Research Question: How can network graphing and information visualization techniques improve the understanding of the work of the United States Supreme Court?

July 2, 2005 New York Times: Appointed by a Democrat

Appointed by a Republican

Voting frequencies represented as the edge weight between nodes and presented visually as a graph. Scalia and Thomas vote most frequently together and are joined least frequently by Stevens. O’connor, and to a lesser extent Kennedy, are the judges most likely to join the liberal members of the Court. (Rendered with Pajek using a stochastic, spring force algorithm.)

Ideological Landscape of the Justices

Frequency of Voting Blocks in 5-4 Cases (1994-2003 Supreme Court Terms)

Total 5 to 4 Cases = 175

United States v. Booker, 125 S.Ct. 738 (2005):

Network Graphic Approach to Booker

West Topic Space of the 2004 Term (No Procedural Topics – 3 Orphans)