

Op-Alert:

A project by

Michael Lissner and **Longhao Wang**

under the advisement of

Brian Carver

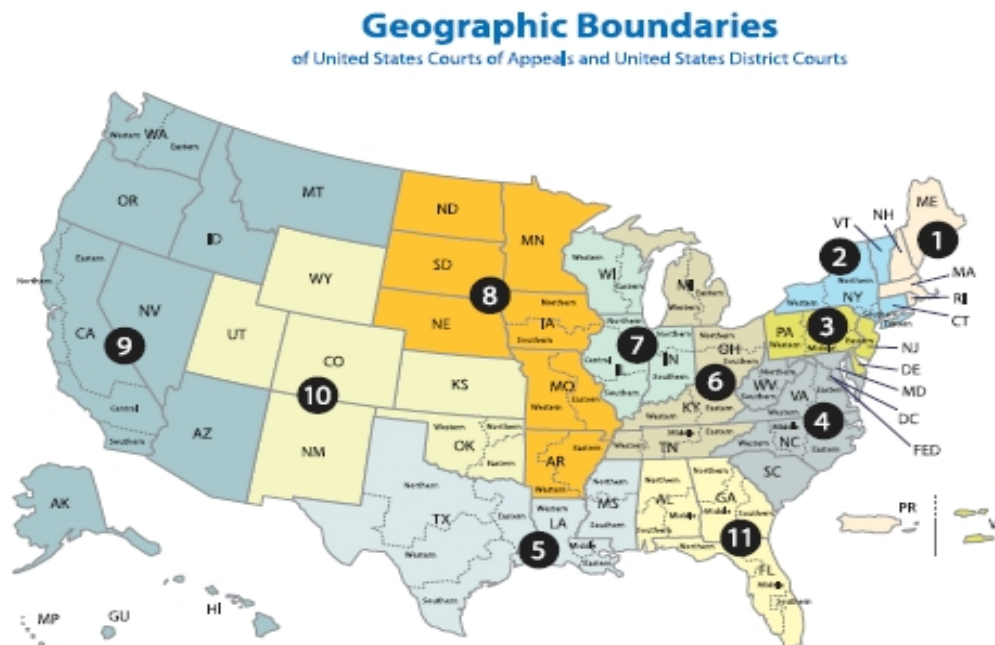
for partial fulfillment of

**Master of Information
Management and Systems**

Wednesday, January 27th, 2010

Op-Alert: Background

- There are 13 federal appellate courts.
 - They issue judicial **opinions** every day.
 - These opinions can vastly change the legal landscape.



Op-Alert: **Background**

- In 2008 there were 1.1M licensed lawyers in the U.S.*
 - Each must get information from somewhere.
 - There are also academics, bloggers, journalists, and the general public to consider.
- But LexisNexis and Westlaw are expensive.
 - Also, neither provides a very good alert system.

The Op-Alert Solution

1. Scrape the court websites every day.
2. Users create queries to trigger alerts
 - For example: (copyright OR trademark) circuit:9
judge:Kozinski
3. Notify people when their alert has a hit.
4. Technologies:
 - Boolean interpreter
 - Tokenization and stemming
 - LAMP running django