Report Appendix:

Public Perspectives on Trust and Confidence in the Courts

Methods

Participant Recruitment

Researchers recruited interviewees through a non-probability panel provided by Qualtrics, a survey software and market research company. Qualtrics distributed a link to an electronic demographics and screening form. We used the information provided in these forms to identify participants who met our inclusion criteria and were demographically diverse.

All participants were required to be at least 18 years old. We also selected participants who were fluent English-speakers to ensure participants could consent to participation and could communicate freely with our interviewers. Additionally, because we wanted to include participants whose knowledge and familiarity with the legal system reflected that of the general public, we selected participants who themselves, and whose immediate family members, had never worked in any of the following industries:
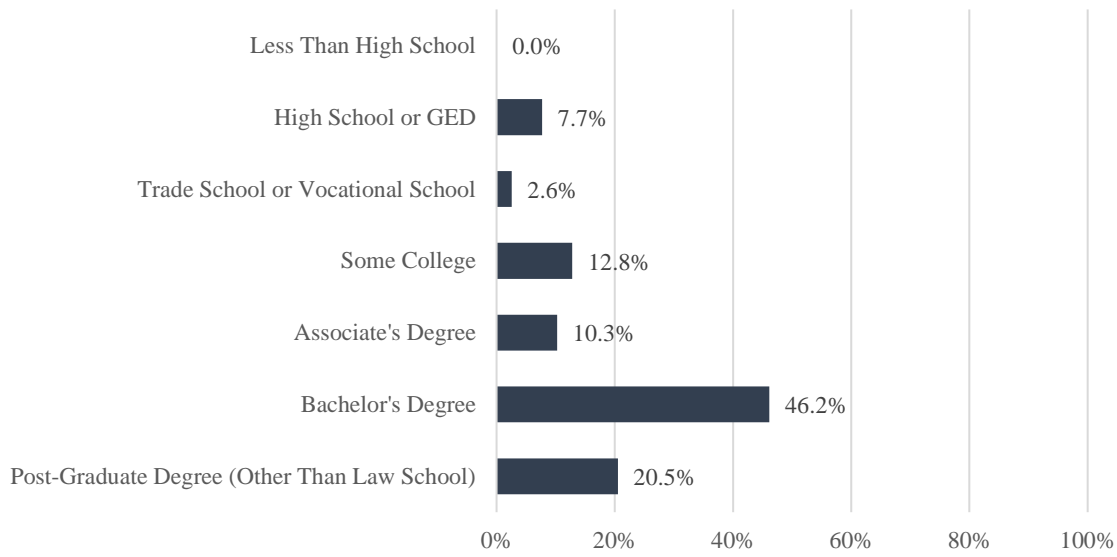
- Marketing or public opinion research;
- Newspaper, television station, or radio station;
- Legal profession (lawyer, paralegal, work at a law firm, work for the courts, other legal services);
- Law enforcement (city police, sheriff's deputies, state trooper); or
- The correctional system (city jails, prisons, detention centers).

We received 90 screening forms for participants who met our inclusion criteria. A member of the research team contacted each of the 90 potential participants to explain the study and confirm interest in participating in a one-hour interview. We ultimately completed interviews with 39 of these individuals. Participants received a $60 reward in exchange for participating in an hour-long interview. Interested panel members filled out a form asking basic demographic information and checking if they met our inclusion criteria.
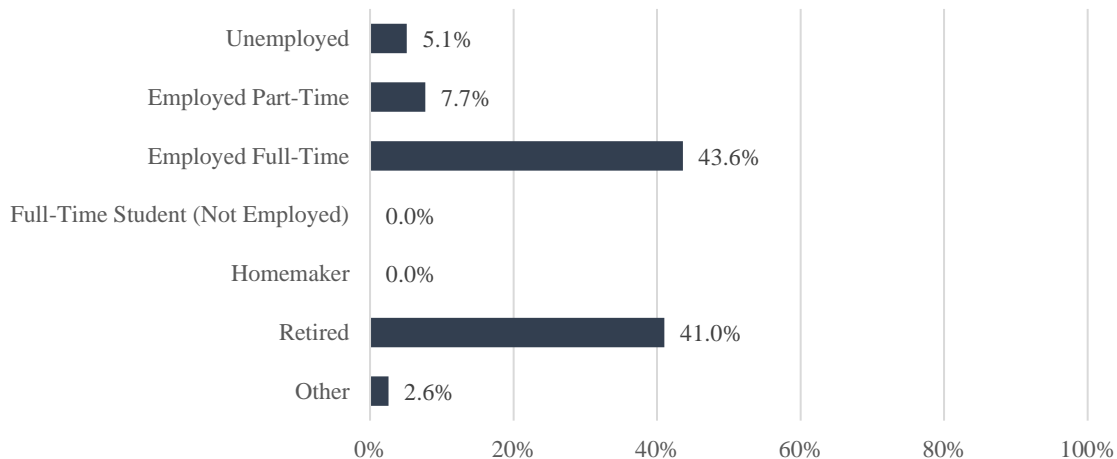
PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Given the qualitative nature of this study, we were interested in demographic diversity, rather than the strict demographic representativeness required in quantitative studies.[1] The figures below present participant demographics.

Figure A1: Highest Level of Education Completed (n = 39)

Category	Percentage
Less Than High School	0.0%
High School or GED	7.7%
Trade School or Vocational School	2.6%
Some College	12.8%
Associate's Degree	10.3%
Bachelor's Degree	46.2%
Post-Graduate Degree (Other Than Law School)	20.5%

Figure A2: Employment Status (n = 39)

Category	Percentage
Unemployed	5.1%
Employed Part-Time	7.7%
Employed Full-Time	43.6%
Full-Time Student (Not Employed)	0.0%
Homemaker	0.0%
Retired	41.0%
Other	2.6%

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[1] Donald E. Polkinghorne, *Language and Meaning: Data Collection in Qualitative Research*, 52(2) J. OF COUNSELING PSYCHOL. 137, 139. ("Participants and documents for a qualitative study are not selected because they fulfill the representative requirements of statistical inference, but because they can provide substantial contributions to filling out the structure and character of the experience under investigation.")

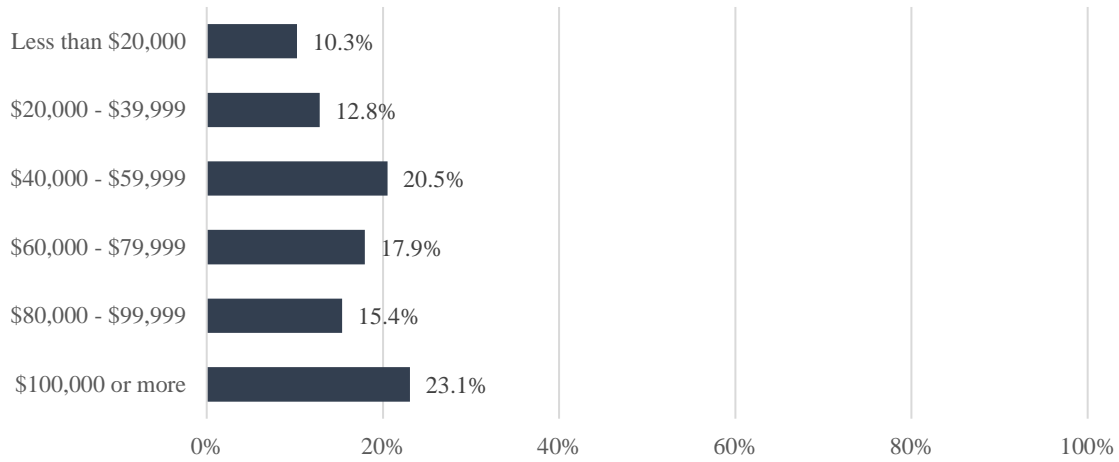*Figure A3: Annual Household Income (n = 39)*

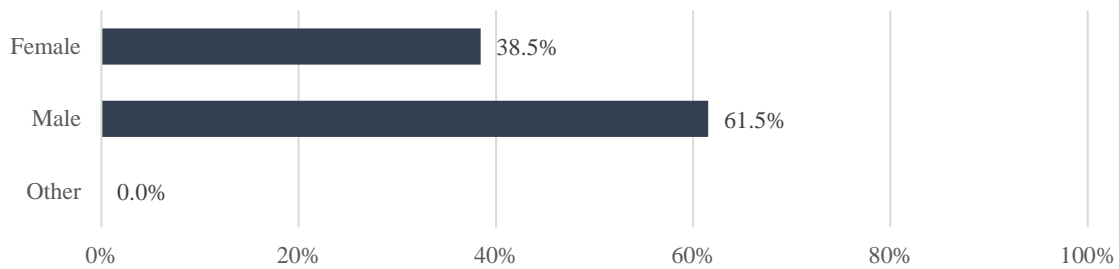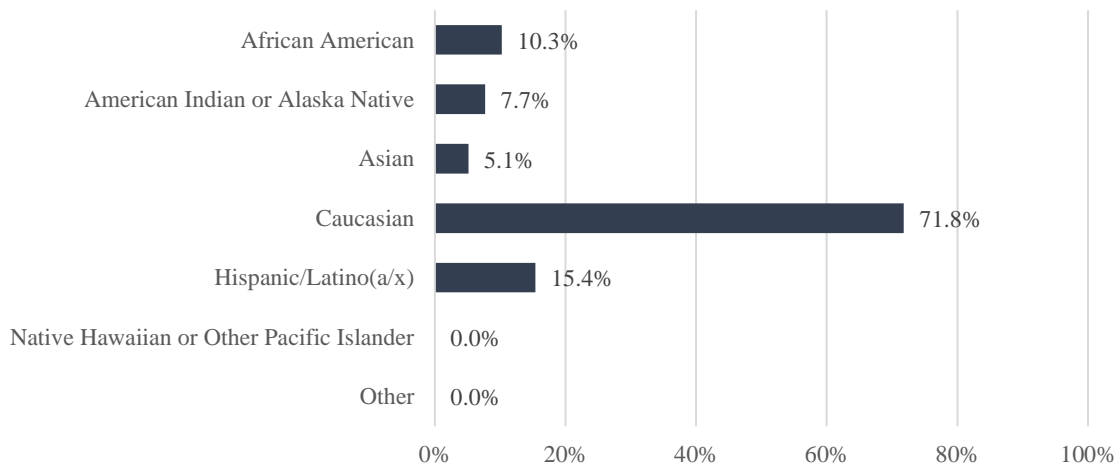| Income Range	Percentage
Less than $20,000	10.3%
$20,000 - $39,999	12.8%
$40,000 - $59,999	20.5%
$60,000 - $79,999	17.9%
$80,000 - $99,999	15.4%
$100,000 or more	23.1%

Figure A4: Gender (n = 39)

Gender	Percentage
Female	38.5%
Male	61.5%
Other	0.0%

Figure A5: Race/Ethnicity (n = 39)[2]

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
African American	10.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	7.7%
Asian	5.1%
Caucasian	71.8%
Hispanic/Latino(a/x)	15.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Other	0.0%

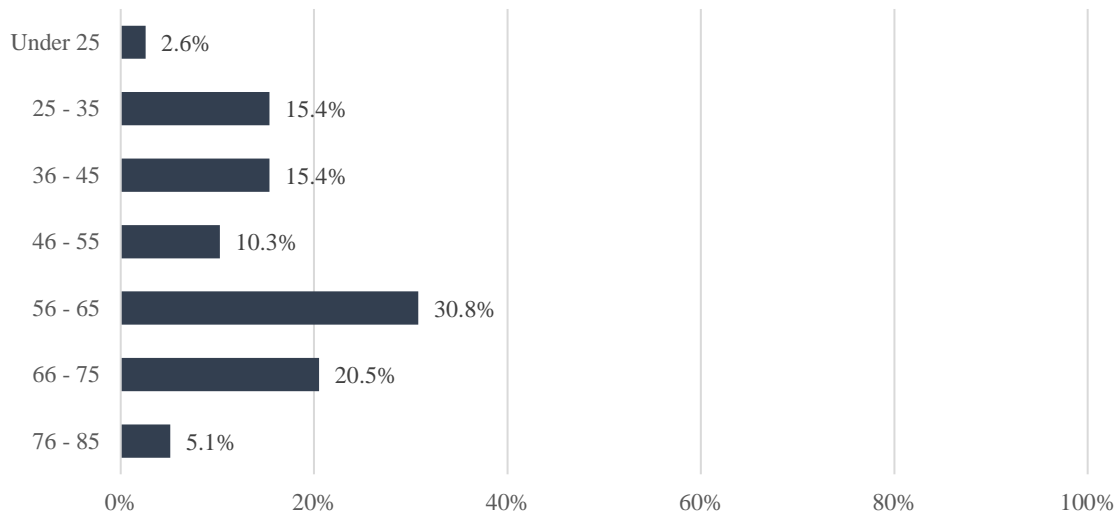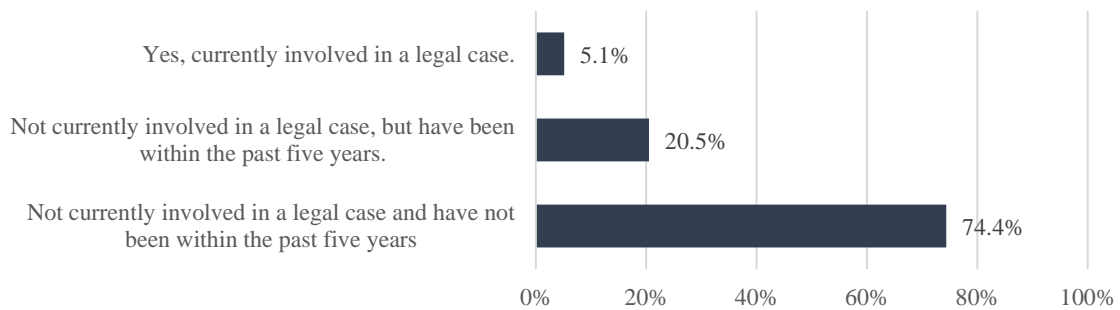[2] Percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents were directed to select all options that apply.

Figure A6: Age (n = 39)

Figure A7: Legal Case Involvement (n = 39)
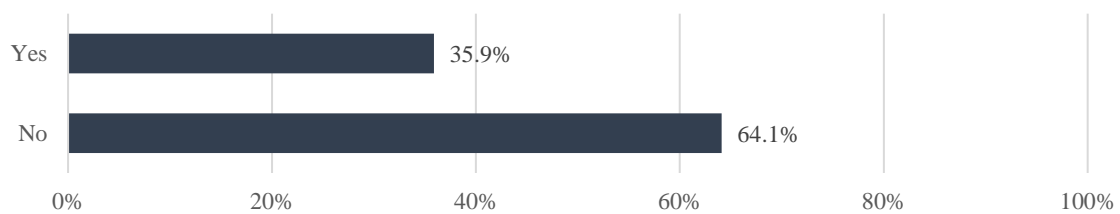

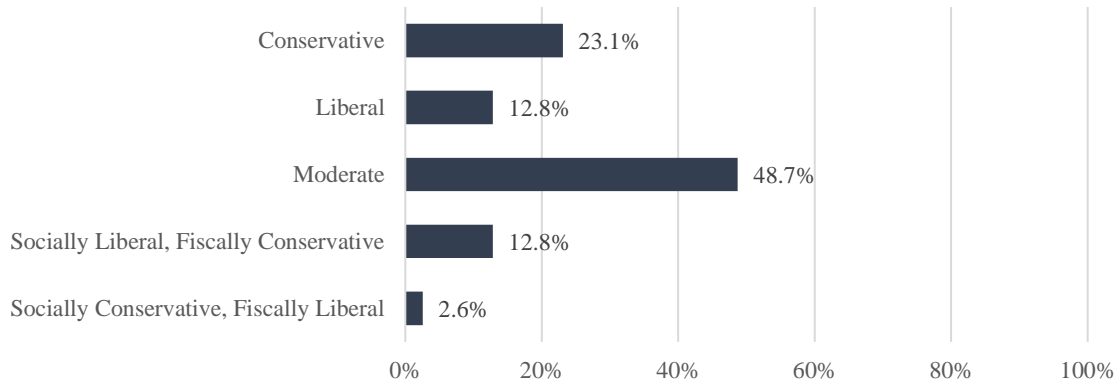*Figure A8: Jury Service (n = 39)*

Figure A9: Political Outlook (n = 39)
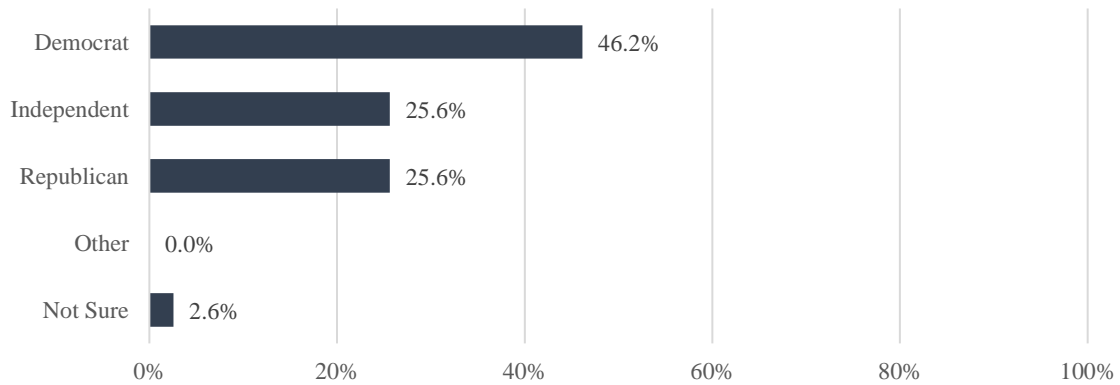

Figure A10: Political Party (n = 39)

Figure A11: Religion (n = 39)
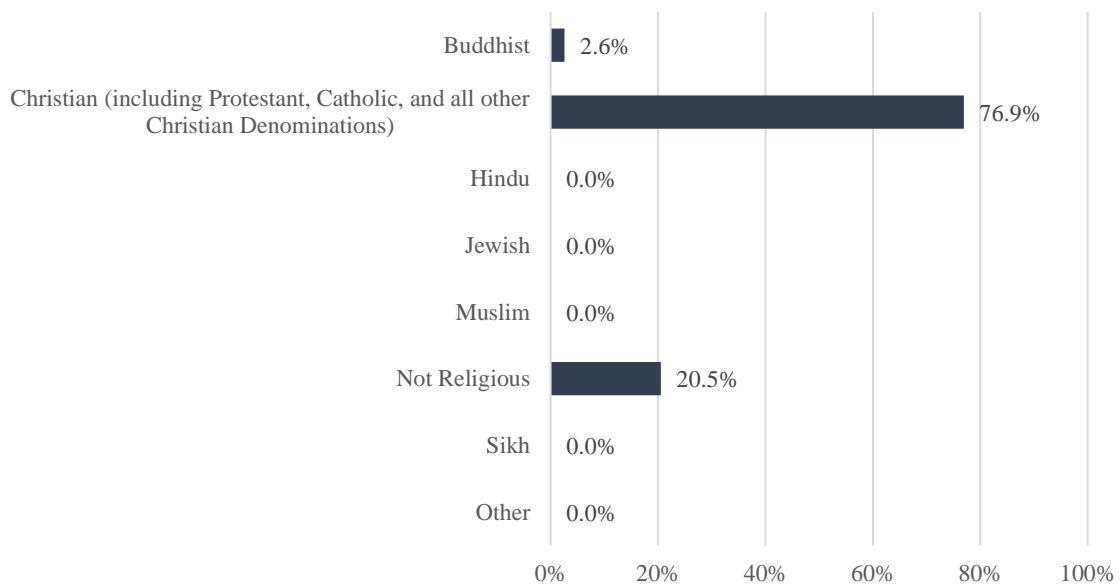
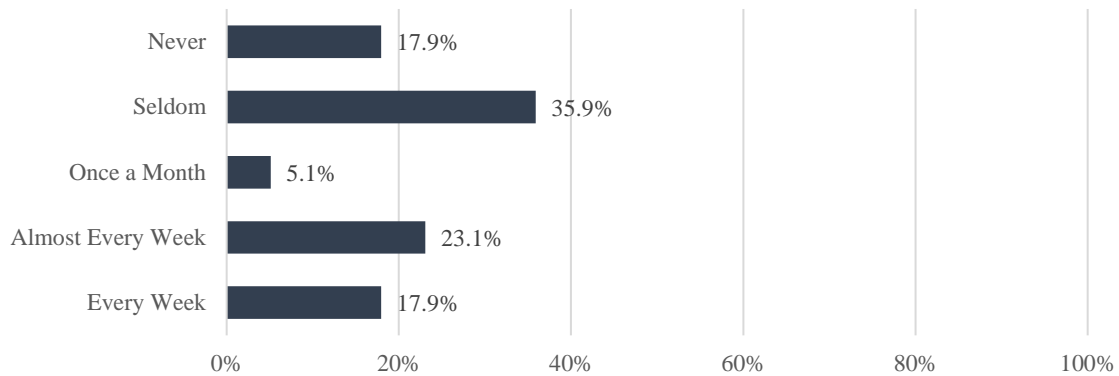*Figure A12: Religious Service Attendance (n = 39)[3]*

Table A1: State of Residence (n = 39)

State	n
Alabama	1
Arizona	2
California	2
Connecticut	2
Florida	2
Georgia	1
Hawaii	1
Illinois	1
Indiana	2
Minnesota	2
Mississippi	1
Montana	1
Nebraska	1
New Hampshire	1
New York	2
North Carolina	1
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	5
Puerto Rico	1
Rhode Island	1
Tennessee	2
Texas	4
Washington	1
Wisconsin	1
Total	39

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[3] Calculation includes those who indicated they are not religious.

Procedure and Analysis

Interview Protocol

We designed our interview protocol to explore three broad key points related to trust and confidence in the American legal system:

- Views on the value courts provide, what a well-functioning court system would look like, and concerns about the courts;
- Perceptions about levels of trust in judges and how judges should behave; and
- Perspectives on knowledge of the process, how the media depicts the legal system, and the public's desire for information about the legal system.

Interview Procedures

All interviews were completed telephonically. We scheduled each interview for one hour, though some interviews ended earlier. Each interview began with the interviewer reviewing the informed consent document and obtaining consent from the participant. Following the consent process, the interviewer guided the participant through the interview protocol.

All interviews were audio recorded and later transcribed by a professional transcription service for analysis. To ensure participant confidentiality, interviewers avoided using participants' names in the recorded interview, and code names were used for each interview file so that all interviews were completely de-identified throughout the transcription and analysis process.

Coding and Analysis

The research team began the analysis process by developing a coding scheme to capture themes that arose during the interviews. We took an iterative approach to coding the transcripts, first applying structural codes (i.e., codes to identify each question and its response), then reviewing each transcript multiple times to apply thematic codes (i.e., codes that identify themes within the data). Once all transcripts were coded, we queried the data to facilitate rich understanding of the data and themes. We completed all coding and analysis using QSR NVivo 10 qualitative analysis software.