

“ . . .And Justice for All”: Ensuring Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System

Now that you’ve had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we’d like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of others who participated in forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be distributed to members of the legal profession, officeholders, the media, and others in your community. Since we’re interested in whether you have changed your mind about certain aspects of the issue, a few of the questions will be the same as those you answered earlier.

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
1. Do you favor or oppose the statements listed below?					
a. We should limit plea-bargaining, EVEN IF this means expanding the number of courtrooms and judges in the system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. We should make more use of “quality-of-life” policing, a system in which community-based police officers take care of small problems on the spot, EVEN IF this gives them considerable discretionary power about who they stop or search.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. We should increase minority and female presence in the justice system, EVEN IF that requires the establishment of quotas for racial, ethnic, and gender representation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?					
a. Institute a nonpolitical means of selecting judges.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Increase legal aid services for those who cannot afford an attorney.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Prohibit or severely limit the televising of real court trials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Redesign the jury selection process to ensure that the make-up of the jury pool reflects the make-up of the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Strengthen laws against racial profiling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Expand alternative dispute resolution systems, such as arbitration and mediation, to relieve burdens on courts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. Whites are treated more fairly by the U.S. justice system than are African-Americans and other minorities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Judges should be appointed rather than run for election on a party ticket.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Many people are denied equal access to the law because they are poor, lack education, or have limited ability to speak or understand English.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Domestic violence against women is often taken less seriously than other crimes of violence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Courtroom justice is more about winning and losing than about finding the truth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Overcrowded court dockets and overworked justice officials often short-change individuals seeking justice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Post-Forum Questionnaire

4. Which statement best describes what you think should be done about our justice system? Circle one.

- a. I am not at all sure about what should be done.
- b. I have a general sense of what should be done.
- c. I have a definite opinion about what should be done.

5. What principles or deeply held beliefs should guide our approach to restoring public trust in the justice system? Please explain.

6. Are you thinking differently about our justice system now that you have participated in the forum? If yes, please explain.

Yes

No

7. Do you see ways for people to work on this issue that you didn't see before? Please explain.

Yes

No

8. What, if anything might you do differently as a result of this forum?

9. What else troubles you about the workings of the justice system? Please explain.

10. What is your ZIP code? _____

Please give this form to the forum leader.