



The Ethical Development of Lawyers: An Empirical Investigation

Citation

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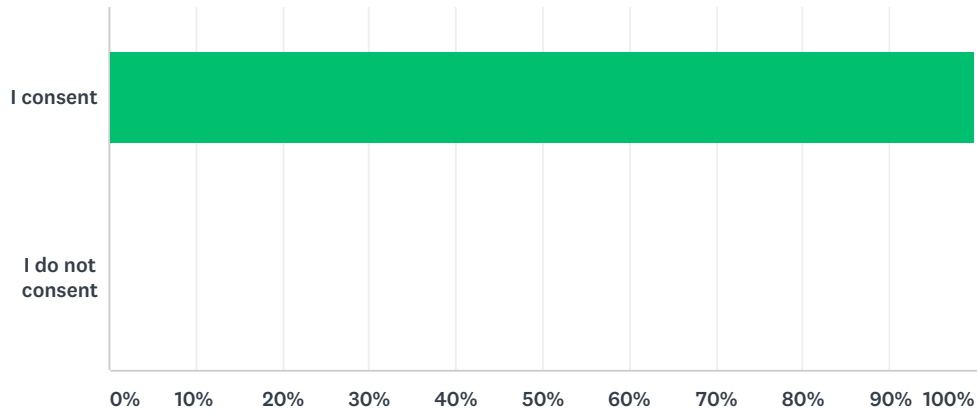
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Q1 Study Title: Legal Ethics Survey Researcher: Joshua Henderson
 Version Date: January 1, 2018 Participation is voluntary.- It is your choice whether or not to participate in this research. If you choose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the study at any time. Refusal to participate or stopping your participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. What is the purpose of this research?- The purpose of this research is to examine the ethical beliefs of lawyers and law students. How long will I take part in this research?- Your participation will involve a 10 minute questionnaire administered over the internet. What can I expect if I take part in this research?- As a participant, you will aid in the understanding of the ethical beliefs of lawyers and law students. What are the risks and possible discomforts?- If you choose to participate, there are no foreseeable risks. If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected? What happens to the information you collect?- The data we collect will not be identifiable. We will not ask for your name. We will record your IP address to ensure that individuals only complete the study once, but we will not use it or any other information to identify you individually.- It is possible, but unlikely, that the data obtained will be shared with other researchers. Even if the research is shared, your name will not be recorded or disclosed. If I have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research study, who can I talk to?- The researcher for this study is Joshua Henderson who can be reached at 416 362 5005, 100 Simcoe Street, Suite 500, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3G2, jhenderson@zubco.com. The faculty sponsor is Professor David Wilkins, Harvard Law School, who can be reached at dwilkins@law.harvard.edu or 617 496 6232. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, If you would like to talk to the research team, If you think the research has harmed you, or If you wish to withdraw from the study.- This research has been reviewed by the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University. They can be reached at 617 496 2847, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, 9th Floor, Suite 935, Cambridge, MA 02138, or cuhs@harvard.edu for any of the following: If your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team, If you cannot reach the research team, If you want to talk to someone besides the research team, or If you have questions about your rights as a research participant. If you agree to participate,

please click "I consent".If you do not wish to participate, please click "I do not consent" or simply close the survey.

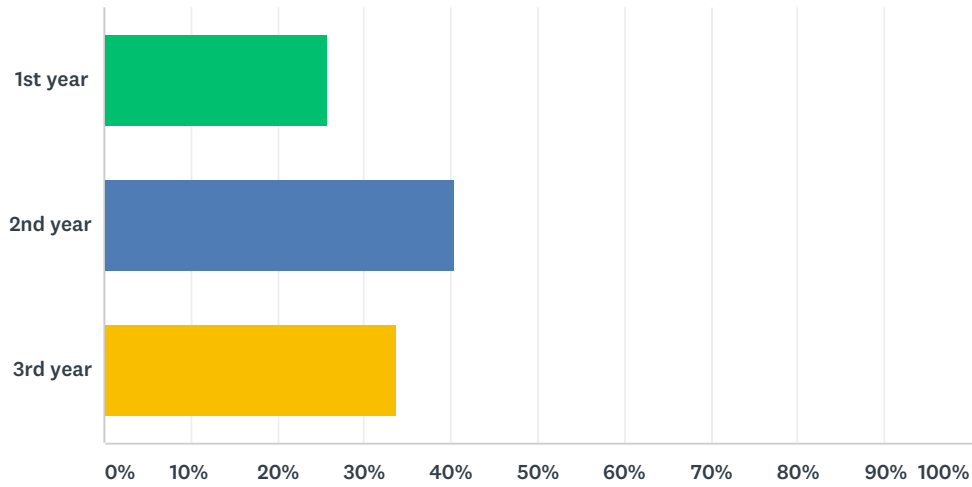
Answered: 2,342 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I consent	99.79% 2,337
I do not consent	0.21% 5
TOTAL	2,342

Q2 If you are still in law school, what year are you in?

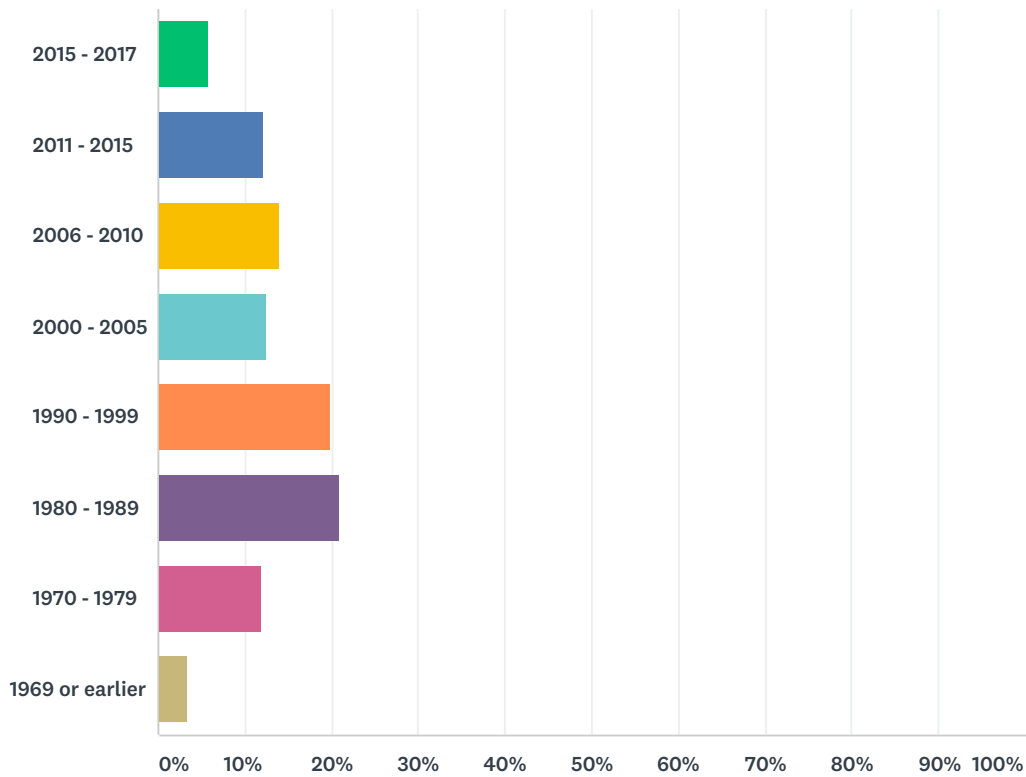
Answered: 240 Skipped: 2,102



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1st year	25.83% 62
2nd year	40.42% 97
3rd year	33.75% 81
TOTAL	240

Q3 If you have already graduated from law school, in what year did you graduate?

Answered: 2,004 Skipped: 338



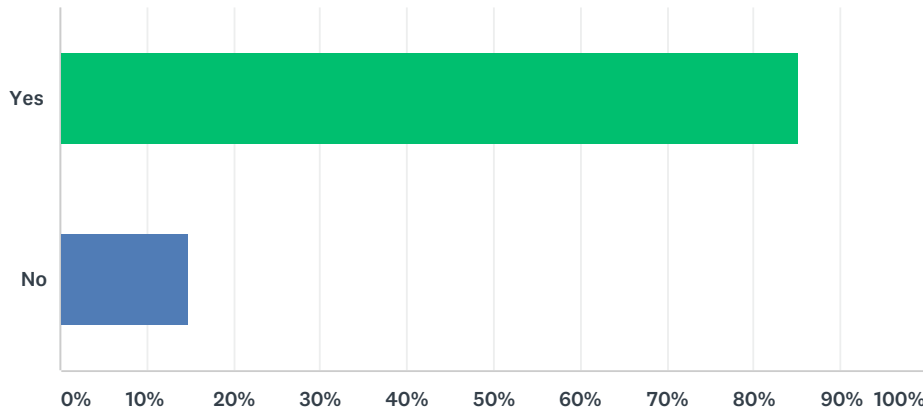
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
2015 - 2017	5.89% 118
2011 - 2015	12.13% 243
2006 - 2010	13.92% 279
2000 - 2005	12.48% 250
1990 - 1999	19.86% 398
1980 - 1989	20.86% 418
1970 - 1979	11.98% 240
1969 or earlier	3.39% 68
Total Respondents: 2,004	

Q4 What law school will/did you graduate from?

Answered: 2,191 Skipped: 151

Q5 If you have graduated, are you currently practicing law?

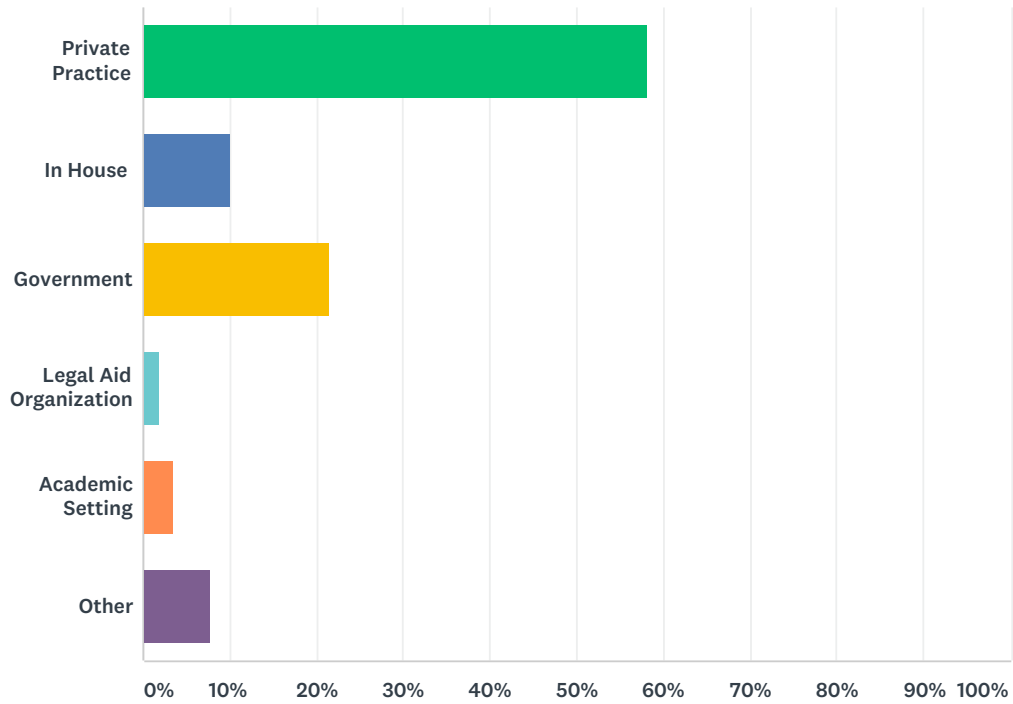
Answered: 1,999 Skipped: 343



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.04%	1,700
No	14.96%	299
TOTAL		1,999

Q6 If you are currently qualified to practice, where do you work?

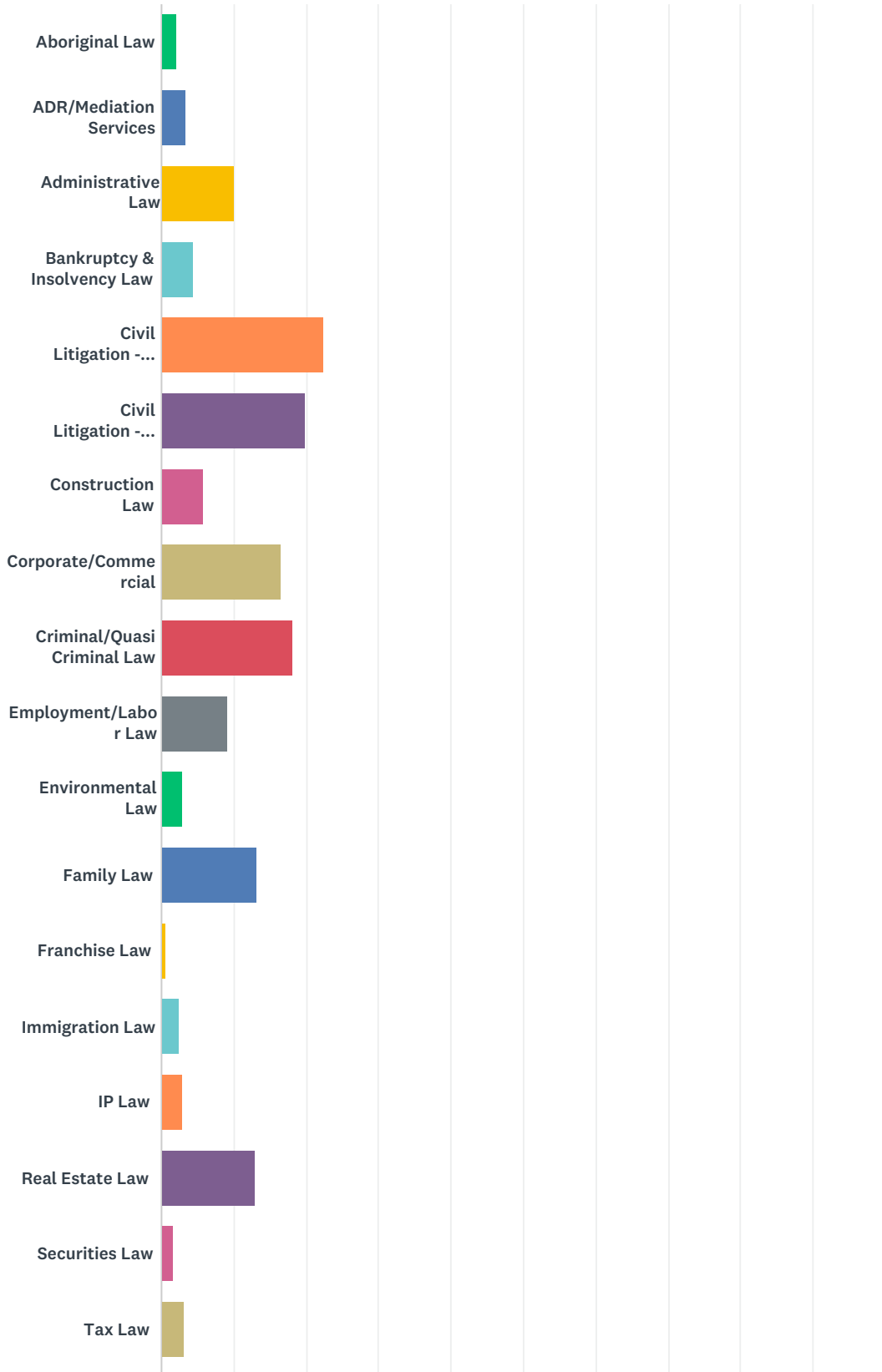
Answered: 1,874 Skipped: 468

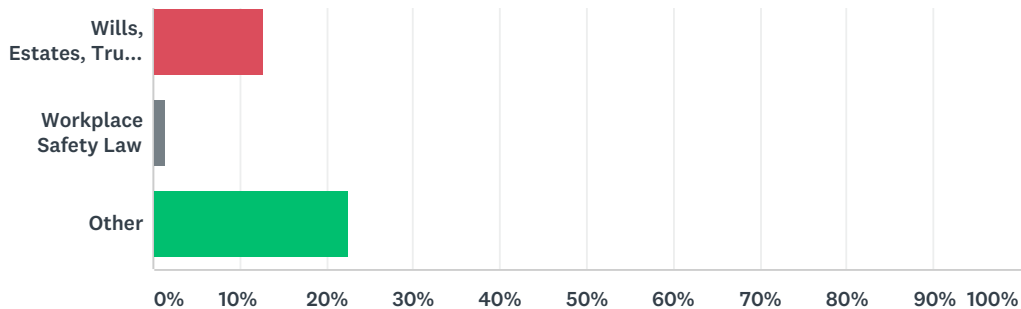


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Private Practice	58.06%	1,088
In House	10.03%	188
Government	21.50%	403
Legal Aid Organization	1.92%	36
Academic Setting	3.52%	66
Other	7.79%	146
Total Respondents: 1,874		

Q7 If you are currently qualified to practice, what type of law do you specialize in?

Answered: 1,860 Skipped: 482

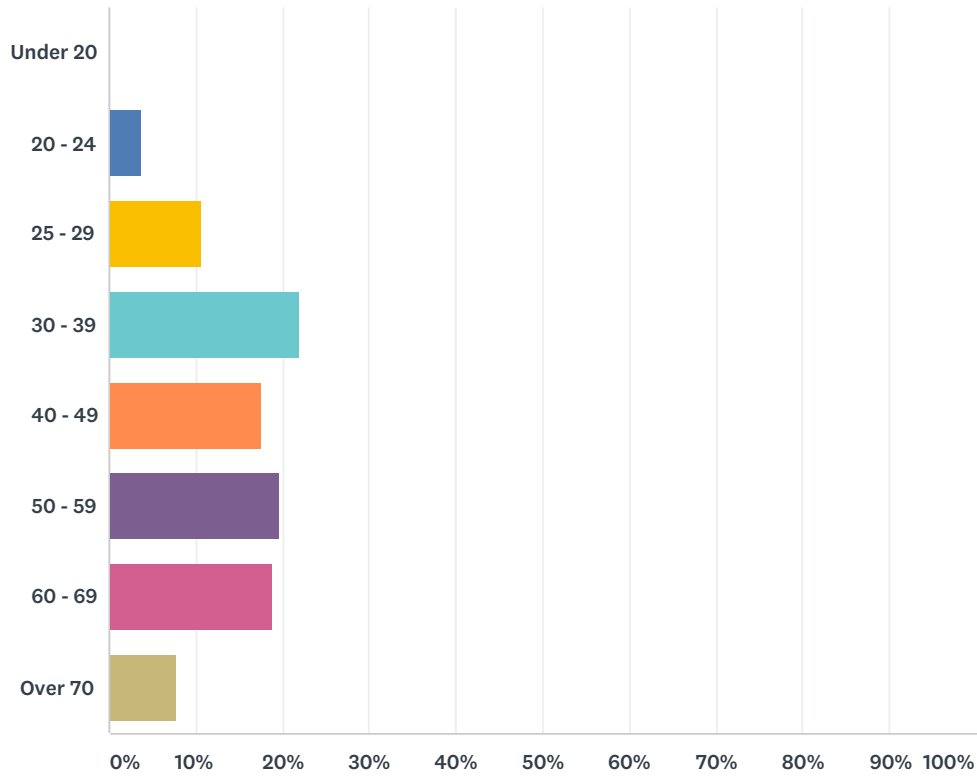




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Aboriginal Law	2.10%	39
ADR/Mediation Services	3.44%	64
Administrative Law	10.00%	186
Bankruptcy & Insolvency Law	4.35%	81
Civil Litigation - Plaintiff	22.37%	416
Civil Litigation - Defendant	19.84%	369
Construction Law	5.86%	109
Corporate/Commercial	16.56%	308
Criminal/Quasi Criminal Law	18.17%	338
Employment/Labor Law	9.14%	170
Environmental Law	2.85%	53
Family Law	13.12%	244
Franchise Law	0.65%	12
Immigration Law	2.47%	46
IP Law	2.85%	53
Real Estate Law	13.01%	242
Securities Law	1.61%	30
Tax Law	3.17%	59
Wills, Estates, Trusts Law	12.85%	239
Workplace Safety Law	1.40%	26
Other	22.58%	420
Total Respondents: 1,860		

Q8 What is your age?

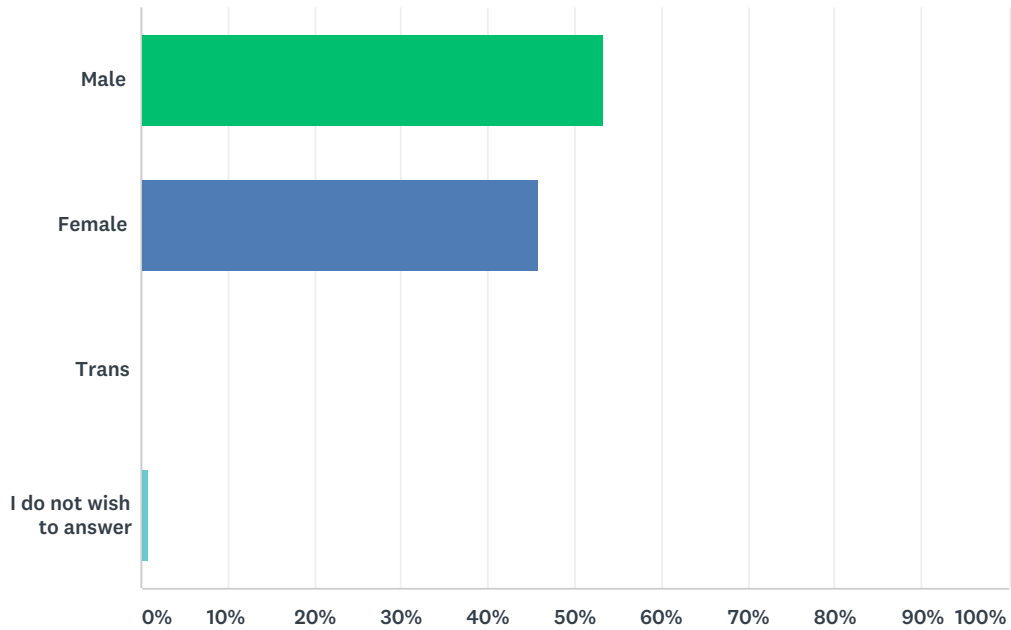
Answered: 2,224 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 20	0.00%	0
20 - 24	3.82%	85
25 - 29	10.61%	236
30 - 39	21.99%	489
40 - 49	17.49%	389
50 - 59	19.74%	439
60 - 69	18.79%	418
Over 70	7.69%	171
Total Respondents: 2,224		

Q9 What is your sex?

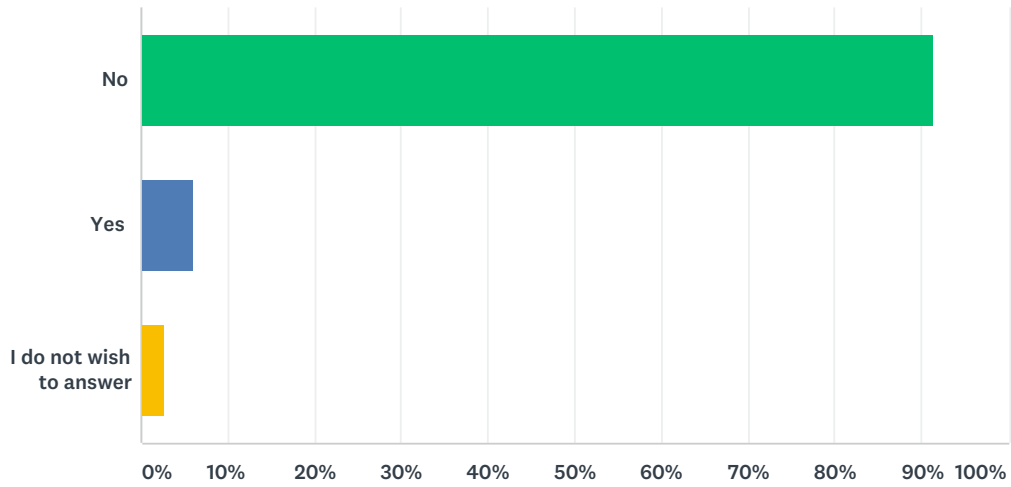
Answered: 2,221 Skipped: 121



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	53.40%	1,186
Female	45.75%	1,016
Trans	0.05%	1
I do not wish to answer	0.90%	20
Total Respondents: 2,221		

Q10 Are you a person with a disability?

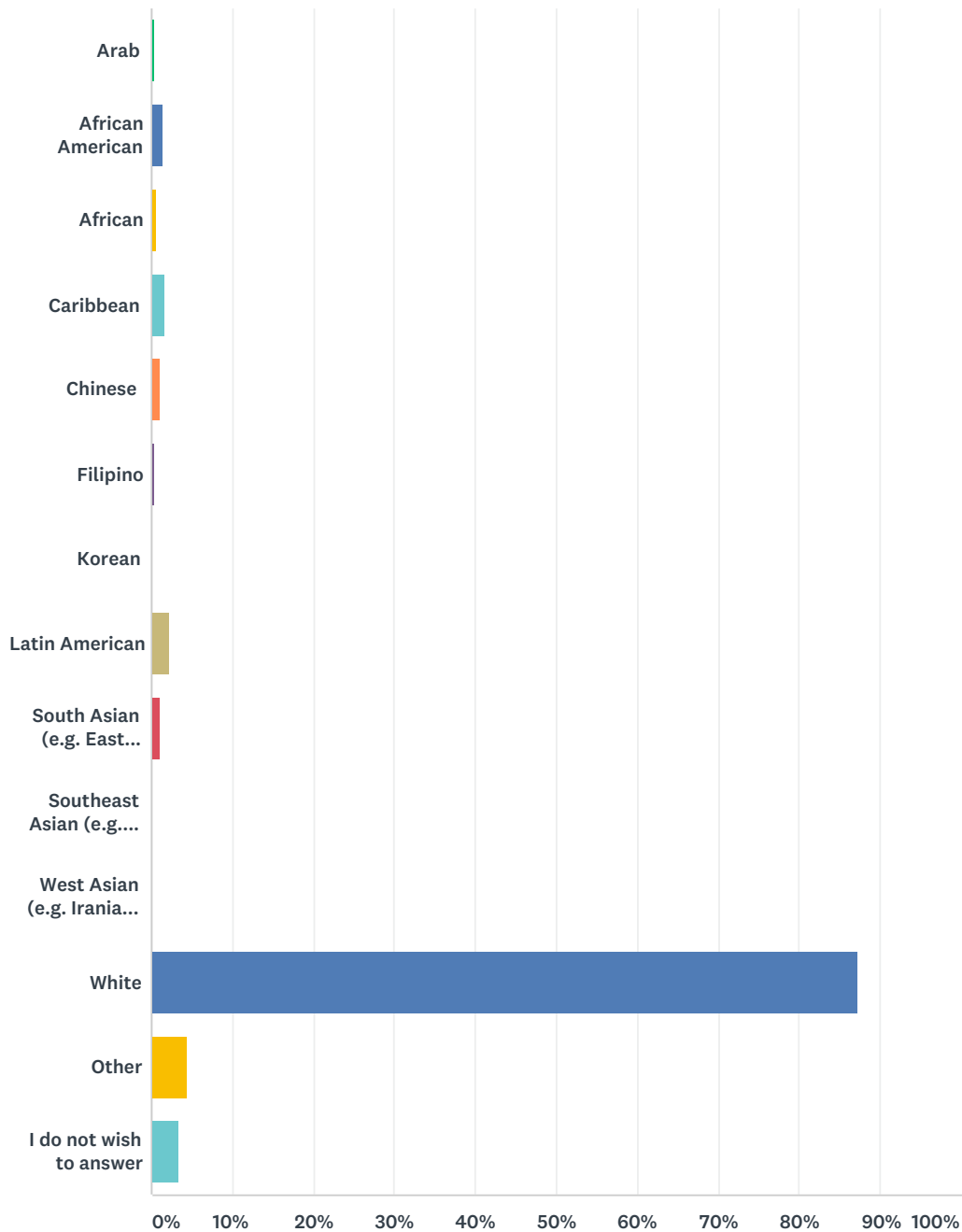
Answered: 2,225 Skipped: 117



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	91.46%	2,035
Yes	6.11%	136
I do not wish to answer	2.65%	59
Total Respondents: 2,225		

Q11 Which of the following best describes your primary racial or ethnic identity? (Multiple choices are allowed)

Answered: 2,225 Skipped: 117

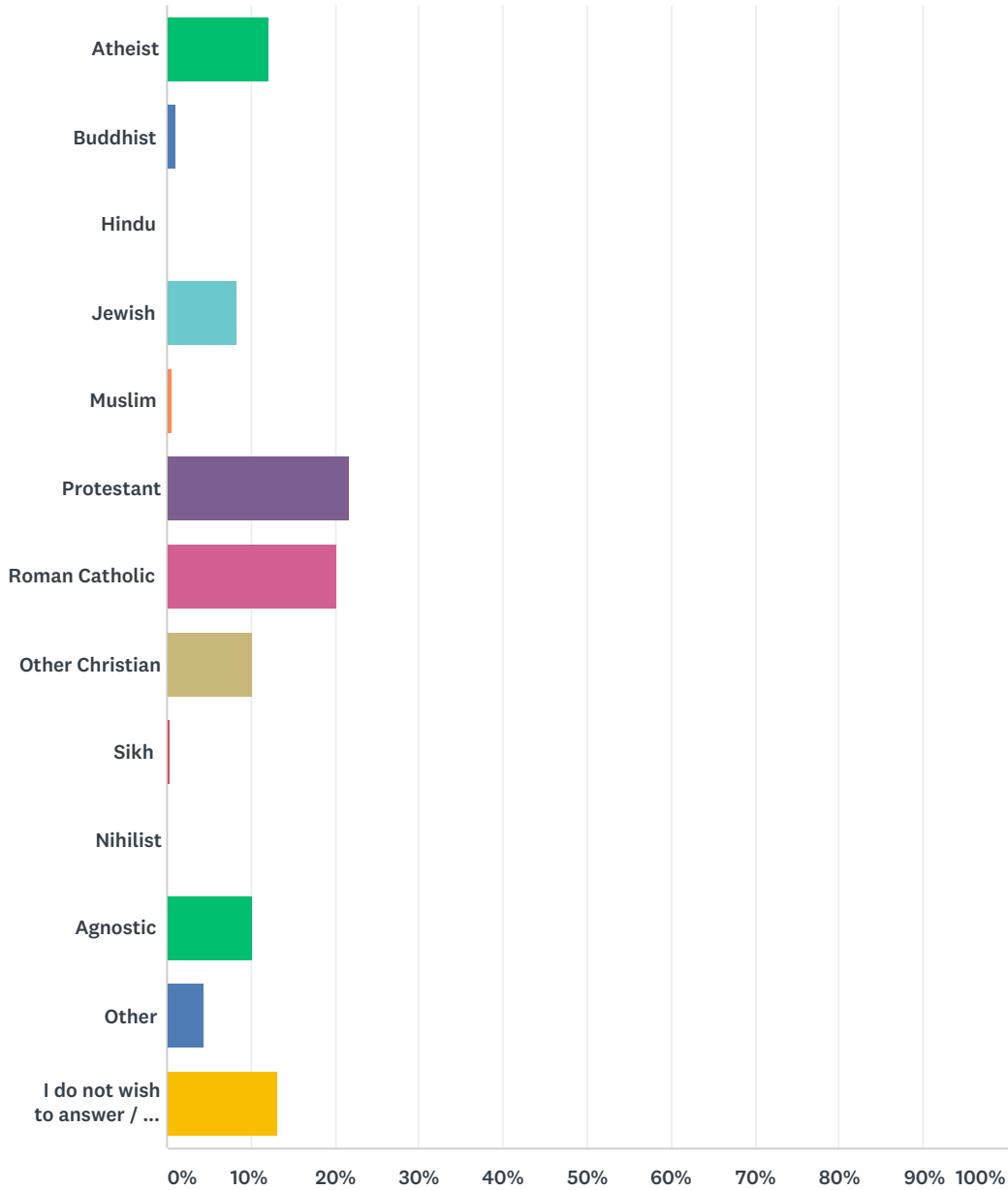


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Arab	0.49% 11
African American	1.53% 34
African	0.67% 15
Caribbean	1.66% 37

Chinese	1.12%	25
Filipino	0.31%	7
Korean	0.18%	4
Latin American	2.38%	53
South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)	1.12%	25
Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)	0.27%	6
West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.)	0.18%	4
White	87.28%	1,942
Other	4.36%	97
I do not wish to answer	3.33%	74
Total Respondents: 2,225		

Q12 What is your religion or creed?

Answered: 2,224 Skipped: 118

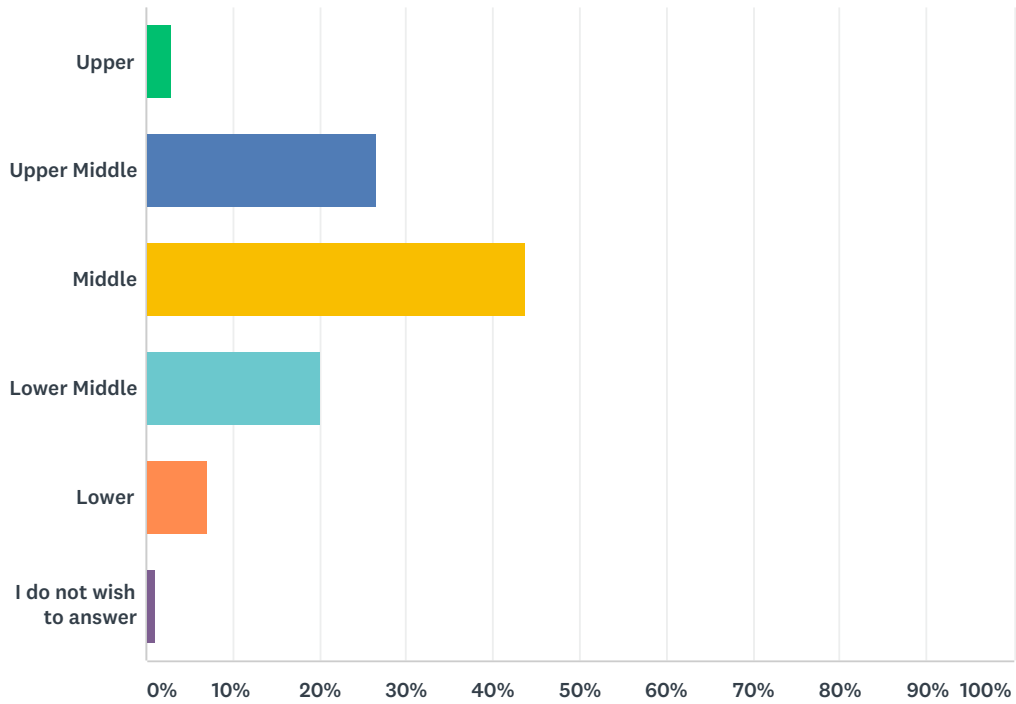


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Atheist	12.19%	271
Buddhist	0.99%	22
Hindu	0.22%	5
Jewish	8.36%	186
Muslim	0.58%	13
Protestant	21.67%	482

Roman Catholic	20.23%	450
Other Christian	10.16%	226
Sikh	0.31%	7
Nihilist	0.13%	3
Agnostic	10.30%	229
Other	4.45%	99
I do not wish to answer / No religion	13.26%	295
Total Respondents: 2,224		

Q13 Please identify your economic class background as a child.

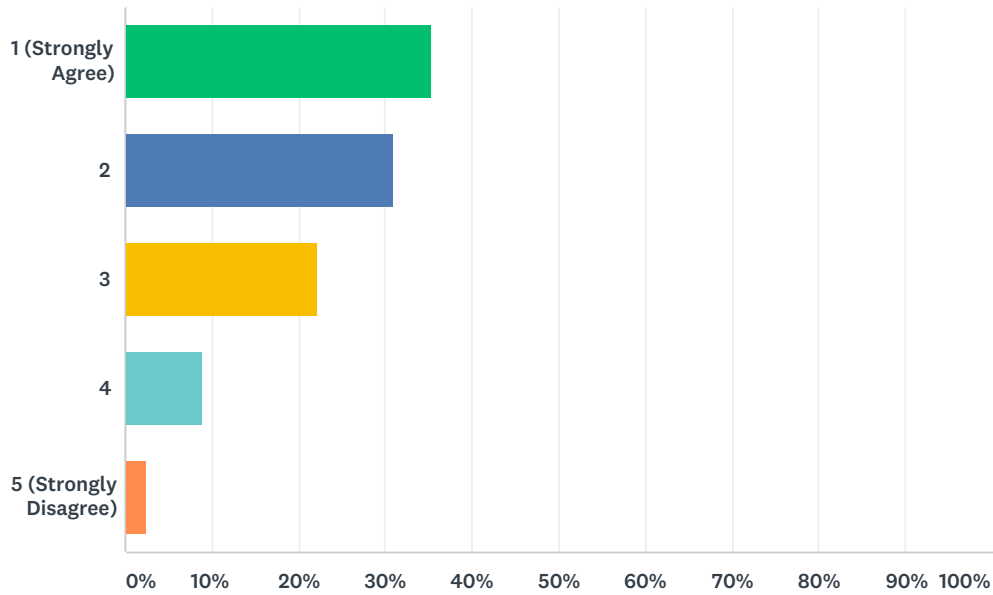
Answered: 2,228 Skipped: 114



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Upper	2.87%	64
Upper Middle	26.48%	590
Middle	43.63%	972
Lower Middle	20.02%	446
Lower	7.09%	158
I do not wish to answer	1.12%	25
Total Respondents: 2,228		

Q14 I often think about the ethical aspects of the cases I read.

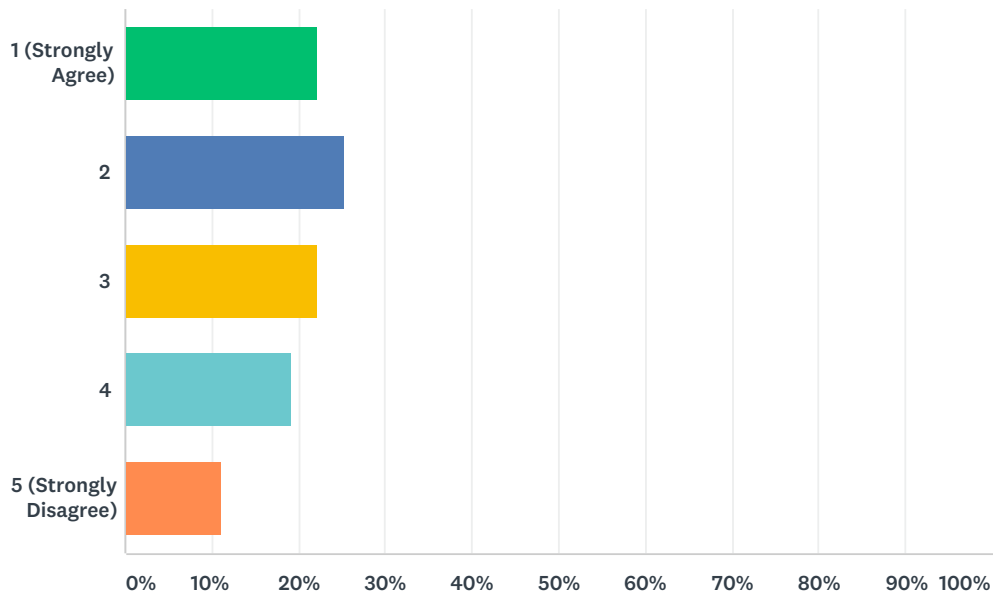
Answered: 2,188 Skipped: 154



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	35.33%	773
2	31.03%	679
3	22.26%	487
4	8.91%	195
5 (Strongly Disagree)	2.47%	54
TOTAL		2,188

Q15 I would turn down a client or refuse to argue an issue based on my personal moral beliefs.

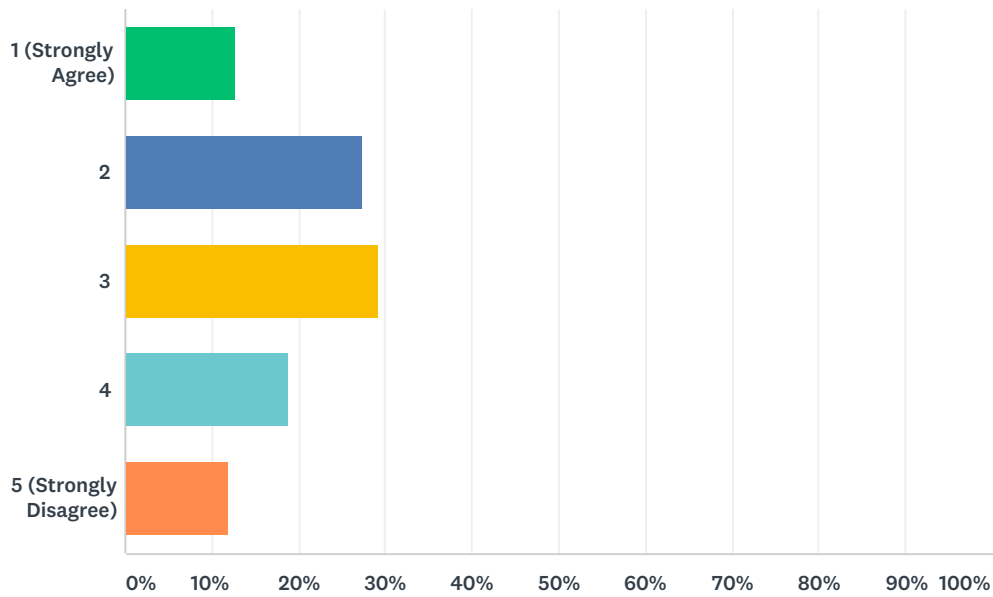
Answered: 2,184 Skipped: 158



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	22.12%	483
2	25.41%	555
3	22.12%	483
4	19.32%	422
5 (Strongly Disagree)	11.03%	241
TOTAL		2,184

Q16 I entered law school because it is a good way to achieve financial security.

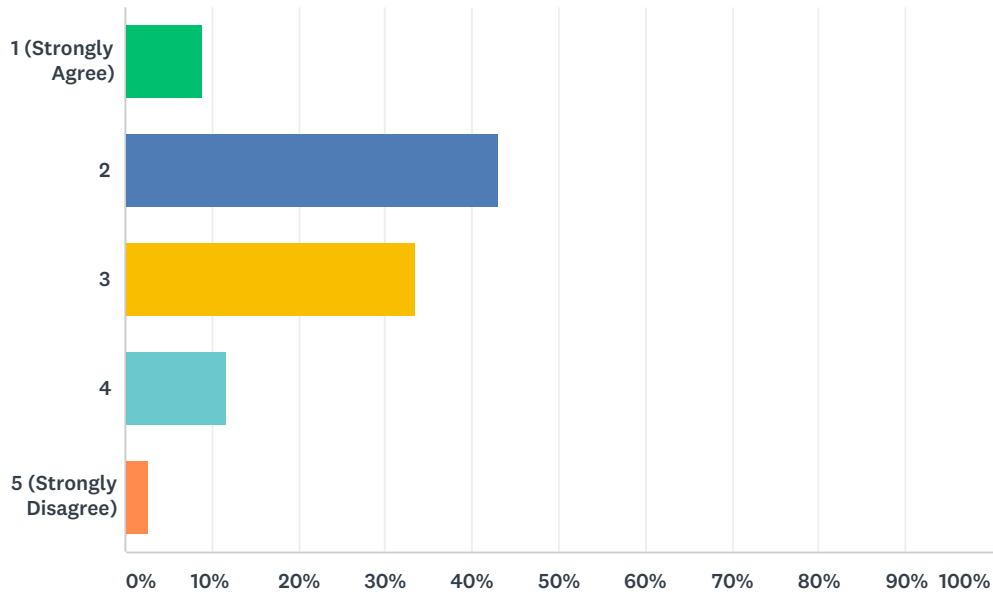
Answered: 2,192 Skipped: 150



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	12.77%	280
2	27.37%	600
3	29.20%	640
4	18.80%	412
5 (Strongly Disagree)	11.86%	260
TOTAL		2,192

Q17 I believe practicing lawyers are generally ethical.

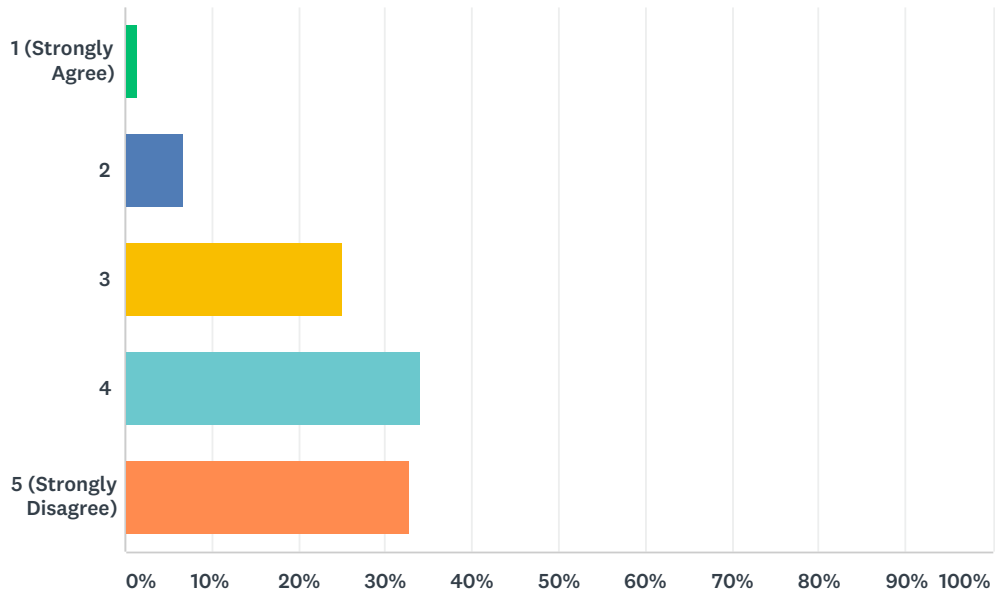
Answered: 2,193 Skipped: 149



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	9.07%	199
2	43.14%	946
3	33.47%	734
4	11.67%	256
5 (Strongly Disagree)	2.64%	58
TOTAL		2,193

Q18 I believe the students I know in the legal profession are unethical.

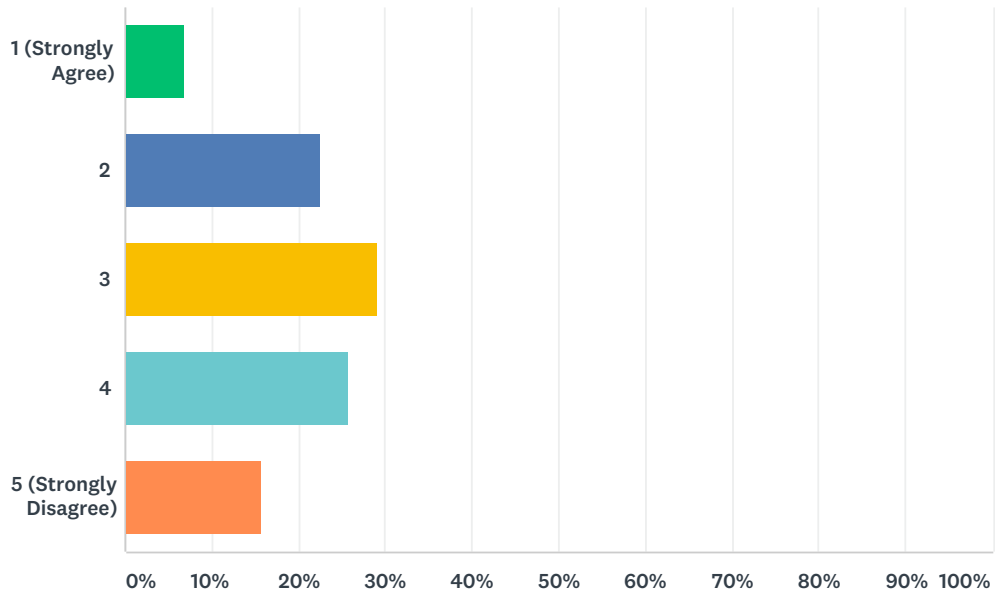
Answered: 2,076 Skipped: 266



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	1.49%	31
2	6.60%	137
3	25.14%	522
4	34.01%	706
5 (Strongly Disagree)	32.76%	680
TOTAL		2,076

Q19 Law is a business with financial gain as its central goal.

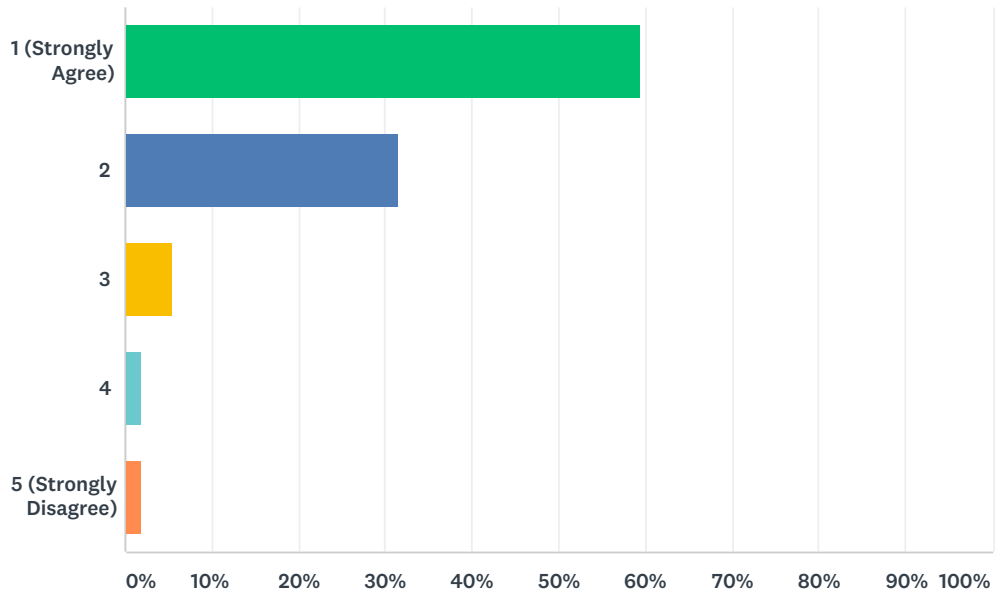
Answered: 2,147 Skipped: 195



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	6.85%	147
2	22.59%	485
3	29.02%	623
4	25.76%	553
5 (Strongly Disagree)	15.79%	339
TOTAL		2,147

Q20 I can practice law ethically while still following my personal morals.

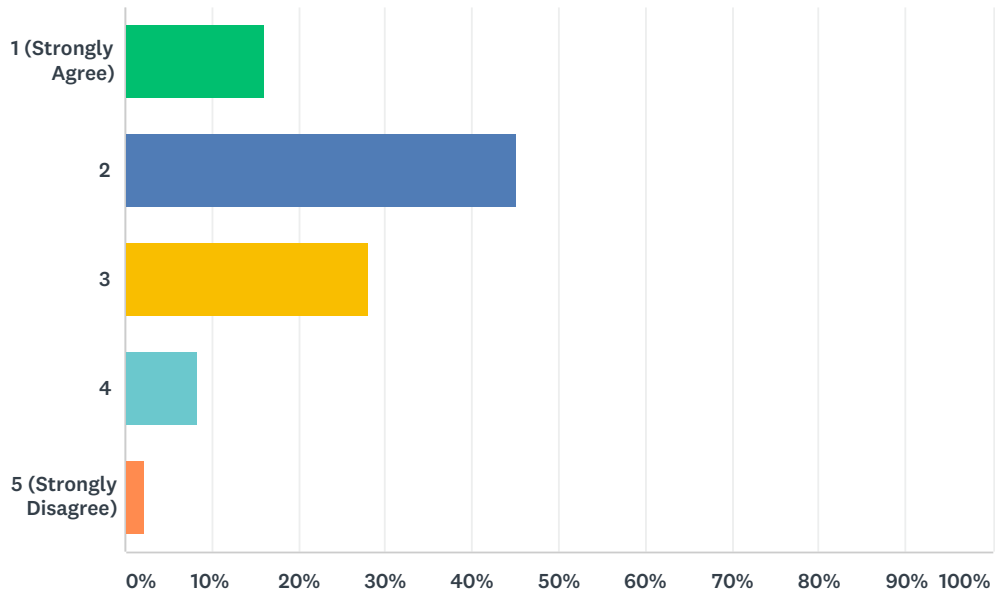
Answered: 2,149 Skipped: 193



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	59.42%	1,277
2	31.50%	677
3	5.35%	115
4	1.91%	41
5 (Strongly Disagree)	1.81%	39
TOTAL		2,149

Q21 I hold moral beliefs in line with those held by my community.

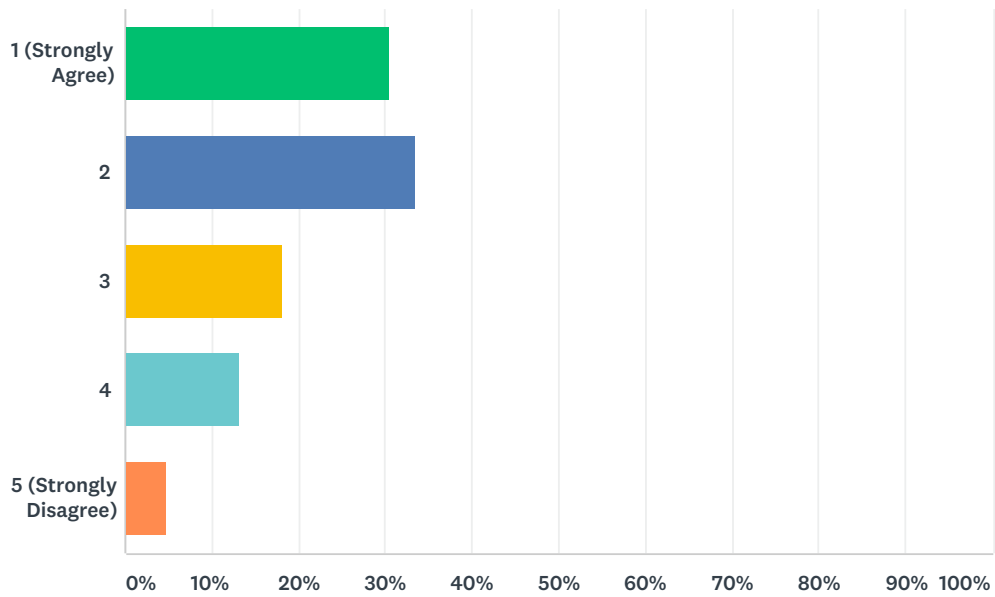
Answered: 2,144 Skipped: 198



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	16.14%	346
2	45.24%	970
3	27.94%	599
4	8.35%	179
5 (Strongly Disagree)	2.33%	50
TOTAL		2,144

Q22 I feel the role of the lawyer is solely to provide the best service to the client possible within the bounds of law.

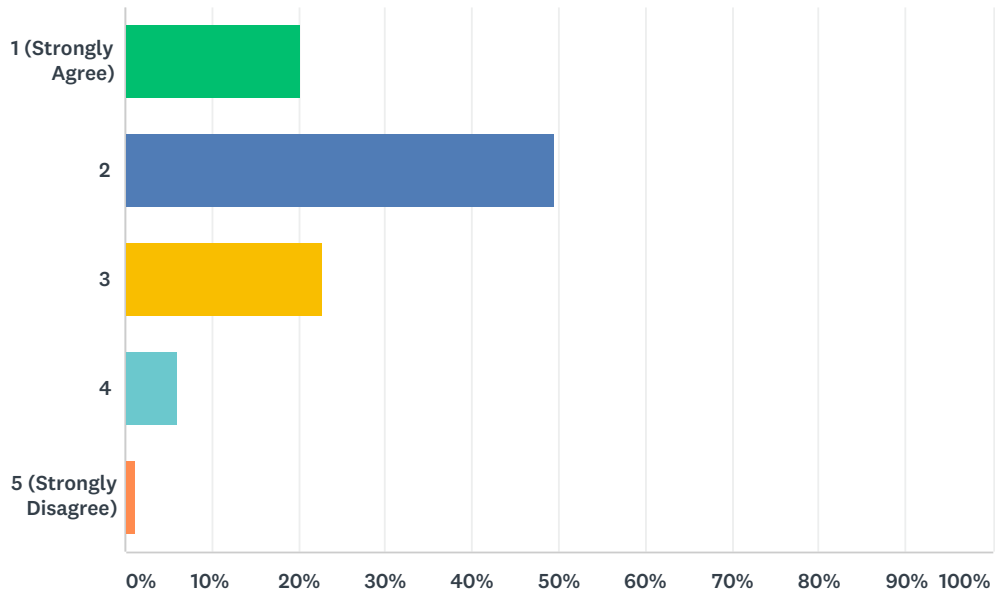
Answered: 2,145 Skipped: 197



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	30.49%	654
2	33.43%	717
3	18.23%	391
4	13.10%	281
5 (Strongly Disagree)	4.76%	102
TOTAL		2,145

Q23 I believe judges are ethical.

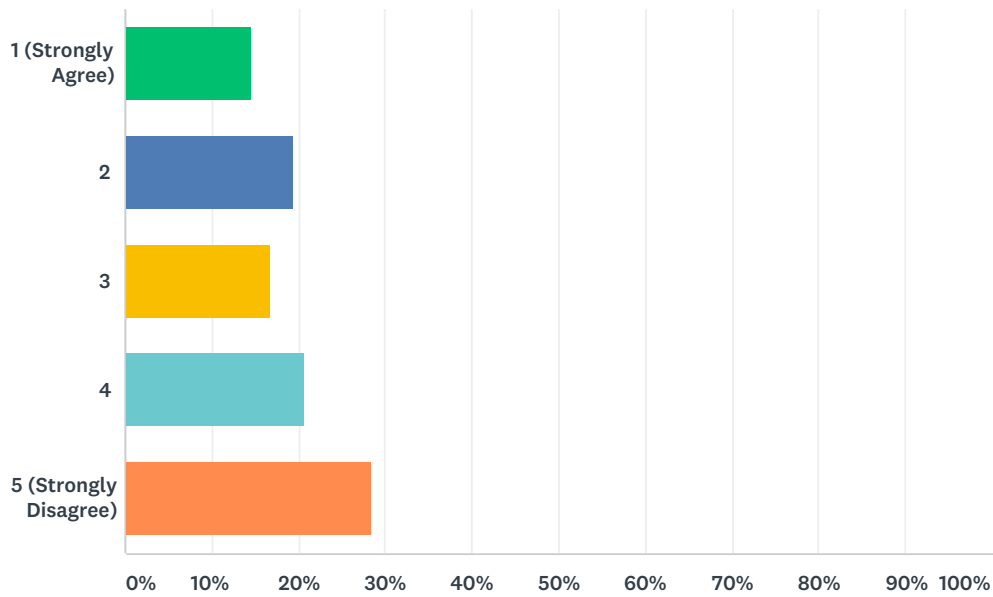
Answered: 2,145 Skipped: 197



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	20.37%	437
2	49.60%	1,064
3	22.84%	490
4	5.97%	128
5 (Strongly Disagree)	1.21%	26
TOTAL		2,145

Q24 I would feel comfortable representing a tobacco company who is being sued for lying about the addictive properties of cigarettes.

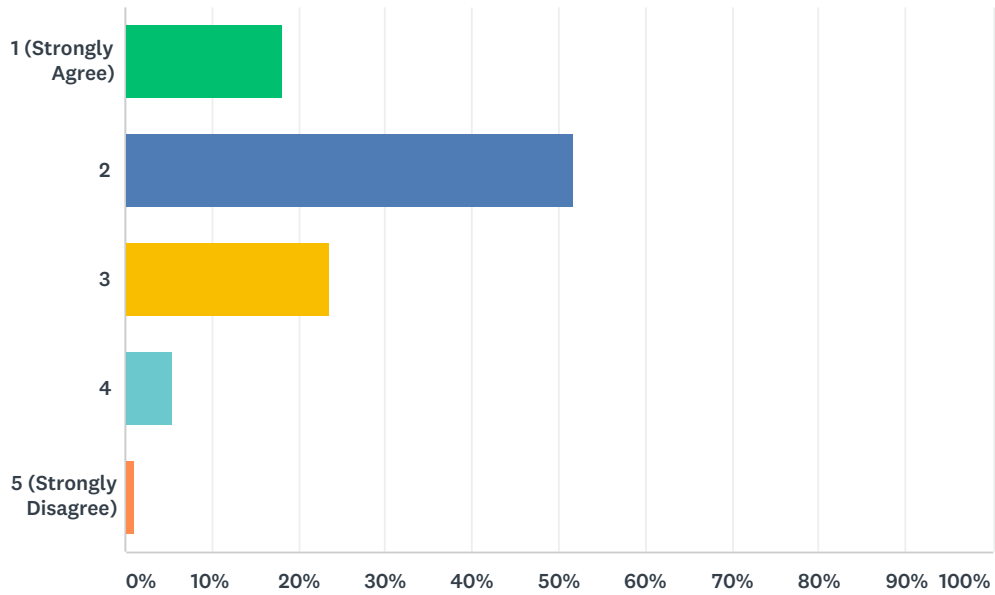
Answered: 2,142 Skipped: 200



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	14.61%	313
2	19.51%	418
3	16.76%	359
4	20.68%	443
5 (Strongly Disagree)	28.43%	609
TOTAL		2,142

Q25 I believe the lawyers I know in the legal profession are ethical.

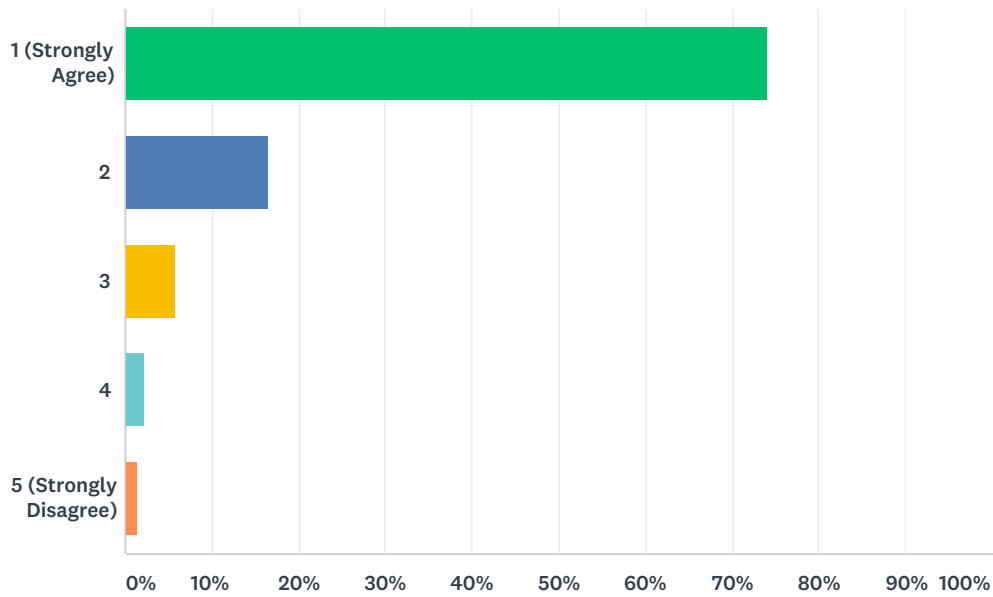
Answered: 2,119 Skipped: 223



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	18.12%	384
2	51.77%	1,097
3	23.60%	500
4	5.52%	117
5 (Strongly Disagree)	0.99%	21
TOTAL		2,119

Q26 Legal ethics should be a mandatory course for all law students and part of continuing legal education for lawyers.

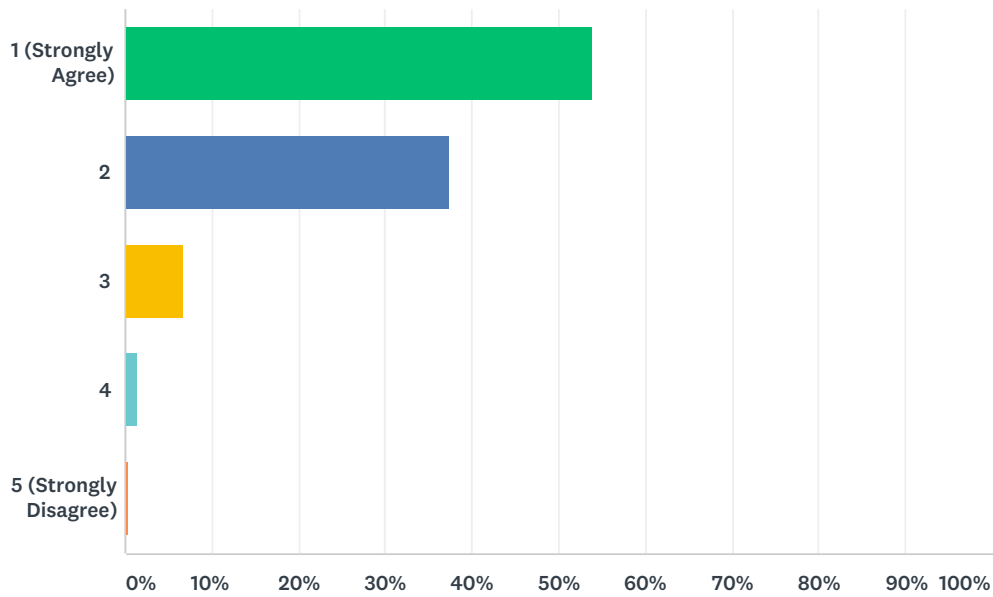
Answered: 2,120 Skipped: 222



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	74.01%	1,569
2	16.46%	349
3	5.75%	122
4	2.41%	51
5 (Strongly Disagree)	1.37%	29
TOTAL		2,120

Q27 I am comfortable with my understanding of the ethical requirements of the practice of law.

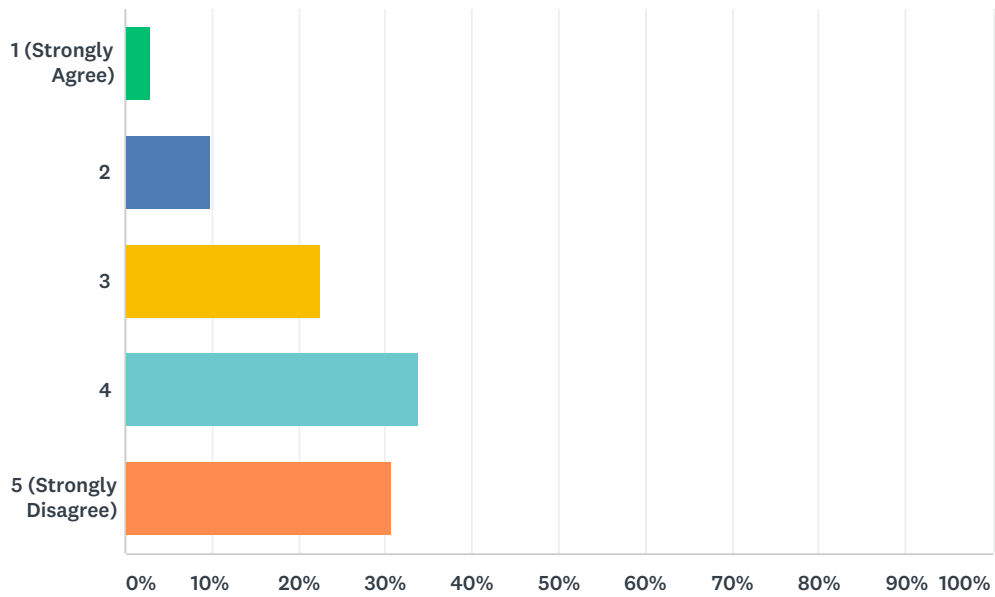
Answered: 2,115 Skipped: 227



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	54.04%	1,143
2	37.35%	790
3	6.71%	142
4	1.37%	29
5 (Strongly Disagree)	0.52%	11
TOTAL		2,115

Q28 It is best for society at large if lawyers base decisions on who to represent upon their personal morals.

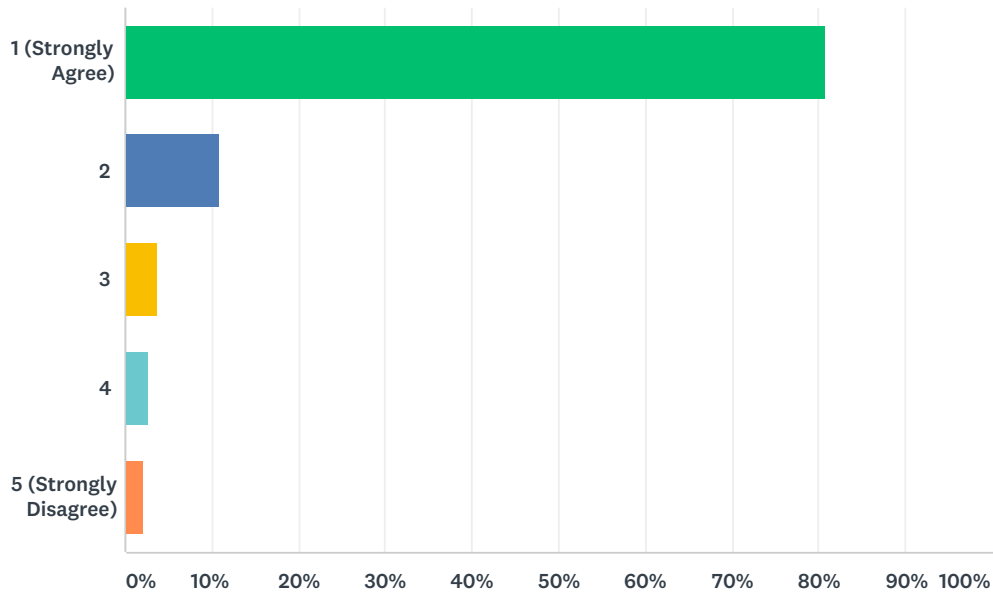
Answered: 2,116 Skipped: 226



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	2.84%	60
2	9.83%	208
3	22.59%	478
4	33.98%	719
5 (Strongly Disagree)	30.77%	651
TOTAL		2,116

Q29 For criminal charges, every person should be entitled to have a lawyer represent them in court, regardless of the specific criminal charge or financial capacity.

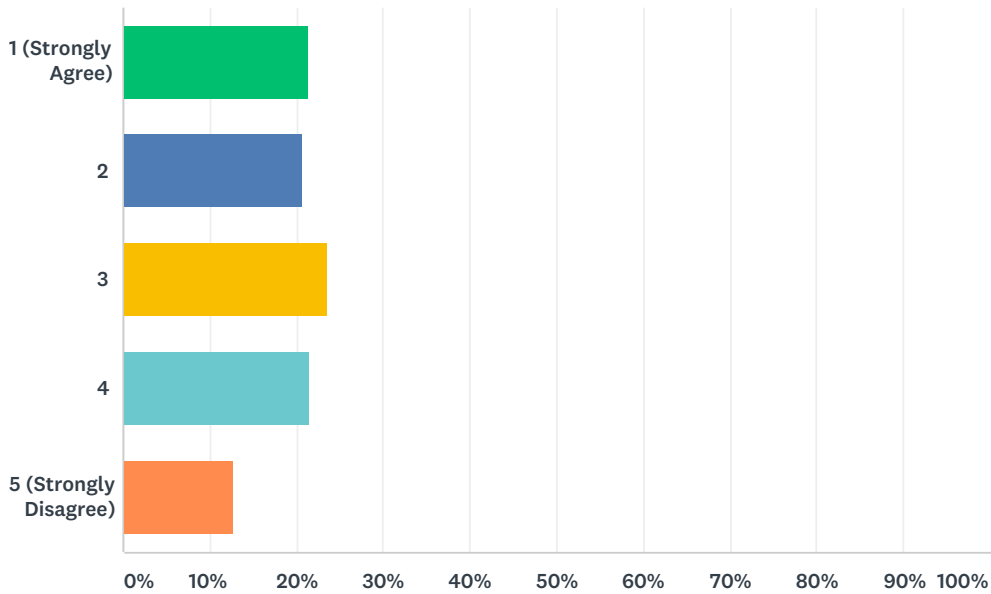
Answered: 2,119 Skipped: 223



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	80.70%	1,710
2	10.85%	230
3	3.68%	78
4	2.64%	56
5 (Strongly Disagree)	2.12%	45
TOTAL		2,119

Q30 For civil actions, every person should be entitled to have a lawyer represent them in court, regardless of the civil cause of action or financial capacity.

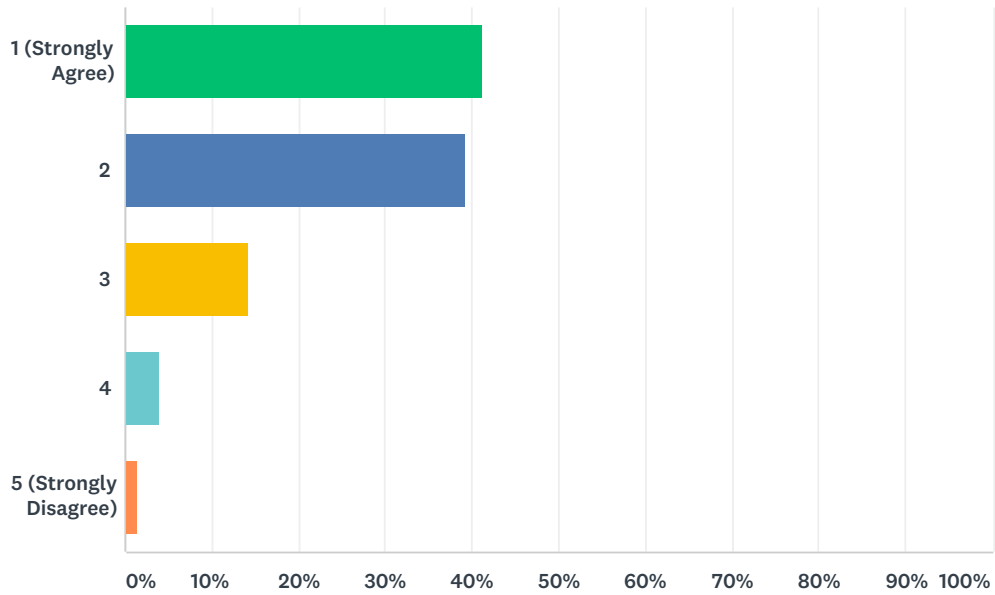
Answered: 2,118 Skipped: 224



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	21.39%	453
2	20.73%	439
3	23.65%	501
4	21.53%	456
5 (Strongly Disagree)	12.70%	269
TOTAL		2,118

Q31 Law is a profession to serve the good of society.

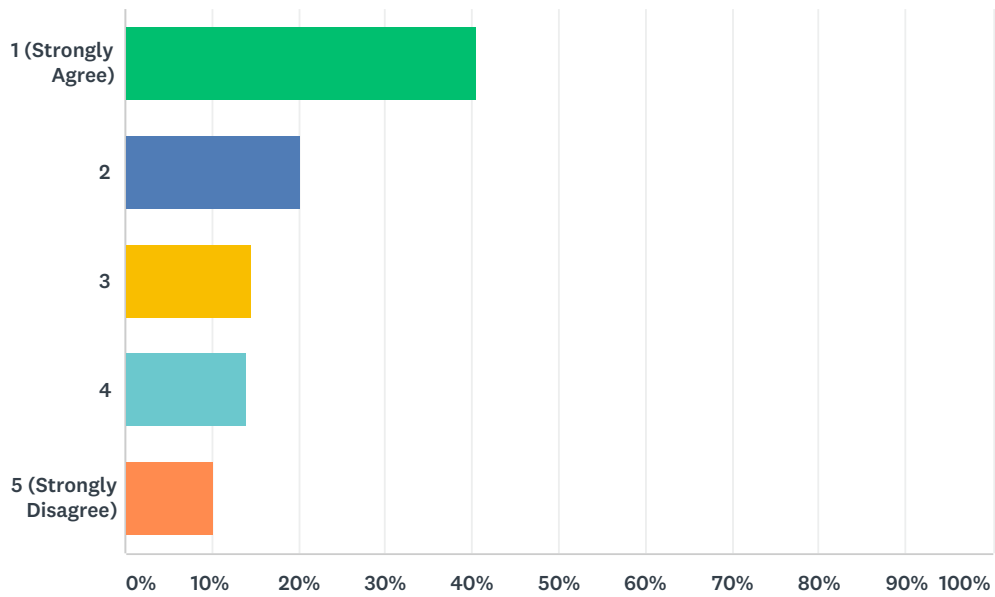
Answered: 2,106 Skipped: 236



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	41.12%	866
2	39.27%	827
3	14.20%	299
4	4.04%	85
5 (Strongly Disagree)	1.38%	29
TOTAL		2,106

Q32 I would not feel comfortable representing a parent who I know sexually molested their child.

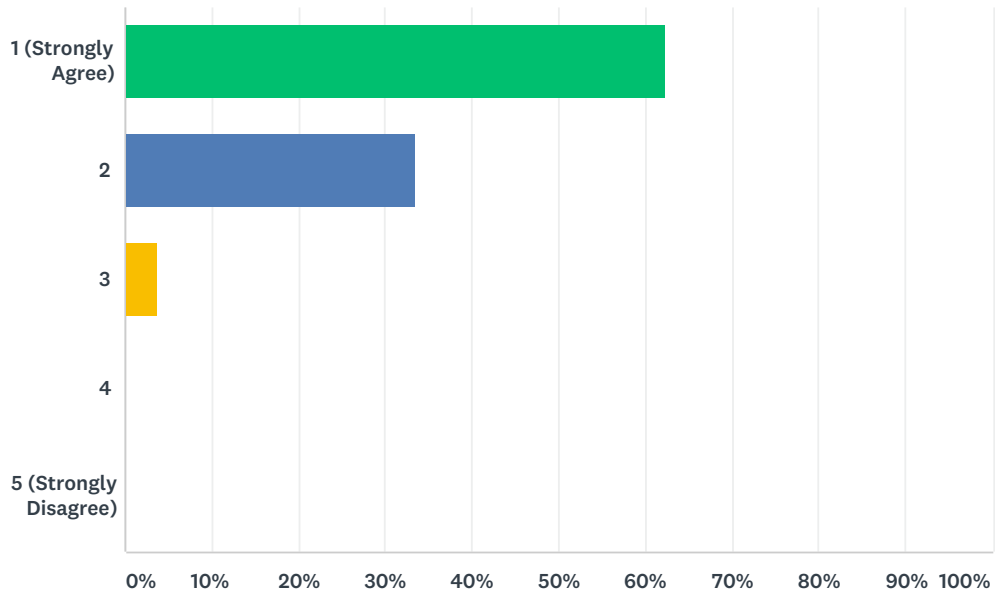
Answered: 2,105 Skipped: 237



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	40.67%	856
2	20.38%	429
3	14.73%	310
4	13.97%	294
5 (Strongly Disagree)	10.26%	216
TOTAL		2,105

Q33 I am an ethical person.

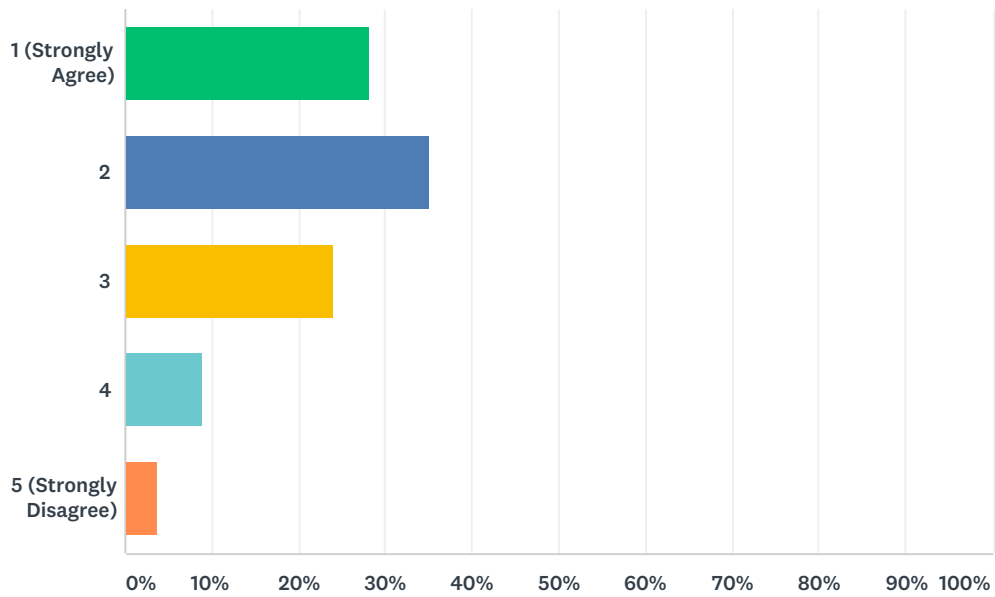
Answered: 2,101 Skipped: 241



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	62.30%	1,309
2	33.41%	702
3	3.86%	81
4	0.19%	4
5 (Strongly Disagree)	0.24%	5
TOTAL		2,101

Q34 Law school will/has provide(d) me with the ability to change society for the better.

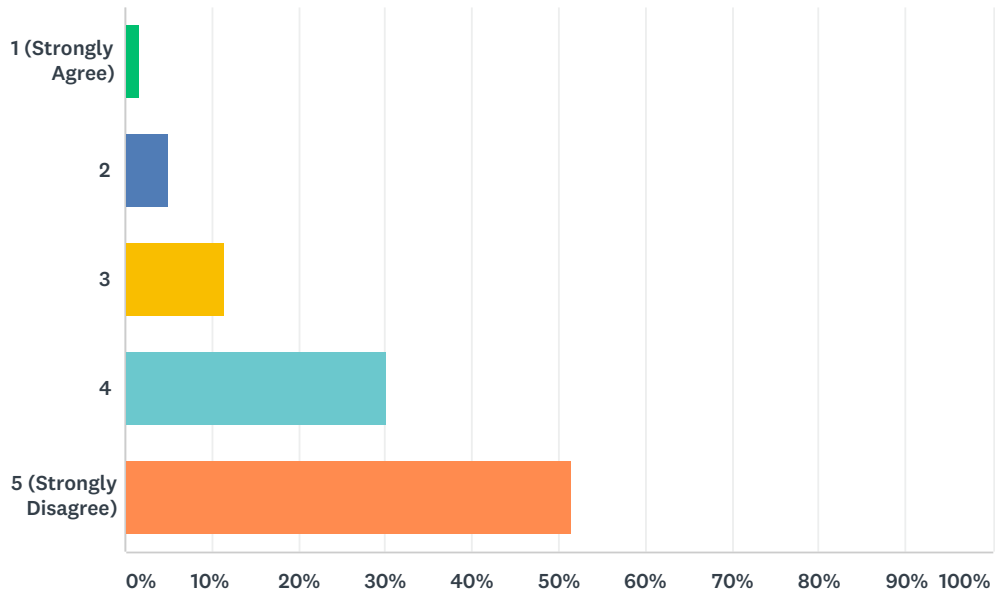
Answered: 2,103 Skipped: 239



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	28.25%	594
2	35.14%	739
3	24.06%	506
4	8.89%	187
5 (Strongly Disagree)	3.66%	77
TOTAL		2,103

Q35 I believe the professors I know in the legal profession are unethical.

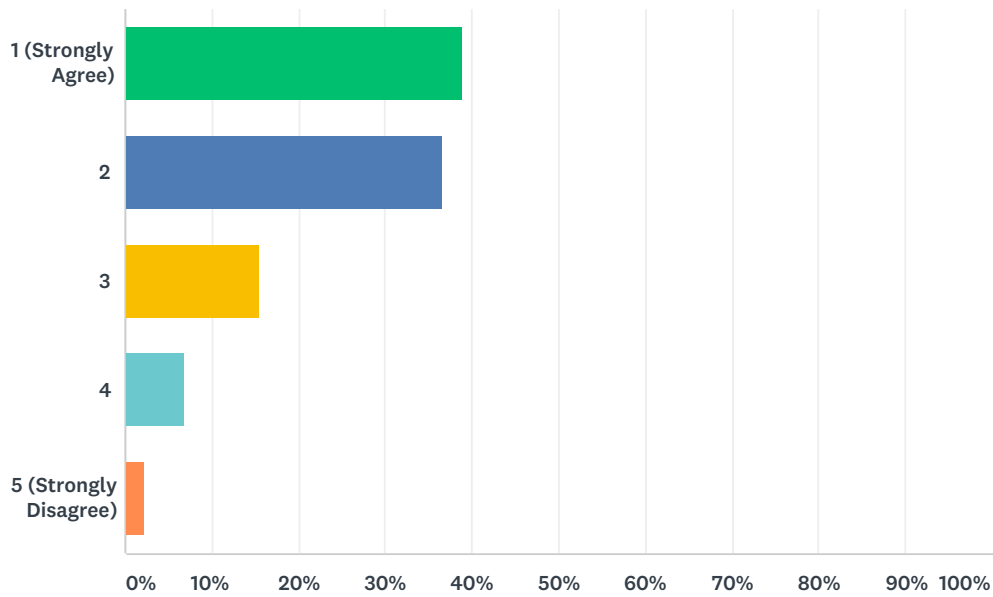
Answered: 2,085 Skipped: 257



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	1.77%	37
2	4.99%	104
3	11.61%	242
4	30.12%	628
5 (Strongly Disagree)	51.51%	1,074
TOTAL		2,085

Q36 A lawyer must be able to put aside their personal beliefs to argue a client's case of which they do not approve.

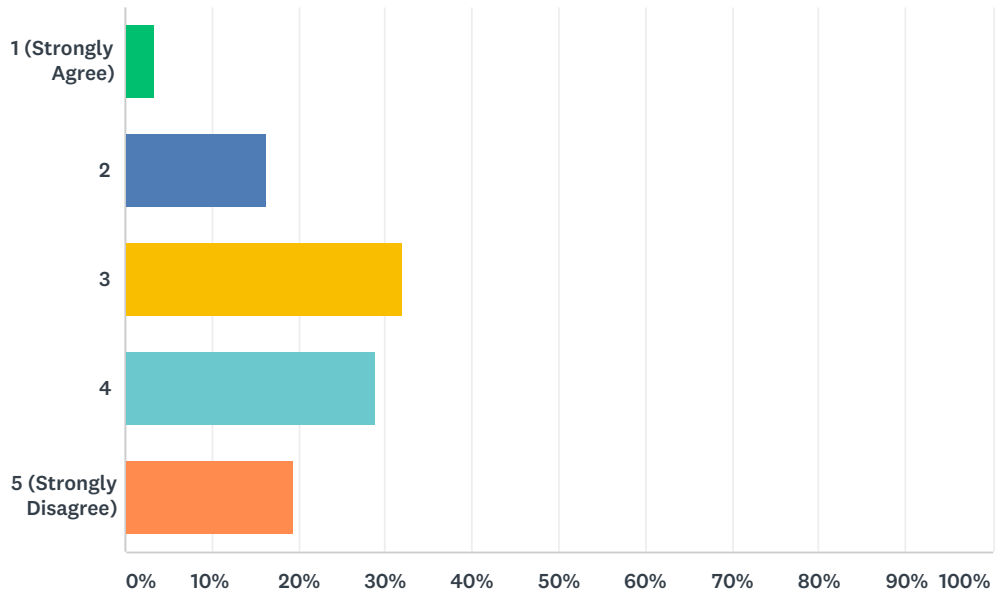
Answered: 2,103 Skipped: 239



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	38.85%	817
2	36.52%	768
3	15.41%	324
4	6.85%	144
5 (Strongly Disagree)	2.38%	50
TOTAL		2,103

Q37 My main consideration when seeking employment is remuneration.

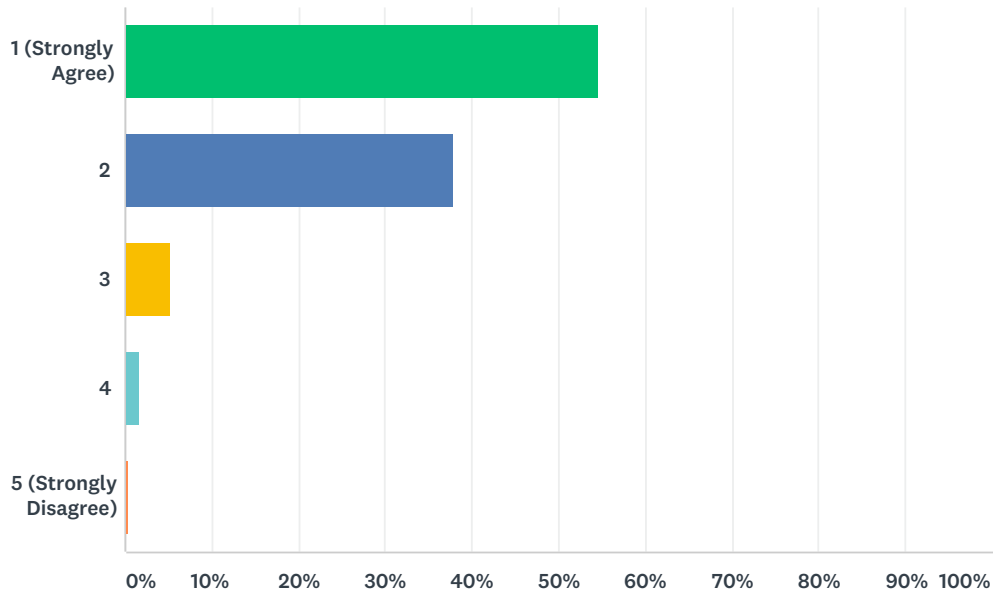
Answered: 2,066 Skipped: 276



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	3.24%	67
2	16.36%	338
3	31.95%	660
4	28.90%	597
5 (Strongly Disagree)	19.55%	404
TOTAL		2,066

Q38 I am familiar with the ethical guidelines of my bar association.

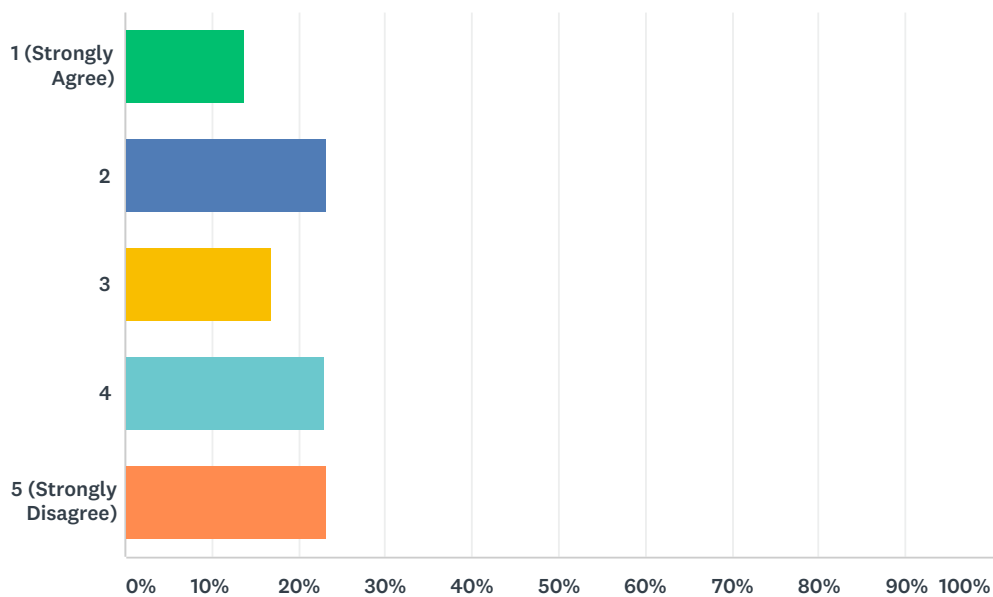
Answered: 2,066 Skipped: 276



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	54.65%	1,129
2	37.85%	782
3	5.32%	110
4	1.74%	36
5 (Strongly Disagree)	0.44%	9
TOTAL		2,066

Q39 Scenario - A plaintiff lawyer files a medical malpractice suit on behalf of a client. Based on the suit the doctor’s lawyer offers to settle. Before the settlement is accepted the client is definitively informed by an independent third party expert that they were not actually injured by the doctor. The client informs their lawyer of this yet nevertheless instructs their lawyer to accept the settlement on the basis that it is the responsibility of the opposing party to discover any weaknesses in their suit. The lawyer accepts the settlement on behalf of their client. Do you agree that the plaintiff lawyer’s actions were ethical?

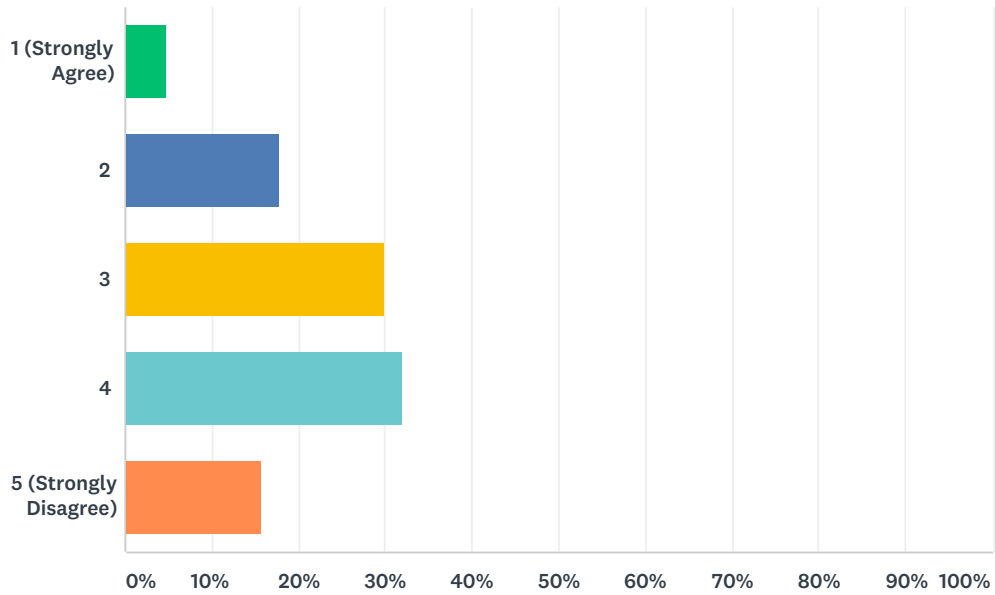
Answered: 2,057 Skipped: 285



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	13.71%	282
2	23.19%	477
3	16.97%	349
4	22.95%	472
5 (Strongly Disagree)	23.19%	477
TOTAL		2,057

Q40 The unethical reputation of lawyers in society is well deserved.

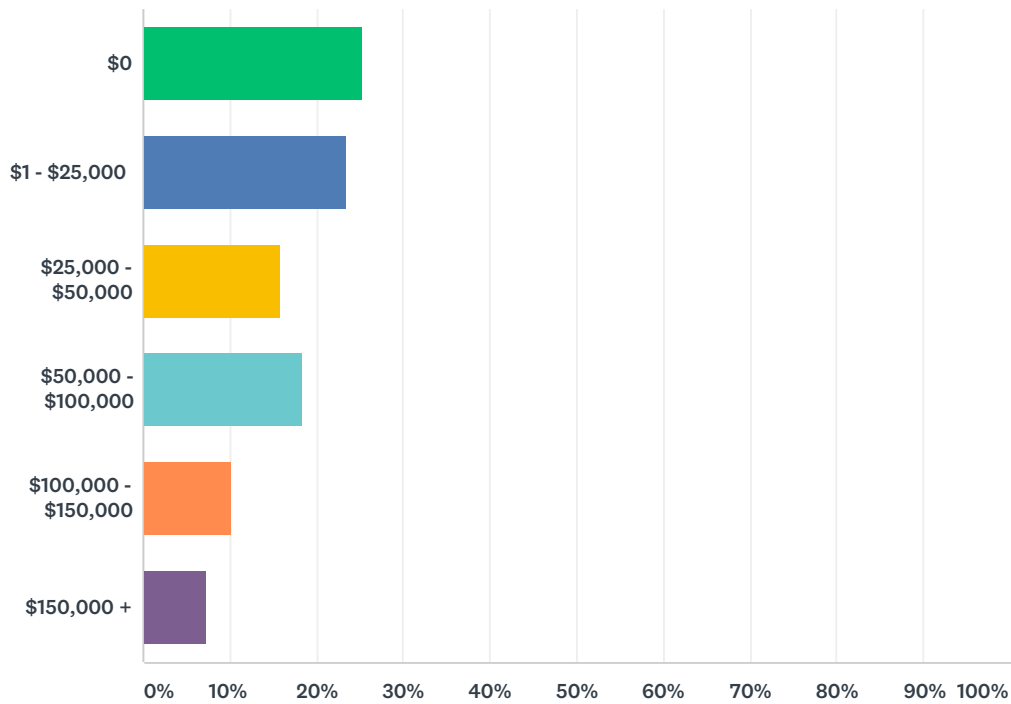
Answered: 2,069 Skipped: 273



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 (Strongly Agree)	4.78%	99
2	17.69%	366
3	29.92%	619
4	31.95%	661
5 (Strongly Disagree)	15.66%	324
TOTAL		2,069

Q41 What was/will be your student debt load upon graduating from law school?

Answered: 2,013 Skipped: 329



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
\$0	25.29%	509
\$1 - \$25,000	23.35%	470
\$25,000 - \$50,000	16.00%	322
\$50,000 - \$100,000	18.48%	372
\$100,000 - \$150,000	10.23%	206
\$150,000 +	7.30%	147
Total Respondents: 2,013		

Q42 Thank you for completing this survey, please click 'Done' to save your answers.If you would like to leave a comment for the authors please do so below.

Answered: 421 Skipped: 1,921