

Office of the President

November, 2013

HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL EVALUATION RESULTS

The quality of the judiciary is of crucial importance to the legal profession and the community. The HBA conducts this Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire in odd-numbered years to obtain its members' opinions concerning each judge's performance. In election years, the HBA conducts a Judicial Candidate Qualification Poll and a Judicial Preference Poll to determine members' opinions regarding judicial candidates in the primary and general elections.

The Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire was conducted online this year for the first time, in response to requests from our members for a more convenient method of participating in our judicial polls.

This Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire is not an endorsement of any judge.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. CHAUMETTE 2013-2014 President Houston Bar Association

TOTAL QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED: 1,751

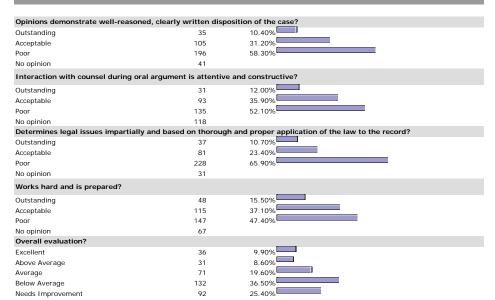
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

No opinion

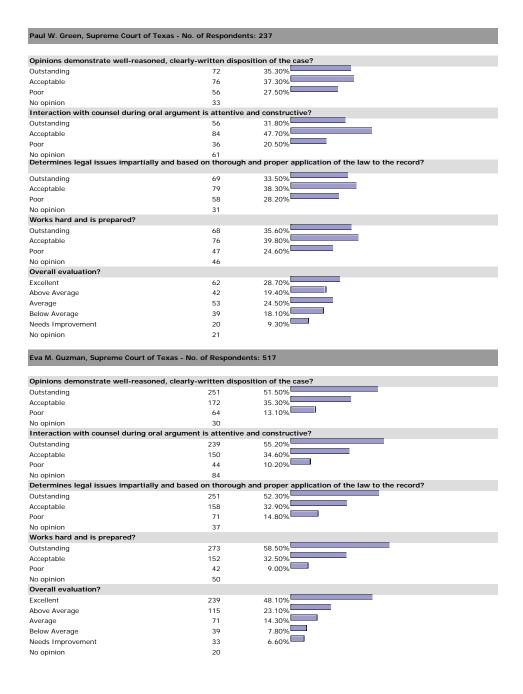
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Supreme Court of Texas - No. of Respondents: 189

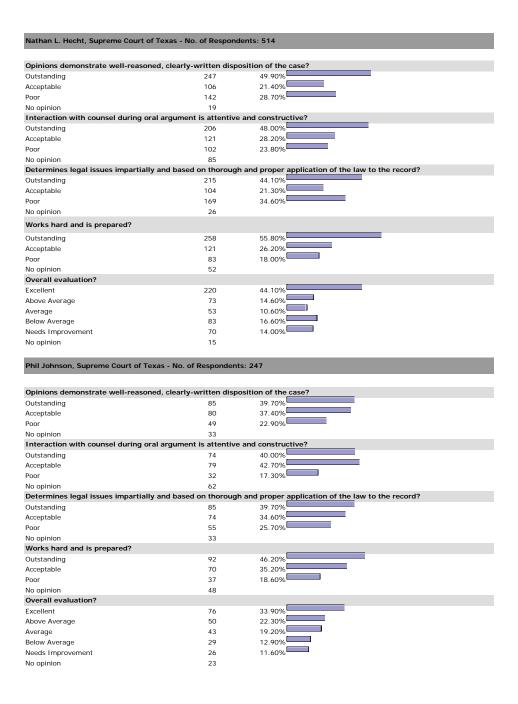
Outstanding	64	40.00%
Acceptable	58	36.20%
Poor	38	23.80%
No opinion	29	
Interaction with counsel during or	al argument is attentive	e and constructive?
Outstanding	46	39.30%
Acceptable	49	41.90%
Poor	22	18.80%
No opinion	72	
Determines legal issues impartially	y, based on thorough an	nd proper application of the law to the record?
Outstanding	58	36.00%
Acceptable	66	41.00%
Poor	37	23.00%
No opinion	28	
Works hard and is prepared?		
Outstanding	65	44.20%
Acceptable	55	37.40%
Poor	27	18.40%
No opinion	42	
Overall evaluation?		
Excellent	56	32.90%
Above Average	40	23.50%
Average	38	22.40%
Below Average	19	11.20%
Needs Improvement	17	10.00%
No opinion	19	

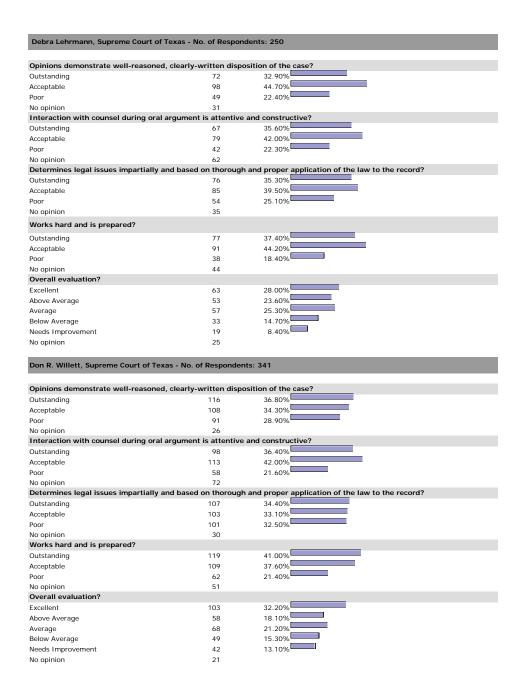
John Phillip Devine, Supreme Court of Texas - No. of Respondents: 377



15







Elsa Alcala, Court of Criminal Appeals - No. of Respondents: 132 Opinions demonstrate well-reasoned, clearly-written disposition of the case? Outstanding 65 51.20% Outstanding 39.40% Acceptable 50 9.40% Poor 12 No opinion 5 Interaction with counsel during oral argument is and constructive? attentive 50.00% Outstanding 53 42.50% Acceptable 45 7.50% Poor 8 No opinion 26 Determines legal issues impartially and based on thorough and proper application of the law to the record? Outstanding 63 50.00% 38.90% 11.10% Acceptable 49 Poor 14 No opinion Works hard and is prepared? 50.80% Outstanding 61 41.70% Acceptable 50 Poor 9 No opinion 12 Overall evaluation? 46.90% Excellent 60 22.70% Above Average 29 22.70% Average 29 3.90% Below Average 5 3.90% Needs Improvement 5 No opinion Cathy Cochran, Court of Criminal Appeals - No. of Respondents: 121 Opinions demonstrate well-reasoned, clearly-written disposition of the case? Outstanding 79.30% 88 15.30% Acceptable 17 5.40% Poor 6 No opinion 10 Interaction with counsel during oral argument is attentive and constructive? Outstanding 76 76.80% Acceptable 19 19.20% 4.00% Poor No opinion 22 Determines legal issues impartially and based on thorough and proper application of the law to the record? Outstanding 81 75.00% Outstanding 18.50% Acceptable 20 6.50% Poor 7 No opinion 13 Works hard and is prepared?

80.00%

15.50%

4.50%

71.40%

14.30%

8.00%

2.70%

88

17

5

11

80

16

9

3

4

Outstanding

Overall evaluation?

Acceptable

Excellent

Average

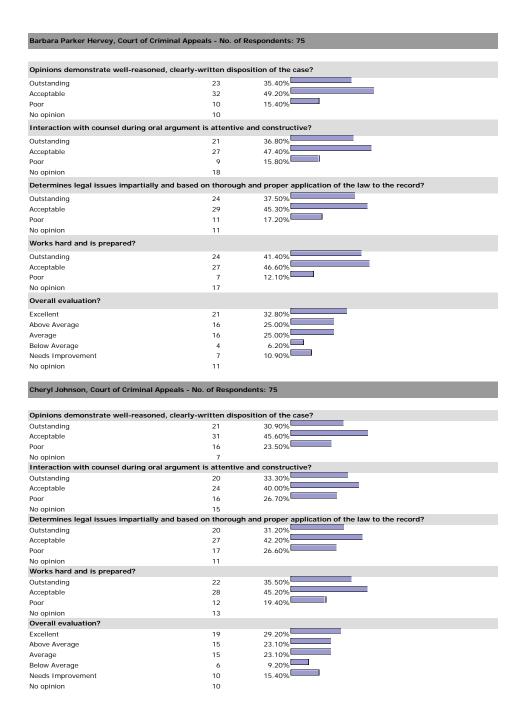
No opinion

Above Average

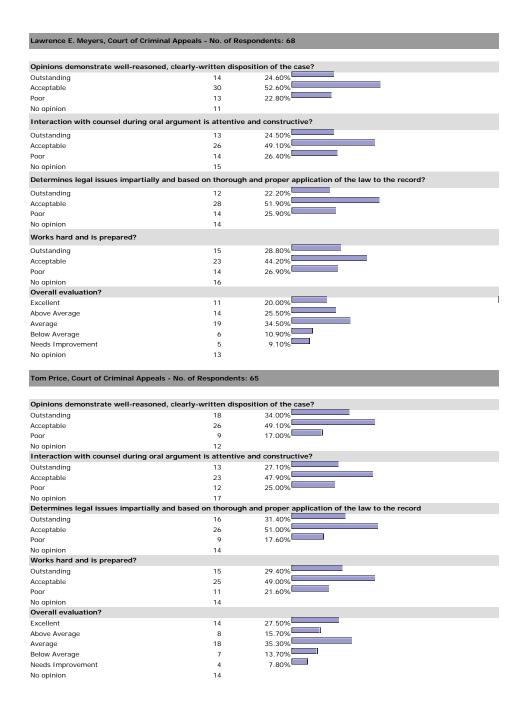
Below Average

Needs Improvement

Poor No opinion



Michael E. Keasler, Court of Crimi		
Opinions demonstrate well-reason	ned, clearly-written disc	osition of the case?
Outstanding	23	39.00%
Acceptable	25	42.40%
Poor	11	18.60%
	11	16.0076
No opinion		
Interaction with counsel during o	ral argument is attentive	
Outstanding	20	37.70%
Acceptable	20	37.70%
Poor	13	24.50%
No opinion	17	
Determines legal issues impartial	ly and based on thoroug	h and proper application of the law to the record?
Outstanding	20	35.70%
Acceptable	21	37.50%
Poor	15	26.80%
No opinion	14	20.0070
	14	
Works hard and is prepared?		
Outstanding	23	41.80%
Acceptable	21	38.20%
Poor	11	20.00%
No opinion	15	
Overall evaluation?		
Excellent	20	33.30%
Above Average	15	25.00%
Average	11	18.30%
Below Average	9	15.00%
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Needs Improvement	5	8 30%
No opinion	5 10 ppeals - No. of Respond	8.30% ents: 136
No opinion Sharon Keller, Court of Criminal A	10 ppeals - No. of Respond	ents: 136
Needs Improvement No opinion Sharon Keller, Court of Criminal A Opinions demonstrate well-reason	10 ppeals - No. of Respond ned, clearly-written disp	ents: 136 osition of the case?
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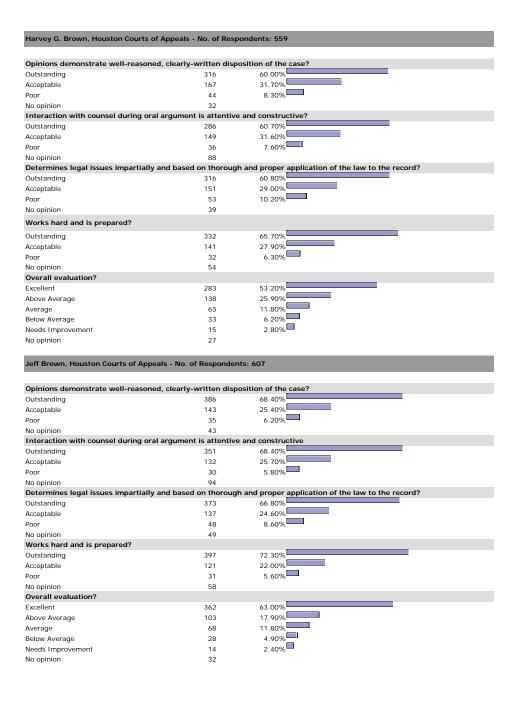


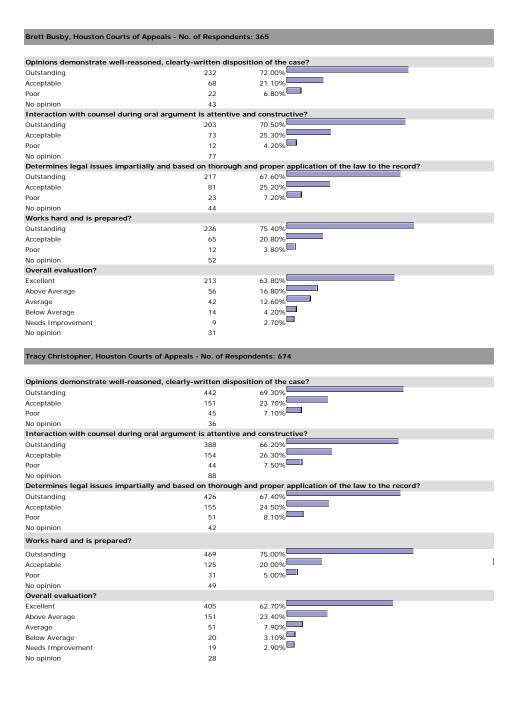
Opinions demonstrate well-reason	ned, clearly-written disp	osition of the case?	
Outstanding	13	24.10%	
Acceptable	30	55.60%	1
Poor	11	20.40%	
No opinion	10		
Interaction with counsel during	oral argument is attentive	e and constructive?	
Outstanding	11	21.60%	
Acceptable	29	56.90%	
Poor	11	21.60%	
No opinion	13		
Determines legal issues impartia	lly and based on thoroug	h and proper application of the law to	the record?
Outstanding	14	26.40%	
Acceptable	30	56.60%	
Poor	9	17.00%	
No opinion	11		
Works hard and is prepared?			
Outstanding	13	25.50%	_
Acceptable	29	56.90%	
Poor	9	17.60%	
No opinion	13		
Overall evaluation?			
Excellent	10	19.20%	
Above Average	17	32.70%	
Average	16	30.80%	
Below Average	4	7.70%	
Needs Improvement	5	9.60%	
No opinion	12		

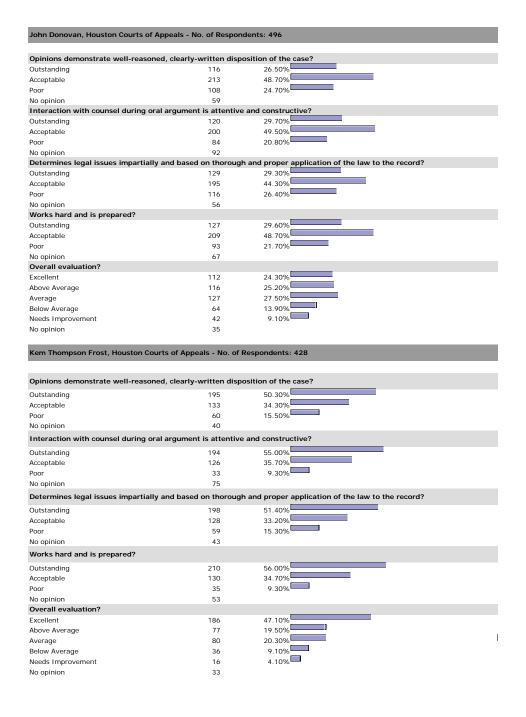
HOUSTON COURTS OF APPEALS Jane Bland, Houston Courts of Appeals - No. of Respondents: 624 Opinions demonstrate well-reasoned, clearly-written disposition of the case? 67.50% Outstanding 395 Acceptable 154 6.20% Poor 36 No opinion 39 Interaction with counsel during oral argument is attentive and constructive? Outstanding 344 66.80% 27.60% Acceptable 142 5.60% Poor 29 No opinion 109 Determines legal issues impartially and based on thorough and proper application of the law to the record? Outstanding 368 63.10% 28.00% Acceptable 163 8.90% Poor 52 No opinion 41 Works hard and is prepared? 73.00% Outstanding 410 23.00% Acceptable 129 4.10% Poor 23 No opinion 62 Overall evaluation? Excellent 60.80% 361 22.10% 10.40% 4.00% 131 Above Average Average 62 Below Average 24 2.70% Needs Improvement 16 No opinion 30 William J. Boyce, Houston Courts of Appeals - No. of Respondents: 456 Opinions demonstrate well-reasoned, clearly-written disposition of the case? Outstanding 309 72.50% Acceptable 89 20.90% 6.60% Poor 28 No opinion 30 Interaction with counsel during oral argument is attentive and constructive? Outstanding 287 74.20% 21.20% Acceptable 82 4.70% Poor 18 No opinion 69 Determines legal issues impartially and based on thorough and proper application of the law to the record? 71.10% Outstanding 300 Acceptable 86 8.50% 36 Poor No opinion 34 Works hard and is prepared? 77.10% 18.60% 4.30% Outstanding 320 Acceptable 77 Poor 18 No opinion 41 Overall evaluation? 67.30% Excellent 292 14.30% Above Average 62 11.50% Average 50 4.80% Below Average 21 2.10% Needs Improvement 9

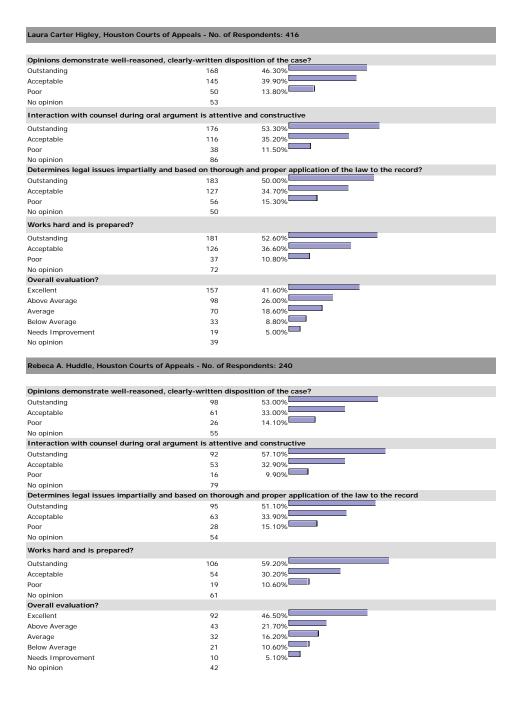
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No opinion

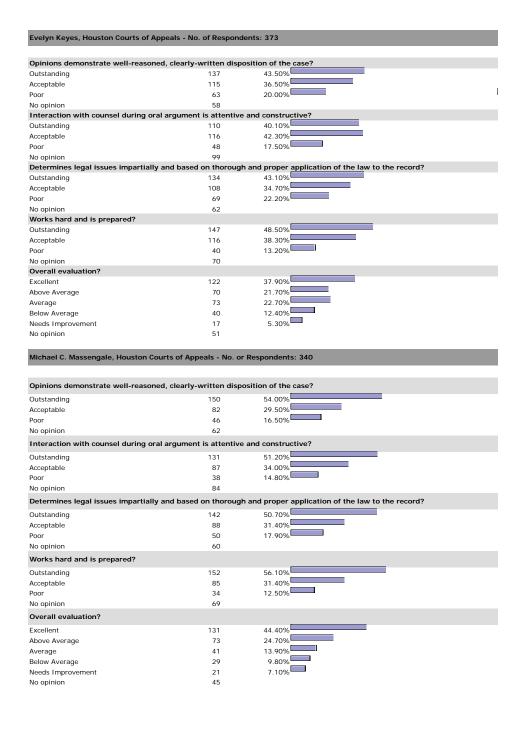


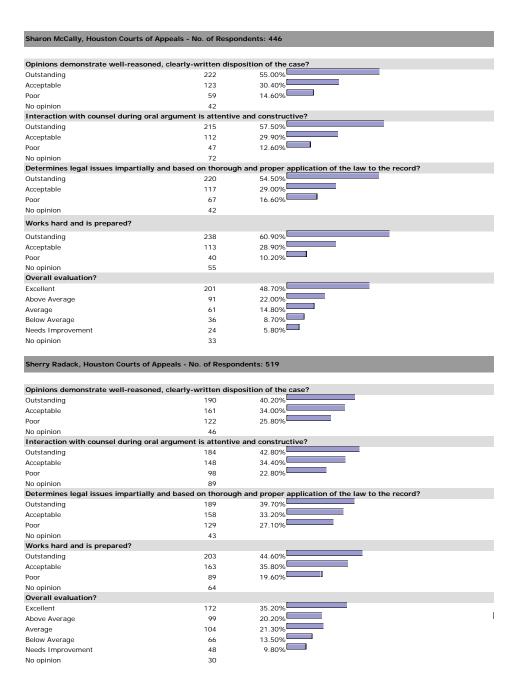






Martha Hill Jamison, Houston Co	uits of Appeals - No. of K		
Opinions demonstrate well-reason			
Outstanding	262	49.10%	
Acceptable	207	38.80%	
Poor	65	12.20%	
No opinion	51		
nteraction with counsel during	oral argument is attentive	and constructive?	
Outstanding	269	53.80%	
Acceptable	178	35.60%	
oor	53	10.60%	
lo opinion	85		
Determines legal issues impartia	lly and based on thorough	h and proper application of the law to the record?	
Outstanding	264	49.50%	
Acceptable	198	37.10%	
Poor	71	13.30%	
No opinion	52		
Works hard and is prepared?			
Dutstanding	281	53.70%	
Acceptable	190	36.30%	
Poor	52	9.90%	
No opinion	62		
Overall evaluation?	02		
Excellent	246	44.70%	
Above Average	139	25.30%	
Average	104	18.90%	
-	40	7.30%	
-		3 90%	
Needs Improvement	21 35	3.80%□	
Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respon	3.80% Adents: 376	
Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Courts	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Responence, clearly-written disp	3.80% andents: 376 osition of the case?	
Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Co	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Responded, clearly-written disp 148	3.80% and	
Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Opinions demonstrate well-reaso Dutstanding Acceptable	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respon oned, clearly-written disp 148 121	3.80% and	
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Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Co	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Responded, clearly-written disp 148 121 66 41 oral argument is attentive	3.80% and constructive?	
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Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Dispinions demonstrate well-reaso Dutstanding Acceptable Poor No opinion Interaction with counsel during of Dutstanding Acceptable Poor No opinion	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written dispondenced, clearly-written dispondenced at 148 121 66 41 oral argument is attentive 146 101 59 70	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% e and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30%	
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Deeds Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Dipinions demonstrate well-reaso Dustanding Acceptable Poor Dustanding Acceptable Poor No opinion Determines legal issues impartial Dustanding Acceptable Poor No opinion Determines legal issues impartial Dustanding Acceptable Poor No opinion Norks hard and is prepared?	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written disputation of Respondence, clearly-written disputation of Respondence	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% a and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30% n and proper application of the law to the record? 46.30% 33.70% 20.00%	
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Deeds Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Co	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written disponeed, clearly-written disponeed, clearly-written disponeed, clearly-written disponeed at 148 121 66 41 oral argument is attentive 146 101 59 70 willy and based on thorough 155 113 67 41 172 107 46 51	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30% n and proper application of the law to the record? 46.30% 32.90% 32.90% 14.20%	
Deeds Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Co	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written dispondence, clearly-written dispondence and the secondence and the secondence are se	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% e and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30% n and proper application of the law to the record? 46.30% 33.70% 20.00% 52.90% 14.20% 40.30% 23.60% 17.60%	
Needs Improvement No opinion Ferry Jennings, Houston Courts of Co	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written disputation of the second of th	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% e and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30% 19.30% and proper application of the law to the record? 46.30% 33.70% 20.00% 40.30% 23.60% 17.60% 11.80%	
Below Average Needs Improvement No opinion Terry Jennings, Houston Courts of Courts and	21 35 of Appeals - No. of Respondence, clearly-written dispondence, clearly-written dispondence and the secondence and the secondence are se	3.80% ndents: 376 osition of the case? 44.20% 36.10% 19.70% e and constructive? 47.70% 33.00% 19.30% n and proper application of the law to the record? 46.30% 33.70% 20.00% 52.90% 14.20% 40.30% 23.60% 17.60%	





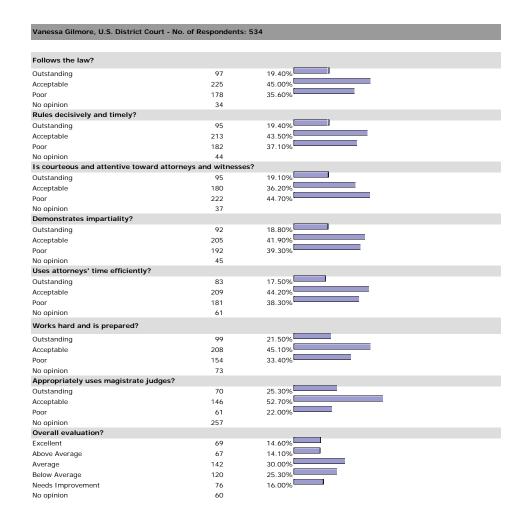
Jim Sharp, Houston Courts of App	peals - No. of Respondent	s: 419
Opinions demonstrate well-reaso	ned, clearly-written disp	osition of the case?
Outstanding	77	21.50%
Acceptable	113	31.60%
Poor	168	46.90%
No opinion	61	
Interaction with counsel during of	ral argument is attentive	and constructive?
Outstanding	65	20.50%
Acceptable	110	34.70%
Poor	142	44.80%
No opinion	102	
Determines legal issues impartia	ly and based on thorough	and proper application
Outstanding	76	21.40%
Acceptable	98	27.60%
Poor	181	51.00%
No opinion	64	
Works hard and is prepared?		
Outstanding	74	22.10%
Acceptable	98	29.30%
Poor	163	48.70%
No opinion	84	
Overall evaluation?		
Excellent	64	16.90%
Above Average	60	15.90%
Average	57	15.10%
Below Average	101	26.70%
Needs Improvement	96	25.40%
No opinion	41	

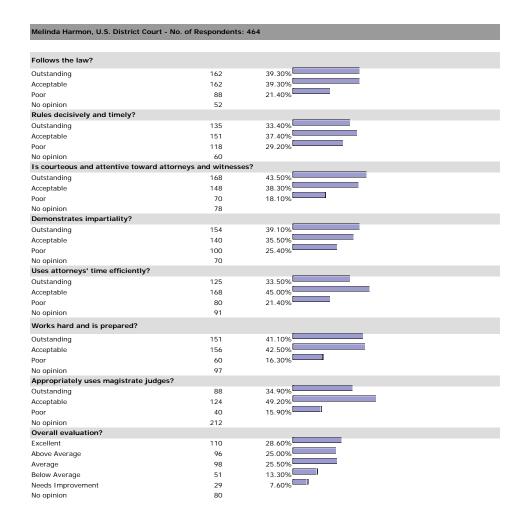
U.S. DISTRICT COURTS

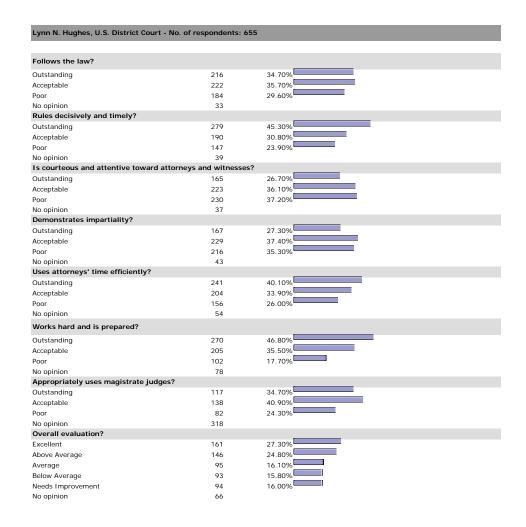
Nancy F. Atlas, U.S. District Court - No. of Respondents: 578

Follows the law?			
Outstanding	393	72.10%	
Acceptable	137	25.10%	
Poor	15	2.80%	
No opinion	33		
Rules decisively and timely?			
Outstanding	369	68.50%	
Acceptable	150	27.80%	
Poor	20	3.70%	
No opinion	39		
Is courteous and attentive toward	d attorneys and witnesse		
Outstanding	372	69.40%	
Acceptable	144	26.90%	
Poor	20	3.70%	
No opinion	42		
Demonstrates impartiality?			
Outstanding	372	69.50%	
Acceptable	147	27.50%	
Poor	16	3.00%	
No opinion	43		
Uses attorneys' time efficiently"			
Outstanding	341	65.30%	
Acceptable	160	30.70%	
Poor	21	4.00%	
No opinion	56		
Works hard and is prepared?			
Outstanding	398	78.70%	
Acceptable	95	18.80%	
Poor	13	2.60%□	
No opinion	72		
Appropriately uses magistrate jud	dges?		
Outstanding	215	62.30%	
Acceptable	125	36.20%	
Poor	5	1.40%	
No opinion	233		
Overall evaluation?			
Excellent	313	63.50%	
Above Average	121	24.50%	
Average	44	8.90%	
Below Average	8	1.60%	
Needs Improvement	7	1.40%	
No opinion	85		

Collows the law? Outstanding 313 72.00% Outstanding 313 72.00% Outstanding 43 72.00% Outstanding 43 72.00% Outstanding 43 72.00% Outstanding 280 65.10% Outstanding 280 65.10% Outstanding 280 65.10% Outstanding 48 88 82.00% Outstanding 360 82.80% Outstanding 322 75.10% Outstanding 328 79.40% Outstanding 293 69.90% Outstanding 293 69.90% Outstanding 328 79.40% Outst
105
to opinion 43 Authority and timely? Authority and timely and timely? Authority and timely a
Substanding
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Dutstanding 280 65.10% 28.80%
124
26
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s courteous and attentive toward attorneys and witnesses? Dutstanding 360 82.80% foor 77 1.60% Dopinion 43 Demonstrates impartiality? Dutstanding 322 75.10% Loceptable 88 20.50% Loo or 19 4.40% Dises attorneys' time efficiently? Dutstanding 293 69.90% Loceptable 105 25.10% Loo or 21 5.00% Loo opinion 59 Vorks hard and is prepared? Dutstanding 328 79.40% Loceptable 76 18.40% Loc
Sutstanding 360 82.80% Succeptable 68 15.60% Support 7 1.60% Support 8 15.60% Support 9 1.60% Support 9
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Demonstrates impartiality? Dutstanding 322 75.10% Dutstanding 322 75.10% Dutstanding 322 75.10% Dutstanding 19 4.40% Dutstanding 49 Dutstanding 293 69.90% Dutstanding 293 69.90% Dutstanding 293 69.90% Dutstanding 105 25.10% Door 21 5.00% Door 21 5.00% Dutstanding 328 79.40% Dutstanding 328 79.40% Dutstanding 328 79.40% Dutstanding 328 79.40% Dutstanding 76 18.40% Dutstanding 9 2.20%
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Uses attorneys' time efficiently?
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Outstanding 328 79.40%
cceptable 76 18.40% 18.00
9 2.20%
lo opinion 65
Appropriately uses magistrate judges?
Outstanding 188 68.40%
cceptable 79 28.70%
oor 8 2.90%
lo opinion 203
Overall evaluation?
xcellent 265 65.40%
bove Average 92 22.70%
verage 40 9.90%
Below Average 5 1.20% ☐
leeds Improvement 3 0.70%
o opinion 73







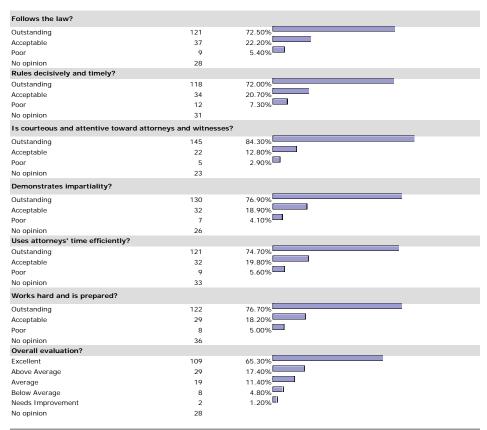
Follows the law?			
Outstanding	384	77.90%	
Acceptable	93	18.90%	
Poor	16	3.20%	
No opinion	45		
Rules decisively and timely?			
Outstanding	376	77.20%	
Acceptable	95	19.50%	
Poor	16	3.30%	
No opinion	51		
Is courteous and attentive toward	d attorneys and witnesse	es?	
Outstanding	351	72.80%	
Acceptable	104	21.60%	
Poor	27	5.60%	
No opinion	56		
Demonstrates impartiality?			
Outstanding	352	73.20%	
Acceptable	110	22.90%	
Poor	19	4.00%	
No opinion	57		
Uses attorneys' time efficiently?			
Outstanding	335	71.60%	
Acceptable	117	25.00%	
Poor	16	3.40%	
No opinion	70		
Works hard and is prepared?			
Outstanding	387	83.40%	
Acceptable	66	14.20%	
Poor	11	2.40%	
No opinion	74		
Appropriately uses magistrate ju	dges?		
Outstanding	212	70.20%	
Acceptable	80	26.50%	
Poor	10	3.30%	
No opinion	236		
Overall evaluation?			
Excellent	316	67.70%	
Above Average	99	21.20%	
Average	38	8.10%	
Below Average	6	1.30%	
Needs Improvement	8	1.70%	
No opinion	71	****	

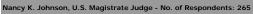
Gray H. Miller, U.S. District Court	- No. of Respondents: 40	02
Follows the law?		
Outstanding	251	73.00%
Acceptable	72	20.90%
Poor	21	6.10%
No opinion	58	
Rules decisively and timely?		
Outstanding	242	71.20%
Acceptable	86	25.30%
Poor	12	3.50%
No opinion	62	
Is courteous and attentive towar	-	
Outstanding	265	80.10%
Acceptable	61	18.40%
Poor	5	1.50%
No opinion	71	
Demonstrates impartiality?		
Outstanding	253	76.00%
Acceptable	66	19.80%
Poor	14	4.20%
No opinion	69	
Uses attorneys' time efficiently?		
Outstanding	244	74.80%
Acceptable	73	22.40%
Poor	9	2.80%
No opinion	76	
Works hard and is prepared?		
Outstanding	251	77.50%
Acceptable	65	20.10%
Poor	8	2.50%
No opinion	78	
Appropriately uses magistrate ju	dges?	
Outstanding	168	74.00%
Acceptable	54	23.80%
Poor	5	2.20%
No opinion	175	
Overall evaluation?		
Excellent	225	67.40%
Above Average	57	17.10%
Average	41	12.30%
Below Average	9	2.70%
Needs Improvement	2	0.60%
No opinion	68	

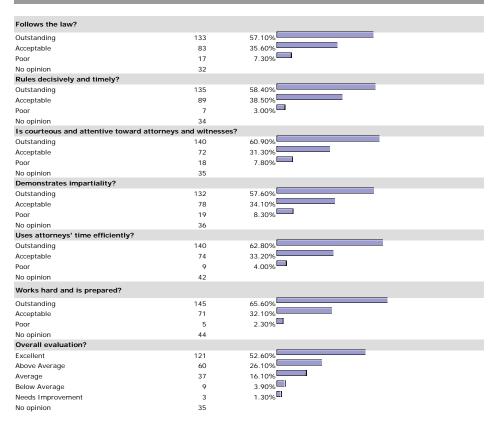
Follows the law?			
Outstanding	468	83.40%	
Acceptable	86	15.30%	
Poor	7	1.20%	
No opinion	37		
Rules decisively and timely?			
Outstanding	424	77.50%	
Acceptable	113	20.70%	
Poor	10	1.80%	
No opinion	51		
s courteous and attentive towa	ard attorneys and witnesse	s?	
Outstanding	455	82.10%	
Acceptable	89	16.10%	
Poor	10	1.80%	
No opinion	44		
Demonstrates impartiality?			
Outstanding	442	80.80%	
Acceptable	92	16.80%	
Poor	13	2.40%	
No opinion	51		
Uses attorneys' time efficiently?	?		
Outstanding	417	78.10%	
Acceptable	109	20.40%	
Poor	8	1.50%	
No opinion	64		
Works hard and is prepared?			
Outstanding	466	86.90%	
Acceptable	66	12.30%	
Poor	4	0.70%	
No opinion	62		
Appropriately uses magistrate j	udges?		
Outstanding	292	78.70%	
Acceptable	75	20.20%	
Poor	4	1.10%	
No opinion	227		
Overall evaluation?			
Excellent	417	77.80%	
Above Average	83	15.50%	
Average	31	5.80%	
Below Average	3	0.60%	
Needs Improvement	2	0.40%	
lo opinion	62		

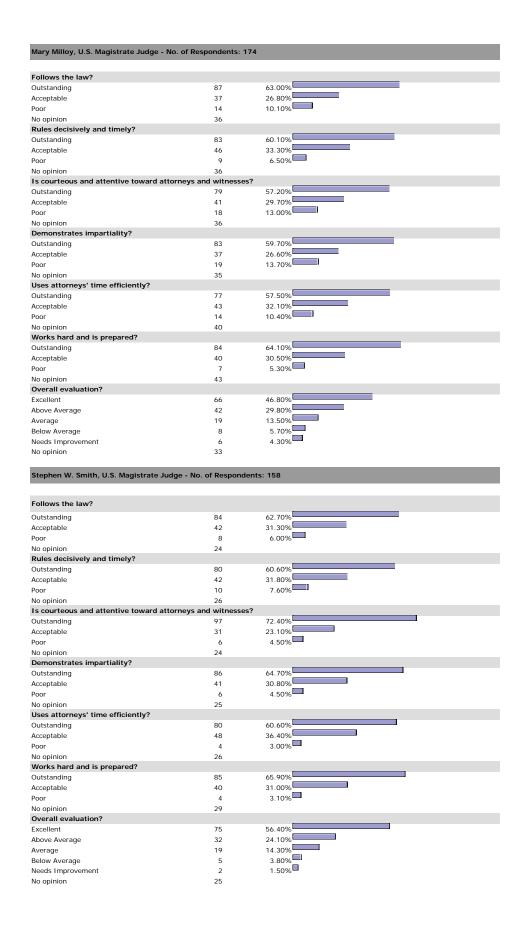
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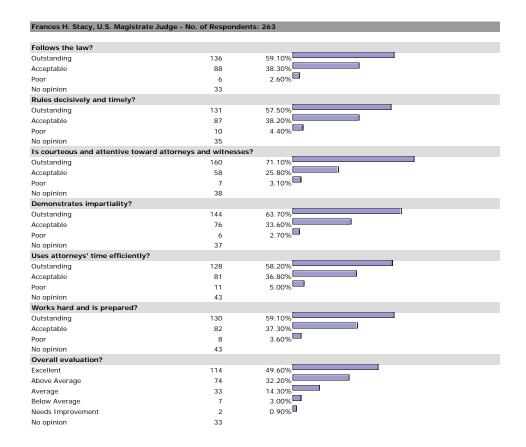
George C. Hanks, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge - No. of Respondents: 195

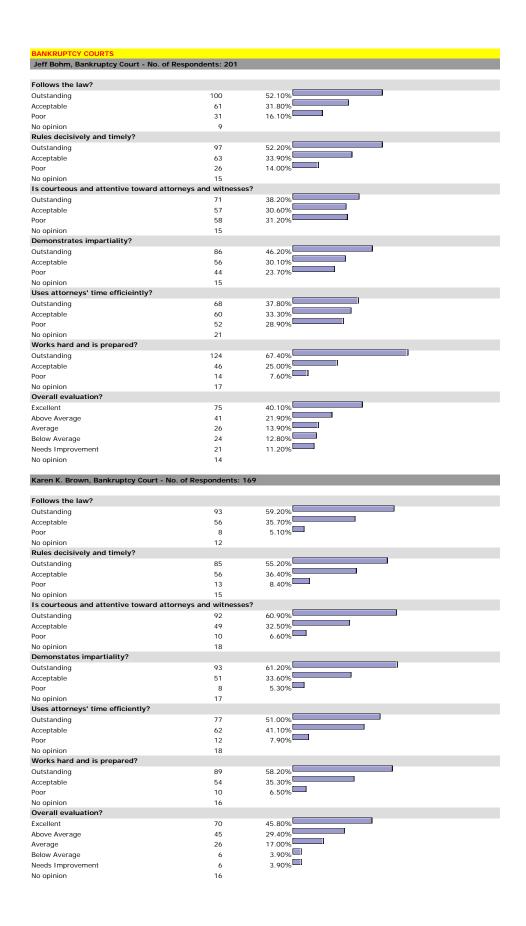


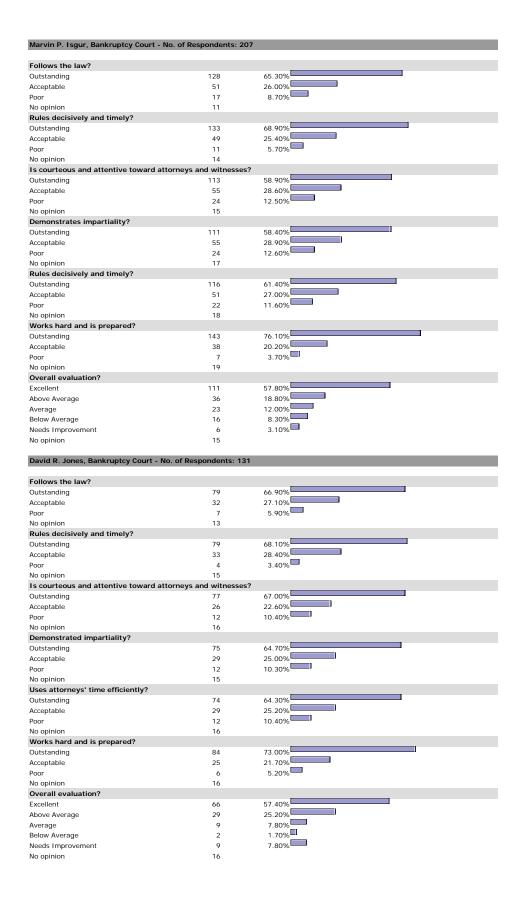


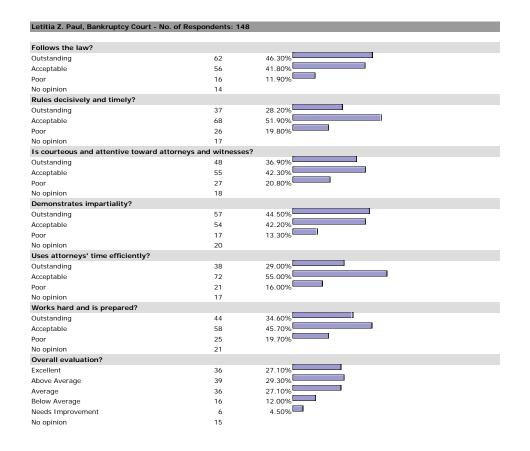


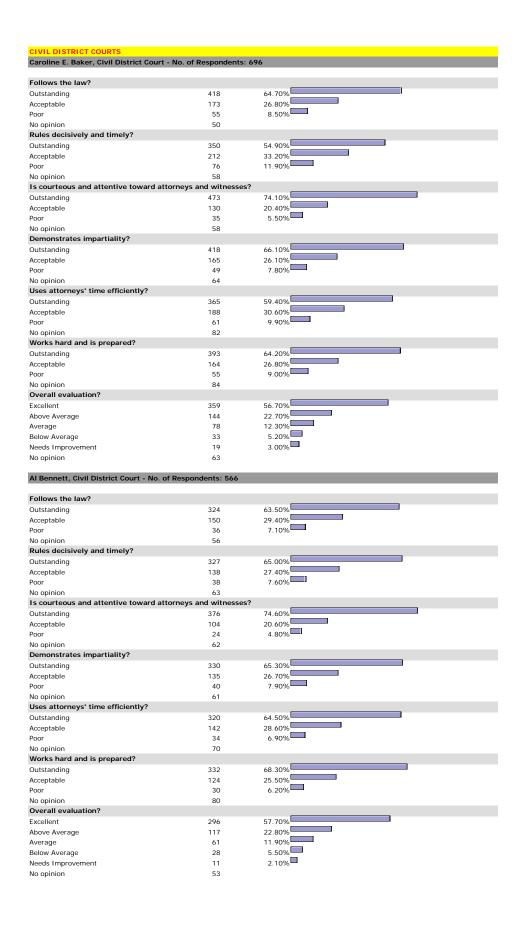


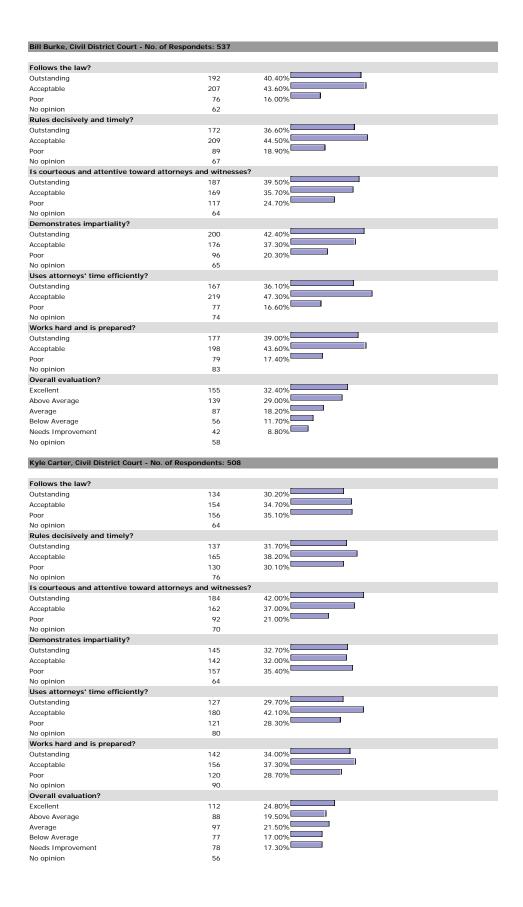


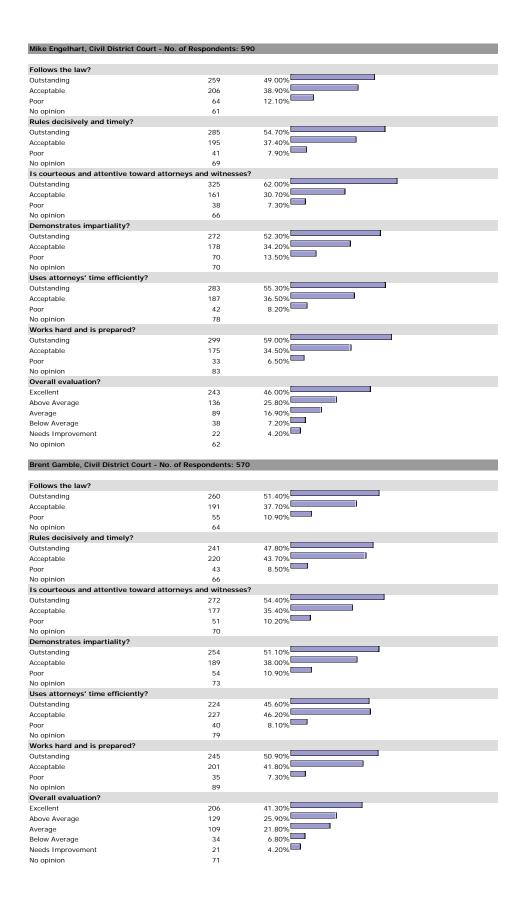


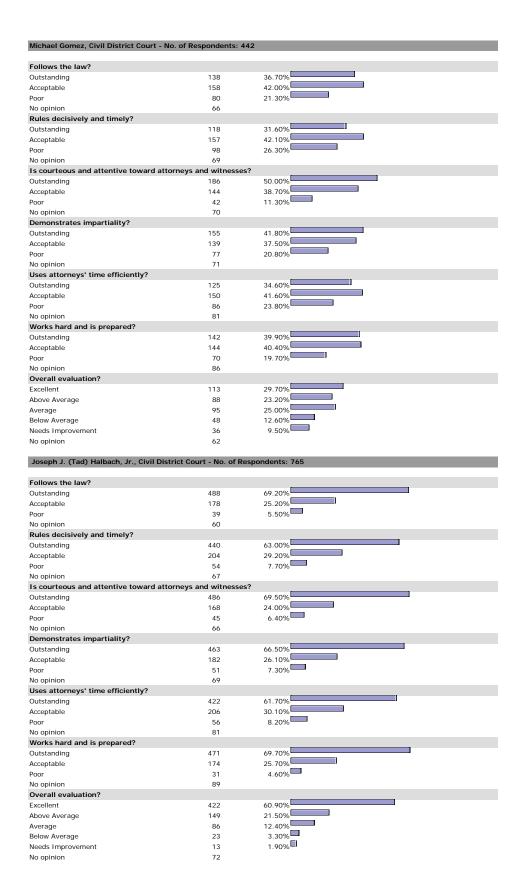


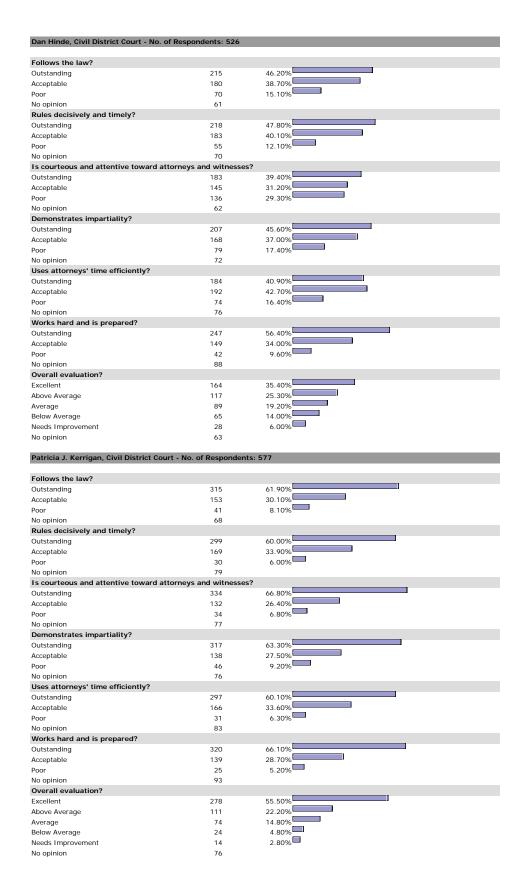


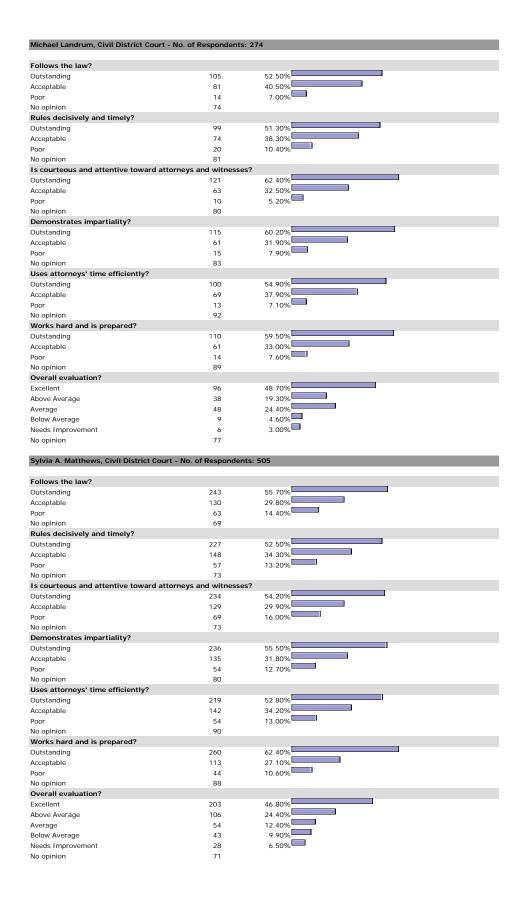


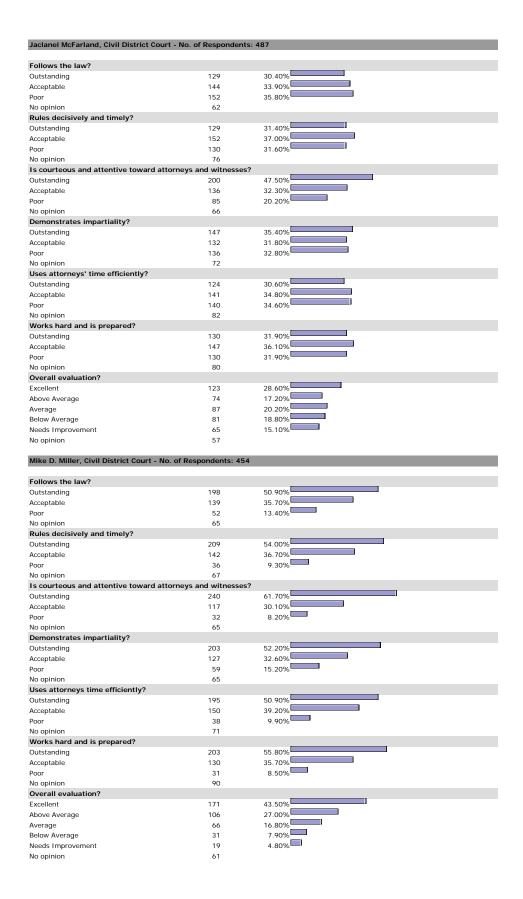


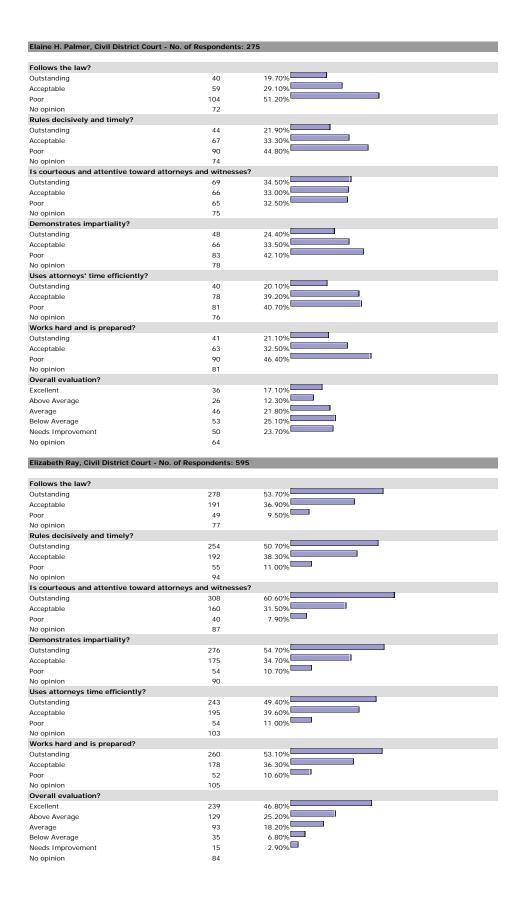


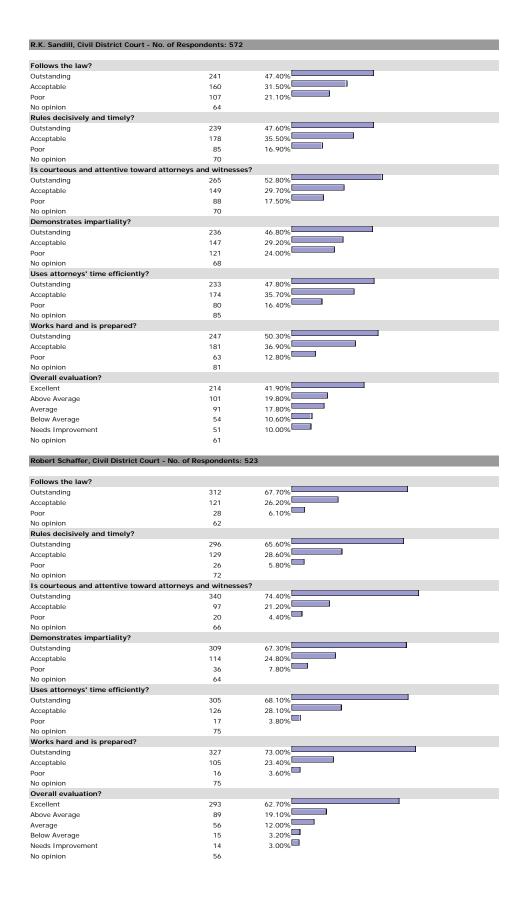


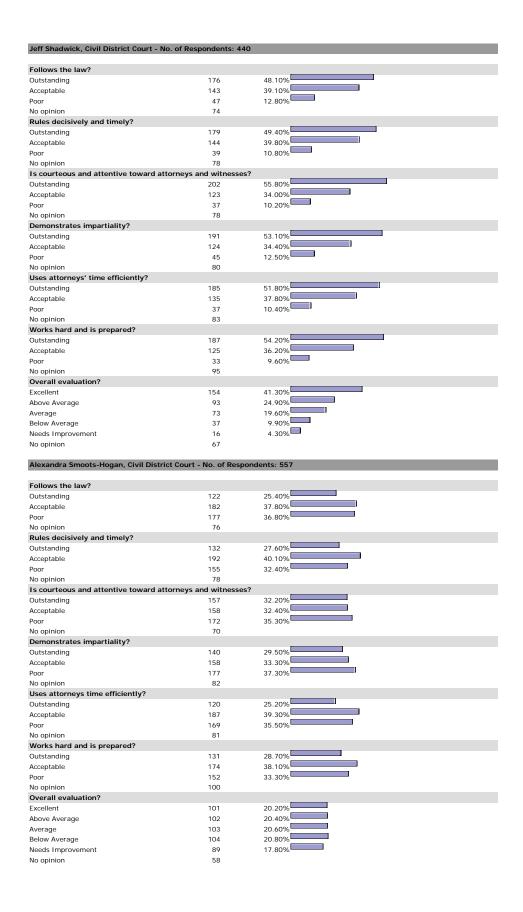


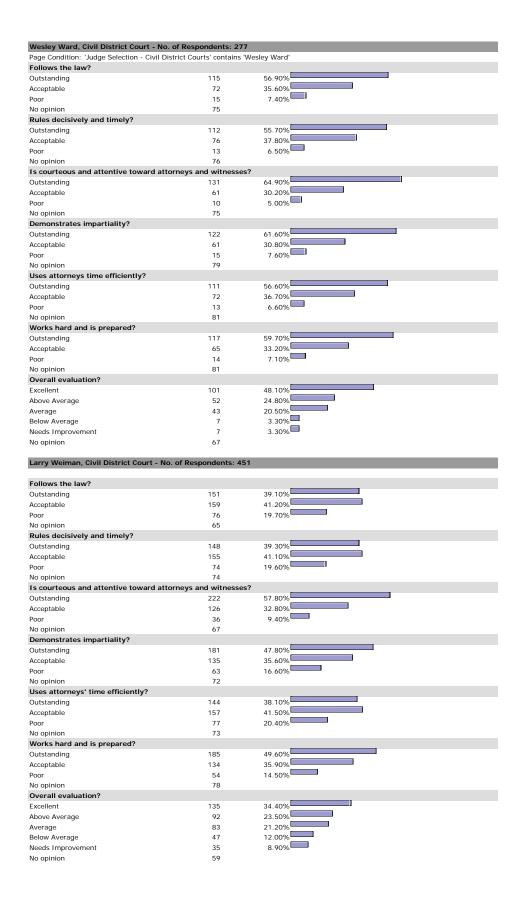


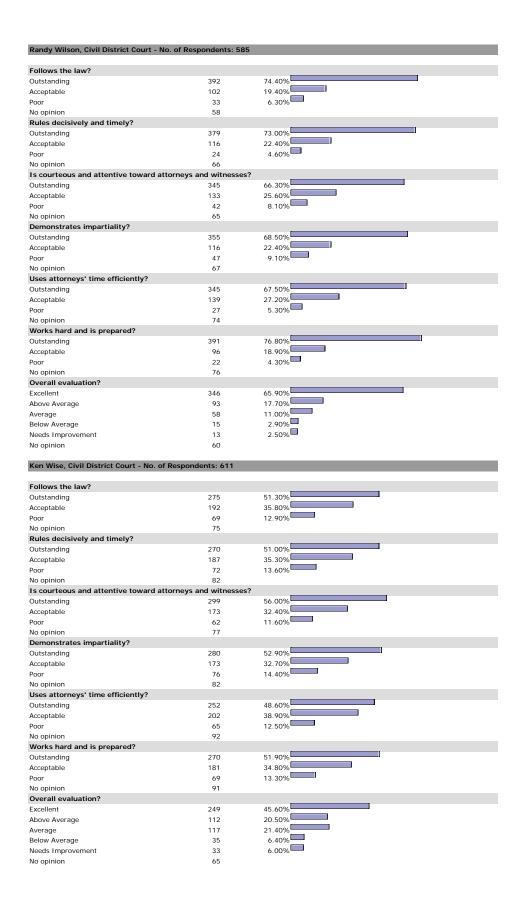


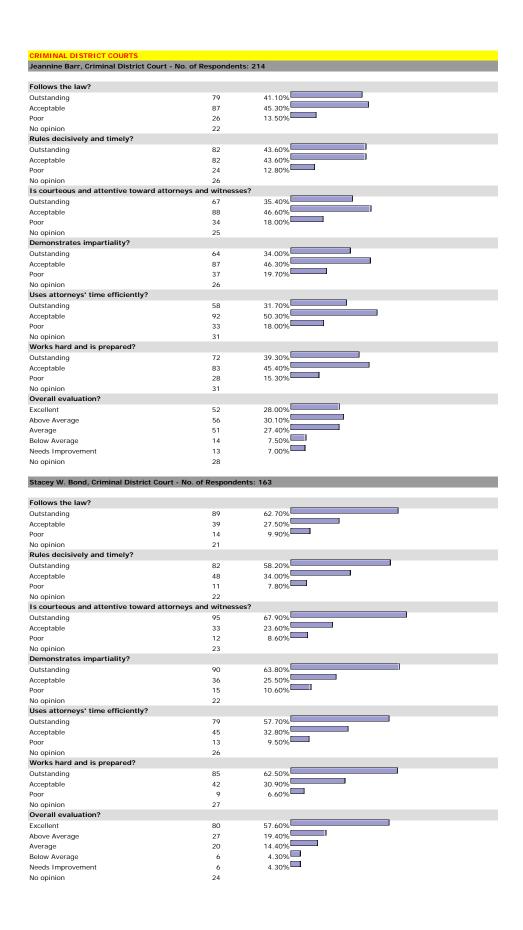


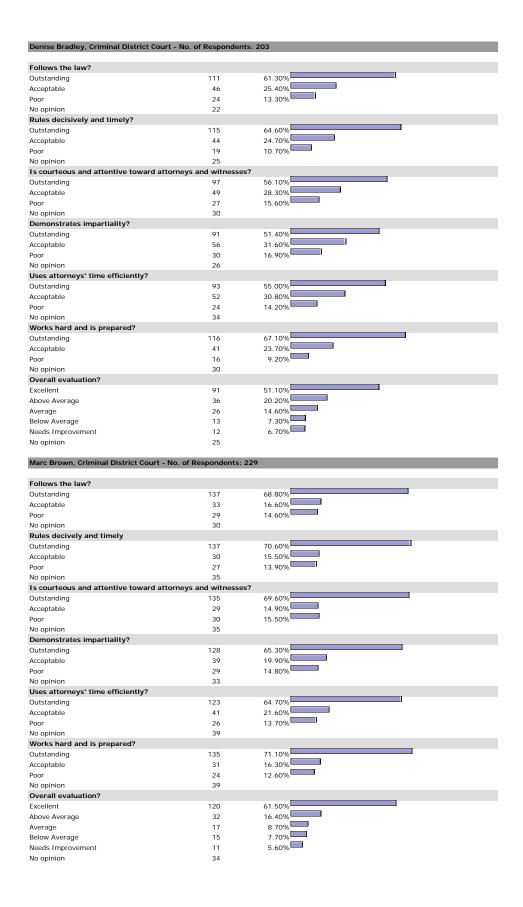


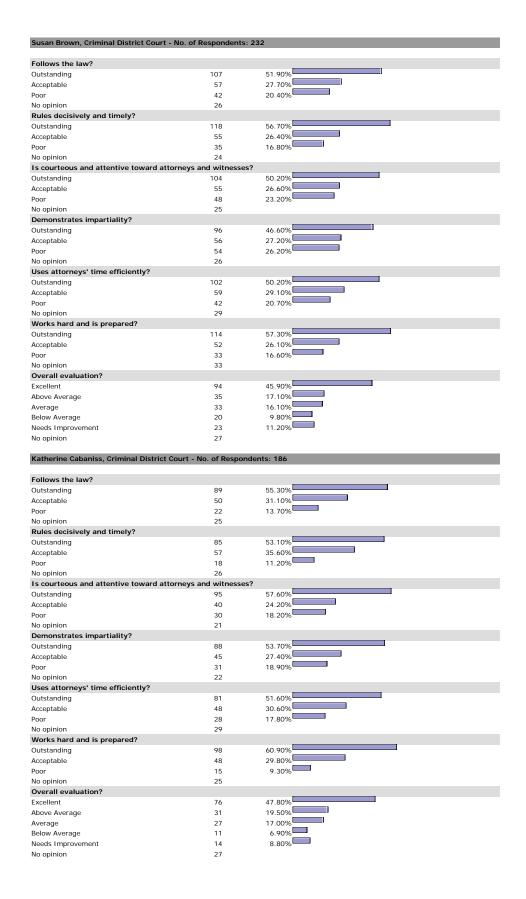


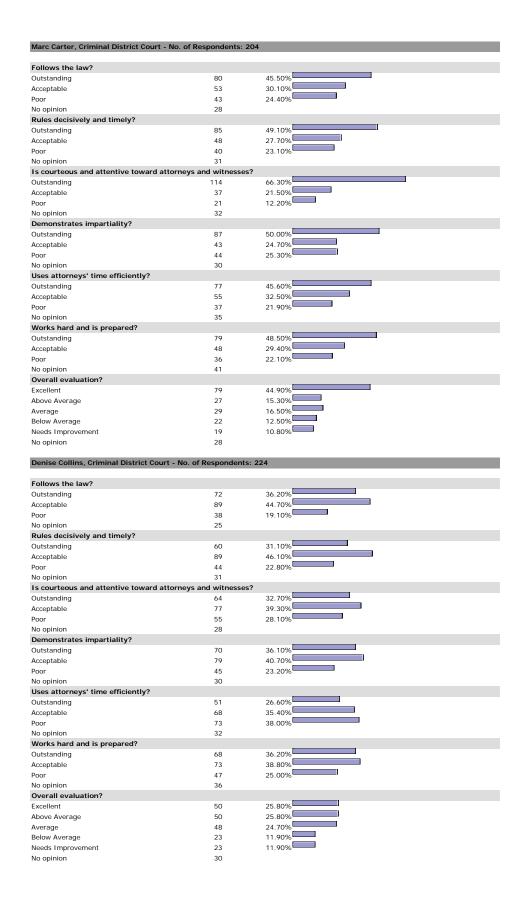


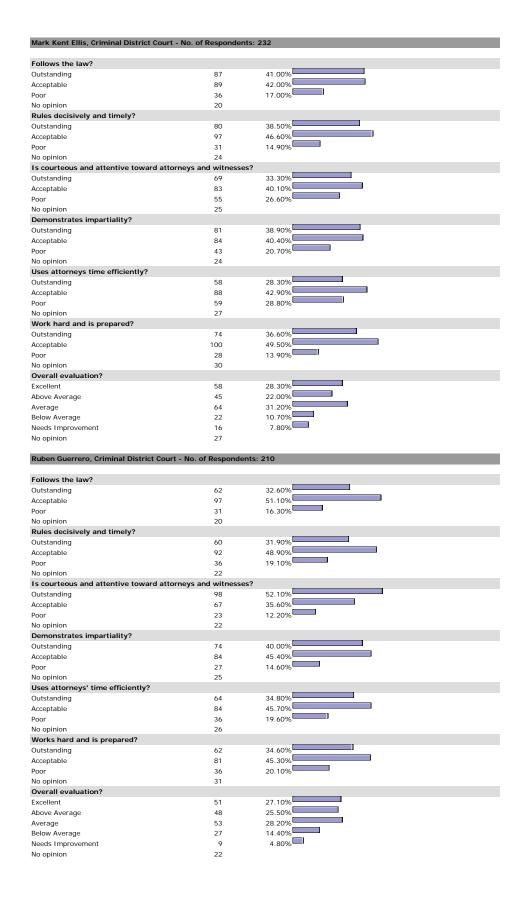


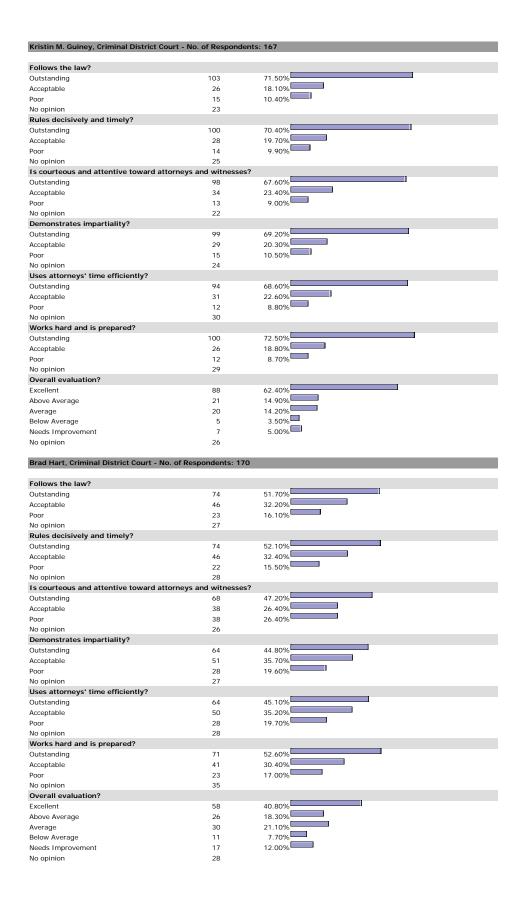


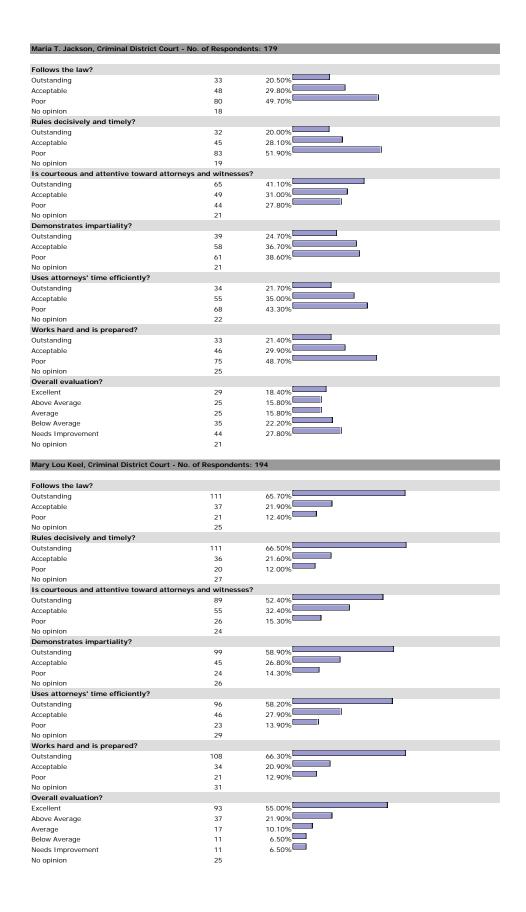


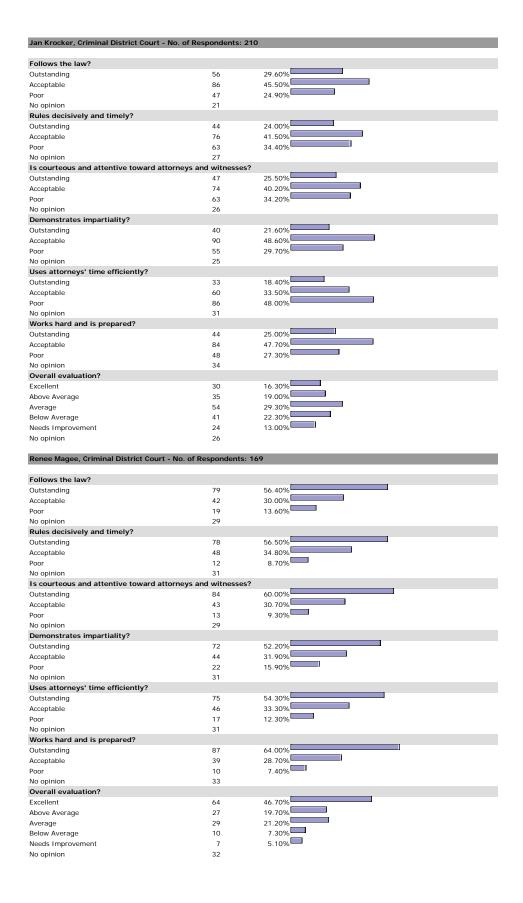


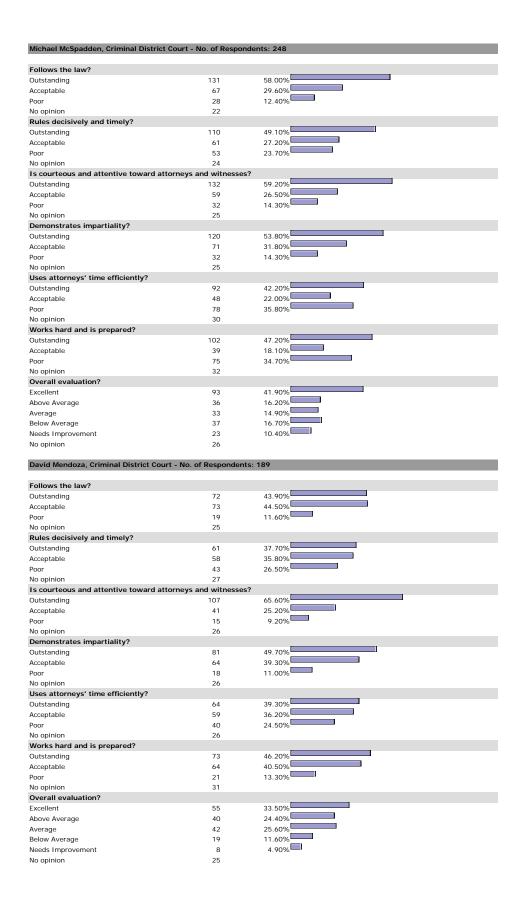


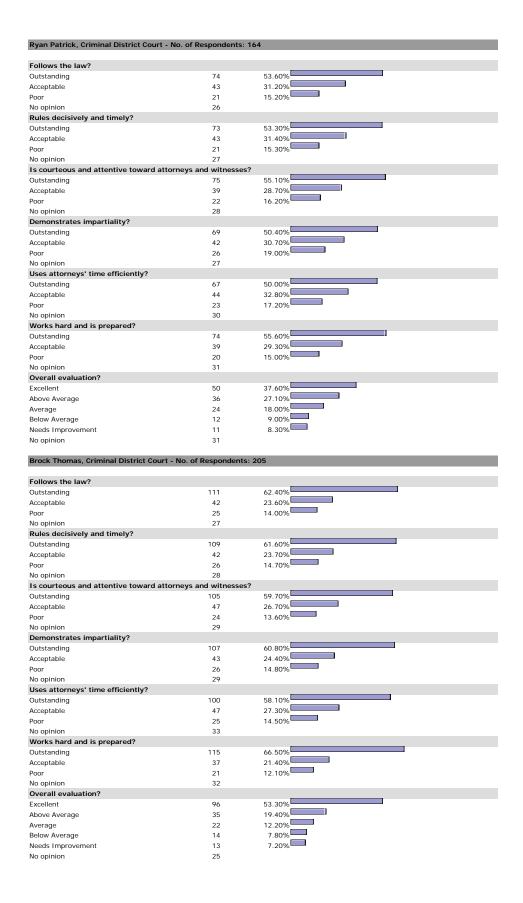


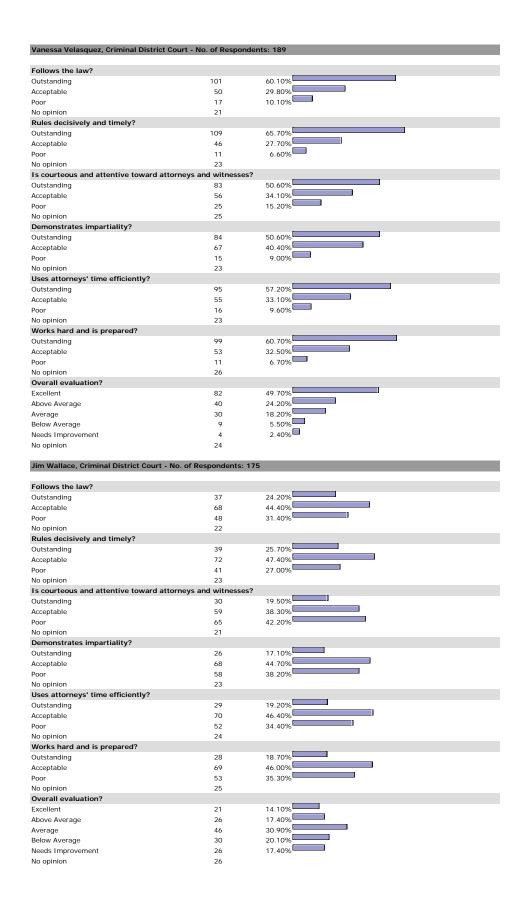


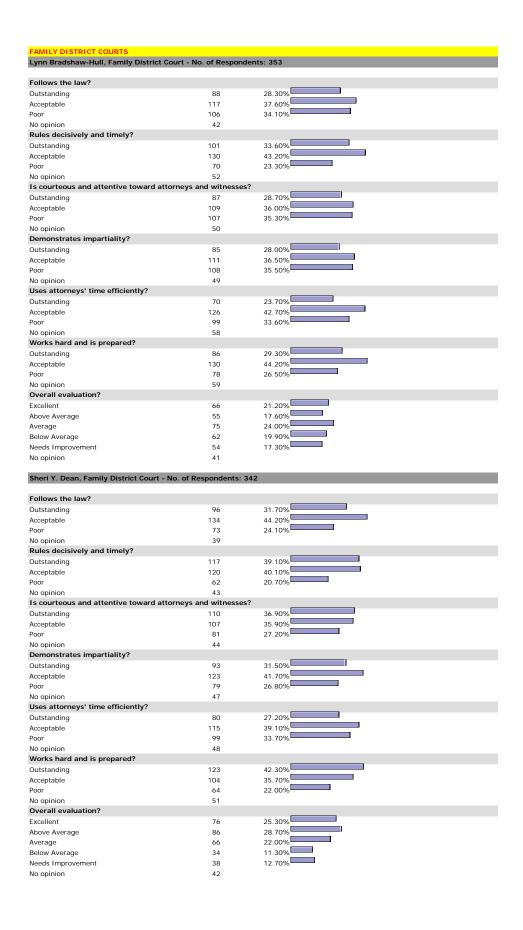


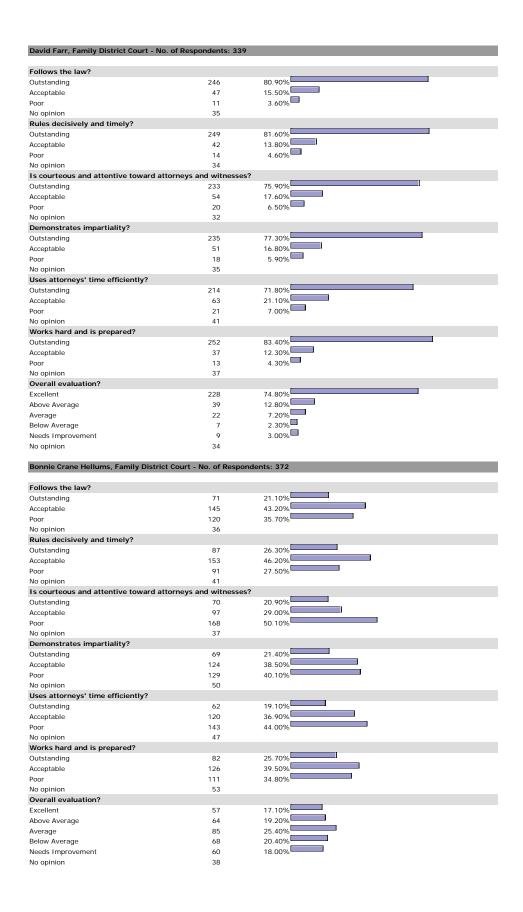


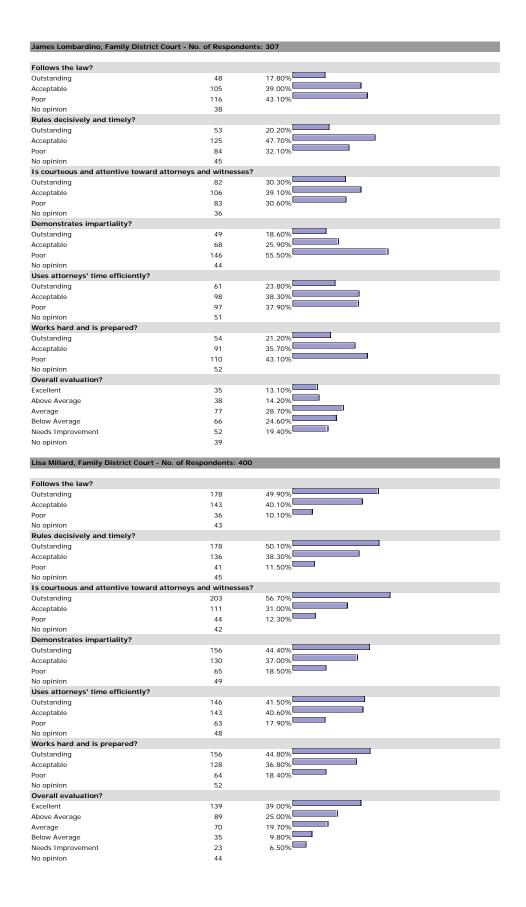


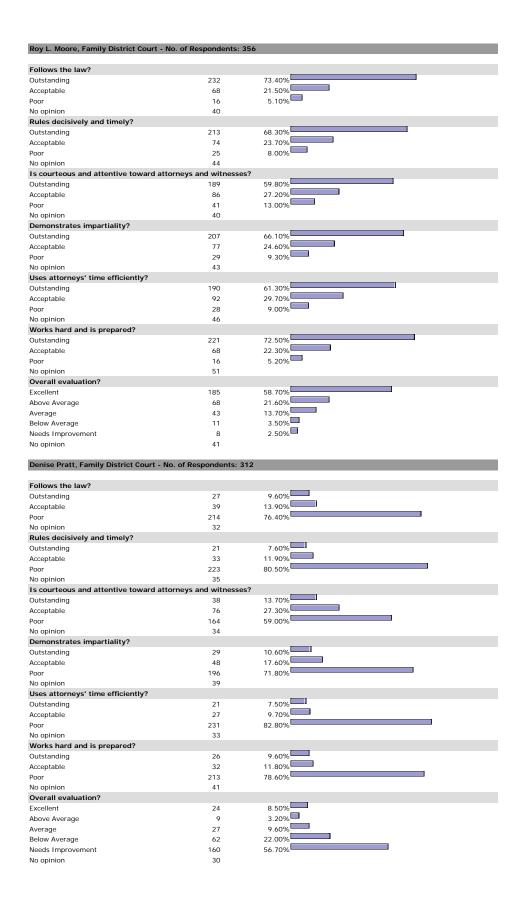


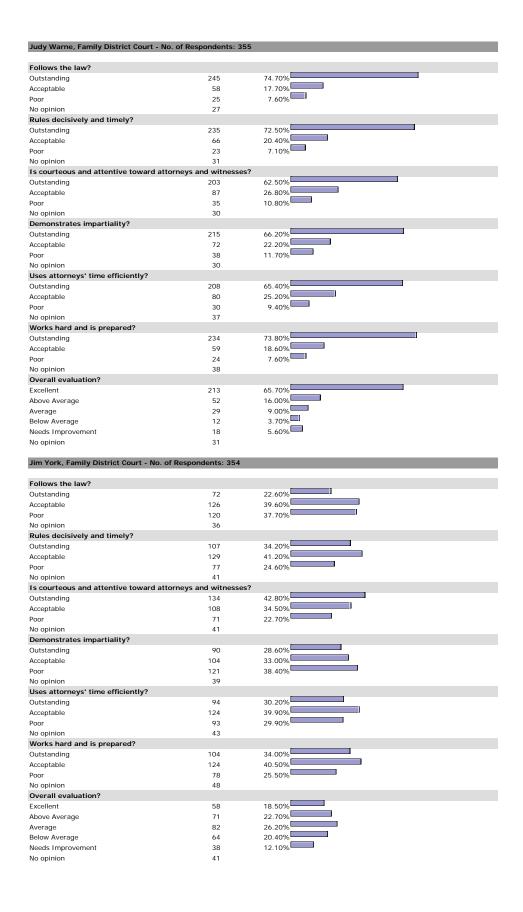


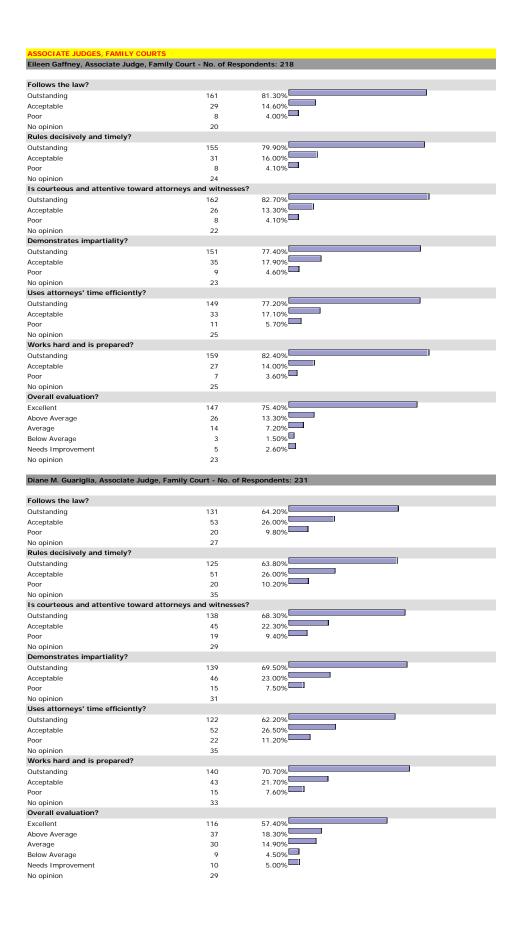


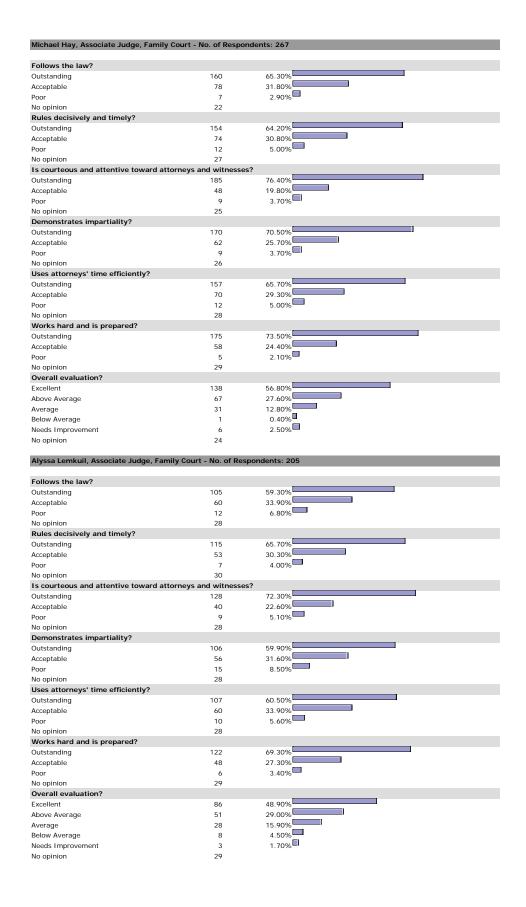


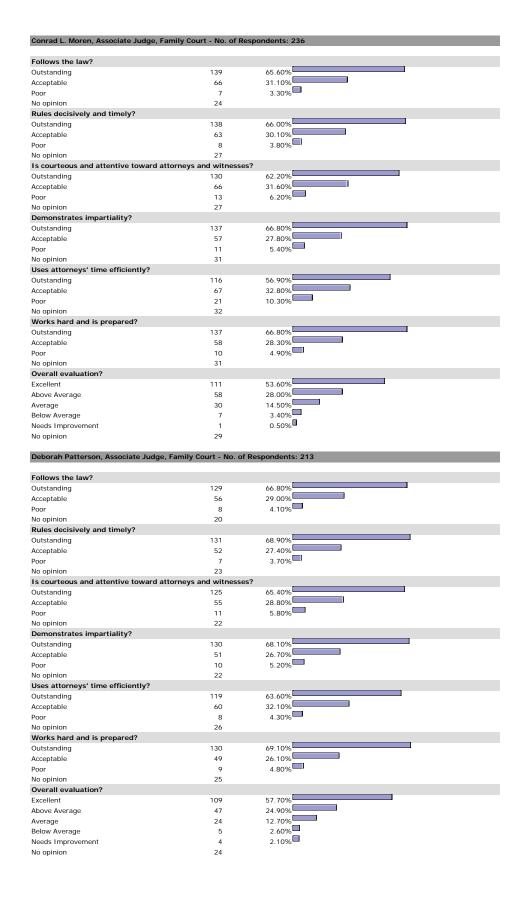


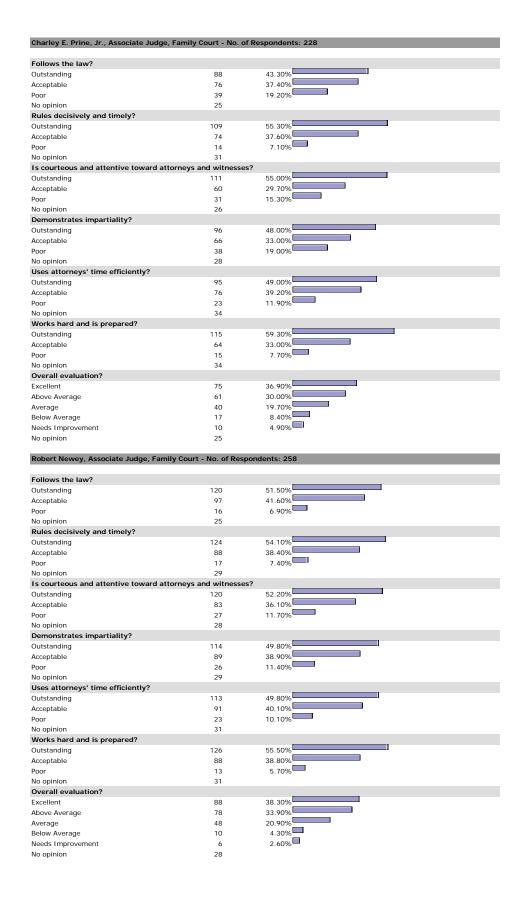


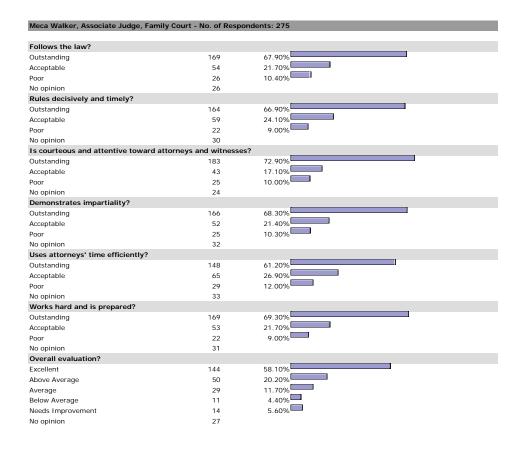


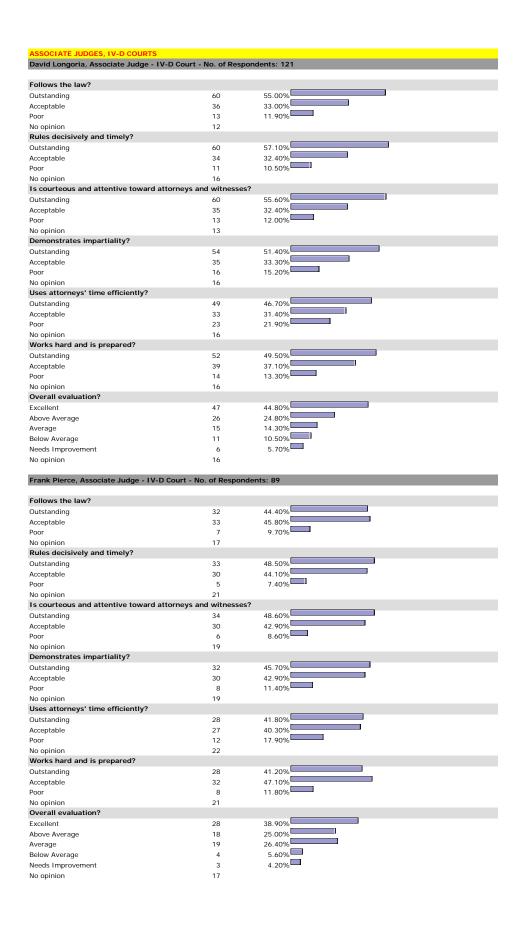


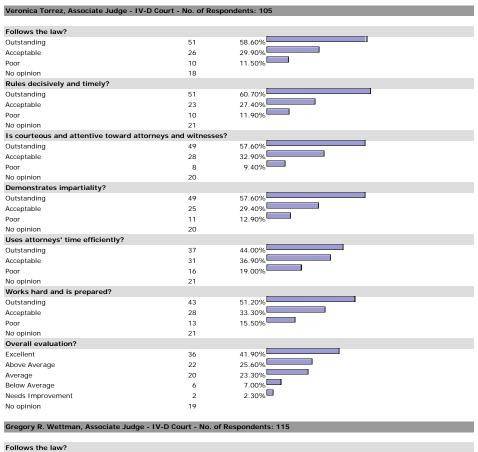


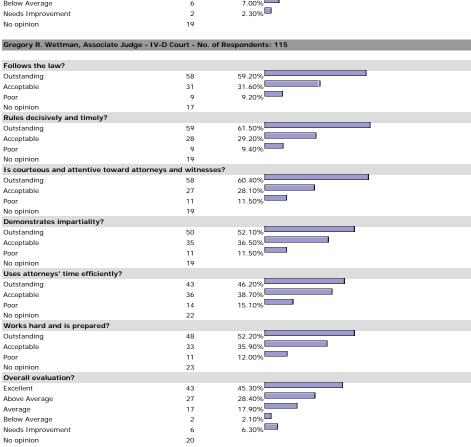


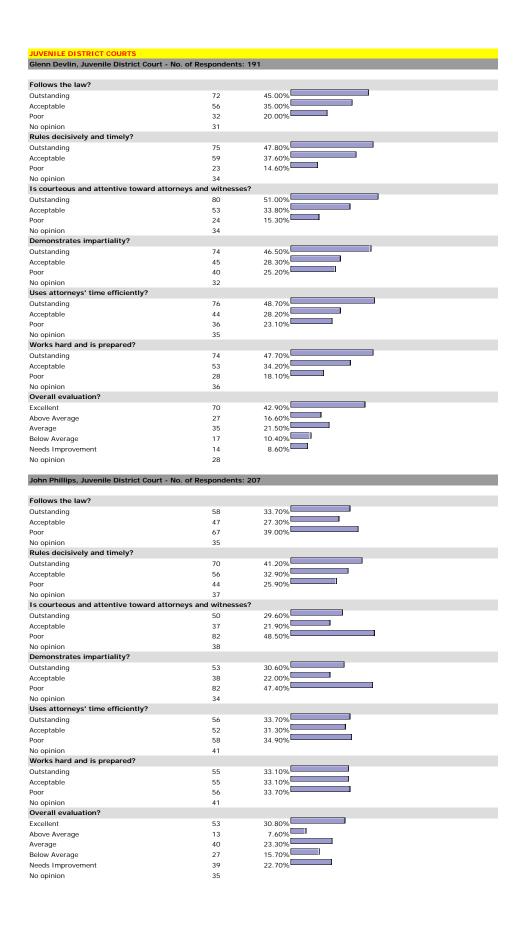


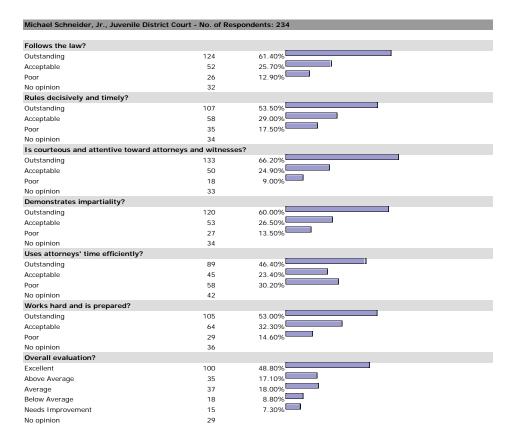


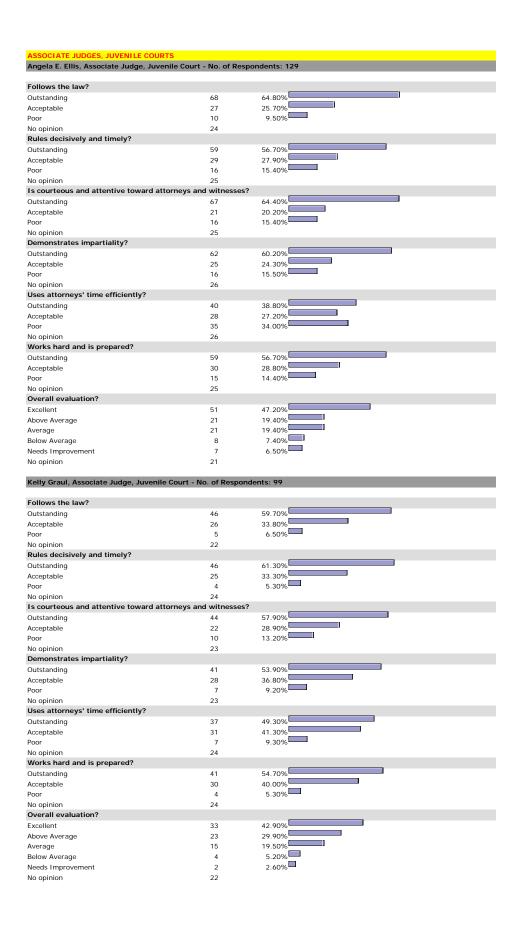


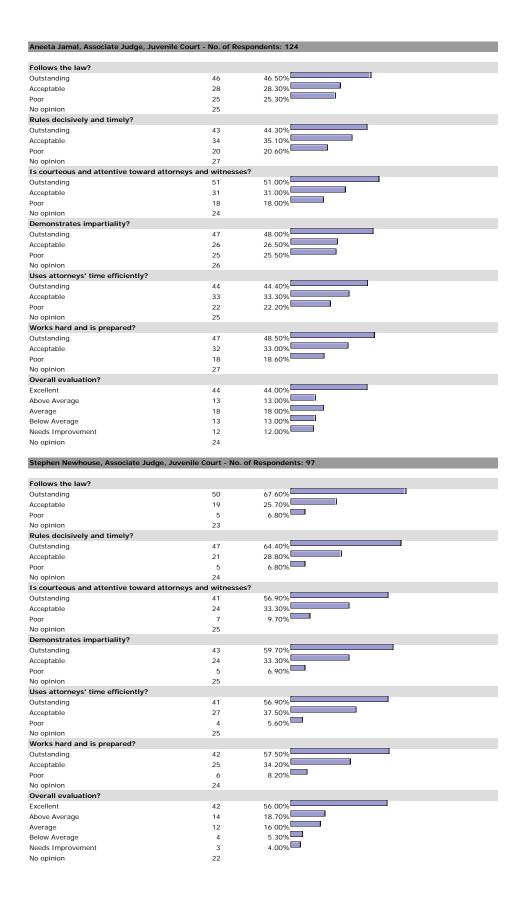


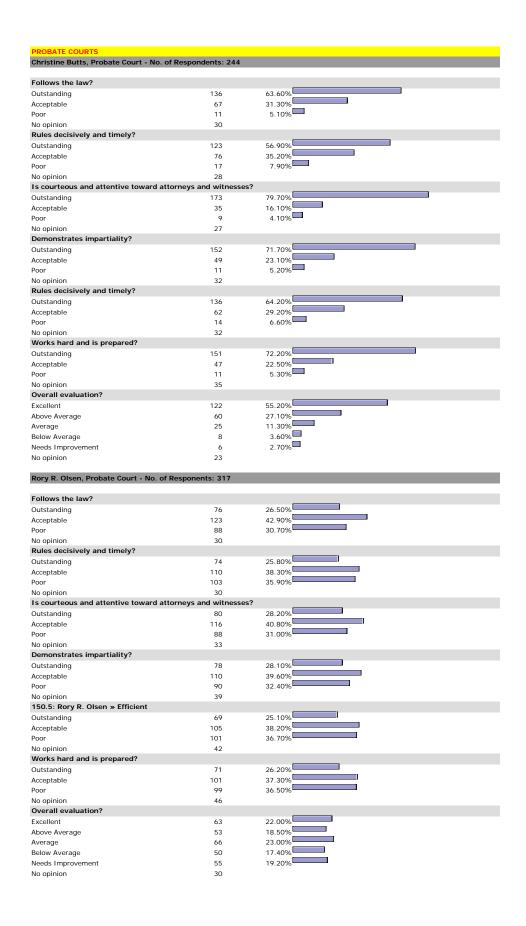


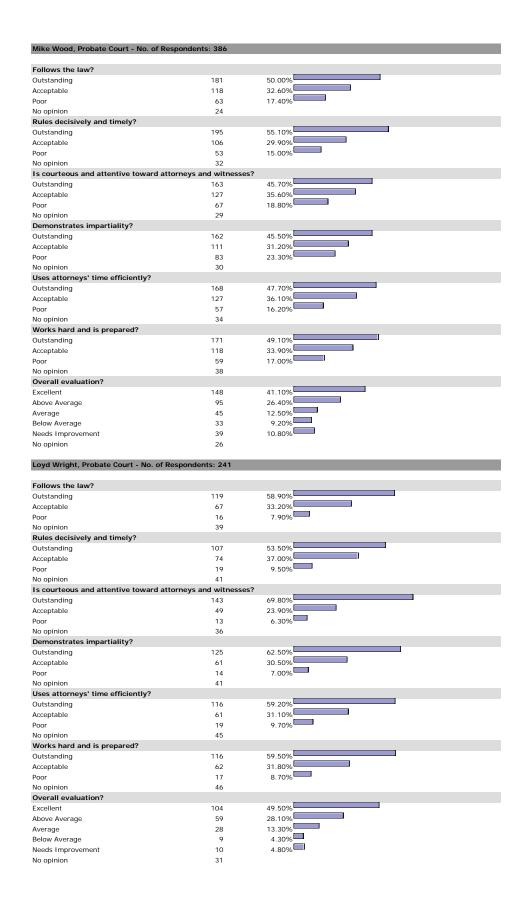


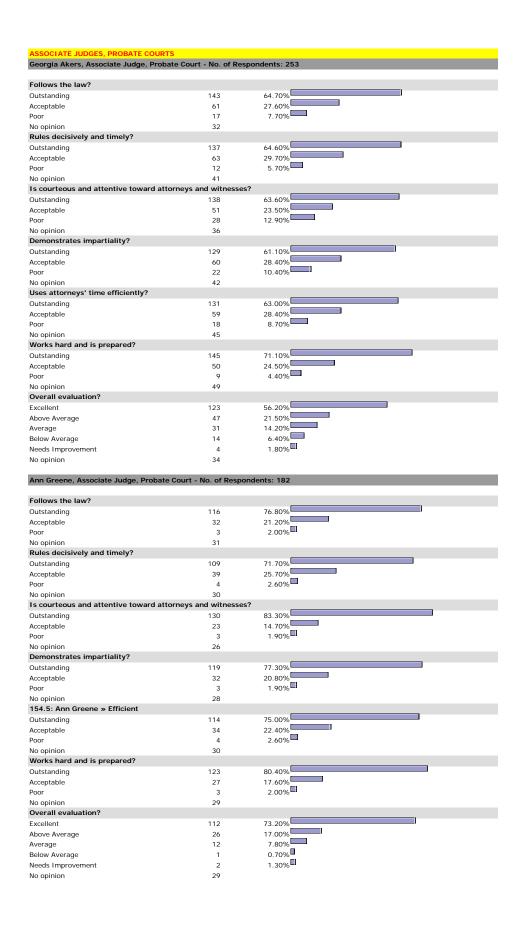


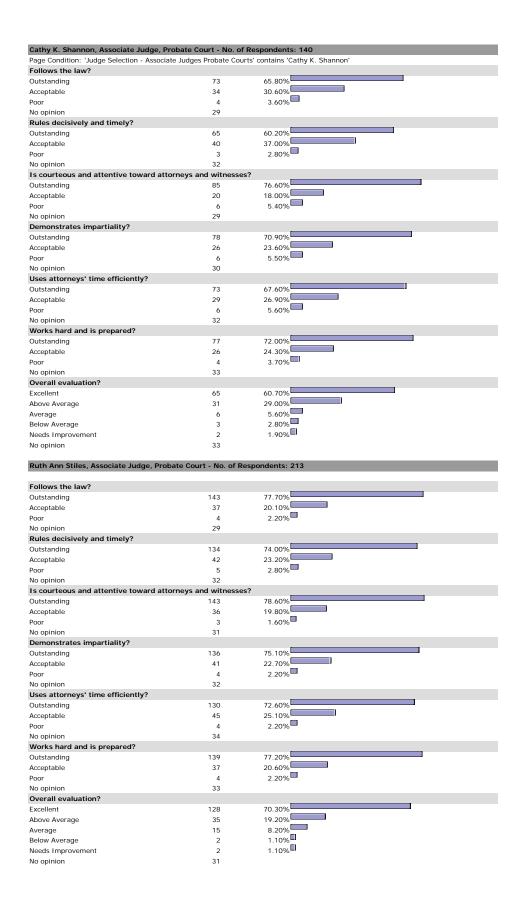


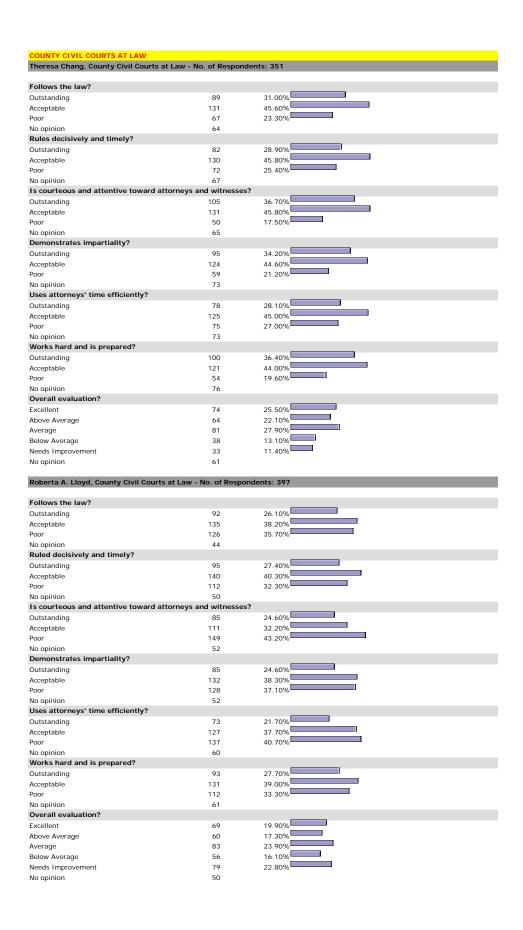


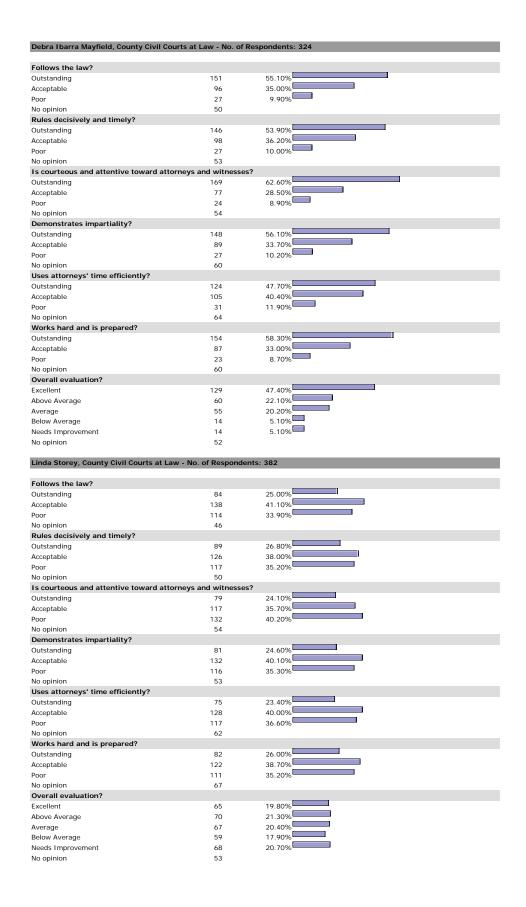


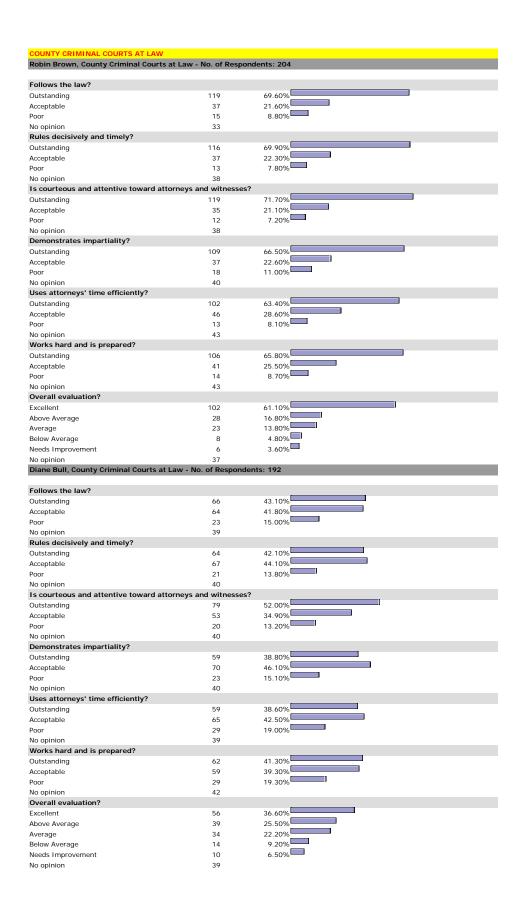


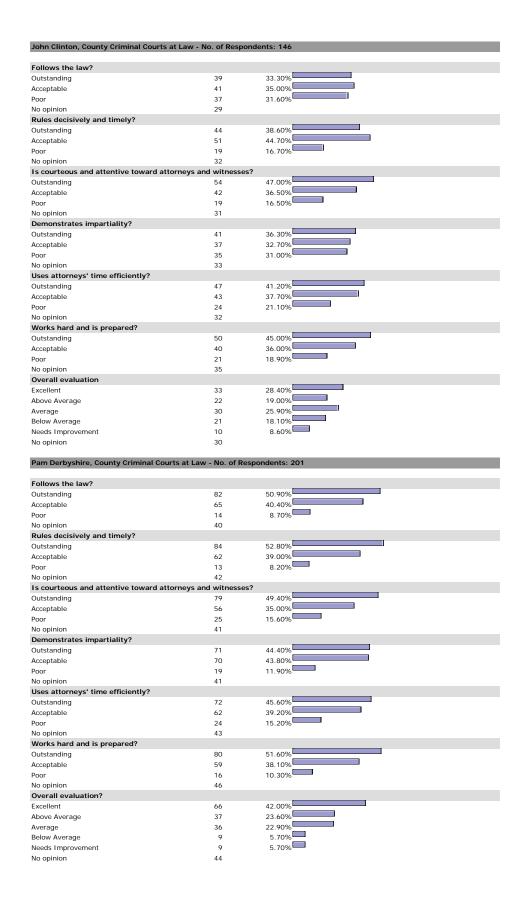


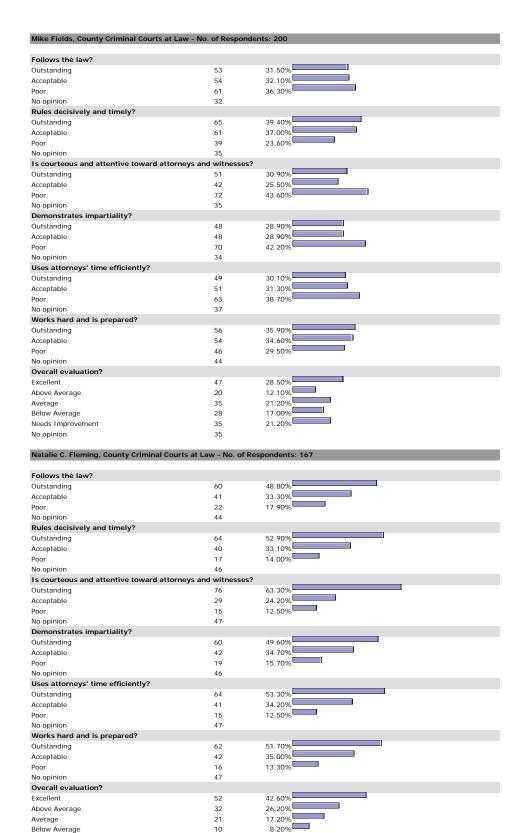












5.70%

7

45

Needs Improvement

No opinion

