

ICPSR 2086

United States Courts of Appeals Database Phase 1, 1925-1988

Description

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 2086

Title: United States Courts of Appeals Database Phase 1, 1925-1988

Principal Investigator(s): Donald R. Songer

Funding Agency: National Science Foundation

United States Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Scope of Study

Summary: The Appeals Court Database Project was designed to create an extensive dataset to facilitate the empirical analysis of the votes of judges and the decisions of the United States Courts of Appeals. The data in this collection comprise the first phase of this project. A random sample of cases from each circuit for each year between 1925-1988 was coded for the nature of the issues presented, the statutory, constitutional, and procedural bases of the decision, the votes of the judges, and the nature of the litigants. The variables are divided into four sections: basic case characteristics, participation, issues, and judges and votes. There is a separate data file (Part 2) containing the number of cases with published decisions for each circuit/year between 1925 and 1990. These data are necessary to weight the variables in the main data file (Part 1).

Subject Term(s): appellate courts, case processing, court cases, decision making, judges, judicial decisions

Geographic Coverage: United States

Date(s) of Collection: • 1989 - 1990

Universe: All United States Courts of Appeals decisions reported with opinions published in the FEDERAL REPORTER for each circuit for every calendar year between 1925-1988.

Data Type: administrative records data

Methodology

Sample: The sampling unit for this database is the circuit/year. For each circuit/year from 1925 through 1960, a random sample of 15 cases was selected. For each circuit/year from 1961 through 1988, a random sample of 30 cases was selected. Weighting data are provided to calculate the proportion of the universe of cases contained in each circuit/year.

Data Source: FEDERAL REPORTER

Extent of Processing: Performed recodes and/or calculated derived variables.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 1998-05-27

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2006-03-30.

2006-03-30 - File CB2086.ALL.PDF was removed from any previous datasets and flagged as a study-level file, so that it will accompany all downloads.

2005-11-04 - On 2005-03-14 new files were added to one or more datasets. These files included additional setup files as well as one or more of the following: SAS program, SAS transport, SPSS portable, and Stata system files. The metadata record was revised 2005-11-04 to reflect these additions.

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Appeals Data
- DS2: Weighting Data