

July 30, 2008

Greetings,

This folder contains data, in Stata 10.0 format, on amicus curiae briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court's orally argued cases from 1946-2001. It also contains the data and do files necessary to replicate the statistical analyses published in Collins (2008). The data on amicus curiae briefs filed from 1946-1995 were collected primarily by Kearney and Merrill (2000). The data on amicus curiae briefs filed from 1995-2001, in addition to those cases missing from the Kearney and Merrill (2000) database, were collected by Collins. Note that these databases also contain information collected by Spaeth (2002, 2003). Accordingly, I recommend that users familiarize themselves with the Spaeth databases, which can be located at the Judicial Research Initiative at the University of South Carolina Department of Political Science (<http://www.cas.sc.edu/poli/juri/>).

If you use these data, please cite the following:

Collins, Paul M., Jr. 2008. *Friends of the Supreme Court: Interest Groups and Judicial Decision Making*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Kearney, Joseph D., and Thomas W. Merrill. 2000. "The Influence of Amicus Curiae Briefs on the Supreme Court." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 148(3): 743-853.

A brief explanation of each dataset follows. For information as to how the amicus data were collected, see Collins (2008) and the Appendix in particular. Note that each dataset contains data labels. As such, the data should be fairly self-explanatory.

1) **amicus curiae data 1946-2001**. The unit of analysis in this dataset is the case. This database contains all orally argued cases identified in the Spaeth (2002, 2003) databases decided between 1946 and 2001. Because this database uses the case as the unit of analysis and therefore allows users to further refine that unit of analysis (e.g., case citation, docket number, etc.), I recommend using this database for those wishing to merge the amicus curiae data with other databases or conduct original empirical research using this dataset. N=10,564.

2) **chapters 4 and 5 data**. The unit of analysis is the justice-vote. This database contains the data necessary to replicate the statistical models appearing in Chapters 4 and 5 of Collins (2008). N=57,327.

3) **chapter 6 data**. The unit of analysis is the justice-vote. This database contains the data necessary to replicate the statistical models appearing in Chapter 6 of Collins (2008). N=51,244.

If you have any questions or identify any errors or omissions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Slàinte,

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