

# TREC 2011 Legal Track – Preliminary Task Guidelines

Each year since its inception in 2006, the TREC Legal Track has included one or more tasks that model the process of identifying documents responsive to requests for production that are typical in civil litigation.

The TREC 2011 Legal Track will pose a single task (hereinafter, the 2011 Task), which will require participating teams to evaluate each of 670,000 documents for responsiveness to one or more requests for production. The 2011 Task will most closely resemble the [TREC 2010 Legal Track Learning Task](#) (for reference, please see the 2010 [guidelines](#), [dataset](#), [draft overview paper](#), and [results/toolkit](#)).

The 2011 Task will use exactly the same participation categories, dataset, submission format, and evaluation measures as the 2010 Learning Task.

The 2011 Task will use three new requests for production (topics), so that all participating teams will start with "zero knowledge" as to the responsiveness of particular documents, beyond what may be inferred from the requests for production and the contents of the documents. Our expectation is that all participating teams will complete all three topics, however, teams lacking the resources to complete all three topics may submit results for a single topic that will be specified by TREC.

For each topic, each participating team may request from a Topic Authority (TA) an authoritative determination of responsiveness for up to 1,000 documents in the collection. The Topic Authority for each topic will be a senior attorney designated by TREC who will interpret the request for production and determine the responsiveness of documents according to that interpretation.

Teams will request and receive responsiveness determinations using a web interface. Teams may request determinations at any time, although there will be a limit on the number of determinations that may be requested in the week before a submission is due. The timeliness of responses will be determined by the availability and capacity of the Topic Authority, however, our goal is to have TAs provide responses within 48 hours for up to 100 documents.

Teams will have the opportunity to submit interim results, which will be evaluated along with the final submission. For example, teams may be asked to submit preliminary results prior to requesting any determinations from the TA, or after 50, 100, 250, 500, and 1000 determinations, so as to track improvement in effectiveness as a function of review effort. We have not yet decided whether one or more of these interim submissions will be required and solicit feedback on that from participating teams.

## Timeline

- Past Due!! -- Register for TREC, see [TREC 2011 Call for Participation](#)
- May 21 -- First draft of guidelines released.

- May 20 -- Dataset available (same as 2010)
- May 27 -- Guidelines finalized
- June 27 -- Topics released; determination request web site live; interim submission site live
- August 28 -- Final submission deadline
- Mid- September -- TREC speaker proposals due
- September 30 -- Results available
- Mid-October -- TREC Notebook papers due
- November 15-18 -- TREC Workshop