

*United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.<sup>1</sup>*

*“One open question is to what extent international institutions must rely on official country data or can use, independent of member-states, new sources and technologies of data acquisition, such as big data techniques.” – Michael Reigner, The World Bank Legal Review: Financing and Implementing the Post-2015 Agenda<sup>2</sup>*

**Premonition can produce the first ever detailed, fact based, ranking of international judicial transparency. We can work with those countries to make specific, actionable, measurable changes to their legal systems, not just exhorting a country to “do better.”**

The rule of law is one of a handful of key structures that support the development of a healthy civil society. In many nations, a lack of institutional will or capacity to enforce laws stymie attempts to address corruption in business and government. Without the protections offered by contracts and corporate law, entrepreneurship is stifled and international investment tapers off. Growth halts, and poverty grinds onward. The adoption of initiatives like the *UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* recognize the centrality of justice, yet when it comes to monitoring the effectiveness of national justice systems, international organizations face a signal lack of transparency.

**A problem cannot be solved until it can be measured.**

Accurate, quantifiable data on the functioning of legal systems has historically been hard to come by: data provided by national governments is often skewed, inaccurate or out-of-date, while independent organizations like the *World Justice Project* have been forced to rely upon opinion surveys for its findings.<sup>3</sup> As a result, much of our understanding is based on perceptions which may not align with the facts. Now, with the “Data Revolution” in full swing, there is an opportunity to reveal how the courts *really* work through analytics.

The challenge is threefold:

**Acquiring Data > Processing Data > Distributing Data**

**Acquiring Data:** Premonition AI already possesses the world’s largest litigation database, with more coverage than former market leaders LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg combined. Premonition can add data from any court with digital records, regardless of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/24997/9781464805455.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

<sup>3</sup> <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/wjp-rule-law-index/wjp-rule-law-index-2016>

language or alphabet. Where Countries lack online Court data, Premonition can provide them with the infrastructure to achieve this.

**Processing Data:** Our artificial intelligence tools make analysis of trends simple. Basic applications of Premonition include:

- *Speed of Justice:* How many days on average does it take to try a case in each nation's system?
- *Outcomes:* How often do plaintiffs win their cases? How long is the average sentence, and how much in damages is awarded?
- *Discrimination:* How do outcomes differ between male and female litigants? Between different ethnic and tribal groups?
- *Judicial independence:* If the government is sued in its own courts, how likely is it to be ruled against?
- *International Courts:* How often is a given state involved in the international courts, and how do they fare?
- *Judicial Favoritism:* Do specific judges show favoritism towards certain attorneys or parties?

This data transparency can also form the basis for more sophisticated questions. By breaking down results according to case type, legal precedents and statutes, together with mining the text of legal documents, artificial intelligence can identify weaknesses in a nation's laws, or make procedural changes to increase fairness and efficiency. By revealing the conduct of judges, it becomes possible for authorities to phase out the corrupt or incompetent.

Moreover, transparency allows potential international investors to evaluate risk, and gives countries benchmarks to demonstrate improvement. Organizations dedicated to the establishment of an effective and accountable justice system will finally have an objective statistical basis for determining just what that is.

**Distributing Data:** At present, Premonition works primarily with private companies and academic institutions. We are seeking a grant from an entity with the resources and recognition to help us produce and distribute the first ever detailed, fact-based ranking of international judicial transparency. Like established tools such as the *UN's Human Development Index*, this ranking can help determine a statistical definition of judicial effectiveness and accountability for states and international bodies alike, and provide indications for how improvement benchmarks can be met.

Just as loans and aid have been tied to maintaining economic or quality of life standards, this ranking will allow the international community to add to its expectations a reasonable standard of justice.

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