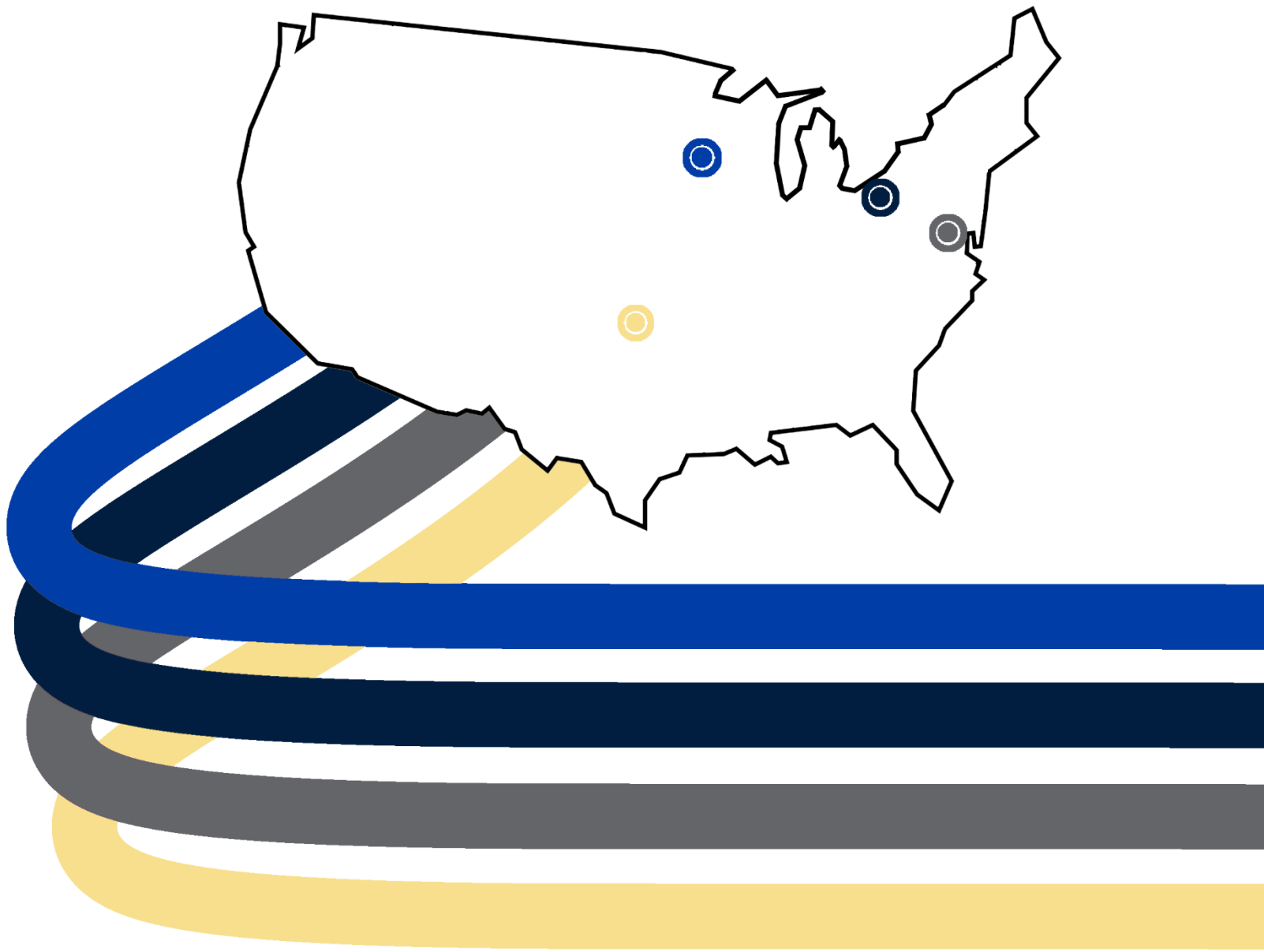


CIVIL JUSTICE DATA COMMONS



# Civil Court Data at the Local Level

*Interviews and Insights from Four Locations*

A report by the Civil Justice Data Commons

May, 2022

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About the Civil Justice Data Commons

The Civil Justice Data Commons is a joint project between the Georgetown University Law Center and Georgetown University’s Massive Data Institute at the McCourt School of Public Policy that aims to create a secure, robust repository for civil legal data gathered from courts, legal services providers, and other civil law institutions. This repository enables stakeholders, researchers, and the public to better understand the civil legal system in the United States.

The Civil Justice Data Commons is led by Professor Tanina Rostain of the Georgetown University Law Center and Dr. Amy O’Hara of the Massive Data Institute.

This report was prepared by James Carey, Max Brossy, Margaret Haughney, Stephanie Straus, Eoin Whitney, Anna Stone, Hannah Olsen, and Garrett Lance.

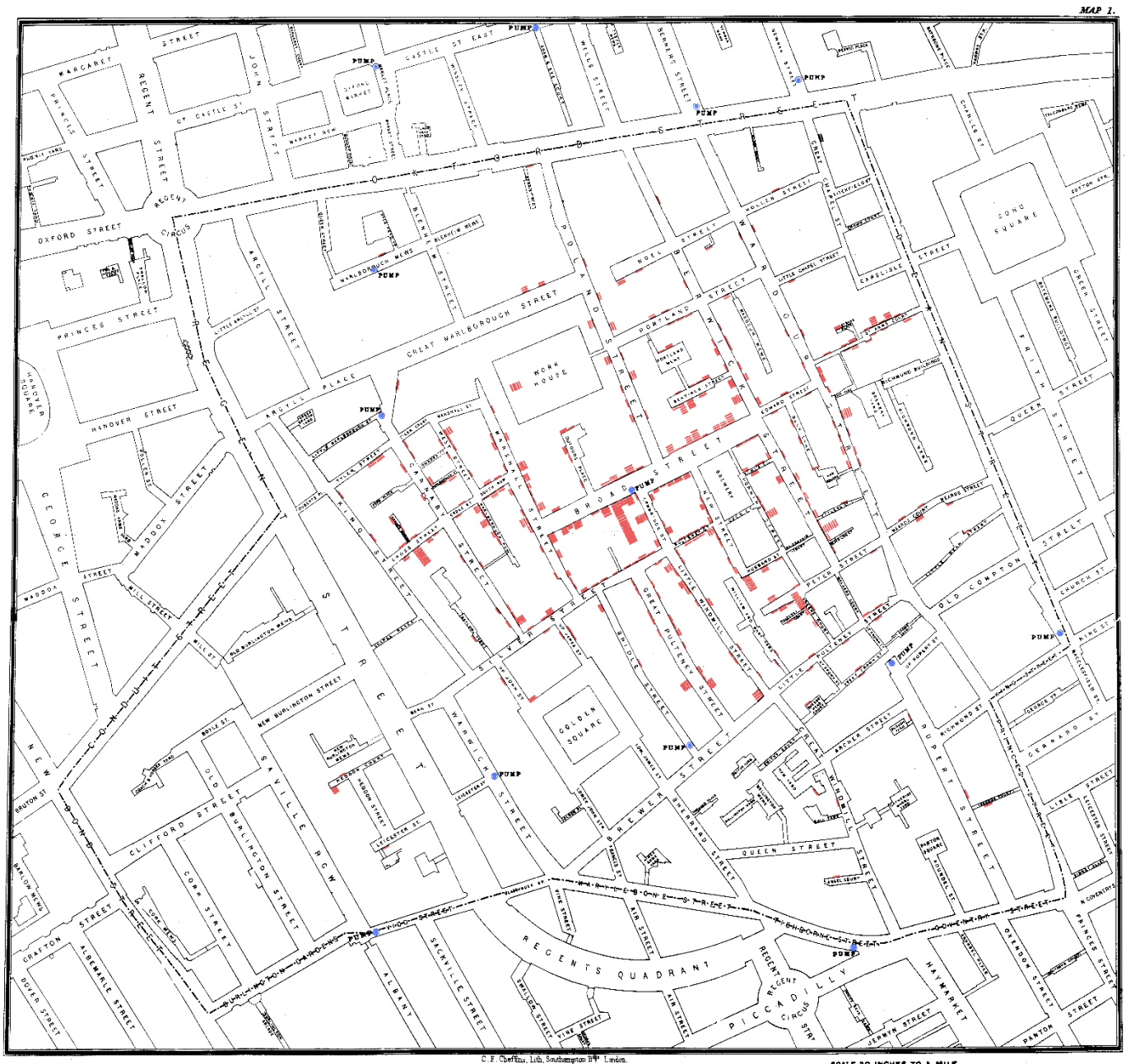
This work is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (AWD 1952067).

To learn more about the Civil Justice Data Commons, please visit <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/tech-institute/programs/civil-justice-data-commons/>.

# Top Level Takeaways:

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- There is a broad scale interest in sharing data among organizations to yield knowledge about the civil justice system. Courts, legal services providers, and academic and policy researchers are all often excited about the insights that sharing data could produce.
- Organizations have limited resources to devote to capturing, managing, and sharing data. It is difficult for organizations to obtain more.
- A lack of clear sector-wide professional guidance on how to share data ethically may dissuade some organizations from sharing data at all.
- Organizations are often not prepared for the logistical challenges that come with managing and sharing data.
- Data are often messy.
- Even within a jurisdiction, several different data systems are often used and may not be compatible.
- In many cases high level policy changes or legislation could drastically improve sharing data.



**Figure 1: Dr. John Snow's 1854 Cholera Map**  
*John Snow, On the Mode of Communication of Cholera, (C.F. Cheffins 1854) (color added)*

## Introduction

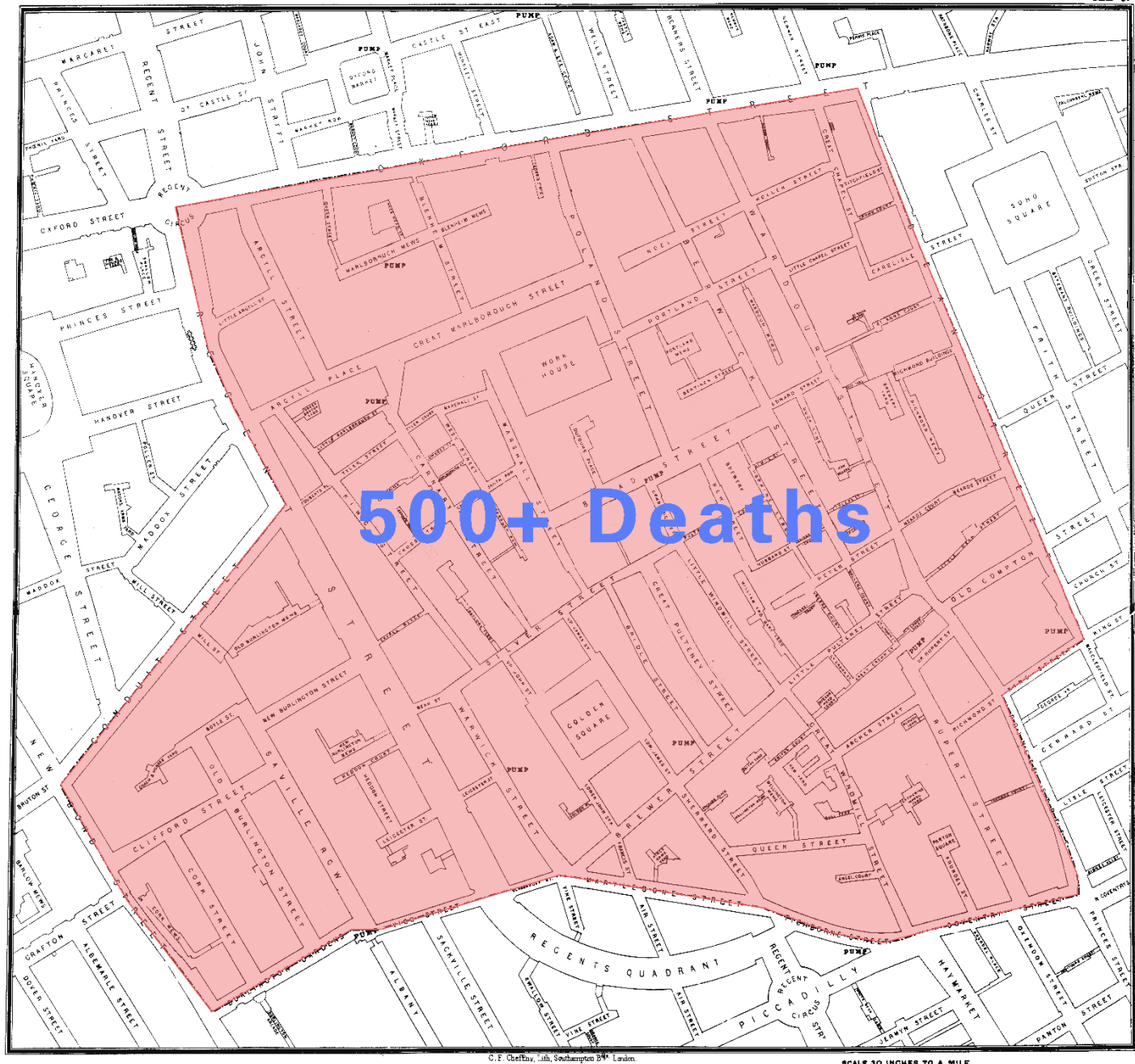
Data illuminate the world.

In September 1854 a cholera epidemic swept London. Over 500 people died in SoHo that month alone.<sup>1</sup> In a time when “modern medicine” was still in its infancy and

the spread of disease was scarcely understood, it was an unmitigated tragedy that showed little sign of slowing.

Doctor John Snow gathered records of every death and plotted them on a map, as small, stacked lines atop their residence in life (colored red here in **Figure 1**). Then he

<sup>1</sup> E.W. Gilbert, *Pioneer Maps of Health and Disease in England*, 124 Geographical J. 172-183 (1958).



**Figure 2: Cholera epidemic map with the level of data available in civil courts today.**

mapped the location of each public pump well (colored here in blue), where most people got their drinking water. The deaths almost exclusively occurred among those who drank from the Broad Street pump (at the center of the map). Dr. Snow removed the handle from the contaminated pump and the epidemic ended.

This map is regarded as one of the founding events of epidemiology and the methods underlying it are used today, including in managing and analyzing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Snow's insight required two things: the ability to gather complete, accurate, detailed data and the specialized knowledge to know which data to gather.

Unfortunately, both are sorely lacking in American civil justice data today. Every year, millions of people living on the margins of poverty cycle are caught in eviction, debt collection cases, family law, and other civil court matters, yet we know very little about how the civil justice system operates nor the consequences of involvement for people's financial and housing security, life prospects, or wellbeing

**Figure 2** shows what Dr. Snow’s map might have looked like if he were working with the level of data available to researchers from modern civil courts. Data are often only available at a very general level, such as total number of cases, with little information about the specifics or location of any case. Data gathered are also limited to a few fields, determined without knowledge as to which data types are the most useful.

Dr. Snow would have neither the locations of the dead due to the lack of complete, accurate, detailed data, nor the local or specialized knowledge to gather information on the location of well pumps. It would be impossible for him to achieve his revelatory insights and create the seeds of modern epidemiology.

Unlike many other government domains, the civil justice system is largely a black box on a micro and macro scale. Even as the criminal justice system has seen increased calls for data transparency around discussions of systemic bias, basic questions about who flows through the civil justice system and how they are affected by their interactions with it are unanswerable.

Increasing the completeness, accuracy, and detail of data and using local or specialized knowledge to collect the right data can answer questions like these, and more that are not even posed because of the lack of data (akin to never asking whether cholera is transmitted by water because you do not have data on water pumps). Research on mitigation options is hobbled by inadequate information about who faces civil justice issues, which issues they face, and what long-term consequences follow.

When it comes to forming a complete picture of the civil justice system, data are required from several spheres, each adding a layer on how the system functions and affects lives. Siloed data systems prevent researchers from seeing a complete picture of how the system impacts people. A single person may have overlapping contacts with elements of the civil justice system that have no formal link but compound in the changes they bring about to their lives.

For example, one person may be defending against an eviction case for the third time in one court, have an ongoing medical debt collections case in a different court, and at the same time be requesting legal aid to help restore their custody over children placed in the foster system. All these contacts could relate to each other and be traceable to the same underlying cause, such as an incapacitating

injury, but these connections would not be revealed by looking at data from any one system.

We envision a civil justice data commons that will hold, manage, and share these data securely to produce knowledge about the civil justice system. A “data commons” is a “cyberinfrastructure that collocates data, storage, and computing infrastructure with commonly used tools for analyzing and sharing data to create an interoperable resource for the research community.”<sup>2</sup> The civil justice data commons functions as a trusted intermediary between data holders and users that ensures privacy for the individuals described in the data and the security of the data base as a whole.

Currently, data from courts, legal services providers, and administrative agencies are collected in multiple formats under a variety of incompatible taxonomies and housed separately. Access to these data is governed by a hodgepodge of statutes, regulations, court rules, and policies. These technical, regulatory, and public policy barriers have hindered both research efforts to understand the role of the legal system in people’s lives and policy efforts to make civil justice institutions more equitable. A civil justice data commons is an important step towards establishing a way for these institutions to address these challenges.

One of the first steps to building such a commons is pinpointing *how* to collect complete, accurate, detailed data and *who* has the specialized or local knowledge to inform which data to collect.

The interviews collated here are a part of our efforts to do both.

We engaged in a collaborative research project with stakeholders in four civil justice communities: Cleveland, Ohio; Washington, DC; Oklahoma; and Wisconsin. In our interviews with these stakeholders, we investigated the technical and public policy considerations that would inform the creation of a civil justice commons for each community. The ecosystems of each of these communities vary widely across multiple dimensions.

Stakeholders included court officials, legal services providers, and nonpartisan policy researchers. With them, we discussed data sharing practices and incentives, and data management and governance requirements.

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<sup>2</sup> See Robert L. Grossman, Allison Heath, Mark Murphy, Maria Patterson, & Walt Wells, *A Case for Data Commons: Toward Data*

*Science as a Service*, 18 Comput. Sci. Eng. 5, 10-20 (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1109/mcse.2016.92>



# Methodology and Questions Asked

We interviewed 32 stakeholders from four locations over the course of 26 meetings. We focused on three different types of stakeholders to get a complete picture of the roles that civil justice data might play in their organizations: courts, legal services providers, and nonpartisan research institutes. A complete list of the stakeholders interviewed and the organizations with which they are affiliated can be found in the **Appendix**.

We covered four broad categories of questions: organizational background, data collection, interest in data sharing, and impediments to sharing data. Within the four broad categories, we tailored questions to each of the three types of organizations (courts, legal services providers, and nonpartisan research institutes).

## Organizational Background

- What is your role in the organization and what authority do you have?
- What work does your organization do?
- Does your organization have a Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Technology Officer (CTO), or Chief Data Officer (CDO)?
- What funders and reporting obligations does your organization have?

## Data Collection

- What data is collected, how, and why?
- In what systems (Case Management System, e-filing, etc.)?
- What format is the data collected and maintained in?
- What classification systems or taxonomies do you use?
- What current purposes for your data collection?
- What other data do you want to collect?

## Interest in Sharing Data

- Are you interested in sharing your data, and if so for what purposes?
- Is there a legal requirement to make your data available?
- What are the norms and expectations for data use?
- Is there other (outside) data your organization could link to (e.g. court data)?
- What existing efforts have been made to join or harmonize data from other civil justice institutions?

## Impediments to data sharing

- Are there regulatory barriers to your organization sharing data?
- Are there policy barriers to your organization sharing data, such as concern for privacy?
- Does your organization face institutional or contractual barriers to sharing data?
- What are the appropriate controls (privacy, cybersecurity) under which data could be made accessible in a data commons?
- What technologies or practices are in place to protect and preserve data?

# Responses

## Key Takeaways

- There is a broad scale interest in sharing data among organizations to yield knowledge about the civil justice system. Courts, legal services providers, and academic and policy researchers are all often excited about the insights that sharing data could produce.
- Organizations have limited resources to devote to capturing, managing, and sharing data. It is difficult for organizations to obtain more.
- A lack of clear sector-wide professional guidance on how to share data ethically may dissuade some organizations from sharing data at all.
- Organizations are often not prepared for the logistical challenges that come with maintaining and sharing data.
- Data are often messy.
- Even within a jurisdiction, several different data systems are often used and may not be compatible.
- In many cases high level policy changes or legislation could drastically improve sharing data.

Our interviews illuminated a handful of common challenges to data sharing.

By far the most common issue that both courts and legal services providers face is limited capacity. Most of the organizations we spoke to indicated that lack of resources, budget, human capital, time, and adequate technology hampered efforts to collect and prepare data for sharing with stakeholders, partners, and researchers. A similar theme was internal roadblocks arising from intraorganizational politics and “turf wars.” Interviewees expressed frustration with resistance to change and lack of policy consciousness among staff for recording data.

Another set of barriers to data sharing is privacy concerns. Courts, researchers, legal aid groups, and external partners such as hospitals and administrative agencies frequently expressed concern about sharing even anonymized data for fear that by being linked with other data it could be reidentified and used to further entrench existing socioeconomic disparities. Organization specific concerns included data mining by credit bureaus, misuse of data by “scammers,” and professional obligations such as HIPAA,

FERPA, and, in the case of legal services providers, the professional duty of confidentiality, which broadly bars the sharing of client information. When asked if privacy-preserving technologies including pseudonymization and secure multiparty computation could mitigate risks of disclosure, legal services providers were against attempting such options in the absence of clear guidance from state bar authorities allowing the use secondary data uses.

Interviewees also noted the logistical challenges of obtaining consent from clients individually, tracking third parties’ information access, aggregating or anonymizing data, and negotiating data sharing agreements. Some organizations have restrictions limiting external affiliates data access to an on-site government-approved computer. The lack of clear guidelines or rules on how data can be shared without violating privacy has led resource-strapped entities to shy away from devising their own in-house data-sharing policy or consulting a data ethicist.

A frequent source of potential problems is the accuracy and granularity of data collected and received. Most organizations interviewed handle data (either collected in-house or received from partners) that contain typos, missing information, or generally lack adequate granularity (such as missing entire fields). Some organizations face the challenges of translating scanned images or PDFs of older documents (including handwritten ones) into sortable data.

Interviewees in all four locations mentioned that no two courts necessarily use the same type of case management system, and that no two administrative agencies (including police departments) serving the same jurisdictions necessarily use the same type of case management system either, creating a logistical nightmare for standardizing and sharing data. There may be definitional discrepancies between parties sharing data. Interviews also mentioned the risk that lack of access to expunged or sealed records might result in an incomplete picture in the data, though for a beneficial reason.

Most organizations expressed at least theoretical interest in the possibilities of data sharing for purposes of understanding the functioning of the civil justice system and the consequences of involvement for people’s lives. Organizations expressed the desire to handle accurate, standardized data from partners and administrative agencies at all levels of government. Agencies mentioned include the Census Bureau, police departments, departments of education, other courts, departments of motor vehicles, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Social Security Administration, Health and Human Services (and state equivalents), correctional



departments, county assessors, housing authorities, and hospital networks. In particular, interviewees suggested social safety net programs would provide the most helpful data.

Data linkages, especially accurate and granular data, can enable researchers to pinpoint causal relationships, such as between arrests and mental health, the impact of evictions and foreclosures on the children involved, between housing instability and health, anything that impacts a neighborhood's infant mortality rate, and between parental criminal justice involvement and child support outcomes.

Since virtually all interviewees representing courts and legal aid groups indicated that they lack adequate resources and capability, having accurate shared data could enable them to improve their operational efficiency and allocation of resources. Courts could be able to determine down to the individual judge which methods and strategies work best, and legal aid groups could do the same down to the individual lawyer. However, this type of targeted “performance metric” was also one reason some organizations were hesitant about sharing data about their own work.

The interviews suggested that all three groups (courts, legal aid groups, and researchers) could show the impact of legal representation on outcomes of cases, and whether brief

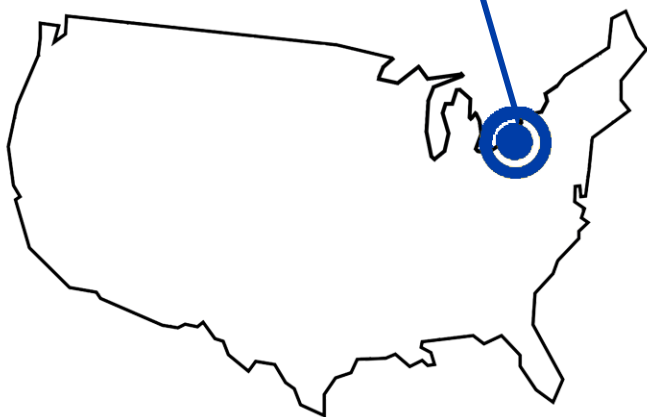
consultation sessions to provide legal advice to *pro se* defendants (those representing themselves) provide a similar impact. Shared data can shed light on the short-term impacts on clients, long-term impacts on clients (especially if they have different attorneys over the course of multiple cases), and potentially even multigenerational impacts.

In addition to simple cross-jurisdictional comparisons and sharing of best practices, multiple interviewees expressed hope that shared data could spur internal court policy changes, legislative changes, and policy changes within administrative agencies. At least one interviewee hoped to use the data to target bad actors such as eviction mills, another wanted to fight predatory debt collection practices, yet another hoped to use the data to convince the state to fund the scaling up of a privately-funded pilot program statewide, and one aimed to justify the creation of a mental health court.

Despite recognizing the benefits of uniform data standards, interviewees all noted the challenges of converging around a single set of standards.

# Location-by-Location Insights

## Cleveland, Ohio



### Search uses Captcha:

No.

### Bulk Data Access:

NA.

### Public Records Law:

NA.

### Public Records Cases:

NA.

### Bar Confidentiality Rule:

Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.6.

## Data Access Background:

### Statewide Case Search:

<https://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org/public-access>  
(Cleveland Municipal Court)

### Search Fees:

Free

### Document Fees:

NA.

### Registration Required:

No.

### Data Access Rules:

NA.

### Data Fees Rule:

NA.

### Search Terms and Conditions:

<https://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org/public-access>

### Terms and Conditions stance on scraping:

No mention.

## Interview Responses:

There is a general appetite among all types of stakeholders (court officials, legal aid providers, and researchers) for increased data sharing, in addition to better data collection and electronic filing. Improved data practices are anticipated to lead to better allocation of resources across the board and could lead to legislative changes.

### Highlights From Courts:

Ohio lacks adequate resources for data management. While some data is shared through the Ohio Courts Network, each court uses its own CMS (Case Management System). For example, in some courts, there is no e-filing system; everything is done on paper.

### Highlights From Legal Services Providers:

Cleveland has enacted a bill providing for right to counsel in eviction cases, but it is implemented by a privately-funded pilot program; stakeholders seek to use linked data to justify to the legislature to fund this policy permanently.

## Highlights from Researchers:

Independent research—led in part by Dr. Claudia Coulton at Case Western Reserve University’s Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development—has analyzed about two decades of juvenile court data and other jail records; recently, their work has started expanding to other courts. Her team prefers to work with court staff directly instead of scraping data from various court websites. Once her team gathers enough data, they use algorithms developed in-house along with proprietary software to predictively link administrative data across agencies and jurisdictions to determine the probability of accuracy and match names and cases in the face of typographical errors and different data-capture fields and software between agencies. The CWRU team re-runs the process quarterly so that a machine-learning section of the code can improve the accuracy of the algorithm.

# Oklahoma



## Data Access Background:

### Statewide Case Search:

<https://www.oscn.net/dockets/> (free, basic features)

<https://www1.odcr.com/> (paid, advanced features)

### Search Fees:

OSCN: Free

ODCR: \$5.00 per month subscription.

### Document Fees:

Available for attorneys only, \$50.00 subscription per month.

### Registration Required:

OSCN: No

ODCR: Yes

### Data Access Rules:

*In the Matter of Public Access to Electronic Case Information*, 271 P.3d 775 (Mem) (Okla. 2009).

### Data Fees Rule:

NA.

### Search Terms and Conditions:

[On Demand Court Records' Terms of Service](#)

### Terms and Conditions stance on scraping:

Prohibited.

### Search uses Captcha:

No.

### Bulk Data Access:

*In the Matter of Public Access to Electronic Case Information*, 271 P.3d 775 (Mem) (Okla. 2009), §§ B(1) & C(2) (*Bulk distribution, or the distribution of all or a significant subset of the electronic case information available, is not allowed*).

### Public Records Law:

Oklahoma Open Records Act, Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.1 et seq.

### Public Records Cases:

*Oklahoma Ass'n of Broads. v. City of Norman*, 390 P.3d 689 (Okla. 2016) (*Open records act must be construed broadly*).

### Bar Confidentiality Rule:

Okla. Stat. tit. 5A § 1.6: Confidentiality of Information.

## Interview Responses:

### Highlights From Courts:

In general, court administrative operations are not run out of county courts, but by the State Supreme Court's Administrative Office. Fifteen out of 77 county courts use their own case management systems (CMS), while the remaining 62 county courts use the CMS run by the State Supreme Court. This leads to data sharing problems, as the systems do not communicate well, and the holdout county courts have expressed minimal, if any, interest in switching over (and neither has the vendor expressed interest in forfeiting its clients). Tulsa, however, is home to a lot of innovation, and local officials there have expressed interest in exploring possible policy reforms. Oklahoma City has similar capacity and a comparable interest in reform. Jurisdictions outside those cities generally lack the capacity and the interest to discuss or attempt reform.

### Highlights From Legal Services Providers:

Funders are sometimes looking for a backstory for their work that the data they have cannot provide. They hope stronger data can show the difference legal aid can make for poor clients and show the impact of legal aid outside of narrow conceptions (such as thinking that legal aid can only be used for family law).

## Highlights from Researchers:

Oklahoma has had a decade of disinvestment from state governmental services. At the time of data collection, an estimated 80%-90% of the state judiciary's budget comes from fines and fees levied on defendants. This necessitates that any discussion about policy changes to reduce fines and fees is an automatic nonstarter. Technology focused organizations in cities such as Tulsa, particularly Asemio and the Oklahoma Policy Institute (and its subsidiary Open Justice Oklahoma) are working to build better data systems to supplement the official process. Some organizations have resorted to building their own code to scrape the data themselves from the Oklahoma State Courts Network to examine trends, given the difficulty in obtaining data from the courts via official channels.



# Washington, DC



## Data Access Background:

### Statewide Case Search:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/superior-court/cases-online>

### Search Fees:

Free

### Document Fees:

Digital Access: Free

Paper Copies: \$0.50 per page, \$5.00 per certified copy.

### Registration Required:

No.

### Data Access Rules:

D.C. Ct. Reform and Crim. Procedure Act of 1970, 84 Stat. 473. (*D.C. Courts are separate from federal courts and not covered by federal rules and not included in PACER*).

D.C. Super. Ct. Admin. Order 05-04 Rule 13. (*May not be updated in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and move to virtual hearings*).

### Data Fees Rule:

NA.

### Search Terms and Conditions:

<https://eaccess.dccourts.gov/eaccess/home.page.2>

### Terms and Conditions stance on scraping:

No mention.

### Search uses Captcha:

Yes.

### Bulk Data Access:

NA.

### Public Records Law:

D.C. Freedom of Info. Act, D.C. Code § 2-531 et seq. (*courts are not included in the definition of “agency” for purposes of the D.C. Freedom of Information Act*).

### Public Records Cases:

*J.C. v. District of Columbia*, 199 A.3d 192 (D.C. 2018) (*Right to access court records based on common law tradition, is not absolute*).

*In re Jury Questionnaires*, 37 A.3d 879 (D.C. 2012) (*Public has 1A right to access jury questionnaires*).

*Mokhiber v. Davis*, 537 A.2d 1100 (D.C. 1988) (*Common law right for public to access pretrial records in civil litigation*).

### Other Records Rules:

D.C. Ct. of Appeals Admin. Order 18-1 Pertaining to Mandatory e-Filing Program, EFS 13, Ex parte, sealed, and emergency filings. (*Documents may be filed electronically, except those filed ex parte*).

### Bar Confidentiality Rule:

D.C. Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.6: Confidentiality of Information.

## Interview Responses:

### Highlights From Courts:

The District is well positioned, despite its relative diminutiveness and unique position as a federal district. Judges and court administrators express vigorous interest in improving data sharing and analysis to improve their operations, effective allocation of limited resources, and improving access to justice and outcomes of interactions with the justice system.

### Highlights From Legal Services Providers:

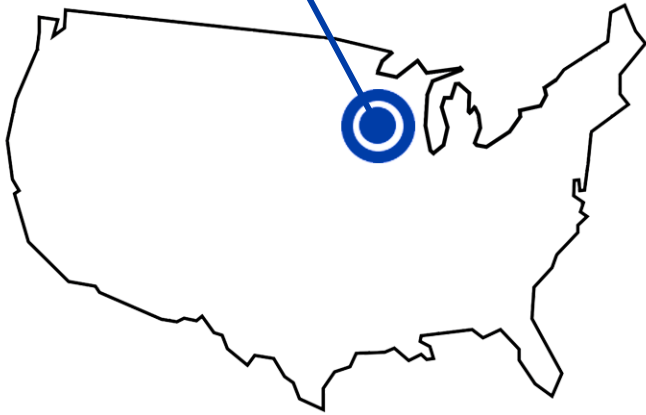
The District of Columbia Bar Foundation has required granular data capture and reporting from its grantees

regarding legal aid provided for eviction cases *and*, critically, has provided funding for data collection and management. The data elements captured include demographics like gender, race, and ethnicity of eligible individuals served; any legal services provided, and their legal/case outcomes. DC Courts and legal aid groups, while working diligently, are still stretched relatively thin in terms of human capital and budget.

### Highlights from Researchers:

The District is supported by a host of research institutions that partner with it, and the Mayor's Office has its own internal data laboratory, The Lab @ DC, which aims to securely link data from across the courts and the District's administrative agencies. The Lab has an extensive data use agreement (DUA) process with its partners: it requires its partners to sign a DUA covering terms and conditions required by the Lab and is sometimes willing to also sign DUAs composed by these partners (especially if it enables The Lab to access external data without spending taxpayer dollars on it). The Lab's data are mostly identifiable, as they need names and SSNs to accurately link cases across agencies, but they rarely release any raw data at all, anonymized or not. For security purposes, external researchers can only access The Lab's data on DC-issued computers, which means that these researchers must be physically present in a DC Government building.

# Wisconsin



## Public Records Law:

Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31 to 19.39. (*Wisconsin Public Records Law, applies to courts according to [Director of State Courts Policy on Disclosure of Public Information Over the Internet subsection 2](#)*).

Wis. Stat. § 59.20(3) (*Trial courts are subject to public inspection*).

## Public Records Cases:

*State ex rel. Bilder v. Township of Delavan*, 334 N.W.2d 252 (Wis. 1983) (*Balance of harms required when sealing records*).

## Bar Confidentiality Rule:

SCR 20:1.6: Confidentiality.

## Data Access Background:

### Statewide Case Search:

<https://wcca.wicourts.gov/>

### Search Fees:

Free

### Document Fees:

NA.

### Registration Required:

No.

### Data Access Rules:

[Director of State Courts Policy on Disclosure of Public Information Over the Internet](#)

### Data Fees Rule:

[Director of State Courts Policy on Disclosure of Public Information Over the Internet 2.e](#)

### Search Terms and Conditions:

[WSCCA REST Support](#)

### Terms and Conditions stance on scraping:

Not recommended, suggest bulk access through WCCA REST instead.

### Search uses Captcha:

No.

### Bulk Data Access:

[WSCCA REST](#)

## Interview Responses:

### Highlights From Courts:

Wisconsin courts all use one CMS. However, county courts do not necessarily enter data points identically, leading to complications when data are shared. Further, data are often not entered in a timely manner, and there is no incentive to get clerks to improve both their timeliness and accuracy. If any state agency wanted to request statewide court data, they would have to ask every single county court individually for its data, despite the state court data system being statewide and state-funded. Several state agencies, including the Department of Education and the Department of Corrections, are interested in linking their data with court data to identify causal relationships, trends, and other interesting findings. However, both agencies lack the budget to do so.

### Highlights from Researchers:

The Institute for Research on Poverty, a nonpartisan research institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has performed substantial research using data gathered from courts and other state agencies that institute researchers were able to link. The institute currently studying the effects of court involvement on children. However, a quirk in state law or regulation mandates that any state agency wishing to share its data for a project with external researchers (or other stakeholders) must demonstrate that the project will have a benefit to the programs it administers (though it appears that several

agency administrators tend to define “benefit” quite broadly).

# Broader Impact and Next Steps

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This project has laid the foundation for a civil justice data commons to support actionable research that improves the functionality of civil justice systems. By surfacing best practices for data management and sharing among community civil justice institutions, as well as bringing to light the major barriers to data sharing, this study encouraged state and county courts, legal service providers, government labs, and nonpartisan policy institutes to take steps towards building a civil justice data commons in their communities. A civil justice data commons will drive research about the prevalence of civil justice issues, the effects of civil justice issues on long-term outcomes, and the early signals to predict which issues will compound into bigger problems.

This project also demonstrates how data commons standards apply to the civil justice system—an important new application. By studying how administrative and societal processes facilitate or inhibit the sharing of knowledge about individuals and community institutions, this project also shows where technology can fill gaps, affecting equity and efficiency.

One key area that must be developed and implemented in order for a data commons (or other data-based research in civil justice) to succeed is strong privacy protections, so the vulnerable populations that such research aims to aid are not exposed to breaches of their privacy because of it.

Overall, there is a strong appetite from many stakeholders to improve the sharing of data in the civil justice system. These interviews represent one of the initial steps in doing so, by honing in on the barriers to sharing and the kind of data that should be shared. The next steps are to take this knowledge and use it to build a framework for that sharing, a civil justice data commons.



# Appendix: Interviewees

NAME	STATE	ROLE	ORGANIZATION
Kim Beverly	DC	Deputy Director, Strategic Management Div.	District of Columbia Courts
Karen Newton Cole	DC	Executive Director	Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP)
Beth Mellen Harrison	DC	Supervising Attorney, Housing Law Unit; Director, Eviction Defense Project	Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Shannon Davidson	DC	Evaluation Project Director (Fmr.)	NPC Research
Nancy Drane	DC	Executive Director	DC Access to Justice Commission
Holly Eaton	DC	Coordinator	DC Consortium of Legal Services Providers
Sandra Embler	DC	Sr. Research Associate, Strategic Management Div.; Evaluation Officer	District of Columbia Courts
Beth Mellen Harrison	DC	Supervising Attorney, Housing Law Unit; Director, Eviction Defense Project	Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Kelly Jarvis	DC	Sr. Research Associate	NPC Research
Lynn Leibovitz	DC	Associate Judge	Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Lori Leibowitz	DC	Managing Attorney, Housing	Neighborhood Legal Services Program
Joseph Mangan	DC	Paralegal	District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings

NAME	STATE	ROLE	ORGANIZATION
Nami Modi	DC	Operations Analyst (Fmr.)	The Lab @ DC
Kathy Petit	DC	Co-Director	National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, Urban Institute
Sam Quinney	DC	Director	The Lab @ DC
Lisa VanDeVeer	DC	Director, Strategic Management Division	District of Columbia Courts
Carl Gershenson	NJ	Project Director / Professional Specialist	Eviction Lab, Princeton University
Helena Najm	NJ	Research Lab Coordinator (Fmr.)	Eviction Lab, Princeton University
Colleen Cotter	OH	Executive Director	Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Claudia Coulton	OH	Director	Case Western Reserve University, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development
David Johnson	OH	Data & Evaluation Manager	Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
KJ Montgomery	OH	Judge (Ret.)	Shaker Heights Municipal Court
W. Moná Scott	OH	Administrative & Housing Court Judge	Cleveland Municipal Court - Housing Division
Anne Sweeney	OH	Managing Attorney for Community Engagement	Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Steve Tomaszewski	OH	Clerk of the Court	Shaker Heights Municipal Court
Vicki Cox	OK	Trial Court Administrator	Tulsa County District Court
Katie Dilks	OK	Executive Director	Oklahoma Access to Justice Foundation

NAME	STATE	ROLE	ORGANIZATION
Michael Figgins	OK	Executive Director	Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma
Ryan Gentzler	OK	Research Director	Oklahoma Policy Institute / Open Justice Oklahoma
Kenneth Stoner	OK	District Judge	Oklahoma County District Court
Richard Vreeland	OK	Deputy Director	Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma
Caroline Wall	OK	District Judge	Tulsa County District Court
Steven Cook	WI	Researcher	Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison