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The Judicial System in Georgia: Views of Legal Professionals

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Executive Summary

This study of legal professionals, under the USAID-funded project Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG) implemented by East-West Management Institute (EWMI), was conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC-Georgia) from March-May 2019. This study repeated the baseline conducted in 2016 and aimed to evaluate how certain aspects of the justice system are seen by legal professionals (including lawyers, judges, and prosecutors) and whether there have been changes in the views of legal professionals over the last three years.

The study uses quantitative and qualitative research methods to assess the following: (1) whether there is balance between parties in courts, (2) whether citizens (including minorities and vulnerable groups) can benefit from the protection the justice system offers, (3) the quality of legal education in Georgia, (4) the performance of different judicial institutions, and (5) how legal professionals assess the court annexed mediation.

Within the quantitative component of the survey, 207 lawyers (109 private lawyers, 41 NGO lawyers, and 57 state-funded Legal Aid Service [LAS] lawyers), 81 judges, and 122 prosecutors were surveyed. For the qualitative component, CRRC conducted 15 interviews with 7 judges and 8 prosecutors. Furthermore, 4 focus groups of lawyers were organized with an average of 6 participants, including private, NGO, and LAS lawyers. The findings of the study are organized in five chapters, according to the main topics of the study.

Similar to findings from 2016, NGO lawyers proved to be the most critical legal professionals in their assessments. Generally, lawyers, prosecutors, and judges were all more positive about their own institutions and institutions directly related to their institution than other judicial institutions.

In 2019, compared to 2016, legal professionals are more united in their opinion about **equality of arms** observed in criminal, civil and administrative spheres of law and say that, for the most part, it is both included in legislation and observed in practice. Criminal law still remains a field of certain disagreement, especially between prosecutors and other legal professionals. While prosecutors say that nowadays the prosecution and the defense are equipped with equal rights to obtain evidence and that judges are more demanding towards prosecutors, both lawyers and judges recognize that prosecutors have more resources provided by the state, which, in the opinion of lawyers, still creates a certain imbalance. NGO lawyers hold more critical views than in 2016, whereas judges' views have taken a positive turn. When asked about access of the prosecuting and defending parties to each other's evidence, the majority of prosecutors, judges, and LAS lawyers report that both sides have equal access, while only less than half of Georgian Bar Association (GBA) and NGO lawyers agree with the statement.

Interestingly, lawyers participating in focus groups in Akhaltsikhe slightly criticized judges for taking the side of the prosecution or administrative bodies, and said they felt a certain bias. When asked specifically about cases where big commercial interests were involved, NGO lawyers and GBA lawyers saw risks of equality of arms not being observed and imbalanced advantages of the business company or state.

Regarding **presumption of innocence**, most respondents think that it is protected by the justice institutions. However, respondents tend to say that court and the LAS lawyers protect the presumption of innocence more than the Prosecutor's Office and the police do.

As in 2016, most legal professionals report that courts, the Prosecutor's Office, and LAS lawyers show no discrimination in the **treatment of minority and vulnerable groups**. NGO lawyers are more critical; one third of them say that members of the LGBT community are treated "mainly unfairly" or "fully unfairly" by the court. Judges and prosecutors also evaluate police actions as more effective than lawyers, with NGO lawyers being the most critical. In focus groups, a private lawyer from Tbilisi recalled a pre-election case from Ponichala where police representatives planted weapons on ethnic Azerbaijani citizens.

Lawyers outlined **domestic violence** cases as particularly problematic, with testimonies that victims often changed or rejected, and observation of investigation and detention rules less than in other types of crimes. NGO lawyers supported the strict state policy on domestic crimes, while LAS lawyers said prisons were full of domestic violence culprits but the strict policy was pursued blindly.

As for **affordability of court and private lawyer services**, legal professionals tend to report that both courts and private lawyers remain unaffordable for citizens. The exception is judges, the majority of which say both courts and private lawyers are affordable for citizens.

As the study showed in 2016, many legal professionals report improvements in the **legal education** sphere, especially on the university level. The majority of respondents positively assess both the theoretical and practical education provided by universities. However, NGO lawyers are an exception. In line with quantitative data on this issue, NGO lawyers mentioned that often they had to teach basic legal principles to interns who joined their offices from universities. All respondents stressed the importance of practical education and the need to establish more partnerships between universities and legal institutions in order to create more internship opportunities for students, especially because, as lawyers and judges report, students show particular interest in internships.

Respondents assessed the education levels of currently practicing legal professionals as average. Judges, prosecutors, and lawyers saw investigators and other lawyers as having lower qualifications. Lawyers said there were many highly qualified lawyers; however, overall, the qualification level of the lawyers' corps was low. During the discussion of judges' qualifications, participants mentioned judges' heavy workload, saying this hinders them from professional development.

Prosecutors and judges were satisfied with the **continuous legal education** opportunities provided by the Prosecutor's Office and High School of Justice. Lawyers saw improvements in the continuous legal education provided by the Georgian Bar Association; however, some of them found the topics irrelevant or were unhappy that not everyone was able to attend trainings by high-level professionals, as trainings usually consisted of 20-25 attendees. Participants mentioned the need to have the same trainers for lawyers, judges, and prosecutors in order for all legal professionals to have a common understanding of legal issues and common practice.

As in 2016, the high caseload of courts remains problematic for all legal professionals, as it negatively affects the right of citizens to a speedy trial. Lawyers say that sometimes it takes

years to receive a final court decision, and that the problem of prolonged case procession is relevant not only in first-instance courts but also in courts of appeal and the Supreme Court. Respondents' opinions differed on **evaluation of justice institutions' performance**. Legal professions assessed the following institutions most positively: the state-funded legal aid service, the Georgian Bar Association, courts, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office, and legal aid provided by NGOs. Lawyers are again more critical in their assessment of legal institutions, except for those directly connected to them.

Mediation is largely seen by legal professionals as a promising mechanism for faster resolution of cases and for easing the workload of courts. Therefore, judges and lawyers outline the need to promote and popularize mediation among citizens and professional groups. Legal professionals say many disputes such as family disputes, divorces, and inheritance- and property-related cases can be effectively resolved through mediation, which offers more open communication and could let the sides reach a mutually beneficial agreement. Judges suggest making it mandatory to send disputes under 5,000 Gel in value to mediation.

This report explores each of the issues in more detail, providing quantitative and qualitative results. Key annexes include frequency tables of all questions asked to judges, prosecutors, and lawyers and summaries of focus groups with lawyers and qualitative interviews with judges and prosecutors.

List of Acronyms

GBA – Georgian Bar Association

HCoJ – High Council of Justice

HSoJ – High School of Justice

LAS – State-funded Legal Aid Service

LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

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Introduction

Between March and May 2019, CRRC-Georgia conducted a study of legal professionals for the USAID-funded program Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG), a program aimed at strengthening Georgia’s justice system and thereby ensuring due process, judicial independence, and the protection of human rights.¹ Based on the sub-purposes of PROLoG, the study explored five topics:

- (1) Effective balance between disputing parties in courts;
- (2) Citizens’ ability to benefit from the protection justice system offers;
- (3) Quality of legal education;
- (4) Performance of justice system institutions; and
- (5) Mediation.

The study of legal professionals repeated baseline research conducted in 2016 and included a survey of legal professionals (a face-to-face survey with 207 lawyers and 81 judges and an online self-administered survey with 122 prosecutors), four focus groups with lawyers, and qualitative interviews with judges (7) and prosecutors (8). Based on one of the sub-purposes of the PROLoG program—improving access to justice for marginalized citizens, in particular women and ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities—the study focused on Tbilisi and three regions outside the capital with ethnic minority populations: Adjara, Kvemo Kartli, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. See the detailed methodology in Annex 1.

The structure of this report follows the five main topics and analyzes findings of quantitative and qualitative research in five respective chapters. The first chapter is aimed at demonstrating how legal professionals view the balance between disputing parties. The chapter separately assesses the balance in both criminal and civil/administrative laws and practices, as well as the issue of balance when a party is not represented by a professional lawyer. The second chapter discusses whether or not legal professionals believe that citizens benefit from judicial system protection in three main areas: treatment from different institution, protection of presumption of innocence, and affordability of the system. These issues also relate to questions of access and equality for minorities and vulnerable groups. The third chapter aims to evaluate the quality of legal education as viewed by legal professionals and tries to find ways to improve it. The fourth chapter demonstrates how the justice system’s institutions are assessed by legal professionals, problems in their performance, and how those problems can be addressed. The fifth chapter is based on the qualitative part of the study and explores legal professionals’ views on the court annexed mediation. The final section reviews the overall conclusions that can be made from this study.

The document is accompanied by several annexes: methodology (Annex 1), indicators (Annex 2), tables of quantitative surveys with lawyers, judges and prosecutors (Annex 3), and the detailed summary of focus groups and qualitative interviews accompanied with quotes (Annex 4).

¹ For more information about the PROLoG program, please see the website: <http://ewmi-prolog.org/en/about/PROLoG>

1. Balance between Parties in Law and in Practice

Key findings:

- Most legal professionals, except prosecutors, report that the equality of arms is largely achieved both in civil law and in practice. The majority of prosecutors do not express an opinion regarding the issue, as they work only in criminal law. These results are not very different from 2016.
- Most legal professionals, except the majority of prosecutors, state that equality of arms is ensured in administrative law and practice. More prosecutors than in 2016 preferred not to express their attitude regarding administrative law and practice.
- Respondents' views vary regarding criminal law and practice in Georgia. A vast majority of surveyed judges and prosecutors and a plurality of LAS and GBA lawyers say that criminal law provides disputing parties with equal conditions at trials, whereas most NGO lawyers disagree with the statement. NGO lawyers have become more critical in their assessment.
- Respondents' assessments differ regarding equality of possibilities for the prosecuting and defending sides to gather evidence in criminal cases. The majority of prosecutors and judges think that the prosecuting and defending sides have equal possibilities to gather evidence, while the majority of lawyers do not share this opinion. In focus groups, lawyers express that in criminal law, the balance between the parties tilts to the advantage of the accusing side. According to them, this is primarily because of resources provided by the state; lawyers name cases in civil and administrative law when they felt that court took the side of an administrative body or of a large company.
- In qualitative interviews, judges say that equality of arms is included in legislation and observed in practice in all fields of law, especially with recent changes in criminal law that enabled the defending side to obtain video recordings. However, some of them also admit that prosecutors have more resources to obtain evidence.
- In qualitative interviews, prosecutors say that equality of arms is ensured by the law and observed in practice. They even feel that judges demand more from them because of their resources and that sometimes courts may accept a piece of evidence obtained by the accused while denying it from a prosecutor.
- As for access of the prosecuting and defending parties to each other's evidence, the majority of prosecutors, judges, and LAS lawyers think that both sides have equal access to each other's evidence, while less than half of the GBA and the NGO lawyers agree with the statement.

Criminal Law and Practice

The respondents were asked to assess the balance between disputing parties in law and practice. Most legal professionals stated that balance is largely achieved in civil, administrative, and

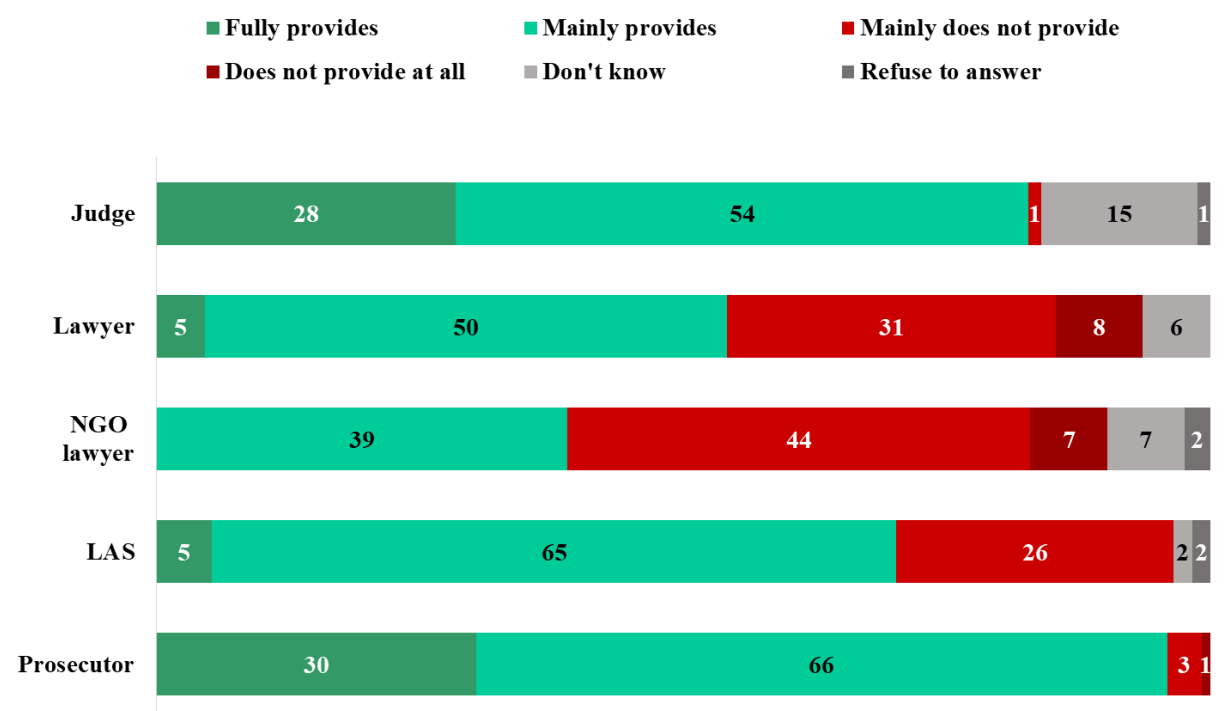
criminal law and practice. Compared to 2016, overall, more respondents think that criminal cases provide equality of arms between disputing parties.

Most respondents think that criminal law in Georgia provides equality of arms between disputing parties. More specifically, a majority of judges (83%), prosecutors (96%), and Legal Aid Services (LAS) lawyers (70%), as well as more than half of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) lawyers (54%) agree with the statement. However, a minority of NGO lawyers (39%) stated the same.² (See Chart 1). Compared to 2016, NGO lawyers now have a more critical assessment: in 2016, 41% of them reported that criminal law does not provide equality of arms between disputing parties, and in 2019, more than half of them (51%) report the same.

Similarly, most respondents (86% of judges, 93% of prosecutors, 57% of GBA lawyers, and 70% of LAS lawyers) think that the balance between the disputing parties is ensured in practice as well. Only 27% of NGO lawyers share the same opinion.

Chart 1

To what extent does the criminal law in Georgia provide or not provide equality of arms between the disputing parties? (%)



² These numbers differ from those in Indicator 1 because: (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refuse to answer’ responses; (2) the indicator uses three questions, not one, to calculate the positive responses for equality of arms provided in criminal cases under the law and in practice, averaging the positive responses to the question whether equality of arms is provided and two questions on whether the parties have equal opportunities to obtain and access evidence; (3) in the indicator, the responses of all lawyers (private, NGO and LAS) are presented jointly. For a detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

Another issue within criminal law is the ability to gather evidence. As in 2016, all surveyed groups, except prosecutors, believe that the prosecution has a better possibility than the defense to gather evidence. The majority of prosecutors (63%) believe that both parties have equal possibilities to acquire evidence. Regarding prosecuting and defending parties' access to each other's evidence, the majority of respondents (except the GBA and the NGO lawyers) say that both sides have equal access to each other's evidence. More specifically, 78% of judges, 83% of prosecutors, and 75% of LAS lawyers agree with the statement. Less than half of GBA and NGO lawyers say the same.

In focus group discussions, lawyers said that the balance still tilts towards the prosecution because the state supports them with resources. In qualitative interviews, judges confirm that legislation ensures equality of arms in all fields of law and that judges support this principle. However, some judges note that the prosecution has more resources to gather evidence. This likely explains why prosecutors feel that judges are more demanding on them and why, even though judges believe that both sides have almost the same ability to investigate and gather evidence, some judges may accept evidence provided by the defending side while rejecting evidence from prosecutors.

“In criminal law, the accusing side dominates; privilege is on its side. In civil and administrative law, the principles of equality and competitiveness are more or less observed.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, 1 year experience, Rustavi)

“The investigation has more resources than the defense, but the prosecutor is a state entity, and it should be so.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 35 years' experience, Rustavi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

**Indicator 1: Effective balance between disputing parties in courts (criminal law)
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)**

The majority of judges and prosecutors have a positive assessment of the equality of arms in criminal law and practice. Compared to 2016, more judges now say that there is a balance between disputing parties in criminal cases. However, the majority of lawyers disagree: fewer than half of lawyers positively assess the equality of arms in criminal law and practice.

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Criminal laws provide equality of arms + questions on evidence	75% (65)	89% (60)	46% (126)	47% (91)	86% (87)	84% (103)
Equality of arms in observed in practice + questions on evidence	75% (64)	89% (62)	46% (123)	49% (90)	85% (86)	83% (102)

* For a detailed explanation of indicator calculations see Annex 2.

** In indicator calculations, those who either answered “Don’t Know” or did not answer the question (“non-responders”) were excluded from the calculation.

*** In indicator calculations, lawyers (private, NGO and LAS) are presented jointly.

Civil and Administrative Law and Practice

The respondents were also asked to assess the balance between disputing parties in civil and administrative law and practice. Similar to the 2016 survey results, the majority of legal professionals (more than 67%) report that both civil and administrative law provide parties with a fair balance. When discussing civil and administrative law separately, a vast majority of NGO lawyers (90%), the most critical group, agree or fully agree that civil law provides equality of arms to the parties. The same opinion is shared by the majority of other legal professionals: 85% of judges, 83% of GBA lawyers, and 75% of LAS lawyers. Most prosecutors (60%) did not provide evaluations of civil law, as prosecutors only work in criminal law. Respondents’ assessments of how balance between parties is observed in practice are nearly the same.

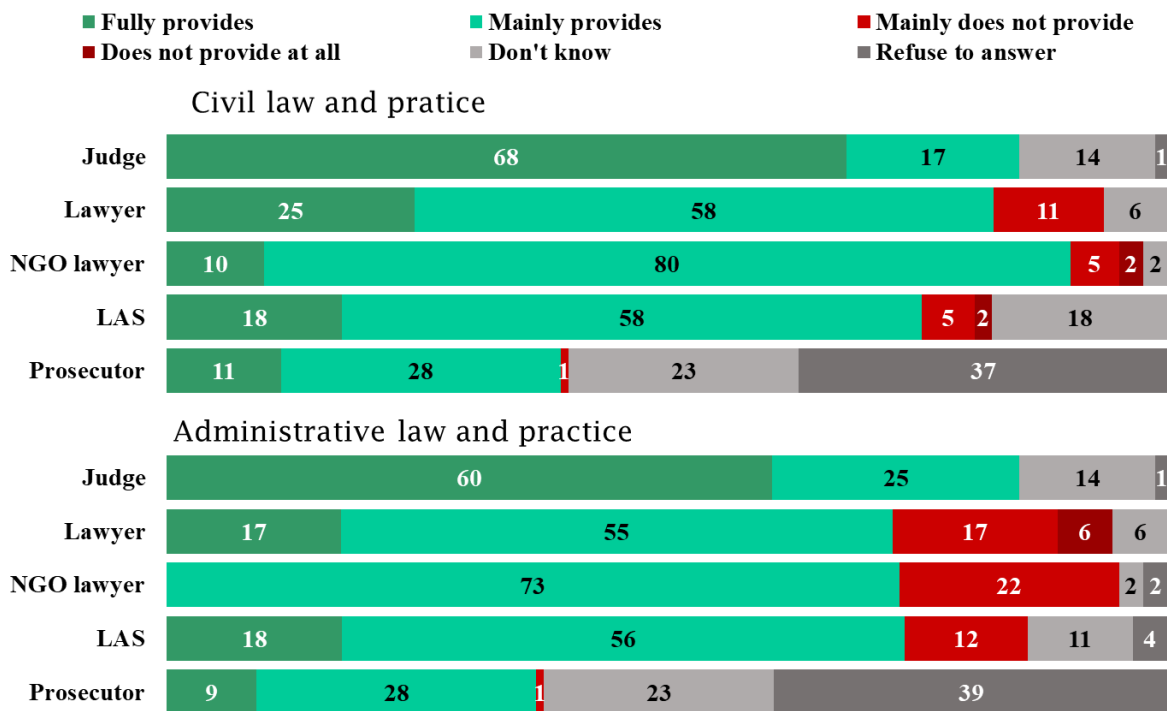
Respondents were also asked to assess to what extent equality of arms is observed during trials of civil cases, when large businesses represent one side of the dispute. Interestingly, in such cases, lawyers express doubts that the sides will be equal compared to their general assessment of equality of arms in civil cases. Fifty-five percent of GBA lawyers, 46% of NGO lawyers, and 49% of LAS lawyers think that equality of arms is ensured in such cases. The majority of

judges (81%) think the same. The majority of prosecutors (73%) did not assess this situation, as they usually work in criminal law.

Concerning equality of arms in administrative law, the majority of respondents besides prosecutors (85% of judges, 72% of GBA lawyers, 73% of NGO lawyers, and 74% of LAS lawyers) agree with the statements that administrative law provides disputing parties with equality of arms (see Chart 2). As for equality of arms in practice, the majority of judges (86%), LAS lawyers (72%), and GBA lawyers (70%), as well as more than half of NGO lawyers (56%), report that equality of arms is observed in trials of administrative cases.

Chart 2

To what extent does the civil law/administrative law in Georgia provide or not provide equality of arms between the disputing parties?



In focus groups, lawyers confirmed that equality of arms is provided by legislation and is observed more in civil and administrative law than in criminal law. However, lawyers also said that when there is a significant commercial interest in the case, courts may show more support to the administrative body or a large business company. In qualitative interviews, judges said that court never showed preference to any party, regardless of their financial or administrative status.³

³ Since the question concerned only civil and administrative law, it was not asked to prosecutors in qualitative interviews.

Indicator 1: Effective balance between disputing parties in courts (civil and administrative law)

(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)

Similar to 2016, all surveyed legal professionals agree that equality of arms in civil law is provided by the law and observed in practice. The majority of judges and prosecutors have the same opinion with regards to administrative law. However, lawyers have a less positive evaluation of the equality of arms in administrative law and practice.

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Civil law provide equality of arms	100% (101)	100% (69)	93% (260)	90% (170)	100%* (53)	98%* (48)
Equality of arms observed in practice in civil law cases	100% (101)	100% (71)	92% (249)	90% (166)	100%* (48)	97%* (38)
Administrative law provide equality of arms	97% (91)	100% (69)	78% (216)	79% (151)	96%* (49)	98%* (45)
Equality of arms observed in practice in administrative law cases	99% (91)	100% (70)	78% (210)	73% (140)	94%* (47)	97%* (38)

* For a detailed explanation of indicator calculations, see Annex 2.

** In indicator calculations, those who either answered “Don’t Know” or did not answer the question (“non-responders”) were excluded from the calculation. The percentage of respondents who answered “Don’t know” or abstained from answering exceeds 20%.

**** In indicator calculations, lawyers (private, NGO and LAS) are presented jointly.

Equality of Arms When a Party is Not Represented by a Lawyer

Regarding cases when a side is not represented by a lawyer, in focus groups lawyers admitted that there was a natural imbalance between the sides, as a judge is tied by the principle of equality of arms and cannot take the side of the accused. One lawyer in Tbilisi pointed to the problem that a detained person without a lawyer has little chance of obtaining evidence, even though the accused now has the right to submit evidence for exploration.

“When a person is detained, he/she is told that his/her evidence will be explored as an equal evidence. But how can a detained person obtain evidence if he/she does not have a lawyer?” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 5 years’ experience, Batumi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

The limitations of the detained to obtain evidence was mentioned by one judge as well, who pointed to the problem that the state does not ensure the appointment of a state lawyer unless the person falls under one of the set categories and is eligible for state defense. Otherwise, judges said that they spend much more time on court hearings when one of the parties represents itself without a lawyer. Judges act according to the legislation so that the balance and equality between the parties are not violated. Prosecutors confirmed that judges make an extra effort when one of the sides is not represented by a lawyer.

2. Ability of Citizens to Benefit from Justice System

Key Findings

- Overall, the majority of respondents report that justice institutions (the court, the Prosecutor’s Office, LAS, and the police) treat different minority and majority groups fully or mainly fairly/equally.
- Most representatives of the legal profession say that the court treats all majority or minority groups fairly (fully fairly or mainly fairly). All the judges evaluate the court’s treatment as fair. Similar to 2016, NGO lawyers have more critical views: one third of them state that representatives of the LGBT community are treated mainly or fully unfairly by the court.
- Generally, NGO lawyers tend to be more critical than other lawyers in their assessment of justice institutions’ treatment of different groups living in Georgia.
- Almost all prosecutors say that the Prosecutor’s Office treats all minority and majority groups in Georgia equally. The majority of judges, LAS lawyers, and private lawyers also express positive evaluations regarding the issue. Again, the exception is NGO lawyers’ assessments: less than half of them think that the Prosecutor’s Office treats ethnic minorities, members of the LGBT community, members of any religion besides Orthodox Christianity, and women unequally. Despite this, compared to 2016, the NGO lawyers are less critical towards the Prosecutor’s Office.
- Most respondents say that LAS lawyers treat minority and majority groups equally.

- Most prosecutors, LAS lawyers, judges, and private lawyers state that the police takes effective measures when different groups address the police in Georgia. However, less than half of NGO lawyers think that the police is effective when ethnic and religious minorities address them, and only a fifth of NGO lawyers think that the police acts effectively when representatives of LGBT community address them. Nevertheless, compared to 2016, more NGO lawyers evaluate the policy positively.
- Overall, most of the respondents think that the justice institutions protect presumption of innocence. However, the respondents tend to say that courts and LAS lawyers protect the presumption of innocence more than the Prosecutor’s Office and the police do.
- Most legal professionals think that the affordability of the justice system is a challenge for citizens. Only among judges does a majority report that the justice system is affordable for citizens. A fifth of lawyers and less than half of prosecutors share the same opinion.
- In focus groups and qualitative interviews, lawyers, judges, and prosecutors agree that neither courts, the Prosecutor’s Office, nor LAS lawyers show any discriminatory attitudes towards minority and vulnerable groups.

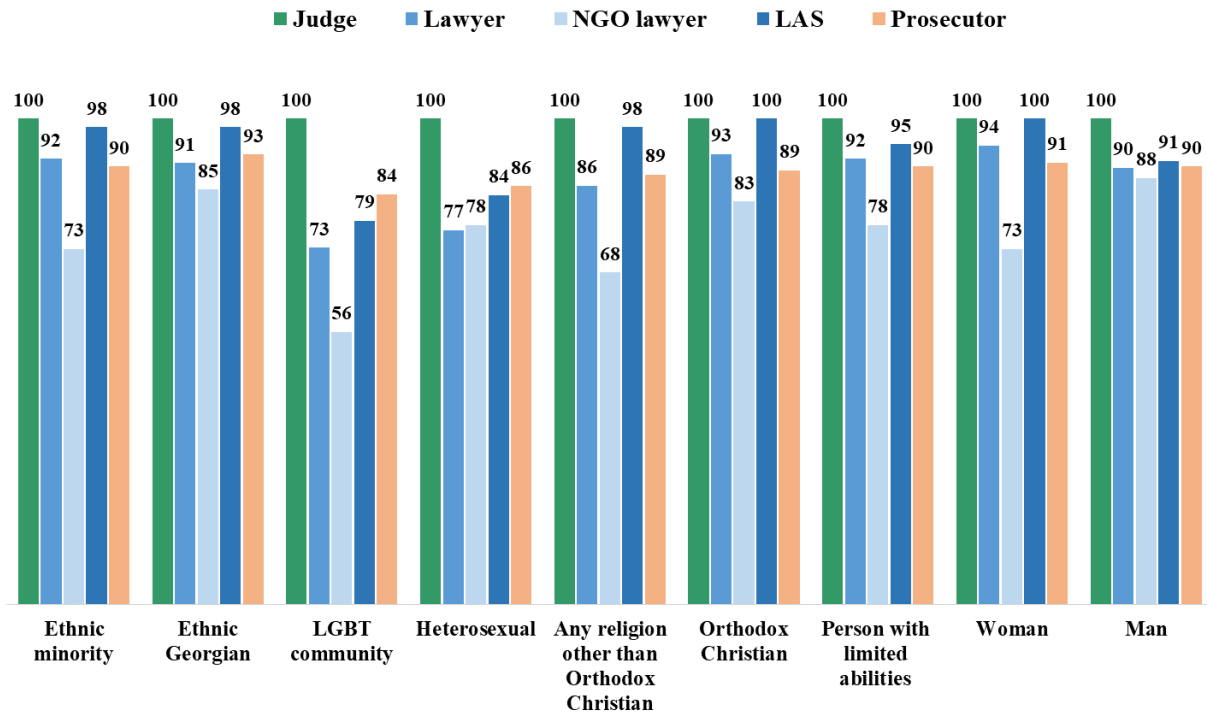
Treatment of various groups by justice system institutions

Legal professionals were asked to assess how fairly or unfairly the court, the prosecutor’s office, and the state legal aid service treat following the groups: representatives of an ethnic minority, ethnic Georgians, representatives of an LGBT community, heterosexuals, representatives of any religion other than Orthodox Christianity, Orthodox Christians, and people with disabilities. Overall, the majority of respondents (86%⁴) think that all the above mentioned institutions treat different groups fairly/equally. Most representatives of the legal profession stated that the court treats every group either fully fairly or mainly fairly (see chart 3). However, one third of NGO lawyers (34%) stated that representatives of the LGBT community are treated mainly or fully unfairly by the court. This result is similar to 2016 findings, when 33% of NGO lawyers stated the same. Apart from this, compared to 2016, fewer NGO lawyers answered “don’t know” to these questions. Generally, NGO lawyers tended to be more critical than other lawyers in their assessment of treatment towards all groups, both marginalized and mainstream. As for judges, all of them evaluate the treatment these groups receive as fair.

⁴ The percentage is calculated from the indicators. See Annex 2.

Chart 3

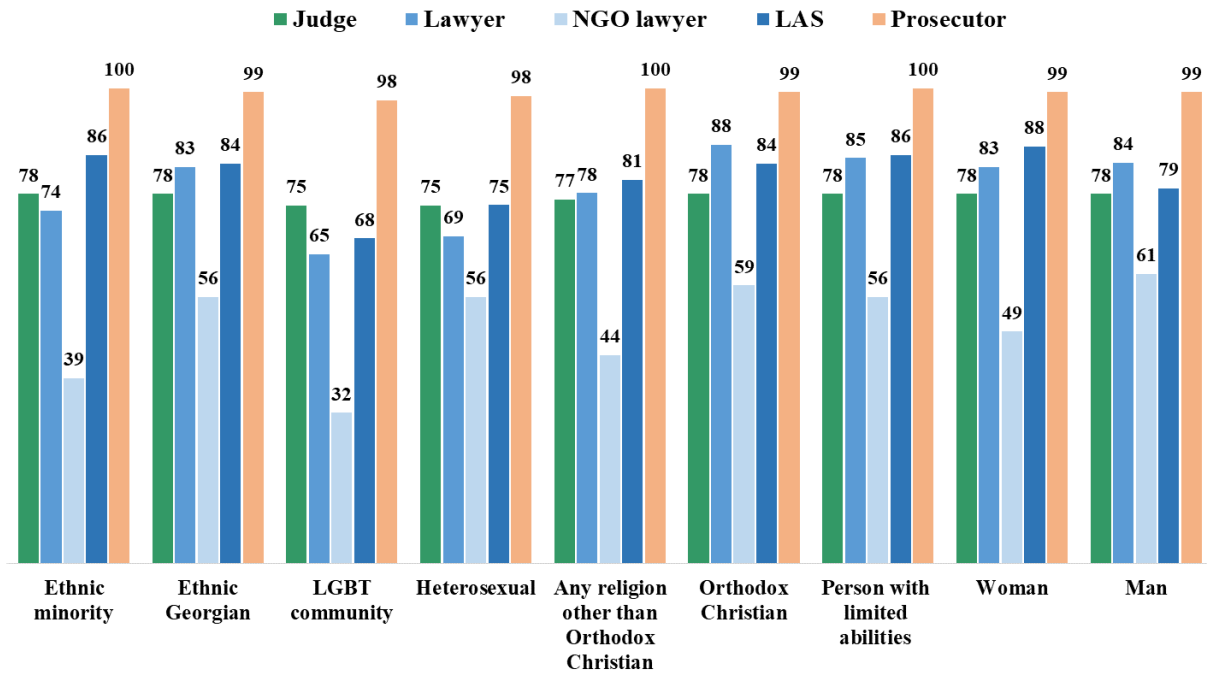
When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? (% fairly)



Almost all prosecutors think that the Prosecutor’s Office treats all minority and majority groups in Georgia equally. As for other legal professionals, the majority of the judges, LAS lawyers, and private lawyers also expressed positive views of the Prosecutor’s Office’s treatment. It should be pointed out that the judges say “don’t know” more often (22-25%) when they assess how equally or unequally the Persecutors’ Office treats different people than during their assessment of other institutions. The exception was NGO lawyers’ assessments: less than half of them (32-49%) of them think that the Prosecutor’s Office treats ethnic minorities, members of the LGBT community, any religion other than Orthodox Christianity, and women equally (see Chart 4). Compared to 2016, NGO lawyers are now less critical towards the Prosecutor’s office. In 2016, only 18 percent stated that the Prosecutor's Office treats LGBT representatives equally (mainly or fully equally), 27 percent said the same about religious minorities, and 37 percent stated that ethnic minorities were mainly or fully treated equally. In 2016, NGO lawyers even saw the Prosecutor’s Office’s treatment of mainstream groups as unequal.

Chart 4

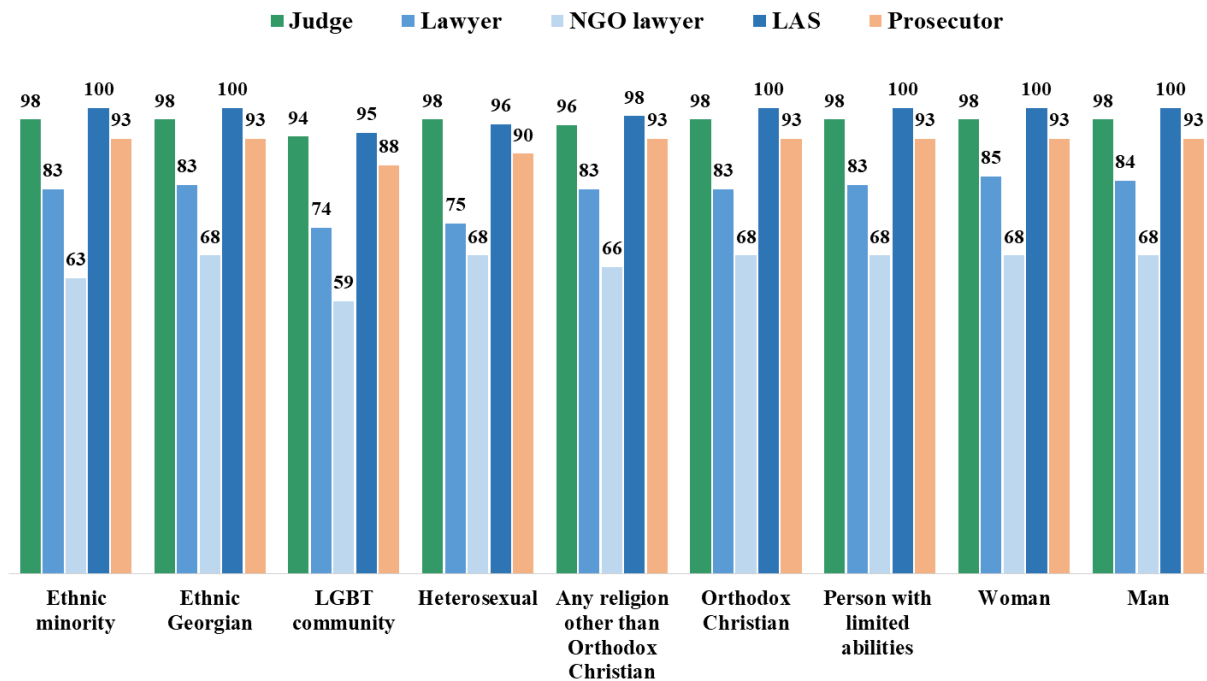
When the Prosecutor’s Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? (% equally)



Most respondents think that state-assigned lawyers treat all the groups equally. NGO lawyers are more critical than other legal professionals in their assessments, but the majority still thinks that state lawyers treat minority and majority groups living in Georgia equally (see Chart 5).

Chart 5

When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? (% equally)



In focus groups, lawyers say that courts, the Prosecutor’s Office, and LAS lawyers do not differentiate between minority or vulnerable groups and treat everyone equally. Of all the vulnerable groups, lawyers pointed out domestic violence cases as particularly problematic. On one hand, due to the state’s increased focus on these cases, according to some of the interviewed lawyers, the courts pursued a strict policy and prisons were full of domestic violence culprits. NGO lawyers supported the state policy and said it was driven by femicide statistics in the country. However, some of LAS lawyers said that there were problems with testimonies in those cases, as victims often changed or annulled their testimony against family members. They also said that the stricter policy was pursued blindly and investigation and detention rules should be observed as in other types of crimes.

Based on qualitative interviews, from the judges' perspective, courts treat everyone fairly and equally regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. On the contrary, according to judges, when one of the sides is a representative of a minority or vulnerable group, courts treat him/her with more caution and attention. Prosecutors confirm that the court has no discriminative treatment towards minorities and vulnerable groups. They emphasize that there have been improvements and judges work more carefully. For example, if a juvenile is involved in the case, they take him/her to a special room to talk without external influence or pressure. The same applies to the Prosecutor’s Office and LAS. Neither lawyers, judges, nor prosecutors report any discriminatory treatment of minority or vulnerable groups.

The only example of unfair treatment was described by a private lawyer in Tbilisi. He said that during previous elections, the police planted weapons on ethnic Azerbaijani citizens, who made it clear that they were going to vote for the United National Movement. When the lawyer narrated the case with supporting evidence (the weapons were of a rare kind and the bullets belonged to a different kind of gun) to the prosecutor, the prosecutor advised them not to go against the police, and in the end a plea deal was signed.

“Recently, there was planting of weapons on Azerbaijanis from Kvemo Kartli, related to elections. The person said somewhere that he was voting for number 5 and afterwards the planting started. You should have seen the weapons, rare ones, planted in one pocket and bullets, in another. But these were machine gun bullets... I went to the prosecutor and said everything... The prosecutor met with the person, spoke with him and said, what can I do, they will give him a hard time on the court hearing if he stands up and gives a testimony against the police. They will eat him, he said. Then intimidation started and in the end all three of the Azerbaijanis signed plea deals.”

(Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

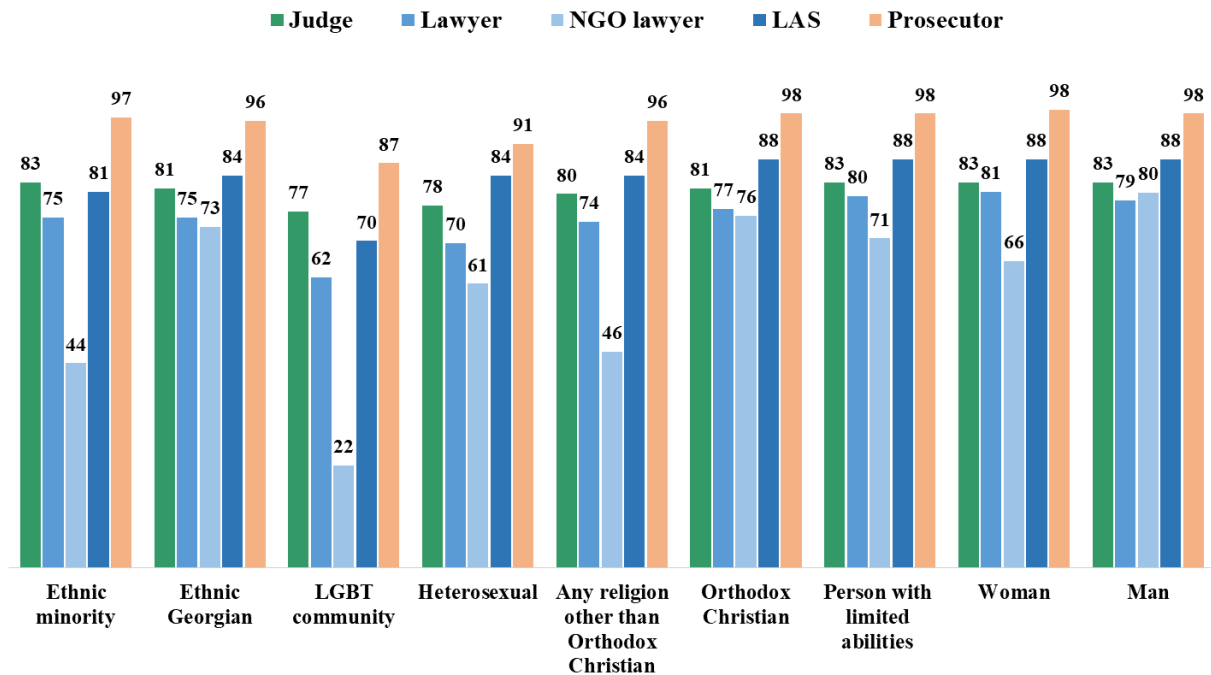
Effectiveness

Legal professionals were asked about the effectiveness of judicial institutions, such as the police and courts. Prosecutors, LAS lawyers, judges, and private lawyers provided positive evaluations of the effectiveness of the police’s measures when different groups address them. Again, the exception is NGO lawyers: less than half of them say that the police is effective (mainly or fully effective) when ethnic (44%) and religious (46%) minorities address them. NGO lawyers are more critical when it comes to sexual minorities: only 22% of them think that the police take effective measures when LGBT community representatives address them (see Chart 6). Compared to 2016, more NGO lawyers now evaluate the police as more effective. In 2016, only 10 percent said that the police treated LGBT community representatives mainly or fully effectively. 22 percent said the same regarding ethnic minority representatives, 18 percent regarding religious minority representatives, and 20 percent regarding women.⁵

⁵ These numbers differ from those in Indicator 2 because: (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refuse to answer’ responses; (2) percentages in the indicator combine multiple questions about the treatment of several minority and non-minority groups by more than one legal institution; (3) in the indicator, percentages of all lawyers (private, NGO, and LAS) are presented jointly. For a detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

Chart 6

When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? (% effectively)

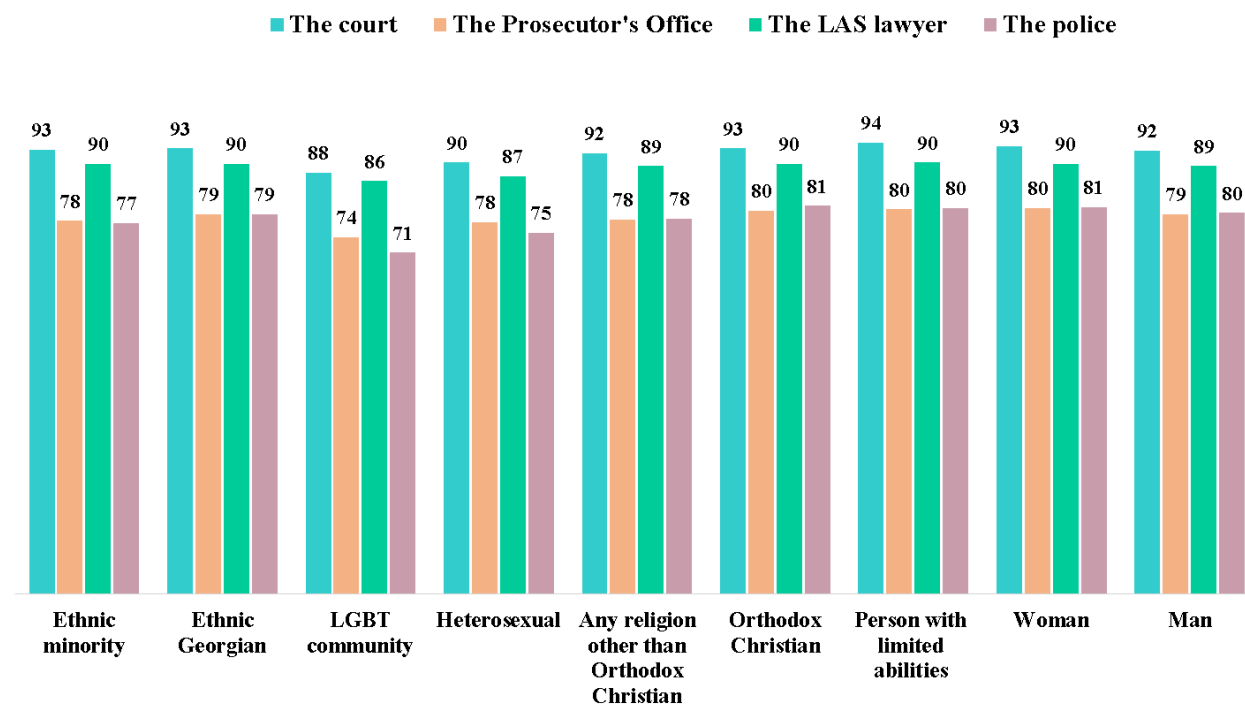


Protection of Presumption of Innocence

The survey also asked the respondents to evaluate to what extent the court, the Prosecutor’s Office, the LAS lawyers, and the police protect the right of different groups to the presumption of innocence. Overall, most of the respondents report that the presumption of innocence is protected by all actors. However, the respondents more frequently say that the court and the LAS lawyers protect the presumption of innocence than the Prosecutor’s Office and the police (see Chart 7).

Chart 7

In your experience, to what extent does the court/the Prosecutor's Office/the LAS lawyer/the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? (% protects)



Affordability of Justice

Quantitative research demonstrated that many legal professionals believe the justice system's affordability to be a problem. Only judges (78%) tend to think that the justice system is affordable for citizens. A fifth of lawyers (20%) and less than half of prosecutors (47%) say the same.⁶ More specifically, when respondents assess the affordability of private lawyers' services, the majority of judges (72%) think that it is affordable for citizens. Only 39% of private lawyers, 15% of NGO lawyers, and 28% of LAS lawyers share the same opinion. As for prosecutors, less than half of them agree that private lawyers' services are affordable for citizens.⁷

As for affordability of court fees, similar to 2016, less than half of all legal professionals (except judges) think that court fees are mainly or totally affordable: 35% of lawyers, 34% of NGO lawyers, and 44% of LAS lawyers agreeing to this statement. However, almost three-fourths

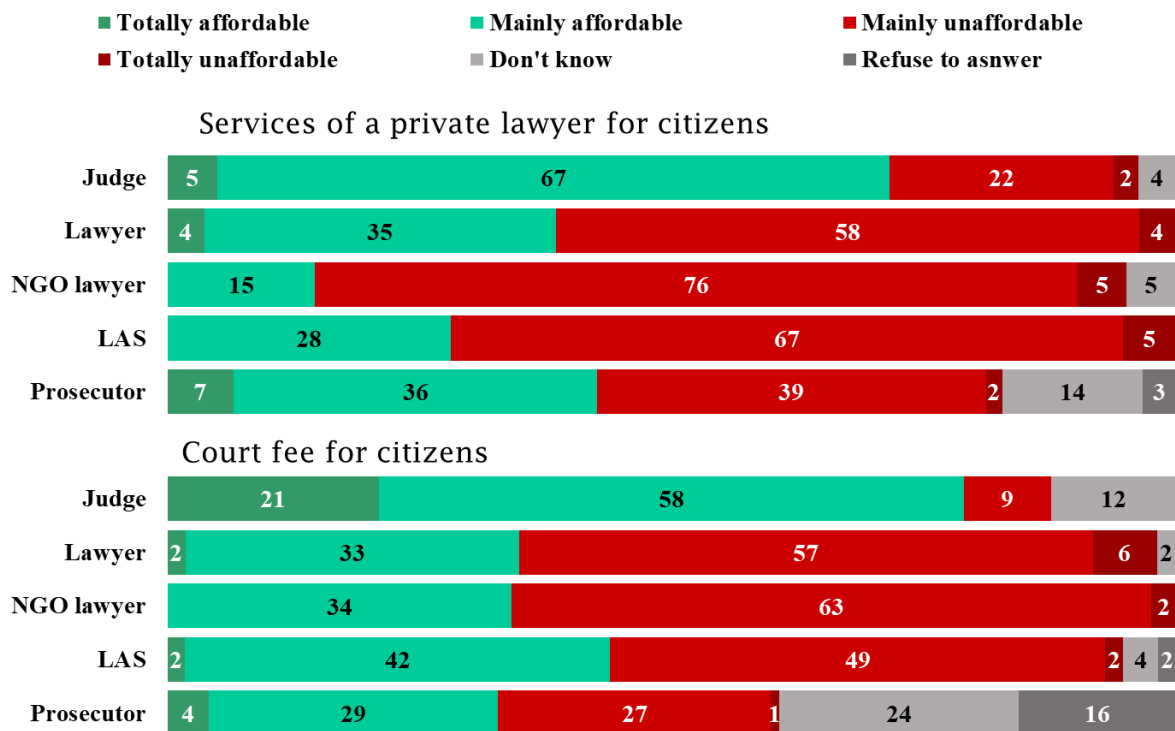
⁶ The percentage is calculated from the indicators. See Annex 2.

⁷ These numbers differ from those in Indicator 2 because: (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding 'Don't know' and 'Refuse to answer' responses; (2) percentages in the indicator take into consideration two questions (affordability of private lawyers and affordability of court fees), whereas the figures above reflect only affordability of private lawyers; (3) in the indicator, percentages of all lawyers (private, NGO and LAS) are presented jointly. For a detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

of the judges (79%) stated that court fees are mainly or fully affordable for citizens (see Chart 8).⁸

Chart 8

How affordable or unaffordable are services of a private lawyer for regular citizens of Georgia/the court fee for citizens?



⁸ These numbers differ from those in Indicator 2 because: (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refuse to answer’ responses; (2) percentages in the indicator take into consideration two questions (affordability of private lawyers and affordability of court fees), whereas the figures above reflect only affordability of court fees; (3) in the indicator, percentages of all lawyers (private, NGO, and LAS) are presented jointly. For a detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

**Indicator 2: Positive assessment of citizens’ access to justice system
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)**

A large majority of judges and prosecutors positively assess citizens’ ability to benefit from the protection that the justice system offers; an even larger majority of judges and prosecutors assess justice institutions’ treatment of minority groups as equal and the presumption of innocence as protected by courts. The majority of lawyers also give a positive evaluation to the court’s protection of the presumption of innocence. However, only slightly more than half of lawyers have positive assessments of citizens’ ability to benefit from the justice system. Affordability of justice was seen by all actors of the court process as the most problematic issue. Nevertheless, compared to 2016, more respondents now assess citizens’ access to justice system positively. The exception is lawyers, fewer of whom (20%) positively assess the affordability of justice system for citizens than in 2016.

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Average of responses regarding citizens’ ability to benefit from the protection that the justice system offers	82% (107)	93% (75)	56% (304)	61% (123)	79% (99)	82% (96)
Equal treatment	97% (108)	100% (81)	63% (309)	73% (151)	96% (102)	99% (121)
Presumption of innocence	98% (105)	100% (81)	80% (295)	90% (177)	97% (102)	100% (119)
Affordability	52% (108)	78% (63)	26% (309)	20% (42)	45% (93)	47% (47)

**For a detailed explanation of indicator calculations see Annex 2.*

*** In indicator calculations, those who either answered “Don’t Know” or did not answer the question (“non-responders”) were excluded from the calculation.*

**** In indicator calculations, lawyers (private, NGO and LAS) are presented jointly.*

3. Assessment of Quality of Legal Education

Key Findings

- The majority of legal professionals positively assess the existing theoretical legal education and agree with the statement that law departments of Georgian universities provide graduates with sufficient theoretical knowledge. Only about half of NGO lawyers think the same.
- The majority of legal professionals also positively assess the existing practical legal education. NGO lawyers are an exception; only one third of them share the same

opinion. Compared to 2016, the share of the judges with positive views of the practical legal education has increased.

- Similar to 2016, over a third of respondents report that the degree to which university education in law prepares graduates to pass specialized qualification exams (lawyer, judge, and prosecutor) is “average.” In 2019, about one third of respondents assess universities in the component of preparation for qualification exams positively. The exception is NGO lawyers, the majority of whom say that Georgian universities prepare graduates poorly for the qualification exams.
- In qualitative interviews, judges and prosecutors highlighted improvements in Georgian university legal education and noted the need to increase focus on practical skills and internship opportunities for students. Lawyers were more skeptical, and spoke about low qualifications of lecturers and large differences between universities in terms of quality of education.
- Levels of education and competence of practicing legal professionals was assessed as “average” by most respondents. Judges said that prosecutors demonstrated higher levels of education and qualifications than lawyers and investigators. Prosecutors named investigation as one of the main current problems. Some lawyers expressed discontent with the qualifications of judges, who were so loaded with cases that they had no time for professional development.
- Lawyers were not satisfied with the qualification levels of many other lawyers, and suggested having regular qualification exams (once every five years or more frequently) and compiling rating lists in order to improve their competence.
- Prosecutors and judges were satisfied with the continuous legal education opportunities provided by the Prosecutor’s Office and High School of Justice. Lawyers saw improvements in continuous legal education provided by the Georgian Bar Association; however, some of them found the topics irrelevant or were unhappy that not everyone was able to attend trainings by high-level professionals (as trainings usually consisted of 20-25 attendees).
- One lawyer expressed the need to have the same trainers providing training for lawyers, judges, and prosecutors in order to have common understanding of legal issues and common practice.

The majority of legal professionals (around 51% to 81% of most legal professionals, except NGO lawyers (46%)) say that the law departments of Georgian universities mainly or fully provide graduates with sufficient theoretical knowledge. But respondents mostly disagree that graduates are provided with sufficient practical skills: only 17% of NGO lawyers, 32% of private lawyers, 44% of LAS lawyers, and 48% of prosecutors mainly or fully agree that law graduates have sufficient practical skills to start legal practice (see Chart 9).⁹ In contrast, the majority of judges (63%) say that graduates from Georgian universities have the necessary

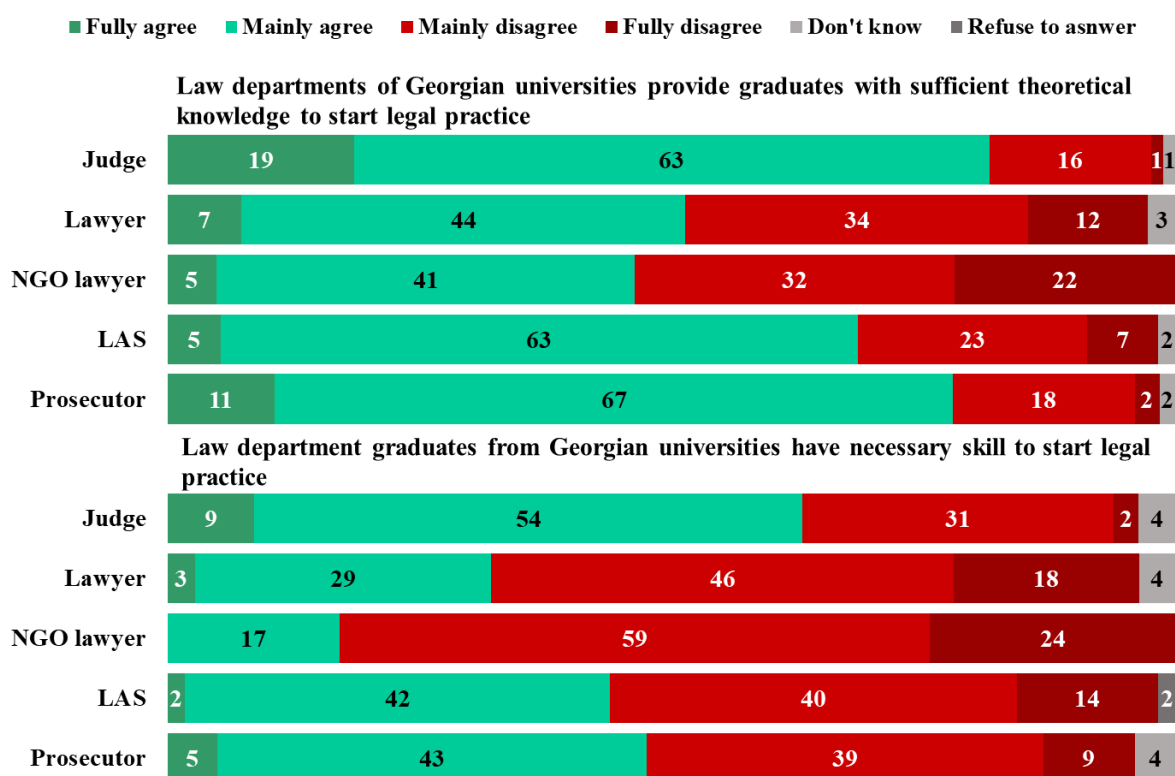
⁹ These numbers differ from those in Indicator 3 because (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding ‘Don’t know’ and ‘Refuse to answer’ responses; (2) for the assessment of theoretical legal education, the indicator combines two questions (one on whether law department graduates have enough theoretical knowledge and another on whether a university education prepares graduates for specialized qualification exams); (3) in the indicator, percentages of all lawyers (private, NGO, LAS) are presented jointly. For a detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

skills to start legal practice. Compared to 2016, the share of judges who agree with the statements about Georgian universities giving theoretical and practical knowledge to graduates has increased, while views of other legal professionals about universities have not changed much.

The respondents were also asked to assess how well Georgian universities prepare graduates for specialized qualification exams (lawyer, judge, and prosecutor). Similar to 2016, over a third of the respondents (42% in 2016, 39% in 2019) think that university education in law averagely prepares graduates to pass specialized qualification exams. Around a third of the respondents (32%) say that it prepares graduates well or very well. The exception is NGO lawyers: the majority (56%) thinks that Georgian universities prepare graduates poorly for the qualification exams.

Chart 9

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (%)



In qualitative interviews, judges and prosecutors note improvements in university education. They say students now have more learning opportunities and more students are taking advantage of them. However, the lack of practice still remains as a shortcoming in tertiary legal education. Both judges and prosecutors outline the need to have more practicing professionals teaching at universities and more university partnerships with legal institutions to provide internship opportunities to students.

“We have a faulty court and it hinders professional development of lawyers, judges, prosecutors. Maybe we will live to the time when courts serve their function. When the court is on a high level, there will be a market demand for [high-level] lawyers, prosecutors, investigators, and judges.”
(Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

Lawyers were more skeptical about legal education in current universities of Georgia. They said that there are large differences in the quality of education in different universities. In many higher education institutions, the qualification of lecturers is not high (at the Batumi State University, for example, there is no PhD program in law since there are hardly any PhD-holding lecturers) and only distinguished students who work on self-development manage to gain sufficient theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Lawyers also underline that practical skills and practical application of legal norms should be the focus of university education. In addition, lawyers in Akhaltsikhe complained about bright students leaving the region for the capital.

As for the level of education and competence of practicing legal professionals, judges said that lawyers and investigators demonstrate lower levels of education and qualification compared to prosecutors. Prosecutors also outlined the problem of investigation and said that it would be better if investigators were required to have legal education. In focus groups, some lawyers were not happy with judges’ qualifications. However, they explained judge’s qualifications by their lack of time due to heavy workloads, which prevented them from having time for professional development or following recent updates in legal approaches. Lawyers criticized the level of qualification of other lawyers, and said that certain measures need to be taken to improve the common level of competence among lawyers. For example, they suggested having qualification exams every five years or even more frequently and compiling a rating list of lawyers.

Regarding continuous legal education, prosecutors said they had many training opportunities within their institution and they were satisfied with the quality. Judges reiterated that the High School of Justice (HSoJ) regularly provides trainings for them and holds surveys to select the most relevant topics. However, judges do not always have time to attend trainings due to their workload. Judges also mentioned certain improvements in the work of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA). Lawyers confirmed that GBA works better now than it used to and that continuous legal education opportunities are available for lawyers. Some lawyers were unhappy with the relevance of topics or the scale of trainings (as only 20-25 people were able to attend a training, and many lawyers were not able to sign up for trainings delivered by high-level professionals). Lawyers in some regions mentioned paid trainings

“Whoever conducts trainings—they have trainings in courts, at the Prosecutor’s Office—the same people should hold trainings for lawyers, so that there is common practice and common understanding [of legal issues]. So that the training is not from the perspective of judges or prosecutors but is based on reality, on fundamental legal principles.”

(LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

provided by private organizations, which were often too expensive and unaffordable. A LAS lawyer in Akhaltsikhe highlighted the need to have the same trainers and training content for lawyers, judges, and prosecutors in order for all three legal professionals to have a common understanding of legal issues and common practices.

Indicator 3: Assessment of the quality of legal education as adequate for market demand (Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)

Among legal professionals, judges and prosecutors had the most positive views of the existing theoretical and practical legal education, with slightly more than half giving positive assessments. Compared to 2016, more judges evaluate legal education positively. The majority of lawyers did not provide positive evaluations to legal education, either theoretical or practical.

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Assessment of legal education – theoretical	29% (31)	56% (45)	25% (76)	24% (48)	58% (56)	52% (62)
Assessment of legal education – practical	38% (41)	65% (51)	29% (86)	33% (67)	51% (47)	50% (58)

* For a detailed explanation of indicator calculations see Annex 2.

** In indicator calculations, those who either answered “Don’t Know” or did not answer the question (“non-responders”) were excluded from the calculation.

*** In indicator calculations, lawyers (private, NGO, and LAS) are presented jointly.

4. Assessment of Justice System Institutions

Key Findings

- Most legal professionals are aware of the work done by different justice system institutions.
- Most institutions were considered mainly transparent in their work. However, only judges tended to think that the Judges Association of Georgia, the Independent Inspector, and the Disciplinary Collegium of Judges were fully or mainly transparent. Compared to 2016, more NGO and GBA lawyers assessed the work of the High Council of Justice (HCoJ) as non-transparent.
- More than a half of the NGO lawyers think that the work of the HSoJ and the Prosecutor’s Office is not transparent.
- Most respondents think that the work of legal institutions is well-organized. NGO lawyers appeared more critical in their assessments than other groups. The majority of NGO lawyers consider the work of the HCoJ, courts, and the Prosecutor’s Office as

mainly badly or very badly organized, while the majority of GBA and LAS lawyers report the opposite.

- Most respondents positively assess the following institutions: the state-funded legal aid service, GBA, courts, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor’s Office, and legal aid provided by NGOs. Lawyers assess most institutions critically, except the institutions that are directly connected to them. The majority of prosecutors positively assess the performance of almost all institutions. Most judges also positively assess all mentioned legal institutions.
- All respondents indicated the problem of case overload in courts and the scarcity of judges, which often leads to increased case length. Lawyers pointed out that this is problematic in courts of all instances.
- Lawyers outlined the need to have a common practice and to not have different decisions on similar cases within a month’s time. This would help them foresee judges’ perspective of cases and plan their work accordingly.
- Prosecutors stressed the need to improve the quality of investigation. One suggestion in that regard is requiring investigators to have legal education. Prosecutors welcomed the division of investigative and operational units of the police and spoke about dividing functions between prosecutors and investigators.

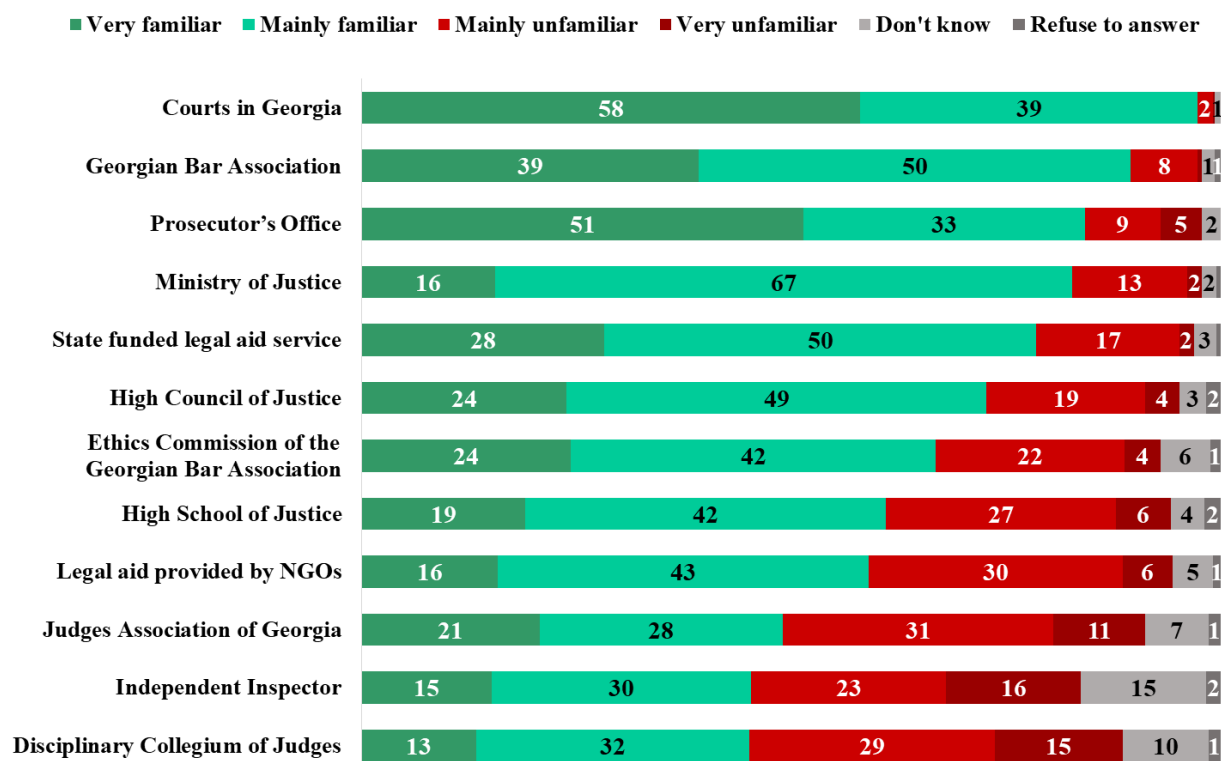
Awareness

Most legal professionals are aware of the work done by different justice system institutions: Courts (97%), Georgian Bar Association (GBA) (90%), the Prosecutor’s Office (84%), the Ministry of Justice (83%), the state-funded legal aid service (79%), the HCoJ (73%), Ethics Commission of GBA (67%), and the HSoJ (61%).

Most respondents are unfamiliar with the work of the Judges Association of Georgia, the Independent Inspector, the Disciplinary Collegium of Judges, and the Association of Judges “Unity” (see Chart 10). Only judges tended to say that they are familiar with work of the Judges Association of Georgia, the Independent Inspector, and the Disciplinary Collegium of Judges. However, even judges are mostly unfamiliar with the work of the Association of Judges “Unity.”

Chart 10

For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? (%)

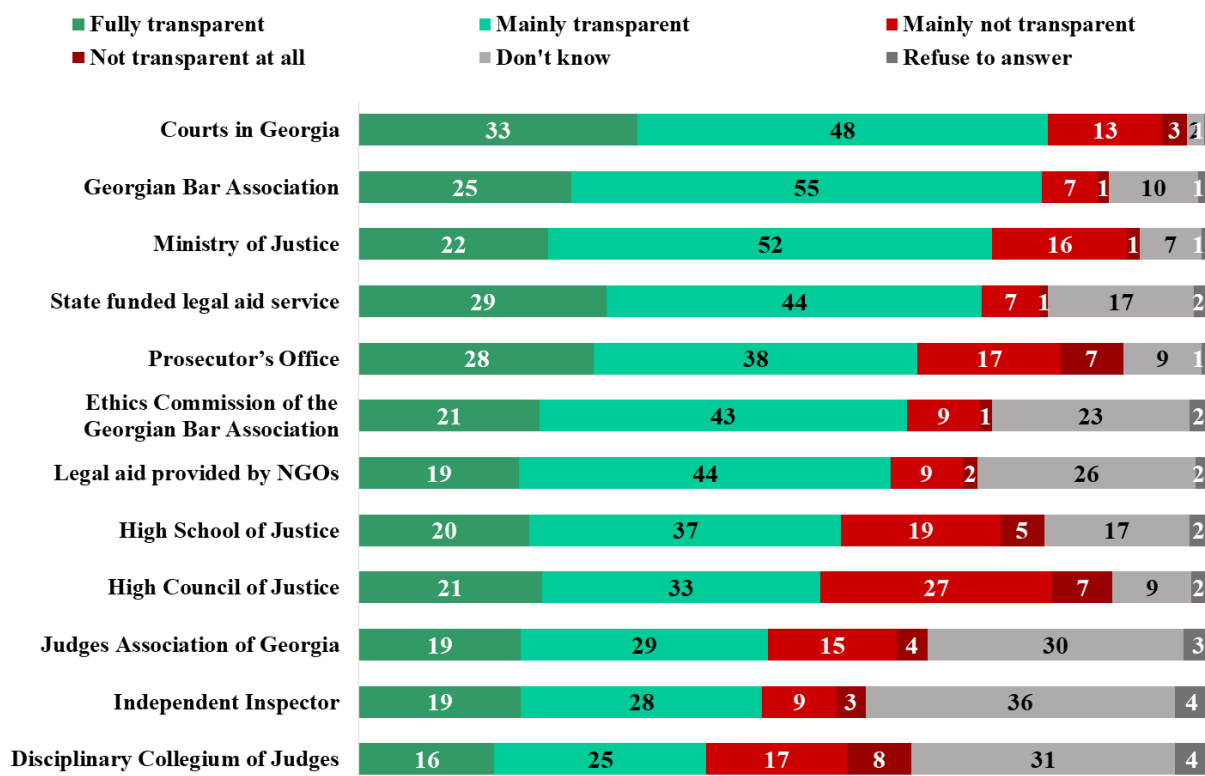


Transparency

Legal professionals were asked to assess the transparency of legal institutions. Similar to 2016, most institutions were considered mainly transparent in their work (see Chart 11). The majority of respondents say that courts in Georgia (81%), Georgian Bar Association (80%), Ministry of Justice (74%), state-funded legal aid service (73%), the Prosecutor's Office (66%), the legal aid provided by NGOs (62%), the Ethics Commission of GBA (64%), the High School of Justice (57%), and the High Council of Justice (54%) are transparent.

Chart 11

In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? (%)



Only judges tended to think that the Judges Association of Georgia (96%), the Independent Inspector (98%), and the Disciplinary Collegium of Judges (90%) work fully or mainly transparently.

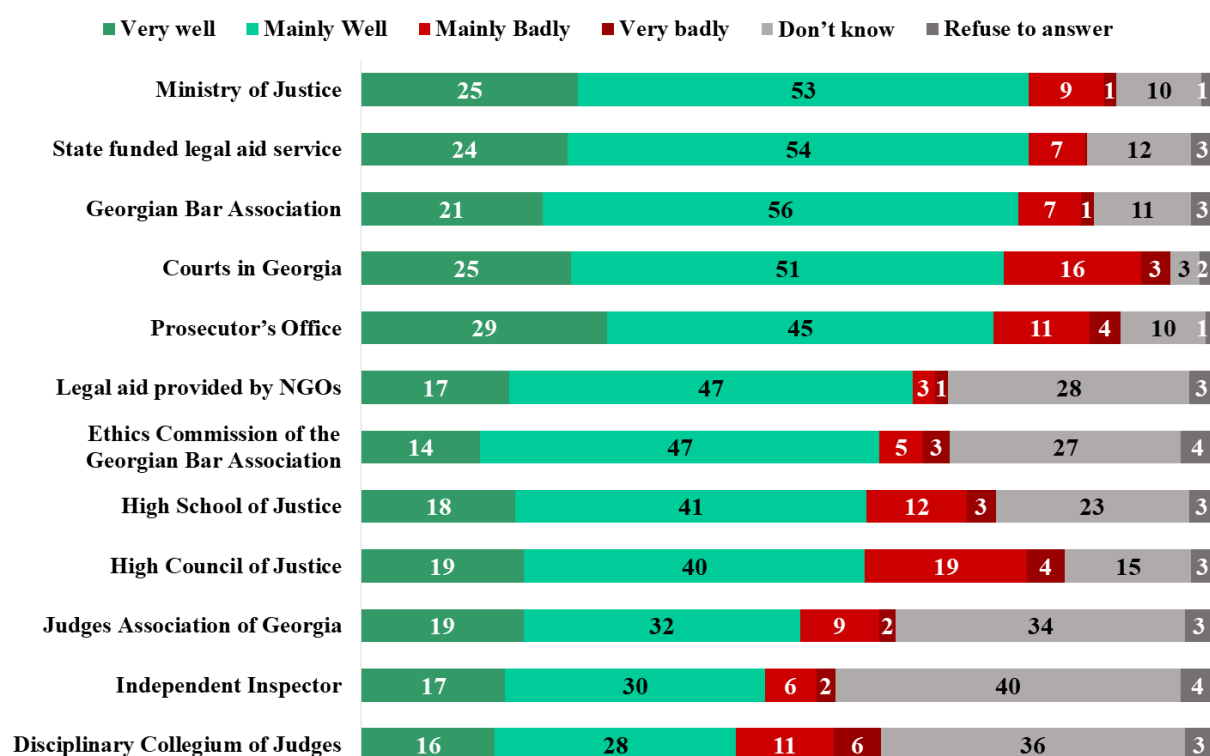
As for the work of the other institutions, almost all judges (99%) and more than half of prosecutors (55-57%) report that the work of the High School of Justice and the High Council of Justice is fully or mainly transparent. However, the work of the HCoJ was assessed as mainly not transparent or not transparent at all by most NGO lawyers (90%), half of private lawyers (50%), and more than one-third of the LAS lawyers (39%). This is an increase from 2016, when 67% of NGO lawyers and 43% of private lawyers assessed the work of the HCoJ as non-transparent. In addition to this, more than half of the NGO lawyers think that the work of the HSoJ (51%) and the Prosecutor's Office (68%) is not transparent.

Organization of Work

The surveyed legal professionals were asked to assess how well the justice institutions' work is organized. Most respondents think that the work of most legal institutions is well-organized. However, less than half of the respondents consider that the work of the Independent Inspector, the Disciplinary Collegium of Judges, and the Judges Association "Unity" is well-organized. (see Chart 12)

Chart 12

In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? (%)



The NGO lawyers appeared the most critical in their assessments. The majority of them report that work of the High Council of Justice (71%), courts (63%), and the Prosecutor's Office (59%) is mainly badly or very badly organized, while the majority of GBA and LAS lawyers report the opposite.

Performance

The surveyed legal professionals assessed the performance of justice system institutions. Most respondents positively assess the following institutions: the state-funded legal aid service (69%), Georgian Bar Association (65%), courts (61%), Ministry of Justice (61%), Prosecutor's Office (59%), and legal aid provided by NGOs (56%) (see Chart 13).

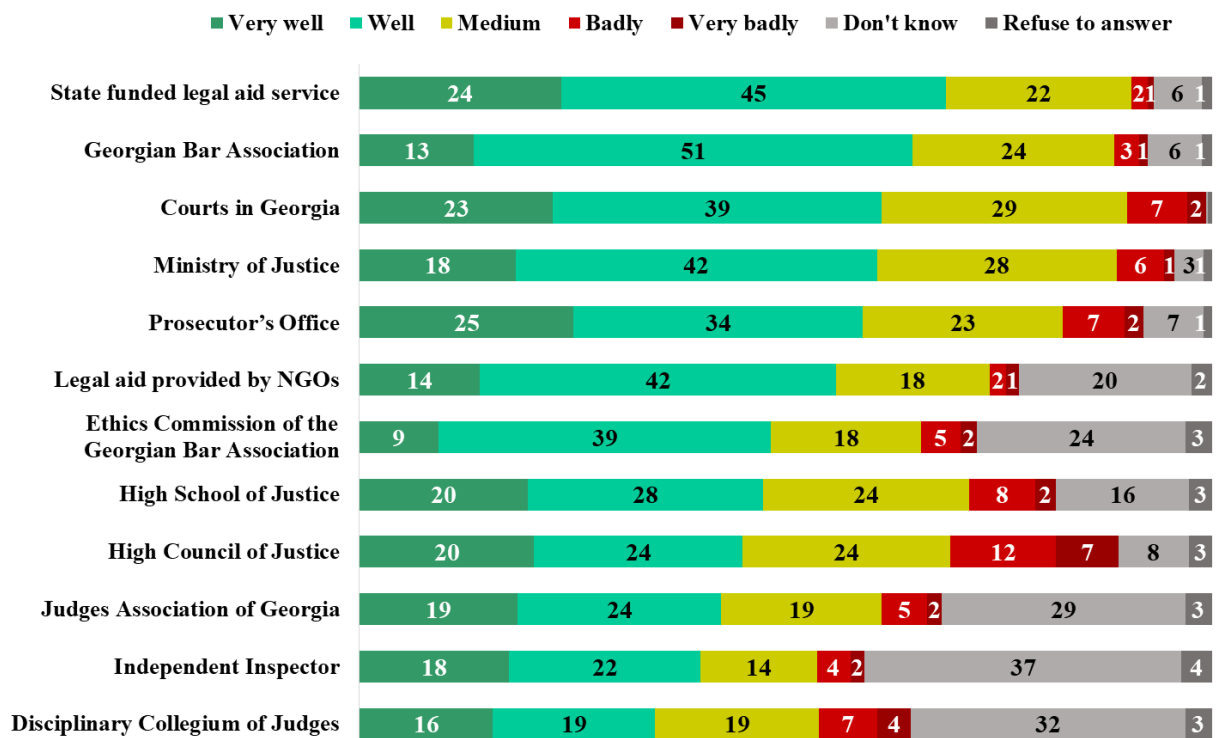
Overall, similar to 2016, lawyers assess most institutions critically, except the institutions that are directly connected to them. Lawyers positively assess the legal aid provided by NGOs (72%), LAS (66%), GBA (70%), and the Ethics Commission of GBA (72%). The majority of prosecutors positively assess the performance of most institutions. However, less than half of them (48%) say that the Ethics Commission of GBA performs well or very well.¹⁰ As for

¹⁰ These numbers differ from those in Indicator 4 because: (1) percentages in the indicator are calculated excluding 'Don't know' and 'Refuse to answer' responses; (2) in the indicator, percentages of all lawyers (private, NGO, and LAS) are presented jointly. For the detailed description of indicators, see Annex 2.

judges, most of them positively assess all legal institutions in the survey. Compared to 2016, more judges assess Georgian Bar Association positively (47% in 2016, 80% in 2019).¹¹

Chart 13

Please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? (%)



In qualitative interviews and focus groups, respondents were asked to name the main challenges of justice institutions that need to be improved to deliver better justice. Similar to 2016, all types of respondents—lawyers, judges, and prosecutors—named case overload in courts and the insufficient number of judges as the main challenge. These factors increase the time for processing the cases and sometimes it takes years for a court case to reach the final decision. Lawyers emphasized that this problem was relevant not only to city/district courts but also to courts of appeal and even the Supreme Court.

“I had an anniversary two years ago. An administrative dispute, 28 sq. m. property registration, turned 10 years old. We were in the first instance court; now the case is in the second instance.”
(Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

Lawyers find it very challenging that there is a lack of common practice in Georgian courts. On cases that are very similar there may be different decisions, even within a month’s time.

¹¹ The percentage is calculated from the indicators. See Annex 2.

Again, this problem is on both the first and second instance of courts. This complicates lawyers' work, as they cannot predict perspectives on the case and it often depends on an individual judge. Additionally, in Akhaltsikhe, lawyers expressed their concern about certain bias of judges towards the state when represented either by administrative bodies or the Prosecutor's Office.

Judges and prosecutors reiterated the need to have more qualified staff in courts as well as in the police and investigation units of the Interior Ministry. Prosecutors are most in favor of improving qualification of investigators. They welcomed the division of investigative and operational units at the police and wished for more investigators with legal education background.

In focus group discussions, lawyers assessed the work of the Ethics Commission of GBA mostly positively. Many of them had no personal experience of filing a complaint to the Ethics Commission; however, they were aware of the Ethics Commission's decisions and approved of them. Along with assessments of the Ethics Commission, lawyers discussed the current situation in terms of ethics. Lawyers in Akhaltsikhe highlighted the problem, saying that lawyers not only act unethically by insulting their colleagues, but also by deceiving clients to get more honoraria.

“Case overload in courts is artificial and HCoJ along with the legislative body should take responsibility for it. [For] an outer person such as a highly qualified lawyer, who has not worked in the system, is not a former judge or judge assistant, or a prosecutor, entering the [court] system is almost unimaginable... There are many willing to start the HSoJ, participate in the contest and become a judge but if a person is not from their [HCoJ] close circle, a regular citizen who may be highly qualified and have years of experience, good reputation, such a citizen does not have the opportunity to enter the system.”

(NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 3 years' experience, Batumi)

See the detailed summary of the qualitative component in Annex 4.

Indicator 4: Assessment of justice institutions

(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)

Actors in the court process tend to give positive assessments to the institutions directly related to them. Generally, judges and prosecutors express positive attitudes more often than lawyers do. Lawyers, who were mostly critical and did not evaluate justice institutions positively, gave the highest evaluations to the Georgian Bar Association, NGO legal aid, and the state legal aid service.

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Ministry of Justice	78% (104)	94% (67)	47% (300)	43% (88)	99% (96)	81% (94)
High Council of Justice	88% (108)	100% (80)	22% (275)	25% (48)	67% (81)	59%* (56)
High School of Justice	88% (106)	99% (78)	37%* (232)	35%* (58)	70%* (76)	65%* (58)
Legal Aid Service (LAS)	74% (96)	91% (70)	64% (270)	66% (130)	85% (97)	76% (82)
NGO legal aid	73%* (85)	90%* (47)	66% (278)	72% (136)	65%* (66)	60%* (46)
Courts of Georgia	94% (105)	100% (81)	40% (303)	38% (78)	79% (100)	77% (92)
Prosecutor's Office	61% (92)	94% (68)	23% (275)	33% (61)	100% (99)	93% (113)
Georgian Bar Association	47% (99)	80% (56)	73% (304)	70% (145)	62% (92)	63% (65)
Judges Association of Georgia	83% (104)	99% (80)	39%* (179)	38%* (53)	69%* (54)	68%* (41)
Judges Association "Unity"	62%* (78)	68%* (15)	36%* (110)	30%* (20)	62%* (39)	64%* (23)
***** Independent Inspector		100% (78)		39%* (41)		74%* (45)
***** Disciplinary Collegium of Judges		99% (78)		26%* (35)		59%* (29)
***** Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association		70%* (30)		72% (138)		48%* (30)

* Percent of respondents who answered "Don't know" or abstained from answering exceeds 20-73%.

** For a detailed explanation of indicator calculations see Annex 2.

*** In indicator calculations, those who either answered "Don't Know" or did not answer the question ("non-responders") were excluded from the calculation.

**** In indicator calculations, lawyers (private, NGO, and LAS) are presented jointly.

***** These questions were not asked in 2016.

5. Mediation

Key Findings

- Most lawyers and judges have no experience with mediation. However, they assess the mechanism positively as they believe it will ease the workload of courts, lead to more timely resolution of cases, and let parties reach an agreement.
- The only judge in Tbilisi who had sent several cases to the mediation court had negative feedback, since all of the cases were later returned to the court.
- Prosecutors have little connection with mediation since it is considered less often for criminal law cases. However, their expectations are positive and they believe court mediation would be effective in minor disputes and save court resources.
- When discussing which types of cases would be appropriate for mediation, lawyers named family disputes, divorces, and inheritance- and property-related cases where the relationship between the sides does not end with the dispute.
- Judges say mediation should be mandatory for disputes that does not exceed 5,000 Gel.
- Both judges and lawyers say mediation needs more promotion.

Mediation was a new topic added to the study in 2019, and it was only asked during focus groups with lawyers and qualitative interviews with judges and prosecutors.

Lawyers in all four cities had mostly positive views about mediation. However, most of them had no experience using it themselves. They said there was more open communication in mediation and it led to faster resolution of cases. They said other benefits included lower fees and more chances of achieving more to the benefit of both sides. At the same time, it could be an effective mechanism to ease the workload of courts. An NGO lawyer in Tbilisi said that in a good case, a court should be doing the job, and judges should have increased authority to negotiate and settle cases. Some of the lawyers in Batumi and Rustavi said that mediation needed more promotion and advertising. It was also mentioned that in order for mediation to work people should have more understanding of legal issues and more trust. There was only one doubtful opinion in Rustavi saying, mediation was not a well-developed institution and questioning how mediation courts could decide cases when even traditional courts had trouble doing so.

Lawyers in four cities named the following types of cases that could be transferred to the mediation court: cases related to family issues, divorces, heritage and property distribution, cases with banks, and cases when “relationship between the sides does not end there.”¹² Many lawyers noted that mediation could be used in all kinds of cases.

Most judges did not have experience working on cases given to the mediation court, because for now this is only accessible in Tbilisi. A civil law judge from Tbilisi mentioned that he had a couple of cases, but they did not end successfully and returned to the court. Generally, judges have positive expectations of mediation and say that it will be a good alternative for cases like

¹² LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe

domestic, inheritance, and neighbor disputes when parties have to communicate with each other after the case is completed. This institution ensures a timely solution to the problem and considers an agreement that is acceptable for both parties according to judges. But court mediation needs to be popularized because people still prefer to go to the court, since they have greater trust in it. Judges noted that in first stage courts, mediation could be mandatory for certain cases (e.g. if a dispute does not exceed 5000 GEL) and this policy would reduce the huge workload of the court.

Court mediation mainly applies to civil law cases, so prosecutors could only speak about this alternative in general terms. They view court mediation positively, especially when it comes to minor disputes which use court resources for months. If a citizen wants to resolve an issue with a neighbor, they should prefer a timely solution via mediation instead of the court decision that could take years. Prosecutors also noted that mediation takes into consideration the opinions of both parties and takes decisions accordingly. Cases that would be reasonable to give to mediation before court trial on a mandatory basis could be marital disputes, issues related to child support, and other cases that could be settled by reaching an agreement between disputing parties.

Some prosecutors mentioned a diversion and mediation program that is mostly used towards juveniles who have committed a minor offense for the first time and admit to the crime. They said that this program works effectively.

Conclusion

The study has demonstrated that certain aspects of the judicial system are seen differently by legal professionals. Generally, all surveyed groups (judges, lawyers, prosecutors) were particularly positive towards their own institutions. Overall, prosecutors and judges tended to have a more positive view of judicial institutions compared to lawyers. Among lawyers, NGO lawyers proved to be the most critical.

With regards to civil and administrative law, the majority of legal professionals report that balance between parties is similar both in legislation and in practice. However, in criminal law lawyers see themselves as less equal than the prosecution. Prosecutors and judges have an opposing view, i.e. they see the accusing party as equal with the defense party.

Some issues had more consensus among legal professionals. Almost all of them agree that the case overload in courts is an issue for the judiciary. Another issue raised by many legal professionals is the qualification of different justice system representatives. According to judges, lawyers' qualifications are not satisfactory and need to be improved. Prosecutors highlighted the necessity of improving the level of investigation. As for lawyers, some of them expressed critical views on the qualifications of the majority of lawyers and judges.

Quantitative research revealed several interesting trends about citizens benefitting from the justice system, including their treatment by justice institutions (the courts, the Prosecutor's Office, LAS lawyers, and the police), the effectiveness of institutions, protection of the presumption of innocence, and affordability of justice. The study also focused on whether these results varied depending on whether a citizen belonged to a minority group or a mainstream group living in the Georgian society.

The treatment towards minority and vulnerable groups was not seen as a major problem by most legal professionals, with the exception of NGO lawyers, who saw problems with the treatment of minority groups within the justice system.

The affordability of courts was also seen as a barrier for citizens by most legal professionals. Only judges tend to consider the justice system affordable for citizens.

Most legal professionals positively assessed the quality of legal education (both theoretical and practical) provided by universities in Georgia. The exception was NGO lawyers, who opposed this view, especially in terms of practical skills.

Legal professionals are aware of most judicial institutions and assess the transparency and organization of their work mostly positively. Once again, NGO lawyers are an exception: the majority of them consider the work of HSoJ and the Prosecutor's Office as not transparent and the work of HCoJ, courts, and the Prosecutor's Office as badly organized.

Even though legal professionals had little experience with mediation, they expressed positive expectations regarding this mechanism and said it could ease the workload of courts and ensure quick and effective resolution of cases.

Appendices

Annex 1 – Methodology

As part of the Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG) program, CRRC-Georgia (Caucasus Research Resource Center) conducted a study in April-May 2019, which repeated the 2016 study of legal professionals and aimed at highlighting any change in the last three years. The study of spring 2019 consisted of a survey of legal professionals (face-to-face survey with lawyers and judges using a CAPI – Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing method; online self-administered survey with prosecutors), focus groups with lawyers and qualitative interviews with judges and prosecutors. Based on one of the sub-purposes of the PROLoG program – improving access to justice for marginalized citizens, in particular women and ethnic and sexual minorities – the study focused on Tbilisi and three regions outside the capital: Adjara, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. The study explored five topics:

- Balance between disputing parties in courts
- Possibility of all citizens to benefit from the protection justice system offers
- Quality of legal education
- Performance of justice system institutions
- Mediation.¹³

Quantitative component: survey with legal professionals

Survey with legal professionals targeted all three actors of the court process: lawyers (private lawyers, NGO lawyers and LAS - legal aid service lawyers), practicing judges of city courts and courts of appeal and practicing prosecutors. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with lawyers and judges using a CAPI method and an online self-administered survey with prosecutors. The same survey instrument was used in all three cases.

Survey with lawyers

The survey with lawyers was conducted between the period of **April 12 2019 and May 5 2019**. Overall **207 lawyers** were interviewed (109 private lawyers, 41 NGO lawyers and 57 LAS lawyers).

In case of private lawyers, it was a panel survey and CRRC attempted to interview the same respondents as in 2016. Back in 2016, private lawyers and NGO lawyers were selected using the simple random sampling method.

In case of LAS lawyers, the sampling frame of LAS lawyers was the list of all lawyers working in the state-provided legal aid service bureaus provided to CRRC-Georgia by the LAS. Overall, there were 125 lawyers as of April 2019. CRRC-Georgia selected 100 lawyers randomly (simple random sampling selection method was used through a “rand()” function in Excel) and attempted interviews with them.

¹³ Mediation was a new topic added for the 2019 study.

Survey with judges

The survey with judges was conducted between **April 12 2019 and May 3 2019**. Overall **81 judges** were interviewed.

CRRC-Georgia compiled the list of judges from websites of courts and selected judges from the list randomly (simple random sampling selection method was used through a “rand()” function in Excel). From the list of 246 acting judges in city courts and courts of appeal around Georgia, CRRC-Georgia selected 160 judges and attempted interviews with them. The High Council of Justice provided CRRC with contact information of court managers and notified them about the survey. It should be noted that it was not always possible to interview judges from the sample as some of the courts arranged meetings with different judges.

Online survey with prosecutors

The online survey with prosecutors was conducted between **April 11-22 2019**. Overall, **122 prosecutors** were interviewed.¹⁴

The Prosecutor’s Office cooperated with CRRC and following the instructions of the sampling expert randomly selected around 150 prosecutors from all regions. The Prosecutor’s Office sent out emails with the letter and link to the survey and a contact person’s number at CRRC-Georgia for questions. For the online self-administered survey CRRC-Georgia used the website esurvey.ge developed by CRRC-Georgia’s Research Director, on which an online questionnaire form based on ODK (Open Data Kit) and Enketo (online form distribution service) was uploaded.

Qualitative component: focus groups with lawyers, interviews with judges and prosecutors

Qualitative component of the study consisted of focus groups with lawyers (private lawyers, NGO lawyers and LAS lawyers) and qualitative interviews with judges and prosecutors. The fieldwork of the qualitative component took place between March 11 and May 3 2019. The same focus group/interview guide was used with all three types of respondents. One new topic, mediation, was added and several additional questions were asked to lawyers about the Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association.

Focus groups with lawyers

Four focus groups were conducted with lawyers in Tbilisi, Rustavi, Akhaltsikhe and Batumi between March 11-27 2019, one in each location. The groups consisted of a mixed composition of private lawyers, NGO lawyers and LAS lawyers (on average, 6 participants in each group). Participants were recruited by CRRC-Georgia supervisors and recruiters in respective regions.

¹⁴ Some of the sampled prosecutors experienced technical problems while opening the link possibly due to the internet browser version/restriction on their work computer. It might have increased the level of non-response.

Participants of focus groups received an incentive for attending the discussion (chocolate boxes). Focus groups were recorded and transcribed.

Interviews with judges and prosecutors

The qualitative component of the study considered two interviews with judges and prosecutors in Tbilisi and three regions of interest (Adjara, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti). Selection criteria was experience of working in that region. The High Council of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office assisted CRRC-Georgia in the selection of respondents and appointment of interviews.

Interviews with judges took place between April 12-May 3 2019 – overall, 7 interviews were conducted.¹⁵ Interviews with prosecutors took place on April 12-19 2019 – 8 prosecutors were interviewed. Interviews with judges and prosecutors were recorded and transcribed.

¹⁵ In Tbilisi, there was only one interview due to the extremely busy schedule of judges and time constraints of the study.

Annex 2 – Indicators Based on Legal Professionals’ Survey

To compare 2016 and 2019 data, the same variables are used for all the indicators.

(1) Percent of legal professionals who feel there is effective balance between disputing parties in courts

For this indicator we calculate the reported assessment of effective balance in criminal, civil and administrative courts separately.

To calculate legal professionals’ assessment of the laws affecting the practice of criminal law, we combine the responses on q1 with an agreement to statements about equal opportunities for obtaining evidence and equal access to the other party’s evidence (q3 and q4). The percent of positive assessments on q1, on the one hand, and the percent of positive assessments on q3 and q4, on the other hand, are averaged.¹⁶ For example, when calculating the assessment by judges of the laws affecting the practice of criminal law, 91% of respondents found that the criminal laws “fully” or “mainly” provided equity of arms (q1). With regard to evidence, 23% responded that both parties in criminal cases had an equal opportunity to gather evidence (q3) and 93% responded that both sides have equal access to each other’s evidence (q4), for an average positive assessment of 58%. The 91% assessment of the laws and the 58% assessment of the ability to gather evidence were averaged, resulting in a positive assessment of 75%.

For evaluations of how the equality of arms is observed in practice for criminal law cases we apply the same approach described above, averaging responses on q2 with an agreement to statements about equal opportunities for obtaining evidence and equal access to the other party’s evidence (q3 and q4).

The share of legal professionals with positive assessments is summarized in Table 1 below:

**Table 1. Assessment of equality of arms in criminal law
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)**

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Criminal laws provide equality of arms + questions on evidence	75% (65)	89% (60)	46% (126)	47% (91)	86% (87)	84% (103)
Equality of arms in observed in practice + questions on evidence	75% (64)	89% (62)	46% (123)	49% (90)	85% (86)	83% (102)

We also calculate legal professionals’ assessment of the equality of arms in civil law and administrative law, assessing each in terms of both legal provisions and the actual practice. Civil law is assessed using the percent of positive responses on q5 (equality of arms provided for civil cases under the law) and q6 (equality of arms for civil law cases in practice). The equality of arms provided by administrative law

¹⁶ In this and all other calculations, those who either answered “Don’t Know” or did not answer the question (“non-responders”) were excluded from the calculation. Special note is made when non-responders exceeded 20%.

is assessed using positive responses on q8, and equality of arms for administrative cases in practice is assessed using positive responses on q9.

The share of legal professionals for this part of Indicator 1 is summarized in Table 2 below:

**Table 2. Assessment of equality of arms in civil and administrative law
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)**

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Civil laws provide equality of arms	100% (101)	100% (69)	93% (279)	90% (170)	100%* (53)	98%* (48)
Equality of arms observed in practice in civil law cases	100% (101)	100% (71)	92% (270)	90% (166)	100%* (48)	97%* (38)
Administrative laws provide equality of arms	97% (94)	100% (69)	78% (277)	79% (151)	96%* (51)	98%* (45)
Equality of arms observed in practice in administrative law cases	99% (92)	100% (70)	78% (270)	73% (140)	94%* (50)	97%* (38)

* Percent of respondents, who answered “Don’t know” or abstained from answering exceeds 20%.

(2) Percent of legal professionals who feel citizens have the possibility to benefit from the protection the justice system offers

For this indicator we calculate the positive responses on eight different questions: four questions on the treatment of minority groups and their respective non-minority groups by the court, Prosecutor’s Office, Legal Aid Service (LAS) and police (q10, 11, 12, 13); one question on the protection of the presumption of innocence with regard to minority and their respective non-minority groups by the court (q14); and two questions on the affordability of private lawyers (q18) and court fees (q19). We then group those responses into three components: treatment, presumption of innocence, and affordability.

To calculate the overall indicator of citizens’ possibility to benefit from the justice system, we averaged percent of positive assessments for each of the three categories of questions and treated responses above the midpoint as positive assessments. Table 3 summarizes the results:

**Table 3. Assessment of access to justice system
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)**

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Average of responses regarding citizens’ possibility to benefit from the protection that the justice system offers	82% (107)	93% (75)	56% (304)	61% (123)	79% (99)	82% (96)
Equal treatment	97% (108)	100% (81)	63% (309)	73% (151)	96% (102)	99% (121)
Presumption of innocence	98% (105)	100% (81)	80% (295)	90% (177)	97% (102)	100% (119)
Affordability	52% (108)	78% (63)	26% (309)	20% (42)	45% (93)	47% (47)

(3) Percent of legal professionals who assess the quality of legal education as adequate for the market demand

We calculate two indicators using three questions about the theoretical and practical knowledge of university graduates and their preparedness for qualification exams. The index for theoretical knowledge averages responses on the 5-point scale and treats scores above the midpoint as positive. Assessment of practical knowledge is captured by a single question (q20_2). Results are summarized in Table 4:

Table 4. Assessment of the quality of legal education
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Assessment of legal education – theoretical	29% (31)	56% (45)	25% (76)	24% (48)	58% (56)	52% (62)
Assessment of legal education – practical	38% (41)	65% (51)	29% (86)	33% (67)	51% (47)	50% (58)

(4) Percent of legal professionals who positively assess the performance of justice system institutions:

The performance of the different justice system institutions is assessed separately using the percentage of positive assessments (“very well” and “well”) on q25. See the Table 5 below:

Table 5. Assessment of justice institutions
(Percent of positive assessments, number of responses in parentheses)

	Judges 2016	Judges 2019	Lawyers 2016	Lawyers 2019	Prosecutors 2016	Prosecutors 2019
Ministry of Justice	78% (104)	94% (67)	47% (300)	43% (88)	99% (96)	81% (94)
High Council of Justice	88% (108)	100% (80)	22% (275)	25% (48)	67% (81)	59%* (56)
High School of Justice	88% (106)	99% (78)	37%* (232)	35%* (58)	70%* (76)	65%* (58)
Legal Aid Service (LAS)	74% (96)	91% (70)	64% (270)	66% (130)	85% (97)	76% (82)
NGO legal aid	73%* (85)	90%* (47)	66% (278)	72% (136)	65%* (66)	60%* (46)
Courts of Georgia	94% (105)	100% (81)	40% (303)	38% (78)	79% (100)	77% (92)
Prosecutor's Office	61% (92)	94% (68)	23% (275)	33% (61)	100% (99)	93% (113)
Georgian Bar Association	47% (99)	80% (56)	73% (304)	70% (145)	62% (92)	63% (65)
Judges Association of Georgia	83% (104)	99% (80)	39%* (179)	38%* (53)	69%* (54)	68%* (41)

Judges Association "Unity"	62%* (78)	68%* (15)	36%* (110)	30%* (20)	62%* (39)	64%* (23)
** Independent Inspector		100% (78)		39%* (41)		74%* (45)
** Disciplinary Collegium of Judges		99% (78)		26%* (35)		59%* (29)
** Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association		70%* (30)		72% (138)		48%* (30)

* Percent of respondents, who answered "Don't know" or abstained from answering exceeds 20%.

** The questions were not asked in 2016.

Annex 3 – Survey Frequency Tables

q1. In your opinion, to what extent does the criminal law in Georgia provide or not provide equality of arms between the disputing parties?								
		Fully provides	Mainly provides	Mainly does not provide	Does not provide at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	23	44	1	0	12	1	81
	%	28.4%	54.3%	1.2%	0.0%	14.8%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	5	54	34	9	7	0	109
	%	4.6%	49.5%	31.2%	8.3%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	16	18	3	3	1	41
	%	0.0%	39.0%	43.9%	7.3%	7.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	3	37	15	0	1	1	57
	%	5.3%	64.9%	26.3%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	37	80	4	1	0	0	122
	%	30.3%	65.6%	3.3%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q2. In your experience, in criminal cases, to what extent is equality of arms observed during court trials in Georgia nowadays?

		Fully observed	Mainly observed	Mainly not observed	Not observed at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	41	29	0	0	10	1	81
	%	50.6%	35.8%	0.0%	0.0%	12.3%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	6	56	26	10	11	0	109
	%	5.5%	51.4%	23.9%	9.2%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	11	20	0	9	1	41
	%	0.0%	26.8%	48.8%	0.0%	22.0%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	38	11	1	5	0	57
	%	3.5%	66.7%	19.3%	1.8%	8.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	35	79	8	0	0	0	122
	%	28.7%	64.8%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q3. In your experience, in criminal cases, how equal or unequal are the possibilities that the prosecuting and defending parties have to gather evidence in Georgia nowadays?

		Prosecution has more possibilities	Both have equal possibilities	Defense has more possibilities	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	25	43	0	12	1	81
	%	30.9%	53.1%	0.0%	14.8%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	82	14	1	12	0	109
	%	75.2%	12.8%	.9%	11.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	37	0	0	3	1	41
	%	90.2%	0.0%	0.0%	7.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	49	6	1	0	1	57
	%	86.0%	10.5%	1.8%	0.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	33	77	12	0	0	122
	%	27.0%	63.1%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q4. In your experience, in criminal cases, how equal or unequal access do the prosecuting and defending parties have to each other's evidence in Georgia nowadays?

		Prosecution has more access	Both have equal access	Defense has more access	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	2	63	2	13	1	81
	%	2.5%	77.8%	2.5%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	44	52	0	13	0	109
	%	40.4%	47.7%	0.0%	11.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	18	18	0	4	1	41
	%	43.9%	43.9%	0.0%	9.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	11	43	0	2	1	57
	%	19.3%	75.4%	0.0%	3.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	2	101	19	0	0	122
	%	1.6%	82.8%	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q5. In your opinion, to what extent does the civil law in Georgia provide or not provide equality of arms between the disputing parties?

		Fully provides	Mainly provides	Mainly does not provide	Does not provide at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	55	14	0	0	11	1	81
	%	67.9%	17.3%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	27	63	12	0	7	0	109
	%	24.8%	57.8%	11.0%	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	33	2	1	1	0	41
	%	9.8%	80.5%	4.9%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	10	33	3	1	10	0	57
	%	17.5%	57.9%	5.3%	1.8%	17.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	14	34	1	0	28	45	122
	%	11.5%	27.9%	.8%	0.0%	23.0%	36.9%	100.0%

q6. In your experience, in civil cases, to what extent is the equality of arms observed between the disputing parties during court trials in Georgia nowadays?

		Fully observed	Mainly observed	Mainly not observed	Not observed at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	61	10	0	0	9	1	81
	%	75.3%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	22	69	10	3	5	0	109
	%	20.2%	63.3%	9.2%	2.8%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	31	4	0	3	0	41
	%	7.3%	75.6%	9.8%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	10	31	2	0	13	1	57
	%	17.5%	54.4%	3.5%	0.0%	22.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	16	22	1	0	36	47	122
	%	13.1%	18.0%	.8%	0.0%	29.5%	38.5%	100.0%

q7. In your experience, in civil cases where large business is one of the sides of the dispute, to what extent is the equality of arms observed between the disputing parties during court trials in Georgia nowadays?

		Fully observed	Mainly observed	Mainly not observed	Not observed at all	Don't know	Refuse answer to	Total
Judge	Count	54	12	0	0	14	1	81
	%	66.7%	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	17.3%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	13	47	30	8	11	0	109
	%	11.9%	43.1%	27.5%	7.3%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	18	17	1	4	0	41
	%	2.4%	43.9%	41.5%	2.4%	9.8%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	6	22	9	0	17	3	57
	%	10.5%	38.6%	15.8%	0.0%	29.8%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	10	21	2	0	40	49	122
	%	8.2%	17.2%	1.6%	0.0%	32.8%	40.2%	100.0%

q8. In your opinion, to what extent does the administrative law in Georgia provide or not provide equality of arms between the disputing parties?

		Fully provides	Mainly provides	Mainly does not provide	Does not provide at all	Don't know	Refuse answer to	Total
Judge	Count	49	20	0	0	11	1	81
	%	60.5%	24.7%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	19	60	18	6	6	0	109
	%	17.4%	55.0%	16.5%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	30	9	0	1	1	41
	%	0.0%	73.2%	22.0%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	10	32	7	0	6	2	57
	%	17.5%	56.1%	12.3%	0.0%	10.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	11	34	1	0	28	48	122
	%	9.0%	27.9%	.8%	0.0%	23.0%	39.3%	100.0%

q9. In your experience, in administrative cases, to what extent is equality of arms observed during court trials in Georgia nowadays?								
		Fully observed	Mainly observed	Mainly not observed	Not observed at all	Don't know	Refuse answer to	Total
Judge	Count	54	16	0	0	10	1	81
	%	66.7%	19.8%	0.0%	0.0%	12.3%	1.2%	100.0%
Lawyer	Count	16	60	23	4	6	0	109
	%	14.7%	55.0%	21.1%	3.7%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	22	16	0	2	0	41
	%	2.4%	53.7%	39.0%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	5	36	7	2	5	2	57
	%	8.8%	63.2%	12.3%	3.5%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	10	28	1	0	33	50	122
	%	8.2%	23.0%	.8%	0.0%	27.0%	41.0%	100.0%

q10_1. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Representative of an ethnic minority							
		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	42	58	7	2	0	109
	%	38.5%	53.2%	6.4%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	9	21	7	4	0	41
	%	22.0%	51.2%	17.1%	9.8%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	32	24	0	1	0	57
	%	56.1%	42.1%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	80	30	0	7	5	122
	%	65.6%	24.6%	0.0%	5.7%	4.1%	100.0%

q10_2. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Ethnic Georgian

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	38	61	8	1	1	109
	%	34.9%	56.0%	7.3%	.9%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	25	4	2	0	41
	%	24.4%	61.0%	9.8%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	30	26	0	1	0	57
	%	52.6%	45.6%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	82	31	0	5	4	122
	%	67.2%	25.4%	0.0%	4.1%	3.3%	100.0%

q10_3. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	79	2	0	0	0	0	81
	%	97.5%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	36	44	7	1	21	0	109
	%	33.0%	40.4%	6.4%	.9%	19.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	13	14	0	4	0	41
	%	24.4%	31.7%	34.1%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	23	22	2	0	10	0	57
	%	40.4%	38.6%	3.5%	0.0%	17.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	77	26	1	0	11	7	122
	%	63.1%	21.3%	.8%	0.0%	9.0%	5.7%	100.0%

q10_4. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Heterosexual

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	35	49	7	18	0	109
	%	32.1%	45.0%	6.4%	16.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	22	6	3	0	41
	%	24.4%	53.7%	14.6%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	24	24	3	6	0	57
	%	42.1%	42.1%	5.3%	10.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	78	27	1	11	5	122
	%	63.9%	22.1%	.8%	9.0%	4.1%	100.0%

q10_5. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	42	52	4	2	9	0	109
	%	38.5%	47.7%	3.7%	1.8%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	18	8	0	5	0	41
	%	24.4%	43.9%	19.5%	0.0%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	28	28	0	0	1	0	57
	%	49.1%	49.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	79	29	0	0	8	6	122
	%	64.8%	23.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	4.9%	100.0%

q10_6. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	40	61	5	1	2	0	109
	%	36.7%	56.0%	4.6%	.9%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	23	4	0	3	0	41
	%	26.8%	56.1%	9.8%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	27	30	0	0	0	0	57
	%	47.4%	52.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	78	31	0	1	7	5	122
	%	63.9%	25.4%	0.0%	.8%	5.7%	4.1%	100.0%

q10_7. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	80	1	0	0	0	0	81
	%	98.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	52	48	3	3	3	0	109
	%	47.7%	44.0%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	14	18	5	0	3	1	41
	%	34.1%	43.9%	12.2%	0.0%	7.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	28	3	0	0	0	57
	%	45.6%	49.1%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	80	30	0	0	7	5	122
	%	65.6%	24.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	4.1%	100.0%

q10_8. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Woman

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	81	0	0	0	0	0	81
	%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	44	59	4	1	1	0	109
	%	40.4%	54.1%	3.7%	.9%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	13	17	9	0	1	1	41
	%	31.7%	41.5%	22.0%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	34	23	0	0	0	0	57
	%	59.6%	40.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	80	31	0	0	6	5	122
	%	65.6%	25.4%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	4.1%	100.0%

q10_9. When representatives of the following groups living in Georgia appeal to court, how fairly or unfairly does the court treat them? - Man

		Fully fairly	Mainly fairly	Mainly unfairly	Fully unfairly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	81	0	0	0	0	0	81
	%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	37	61	8	2	1	0	109
	%	33.9%	56.0%	7.3%	1.8%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	13	23	3	0	1	1	41
	%	31.7%	56.1%	7.3%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	26	4	0	1	0	57
	%	45.6%	45.6%	7.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	79	31	0	1	6	5	122
	%	64.8%	25.4%	0.0%	.8%	4.9%	4.1%	100.0%

q11_1. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	54	9	0	0	18	0	81
	%	66.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	27	54	18	1	9	0	109
	%	24.8%	49.5%	16.5%	.9%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	13	10	0	14	1	41
	%	7.3%	31.7%	24.4%	0.0%	34.1%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	33	1	0	4	3	57
	%	28.1%	57.9%	1.8%	0.0%	7.0%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	115	7	0	0	0	0	122
	%	94.3%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_2. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Ethnic Georgian

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	54	9	0	0	18	0	81
	%	66.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	24	67	9	1	8	0	109
	%	22.0%	61.5%	8.3%	.9%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	20	4	0	13	1	41
	%	7.3%	48.8%	9.8%	0.0%	31.7%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	17	31	2	0	4	3	57
	%	29.8%	54.4%	3.5%	0.0%	7.0%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	114	7	1	0	0	0	122
	%	93.4%	5.7%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_3. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	51	10	0	0	20	0	81
	%	63.0%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	24.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	21	50	15	2	21	0	109
	%	19.3%	45.9%	13.8%	1.8%	19.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	10	14	1	12	1	41
	%	7.3%	24.4%	34.1%	2.4%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	12	27	5	0	11	2	57
	%	21.1%	47.4%	8.8%	0.0%	19.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	109	10	0	0	2	1	122
	%	89.3%	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	.8%	100.0%

q11_4. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Heterosexual

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	51	10	0	20	0	81
	%	63.0%	12.3%	0.0%	24.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	23	52	13	21	0	109
	%	21.1%	47.7%	11.9%	19.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	20	5	12	1	41
	%	7.3%	48.8%	12.2%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	28	4	7	3	57
	%	26.3%	49.1%	7.0%	12.3%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	111	9	0	2	0	122
	%	91.0%	7.4%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_5. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	53	9	0	0	19	0	81
	%	65.4%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	23.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	25	60	10	2	12	0	109
	%	22.9%	55.0%	9.2%	1.8%	11.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	15	9	0	13	1	41
	%	7.3%	36.6%	22.0%	0.0%	31.7%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	31	2	0	7	2	57
	%	26.3%	54.4%	3.5%	0.0%	12.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	113	9	0	0	0	0	122
	%	92.6%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_6. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	53	10	0	18	0	81
	%	65.4%	12.3%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	22	74	6	7	0	109
	%	20.2%	67.9%	5.5%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	21	4	12	1	41
	%	7.3%	51.2%	9.8%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	17	31	2	5	2	57
	%	29.8%	54.4%	3.5%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	114	7	1	0	0	122
	%	93.4%	5.7%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_7. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	54	9	0	0	18	0	81
	%	66.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	31	62	5	3	8	0	109
	%	28.4%	56.9%	4.6%	2.8%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	19	5	0	12	1	41
	%	9.8%	46.3%	12.2%	0.0%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	34	1	0	4	3	57
	%	26.3%	59.6%	1.8%	0.0%	7.0%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	115	7	0	0	0	0	122
	%	94.3%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_8. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Woman

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	55	8	0	0	18	0	81
	%	67.9%	9.9%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	32	59	9	2	7	0	109
	%	29.4%	54.1%	8.3%	1.8%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	15	7	1	12	1	41
	%	12.2%	36.6%	17.1%	2.4%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	23	27	0	0	5	2	57
	%	40.4%	47.4%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	114	7	0	0	1	0	122
	%	93.4%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	0.0%	100.0%

q11_9. When the Prosecutor's Office works on a case of a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does it treat him/her? - Man

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	55	8	0	0	18	0	81
	%	67.9%	9.9%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	25	67	9	1	7	0	109
	%	22.9%	61.5%	8.3%	.9%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	20	4	0	11	1	41
	%	12.2%	48.8%	9.8%	0.0%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	29	5	0	5	2	57
	%	28.1%	50.9%	8.8%	0.0%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	109	12	1	0	0	0	122
	%	89.3%	9.8%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q12_1. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	5	0	0	2	0	81
	%	91.4%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	56	5	2	12	0	109
	%	31.2%	51.4%	4.6%	1.8%	11.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	15	3	0	11	1	41
	%	26.8%	36.6%	7.3%	0.0%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	52	5	0	0	0	0	57
	%	91.2%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	87	27	0	0	4	4	122
	%	71.3%	22.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_2. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Ethnic Georgian

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	57	7	11	0	109
	%	31.2%	52.3%	6.4%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	16	1	11	1	41
	%	29.3%	39.0%	2.4%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	6	0	0	0	57
	%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	23	0	4	4	122
	%	74.6%	18.9%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_3. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	72	4	0	5	0	81
	%	88.9%	4.9%	0.0%	6.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	31	50	6	22	0	109
	%	28.4%	45.9%	5.5%	20.2%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	14	2	14	1	41
	%	24.4%	34.1%	4.9%	34.1%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	50	4	0	3	0	57
	%	87.7%	7.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	80	27	1	8	6	122
	%	65.6%	22.1%	.8%	6.6%	4.9%	100.0%

q12_4. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Heterosexual							
		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	31	51	4	23	0	109
	%	28.4%	46.8%	3.7%	21.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	17	0	12	1	41
	%	26.8%	41.5%	0.0%	29.3%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	50	5	0	1	1	57
	%	87.7%	8.8%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	87	23	0	8	4	122
	%	71.3%	18.9%	0.0%	6.6%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_5. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian								
		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	4	0	0	3	0	81
	%	91.4%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	32	58	5	0	14	0	109
	%	29.4%	53.2%	4.6%	0.0%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	17	2	0	11	1	41
	%	24.4%	41.5%	4.9%	0.0%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	52	4	0	1	0	0	57
	%	91.2%	7.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	23	0	0	4	4	122
	%	74.6%	18.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_6. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	32	58	6	13	0	109
	%	29.4%	53.2%	5.5%	11.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	17	1	11	1	41
	%	26.8%	41.5%	2.4%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	54	3	0	0	0	57
	%	94.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	96	18	0	4	4	122
	%	78.7%	14.8%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_7. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Fully unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	57	3	1	14	0	109
	%	31.2%	52.3%	2.8%	.9%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	17	1	0	11	1	41
	%	26.8%	41.5%	2.4%	0.0%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	54	3	0	0	0	0	57
	%	94.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	95	19	0	0	4	4	122
	%	77.9%	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_8. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Woman

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	59	4	11	1	109
	%	31.2%	54.1%	3.7%	10.1%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	13	15	1	11	1	41
	%	31.7%	36.6%	2.4%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	54	3	0	0	0	57
	%	94.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	96	18	0	4	4	122
	%	78.7%	14.8%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q12_9. When the state assigns an attorney to a representative of the following groups living in Georgia, in your experience, how equally or unequally does the attorney treat him/her? - Man

		Fully equally	Mainly equally	Mainly unequally	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	75	4	0	2	0	81
	%	92.6%	4.9%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	33	59	5	11	1	109
	%	30.3%	54.1%	4.6%	10.1%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	13	15	1	11	1	41
	%	31.7%	36.6%	2.4%	26.8%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	53	4	0	0	0	57
	%	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	98	16	0	4	4	122
	%	80.3%	13.1%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	100.0%

q13_1. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	41	26	0	0	14	0	81
	%	50.6%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%	17.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	18	64	21	2	4	0	109
	%	16.5%	58.7%	19.3%	1.8%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	18	22	0	1	0	41
	%	0.0%	43.9%	53.7%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	30	7	0	2	2	57
	%	28.1%	52.6%	12.3%	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	50	68	2	0	1	1	122
	%	41.0%	55.7%	1.6%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_2. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Ethnic Georgian

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	40	26	0	0	15	0	81
	%	49.4%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%	18.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	67	22	1	4	0	109
	%	13.8%	61.5%	20.2%	.9%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	30	11	0	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	73.2%	26.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	33	6	0	1	2	57
	%	26.3%	57.9%	10.5%	0.0%	1.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	53	64	3	0	1	1	122
	%	43.4%	52.5%	2.5%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_3. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	38	24	1	0	18	0	81
	%	46.9%	29.6%	1.2%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	54	23	4	14	0	109
	%	12.8%	49.5%	21.1%	3.7%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	9	26	6	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	22.0%	63.4%	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	11	29	9	1	6	1	57
	%	19.3%	50.9%	15.8%	1.8%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	45	61	8	1	4	3	122
	%	36.9%	50.0%	6.6%	.8%	3.3%	2.5%	100.0%

q13_4. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Heterosexual

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	38	25	1	0	17	0	81
	%	46.9%	30.9%	1.2%	0.0%	21.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	61	19	0	14	0	109
	%	13.8%	56.0%	17.4%	0.0%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	25	15	1	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	61.0%	36.6%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	33	4	0	3	2	57
	%	26.3%	57.9%	7.0%	0.0%	5.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	49	62	6	1	3	1	122
	%	40.2%	50.8%	4.9%	.8%	2.5%	.8%	100.0%

q13_5. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	40	25	0	0	16	0	81
	%	49.4%	30.9%	0.0%	0.0%	19.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	17	64	19	2	7	0	109
	%	15.6%	58.7%	17.4%	1.8%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	19	19	2	1	0	41
	%	0.0%	46.3%	46.3%	4.9%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	32	3	1	3	2	57
	%	28.1%	56.1%	5.3%	1.8%	5.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	54	63	2	1	1	1	122
	%	44.3%	51.6%	1.6%	.8%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_6. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Orthodox Christian

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	41	25	0	0	15	0	81
	%	50.6%	30.9%	0.0%	0.0%	18.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	13	71	19	1	5	0	109
	%	11.9%	65.1%	17.4%	.9%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	31	10	0	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	75.6%	24.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	34	2	0	3	2	57
	%	28.1%	59.6%	3.5%	0.0%	5.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	54	65	1	0	1	1	122
	%	44.3%	53.3%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_7. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Person with limited abilities

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	41	26	0	0	14	0	81
	%	50.6%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%	17.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	20	67	14	2	6	0	109
	%	18.3%	61.5%	12.8%	1.8%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	28	11	0	1	0	41
	%	2.4%	68.3%	26.8%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	34	4	0	1	2	57
	%	28.1%	59.6%	7.0%	0.0%	1.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	57	62	1	0	1	1	122
	%	46.7%	50.8%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_8. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Woman

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	42	25	0	0	14	0	81
	%	51.9%	30.9%	0.0%	0.0%	17.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	18	70	17	0	4	0	109
	%	16.5%	64.2%	15.6%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	24	12	2	0	0	41
	%	7.3%	58.5%	29.3%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	18	32	4	0	1	2	57
	%	31.6%	56.1%	7.0%	0.0%	1.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	60	60	0	0	1	1	122
	%	49.2%	49.2%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q13_9. When a representative of the following groups living in Georgia address the police, in your experience, how effectively or ineffectively will the police take measures considered by the law? - Man

		Very effectively	Mainly effectively	Mainly ineffectively	Very ineffectively	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	41	26	0	0	14	0	81
	%	50.6%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%	17.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	72	19	0	4	0	109
	%	12.8%	66.1%	17.4%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	30	7	1	0	0	41
	%	7.3%	73.2%	17.1%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	36	3	0	1	3	57
	%	24.6%	63.2%	5.3%	0.0%	1.8%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	54	65	1	0	1	1	122
	%	44.3%	53.3%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q14_1. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	63	7	1	3	1	109
	%	31.2%	57.8%	6.4%	.9%	2.8%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	25	4	0	7	0	41
	%	12.2%	61.0%	9.8%	0.0%	17.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	28	0	0	3	0	57
	%	45.6%	49.1%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	27	0	0	2	2	122
	%	74.6%	22.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%	100.0%

**q14_2. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Ethnic Georgian**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	25	69	8	2	5	0	109
	%	22.9%	63.3%	7.3%	1.8%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	28	2	0	6	0	41
	%	12.2%	68.3%	4.9%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	28	27	0	0	2	0	57
	%	49.1%	47.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	27	1	0	1	2	122
	%	74.6%	22.1%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q14_3. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Representative of an LGBT community**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	26	59	7	2	15	0	109
	%	23.9%	54.1%	6.4%	1.8%	13.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	25	4	0	7	0	41
	%	12.2%	61.0%	9.8%	0.0%	17.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	26	0	0	5	0	57
	%	45.6%	45.6%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	88	24	0	0	6	4	122
	%	72.1%	19.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	3.3%	100.0%

**q14_4. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Heterosexual**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	24	64	6	1	14	0	109
	%	22.0%	58.7%	5.5%	.9%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	27	3	0	6	0	41
	%	12.2%	65.9%	7.3%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	28	26	0	0	3	0	57
	%	49.1%	45.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	88	26	1	0	5	2	122
	%	72.1%	21.3%	.8%	0.0%	4.1%	1.6%	100.0%

**q14_5. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	27	66	6	1	9	0	109
	%	24.8%	60.6%	5.5%	.9%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	25	4	0	7	0	41
	%	12.2%	61.0%	9.8%	0.0%	17.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	29	25	0	0	3	0	57
	%	50.9%	43.9%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	28	0	0	1	2	122
	%	74.6%	23.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q14_6. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	25	70	6	2	6	0	109
	%	22.9%	64.2%	5.5%	1.8%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	28	2	0	6	0	41
	%	12.2%	68.3%	4.9%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	28	26	0	0	3	0	57
	%	49.1%	45.6%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	27	1	0	1	2	122
	%	74.6%	22.1%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q14_7. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	73	8	0	0	0	0	81
	%	90.1%	9.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	26	72	3	2	6	0	109
	%	23.9%	66.1%	2.8%	1.8%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	6	27	2	0	6	0	41
	%	14.6%	65.9%	4.9%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	29	26	0	0	2	0	57
	%	50.9%	45.6%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	93	26	0	0	1	2	122
	%	76.2%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q14_8. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Woman

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	26	70	5	1	7	0	109
	%	23.9%	64.2%	4.6%	.9%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	6	26	3	0	6	0	41
	%	14.6%	63.4%	7.3%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	30	25	0	1	1	0	57
	%	52.6%	43.9%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	91	28	0	0	1	2	122
	%	74.6%	23.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q14_9. In your experience, to what extent does the court protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Man

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	74	7	0	0	0	0	81
	%	91.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	26	68	8	1	6	0	109
	%	23.9%	62.4%	7.3%	.9%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	6	27	2	0	6	0	41
	%	14.6%	65.9%	4.9%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	27	2	0	2	0	57
	%	45.6%	47.4%	3.5%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	88	30	1	0	1	2	122
	%	72.1%	24.6%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q15_1. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	66	17	2	9	0	109
	%	13.8%	60.6%	15.6%	1.8%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	11	14	1	13	0	41
	%	4.9%	26.8%	34.1%	2.4%	31.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	25	10	0	7	1	57
	%	24.6%	43.9%	17.5%	0.0%	12.3%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	107	14	0	0	0	1	122
	%	87.7%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_2. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Ethnic Georgian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	13	69	16	2	9	0	109
	%	11.9%	63.3%	14.7%	1.8%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	19	7	0	13	0	41
	%	4.9%	46.3%	17.1%	0.0%	31.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	23	12	0	7	1	57
	%	24.6%	40.4%	21.1%	0.0%	12.3%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	106	14	1	0	0	1	122
	%	86.9%	11.5%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_3. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor's Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	43	20	2	0	15	1	81
	%	53.1%	24.7%	2.5%	0.0%	18.5%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	58	19	2	16	0	109
	%	12.8%	53.2%	17.4%	1.8%	14.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	13	14	0	13	0	41
	%	2.4%	31.7%	34.1%	0.0%	31.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	23	12	0	7	1	57
	%	24.6%	40.4%	21.1%	0.0%	12.3%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	106	13	0	0	1	2	122
	%	86.9%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q15_4. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor's Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Heterosexual

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	62	16	2	15	0	109
	%	12.8%	56.9%	14.7%	1.8%	13.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	19	9	0	12	0	41
	%	2.4%	46.3%	22.0%	0.0%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	24	11	0	7	1	57
	%	24.6%	42.1%	19.3%	0.0%	12.3%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	106	13	0	0	2	1	122
	%	86.9%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	.8%	100.0%

q15_5. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	65	18	1	11	0	109
	%	12.8%	59.6%	16.5%	.9%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	15	12	0	13	0	41
	%	2.4%	36.6%	29.3%	0.0%	31.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	24	11	0	6	1	57
	%	26.3%	42.1%	19.3%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	107	14	0	0	0	1	122
	%	87.7%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_6. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	13	69	17	1	9	0	109
	%	11.9%	63.3%	15.6%	.9%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	21	6	1	12	0	41
	%	2.4%	51.2%	14.6%	2.4%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	24	11	0	6	1	57
	%	26.3%	42.1%	19.3%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	106	14	1	0	0	1	122
	%	86.9%	11.5%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_7. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	16	69	12	3	9	0	109
	%	14.7%	63.3%	11.0%	2.8%	8.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	18	7	2	12	0	41
	%	4.9%	43.9%	17.1%	4.9%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	13	25	12	0	6	1	57
	%	22.8%	43.9%	21.1%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	107	14	0	0	0	1	122
	%	87.7%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_8. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor’s Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Woman

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	72	13	2	8	0	109
	%	12.8%	66.1%	11.9%	1.8%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	16	11	0	12	0	41
	%	4.9%	39.0%	26.8%	0.0%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	24	10	0	6	1	57
	%	28.1%	42.1%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	107	14	0	0	0	1	122
	%	87.7%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q15_9. In your experience, to what extent does the Prosecutor's Office protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Man

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	44	21	2	0	13	1	81
	%	54.3%	25.9%	2.5%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	12	69	18	2	8	0	109
	%	11.0%	63.3%	16.5%	1.8%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	20	7	0	12	0	41
	%	4.9%	48.8%	17.1%	0.0%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	12	25	13	0	6	1	57
	%	21.1%	43.9%	22.8%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	106	14	1	0	0	1	122
	%	86.9%	11.5%	.8%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q16_1. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of an ethnic minority

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	35	60	1	1	12	0	109
	%	32.1%	55.0%	.9%	.9%	11.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	20	0	0	9	0	41
	%	29.3%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	22.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	5	1	0	0	0	57
	%	89.5%	8.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	83	29	0	0	4	6	122
	%	68.0%	23.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_2. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Ethnic Georgian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	37	57	2	1	12	0	109
	%	33.9%	52.3%	1.8%	.9%	11.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	20	0	0	8	1	41
	%	29.3%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	6	0	0	0	0	57
	%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	86	26	0	0	4	6	122
	%	70.5%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_3. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of an LGBT community

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	67	5	0	0	9	0	81
	%	82.7%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	36	51	2	1	19	0	109
	%	33.0%	46.8%	1.8%	.9%	17.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	20	0	0	9	1	41
	%	26.8%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	22.0%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	6	0	0	0	0	57
	%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	80	26	0	0	8	8	122
	%	65.6%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	6.6%	100.0%

q16_4. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Heterosexual

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	36	52	1	1	19	0	109
	%	33.0%	47.7%	.9%	.9%	17.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	20	0	0	9	1	41
	%	26.8%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	22.0%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	6	0	0	0	0	57
	%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	83	25	0	0	8	6	122
	%	68.0%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.6%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_5. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	33	60	2	1	13	0	109
	%	30.3%	55.0%	1.8%	.9%	11.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	21	0	0	8	1	41
	%	26.8%	51.2%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	50	6	0	0	1	0	57
	%	87.7%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	85	27	0	0	4	6	122
	%	69.7%	22.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_6. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Orthodox Christian

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	61	2	1	11	0	109
	%	31.2%	56.0%	1.8%	.9%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	21	0	0	8	1	41
	%	26.8%	51.2%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	5	0	0	1	0	57
	%	89.5%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	86	26	0	0	4	6	122
	%	70.5%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_7. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Person with limited abilities

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	35	61	1	1	11	0	109
	%	32.1%	56.0%	.9%	.9%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	20	0	0	8	1	41
	%	29.3%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	51	5	0	0	1	0	57
	%	89.5%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	87	25	0	0	4	6	122
	%	71.3%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_8. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Woman

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	36	59	2	1	11	0	109
	%	33.0%	54.1%	1.8%	.9%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	20	0	0	8	1	41
	%	29.3%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	52	4	0	0	1	0	57
	%	91.2%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	87	25	0	0	4	6	122
	%	71.3%	20.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

q16_9. In your experience, to what extent does the state attorney protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence? - Man

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	68	5	0	0	8	0	81
	%	84.0%	6.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	59	4	1	11	0	109
	%	31.2%	54.1%	3.7%	.9%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	12	20	0	0	8	1	41
	%	29.3%	48.8%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	50	6	0	0	1	0	57
	%	87.7%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	86	26	0	0	4	6	122
	%	70.5%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.9%	100.0%

**q17_1. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Representative of an ethnic minority**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	33	35	0	0	12	1	81
	%	40.7%	43.2%	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	69	20	2	4	0	109
	%	12.8%	63.3%	18.3%	1.8%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	11	22	2	6	0	41
	%	0.0%	26.8%	53.7%	4.9%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	24	10	0	6	1	57
	%	28.1%	42.1%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	58	57	4	0	1	2	122
	%	47.5%	46.7%	3.3%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_2. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Ethnic Georgian**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	33	36	0	0	11	1	81
	%	40.7%	44.4%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	71	22	2	4	0	109
	%	9.2%	65.1%	20.2%	1.8%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	19	15	2	5	0	41
	%	0.0%	46.3%	36.6%	4.9%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	24	11	0	6	1	57
	%	26.3%	42.1%	19.3%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	60	57	2	0	1	2	122
	%	49.2%	46.7%	1.6%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_3. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Representative of an LGBT community**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	33	33	1	0	13	1	81
	%	40.7%	40.7%	1.2%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	12	58	19	4	16	0	109
	%	11.0%	53.2%	17.4%	3.7%	14.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	9	23	3	6	0	41
	%	0.0%	22.0%	56.1%	7.3%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	22	11	0	8	1	57
	%	26.3%	38.6%	19.3%	0.0%	14.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	56	54	4	0	5	3	122
	%	45.9%	44.3%	3.3%	0.0%	4.1%	2.5%	100.0%

**q17_4. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Heterosexual**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	33	33	1	0	13	1	81
	%	40.7%	40.7%	1.2%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	58	20	2	15	0	109
	%	12.8%	53.2%	18.3%	1.8%	13.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	17	18	2	3	0	41
	%	2.4%	41.5%	43.9%	4.9%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	24	10	0	6	1	57
	%	28.1%	42.1%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	62	51	2	0	5	2	122
	%	50.8%	41.8%	1.6%	0.0%	4.1%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_5. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Representative of any religion other than Orthodox Christian**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	33	34	0	0	13	1	81
	%	40.7%	42.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	13	68	21	1	6	0	109
	%	11.9%	62.4%	19.3%	.9%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	15	18	2	6	0	41
	%	0.0%	36.6%	43.9%	4.9%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	16	24	10	0	6	1	57
	%	28.1%	42.1%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	65	53	1	0	1	2	122
	%	53.3%	43.4%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_6. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Orthodox Christian**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	34	34	0	0	12	1	81
	%	42.0%	42.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	75	18	1	5	0	109
	%	9.2%	68.8%	16.5%	.9%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	22	13	3	3	0	41
	%	0.0%	53.7%	31.7%	7.3%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	25	10	0	6	1	57
	%	26.3%	43.9%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	65	52	1	0	2	2	122
	%	53.3%	42.6%	.8%	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_7. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Person with limited abilities**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	34	34	0	0	12	1	81
	%	42.0%	42.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	70	17	2	5	0	109
	%	13.8%	64.2%	15.6%	1.8%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	19	14	3	5	0	41
	%	0.0%	46.3%	34.1%	7.3%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	25	10	0	6	1	57
	%	26.3%	43.9%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	64	54	1	0	1	2	122
	%	52.5%	44.3%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_8. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Woman**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	36	33	0	0	11	1	81
	%	44.4%	40.7%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	70	19	1	4	0	109
	%	13.8%	64.2%	17.4%	.9%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	18	17	2	3	0	41
	%	2.4%	43.9%	41.5%	4.9%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	18	22	10	0	6	1	57
	%	31.6%	38.6%	17.5%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	67	51	1	0	1	2	122
	%	54.9%	41.8%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

**q17_9. In your experience, to what extent does the police protect or not protect the right of the following groups to the presumption of innocence?
- Man**

		Fully protects	Mainly protects	Mainly does not protect	Does not protect at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	35	34	0	0	11	1	81
	%	43.2%	42.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	72	21	2	4	0	109
	%	9.2%	66.1%	19.3%	1.8%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	20	15	2	3	0	41
	%	2.4%	48.8%	36.6%	4.9%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	23	13	0	6	1	57
	%	24.6%	40.4%	22.8%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	64	53	2	0	1	2	122
	%	52.5%	43.4%	1.6%	0.0%	.8%	1.6%	100.0%

q18. In your opinion, how affordable or unaffordable are services of a private lawyer for regular citizens of Georgia?

		Totally affordable	Mainly affordable	Mainly unaffordable	Totally unaffordable	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	4	54	18	2	3	0	81
	%	4.9%	66.7%	22.2%	2.5%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	4	38	63	4	0	0	109
	%	3.7%	34.9%	57.8%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	6	31	2	2	0	41
	%	0.0%	14.6%	75.6%	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	16	38	3	0	0	57
	%	0.0%	28.1%	66.7%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	8	44	47	2	17	4	122
	%	6.6%	36.1%	38.5%	1.6%	13.9%	3.3%	100.0%

q19. In your opinion, how affordable or unaffordable is the court fee for citizens?								
		Totally affordable	Mainly affordable	Mainly unaffordable	Totally unaffordable	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	17	47	7	0	10	0	81
	%	21.0%	58.0%	8.6%	0.0%	12.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	36	62	7	2	0	109
	%	1.8%	33.0%	56.9%	6.4%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	14	26	1	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	34.1%	63.4%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	24	28	1	2	1	57
	%	1.8%	42.1%	49.1%	1.8%	3.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	5	35	33	1	29	19	122
	%	4.1%	28.7%	27.0%	.8%	23.8%	15.6%	100.0%

q20_1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Law departments of Georgian universities provide graduates with sufficient theoretical knowledge to start legal practice.							
		Fully agree	Mainly agree	Mainly disagree	Fully disagree	Don't know	Total
Judge	Count	15	51	13	1	1	81
	%	18.5%	63.0%	16.0%	1.2%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	8	48	37	13	3	109
	%	7.3%	44.0%	33.9%	11.9%	2.8%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	17	13	9	0	41
	%	4.9%	41.5%	31.7%	22.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	3	36	13	4	1	57
	%	5.3%	63.2%	22.8%	7.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	13	82	22	3	2	122
	%	10.7%	67.2%	18.0%	2.5%	1.6%	100.0%

q20_2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Law department graduates from Georgian universities have necessary skill to start legal practice

		Fully agree	Mainly agree	Mainly disagree	Fully disagree	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	7	44	25	2	3	0	81
	%	8.6%	54.3%	30.9%	2.5%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	32	50	20	4	0	109
	%	2.8%	29.4%	45.9%	18.3%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	7	24	10	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	17.1%	58.5%	24.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	24	23	8	0	1	57
	%	1.8%	42.1%	40.4%	14.0%	0.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	52	48	11	5	0	122
	%	4.9%	42.6%	39.3%	9.0%	4.1%	0.0%	100.0%

q21. How well does university education in law prepare graduates to pass specialized qualification exams (lawyer, judge, prosecutor)?

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	7	27	28	5	0	14	0	81
	%	8.6%	33.3%	34.6%	6.2%	0.0%	17.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	23	50	21	5	8	0	109
	%	1.8%	21.1%	45.9%	19.3%	4.6%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	4	14	15	8	0	0	41
	%	0.0%	9.8%	34.1%	36.6%	19.5%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	16	25	5	6	3	1	57
	%	1.8%	28.1%	43.9%	8.8%	10.5%	5.3%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	7	45	44	8	2	10	6	122
	%	5.7%	36.9%	36.1%	6.6%	1.6%	8.2%	4.9%	100.0%

q22_1. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Ministry of Justice								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	12	47	18	2	2	0	81
	%	14.8%	58.0%	22.2%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	24	67	14	2	2	0	109
	%	22.0%	61.5%	12.8%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	34	2	1	0	0	41
	%	9.8%	82.9%	4.9%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	6	38	9	1	2	1	57
	%	10.5%	66.7%	15.8%	1.8%	3.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	18	89	12	1	1	1	122
	%	14.8%	73.0%	9.8%	.8%	.8%	.8%	100.0%

q22_2. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - High Council of Justice								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	62	19	0	0	0	0	81
	%	76.5%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	54	27	10	3	0	109
	%	13.8%	49.5%	24.8%	9.2%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	6	25	8	1	1	0	41
	%	14.6%	61.0%	19.5%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	9	32	9	3	2	2	57
	%	15.8%	56.1%	15.8%	5.3%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	70	32	2	7	5	122
	%	4.9%	57.4%	26.2%	1.6%	5.7%	4.1%	100.0%

q22_3. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - High School of Justice								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	55	23	2	1	0	0	81
	%	67.9%	28.4%	2.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	8	40	40	16	5	0	109
	%	7.3%	36.7%	36.7%	14.7%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	17	17	1	2	0	41
	%	9.8%	41.5%	41.5%	2.4%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	4	30	14	5	2	2	57
	%	7.0%	52.6%	24.6%	8.8%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	7	62	37	3	7	6	122
	%	5.7%	50.8%	30.3%	2.5%	5.7%	4.9%	100.0%

q22_4. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - State funded legal aid service								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	16	52	12	1	0	0	81
	%	19.8%	64.2%	14.8%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	20	46	33	5	5	0	109
	%	18.3%	42.2%	30.3%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	7	25	7	1	1	0	41
	%	17.1%	61.0%	17.1%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	53	4	0	0	0	0	57
	%	93.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	20	79	16	0	5	2	122
	%	16.4%	64.8%	13.1%	0.0%	4.1%	1.6%	100.0%

q22_5. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Legal aid provided by NGOs								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	3	40	30	7	1	0	81
	%	3.7%	49.4%	37.0%	8.6%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	18	53	29	6	3	0	109
	%	16.5%	48.6%	26.6%	5.5%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	26	13	2	0	0	0	41
	%	63.4%	31.7%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	13	33	10	0	1	0	57
	%	22.8%	57.9%	17.5%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	5	38	50	11	14	4	122
	%	4.1%	31.1%	41.0%	9.0%	11.5%	3.3%	100.0%

q22_6. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Courts in Georgia							
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Total
Judge	Count	75	6	0	0	0	81
	%	92.6%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	59	45	4	1	0	109
	%	54.1%	41.3%	3.7%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	20	19	2	0	0	41
	%	48.8%	46.3%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	26	29	0	0	2	57
	%	45.6%	50.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	58	62	1	0	1	122
	%	47.5%	50.8%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q22_7. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Prosecutor's Office							
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Total
Judge	Count	23	42	9	7	0	81
	%	28.4%	51.9%	11.1%	8.6%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	46	41	13	5	4	109
	%	42.2%	37.6%	11.9%	4.6%	3.7%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	10	16	7	7	1	41
	%	24.4%	39.0%	17.1%	17.1%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	30	7	1	4	57
	%	26.3%	52.6%	12.3%	1.8%	7.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	117	5	0	0	0	122
	%	95.9%	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

q22_8. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Georgian Bar Association								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	12	53	14	2	0	0	81
	%	14.8%	65.4%	17.3%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	74	34	0	0	1	0	109
	%	67.9%	31.2%	0.0%	0.0%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	21	19	1	0	0	0	41
	%	51.2%	46.3%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	31	25	1	0	0	0	57
	%	54.4%	43.9%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	23	75	16	0	5	3	122
	%	18.9%	61.5%	13.1%	0.0%	4.1%	2.5%	100.0%

q22_9. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association

		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	3	30	32	9	7	0	81
	%	3.7%	37.0%	39.5%	11.1%	8.6%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	56	48	3	1	1	0	109
	%	51.4%	44.0%	2.8%	.9%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	16	14	11	0	0	0	41
	%	39.0%	34.1%	26.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	17	34	6	0	0	0	57
	%	29.8%	59.6%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	8	48	38	7	16	5	122
	%	6.6%	39.3%	31.1%	5.7%	13.1%	4.1%	100.0%

q22_10. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Judges Association of Georgia

		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	63	17	0	1	0	0	81
	%	77.8%	21.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	37	35	20	7	0	109
	%	9.2%	33.9%	32.1%	18.3%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	13	20	5	1	0	41
	%	4.9%	31.7%	48.8%	12.2%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	5	19	20	6	5	2	57
	%	8.8%	33.3%	35.1%	10.5%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	5	30	54	12	17	4	122
	%	4.1%	24.6%	44.3%	9.8%	13.9%	3.3%	100.0%

q22_11. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Judges Association “Unity”								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	5	16	28	16	15	1	81
	%	6.2%	19.8%	34.6%	19.8%	18.5%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	20	23	23	40	0	109
	%	2.8%	18.3%	21.1%	21.1%	36.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	9	14	5	10	0	41
	%	7.3%	22.0%	34.1%	12.2%	24.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	6	9	20	20	2	57
	%	0.0%	10.5%	15.8%	35.1%	35.1%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	2	17	30	22	46	5	122
	%	1.6%	13.9%	24.6%	18.0%	37.7%	4.1%	100.0%

q22_12. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Independent Inspector								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	46	30	3	2	0	0	81
	%	56.8%	37.0%	3.7%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	4	22	29	28	26	0	109
	%	3.7%	20.2%	26.6%	25.7%	23.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	6	12	16	5	2	0	41
	%	14.6%	29.3%	39.0%	12.2%	4.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	18	16	10	12	1	57
	%	0.0%	31.6%	28.1%	17.5%	21.1%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	42	29	19	20	6	122
	%	4.9%	34.4%	23.8%	15.6%	16.4%	4.9%	100.0%

q22_13. For the following institutions, please, tell me how familiar or unfamiliar are you with their work? - Disciplinary Collegium of Judges								
		Very familiar	Mainly familiar	Mainly unfamiliar	Very unfamiliar	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	40	30	9	2	0	0	81
	%	49.4%	37.0%	11.1%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	6	36	34	20	13	0	109
	%	5.5%	33.0%	31.2%	18.3%	11.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	14	16	6	0	0	41
	%	12.2%	34.1%	39.0%	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	23	14	9	8	2	57
	%	1.8%	40.4%	24.6%	15.8%	14.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	3	27	44	24	20	4	122
	%	2.5%	22.1%	36.1%	19.7%	16.4%	3.3%	100.0%

q23_1. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Ministry of Justice								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly not transparent	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	28	37	0	0	16	0	81
	%	34.6%	45.7%	0.0%	0.0%	19.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	60	33	4	2	0	109
	%	9.2%	55.0%	30.3%	3.7%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	15	22	2	1	0	41
	%	2.4%	36.6%	53.7%	4.9%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	4	42	6	0	4	1	57
	%	7.0%	73.7%	10.5%	0.0%	7.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	48	60	4	0	7	3	122
	%	39.3%	49.2%	3.3%	0.0%	5.7%	2.5%	100.0%

q23_2. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - High Council of Justice								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly not transparent	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	62	18	0	0	1	0	81
	%	76.5%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	6	38	43	11	11	0	109
	%	5.5%	34.9%	39.4%	10.1%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	3	30	7	1	0	41
	%	0.0%	7.3%	73.2%	17.1%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	23	17	5	8	2	57
	%	3.5%	40.4%	29.8%	8.8%	14.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	18	52	22	6	17	7	122
	%	14.8%	42.6%	18.0%	4.9%	13.9%	5.7%	100.0%

q23_3. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - High School of Justice								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly not transparent	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	61	19	0	0	1	0	81
	%	75.3%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	6	40	32	6	25	0	109
	%	5.5%	36.7%	29.4%	5.5%	22.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	13	15	6	7	0	41
	%	0.0%	31.7%	36.6%	14.6%	17.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	25	14	3	12	2	57
	%	1.8%	43.9%	24.6%	5.3%	21.1%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	14	53	16	6	25	8	122
	%	11.5%	43.4%	13.1%	4.9%	20.5%	6.6%	100.0%

q23_4. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - State funded legal aid service								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	31	28	0	0	22	0	81
	%	38.3%	34.6%	0.0%	0.0%	27.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	14	51	19	3	21	1	109
	%	12.8%	46.8%	17.4%	2.8%	19.3%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	25	5	0	7	0	41
	%	9.8%	61.0%	12.2%	0.0%	17.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	44	12	1	0	0	0	57
	%	77.2%	21.1%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	26	65	3	1	20	7	122
	%	21.3%	53.3%	2.5%	.8%	16.4%	5.7%	100.0%

q23_5. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Legal aid provided by NGOs								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	18	20	5	0	38	0	81
	%	22.2%	24.7%	6.2%	0.0%	46.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	64	11	0	19	0	109
	%	13.8%	58.7%	10.1%	0.0%	17.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	24	13	3	0	1	0	41
	%	58.5%	31.7%	7.3%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	15	35	2	0	5	0	57
	%	26.3%	61.4%	3.5%	0.0%	8.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	5	47	14	7	42	7	122
	%	4.1%	38.5%	11.5%	5.7%	34.4%	5.7%	100.0%

q23_6. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Courts in Georgia								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	69	12	0	0	0	0	81
	%	85.2%	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	18	61	23	6	1	0	109
	%	16.5%	56.0%	21.1%	5.5%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	5	18	16	2	0	0	41
	%	12.2%	43.9%	39.0%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	5	42	7	1	1	1	57
	%	8.8%	73.7%	12.3%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	37	65	9	3	6	2	122
	%	30.3%	53.3%	7.4%	2.5%	4.9%	1.6%	100.0%

q23_7. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Prosecutor's Office								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	18	42	5	0	16	0	81
	%	22.2%	51.9%	6.2%	0.0%	19.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	8	40	37	14	9	1	109
	%	7.3%	36.7%	33.9%	12.8%	8.3%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	7	15	13	6	0	41
	%	0.0%	17.1%	36.6%	31.7%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	35	10	3	5	3	57
	%	1.8%	61.4%	17.5%	5.3%	8.8%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	86	32	2	0	2	0	122
	%	70.5%	26.2%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	100.0%

q23_8. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Georgian Bar Association								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	20	33	2	1	25	0	81
	%	24.7%	40.7%	2.5%	1.2%	30.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	40	61	7	1	0	0	109
	%	36.7%	56.0%	6.4%	.9%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	7	27	7	0	0	0	41
	%	17.1%	65.9%	17.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	39	4	0	0	0	57
	%	24.6%	68.4%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	21	67	7	3	18	6	122
	%	17.2%	54.9%	5.7%	2.5%	14.8%	4.9%	100.0%

q23_9. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	9	23	3	1	45	0	81
	%	11.1%	28.4%	3.7%	1.2%	55.6%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	44	57	4	0	4	0	109
	%	40.4%	52.3%	3.7%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	11	19	5	1	5	0	41
	%	26.8%	46.3%	12.2%	2.4%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	12	38	5	0	2	0	57
	%	21.1%	66.7%	8.8%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	11	40	18	4	39	10	122
	%	9.0%	32.8%	14.8%	3.3%	32.0%	8.2%	100.0%

q23_10. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Judges Association of Georgia								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly not transparent	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	64	14	1	0	2	0	81
	%	79.0%	17.3%	1.2%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	4	37	18	3	47	0	109
	%	3.7%	33.9%	16.5%	2.8%	43.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	5	18	2	15	0	41
	%	2.4%	12.2%	43.9%	4.9%	36.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	27	8	3	17	2	57
	%	0.0%	47.4%	14.0%	5.3%	29.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	9	36	17	7	42	11	122
	%	7.4%	29.5%	13.9%	5.7%	34.4%	9.0%	100.0%

q23_11. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Judges Association “Unity”								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly not transparent	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	13	8	1	0	59	0	81
	%	16.0%	9.9%	1.2%	0.0%	72.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	15	11	3	78	0	109
	%	1.8%	13.8%	10.1%	2.8%	71.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	9	6	3	23	0	41
	%	0.0%	22.0%	14.6%	7.3%	56.1%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	8	4	3	40	2	57
	%	0.0%	14.0%	7.0%	5.3%	70.2%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	18	10	1	73	14	122
	%	4.9%	14.8%	8.2%	.8%	59.8%	11.5%	100.0%

q23_12. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Independent Inspector								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	57	22	0	0	1	1	81
	%	70.4%	27.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	5	18	15	5	66	0	109
	%	4.6%	16.5%	13.8%	4.6%	60.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	14	14	4	8	0	41
	%	2.4%	34.1%	34.1%	9.8%	19.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	24	2	3	25	2	57
	%	1.8%	42.1%	3.5%	5.3%	43.9%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	14	38	5	2	49	14	122
	%	11.5%	31.1%	4.1%	1.6%	40.2%	11.5%	100.0%

q23_13. In your opinion, how transparent or non-transparent is the work of the following institutions? - Disciplinary Collegium of Judges								
		Fully transparent	Mainly transparent	Mainly transparent not	Not transparent at all	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	53	20	1	0	5	2	81
	%	65.4%	24.7%	1.2%	0.0%	6.2%	2.5%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	25	26	13	41	1	109
	%	2.8%	22.9%	23.9%	11.9%	37.6%	.9%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	7	18	8	8	0	41
	%	0.0%	17.1%	43.9%	19.5%	19.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	22	12	2	19	2	57
	%	0.0%	38.6%	21.1%	3.5%	33.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	9	28	11	8	54	12	122
	%	7.4%	23.0%	9.0%	6.6%	44.3%	9.8%	100.0%

q24_1. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Ministry of Justice

		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	30	33	0	0	18	0	81
	%	37.0%	40.7%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	20	58	20	3	8	0	109
	%	18.3%	53.2%	18.3%	2.8%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	26	11	1	0	0	41
	%	7.3%	63.4%	26.8%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	3	43	4	1	5	1	57
	%	5.3%	75.4%	7.0%	1.8%	8.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	48	57	1	1	10	5	122
	%	39.3%	46.7%	.8%	.8%	8.2%	4.1%	100.0%

q24_2. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - High Council of Justice

		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	57	23	0	0	1	0	81
	%	70.4%	28.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	7	45	30	9	18	0	109
	%	6.4%	41.3%	27.5%	8.3%	16.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	7	26	3	5	0	41
	%	0.0%	17.1%	63.4%	7.3%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	30	14	1	8	2	57
	%	3.5%	52.6%	24.6%	1.8%	14.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	12	59	8	5	29	9	122
	%	9.8%	48.4%	6.6%	4.1%	23.8%	7.4%	100.0%

q24_3. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - High School of Justice								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	56	23	0	0	2	0	81
	%	69.1%	28.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	6	49	20	1	33	0	109
	%	5.5%	45.0%	18.3%	.9%	30.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	12	11	5	13	0	41
	%	0.0%	29.3%	26.8%	12.2%	31.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	29	12	2	11	2	57
	%	1.8%	50.9%	21.1%	3.5%	19.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	11	56	5	6	34	10	122
	%	9.0%	45.9%	4.1%	4.9%	27.9%	8.2%	100.0%

q24_4. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - State funded legal aid service								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	35	35	1	0	9	1	81
	%	43.2%	43.2%	1.2%	0.0%	11.1%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	12	66	17	0	14	0	109
	%	11.0%	60.6%	15.6%	0.0%	12.8%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	30	4	0	6	0	41
	%	2.4%	73.2%	9.8%	0.0%	14.6%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	30	25	1	0	1	0	57
	%	52.6%	43.9%	1.8%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	21	66	4	1	20	10	122
	%	17.2%	54.1%	3.3%	.8%	16.4%	8.2%	100.0%

q24_5. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Legal aid provided by NGOs								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	17	28	2	0	34	0	81
	%	21.0%	34.6%	2.5%	0.0%	42.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	15	63	7	2	22	0	109
	%	13.8%	57.8%	6.4%	1.8%	20.2%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	19	20	0	1	1	0	41
	%	46.3%	48.8%	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	14	35	1	0	6	1	57
	%	24.6%	61.4%	1.8%	0.0%	10.5%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	48	1	3	53	11	122
	%	4.9%	39.3%	.8%	2.5%	43.4%	9.0%	100.0%

q24_6. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Courts in Georgia								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	65	16	0	0	0	0	81
	%	80.2%	19.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	8	66	25	4	6	0	109
	%	7.3%	60.6%	22.9%	3.7%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	14	21	5	1	0	41
	%	0.0%	34.1%	51.2%	12.2%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	4	39	8	2	2	2	57
	%	7.0%	68.4%	14.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	24	73	12	3	5	5	122
	%	19.7%	59.8%	9.8%	2.5%	4.1%	4.1%	100.0%

q24_7. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Prosecutor's Office								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	28	37	0	0	16	0	81
	%	34.6%	45.7%	0.0%	0.0%	19.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	9	64	19	6	11	0	109
	%	8.3%	58.7%	17.4%	5.5%	10.1%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	9	17	7	6	1	41
	%	2.4%	22.0%	41.5%	17.1%	14.6%	2.4%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	37	7	1	8	2	57
	%	3.5%	64.9%	12.3%	1.8%	14.0%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	78	39	3	1	0	1	122
	%	63.9%	32.0%	2.5%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q24_8. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Georgian Bar Association								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	21	40	1	0	17	2	81
	%	25.9%	49.4%	1.2%	0.0%	21.0%	2.5%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	38	65	3	2	1	0	109
	%	34.9%	59.6%	2.8%	1.8%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	26	9	1	1	0	41
	%	9.8%	63.4%	22.0%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	6	44	5	0	1	1	57
	%	10.5%	77.2%	8.8%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	18	54	12	3	27	8	122
	%	14.8%	44.3%	9.8%	2.5%	22.1%	6.6%	100.0%

q24_9. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association

		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	8	28	4	0	40	1	81
	%	9.9%	34.6%	4.9%	0.0%	49.4%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	34	65	3	2	5	0	109
	%	31.2%	59.6%	2.8%	1.8%	4.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	4	24	4	1	8	0	41
	%	9.8%	58.5%	9.8%	2.4%	19.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	4	40	3	3	5	2	57
	%	7.0%	70.2%	5.3%	5.3%	8.8%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	7	35	7	7	53	13	122
	%	5.7%	28.7%	5.7%	5.7%	43.4%	10.7%	100.0%

q24_10. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Judges Association of Georgia

		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	62	17	1	0	1	0	81
	%	76.5%	21.0%	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	46	13	2	45	0	109
	%	2.8%	42.2%	11.9%	1.8%	41.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	7	14	1	18	0	41
	%	2.4%	17.1%	34.1%	2.4%	43.9%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	4	28	7	1	15	2	57
	%	7.0%	49.1%	12.3%	1.8%	26.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	8	35	3	4	60	12	122
	%	6.6%	28.7%	2.5%	3.3%	49.2%	9.8%	100.0%

q24_11. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Judges Association “Unity”								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	7	10	3	0	61	0	81
	%	8.6%	12.3%	3.7%	0.0%	75.3%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	18	9	5	74	0	109
	%	2.8%	16.5%	8.3%	4.6%	67.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	9	6	2	24	0	41
	%	0.0%	22.0%	14.6%	4.9%	58.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	10	2	1	41	2	57
	%	1.8%	17.5%	3.5%	1.8%	71.9%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	5	21	1	2	81	12	122
	%	4.1%	17.2%	.8%	1.6%	66.4%	9.8%	100.0%

q24_12. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Independent Inspector								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	54	26	0	0	1	0	81
	%	66.7%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	21	9	3	73	0	109
	%	2.8%	19.3%	8.3%	2.8%	67.0%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	13	12	3	11	0	41
	%	4.9%	31.7%	29.3%	7.3%	26.8%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	23	2	2	27	2	57
	%	1.8%	40.4%	3.5%	3.5%	47.4%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	9	42	2	1	54	14	122
	%	7.4%	34.4%	1.6%	.8%	44.3%	11.5%	100.0%

q24_13. In your opinion, how well or how badly is the work of the following institutions organized? - Disciplinary Collegium of Judges								
		Very well	Mainly Well	Mainly Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	56	22	1	0	2	0	81
	%	69.1%	27.2%	1.2%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	1	28	15	9	56	0	109
	%	.9%	25.7%	13.8%	8.3%	51.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	6	19	5	10	0	41
	%	2.4%	14.6%	46.3%	12.2%	24.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	0	28	8	3	16	2	57
	%	0.0%	49.1%	14.0%	5.3%	28.1%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	32	4	6	62	12	122
	%	4.9%	26.2%	3.3%	4.9%	50.8%	9.8%	100.0%

q25_1. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Ministry of Justice									
		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	22	45	4	0	0	9	1	81
	%	27.2%	55.6%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	1.2%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	10	40	44	11	3	1	0	109
	%	9.2%	36.7%	40.4%	10.1%	2.8%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	5	25	9	1	0	0	41
	%	2.4%	12.2%	61.0%	22.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	3	29	22	2	0	0	1	57
	%	5.3%	50.9%	38.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	39	55	20	1	1	4	2	122
	%	32.0%	45.1%	16.4%	.8%	.8%	3.3%	1.6%	100.0%

q25_2. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - High Council of Justice

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	65	15	0	0	0	1	0	81
	%	80.2%	18.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	28	40	21	10	7	0	109
	%	2.8%	25.7%	36.7%	19.3%	9.2%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	2	7	18	13	1	0	41
	%	0.0%	4.9%	17.1%	43.9%	31.7%	2.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	13	25	7	1	7	2	57
	%	3.5%	22.8%	43.9%	12.3%	1.8%	12.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	14	42	28	5	6	18	9	122
	%	11.5%	34.4%	23.0%	4.1%	4.9%	14.8%	7.4%	100.0%

q25_3. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - High School of Justice

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	63	15	1	0	0	2	0	81
	%	77.8%	18.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	32	37	12	4	22	0	109
	%	1.8%	29.4%	33.9%	11.0%	3.7%	20.2%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	5	19	9	3	5	0	41
	%	0.0%	12.2%	46.3%	22.0%	7.3%	12.2%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	3	16	18	7	0	11	2	57
	%	5.3%	28.1%	31.6%	12.3%	0.0%	19.3%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	13	45	24	4	3	24	9	122
	%	10.7%	36.9%	19.7%	3.3%	2.5%	19.7%	7.4%	100.0%

q25_4. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - State funded legal aid service

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse answer	to	Total
Judge	Count	34	36	7	0	0	4	0		81
	%	42.0%	44.4%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%		100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	5	47	40	7	2	8	0		109
	%	4.6%	43.1%	36.7%	6.4%	1.8%	7.3%	0.0%		100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	24	12	1	1	2	0		41
	%	2.4%	58.5%	29.3%	2.4%	2.4%	4.9%	0.0%		100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	34	19	4	0	0	0	0		57
	%	59.6%	33.3%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	23	59	26	0	0	9	5		122
	%	18.9%	48.4%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	4.1%		100.0%

q25_5. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Legal aid provided by NGOs

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse answer	to	Total
Judge	Count	14	33	4	1	0	28	1		81
	%	17.3%	40.7%	4.9%	1.2%	0.0%	34.6%	1.2%		100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	8	48	37	1	1	14	0		109
	%	7.3%	44.0%	33.9%	.9%	.9%	12.8%	0.0%		100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	18	17	5	0	1	0	0		41
	%	43.9%	41.5%	12.2%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%		100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	10	35	7	0	0	5	0		57
	%	17.5%	61.4%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%	0.0%		100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	8	38	21	6	4	36	9		122
	%	6.6%	31.1%	17.2%	4.9%	3.3%	29.5%	7.4%		100.0%

q25_6. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Courts in Georgia

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	60	21	0	0	0	0	0	81
	%	74.1%	25.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	40	53	10	2	1	0	109
	%	2.8%	36.7%	48.6%	9.2%	1.8%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	4	22	11	3	0	0	41
	%	2.4%	9.8%	53.7%	26.8%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	29	23	3	1	0	0	57
	%	1.8%	50.9%	40.4%	5.3%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	28	64	20	5	3	0	2	122
	%	23.0%	52.5%	16.4%	4.1%	2.5%	0.0%	1.6%	100.0%

q25_7. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Prosecutor's Office

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	19	49	4	0	0	9	0	81
	%	23.5%	60.5%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	36	45	13	4	8	0	109
	%	2.8%	33.0%	41.3%	11.9%	3.7%	7.3%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	3	13	13	4	8	0	41
	%	0.0%	7.3%	31.7%	31.7%	9.8%	19.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	17	27	4	0	4	3	57
	%	3.5%	29.8%	47.4%	7.0%	0.0%	7.0%	5.3%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	79	34	7	0	1	0	1	122
	%	64.8%	27.9%	5.7%	0.0%	.8%	0.0%	.8%	100.0%

q25_8. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Georgian Bar Association

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	11	45	13	0	1	11	0	81
	%	13.6%	55.6%	16.0%	0.0%	1.2%	13.6%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	20	65	20	3	0	1	0	109
	%	18.3%	59.6%	18.3%	2.8%	0.0%	.9%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	18	14	6	0	0	0	41
	%	7.3%	43.9%	34.1%	14.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	7	32	16	1	1	0	0	57
	%	12.3%	56.1%	28.1%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	14	51	34	2	2	14	5	122
	%	11.5%	41.8%	27.9%	1.6%	1.6%	11.5%	4.1%	100.0%

q25_9. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	5	25	9	3	1	38	0	81
	%	6.2%	30.9%	11.1%	3.7%	1.2%	46.9%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	18	63	17	2	2	7	0	109
	%	16.5%	57.8%	15.6%	1.8%	1.8%	6.4%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	3	16	16	2	0	4	0	41
	%	7.3%	39.0%	39.0%	4.9%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	5	33	13	1	1	2	2	57
	%	8.8%	57.9%	22.8%	1.8%	1.8%	3.5%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	7	23	17	11	4	49	11	122
	%	5.7%	18.9%	13.9%	9.0%	3.3%	40.2%	9.0%	100.0%

q25_10. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Judges Association of Georgia

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	61	19	1	0	0	0	0	81
	%	75.3%	23.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	3	25	33	8	0	40	0	109
	%	2.8%	22.9%	30.3%	7.3%	0.0%	36.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	1	17	8	2	12	0	41
	%	2.4%	2.4%	41.5%	19.5%	4.9%	29.3%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	2	21	14	3	1	14	2	57
	%	3.5%	36.8%	24.6%	5.3%	1.8%	24.6%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	9	32	12	3	4	51	11	122
	%	7.4%	26.2%	9.8%	2.5%	3.3%	41.8%	9.0%	100.0%

q25_11. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Judges Association "Unity"

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	4	11	3	3	1	59	0	81
	%	4.9%	13.6%	3.7%	3.7%	1.2%	72.8%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	8	16	5	2	76	0	109
	%	1.8%	7.3%	14.7%	4.6%	1.8%	69.7%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	0	5	11	1	2	22	0	41
	%	0.0%	12.2%	26.8%	2.4%	4.9%	53.7%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	4	8	1	0	41	2	57
	%	1.8%	7.0%	14.0%	1.8%	0.0%	71.9%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	17	9	1	3	74	12	122
	%	4.9%	13.9%	7.4%	.8%	2.5%	60.7%	9.8%	100.0%

q25_12. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Independent Inspector

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	55	23	0	0	0	3	0	81
	%	67.9%	28.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	17	14	8	2	66	0	109
	%	1.8%	15.6%	12.8%	7.3%	1.8%	60.6%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	2	6	15	5	3	10	0	41
	%	4.9%	14.6%	36.6%	12.2%	7.3%	24.4%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	13	14	1	1	25	2	57
	%	1.8%	22.8%	24.6%	1.8%	1.8%	43.9%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	12	33	13	2	1	48	13	122
	%	9.8%	27.0%	10.7%	1.6%	.8%	39.3%	10.7%	100.0%

q25_13. Using the scale, please, assess the performance of each of the following institutions. Is it very good, good, medium, bad, or very bad? - Disciplinary Collegium of Judges

		Very well	Well	Medium	Badly	Very badly	Don't know	Refuse to answer	Total
Judge	Count	54	24	1	0	0	2	0	81
	%	66.7%	29.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	100.0%
GBA Lawyer	Count	2	19	30	10	6	42	0	109
	%	1.8%	17.4%	27.5%	9.2%	5.5%	38.5%	0.0%	100.0%
NGO lawyer	Count	1	0	13	14	5	8	0	41
	%	2.4%	0.0%	31.7%	34.1%	12.2%	19.5%	0.0%	100.0%
LAS lawyer	Count	1	12	19	4	1	18	2	57
	%	1.8%	21.1%	33.3%	7.0%	1.8%	31.6%	3.5%	100.0%
Prosecutors	Count	6	23	16	0	4	62	11	122
	%	4.9%	18.9%	13.1%	0.0%	3.3%	50.8%	9.0%	100.0%

Annex 4 – Summary of focus groups and qualitative interviews

The qualitative component of the study consisted of focus groups with lawyers (mixed groups of private lawyers, NGO lawyers, and LAS lawyers) in Tbilisi, Rustavi, Akhaltsikhe, and Batumi (one group in each location) and qualitative interviews with judges (7) and prosecutors (8) in the same locations. This annex provides a detailed summary of results, including views and opinions expressed during focus groups and qualitative interviews supported by respective quotes.

Areas of the judiciary that need improvement in Georgia

Lawyers in all four locations named case overload in courts and length of case resolution as some of the main problems in the judiciary. In the opinion of lawyers in Tbilisi, cases are sometimes prolonged due to investigation problems, and sometimes prolonged due to overloaded judges creating obstacles for court appeals in order to prolong the case and gain time. Lawyers in Batumi are aware that judges have hundreds of cases, and they say that this affects the quality of decisions. Lawyers in several cities mentioned that inefficient procession of cases was a problem not only at the first instance but at higher court levels, especially given that there was a serious issue of selecting judges for the Supreme Court. Two lawyers in Batumi recalled specific cases, filed by banks, which were high priority for courts and always discussed on time.

Two NGO lawyers in Batumi made an interesting point regarding the reasons for case overload in courts and the lack of judges. They said that it was artificially arranged and that the High Council of Justice should be held responsible for it. They said that people outside the court system, e.g. highly qualified lawyers, defense lawyers, or people outside the courts and Prosecutor's Office could hardly manage to enter the system. There were lawyers willing to start the High School of Justice listeners' course and to become a judge, but High Council of Justice was not willing to have people who were not from their circle enter the system.

Lawyers in Tbilisi named "bad laws" in general as one of the problems. However, more often lawyers in all four cities complained of the lack of common practice when judges interpret laws differently, resulting in different decisions on highly similar cases not only on the first instance courts but also in courts of appeal and even the Supreme Court. Lawyers in Batumi said it was highly problematic for them that it was impossible to foresee others' perspective on the case and that often court decisions depended on the individual judge that the case was assigned to.

Lawyers in Tbilisi mentioned that the level of judges' independence has increased in the past years. However, there is a lack of balance between their independence and accountability, meaning that judges are rarely held responsible if they exceed their authority. Lawyers in Rustavi raised ethical issues as a current problem and said that ethics were overlooked in courts, and it reflected poorly on a state institution as high as courts when judges acted in an unethical

way. Lawyers in Akhaltsikhe spoke about current negative trends in the Georgian court system, which followed improvements after 2012.

A slightly different problem was mentioned in Akhaltsikhe. Lawyers started discussing problems with court bias towards the state, including judges taking the side of the state in administrative cases or the accusing side (Prosecutor's Office) in criminal cases.

- *“I had an anniversary two years ago with an interview in one of the television channels. An administrative dispute, 28 sq. m. property registration, turned 10 years old. We were in the first instance court; now the case is in the second instance. Court cases can be prolonged even in criminal law... Seven, eight, nine years we have no decision, can you imagine? Investigation takes years whereas it is probably up to two months' work.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years' experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“When you write five pages of argumentation and the response is like an SMS that your motion is groundless... Who does not know in civil law that there are three thousand cases assigned to a single judge? What should he/she do?... A judge that has two to three thousand cases is obliged to play ping-pong with motions... Anecdotes like this, one judge did not accept a motion because the fax of a defendant was missing.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years' experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Maybe it is because of too much workload... but in the context of grounding decisions there are very bad decisions.” (NGO lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 3 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“Judges have too many cases in all fields, especially civil and criminal law, less so in administrative law, and too many cases in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. In fact, there are so many vacancies at the Supreme Court, people need to be appointed but they cannot do that and this is a big problem— problem of appointing judges, the High Council of Justice problem, and others.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years' experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“If a bank is filing a case to a court, the documents will be accepted no later than three months, and when a private individual files a case, then problems occur and the case is prolonged. When banks did that, I had a case and I was surprised—the court hearing was appointed as soon as the case was filed. Yes, those may be simpler cases where it is easy to distinguish black and white; however, there are even simpler cases that are prolonged.” (Private lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 12 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“Case overload in courts is artificial and the High Council of Justice, along with the legislative body, should take responsibility for it.” (NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 6 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“It is artificially arranged because an outside person such as a highly qualified lawyer—a defense lawyer who has not worked in the system, is not a former judge or judge assistant, or a prosecutor—for a person like that, entering the [court] system is*

almost unimaginable... There are many willing to start the High School of Justice, then participate in the contest and become a judge, but there is no will of the state and of the High Council of Justice in this direction. If a person is not from their close circle, a regular citizen who may be highly qualified and have years of experience and a good reputation, such a citizen does not have the opportunity to enter the system.” (NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)

- *“Bad laws... Practice proved that many laws, whether in administrative, civil, or criminal law, are problematic.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“It is very problematic when you cannot foresee the outcome of a case. There are many cases with a certain court practice; however, things may change, the case may be assigned to a different colleague and it can turn things upside down.” (Lawyer at TI, woman, civil law, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“It cannot be this way that you as a lawyer are going to court and are wondering who the case will be assigned to and praying for this or that judge because there you may have a greater chance of achieving the desired outcome. This is a problem because judges interpret laws differently.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Some judges write decisions that may not comply with the principles of the law. I can name specific cases. When the world is moving to precedent law, use of past experience—for example, introduction of the Supreme Court practice in lower instance courts—[in Georgia] today there is no common practice, rather different decisions, not only in the first instance courts but also in the Supreme Court. You can find different interpretations within a month’s time.” (NGO lawyer, man, civil and administrative law, Tbilisi)*
- *“Ethical issues are overlooked and no one thinks it is important. Whereas it is the foundation. When such an important representative of a state institution [judge] shows an unethical and cynical attitude towards the sides, it casts a shadow on the entire system.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, 1 year experience, Rustavi)*
- *“The level of independence of judges has increased significantly. They are not tied to the Prosecutor’s Office as before... However, the balance has been lost between independence and accountability of judges. Practically, if a judge commits some disciplinary offence and you appeal to the High Council of Justice, the latter is a totally lifeless body in this regard. It does not discuss the case.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Everything started to move backwards. I don’t know why. Whether they have made a deal with somebody, communicated with each other or what. I don’t know and we can only assume. But the fact is that processes went backwards. It is not like if they bring something ungrounded, they will be satisfied by that. But they [judges] share their*

position, expect that maybe they can ground it well and I can satisfy their motion. The expectations that they [judges] have is obvious and it is problematic.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)

- *“Today court often takes the side of the state. Somehow because it is a state, I don’t know, whether they feel some power from them or what but there are attempts for them [judges] to take their side [Prosecutor’s Office] and not the defense side.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“When the side is a private individual or physical entity, and you have the state on the other side, judges... I don’t know if it’s because their inner belief is formed this way or they are afraid that someone will reproach them or what. The situation is that we start the game with a 1:0 score.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Lawyers mostly discussed problems, with fewer solutions mentioned. One of the suggestions voiced in Tbilisi in order to improve the institution of plea bargaining was increasing the role of judges in that agreement. Another lawyer in Tbilisi mentioned that if judges had the ability to use alternative punishments, then plea bargaining would work better and there would be faster procession of cases. As for the people or institutions who should be responsible for resolving problems in the judiciary, lawyers in Tbilisi named government representatives and parliament (mostly for legal amendments), since some of them believe resolution of problems mostly depends on political will. Lawyers in Rustavi named the state in general, the Ministry of Justice, and the High Council of Justice.

- *“The authority of judges should increase, judges are notaries... Court should have the right to plea bargaining.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“When a judge has too much work, there are cases when judges do not know the contents of the case, they come and approve the plea bargain right away if it is in place. If not, then they will have to learn about the case before the hearing, so they postpone the hearing as long as they can before they use the maximum term. Why? Because they are overloaded and physically have no time. If their authority is increased and they have the right to apply alternative punishments, even the plea bargaining will not be as ugly as it is now.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Political will, I will say directly. Whoever is the formal ruler, him, and in legal terms, parliament and relevant legislative initiatives.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“The state, Ministry of Justice.” (Private lawyers, woman, common law, 24 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Whoever is the controlling body, Ministry of Justice and High Council of Justice.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 30 years’ experience, Rustavi)*

Judges also named case overload as one of the main problems, especially judges in Batumi. They said that because of too many cases per judge, they had to work overtime and make all efforts to keep the dates and terms. However, it was not always possible and prolonged procession of cases caused discontent on all sides.

Several judges named qualified personnel as the main problem, including judges and other court staff, as the demands of modernity set challenges that courts need to tackle. One judge outlined the need to raise the level of education of the sides. It was also mentioned in Akhaltsikhe that sending 65-year-old judges home to lead a pensioner's life was not reasonable, since qualified judges, upon their will, could be useful for courts and could work until 70 or 75. A judge in Akhaltsikhe also complained about the lack of social guarantees for judges.

Judges in Rustavi named different kind of problems: qualifications of the police and problems with bringing prisoners to court rooms. A judge with 35 years of experience in Rustavi said that police officers often had no legal background and went through a 3-month program, which was not enough for acquiring legal knowledge, and this caused problems in investigation as well as human rights violations. It seems that there is a recent problem in the Rustavi court related to bringing prisoners to court hearings, which, according to the judge, was due to lack of transportation and human resources.

- *“It is necessary to increase the number of judges due to the workload nowadays. Yes, judges manage to cope with it. My colleagues and I are trying not to violate laws and terms and it costs us too much work.” (Judge, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“In civil law, the number of cases is too large. It sometimes leads to us not managing to discuss the cases in time and it causes discontent among the sides. This is the number one problem now – overloaded courts.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Qualified personnel, I mean judges as well as assistants, secretaries, and technical staff, because current requirements are more difficult and strict.” (Judge, man, common law, 35 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“Increasing the education level of the sides.” (Judges, woman, criminal law, 2 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Qualified staff are drained from courts, especially judges. We appoint them for life and then make them resign when they reach 65. Where is the logic?... Qualified judges can work until 70-75.” (Judge, man, common law, 35 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“Social guarantees for judges are below zero. At first glance, the salary sounds impressive, 4000 Gel for a regular judge. However, there is no pension or other social guarantees.” (Judge, man, common law, 35 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“The most acute problem is with the police, as there is a bad trend that even though there are many lawyers, people who have no legal background are appointed as*

investigators. It is reflected in the quality of investigation and violation of rights. 99% of violations are by those who are not lawyers. Lawyers are more careful. They go through the 3-month something and a person cannot become a lawyer in three months. Basic knowledge is different, if he/she does not know legal norms, basis of law, he/she cannot learn it in three months. It is always hard for them to apply laws in practice and they treat laws superficially.” (Judge, woman, common law, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)

- *“Bringing prisoners is a problem. They lack staff. Often court hearings are ruined because they cannot bring prisoners. In the Rustavi court, there are many cases from Kvemo Kartli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi. When a prosecutor is bringing a witness from a village of Dmanisi or Bolnisi, he/she has to change four transports to reach Rustavi. And they cannot reach Rustavi right away, they have to go to Ponichala and then turn back. And when they finally come and a prisoner is not there, it is very problematic, especially in the last year.” (Judge, woman, common law, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)*

Prosecutors in all four cities pointed out the need to improve investigation, including the qualification of investigators and number of investigators. The latter was mentioned in Akhaltsikhe and Batumi. One of the prosecutors in Tbilisi welcomed the division of the investigative unit and operational unit at the police. According to her, when the two units were united, one and the same person had to be on a 24-hour shift as an operational officer and then work on case investigations the next day, which was exhausting for them and reflected in the quality of their work.

Prosecutors also outlined the problem of the lack of judges in courts, which often caused inefficient delivery of justice in terms of time, especially in cases when laws defined priorities for processing certain cases in courts.

Prosecutors in Tbilisi named other problems as well, including lack of coordination between the justice institutions—the courts, the Prosecutor’s Office, the investigation, and especially between the Prosecutor’s Office and the investigation. It was also mentioned in a positive light that it is planned to clearly divide the functions of prosecutors and investigators so that prosecutors are involved in the case at a later stage and investigators take full responsibility for the collection of evidence. A prosecutor in Rustavi thought resources were the main problem in the justice system.

As for who should be responsible for resolving these problems, prosecutors generally named authorities of respective institutions.

- *“The most problematic issue in the entire justice system is investigation—competence in most cases, number of investigators. Competence includes education and the ability to put everything in legal frames and act as needed, individually of course.” (Prosecutor, man, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

- *“The investigative unit, they should have higher legal education. It is my opinion and it is logical that a person who investigates a criminal case should have higher legal education to know what he/she is investigating, what kind of a crime it is, and of which components it consists, and do this not on the basis of a two-three months’ course.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Everything starts when the public communicates with the police. I am glad that there is ongoing work in this direction and the situation is improving. The problem was that the investigative unit and operational unit were not divided. It was divided many years ago, and then they merged it again, and for many years operational and investigative work was done by the same people. In this case, maintaining quality was hard, as a person who stays awake for 24 hours cannot investigate a case in a qualified manner the next day.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“In the delivery of justice, apart from the Prosecutor’s Office and court, the Interior Ministry has an important role. It is important to increase the competence of Interior Ministry investigators and to increase human resources. There are many cases, many investigations, and one investigator is responsible for 15-20 cases per month, which is physically impossible to implement at high quality.” (Prosecutor, man, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“When I think about courts, there are technical issues that are problematic, the problem of prolonged cases, the problem of the number of judges, and I also come across qualification problems, unfortunately.” (Prosecutor, man, 12 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“The number of judges could be increased, as each judge has a lot of cases and court hearings are appointed at long time intervals from one another, which entails that there is no quick justice, even on cases that courts should be processing in a priority order where there is imprisonment or it is a case of a juvenile.” (Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“One of the main challenges is coordination so that all parts of the justice system work in a coordinated way. Of course, this includes courts. However, coordinated work among courts, Prosecutor’s Office, and the police should not violate the main principle of equality and competitiveness.” (Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Coordination so that a prosecutor knows about the work of an investigator and investigator knows what product a prosecutor needs to take the case to court. And [investigator] should not be thinking about statistics, having an opened case, and think about evidence, to obtain evidence that the accusing side will then use in court.” (Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Functions of prosecutors and investigators were not clearly divided. We had to be enrolled in investigations from the very first minutes, as motions were submitted in our names and we were as loaded on the investigation level as on the court process, and it was hard to combine the two and to do it all on a high level. Now the work is underway to divide the functions of a prosecutor from the investigation, and before the*

prosecution starts we will be less involved in investigation.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

- *“The justice system is complex and includes courts, the Prosecutor’s Office, and the police, as well as social services, legal aid services, and all. In this sphere I would single out lack of resources. This is the main problem nowadays.” (Prosecutor, woman, 4 years’ experience, Rustavi)*

Equality and balance between disputing parties in court

Lawyers in Batumi and Tbilisi pointed out that in recent years there were certain positive changes in legislation, criminal law per se, related to expertise and exploration of evidence. However, according to lawyers, the balance still tilted to the accusing side, since the state with its resources was standing behind them. Lawyers in Rustavi also confirmed the slight supremacy of the accusing side in criminal law, and confirmed that the principles of equality and competitiveness were more observed in civil and administrative law. Nevertheless, two lawyers in Akhaltsikhe and Batumi mentioned a similar case of a big infrastructure project where one side was an administrative body and the dispute was around 250,000 (Gel, and USD in another case). A private lawyer in Akhaltsikhe said that court seemed reluctant to make the state pay this amount. And an NGO lawyer in Batumi described the court hearing at the Court of Appeal where a judge entered the hall and demanded new expertise even though there were several expertise results included in the case. A private lawyer in Tbilisi had a negative experience on a labor case where large companies were involved.

An NGO lawyer in Batumi told about a case that involved a judge who is now a high official in the legal sphere. In the course of initial questioning, the chief prosecutor changed the qualification of the case and the victim became the accused.

- *“There are some changes on the legislative level, with regards to the right of search and exploration of evidences... Otherwise, if we do not count the resources, which we should consider, as the state is on one side with its institution, and the defending side does not have that much resources.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 10 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“In criminal law, the accusing side dominates, privilege is on its side. In civil and administrative law, the principle of equality and competitiveness is more or less observed.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, 1 year experience, Rustavi)*
- *“In criminal law, the state has a priority position... If you have a poor accused and you need alternative evidence and the accused has no money even for food, how can he/she fund this?” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 30 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“There was a case where new roads were built by the Department of Roads and the heavy machinery that was used damaged local houses. About 250 thousand Gel was disputed. The suit was not accepted and the process took such a turn that it would not be reasonable to make the state pay such a large amount. Later I learned that the judge*

did not want to make the state pay.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 6 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)

- *“I have had practice with large companies when, after a year and eight months, the Supreme Court changed two court decisions on a labor dispute.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Judges in all locations mentioned that the legislation ensures the adversarial principle and that parties enjoy equal rights in civil, administrative, and criminal law. Therefore courts are obliged to act according to this principle and judges shall always explain rights to both parties. Judges stated that although equality and balance between disputing parties are ensured in the court, in criminal law, the prosecuting party has more resources and rights to investigate and gather evidence than the defending party. The judge from Rustavi stated that the decision of the constitutional court made it possible that not only the prosecutor but also a lawyer has a right to demand video recordings and this made disputing parties more equal in criminal law.

- *“I am explaining to everyone, and this time more attention is paid to the accused party, that you enjoy equal procedural rights... the case is being reviewed based on the parties’ competition and the equality principle and the court ensures protection of this principle. It is the obligation of the court. This explanation is already an indicator for the party that they are on equal basis and are not discriminated against in any form.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 19 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“The investigation has more resources than the defense side, but prosecutor is a state entity and it should be so. “ (Judge, woman, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“It [the current legislation] ensures the equality of parties, but I have remarked regarding the role of the judge that has been reduced. It is problematic because criminal law cases are mainly linked to witness testimonies.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 1 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“In terms of obtaining evidence, we can say that the prosecuting side is dominant and the defense does not enjoy equality and adversarial principles in this respect.” (Judge, woman, civil law, 7 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

The only issue mentioned by a judge in Tbilisi referred to prisoners who are limited in gathering evidence. The state does not determine the appointment of a defender in this case, only for people who are subject to obligatory protection or belong to a socially vulnerable group.

- *“There are some issues that are important in my opinion, especially when a person is in custody. He/she is limited to a certain extent from collecting evidence in his favor and needs a defender. A person who is not subject to obligatory protection or is not socially vulnerable, the state does not determine the appointment [of defender] for such people. But it turns out that a person who wants to protect his own interests and has the mental capacity to do so is not socially vulnerable but cannot afford to find a defender and cannot collect evidence from that institution or prepare the same way as*

in the case of freedom. In cases when a defender is not involved, there are some difficulties, because the defendant does not know the rules of how to ask questions or what cross-examination means, and cannot use these tools effectively.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 1 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

Judges did not elaborate much regarding civil law cases concerning big commercial disputes. Most of them did not have this experience, but they mentioned that there is no difference when a big bank or company is a party.

- *“Whether commercial bank, big company, or individual is presented I think that there is no difference here, neither for the judge nor for the decision— it does not matter.” (Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Prosecutors confirmed that the balance between the parties is effectively ensured by the legislation and the court. After the 2018 constitutional court decision, the defending side also has the right to demand video recordings, which brings parties on equal ground. Nowadays the defense party has almost the same rights for investigation as a prosecutor. Some prosecutors said that the court is more demanding towards them because of the resources they have and therefore the accused party is a priority. Prosecutors noted that sometimes the court considers the fact that citizen does not know some procedures and makes evidence admissible whereas it would be excluded if the same thing has been done by the prosecutor.

- *“Until December 2018, until the Constitutional Court took the decision that the defense party also had the right to obtain some information of the secret investigation, and also there was a limit in the regard that the defense side had to request interlocutory to conduct something, the prosecution had the right of primary investigation. This inequality eradicated... by this decision, the prosecution side and the defense side became equal.” (Prosecutor, woman, 4 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“In this regard, we can say that there is progress at the legislative level. And according to this, we can say that for the most part parties are equipped with the right to fully protect their interests, lawyers can protect their client's interests. They can conduct practically the same investigative activities that could be carried out by the investigating body, and at the legislative level the principle of equality is almost fully guaranteed.” (Prosecutor, man, 12 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“The interests of the accused party is considered a priority by the court.” (Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Cases when the party represents itself without a lawyer

As for cases when a side is not represented by a lawyer, some lawyers admitted that there was a natural disbalance between the sides, as a judge is tied by principles of equality and competitiveness and cannot help the accused. A lawyer in Tbilisi pointed to a problem that a detained person without a lawyer had little chance of obtaining evidence even though he/she was told that his/her evidence could be included in the case.

- *“A judge cannot advocate for a side and help him/her in any way.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“When a person is detained, he/she is told that his/her evidence will be explored as an equal evidence. But how can a detained person obtain evidence if he/she does not have a lawyer?” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 5 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Judges did not name specific cases but generally mentioned that they spend much more time during the court processes when one of the parties represents itself without a lawyer. Judges act according to the legislation so that the balance and equality between the parties remain, and explain rights and procedures thoroughly to make it understandable for a citizen that is not represented by a lawyer. Thus, according to judges, this party does not feel uncomfortable. Court processes are easier for judges when both parties are represented by a lawyer. A judge from Tbilisi recalled a case when the party represented itself and could not use the proper procedure of cross-examination and did not know which questions to ask.

- *“The court spends more time on such cases because more explanations are needed. It’s a citizen, they do not have to deal with the law; we need to explain more about procedures.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“The party without a defender does not feel any discomfort. On the contrary, more time is dedicated to them, I repeat, in compliance with the law.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 19 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Mostly, the parties are presented by the representatives in the court, especially in recent times almost everybody has a lawyer. When a party is represented by a lawyer, it is easier to discuss the case, the procedure is even easier if there are good lawyers.” (Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“When the party did not have a lawyer, the problem was raised—I do not remember the particular case—he had no questions during the interrogation of the witness. He did not know what to ask, what to pay attention to. And only the prosecution side had the instrument of cross-examination, which is in essence through competition how you reveal the truth, which is guaranteed by cross-examination. He physically did not use this.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 1 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Prosecutors underlined the great effort of judges when it comes to parties represented without a lawyer. They said judges make detailed explanations in non-legal language or advise the party to have legal consultation. Prosecutors mentioned that the court takes all steps to ensure equality and balance between disputing parties.

- *“All judges of the Batumi Court explain in detail everything to the accused party, in language that they will understand—in non-legal language, not in terminology. They try their best to explain every detail, what details could be followed by what decision, and a judge gives wide explanations.” (Prosecutor, man, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*

- *“Once again [the judge] explains that he/she has the right to have a lawyer and if he/she wishes, the judge postpones the process, announces a break to bring or consult with somebody, and gives every opportunity in order to be equal to us during the process.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Court treatment of minorities and vulnerable groups

Lawyers in all four cities said that court treated minority and vulnerable groups without any differentiation or discrimination. A lawyer in Akhaltsikhe recalled a case when a wheelchair was needed for the accused and court provided it very quickly. Of the groups listed in the study, lawyers in Batumi, Tbilisi, and Akhaltsikhe spoke about domestic violence cases as problematic in some cases. On the one hand, due to the increased focus of the state on these cases, the courts pursued a strict policy and prisons were full of domestic violence culprits. NGO lawyers in the group supported the state policy and said it was driven by tragic statistics in the country. However, some of the lawyers in Tbilisi and Batumi, particularly LAS lawyers, said that in cases of domestic crimes, there were problems with testimonies, as victims often changed or annulled their testimony against family members. They also said that the stricter policy was pursued blindly and that investigation and detention rules should be observed as in other types of crimes. So a legal aid service lawyer in Batumi said the approach should be changed, as the current one did not bring particular results. It was mentioned in Akhaltsikhe that domestic crime victims were eligible for free legal aid service funded by the state.

A legal aid service lawyer in Tbilisi mentioned that in the last three years there was progress with regards to juveniles because of the new juvenile code. However, he also expressed fear that it could turn into a negative trend, since juveniles under 15 realized they would not be punished for crimes and engaged in burglary and theft.

- *“There is no difference in treatment [of the court].” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 5 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“There is no discrimination.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Not from the court, all cases are individual and... it is not about treatment.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“This domestic violence can lead to the worst possible result – killing of women, for specific reasons. This is due to the existing situation in the country.” (NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 6 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“The wife can come and say that he had not hit her or say that she refuses to testify to court. But it does not matter, there will be an incriminating decision anyway.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 10 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Let’s say they reconciled. First she gave a testimony saying he beats her heavily. Then she comes to court and does not testify any more. So, the accused pleads not guilty.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

- *“Because the aim was scaring [the man]. When they [victims] realize what the consequences are, they make a fuss.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“[The policy] became stricter and it has its positive and negative sides. However, it was made stricter blindly and if there is an article of domestic violence, everything ends there.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Domestic violence should be eradicated but there are rules. What results did we get from that [strict state policy]? The actual result is that here there is more domestic violence, not less. It had no effect. So, the approach should be changed. I am not saying that if a person committed a crime, he/she should not be punished. He/she should, but detention and investigation had their rules; court ruling is needed for that or urgent necessity. Domestic violence needs no court ruling and no rules. If someone says, this is a domestic violence culprit, he/she will be detained and court does not control how lawful it was. It is unimaginable, for a culprit it is a similar crime as theft or murder for someone else.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 10 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“According to new rules, domestic crime victims are eligible for free legal aid from the state.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“There has been big progress in terms of juveniles, and I have often heard concerns that this progress regressing as such an approach made many under 15 realize that their action is not a crime, so they commit burglary and say they cannot detain them. It is problematic and, by the way, the state is thinking a lot about it.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

From the judges' perspective, the court treats every person fairly and equally regardless of the group to which they belong. They don't see this as an issue in Georgia. Judges are more cautious when one of the parties is representative of a minority group. A judge from Tbilisi noted that law prescribes several factors when determining a sentence, and if the victim belongs to a minority group that could be an aggravating circumstance. Moreover, the court treats young offenders differently based on the Juvenile Justice Code.

- *“In our region live ethnic Armenians. There are often cases, in civil as well as in criminal law. There is absolutely no difference, they are equal. There is no different treatment towards them, it is excluded.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 7 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“If there is a representative of any of these vulnerable groups, I try even more to follow the procedural rules, to have their rights more represented. The lawyers are even more mobilized in this case. So I think that the problem in this regard does not exist in Georgian courts.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“However, there is no different approach that is not prescribed by the law. If a victim is a representative of ethnic minority or a representative of other group it does not*

matter. Being a representative of a minority, it is determined by the law that this is an aggravating circumstance.”(Judge, woman, criminal law, 1 years’ experience, Tbilisi)

Prosecutors excluded any kind of discriminative treatment towards minorities and vulnerable groups by the court. They emphasized that the situation has been improved and that judges work more carefully and pay more attention to these groups. They named several circumstances, for example, if a juvenile is a witness or the accused side there is a special room where the judge goes to speak to them to avoid any negative psychological influence of trial. Prosecutors also mentioned that the court treats minorities and vulnerable groups equally, and that judges try to make representatives of these groups feel comfortable during the court proceedings.

- *“In this regard, I think that we can see the results clearly. And on the contrary, in this case judges—and prosecutors as well—take this issue with more attention and sensitively, so that when someone leaves the court building, for instance, not to feel that they represent a minority.”(Prosecutor, man, 12 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“I have been working for so long and I have not seen in practice that judge treated a person unfairly for the reason that he/she belonged to a vulnerable group or national minority or sexual minority. On the contrary, for example, I have seen that if it is a juvenile or disabled person, [the judge] is more compassionate and explains their rights and obligations in more detail.”(Prosecutor, man, 10 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“Other vulnerable groups, such as children, women, elderly people, and people with disabilities, have all the conditions set up in the court not to have any obstacles during judicial process.”(Prosecutor, woman, 4 years’ experience, Rustavi)*

Prosecutor’s Office treatment of minorities and vulnerable groups

Lawyers in all cities reported no difference in the treatment of minority and vulnerable groups by the Prosecutor’s Office representatives. They said that prosecutors treated them as any other case. Only one lawyer in Tbilisi recalled a case from Ponichala when, presumably, representatives of the police planted weapons on ethnic Azerbaijanis to pressure them before elections, since one of the Azerbaijanis had said somewhere that he was going to vote for the United National Movement. The lawyer brought the case to the attention of the prosecutor, who met with the witnesses and seemed to be convinced that it was planting of weapons; however, the prosecutor said that if the accused appeared before court and gave a testimony that was different from what the police wanted, the latter would put him in a more difficult situation. In the end, a plea bargain was signed.

- *“Normal attitude. I cannot say that there is any discrimination by them because of this [being a minority or a vulnerable group].” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 10 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Similar to how it is with courts, for the Prosecutor’s Office it is a regular case that they do the job of the accuser.” (LAS lawyer, man, criminal law, 5 years’ experience, Batumi)*

- *“Recently, there were weapons planted weapons on Azerbaijanis from Kvemo Kartli, related to elections. The person said somewhere that he was voting for number 5 and afterwards the planting started. You should have seen the weapons, rare ones, planted in one pocket and bullets in another. But these were machine gun bullets... I went to the prosecutor and said everything... The prosecutor met with the person, spoke with him and said, what can I do, they will give him a hard time in the court hearing if he stands up and gives a testimony against the police. They will eat him, he said. Then intimidation started, and in the end all three of the Azerbaijanis signed plea bargains.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Judges could not recall any cases when Prosecutor’s Office treated minority representatives differently. On the contrary, some judges stated that prosecutors are very careful in this regard and they sometimes assume that a case has signs of discrimination or it is a hate crime when the trial does not prove this fact. Generally, judges mentioned that the Prosecutor’s Office does not discriminate against any vulnerable groups.

- *“Absolutely equally, I have not noticed that any kind of discrimination took place.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Prosecutors on the contrary sometimes exaggerate what they accuse and see, whether there is it [discrimination]. I think that they try to ensure to not to miss anything but the trial does not prove it.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 19 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Prosecutors were unanimous while discussing the Prosecutor’s Office treatment of minorities and vulnerable groups. They stated that there is no difference in treatment. The Prosecutor’s Office arranges trainings and gives recommendations and practical examples to have equal treatment towards women, children, ethnic minorities, LGBT representatives, and other vulnerable groups. A prosecutor from Batumi gave an example when a representative of a foreign country was a witness in the case and had to leave the country, and the prosecutor arranged the examination sooner so as not to hinder him from leaving the country.

- *“I do not recall any case, neither in the Prosecutor’s Office nor in the court or in Legal Aid Service, with a minority representative in the case—it does not matter whether he/she was an ethnic minority or a person with a different sexual orientation, there was never any difference in that case. Recent legislative amendments that refer to discrimination made actions more punishable.”(Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“In fact, the Prosecutor's Office is the body that we say that should stand on the side of a person who suffered, and if I will start choosing this person speaks Georgian, that person speaks Armenian, this likes this, that likes that, and will stand by your side according to this, then it turns out that I am guilty as well.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

LAS treatment of minorities and vulnerable groups

Similar to the other two institutions, lawyers in all cities reported that the state funded legal aid service did not treat minority and vulnerable groups differently. On the contrary, special attitudes were shown to ethnic minorities who did not speak Georgian, as they were eligible for defense by the legal aid service lawyers. Special treatment was also given to victims of domestic violence and people with physical or mental disabilities.

- *“Because of not knowing the language [Georgian], ethnic minorities are given priority. There is mandatory defense for them.” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Different treatment, but not in a bad sense. For example, if they have a mental or physical disability they receive a free legal aid lawyer. Victims of domestic violence are provided with a free lawyer if they address us. Those who do not speak the language [Georgian], citizens of other countries. They have a certain privilege in that sense.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Judges stated that they have not observed any kind of different treatment of minorities and vulnerable groups by LAS lawyers, but they cannot tell what is happening behind the court. Judge from Batumi noted that LAS lawyers are even more prepared during the trial when they represent minority groups.

- *“When they (minorities) are represented by LAS, they are more prepared, even more prepared.” (Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“There is an equal approach by lawyers.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 19 years’ experience, Batumi)*

According to prosecutors, LAS lawyers do their job perfectly and none of them could recall any case of discriminative approach towards any of these groups. They treat them fairly and try to defend the rights and interests of these people.

- *“These people mainly represent foreign country representatives, because when they are accused and do not know the language, they are subject of obligatory protection and it is required by the law. These legal aid lawyers are working perfectly. I have not noticed any discriminatory approach from their side. They are trying their best within their competence to protect these people’s rights and interests.” (Prosecutor, man, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Legal Aid Service has very good employees and this kind of approach from their side is excluded.” (Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Legal education - University education and continuous education

Lawyers in four cities had mixed views about the level of education among legal professionals and university legal education. When speaking about the education level and qualification of

practicing legal professionals, an NGO lawyer mentioned in Batumi that qualification of judges was low, as with hundreds of cases on their chest they had no time to read, learn, or watch anything. A LAS lawyer in Tbilisi spoke about the education level and qualification of lawyers and said that out of 9,000 people with lawyers' licences, only a few hundred were qualified. The overall picture was low levels of education and qualification.

As for university education, a lawyer in Batumi said there were improvements in recent years but still many shortcomings in higher legal education. A LAS lawyer in Batumi recalled cases when they hired legal clinic interns to full-time jobs after the internship. At the same time, an NGO lawyer from Batumi said lecturers at the university [Batumi State University] had low qualifications and they often had to teach even basic legal principles to their interns. A private lawyer in Akhaltsikhe said that he had been looking for interns for many years with the aim of finding someone that could work with him, but either students were not interested or left the city. A private lawyer with extensive experience of teaching in Tbilisi said that recently she notices much more interest of students in legal practice; they are seeking internships and even when discussing theory they are asking questions about practice. Lawyers in Tbilisi and Batumi also mentioned that there was a significant difference in levels of education at different universities.

- *“When a judge who has 1,500 cases, when and where should he/she raise his/her qualifications? It is physically impossible. All a judge thinks of is writing decisions quickly, yes, copy-pasting, even putting different last names in the beginning and the end of the decision... We cannot have objective complaints against those judges about quality and qualification. After discussing cases, the judge may be going and giving lectures to students. So, how can he/she have time to look at something, read something, get educated, follow the Strasbourg court decisions?” (NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 6 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“There are about 400 prosecutors in Georgia. You can find 400 lawyers at the Georgian Bar Association who are stronger than prosecutors, but overall the entire corps makes the full picture and speaking of them all, the level is very low.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 15 years' experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Many things changed but there are still shortcomings in the education sphere.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 14 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“I have hired legal clinic interns at the legal aid service.” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“When students come, we are often surprised and we have to assume the function of giving them basic theoretical knowledge.” (NGO lawyer, woman, civil law, 6 years' experience, Batumi)*
- *“For years, I have been looking for interns. To observe their work and then to employ them to work with me, if they want to. But in vain. No one is interested. Those who want to develop themselves in this profession leave Akhaltsikhe.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 6 years' experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

- *“There have been changes in recent years. I have extensive practice of almost 30 years working with universities and teaching. Nowadays there is much more interest in legal practice. Students are more motivated to have internships and learn skills. They ask many questions. They are not interested in theory, they read it in books and they understand it but then they ask questions about practice.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“There are big differences between this and that higher legal education institution.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Depends on the university, we cannot generalize. I graduated from Tbilisi State University and I can say with full responsibility that it gives the qualification of a medium-level lawyer. However, afterwards it depends on each person to work on him/herself and self-develop.” (Lawyers at TI, woman, civil law, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*

As for suggestions of improvement of legal education and qualification levels of legal professionals, lawyers said the quality of lecturers should improve, offer more practical work in legal education programs, and offer internship opportunities to students not only on the Master’s level but Bachelor’s as well. Afterwards, during legal practice, according to a LAS lawyer in Batumi, it would be effective if every lawyer took a qualification exam every five years. Moreover, she suggested having ratings of lawyers that would be a certain proof of their qualification. A private lawyer in Tbilisi put the blame for low levels of qualifications among legal professionals on courts. He said that if court itself was on a high level, there would be a market demand for more competent lawyers, prosecutors, investigators, and judges.

- *“Level of professors and lecturers [should increase].” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“Students are more interested in this [practice], so [educational] programs should include more practical work.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“They [students] should have internships and it should happen on the Bachelor’s level, not only on Master’s.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“It would be best if everyone [lawyers] took [qualification] exams every five years.” (Private lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 12 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“As there are 9,000 members of the Georgian Bar Association, clients should know that this or that lawyer is among top the 1,000 at least. It will prove his/her qualification. There should be a rating list... We do not need those 9,000 members, we can have 3,000 and have ratings.” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“We have a faulty court and it hinders professional development of lawyers, judges, prosecutors. Maybe we will live to the time when courts serve their function. When the court is on a high level, there will be a market demand for [high-level] lawyers, prosecutors, investigators, and judges.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

Some lawyers say continuous legal education opportunities are available for everyone now. The majority speak about the Georgian Bar Association trainings, which some assess positively and others not so positively, saying the training topics are mostly the same. A lawyer in Tbilisi recalled trainings of the Georgian Bar Association held by professionals. However, the scale of such trainings is not large enough to reach thousands of members. Lawyers in Tbilisi and Rustavi mentioned paid trainings, and said they were high-quality but expensive and not affordable for many. As a general suggestion, it was mentioned that it would be good to pay special attention to issues that regular higher education institutions do not teach, such as tax law. Lawyers in Akhaltsikhe said that sometimes they were not able to attend trainings in Tbilisi or Kutaisi and wished for trainings to be held in their region as well.

- *“Whoever wishes now has the opportunity. There are opportunities.” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“It [GBA training] was practical and focused on problematic issues.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, 1 year experience, Rustavi)*
- *“One and the same topics are repeated, there is no diversity.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“I am unhappy with quality [of GBA trainings].” (LAS lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 5 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“This year the Association held trainings by professionals. The training was free of charge but it will not be enough. There are 20-25 people in each training and it cannot reach everyone. Trainings by practicing professionals may not be available for 8,000 people [meaning member of GBA].” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Despite the fact that the Georgian Bar Association is working a lot, and trainings are accessible—even in regions, and continuous legal education lectures reach them—I am not sure about the relevance [of lectures/trainings]. Besides, they have a formal nature since they are mandatory... Paid courses are much more relevant than those held by the Association.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 19 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“They [paid trainings] are often not affordable as each one may cost 1,500. If you take the course you will be stronger, both theoretically and practically, but it costs 1,500 Gel and you cannot afford it. Your work does not provide such funds to take the course and develop yourself.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Issues that are not covered by regular higher education institutions should be the focus. For example, tax law.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 17 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“You have a job, you have a family. It is not always possible to go to Tbilisi for a training. If there are trainings in Kutaisi and Batumi, why cannot some of them be in our region?” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Lawyers in all four cities mostly discussed the Georgian Bar Association as the continuous legal education provider. In Akhaltsikhe, LAS lawyers praised their legal aid service for keeping them updated on all the new laws and amendments. In Rustavi, lawyers said that authorities of respective institutions should be continuous legal education providers – the Georgian Bar Association for lawyers, the High Council of Justice for judges, and the Prosecutor’s Office for prosecutors. A LAS lawyer in Akhaltsikhe said it would be effective to have the same people conduct trainings for all representatives of legal profession (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) so that they can have a common understanding of legal issues.

- *“Prosecutor’s Office for prosecutors, GBA for lawyers, HCoJ for judges, i.e. whoever is the governing body they should take care [of continuous legal education] and should monitor it as well.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Whoever conducts trainings—they have trainings in courts, at the Prosecutor’s Office—the same people should hold trainings for lawyers, so that there is a common practice and common understanding [of legal issues]. So that the training is not from the perspective of judges or prosecutors but is based on reality, on fundamental legal principles.” (LAS lawyer, man, common law, criminal law, 17 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Judges assessed legal education in Georgia positively. From their perspective, the new generation has better resources and opportunities to get information about international practices and they are more prepared when they graduate. Practicing judges and prosecutors who give lectures are more interesting for students because they can share practical experiences in addition to theory. They underlined the importance and need for practical experience and the possibility to learn how the court, police, and lawyers work and how knowledge is applied in practice. The court has an internship program and students from different universities have the opportunity to gain practical experience. A judge from Akhaltsikhe mentioned that students sometimes are more prepared and follow courtroom rules more carefully than experienced lawyers.

- *“They have the opportunity to have better higher education in law and today’s generation uses it quite well, and they are more prepared after graduating university.” (Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“It is very important to have a direct look into the internal kitchen of the court, the prosecutor’s office, the lawyers, in the legal sphere, how this knowledge is applied in practice.” (Judge, woman, 7 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Some judges stated that investigative bodies and lawyers have a lower level of education whereas prosecutors are more educated and prepared. They underlined the need for obligatory courses and examinations for lawyers, e.g. in criminal law. A judge from Batumi mentioned that the Georgian Bar Association tries to work more actively in terms of continuous learning.

- *“Practitioners should definitely be involved in retraining lawyers.” (Judge, man, civil and criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“Lawyers should be obliged to take courses, and then pass an exam, for example in the field of criminal law.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Rustavi)*

Regarding continuous learning, judges said that the High School of Justice (HSoJ) is providing training courses and they conduct surveys to take into account what issue or field would be interesting for judges, and then considers their needs and wishes. They mentioned that training plays an important role in getting information about new practices, legal cases from other countries, and changes in legislation. This training and exchange of information helps them to make decisions afterward. Although sometimes judges do not have enough time to attend trainings, they stated that continuous learning is very important for them so as to not to lag behind, as legislation changes rapidly. Moreover, judges go to foreign countries to learn about their experiences.

- *“Through the High School of Justice and they bring many foreigners, we directly learn about this country’s practice at the theoretical level, and of course our Georgian experts as well. There are many problems in practice, we all talk about it. This experience helps me very much in my duties.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 7 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“The High School of Justice provides information about trainings, therefore, if we are interested in any of the issues we agree and register for it. We receive this information daily regarding trainings that are conducted.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*

All prosecutors mentioned that universities give high-quality education and that students have good theoretical knowledge, but they underlined the lack of practice that should be provided by the university. Therefore more clinics and internships should be arranged at the university. A prosecutor from Akhaltsikhe suggested the existence of more agreements between universities and state institutions to provide successful students with internship opportunities, which would be a good incentive for them. The Prosecutor’s Office has an internship program that gives students a good opportunity to have a better understanding of how this system works, and they can prove their abilities during the one-year program. Prosecutors noted that this kind of internship opportunity should be developed in other institutions of the justice system as well. In this case, it would be easier for students to start working. In terms of continuous learning, prosecutors stated that trainings are provided by local and international experts in different fields where they need to improve qualifications.

- *“If the practical component will increase at universities along with theory, then it won’t be difficult for students to apply knowledge in practice.” (Prosecutor, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“I think that if a similar [internship] program would be implemented in other institutions of justice system, the quality of justice would be more developed.” (Prosecutor, 6 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“Agreements are signed with different public institutions, including the prosecutor’s office, and students come and have internships and see particularly, how does it work.” (Prosecutor, man, 12 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *In the beginning of the year, there is always a requirement from the Prosecutor's Office what fields would be interesting for the staff to take trainings. Among staff members we decide fields where we need to improve our qualifications, we send this, and afterwards they plan trainings accordingly.” (Prosecutor, man, 10 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Almost none of the lawyers who participated in the study had the experience of appealing to the Ethics Commission of the Georgian Bar Association. However, everyone was aware of their decisions since some of the Ethics Commission decisions were discussed during GBA trainings. In Rustavi and in Akhaltsikhe, lawyers had positive evaluation of the Ethics Commission's decisions. In Batumi, an NGO lawyer said he had recently addressed the Ethics Commission against a lawyer who insulted him in a magazine and the case was still under discussion.

- *“I would evaluate the Ethics Commission positively, based on the experience I have with them. They have not put aside [cases] and discussed them.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years' experience, Rustavi)*
- *“The decisions that they have, they are trying to put them in legal frames, in frames of the Code of Ethics and the law on lawyers.” (Private lawyers, woman, common law, 30 years' practice, Rustavi)*
- *“The best thing that the Ethics Commission has is that they provide contextual explanations. They do not just write it briefly, this is it, rather they explain the principles that are violated and what it causes with regards to the society and to our colleagues. They do the analysis of all circumstances.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years' experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

When asked about lawyers violating their code of conduct, the Akhaltsikhe group was the one that had to say most about it. They recalled cases when lawyers insulted each other in court, even a case when lawyers physically confronted each other and the police had to interfere. They also outlined the problem of lawyers lying to their clients. They brought two examples. One was when lawyers tried to avoid settlement of the case on the first instance in order to have it reach the Court of Appeal and get more honoraria. Another was a general problem of lawyers making guarantees to their clients about the outcome of the case.

- *“It often happens and is the worst that attitude of lawyers towards colleagues is bad. I may be a defense lawyer protecting interests of my client, competing with my opponent colleague, but it does not mean that I should exceed norms. There are cases when lawyers exceed norms and move to personal confrontation. Recently, two lawyers confronted each other, almost physically assaulted each other. Then the police got involved.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 6 years' experience, Akhaltsikhe)*
- *“Attitude towards clients is unqualified. Often they have not settled the case in the court on purpose to take the case to the Court of Appeal and get additional honoraria there. It is totally unacceptable, of course.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 6 years' experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

Lawyers in all four cities had mostly positive views about mediation. Most of them had no experience using it themselves; only one NGO lawyer in Tbilisi reported having a case decided by the mediation court. He said there was more open communication in mediation and the mediator helped the lawyers finish the case faster, unlike judges. Faster resolution of cases was mentioned as one of the positive sides of mediation, as well as lower fees and more chances of achieving more to the benefit of both sides. At the same time, it could be an effective mechanism to ease the workload of courts. An NGO lawyer in Tbilisi said that in a good case court should be doing the job and judges should have increased authority to negotiate and settle cases. Some of the lawyers in Batumi and Rustavi said that mediation needed more promotion and advertising. It was also mentioned that in order for mediation to work, people should have more understanding of legal issues and more trust. There was only one doubtful opinion in Rustavi, saying mediation was not a well-developed institution and questioning how mediation courts could decide cases when courts already had trouble doing so.

As for cases that could be transferred to the mediation court, the following was named in four cities: cases related to family issues, divorces, heritage and property distribution cases, cases with banks, and cases when “relationship between the sides does not end there.”¹⁷ Many lawyers noted that mediation could be used in all kinds of cases.

- *“When there is a chance to negotiate, yes, I agree. And I have used this institution, positively. If I am motivated to finish the case soon, a mediator helps me in that more than a judge. There [in mediation] is more open communication. There, they will tell you that this is the perspective of the case and these are your chances.” (NGO lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience Tbilisi)*
- *“If it actually works, why not. There will be better quality, we will not have to wait for years in court and sides will be interested in having a timely decision on their case or seeing the perspective on their case.” (LAS lawyer, woman, common law, 11 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“It is a quick way. On the one hand, courts will be less loaded and on the other hand, the sides will settle their case.” (LAS lawyer, common law, criminal law, 15 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“In mediation, fees are lower. Mediation is very good and it should be firmly established.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“I would advise a client to refer to mediation because the case will be resolved faster, the service will be cheaper and it will not be stretched in time and the sides will not be eating each other for 5-10 years like now.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 25 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“In mediation, there are more chances that the sides achieve as much of their interests as possible. Court is an institution that forces its decision and mediation leaves room*

¹⁷ LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe

for negotiation.” (LAS lawyer, woman, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)

- *“Mediation is a way out that they thought of in terms of easing the workload of courts.” (NGO lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“In a good case, court should be doing all that and judges should have increased authority about that.” (NGO lawyer, man, civil-administrative law, 4 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“I think it [mediation] is not promoted. It would be good and it needs to be popularized.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“People should be more informed and there should be more advertising of it.” (Private lawyer, woman, civil law, 5 years’ experience, Rusatvi)*
- *“For the mediation court to work, people should have more knowledge and understanding of legal issues and trust to refer to mediation. They do not trust courts and how will they trust an agreement of three people.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 30 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“It is not a developed institution yet and in reality it is quite absurd how it will develop. Courts can hardly resolve disputes, and how will mediation do that?” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 30 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“Agreement is possible on any issue. There are no restrictions and this is good. The more cases there are in the mediation court, the more the institution will develop and it will be beneficial for everyone.” (Private lawyer, woman, common law, 25 years’ experience, Rustavi)*
- *“If you see that positions can be brought closer, in civil cases, any can be given to mediation.” (Private lawyer, man, common law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Most judges did not have experience working on a case that was given to the mediation court, because it is only accessible in Tbilisi so far. A civil law judge from Tbilisi mentioned that he had a couple of cases, but they did not end successfully and returned to the court. But generally, judges have positive expectations of mediation and think that this would be a good alternative for cases like domestic, inheritance, and neighbor disputes when parties have to communicate with each other after this case is completed. This institution ensures a timely solution to the problem and considers an agreement that is acceptable for both parties according to judges. But court mediation needs to be popularized, because people still prefer to go to the court, as they have more trust in it. Judges noted that on the first stage court mediation could be mandatory for certain cases (e.g. if a dispute does not exceed 5000 GEL) and this institution would reduce the huge workload of the court.

- *“The parties are really willing to have court decision because the trust in the judge is bigger than in a mediator, because there is still a way to appeal the mediator's decision.” (Judge, woman, criminal law, 1 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“First of all, it [mediation] is useful for the court, and will relieve it from such cases.” (Judge, man, civil and criminal law, 35 years’ experience, Akhaltsikhe)*

- *“In addition to the fact that case will be resolved quickly and timely with mediation, the advantage is that during mediation, the parties take a decision based on agreement... These are the sides, during the inheritance or family disputes, even during neighborhood disputes, that later should have communication with each other, mediation will help to make it easier.”(Judge, woman, civil law, 14 years’ experience, Batumi)*

Court mediation mainly refers to civil law cases, thus prosecutors could only speak generally about this alternative. They look positively on court mediation, especially when it comes to minor disputes which use court resources for months. If a citizen wants to resolve an issue with a neighbor they should prefer a timely solution that provides mediation instead of the court decision that could take years. Prosecutors also noted that mediation takes into consideration the opinions of both parties and takes decisions accordingly. Cases that would be reasonable to give to mediation before court trial on a mandatory basis could be marital disputes, issues referring to child support, and other cases that could be settled by reaching an agreement between disputing parties.

Some prosecutors mentioned a Diversion and Mediation Program that is mostly used towards juveniles who have committed a minor offense for the first time and admit to a crime. According to them, this program works effectively.

- *“Child support, determining days of seeing and not seeing a child, and such issues that are possible to resolve based on parties agreement and make it in the framework of legislation, these cases might be considered in terms of mediation.”(Prosecutor, man, 3 years’ experience, Batumi)*
- *“It’s really good because there are too many minor disputes that do not require to spend court resources for months. And citizens who have a specific neighborhood or family dispute want it to be resolved in a particular situation and not after two years. It is more acceptable for them.”(Prosecutor, woman, 12 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*
- *“This institution should be given an important role to end cases easily, and even relieve the court’s workload that it has today in terms of cases.” (Prosecutor, man, 6 years’ experience, Tbilisi)*

This summary of the qualitative part of the research summarizes the main views expressed and provides the most relevant quotes.

