Base Map Creation

Network Derived Educational Visualizations of the Work of the United States Supreme Court


Swing Vote Status of O'Connor and Kennedy

Frequency of Voting Blocks in 5-4 Cases

School of Library and Information Science
Indiana University--Bloomington
Doctoral Student
Peter A. Hook
(1994 -2003 Supreme Court Terms)

New York Times
Total 5 to 4 Cases = 175

ALL OTHER GROUPINGS OF
(Highest repetition – 3 times)
5 (34 different groupings)

West's Topics by Specialty as a Network

175
82
175
28
14
175
29%
16%
47%
8%
of the Work of the United States Supreme Court

Network Graphic Approach to
Visualizing Complex Joining Patterns
Stevens. O'connor, and to a lesser extent Kennedy, are the judges most likely to join the

Stevi R: Appointed by a Republican
Appointed by a Democrat

Voting Together > 49%

• This creates an interconnected mess when

• There are three types of West top level

• Of the 405 topics in the West

• 7,948 unique cases to which

• All top level West topics

• consists of:

- The dataset

- The three types can co-occur in

Graph was reduced to an edge weight exceeding

with its most frequently occurring subjects.  (2) The

treatment. (1) Each of the 55 classes was paired

doctrinal and assigned to law School class

The above image represents all topics identified as

2004 Supreme Court Term West Topic Space (Procedural Topics Removed)