



# Equal Justice Foundation

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Domestic violence against men — www.dvmen.org

## Evaluating Judicial Performance Survey Questions

### Court information (Please fill out one form for each case)

Trial or hearing held by Magistrate/Judge/Commissioner/Special Master (circle only one):

Their name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male Female

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (usually available on courtroom door on posted docket)

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_ v. \_\_\_\_\_

Location of courthouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Room/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Using a grading scale, where an **A** is excellent, **B, C, D,** or **F** for fail, please grade the judge on the following. (If you feel you don't have experience with the judge in a specific area, or just don't know, circle **N/A**).

#### 1. Demeanor:

- a. Gives court proceedings a sense of fairness and dignity. A B C D F N/A
- b. Treats participants in the case politely and with respect. A B C D F N/A
- c. Conducts his/her courtroom in a neutral manner. A B C D F N/A
- d. Has sense of compassion and understanding for those who appear before him/her. A B C D F N/A

#### 2. Fairness:

- a. Gives all participants a fair opportunity to be heard. A B C D F N/A
- b. Treats those involved in the case without bias. A B C D F N/A
- c. Treats people who represent themselves fairly. A B C D F N/A
- d. Gives each side a reasonable amount of time to present their case. A B C D F N/A

#### 3. Communications:

- a. Helps participants understand proceedings and what's going on in courtroom. A B C D F N/A
- b. Uses language that litigants can understand and explains legal terms and concepts. A B C D F N/A
- c. Speaks clearly so everyone in the courtroom can hear what's being said. A B C D F N/A

#### 4. Diligence:

- a. Begins court on time. A B C D F N/A
- b. Maintains appropriate control over proceedings. A B C D F N/A
- c. Sets reasonable case schedules but docket management doesn't overwhelm justice. A B C D F N/A
- d. Is prepared for his/her cases. A B C D F N/A
- e. Manages case proceedings efficiently without undo delays. A B C D F N/A

#### 5. Application of Law:

- a. Explains and gives reasons for rulings. A B C D F N/A
- b. Decisions based on law without regard to ideology, outside pressure, or politics. A B C D F N/A
- c. Is able to identify and analyze relevant facts and points of law. A B C D F N/A

**6. Bias**

On the scale below, please indicate by circling the appropriate number how biased you think the judge is toward the defense or the prosecution in criminal cases, or the respondent or the petitioner in civil cases.

If you think the judge is completely unbiased, circle 5.

| Biased In Favor Of Defense/Respondent |   |   |   | Completely Neutral |   |   | Biased In Favor Of Prosecution/Petitioner |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10                                    | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6                  | 5 | 4 | 3   | 2 | 1 | 0 |

**7. Sentencing in criminal cases**

If the case you are commenting on is a criminal case please answer the following, otherwise skip to next question.

On the scale below, please indicate by circling the appropriate number how lenient or how harsh you think the sentence handed down by the judge was.

If you think the judge handed down an appropriate sentence, circle 5.

| Sentence Too Light |   |   |   | Appropriate Sentence |   |   | Sentence Too Harsh |   |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|---|---|
| 10                 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6                    | 5 | 4 | 3                  | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Though your name will never be associated with your answers it is important that you do not include information in the comments below that might unintentionally identify you as the author.

**8. What would you say are his/her strengths?**

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**9. And what would you say are his/her weaknesses?**

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**10. Retention**

Keeping in mind your responses to each of the previous questions do you recommend that the magistrate/judge/commissioner/special master be, or not be retained on the bench?

| Strongly recommend he/she be retained | Somewhat recommend he/she be retained | Undecided or don't know enough to make recommendation | Somewhat recommend he/she not be retained | Strongly recommend he/she not be retained |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 5                                     | 4                                     | 3   | 2   | 1   |

Commonly this form cannot be completed at one time or after just one hearing on a given case.