Stevens retires from Supreme Court and Kagan becomes justice

The breaking news stories are below the description of the searches conducted.

I did three searches to capture the transition from one supreme court justice to another in different perspectives.

1. Search term supreme court:

- the goal was to understand the transition in personnel in the context of everything else engaging people about the supreme court.
- I used desktop Archivist for this search. 286K tweets were found.
- The search ran from 4/9/2010 to 8/11/2010. It 'died' for a few days when I was in England [early July] and I could not get it started again while there.
- In addition, it captured 'supreme court' more broadly than I initially considered. There are state supreme courts and supreme courts around the world. All were captured by this search.
- The files are supreme court.xml, which is the original captured xml file, supreme court.txt, which is the exported file, and supreme court.xlsx, which is the excel file from supreme court.txt.

2. Search term kagan:

- the search was started at the point at which Kagan was going to be nominated by the president.
- The goal was to catch everything that mentioned the nominee without the restriction of including 'supreme court' in the tweet.
- I used the online version of Archivist for this search, which gives information on language.
- The search ran from 5/11/2010 to 8/11/2010. 217K tweets were found.
- The files are: kagan-online-archivist-511-811.xlsx, which is the excel data file, kagan-online-archivist-511-811-info.jpg, which is a printscreen of the information about the file, and kagan-online archivist-511-811-trendline.jpg, which is the trendline produced by the system [lovely trend line].

3. Search term supreme court and kagan:

- The search was started at the point that Kagan was being nominated by the president.
- The goal was to get a data set that found Kagan in the context of using 'supreme court' in the tweet. 'Supreme court' gets much more than Stephen's resignation and Kagan's appointment. 'Kagan' is not limited to supreme court reference. This is the overlap of the two sets.
- I used SpringPing for this search, which gives information on reach.
- The search ran from 5/10/2010 to 8/1102010. 35.3K tweets were found.
- The files are: kagan-socialping-513-811-incomplete.csv
- 4. Trendistic timeline: shows mentions of Kagan from 5/11/2010 through 8/11/2010. The file is kagan-trendistic-511-811.jpg

Justice Stevens to resign from Supreme Court

He sent a letter to the president saying that he planned to retire in the summer. That became breaking news for The Washington Post.

News Alert: Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens to retire 10:35 AM EDT Friday, April 9, 2010

Justice Stevens says he will step down when the court wraps up it's session in June or July, the Associated Press reports.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/YLCS8G/80GCJ/3V3QS4/8EHKIB/35NX2/36/t

The search phrase I decided on was 'supreme court' because I wanted to capture both messages about Stevens retiring and speculation about who would replace him.

The first search produced 1500 messages starting at 9:37 a.m. I believe that means the first tweet was two minutes after The Post announcement.

Steven's replacement deserved breaking news as well.

News Alert: Report: Obama to pick Elena Kagan for the Supreme Court 10:45 PM EDT Sunday, May 9, 2010

President Obama will choose Solicitor General Elena Kagan, former dean of Harvard Law School, to be the 112th justice of the High Court, according to NBC News.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/46MP2V/2B4DX/Y8SKYA/Z5DAAP/I307S/W1/t

On another matter -- Supreme Court rules out life sentence without parole possibility for some juveniles, and The Post thought it breaking news

News Alert: High court rules out life sentences for some juveniles 10:40 AM EDT Monday, May 17, 2010

The Supreme Court has ruled that teenagers may not be locked up for life without chance of parole if they haven't killed anyone. By a 5-4 vote Monday, the court says the Constitution requires that young people serving life sentences must at least be considered for release.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/O914NF/QSVGQ/TLYM4O/04ROS5/4WBTE/FW/t

She was chosen by the president and now she has been confirmed by the senate. And The Washington Post gave it to us as breaking news.

News Alert: Senate confirms Kagan to the Supreme Court 03:23 PM EDT Thursday, August 5, 2010

The Senate confirmed Elena Kagan Thursday to the Supreme Court as the 112th justice and just the fourth woman ever to sit on the high court.

On a 63-37 vote, Kagan, 50, became President Obama's second lifetime appointment to the court in the past year -- the vote was held 365 days after Justice Sonia Sotomayor won 68 votes for her confirmation as the first Latina justice ever. Five Senate Republicans supported Kagan after a

relatively smooth two-and-a-half-month journey from her nomination to succeed retired Justice John Paul Stevens to winning her appointment.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/RRHKUP/RNFDUB/EDOLHJ/KB7VH3/3K2EF/SN/t

And following Kagan and Supreme Court is about over, but I will have to let it run a few more days to settle down.

The searches were concluded and reorganized on August 11, 2010.

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