

# Federal Judge Ideology: A New Measure of Ex-Ante Litigation Risk

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In compliance with the JAR Data Policy, we provide the following information regarding the empirical data used in the JAR publication entitled “Federal Judge Ideology: A New Measure of Ex-Ante Litigation Risk.”

*1. A description of which author(s) handled the data and conducted the analyses.*

Li handled the data and conducted the empirical analyses for the study.

*2. A detailed description of how the raw data were obtained or generated, including data sources, the specific date(s) on which data were downloaded or obtained, and the instrument used to generate the data (e.g., for surveys or experiments). We recommend that more than one author is able to vouch for the stated source of the raw data.*

We obtained data from a variety of sources, including the Securities Class Action Clearinghouse, Federal Judicial Center, Wikipedia, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, the EDGAR, and Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS) through subscription, to conduct our empirical tests.

To obtain shareholder class action lawsuit filing and outcome data (e.g., case title, class period dates, case outcome, settlement amount, defendant company name, sector, industry, ticker, market status), we collected the data during May 2015 from lawsuit case webpages hosted by the Securities Class Action Clearinghouse (SCAC) website, which is available at

<http://securities.stanford.edu>. In February 2017, we hand collected additional data from the same website about lawsuit dismissal at district court and appeals to the circuit courts.

In May 2015, we downloaded the data of Federal judge's appointment history from Federal Judicial Center (FJC) in order to calculate the variable *LiberalCourt*. The data was originally located in <http://fjc.gov/history/export/jb.txt>. As of November 2018, the file location is at <https://www.fjc.gov/sites/default/files/history/judges.csv>. For district courts, we retrieved the federal district court and zip code mapping data from the website of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, available at <http://www.uscourts.gov/court-locator>.

We obtained from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) by Bureau of Labor Statistics the State-level unemployment rate history in December 2015 and calculated state-level variable *UNEMP*. The data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/lau/> as of November 2018.

In December 2015, we collected state-level GDP growth data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis which is available at <http://www.bea.gov/regional> to calculate the variable *GDPGR*.

In May 2016, we hand-collected the U.S. Senate election history from Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Lists\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_Senators\\_by\\_state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Lists_of_United_States_Senators_by_state)

We retrieved via WRDS between June 2014 and July 2015 the stock return data from CRSP, Management Guidance and Analyst Forecast from I/B/E/S, firm-year financial data from Compustat North America Annual and Quarterly files, Institutional Holdings data from Thomson Financial.

To match circuit- and state-level variables (*LiberalCourt*, *BlueState*, *GDPGR*, *UNEMP*) with firm-year observations, we retrieved from the SEC's EDGAR the firm's 10-K filings and obtained historical headquarter information from the filing header when they are available. If we could not identify the historical headquarter from 10-Ks, we use the current headquarter from Compustat North America. We also hand collected the circuits – states matching data from Wikipedia, available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_courts\\_of\\_appeals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_courts_of_appeals) and Zip Code -- City mapping data by ZIP Codes Business Patterns (ZBP) from United States Census Bureau from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml>

All three coauthors, Huang, Hui, and Li, vouch for the stated sources of the raw data and have access to the data.

Source	Date	Description
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts	July, 2016	Federal district court and zip code mapping, from <a href="http://www.uscourts.gov/court-locator">http://www.uscourts.gov/court-locator</a>
Bureau of Economic Analysis	December, 2015	State-level GDP growth rate history Obtained from Bureau of Economic Analysis Available at <a href="http://www.bea.gov/regional">http://www.bea.gov/regional</a>
Bureau of Labor Statistics	December, 2015	State-level unemployment rate history Calculated from historical labor force data by county Obtained from Bureau of Labor Statistics Available at <a href="http://www.bls.gov/lau">http://www.bls.gov/lau</a>

Census Bureau	December, 2015	Zip Code -- City mapping data by ZIP Codes Business Patterns (ZBP), Available at <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml</a>
CRSP	May—Aug, 2015	CRSP stock returns information Retrieved via WRDS-SSH
Federal Judicial Center	May, 2015	Federal judge's appointment history from Federal Judicial Center Available at <a href="http://fjc.gov/history/export/jb.txt">http://fjc.gov/history/export/jb.txt</a>
Ahmed Tahoun	July, 2018	Corporate political contribution data. It contains data on the \$ amount of donations and number of recipients, broken down by party affiliation (Democrats, Republicans, 3rd parties, unknown). The basis of this data set is the data from OpenSecrets.org.
I/B/E/S	June, 2014	Thomson Reuters Guidance
I/B/E/S	May, 2015	Analyst forecast information Retrieved via WRDS-SSH
Securities Class Action Clearinghouse	May, 2015—Feb, 2017	Securities lawsuit filing and outcome data Available at <a href="http://securities.stanford.edu">http://securities.stanford.edu</a>
SEC EDGAR	May, 2015	Historical headquarter state information 10-K and 10-Q file header from SEC's EDGAR Website
S&P Compustat	May, 2015	Compustat North America Fundamental Annual and Quarterly File Retrieved via WRDS-SSH
Thomson Financial	July, 2015	Thomson Financial S34 file of Institutional Holdings Retrieved via WRDS-SSH
Wikipedia	November, 2015	State-level Presidential election outcomes Available at <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_presidential_election_results_by_state">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_presidential_election_results_by_state</a>
Wikipedia	May, 2016	U.S. Senate election history Available at <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Senators_from_Alabama">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Senators_from_Alabama</a> And pages for other states
Wikipedia	December, 2015	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_courts_of_appeals">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_courts_of_appeals</a>

*3. If the data are obtained from an organization on a proprietary basis, the authors should privately provide the editors with contact information for a representative of the organization who can confirm data were obtained by the authors. The editors would not make this information publicly available. The authors should also provide information to the editors about the data sharing agreement with the organization (e.g., non-disclosure agreements, any restrictions imposed by the organization on the authors, such as restrictions to publish certain results).*

All of the source data for this paper came from sources and vendors referenced above.

*4. A complete description of the steps necessary to collect and process the data used in the final analyses reported in the paper. For experimental and survey papers, we require information about the instructions and instruments used to generate the data, subject eligibility and/or selection, as well as any exclusion criteria. The full set of instructions and instruments can be provided in the online appendix.*

We used SAS to process and merge our datasets. We detail this process in Section 4.1 of the paper, and in “HHL\_SAS\_Code.sas”.

*5. The computer programs or code used to convert the raw data into the final dataset used in the analysis plus a brief description that enables other researchers to use this program. The purpose of this requirement is to facilitate replication and to help other researchers understand in detail how the raw data were processed, the final sample was formed, variables were defined, outliers were treated, etc. This code or programming is in most circumstances not proprietary. However, we recognize that some parts of the code or data generation process may be proprietary, including from the authors’ perspective. Therefore, instead of the code or program, researchers can provide a detailed step-by-step description of the code or the relevant parts of the code such that it enables other researchers to arrive at the same final dataset used in the analysis. In such cases, the authors should inform the editors upon initial submission, so that the editors can consider an exemption from the code sharing requirement. Whenever feasible, authors should also provide the identifiers (e.g., CIK, CUSIP) for their final sample. Authors should consult our FAQ Sheet on the JAR website for further details.*

The SAS code used to create the final data set is attached. The final sample for our main test is reported in “Final\_sample.csv”. For data collected or merged manually, we include notes in the “HHL\_SAS\_Code.sas” file describing how we obtained the data.

*6. An assurance that the data and programs will be maintained by at least one author (usually the corresponding author) for at least six years, consistent with National Science Foundation guidelines.*

The authors will retain all data and programs for the required six years.