

# Report of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness In The Judicial Process



June, 2004



**REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSION  
ON  
RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS  
IN THE  
JUDICIAL PROCESS**



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# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Anita M. Daniel, Market Insight

To: The Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland

In October of 2001, the *Retrospective Report, Select Committee on Gender Equality* was issued. At your request, the *Retrospective Report* included a chapter on “Perceptions and Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Fairness.” Among the recommendations was that a group be formed to further study and address the perceptions of racial and ethnic fairness found to exist in the Maryland court system. The *Retrospective Report* suggested that a new committee be formed that should “. . . consider surveying litigants to determine their experiences and the perceptions of the public at large regarding racial and/or ethnic bias in the courts.” It was also recommended that “a questionnaire be designed to elicit the details supporting future respondents’ beliefs that given incidents were based upon racial or ethnic bias.”

In 2002, you formulated the concept of creating a Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process to address the concerns first raised in the *Retrospective Report*. While the Select Committee on Gender Equality primarily focused on feedback from judges, lawyers, and court employees, this new “Fairness Commission” was to focus on contacts with actual litigants, witnesses, and jurors. You later explained your broader statement of purpose to the Fairness Commission:

The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process has been asked to undertake a critical examination of court-related equality issues in court users’ clients, and other parts of the African American, Hispanic and Asian communities, and to propose solutions to the identified problems that are within the power of the judiciary to implement . . . . It is imperative that our legal system operate without bias of any kind, and be perceived as dispensing justice fairly and equitably.

The Fairness Commission was duly formed and began meeting in 2002. Consistent with your directions that we were to be concerned with solutions “that are within the power of the judiciary to implement,” we determined that our efforts would primarily concentrate on examining the judicial process from “a front door to the back door of the courthouse” perspective. In other words, we were to focus on the courts’ interactions with the interested parties throughout the litigation experience.

Through the State’s competitive bidding process, the Fairness Commission procured the services of Market Insight, and its representative Ms. Anita Daniel, to assist the Commission in developing methodology for the study. After Market Insight was selected, Ms. Daniel attended most of our meetings and hearings. With her assistance, the Fairness Commission developed the questionnaire and public hearing format. A copy of the questionnaire is attached in an appendix to the report.

During our term, the Fairness Commission was subjected to increasingly severe budgetary limitations. For example, we struggled to hold meaningful public hearings without an advertising budget. In that regard, the members of the Fairness Commission, and the court’s public relations office, made herculean efforts to inform the public of hearings to be held in the various regions of the State. Nonetheless, public attendance at the hearings ranged from fair in

Salisbury, to nonexistent or sparse in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, Baltimore City, and suburban Washington. Delegated members of the Fairness Commission attended each hearing. The comments made during the hearings are encompassed within the data obtained. Summaries of the testimony given at the public hearings are included in the appendix. Given the limited resources and resulting low attendance by the public at the hearings, most of the findings and recommendations contained in our report are based upon the responses to the questionnaires.

The support of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Judiciary generally, helped make our report possible. We are confident that, with continuing support, the objectives you set out will be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale R. Cathell, Chair



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## Preface

This study was directed primarily at actual participants in or users of court systems' services in Maryland. The Fairness Commission realizes that when users initiate actions in the court system, and their opponents defend against such actions, there may often be preconceived convictions on the part of the users that their cause, claim, position, or defense is just and unassailable. The adversarial and sometimes contentious nature of the judicial process invariably leads to classes of litigants commonly referred to as "winners" and "losers." The very nature of the courts' efforts to resolve conflicts may be prone to generate, particularly in non-prevailing parties, feelings of resentment and unfairness. In some instances, litigants may be preconditioned to view merit-based decisions as being unreasonably influenced by racial and ethnic issues. On these occasions, the situation is compounded when the opposing party or the fact finder is of a different ethnic, racial, or economic background. While there may exist legitimate, factually based occurrences of racial and ethnic bias, it is beyond the resources of the Fairness Commission to consider the substantive merits of each such claim. To do so would require a host of credibility and factual determinations in countless cases across the State.

A perception of racial or ethnic bias may be a function of, and conditioned by, the party's particular social, family, cultural, and economic background and experiences. Perceptions so generated tend to be private and difficult to distinguish from actual bias or prejudice.

In the final analysis, the Commission accepted the overall premise that perceptions of court system bias by users, however generated, were an important element of a study. We have found that, whether fact or fiction, the perception of bias across significant segments of the public is very real and in need of being addressed by the court system. Accordingly, with this report, we include recommendations to the Chief Judge that we hope will improve the perceptions and experiences of court users as to the level of justice extant in the Maryland court system.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Courts in General**

The following statements about the courts in general engendered positive responses: “I did not experience problems in the courts due to (my) economic status,” “The court process was fair,” “I would utilize the Maryland court system,” and “I expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland courts.” These positive responses were from 55% to 78% of all respondents addressing the statement, whether minorities or whites

Whites, more so than minorities (generally African Americans), believe that the court processes are fair. Generally, the more affluent the respondent, the more the respondents believe the process to be fair.

Whites and the more affluent are more likely to expect fair future treatment in the courts than are minorities and the less affluent.

Generally, unequal or unfair treatment by judges, masters, and court personnel is not often observed, although it is more likely to be perceived by minorities and the less affluent.

To the overall statement “Maryland’s courts act impartially toward both sides without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status,” approximately 40% agreed. But, only 19% of minorities and only 25.7% of those reporting a low income status agreed, while 59% of whites and 64.4% of those reporting a high income status agreed.

Minorities and the less affluent report significantly more difficulty in retaining adequate legal representation.

Accordingly, while a majority of citizens believe that the judicial processes in this State are fair and unbiased, significant numbers, generally divided by race, ethnicity, and economic status, question the degree of fairness received.

### **Family, Juvenile, and Other Civil Courts**

The data received suggest that in the family and juvenile courts, minorities are more likely to be court users than are whites. While overall figures indicate that a majority of all family and juvenile court users perceived processes in which they were involved to be unbiased with respect to ethnicity, race, or economic status, when the responses are broken down based upon race, ethnicity, and economic status, there are statistically significant differences as to levels of perceptions of the degree of fairness received. Generally, as to outcomes, treatment received from judicial officers, respect received from court personnel, and overall fairness being affected by the race or ethnicity of the parties, of the attorneys, or of the judicial officers, significantly more minority respondents believed that these processes were unfair than did white respondents. The perceptions of unfairness based upon racial and ethnic factors were higher among those with lower incomes. As income levels rose, the perceptions of unfairness decreased.

Over 40% of minorities believed that whites receive better treatment in juvenile courts than minorities, while only 6.1% of whites believed that to be so. Three times as many minorities than whites believed that minorities cannot receive a fair trial in our family courts (20.6% to 6%). Respondents with lower income were more than twice as likely to feel that minorities cannot receive fair trials than respondents with middle-class income levels.

Because of the heavy involvement of social services entities in the family and juvenile law area, the survey included questions relating to the services provided by those entities. Three times as many minorities as whites reported that Maryland social services entities do not understand the special problems of minorities. Half of those with lower incomes concurred, while only a fifth of those with annual incomes above \$18,000 agreed.

### **Criminal Courts**

Almost half of all responses arose out of criminal court proceedings. The persons responding to this part of the questionnaire were almost evenly divided between minorities and whites; however, almost twice as many minorities identified themselves as defendants than did white respondents. Persons in lower income levels reported that they were defendants in much larger percentages than did persons in higher income levels. Witnesses identified themselves as whites in significantly larger percentages than did minorities. However, persons in the lowest income levels were twice as likely to be witnesses than those respondents who reported themselves as being in the highest income levels. Overall, it appears that persons in lower income levels are significantly more involved in criminal proceedings as defendants and probably also as victims.

Significantly greater numbers of minority respondents reported unfairness in the trial courts than did white respondents, although, overall, more respondents believed the process they had experienced was fair than believed it was unfair. There were significant numbers of no responses to some of the questions. Generally, the lower the income status of a respondent, the more negative the perception of the judicial process and the higher the income status of a respondent, the more positive the perception of fairness.

Most respondents reported that they did not feel that the race or ethnicity of a victim affected the trial outcomes; however, again, minorities and those reporting low income levels were significantly more likely to believe that the race of a victim affected the outcome. However, interestingly, minorities and whites alike, and respondents of all income levels, generally believed that the economic status of the victim had little bearing on the outcome of criminal cases.

### **Police Departments, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders**

More than a fourth of all respondents reported that they perceived that their treatment by police departments had been unfair. Approximately 40% of minorities reported unfair treatment, while only 15% of whites reported unfair treatment by police entities. While more than a third of the respondents did not answer the particular question, of those that did respond to the inquiry as to whether they considered the police departments to be a part of the court

system, 46% of minorities and 33% of whites believed them to be part of the court system. Accordingly, it is important to note that significant numbers of our citizens of every race and economic status consider police departments to be a part of the court system.

Almost a fifth of the persons responding to the relevant questions believed that they had been treated unfairly by prosecutors. Almost 30% of minorities and almost 10% of whites reported that they had received unfair treatment. Across racial, ethnic, and economic lines, respondents, by significant percentages (64.2% overall), reported that they considered prosecutors to be a part of the court system.

Minorities and whites, as well as persons of different economic statuses, perceive different levels of treatment and effectiveness involving the services of publicly provided attorneys. Generally, those that need them the most rate their services the lowest, while those that are least likely to need their services rate them the highest. As with the prosecutor's offices, a significant majority (over 61%) of all respondents consider the offices of the public defender to be a part of the court system. In this category are over 67% of minorities and almost 57% of whites who responded to the question.

It is important to note, that the general public tends to consider entities outside of the direct control of the courts to be a part of the court system. Perceptions of fairness in the courts are thus, in part, a result of entities over which the courts have little or no control, except in the limited context of a specific case.

## **Legal Representation**

Four out of 10 people who responded to the specific inquiry reported that they could not afford to hire an attorney. As could be expected, the answers tracked, generally, the economic status of the particular respondents. Minorities and whites reported self-representation in essentially the same percentages (20.4% - 20.5%). Persons at the lowest and highest ends of the income spectrum reported that they had represented themselves in almost the same percentages. We have not speculated in the report why this is so. However, as could be expected, of those who were represented by private counsel, a much larger percentage was reported for respondents in the higher income levels.

Over 40% of the respondents reported that they did not believe that a fair hearing could be had in the courts unless an attorney represented them. However, almost two-thirds of the reporting minorities shared this view, while only a third of the whites agreed. Four out of 10 persons believed that public attorneys were not as effective as privately retained attorneys. Again, the answers tracked the minority/non-minority and economic statuses of the parties.

Only a small percentage of the respondents reported that they believed the race or ethnic status of the attorneys affected the fairness of the treatment they received. However, minorities were nine times more likely than whites to believe otherwise. Persons of lower income levels also were significantly more likely to believe that the race of the attorneys played a role in the treatment received in the courts than were those who reported higher income levels.

## **Judges, Masters**

There was a significant level of agreement across all racial, ethnic, and economic statuses of respondents that the race or ethnicity of judges and masters did not result in disparate treatment. While there were significant differences between the minority and white responses to some questions, overall, there was a relatively small degree of adverse perception of the impartiality of judges and masters. There was a greater difference in the fairness perceptions of judges and masters based upon the economic status of respondents, but still, overall, persons of all economic statuses generally reported that the racial or ethnic status of judges and masters did not affect treatment received. While a majority of all respondents believed that the judges and masters involved in their cases were courteous and respectful, whites and the more affluent were significantly stronger in their responses.

## **Special Language and Cultural Issues**

Special language and cultural issues are addressed in a separate section of the report. The reader is directed to that section and to the recommendations in the report that more fully reflect the issues found to exist.

## **Conclusions**

Whether the cup of fairness is half empty or half full depends upon the perceptions of fairness the courts are willing to accept.

Those willing to view the cup as half full might well accept the finding that, overall, a majority of all respondents, consider courts, judges, and court processes to be fair. Many, however, would consider the cup of fairness to be half empty instead, given the significant percentage of respondents who consider the courts, judges, and processes to be generally unfair.

When the responses are considered in light of racial and ethnic experiences and perceptions, and when the experiences of persons in different economic circumstances are considered, it is obvious to the Commission that there are substantially different perceptions of the courts based upon the racial/ethnic and economic differences of respondents.

The continued vitality of a strong, healthy, and vibrant court system depends in large part upon how the courts are perceived. The Commission believes that the courts must zealously pursue the goal of fairness for all. With respect to perceptions, the Commission believes that the courts should consider the fairness cup to be half empty, and although meeting the goal of having the cup completely full may be unattainable, efforts to reach that goal should never cease. In that way, fairness will always be the goal, and progress toward that goal will be seen as a continuing, perpetual effort to afford equal justice—which is the primary function of the courts in the first instance.

Achieving racial, ethnic, and economic fairness is one of the inherent missions of the court system and the implicit impetus for the existence of this Commission. The ability to measure with accuracy specific instances of racial and ethnic bias is an elusive, if not

impossible, task. We are, however, able to credibly quantify the perceptions of racial, ethnic, and economic unfairness in the system.

Sadly, perceptions of racial, ethnic, and economic bias may never be eliminated. However, if we are ever able to identify responses suggesting that measurable differences hold no statistical significance, then we can consider the perceptions lacking a factual foundation. Until that day, we can report only the results as found and make recommendations for moving forward. Accordingly we note the following:

- The majority of all responders tended to view the court system as being fair.
- The majority of all responders tended to view court personnel, judges, and attorneys as being respectful of minority litigants and witnesses. Likewise, the majority of responders tended to agree that participants in the system receive the same treatment regardless of race or ethnicity and that courts act impartially and without bias. Minorities, however, and the less economically advantaged tended to report negatively throughout the survey. Interestingly, at least 15% of whites responding also believe that they are treated differently by the courts, compared with persons who are not white or compared with those who have a different economic status.
- Among the more perplexing findings throughout the survey are the consistent responses among minority responders and responders with incomes of less than \$18,000 per year. They report throughout the survey that they perceived that whites and the more affluent received better treatment in the court system. They also felt that court personnel do not understand the problems that minorities and the poor have in the Maryland courts.



# SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND OVERVIEW<sup>1</sup>

## Methodology

### *Research Method*

The Fairness Commission invited H. Clifton Grandy, Esq., senior court manager, District of Columbia Courts, and Dr. Yolanda P. Marlow, administrative assistant, Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts, to its first meeting to discuss the experiences of the District of Columbia and New Jersey courts. They also gave presentations on establishing a research agenda. The results of these meetings provided the Commission with direction for our research method.

#### *1. Development of the questionnaire.*

Collection of the data for this study involved three phases. First, a questionnaire was designed and approved by the Commission and its consultant, Anita M. Daniel<sup>2</sup> of Market Insight. The objective of the questionnaire was to identify the experiences of actual court users—primarily litigants—as they relate to racial, ethnic, and economic fairness. It was also hoped that the questionnaire would be helpful in determining what, if any, corrective actions would be necessary. It was decided that the questionnaire would include questions based upon the economic status of litigants in order to examine whether perceptions of fairness have multiple root causes, as opposed to singular racial or ethnic bases.

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<sup>1</sup> There are in the appendices various tables created from the survey responses. We developed first a general table. Then, using the same survey responses created other more specific tables limited to sub-areas of our work. Therefore, in addition to the general table, there is a table relating to general civil matters, one to criminal court matters and one to Juvenile and Domestic Relations matters. When comparisons are attempted between figures contained in the text of the report and the tables contained in the appendices, care must be taken to insure that the reader is using the correct set of tables.

<sup>2</sup>Ms. Daniel is president of Market Insight. She holds an MBA with a concentration in marketing. She also received a bachelor's degree in sociology. She has 25 years of experience in research, planning and strategy development, direct marketing, business/member development, and project management, and has been a participant in numerous workshops and lectures. Ms. Daniel has served on the Board of Governors of the Baltimore Economic Society and on the Board of the Executive Women's Network, as well as a member of several other organizations relevant to the work of the Commission.

Market Insight has conducted numerous research projects on behalf of organizations and nonprofit entities. Its past projects include the research methodology, in collaboration with the Maryland Judiciary, for the chapter on "Perceptions and Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Fairness" of the *Retrospective Report*, as well as a project for the Maryland State Bar Association, and research for the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and other similar projects.

On January 5, 2003, Ms. Daniel pre-tested the questionnaire in the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Thereafter, on March 18, 2003, the Commission mailed 9,757 questionnaires to litigants that had cases in the District Court and circuit courts in Maryland for fiscal years 2001 and 2002. That same week, the Court Information Office of the Judiciary issued press releases in an effort to create public awareness about the study and to encourage responsiveness.<sup>3</sup> The Judicial Information Systems Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts identified an initial file base of approximately one million cases for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 from its computerized database for the consultant to use to establish a random mailing list. These files originated from all of the Maryland jurisdictions. The Commission's consultant extracted from that database the names and addresses of those persons involved in the cases. Out-of-state addresses were deleted from the data to be used in the questionnaire process. The lists of names and addresses were then sorted by county and an nth select<sup>4</sup> was made, ensuring statewide representation. Through this process a random, but geographically and jurisdictionally proportionate, mailing list was developed. An announcement card was mailed to those persons who would be receiving the questionnaire prior to its mailing. The questionnaire was then mailed in a 9 x 12 envelope with a letter signed by Chief Judge Bell explaining the reasons for the study and requesting that the recipients complete the questionnaire and return it to the Commission's consultant. An addressed, postage-paid envelope was provided for that purpose. Respondents were given four weeks to complete the questionnaire and a reminder postcard was mailed to each recipient.

The questionnaire contained 136 questions and took approximately 20 to 25 minutes to complete. Responses received through the end of April 2003 were included in the study.

## *II. Public hearings.*

Shortly after the mailing of the questionnaire, the second phase of data collection began. The Commission held five public hearings at various locations across the State during the week of February 24–28, 2003, to allow citizens the opportunity to speak directly to Commission members. Citizens were allowed to give testimony in public or confidentially. A brochure was designed by Dr. William Howard, a judiciary staff member assigned to the Commission. Commission members and other groups assisted in distributing the brochure to a wide audience. The brochure set forth the names of Commission members, the mission statement for the Commission, and the locations and dates of the public hearings. This brochure also contained information concerning the submission of written statements to the Commission. The court information office issued press releases about the public hearings. In addition,

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<sup>3</sup>The Commission was hampered by not having monies available for advertising. However, the Court Information Office of the Administrative Office of the Courts provided notices of the Commission's work and of the scheduled public hearings to over 100 media outlets throughout Maryland.

<sup>4</sup>The nth select was arrived at by deleting all out-of-state addresses from the list, then selecting every 50<sup>th</sup> name after the list was ordered geographically, and then cleaning the list so that duplicates and bad addresses were deleted. The purpose of the nth select is to ensure that the survey population is representative of the study population—in this case, the litigation related population.

Commission members sent notices of the hearings in Spanish and Korean to special interest groups, and many of such groups were directly contacted by Commission members. Spanish interpreters were present at most hearings. A Korean interpreter was present at the meeting held in Southern Maryland. Additionally, some of the Commission members are fluent in Spanish and Korean and were available to provide translation assistance.

Public hearings were scheduled at 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

**Eastern Shore**—Monday, February 24, 2003, Pemberton Elementary School, Salisbury, Md.

**Southern Maryland**—Tuesday, February, 25, 2003, JAYCEES Community Center, Waldorf, Md.

**Baltimore City**—Wednesday, February 26, 2003, Baltimore City College High School, Baltimore, Md.

**Western Maryland**—Thursday, February 27, 2003, South Hagerstown High School, Hagerstown, Md.

**Suburban Washington**—Friday, February 28, 2003, University of Maryland, University College—Marriott Conference Center, College Park, Md.

Unfortunately, it snowed heavily at some locations during the week, and the public hearing scheduled for Western Maryland had to be rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2003. Public attendance at the public hearings ranged from fair on the Eastern Shore, to nonexistent or sparse in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, Baltimore City, and the Suburban Washington area.

Due to the limited attendance at the hearings, 1,500 additional questionnaires were mailed to administrative judges in the District Court and circuit courts with requests to have them completed by persons participating in recent litigation and returned to the consultant. The questionnaires were apportioned on a caseload basis determined by the percentage of a particular jurisdiction's caseload compared to that of the State's total caseload.

### *III. Written testimony.*

The third method of data collection was to accept written testimony from anyone who alleged that he or she had experienced racial or ethnic bias in the court systems of Maryland. Written testimony was acknowledged and accepted by the Commission if postmarked by April 30, 2003. Written statements from inmates in correctional institutions were considered, but only to the extent said statements were relevant to the functions of the Commission.

### *Methods of Analysis*

A topic of much discussion within the Commission was the reliability of the information received and the extent to which the use of qualitative (oral and written testimony)

and quantitative (questionnaires) data would support recommendations to be generated by the Commission. The Commission sought a balance between qualitative and quantitative data in the belief that cumulative information from a variety of sources would create the most complete and accurate reflection of the issues of racial and ethnic fairness in the Maryland court system. The Commission systematically reviewed all supporting documentation to confirm that each recommendation was based upon information before the Commission and could be supported.

All data entry was carefully performed and independently checked by a second party for accuracy. In addition, all calculations and representations in the tables were verified for accuracy.

A total of 491 responses was received, representing a 4.4% response rate. This exceeds the minimum sample size requirement for the population being surveyed (9,757). The response rate actually exceeded the minimum sample requirement for a survey of 20,000 people (minimum sample size is 377), resulting in a confidence level of 95% with + or - 5% margin of error.<sup>5</sup>

The consultant used several statistical techniques in analyzing the quantitative data. The purpose of these techniques is to describe the data in a manner that allows meaningful inferences and conclusions to be drawn about the population of cases from which the representative sample in this report was drawn. The data for this report are presented in tables of percentages that allow comparisons between racial and ethnic groups and between groups of differing economic levels.<sup>6</sup> In order to determine whether the percentages in these tables may be generalized to the population of cases heard in the District Court and circuit courts for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, a statistical test called chi-square ( $X^2$ ) is used.<sup>7</sup> Statistical significance is additionally indicated by the  $p$  value. The  $p$  value measures the probability that the observed difference or association occurred by chance. A  $p$  value of less than 0.05 indicates that the association/observation is statistically significant.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Fowler, Floyd Jr. *Survey Research Methods, Vol. 1*. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage, 1993.

<sup>6</sup>The economic questions in the survey were framed in terms of income levels, as matters of income were believed to be more readily understood by the litigation-related population. When the report refers to economic levels, it is addressing the economic level indicated solely by incomes. The Commission understands that income and economic levels may be different but believes that income levels were the best way, under the circumstances, to relate economic status to the perceptions of the litigation related population. When income levels are used, they are per-year income levels.

<sup>7</sup>Chi-square is a test of the association between two variables. The larger the value, the more the numbers in the table differ from those we would expect if there were no association. *Source*: Norman, Geoffrey R., and Streiner, David L. *PDQ Statistics*. St. Louis, Mo.: Mosby-Year Book, 1997.

<sup>8</sup>In other words, at .05 there is only a 5% chance that these results would be different if the entire population that was involved in the court system during the relevant period had received and responded to the survey. Where the  $p$  is more than .05, the responses are considered indicative but not determinative. Where that is the case (i.e., the results are indicative but not determinative), those responses are generally footnoted or asterisked.

One major concern to Commission members was the low number of respondents that identified themselves as Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.6%) and Hispanic/Latino (1.6%). The race/ethnicity of other respondents was 47.7% white persons, 37.9% African American persons, and 11.2% persons who identified themselves as “other” or did not respond to this question. According to the 2000 census, Maryland’s population consists of 64.0% white persons, 27.9% African American persons, 4.3% Hispanic or Latino origin persons, and 4.0% Asian persons.<sup>9</sup>

Another major concern was the high number of African American respondents. The overall responses from minorities in the questionnaire are skewed toward African Americans since approximately 89% of the minority respondents were African American. The high number of African American respondents could be due to the disproportionate number of African Americans involved as participants in criminal cases<sup>10</sup>, as has been pointed out in some of the literature studies. Actual statistics as to the proportion of minorities or whites, or those of different economic statuses, are not presently kept by the court system. Furthermore, county population demographics are not necessarily representative of those who appear in court.

Commission members feel that the low response of Asian and Hispanic respondents was due, in part, to the Commission’s inability to address these ethnic groups in their own languages. We address this matter elsewhere in the report.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Year 2000 census data show that Hispanic residents in Prince George’s County nearly doubled in the past decade and that Montgomery County has the greatest concentration of minorities. In Montgomery County, two-fifths of the population is African American, Asian American, or Latino. Montgomery County has 47% of the State’s Asian population.

<sup>10</sup>See *And Justice for All*, American Bar Association–Coalition For Justice, p. 11: “Incarceration and mandatory sentences for drug offenses have contributed to a national prison population that is, by now, more than 50 percent black men, even though blacks comprise only 12 percent of the nation’s population.” See also the *Delaware Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness Executive Summary*. See also the *New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force on Minority Concerns Final Report*, p. 22: “The Task Force found that minorities are disproportionately represented as defendants in criminal and delinquency matters and as recipients of sentences to incarceration.” See also *The Nebraska Minority and Justice Task Force Final Report*, pp. 36–37. See also *And Justice for Some*, Poe-Yamagata and Jones, pp. 1–2: “In 1998, the majority of arrests of juveniles involved white youth. In 1998, African American youth were overrepresented as a proportion of arrests in 26 of 29 offense categories documented by the FBI... In every offense category...a substantially greater percentage of African American youth were detained than White youth.”

<sup>11</sup>The number of responses to some questions was relatively small and should be viewed with caution. Those findings should be viewed as indicative not determinative.

## *Literature Search*<sup>12</sup>

Efforts to identify research literature on racial and ethnic fairness in the courts centered on publications by members of the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and database searches of the National Center for State Courts. The membership of the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts consists of representatives from the 28 states and the District of Columbia that have commissions or task forces. The National Center is the premier provider of quality services meeting the current and future needs of the courts here and abroad.

Most of the literature suggests that there are both direct and indirect effects of racial and ethnic bias in the courts. Previous surveys conducted by members of the National Consortium of Task Forces, Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, and various other entities studying the issue of racial, ethnic, and economic fairness in other court systems, also highlight significant differences among White, African American, and Latino perceptions and the perceptions of persons of different economic levels. Generally, African Americans and those at lower economic levels are the most critical and least satisfied with the levels of fairness and equality displayed by the courts. Latinos are as positive as or more positive than Whites on some matters but also share concerns with African Americans that juries are not representative and that courts are out of touch with the community and are discriminatory in their treatment of minorities.<sup>13</sup> The National Center survey found that African Americans with recent court experience report significantly less fairness than do whites and Latinos. In turn, Latino litigants generally perceive less fairness than do whites. There is also a strong perception that people with low income receive worse treatment than other groups. These conclusions seem consistent with the present study which focuses on the Maryland experience

## **Overview**

In this study, the Commission focused on what occurred, or was perceived to have occurred, from the vantage point of litigants, witnesses, and jurors during their experience with the judicial process.<sup>14</sup> The Commission's primary concern was directed to, "What happened to you while you were involved with the courts?" While the questionnaire contained inquiries in reference to other entities—police, social services entities, and the like—the purpose of including such questions was to allow the Commission to consider if, and to what extent, the

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<sup>12</sup>A list of "Works Available for Reference" is included in the appendix to the report. The literature was available to members of the Commission and was reviewed in whole or in part by one or more members of the Commission.

<sup>13</sup>Rottman, David B., and Hansen, Randall M. How Recent Court Users View the State Courts: Perceptions of African Americans, Latinos, and Whites ("the National Center survey," 2000).

<sup>14</sup>The responses to the 1,500 questionnaires sent directly to the various circuit courts and District Court may have included some responses from attorneys with respect to current or recent litigation. The responses to those questionnaires are part of the statistical tabulations. The general questionnaire mailing of 9,757 was primarily to litigants in cases that had concluded in the relevant fiscal years. The vast majority of responses were not from attorneys. Consistent with Chief Judge Bell's charge, the Commission attempted to concentrate on the experiences of current or recent litigants.

litigants' perceptions about the court system were affected by contact with other entities over which the courts have limited control.

### ***Economic and Language Considerations***

The questionnaires contained numerous inquiries regarding the respondents' economic status and beliefs relating to the importance of economic status to the fair and unbiased provision of judicial services. It was hoped that the questionnaire would help identify areas where reporting of unfairness or bias might be based upon multiple factors, as opposed to a single racial, ethnic, or economic factor.

The Commission intended to publish and distribute questionnaires in several languages but was not able to do so for financial and other reasons.<sup>15</sup> It was felt that as information from the questionnaires and public hearings was analyzed, the work of the Commission could give fair comment to this issue in its recommendations regarding special language and other ethnic or cultural concerns. Some of the members of the Commission have personal knowledge of the fairness problems that are created by language issues. Moreover, certain of these problems are self-evident, although perhaps not easily rectified. The Commission ultimately concluded that the low response to the questionnaires from non-English speaking persons was itself a response to the practical problems potentially extant in the court system. The Commission addresses this issue more extensively in the section entitled "Special Language and Cultural Issues."

Each of the public hearings had notices posted in English, Spanish, and Korean. Potential speakers at the hearings were informed that their presentations, if in a foreign language, would be transcribed to English. At most of the hearings, Spanish interpreters and/or Commission members who spoke Spanish or Korean were present.<sup>16</sup>

Additionally, brochures were prepared and distributed to various civic groups and at the hearings informing the public that they could later submit written testimony. Written submissions were in fact received and circulated.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> To produce questionnaires that contain numerous languages would have created an overly bulky and expensive questionnaire likely to reduce the overall response rate. Questions could also be raised by any number of different language groups as to why the questionnaires were not in a potential respondent's respective language.

<sup>16</sup>At one hearing, the services of a Korean interpreter were available. The procurement of interpreters, and interpreter transcription services, was also impacted by budgetary limitations.

<sup>17</sup>Some of the written information received from inmates in correctional facilities did not directly relate to the work of the Commission but was in the nature of requests for post-conviction or *habeas corpus* relief. In those instances, the communications were returned to the inmates with the reasons for the return noted and a survey questionnaire was included. Any returned questionnaires were included in the survey.

### ***Distribution of Questionnaires***

Questionnaires were mailed to persons selected by a computer process who had actually participated in civil or criminal litigation in the previous two fiscal years. An additional 1,500 questionnaires were delivered to the trial courts, with requests to have persons then participating in litigation complete and return the questionnaires to the Commission. In both instances, the questionnaires were distributed in proportion to the caseloads carried by each jurisdiction compared to the State's total caseload in the relevant time frames.

Of the total number of questionnaires issued, the Commission received responses from 4.4%. The Commission's consultant verified that this return ratio was statistically significant for meaningful analyses for most issues.<sup>18</sup>

The questionnaire was designed to emphasize experiences as well as perceptions based upon actual experiences. The Commission acknowledges, as did the *Retrospective Report*, that one of the most important questions relating to analysis developed from questionnaires and studies is whether the response is representative of the population being studied. Our charge required us to focus most strongly on participants in recent and current litigation. As such, the population studied was much narrower than the general population of the State, and may well have been much different in character than the general population. It provides, however, the best available information to date regarding the litigation related population. The computer-driven apportionment of the mailings, the written testimony process, and the geographical range of the public hearings guaranteed an appropriate litigation sample with respect to geographical factors, as those factors are affected by litigation ratios.

### ***General Demographics of Questionnaire Respondents***<sup>19</sup>

Criminal cases represented 49.9% of all cases that generated questionnaire responses; domestic relations cases generated 11.8% of all responses; traffic cases generated 10.2%; 8.6% were identified as "other" and presumably represented general civil cases; juvenile cases generated 2.4%; and there were no responses to the nature of the case question in 1.4% of the questionnaire responses. Defendants/respondents (civil and criminal) represented 43.2% of the persons who answered the questionnaire. Plaintiffs/petitioners represented 21% of those answering. Jurors represented 11.2%. Victims represented 5.7%, and witnesses represented 3.5%. Interpreters represented 0.6%. Fewer than 12% (11.8%) identified themselves under the term "other." Corporate representatives numbered 2.6% of the respondents. Fifty-five and one-half percent of minorities and 34.6 % of whites identified themselves as defendant/respondent, and 14.7% of minorities and 24.4% of whites identified themselves as plaintiff/petitioner. Eight and one-half percent of minorities and 3% of whites stated that they

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<sup>18</sup>The collective responses to certain questions held no statistical significance. Efforts were made to discount these responses (by indicating responses were "indicative not determinative").

<sup>19</sup>Beginning with this section of the report, and continuing in many of the following sections, are some of the more significant observations from questionnaire responses.



were victims, and 2.4% of minorities and 3.8% of whites identified themselves as witnesses. Eight and one-half percent of minorities and 14.1% of whites stated they were jurors.

### I. Age of respondents to the questionnaire.

Responders under the age of 50 made up 66.3% of all persons who responded to the questionnaire. Of minorities responding to the questionnaire, 82.5% identified themselves as under the age of 50, while 64.1% of whites stated that they were under the age of 50. However, when the question is limited to those under 30 years of age, minorities responding are represented in more than twice the percentage as whites—26.1% to 12.8%. Of the persons who responded to the questionnaire, 36.7% of persons who were between the ages of 18 and 29 identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 3.4% of that age group stated that they earned \$100,000 or more.

### II. Gender of respondents to the questionnaire.

Males composed 47.7% of persons who responded to the question, “What is your gender?” and females made up 37.5% (a number of persons did not respond to this question). The gender ratio was fairly consistent throughout the racial/ethnic and economic classifications.

### III. Education and income levels of respondents to the questionnaire.

Generally, while most respondents were educated, there were substantial educational differences across racial/ethnic and economic groups. Of all respondents, 10.8% reported only “some high school.” Just over 17% (17.1%) of minorities identified themselves as being in that stratum, while a substantially lower percentage, 6.8% of whites, placed themselves in that category. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, a substantial percentage (30.3%) of those that responded placed themselves in the “some high school” status. Of those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, 7.5% identified themselves as having only some high school, while only 2.9% of those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999, and none of those earning over \$100,000, were in the “some high school” category. At the other end of the education scale, of those that responded to the question, 16.3% had graduate degrees. Of minorities, 9.5% stated they had graduate degrees, while 25.6% of whites reported having graduate degrees. There were no graduate degrees among those earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 62.7% of those that identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more said that they had graduate degrees.

Of all respondents to the questionnaires, 22.2% identified their income levels as being \$18,000 or less. Minorities in this category comprised 38.4% and whites comprised only 11.5%. At the next economic level, the differences almost disappeared; 29.7% of all persons who responded stated that they earned between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year. Minorities comprised 33.2% of this category and whites 32.1%. But as income levels increased, the differences returned; 21% of all respondents said they earned between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year. Minorities comprised 19% of this category and whites 26.9%. Twelve percent of all respondents said they earned \$100,000 or more per year. Minorities comprised only 3.3% of

this group, while whites made up 21.8%. It is clear that of the respondents to the questionnaires, whites were generally more affluent than minorities.

### *Perceptions of Case Results*

Overall, and across all groups, including racial/ethnicity and economic statuses, more disagree or strongly disagree with the statement, “The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of economic status,” than with the statement, “The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of racial and ethnic status.”<sup>20</sup> Throughout the questionnaire there remained a constant similarity as to perceptions between different races and between persons of differing economic statuses. Almost universally, the responses of both minorities and others who are less affluent, expressed a belief that the process was less fair than the responses of those who are white and more affluent. In relation to general population ratios, minorities were disproportionately represented among the less affluent, and whites were disproportionately represented among the more affluent. Some responses indicated that there was more concern with respect to fairness issues based upon economic status than upon racial status.

A question necessarily arises. Are our views of racial and ethnic fairness linked, at least in part, to our views of fairness based upon our economic stations in life? This question is important, because even if great efforts are made to resolve one inequality, will perceptions change without resolving both? The responses to the questionnaire indicate that both problems exist throughout the whole spectrum of the survey, albeit the perceptions of unfairness based upon racial or ethnic status may appear to some to be greater.

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<sup>20</sup>This is consistent with the findings by the National Center survey. In that report, it is noted among its findings, p. 2: “There is a strong perception that people with low income receive worse treatment than other groups from the courts. African-Americans are about as likely to perceive low-income people as being treated worse as they are to see their own group as receiving worse treatment.” That study also reported, p. 11: “The strongest sense of worse treatment appears to be for ‘someone with a low income.’”

## CRIMINAL COURT SUMMARY AND FINDINGS<sup>21</sup>

As with other areas of the survey, respondents involved in the criminal court processes perceived fairness issues very differently, depending upon their racial backgrounds, their economic status, and whether they considered themselves to have won or lost.

Generally, the respondents to the survey were almost evenly divided between minorities (primarily African Americans) and whites—43% of the respondents were minorities and 48% were white. Defendants represented 43% of the total respondents and plaintiffs/petitioners numbered half that percentage at 21%.<sup>22</sup> Almost half (49.9%) of all returned surveys arose out of criminal cases.

Overall, in the general responses to the survey, the vast majority were from English-speaking respondents.<sup>23</sup> Over one-third (35%) of the respondents to the survey had either some college or a four-year degree, while 19% had completed work at the graduate level. There were more male than female respondents (47.7% versus 37.5%, respectively).

### Generally

More than 30% (30.5%) of the respondents who stated they had been involved in a criminal case identified themselves as having been involved as defendants. Of those that identified themselves as defendants in criminal cases, 43.6% were minorities (which included all minorities but primarily African American), 19.7% were whites with the remaining persons identifying themselves as "other."<sup>24</sup> More than twice as many minorities were involved in criminal cases as defendants than were whites. Of the total of such defendants, 59.6% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and only 3.4% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year. Of those who testified in criminal court, 14.2% identified themselves as minorities, and 21.4% identified themselves as whites. Of persons testifying in criminal court, 21.1% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 10.2% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year.

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<sup>21</sup>Some of the questions were directed to the respondents' perceptions of entities that litigants, and others, may mistakenly believe to be part of the court system.

<sup>22</sup>Some respondents did not identify themselves as either. Some were jurors, some witnesses, and so on.

<sup>23</sup>The survey was in English. Unless a litigant was comfortable with the English language, or had the assistance of others who were, the litigant would not have been able to respond.

<sup>24</sup>The questionnaire was divided in sections: criminal law, family law, court observations, and so forth. It concluded with general questions applicable to all respondents as to race, gender, education level, and other areas. The Commission's consultant, upon receipt of the answered questionnaires, was able to create tables from the answers relating to each area of the survey. For instance, one of the general questions asked the respondent to identify whether he or she was "African American," "Asian/Pacific Islander," "Hispanic/Latino," "White, Non-Hispanic," or "Other \_\_\_\_\_." The consultant produced tables relating to each question and referenced how many of the persons who answered each question were of which race or ethnicity.

## **District Court**

### ***Perceptions of Unfairness***

Among those responding in the District Court, 15.5% reported that the judicial process was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair.” Of the minorities who responded to this question, 20.8% perceived unfairness, and 10.7% of whites who responded to the question perceived unfairness. Of those responding that the process was unfair, 22% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 8.5% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year.

### ***Perceptions of Fairness***

Of the respondents in District Court criminal cases, 32.8% reported that the process was “somewhat fair” or “very fair.” Of the minorities who responded to this question, 27.5% perceived that the process was fair, and 41.9% of whites who responded to the question thought the process was fair. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year, 26.6% of those responding thought that the process was fair, and of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 44.1% believed the process in the District Court was fair.

## **Circuit Court**

### ***Perceptions of Unfairness***

Of those reporting in criminal cases in the circuit courts, 11.8% reported that the process was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair.” Of the minorities who responded to this question, 18.1% perceived unfairness, and only 6.4% of whites responding to this question thought the process in the circuit courts was unfair. Of those responding that the process was unfair, persons earning \$18,000 or less per year comprised 24.7% and persons earning \$100,000 or more per year comprised only 1.7%.

### ***Perceptions of Fairness***

Of those responding in respect to circuit court criminal cases, 27.7% reported that the process was “somewhat fair” or “very fair.” Of the minorities responding to this question, 24.2% thought the process was fair, while 34.1% of the whites who responded thought the process fair. Of those responding that the process was fair, 22.9% reported that they earned \$18,000 or less per year, and 44% reported that they earned \$100,000 or more per year.

## **Appellate Courts**

The appellate court results reflect a very high “no response” rate. This is to be expected given the likelihood that very few of the participants in the court system that responded to the questionnaire would have actually experienced contact with either of the appellate courts.

### ***Perceptions of Unfairness***

Of those identifying themselves as involved in criminal cases in Maryland appellate courts, 3.6% stated that the process was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair.” Of the minorities who responded to this question, 5.7% thought the process unfair, and 1.7% of responding whites thought the process unfair. Of those responding that the process was unfair, 8.3% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 3.4% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more.

### ***Perceptions of Fairness***

Of those identifying themselves as involved in criminal cases in the Court of Special Appeals and/or the Court of Appeals, 7.8% stated that the process was “somewhat fair” or “very fair.” Of the minorities who responded to this question, 6.1% thought the process fair, and 9.9% of responding whites thought the process fair. Of those responding, 8.3% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year, and 17% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year.

### **Victim’s Race**

While only 7.3% of those responding felt a victim’s race or ethnicity affected the trial outcome, a higher percentage of minorities and those earning lower incomes reported in the affirmative. In response to the question in regard to all courts as to whether the race or ethnicity of a victim affected the outcome of the trial, 7.3% of all respondents to the questionnaire responded “yes.” Of the minorities who responded, 11.8% answered yes, and of the whites who responded, 3.8% answered yes. Of those responding that the outcome was so affected, 17.4% identified themselves as earning less than \$18,000 per year, and 3.4% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year. Slightly over 51% of all respondents did not feel that the race or ethnicity of the victim affected the outcome. More than 26% (26.5%) felt that the victim’s race or ethnicity was “not applicable” to their proceedings, while the remaining 14.9% did not respond.

Of responding minorities, 48.8% did not feel that the racial or ethnic status of the victim affected the outcome, while 62.4% of responding whites felt likewise. Of those responding that the outcome was unaffected by race or ethnicity, 45.9% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 59.3% earned \$100,000 or more per year.

To the question, “Did the economic status of the victim affect the outcome of the trial?” 8.1% of the respondents answered “yes.” There was more agreement between whites and minorities on this question than on most of the other questions. In the group answering yes were 10.9% of responding minorities and 7.3% of responding whites. Of those so responding, 15.6% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 5.1% earned \$100,000 or more per year. To this question, 50.7% responded that the economic status of the victim did not affect the outcome of the trial. In the group answering that the economic status of the victim did not affect the outcome were 50.2% of responding minorities and 59.4% of responding whites. Again, there

was substantial agreement. Of such respondents, 50.5% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 57.6% earned \$100,000 or more per year.

## **Non-Court Entities**

Regarding non-court entities that are also involved in the criminal justice system, those surveyed were asked to comment on the fairness of their interactions with these entities.

### ***Police Departments***

#### *I. Perceptions of unfairness.*

In respect to rating police departments, 27.1% of all persons answering the question reported that their treatment was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair.” More than 40% (40.8%) of responding minorities and 14.9% of responding whites were in this group. Of these respondents, 48.6% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year and 10.2% stated that they earned \$100,000 or more per year.

#### *II. Perceptions of fairness.*

In responding to this question, 28.3% stated that their treatment with police departments had been “somewhat fair” or “very fair.” Almost 20% (19.9%) of responding minorities and 38.1% of responding whites were in this group; 20.1% of these respondents earned \$18,000 or less per year and 42.4% earned \$100,000 or more per year. These answers indicated that persons of different economic statuses, minorities, and whites view police departments very differently in a nearly 2 to 1 ratio.

In respect to police departments, the respondents were also asked whether they considered police departments to be a part of the court system. A substantial percentage of those responding said yes (34.8% of those returning the questionnaire did not respond to this question). Forty-six percent of minorities responding and 32.9% of whites responding said yes; 55% of these respondents earned \$18,000 or less per year and 22% earned \$100,000 or more per year. Just over 25% (25.3%) responded that they did not consider police departments to be a part of the court system; 20.4% of responding minorities and 32.9% of responding whites were included in this group; of these respondents, 17.4% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 42.4% earned \$100,000 or more. The fact that large numbers of minorities, whites, and persons at every economic level view police departments as part of the court system reflects the overall perception that criminal litigants have of the court system. Perceptions of police unfairness may sometimes influence a respondent’s opinion of the courts.

### ***State’s Attorneys’ Offices***

#### *I. Perceptions of unfairness.*

In respect to rating the State’s attorneys’ offices, 18.7% of the respondents reported that their treatment was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair.” In that group were 28.4% of

responding minorities and 9.8% of responding whites; of these respondents, 34.9% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 8.5% earned \$100,000 or more per year.

## II. Perceptions of fairness.

Just over 26.3% reported that they received “somewhat fair” or “very fair” treatment by State’s attorneys’ offices; 18.5% of responding minorities and 35% of responding whites were in this group. Of these respondents, 20.2% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 37.2% identified themselves as earning \$100,000 or more per year. Again, there were substantial differences in perceptions based not only upon racial and ethnic differences, but also upon economic status.

In response to a statement as to whether the respondents considered the State’s attorneys’ offices to be part of the court system, 64.2% answered yes. This result is consistent across racial lines. Of responding minorities, 68.2% said yes and 61.1% of responding whites also said yes. Of those responding yes, 72.5% earned \$18,000 or less per year and 39% earned \$100,000 or more per year. To the question, 8.8% answered that they did not consider the State’s attorneys’ offices to be part of the court system; 8.1% of minorities responding to the question said no, and 11.1% of whites responding said no. Of those responding no, 10.1% identified themselves as earning \$18,000 or less per year and 25.4% earned \$100,000 or more per year. As with police departments, substantial percentages of all groups who had been involved in any capacity with the criminal court system had a belief that the State’s attorneys’ offices are part of the court system.

### ***Public Defenders’ Offices***

#### I. Perceptions of unfairness.

As with many responses to other questions, minorities, whites, and persons of lower and higher economic statuses have differing opinions as to the quality of public defenders’ representations. In respect to rating the fairness of the public defenders’ offices, 10% reported that their treatment was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair”; 14.2% of responding minorities and 6.4% of responding whites were in this group. Of these respondents, 23.8% earned \$18,000 or less per year, 4.9% earned between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year, and none earned over \$100,000 per year.<sup>25</sup> Of the total defendant/respondents represented by attorneys in all courts in all types of cases, 29.5% of respondents were represented by public defenders. Of minorities responding to these questions, 36% stated that they were represented by the public defenders and 23.9% of responding whites were so represented; 54.1% responding to this question earned \$18,000 or less per year and 11.9% earned \$100,000 or more per year.

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<sup>25</sup>These figures may reflect the income limitations in respect to qualifying for assistance from the public defenders’ offices. This question was not limited to defendants. Some of those responding may have been victims, witnesses, or jurors.

## II. Perceptions of fairness.

Over twenty percent (20.6%) of the respondents reported that their treatment by the public defenders' offices had been "somewhat fair" or "very fair"; 20.8% of responding minorities and 22.7% of responding whites were in this group; 27.5% of these respondents earned \$18,000 or less per year, 16.5% earned between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, 21.4% earned between \$50,000 and \$99,999, and 23.7% reported that they earned \$100,000 or more per year.

In response to a question as to whether respondents considered the public defenders' offices to be a part of the court system, 61.3% responding to the questionnaire stated yes. Of minorities responding, 67.3% answered yes and 56.8% of whites responding said yes; 75.2% of the persons responding yes to this question stated that they earned \$18,000 or less per year and 28.8% stated that they earned \$100,000 or more per year. Again, substantial percentages of all groups believe that public defenders' offices are a part of the court system.

There were other generic questions that may also relate to representation by public defenders. To the general statement, "Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the courts or by another public entity are not as well represented," 42.4% responded that they "strongly agreed" or "agreed." Almost 59% (58.8%) of minorities responding and 28.7% of whites responding to the statement agreed; 69.8% of these respondents earned \$18,000 or less per year and 17% earned \$100,000 or more. Just over 33% (33.2%) "strongly disagree" or "disagree" with the statement; 16.6% of responding minorities and 48.7% of responding whites disagree; 11.9% of these respondents earn \$18,000 or less per year and 52.5% earn \$100,000 or more.

Other observations in response to general questions are also relevant, in most instances, to the criminal courts. They are addressed in the general sections of the report.



## CIVIL COURTS SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

### Civil Court Entities Generally

When the number of responders to the survey is adjusted to those whose responses arise out of civil cases, the population or universe is reduced to 78, a relatively small sample. Included in that sample are 69 persons who responded to the family and juvenile sections of the survey. Accordingly, most of the comments in respect to the civil courts arise out of actions in the family law and juvenile areas. However, responses to general questions are considered as relevant to all of the courts, including the civil courts.

### Juvenile and Family Courts

Respondents to the juvenile or family courts section of the survey were evenly divided between minorities (51%) and whites (49%). Given their relative proportions in the State, 64% whites and 38% racial/ethnic minorities, these numbers suggest that minorities are more likely to be associated with juvenile and family services than are whites. More of the respondents to this section of the questionnaire had incomes in the mid-range of \$18,000 to \$49,999 per year than in the lowest or highest income categories, and more users were in the higher income levels than in the lower level. Seventeen percent<sup>26</sup> of minority respondents were represented by minority counsel, and no white respondents were represented by minority counsel.

To the question, “Were Juvenile and Family Court proceedings conducted in a fair manner to all, regardless of race or ethnicity?”<sup>27</sup> there were no responses from 85.5% of those answering the questionnaire, indicating the low percentages of respondents who had been involved in family and juvenile matters. Of those responding to the question, 73% answered yes and just under 27% said no. Just over 71% (71.4%) of minorities answered yes and 28.6% answered no; 75.8% of whites answered yes and 24.2% said no. Of those earning less than \$18,000 per year, 63.6% answered yes; of those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, 75% answered yes; of those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year, 68.8% answered yes; and of those making more than \$100,000 per year, 75% said yes.

Just over 88% of the persons responding to the questionnaire did not respond to the question as to whether they were satisfied that domestic violence proceedings were conducted in a fair and unbiased manner. This fact presumably represents that less than 5.3% of the questionnaire respondents had been involved in domestic violence matters—2.8% of minorities and 3.4% of whites. When economic factors are considered, of those earning less than \$18,000 per year, 33.3% who responded to the question reported that they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” the process was fair; of those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, 70% believed the process was fair. Minorities responding to the question reported dissatisfaction at almost twice the rate, 41.7%, than whites, 25%. Similar differences existed

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<sup>26</sup>Six persons.

<sup>27</sup>This sample’s *p* equaled 0.686. Accordingly, the responses to this particular question, and most of the questions in the family court section, should be considered indicative, not determinative.

between those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 66.6%, and those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 50%.<sup>28</sup> However, at the mid-ranges of income, the differences in the rate of dissatisfaction were somewhat reversed, with those reporting earnings between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year being dissatisfied at a 40% rate while those in the next lower earning status, between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, reported being dissatisfied at a 20% level.<sup>29</sup>

When asked about whether the respondents were satisfied that family court proceedings (not including juvenile matters) were conducted in a fair and unbiased manner, there were again a large number of no responses, 85.5%.<sup>30</sup> Overall, of those responding to the question, 59.6% indicated satisfaction and 35.1% indicated dissatisfaction. Of minorities, 58.6% reported satisfaction and 41.3% reported dissatisfaction. Of whites, 64% reported satisfaction while 28% reported dissatisfaction. When economic status is considered, the highest and lowest economic levels reported less satisfaction, the \$18,000 per year or less level reported 33.3% satisfaction, and the \$100,000 per year or more level reported 66.7% satisfaction. However, the medium economic levels reported a much higher level of satisfaction: those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year reported satisfaction at the 56.7% level, and those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year reported satisfaction at the 66.6% level. Minorities reported dissatisfaction at a different level than whites—41.3% versus 28%, respectively. Those earning \$18,000 or less per year reported dissatisfaction at the level of 66.7% and those earning more than \$100,000 per year reported dissatisfaction at the level of 33%.

When asked specifically whether the judge in family court treated any individuals differently due to the race or ethnicity of the individual, 14.7% of the respondents answering the question said yes and 85.3% said no (84.7% of those returning the questionnaires did not answer this question.). Nearly 19% (18.9%) of minorities answering the question said yes and 8.6% of whites so answering said yes. Just over 81% (81.1%) of minorities said no and 91.4% of whites said no.

### **Non-Court Entities**

When asked whether the Department of Social Services had treated any individuals differently due to race or ethnicity, 21.2% of the persons (approximately 14 people) responding to the question said yes.<sup>31</sup> However, there was a marked difference between responding

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<sup>28</sup>This number represented only two respondents. At best, this figure is indicative not determinative.

<sup>29</sup> Because the response rate was very small, the results relating to this question should be considered as indicative rather than determinative.

<sup>30</sup>All of the results to this particular question should be considered as indicative rather than determinative. The *p* level was 0.628.

<sup>31</sup>“No” responses to this question in the various categories ranged from 76.7% in the \$18,000 to \$49,999 per year economic category, to 91.5% in the \$100,000 or more per year economic category. Overall, nonresponses to this question totaled 86.6% of the respondents to the questionnaire. Accordingly, these figures should be considered indicative not determinative.

minorities and whites. Minorities responding to the question answered yes at the 33.3% level, while whites responded yes at the 6.7% level. In respect to economic status, those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year who responded to the question stated yes at the 15.4% level, and those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year stated yes at the 25% level.

In response to the statement, “The Department of Social Services doesn’t understand the problems minorities have in Maryland’s Courts,” of those responding to the question, 20.2% overall agreed while 33.3% disagreed. However, 31% of minorities agreed with the statement and 27.6% disagreed. The responses for whites were markedly different. Whites that responded to the question agreed with the statement at the 9.1% level and disagreed with it at the rate of 42.4%. It is apparent that there are very different opinions in respect to this statement, particularly depending upon one’s race or ethnic background. The same differences appear to hold true when economic status is considered. Those earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded to the statement agreed at the level of 50% and disagreed at the level of 30%; those responding to the question who earned between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year agreed at the level of 20% and disagreed at the level of 36.6%; those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year agreed at the level of 7.1% and disagreed at the level of 35.7%; and those earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded to the statement disagreed at the level of 40%.

## JURY ISSUES

Of all persons responding to the questionnaire, 11.2% identified themselves as jurors.<sup>32</sup> Generally, whites and the more affluent respondents judged the jury process to be unaffected by the racial and ethnic makeup of the jury pools in significantly larger percentages than did minorities and the less affluent.

Of all of the respondents to the survey, 17.7% stated that the case they had observed had been tried by a jury.<sup>33</sup> The less affluent and minorities were significantly less likely to have been involved in jury trials than were whites and the more affluent persons.

Both minorities and whites reported that more whites were on juries than minorities. The economic status of the respondents to this question tended to track the responses of minorities and whites, with those of lower economic status tending to provide answers similar to the minorities' answers and those of higher economic status tending to provide answers similar to whites' answers.

When asked whether jurors were selected in "an unbiased, impartial manner?" 83.3% of those returning questionnaires either did not respond or stated that the question was inapplicable.<sup>34</sup> More than 10% (10.4%) of all persons answering the survey answered yes and 6.3% answered no.<sup>35</sup> Of minorities, 6.6% said yes and 9% said no; 15.4% of whites said yes and only 3% said no. More than 4% (4.6%) of the persons earning \$18,000 or less per year answered yes and 11.9% answered no. Of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 22% said jury selection was fair and unbiased, and none said it was biased. Again, there were significant differences in perceptions among minorities, whites, and persons of different economic statuses.

To the question, "Did the racial/ethnic makeup of the jury affect the outcome of the case?"<sup>36</sup> 3.3% of the total respondents to the entire questionnaire said yes and 13.2% said no

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<sup>32</sup>Of the minorities responding to the questionnaire, 8.5% identified themselves as jurors and of the whites responding, 14.1% identified themselves as jurors.

<sup>33</sup>This fact would include the 11.2% who were jurors. Of minorities responding to the survey, 15.6% answered yes to the question, "Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?" and 20.1% of whites said yes. Only 13.8% of persons responding who earn \$18,000 or less per year answered yes, while 25.4% of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year answered yes.

<sup>34</sup> This fact reflects the overall comparatively low number of persons involved in jury trials. Many types of cases, particularly in the family law-domestic area, cannot be tried by a jury. Jury trials are also not available in the District Court.

<sup>35</sup>The 10.4% and 6.3% figures (as well as the other figures in this paragraph) reflect all respondents to the entire questionnaire and, in essence, generally comprise those persons involved in jury trials.

<sup>36</sup>Only 15 persons responded yes to this question. Accordingly, this response should be viewed with caution. This figure should be considered as indicative not determinative.

(83.5% of the persons filling out the questionnaire either did not respond to this question or responded that it was not applicable to the case with which they were involved). Of minorities, 4.3% stated that the makeup of the jury affected the outcome and 10.4% said it did not. Of the whites so responding, 2.6% said that it did and 16.7% said that it did not. At lower economic levels, there was a much higher belief that the racial/ethnic makeup of a jury influenced the outcome than at higher economic levels. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 7.3% responded yes and 8.3% responded no. Of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, only 1.7% said yes and 16.9% said no.

## LEGAL REPRESENTATION ISSUES

The questions were also designed to elicit opinions of those actually involved in litigation as to the effects of legal representation or non-representation, and whether the race or ethnicity of attorneys was perceived to have affected the quality of justice afforded to litigants, as reported by those responding.

Of all persons responding to the statement, “I cannot afford to hire an attorney,” 41.1% agreed. Of minorities responding to the statement, 56.4% agreed whereas 28.6% of whites agreed. As could be expected, of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 75.2% agreed; of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 5.1% agreed. However, in respect to all courts, minority and white plaintiffs were self-represented (i.e., *pro se*) in equal percentages: 20.4% of minorities and 20.5% of whites. In an economic sense, there was little difference between those at the lower and higher end of the economic scale in respect to self-representation. We are unable to arrive at any conclusion as to why it is so, given the fact that the responses to the affordability of counsel question varied to the degree that it did between the different classes of respondents. It may be that there are certain types of cases (i.e., cases brought by landlords who often represent themselves) that are so numerous, which, although these figures may actually reflect what happens in the system, relate more to a specific type of case and are not reflective of the system in general.

Plaintiffs on the higher end of the economic scale, however, are much more likely to be represented by private counsel than are those at the lower end of the scale: 64.4% versus 18.3%, respectively. Likewise, white plaintiffs are significantly more likely to be represented by private counsel than are minorities: 39.7% versus 27%, respectively.

The figures for defendants/respondents are similar. Just over 20% (20.4%) of minorities and 20.5% of whites reported that the defendants in the cases were self-represented. Again, the differences in the percentages of self-represented defendants between persons on the lower and higher ends of the economic scale, while larger than the figures for plaintiffs, are still not great, with the figures being 10.1% self-representation on the low end and 18.6% on the high end of the economic scale. However, as is the case with plaintiffs, defendants at the higher end of the economic scale, \$100,000 or more per year in earnings who did not represent themselves, are much more likely to have been represented by private counsel than are defendants at the lower end of the scale: 66.1% as compared to 22.9%, respectively.

To the statement, “It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you,” 42.8% of all persons who responded to the questionnaire agreed. Of the minorities that responded, 58.3% agreed, and of whites similarly responding, 30.7% agreed. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 65.2% agreed, and of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 27.1% agreed.

Just over 42% (42.4%) of the persons answering the questionnaire agreed with the statement, “Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.” Minorities responded to the question at the 58.8% level, and whites responded at the 28.7% level. Of those earning

\$18,000 or less per year, 69.8% agreed, and of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, only 17% agreed. In other words, most of the persons likely to receive appointed counsel believe such to be inferior, while others believe it is not inferior. Just over 17% (17.3%) of all respondents to the questionnaire stated, “Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney”; 19.9% of the minorities responding to the statement agreed and 14.9% of whites agreed.

Of all persons responding to the question, “If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?” 11.4% responded yes. Of the minorities that so responded, 17.5% said yes whereas 6% of whites said yes. Of those persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded to the question, 14.7% responded yes, and of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, 8.5% said yes. When the question was refocused on defendants/respondents, 10.6% of all respondents said yes. Of the minorities responding, 16.1% of the defendants were reported as being represented by a racial/ethnic minority, while whites comprised 5.1% of those reporting that defendants had been so represented. Of those reporting that they earned \$18,000 or less per year, 15.6% stated the defendant’s attorney was a racial/ethnic minority, while 6.8% of those earning \$100,000 or more per year reported that defendants had been so represented.

To the question, “Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?” 6.1% of all persons said yes. Of the minorities that responded to the questionnaire, 11.8% said yes, and of whites so responding, only 1.7% said yes. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 11.9% said yes, while none of those earning \$100,000 or more per year thought that the race or ethnicity of the parties’ attorneys affected the service they received. Again, whites and minorities, as well as persons in different economic groups, viewed this issue very differently.

To the question, “Did the attorney’s race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?” 6.9% of all persons responding to the questionnaire said yes. Of minorities responding, 11.8% said yes, whereas 1.7% of whites said yes. Of the persons responding who earned \$18,000 or less per year, 15.6% said that race/ethnicity of the attorneys affected the outcome, while none of those earning \$100,000 or more per year thought so. In response to an inquiry as to whether the race or ethnicity of the attorney affected the way they were treated, 8.6% of all those that responded said yes and 55% said no. Of minorities that responded, 16.1% said yes and 1.7% of whites said yes. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 19.3% said yes, and of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, none said yes. The answers to these last two questions were very similar. There were, however, significant differences in perceptions based upon race and economic status.

To the statement, “You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome,” only 12% of all persons responding to the questionnaire agreed and 61.5% disagreed (19.3% had no opinion and 7.1% had no response). Of minorities that responded, 23.7% stated that one needs a white attorney to get a fair outcome and 45% disagreed. The responses of whites to this statement were very different from the responses of minorities. Only 1.8% of whites responding agreed with the statement, while 79.1% disagreed. The differences between the responses of persons of different economic statuses were similarly great. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per

year, 24.8% agreed and 41.2% disagreed; of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, who responded to the questionnaire, only 1.7% agreed and 81.4% disagreed with the statement, “You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.” Interestingly, almost all whites and almost all those at higher economic levels did not think that one needed a white attorney in order to achieve fairness, while a much larger percentage of minorities and the poor believed that one does.

There were also significant differences when statements were more directly focused on economic factors relating to choice of attorneys. To the statement, “Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented,” 42.4% of all persons responding to the statement agreed and 33.2% disagreed. But the responses of minorities and persons of lower economic status were markedly different from those of whites and the more affluent. Almost 59% (58.8%) of minorities that responded to the statement agreed and only 16.6% disagreed, while only 18.7% of whites responding to the statement agreed and 48.7% disagreed. The responses vis-à-vis minorities and whites were virtually mirror opposites. Differing economic statuses produced similar results. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded to the statement, 69.8% agreed and only 11.9% disagreed, while of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 17% agreed and 52.5% disagreed. The figures indicate a significant difference in the ways in which minorities and the poor, and whites and the affluent, perceive the services of public versus private attorneys. Again, the persons more likely to use public attorneys view them less favorably than do the persons less likely to need their services.



## JUDGES, MASTERS, AND MEDIATION ISSUES<sup>37</sup>

There appears to be a uniform opinion that the race or ethnicity of judges and masters does not result in disparate treatment. Almost 21% (20.8%) of all respondents advised that they appeared before minority judges or masters.

To the question, “Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?” only 7.7% of all respondents answered yes. Of the minorities that responded to the questionnaire, only 12.8% responded yes, while 2.1% of whites said yes. While there was a significant difference between the minority and white responses, overall, the responses indicated a relatively small level of adverse perceptions of actual treatment that was based upon the race or ethnicity of judges and masters. There was a greater difference based upon the economic status of parties, but still the responses indicate, generally, that the race or ethnic background of judges and masters did not affect treatment received while the litigants were actually in court. Of those persons who earned \$18,000 or less per year, 13.8% answered yes; of those earning between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, only 3.4% answered yes; of those earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year, 8.7% answered yes; and of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, only 1.7% answered yes. While there are differences between the responses based upon economic status, all of the responses indicate that, generally, disparate treatment was not perceived to have resulted from the race or ethnicity of judges and masters.

To the question, “At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigant’s race, ethnicity, or immigration status?” only 1.8% of all persons who responded to the questionnaire stated yes; 78% responded no (3.3% stated that they did not know, 6.1% responded that the question was not applicable to their cases, and 10.8% did not respond). Of the minorities that responded to the question, 3.3% said yes and 77.7% said no. Of whites responding, 0.9% said yes and 79.9% said no. Similar results were obtained when economic status was considered. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, only 3.7% said yes and 73.4% said no. Of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, none (0.0%) answered yes, while 86.4% said no. Similar results to this question were obtained when the question was refocused on masters. While there were differences between minorities and whites and between persons in different economic statuses, they were relatively small, and, overall, there was little indication that judges or masters in Maryland were improperly inquiring as to the race or the ethnicity of the litigants.<sup>38</sup> Similarly, there was little indication that court personnel were

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<sup>37</sup>The number of respondents who indicated they had been referred to mediation was small (51). However, persons who did not identify themselves as being referred to mediation also responded to mediation questions. Accordingly, the responses as they relate to users of mediation should be viewed with caution. Those results should be considered as indicative, not determinative.

<sup>38</sup>There was anecdotal information furnished to the Commission or its members, or by its members, of specific incidents. They are discussed in the “Anecdotal Compilation” section of the appendix to the report.

improperly inquiring as to race or ethnicity.<sup>39</sup> To the statement, “The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case,” 68.4% of all persons agreed. Of the minorities responding to the questionnaire, 57.3% agreed and 27.9% disagreed with the statement; of the whites responding, 81.6% agreed and 11.1% disagreed. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 51.4% agreed and 32.1% disagreed. Of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded, 86.4% agreed. While a majority of all respondents perceived that judges were courteous and respectful, whites and the more affluent were significantly stronger in their favorable responses.

With respect to mediation, only 10.4% of all persons responding to the questionnaire indicated that their cases involved a referral to mediation. Whites responding reported that they were referred to mediation in somewhat higher numbers than were minorities—12% as opposed to 9% for minorities. When the economic status of the persons responding was considered, the referrals to mediation were fairly constant, ranging from 10.1% for those earning \$18,000 or less per year to 11.9% for those earning \$100,000 or more per year.

To the question, “If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?” most respondents that had an opinion stated no (7.5% of the entire group of respondents to the questionnaire as opposed to 6.1% who said it was fair), while “don’t know,” “not applicable,” and no response totaled 86.4%. Apparently, most respondents had not been referred to mediation (approximately 90%). Of all minority respondents to the questionnaire, 7.1% said that mediation was unfair and biased, whereas 7.7% of whites agreed. Only 4.7% of minorities indicated that mediation was fair and unbiased, while 7.3% of whites responding to the entire questionnaire considered it to be fair and unbiased. Again, when all responses (including those who had not been referred to mediation) were examined, it appeared that slightly more than half of the respondents considered mediation to be unfair. However, the number of persons responding to this question was very small, and the results should be considered, at best, indicative and not determinative.

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<sup>39</sup>However, as we have indicated, non-English speaking persons would have had difficulty not only in answering the questionnaire, but also in knowing whether inquiries by English-speaking personnel were about the race/ethnicity of the litigants.

## SPECIAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL ISSUES

As stated elsewhere in this report, we perceive that, primarily due to fiscal restraints, there were serious problems with eliciting answers to the questionnaires from non-English speaking persons. Only 20 individuals responding to this survey stated that they had observed language interpretation assistance during their court proceedings. Additionally, only 3% of those responding to the survey reported observing that court interactions were affected by language barriers.<sup>40</sup> As indicated, due to the funding restraints placed upon the Commission, we were unable to provide questionnaires in any language other than English. Therefore, as might be expected, non-English-speaking individuals were probably under-represented in this survey. This would include non-English-speaking Hispanic/Latinos, Asians, and others.

Even if we had access to a minimum level of funding for translation and printing of questionnaires in other languages, an issue would remain: into how many different languages would the questionnaire have to be translated? Spanish would be an obvious choice, but even with Spanish, different dialects would need to be considered. What other languages would need to be included in the questionnaire—Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, various Eastern European languages?

Additionally, had we had access to funding for offering questionnaires in different languages, the Commission would have had the difficult and, given the current method of record compilation by the courts, almost impossible task of determining which questionnaire to send to any particular respondent who was randomly selected by a computer on a geographically proportionate basis. The courts do not identify the ethnic or racial background of the parties with respect to specific cases. In order to ensure that a respondent received a questionnaire in that respondent's language, we would have had to have sent the English version and all other language versions of the questionnaire to all potential respondents that the computer had identified. The Commission would not, given the way court records are currently created, be able to accurately identify what language any particular litigant understood prior to sending the questionnaires.

Likewise, the Commission would have found the same problem in respect to the notices and brochures of the Commission inviting responses by questionnaire, other written response, or attendance at public meetings.<sup>41</sup> If a person is from a culture that does not encourage responses to governmental action, or actually discourages or penalizes responses, and if the person cannot understand the language of the questionnaire, how is that person expected to know of the importance of a response to a questionnaire such as the one distributed?

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<sup>40</sup>These numbers are very small. Accordingly, some of the findings furnished later in this section should be viewed with some caution. The results should be considered as indicative, not determinative.

<sup>41</sup>As indicated elsewhere, there were announcements at each of the public hearing venues in Spanish and Korean as to the procedure to be utilized during the hearing.

The logistics of this problem actually identify a problem.<sup>42</sup> The lack of responses from ethnic groups is, in fact, a response that indicates the potential problems created by language and cultural barriers. Under current practices in the courts, there is no way to generate ethnic-based responses to the questionnaire. This lack of response can lead, and has led, the Commission hereafter to make certain suggestions and recommendations to address these problems.

In regard to the Commission's position on this point of ethnic identification and lack of response, it is important to note that of those persons who identified themselves as minorities, only 8.5% identified themselves as born outside the United States. Of those that identified themselves as white, only 1.3% identified themselves as born outside the United States. Only 1.2% of all persons responding to the questionnaire identified themselves as non-United States citizens. Of the minorities responding, only 2.8% stated that they were not citizens, whereas 0% of the whites that responded said that they were not citizens. To the question, "What is your race/ethnicity?" only 1.6% of those responding identified themselves as "Hispanic/Latino," and 1.6% identified themselves as "Asian/Pacific Islander." Yet, the actual population figures should have generated much larger responses from these ethnic groups, as we indicate later in this section.

We further note that the Commission has available in its membership several judges serving in various courts and at various levels. In addition, many of its attorney members are frequently in court. The combined actual experience of the members, as well as what one would expect from population demographics, indicates that Hispanic/Latino members, and perhaps members of other ethnic groups, appear in the court process in significantly larger percentages than are apparent from the questionnaire responses.

Also indicative of the problem of language and culture in respect to the paucity of questionnaire responses is that in answer to the question of whether interpreters were required during a court proceeding, only 4.3% (20) of both minority and whites responding said yes. As the question was phrased, all persons involved in the particular court process were to respond, whether they needed interpretation services or whether someone else in the process needed the services. Had the questionnaire been in the languages of all respondents and had not cultural factors influenced attitudes about responses, it might be expected that as many as 12% of those responding to a particular question would have been non-native born, non-citizens, and/or non-English speaking. Instead, as we indicate above, less than 2% of those responding identified

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<sup>42</sup>To those who may respond, "So what? Let them speak English," one need only consider the opposite situation—an American citizen who does not speak or read the language of a foreign country where he or she is situated and, because of language barriers, does not even understand the nature of a problem he or she is facing.

Whatever is the function of a foreign court, it is the function of the courts of this country to provide fair proceedings to all those involved in the process, regardless of their country of origin, their language, or their culture. The Commission believes that just because fairness (as we may construe it) toward United States citizens in certain other countries may not exist, it presents no reason for making exceptions to the basic concepts of American courts, including providing fair trials for all citizens and non-citizens alike, regardless of their culture or language.

themselves as a member of an ethnic group that might be expected to be non-conversant, or less conversant, with the English language.

This non-response problem appears particularly acute when the 2000 census figures for Maryland are considered. That census indicates that in 2000, non-African American ethnic minorities composed at least 12.1% of Maryland's total population. Of this 12.1%, 4% were Asian and 4.3% were Hispanic/Latino. In some major county jurisdictions, the numbers were much larger. In Montgomery County, the 2000 census identified that 11.5% of that county's population was Hispanic/Latino and 11.3% was of Asian descent. Somewhat smaller percentages, but still significant percentages, were indicated for Prince George's County—7.1% Hispanic/Latino and 3.9% Asian. Additionally, the figures indicated that Howard County had a 7.7% Asian population. It is generally believed that the Hispanic/Latino and Asian population percentages continue to increase and at the time of the survey would have been larger than that during the census cycle culminating in the 2000 census.

The Commission believes that the low response percentages of ethnic minorities are due, in substantial part, to the Commission's inability to address these ethnic groups in different languages. The Commission's problem in this regard, highlights, we believe, potential problems within the court system. In other words, the problems that non-English-speaking ethnic groups had in responding to our survey identify problems that should be addressed for the entire system of which the Commission is a part. Accordingly, the Commission will make recommendations addressing these very difficult language and cultural problems.

On the subject of interpreters, there were minimal responses to the question, "If yes [interpreters were involved in the proceeding], on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?" Of the persons answering the questionnaire, 95.1% either did not respond to this question or indicated that they did not know. Generally, those expressing an opinion rated the quality of such services on the higher end of the scale, although during public hearings several Spanish interpreters identified problems, expressing a need for multiple interpreters when there were multiple defendants. They also expressed opinions that when court sessions were of some appreciable length, additional interpreters should be available to step in when one interpreter became tired. Other nuances, such as different dialects of the same basic language, caused problems.

The Commission feels that there is already an entity concerned with improving the services provided by in-court interpreters and will, by copy of this report, furnish these opinions to the entity directly concerned with improving the quality of interpreter services and will refrain from recommendations in that regard in this report.

## COURT PROCESS GENERAL RESPONSES AND FINDINGS

Generally, whites, more so than minorities, believe that the court process is fair. Additionally, persons at higher income levels believe that the process is fair in much higher percentages than persons of lower income levels. Minorities reported that they were unable to obtain legal assistance because of economics in significantly higher percentages than whites. As is to be expected, persons of lower economic status reported difficulty in obtaining legal representation in much larger percentages than those in a higher economic status.

Minorities reported that race/ethnicity affected their access to court systems in much higher percentages than whites, and persons of lower economic status also reported that race/ethnicity adversely affected their access to court systems in much higher percentages than did persons of higher income levels. Similar results appeared when respondents were asked whether race/ethnicity affected treatment of the parties once access to the courts was attained.

Persons of lower economic means and minorities reported that respect by all persons involved in the court systems was generally less for minorities than for whites. Whites and persons of higher economic means generally reported observing less disrespect for minorities than did minorities. Sometimes the responses within categories were conflicting. Minorities and persons of lower economic means reported that minorities were addressed generally differently than whites were addressed, while whites and persons of higher economic means did not agree. A large percentage of all respondents reported not hearing witnesses or litigants addressed by reference to their minority or ethnic status. Conversely, a much higher percentage of respondents, particularly minority respondents, reported that they had observed less respectful treatment due to the economic status of the parties.

To the statement, "On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the overall fairness you experienced with Maryland's Court System," 47.2% of persons responding rated fairness in categories 8 to 10, with a ranking of 10 considered to be very positive. However, of minorities that responded to this question, only 31.3% of responses were in that range, while 62% of whites responding to the question placed overall fairness in those ranges. Interestingly, the economic status of respondents tracked, to an extent, the differences between minority and white opinion. Of persons making \$18,000 or less per year that responded to this statement, only 26.6% rated fairness in the 8 to 10 category, while 67.8% of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year rated fairness in those categories. Of the persons responding, a total of 17.8% rated fairness at the bottom three categories, 1 to 3, with a ranking of 1 considered to be very negative. Of the minorities responding to the statement, 25.6% responded at the bottom of the scale, 1 to 3, while only 10.2% of whites responding rated fairness in the lower categories. The difference between minority and white responses is similarly reflected, but somewhat less so by respondents of different economic statuses. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year, 28.5% rated fairness in the lower three levels of the scale, while of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded, 8.5% placed overall fairness in those lower ranges. In the middle of the range, levels 4 to 7, the differences are less stark, although minorities and persons of low economic status tend to be more concentrated in the lower more negative levels of the mid-range, 4 and 5, while whites and persons at higher economic levels tended to be more concentrated at the higher, more positive rating levels 6 and 7.

To the similar question, “Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?” there were similar differences between minority and white responses and the responses of persons of different economic statuses. Overall, 59.1% of respondents said yes and 25.3% said no. Just under 53% (52.6%) of minorities responding and 76.1% of whites responding said yes. Of the persons who earn \$18,000 or less per year, 45.9% said yes, and of the persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, 81.4% said yes. Again there are significant differences between minorities and the less affluent on the one hand, and whites and the more affluent on the other. To the statement, “The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the race or ethnicity of the parties involved,” 22.2% of all persons responding disagreed. Of the minorities that responded, 35.6% disagreed, while only 9.4% of whites disagreed. Similar differences were reflected in respect to economic status. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 36.7% disagreed, but of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, only 10.2% disagreed.

The differences between minorities and whites, and persons of different economic status, were also reflected when the results of persons agreeing with the statement were examined. Of all the respondents, 61.1% agreed. Of the minorities that responded to the statement, 43.6% agreed, while conversely, 77.4% of whites responding to the question agreed. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded to the question, 38.5% agreed, while of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded to the question, 81.4% agreed. Again, there are significant differences in the fairness opinions of minorities and the poor on the one hand, and whites and the more affluent on the other hand.

To the statement, “The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved,” 52.3% agreed. Of minorities that responded, 36.5% agreed, while 68% of whites responding agreed. The differences are even more drastic when economic status is considered. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, only 28.4% agreed that the outcome would be the same, while of those persons who earned \$100,000 or more per year who responded, 72.9% believed the outcome would have been the same.

To the question, “Do you believe the court process was a fair one?” only 58.2% overall responded yes. Of minorities that responded, 44.5% said yes, whereas 73.9% of whites responding to the question said yes. The same stark differences existed when the different ends of the economic spectrum were considered. Of persons who earn \$18,000 or less per year, only 38.5% believed the court process to be fair, but of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, 81.4% believed the process to be fair.

To the question, “In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?” 11.6% of all respondents answered yes and 66% answered no; 21.3% of minorities responded yes, but only 3% of whites responded yes. Of minorities responding, 51.2% said no, while 82.1% of whites said no. The responses by persons of different economic statuses are again consistent: 23.9% of persons who earned \$18,000 or less per year responded yes, while none of the persons earning \$100,000 or more per year said yes.

There were dramatic differences between how minorities and whites perceive their treatment in the court system. When asked if their race or ethnic status affected their treatment in the court system, overall 16.7% of the respondents said yes, while 30.3% of minorities said yes, and only 4.7% of whites said yes. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year responding, 30.3% said yes, while only 1.7% of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year said yes. Again, race and economic status are connected similarly by way of these responses.

In respect to observations of treatment of others (as opposed to actual treatment of the respondents) the same differences appear to exist. When asked whether respondents to the questionnaire actually heard or saw court personnel being less respectful of minority judges than white judges, 7.5% of all respondents answered yes; 15.2% of minorities responding said yes and only 0.9% of whites said yes. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 20.2% said yes, while 0% of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year said yes.

In respect to the responses to the opposite question as to whether the respondents actually heard or saw “Judges [being] less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?” 10.2% of all persons responding answered yes. Of minorities that responded, 20.4% said yes, but only 1.3% of responding whites said yes. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year, 24.8% said yes, but only 1.7% of those earning \$100,000 or more per year said yes.

When the question was refocused on attorneys, 9.2% of all respondents stated that they had observed court personnel being less respectful of minority attorneys than white attorneys. Of minorities responding, 18.5% stated that they had observed such conduct, but only 0.9% of whites said they had. Similar differences were observed in respect to respondents of different economic statuses. Similar responses were also made when the respondents were asked whether attorneys were less respectful of minority than white court personnel.

When respondents were asked whether court personnel were less respectful of minority litigants than white litigants, similar responses were observed and the same held true when the question was turned around (i.e., whether litigants were less respectful of minority employees than white employees). Similar figures resulted when the same questions as to litigants focused on attorneys. When the questions were recast to consider the treatment of minority as opposed to white witnesses, similar results were obtained. To the question as to whether judges were less respectful of minority witnesses than white witnesses, 10.8% of all respondents said yes. Of minorities responding, 19.9% said yes, while only 3% of whites said yes. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 21.1% said yes, while of those responding who earned \$100,000 or more per year, only 1.7% said yes.

There were very few instances reported of persons (i.e., judges, court personnel, attorneys) who were observed addressing witnesses or parties by their race or ethnic background. When asked if such references were observed, the overall no response was generally 90% or above, with minorities answering no generally at the 86% level or above and whites answering no approximately 95% of the time. The same high level of negative responses generally held true when references to economic status were considered. The



responses varied from approximately 85% to the same type of questions by those earning \$18,000 or less, to as high as 98.4% for those earning \$100,000 or more per year.

To a general observation question, “Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?” 11.8% of all persons responding said yes. Of minorities that responded, 16.6% said yes and of whites responding, 7.7% said yes. An interesting finding was noted when the economic status of the respondents was considered. Of persons making \$18,000 or less per year, 22% said yes. Of those making between \$18,000 and \$49,999 per year, only 9.6% said yes, and of those making between \$50,000 and \$99,999 per year, only 7.8% said yes. Of those making \$100,000 or more per year, the percentage of those answering yes increased to 10.2%.

To the overall direct statement, “Based upon your actual experience in court . . . white people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites,” 29.3% of all persons that responded said that they agreed. Of the minorities that responded, 54.5% agreed; of whites that responded, only 7.2% agreed. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year, 50.5% agreed and of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, 10.2% agreed. To the statement, “Court personnel don’t understand the problems minorities have in Maryland Courts,” 25.4% of all persons responding agreed. Of minorities that responded, 47.9% agreed and of whites responding, only 6.4% agreed. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year, 48.6% agreed, and of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded to the question, only 6.8% agreed.

To the general statement, “Minorities are unfairly treated,” 25.4% of those responding agreed. Of minorities responding, 47.9% agreed. Of whites responding, only 7.3% agreed. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 52.3% agreed, while of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year who responded, 8.5% agreed.

To the general statement, “Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System,” 19.4% of all respondents agreed. Of minorities responding, 36.5% agreed with the statement, while only 4.7% of whites agreed. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 43.1% agreed, while only 1.7% of those earning \$100,000 or more per year agreed.

Of those responding to the statement, “If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial,” 12.8% of all respondents agreed. Of minorities responding, 22.2 % agreed, while of whites responding, 4.3% agreed. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 22.9% agreed, and 5.1% of those earning \$100,000 or more per year agreed.

To the statement, “Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts,” 39.1% of all respondents agreed. Of minorities responding, 20.4% agreed, while of whites responding, 59% agreed. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year, 29.3% agreed, while of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 55.9% agreed.

To the overall statement, “Maryland’s Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status,” 38.7% of all persons responding agreed. Only

19% of minorities responding agreed, while 59% of whites responding agreed. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 25.7% agreed, while of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 64.4% agreed.

## **RESPONDENTS' IMPRESSIONS AS TO FUTURE COURT UTILIZATION**

In general, whites and persons in the more affluent statuses, in significantly greater percentages, appear to be more willing to utilize the court system in the future than are minorities and persons in less affluent statuses. Respondents of all races and ethnic backgrounds, and of all economic statuses, prefer to settle cases privately, but given the choice between mediation and the courts, all classes of persons responding prefer to utilize the courts. Overall, minorities and the less affluent have significantly less faith in all systems than do whites and the more affluent.

When asked whether the respondents would use Maryland's court system in the future, 57% of all persons responding said yes and 26.3% said no. Of minorities responding, 49.3% answered yes and 40.8% answered no. Of whites that responded, 74.8% answered yes and 17.1% said no. Of persons earning \$18,000 or less per year who responded, 38.5% said yes and 47.7% said no. Of persons earning \$100,000 or more per year, 81.4% said yes and 15.3% responded no.

When asked whether they would expect to receive fair and impartial hearings in Maryland courts in the future, only 61.1% of all persons responding to the questionnaire said yes. Of the minorities responding, 51.7% said yes, while of the whites responding, 80.8% said yes. In the Commission's view, these differences are significant. Likewise, when persons of differing economic means are considered, similar differences exist. Of those earning \$18,000 or less per year that responded, less than half, 49.5%, said yes. Of those earning \$100,000 or more per year, 83.1% answered yes. It is clear to the Commission that the differing figures indicate that views as to fairness in the court system are, in significant part, driven by the economic status as well as the racial or ethnic status of persons involved with the court system.

When asked whether in the future, "If you had a legal dispute or problem and had a choice, would you prefer to: Use a Mediator, Go to Court, Settle Privately?" the largest number of overall respondents preferred settling privately (39.3%). Given the choice between using mediation or going to court, the majority preferred going to court (25.1%) to mediation (14.5%). Of minorities responding, 25.6% preferred court to mediation (18%). Of whites responding, 29.1% preferred court to mediation (13.2%). Only in the mid-range of economic statuses did there appear to be significant differences. Persons making between \$18,000 and 49,999 per year preferred court (37.7%) to mediation (15.1%). There were differences among respondents in other economic status ranges, but not as great.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**1. A formal discrimination complaint procedure should be developed for court users in which they can register timely bias complaints with an appropriate office of the courts. The Court of Appeals should adopt a procedure for the review and resolution of complaints and for notification to the complainants of the resolutions. Information should be widely disseminated to court participants and observers about the courts' racial and ethnic bias complaint procedure.**

An anonymous reporting procedure should be created with features to protect against scurrilous or frivolous complaints. Notices should be posted at appropriate places in all court houses regarding any formal complaint process adopted. Forms should be readily available for those who believe that they have experienced or witnessed instances of racial or ethnic bias.

**2. The position of the courts on matters of racial, ethnic, and economic fairness should be prominently displayed on court bulletin boards, forms, and in written statements sent with correspondence and notices.**

**3. Intake procedures should be strengthened in all aspects of criminal matters, such as bail proceedings, preliminary hearings, and similar proceedings, in order to better inform and educate participants (including juveniles) involved in the judicial processes.**

Steps should be taken, or strengthened, to ensure that cultural and language difficulties, if any, are considered during the initial phases of the criminal (and juvenile) processes so that participants are more aware of rights, procedures, and available alternatives.

**4. Methods of informing and educating the public that police departments, social services agencies, prosecutors, and defense attorneys are not primarily controlled by the courts should be developed.**

These other entities should also be made aware of the images that court users have of them and should be encouraged to take steps to improve their images.

**5. Information systems should be procured by the courts that advise potential litigants and witnesses of court procedures in general for various types of proceedings. This information should be available in English, Spanish, and other major languages, considering the most recent census demographic information.**

The court system should focus on a process, pamphlets, audio and/or video devices, and programs to help alleviate the negative perceptions of the court system. Efforts should also be continued to make the courts more user-friendly, especially in regard to minorities and the less affluent.

In order that persons of lower educational levels will also be able to understand the advice being provided, the systems should include a method for providing information directed at the level of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. (See the I-Can-Touch-Screen method utilized in legal-aid type

situations in some jurisdictions.) Packets of information could also be developed in English, and the varying languages of the major ethnic groups, and provided in readily accessible locations in the courts and elsewhere. Included in those packets should be a resource list of racial, ethnic, and cultural organizations that could be sources of information not only for court users, but also for judges, court employees, lawyers, and others.

The courts should consider developing additional video/audiotapes to provide information and education to participants (or potential participants) in the courts' proceedings, advising them, generally, of the practices and procedures of the various types of proceedings and of the relevant roles of parties, witnesses, jurors, judges, and those entities not subject to direct control by the courts, such as prosecutors, police, public defenders, social services workers, and others. In today's environment, videos may well be a better, and less intimidating, way to reach certain segments of the population. This information should be available in the languages of the major ethnic groups. Information kiosks, information desks, electronic and/or computer devices should be available to furnish relevant information to members of the various ethnic groups as certain levels of court usage are reached by a specific ethnic group.

Additionally, the courts and court personnel, including judges, should be encouraged to participate in public programs directed at racial and ethnic communities that are designed to alleviate the fears of such communities in respect to Maryland court processes. If possible, court facilities could be used in such programs.

The courts should continue to stress training for the improvement of multicultural competence and the recognition of differences for judges and the personnel of the courts, and of the clerks of courts and register of wills' offices. To the extent appropriate, the courts should receive input from various entities within certain racial and cultural communities in developing training programs.

To the extent the courts have the power, they should support the provision of legal services to the economically disadvantaged. There should be specific education focusing on ensuring that judges and court personnel fully understand the differing problems of various economic classes.

**6. Racial and ethnic training workshops addressing diversity issues should be continued for all court personnel, including judges, designed to improve the provisions of access and service in an equal and fair manner to all users of court services.**

This may include training on ethnic and cultural differences, as well as continuing programs primarily directed at the different perceptions of racial minorities and whites and the differing problems of economic classes of court participants.

**7. Public workshops should be developed to explain and discuss court procedures, services, and programs to appropriate groups, including racial and ethnic communities, and to the economically disadvantaged.**

**8. The number of available jurors from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds should be increased.**

Judges and jury commissioners should be more reluctant to accept juror requests to be excused based upon work-related reasons. Other methods to increase diversity should be considered.

**9. A study should be made to determine whether compensation should be made available to low-income jurors for child care or elder care expenses and whether that would result in a more diverse pool of jurors available for service.**

General child care provisions should be considered for all court users.

**10. Expanded education and training programs should be developed for court personnel regarding unique cultural issues relating to specific racial or ethnic groups, as such groups achieve significant percentages of population in the relevant court jurisdictions.**

**11. The hiring and retention of multilingual employees in the courts should be encouraged.**

**12. The availability of translation and interpretation services should be increased for matters directly related to the delivery of all court services to the public.**

In addition to the obvious need for translation services at the intake level in criminal and juvenile proceedings, interpreter and translation services should be considered in respect to other proceedings, such as emergency commitments, ex parte domestic violence hearings and the subsequent domestic violence merits hearing, child in need of assistance (CINA), child in need of supervision (CINS), and some guardianship matters.

In respect to all translation and interpretation services, the courts should require accurate interpretations and translations and, in that respect, develop a litany of advice to be used by judicial officers when qualifying interpreters.

Mediation, including arbitration, when required by the courts should be in the languages of all of the participants in the respective proceedings.

**13. The Rules of Evidence and Procedure should be streamlined and simplified in appropriate ways to make the judicial processes more accessible and effective for persons not represented by counsel.**

**14. The compilation of demographic data for the courts to facilitate monitoring of court services to ensure that they are equally available and actually applied in ways that are racially, ethnically, and economically neutral should be considered.**

**15. The causes for the disproportionately high numbers of minorities who are charged with and receive criminal and juvenile (including CINS) sanctions, who are involved in such matters, needs additional study.**

The courts are constitutionally limited in their powers to address matters outside the judicial process itself, but a prevalent concern heard from the various minority and poor respondents was that minorities and the poor are more frequently incarcerated than others who have committed the same or similar offenses. Demographic statistics support the assertions that such persons are disproportionately represented within the correction system. The problem may well result from societal circumstances far beyond the courts' constitutional powers to rectify. It is, however, a problem the Commission believes is serious and further believes is a major factor in the low perception of fairness in the court system held by very substantial numbers of the minorities and the poor that responded to the questionnaire.

**16. All new admittees to the bar should be required to participate in at least one training session regarding racial, ethnic, and economic fairness.**

Perhaps include a section on sensitivity issues in the professionalism course that all new attorneys must complete before they are admitted to the bar.

**17. Consideration should be given to the establishment of an ombudsman to promote the courts' position and programs concerning racial, ethnic, and economic fairness in the court system.**

**18. Goals for improvements in the area of racial, ethnic, and economic fairness should be periodically reviewed on a statewide and regional basis.**

It is suggested that the courts consider the adoption of a statewide automated court performance improvement system directed, at least in part, to "fairness" concerns. Other governmental entities have taken advantage of available technology to test whether the desired goals of the particular organizations are being met. Some of the recommendations contained in our report were influenced in part by outcomes assessments already adopted in other jurisdictions. The collection, maintenance, and ongoing analysis of data collected could be used, through proper public relations avenues, to improve the perceptions of all of the stakeholders (including litigants, witnesses, judges, and others) in the system and ultimately could be used to justify increased investment of public funds to improve the quality of the justice furnished to all.

We are not recommending the adoption of any specific court performance measurement system. However, the data collected from such a system and the use of the data to improve the quality and fairness of the justice afforded to our citizens would address many of the concerns raised by the study as described in our report.

**19. Continue to encourage the nondiscriminatory hiring of law clerks and the acceptance of interns by judges and to encourage law students to apply to judges of ethnic or racial backgrounds different from their own.**





# Appendices



## ANECDOTAL COMPILATION

(A sampling of written material sent to the Commission or attached to questionnaire responses)

An attorney referring to a specific court and judge, stated in a letter obtained by the Commission, that:

Before I started allocution, the Court asked me to tell him if my client was in the U.S. legally. I asked to approach the bench and indicated that I felt I couldn't answer that question, made some vague remarks to deflect his interest, and requested the Court to permit me to allocute as to the rest of my client's background. The Court then excused me and the State, and as I was walking back to counsel table, he asked my client if he had a green card. Before I could interject, my client answered no. I proceeded through my allocution. . . . I requested a PBJ. The Court denied the request and stated, "your client broke the law by coming here, and he broke the law when he drove under the influence." He then sentenced my client to 30 days in jail, directed the State to contact INS to "pick up" my client, and refused to set any appeal bond.

. . . , I happened to go to court . . . , on the day after this event, and the judge [was the same judge]. . . . The last hearing of the day, a defendant named [Spanish surname] appeared pro se. . . . This time, since the State's Attorney mentioned some "confusion" about the defendant's immigration status, Judge . . . took it upon himself to significantly raise the bond to \$ . . . (from \$ . . . ), and again directed the State to contact INS to let them "figure out the defendants status."

. . . ; I can tell everyone that in the small . . . Hispanic community, this tale is already making the rounds, and clients are concerned that they shouldn't even come to court for routine cases.

\* \* \*

Conversely, at a meeting of the Commission, a member related a conversation she had with a judge, then involved in a case involving a Hispanic defendant, who was attempting to ascertain whether he could avoid the party having difficulties with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials if he placed the party on PBJ instead of rendering a guilty verdict.

The Commission subsequently received a letter from a person who believed it to be wrong for judges to sentence Hispanic defendants more leniently than non-Hispanic defendants. This letter writer was referring to another judge. The letter writer wrote:

Please look into Judge . . . 's "Hispanic Discount Program" for traffic violations. Judge . . . routinely gives Hispanics an 80% reduction in their fines and points in traffic court while others are not afforded this preferential treatment. Sound unbelievable to you? Just look at his cases, especially on . . . 2002, where he gave every Hispanic person an 89% reduction in their fines and points, while this judge would not let other nationalities even present their cases! . . . Please see that all are treated just and fairly in the courthouses in . . . County and look into Judge . . . 's cases. Stop the injustice.

In all instances, if true, the judges were permitting the immigration status of defendants to be a factor, one way or the other, in sentencing. The Commission believes that this status will usually be inappropriate as a sentencing factor.

\* \* \*

In another letter relating to cultural differences, the writer wrote:

The court system used her personal feelings about the nature of my culture/religion to address an appropriate punishment. The facts of the case provided less reason [than] the appearance which my religion requires me to keep. This treatment forces one to conform to the view of the court system regarding social/ethnic “normalcy,” or receive a worse punishment for being true to your ethnic/cultural, religious beliefs.

The separation of Church and Court must be fully enforced. The word “God” should be one that goes unspoken in the Judicial Systems walls and buildings. In closing, I believe from my experience that the wearing of **DREADLOCKS** has greatly affected the outcome of my trial in an unfair and worse manner.

\* \* \*

Not all letters were critical. One writer who had apparently appeared (at different times) before both a White and a Black judge, wrote:

I had always thought that the judge, the police and states attorney were all working under the same rules—that when one area found you guilty they all did. . . .The judge went to his place and the answers to what I didn’t know were given to me instantly as the judge let everyone in the courtroom know what his duties [were] as it related to overseeing of cases in his court room and that he has no connection with the police and the states attorney when it comes to his decision on each case. . . . As I watched cases go before me I noticed that the judge let every defendant know his rights under law and ask if they felt they had been treated fair within those rights. I also noticed that as the cases came before the judge his tone and manner never change whether it was black or white or [foreigner]. And it didn’t matter what the age . . . or sex of them either. Every body was treated as a human being . . . . I found myself smiling and saying to myself now I know why people are always saying justice is blind. In that courtroom with a black judge and a white judge I did not see anybody treated differently because of their race, color, sex, or age. I watched the judges I had base the cases on two scales what the law had written for the case and what the human being was asked by the judge in reference to the case.

And, another writer said:

To make a long story short, it is my sincere opinion that the Maryland Court System is generally fair. This conclusion is based upon my experiences which have been generally very good even when I’ve been guilty of charges . . . .

. . . it has been my blessing and honor to have received genial dispositions in most of my criminal cases within the Maryland Court System. While no system is perfect, I respectfully admire your efforts to make improvements upon the system and I trust my humble, yet honest in-put will help you achieve the desired ends of affording all parties the benefits of mutual enhancement. Thank you Judge Robert M. Bell for considering my humble opinion in your efforts to improve the system. PEACE!!

\* \* \*

Another letter provided, in relevant part:

I'm sorry but I have a problem answering your questionnaire like "what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin". I have no idea and care even less where they come from, it didn't have anything to do with the case.

Everyone did a professional job. The states attorney that handled the case was very nice, very informative, answered all my questions but most of all knew what Star Trek was. I had to postpone a case due to having Trek convention tickets purchased 7-8 months previously out of town. I've learned if you treat people with respect they treat you the same. Sometimes I think these questionnaires cause more problems than solve them. My personal opinion is, if you were born here or have been naturalized you are an American first. . . . I'm sorry if I wasn't a whole lot of help.

\* \* \*

Another writer, stated, in part:

All cases should keep the same judge and attorneys once they get familiar with the case, the changing of the attorneys and judges make the system fail to adhere to the proper punishment.

\* \* \*

One note stated, simply:

I would like someone to look into the hiring practices of the judges who hire law clerks. It looks to me like black judges hire black law clerks and white judges hire white ones. I feel the judges would never think of this as bias, but it is. They should be shown the statistics you find and think about how biased they are.

\* \* \*

Another writer disagreed with the preparing of a study. After inquiring into the composition of the Commission, the cost of the study, and the identity of the consultant, the writer shared the following comments:

God created some people black, some Hispanic, some white—males and females. [Neither] You nor I, or any expensive studies or surveys are going to change that.

The answer to most if not all of their concerns is pure and simple—EDUCATION. I do not know the meaning of racial and ethnic fairness, nor do you. . . .

I suspect my few minutes to write these comments have been wasted and they will be trashed.

My message to your committee is very simple. Tell those who call themselves "minorities" to join the world, get an education and let's move ahead together."

\* \* \*

Some of the questions contained spaces for additional comments. In many instances, the comments were merely consistent with the question response. For example, to the question, "Did the judge in Family Court treat any individuals differently due to their race or ethnicity?" one person stated, "I feel the judge let my ex-husband out of paying child support due to his race and economic status."

The sampling of statements that follow go beyond mere repetition.

To the same question above, one respondent added the statement: "I'm Iranian and I went to court after 9/11 attack." Another person stated: "The judge said she was going to teach me a lesson and I will not work as a nurse in Maryland, no hospital would want to hire me."

\* \* \*

To the question, "Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?" several responses were further explained. One respondent said that jurors "began to favor [a] black African with a French accent." Another said, "Everyone involved in the case was white except for me." And others added, "This was an African-American crime on a Jewish American," "Low income African-Americans aren't viewed as legitimate by their attorneys," and "I need a black attorney from . . . County to represent me in . . . [another] County."

\* \* \*

To a series of questions relating to fairness of treatment as it related to race or ethnicity, 63 explanations of responses were received. Among them were, "Attorney stated if you were white you've won this case," "Defendant is a white lawyer represented by a white lawyer, before a white judge," "I feel if the litigants were black we all would have been handled with more attention and care," "It appeared that the (white) public defender did fairly represent me (black)," "My white clients felt they had been treated less favorably than opposing party because opposing party was same race as judge," "She treated him differently because he was a minority, like she felt sorry for him," "I had an all white jury, and I am a black Jamaican," "The judge was not understanding of one man who spoke very little English. In fact, he shouted at him several times," "Was black," "We appeared before a minority judge. What's to explain," and "White collar upper class treated better than blue collar lower class."

\* \* \*

To a similar question, "Did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?" 71 explanations of responses were received. Among them were, "Cause I'm black," "I'm white, got bad treatment. You can see the difference the way they treat whites compared to Blacks," "Because I'm a white police officer, I'm less likely to be believed by all parties," "I'm white, defendant and judge were African Americans. . .," and "If I was white I [would not have gotten] that much time."

\* \* \*

Several explanations were received in respect to responses to a series of questions relating to court observations. Among them were, "They're rude when they have knowledge we are from another country," "Because economic status blacks are not given the benefit of the doubt," "It is my honest opinion that minorities are usually extended the benefit of the doubt when warranted," "Judge not able to understand different language, therefore treating the man differently," "Non-minorities received less common respect. . .," and "While waiting to go next, judge say, 'boy I told you if I saw you in my courtroom this year you was up shit creek.'"

\* \* \*

Seventy explanations of responses were noted to the question, “Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?” Among them were, “Economically, that’s where low-income defendants have the biggest disadvantage. Overburdened public defenders hurry through cases to lessen caseload,” “Happens all the time, every day, every city,” “If you can’t afford a Dream Team you get no respect,” “How would you know economic status by looking or listening to someone? This is a ridiculous question,” “I don’t know,” “Individuals with greater economic status received less punishment . . .,” “Just the opposite, I feel the poor African-American given more leniency,” “The dollar tolls louder than due process,” “Obviously, the entire system is disrespectful to the plight of the economic status of the poor—as it neglects the lack of justice at the larger picture. If you are poor—you will more likely go to prison,” “She acted like he deserved better treatment than I did because he had no money,” “All were white jurors from white areas,” “African-American jurors do not want more African-Americans in jail, regardless of guilt,” “Minority jurors are more in favor of finding the defendant guilty than white jurors,” and “More blacks on jury—walked.”

\* \* \*

Thirty explanations of responses were received to the question, “In court, did those that speak English receive better treatment than those who didn’t?” Among the responses were, “I have a case that requires interpretation and the court has been very accommodating and fair,” “I seen the mood of the judge change when the non-English defendant had his turn,” “It is harder for lower level court personnel to deal with non-English speaking people,” “Judges and juries more impatient where interpreter or ethnic minorities are parties,” “Language difficulties cause problems to be less clearly explained,” “More respect and patience for those who spoke English,” and “Those speaking English moved thru court faster. Once a judge asked a Hispanic ‘How long he had been in this country’ and told him, ‘he should have learnt to speak English in his six years here.’”

\* \* \*

There were 173 explanations of responses to why, or why not, the respondents’ experiences had changed their prior perceptions as to “fairness in the courts. . . .” Among them were, “A double standard. Damned if I do and damned if I don’t,” “Because I got put in jail off some bull shit,” “Because I never thought a judge would be unfair. . . .,” “Because if you are other than white you are treated unfair,” “My faith in the judicial system went from negative to positive towards minorities,” “It was better than I had been led to believe,” “It proves that they’re racists,” “Color and lack of finances reduced legal representation,” “I always thought that the court, police and attorneys was working together but the judge let everybody know before he bring the case, that was not the case,” “I expect unfairness,” “I felt that the court was much more fair than I thought they were going to be,” “I had a belief that the Maryland court system was fair & just. I no longer believe that is true,” “I got to go home,” “I understood the importance of proper representation and the costs involved,” “I’m still fighting for justice without legal representation,” “In District Court, I feel my case was not fairly heard; however, in Appellate Court there was an evaluation of the trial. Once the facts/story was heard by the judge the right verdict was found,” “Influenced negatively by [questions] 88, 89, & 90 changed to positive by personal experience,” “The court system will never change, this survey is a waste of time and I’m sorry they put you in charge of this no win ever assignment,” “The whole system, how people are able to get postponed, how white defendants are treated unfairly,” “They became much worse, my belief in justice diminished,” “Very positively,” “Wrong judge wrong time,” “Yes, because I think my life is over, I’m tired of walking on the wild side,” “Accused of domestic violence guilty until proven innocent,” “I didn’t present my case well because I defended myself,” “The judge took up for the police,” “Treated different than blacks,” and “I’m black, I was discriminated against.”

\* \* \*

There were 72 explanations of responses to the question, “Did you experience any problems due to economic status?” Among them were, “Affording an attorney was my biggest woe. Then again the fine/penalty didn’t help either,” “Because I didn’t have an attorney the judge did not listen to what I had to say,” “Could not afford fines, so had to go to jail instead,” “Could not afford to hire witnesses,” “Due to no finances, unable to secure a good lawyer. Pub. Def.’s always want blacks to take pleas. AND I AM NOT RACIST!” “I could not afford the filing/appeal fees,” “I often wondered if I had less of an ‘economic advantage’ would the system have been more helpful,” “No attorney, couldn’t afford one,” and “People with money are treated worse when going against someone poor.”

\* \* \*

To the general question, “Do you have any other comments?” there were numerous responses. Among them were, “Being on social services I feel often slighted. More economic sensitivity would help,” “Courts need . . . to stop trying to talk people into plea bargains,” “Drug addicts are treated second class. . .,” “Fairness is limited to who you know and how much \$ you have, . . . Courts are monetary biased—casually check it out and you’ll see I’m right,” “I feel that the court system has never and will never be fair for minorities,” “I am of Greek heritage . . . I felt the system worked very fairly. The judge was of African-American heritage,” “I do feel that I learned a lot being a juror but I feel they should have something for us to snack on while we decide our case,” “I feel if you do wrong, you pay no matter [what] color you are . . . race is not breaking the law, people are,” “A lot of people are being convicted on charges that stem from police action and misconduct,” “I hope the judge in my case does not have a daughter that gets treated like I was by my husband and have to face an appellate judge such as himself,” “I’m just a little perplexed about the State’s attorney office negotiating/deals made,” “I would say that there definitely exists in that [county’s] court[s] which is especially strong in particular judges, in favor of pro se, minority defendants,” “I would have had a better outcome in my case if I had minorities on my jury and I was properly represented by an attorney,” “I think that the courts need to be set up better to handle the needs of people who do not have the financial means to get the kind of help they need and deserve,” “I think the courts and all that are associated with it try to be fair to all litigants. I think more problems stem from lack of economic equality than race. . .,” “I think you all need to get over this racial stuff,” “I was very pleased with the court system,” “If a black defendant harm a white—jail time, for black against black—let go. . .,” “If I had gotten the right help in the past, I wouldn’t be where I am now in the future. . .,” “It fails the parent and the child, the system stinks. . .,” “It is not so much a racial issue as it is a economic issue. . .,” “Lawyers can be schmucks, but courts seem to be fair. . .,” “. . . race/ethnicity didn’t affect me—however economics/economic status did. . .,” “The whole system sucked,” “There is more unfairness in the court system based on rules of evidence, unqualified judges, ignorant jurors, uncooperative witnesses, unprepared attorneys and economic disadvantages than any racial bias,” “This survey appears to be looking under rocks for problems that either don’t exist or are being rapidly ameliorated by the courts, its employees and attorneys practicing in the courts,” “This survey is insulting to any objective observer of Maryland’s court system. . . [S]omeone who had a bad result will perceive it to be because of race and will send in answers to justify this Commission, . . . sadly it will only take a few negative answers to validate the criticism desired by some,” “This was my first time in Maryland’s court system and I think it’s a beautiful building. . .,” “Very fair process,” “. . . the police need to stop being arrogant and disrespectful like they own/rule the world,” “Young Black African-American men are not treated individually, they are treated like all of us are thugs. All Black men are not thugs, we just want to be treated fairly. Not a lot to ask for, is it?” and finally, “. . . thanks for asking my opinion,” and “God bless you!”



# Public Hearing Notice Brochure - Front

## Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process

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Hon. Dale R. Cathell, *Chair*  
Hon. Charles B. Day, *Vice-Chair*  
Carmen M. Shepard, Esq., *Vice-Chair*  
Jonathan Ilson Ahn, Esq.  
Hon. Marielsa A. Bernard  
Donna Burch  
Alice Chong, Esq.  
Michele Livojevic Davis, Ph.D.  
William B. Dulany, Esq.  
George Fauth  
Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Esq.  
Hon. Michele D. Hotten  
W. Newton Jackson, III, Esq.  
Rev. Nathaniel Johnson  
Charlene Cole-Newkirk  
Spyros J. Sarbanes, Esq.  
Gustava E. Taler, Esq.  
Joseph A. Trevino, Esq.  
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For additional information please contact:

Dr. William L. Howard  
410-260-1298  
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### COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

*"The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process has been asked to undertake a critical examination of court-related equality issues to court users clients, and other parts of the African-American, Hispanic and Asian communities, and to propose solutions to the identified problems that are within the power of the judiciary to implement . . . .*

*It is imperative that our legal system operate without bias of any kind, and be perceived as dispensing justice fairly and equitably."*

—Robert M. Bell,  
Chief Judge

# Public Hearing Notice Brochure - Reverse

## MISSION

- To develop methodology to reduce or eliminate unequal access, and unequal treatment
- To increase public confidence in the equal application of the law in Maryland
- To identify initiatives to raise both public and professional awareness, and
- To recommend the development of educational programs for the bench and bar.

## Public Hearings

A series of public hearings will be held to allow citizens the opportunity to speak directly to Commission Members.

There are three ways in which you may give testimony:

- You may show up in person to give oral testimony in public,
- You may give confidential testimony in a private setting, and
- You may submit written testimony up to March 14, 2003.

To ensure that you will have the opportunity to speak or give *confidential testimony* at a particular hearing, you are encouraged to pre-register. Please contact Dr. William L. Howard prior to the scheduled public hearing at (410) 260-1298.

## What Can You Do to Help?

People who have experienced racial or ethnic bias in the court system are encouraged to share their experiences and recommendations with the Commission.

## Public Hearing Locations and Dates

You may attend public hearings at any one of the sites listed below. All hearings will start at 6:00 p.m.

### Eastern Shore

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Monday, February 24, 2003  
Pemberton Elementary School  
Salisbury, MD

### Southern Maryland

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Tuesday, February 25, 2003  
JAYCEES Community Center  
Waldorf, MD

### Baltimore City Area

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Wednesday, February 26, 2003  
Baltimore City College High School  
Baltimore, MD

### Western Maryland

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Thursday, February 27, 2003  
South Hagerstown High School  
Hagerstown, MD

### Washington DC Area

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Friday, February 28, 2003  
University of Maryland, University College,  
Marriott Conference Center  
College Park, MD

The directions to the public hearing, instructions for giving testimony, information on the Commission of Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process, information on the Maryland Court System, and confirmation of the time and place of your testimony will be mailed to you upon request.

## SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

An African American speaker testified in respect to an eviction proceeding in which he had appeared *pro se* in behalf of his mother, the person whose eviction was sought. A person who had bought the property at a tax sale was seeking the eviction, and the speaker had filed suit to “stop” (enjoin) the eviction. The owner had filed a motion to dismiss the action and a hearing on the motion had been scheduled, but the period in which the speaker had to respond was due to expire prior to the hearing date. The speaker had not responded to the motion and had not asked for an extension of time in order to respond because of a combination of “family” problems and the impact upon him of a snowstorm that apparently occurred during the period in which a response to the motion was due. Accordingly, he planned to respond orally at the date set for the hearing. Upon appearing on the date scheduled for the hearing, he learned that the motion had already been granted. Because he had failed to respond to it during the prescribed response period, the owner had withdrawn his request for a hearing and the motion had been granted. The speaker was advised, generally, of the right to file motions to reconsider or to appeal, which all parties have, if still within appropriate time periods.

This speaker also testified as to his opinion of the inherent unfairness in the court system in respect to the economically disadvantaged. He was a laid-off steel worker, and it had been financially difficult for him to come up with the filing fees for the suit he had filed. He anticipated that it would be very difficult for him to even come up with fees for appealing, if he chose to appeal. Several members of the Commission mentioned, in response, certain entities to approach and certain inquiries he could make which might be helpful in his particular situation.

This speaker noted that he had found the federal system much easier for the economically disadvantaged to access in that it had numerous forms designed to assist *pro se* litigants in the procedures for filing and maintaining litigation. According to him, the federal system utilizes some type of “walk-through” form for many types of civil procedures.

The speaker’s concerns did not appear to relate to racial or ethnic fairness issues, but to economic fairness issues.

(The Commission members present commented that the issue of “walk-through” forms might be appropriate for the Commission to consider in formulating its recommendations.)

\* \* \*

Another African American spoke to express his appreciation that the Commission had been formed and was addressing the questions at issue. He did not inform the Commission of any specific concerns he had as to racial and ethnic fairness in the court system.

\* \* \*

A certified Spanish interpreter stressed the importance of using only certified interpreters in court proceedings. She also noted, and knowledgeable members of the Commission agreed, that the certification process was a difficult and lengthy process and was not yet producing the numbers of certified interpreters needed in the court system.

She also stated that even with certified interpreters, it was sometimes very difficult, and perhaps impossible, to adequately address the translation needs of some Hispanic/Latino immigrants. She noted that in some cases the lack of education of some persons appearing in court caused them always to have great difficulty in understanding, even in their native language, what had happened, even when they had been in their country of origin. In other words, because of their lack of education and their prior

experiences in their native cultures, some immigrants had difficulty in understanding what was happening to them in our court system, even when it was explained to them in their native language.

\* \* \*

In another instance, an attorney from a smaller jurisdiction, who often represents Hispanics, complained that Hispanics who make bond in respect to charges against them in Maryland, but are detained on Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detainers, are not, when they are subsequently sentenced on the State charges, given credit on the State sentence for the period they remain incarcerated on the INS detainer. It was pointed out to the speaker that this practice is not limited to INS detainees but apparently applies when a person, who posts bond in respect to Maryland charges, remains held on detainers from other states or federal law enforcement authorities. Generally, clients who have had detainers filed against them are advised that even if they post bond on the State charges, they will still be held on the detainer and that the only way they will get credit for time spent in jail on a detainer when they are sentenced in this State, on the State charges, is not to post bond. That way they remain in jail on both the local charges and the detainer and remain eligible for credits.

He was advised that legislation might be the proper way to address this issue, although the problem, if it is a problem, is not limited to INS detainees.

He also informed the Commission that some judges sometimes ask, generally after the verdict is rendered, whether the Hispanic is “legal or illegal.” He objected to the practice.

He also argued for more bi- or multilingual employees to be hired for positions in the court system. In response, the Commission members noted that vigorous efforts in that direction were being made, but that it was a slower process in smaller jurisdictions because the creation of new positions and turnover of existing employees were slow processes. It was noted that most employees of the court system are merit system employees (or similar to merit system employees) and they cannot, and should not, be easily replaced to make way for employees of different ethnic backgrounds.

\* \* \*

The president of a local chapter of a major civil rights organization complained that she had not received notice of the hearing. While (because we did not want to embarrass her) we did not publicly inform her of it, a Commission member had delivered notice of the meeting to the president’s subordinate, and it apparently was the subordinate who had failed to notify the president. This speaker complained that it was not fair that there were more Hispanics present at the hearing than African Americans.

She also complained about her perceived difference in the quality of legal representation as between private attorneys and public defenders. This difference, she contended, was unfair to minorities. She further testified that African American defendants were not informed of the proper dress for court proceedings, or did not have proper clothes for court proceedings, or did not choose to wear them. She opined that if such defendants did not have proper clothes, either the public defender’s office or some other entity should provide them in order that the in-court appearances of African American defendants would be on a par with other defendants. She also complained that police entities appeared to cooperate more fully with prosecutors than they do with public defenders.

\* \* \*

A Spanish interpreter complained that the written information available at the courthouses should be equally available in other languages, especially Spanish. Additionally, she noted that within the Hispanic/Latino immigrant communities there are many dialects of Spanish and that interpreters are not always familiar with the dialects spoken by the specific litigant they are selected to assist. In this context, the person spoke of the need, in many instances, for multiple interpreters to address the different dialects of Spanish that may be necessary in the same case.

\* \* \*

Another speaker, who identified himself as “Cuban Hispanic,” responded to the previous speaker, stating that it would be very difficult to resolve the “multiple-interpreter” problem given the numerous languages (including Spanish) and the numerous dialects that may arise out of a particular language. He did agree that written information available in courthouses in English should also be available in Spanish. Additionally, he noted the need for certain advice to be furnished in Spanish as well as English. As an example, he pointed to the form known as a DR 15 form that is given by police officers to drivers they suspect are driving under the influence of alcohol. It is in English. If a Hispanic does not speak English, and if the officer doesn’t speak Spanish, the advice really can’t be furnished to him or her, yet it is required to be furnished to drivers who are suspected of intoxication.<sup>1</sup>

It was pointed out to him that while Hispanics/Latinos constitute a large ethnic minority population, there were many other substantial ethnic groups, the majority of the members of which might not be English speaking. The problem with using such multilingual forms would be to determine how many languages (and dialects) would have to be included on the forms. There was some discussion that it could be limited to the language, or languages, of the major ethnic populations.

This speaker agreed with other speakers that information notices in courthouses, and orders emanating from the courts, should be in other languages, especially Spanish because of the large Hispanic/Latino population. He noted that, in his opinion, there should be better systems for determining when interpreters were needed.

He felt strongly about the need to have proposed plea agreements prepared in advance in the language of a non-English-speaking defendant. If plea agreements could not be prepared in writing in advance, he stressed the importance of having such agreements fully explained orally and recorded in a defendant’s native language in order that subsequent conflicts as to the provisions of such agreements, and whether they were sufficiently understood by a defendant, could be later resolved.

He concluded that, in his opinion, the attorney for a defendant should not act as an interpreter or translator in court for his or her client.

\* \* \*

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<sup>1</sup>To those who may say that such drivers should not be allowed to drive unless they can speak English, the Commission notes that many millions of Americans who speak only English visit foreign countries where the native language is not English. The Commission believes that the ability to speak the native language of a visited country is not, generally, a requirement for driving privileges in most countries.

Another court-certified Spanish interpreter noted that when District Court commissioners are attempting to explain charges to a Hispanic/Latino person, translation should be in person and not over the phone, and that the charges should be directly explained to a defendant, or translated into his or her language for him or her, prior to bail review hearings before a judge.

\* \* \*

An African lawyer, who had immigrated to this country (she identified herself as having been a judge in the foreign country) and spoke with a heavy accent, complained that her ethnic (as opposed to race) background caused her and her clients to be treated unfairly in the primary jurisdiction, Prince George's County, in which she practiced. Her complaint was that, in addition to being a female and to being black, because she was a native African, juries—even juries comprising primarily African Americans—were prejudiced against her and her clients. She informed the Commission members present that even the judicial friends that she had made in this country had told her it was impossible, because she came from Africa, for her to have even a chance to be considered for judgeships, no matter how competent, proficient, and otherwise qualified she might be (presumably she had, or was about to, become a citizen of the United States).

\* \* \*

Another interpreter from a different area of the State than the prior interpreter/speakers basically affirmed the experiences of the other interpreters, albeit in the context of a specific tragic case. Additionally, she spoke more extensively of the impact of cultural differences in that case's context.

In the following questions, we ask about your actual experience in Maryland’s Courts. Select the answer(s) that best represents your experience. For the purposes of this questionnaire, “minorities” include African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian/Pacific Islander individuals. The terms “litigants” and “parties” refers to both the plaintiff/petitioner and the defendant/respondent in a case. “Attorneys” refers to both defense and if applicable, prosecuting attorneys. Unless otherwise directed, answer all questions. Disregard the numbers following the choice of answers; they are for data entry purposes only.

Do not sign your name; individual responses will be kept strictly confidential. If you comment, be sure to write or print legibly. Thanks very much for your time and help! If you have any questions about this survey, please contact William Howard, Ed.D., Assistant State Court Administrator at (410) 260 - 1298.

1. The last time you were in Court, did you appear as a:
- Corporate Representative (1)       Defendant/Respondent (2)       Interpreter (3)       Juror (4)
- Plaintiff/Petitioner (5)       Victim (6)       Witness (7)
- Other (8) *Please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Was the case in which you were involved a:
- Criminal Case (1)       Divorce or Domestic Relations Case (2)       Civil Matter (3)
- Juvenile Case (4)       Traffic Case (5)       Other (6) *Explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the overall fairness you experienced with Maryland's Court System. *Circle your response.*

*Respond to the following statements by circling your answer:*

4. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the race or ethnicity of the parties involved.
- 5                      4                      3                      2                      1
- Strongly Agree      Agree      Neither Agree Nor Disagree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree
5. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved.
- 5                      4                      3                      2                      1
- Strongly Agree      Agree      Neither Agree Nor Disagree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

*If your case was held in Juvenile or Family Court, answer the following questions. If not, skip to question 14.*

6. At the time of the Court proceeding, what was your role? *Check all that apply.*
- Biological Parent (1)       Caregiver - Relative (2)       Caregiver - Non-Relative (3)
- Defendant/Respondent (4)       Foster Parent - Non-Relative (5)       Plaintiff/Petitioner (6)

7. Were Juvenile and Family Court proceedings conducted in a fair manner to all, regardless of race or ethnicity?  Yes  No

How satisfied were you that each of the following applicable proceedings was conducted in a fair, unbiased manner?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	No Opinion	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
8. Juvenile Court Proceeding	5	4	3	2	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Domestic Violence Proceeding	5	4	3	2	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Family Court Proceeding	5	4	3	2	1	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Did the judge in Family Court treat any individuals in the case differently due to their race or ethnicity?  Yes  No

12. Did the Department of Social Services treat any individuals in the case differently due to race or ethnicity?  Yes  No

13. If you answered yes to either of the above two (2) questions, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGAL REPRESENTATION- All Courts**

14. Was the plaintiff/petitioner represented by:
- Private counsel (1)       A legal services organization (2)       Self-represented (3)
15. If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?  Yes  No

16. Was the defendant/respondent represented by:  
 Private counsel (1)  A legal services organization (2)  
 A public defender (3)  Self-represented (4)
17. If the defendant/respondent was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?  Yes  No
18. Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
19. If yes, in what way? *Please be specific.* \_\_\_\_\_

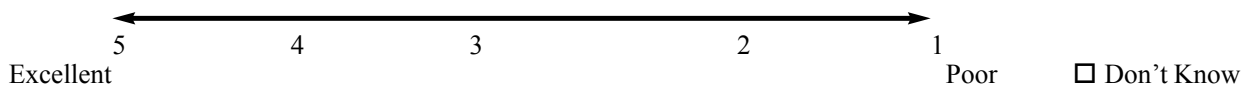
**LEGAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

20. If self-represented, did either the plaintiff or defendant seek information and assistance from the Court System or a legal services organization such as Legal Aid?  Yes  No  Don't Know  Not Applicable
21. If yes, what, if any, aid was received? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Where was it found? (What was the source?) \_\_\_\_\_
23. Was the information helpful?  Yes  No  Don't Know  Not Applicable
24. Were the forms easy to understand?  Yes  No  Don't Know  Not Applicable
25. Were the documents' instructions clear?  Yes  No  Don't Know  Not Applicable
26. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)
27. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect how you were treated during the court proceeding?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
28. Did the litigants appear before a minority judge or master?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
29. Were court personnel less respectful to minority litigants than to non-minorities?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
30. Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
31. Was the treatment the litigants received different because of their race or ethnicity?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
32. If you answered yes to questions 26 - 31, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

33. Was the case referred to mediation?  Yes  No
34. If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
35. If not, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

**LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION**

36. Was an interpreter required during the court proceeding?  Yes  No
37. If yes, on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?



38. At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
39. At any time during the Court process, did the master improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
40. At any time during the Court process, did any other court personnel improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)



**THE COURT PROCESS**

41. Do you believe the court process was a fair one?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
42. Was the opponent in the case an individual or business?  Individual  Business
43. If an individual, what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin?  
 African-American (1)  Asian/Pacific Islander (2)  Hispanic/Latino (3)  White, Non-Hispanic (4)  
 Don't Know (5)  Other (6) \_\_\_\_\_
44. If an individual, was he/she represented by an attorney?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
45. Have you required legal assistance in court in the past two (2) years but were unable to get help because you couldn't afford it?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
46. In the past two (2) years, was your interaction with the Court System of Maryland affected by a language barrier?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
47. In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
48. In your experience, did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?  
 Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know (3)  Not Applicable (4)
49. If yes, please explain, being very specific. \_\_\_\_\_

**CRIMINAL COURT CASES**

50. Were you a defendant in a criminal case in Maryland in the past two (2) years?  Yes  No
51. Were you in court to testify in a criminal case in the state of Maryland in the past two (2) years?  Yes  No

*Place a check mark next to the department(s) with which you have had any experience or interaction in the past two (2) years, and then rate the degree of fairness received by each. Check and rate all that apply.*

	Very Fair	Somewhat Fair	No Opinion	Somewhat Unfair	Very Unfair
52. <input type="checkbox"/> Police Department	5	4	3	2	1
53. <input type="checkbox"/> State's Attorney's Office	5	4	3	2	1
54. <input type="checkbox"/> Public Defender's Office	5	4	3	2	1
55. <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland District Court	5	4	3	2	1
56. <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Circuit Court	5	4	3	2	1
57. <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Appellate Courts (Court of Special Appeals or Court of Appeals)	5	4	3	2	1

*Which, if any, of the following do you consider to be part of the Court System?*

58. Police Department  Yes  No
59. State's Attorney's Office  Yes  No
60. Public Defender's Office  Yes  No

**COURT OBSERVATIONS**

When you were in court did you actually see or hear:

61. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority judges?  Yes  No
62. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?  Yes  No
63. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority attorneys?  Yes  No
64. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?  Yes  No
65. Court personnel less respectful of minority litigants than non-minority litigants?  Yes  No
66. Litigants less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?  Yes  No
67. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority litigants?  Yes  No
68. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?  Yes  No
69. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?  Yes  No
70. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?  Yes  No

When you were in court:

- 71. Did attorneys address minorities differently than non-minorities?  Yes  No
- 72. Did judges address minorities differently than non-minorities?  Yes  No
- 73. Did court personnel address minorities differently than non-minorities?  Yes  No
- 74. Did you hear judges address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 75. Did you hear attorneys address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 76. Did you hear court personnel address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 77. Did judges improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 78. Did attorneys improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity, or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 79. Did court personnel improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?  Yes  No
- 80. If you answered yes to any of the above, *please explain*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 81. Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?  Yes  No
- 82. If yes, *please explain*. \_\_\_\_\_

**JURY TRIALS**

- 83. Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?  Yes  No
- 84. If yes, what was the jury's racial/ethnic make-up?
  - All minority representation (1)  All non-minority representation (2)  Equally divided (3)
  - More non-minorities (4)  More minorities (5)  Don't Know (6)  Not applicable (7)
- 85. In terms of race/ethnicity, was jury selection done in an unbiased, impartial manner ?
  - Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know/Not Applicable (3)
- 86. Did the racial/ethnic make-up of the jury affect the outcome of the case?  Yes (1)  No (2)  Don't Know/Not Applicable (3)
- 87. How? *Be specific*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 88. To what degree are your perceptions of the Court System influenced by what you see and hear on television, radio and newspapers? *Circle your answer.*
- 89. Is your impression of Maryland's Court System influenced by something you were told by family, friends, acquaintances and colleagues?  Yes  No
- 90. If yes, is this impression positive or negative?
  - Very Positive (1)  Somewhat Positive (2)  Neither Positive Nor Negative (3)  Somewhat Negative (4)  Very Negative (5)  Not Applicable (6)

**LANGUAGE**

- 91. In court, did those who speak English receive better treatment than those who didn't?
  - Always(1)  Often(2)  Sometimes(3)  Rarely(4)  Never(5)  Don't Know(6)  Not Applicable(7)
- 92. If so, in what way did the treatment differ? *Be specific*. \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR EXPERIENCE**

- 93. After your experience in the Maryland Court System, did your feelings regarding fairness in the Courts change?
  - Yes  No
- 94. If yes, in what way? *Please explain*. \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your actual experience in court, respond to the following statements. *Circle your answers.*

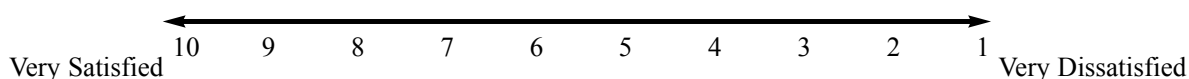
	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
95. White people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites.	5	4	3	2	1
96. Court personnel don't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.	5	4	3	2	1
97. Minorities are unfairly treated.	5	4	3	2	1
98. Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System.	5	4	3	2	1
99. Court personnel are disrespectful of racial/ethnic minorities.	5	4	3	2	1
100. It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you.	5	4	3	2	1
101. You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.	5	4	3	2	1
102. Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.	5	4	3	2	1
103. If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial.	5	4	3	2	1
104. The Department of Social Services doesn't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.	5	4	3	2	1
105. Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts.	5	4	3	2	1
106. Maryland's Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status.	5	4	3	2	1

Respond to each statement by circling your answer:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
107. The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case.	5	4	3	2	1
108. I cannot afford to hire an attorney.	5	4	3	2	1
109. Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney.	5	4	3	2	1

**THE OUTCOME**

110. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case in which you participated? *Circle your answer.*



- 111. Did you win, lose or settle your case?     Won (1)     Lost (2)     Settled (3)     Not Applicable (4)
- 112. Were court personnel helpful?             Yes (1)     No (2)                     Not Applicable (3)
- 113. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your race/ethnicity while using the courts?     Yes             No
- 114. If yes, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_
- 115. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your economic status while using the courts?     Yes             No
- 116. If yes, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

**THE VICTIM**

117. Did the race/ethnicity of the victim affect the outcome of the trial?     Yes     No     Not Applicable

118. If yes, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

119. Did the economic status of the victim affect the outcome of the trial?     Yes     No     Not Applicable

120. If yes, *please explain.* \_\_\_\_\_

121. Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?     Yes     No  
122. Given a choice, would you utilize Maryland's Court System?     Yes     No  
123. Would you expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland's Courts?     Yes     No  
124. If you had a legal dispute or problem in the future and had a choice, would you prefer to:  
 Use a mediator (1)     Go to court (2)     Settle privately (3)

*For the purpose of analysis only, please answer the following -*

125. In what county or Baltimore City was the case heard? \_\_\_\_\_

126. What is the zip code where you live? \_\_\_\_\_

127. How old are you?  
 Less than 18 (1)     18 - 29 Years (2)     30 - 39 Years (3)     40 - 49 Years (4)  
 50 - 59 Years (5)     60 - 69 Years (6)     70 and Older (7)

128. What is your race/ethnicity?  
 African-American (1)     Asian/Pacific Islander (2)     Hispanic/Latino (3)     White, Non-Hispanic (4)  
 Other (5) \_\_\_\_\_

129. In what country were you born?     U.S.A.     Other \_\_\_\_\_

130. Are you a U. S. citizen?     Yes     No

131. What is your gender?     Male     Female

132. What level of education have you completed?  
 Some High School (1)     High School Diploma/GED (2)     Some College (3)  
 Four Year College Degree (4)     Some Graduate Work (5)     Graduate Degree (6)

133. What is your household income?  
 Less than \$18,000 (1)     \$18,000 - \$49,999 (2)  
 \$50,000 - \$99,999 (3)     \$100,000 and more (4)

134. What is your native language? \_\_\_\_\_

135. Are you fluent in English?     Yes     No

136. Do you have any other comments concerning fairness as it relates to your actual experience in the Court System?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If you need additional space, you may add a page.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please fold and insert the survey in the postage-paid envelope provided, seal and mail it. Or send it to Market Insight, 4707 Benson Avenue, Suite 102, Baltimore, MD 21227. We must have your response no later than April 16, 2003, so please respond right away.  
*Thank you for your time and help!*

# The Maryland Commission On Racial and Ethnic Fairness In The Courts Complete Survey Response

## 1. The last time you were in Court, did you appear as a:

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Corporate Representative	2.6%	0.9%	4.3%	0.9%	0.7%	4.9%	8.5%
Defendant/ Respondent	43.2%	55.5%	34.6%	72.5%	47.9%	30.1%	15.3%
Interpreter	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Juror	11.2%	8.5%	14.1%	2.8%	15.1%	18.4%	6.8%
Plaintiff/ Petitioner	21.0%	14.7%	24.4%	6.4%	26.0%	21.4%	23.7%
Victim	5.7%	8.5%	3.0%	7.3%	4.1%	5.8%	6.8%
Witness	3.5%	2.4%	3.8%	3.7%	1.4%	5.8%	1.7%
Other	11.8%	7.1%	15.8%	4.6%	4.8%	10.7%	37.3%
No Response	0.8%	1.4%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Two respondents indicated they appeared in court as both defendant and plaintiff. These answers are both represented and therefore some of the columns add to greater than 100%.

## 2. Was the case in which you were involved a:

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Criminal Case	49.9%	55.5%	45.3%	65.1%	41.8%	55.3%	33.9%
Divorce or Domestic Relations Case	11.8%	11.8%	11.5%	7.3%	17.1%	12.6%	8.5%
Civil Matter	15.9%	9.5%	21.4%	5.5%	15.8%	13.6%	42.4%
Juvenile Case	2.4%	1.9%	3.0%	1.8%	3.4%	1.0%	0.0%
Traffic Case	10.2%	12.8%	8.1%	11.9%	10.3%	11.7%	5.1%
Other	8.6%	5.7%	11.1%	6.4%	9.6%	5.8%	10.2%
No Response	1.4%	2.8%	0.0%	1.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%

One individual (record # 297) reported involvement in both a criminal and a juvenile case; it is represented here in both categories. For this reason, some of the columns add to over 100%.



**5. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Strongly Agree	27.9%	13.3%	43.2%	11.9%	31.5%	38.8%	40.7%
Agree	24.4%	23.2%	24.8%	16.5%	24.0%	27.2%	32.2%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	15.9%	19.0%	11.5%	21.1%	13.7%	12.6%	6.8%
Disagree	16.9%	22.7%	11.5%	28.4%	13.0%	12.6%	16.9%
Strongly Disagree	13.0%	19.4%	8.1%	21.1%	16.4%	8.7%	3.4%
No Response	1.8%	2.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%

Q133 - Income : Q5  $X^2 = 49.720$  Sig. .000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**JUVENILE OR FAMILY COURT**

**6. At the time of the Court proceeding, what was your role? Check all that apply.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Biological Parent	8.1%	10.9%	6.0%	9.2%	13.7%	4.9%	1.7%
Caregiver-Relative	1.4%	0.5%	1.7%	0.0%	2.1%	1.0%	1.7%
Caregiver-Non-Relative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Defendant/Respondent	3.3%	3.3%	3.8%	5.5%	4.8%	1.9%	1.7%
Foster Parent-Non-relative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plaintiff/Petitioner	3.1%	2.8%	3.8%	0.0%	3.4%	5.8%	3.4%
No Response	84.1%	82.5%	84.6%	85.3%	76.0%	86.4%	91.5%

**7. Were Juvenile and Family Court proceedings conducted in a fair manner to all, regardless of race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.6%	11.8%	10.7%	6.4%	16.4%	10.7%	5.1%
No	3.9%	4.7%	3.4%	3.7%	5.5%	4.9%	1.7%
No Response	85.5%	83.4%	85.9%	89.9%	78.1%	84.5%	93.2%

Q 128 - Race : Q7  $X^2 = .164$  Sig. 0.686

How satisfied were you that each of the following applicable proceedings was conducted in a fair, unbiased manner?

### 8. Juvenile Court Proceeding

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Satisfied	1.4%	0.5%	2.6%	0.0%	0.7%	1.9%	0.0%
Somewhat Satisfied	1.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.0%	2.7%	1.0%	0.0%
No Opinion	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
Very Dissatisfied	1.4%	1.9%	1.3%	0.9%	2.7%	1.9%	0.0%
Not Applicable	5.5%	7.1%	4.7%	6.4%	6.2%	7.8%	3.4%
No Response	88.8%	87.2%	88.9%	90.8%	84.9%	85.4%	96.6%

Q128 - Race : Q8  $X^2 = 4.512$  Sig. 0.478 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

### 9. Domestic Violence Proceeding

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Satisfied	1.6%	1.4%	2.1%	1.8%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Satisfied	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	0.0%	2.1%	1.9%	1.7%
No Opinion	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	1.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Very Dissatisfied	1.2%	1.4%	0.9%	1.8%	0.7%	1.9%	1.7%
Not Applicable	6.5%	8.1%	6.4%	4.6%	8.2%	10.7%	1.7%
No Response	88.2%	86.3%	88.5%	89.9%	84.9%	84.5%	94.9%

Q128 - Race : Q8  $X^2 = 1.198$  Sig. 0.945 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Minimum expected cell count is less than one. Chi-square results may be invalid.



**10. Family Court Proceeding**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Satisfied	4.3%	4.7%	4.3%	1.8%	6.2%	3.9%	3.4%
Somewhat Satisfied	2.6%	3.3%	2.6%	0.0%	5.5%	3.9%	0.0%
No Opinion	0.6%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	1.4%	2.4%	0.9%	0.9%	2.7%	1.9%	0.0%
Very Dissatisfied	2.6%	3.3%	2.1%	2.8%	4.8%	1.9%	1.7%
Not Applicable	2.9%	3.3%	3.0%	4.6%	2.1%	2.9%	0.0%
No Response	85.5%	82.9%	86.3%	89.9%	77.4%	85.4%	94.9%

Q128 - Race : Q10  $X^2 = 3.473$  Sig. 0.628 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**11. Did the judge in Family Court treat any individuals in the case differently due to their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	2.2%	3.3%	1.3%	0.0%	4.1%	2.9%	1.7%
No	13.0%	14.2%	13.7%	10.1%	19.2%	11.7%	6.8%
No Response	84.7%	82.5%	85.0%	89.9%	76.7%	85.4%	91.5%

Q128 - Race : Q11  $X^2 = 1.492$  Sig. 0.222 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**12. Did the Department of Social Services treat any individuals in the case differently due to race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	2.9%	5.2%	0.9%	1.8%	4.1%	2.9%	1.7%
No	10.6%	10.4%	12.0%	10.1%	15.1%	8.7%	6.8%
No Response	86.6%	84.4%	87.2%	88.1%	80.8%	88.3%	91.5%

Q128 - Race : Q12  $X^2 = 6.510$  Sig. 0.011\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**13. If you answered yes to either of the above two (2) questions, please explain. *Written comments -***

- The judge was retired and sitting in. He made it very clear he didn't want to hear all evidence and repeatedly said he didn't take time to read all the investigative reports ordered by other judges & master in case.
- I feel that the judge let my ex husband out of paying child support due to his race and economic status.
- Because of my last name and other family members.

## LEGAL REPRESENTATION- ALL COURTS

### 14. Was the plaintiff/petitioner represented by:

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Private Counsel	33.0%	27.0%	39.7%	18.3%	32.9%	37.9%	64.4%
Legal Services Organization	35.6%	41.2%	29.9%	56.0%	32.9%	30.1%	13.6%
Self Represented	20.6%	20.4%	20.5%	15.6%	28.1%	19.4%	13.6%
No Response	10.8%	11.4%	9.8%	10.1%	6.2%	12.6%	8.5%

Q128 - Race : Q14  $X^2 = 8.715$  Sig. 0.013\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

### 15. If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	11.4%	17.5%	6.0%	14.7%	9.6%	15.5%	8.5%
No	59.5%	55.9%	63.7%	60.6%	56.8%	58.3%	72.9%
No Response	29.1%	26.5%	30.3%	24.8%	33.6%	26.2%	18.6%

Q128 - Race : Q15  $X^2 = 13.805$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

### 16. Was the defendant/respondent represented by:

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Private Counsel	39.5%	31.3%	46.2%	22.9%	38.4%	45.6%	66.1%
Legal Services Organization	5.1%	7.6%	3.8%	9.2%	6.8%	3.9%	0.0%
Public Defender	29.5%	36.0%	23.9%	54.1%	20.5%	26.2%	11.9%
Self-Represented	20.2%	20.4%	20.5%	10.1%	28.1%	20.4%	18.6%
No Response	5.7%	4.7%	5.6%	3.7%	6.2%	3.9%	3.4%

**17. If the defendant/respondent was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.6%	16.1%	5.1%	15.6%	9.6%	8.7%	6.8%
No	63.7%	60.2%	68.4%	67.9%	61.0%	64.1%	71.2%
No Response	25.7%	23.7%	26.5%	16.5%	29.5%	27.2%	22.0%

Q128 - Race : Q17  $X^2 = 13.993$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**18. Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	6.1%	11.8%	1.7%	11.9%	4.8%	8.7%	0.0%
No	48.5%	39.3%	56.4%	38.5%	49.3%	53.4%	57.6%
Don't Know	21.4%	29.9%	15.0%	33.9%	21.2%	16.5%	10.2%
Not Applicable	16.5%	12.3%	20.1%	9.2%	19.2%	14.6%	25.4%
No Response	7.5%	6.6%	6.8%	6.4%	5.5%	6.8%	6.8%

Q128 - Race : Q18  $X^2 = 38.562$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**19. If yes, in what way? Please be specific.**

**LEGAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

**20. If self-represented, did either the plaintiff or defendant seek information and assistance from the Court System or a legal services organization such as Legal Aid?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	11.4%	13.7%	9.8%	11.9%	17.1%	5.8%	6.8%
No	17.7%	20.4%	15.4%	17.4%	21.2%	15.5%	11.9%
Don't Know	6.7%	7.1%	6.4%	5.5%	4.1%	12.6%	6.8%
Not Applicable	16.3%	15.6%	16.2%	17.4%	15.8%	17.5%	15.3%
No Response	47.9%	43.1%	52.1%	47.7%	41.8%	48.5%	59.3%

21. If yes, what, if any, aid was received? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Where was it found? (What was the source?) \_\_\_\_\_

**23. Was the information helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	6.7%	8.1%	6.0%	8.3%	10.3%	2.9%	3.4%
No	3.7%	4.7%	1.7%	5.5%	3.4%	1.9%	0.0%
Don't Know	2.6%	1.9%	3.4%	4.6%	1.4%	1.0%	6.8%
Not Applicable	14.5%	15.2%	15.8%	13.8%	16.4%	19.4%	10.2%
No Response	72.5%	70.1%	73.1%	67.9%	68.5%	74.8%	79.7%

Q128 - Race : Q23  $X^2 = 4.557$  Sig. 0.207

Q133 - Income : Q23  $X^2 = 19.056$  Sig. .025\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**24. Were the forms easy to understand?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	7.5%	10.4%	5.1%	10.1%	11.0%	2.9%	3.4%
No	1.6%	1.9%	0.9%	2.8%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	3.3%	1.9%	4.7%	3.7%	3.4%	1.9%	6.8%
Not Applicable	15.1%	16.1%	15.8%	15.6%	16.4%	19.4%	10.2%
No Response	72.5%	69.7%	73.5%	67.9%	68.5%	74.8%	79.7%

Q128-Race:Q24  $X^2 = 6.971$  Sig. 0.073\* \*More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

Q133 - Income : Q24  $X^2 = 13.927$  Sig. .125 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Minimum expected cell count is less than one. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**25. Were the documents' instructions clear?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	7.1%	9.5%	5.1%	11.0%	9.6%	1.9%	3.4%
No	1.8%	1.9%	1.3%	2.8%	1.4%	1.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	3.7%	2.8%	4.7%	4.6%	4.1%	1.9%	6.8%
Not Applicable	14.9%	15.6%	15.8%	14.7%	15.8%	20.4%	10.2%
No Response	72.5%	70.1%	73.1%	67.0%	69.2%	74.8%	79.7%

Q128-Race:Q25  $X^2 = 3.842$  Sig. 0.279 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

Q133 - Income : Q25  $X^2 = 14.440$  Sig. 0.108 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**26. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	6.9%	11.8%	1.7%	15.6%	4.1%	4.9%	0.0%
No	60.9%	50.7%	72.6%	47.7%	66.4%	63.1%	78.0%
Don't Know	20.2%	27.0%	14.5%	30.3%	21.2%	14.6%	13.6%
No Response	12.0%	10.4%	11.1%	6.4%	8.2%	17.5%	8.5%

Q128-Race:Q24  $X^2 = 35.616$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**27. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect how you were treated during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	8.6%	16.1%	1.7%	19.3%	5.5%	6.8%	0.0%
No	55.0%	46.9%	64.5%	45.9%	54.8%	57.3%	74.6%
Don't Know	13.8%	20.9%	7.3%	23.9%	13.7%	11.7%	5.1%
Not Applicable	12.6%	10.0%	15.8%	9.2%	17.8%	11.7%	13.6%
No Response	10.0%	6.2%	10.7%	1.8%	8.2%	12.6%	6.8%

Q128-Race:Q27  $X^2 = 50.691$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**28. Did the litigants appear before a minority judge or master?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	20.8%	23.2%	17.9%	25.7%	21.9%	16.5%	15.3%
No	54.6%	47.4%	62.0%	44.0%	54.8%	59.2%	69.5%
Don't Know	11.2%	17.1%	7.7%	19.3%	13.0%	6.8%	5.1%
Not Applicable	7.1%	9.0%	6.0%	8.3%	8.2%	8.7%	5.1%
No Response	6.3%	3.3%	6.4%	2.8%	2.1%	8.7%	5.1%

**29. Were court personnel less respectful to minority litigants than to non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.6%	21.8%	1.7%	23.9%	8.9%	7.8%	1.7%
No	59.5%	47.4%	70.9%	42.2%	63.7%	64.1%	81.4%
Don't Know	15.5%	20.4%	11.1%	22.9%	13.7%	10.7%	5.1%
Not Applicable	9.2%	7.1%	11.1%	7.3%	11.6%	10.7%	8.5%
No Response	5.3%	3.3%	4.7%	3.7%	2.1%	5.8%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q29  $X^2 = 57.683$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**30. Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	7.7%	12.8%	2.1%	13.8%	3.4%	8.7%	1.7%
No	56.4%	44.1%	69.2%	33.9%	64.4%	62.1%	71.2%
Don't Know	23.6%	33.6%	15.4%	42.2%	21.2%	15.5%	16.9%
Not Applicable	7.3%	6.6%	8.5%	6.4%	10.3%	7.8%	6.8%
No Response	4.9%	2.8%	4.7%	3.7%	0.7%	5.8%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q30  $X^2 = 44.613$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**31. Was the treatment the litigants received different because of their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.0%	16.6%	3.4%	15.6%	8.9%	10.7%	0.0%
No	53.8%	42.7%	65.8%	39.4%	54.8%	60.2%	71.2%
Don't Know	21.8%	30.3%	14.1%	33.9%	23.3%	13.6%	15.3%
Not Applicable	8.4%	6.2%	11.1%	7.3%	11.0%	9.7%	8.5%
No Response	6.1%	4.3%	5.6%	3.7%	2.1%	5.8%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q31  $X^2 = 46.232$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**32. If you answered yes to questions 26 - 31, please explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Was the case referred to mediation?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.4%	9.0%	12.0%	10.1%	11.6%	10.7%	11.9%
No	81.1%	83.4%	80.3%	82.6%	82.9%	79.6%	86.4%
No Response	8.6%	7.6%	7.7%	7.3%	5.5%	9.7%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q33  $X^2 = 1.046$  Sig. 0.306

**34. If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	6.1%	4.7%	7.3%	5.5%	6.8%	3.9%	8.5%
No	7.5%	7.1%	7.7%	9.2%	6.2%	9.7%	3.4%
Don't Know	3.9%	4.7%	2.6%	6.4%	5.5%	1.0%	0.0%
NA	16.7%	18.5%	16.7%	16.5%	17.8%	16.5%	27.1%
NR	65.8%	64.9%	65.8%	62.4%	63.7%	68.9%	61.0%

Q128-Race:Q34  $X^2 = 2,372$  Sig. 0.499

**35. If not, please explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

**LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION**

**36. Was an interpreter required during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	3.7%	4.8%	4.9%	1.7%
No	87.0%	87.2%	88.0%	88.1%	89.0%	84.5%	96.6%
NR	9.0%	8.5%	7.7%	8.3%	6.2%	10.7%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q36  $X^2 = 0.000$  Sig. 0.986

**37. If yes, on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Mean	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.5
5 = Excellent	2.0%	0.9%	3.4%	0.9%	2.1%	1.0%	1.7%
4	1.4%	1.9%	0.9%	2.8%	1.4%	1.0%	0.0%
3	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1 = Poor	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	4.6%	4.1%	2.9%	1.7%
NR	91.4%	91.9%	90.6%	89.0%	91.8%	94.2%	96.6%

Q128-Race:Q37  $X^2 = 3.746$  Sig. 0.441 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**38. At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	1.8%	3.3%	0.9%	3.7%	0.7%	3.9%	0.0%
No	78.0%	77.7%	79.9%	73.4%	75.3%	81.6%	86.4%
Don't Know	3.3%	3.8%	2.6%	6.4%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	6.1%	4.3%	7.7%	5.5%	9.6%	5.8%	1.7%
NR	10.8%	10.9%	9.0%	11.0%	9.6%	8.7%	11.9%

Q128-Race:Q38  $X^2 = 5.696$  Sig. 0.127 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**39. At any time during the Court process, did the master improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	1.8%	2.4%	1.7%	3.7%	0.7%	2.9%	0.0%
No	66.8%	67.8%	66.7%	67.9%	70.5%	68.9%	55.9%
Don't Know	3.7%	4.3%	3.0%	7.3%	4.8%	1.0%	0.0%
NA	13.0%	10.4%	15.8%	8.3%	13.0%	13.6%	25.4%
NR	14.7%	15.2%	12.8%	12.8%	11.0%	13.6%	18.6%

Q128-Race:Q39  $X^2 = 2.800$  Sig. 0.424 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.



**40. At any time during the Court process, did any other court personnel improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	2.2%	4.7%	0.4%	3.7%	1.4%	4.9%	0.0%
No	75.8%	72.0%	79.9%	68.8%	74.7%	76.7%	86.4%
Don't Know	5.5%	7.6%	4.3%	11.0%	6.8%	2.9%	0.0%
NA	5.3%	4.3%	6.0%	4.6%	7.5%	5.8%	1.7%
NR	11.2%	11.4%	9.4%	11.9%	9.6%	9.7%	11.9%

Q128-Race:Q40  $X^2 = 12.022$  Sig. 0.007\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**THE COURT PROCESS**

**41. Do you believe the court process was a fair one?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	58.2%	44.5%	73.9%	38.5%	60.3%	67.0%	81.4%
No	26.7%	39.3%	15.4%	45.9%	21.9%	27.2%	11.9%
Don't Know	7.3%	8.5%	7.3%	8.3%	11.0%	3.9%	5.1%
Not Applicable	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	1.8%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	6.5%	6.6%	3.0%	5.5%	5.5%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q41  $X^2 = 39.232$  Sig. 0.000\* More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

Q133-Income:Q41  $X^2 = 40.775$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**42. Was the opponent in the case an individual or business?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Individual	71.5%	66.8%	78.2%	63.3%	72.6%	83.5%	71.2%
Business	12.6%	16.6%	9.8%	17.4%	12.3%	6.8%	18.6%
No Response	15.9%	16.6%	12.0%	19.3%	15.1%	9.7%	10.2%

**43. If an individual, what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
African-American	30.1%	42.7%	19.2%	30.3%	29.5%	35.9%	27.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8%	1.4%	0.4%	0.9%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic/Latino	2.6%	2.8%	2.1%	3.7%	2.1%	1.9%	1.7%
White, Non-Hispanic	31.0%	16.1%	44.9%	25.7%	32.2%	33.0%	37.3%
Don't Know	6.7%	6.2%	8.1%	5.5%	6.2%	7.8%	6.8%
Other	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	2.7%	4.9%	1.7%
No Response	25.1%	27.0%	21.4%	30.3%	25.3%	16.5%	25.4%

**44. If an individual, was he/she represented by an attorney?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	46.2%	44.1%	48.3%	39.4%	43.2%	57.3%	50.8%
No	24.0%	26.1%	23.5%	24.8%	28.8%	18.4%	23.7%
Don't Know	3.1%	3.3%	3.0%	7.3%	2.1%	2.9%	0.0%
NA	9.4%	8.5%	10.3%	9.2%	8.9%	10.7%	10.2%
NR	17.3%	18.0%	15.0%	19.3%	17.1%	10.7%	15.3%

Q128-Race:Q44  $X^2 = 0.996$  Sig. 0.802

**45. Have you required legal assistance in court in the past two (2) years but were unable to get help because you couldn't afford it?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	20.0%	30.8%	10.3%	39.4%	18.5%	10.7%	5.1%
No	57.4%	49.3%	65.8%	44.0%	61.6%	65.0%	61.0%
Don't Know	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%
NA	13.2%	11.4%	16.2%	5.5%	11.0%	18.4%	28.8%
NR	8.8%	8.1%	6.8%	10.1%	8.2%	4.9%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q45  $X^2 = 29.716$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.  
 Q133-Income:Q45  $X^2 = 54.623$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**46. In the past two (2) years, was your interaction with the Court System of Maryland affected by a language barrier?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	3.1%	2.8%	2.6%	2.8%	2.1%	1.0%	3.4%
No	79.8%	77.7%	84.2%	78.9%	81.5%	83.5%	84.7%
Don't Know	1.6%	3.3%	0.4%	4.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	7.9%	7.6%	8.5%	5.5%	8.9%	9.7%	8.5%
NR	7.5%	8.5%	4.3%	8.3%	6.2%	5.8%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q46  $X^2 = 5.694$  Sig. 0.127 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**47. In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	11.6%	21.3%	3.0%	23.9%	11.6%	5.8%	0.0%
No	66.0%	51.2%	82.1%	48.6%	67.8%	78.6%	84.7%
Don't Know	8.8%	14.2%	3.8%	16.5%	7.5%	4.9%	0.0%
NA	6.3%	5.2%	7.3%	2.8%	6.8%	6.8%	11.9%
NR	7.3%	8.1%	3.8%	8.3%	6.2%	3.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q47  $X^2 = 60.507$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**48. In your experience, did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	16.7%	30.3%	4.7%	30.3%	17.1%	15.5%	1.7%
No	59.5%	44.1%	75.6%	43.1%	56.8%	73.8%	76.3%
Don't Know	10.0%	14.7%	6.0%	16.5%	11.0%	2.9%	5.1%
NA	6.7%	4.7%	8.5%	2.8%	7.5%	6.8%	13.6%
NR	7.1%	6.2%	5.1%	7.3%	7.5%	1.0%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q48  $X^2 = 72.398$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**49. If yes, please explain, being very specific.** \_\_\_\_\_

## CRIMINAL COURT CASES

### 50. Were you a defendant in a criminal case in Maryland in the past two (2) years?

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	30.5%	43.6%	19.7%	59.6%	30.1%	23.3%	3.4%
No	51.5%	39.3%	64.1%	25.7%	50.7%	66.0%	76.3%
NR	17.9%	17.1%	16.2%	14.7%	19.2%	10.7%	20.3%

### 51. Were you in court to testify in a criminal case in the state of Maryland in the past two (2) years?

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	18.9%	14.2%	21.4%	21.1%	21.2%	17.5%	10.2%
No	60.3%	67.3%	58.1%	61.5%	54.8%	67.0%	71.2%
NR	20.8%	18.5%	20.5%	17.4%	24.0%	15.5%	18.6%

Place a check mark next to the department(s) with which you have had any experience or interaction in the past two (2) years, and then rate the degree of fairness received by each. Check and rate all that apply.

### 52. Police Department

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	18.5%	10.9%	27.4%	12.8%	15.1%	26.2%	28.8%
Somewhat Fair	9.8%	9.0%	10.7%	7.3%	11.6%	7.8%	13.6%
No Opinion	5.3%	7.1%	3.8%	6.4%	6.2%	3.9%	1.7%
Somewhat Unfair	10.4%	12.8%	8.5%	15.6%	9.6%	10.7%	6.8%
Very Unfair	16.7%	28.0%	6.4%	33.0%	14.4%	13.6%	3.4%
NR	39.3%	32.2%	43.2%	24.8%	43.2%	37.9%	45.8%

Q128-Race:Q52  $X^2 = 49.000$  Sig. 0.000\* \* The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**53. State's Attorney's Office**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	14.5%	7.1%	22.2%	9.2%	9.6%	24.3%	18.6%
Somewhat Fair	11.8%	11.4%	12.8%	11.0%	12.3%	10.7%	18.6%
No Opinion	5.9%	7.6%	4.7%	7.3%	6.2%	5.8%	3.4%
Somewhat Unfair	10.6%	15.6%	6.8%	20.2%	9.6%	8.7%	5.1%
Very Unfair	8.1%	12.8%	3.0%	14.7%	4.8%	6.8%	3.4%
NR	49.1%	45.5%	50.4%	37.6%	57.5%	43.7%	50.8%

Q128-Race:Q53  $X^2 = 38.323$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**54. Public Defender's Office**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	14.3%	11.8%	18.4%	15.6%	10.3%	16.5%	22.0%
Somewhat Fair	6.3%	9.0%	4.3%	11.9%	6.2%	4.9%	1.7%
No Opinion	11.2%	14.7%	7.3%	11.9%	10.3%	12.6%	10.2%
Somewhat Unfair	4.5%	7.1%	2.6%	11.9%	4.8%	1.0%	0.0%
Very Unfair	5.5%	7.1%	3.8%	11.9%	2.7%	3.9%	0.0%
NR	58.2%	50.2%	63.7%	36.7%	65.8%	61.2%	66.1%

Q128-Race:Q54  $X^2 = 14.730$  Sig. 0.005\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**55. Maryland District Court**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	20.0%	12.3%	29.5%	15.6%	17.8%	24.3%	30.5%
Somewhat Fair	12.8%	15.2%	12.4%	11.0%	14.4%	16.5%	13.6%
No Opinion	7.1%	8.1%	3.4%	12.8%	4.1%	2.9%	3.4%
Somewhat Unfair	8.4%	10.4%	6.0%	11.0%	8.2%	8.7%	3.4%
Very Unfair	7.1%	10.4%	4.7%	11.0%	6.2%	8.7%	5.1%
NR	44.6%	43.6%	44.0%	38.5%	49.3%	38.8%	44.1%

Q128-Race:Q55  $X^2 = 27.000$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**56. Maryland Circuit Court**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	16.1%	10.9%	22.6%	11.9%	12.3%	22.3%	25.4%
Somewhat Fair	11.6%	13.3%	11.5%	11.0%	13.0%	11.7%	18.6%
No Opinion	7.7%	10.4%	3.8%	14.7%	4.8%	5.8%	3.4%
Somewhat Unfair	6.5%	10.0%	3.8%	14.7%	4.8%	5.8%	0.0%
Very Unfair	5.3%	8.1%	2.6%	11.0%	3.4%	3.9%	1.7%
NR	52.7%	47.4%	55.6%	36.7%	61.6%	50.5%	50.8%

Q128-Race:Q56  $X^2 = 27.208$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**57. Maryland Appellate Courts (Court of Special Appeals or Court of Appeals)**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Fair	4.3%	3.3%	5.6%	3.7%	1.4%	4.9%	13.6%
Somewhat Fair	3.5%	2.8%	4.3%	4.6%	4.1%	2.9%	3.4%
No Opinion	13.0%	17.5%	8.5%	16.5%	13.7%	12.6%	8.5%
Somewhat Unfair	1.0%	1.4%	0.4%	2.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Very Unfair	2.6%	4.3%	1.3%	5.5%	1.4%	1.0%	3.4%
NR	75.6%	70.6%	79.9%	67.0%	79.5%	77.7%	71.2%

Q128-Race:Q57  $X^2 = 10.905$  Sig. 0.028\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

*Which, if any, of the following do you consider to be part of the Court System?*

**58. Police Department**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	39.9%	46.0%	32.9%	55.0%	39.7%	31.1%	22.0%
No	25.3%	20.4%	32.9%	17.4%	22.6%	35.0%	42.4%
NR	34.8%	33.6%	34.2%	27.5%	37.7%	34.0%	35.6%

Q128-Race:Q58  $X^2 = 11.451$  Sig. 0.001\* The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**59. State's Attorney's Office**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	64.2%	68.2%	61.1%	72.5%	67.8%	66.0%	39.0%
No	8.8%	8.1%	11.1%	10.1%	2.1%	10.7%	25.4%
NR	27.1%	23.7%	27.8%	17.4%	30.1%	23.3%	35.6%

Q128-Race:Q59  $X^2 = 1.693$  Sig. 0.193

**60. Public Defender's Office**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	61.3%	67.3%	56.8%	75.2%	65.8%	61.2%	28.8%
No	10.6%	8.1%	15.0%	10.1%	2.7%	13.6%	35.6%
NR	28.1%	24.6%	28.2%	14.7%	31.5%	25.2%	35.6%

Q128-Race:Q60  $X^2 = 5.655$  Sig. 0.017\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**COURT OBSERVATIONS**

*When you were in court did you actually see or hear:*

**61. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority judges?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	7.5%	15.2%	0.9%	20.2%	5.5%	2.9%	0.0%
No	84.5%	73.9%	95.7%	68.8%	86.3%	94.2%	98.3%
NR	7.9%	10.9%	3.4%	11.0%	8.2%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q61  $X^2 = 34.115$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**62. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	10.2%	20.4%	1.3%	24.8%	8.2%	3.9%	1.7%
No	82.5%	70.1%	95.3%	65.1%	84.9%	93.2%	96.6%
NR	7.3%	9.5%	3.4%	10.1%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q62  $X^2 = 47.412$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**63. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	9.2%	18.5%	0.9%	22.9%	6.2%	3.9%	1.7%
No	83.5%	72.0%	95.7%	67.0%	87.0%	93.2%	96.6%
NR	7.3%	9.5%	3.4%	10.1%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q63  $X^2 = 43.198$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**64. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	9.2%	18.0%	2.1%	23.9%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%
No	83.7%	73.0%	94.4%	67.0%	86.3%	94.2%	96.6%
NR	7.1%	9.0%	3.4%	9.2%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q64  $X^2 = 33.473$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**65. Court personnel less respectful of minority litigants than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	11.0%	20.4%	2.1%	23.9%	8.2%	7.8%	3.4%
No	80.4%	67.8%	94.0%	65.1%	82.9%	88.3%	94.9%
NR	8.6%	11.8%	3.8%	11.0%	8.9%	3.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q65  $X^2 = 41.744$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**66. Litigants less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	7.5%	13.3%	3.0%	20.2%	4.1%	3.9%	3.4%
No	83.9%	75.8%	92.3%	67.9%	88.4%	93.2%	94.9%
NR	8.6%	10.9%	4.7%	11.9%	7.5%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q66  $X^2 = 16.960$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**67. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	10.4%	18.5%	3.4%	20.2%	9.6%	8.7%	1.7%
No	80.9%	69.7%	92.3%	67.0%	82.9%	88.3%	96.6%
NR	8.8%	11.8%	4.3%	12.8%	7.5%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q67  $X^2 = 29.051$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**68. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
	N = 491						
Yes	9.2%	18.0%	2.1%	17.4%	9.6%	7.8%	1.7%
No	82.1%	70.1%	93.6%	68.8%	82.9%	89.3%	96.6%
NR	8.8%	11.8%	4.3%	13.8%	7.5%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q68  $X^2 = 34.529$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.



**69. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	8.1%	14.2%	3.4%	16.5%	6.8%	6.8%	3.4%
No	83.1%	73.9%	92.3%	70.6%	84.9%	90.3%	94.9%
NR	8.8%	11.8%	4.3%	12.8%	8.2%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q69  $X^2 = 17.918$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**70. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.8%	19.9%	3.0%	21.1%	11.0%	6.8%	1.7%
No	80.9%	69.2%	92.7%	67.9%	80.8%	90.3%	96.6%
NR	8.4%	10.9%	4.3%	11.0%	8.2%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q70  $X^2 = 34.726$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

*When you were in court:*

**71. Did attorneys address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	8.8%	16.1%	2.1%	19.3%	6.8%	6.8%	0.0%
No	84.1%	75.4%	94.0%	72.5%	85.6%	90.3%	98.3%
NR	7.1%	8.5%	3.8%	8.3%	7.5%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q71  $X^2 = 27.859$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**72. Did judges address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	11.4%	19.4%	4.3%	22.0%	11.6%	7.8%	1.7%
No	81.9%	73.0%	91.9%	70.6%	81.5%	89.3%	96.6%
NR	6.7%	7.6%	3.8%	7.3%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q72  $X^2 = 25.762$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**73. Did court personnel address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	8.1%	14.2%	2.6%	19.3%	5.5%	4.9%	1.7%
No	84.7%	78.2%	92.7%	72.5%	87.7%	92.2%	94.9%
NR	7.1%	7.6%	4.7%	8.3%	6.8%	2.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q73  $X^2 = 20.148$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**74. Did you hear judges address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	2.6%	3.8%	2.1%	5.5%	2.1%	2.9%	0.0%
No	90.6%	88.6%	94.0%	87.2%	91.1%	94.2%	98.3%
NR	6.7%	7.6%	3.8%	7.3%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q74  $X^2 = 1.234$  Sig. 0.267

**75. Did you hear attorneys address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	3.1%	4.7%	2.1%	4.6%	2.7%	4.9%	0.0%
No	90.2%	87.7%	94.0%	88.1%	90.4%	92.2%	98.3%
NR	6.7%	7.6%	3.8%	7.3%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q75  $X^2 = 2.566$  Sig. 0.109

**76. Did you hear court personnel address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	1.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	1.7%
No	91.9%	90.5%	94.9%	91.7%	91.8%	96.1%	94.9%
NR	7.1%	8.1%	4.3%	7.3%	7.5%	2.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q76  $X^2 = 0.377$  Sig. 0.539 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**77. Did judges improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	3.5%	5.7%	2.1%	8.3%	3.4%	1.9%	1.7%
No	89.4%	86.3%	93.6%	83.5%	89.7%	95.1%	96.6%
NR	7.1%	8.1%	4.3%	8.3%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q77  $X^2 = 4.172$  Sig. 0.041\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**78. Did attorneys improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity, or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	2.2%	4.7%	0.4%	6.4%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
No	91.0%	87.7%	95.7%	87.2%	91.1%	96.1%	98.3%
NR	6.7%	7.6%	3.8%	6.4%	6.8%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q78  $X^2 = 8.994$  Sig. 0.003\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**79. Did court personnel improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	1.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.9%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%
No	91.4%	89.6%	95.3%	90.8%	90.4%	97.1%	98.3%
NR	7.5%	9.0%	4.3%	8.3%	7.5%	2.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q79  $X^2 = 1.354$  Sig. 0.245 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**80. If you answered yes to any of the above, please explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

**81. Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	11.8%	16.6%	7.7%	22.0%	9.6%	7.8%	10.2%
No	76.0%	69.7%	83.3%	66.1%	78.1%	84.5%	84.7%
NR	12.2%	13.7%	9.0%	11.9%	12.3%	7.8%	5.1%

Q133-Income:Q81  $X^2 = 13.707$  Sig. 0.003\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**82. If yes, please explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

**JURY TRIALS**

**83. Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	17.7%	15.6%	20.1%	13.8%	12.3%	24.3%	25.4%
No	63.1%	66.8%	62.0%	69.7%	64.4%	64.1%	59.3%
NR	19.1%	17.5%	17.9%	16.5%	23.3%	11.7%	15.3%

Q128-Race:Q83  $X^2 = 1.553$  Sig. 0.213

**84. If yes, what was the jury's racial/ethnic make-up?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
All Minority Representation	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Non-minority Representation	2.0%	2.4%	1.3%	1.8%	1.4%	1.9%	0.0%
Equally Divided	2.6%	3.3%	2.1%	2.8%	3.4%	2.9%	1.7%
More Non-minorities	7.1%	4.7%	10.3%	4.6%	5.5%	12.6%	13.6%
More minorities	3.1%	3.3%	3.0%	0.9%	1.4%	5.8%	6.8%
Don't Know	1.6%	1.9%	1.7%	2.8%	0.7%	1.0%	3.4%
Not Applicable	10.6%	11.8%	9.8%	9.2%	13.0%	8.7%	11.9%
NR	72.3%	72.0%	70.9%	77.1%	74.7%	67.0%	62.7%

Q128-Race:Q84  $X^2 = 6.409$  Sig. 0.379 More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**85. In terms of race/ethnicity, was jury selection done in an unbiased, impartial manner ?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	10.4%	6.6%	15.4%	4.6%	8.2%	16.5%	22.0%
No	6.3%	9.0%	3.0%	11.9%	3.4%	5.8%	0.0%
DK/NA	20.2%	25.6%	16.2%	24.8%	22.6%	15.5%	18.6%
NR	63.1%	58.8%	65.4%	58.7%	65.8%	62.1%	59.3%

Q128-Race:Q85  $X^2 = 17.168$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**86. Did the racial/ethnic make-up of the jury affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	3.3%	4.3%	2.6%	7.3%	0.0%	1.9%	1.7%
No	13.2%	10.4%	16.7%	8.3%	11.6%	21.4%	16.9%
DK/NA	20.0%	26.1%	16.2%	25.7%	22.6%	14.6%	22.0%
NR	63.5%	59.2%	64.5%	58.7%	65.8%	62.1%	59.3%

Q128-Race:Q86  $X^2 = 8.098$  Sig. 0.017\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**87. How? Be specific.** \_\_\_\_\_

**88. To what degree are your perceptions of the Court System influenced by what you see and hear on television, radio and newspapers? Circle your answer.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Strongly Influenced							
5	7.5%	11.4%	4.7%	11.9%	6.2%	6.8%	8.5%
4	14.7%	17.5%	12.8%	18.3%	18.5%	13.6%	10.2%
3	18.5%	16.6%	20.9%	20.2%	22.6%	17.5%	13.6%
2	11.4%	9.0%	15.0%	12.8%	13.0%	13.6%	10.2%
1							
Not Influenced	39.7%	35.5%	42.7%	28.4%	32.2%	47.6%	55.9%
NR	8.1%	10.0%	3.8%	8.3%	7.5%	1.0%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q88  $X^2 = 12.438$  Sig. 0.014\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**89. Is your impression of Maryland's Court System influenced by something you were told by family, friends, acquaintances and colleagues?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	16.7%	18.5%	16.2%	21.1%	17.8%	17.5%	13.6%
No	75.8%	73.5%	80.3%	71.6%	76.0%	80.6%	84.7%
NR	7.5%	8.1%	3.4%	7.3%	6.2%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q89  $X^2 = .761$  Sig. 0.383

**90. If yes, is this impression positive or negative?**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Very Positive	1.6%	1.4%	2.1%	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%	1.7%
Somewhat Positive	4.7%	1.4%	7.7%	3.7%	4.1%	5.8%	8.5%
Neither Positive Nor Negative	7.5%	7.6%	7.3%	8.3%	6.8%	6.8%	8.5%
Somewhat Negative	6.1%	8.1%	4.7%	2.8%	8.9%	7.8%	3.4%
Very Negative	4.9%	7.6%	3.0%	11.0%	4.1%	4.9%	0.0%
NA	13.6%	11.8%	17.1%	10.1%	15.8%	14.6%	18.6%
NR	61.5%	62.1%	58.1%	62.4%	58.2%	59.2%	59.3%

Q128-Race:Q90  $X^2 = 17.876$  Sig. 0.003\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q90  $X^2 = 20.264$  Sig. 0.162 Minimum expected cell count in this table is less than one. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**LANGUAGE**

**91. In court, did those who speak English receive better treatment than those who didn't?**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Always	1.6%	0.9%	1.7%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
Often	1.2%	1.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.4%	2.9%	0.0%
Sometimes	7.3%	12.3%	3.0%	11.0%	6.2%	7.8%	6.8%
Rarely	5.7%	5.2%	7.3%	5.5%	2.7%	7.8%	15.3%
Never	21.8%	16.1%	26.9%	19.3%	21.9%	18.4%	28.8%
Don't Know	29.9%	30.8%	29.1%	31.2%	35.6%	30.1%	16.9%
NA	24.6%	22.7%	27.4%	19.3%	24.7%	31.1%	28.8%
NR	7.7%	10.0%	3.8%	10.1%	7.5%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q91  $X^2 = 22.267$  Sig. 0.001\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**92. If so, in what way did the treatment differ? Be specific.** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR EXPERIENCE**

**93. After your experience in the Maryland Court System, did your feelings regarding fairness in the Courts change?**

	All N = 491	Race		Income			
		Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	23.2%	29.9%	17.1%	31.2%	21.9%	22.3%	16.9%
No	68.8%	60.7%	79.1%	59.6%	71.2%	75.7%	81.4%
NR	7.9%	9.5%	3.8%	9.2%	6.8%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q93  $X^2 = 12.877$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

94. If yes, in what way? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your actual experience in court, respond to the following statements.

**95. White people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	16.3%	31.8%	2.1%	30.3%	15.8%	11.7%	1.7%
4 Agree	13.0%	22.7%	5.1%	20.2%	9.6%	15.5%	8.5%
3 No Opinion	19.1%	19.4%	18.4%	16.5%	24.0%	14.6%	16.9%
2 Disagree	26.3%	15.2%	37.2%	19.3%	26.7%	34.0%	30.5%
1 Strongly Disagree	20.4%	5.2%	35.0%	10.1%	19.2%	24.3%	39.0%
NR	4.9%	5.7%	2.1%	3.7%	4.8%	0.0%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q95  $X^2 = 151.611$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**96. Court personnel don't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	12.4%	23.7%	1.3%	27.5%	7.5%	8.7%	1.7%
4 Agree	13.0%	24.2%	5.1%	21.1%	15.8%	10.7%	5.1%
3 No Opinion	25.1%	21.3%	28.6%	21.1%	24.7%	27.2%	28.8%
2 Disagree	26.3%	18.0%	33.3%	14.7%	32.2%	29.1%	30.5%
1 Strongly Disagree	18.1%	7.1%	29.1%	11.0%	16.4%	22.3%	32.2%
NR	5.1%	5.7%	2.6%	4.6%	3.4%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q96  $X^2 = 114.782$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**97. Minorities are unfairly treated.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	12.6%	24.2%	2.6%	26.6%	9.6%	9.7%	3.4%
4 Agree	12.8%	23.7%	4.7%	25.7%	13.0%	9.7%	5.1%
3 No Opinion	19.3%	19.9%	17.1%	17.4%	20.5%	19.4%	11.9%
2 Disagree	26.9%	19.4%	34.2%	15.6%	31.5%	34.0%	28.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	23.0%	7.1%	38.9%	11.0%	22.6%	25.2%	49.2%
NR	5.3%	5.7%	2.6%	3.7%	2.7%	1.9%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q97  $X^2 = 124.680$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**98. Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	8.4%	16.1%	0.9%	24.8%	4.1%	1.9%	0.0%
4 Agree	11.0%	20.4%	3.8%	18.3%	11.6%	12.6%	1.7%
3 No Opinion	18.9%	20.9%	17.1%	17.4%	22.6%	17.5%	16.9%
2 Disagree	27.9%	27.0%	28.6%	20.2%	32.2%	32.0%	25.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	27.9%	10.0%	46.2%	12.8%	26.7%	35.0%	52.5%
NR	5.9%	5.7%	3.4%	6.4%	2.7%	1.0%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q98  $X^2 = 107.928$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**99. Court personnel are disrespectful of racial/ethnic minorities.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	4.7%	7.6%	2.1%	12.8%	1.4%	2.9%	1.7%
4 Agree	8.4%	14.2%	2.6%	15.6%	7.5%	6.8%	3.4%
3 No Opinion	22.8%	30.8%	15.8%	29.4%	25.3%	21.4%	10.2%
2 Disagree	28.9%	28.0%	30.8%	19.3%	32.9%	33.0%	28.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	29.1%	13.3%	44.9%	18.3%	28.8%	33.0%	52.5%
NR	6.1%	6.2%	3.8%	4.6%	4.1%	2.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q99  $X^2 = 73.236$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**100. It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	23.0%	37.9%	9.8%	45.9%	19.2%	17.5%	8.5%
4 Agree	19.8%	20.4%	20.9%	19.3%	21.9%	24.3%	18.6%
3 No Opinion	17.5%	15.2%	20.5%	12.8%	20.5%	20.4%	15.3%
2 Disagree	23.4%	16.6%	29.1%	11.9%	26.7%	25.2%	32.2%
1 Strongly Disagree	11.2%	4.7%	17.1%	6.4%	8.2%	10.7%	22.0%
NR	5.1%	5.2%	2.6%	3.7%	3.4%	1.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q100  $X^2 = 61.443$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q100  $X^2 = 53.436$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**101. You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	6.1%	12.8%	0.9%	13.8%	5.5%	4.9%	1.7%
4 Agree	5.9%	10.9%	0.9%	11.0%	5.5%	3.9%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	19.3%	25.1%	15.0%	29.4%	17.1%	21.4%	11.9%
2 Disagree	34.6%	33.6%	35.5%	28.4%	41.8%	33.0%	33.9%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.9%	11.4%	43.6%	12.8%	26.0%	35.0%	47.5%
NR	7.1%	6.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.1%	1.9%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q101  $X^2 = 88.992$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**102. Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	22.2%	37.0%	10.3%	45.0%	21.2%	13.6%	6.8%
4 Agree	20.2%	21.8%	18.4%	24.8%	21.2%	19.4%	10.2%
3 No Opinion	18.9%	19.0%	20.1%	13.8%	20.5%	20.4%	27.1%
2 Disagree	20.0%	12.8%	26.5%	7.3%	24.0%	29.1%	25.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	13.2%	3.8%	22.2%	4.6%	10.3%	15.5%	27.1%
NR	5.5%	5.7%	2.6%	4.6%	2.7%	1.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q102  $X^2 = 72.237$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q102  $X^2 = 72.326$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.



**103. If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	5.3%	8.5%	1.7%	11.0%	3.4%	3.9%	1.7%
4 Agree	7.5%	13.7%	2.6%	11.9%	6.2%	10.7%	3.4%
3 No Opinion	23.0%	25.1%	20.5%	27.5%	24.0%	20.4%	23.7%
2 Disagree	31.8%	34.6%	31.2%	30.3%	37.0%	33.0%	20.3%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.7%	12.8%	41.0%	13.8%	26.7%	31.1%	45.8%
NR	5.7%	5.2%	3.0%	5.5%	2.7%	1.0%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q103  $X^2 = 59.837$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**104. The Department of Social Services doesn't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	11.0%	18.5%	3.8%	22.0%	9.6%	4.9%	1.7%
4 Agree	12.2%	20.9%	5.1%	21.1%	11.0%	14.6%	1.7%
3 No Opinion	36.3%	35.5%	38.0%	24.8%	39.7%	41.7%	47.5%
2 Disagree	17.3%	14.2%	19.7%	13.8%	19.9%	18.4%	15.3%
1 Strongly Disagree	16.1%	3.3%	28.6%	10.1%	15.8%	18.4%	27.1%
NR	7.1%	7.6%	4.7%	8.3%	4.1%	1.9%	6.8%

Q128-Race:Q104  $X^2 = 87.535$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q104  $X^2 = 49.442$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**105. Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	16.3%	6.2%	26.9%	12.8%	12.3%	18.4%	32.2%
4 Agree	22.8%	14.2%	32.1%	16.5%	30.1%	24.3%	23.7%
3 No Opinion	19.3%	18.0%	20.9%	16.5%	19.2%	19.4%	25.4%
2 Disagree	18.9%	28.9%	11.1%	18.3%	21.2%	25.2%	10.2%
1 Strongly Disagree	16.3%	26.5%	5.1%	30.3%	13.0%	11.7%	5.1%
NR	6.3%	6.2%	3.8%	5.5%	4.1%	1.0%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q105  $X^2 = 95.900$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**106. Maryland's Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	16.5%	6.2%	26.9%	13.8%	12.3%	15.5%	37.3%
4 Agree	22.2%	12.8%	32.1%	11.9%	26.7%	29.1%	27.1%
3 No Opinion	24.8%	29.9%	20.9%	31.2%	24.0%	23.3%	22.0%
2 Disagree	17.5%	24.6%	10.7%	19.3%	19.2%	19.4%	6.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	12.0%	19.9%	4.7%	20.2%	11.6%	10.7%	3.4%
NR	6.9%	6.6%	4.7%	3.7%	6.2%	1.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q106  $X^2 = 84.611$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q106  $X^2 = 41.147$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Respond to each statement by circling your answer.

**107. The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	35.4%	26.5%	45.7%	22.0%	32.2%	41.7%	61.0%
4 Agree	33.0%	30.8%	35.9%	29.4%	40.4%	35.0%	25.4%
3 No Opinion	9.4%	11.8%	6.0%	16.5%	7.5%	4.9%	5.1%
2 Disagree	11.2%	15.6%	7.3%	16.5%	11.0%	10.7%	3.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	7.3%	12.3%	3.8%	15.6%	6.2%	6.8%	3.4%
NR	3.7%	2.8%	1.3%	0.0%	2.7%	1.0%	1.7%

Q128-Race:Q107  $X^2 = 32.715$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q107  $X^2 = 47.095$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**108. I cannot afford to hire an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	22.6%	32.2%	14.5%	46.8%	25.3%	8.7%	3.4%
4 Agree	18.5%	24.2%	14.1%	28.4%	21.2%	17.5%	1.7%
3 No Opinion	18.5%	14.7%	22.6%	10.1%	21.9%	25.2%	18.6%
2 Disagree	20.4%	15.2%	25.2%	4.6%	22.6%	30.1%	27.1%
1 Strongly Disagree	12.0%	7.1%	16.2%	7.3%	4.1%	15.5%	30.5%
NR	7.9%	6.6%	7.3%	2.8%	4.8%	2.9%	18.6%

Q128-Race:Q108  $X^2 = 37.186$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q108  $X^2 = 117.487$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**109. Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney.**

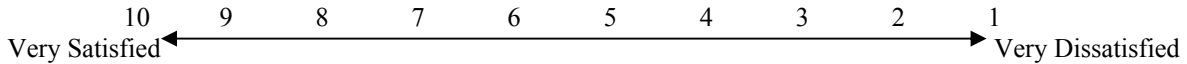
	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
5 Strongly Agree	6.5%	7.6%	6.4%	11.0%	5.5%	5.8%	6.8%
4 Agree	10.8%	12.3%	8.5%	13.8%	13.0%	7.8%	1.7%
3 No Opinion	10.4%	8.1%	12.4%	11.9%	8.9%	10.7%	6.8%
2 Disagree	25.1%	24.6%	26.5%	23.9%	30.8%	25.2%	18.6%
1 Strongly Disagree	40.7%	41.7%	41.0%	37.6%	37.0%	48.5%	54.2%
NR	6.5%	5.7%	5.1%	1.8%	4.8%	1.9%	11.9%

Q128-Race:Q109  $X^2 = 3.726$  Sig. 0.444

Q133-Income:Q109  $X^2 = 18.761$  Sig. 0.094

**THE OUTCOME**

**110. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case in which you participated? Circle your answer.**



	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Mean	6.3	5.5	7.2	4.9	6.7	6.6	7.5

Q128-Race:Q110  $X^2 = 30.941$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q110  $X^2 = 60.245$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level. More than 20% of cells have expected cell counts less than 5. Chi-square results may be invalid.

**111. Did you win, lose or settle your case?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Won	23.0%	16.1%	29.5%	11.0%	21.9%	30.1%	35.6%
Lost	18.5%	28.0%	12.0%	37.6%	15.1%	14.6%	11.9%
Settled	24.4%	29.4%	20.9%	29.4%	31.5%	14.6%	23.7%
NA	26.1%	19.9%	31.6%	20.2%	24.7%	35.9%	23.7%
NR	7.9%	6.6%	6.0%	1.8%	6.8%	4.9%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q111  $X^2 = 33.017$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q111  $X^2 = 47.179$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**112. Were court personnel helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	55.4%	41.7%	68.8%	37.6%	57.5%	63.1%	76.3%
No	23.0%	37.0%	11.5%	45.9%	20.5%	15.5%	11.9%
NA	15.9%	18.0%	15.8%	14.7%	19.2%	17.5%	8.5%
NR	5.7%	3.3%	3.8%	1.8%	2.7%	3.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q112  $X^2 = 45.437$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**113. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your race/ethnicity while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	13.0%	20.9%	6.4%	22.9%	9.6%	13.6%	5.1%
No	81.1%	73.5%	91.0%	72.5%	87.0%	84.5%	91.5%
NR	5.9%	5.7%	2.6%	4.6%	3.4%	1.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q113  $X^2 = 21.567$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

114. If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**115. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your economic status while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	16.1%	22.7%	10.7%	31.2%	17.1%	7.8%	6.8%
No	77.2%	71.1%	85.9%	64.2%	78.1%	89.3%	89.8%
NR	6.7%	6.2%	3.4%	4.6%	4.8%	2.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q115  $X^2 = 12.060$  Sig. 0.001\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

Q133-Income:Q115  $X^2 = 26.919$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

116. If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**THE VICTIM**

**117. Did the race/ethnicity of the victim affect the outcome of the trial?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	7.3%	11.8%	3.8%	17.4%	3.4%	7.8%	3.4%
No	51.3%	48.8%	62.4%	45.9%	56.8%	60.2%	59.3%
NA	26.5%	29.9%	28.2%	28.4%	30.1%	28.2%	33.9%
NR	14.9%	9.5%	5.6%	8.3%	9.6%	3.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q117  $X^2 = 12.640$  Sig. 0.002\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

118. If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**119. Did the economic status of the victim affect the outcome of the trial?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	8.1%	10.9%	7.3%	15.6%	6.8%	8.7%	5.1%
No	50.7%	50.2%	59.4%	50.5%	53.4%	62.1%	57.6%
NA	25.5%	28.0%	27.4%	24.8%	30.1%	25.2%	33.9%
NR	15.7%	10.9%	6.0%	9.2%	9.6%	3.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q119  $X^2 = 2.888$  Sig. 0.236

Q133-Income:Q119  $X^2 = 9.537$  Sig. 0.146

**120. If yes, please explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

**121. Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	59.1%	52.6%	76.1%	45.9%	65.8%	73.8%	81.4%
No	25.3%	38.4%	16.7%	44.0%	26.0%	21.4%	13.6%
NR	15.7%	9.0%	7.3%	10.1%	8.2%	4.9%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q121  $X^2 = 27.820$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**122. Given a choice, would you utilize Maryland's Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	57.0%	49.3%	74.8%	38.5%	64.4%	77.7%	81.4%
No	26.3%	40.8%	17.1%	47.7%	28.1%	19.4%	15.3%
NR	16.7%	10.0%	8.1%	13.8%	7.5%	2.9%	3.4%

Q128-Race:Q122  $X^2 = 32.400$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**123. Would you expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland's Courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	61.1%	51.7%	80.8%	49.5%	67.1%	75.7%	83.1%
No	20.2%	34.1%	10.7%	35.8%	21.9%	16.5%	11.9%
NR	18.7%	14.2%	8.5%	14.7%	11.0%	7.8%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q123  $X^2 = 41.461$  Sig. 0.000\* \*The Chi-square statistic is significant at the 0.05 level.

**124. If you had a legal dispute or problem in the future and had a choice, would you prefer to:**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Use a Mediator	14.5%	18.0%	13.2%	19.3%	15.1%	15.5%	16.9%
Go to Court	25.1%	25.6%	29.1%	17.4%	37.7%	23.3%	25.4%
Settle Privately	39.3%	40.8%	44.9%	47.7%	34.9%	48.5%	52.5%
NR	21.2%	15.6%	12.8%	15.6%	12.3%	12.6%	5.1%

Q128-Race:Q124  $X^2 = 2.925$  Sig. 0.232

For the purpose of analysis only, please answer the following -

**125. In what county or Baltimore City was the case heard?**

<u>County/City</u>	<u>% Response</u>	<u>n=</u>
Allegany County	0.2%	1
Anne Arundel County	13.6%	67
Baltimore City	22.8%	112
Baltimore County	4.5%	22
Calvert County	0.8%	4
Caroline County	0.2%	1
Carroll County	2.6%	13
Cecil County	1.0%	5
Charles County	0.8%	4
Dorchester County	0.6%	3
Frederick County	2.4%	12
Garrett County	5.1%	25
Harford County	2.2%	11
Howard County	1.6%	8
Kent County	5.3%	26
Montgomery County	10.8%	53
Prince Georges County	0.8%	4
Queen Annes County	1.0%	5
Somerset County	0.4%	2
St. Marys County	0.8%	4
Talbot County	6.1%	30
Washington County	0.2%	1
Wicomico County	2.2%	11
Worcester County	0.8%	4
No Response	12.8%	63
Total	100.0%	491

**126. What is the zip code where you live?**

<b>3 Digit Zipcode Prefix</b>	<b>Location (Postal)</b>	<b>n =</b>
111-112	New York	2
172	Harrisburg PA	1
197	Wilmington DE	1
200-201	Washington DC	5
206 - 207	Southern MD	65
208 - 209	Suburban MD	24
210 - 211	Linthicum	83
212	Baltimore	141
214	Annapolis	16
215	Cumberland	5
216	Eastern Shore	17
217	Frederick	42
218	Salisbury	13
219	Baltimore	5
	Not Identified	71
	TOTAL	491

**127. How old are you?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
< 18	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
18 - 29	17.1%	25.6%	12.8%	36.7%	17.1%	12.6%	3.4%
30 - 39	24.6%	29.4%	24.8%	24.8%	32.9%	23.3%	20.3%
40 - 49	24.4%	27.0%	26.5%	24.8%	30.8%	27.2%	28.8%
50 - 59	17.3%	12.3%	24.8%	6.4%	13.0%	26.2%	44.1%
60 - 69	5.5%	3.8%	8.1%	4.6%	4.1%	8.7%	1.7%
70 years +	1.4%	0.9%	2.1%	0.0%	2.1%	1.9%	1.7%
NR	9.4%	0.5%	0.9%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**128. What is your race/ethnicity?**

	All	Income			
	N = 491	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
African-American	37.9%	70.6%	41.1%	32.0%	10.2%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	1.6%	1.8%	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%
Hispanic/Latino	1.6%	1.8%	2.7%	1.9%	0.0%
White/Non-Hispanic	47.7%	24.8%	51.4%	61.2%	86.4%
Other	1.8%	0.0%	2.7%	3.9%	0.0%
NR	9.4%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	1.7%

**Among those reporting their race as "other" were:** bi-racial, Alaskan, Native American, Persian and Middle Eastern individuals.

**129. In what country were you born?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
USA	85.9%	89.1%	98.7%	94.5%	93.8%	93.2%	96.6%
Other	4.5%	8.5%	1.3%	3.7%	6.2%	5.8%	3.4%
NR	9.6%	2.4%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%

**Other:**

Argentina	Jamaica
China - 2	Japan
Commonwealth of Dominica	Lebanon
El Salvador	Mauritius
England	Mexico
Germany	Nigeria
Iran	Panama
	West Africa

**130. Are you a U. S. citizen?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	84.5%	88.2%	96.2%	91.7%	91.1%	95.1%	96.6%
No	1.2%	2.8%	0.0%	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
NR	14.3%	9.0%	3.8%	6.4%	6.8%	3.9%	3.4%

**131. What is your gender?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Male	47.7%	50.7%	53.4%	58.7%	39.0%	58.3%	69.5%
Female	37.5%	39.3%	42.7%	33.0%	53.4%	37.9%	28.8%
NR	14.9%	10.0%	3.8%	8.3%	7.5%	3.9%	1.7%

**132. What level of education have you completed?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Some High School	10.8%	17.1%	6.8%	30.3%	7.5%	2.9%	0.0%
High School Diploma/GED	24.2%	32.7%	21.4%	42.2%	32.9%	12.6%	6.8%
Some College	28.5%	30.8%	31.2%	21.1%	41.8%	36.9%	22.0%
4 Year College Degree	6.9%	5.7%	9.4%	2.8%	9.6%	11.7%	6.8%
Some Graduate Work	3.1%	2.8%	3.8%	0.9%	3.4%	6.8%	1.7%
Graduate Degree	16.3%	9.5%	25.6%	0.0%	4.8%	29.1%	62.7%
NR	10.2%	1.4%	1.7%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**133. What is your household income?**

	All	Race	
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234
Less Than \$18,000	22.2%	38.4%	11.5%
\$18,000-\$49,999	29.7%	33.2%	32.1%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	21.0%	19.0%	26.9%
\$100,000 Or More	12.0%	3.3%	21.8%
NR	15.1%	6.2%	7.7%



**134. What is your native language?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
English	79.0%	81.5%	91.0%	89.0%	83.6%	92.2%	88.1%
Other	3.9%	7.6%	1.3%	2.8%	5.5%	4.9%	5.1%
NR	17.1%	10.9%	7.7%	8.3%	11.0%	2.9%	6.8%

"Other" includes Spanish (10), French (2), Arabic, Chinese(2), German, Persian, Akan, Ibo Yorubo, and Gujarati.

**135. Are you fluent in English?**

	All	Race		Income			
	N = 491	Minority n = 211	White n = 234	<\$18,000 n = 109	\$18000- \$49,999 n = 146	\$50,000- \$99,999 n = 103	\$100,000+ n = 59
Yes	82.5%	86.7%	94.0%	88.1%	91.1%	96.1%	93.2%
No	2.9%	6.2%	0.4%	5.5%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
NR	14.7%	7.1%	5.6%	6.4%	6.8%	2.9%	6.8%

**136. Do you have any other comments concerning fairness as it relates to your actual experience in the Court System?**

\*\*\*\*\*



## The Maryland Commission On Racial and Ethnic Fairness In The Courts Survey Response - Civil Matters

**3. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the overall fairness you experienced with Maryland's Court System.**

*Circle your response.*

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
	← Very Positive								Very Negative →	
	All	Race		Income						
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+			
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25			
Mean	7.01	5.40	7.73	4.67	7.22	6.00	7.96			
10	23.1%	10.0%	30.0%	0.0%	21.7%	14.3%	36.0%			
9	9.0%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	13.0%	0.0%	16.0%			
8	23.1%	15.0%	22.0%	16.7%	21.7%	28.6%	12.0%			
7	9.0%	0.0%	14.0%	0.0%	17.4%	7.1%	8.0%			
6	6.4%	10.0%	4.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	12.0%			
5	9.0%	15.0%	8.0%	33.3%	4.3%	21.4%	4.0%			
4	6.4%	10.0%	4.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%			
3	5.1%	10.0%	4.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%			
2	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%			
1	6.4%	15.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	4.0%			
No Response	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%			

*Respond to the following statements by circling your answer.*

**4. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the race or ethnicity of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income						
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+			
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25			
Strongly Agree	51.3%	15.0%	66.0%	0.0%	52.2%	57.1%	60.0%			
Agree	24.4%	20.0%	26.0%	16.7%	21.7%	14.3%	32.0%			
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	9.0%	20.0%	6.0%	33.3%	17.4%	0.0%	4.0%			
Disagree	10.3%	30.0%	2.0%	50.0%	4.3%	14.3%	4.0%			
Strongly Disagree	5.1%	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	14.3%	0.0%			
No Response	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%			

**5. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Strongly Agree	38.5%	10.0%	50.0%	0.0%	34.8%	42.9%	52.0%
Agree	29.5%	25.0%	30.0%	16.7%	34.8%	21.4%	28.0%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	12.8%	30.0%	8.0%	50.0%	17.4%	7.1%	8.0%
Disagree	7.7%	10.0%	6.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%
Strongly Disagree	11.5%	25.0%	6.0%	16.7%	8.7%	21.4%	8.0%
No Response	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

**14. Was the plaintiff/petitioner represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Private Counsel	60.3%	45.0%	68.0%	33.3%	56.5%	64.3%	76.0%
Legal Services Organization	7.7%	25.0%	2.0%	66.7%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
Self Represented	28.2%	25.0%	28.0%	0.0%	43.5%	14.3%	20.0%
No Response	3.8%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%

**15. If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	10.0%	4.0%	16.7%	4.3%	14.3%	0.0%
No	61.5%	60.0%	68.0%	83.3%	52.2%	64.3%	76.0%
No Response	32.1%	30.0%	28.0%	0.0%	43.5%	21.4%	24.0%

**16. Was the defendant/respondent represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Private Counsel	53.8%	35.0%	60.0%	16.7%	47.8%	57.1%	64.0%
Legal Services Organization	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
Public Defender	10.3%	30.0%	4.0%	66.7%	4.3%	14.3%	4.0%
Self-Represented	26.9%	25.0%	28.0%	0.0%	39.1%	14.3%	28.0%
No Response	5.1%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	4.0%

**17. If the defendant/respondent was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	9.0%	25.0%	2.0%	50.0%	8.7%	0.0%	4.0%
No	62.8%	55.0%	68.0%	50.0%	52.2%	85.7%	68.0%
No Response	28.2%	20.0%	30.0%	0.0%	39.1%	14.3%	28.0%

**18. Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	21.4%	0.0%
No	48.7%	25.0%	58.0%	33.3%	47.8%	42.9%	56.0%
Don't Know	9.0%	30.0%	2.0%	50.0%	8.7%	7.1%	4.0%
Not Applicable	26.9%	15.0%	30.0%	0.0%	26.1%	28.6%	28.0%
No Response	10.3%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	17.4%	0.0%	12.0%

**LEGAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

**20. If self-represented, did either the plaintiff or defendant seek information and assistance from the Court System or a legal services organization such as Legal Aid?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	14.1%	25.0%	10.0%	0.0%	26.1%	14.3%	8.0%
No	19.2%	20.0%	18.0%	0.0%	21.7%	7.1%	24.0%
Don't Know	9.0%	5.0%	10.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	12.0%
Not Applicable	10.3%	5.0%	10.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%
No Response	47.4%	45.0%	52.0%	66.7%	39.1%	64.3%	48.0%

**23. Was the information helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	15.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	3.8%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	5.1%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%
Not Applicable	11.5%	15.0%	12.0%	0.0%	21.7%	14.3%	4.0%
No Response	73.1%	65.0%	76.0%	83.3%	60.9%	78.6%	80.0%

**24. Were the forms easy to understand?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	10.0%	4.0%	0.0%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	7.7%	5.0%	10.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	16.0%
Not Applicable	12.8%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	21.7%	14.3%	4.0%
No Response	73.1%	65.0%	76.0%	83.3%	60.9%	78.6%	80.0%

**25. Were the documents' instructions clear?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	10.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	6.4%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	16.0%
Not Applicable	14.1%	25.0%	10.0%	0.0%	21.7%	21.4%	4.0%
No Response	73.1%	65.0%	76.0%	83.3%	60.9%	78.6%	80.0%

**26. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	21.4%	0.0%
No	66.7%	55.0%	76.0%	66.7%	69.6%	50.0%	84.0%
Don't Know	12.8%	10.0%	14.0%	16.7%	17.4%	14.3%	8.0%
No Response	14.1%	15.0%	10.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	8.0%

**27. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect how you were treated during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	21.4%	0.0%
No	61.5%	45.0%	72.0%	50.0%	60.9%	50.0%	80.0%
Don't Know	3.8%	10.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Not Applicable	16.7%	10.0%	20.0%	16.7%	30.4%	7.1%	12.0%
No Response	12.8%	15.0%	8.0%	100.0%	8.7%	14.3%	8.0%

**28. Did the litigants appear before a minority judge or master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	11.5%	10.0%	12.0%	0.0%	13.0%	0.0%	16.0%
No	67.9%	60.0%	72.0%	50.0%	73.9%	78.6%	64.0%
Don't Know	9.0%	20.0%	6.0%	33.3%	13.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Not Applicable	3.8%	5.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	4.0%
No Response	7.7%	5.0%	6.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.1%	8.0%

**29. Were court personnel less respectful to minority litigants than to non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%
No	67.9%	65.0%	72.0%	50.0%	78.3%	50.0%	76.0%
Don't Know	9.0%	20.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	4.0%
Not Applicable	11.5%	0.0%	16.0%	0.0%	4.3%	28.6%	12.0%
No Response	7.7%	5.0%	6.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%

**30. Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
No	64.1%	50.0%	74.0%	33.3%	82.6%	50.0%	68.0%
Don't Know	16.7%	30.0%	10.0%	33.3%	13.0%	7.1%	20.0%
Not Applicable	7.7%	0.0%	12.0%	0.0%	4.3%	21.4%	8.0%
No Response	7.7%	10.0%	4.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%

**31. Was the treatment the litigants received different because of their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
No	64.1%	50.0%	74.0%	33.3%	78.3%	50.0%	72.0%
Don't Know	11.5%	25.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	8.0%
Not Applicable	10.3%	0.0%	16.0%	0.0%	8.7%	21.4%	12.0%
No Response	9.0%	10.0%	6.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	8.0%

**33. Was the case referred to mediation?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	14.1%	5.0%	18.0%	0.0%	8.7%	14.3%	20.0%
No	80.8%	90.0%	78.0%	83.3%	87.0%	78.6%	80.0%
No Response	5.1%	5.0%	4.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**34. If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	11.5%	0.0%	16.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	20.0%
No	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Don't Know	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	15.4%	20.0%	14.0%	16.7%	17.4%	7.1%	20.0%
NR	67.9%	70.0%	66.0%	66.7%	69.6%	78.6%	60.0%

**LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION**

**36. Was an interpreter required during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	96.2%	100.0%	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	2.6%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%

**37. If yes, on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Mean	4.00	3.00	4.50	3.00	6.00	3.00	---
5 Excellent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3	2.6%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1 Poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NR	96.2%	95.0%	96.0%	83.3%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%



**38. At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	75.6%	75.0%	78.0%	50.0%	73.9%	78.6%	88.0%
Don't Know	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	33.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	7.7%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	4.0%
NR	11.5%	10.0%	12.0%	16.7%	8.7%	14.3%	8.0%

**39. At any time during the Court process, did the master improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	66.7%	65.0%	68.0%	33.3%	73.9%	71.4%	68.0%
Don't Know	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	33.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	12.8%	0.0%	16.0%	0.0%	4.3%	14.3%	20.0%
NR	15.4%	20.0%	14.0%	33.3%	13.0%	14.3%	12.0%

**40. At any time during the Court process, did any other court personnel improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	75.6%	70.0%	80.0%	50.0%	78.3%	71.4%	88.0%
Don't Know	2.6%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	6.4%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%
NR	11.5%	10.0%	12.0%	16.7%	8.7%	14.3%	8.0%

**THE COURT PROCESS**

**41. Do you believe the court process was a fair one?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	76.9%	50.0%	88.0%	33.3%	78.3%	71.4%	88.0%
No	11.5%	20.0%	10.0%	16.7%	13.0%	21.4%	8.0%
Don't Know	7.7%	25.0%	2.0%	50.0%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%
Not Applicable	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	3.8%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**42. Was the opponent in the case an individual or business?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Individual	66.7%	60.0%	72.0%	50.0%	65.2%	78.6%	68.0%
Business	23.1%	30.0%	22.0%	50.0%	26.1%	7.1%	28.0%
No Response	10.3%	10.0%	6.0%	0.0%	8.7%	14.3%	4.0%

**43. If an individual, what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
African-American	25.6%	35.0%	22.0%	33.3%	17.4%	21.4%	36.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
White, Non-Hispanic	41.0%	25.0%	46.0%	16.7%	43.5%	57.1%	32.0%
Don't Know	7.7%	10.0%	8.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	4.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	25.6%	30.0%	24.0%	33.3%	30.4%	14.3%	28.0%

**44. If an individual, was he/she represented by an attorney?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	44.9%	35.0%	48.0%	50.0%	34.8%	64.3%	44.0%
No	29.5%	25.0%	32.0%	0.0%	39.1%	14.3%	36.0%
Don't Know	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	7.7%	5.0%	10.0%	0.0%	8.7%	14.3%	4.0%
NR	16.7%	30.0%	10.0%	33.3%	17.4%	7.1%	16.0%

**45. Have you required legal assistance in court in the past two (2) years but were unable to get help because you couldn't afford it?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	9.0%	25.0%	2.0%	33.3%	8.7%	7.1%	4.0%
No	64.1%	45.0%	72.0%	50.0%	65.2%	64.3%	68.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	16.7%	15.0%	20.0%	0.0%	13.0%	28.6%	20.0%
NR	10.3%	15.0%	6.0%	16.7%	13.0%	0.0%	8.0%

**46. In the past two (2) years, was your interaction with the Court System of Maryland affected by a language barrier?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	4.0%
No	80.8%	70.0%	86.0%	66.7%	69.6%	92.9%	88.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	6.4%	5.0%	8.0%	0.0%	13.0%	7.1%	4.0%
NR	9.0%	15.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**47. In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	0.0%	33.3%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%
No	78.2%	55.0%	90.0%	33.3%	69.6%	92.9%	92.0%
Don't Know	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	33.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	3.8%	5.0%	4.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%
NR	7.7%	10.0%	4.0%	0.0%	13.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**48. In your experience, did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	73.1%	55.0%	82.0%	50.0%	56.5%	92.9%	84.0%
Don't Know	7.7%	10.0%	8.0%	33.3%	13.0%	0.0%	4.0%
NA	5.1%	5.0%	6.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	8.0%
NR	7.7%	10.0%	4.0%	0.0%	13.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**COURT OBSERVATIONS**

*When you were in court did you actually see or hear:*

**61. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority judges?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	15.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	88.5%	70.0%	98.0%	50.0%	91.3%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**62. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	89.7%	75.0%	98.0%	83.3%	87.0%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**63. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	3.8%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	88.5%	70.0%	98.0%	66.7%	87.0%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**64. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	25.0%	0.0%	33.3%	8.7%	0.0%	4.0%
No	87.2%	65.0%	98.0%	66.7%	82.6%	92.9%	96.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**65. Court personnel less respectful of minority litigants than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	84.6%	65.0%	96.0%	50.0%	82.6%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	9.0%	15.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%

**66. Litigants less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	15.0%	2.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%
No	87.2%	70.0%	96.0%	50.0%	91.3%	85.7%	96.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**67. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	7.7%	25.0%	2.0%	33.3%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	84.6%	60.0%	96.0%	50.0%	78.3%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**68. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	2.0%	33.3%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	85.9%	65.0%	96.0%	50.0%	82.6%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**69. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	6.4%	20.0%	2.0%	33.3%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	85.9%	65.0%	96.0%	50.0%	82.6%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**70. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	7.7%	20.0%	4.0%	33.3%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	85.9%	70.0%	94.0%	66.7%	78.3%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

*When you were in court:*

**71. Did attorneys address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	2.6%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	91.0%	80.0%	98.0%	100.0%	87.0%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**72. Did judges address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	5.1%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	89.7%	80.0%	96.0%	83.3%	87.0%	85.7%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**73. Did court personnel address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	93.6%	90.0%	98.0%	83.3%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**74. Did you hear judges address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	94.9%	95.0%	98.0%	100.0%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**75. Did you hear attorneys address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	93.6%	90.0%	98.0%	83.3%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**76. Did you hear court personnel address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	93.6%	90.0%	98.0%	83.3%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**77. Did judges improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	94.9%	95.0%	98.0%	100.0%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**78. Did attorneys improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity, or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	94.9%	95.0%	98.0%	100.0%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**79. Did court personnel improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	94.9%	95.0%	98.0%	100.0%	95.7%	92.9%	100.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

**81. Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	7.7%	15.0%	6.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%
No	79.5%	60.0%	88.0%	50.0%	78.3%	85.7%	84.0%
NR	12.8%	25.0%	6.0%	33.3%	13.0%	7.1%	8.0%

**JURY TRIALS**

**83. Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	14.1%	0.0%	22.0%	0.0%	8.7%	14.3%	28.0%
No	61.5%	85.0%	58.0%	83.3%	69.6%	78.6%	52.0%
NR	24.4%	15.0%	20.0%	16.7%	21.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**84. If yes, what was the jury's racial/ethnic make-up?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
All Minority Representation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Non-minority Representation	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Equally Divided	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
More Non-minorities	7.7%	0.0%	12.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	16.0%
More minorities	2.6%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Don't Know	2.6%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%
Not Applicable	11.5%	20.0%	8.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	8.0%
NR	74.4%	80.0%	70.0%	83.3%	78.3%	78.6%	64.0%

**85. In terms of race/ethnicity, was jury selection done in an unbiased, impartial manner ?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	12.8%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	20.0%
No	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
DK/NA	14.1%	25.0%	10.0%	16.7%	8.7%	14.3%	16.0%
NR	71.8%	70.0%	70.0%	66.7%	78.3%	71.4%	64.0%

**86. Did the racial/ethnic make-up of the jury affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
No	10.3%	0.0%	16.0%	0.0%	8.7%	14.3%	16.0%
DK/NA	14.1%	25.0%	10.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	12.0%
NR	74.4%	75.0%	72.0%	83.3%	78.3%	71.4%	68.0%

**88. To what degree are your perceptions of the Court System influenced by what you see and hear on television, radio and newspapers? Circle your answer.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Influenced	2.6%	5.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%
4	6.4%	10.0%	6.0%	0.0%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%
3	21.8%	20.0%	20.0%	16.7%	30.4%	21.4%	12.0%
2	11.5%	10.0%	14.0%	0.0%	17.4%	7.1%	16.0%
1 Not Influenced	52.6%	45.0%	58.0%	66.7%	39.1%	57.1%	60.0%
NR	5.1%	10.0%	0.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%



**89. Is your impression of Maryland's Court System influenced by something you were told by family, friends, acquaintances and colleagues?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	12.8%	15.0%	12.0%	0.0%	17.4%	7.1%	16.0%
No	82.1%	75.0%	88.0%	83.3%	78.3%	92.9%	84.0%
NR	5.1%	10.0%	0.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**90. If yes, is this impression positive or negative?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Very Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Positive	7.7%	0.0%	12.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	16.0%
Neither Positive Nor Negative	10.3%	5.0%	12.0%	0.0%	17.4%	7.1%	8.0%
Somewhat Negative	5.1%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Very Negative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	15.4%	20.0%	16.0%	33.3%	8.7%	21.4%	16.0%
NR	61.5%	55.0%	60.0%	66.7%	52.2%	64.3%	60.0%

**LANGUAGE**

**91. In court, did those who speak English receive better treatment than those who didn't?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Always	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Often	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Sometimes	9.0%	15.0%	8.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	16.0%
Rarely	9.0%	15.0%	8.0%	16.7%	4.3%	7.1%	16.0%
Never	26.9%	10.0%	34.0%	33.3%	30.4%	14.3%	24.0%
Don't Know	28.2%	25.0%	30.0%	0.0%	39.1%	42.9%	20.0%
NA	19.2%	15.0%	20.0%	16.7%	13.0%	21.4%	24.0%
NR	6.4%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%

## YOUR EXPERIENCE

### 93. After your experience in the Maryland Court System, did your feelings regarding fairness in the Courts change?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	14.1%	25.0%	12.0%	0.0%	26.1%	14.3%	12.0%
No	78.2%	60.0%	86.0%	66.7%	69.6%	78.6%	88.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	2.0%	33.3%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%

Based on your actual experience in court, respond to the following statements.

### 95. White people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites.

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	10.3%	25.0%	2.0%	0.0%	17.4%	14.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	5.1%	20.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	7.1%	4.0%
3 No Opinion	21.8%	20.0%	24.0%	33.3%	30.4%	21.4%	12.0%
2 Disagree	28.2%	30.0%	32.0%	16.7%	39.1%	35.7%	28.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	29.5%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	13.0%	21.4%	52.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

### 96. Court personnel don't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	11.5%	30.0%	2.0%	16.7%	17.4%	7.1%	4.0%
4 Agree	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	28.2%	25.0%	30.0%	33.3%	21.7%	28.6%	32.0%
2 Disagree	25.6%	20.0%	32.0%	0.0%	39.1%	35.7%	24.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.9%	10.0%	34.0%	16.7%	13.0%	28.6%	40.0%
NR	3.8%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**97. Minorities are unfairly treated.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	9.0%	20.0%	2.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	3.8%	15.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	20.5%	20.0%	22.0%	16.7%	21.7%	35.7%	12.0%
2 Disagree	24.4%	20.0%	28.0%	16.7%	34.8%	28.6%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	38.5%	20.0%	48.0%	16.7%	26.1%	21.4%	68.0%
NR	3.8%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**98. Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	6.4%	15.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	6.4%	20.0%	2.0%	0.0%	8.7%	21.4%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	19.2%	15.0%	22.0%	16.7%	21.7%	21.4%	16.0%
2 Disagree	21.8%	25.0%	24.0%	16.7%	39.1%	28.6%	12.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	41.0%	20.0%	52.0%	16.7%	26.1%	28.6%	72.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**99. Court personnel are disrespectful of racial/ethnic minorities.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	2.6%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
4 Agree	6.4%	20.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	14.3%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	21.8%	25.0%	24.0%	16.7%	34.8%	28.6%	12.0%
2 Disagree	23.1%	25.0%	22.0%	16.7%	26.1%	35.7%	16.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	41.0%	20.0%	48.0%	16.7%	30.4%	21.4%	64.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**100. It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	11.5%	30.0%	4.0%	33.3%	8.7%	21.4%	4.0%
4 Agree	15.4%	25.0%	12.0%	33.3%	13.0%	21.4%	12.0%
3 No Opinion	17.9%	10.0%	24.0%	0.0%	21.7%	21.4%	24.0%
2 Disagree	32.1%	25.0%	36.0%	16.7%	47.8%	35.7%	24.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	17.9%	5.0%	22.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	32.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**101. You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	1.3%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	3.8%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	23.1%	50.0%	16.0%	66.7%	21.7%	35.7%	16.0%
2 Disagree	34.6%	25.0%	40.0%	16.7%	52.2%	35.7%	28.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	30.8%	5.0%	40.0%	0.0%	17.4%	21.4%	48.0%
NR	6.4%	5.0%	4.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%

**102. Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	10.3%	30.0%	0.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	16.7%	10.0%	18.0%	16.7%	13.0%	28.6%	12.0%
3 No Opinion	26.9%	35.0%	28.0%	33.3%	30.4%	14.3%	36.0%
2 Disagree	23.1%	20.0%	26.0%	16.7%	30.4%	28.6%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	17.9%	0.0%	26.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	28.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**103. If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	2.6%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	5.1%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	21.4%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	23.1%	20.0%	26.0%	16.7%	30.4%	21.4%	24.0%
2 Disagree	25.6%	30.0%	24.0%	33.3%	39.1%	28.6%	12.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	37.2%	10.0%	48.0%	0.0%	21.7%	28.6%	60.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**104. The Department of Social Services doesn't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	7.7%	20.0%	2.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	5.1%	15.0%	2.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	38.5%	35.0%	42.0%	33.3%	39.1%	35.7%	48.0%
2 Disagree	17.9%	15.0%	18.0%	16.7%	26.1%	21.4%	8.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	24.4%	5.0%	34.0%	0.0%	13.0%	21.4%	40.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

**105. Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	21.8%	0.0%	30.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	36.0%
4 Agree	23.1%	15.0%	28.0%	16.7%	30.4%	21.4%	24.0%
3 No Opinion	23.1%	20.0%	28.0%	50.0%	17.4%	35.7%	20.0%
2 Disagree	12.8%	30.0%	8.0%	16.7%	21.7%	14.3%	8.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	12.8%	25.0%	4.0%	0.0%	13.0%	14.3%	8.0%
NR	6.4%	10.0%	2.0%	16.7%	4.3%	0.0%	4.0%

**106. Maryland's Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	25.6%	5.0%	32.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	44.0%
4 Agree	20.5%	15.0%	24.0%	0.0%	26.1%	21.4%	24.0%
3 No Opinion	26.9%	30.0%	30.0%	50.0%	26.1%	35.7%	24.0%
2 Disagree	11.5%	20.0%	8.0%	16.7%	17.4%	14.3%	4.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	10.3%	25.0%	4.0%	0.0%	17.4%	14.3%	0.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	2.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%

*Respond to each statement by circling your answer.*

**107. The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	50.0%	40.0%	56.0%	33.3%	47.8%	35.7%	68.0%
4 Agree	24.4%	10.0%	30.0%	16.7%	30.4%	28.6%	20.0%
3 No Opinion	12.8%	15.0%	12.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	8.0%
2 Disagree	6.4%	25.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.3%	14.3%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	3.8%	10.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	7.1%	4.0%
NR	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**108. I cannot afford to hire an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	15.4%	40.0%	6.0%	33.3%	30.4%	14.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	16.7%	30.0%	12.0%	50.0%	21.7%	21.4%	4.0%
3 No Opinion	21.8%	15.0%	26.0%	0.0%	13.0%	35.7%	28.0%
2 Disagree	24.4%	10.0%	30.0%	0.0%	26.1%	28.6%	28.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	16.7%	5.0%	22.0%	16.7%	8.7%	0.0%	32.0%
NR	5.1%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%

**109. Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
5 Strongly Agree	5.1%	5.0%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	12.0%
4 Agree	7.7%	10.0%	6.0%	16.7%	13.0%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	14.1%	15.0%	14.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	12.0%
2 Disagree	21.8%	25.0%	22.0%	16.7%	34.8%	21.4%	16.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	46.2%	45.0%	48.0%	50.0%	39.1%	50.0%	52.0%
NR	5.1%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%

**THE OUTCOME**

**110. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case in which you participated?** *Circle your answer.*

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 Very Positive ←————→ Very Negative

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Mean	6.81	5.63	7.31	4.50	7.22	5.92	7.39

**111. Did you win, lose or settle your case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Won	39.7%	35.0%	46.0%	16.7%	47.8%	35.7%	48.0%
Lost	12.8%	20.0%	10.0%	33.3%	13.0%	7.1%	12.0%
Settled	19.2%	30.0%	14.0%	33.3%	21.7%	7.1%	16.0%
NA	20.5%	15.0%	24.0%	16.7%	8.7%	50.0%	20.0%
NR	7.7%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	4.0%

**112. Were court personnel helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	60.3%	30.0%	74.0%	16.7%	60.9%	50.0%	80.0%
No	14.1%	40.0%	6.0%	33.3%	17.4%	21.4%	8.0%
NA	20.5%	25.0%	20.0%	33.3%	21.7%	28.6%	12.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**113. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your race/ethnicity while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	10.3%	25.0%	4.0%	33.3%	8.7%	14.3%	4.0%
No	84.6%	70.0%	96.0%	66.7%	87.0%	85.7%	96.0%
NR	5.1%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**115. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your economic status while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	14.1%	20.0%	12.0%	16.7%	17.4%	14.3%	12.0%
No	78.2%	65.0%	88.0%	66.7%	73.9%	85.7%	88.0%
NR	7.7%	15.0%	0.0%	16.7%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%

**121. Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	66.7%	55.0%	82.0%	50.0%	73.9%	78.6%	76.0%
No	14.1%	30.0%	10.0%	33.3%	17.4%	14.3%	12.0%
NR	19.2%	15.0%	8.0%	16.7%	8.7%	7.1%	12.0%



**122. Given a choice, would you utilize Maryland's Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	64.1%	45.0%	82.0%	33.3%	65.2%	78.6%	80.0%
No	16.7%	40.0%	10.0%	33.3%	26.1%	14.3%	12.0%
NR	19.2%	15.0%	8.0%	33.3%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%

**123. Would you expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland's Courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Yes	69.2%	50.0%	88.0%	50.0%	78.3%	78.6%	80.0%
No	10.3%	30.0%	4.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	8.0%
NR	20.5%	20.0%	8.0%	33.3%	8.7%	7.1%	12.0%

**124. If you had a legal dispute or problem in the future and had a choice, would you prefer to:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 20	n = 50	n = 6	n = 23	n = 14	n = 25
Use a Mediator	10.3%	20.0%	8.0%	16.7%	13.0%	14.3%	8.0%
Go to Court	24.4%	25.0%	28.0%	33.3%	26.1%	28.6%	28.0%
Settle Privately	41.0%	35.0%	50.0%	33.3%	39.1%	50.0%	56.0%
NR	24.4%	20.0%	14.0%	16.7%	21.7%	7.1%	8.0%



## The Maryland Commission On Racial and Ethnic Fairness In The Courts Survey Response - Criminal Matters

**3. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the overall fairness you experienced with Maryland's Court System.**

*Circle your response.*

10    9    8    7    6    5    4    3    2    1  
 Very Positive ←—————→ Very Negative

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Mean	6.24	5.26	7.37	5.08	6.18	7.10	8.23
10	15.3%	10.4%	20.6%	8.3%	15.8%	17.4%	30.4%
9	12.9%	4.9%	22.2%	8.3%	6.6%	20.3%	30.4%
8	14.6%	11.1%	18.3%	10.7%	18.4%	18.8%	13.0%
7	8.8%	9.0%	8.7%	3.6%	10.5%	15.9%	4.3%
6	7.8%	9.7%	5.6%	8.3%	9.2%	4.3%	4.3%
5	10.2%	12.5%	7.1%	15.5%	13.2%	2.9%	8.7%
4	7.5%	10.4%	4.0%	14.3%	6.6%	2.9%	0.0%
3	5.4%	8.3%	2.4%	7.1%	5.3%	4.3%	0.0%
2	5.1%	6.3%	4.8%	9.5%	2.6%	4.3%	0.0%
1	10.5%	15.3%	4.0%	14.3%	11.8%	7.2%	4.3%
No Response	2.0%	2.1%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	4.3%

*Respond to the following statements by circling your answer.*

**4. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the race or ethnicity of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Strongly Agree	26.1%	16.7%	38.9%	15.5%	28.9%	37.7%	39.1%
Agree	29.5%	23.6%	33.3%	21.4%	28.9%	36.2%	30.4%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	16.3%	19.4%	13.5%	22.6%	15.8%	7.2%	17.4%
Disagree	13.6%	20.1%	6.3%	19.0%	11.8%	8.7%	13.0%
Strongly Disagree	12.9%	18.1%	6.3%	20.2%	11.8%	10.1%	0.0%
No Response	1.7%	2.1%	1.6%	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%

**5. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Strongly Agree	22.4%	11.8%	36.5%	10.7%	27.6%	34.8%	26.1%
Agree	25.1%	19.4%	28.6%	15.5%	22.4%	30.4%	43.5%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	16.3%	17.4%	12.7%	21.4%	9.2%	14.5%	4.3%
Disagree	20.7%	29.2%	12.7%	29.8%	18.4%	13.0%	26.1%
Strongly Disagree	14.9%	20.8%	9.5%	22.6%	21.1%	7.2%	0.0%
No Response	0.7%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**Legal Representation- All Courts**

**14. Was the plaintiff/petitioner represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Private Counsel	24.1%	21.5%	28.6%	16.7%	26.3%	27.5%	43.5%
Legal Services Organization	44.7%	45.8%	40.5%	56.0%	44.7%	31.9%	30.4%
Self Represented	18.0%	19.4%	17.5%	16.7%	21.1%	23.2%	8.7%
No Response	13.2%	13.2%	13.5%	10.7%	7.9%	17.4%	17.4%

**15. If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.6%	17.4%	9.5%	14.3%	14.5%	13.0%	17.4%
No	60.0%	56.9%	61.9%	61.9%	59.2%	56.5%	69.6%
No Response	26.4%	25.7%	28.6%	23.8%	26.3%	30.4%	13.0%

**16. Was the defendant/respondent represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Private Counsel	35.6%	27.1%	43.7%	22.6%	42.1%	34.8%	65.2%
Legal Services Organization	4.7%	6.3%	4.0%	8.3%	6.6%	1.4%	0.0%
Public Defender	39.0%	43.1%	34.1%	57.1%	23.7%	36.2%	26.1%
Self-Represented	15.9%	18.8%	13.5%	8.3%	21.1%	21.7%	8.7%
No Response	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	3.6%	6.6%	5.8%	0.0%

**17. If the defendant/respondent was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	11.9%	15.3%	7.1%	11.9%	11.8%	10.1%	8.7%
No	67.1%	62.5%	72.2%	72.6%	67.1%	59.4%	78.3%
No Response	21.0%	22.2%	20.6%	15.5%	21.1%	30.4%	13.0%

**18. Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	7.1%	12.5%	2.4%	14.3%	6.6%	5.8%	0.0%
No	48.1%	38.9%	57.9%	40.5%	51.3%	49.3%	65.2%
Don't Know	25.8%	29.9%	20.6%	31.0%	23.7%	20.3%	21.7%
Not Applicable	12.5%	12.5%	15.1%	8.3%	15.8%	15.9%	13.0%
No Response	6.4%	6.3%	4.0%	6.0%	2.6%	8.7%	0.0%

**Legal Information and Assistance**

**20. If self-represented, did either the plaintiff or defendant seek information and assistance from the Court System or a legal services organization such as Legal Aid?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	9.5%	10.4%	9.5%	10.7%	13.2%	4.3%	4.3%
No	15.6%	19.4%	11.9%	17.9%	15.8%	17.4%	4.3%
Don't Know	5.8%	6.9%	4.0%	4.8%	2.6%	11.6%	0.0%
Not Applicable	18.3%	18.1%	18.3%	17.9%	22.4%	17.4%	17.4%
No Response	50.8%	45.1%	56.3%	48.8%	46.1%	49.3%	73.9%

**23. Was the information helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	4.1%	3.5%	5.6%	4.8%	3.9%	1.4%	4.3%
No	3.7%	4.9%	2.4%	6.0%	3.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Don't Know	2.0%	2.1%	1.6%	4.8%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	15.6%	17.4%	16.7%	13.1%	19.7%	20.3%	13.0%
No Response	74.6%	72.2%	73.8%	71.4%	71.1%	76.8%	82.6%

**24. Were the forms easy to understand?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	5.4%	7.6%	3.2%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	4.3%
No	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	2.4%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Don't Know	2.4%	1.4%	3.2%	2.4%	3.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Not Applicable	16.3%	18.1%	17.5%	15.5%	19.7%	20.3%	13.0%
No Response	74.6%	71.5%	74.6%	71.4%	71.1%	76.8%	82.6%

**25. Were the documents' instructions clear?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	5.4%	6.9%	4.0%	9.5%	3.9%	0.0%	4.3%
No	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	1.2%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Don't Know	3.4%	3.5%	3.2%	4.8%	5.3%	1.4%	0.0%
Not Applicable	15.6%	16.7%	17.5%	14.3%	18.4%	20.3%	13.0%
No Response	74.6%	72.2%	73.8%	70.2%	72.4%	76.8%	82.6%

**26. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	8.8%	13.2%	3.2%	16.7%	7.9%	2.9%	0.0%
No	60.3%	51.4%	72.2%	47.6%	67.1%	65.2%	78.3%
Don't Know	20.7%	26.4%	14.3%	29.8%	19.7%	13.0%	17.4%
No Response	10.2%	10.6%	10.3%	6.0%	5.3%	18.8%	4.3%

**27. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect how you were treated during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	11.5%	18.8%	3.2%	20.2%	10.5%	5.8%	0.0%
No	55.3%	48.6%	64.3%	47.6%	55.3%	59.4%	73.9%
Don't Know	12.9%	18.1%	6.3%	22.6%	10.5%	7.2%	4.3%
Not Applicable	11.9%	11.1%	15.1%	8.3%	14.5%	14.5%	17.4%
No Response	8.5%	3.5%	11.1%	1.2%	9.2%	13.0%	4.3%

**28. Did the litigants appear before a minority judge or master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	22.7%	25.0%	20.6%	26.2%	22.4%	20.3%	17.4%
No	53.2%	45.1%	61.9%	45.2%	52.6%	55.1%	78.3%
Don't Know	11.5%	16.7%	7.9%	19.0%	13.2%	5.8%	4.3%
Not Applicable	7.5%	11.1%	4.0%	7.1%	11.8%	8.7%	0.0%
No Response	5.1%	2.1%	5.6%	2.4%	0.0%	10.1%	0.0%

**29. Were court personnel less respectful to minority litigants than to non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.6%	25.7%	1.6%	27.4%	11.8%	7.2%	0.0%
No	58.6%	43.8%	75.4%	39.3%	61.8%	71.0%	91.3%
Don't Know	16.6%	18.8%	13.5%	23.8%	13.2%	8.7%	4.3%
Not Applicable	7.1%	8.3%	7.1%	6.0%	11.8%	7.2%	4.3%
No Response	4.1%	3.5%	2.4%	3.6%	1.3%	5.8%	0.0%

**30. Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	9.5%	13.2%	4.0%	16.7%	2.6%	7.2%	4.3%
No	54.2%	43.1%	67.5%	32.1%	63.2%	63.8%	73.9%
Don't Know	26.1%	33.3%	19.0%	42.9%	23.7%	17.4%	17.4%
Not Applicable	6.4%	8.3%	5.6%	6.0%	10.5%	5.8%	4.3%
No Response	3.7%	2.1%	4.0%	2.4%	0.0%	5.8%	0.0%

**31. Was the treatment the litigants received different because of their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	11.9%	17.4%	4.8%	16.7%	10.5%	10.1%	0.0%
No	51.5%	41.0%	65.1%	39.3%	51.3%	62.3%	69.6%
Don't Know	24.4%	29.9%	18.3%	34.5%	26.3%	13.0%	26.1%
Not Applicable	7.1%	7.6%	7.9%	7.1%	9.2%	8.7%	4.3%
No Response	5.1%	4.2%	4.0%	2.4%	2.6%	5.8%	0.0%

**33. Was the case referred to mediation?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	6.4%	6.9%	7.1%	10.7%	6.6%	5.8%	0.0%
No	85.1%	85.4%	84.1%	83.3%	88.2%	81.2%	100.0%
No Response	8.5%	7.6%	8.7%	6.0%	5.3%	13.0%	0.0%

**34. If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	4.4%	3.5%	6.3%	7.1%	3.9%	2.9%	0.0%
No	6.8%	6.3%	6.3%	7.1%	5.3%	7.2%	0.0%
Don't Know	4.1%	4.9%	2.4%	6.0%	5.3%	1.4%	0.0%
NA	19.0%	20.8%	19.8%	17.9%	22.4%	17.4%	39.1%
NR	65.8%	64.6%	65.1%	61.9%	63.2%	71.0%	60.9%

**Language Interpretation**

**36. Was an interpreter required during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	5.4%	6.3%	5.6%	4.8%	7.9%	5.8%	4.3%
No	86.1%	85.4%	87.3%	85.7%	90.8%	81.2%	95.7%
NR	8.5%	8.3%	7.1%	9.5%	1.3%	13.0%	0.0%

**37. If yes, on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Excellent	2.7%	1.4%	4.8%	1.2%	3.9%	1.4%	4.3%
4	1.7%	2.1%	1.6%	2.4%	2.6%	1.4%	0.0%
3	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1 Poor	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	4.7%	4.9%	5.6%	6.0%	5.3%	4.3%	4.3%
NR	89.2%	90.3%	86.5%	88.1%	86.8%	92.8%	91.3%

**38. At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	2.4%	3.5%	1.6%	4.8%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%
No	80.0%	76.4%	83.3%	72.6%	80.3%	81.2%	87.0%
Don't Know	2.7%	3.5%	2.4%	4.8%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	5.4%	4.9%	7.1%	7.1%	7.9%	5.8%	0.0%
NR	9.5%	11.8%	5.6%	10.7%	6.6%	8.7%	13.0%



**39. At any time during the Court process, did the master improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	2.4%	2.8%	2.4%	4.8%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%
No	66.1%	66.7%	64.3%	66.7%	71.1%	65.2%	39.1%
Don't Know	3.7%	4.2%	4.0%	6.0%	6.6%	1.4%	0.0%
NA	13.9%	11.1%	18.3%	10.7%	14.5%	13.0%	34.8%
NR	13.9%	15.3%	11.1%	11.9%	7.9%	15.9%	26.1%

**40. At any time during the Court process, did any other court personnel improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	1.4%	2.1%	0.8%	1.2%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%
No	77.6%	72.2%	82.5%	70.2%	77.6%	78.3%	87.0%
Don't Know	6.1%	8.3%	4.8%	10.7%	9.2%	1.4%	0.0%
NA	4.7%	4.9%	5.6%	6.0%	6.6%	5.8%	0.0%
NR	10.2%	12.5%	6.3%	11.9%	6.6%	10.1%	13.0%

**The Court Process**

**41. Do you believe the court process was a fair one?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	53.6%	41.7%	70.6%	36.9%	53.9%	69.6%	82.6%
No	33.2%	46.5%	16.7%	50.0%	30.3%	26.1%	8.7%
Don't Know	6.1%	5.6%	7.9%	6.0%	9.2%	1.4%	8.7%
Not Applicable	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	6.4%	5.6%	4.0%	4.8%	6.6%	2.9%	0.0%

**42. Was the opponent in the case an individual or business?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Individual	69.5%	66.0%	75.4%	61.9%	68.4%	81.2%	73.9%
Business	12.5%	16.7%	7.9%	19.0%	11.8%	7.2%	8.7%
No Response	18.0%	17.4%	16.7%	19.0%	19.7%	11.6%	17.4%

**43. If an individual, what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
African-American	31.9%	39.6%	21.4%	29.8%	31.6%	36.2%	26.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0%	2.1%	0.0%	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic/Latino	2.7%	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%	1.3%	2.9%	4.3%
White, Non-Hispanic	26.8%	15.3%	40.5%	26.2%	25.0%	26.1%	39.1%
Don't Know	7.5%	6.9%	9.5%	4.8%	7.9%	8.7%	13.0%
Other	3.1%	4.2%	2.4%	3.6%	1.3%	5.8%	0.0%
No Response	27.1%	29.2%	23.8%	32.1%	30.3%	20.3%	17.4%

**44. If an individual, was he/she represented by an attorney?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	46.8%	44.4%	48.4%	38.1%	46.1%	52.2%	60.9%
No	21.0%	25.0%	18.3%	27.4%	21.1%	18.8%	8.7%
Don't Know	3.4%	3.5%	4.0%	6.0%	2.6%	4.3%	0.0%
NA	10.2%	9.7%	11.1%	8.3%	7.9%	11.6%	21.7%
NR	18.6%	17.4%	18.3%	20.2%	22.4%	13.0%	8.7%

**45. Have you required legal assistance in court in the past two (2) years but were unable to get help because you couldn't afford it?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	22.7%	32.6%	11.1%	42.9%	21.1%	5.8%	0.0%
No	55.3%	48.6%	61.9%	41.7%	57.9%	68.1%	56.5%
Don't Know	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	13.2%	11.1%	18.3%	3.6%	13.2%	18.8%	43.5%
NR	8.5%	6.9%	8.7%	10.7%	7.9%	7.2%	0.0%

**46. In the past two (2) years, was your interaction with the Court System of Maryland affected by a language barrier?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	3.4%	2.8%	3.2%	2.4%	2.6%	1.4%	4.3%
No	80.3%	79.2%	82.5%	81.0%	84.2%	79.7%	82.6%
Don't Know	1.7%	3.5%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	7.1%	6.3%	9.5%	3.6%	7.9%	10.1%	13.0%
NR	7.5%	8.3%	4.8%	8.3%	5.3%	8.7%	0.0%

**47. In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.9%	22.9%	4.0%	25.0%	15.8%	5.8%	0.0%
No	62.0%	49.3%	78.6%	47.6%	65.8%	76.8%	73.9%
Don't Know	11.2%	15.3%	5.6%	17.9%	7.9%	4.3%	0.0%
NA	6.1%	4.2%	8.7%	0.0%	6.6%	7.2%	26.1%
NR	6.8%	8.3%	3.2%	9.5%	3.9%	5.8%	0.0%

**48. In your experience, did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	20.0%	33.3%	5.6%	32.1%	22.4%	14.5%	0.0%
No	55.6%	41.0%	73.0%	41.7%	52.6%	72.5%	65.2%
Don't Know	11.9%	16.7%	6.3%	17.9%	11.8%	2.9%	8.7%
NA	6.4%	3.5%	10.3%	0.0%	6.6%	8.7%	26.1%
NR	6.1%	5.6%	4.8%	8.3%	6.6%	1.4%	0.0%

**Court Observations**

*When you were in court did you actually see or hear:*

**61. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority judges?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	9.8%	16.7%	1.6%	20.2%	7.9%	2.9%	0.0%
No	83.1%	74.3%	95.2%	67.9%	84.2%	97.1%	100.0%
NR	7.1%	9.0%	3.2%	11.9%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

**62. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.9%	24.3%	1.6%	25.0%	13.2%	4.3%	4.3%
No	79.7%	68.1%	95.2%	63.1%	81.6%	95.7%	95.7%
NR	6.4%	7.6%	3.2%	11.9%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**63. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	11.9%	20.1%	1.6%	23.8%	7.9%	2.9%	4.3%
No	82.0%	72.9%	95.2%	65.5%	86.8%	97.1%	95.7%
NR	6.1%	6.9%	3.2%	10.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**64. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	11.5%	19.4%	3.2%	22.6%	10.5%	2.9%	0.0%
No	82.4%	73.6%	93.7%	66.7%	84.2%	97.1%	100.0%
NR	6.1%	6.9%	3.2%	10.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**65. Court personnel less respectful of minority litigants than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	12.5%	20.1%	4.0%	23.8%	9.2%	7.2%	4.3%
No	79.7%	69.4%	92.9%	64.3%	82.9%	91.3%	95.7%
NR	7.8%	10.4%	3.2%	11.9%	7.9%	1.4%	0.0%

**66. Litigants less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	9.2%	14.6%	3.2%	20.2%	5.3%	2.9%	4.3%
No	83.4%	77.1%	92.1%	67.9%	89.5%	97.1%	95.7%
NR	7.5%	8.3%	4.8%	11.9%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**67. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	12.5%	20.1%	4.0%	21.4%	10.5%	8.7%	4.3%
No	79.3%	70.1%	91.3%	65.5%	82.9%	91.3%	95.7%
NR	8.1%	9.7%	4.8%	13.1%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%

**68. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	10.5%	18.8%	2.4%	16.7%	11.8%	7.2%	4.3%
No	81.4%	71.5%	92.9%	69.0%	81.6%	92.8%	95.7%
NR	8.1%	9.7%	4.8%	14.3%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%

**69. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	8.1%	12.5%	4.0%	13.1%	6.6%	5.8%	8.7%
No	83.7%	77.8%	91.3%	73.8%	85.5%	94.2%	91.3%
NR	8.1%	9.7%	4.8%	13.1%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

**70. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	12.2%	20.1%	3.2%	19.0%	13.2%	5.8%	4.3%
No	79.7%	70.1%	92.1%	67.9%	78.9%	94.2%	95.7%
NR	8.1%	9.7%	4.8%	13.1%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

*When you were in court:*

**71. Did attorneys address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	10.8%	17.4%	3.2%	20.2%	9.2%	5.8%	0.0%
No	83.4%	76.4%	93.7%	71.4%	85.5%	94.2%	100.0%
NR	5.8%	6.3%	3.2%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**72. Did judges address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.6%	20.8%	4.8%	21.4%	14.5%	7.2%	4.3%
No	80.7%	72.9%	92.1%	70.2%	80.3%	92.8%	95.7%
NR	5.8%	6.3%	3.2%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**73. Did court personnel address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	10.2%	14.6%	4.8%	20.2%	6.6%	4.3%	4.3%
No	83.7%	79.9%	90.5%	71.4%	88.2%	95.7%	91.3%
NR	6.1%	5.6%	4.8%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	4.3%

**74. Did you hear judges address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	3.4%	4.2%	3.2%	4.8%	3.9%	2.9%	0.0%
No	90.8%	89.6%	93.7%	86.9%	90.8%	97.1%	100.0%
NR	5.8%	6.3%	3.2%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**75. Did you hear attorneys address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	3.7%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.9%	5.8%	0.0%
No	90.5%	89.6%	92.9%	88.1%	90.8%	94.2%	100.0%
NR	5.8%	6.3%	3.2%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**76. Did you hear court personnel address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	4.3%
No	92.5%	92.4%	94.4%	91.7%	92.1%	100.0%	91.3%
NR	6.4%	6.9%	4.0%	8.3%	6.6%	0.0%	4.3%

**77. Did judges improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	4.7%	6.9%	3.2%	8.3%	6.6%	1.4%	4.3%
No	89.2%	86.8%	92.9%	83.3%	88.2%	98.6%	95.7%
NR	6.1%	6.3%	4.0%	8.3%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**78. Did attorneys improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity, or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	2.7%	4.9%	0.8%	6.0%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%
No	91.5%	88.9%	96.0%	86.9%	90.8%	100.0%	100.0%
NR	5.8%	6.3%	3.2%	7.1%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**79. Did court personnel improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	1.0%	1.4%	0.8%	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%
No	92.2%	91.0%	95.2%	89.3%	92.1%	100.0%	100.0%
NR	6.8%	7.6%	4.0%	9.5%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**81. Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	13.9%	18.1%	8.7%	22.6%	10.5%	7.2%	17.4%
No	75.6%	71.5%	82.5%	66.7%	80.3%	85.5%	82.6%
NR	10.5%	10.4%	8.7%	10.7%	9.2%	7.2%	0.0%

**Jury Trials**

**83. Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	23.7%	22.9%	25.4%	17.9%	19.7%	31.9%	30.4%
No	63.4%	63.9%	64.3%	67.9%	65.8%	59.4%	60.9%
NR	12.9%	13.2%	10.3%	14.3%	14.5%	8.7%	8.7%

**84. If yes, what was the jury's racial/ethnic make-up?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
All Minority Representation	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Non-minority Representation	2.7%	3.5%	1.6%	2.4%	2.6%	1.4%	0.0%
Equally Divided	3.7%	4.9%	2.4%	3.6%	5.3%	2.9%	4.3%
More Non-minorities	9.5%	6.9%	14.3%	6.0%	7.9%	18.8%	17.4%
More minorities	4.4%	4.9%	4.0%	1.2%	2.6%	8.7%	8.7%
Don't Know	1.7%	2.8%	0.8%	3.6%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	10.8%	10.4%	11.9%	8.3%	13.2%	8.7%	21.7%
NR	66.1%	66.0%	63.5%	73.8%	67.1%	59.4%	47.8%

**85. In terms of race/ethnicity, was jury selection done in an unbiased, impartial manner ?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	12.2%	9.0%	18.3%	4.8%	11.8%	20.3%	30.4%
No	8.5%	11.1%	4.8%	13.1%	3.9%	8.7%	0.0%
DK/NA	23.4%	29.2%	18.3%	26.2%	26.3%	18.8%	21.7%
NR	55.9%	50.7%	58.7%	56.0%	57.9%	52.2%	47.8%

**86. Did the racial/ethnic make-up of the jury affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	4.1%	5.6%	3.2%	8.3%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
No	18.0%	13.9%	23.0%	9.5%	17.1%	27.5%	26.1%
DK/NA	22.0%	29.2%	16.7%	27.4%	25.0%	15.9%	30.4%
NR	55.9%	51.4%	57.1%	54.8%	57.9%	53.6%	43.5%

**88. To what degree are your perceptions of the Court System influenced by what you see and hear on television, radio and newspapers? Circle your answer.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Influenced	9.2%	12.5%	6.3%	11.9%	7.9%	8.7%	8.7%
4	16.6%	19.4%	15.1%	21.4%	18.4%	15.9%	17.4%
3	16.3%	15.3%	18.3%	15.5%	21.1%	15.9%	13.0%
2	12.5%	9.0%	17.5%	15.5%	13.2%	14.5%	8.7%
1 Not Influenced	37.3%	36.1%	37.3%	27.4%	31.6%	44.9%	52.2%
NR	8.1%	7.6%	5.6%	8.3%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

**89. Is your impression of Maryland's Court System influenced by something you were told by family, friends, acquaintances and colleagues?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	18.6%	17.4%	22.2%	26.2%	13.2%	23.2%	13.0%
No	74.2%	77.1%	73.8%	66.7%	81.6%	76.8%	87.0%
NR	7.1%	5.6%	4.0%	7.1%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%



**90. If yes, is this impression positive or negative?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Very Positive	2.0%	1.4%	3.2%	2.4%	1.3%	1.4%	4.3%
Somewhat Positive	4.1%	1.4%	7.1%	3.6%	2.6%	7.2%	4.3%
Neither Positive Nor Negative	7.5%	7.6%	7.1%	8.3%	5.3%	8.7%	4.3%
Somewhat Negative	6.4%	6.3%	7.1%	3.6%	7.9%	8.7%	8.7%
Very Negative	6.4%	9.7%	3.2%	14.3%	2.6%	5.8%	0.0%
NA	14.6%	12.5%	19.0%	9.5%	15.8%	17.4%	26.1%
NR	59.0%	61.1%	53.2%	58.3%	64.5%	50.7%	52.2%

**Language**

**91. In court, did those who speak English receive better treatment than those who didn't?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Always	2.0%	1.4%	2.4%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Often	1.0%	0.7%	1.6%	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	0.0%
Sometimes	8.1%	13.2%	1.6%	10.7%	6.6%	10.1%	0.0%
Rarely	6.8%	4.9%	10.3%	6.0%	2.6%	10.1%	21.7%
Never	22.7%	17.4%	27.8%	19.0%	19.7%	21.7%	39.1%
Don't Know	28.8%	30.6%	27.8%	33.3%	34.2%	27.5%	4.3%
NA	23.7%	24.3%	24.6%	16.7%	28.9%	29.0%	30.4%
NR	6.8%	7.6%	4.0%	9.5%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%

**Your Experience**

**93. After your experience in the Maryland Court System, did your feelings regarding fairness in the Courts change?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	25.4%	32.6%	15.9%	32.1%	21.1%	23.2%	17.4%
No	67.8%	61.1%	79.4%	60.7%	72.4%	76.8%	82.6%
NR	6.8%	6.3%	4.8%	7.1%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%

Based on your actual experience in court, respond to the following statements.

**95. White people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	18.0%	31.9%	1.6%	31.0%	15.8%	8.7%	4.3%
4 Agree	16.6%	25.7%	8.7%	21.4%	14.5%	17.4%	17.4%
3 No Opinion	15.6%	18.1%	13.5%	16.7%	19.7%	10.1%	17.4%
2 Disagree	27.8%	13.9%	42.9%	17.9%	30.3%	37.7%	26.1%
1 Strongly Disagree	19.0%	6.9%	33.3%	10.7%	18.4%	26.1%	34.8%
NR	3.1%	3.5%	0.0%	2.4%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**96. Court personnel don't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	14.2%	25.0%	1.6%	28.6%	6.6%	10.1%	0.0%
4 Agree	15.3%	25.7%	5.6%	21.4%	19.7%	8.7%	13.0%
3 No Opinion	21.4%	18.8%	27.0%	20.2%	18.4%	29.0%	17.4%
2 Disagree	28.5%	18.8%	37.3%	16.7%	35.5%	30.4%	39.1%
1 Strongly Disagree	16.3%	6.9%	27.0%	9.5%	17.1%	20.3%	30.4%
NR	4.4%	4.9%	1.6%	3.6%	2.6%	1.4%	0.0%

**97. Minorities are unfairly treated.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	14.9%	27.8%	1.6%	31.0%	10.5%	7.2%	4.3%
4 Agree	15.6%	25.7%	6.3%	25.0%	15.8%	13.0%	13.0%
3 No Opinion	17.3%	18.8%	15.1%	19.0%	17.1%	14.5%	8.7%
2 Disagree	27.1%	16.7%	38.9%	13.1%	34.2%	36.2%	34.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	20.3%	6.3%	36.5%	9.5%	21.1%	27.5%	39.1%
NR	4.7%	4.9%	1.6%	2.4%	1.3%	1.4%	0.0%

**98. Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	10.5%	19.4%	0.8%	26.2%	5.3%	2.9%	0.0%
4 Agree	11.9%	20.1%	4.0%	19.0%	13.2%	10.1%	4.3%
3 No Opinion	17.6%	21.5%	15.1%	19.0%	21.1%	17.4%	13.0%
2 Disagree	29.5%	25.0%	33.3%	20.2%	31.6%	34.8%	34.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	25.1%	9.0%	43.7%	9.5%	27.6%	34.8%	43.5%
NR	5.4%	4.9%	3.2%	6.0%	1.3%	0.0%	4.3%

**99. Court personnel are disrespectful of racial/ethnic minorities.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	6.1%	8.3%	3.2%	11.9%	2.6%	4.3%	0.0%
4 Agree	10.5%	16.7%	3.2%	16.7%	10.5%	7.2%	4.3%
3 No Opinion	21.4%	30.6%	12.7%	33.3%	21.1%	15.9%	8.7%
2 Disagree	30.2%	27.1%	34.9%	20.2%	32.9%	36.2%	34.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.4%	11.8%	43.7%	14.3%	30.3%	33.3%	52.2%
NR	5.4%	5.6%	2.4%	3.6%	2.6%	2.9%	0.0%

**100. It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	26.8%	42.4%	10.3%	50.0%	23.7%	15.9%	4.3%
4 Agree	22.4%	20.8%	26.2%	19.0%	27.6%	24.6%	30.4%
3 No Opinion	13.9%	13.2%	15.1%	13.1%	13.2%	17.4%	8.7%
2 Disagree	22.4%	13.9%	31.0%	9.5%	25.0%	26.1%	47.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	10.2%	4.9%	16.7%	6.0%	7.9%	14.5%	8.7%
NR	4.4%	4.9%	0.8%	2.4%	2.6%	1.4%	0.0%

**101. You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	7.5%	15.3%	0.0%	15.5%	5.3%	5.8%	0.0%
4 Agree	6.1%	10.4%	0.8%	11.9%	6.6%	1.4%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	16.6%	23.6%	10.3%	27.4%	10.5%	20.3%	8.7%
2 Disagree	36.6%	34.0%	38.9%	29.8%	44.7%	36.2%	34.8%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.1%	11.1%	46.8%	11.9%	28.9%	34.8%	56.5%
NR	7.1%	5.6%	3.2%	3.6%	3.9%	1.4%	0.0%

**102. Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	26.4%	41.0%	13.5%	48.8%	26.3%	13.0%	8.7%
4 Agree	22.7%	23.6%	20.6%	25.0%	26.3%	17.4%	13.0%
3 No Opinion	13.6%	14.6%	15.1%	13.1%	11.8%	20.3%	17.4%
2 Disagree	19.7%	11.1%	28.6%	6.0%	26.3%	31.9%	21.7%
1 Strongly Disagree	12.5%	4.2%	21.4%	3.6%	7.9%	15.9%	39.1%
NR	5.1%	5.6%	0.8%	3.6%	1.3%	1.4%	0.0%

**103. If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	6.1%	8.3%	2.4%	10.7%	3.9%	2.9%	4.3%
4 Agree	8.8%	13.9%	4.0%	13.1%	6.6%	10.1%	8.7%
3 No Opinion	21.7%	25.7%	17.5%	32.1%	15.8%	20.3%	21.7%
2 Disagree	34.2%	34.0%	37.3%	28.6%	43.4%	37.7%	21.7%
1 Strongly Disagree	24.1%	13.9%	37.3%	11.9%	28.9%	29.0%	39.1%
NR	5.1%	4.2%	1.6%	3.6%	1.3%	0.0%	4.3%

**104. The Department of Social Services doesn't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	12.5%	18.8%	5.6%	23.8%	10.5%	2.9%	4.3%
4 Agree	14.9%	22.9%	6.3%	21.4%	11.8%	15.9%	4.3%
3 No Opinion	34.6%	35.4%	35.7%	26.2%	39.5%	42.0%	47.8%
2 Disagree	16.6%	11.1%	22.2%	14.3%	17.1%	18.8%	17.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	14.9%	4.2%	27.8%	8.3%	17.1%	18.8%	21.7%
NR	6.4%	7.6%	2.4%	6.0%	3.9%	1.4%	4.3%

**105. Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	16.3%	8.3%	27.0%	14.3%	13.2%	21.7%	30.4%
4 Agree	24.4%	15.3%	35.7%	16.7%	34.2%	26.1%	21.7%
3 No Opinion	15.3%	13.9%	18.3%	15.5%	14.5%	14.5%	26.1%
2 Disagree	20.0%	27.8%	12.7%	16.7%	19.7%	27.5%	17.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	19.0%	29.9%	4.8%	33.3%	15.8%	10.1%	4.3%
NR	5.1%	4.9%	1.6%	3.6%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%

**106. Maryland's Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	15.9%	6.9%	27.8%	13.1%	13.2%	17.4%	39.1%
4 Agree	22.7%	11.8%	34.9%	13.1%	26.3%	31.9%	26.1%
3 No Opinion	23.1%	30.6%	17.5%	29.8%	23.7%	21.7%	13.0%
2 Disagree	19.3%	25.0%	11.9%	19.0%	19.7%	18.8%	13.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	13.6%	20.8%	4.8%	22.6%	11.8%	8.7%	8.7%
NR	5.4%	4.9%	3.2%	2.4%	5.3%	1.4%	0.0%

*Respond to each statement by circling your answer.*

**107. The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	31.5%	25.0%	42.1%	17.9%	30.3%	44.9%	60.9%
4 Agree	35.3%	31.9%	39.7%	32.1%	42.1%	36.2%	26.1%
3 No Opinion	8.1%	12.5%	3.2%	17.9%	2.6%	4.3%	0.0%
2 Disagree	13.2%	16.0%	9.5%	16.7%	15.8%	7.2%	8.7%
1 Strongly Disagree	8.8%	13.2%	4.8%	15.5%	7.9%	7.2%	4.3%
NR	3.1%	1.4%	0.8%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%

**108. I cannot afford to hire an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	24.4%	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%	21.1%	10.1%	0.0%
4 Agree	19.3%	24.3%	12.7%	25.0%	21.1%	15.9%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	17.3%	13.9%	23.0%	9.5%	23.7%	26.1%	13.0%
2 Disagree	20.0%	14.6%	26.2%	4.8%	26.3%	30.4%	17.4%
1 Strongly Disagree	11.5%	7.6%	15.1%	7.1%	3.9%	15.9%	39.1%
NR	7.5%	6.3%	6.3%	3.6%	3.9%	1.4%	30.4%

**109. Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
5 Strongly Agree	7.8%	9.0%	7.9%	13.1%	9.2%	5.8%	0.0%
4 Agree	10.5%	11.1%	7.9%	13.1%	9.2%	7.2%	4.3%
3 No Opinion	7.8%	8.3%	8.7%	9.5%	5.3%	11.6%	0.0%
2 Disagree	24.7%	22.9%	27.0%	25.0%	28.9%	24.6%	13.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	43.7%	44.4%	44.4%	36.9%	43.4%	49.3%	69.6%
NR	5.4%	4.2%	4.0%	2.4%	3.9%	1.4%	13.0%

**The Outcome**

**110. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case in which you participated?** *Circle your answer.*

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 Very Satisfied ←————→ Very Dissatisfied

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Mean	6.08	5.18	7.31	4.84	6.27	7.00	7.95

**111. Did you win, lose or settle your case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Won	18.0%	11.1%	25.4%	10.7%	9.2%	33.3%	17.4%
Lost	23.4%	35.4%	11.9%	41.7%	21.1%	15.9%	13.0%
Settled	20.3%	23.6%	19.0%	25.0%	31.6%	8.7%	26.1%
NA	30.5%	22.9%	37.3%	20.2%	30.3%	37.7%	39.1%
NR	7.8%	6.9%	6.3%	2.4%	7.9%	4.3%	4.3%

**112. Were court personnel helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	53.2%	38.9%	69.0%	35.7%	52.6%	66.7%	82.6%
No	28.5%	42.4%	13.5%	51.2%	25.0%	15.9%	8.7%
NA	13.6%	16.7%	12.7%	11.9%	19.7%	13.0%	4.3%
NR	4.7%	2.1%	4.8%	1.2%	2.6%	4.3%	4.3%

**113. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your race/ethnicity while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	14.6%	22.2%	7.9%	25.0%	10.5%	11.6%	4.3%
No	80.3%	73.6%	89.7%	71.4%	85.5%	87.0%	91.3%
NR	5.1%	4.2%	2.4%	3.6%	3.9%	1.4%	4.3%

**115. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your economic status while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	18.3%	25.7%	11.1%	35.7%	18.4%	7.2%	0.0%
No	75.9%	69.4%	86.5%	59.5%	78.9%	91.3%	95.7%
NR	5.8%	4.9%	2.4%	4.8%	2.6%	1.4%	4.3%

**121. Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	56.9%	50.0%	77.0%	46.4%	64.5%	73.9%	87.0%
No	29.5%	43.1%	18.3%	46.4%	30.3%	21.7%	13.0%
NR	13.6%	6.9%	4.8%	7.1%	5.3%	4.3%	0.0%

**122. Given a choice, would you utilize Maryland's Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	53.6%	44.4%	75.4%	36.9%	63.2%	76.8%	82.6%
No	31.5%	47.2%	19.0%	53.6%	31.6%	20.3%	17.4%
NR	14.9%	8.3%	5.6%	9.5%	5.3%	2.9%	0.0%

**123. Would you expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland's Courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Yes	58.6%	48.6%	81.7%	45.2%	69.7%	75.4%	87.0%
No	23.7%	38.2%	11.1%	42.9%	22.4%	14.5%	13.0%
NR	17.6%	13.2%	7.1%	11.9%	7.9%	10.1%	0.0%

**124. If you had a legal dispute or problem in the future and had a choice, would you prefer to:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	Less than \$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 and more
	n = 295	n = 144	n = 126	n = 84	n = 76	n = 69	n = 23
Use a Mediator	14.6%	17.4%	13.5%	20.2%	14.5%	15.9%	13.0%
Go to Court	24.1%	23.6%	29.4%	17.9%	38.2%	21.7%	30.4%
Settle Privately	42.7%	45.8%	46.8%	50.0%	39.5%	52.2%	52.2%
NR	18.6%	13.2%	10.3%	11.9%	7.9%	10.1%	4.3%



## The Maryland Commission On Racial and Ethnic Fairness In The Courts Juvenile & Divorce or Domestic Relations Matters

**3. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the overall fairness you experienced with Maryland's Court System.**

*Circle your response.*

10    9    8    7    6    5    4    3    2    1  
 Very Positive ←————→ Very Negative

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Mean	6.93	7.11	6.94	5.20	7.53	6.85	6.00
10	18.8%	13.8%	24.2%	0.0%	16.7%	28.6%	20.0%
9	15.9%	24.1%	12.1%	10.0%	26.7%	7.1%	0.0%
8	17.4%	10.3%	21.2%	10.0%	23.3%	14.3%	20.0%
7	10.1%	13.8%	9.1%	0.0%	10.0%	14.3%	20.0%
6	7.2%	3.4%	6.1%	20.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
5	8.7%	13.8%	6.1%	20.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
4	2.9%	6.9%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3	5.8%	0.0%	9.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%
2	4.3%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
1	5.8%	3.4%	9.1%	0.0%	6.7%	14.3%	0.0%
No Response	2.9%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%

*Respond to the following statements by circling your answer.*

**4. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the race or ethnicity of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Strongly Agree	36.2%	24.1%	48.5%	10.0%	33.3%	50.0%	60.0%
Agree	30.4%	34.5%	30.3%	40.0%	30.0%	35.7%	20.0%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	15.9%	17.2%	12.1%	10.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%
Disagree	10.1%	13.8%	3.0%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Strongly Disagree	7.2%	10.3%	6.1%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**5. The outcome of the case would have been the same regardless of the economic status of the parties involved.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Strongly Agree	34.8%	17.2%	51.5%	10.0%	33.3%	50.0%	60.0%
Agree	21.7%	37.9%	12.1%	30.0%	23.3%	21.4%	0.0%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	14.5%	17.2%	9.1%	0.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Disagree	18.8%	13.8%	18.2%	30.0%	13.3%	21.4%	40.0%
Strongly Disagree	8.7%	10.3%	9.1%	30.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**Juvenile or Family Court**

**6. At the time of the Court proceeding, what was your role? Check all that apply.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 78	n = 37	n = 36	n = 16	n = 35	n = 14	n = 5
Biological Parent	51.3%	62.2%	38.9%	62.5%	57.1%	35.7%	20.0%
Caregiver-Relative	9.0%	2.7%	11.1%	0.0%	8.6%	7.1%	20.0%
Caregiver-Non-Relative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Defendant/Respondent	20.5%	18.9%	25.0%	37.5%	20.0%	14.3%	20.0%
Foster Parent-Non-relative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plaintiff/Petitioner	19.2%	16.2%	25.0%	0.0%	14.3%	42.9%	40.0%

**7. Were Juvenile and Family Court proceedings conducted in a fair manner to all, regardless of race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 71	n = 35	n = 33	n = 11	n = 32	n = 16	n = 4
Yes	73.2%	71.4%	75.8%	63.6%	75.0%	68.8%	75.0%
No	26.8%	28.6%	24.2%	36.4%	25.0%	31.3%	25.0%

How satisfied were you that each of the following applicable proceedings was conducted in a fair, unbiased manner?

### 8. Juvenile Court Proceeding

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 28	n = 12	n = 15	n = 3	n = 13	n = 7	n = 0
Very Satisfied	25.0%	8.3%	40.0%	0.0%	7.7%	28.6%	0
Somewhat Satisfied	17.9%	25.0%	13.3%	0.0%	30.8%	14.3%	0
No Opinion	10.7%	8.3%	6.7%	0.0%	7.7%	14.3%	0
Somewhat Dissatisfied	21.4%	25.0%	20.0%	66.7%	23.1%	14.3%	0
Very Dissatisfied	25.0%	33.3%	20.0%	33.3%	30.8%	28.6%	0

### 9. Domestic Violence Proceeding

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 26	n = 12	n = 12	n = 6	n = 10	n = 5	n = 2
Very Satisfied	30.8%	25.0%	41.7%	33.3%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Satisfied	23.1%	25.0%	25.0%	0.0%	30.0%	40.0%	50.0%
No Opinion	11.5%	8.3%	8.3%	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	11.5%	16.7%	8.3%	33.3%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Very Dissatisfied	23.1%	25.0%	16.7%	33.3%	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%

### 10. Family Court Proceeding

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 57	n = 29	n = 25	n = 6	n = 30	n = 12	n = 3
Very Satisfied	36.8%	34.5%	40.0%	33.3%	30.0%	33.3%	66.7%
Somewhat Satisfied	22.8%	24.1%	24.0%	0.0%	26.7%	33.3%	0.0%
No Opinion	5.3%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	12.3%	17.2%	8.0%	16.7%	13.3%	16.7%	0.0%
Very Dissatisfied	22.8%	24.1%	20.0%	50.0%	23.3%	16.7%	33.3%

**11. Did the judge in Family Court treat any individuals in the case differently due to their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 75	n = 37	n = 35	n = 11	n = 34	n = 15	n = 5
Yes	14.7%	18.9%	8.6%	0.0%	17.6%	20.0%	20.0%
No	85.3%	81.1%	91.4%	100.0%	82.4%	80.0%	80.0%

**12. Did the Department of Social Services treat any individuals in the case differently due to race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 66	n = 33	n = 30	n = 13	n = 28	n = 12	n = 5
Yes	21.2%	33.3%	6.7%	15.4%	21.4%	25.0%	20.0%
No	78.8%	66.7%	93.3%	84.6%	78.6%	75.0%	80.0%

Legal Representation- All Courts

**14. Was the plaintiff/petitioner represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Private Counsel	39.1%	31.0%	45.5%	0.0%	36.7%	57.1%	100.0%
Legal Services Organization	33.3%	37.9%	33.3%	80.0%	30.0%	35.7%	0.0%
Self Represented	20.3%	24.1%	15.2%	20.0%	26.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No Response	7.2%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%

**15. If the plaintiff/petitioner was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	13.0%	27.6%	0.0%	30.0%	6.7%	28.6%	0.0%
No	60.9%	48.3%	75.8%	40.0%	56.7%	64.3%	100.0%
No Response	26.1%	24.1%	24.2%	30.0%	36.7%	7.1%	0.0%

**16. Was the defendant/respondent represented by:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Private Counsel	40.6%	37.9%	45.5%	10.0%	26.7%	85.7%	80.0%
Legal Services Organization	8.7%	17.2%	3.0%	20.0%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Public Defender	21.7%	17.2%	21.2%	60.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Self-Represented	24.6%	24.1%	24.2%	0.0%	40.0%	14.3%	0.0%
No Response	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**17. If the defendant/respondent was represented by an attorney, was the attorney a racial/ethnic minority?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	8.7%	17.2%	0.0%	30.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	59.4%	51.7%	69.7%	50.0%	56.7%	64.3%	80.0%
No Response	31.9%	31.0%	30.3%	20.0%	36.7%	28.6%	20.0%

**18. Did the race or ethnicity of those involved affect the level of service they received from their attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	5.8%	6.9%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	14.3%	0.0%
No	55.1%	51.7%	54.5%	20.0%	56.7%	78.6%	60.0%
Don't Know	18.8%	27.6%	15.2%	50.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Not Applicable	14.5%	10.3%	18.2%	10.0%	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%
No Response	5.8%	3.4%	9.1%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

## Legal Information and Assistance

### 20. If self-represented, did either the plaintiff or defendant seek information and assistance from the Court System or a legal services organization such as Legal Aid?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	15.9%	20.7%	9.1%	20.0%	23.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	21.7%	24.1%	21.2%	20.0%	30.0%	14.3%	0.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	14.3%	0.0%
Not Applicable	17.4%	10.3%	24.2%	20.0%	10.0%	28.6%	20.0%
No Response	40.6%	37.9%	42.4%	40.0%	33.3%	42.9%	80.0%

### 23. Was the information helpful?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	17.4%	27.6%	6.1%	30.0%	23.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	2.9%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	15.9%	10.3%	24.2%	30.0%	10.0%	21.4%	20.0%
No Response	63.8%	62.1%	66.7%	40.0%	63.3%	71.4%	80.0%

### 24. Were the forms easy to understand?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	17.4%	24.1%	9.1%	30.0%	23.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	2.9%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	15.9%	10.3%	24.2%	30.0%	10.0%	21.4%	20.0%
No Response	63.8%	62.1%	66.7%	40.0%	63.3%	71.4%	80.0%

### 25. Were the documents' instructions clear?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	15.9%	20.7%	9.1%	30.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	4.3%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	15.9%	10.3%	24.2%	30.0%	10.0%	21.4%	20.0%
No Response	63.8%	62.1%	66.7%	40.0%	63.3%	71.4%	80.0%

**26. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	2.9%	3.4%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	65.2%	51.7%	75.8%	30.0%	70.0%	78.6%	60.0%
Don't Know	21.7%	34.5%	15.2%	50.0%	20.0%	14.3%	20.0%
No Response	10.1%	11.1%	9.1%	10.0%	10.0%	7.1%	20.0%

**27. Did the attorney's race/ethnicity affect how you were treated during the court proceeding?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	5.8%	10.3%	0.0%	30.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	56.5%	48.3%	63.6%	30.0%	53.3%	64.3%	80.0%
Don't Know	15.9%	20.7%	12.1%	20.0%	20.0%	21.4%	0.0%
Not Applicable	13.0%	10.3%	15.2%	20.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No Response	8.7%	10.3%	9.1%	0.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**28. Did the litigants appear before a minority judge or master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	23.2%	20.7%	18.2%	40.0%	23.3%	14.3%	20.0%
No	49.3%	48.3%	54.5%	20.0%	50.0%	64.3%	60.0%
Don't Know	11.6%	20.7%	6.1%	20.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Not Applicable	8.7%	3.4%	12.1%	20.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No Response	7.2%	6.9%	9.1%	0.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**29. Were court personnel less respectful to minority litigants than to non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	10.3%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	60.9%	62.1%	60.6%	50.0%	66.7%	57.1%	80.0%
Don't Know	14.5%	24.1%	9.1%	20.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Not Applicable	14.5%	3.4%	21.2%	20.0%	13.3%	21.4%	0.0%
No Response	2.9%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	20.0%

**30. Was the treatment the litigants received affected by the race or ethnicity of the judge/master?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	13.8%	0.0%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	60.9%	51.7%	69.7%	40.0%	60.0%	71.4%	80.0%
Don't Know	18.8%	34.5%	9.1%	40.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Not Applicable	10.1%	0.0%	15.2%	10.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No Response	2.9%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	20.0%

**31. Was the treatment the litigants received different because of their race or ethnicity?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	11.6%	17.2%	6.1%	20.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	55.1%	51.7%	57.6%	30.0%	50.0%	64.3%	80.0%
Don't Know	18.8%	31.0%	12.1%	40.0%	20.0%	14.3%	0.0%
Not Applicable	11.6%	0.0%	18.2%	10.0%	16.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No Response	2.9%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	20.0%

**33. Was the case referred to mediation?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	20.3%	17.2%	24.2%	10.0%	30.0%	21.4%	0.0%
No	72.5%	72.4%	72.7%	80.0%	66.7%	78.6%	80.0%
No Response	7.2%	10.3%	3.0%	10.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%

**34. If yes, was the mediation fair and unbiased?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	10.1%	17.2%	3.0%	0.0%	16.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	10.1%	6.9%	15.2%	30.0%	6.7%	14.3%	0.0%
Don't Know	2.9%	3.4%	3.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	14.5%	10.3%	15.2%	10.0%	13.3%	21.4%	20.0%
NR	62.3%	62.1%	63.6%	60.0%	56.7%	57.1%	80.0%



## Language Interpretation

### 36. Was an interpreter required during the court proceeding?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	84.1%	89.7%	81.8%	90.0%	83.3%	92.9%	80.0%
NR	14.5%	10.3%	18.2%	10.0%	16.7%	7.1%	20.0%

### 37. If yes, on a scale of 1 to 5, what was the quality of the interpretation?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Excellent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4	2.9%	3.4%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1 Poor	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NR	95.7%	93.1%	100.0%	90.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### 38. At any time during the Court process, did the judge improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	73.9%	89.7%	66.7%	90.0%	70.0%	78.6%	60.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	10.1%	3.4%	15.2%	0.0%	16.7%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	13.0%	3.4%	18.2%	10.0%	13.3%	7.1%	40.0%

### 39. At any time during the Court process, did the master improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000- \$49,999	\$50,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	69.6%	75.9%	69.7%	90.0%	70.0%	71.4%	60.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	13.0%	13.8%	12.1%	0.0%	16.7%	21.4%	0.0%
NR	15.9%	10.3%	18.2%	10.0%	13.3%	7.1%	40.0%

**40. At any time during the Court process, did any other court personnel improperly ask about the litigants' race, ethnicity or immigration status?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	69.6%	79.3%	66.7%	60.0%	70.0%	78.6%	60.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
NA	8.7%	3.4%	12.1%	0.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	13.0%	3.4%	18.2%	10.0%	13.3%	7.1%	40.0%

**The Court Process**

**41. Do you believe the court process was a fair one?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	59.4%	65.5%	60.6%	50.0%	66.7%	57.1%	40.0%
No	21.7%	20.7%	24.2%	40.0%	16.7%	28.6%	40.0%
Don't Know	8.7%	6.9%	12.1%	0.0%	13.3%	14.3%	0.0%
Not Applicable	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	5.8%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**42. Was the opponent in the case an individual or business?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Individual	88.4%	86.2%	93.9%	80.0%	90.0%	100.0%	80.0%
Business	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No Response	10.1%	10.3%	6.1%	20.0%	6.7%	0.0%	20.0%

**43. If an individual, what do you believe was their race/ethnic origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
African-American	30.4%	62.1%	9.1%	30.0%	36.7%	35.7%	0.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic/ Latino	5.8%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
White, Non-Hispanic	39.1%	20.7%	57.6%	30.0%	40.0%	57.1%	40.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	7.2%	3.4%	9.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%
No Response	11.6%	3.4%	12.1%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	40.0%

**44. If an individual, was he/she represented by an attorney?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	58.0%	58.6%	60.6%	50.0%	50.0%	78.6%	80.0%
No	30.4%	37.9%	24.2%	20.0%	40.0%	21.4%	0.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	0.0%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	5.8%	0.0%	9.1%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**45. Have you required legal assistance in court in the past two (2) years but were unable to get help because you couldn't afford it?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	17.4%	20.7%	12.1%	20.0%	6.7%	28.6%	40.0%
No	66.7%	65.5%	75.8%	60.0%	86.7%	50.0%	40.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
NA	7.2%	6.9%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	14.3%	0.0%
NR	7.2%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%

**46. In the past two (2) years, was your interaction with the Court System of Maryland affected by a language barrier?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	84.1%	82.8%	93.9%	70.0%	93.3%	92.9%	80.0%
Don't Know	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	8.7%	10.3%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**47. In your experience, has your race/ethnicity affected your access to the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	8.7%	13.8%	3.0%	20.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	75.4%	69.0%	87.9%	60.0%	83.3%	85.7%	80.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
NA	5.8%	3.4%	6.1%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
NR	5.8%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**48. In your experience, did your race/ethnicity affect the treatment you received by the Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	18.8%	24.1%	12.1%	40.0%	13.3%	21.4%	20.0%
No	65.2%	62.1%	78.8%	40.0%	76.7%	78.6%	60.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
NA	5.8%	3.4%	6.1%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
NR	5.8%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**Court Observations**

*When you were in court did you actually see or hear:*

**61. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority judges?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	87.0%	79.3%	93.9%	70.0%	93.3%	92.9%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**62. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	5.8%	10.3%	3.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	85.5%	79.3%	90.9%	50.0%	96.7%	92.9%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**63. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority attorneys?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	17.2%	0.0%	30.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	84.1%	72.4%	93.9%	60.0%	93.3%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**64. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	13.8%	3.0%	40.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	84.1%	75.9%	90.9%	50.0%	96.7%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**65. Court personnel less respectful of minority litigants than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	11.6%	20.7%	0.0%	30.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%
No	79.7%	69.0%	93.9%	60.0%	90.0%	85.7%	60.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**66. Litigants less respectful of minority than non-minority court personnel?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	85.5%	79.3%	90.9%	70.0%	90.0%	92.9%	80.0%
NR	10.1%	10.3%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**67. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority litigants?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	8.7%	13.8%	3.0%	20.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	82.6%	75.9%	90.9%	70.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**68. Attorneys less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	10.1%	17.2%	3.0%	30.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	81.2%	72.4%	90.9%	60.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**69. Court personnel less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	11.6%	17.2%	6.1%	40.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	79.7%	72.4%	87.9%	50.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**70. Judges less respectful of minority than non-minority witnesses?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	11.6%	20.7%	3.0%	40.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	79.7%	69.0%	90.9%	50.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	10.3%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

*When you were in court:*

**71. Did attorneys address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	8.7%	13.8%	3.0%	30.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	82.6%	79.3%	87.9%	60.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**72. Did judges address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	10.1%	13.8%	6.1%	30.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	81.2%	79.3%	84.8%	60.0%	86.7%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**73. Did court personnel address minorities differently than non-minorities?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	13.8%	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	84.1%	79.3%	90.9%	70.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**74. Did you hear judges address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	20.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	87.0%	86.2%	87.9%	70.0%	93.3%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**75. Did you hear attorneys address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	87.0%	82.8%	90.9%	80.0%	90.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**76. Did you hear court personnel address witnesses by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	89.9%	89.7%	90.9%	90.0%	93.3%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**77. Did judges improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	20.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	87.0%	86.2%	87.9%	70.0%	93.3%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**78. Did attorneys improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity, or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	2.9%	6.9%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
No	88.4%	86.2%	90.9%	80.0%	93.3%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**79. Did court personnel improperly address the person on trial by their race, ethnicity or country of origin?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	2.9%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	88.4%	89.7%	90.9%	90.0%	90.0%	92.9%	80.0%
NR	8.7%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**81. Did you observe any treatment that was less respectful due to the economic status of the individual parties?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	7.2%	6.9%	9.1%	20.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
No	75.4%	75.9%	75.8%	60.0%	76.7%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	17.4%	17.2%	15.2%	20.0%	16.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**Jury Trials**

**83. Was the case in which you were involved heard by a jury?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	2.9%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
No	65.2%	75.9%	57.6%	70.0%	60.0%	85.7%	60.0%
NR	31.9%	24.1%	39.4%	30.0%	36.7%	14.3%	40.0%

**84. If yes, what was the jury's racial/ethnic make-up?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
All Minority Representation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Non-minority Representation	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Equally Divided	1.4%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
More Non-minorities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
More minorities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Don't Know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not Applicable	10.1%	10.3%	12.1%	20.0%	10.0%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	87.0%	89.7%	84.8%	80.0%	86.7%	92.9%	100.0%

**85. In terms of race/ethnicity, was jury selection done in an unbiased, impartial manner ?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	4.3%	6.9%	0.0%	10.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
DK/NA	15.9%	13.8%	18.2%	30.0%	16.7%	7.1%	20.0%
NR	79.7%	79.3%	81.8%	60.0%	80.0%	92.9%	80.0%



**86. Did the racial/ethnic make-up of the jury affect the outcome of the case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
DK/NA	14.5%	13.8%	18.2%	30.0%	13.3%	7.1%	20.0%
NR	79.7%	79.3%	78.8%	60.0%	80.0%	92.9%	80.0%

**88. To what degree are your perceptions of the Court System influenced by what you see and hear on television, radio and newspapers? Circle your answer.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Influenced	7.2%	10.3%	3.0%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20.0%
4	15.9%	20.7%	9.1%	10.0%	23.3%	14.3%	0.0%
3	24.6%	27.6%	27.3%	50.0%	23.3%	21.4%	20.0%
2	8.7%	10.3%	9.1%	0.0%	6.7%	21.4%	0.0%
1 Not Influenced	34.8%	17.2%	48.5%	20.0%	30.0%	42.9%	40.0%
NR	8.7%	13.8%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	20.0%

**89. Is your impression of Maryland's Court System influenced by something you were told by family, friends, acquaintances and colleagues?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	14.5%	27.6%	3.0%	10.0%	23.3%	7.1%	0.0%
No	75.4%	62.1%	87.9%	80.0%	70.0%	85.7%	80.0%
NR	10.1%	10.3%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**90. If yes, is this impression positive or negative?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Very Positive	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Positive	2.9%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Neither Positive Nor Negative	4.3%	10.3%	0.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Negative	4.3%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Very Negative	5.8%	3.4%	9.1%	0.0%	10.0%	7.1%	0.0%
NA	11.6%	3.4%	21.2%	10.0%	16.7%	0.0%	20.0%
NR	69.6%	69.0%	66.7%	70.0%	56.7%	85.7%	80.0%

## Language

### 91. In court, did those who speak English receive better treatment than those who didn't?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Always	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Often	2.9%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
Sometimes	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Rarely	1.4%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Never	14.5%	20.7%	12.1%	10.0%	20.0%	14.3%	20.0%
Don't Know	34.8%	27.6%	36.4%	10.0%	40.0%	28.6%	60.0%
NA	29.0%	20.7%	39.4%	50.0%	20.0%	42.9%	0.0%
NR	11.6%	13.8%	9.1%	20.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

## Your Experience

### 93. After your experience in the Maryland Court System, did your feelings regarding fairness in the Courts change?

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	24.6%	20.7%	27.3%	40.0%	23.3%	21.4%	20.0%
No	66.7%	65.5%	69.7%	40.0%	73.3%	78.6%	60.0%
NR	8.7%	13.8%	3.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%

Based on your actual experience in court, respond to the following statements.

### 95. White people receive better treatment by the Courts than non-whites.

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	15.9%	31.0%	6.1%	40.0%	20.0%	7.1%	0.0%
4 Agree	8.7%	13.8%	0.0%	10.0%	6.7%	14.3%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	30.4%	24.1%	30.3%	10.0%	26.7%	35.7%	20.0%
2 Disagree	18.8%	17.2%	21.2%	30.0%	13.3%	21.4%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	18.8%	3.4%	36.4%	10.0%	23.3%	21.4%	40.0%
NR	7.2%	10.3%	6.1%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**96. Court personnel don't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	4.3%	6.9%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	14.5%	24.1%	9.1%	30.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	36.2%	31.0%	36.4%	30.0%	43.3%	21.4%	20.0%
2 Disagree	23.2%	20.7%	24.2%	10.0%	23.3%	28.6%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	15.9%	10.3%	24.2%	10.0%	13.3%	28.6%	40.0%
NR	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**97. Minorities are unfairly treated.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
4 Agree	13.0%	24.1%	3.0%	30.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	26.1%	27.6%	18.2%	10.0%	26.7%	28.6%	20.0%
2 Disagree	30.4%	27.6%	33.3%	40.0%	26.7%	28.6%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	18.8%	6.9%	33.3%	10.0%	23.3%	21.4%	40.0%
NR	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**98. Minorities cannot receive a fair trial in the Court System.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	2.9%	3.4%	3.0%	10.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	10.1%	17.2%	3.0%	30.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	26.1%	27.6%	18.2%	10.0%	30.0%	21.4%	20.0%
2 Disagree	29.0%	31.0%	27.3%	20.0%	30.0%	28.6%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.1%	13.8%	42.4%	30.0%	23.3%	42.9%	40.0%
NR	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**99. Court personnel are disrespectful of racial/ethnic minorities.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	2.9%	6.9%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	5.8%	6.9%	0.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	26.1%	27.6%	21.2%	20.0%	23.3%	28.6%	20.0%
2 Disagree	31.9%	34.5%	30.3%	10.0%	43.3%	21.4%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	27.5%	17.2%	42.4%	30.0%	26.7%	42.9%	40.0%
NR	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**100. It is not possible to get a fair hearing unless an attorney represents you.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	17.4%	20.7%	12.1%	30.0%	16.7%	7.1%	20.0%
4 Agree	13.0%	13.8%	15.2%	10.0%	20.0%	14.3%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	33.3%	31.0%	33.3%	10.0%	33.3%	42.9%	20.0%
2 Disagree	23.2%	24.1%	21.2%	40.0%	20.0%	21.4%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	8.7%	6.9%	12.1%	10.0%	6.7%	7.1%	40.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**101. You need a white attorney to get a fair outcome.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	5.8%	6.9%	3.0%	20.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%
4 Agree	5.8%	10.3%	0.0%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	24.6%	17.2%	27.3%	20.0%	30.0%	14.3%	0.0%
2 Disagree	29.0%	37.9%	21.2%	30.0%	33.3%	21.4%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	29.0%	20.7%	42.4%	20.0%	26.7%	50.0%	40.0%
NR	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**102. Poor people who cannot afford a private attorney and are assigned one by the Courts or by another public entity are not as well represented.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	17.4%	24.1%	9.1%	50.0%	10.0%	7.1%	20.0%
4 Agree	18.8%	24.1%	15.2%	20.0%	23.3%	21.4%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	29.0%	24.1%	30.3%	0.0%	33.3%	28.6%	20.0%
2 Disagree	21.7%	17.2%	27.3%	20.0%	20.0%	21.4%	40.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	8.7%	6.9%	12.1%	10.0%	10.0%	14.3%	0.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**103. If you are a racial/ethnic minority, unless you get a judge and jury of the same race/ethnicity, you will not get a fair trial.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	2.9%	3.4%	3.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	5.8%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	26.1%	24.1%	21.2%	0.0%	33.3%	21.4%	40.0%
2 Disagree	33.3%	48.3%	21.2%	40.0%	30.0%	28.6%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	27.5%	13.8%	45.5%	30.0%	26.7%	42.9%	40.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**104. The Department of Social Services doesn't understand the problems minorities have in Maryland's Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	10.1%	17.2%	3.0%	30.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
4 Agree	10.1%	13.8%	6.1%	20.0%	13.3%	7.1%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	40.6%	37.9%	39.4%	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%	40.0%
2 Disagree	18.8%	27.6%	12.1%	10.0%	23.3%	14.3%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	14.5%	0.0%	30.3%	20.0%	13.3%	21.4%	20.0%
NR	5.8%	3.4%	9.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**105. Whites and non-whites receive the same treatment by the Courts.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	10.1%	3.4%	18.2%	10.0%	6.7%	14.3%	20.0%
4 Agree	15.9%	10.3%	21.2%	10.0%	20.0%	14.3%	20.0%
3 No Opinion	31.9%	34.5%	24.2%	0.0%	30.0%	35.7%	40.0%
2 Disagree	21.7%	31.0%	15.2%	30.0%	30.0%	21.4%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	13.0%	13.8%	12.1%	40.0%	10.0%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	7.2%	6.9%	9.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%

**106. Maryland's Courts act impartially toward both sides, without regard to race/ethnicity and economic status.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	8.7%	6.9%	12.1%	20.0%	3.3%	14.3%	20.0%
4 Agree	20.3%	13.8%	30.3%	10.0%	26.7%	21.4%	20.0%
3 No Opinion	29.0%	27.6%	24.2%	0.0%	33.3%	28.6%	40.0%
2 Disagree	20.3%	27.6%	15.2%	40.0%	20.0%	21.4%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	10.1%	10.3%	9.1%	30.0%	6.7%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	11.6%	13.8%	9.1%	0.0%	10.0%	7.1%	20.0%

*Respond to each statement by circling your answer.*

**107. The judge showed courtesy and respect for everyone involved in the case.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	31.9%	27.6%	36.4%	40.0%	16.7%	42.9%	40.0%
4 Agree	36.2%	37.9%	33.3%	20.0%	50.0%	35.7%	20.0%
3 No Opinion	10.1%	6.9%	12.1%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	20.0%
2 Disagree	11.6%	13.8%	9.1%	10.0%	10.0%	14.3%	0.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	7.2%	10.3%	6.1%	30.0%	3.3%	7.1%	0.0%
NR	2.9%	3.4%	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%

**108. I cannot afford to hire an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	20.3%	20.7%	15.2%	30.0%	23.3%	0.0%	40.0%
4 Agree	24.6%	31.0%	24.2%	50.0%	26.7%	28.6%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	15.9%	17.2%	12.1%	10.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%
2 Disagree	24.6%	20.7%	30.3%	10.0%	23.3%	35.7%	40.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	7.2%	3.4%	9.1%	0.0%	3.3%	14.3%	0.0%
NR	7.2%	6.9%	9.1%	0.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**109. Given a choice, I would go to court without representation by an attorney.**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
5 Strongly Agree	5.8%	6.9%	6.1%	10.0%	3.3%	7.1%	20.0%
4 Agree	17.4%	17.2%	18.2%	20.0%	20.0%	14.3%	0.0%
3 No Opinion	13.0%	3.4%	15.2%	20.0%	10.0%	7.1%	0.0%
2 Disagree	30.4%	34.5%	27.3%	30.0%	30.0%	42.9%	20.0%
1 Strongly Disagree	26.1%	27.6%	27.3%	20.0%	30.0%	28.6%	40.0%
NR	7.2%	10.3%	6.1%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	20.0%

**The Outcome**

**110. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the case in which you participated?** Circle your answer.

10    9    8    7    6    5    4    3    2    1  
 Very Satisfied ←—————→ Very Dissatisfied

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Mean	6.18	6.21	6.16	3.67	7.10	5.38	3.50

**111. Did you win, lose or settle your case?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Won	24.6%	27.6%	21.2%	20.0%	36.7%	7.1%	0.0%
Lost	10.1%	10.3%	12.1%	20.0%	3.3%	21.4%	20.0%
Settled	46.4%	58.6%	33.3%	40.0%	40.0%	57.1%	60.0%
NA	14.5%	0.0%	27.3%	20.0%	16.7%	14.3%	0.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	6.1%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	20.0%

**112. Were court personnel helpful?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	60.9%	69.0%	57.6%	60.0%	66.7%	71.4%	40.0%
No	14.5%	10.3%	15.2%	30.0%	10.0%	7.1%	40.0%
NA	20.3%	17.2%	24.2%	10.0%	23.3%	21.4%	0.0%
NR	4.3%	3.4%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**113. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your race/ethnicity while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	14.5%	17.2%	9.1%	20.0%	13.3%	14.3%	20.0%
No	81.2%	75.9%	87.9%	70.0%	86.7%	85.7%	60.0%
NR	4.3%	6.9%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

**115. Did you experience any specific problem(s) due to your economic status while using the courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	15.9%	17.2%	12.1%	20.0%	16.7%	7.1%	20.0%
No	76.8%	79.3%	75.8%	80.0%	76.7%	85.7%	60.0%
NR	7.2%	3.4%	12.1%	0.0%	6.7%	7.1%	20.0%

**121. Regardless how the case was decided, do you think the Court process was fair?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	59.4%	62.1%	66.7%	40.0%	66.7%	64.3%	60.0%
No	26.1%	27.6%	24.2%	50.0%	23.3%	28.6%	40.0%
NR	14.5%	10.3%	9.1%	10.0%	10.0%	7.1%	0.0%

**122. Given a choice, would you utilize Maryland's Court System?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	63.8%	75.9%	63.6%	50.0%	70.0%	85.7%	60.0%
No	21.7%	13.8%	27.3%	40.0%	23.3%	14.3%	40.0%
NR	14.5%	10.3%	9.1%	10.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%

**123. Would you expect to receive a fair and impartial hearing in Maryland's Courts?**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Yes	63.8%	69.0%	69.7%	80.0%	60.0%	78.6%	60.0%
No	18.8%	17.2%	21.2%	10.0%	23.3%	21.4%	40.0%
NR	17.4%	13.8%	9.1%	10.0%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%



**124. If you had a legal dispute or problem in the future and had a choice, would you prefer to:**

	All	Race		Income			
		Minority	White	<\$18,000	\$18,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
	n = 69	n = 29	n = 33	n = 10	n = 30	n = 14	n = 5
Use a Mediator	21.7%	17.2%	27.3%	30.0%	20.0%	14.3%	60.0%
Go to Court	24.6%	34.5%	18.2%	0.0%	43.3%	21.4%	0.0%
Settle Privately	31.9%	31.0%	36.4%	50.0%	26.7%	35.7%	40.0%
NR	21.7%	17.2%	18.2%	20.0%	10.0%	28.6%	0.0%



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