Courts Data Project: Stakeholder & Risk Assesment

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The Stakeholders

- Community Politics, Analytics & Strategy (CommPAS) Lab
- Legal Data Lab
- Computer Science Department

CommPAS Lab

- Cross-disciplinary group, focused on data analysis and policy
- Apply their data and statistic skills to community projects to produce actionable research
- Led by Dr. Michele Claibourn who hopes to use the courts data project to create an interactive dashboard
  - Experienced in community data work and is familiar the ethical challenges of working with aggregated, identifiable data
  - A natural end user of the project

Legal Data Lab

- Mission: to support empirical legal scholarship at the UVA Law School
- Provide data science tools to better understand and explain legal phenomena
- Led by Jon Ashley who hopes to contribute to the community by providing open data while preserving for individual privacy
  - Has been involved with other government web scraping eforts
  - Original contact point for Ben Schoenfeld - creator of the Virginia court data scraper

Computer Science Department

- Large academic department in the engineering school serving undergraduate and graduate students
- Primarily focused on theoretic research, teaching classes, and promoting computing
- Working with Jack Davidson to contribute to the Public Interest Technology University Network

Risks

- Compromising individual privacy by aggregating and publishing data
- Building an inefficient, unmaintainble, cost-sucking service
- Crashing government servers by scraping them unsustainably and at inopportune times
- Data was originally collected because of political forces with their own incentives
- By not associating with an external national partner on a national data project