biographies, newspaper archives, and obituaries. The variables are largely text-based to facilitate use by those who are not interested in statistical analysis.

Please contact me if you find mistakes:

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Please cite the following publications if you use these data:

Goelzhauser, Greg. 2020. "Intersectional Representation on State Supreme Courts." In Open Judicial Politics, eds. Rorie Spill Solberg, Jennifer Segal Diascro, and Eric Waltenburg, pp. 65-90. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.

Goelzhauser, Greg. 2019. *Judicial Merit Selection: Institutional Design and Performance for State Courts*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Goelzhauser, Greg. 2016. *Choosing State Supreme Court Justices: Merit Selection and the Consequences of Institutional Reform*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

## Variables

**state**: State of the supreme court seating. Note: Oklahoma and Texas have two apex courts; these are distinguished in the state name.

**name**: Name of the individual seated.

**selectionMechanism**: Selection system used to seat the individual. Note: The phrase "merit selection" is also used to describe what the data refer to as "commission assisted gubernatorial appointment."

**appointer**: Name of appointing person or entity if any.

**yearEnter**: Year the individual was named to the state supreme court. Note: This is not necessarily the same as the year the individual started serving on the court (e.g., an individual who wins election in November may not begin the term until January).

**yearExit**: Year the individual exits the state supreme court. Missing values denote justices who remained on the court at the end of the sample period.

**gender**: Sex of the individual seated.

**race**: Race of the individual seated.

**lawSchool**: Law school attended by the individual seated. Note: School names are current even if the individual graduated when it had a different name. The "unclear" designation indicates that law school information could not be found for that individual. Those who did not graduate from law school (e.g., having completed apprenticeships instead) have a "did not graduate from law school" designation.

**lawSchoolYear**: Year the individual graduated from law school. Note: Where this information could not be obtained, or where an individual did not graduate from law school, but where bar admission date was available, that information is used instead.

**experienceType**: All pre-seating experience by type.

-Private = Individual only had private practice experience pre-seating.
-Public = Individual only had public sector experience pre-seating.
-Private and Public = Individual had private and public sector experience pre-seating.

**experienceCongress**: Whether the individual had prior service as a member of Congress (yes/no).

**experienceLegislator**: Whether the individual had prior service as a member of a state legislature (yes/no).

**experienceGovernor**: Whether the individual had prior service as a state's governor (yes/no).

**experienceAttorneyGeneral**: Whether the individual had prior service as a state's attorney general (yes/no).

**experienceProsecutor**: Whether the individual had prior service as a prosecutor (yes/no).

**experiencePublicDefender**: Whether the individual had prior service as a public defender (yes/no).

**experienceJudge**: Whether the individual had prior service as a judge (yes/no).

Note: For all experience variables, the "unclear" designation indicates that there was insufficient biographical information to code whether individuals had that type of pre-seating experience.