

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

One of the reasons people participate in National Issues Forums is that they want others to know how they feel about the issues. So that we can present reports on your thoughts and feelings about the issue we'd like you to fill out this questionnaire before you attend a forum. At the end of the forum, your moderator will ask you to fill out the Post-Forum Questionnaire.

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

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

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
2. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. Whites are treated more fairly by the U.S. justice system than are 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.	<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"/>

3. Are there any other things that trouble you about the U.S. justice system? Please explain.

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	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
4. 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"/>

## Pre-Forum Questionnaire

5. Are you male or female?     Male                       Female
6. How much schooling have you completed?
- Less than 6th grade     6th-8th grade     Some high school     High school graduate     Some college  
 College graduate     Graduate school
7. Are you:
- African-American     Asian-American     Hispanic                       Native American  
 White                       Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
8. How old are you?
- 17 or younger               18-29                       30-49                       50-64                       65 or older
9. Have you attended an NIF forum before?     Yes                       No
10. If "yes" to #9, how many forums have you attended?
- 1-3                       4-6                       7 or more                       Not sure
11. In which part of the country do you live:
- Northeast                       South                       Midwest                       West                       Southwest     Other
12. What is your ZIP code? \_\_\_\_\_

Please give this form to the forum leader.