

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
FAMILY COURT JUDGE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Because all responses are confidential, and will be used only for the construction of statistical summaries of responses, we ask that you please do not identify yourself on this form.

1. How many years have you served as a family court judge? _____years
2. We are interested in who represents litigants in your court? Please estimate the percentage of legal assistance provided by each of the following sources.
_____% Private attorney
_____% West Virginia Legal Services Plan attorney
_____% Other legal aid agencies. Please specify _____
_____% Pro Bono attorney representation
_____% Pro se
_____% Other. Please specify _____
3. In the cases considered before you during the past month approximately how many *different attorneys* appeared before you?
 1 to 10 11 to 20 21- to 30) 31 to 40 more than 41
4. How often does an attorney appear in a *divorce or annulment* case?
For female litgants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
For male litigants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
5. How often does an attorney appear in a *domestic violence* case?
For the female litgants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
For the male litgants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
6. How often does an attorney appear in *other domestic relations cases* such as child support or visitation?
For the female litgants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
For the male litgants/applicants, in roughly _____% of family cases
7. In your opinion how well are the needs of indigent parties met in you court?
 Very Adequately Adequately Inadequately Very Inadequately
8. In *divorce cases*--do you *normally* attempt to:
 Let the parties try to devise settlements on their own
 Offer suggestions about the dimensions of a settlement agreement
 Rely heavily on or enforce mediated settlements
 Describe in some detail what a settlement agreement should address
 Other
9. In *domestic relations cases--other than divorce cases*--do you *normally* attempt to:
 Let the parties try to devise settlements on their own
 Offer suggestions about the dimensions of a settlement agreement
 Describe in some detail what a settlement agreement should address

10. Below, we ask for information on what your work weeks are typically like. Write, in the space provided, the amount of time you spend during a *typical week* on the activities listed which you encounter in your current assignment. Please read the list of potential activities before completing this section.

Hours per week

- _____ Reading case files
- _____ Keeping up with the law: reading reporters, statutes, court rules, journals, books, etc.
- _____ Preparing/writing decisions, judgments, orders, warrants, correspondence, and related documents
- _____ Administrative work: budget, scheduling, and supervision of personnel
- _____ Pre-hearing and settlement conferences
- _____ Hearing motions, e.g. requests for change in child support, custody, parenting plans, or visitation, appointing guardians ad litem,
- _____ Conferences with attorneys **not related** to settlement
- _____ Presiding at trials or hearings
- _____ Marriages
- _____ Other . Please describe:

11. What is your assessment of the *overall* quality of family court mediators' efforts?

- () Achieve reasonable settlements in almost all cases
- () Achieve reasonable settlements in a majority of cases (50 to 90 percent of cases)
- () Achieve reasonable settlements in a minority of cases (20 to 50 percent of cases)
- () Frequently fail to achieve reasonable settlements

12. What is your assessment of CASA programs?

- () Regularly provide valuable assistance or information for the court
- () Occasionally provide valuable assistance or information for the court
- () Largely irrelevant to court business

15. Is your *local community* significantly involved in court matters through any of the following ways?

- | Yes | No | |
|-----|-----|---|
| () | () | Extensive newspaper or television coverage of courts |
| () | () | Frequent "court watch" projects by citizens |
| () | () | Public school class visits to the court |
| () | () | Local college or university research projects on courts or judicial personnel |
| () | () | Hotly-contested elections for local judgeships |
| () | | Other (specify) _____ |

16. What occupation did you hold *immediately prior* to your current judgeship?

- Magistrate Private legal practice
 Prosecuting attorney's office Federal/local government lawyer
 Other elected public official (specify) _____
 Other civil service position (specify agency) _____
 Other (specify) _____

If private legal practice, what was your specialization?

- Criminal General Civil Family Law.

17. What is your present age? _____

18. What is your gender? Male Female

19. Which of the following applies to you? Black Hispanic White Asian

20. Where did you attend law school? West Va. Univ. other law school

21. During your last election campaign, how much time per week did you spend on average on your campaign?

- 0-2 hrs. 3-5 hrs. 6-8 hrs. 9 hrs. or more