Amici Space Codebook
Amicus Curiae Brief Data Set

This codebook describes the amicus curiae brief data that were ultimately used to produce the ideal point estimates. These data include the identity of each entity signing on to an amicus curiae brief filed on the merits of an orally argued Supreme Court case from the 1953 through 2013 Court terms. These data not include amici who are individuals who filed a brief on their own behalf only (e.g., law professors and retired military officers).

Some organized interests have changed their names over the time span covered by these data. For example, the American Association of Retired Persons formally changed its name to AARP in the late 1990s and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund became Legal Momentum in 2004. For any given amicus filing in the data, both the original name of the amicus as it appeared on the brief (**AmicusNameOrig**) and an updated, cleaned, and consistent name of the amicus (**AmicusName**) are included. To see all the briefs filed by a particular entity you should use **AmicusName** as the identifier.

Additional notes:

- These data do not include cases in which no amicus curiae brief was filed

- In these data, the states and the United States are not disaggregated by attorney general and solicitor general, respectively. You will see California listed, for example, not the specific attorney general representing California at the time.

Variables:

Variable Name	Description
CourtTerm	The Supreme Court term in which the case was decided.
LexisCite	The Lexis citation for the case. This acts the unique identifier for cases.
LedCite	The Lawyers' Edition citation for the case
BriefID	Uniquely identifies an amicus brief within a particular case, meaning that for a given case (as identified by LexisCite) all amici sharing the same BriefID value were filers/co-signers of the same amicus curiae brief.
FirstOnBrief	= 1 if the amicus is the first one listed on the brief (= 0 otherwise).
Position	Indicates the position on the case expressed by the amicus brief. = 1 if the brief argues the lower court decision should be reversed, = 2 if lower court decision should be affirmed, = 3 if the brief explicitly does not adopt a position or the position is unclear.
AmicusName	The name of the entity filing the brief, updated to reflect its current name and made consistent across filings so that it acts as a unique identifier for the entity.
AmicusNameOrig	The name of the entity filing the brief as it originally appeared on the brief.
Usable	=1 if the case is included in our IRT model estimations (= 0 otherwise). Cases are not included in the IRT estimations if the Court's decision in the case is mixed (e.g., affirm in part and reverse in part) and thus does not provide clear votes for the justices.