**Australian High Court Attorney Database Codebook**

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**Introduction**

This document reflects the coding rules for the High Court Attorney Database. The High Court Attorney Dataset contains data on every attorney who has appeared at oral argument at the High Court. The dataset is designed to link to the HCDB, with every case in the HCDB being represented in the Attorney Dataset.

The purpose of the representative coding is to capture the identity and key features of those persons representing parties, interveners, and amici in the High Court. The set of attorney variables (9 in total) replicates for every attorney appearing before the High Court on a case. That is, if there are 3 attorneys for the appellant, there are 3 sets of 9 attorney variables and if there are 5 attorneys for the appellant there are 5 sets of 9 attorney variables, where the attorneys are coded in the order introduced in the High Court transcript. Each set of 9 attorney variables is identified by number. For example, the first listed attorney for the appellant is identified as AppRep1, and the fifth listed attorney for the respondent is identified as RespRep5, and so on.

In addition to parties, we code the attorney representation of interveners and, rarely, amici. These follow the same format as for party representatives, and if there are four attorneys for an intervener, they are coded as IntvRep1, IntvRep2, and so on. Occasionally a representative will represent a party and an intervener. In this instance the coding is duplicated for both the party and the intervener. As an example, see 2018004, where the representative appeared for both the defendant and the intervener.

Note:

* Where information is unable to be located for a variable/attorney, the variable is coded 888.
* Where a variable is inapplicable to a particular attorney the variable is coded 999

**Case Identification Variables**

1. **HCDB Case ID**

Variable Label: HCDBCaseID

This variable identifies each case by its HCDB ID. Each case in this Dataset links to the case of the same ID in the HCDB. The Case ID is the HCDB unique internal identification number. The Case ID contains 7 digits; the first four digits are the year, as the year is reflective of the Term of the High Court, the next three identify the case within the year (determined in date order of the date of decision), starting at 001 and counting up.

--*End Content for Variable HCDB Case ID--*

1. **Case Number**

Variable Label: caseNumber

This variable contains the case number that the High Court has assigned to the case (i.e. docket number/matter number).

--*End Content for Variable Case Number--*

1. **Case Name**

Variable Label: caseName

This is the name of the case. Per the HCDB Codebook, the case name is associated with the case number, therefore where cases are consolidated the case name is not that of the lead case but rather the particular case, although the CLR and/or HCA citation will remain the same.

--*End Content for Variable Case Name--*

**Attorney Variables**

1. **Attorney Representation General**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Gen; RespRep[]Gen; IntvRep[]Gen

This variable identifies who an attorney is representing.

Values:

1 Appellant/applicant/plaintiff/petitioner

2 Respondent/defendant

3 Intervener

4 Amicus

5 Interested party in Section 44 matters [Note: in s.44 matters, the applicant will be the person referring the electoral eligibility to the Court, and the respondent will be the challenged member or senator. Any other party will be coded under the intervener codes.]

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Representation General--*

1. **Attorney Name**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Name; RespRep[]Name; IntvRep[]Name

This variable identifies the name of the attorney. Names appear in text and are hard coded.

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Name--*

1. **Attorney Title**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Title; RespRep[]Title; IntvRep[]Title

This variable identifies the title of the attorney at time of hearing, as denoted in the transcript.

Values:

1 Mr

2 Dr

3 Ms

4 Mrs

5 Miss

6 Other [if other is selected, state what the representative’s title is in the notes column]

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Title--*

1. **Attorney Status General**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Status1; RespRep[]Status1; IntvRep[]Status1

This variable identifies the status of the representative at time of hearing, as denoted in the transcript.

Values:

1 QC

2 SC

3 Barrister or solicitor

4 Self

5 Other

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Status General--*

1. **Attorney Status Government**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Status2; RespRep[]Status2; IntvRep[]Status2

This variable identifies whether the attorney was representing the Commonwealth or a state in the capacity of solicitor-general, at time of hearing, as denoted in the transcript. This variable is binary and coded in conjunction with the following variable that identifies the particular state that the attorney is representing.

Values:

1 Yes solicitor general (either Cth of state)

2 No, not solicitor general (either Cth or state)

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Status Government--*

1. **Attorney Status State**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Status2State; RespRep[]Status2State; IntvRep[]Status2State

This variable identifies the state the attorney was representing in the capacity of solicitor-general, at time of hearing, as denoted in the transcript. This variable is binary and coded in conjunction with the previous variable.

Values:

1 Australia (federal actor)

2 Australian Capital Territory

3 New South Wales

4 Northern Territory

5 Queensland

6 South Australia

7 Tasmania

8 Victoria

9 Norfolk Island

10 Nauru

11 Western Australia

999 Not relevant

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Status State--*

1. **Attorney Gender**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Gender; RespRep[]Gender; IntvRep[]Gender

This variable identifies the gender of the attorney, as denoted by the title in the transcript.

Values:

1 Male

2 Female

3 Unidentified

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Gender--*

1. **Attorney Role**

Variable Label: AppRep[]Role; RespRep[]Role; IntvRep[]Role

This variable identifies the role of the attorney as a speaking or non-speaking representative.

Values:

1 Speaker—Major (presented legal argument; includes any presentation of a legal argument, no matter how brief)

2 Speaker—Minor (introductions, statement of reliance on other party submissions, perfunctory handover)

3 Appearance (non-speaker)

4 No appearance, written submissions only

--*End Content for Variable Attorney Role--*