

[21022001]





His attorneys claim he was framed by the FBI and New York police as part of a campaign to destroy the black liberation movement of the 1960s.

[21022033] Because the federal Freedom of Information Act was n't law at that time, the FBI was n't required to turn over information on its investigations when Mr. Ferguson appealed his conviction in the 1960s.

[21022034] But in federal court in Manhattan, Judge Patterson said the FBI records could show that Mr. Ferguson's arrest was the result of questionable legal practices.

[21022036] Gabriel W. Gorenstein, the assistant U.S. attorney handling the case for the FBI, said no decision has been made about appealing the judge's ruling.

[21022037] FEDERAL COURTS URGED to cut costs and reduce delays of civil suits.

[21022038] The study, conducted by a task force of the Brookings Institution, suggests that Congress should require the courts to develop the plans.

[21022040] The Washington, D.C., think tank recommends that the courts adopt different "tracks" for different types of civil cases in order to separate the handling of highly complex suits from simpler ones.

[21022041] Complex cases, such as antitrust suits and many business disputes, would receive intense supervision by federal judges to keep pretrial proceedings moving.

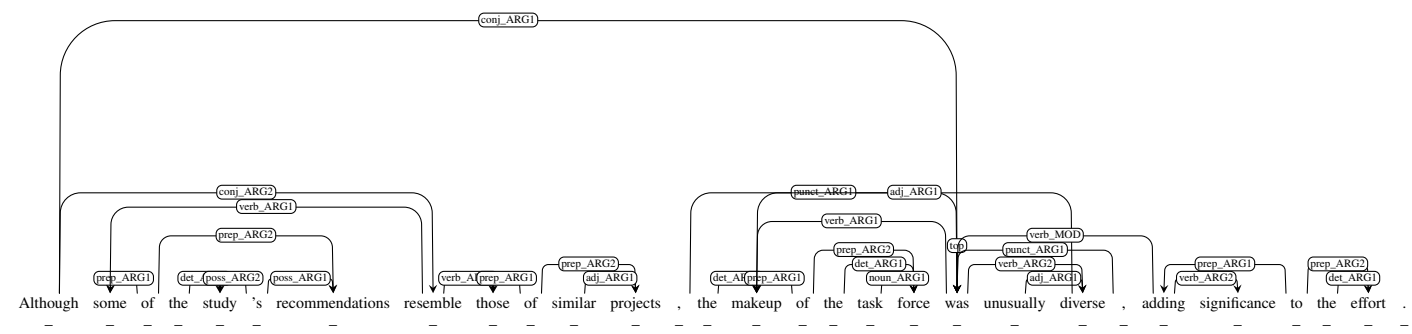
[21022042] Standard cases would require less judicial attention, and fast-track cases could be resolved quickly.

[21022043] The study also said each federal court should set strict time limits for the pretrial exchange of documents and evidence, ranging from as much as 100 days for cases in the fast track to as much as 18 months for complex disputes.

[21022044] And the study said federal courts should set firm trial dates early in the process.

[21022045] To take advantage of local expertise and custom, the study said, Congress should require each of the 94 federal district courts to adopt its own plan to speed the handling of civil suits and to reduce the high costs in civil cases.

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