Legend

Product
Tool
Database

FLP

CourtListener.com

Case Law

WHAT: A collection of **legal decisions** (also known as **opinions**) that judges write to interpret the law.

HOW: Contributed.

Case Law Database

Overall Structure
↳ Courts
  ↳ Dockets
    ↳ Clusters
      ↳ Opinions
      ↳ Judges
      ↳ Citations

Definition

Courts:
- Containing data about the courts within the database.
- Every docket belongs to a court to indicate where the case was filed.

Dockets:
- Containing metadata about the case like the date it was initiated or terminated, the docket number, etc.
- Each cluster belongs to a docket.

Clusters:
- **Group together opinions** when a panel hears a case and there is more than one decision, such as a dissent, concurrence, etc.
- Each opinion belongs to a cluster, and links to citations and judges.
- The cluster_id is the unique identifier for the collection of opinions as presented on the case law web search result.

Opinions:
- Containing the text of the **decision** and the **metadata** related to the individual panel member that wrote it.
- Link to citations and judges.

Parenthetical

WHAT: A **short summary** (written by the judge) of why a particular opinion was cited in an opinion.

HOW: Extracted / scraped from cases.

Parenthetical Database

Overall Structure
↳ Parentheticals

Definition

Parentheticals:
- **Short summaries** extracted from the **opinion** text when a decision explains a citation it relies on as authority.
- Only available as bulk data.

Citation

WHAT: A collection of **citations** (also known as **Table of Authorities**) from each opinion. Includes both cited opinions (previous opinions a particular opinion cited) and citing opinions (future opinions citing a particular opinion).

HOW: Extracted from opinions using eyecite and/or contributed from donor datasets.

Citation Database

Overall Structure
↳ Courts
  ↳ Dockets
    ↳ Clusters
    ↳ Citations

Definition

Citations:
- Utilized Reporters DB to link together the opinions that cite each other.
- Utilized to create the citation graph.
- Also supports citation lookup and verification, powered by eyecite.

RECAP Archive

WHAT: PACER (**Federal** Court dockets and cases) docket entries & documents.

HOW: Scraped and parsed using juriscraper and/or contributed by users through the use of RECAP Suite.

RECAP Database

Overall Structure
↳ Courts
  ↳ Dockets
    ↳ Docket Entries
      ↳ Documents
    ↳ Roles
      ↳ Parties
        ↳ Judges
        ↳ Attorneys
↳ Originating Court
↳ Integrated Database
  ↳ Dockets
    ↳ …

Definition

Courts:
- Containing data about the courts within the database.
- Courts link together pretty much every other database.

Dockets:
- A docket is a **list of docket entries** and some metadata. Each **docket entry** is a **collection of documents** that is uploaded to the court by a party or their attorney at a given time.
- Link together docket entries, parties, and attorneys.

Docket Entries:
- One entry representing one row in a docket, containing one or more nested documents.
- Link to documents.

Documents:
- Each docket entry can contains several documents.
- Some of the documents may be Case Law opinions.

Parties:
- Details about parties that have been involved in the federal cases and contains nested attorney information.
- Link to judges and attorneys.

Attorneys:
- Details about the attorneys (and the associated organization and other information about the attorneys) involved in a particular case.

Originating Court:
- Information gathered at an appellate court about a case when it was in a lower court or administrative body. Only available for appellate cases.
- Can crosswalk from the upper court docket to identify the lower and upper courts involved in the case.

Integrated Database:
- Information available in the Federal Judicial Center (FJC)'s Integrated Database, containing regularly updated metadata about federal court cases.
- Link with courts and dockets.

Oral Arguments

WHAT: Audio files (and generated transcripts) of oral arguments from the Supreme Court and the Federal Circuit Courts.

HOW: Scraped from court websites.

Oral Arguments Database

Overall Structure
↳ Courts
  ↳ Dockets
    ↳ Oral Arguments Audios
    ↳ Judges

Definition

Audios:
- Audio files of oral arguments gathered from court websites, cleaned to standardized format with transcriptions and metadata attached.

Judges

WHAT: A growing collection of state and federal judges.
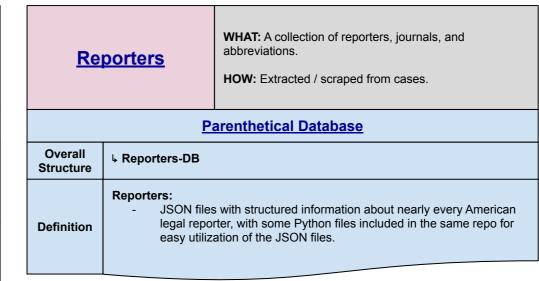
HOW: Curated from books, court websites, commercial data sources, public records requests, and federal financial disclosure forms.

Persons Database

Overall Structure
↳ Person
  ↳ Judges

Definition

Person:
- Details of persons affiliated with or indirectly related to each docket. These could be judges, appointers (presidents), and attorneys.
- Link to various other courtlistener databases (case law, RECAP, financial disclosures, and oral arguments) through dockets.

Judges:
- Details of judges, including biographic information, positions, education, American Bar Association rating, political affiliation, race, appointments, and reappointments, and other relevant information.
- A separate Judges Portraits Database also houses thousands of portraits of judges.

Financial Disclosures

WHAT: Financial disclosures (investments and potential conflicts of interest information) of federal judges.

HOW: Requested through the Financial Disclosures Office, extracted from Senate records, and curated through other organizations with a shared mission.

Financial Disclosures Database

Overall Structure
↳ Person
  ↳ Judges
    ↳ Financial Disclosures

Definition

Financial Disclosures:
- Details of required financial disclosures filed by federal judges, including disclosures, investments, positions, agreements, non-investment income, spousal non-investment income, reimbursements, gifts, and debts.

Reporters

WHAT: A collection of reporters, journals, and abbreviations.

HOW: Extracted / scraped from cases.

Parenthetical Database

Overall Structure
↳ Reporters-DB

Definition

Reporters:
- JSON files with structured information about nearly every American legal reporter, with some Python files included in the same repo for easy utilization of the JSON files.

Eyecite

A Python-based tool developed in collaboration with Harvard Library Innovation Lab for **extracting legal citations** from text. Citation pattern are searched via Reporters Database.

Juriscraper

A Python **data gathering** library that collects & **parse** legal opinions, PACER content, and oral arguments from the American court system. Used in conjunction with user-defined caller.

X-Ray

A Python library for **finding bad redactions** in PDF documents. Currently only supports the most basic and most common type of bad redaction, rectangles on top of text, but the tool is being continuously developed.

Doctor

A Django based microservice for **converting, extracting, and modifying documents and audio files.**

Alerts

Functionality within CourtListener's website which allows user to set-up special alerts for specified cases and topics, currently supports:

1. **Docket Alerts for PACER:** allows user to keep up with federal cases and bankruptcies in the PACER system.
2. **Search Alerts:** allows user to get alerts on cases or topics they are following.
3. **Citation Alerts:** allows users to keep up to date with citations to a case of interest.

The RECAP Suite

RECAP Extension

A **web extension** that enables PACER users to 1) access PACER documents already existing in the RECAP Archive for free and 2) contribute new PACER documents to the RECAP Archive.

Fetch API

A **free API** that utilizes the user's PACER credentials to purchase and download PACER content and add the downloaded content to CourtListener's RECAP Archive.

RECAP.email

A **system** that automatically gathers content from PACER through PACER notified emails and adds the content to CourtListener's RECAP Archive.

Bots.law

Big Cases Bot

A bot integrated with social media accounts that sends posts whenever the **most important cases** in the country are updated. Bots can be **sponsored** by organization to gain visibility while supporting FLP!

Little Cases Bots

Bots, integrated with social media accounts, that follow and provide updates for **specific topics**, the topics are selected by community members or organizations that are experts on particular areas of the law.