The Speed of Justice

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README for the replication files

The following datasets are included in the replication files: SoJcases.dta, SoJhearings.dta, SoJjudges.dta, SoJfirmparties.dta, SoJfirmsurvey.dta. A small subset of variables are omitted for anonymization or due to data permissions (see Data dictionary below).

The following dataset is not included in the replication files: vatrevenues.dta. It includes restricted use data from the Senegalese tax administration that the authors do not have permission to publish. Permission for replication purposes should be requested directly from the Senegalese tax administration (Direction des Impots et Domaines, DGID).

The analysis was done in Stata (version 16); Tables and Figures are created by the do-file "SoJ replication REStat.do"; one figure was coded in R (version 4.0.5) but its execution is included in the Stata do-file. This is indicated in the do-file itself; please make sure to make the adjustments listed in the Setup section of the do-file to be able to execute the file (path to data directory, installation of user-written code etc.).

Datasets

Dataset	Description	Tables	Figures
SoJcases.dta	Court data: Case level (one observation per case)	1 (Panel A), 2, 3, 4, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A17 (cols 2-4)	2, 3, 4, 5, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A11, A14 (Panels B-D)
SoJhearings.dta	Court data: Chamber-hearing level (one observation per time period (hearing number, t) per chamber)	A1, A17 (col 1)	1, A2, A14 (Panel A)
SoJjudges.dta	Court data: Judge-hearing level (one observation per time period (hearing number, t) per pre-trial judge)		A12
SoJfirmparties.dta	Court data: Firm-party level (one observation per party that is a firm); can be converted to firm-level (one observation per firm) restricting to withinfirmid==1	1 (Panel B), A15, A16, A17 (cols 5-7)	A14 (Panel E-G)
SoJfirmsurvey.dta	Survey data: Firm-level (one observation per firm interviewed)	7, A11, A14	
vatrevenues.dta	Tax data: Party/firm-month level (one observation per party/firm per month)	5, A12, A13	6, A13

Data dictionary

SoJcases.dta	Variable name	Variable description	Notes
	entafterT	Case entered pre-trial after decree application ("T")	Dummy
	tentafterT	Time period ("t") of pre-trial entry relative to decree application ("T")	Negative for cases entered before T, positive for cases entered after T
	tentry	Time period of pre-trial entry in real time (not relative to T)	
	tjugement	Time period the final decision was taken	
	tfinishmee	Time period the pre-trial ended	
	date_finishmee	Date the pre-trial ended	
	date_jugement	Date of the final decision	
	duree_mee	Duration of pre-trial (in days)	
	duree_decision	Duration of decision stage (in days)	
	meein4	Pre-trial was completed within 4 months	Dummy
	decisionin1	Decision stage was completed within 1 month	Dummy
	numaudmee	Number of pre-trial hearings	
	numaudaftermee	Number of decision stage hearings	
	shheardmee	Pre-trial likelihood of being heard	Share of hearing dates during ongoing pre-trial at which case was heard
	shheardaftermee	Decision stage likelihood of being heard	Share of hearing dates during ongoing decision stage at which case was heard
	deskrej	Desk-rejection (case thrown out in first hearing ("irrecevable en l'état"))	Dummy
	delibwopt	Fast-tracking (case fast-tracked to decision phase in first hearing)	Dummy
	ferme_among_renvoi	Share judge more strict during pre-trial	Share of strict referrals among referrals during pre-trial
	aftermee_hasrab	Pre-trial insufficient (case in decision stage sent back to pre-trial)	Dummy
	aftermee_haspro	Decision postponed (during decision stage)	Dummy

	finjug	Final outcome: Judgment	
	fincon	Final outcome: Settlement	
	finradandoth	Final outcome: Other	
	entcalmth	Calendar month of pre-trial entry	
	code_chambre2	Chamber	The chamber the case started its pre-trial in; ITT
	cham2_tentry	Chamber-tentry interaction	
	mont_quint2	Amount quintiles (plus a 6th category for missing amount)	
non-public	montant1	Claim amount (in million FCFA)	
	montabm	Above-median claim amount	Dummy
	dummy_exp	Intention to appeal (steps taken by a part to start appeal)	Dummy
	article_num	Number of articles cited in the decision justification	
	taille_rel_surce	Length of decision justification relative to total judgment length	
	magcolleg3	Pre-trial in collegiate (not with individual pre-trial judge)	Dummy
	magspeedabm	Fast judge (before reform, pre-trial judge had above median speed)	Dummy, equal to 1 if weighed average of relative performance for each of the claim amount quintiles (plus a 6th category for missing amount, see above) is above the median; weighing by share of cases judge has in given quantile; see also Figure A10.
non-public	numdemfirm	Number of plaintiffs which are firms	
non-public	numdeffirm	Number of defendants which are firms	
non-public	numdempriv	Number of plaintiffs which are private individuals	
non-public	numdefpriv	Number of defendants which are private individuals	
non-public	numdem	Number of plaintiffs	
non-public	numdef	Number of defendants	
	moredemordef	More than one party on either side (several plaintiffs and/or defendants)	
	typecommercial	Commercial chamber	

SoJhearings.dta	Variable name	Variable description	Notes
	t	Time period (hearing number)	
	code_chambre	Chamber	
	numongoing	Number of cases ongoing at time of hearing (after including new incoming)	
	nummee	Number of cases ongoing in pre-trial at time of hearing	
	numaftermee	Number of cases ongoing in decision stage at time of hearing	
	numin	Number of cases incoming at hearing	
	numout	Number of cases outgoing at end of hearing (final decision)	
	tsinceTa	Time period the hearing takes place relative to decree application	Negative for hearings before T, positive for hearings after T
	audafterTa	Hearing takes place after decree application	Dummy
	calmth	Calendar month	
	an	Year	

SoJjudges.dta	Variable name	Variable description	Notes
	magidX	Judge ID (anonymized)	
	t	Time period (hearing number)	
	tsinceTa	Time period the hearing takes place relative to decree application	Negative for hearings before T, positive for hearings after T
	magcolleg	Collegiate (not individual pre-trial judge)	
	magnumongoing	Number of cases ongoing with judge at time of hearing (after including new incoming)	
	magnumheard	Number of cases heard by judge at hearing	
	magnumin	Number of cases incoming to judge at hearing	
	calmth	Calendar month	

SoJfirmparties.dta	Variable name	Variable description	Notes
	side1	Party is plaintiff	
	side2	Party is defendant	
	entafterT	Party's case entered pre-trial after decree application ("T")	Dummy
	tentafterT	Time period ("t") of pre-trial entry of party's case relative to decree application ("T")	Negative for cases entered before T, positive for cases entered after T
	duree_mee	Duration of pre-trial (in days) of party's case	
	meein4	Pre-trial was completed within 4 months for party's case	Dummy
	entcalmth	Calendar month of pre-trial entry of party's case	
	code_chambre2	Chamber	The chamber the party's case started its pre-trial in; ITT
	cham2_tentry	Chamber t-entry interaction	
non-public	montant1	Claim amount (in million FCFA)	
	montabm	Above-median claim amount	Dummy
	dummy_exp	Intention to appeal (case-level)	Dummy
	infirmsurvey	Party is in firm survey	Dummy
	invatanalysis	Party is in revenue analysis	Dummy
	entafterTA	Share of firm's cases that entered after decree	To use when restricting to withinfirmid==1
non-public	montant1A	Average claim amount of cases firm is involved in	To use when restricting to withinfirmid==1
	side1A	Share of firm's cases that are as plaintiff	To use when restricting to withinfirmid==1
	invatanalysisA2	Firm has at least one case in revenue analysis	To use when restricting to withinfirmid==1
	entafterTA2	Firm has at least one case after decree	To use when restricting to withinfirmid==1
	withinfirmid	Number of the party-observation within firm	Can be used to move from party-level to firm-level by restricting to withinfirmid==1
	Nobs	Number of cases the firm has in the dataset	

non-public	t_ca2012	Firm's 2012 revenues (in FCFA)	
non-public	istca2012	Inverse hyperbolic sine transformation of firm's 2012 revenues	

SoJfirmsurvey. .dta	**Variable name**	**Variable description**	**Notes**
	firmempBL	Firm number of employees end of 2011	
	estspeedW	Estimated speed (in mths) of a commercial case in court, winsorized at 2&98	
	estcostW	Estimated cost (in 1000 FCFA) of a commercial case in court, winsorized at 2&98	
	hypsmall	Hypothetical: would use court for a hypothetical dispute (with a supplier or client) over an amount of 3.5 million FCFA	Dummy; the hypothetical dispute amount of 3.5 million FCFA corresponds to the 1st tercile of the claim amount distribution
	perscore	Perception index	Share of positive answers ("Rather agree" or "Fully agree") to five statements on the justice system posed with a four-point Likert scale; The justice system is 1) fair, impartial and of integrity; 2) fast; 3) able to enforce its decisions; 4) I trust the justice system to enforce the firm's rights in case of commercial conflict; 5) In general the interpretation of the relevant reglementations are coherent and previsible.
	N	Number of cases the firm has in the dataset	
	treatc	Firm has case(s) after decree application	
	subtreatcN1	Firm's case was after decree application	

	wtp_5mo	Hypothetical dispute over 7.5 mio FCFA owed by other firm: Willingness to pay (in FCFA) for a lawyer who can typically obtain a judgment at the court in 5 months for this type of case	
	wtp_3pt5mo	Hypothetical dispute over 7.5 mio FCFA owed by other firm: Willingness to pay (in FCFA) for a lawyer who can typically obtain a judgment at the court in 3.5 months for this type of case	
	demamtspent	Last case as plaintiff: Total amount spent (in million FCFA)	
	demamthrslost	Last case as plaintiff: Monetary value of work hours lost (in million FCFA)	
	demhrslost	Last case as plaintiff: Any work hours were lost due to the judicial conflict	Dummy
	demdebt	Last case as plaintiff: Had to take on debt due to the judicial conflict	Dummy
	demnoinvest	Last case as plaintiff: Judicial conflict stopped firm from making investments	Dummy
	demcourtagain	Last case as plaintiff: For the same type of case and situation would go to cout again	Dummy
	defamtspent	Last case as defendant: Total amount spent (in million FCFA)	
	defamthrslost	Last case as defendant: Monetary value of work hours lost (in million FCFA)	
	defhrslost	Last case as defendant: Any work hours were lost due to the judicial conflict	Dummy
	defdebt	Last case as defendant: Had to take on debt due to the judicial conflict	Dummy
	defnoinvest	Last case as defendant: Judicial conflict stopped firm from making investments	Dummy

vatrevenues.dta, NON-PUBLIC	Variable name	Variable description	Notes
	partyid	Unique party identifier	
	ninea	Unique firm identifier	
	side	1- Party is plaintiff, 2- Party is defendant, 0- Not in court-case sample	
	side1	Party is plaintiff	Dummy
	side2	Party is defendant	Dummy
	yrmth	Month	Time period the hearing takes place relative to decree application
	yrmth1-yrmth78	Month dummies	
	calmth	Calendar month	
	duree_mee100	Duration of pre-trial (in 100 days) of party's case	Missing for firms not in court-case sample
	duree_mee100X	Duration of pre-trial (in 100 days) of party's case	=0 for firms not in court-case sample
	yyvatLOG	Monthly log revenues	
	yyvatLOGavg	Average log revenues over the 6 months after pre-trial start	
	yyvatLOGM01-yyvatLOGM06	Six variables respectively containing the monthly log revenues in the six months prior to pre-trial start	
	treat	Indicator =1 for court case firms after pre-trial start	Dummy
	mthafterC	Month relative to pre-trial start	<1000 for months before pre-trial start, >=1000 for months after pre-trial start; missing for firms not in court-case sample
	mthafterCX	Month relative to pre-trial start	<1000 for months before pre-trial start, >=1000 for months after pre-trial start; =999 for firms not in court-case sample
	meein4	Pre-trial was completed within 4 months for party's case	Dummy
	entafterT	Party's case entered pre-trial after decree application ("T")	Dummy
	meein4XXtreat	Interaction of meein4X and treat	=0 for firms not in court-case sample
	entafterTXXtreat	Interaction of entafterTX and treat	=0 for firms not in court-case sample

	d100XXtreat	Interaction of duree_mee100X and treat	=0 for firms not in court-case sample
	code_chambre2	Chamber	The chamber the party's case started its pre-trial in; ITT
	cham2_tentry	Chamber t-entry interaction	
	mee4mthafterCX994-mee4mthafterCX1005	Set of interactions of meein4 and mthafterCX dummies around pre-trial start	mee4mthafterCX999 dropped from dataset (omitted category, 1 month before pre-trial start)
	meeMmthafterCX994-meeMmthafterCX1005	Set of interactions of meeM (inverse of meein4) and mthafterCX dummies around pre-trial start	meeMmthafterCX999 dropped from dataset (omitted category, 1 month before pre-trial start))
	side1mthafterCX994-side1mthafterCX1005	Set of interactions of side1 and mthafterCX dummies around pre-trial start	side1mthafterCX999 dropped from dataset (omitted category, 1 month before pre-trial start))
	side2mthafterCX994-side2mthafterCX1005	Set of interactions of side2 and mthafterCX dummies around pre-trial start	side2mthafterCX999 dropped from dataset (omitted category, 1 month before pre-trial start))