

Panel formation on the UK Supreme Court

By Chris Hanretty

In this paper, I look at how five, seven or nine judge panels of the UK Supreme Court are formed. I group explanatory factors into legal, organisational and political factors. I develop an original technique for dealing with this discrete choice problem of picking m judges from a bench of n judges. I find that the most important factor is legal specialisation. Workload and rates of agreement also matter, but in the opposite direction to that predicted: judges with already high workloads are more likely to be empanelled, and judges who agree more with the President of the court are less likely to be empaneled.