

Legal Opinions Survey

This questionnaire is designed to assess people's opinions and attitudes on various legal issues. Please read each item carefully and give as true a picture as possible of your own beliefs by writing in the number 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, as appropriate.

1. *Strongly agree*
 2. *Somewhat agree*
 3. *Agree & disagree equally*
 4. *Somewhat disagree*
 5. *Strongly disagree*
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- ___ 1. Appointed judges are more competent than elected judges.
- ___ 2. A suspect who runs from the police most probably committed the crime.
- ___ 3. A defendant should be found guilty only if 11 out of 12 jurors vote guilty.
- ___ 4. Most politicians are really as honest as humanly possible.
- ___ 5. Too often jurors hesitate to convict someone who is guilty out of pure sympathy.
- ___ 6. In most cases where the accused presents a strong defense, it is only because of a good lawyer.
- ___ 7. In general, children should be excused for their misbehavior.
- ___ 8. The death penalty is cruel and inhumane.
- ___ 9. Out of every 100 people brought to trial, at least 75 are guilty of the crime with which they are charged.
- ___ 10. For serious crimes like murder, a defendant should be found guilty if there is a 90% chance that he committed the crime.
- ___ 11. Defense lawyers don't really care about guilty or innocence, they are just in the business to make money.
- ___ 12. Generally, the police make an arrest only when they are sure about who committed the crime.
- ___ 13. Circumstantial evidence is too weak to use in court.

- ___14. Many accident claims filed against insurance companies are phony.
- ___15. The defendant is often a victim of his own bad reputation.
- ___16. If a grand jury recommends that a person be brought to trial, then that person probably committed the crime.
- ___17. Extenuating circumstances should not be considered—if a person commits a crime, then that person should be punished.
- ___18. Hypocrisy is on the increase in society.
- ___19. Too many innocent people are wrongfully imprisoned.
- ___20. If a majority of evidence—but not all of it—suggests that the defendant committed the crime, then the jury should vote *not guilty*.
- ___21. If someone commits a victimless crime like gambling or possession of marijuana, he should not be convicted.
- ___22. Some laws are made to be broken.