

# JUDICATA

Startup Engineering - Guest Lecture

[coursera.org/course/startup](https://coursera.org/course/startup)

Adam Hahn

# JUDICATA

Mapping the legal genome

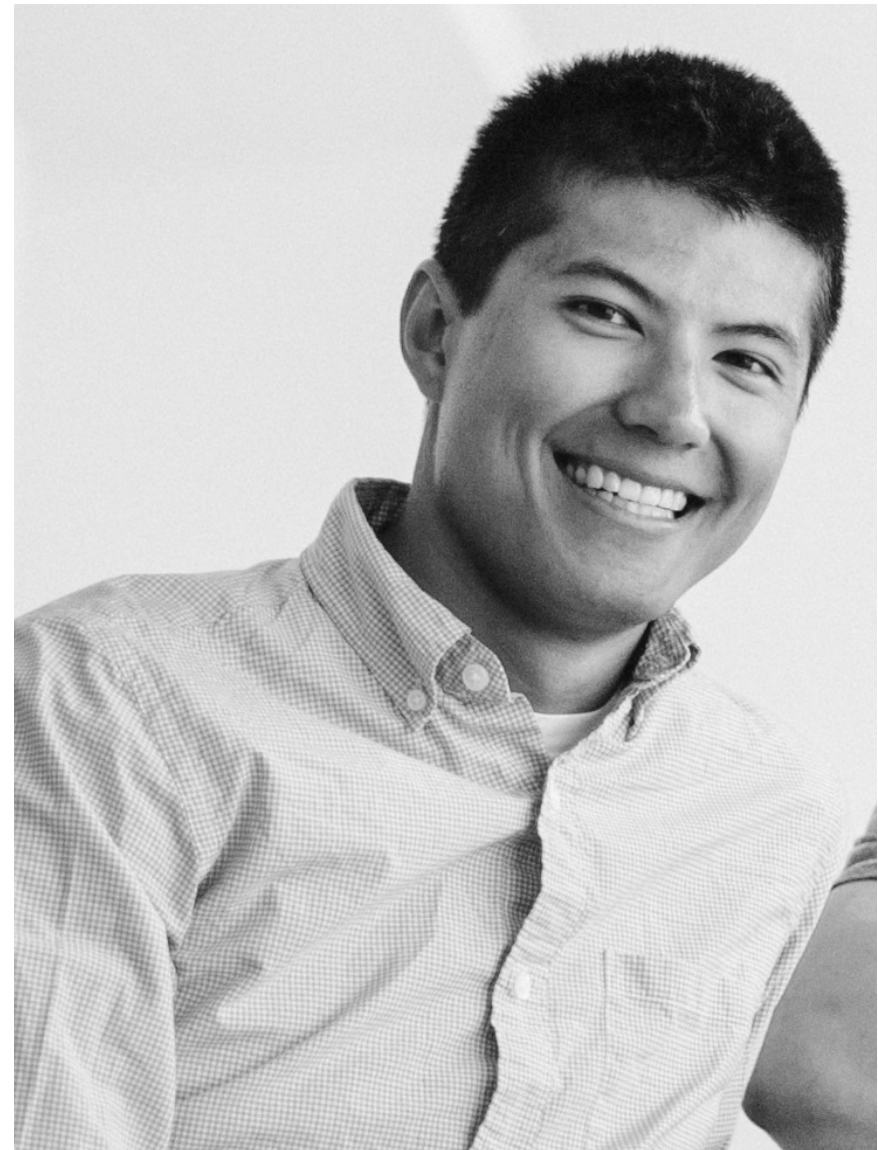
# BACKGROUND

- Mapping the legal genome
  - Highly-specialized case law parsing
  - Algorithmically-assisted human review
- Turning unstructured court opinions into structured data
- Helping lawyers make sense of massive amounts of information
- Parsing 21M case law sentences, 77M component attributes



# ADAM HAHN

- Stanford CS '08
- Co-Founder & CTO
- Involved in every decision
  - Pre-commit code review
  - Continuous deployment
  - Data representation



# COMMON LAW

- *Chimel v. California*, 395 U.S. 752 (1969)
- *New York v. Belton*, 453 U.S. 454 (1981)
- *Arizona v. Gant*, 556 U.S. 332 (2009)

## Opinion of the Court

police practice to the point where the warnings have become part of our national culture,” 530 U. S., at 443, the Court was referring not to police reliance on a rule requiring them to provide warnings but to the broader societal reliance on that individual right.

The dissent also ignores the checkered history of the search-incident-to-arrest exception. Police authority to search the place in which a lawful arrest is made was broadly asserted in *Marron v. United States*, 275 U. S. 192 (1927), and limited a few years later in *Go-Bart Importing Co. v. United States*, 282 U. S. 344 (1931), and *United States v. Lefkowitz*, 285 U. S. 452 (1932). The limiting views expressed in *Go-Bart* and *Lefkowitz* were in turn abandoned in *Harris v. United States*, 331 U. S. 145 (1947), which upheld a search of a four-room apartment incident to the occupant’s arrest. Only a year later the Court in *Trupiano v. United States*, 334 U. S. 699, 708 (1948), retreated from that holding, noting that the search-incident-to-arrest exception is “a strictly limited” one that must be justified by “something more in the way of necessity than merely a lawful arrest.” And just two years after that, in *United States v. Rabinowitz*, 339 U. S. 56 (1950), the Court again reversed course and upheld the search of an entire apartment. Finally, our opinion in *Chimel* overruled *Rabinowitz* and what remained of *Harris* and established the present boundaries of the search-incident-to-arrest exception. Notably, none of the dissenters in *Chimel* or the cases that preceded it argued that law enforcement reliance interests outweighed the interest in protecting individual constitutional rights so as to warrant fidelity to an unjustifiable rule.

The experience of the 28 years since we decided *Belton* has shown that the generalization underpinning the broad reading of that decision is unfounded. We now know that articles inside the passenger compartment are rarely “within ‘the area into which an arrestee might reach,’” 453

Applying its test to the facts presented, the *Akers* court concluded that "a mere oral or written criticism of an employee or a transfer into a comparable position does not meet the definition of an adverse employment action under FEHA." (*Akers, supra*, 95 Cal.App.4th at p. 1457, 116 Cal. Rptr.2d 602.) It dismissed *Brooks*, a Ninth Circuit case which followed *Ray, supra*, 217 F.3d 1234 and applied *Ray's* test, in a one-sentence footnote: "To the extent the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has reached an opposite conclusion under Title VII (*Brooks v. City of San Mateo, supra*, 229 F.3d at p. 928), we find this view unpersuasive." (*Akers, at p. 1457, fn. 4, 116 Cal.Rptr.2d 602.*) *Akers* nevertheless affirmed the trial court judgment, presumably on the basis that the employer's threats and refusal to grant a transfer to the elder abuse unit showed a material change in *Akers's* employment. (*Id. at p. 1457, 116 Cal.Rptr.2d 602.*)

*Thomas* was decided before *Ray* and did not have the benefit of the Ninth Circuit's analysis. *Akers* was decided after *Ray* but did not cite or discuss the EEOC's (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) definition or explain its disagreement with *Brooks*. For these reasons, we do not find them dispositive in deciding whether to apply the materiality test or the deterrence test. We find potential problems with the application of a materiality test. For one, no clear benchmarks exist for measuring what is "substantial" or "material." For another, this limitation establishes an arbitrary threshold untethered to what *Akers* recognizes as the core concern underlying the FEHA and *Title VII* antiretaliation provisions: the need to prevent employers from chilling protected activity. (See *Akers, supra*, 95 Cal.App.4th at p. 1455, 116 Cal.Rptr.2d 602.)



# Judicata Raises \$2M From Peter Thiel, Keith Rabois And Others To Give Lawyers Better Research And Analytics Tools



DARRELL ETHERINGTON 

Tuesday, December 11th, 2012

7 Comments



Legal startup **Judicata** today announced a \$2 million investment round from Peter Thiel, David Lee, Keith Rabois and Box founders Aaron Levie and Dylan Smith. The company wants to build better research and analytics tools for lawyers, in a way that dramatically changes the landscape of legal software, which Judicata founder Blake Masters describes as “notoriously inefficient and outdated” in a [blog post](#) announcing the news.

Judicata’s mission is ambitious, which is likely why it hasn’t been undertaken in quite the same way before. Masters argues that previous attempts have only addressed symptoms and offshoots of the problems facing legal software and how it works for lawyers. Instead, the startup wants to take the mass of unstructured data represented by the body of case law that exists, and turn it into something structured, searchable and fully, properly indexed for targeted use. Judicata’s mission involves what it calls “mapping the legal genome,” which is a fancy way of saying it hopes to combine algorithmic, machine learning approaches to ingesting the mass of legal data and turning out something useful with careful human review to guarantee the accuracy of results.



# Blake Masters

"Your mind is software. Program it. Your body is a shell. Change it. Death is a disease. Cure it. Extinction is approaching. Fight it."

December 11, 2012   [18 notes](#)

## Judicata: The Path of the Law

I'm delighted to announce that my startup, [Judicata](#), has raised \$2 million from Peter Thiel, David Lee of SV Angel, Keith Rabois, and Box founders Aaron Levie and Dylan Smith.<sup>1</sup> Our mission is clear: to build legal research and analytics products that dramatically advance what lawyers can do.

Legal technology is at something of a crossroads. On one hand, it is notoriously inefficient and outdated, and has been for quite some time. On the other hand—to use Marc Andreessen's parlance—software is eating the world.<sup>2</sup> We can imagine a few different futures unfolding. One would entail the continued stagnation of the status quo. Another would involve minor, halting changes that never quite deliver on their promises. A third would see truly innovative technology that empowers lawyers to argue better and do more than ever before.

### VIEW BY TAG



CrossFit



Family



Work



CS183



Misc.

# JUDICATA ENGINEERING

# DEV TOOLS

- MacBook Air/Pro
  - `brew install postgresql htop parallel tree watch...`
  - iTerm (or tmux)
- Editor-agnostic (but vim is best)
- Chrome + `⌘⌘J` (learn all about it)
- New Relic







- 9 [The blog that blows up once every 20 years: In the Light of the Law | A Canon Lawyer's Blog](#) (canonlawblog.wordpress.com)  
2 (2|0) submitted 7 days ago by aphahn 1 comment share save hide delete spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 0 [If America Was A Startup, We'd All Quit](#) (techcrunch.com)  
2 (2|0) submitted 7 days ago by kinggps [+1] 3 comments share save hide spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 1 [In 1985, Mel Mermelstein successfully sued the Institute for Historical Review to force them to award him a \\$50,000 prize at Auschwitz. The fact was taken as judicial notice.](#) (en.wikipedia.org)  
2 (2|0) submitted 8 days ago by pkrecker [+4] 1 comment share save hide spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 2 [The history behind bee law is surprisingly rich](#) (reddit.com)  
2 (2|0) submitted 8 days ago by pkrecker [+4] 2 comments share save hide spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 3 [Sotomayor shames AUSA for the Western District of Texas: "I hope never to see a case like this again."](#) (supremecourt.gov)  
2 (2|0) submitted 8 days ago by aphahn 1 comment share save hide delete spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 4 ["Add two-factor auth to your service in less than 10 lines of code"](#) (gauthify.com)  
2 (2|0) submitted 8 days ago by hundert [+6] comment share save hide spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]
- 5 [Getting rid of Vernon, CA \(the industrial haven of Los Angeles County\)](#) (nytimes.com)  
2 (2|0) submitted 12 days ago by aphahn 1 comment share save hide delete spam remove approve nsfw [l+c]

[« Back to all restaurants](#)

## IKE'S PLACE SFSU Everything is better with dirty sauce.



### MENAGE A TROIS

Halal chicken, real honey, honey mustard, bbq, pepper jack, swiss, cheddar

**\$11.11**

Add to cart



### GOING HOME FOR THANKSGIVING

Turkey, cranberry sauce, sriracha, havarti

**\$8.98**

Add to cart



### MATT CAIN

Roast beef, turkey, salami, godfather sauce, provolone

**\$9.99**

Add to cart



### PAUL REUBENS

Pastrami, homemade poppy seed coleslaw, french dressing, swiss

**\$9.99**

Add to cart



### PHIL'EM UP'S KC BBQ

Hot roast beef, BBQ, cheddar

**\$8.98**

Add to cart



### SAY HEY

Pastrami, bacon, swiss

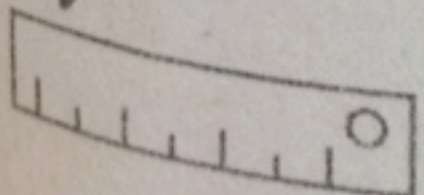
**\$8.98**

Add to cart

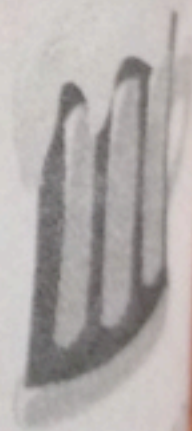


brew

# JUDICAT



PRECISE  
BREWING



EMPOWERED  
DRINKING



BE SKEPTICAL

# BACKEND

- Python/Django
- South (migrations)
- tastypie (API)
- dse (bulk operations)
- networkx (graph analysis)

# DATA

- PostgreSQL + Redis
- PostgreSQL
- Solr

# FRONTEND

- Django for base template and complex HTML
- Require.js
- Backbone
  - backbone-relational
  - backbone-tastypie
- less

# CONTINUOUS

## **PART I. THE COURT**

### **Rule 1. Clerk**

1. The Clerk receives documents for filing with the Court and has authority to reject any submitted filing that does not comply with these Rules.

## **PART VIII. DISPOSITION OF CASES**

### **Rule 41. Opinions of the Court**

Opinions of the Court will be released by the Clerk immediately upon their announcement from the bench, or as the Court otherwise directs.




← → ↺ <https://codereview.judicata.com:8443/#/c/67/>

Author [patrick](#) <patrick@judicata.com> Jan 20, 2013 4:40 PM

Committer [patrick](#) <patrick@judicata.com> Mar 6, 2013 12:57 AM

Parent(s) 34727d472fb9d941ecdc8e09ead2a89245ae628f Fix bugs in Sentence Parsing

Download [checkout](#) [pull](#) [cherry-pick](#) [patch](#) [SSH](#) [HTTP](#)

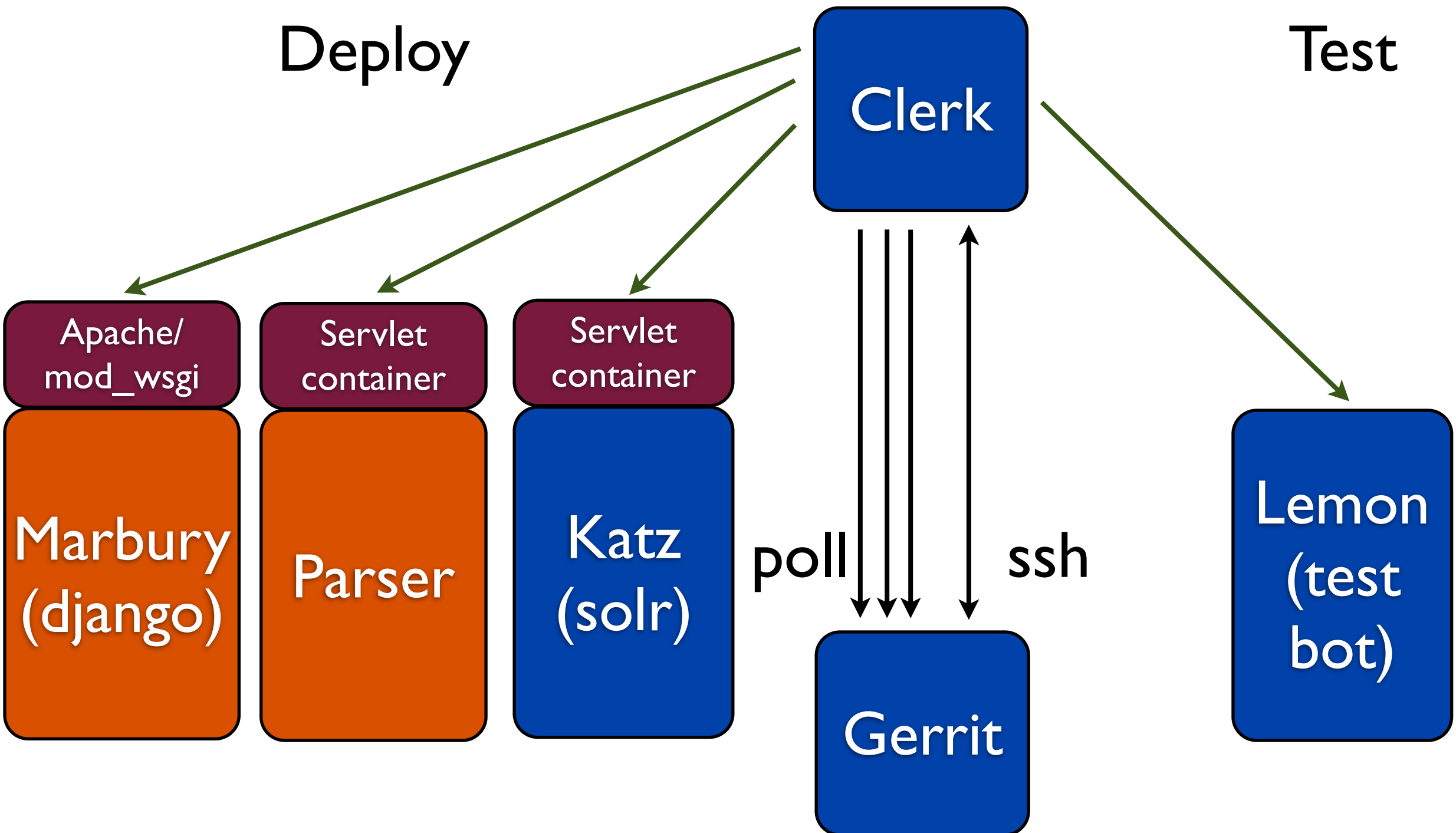
git fetch ssh://adam@codereview.judicata.com:29418/judicata refs/changes/67/67/7 && git checkout FETCH\_HEAD 

[Review](#) [Abandon Change](#) [Rebase Change](#) [Diff All Side-by-Side](#) [Diff All Unified](#)

	File Path	Comments	Size	Diff	Reviewed
►	<a href="#">Commit Message</a>			<a href="#">Side-by-Side</a> <a href="#">Unified</a>	
A	<a href="#">searchfe/al/marbury/scraping/_init_.py</a>		0 lines	<a href="#">Side-by-Side</a> <a href="#">Unified</a>	
A	<a href="#">searchfe/al/marbury/scraping/disposition.py</a>		705 lines	<a href="#">Side-by-Side</a> <a href="#">Unified</a>	
A	<a href="#">searchfe/bin/dispositions.py</a>		35 lines	<a href="#">Side-by-Side</a> <a href="#">Unified</a>	
			+740, -0		

Comments		<a href="#">Expand Recent</a>	<a href="#">Expand All</a>	<a href="#">Collapse All</a>
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 2.			Feb 15 2:07 PM
Patrick Krecker	Patch Set 2: The performance is pretty bad. I will spend some soon making ...			Feb 15 2:14 PM
Adam Hahn	Patch Set 2: (13 inline comments)			Feb 18 3:03 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 2: (16 inline comments) As a meta-level comment, the variable ...			Feb 19 12:16 PM
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 3.			Feb 25 4:04 PM
Patrick Krecker	Patch Set 2: (11 inline comments)			Feb 25 4:04 PM
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 4.			Feb 25 4:09 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 2: (3 inline comments)			Feb 26 1:37 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 4: (26 inline comments)			Feb 26 4:19 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 4: (1 inline comment)			Feb 26 8:35 PM
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 5.			Mar 4 12:50 AM
Patrick Krecker	Patch Set 5: Anything not explicitly responded to I fixed in the code.			Mar 4 12:50 AM
Patrick Krecker	Patch Set 4: (4 inline comments)			Mar 4 12:50 AM
The Clerk	Patch Set 5: Verified This patchset pleases the Court.			Mar 4 12:51 AM
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 6.			Mar 4 4:33 PM
The Clerk	Patch Set 6: Verified This patchset pleases the Court.			Mar 4 4:33 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 4: (3 inline comments)			Mar 4 6:54 PM
Itai Gurari	Patch Set 6: (1 inline comment)			Mar 4 6:54 PM
Patrick Krecker	Uploaded patch set 7.			1:03 AM
The Clerk				1:04 AM
	Patch Set 7: Verified			
	This patchset pleases the Court.			

# CONTINUOUS



# DATASET

- 15,000 recent California cases
  - Criminal and civil
- Parsed, with references reconciled

# DATASET

```
▼<case>
  <name>Catlin v. Superior Court, S167148, 51 Cal.4th 300</name>
  <datefiled>2011-01-27</datefiled>
  <court>/us/ca/sct</court>
▼<opinions>
  ▼<opinion>
    ▼<section>
      ▼<paragraph>
        <sentence>OPINION</sentence>
      </paragraph>
      ▼<paragraph>
        ▼<sentence>
          <judge>KENNARD</judge>
          , Acting C. J.—
        </sentence>
      </paragraph>
      ▼<paragraph>
        ▼<sentence>
          After petitioner Steven David Catlin was sentenced to death, the Legislature enacted Penal
          Code section 1054.9.
        </sentence>
        ▼<sentence>
          That statute permits a defendant who has been sentenced either to death or to life
          imprisonment without parole to obtain discovery of "materials . . . to which the . . .
          defendant would have been entitled at time of trial" (§ 1054.9, subd. (b)) if the defendant
          shows that good faith efforts to obtain such materials from trial counsel were unsuccessful.
        </sentence>
        ▼<sentence>
          Four and one-half years after the law's passage, petitioner sought discovery under its
          provisions.
        </sentence>
      </paragraph>
    </section>
  </opinion>
</opinions>
</case>
```

catlinvthesuperiorcourtofkerncountys16714851cal4th300.xml

# DATASET

```
▼<paragraph>
  ▼<sentence>
    The Court of Appeal, after briefing and oral argument, again denied the mandate petition,
    this time in a written opinion.
  </sentence>
  ▼<sentence>
    The two-justice majority relied on a footnote in our decision in
    ▼<reference href="inresteel200432cal4th682,695-69610calrptr3d536,85p3d444steele">
      In re Steele (2004) 32 Cal.4th 682 [10 Cal.Rptr.3d 536, 85 P.3d 444] (Steele)
    </reference>
    , which stated that an inmate who seeks postconviction discovery under section 1054.9 must
    do so within a "reasonable time."
  </sentence>
  ▼<sentence>
    (
      <reference href="inresteel200432cal4th682,695-69610calrptr3d536,85p3d444steele">Steele,
      supra, at pp. 692-693, fn. 2</reference>
    .)
  </sentence>
  ▼<sentence>
    The Court of Appeal majority agreed with the Attorney General that the footnote's language
    supported the trial court's denial of the discovery motion for being untimely.
  </sentence>
  ▼<sentence>
    The dissenting justice viewed the
    <reference href="inresteel200432cal4th682,695-
    69610calrptr3d536,85p3d444steele">Steele</reference>
    footnote as ambiguous, and pointed out that section 1054.9 lacked any timeliness
    requirement.
  </sentence>
  ▼<sentence>
    Petitioner sought review in this court, and we granted review to clarify the matter.
  </sentence>
</paragraph>
```

catlinvthesuperiorcourtofkerncountys16714851cal4th300.xml

# DATASET

- Interesting n-grams?
- Citation graph
  - Visualizations
  - What's cited most? Why?
  - What can you tell about cases you don't have?
- Judicial bias?



# DISSENTING OPINION

# EMBRACING DIFFERENCES

BREADTH &  
DEPTH

# SUMMARY

- Don't be afraid to be different
- Approach frameworks and tools skeptically
- The best code is less code

# RESOURCES

- Law
  - [A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual](#)
  - [The Oyez Project](#)
- Engineering
  - [instagram-engineering.tumblr.com](https://www.instagram-engineering.tumblr.com)
  - [thebuild.com](https://thebuild.com)

# JUDICATA

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