

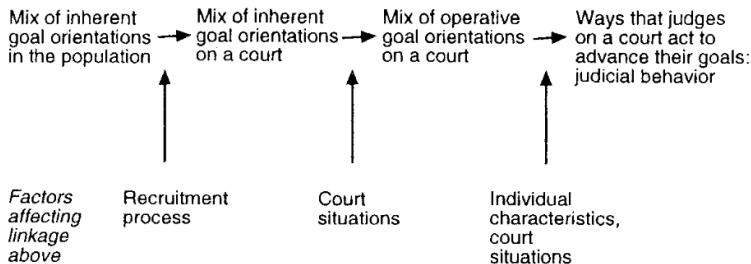
# PLSC 473: American Judicial Behavior

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# Inherent and Operational Goals

## 14 The Puzzle of Judicial Behavior



**Fig. 1.1. A framework for analysis of judicial behavior. (Terminology is explained in the text.)**

# A Goal Typology

**TABLE 1.1. A Partial Typology of Possible Goals for Judges**

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- I. *Content of Legal Policy*
    - Accurate interpretation of the law ("legal accuracy")
    - Clear and consistent interpretation of the law ("legal clarity")
    - Good policy as gauged by the judge's policy preferences ("good policy")
  - II. *Personal Standing with Court Audiences*
    - Popularity and respect in the legal community
    - Popularity and respect in the community as a whole
    - Power outside the court
  - III. *Career*
    - Continued tenure in the current judicial position
    - Promotion to a higher court
    - Securing attractive nonjudicial positions
  - IV. *Life on the Court*
    - Good relations with other judges and with participants in the courts who have other positions
    - Power within the court
    - Limited work loads
    - Court resources
  - V. *Standard of Living*
    - Personal income
    - Personal comfort
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