

The inclusion of this information greatly enhances the project's capacity to test hypotheses that are part of the jurisprudential choice perspective.

Access to the attorneys' factums stored in the Supreme Court created another important advantage. The factums are the *only* source for identifying attorneys who file leave applications with the Court. If the litigant resource perspective is to be thoroughly explored, it is important to determine whether attorneys are repeat players, whether as in the United States (McGuire 1995) there is a "Supreme Court Bar" in Canada, and to collect information about the backgrounds of attorneys through mail questionnaires. All of this requires a complete and accurate list of the attorneys. The *Bulletin* and *Supreme Court Reports* are inadequate for this purpose. The *Bulletin* does not identify the attorneys at the leave stage, and *Supreme Court Reports* only includes attorneys in cases where leave was granted. To understand the process as thoroughly as possible, the attorneys involved in applications that were *denied* by the Court must be part of the database. Expansion of the Canada Database in this way offers new opportunities for testing the analytical value of the litigant resource perspective.

A final addition to the research design in the inclusion of attention to legal issues that are part of the public and elite agendas. Their attention will be measured using citations in the *Canadian Newspaper Index* and the *Index to Canadian Legal Periodicals*. These data will be used in an analysis of the impact of Supreme Court actions on public attention similar to a forthcoming study of the U.S. Supreme Court (Flemming and Wood 1997). The data also can be used to trace the ebb and flow of attention to legal matters that help create a climate of opinion to which the Court may be sensitive.

The revised research design will generate a wealth of data to explore the leave to appeal process. For example, Caldeira and Wright (1994) reveal that the criteria related to certiorari decisions vary considerably across the individual justices on the U.S. Supreme Court. No research on the leave process at the individual justice level has been done in Canada, although there is empirical evidence on the role of judicial backgrounds, attitudes, and voting bloc behavior at the merits stage (Heard 1991; McCormick 1992, 1993, 1994; Morton, 1992; Morton *et al* 1992, 1994; Peck 1967, 1969; Tate and Sittiwong 1989). The identities of the justices on the leave panels and their votes are public information. Data on the backgrounds of the individual justices (e.g., age, sex, provincial origin, tenure on bench) have been