A Geospatial Understanding of Evictions in Franklin County, Ohio

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Georgetown's Civil Justice Data Commons (CJDC)

Introduction

Georgetown's Civil Justice Data Commons (CJDC), "aims to create a secure, robust repository for civil legal data, gathered from courts, legal service providers, and other civil law institutions, that will enable stakeholders, researchers, and the public to better understand the civil legal system in the United States." [1]

This analysis looks to better understand evictions utilizing the data obtained by the CJDC. Specifically, this study will look at the top evicting locations within Franklin County, Ohio, which is the most populous county in the state. *Insights from this analysis will help individuals better understand where in Franklin County individuals are being evicted at the highest per-capita rate.*
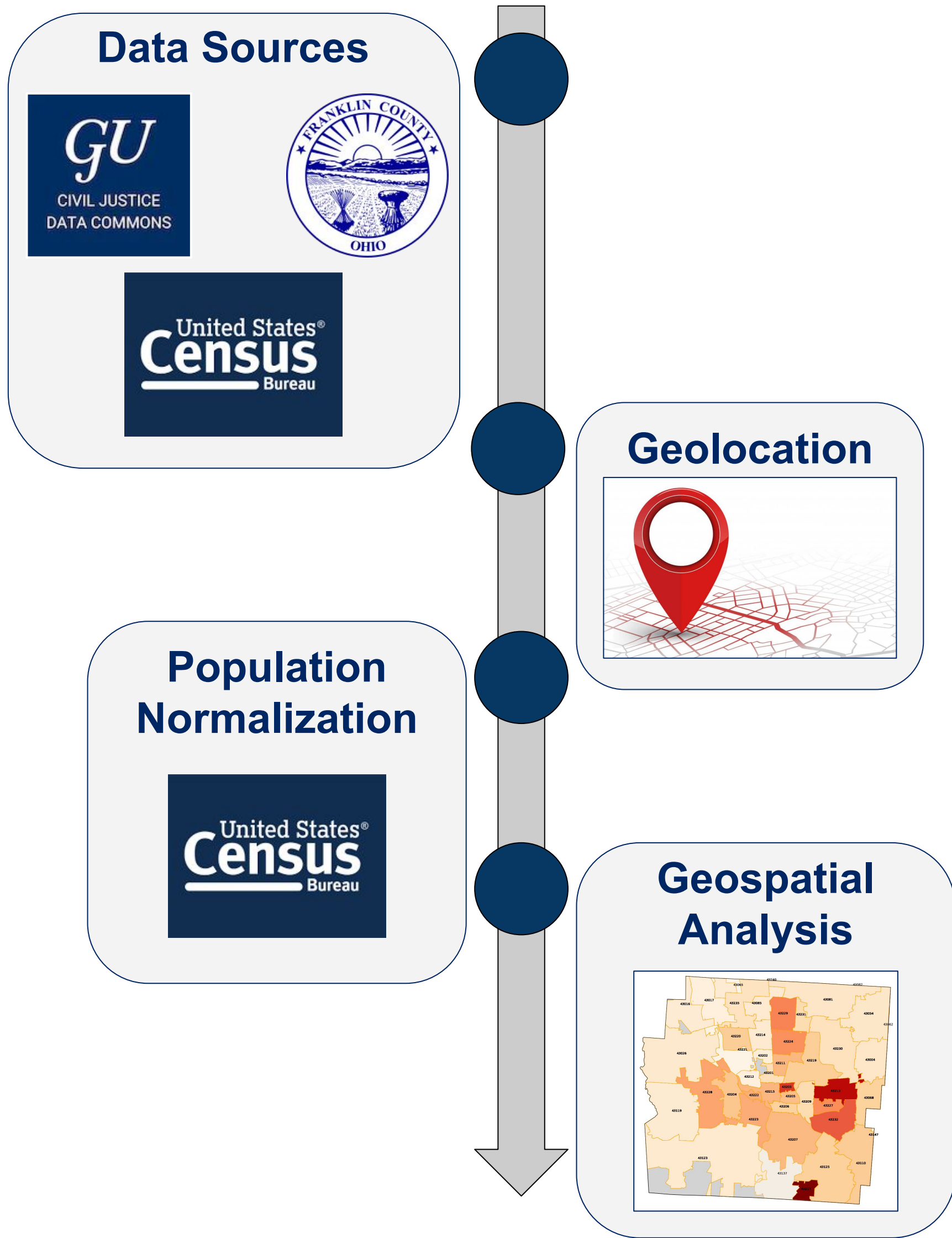
Methodology

Figure 1 Methodology for Geospatial Analysis

Results

Evictions obtained from the CJDC database were translated to geolocatable entities at a zip code level and normalized by population in that zip code. **The result is a zip code level understanding of evictions.** The below figures show visually where the top evicting zip codes are in Franklin County, OH and illustrates the impact of population normalization on insights. The left-most figure and table highlight unnormalized data and the right-most figure and table highlight results when normalized by population.
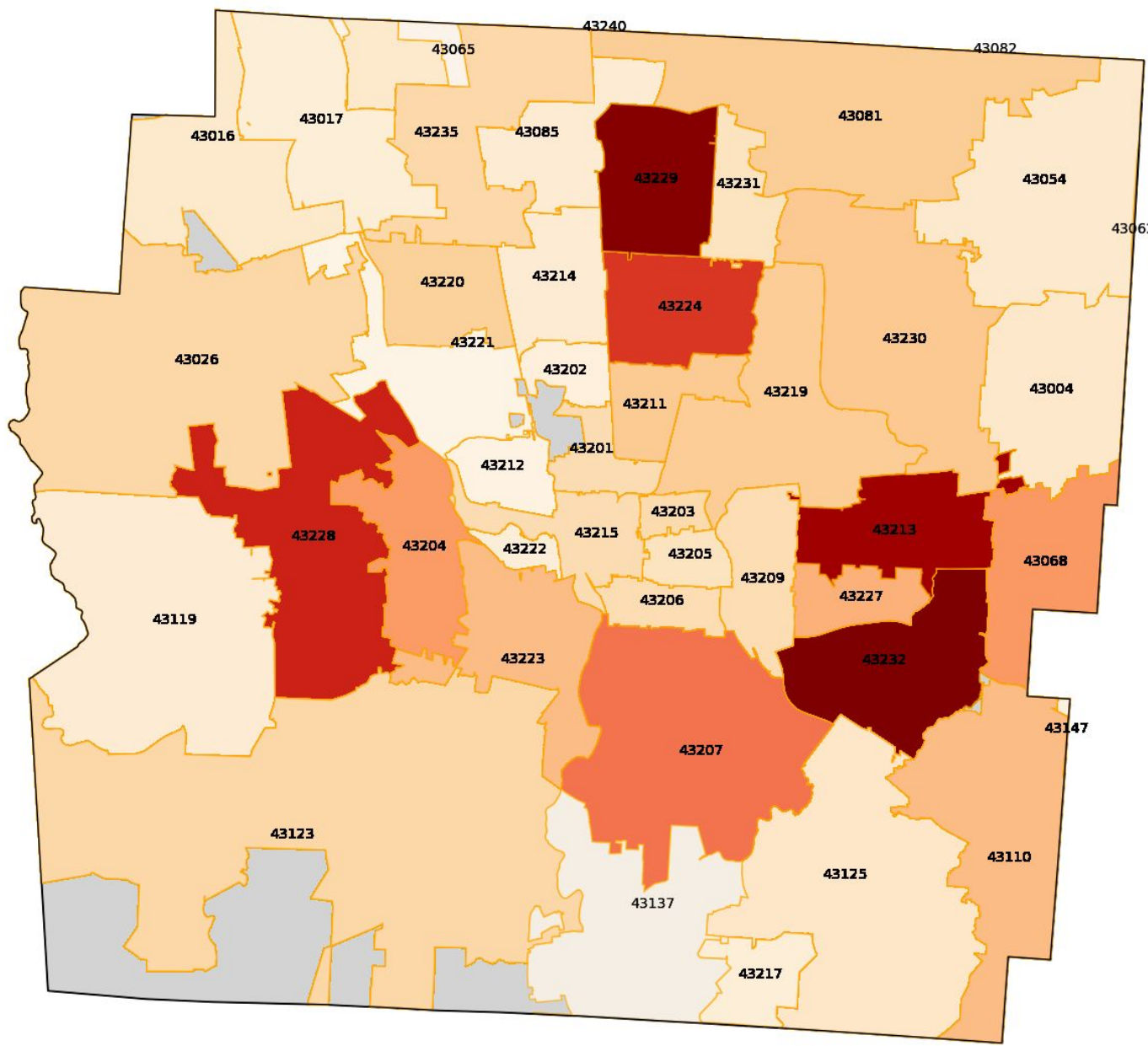

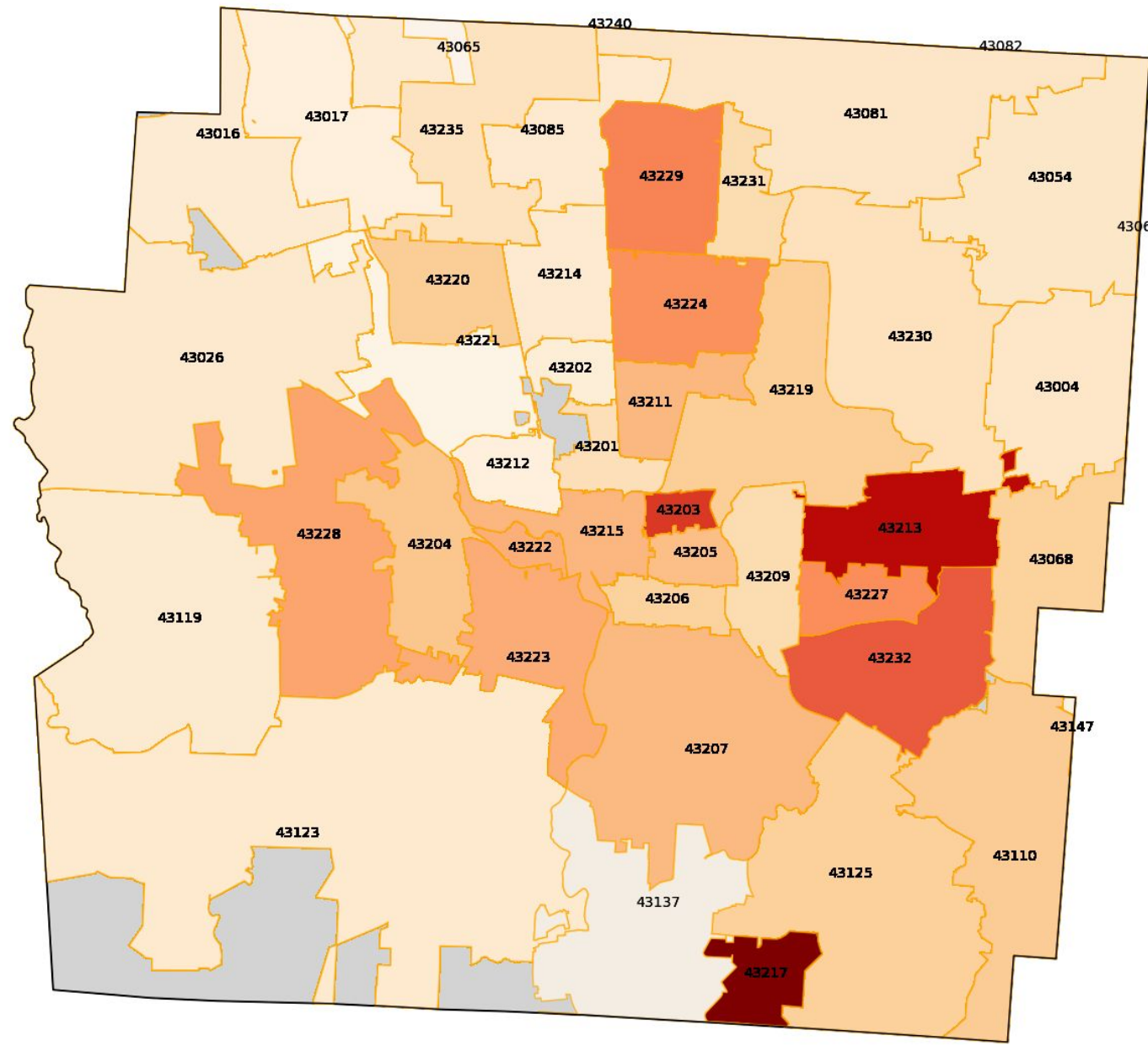**Figure 2** Evictions by Zip Code Pre-Normalization by Population

Figure 3 Evictions by Zip Code Post Normalization by Population

Neighborhood (Zip Code)	Number of Evictions	Population	Per-Capita Evictions
Columbus / Blacklick Estates (43232)	1948	46914	0.042
Columbus / Worthington (43229)	1913	56760	0.034
Whitehall (43213)	1782	32807	0.054

Figure 4 Table of Evictions by Zip Code Pre-Normalization by Population

Neighborhood (Zip Code)	Number of Evictions	Population	Per-Capita Evictions
North Rickenbacker (43217)	132	2069	0.064
Whitehall (43213)	1782	32807	0.054
Mt Vernon / Woodland Park / King-Lincoln Bronzeville (43203)	392	8415	0.047

Figure 5 Table of Evictions by Zip Code Post Normalization by Population

Limitations

While this methodology works well to understand where in Franklin County the most evictions are occurring, given the nature of court data in the United States, this methodology would likely not translate well to another county. Court data in the US differs by count system. Other than just the way that the data is formatted, there is not a guarantee that other court systems would keep track of geospatial indicators such as zip codes. Therefore, while this approach is promising, applications can be limited.

Conclusion

I developed a process to geospatially understand and analyze evictions in Franklin County, Ohio.

- **Per-capita evictions most heavily impacted zip codes with smaller populations**
- Knowledge gained from **these results can better aid policy makers and legal experts** to better provide aid to these high evicting zip codes
- Adding a layer of geospatial data to civil justice issues provide those interested with a more informed analysis of key civil justice issues

References

1. Georgetown's Civil Justice Data Commons , https://www.law.georgetown.edu/tech-institute/programs/civil-justice-data-commons/.

Acknowledgements