



Sponsored by

The Murphy Institute

Presents

**The 1st Annual
Political Economy and Access to
Justice Judicial Education Seminar**

January 12-14, 2023

SUMMATIVE REPORT

SUBMITTED BY:

NGHANA LEWIS, JD, PHD
JANUARY 29, 2023

This report summarizes the goals and objectives of the 1st Annual Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar, reviews evaluation data, describes logistical challenges, and outlines best practices for future seminar planning and hosting.

Registration for the seminar was open exclusively to Louisiana district, criminal, civil, juvenile, and family court judges. Fifteen (15) judges registered for the January 12-14, 2023 seminar, using the PEAJJES.com registration tool. One judge withdrew registration due to trial scheduling conflict; one (1) judge withdrew registration due to illness. Ten (10) judges attended the seminar January 12-14; two attended January 13-14; and one attended January 13 only.

PEAJJES GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goals:

Deepen knowledgebase of Louisiana district, family, juvenile, and criminal court judges at the crosscurrents of juvenile justice, criminal justice, and political economy.

Objectives:

- 1. Organized panel presentations that addressed direct and indirect economic costs to court-involved juveniles and adults.
- 2. Considered past and current structural barriers to access to justice, measured along racial, gender, & class lines.

Facilitate practical application of knowledge gained to day-to-day court operations.

Objectives:

- 1. Used session-opening ice breakers, lunch breaks, and post-session dinner discussions among seminar participants to identify specific ways in which knowledge gained both holistically and from individual sessions can be taken back and applied.
- 2. Created listserv for seminar participants to continue dialogue post-seminar, share resources, and sustain and expand networking.

EVALUATIONS: INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

Method: The seminar featured nine (9) sessions with 1-3 presenters for each session. Panelists included members, or agents, of Louisiana's executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as practitioners/specialists in the areas of legal advocacy, mental health, sex trafficking, and community organizing. Queue cards were provided at the end of each session for participants to scan and evaluate the session, by completing survey questions.

EVALUATIONS: SEMINAR

Method: Participants were asked to evaluate the seminar, by responding to eight (8) questions. The tool was disseminated by email seventy-two hours after the conclusion of the seminar. Seven (7) participants responded.

DISCUSSION

Response rates for individual sessions averaged 70%. Overall, participants found presenters well-informed and responsive to participant questions. Participants also generally responded that they found the panel content applicable to their judicial functions. Two sessions stand out as particularly engaging to participants: Session 2 and Session 9. Session 2 addressed racial jury bias and retroactive application of Constitutional bar on non-unanimous juries, post-Ramos and post-Edwards; and Session 9 presented parish-level data sets reflecting patterns of prosecution and rates of incarceration along black-white racial lines.

Fifty-three percent of seminar participants responded to requests for seminar evaluations, disseminated via email post-seminar. One of seven respondents had an overall unfavorable impression of the seminar. Six of seven respondents had an overall favorable impression of the seminar. Six of seven respondents expressed that they would attend the seminar in the future.

DISCUSSION

At the close of Day 1, a police officer who was required to be on-site, due to alcohol served during winddown, expressed interest in opening the seminar up for police officers to participate.

At the close of Day 3, a Sodexo employee on-site to supervise provision of food & beverage services, expressed interest in learning more about the seminar, due to her family's participation in FINS and dissatisfaction with services provided through this court agency.

This anecdotal feedback, provided by persons present during the seminar, but who were not registered judicial participants, suggests interest in fostering conversations around/through seminar content with persons who are not members of the Louisiana judiciary and who are involved in the justice system.

CHALLENGES

The seminar was originally scheduled to take place August 8-10, 2022; the date was changed, due to several judges expressing a desire to register, but an inability to participate due to pre-existing dockets and scheduling conflicts. Permission to change the seminar dates was obtained from Murphy, and the seminar was re-scheduled for January 12-14, 2023.

Based on seminar-level evaluations, seminar advertising could be improved. Postcards advertising the seminar were mailed to registered offices of every Louisiana judge. In addition, the seminar was advertised in *The Times Picayune* and *New Orleans Agenda* for approximately thirteen (13) non-consecutive weeks leading up to the seminar. Tulane Law School personnel also circulated seminar information through its networks. An email campaign was used to target judges presiding over family, juvenile, and criminal courts.

The Louisiana Judicial College (LJC) annually hosts summer school for Louisiana judges in Destin, Florida. The College also annually hosts Spring and Fall seminars. Because Louisiana judges are required to annually earn five (5) hours of continuing judicial education credits from seminars hosted by the Louisiana Judicial College, PEAJJES will always be in competition with the LJC for registrants. The LJC has expressed an interest in partnering with the PEAJJES, however, only on the condition that PEAJJES session be incorporated into LJC sponsored-seminars.

CHALLENGES



Judges generally do not pay out of pocket for expenses associated with attending conferences/seminars: they are generally always reimbursed lodging, dining, and travel costs.



In the absence of a designated conference hotel and per diem allocation, the cost of hosting the PEAJJES will be disproportionate for judges traveling greater than fifty miles to attend in relation to judges not traveling greater than fifty miles to attend.

CHALLENGES



Internet access is indispensable for seminar participants and presenters. The campus location of the seminar matters. The classroom location must have built-in technology that supports internet access and does not require presenters to utilize their own laptops. In addition, internet access codes for non-university affiliates must be secured, prior to the start of the seminar.




CHALLENGES

Political Economy is the conceptual anchor of the seminar. Panels featured no political economists. Participants repeatedly invoked the concept during working lunch sessions and post-seminar dinner discussions. These invocations point to a clear desire among participants to deepen their knowledge of the concept of political economy, how the concept applied to seminar content, and how the concept might inform their decision-making from the bench, in accordance with the law.

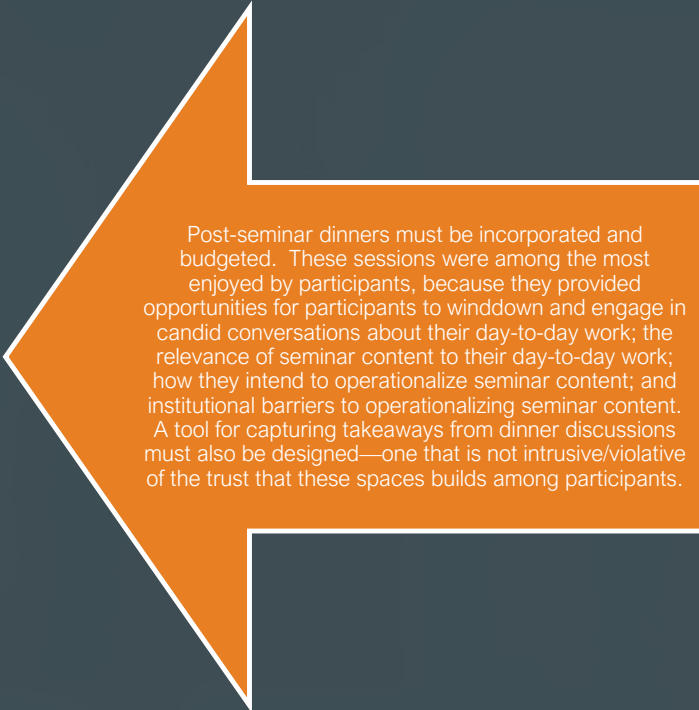
FUTURE SEMINARS

Evaluations point to a continuing need for the Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar. A majority of participants found the seminar content applicable to their day-to-day work and expressed a desire to attend future seminars.

FUTURE PLANNING



Food and beverage costs can be better controlled for by providing box lunches, rather than buffet lunches. Anecdotal evidence supports continuing afternoon winddown, which featured snacks and wine & beer. This service should only be provided for days 1 and 2 of the 3-day seminar and must commence at the start of the last panel session for each day.



Post-seminar dinners must be incorporated and budgeted. These sessions were among the most enjoyed by participants, because they provided opportunities for participants to winddown and engage in candid conversations about their day-to-day work; the relevance of seminar content to their day-to-day work; how they intend to operationalize seminar content; and institutional barriers to operationalizing seminar content. A tool for capturing takeaways from dinner discussions must also be designed—one that is not intrusive/violative of the trust that these spaces builds among participants.

FUTURE PLANNING

Each panel must include the voice and experience of a political economist. The panels should also feature practitioners and members of judicial, executive, and legislative branches of government. However, integrating panels, to include political economists, will better tool participants to understand the theory behind the praxis that PEAJJES endeavors to support.

FUTURE PLANNING

Administering the grant presented several challenges, due to unfamiliarity with Tulane's procurement system. In addition, several purchases exceeded P-Card and T&E Card limits conventionally afforded to faculty members. These challenges can be troubleshooted in the future, by pre-arranging with Murphy to complete purchases that exceed faculty member's limits.

FUTURE PLANNING

The seminar should take place annually the weekend before the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Advertising should begin the summer before the seminar and should target Louisiana district, family, juvenile, civil, traffic, municipal, and criminal court judges. Registration should remain open only to Louisiana judges.

Advertising should be by email primarily. PEAJJES should engage the services of 2L and 3L students to undertake telephone advertising as well. These calls can be placed with the judicial administrators of larger courts and executive assistants of individual judges, in smaller jurisdictions. This form of advertising is personal and is likely to garner larger response rates from judges.

PEAJJES should also utilize the network of judges who participated in the 1st seminar to build interest among other Louisiana judges and to increase registration.

Panel 1- Honorable Judge Ernestine Gray, Honorable Judge Arthur Hunter, Cecile Tebo, LCSW, and Honorable Kern A. Reese.

Panel 1 Responses:

INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET: 1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023

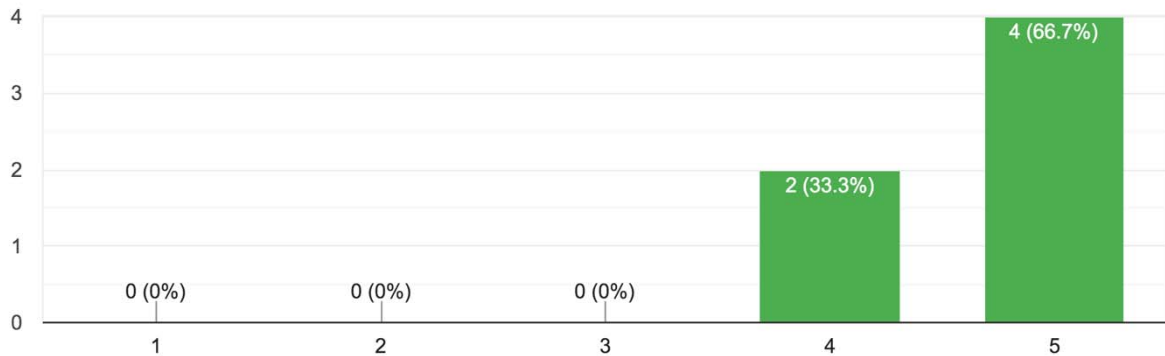
SESSION TITLE: “I Need Mental Health Help”: Meeting the Mental Health Needs and Challenges of Children and Adults in Louisiana Courts

SESSION PRESENTER(S): Honorable Judge Ernestine Gray, Honorable Judge Arthur Hunter, Cecile Tebo, LCSW, and Honorable Kern A. Reese.

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

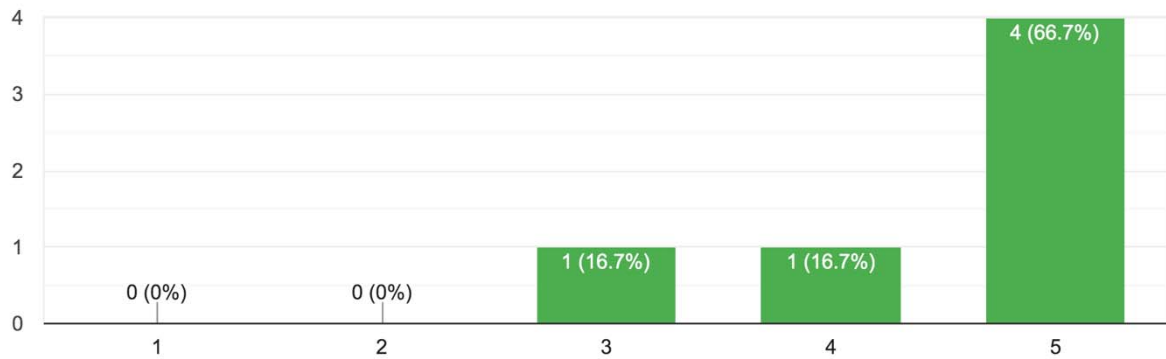
6 responses



Panel 1- Honorable Judge Ernestine Gray, Honorable Judge Arthur Hunter, Cecile Tebo, LCSW, and Honorable Kern A. Reese.

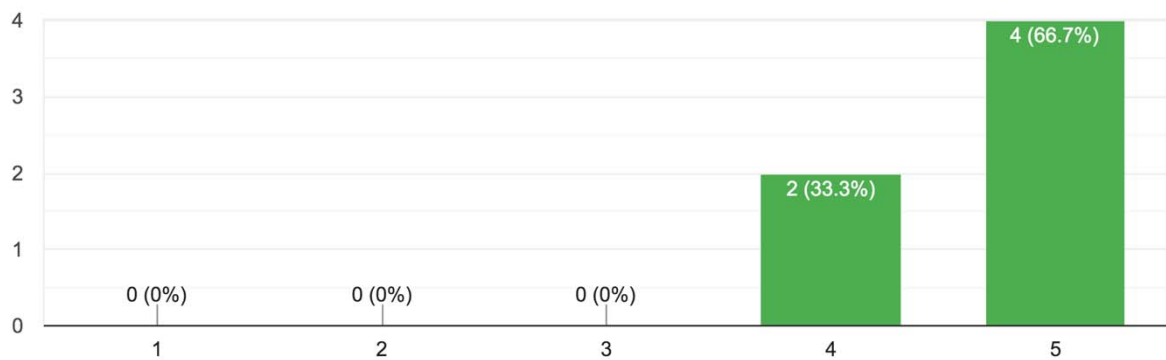
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

6 responses



The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

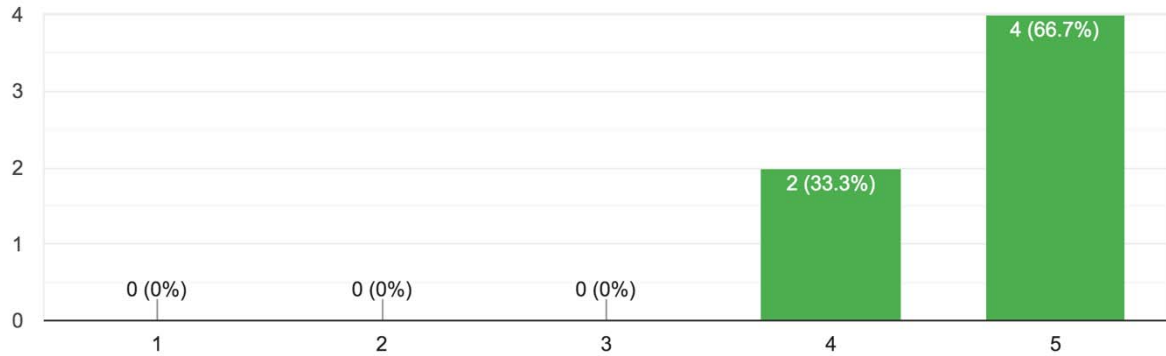
6 responses



Panel 1- Honorable Judge Ernestine Gray, Honorable Judge Arthur Hunter, Cecile Tebo, LCSW, and Honorable Kern A. Reese.

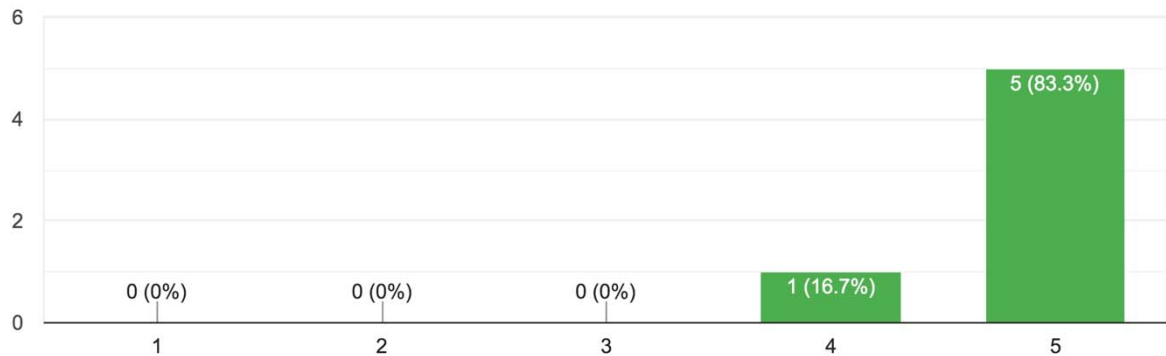
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

6 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

6 responses



No comments were submitted for Panel 1.

Panel 2 Responses:

**INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET: 1ST ANNUAL
POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION
SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023**

SESSION TITLE: Did the Death of Split Juries Bury the History of Race on Southern Juries?

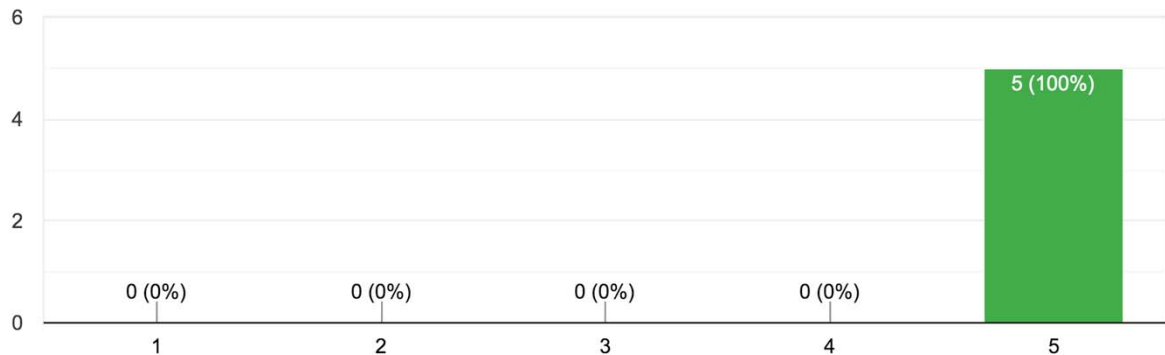
SESSION PRESENTER: Angela A. Allen-Bell, JD, B.K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor, Southern University Law Center

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

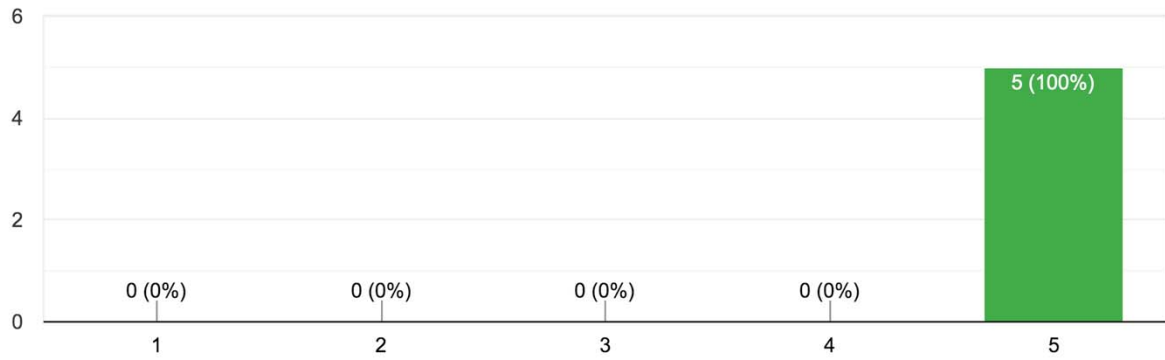
The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

5 responses



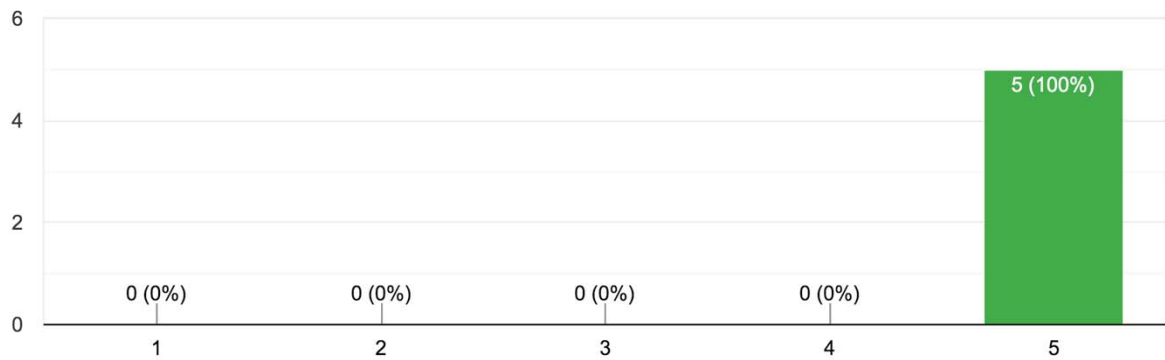
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

5 responses



The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

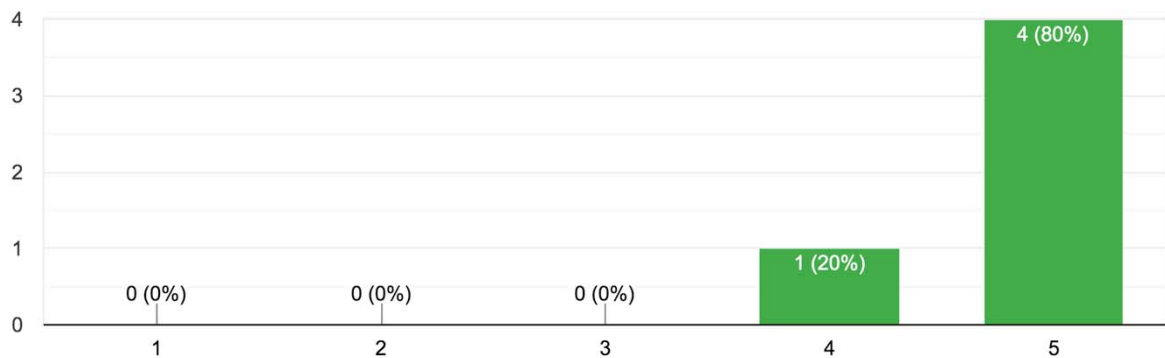
5 responses



Panel 2- Angela A. Allen-Bell

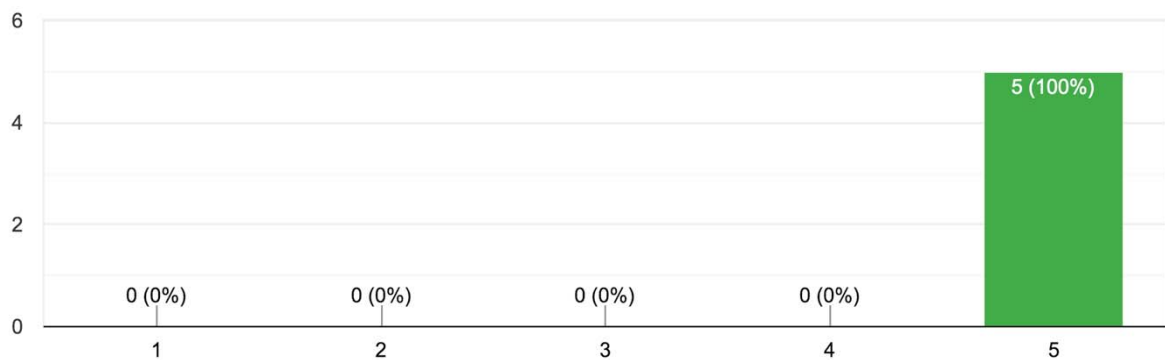
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

5 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

5 responses



No comments were submitted for Panel 2.

Panel 3 Responses:

**INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET-1ST ANNUAL
POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14,
2023**

SESSION TITLE: Raise the Age, Spoil the Child?

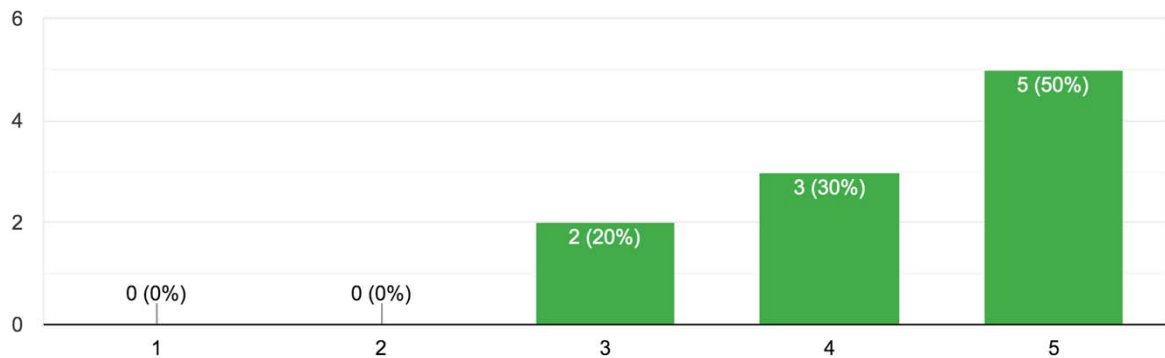
SESSION PRESENTER: Rachel Gassert, Esq.,

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

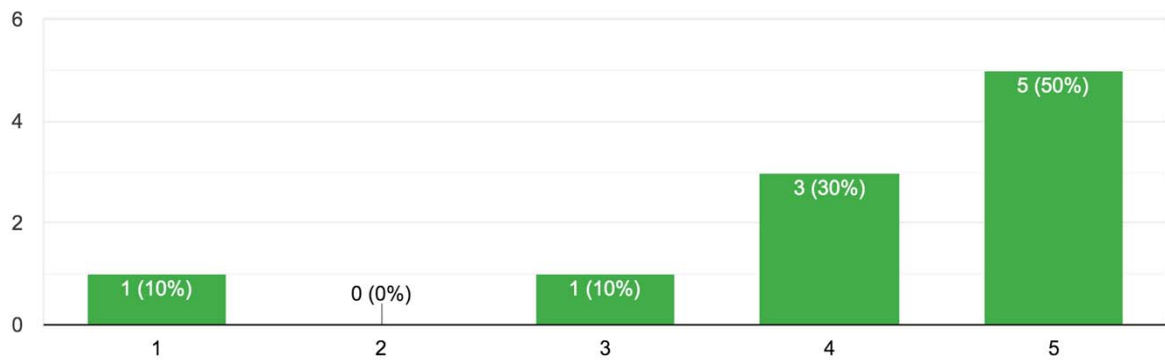
The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

10 responses



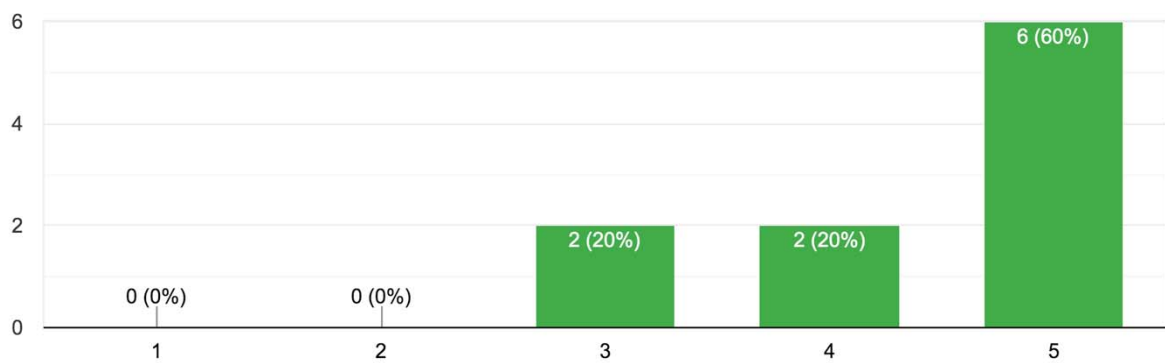
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

10 responses



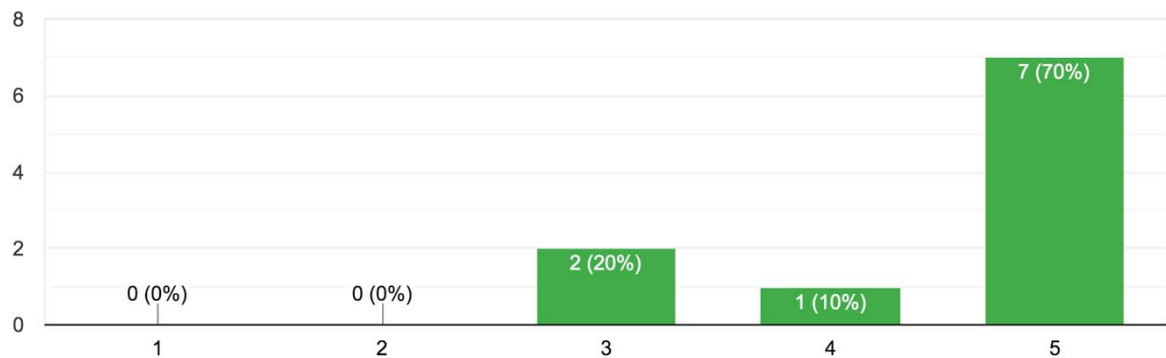
The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

10 responses



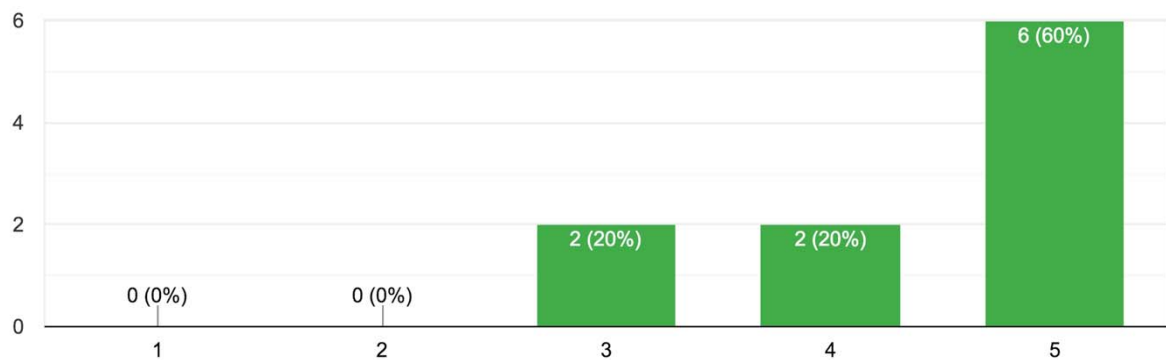
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

10 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

10 responses



Comments: 1 response

"Excellent presentation. I wish the other guest were present for a balanced discussion"

Panel 4 Responses:

INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET-1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023

SESSION TITLE: Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Initiatives: (How) Has it Paid Off?

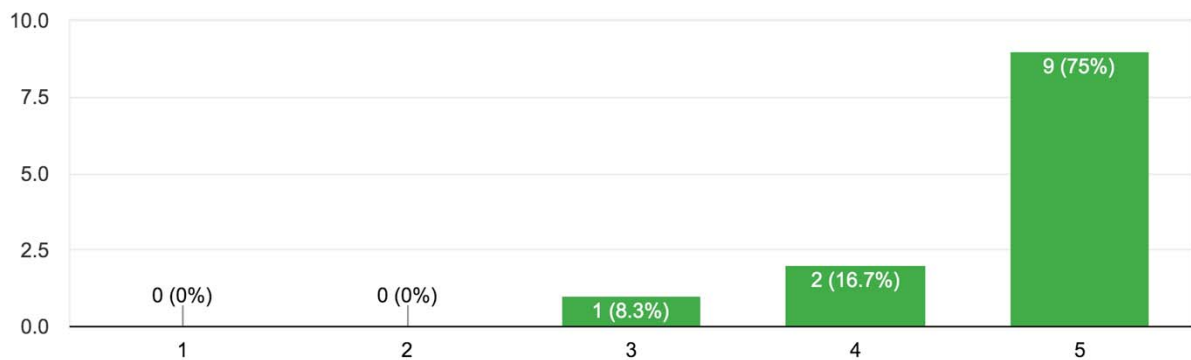
SESSION PRESENTER(S): The Honorable James LeBlanc and Natalie LaBorde.

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

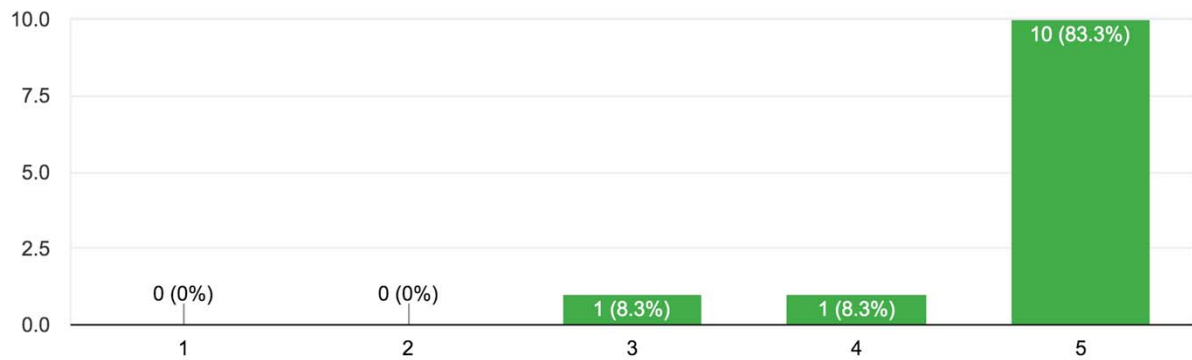
12 responses



Panel 4- The Honorable James LeBlanc and Natalie LaBorde.

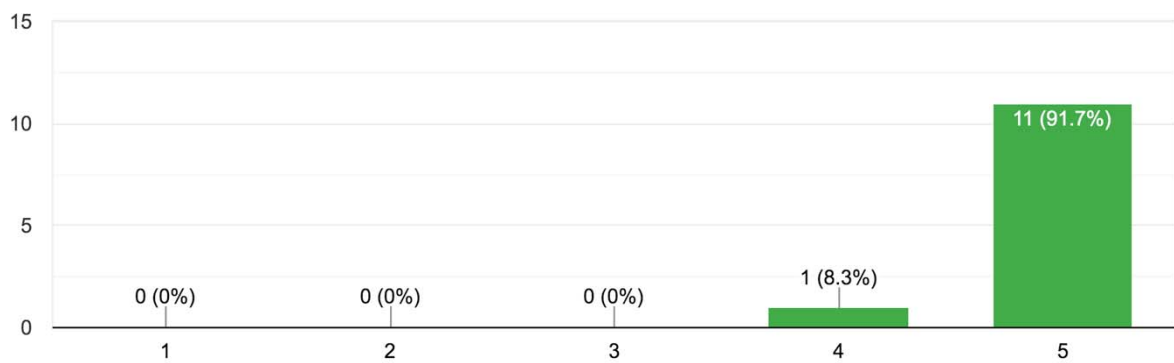
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

12 responses



The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

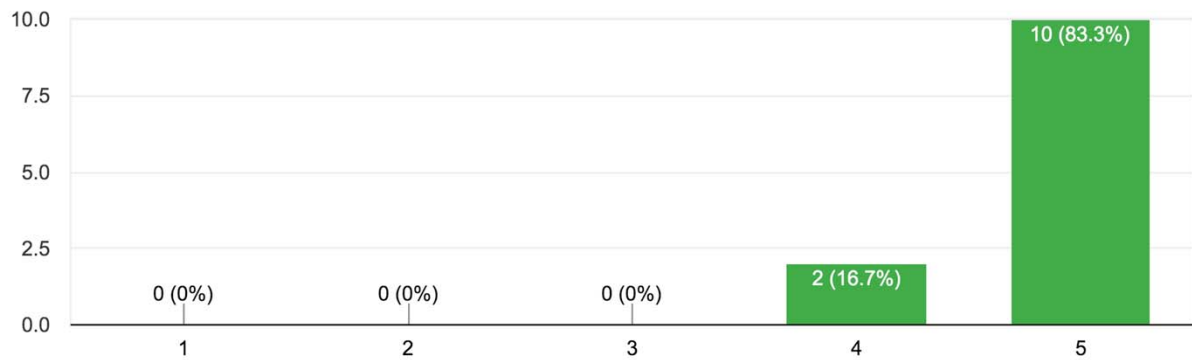
12 responses



Panel 4- The Honorable James LeBlanc and Natalie LaBorde.

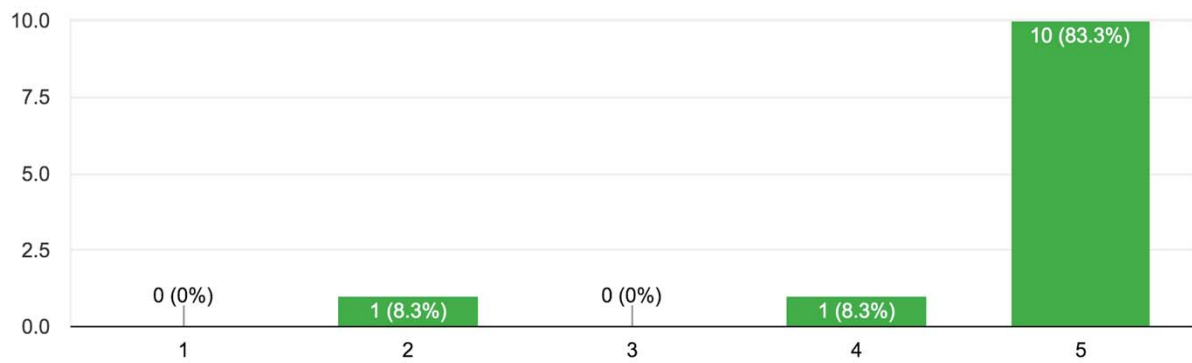
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

12 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

12 responses



No comments were submitted for Panel 4.

Panel 5 Responses:

**INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET-1ST ANNUAL
POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14,
2023**

SESSION TITLE: What about the Children?: Updates from the Office of Juvenile Justice

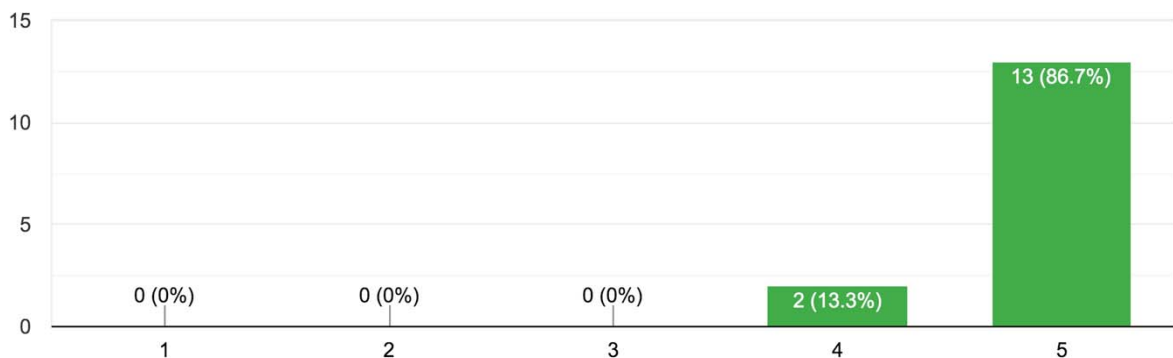
SESSION PRESENTER(S): The Honorable Otha "Curtis" Nelson

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

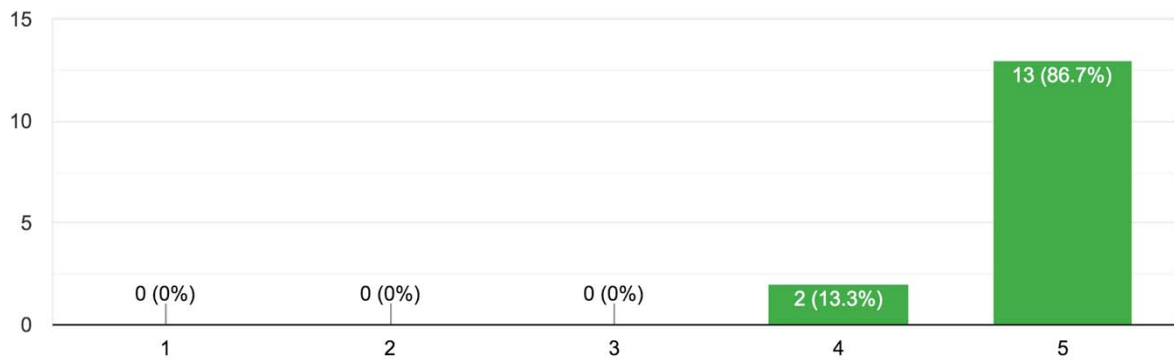
15 responses



Panel 5- The Honorable Otha "Curtis" Nelson

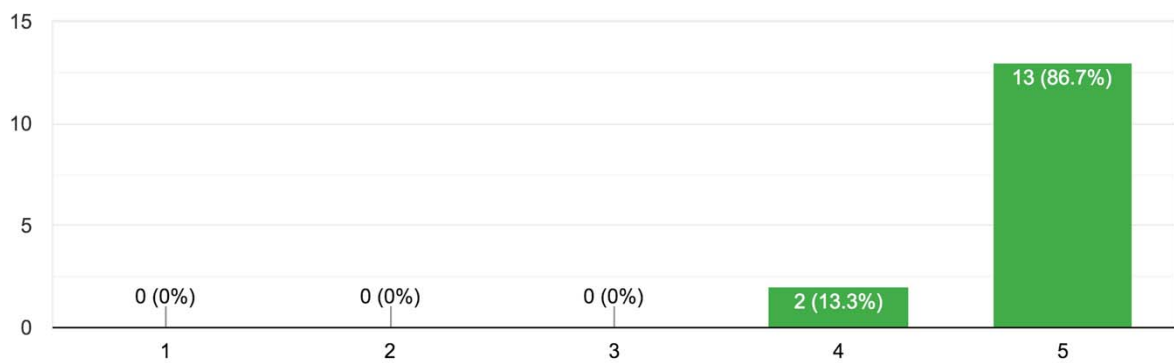
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

15 responses



The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

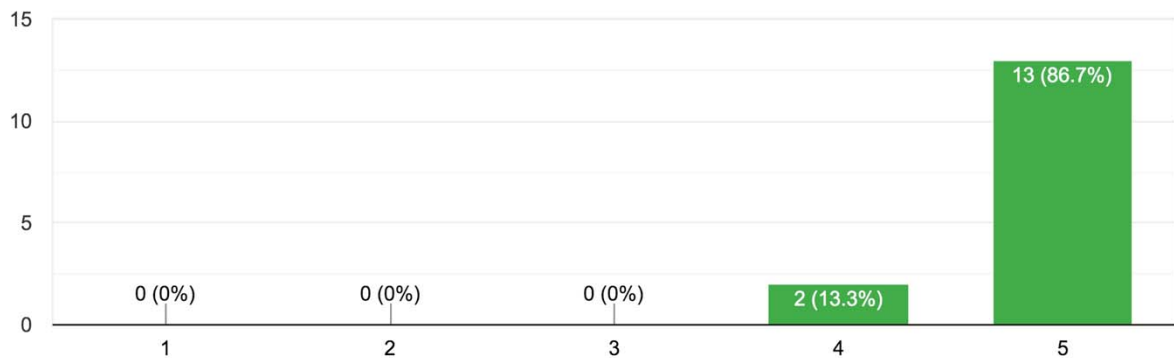
15 responses



Panel 5- The Honorable Otha "Curtis" Nelson

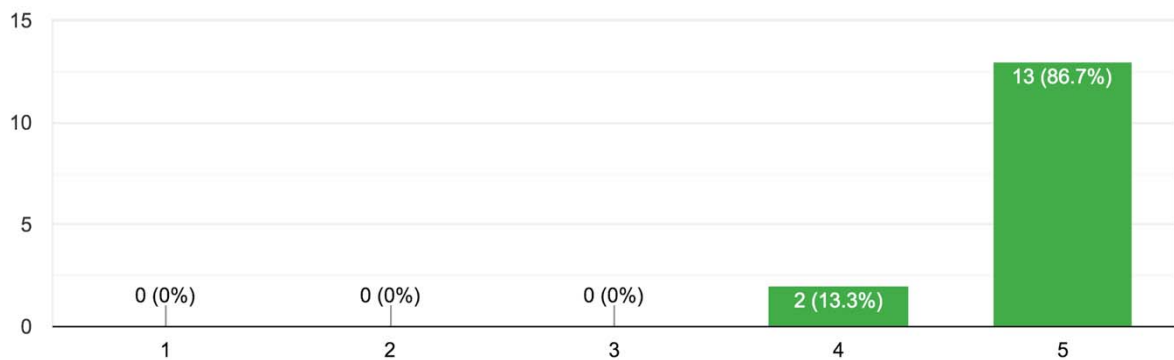
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

15 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

15 responses



Comments: 1 response

"Excellent presentation"

Panel 6 Responses:

INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET-1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023

SESSION TITLE: FINS and CINC: Who Pays for the Services and Care that Families and Children Need?

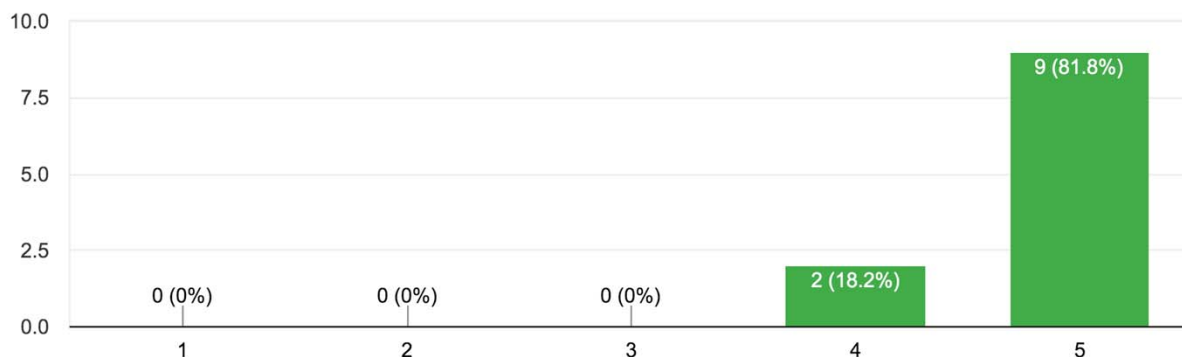
SESSION PRESENTER(S): The Honorable Terri Porche Ricks and Reshonn A. Saul.

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

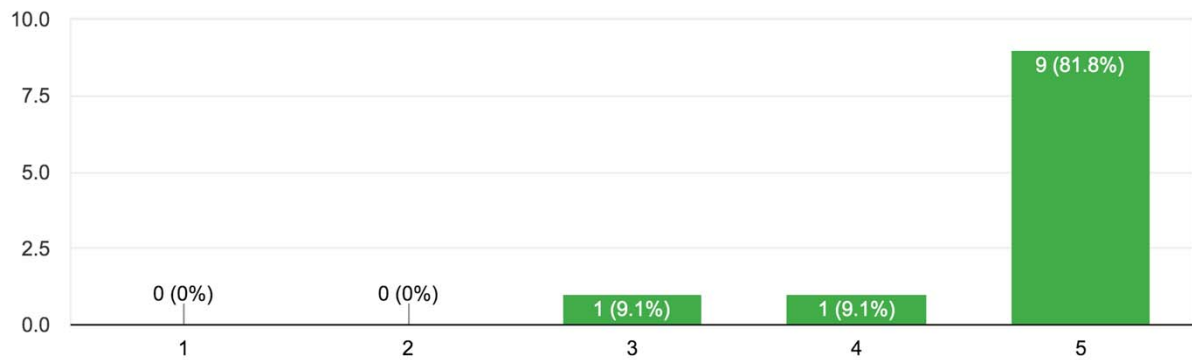
The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

11 responses



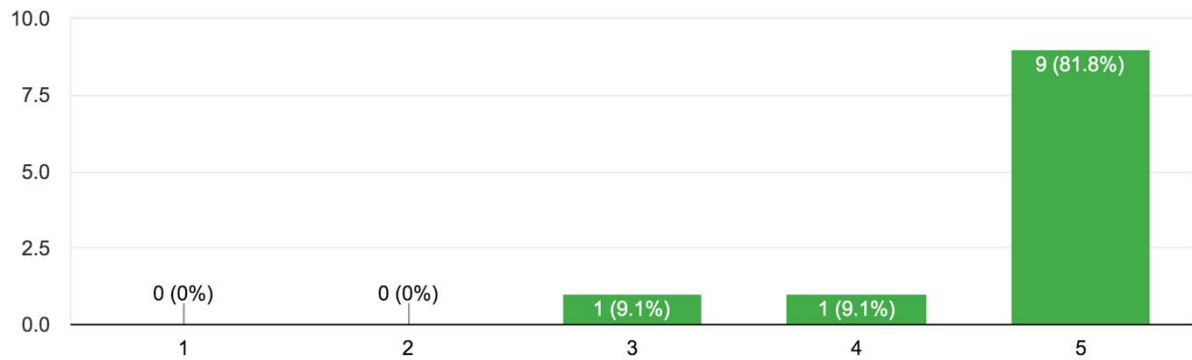
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

11 responses



The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

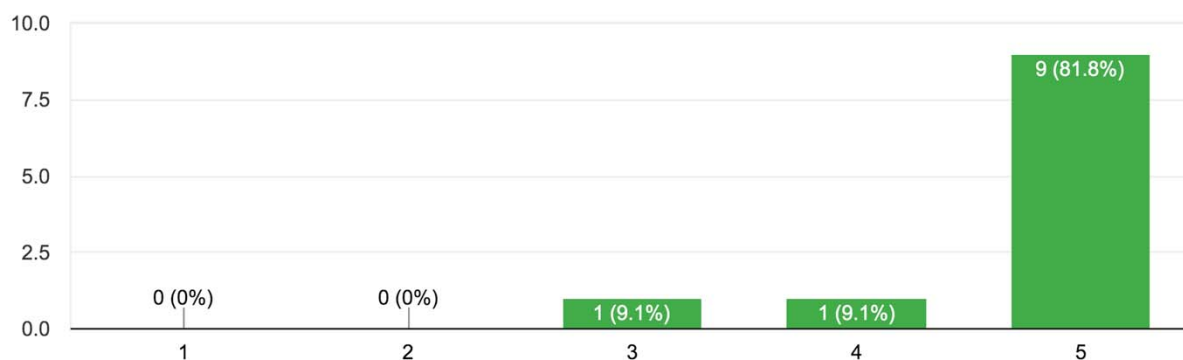
11 responses



Panel 6-The Honorable Terri Porche Ricks and Reshonn A. Saul.

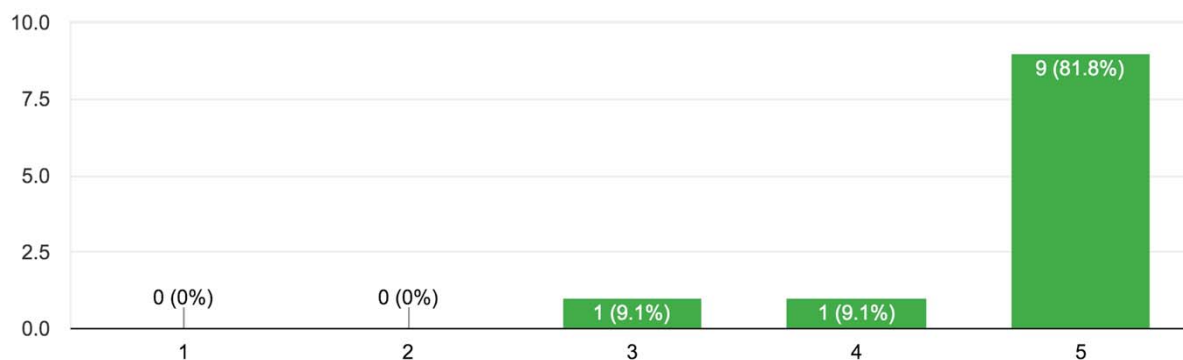
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

11 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

11 responses



No comments were submitted for Panel 6.

Panel 7 Responses:

INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET: 1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023

SESSION TITLE: Fines, Fees, and Court Costs: To Collect or Not to Collect?

SESSION PRESENTER: The Honorable Representative Tanner Magee and Sarah Whittington.

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

Panel 8 Responses:

**INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET: 1ST ANNUAL
POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14,
2023**

SESSION TITLE: Making Sense of the Numbers

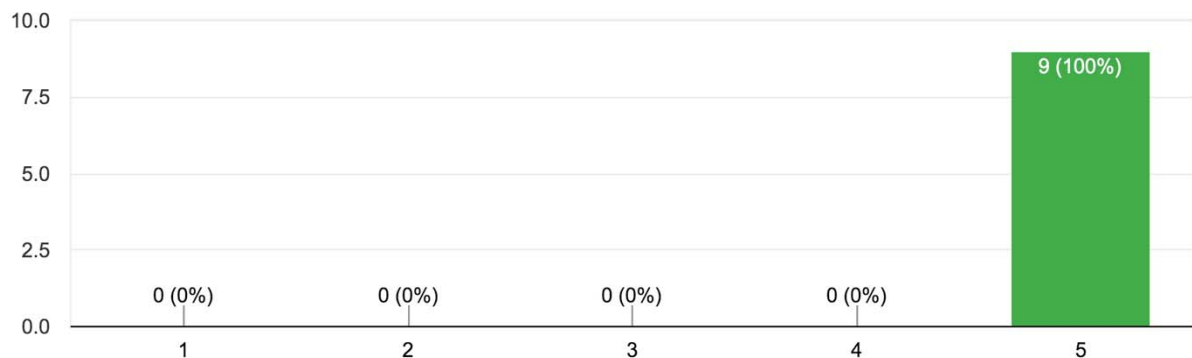
SESSION PRESENTER: Marcus Kondkar

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

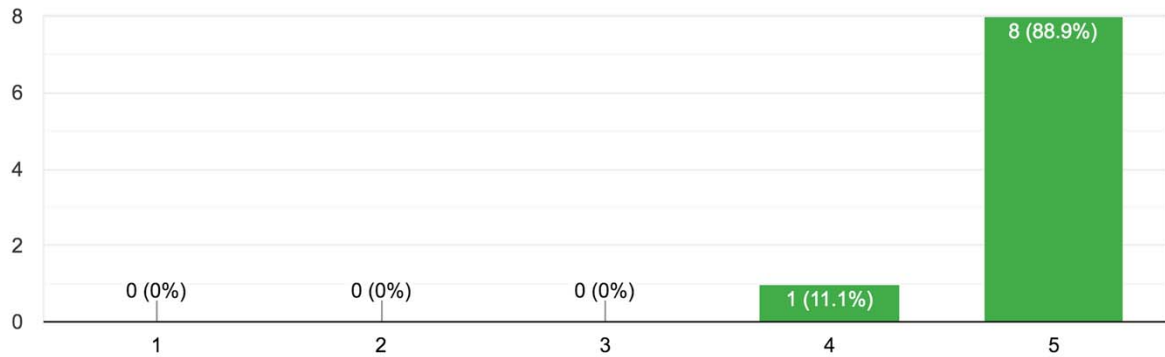
The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

9 responses



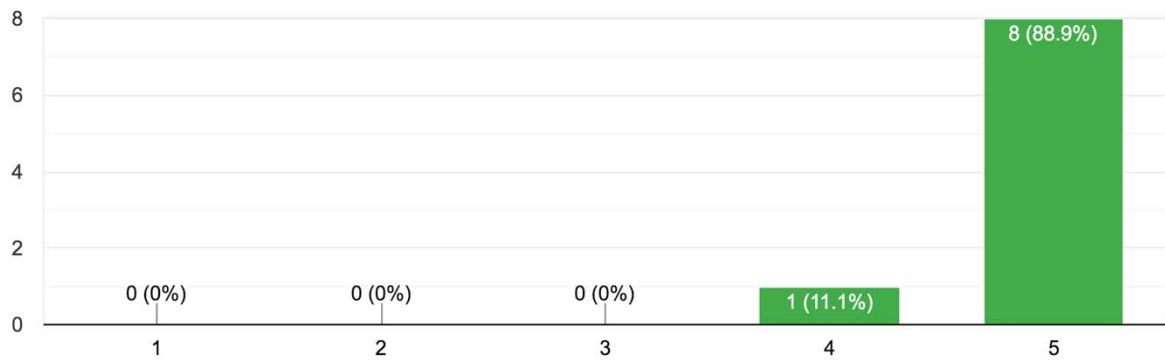
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

9 responses



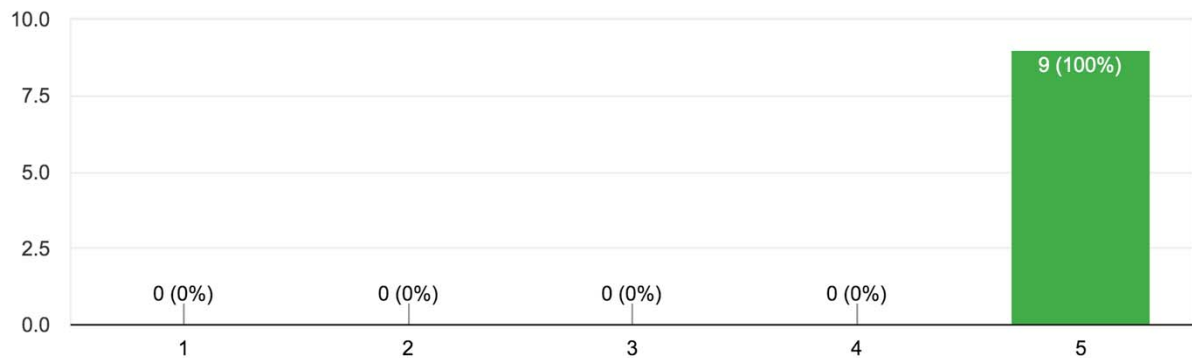
The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

9 responses



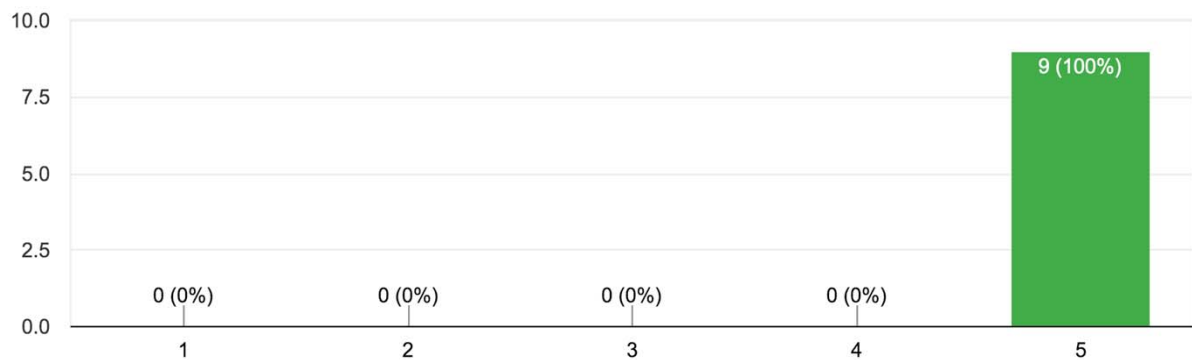
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

9 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

9 responses



Comments: 1 response

"Wow is all I can say. I'm amazed by this wonderful project."

Panel 9 Responses:

INDIVIDUAL PANEL/PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP EVALUATION SHEET: 1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR JANUARY 12-14, 2023

SESSION TITLE: What Lies Beneath--The Status Offense?

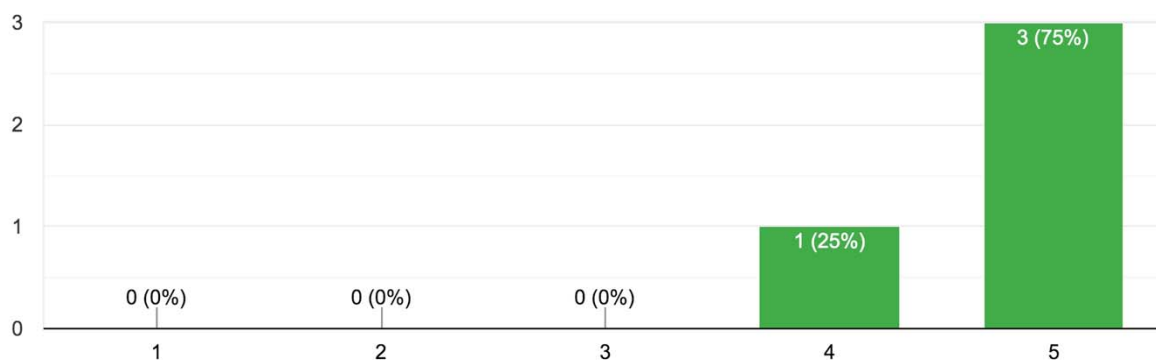
SESSION PRESENTER: Gina Womack, Alex Person and Maria Isabella Pontoreiro

SESSION LOCATION: 115 Richardson Building, Tulane University, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.

To better plan future sessions, we are asking for participant feedback. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

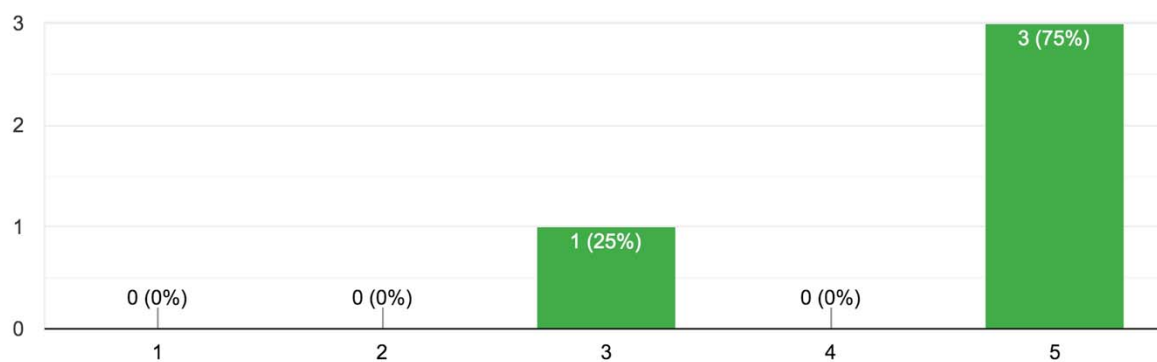
The presenter appeared to be well-informed on the subject matter.

4 responses



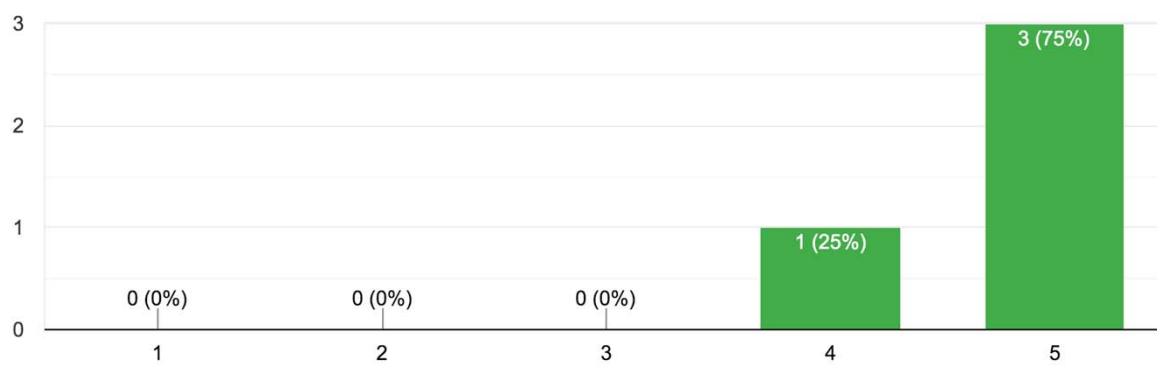
The presenter's style of presentation was engaging.

4 responses



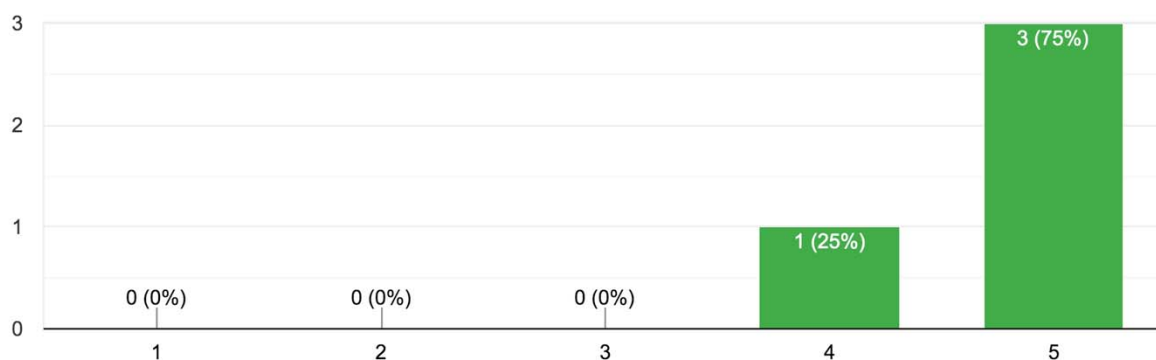
The format of this presentation was well-suited for the subject matter.

4 responses



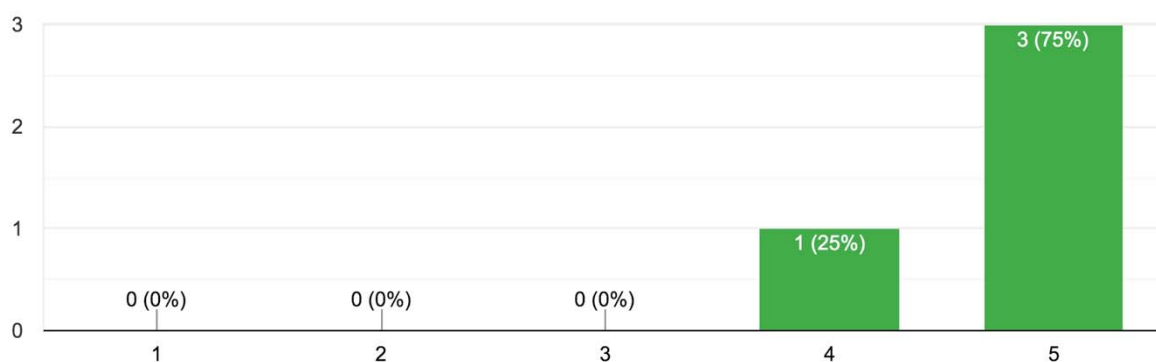
There was sufficient time to address audience questions.

4 responses



I will be able to apply what I learned from this session to one or more aspects of my professional work and/or community engagement.

4 responses



No comments were submitted for Panel 9.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION
1ST ANNUAL POLITICAL ECONOMY & ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL
EDUCATION SEMINAR
JANUARY 12-14, 2023

To better organize and market future seminars, we are asking for participant feedback.

- 1. Please rank, in chronological order, the top three (3) reasons that you registered to attend this conference:**

___ **I wanted the free CLE credit hours.**

___ **I like the location/City of New Orleans.**

___ **The lineup of guest speakers interested me.**

___ **The conference theme of political economy and access to justice interested me.**

___ **I trust Tulane University as a sponsor.**

- 2. Please rate the following statements on a 5-point scale, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree. Circle your response.**

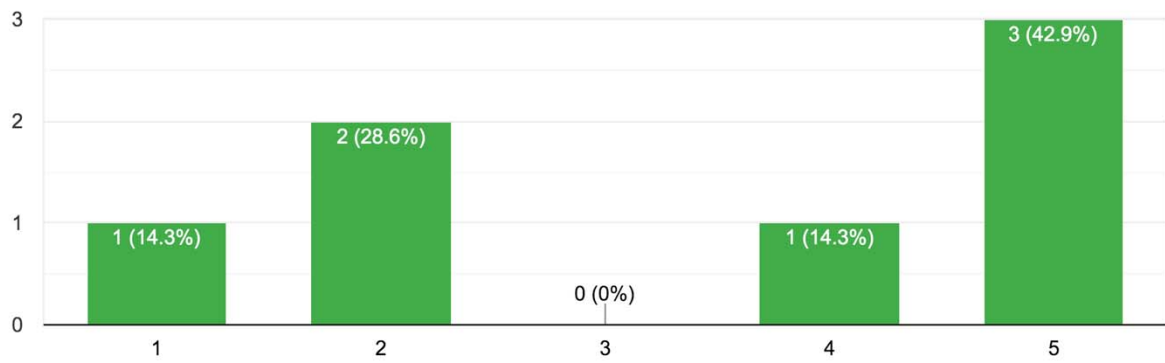
1. Public information about the seminar was easy to access.	Disagree					Agree				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2. Advertising for the seminar was readily available.	1	2	3	4	5					
3. The seminar was well-organized.	1	2	3	4	5					
4. Seminar organizers remained in regular communication with me.	1	2	3	4	5					
5. I would recommend this seminar to my colleagues.	1	2	3	4	5					
6. The subject matter covered in this seminar is not covered in most judicial seminar that I attend.	1	2	3	4	5					
7. Attendance at this seminar should remain open only to judges in the State of Louisiana.	1	2	3	4	5					
8. I will attend this seminar in the future.	1	2	3	4	5					

Comments: _____

Conference Evaluation Responses

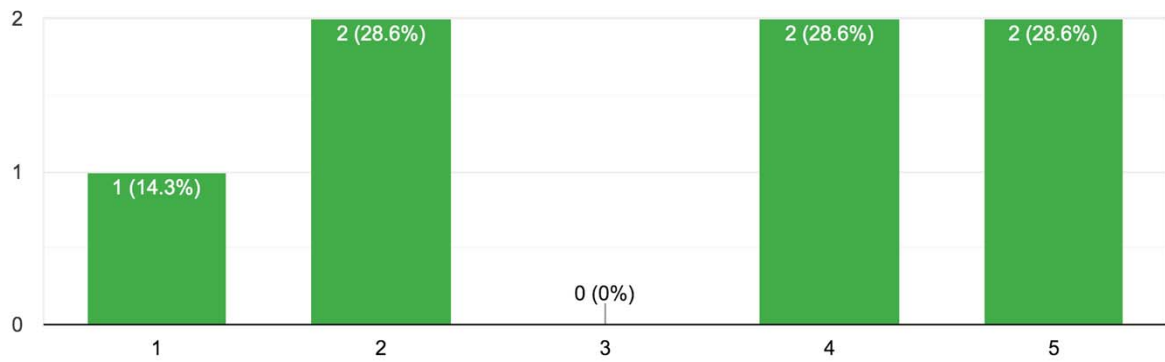
Public information about the seminar was easy to access

7 responses



Advertising for the seminar was readily available.

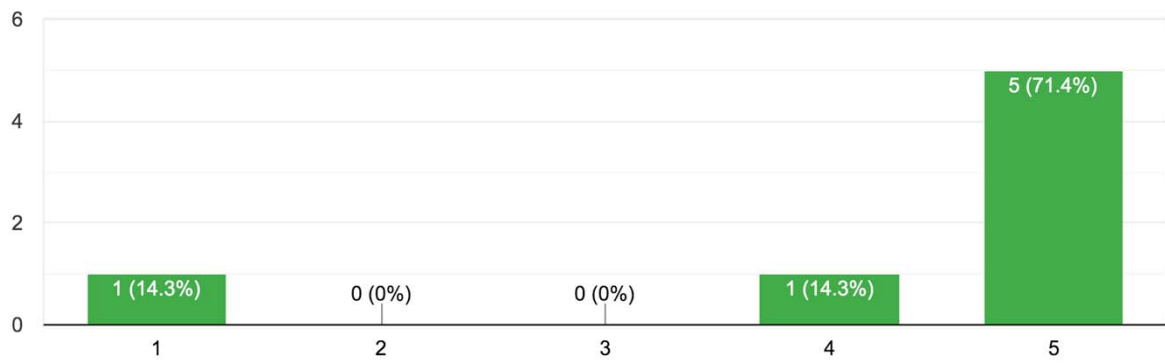
7 responses



Conference Evaluation Responses

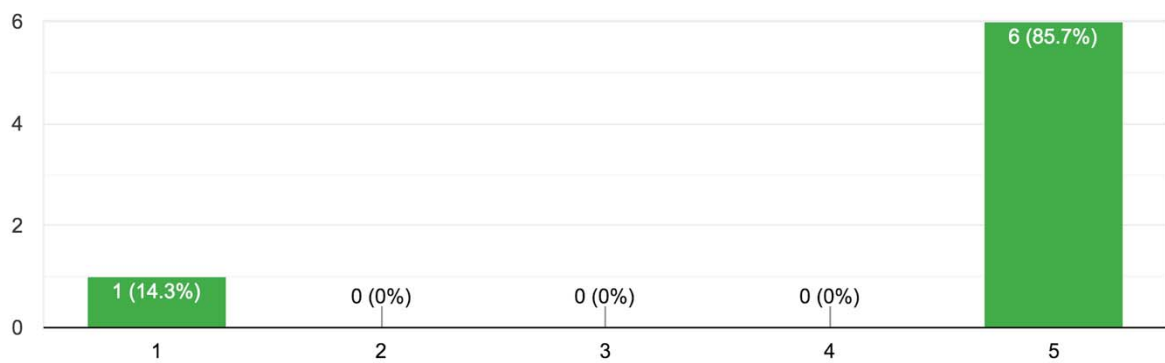
Seminar organizers remained in regular communication with me.

7 responses



I would recommend this seminar to my colleagues.

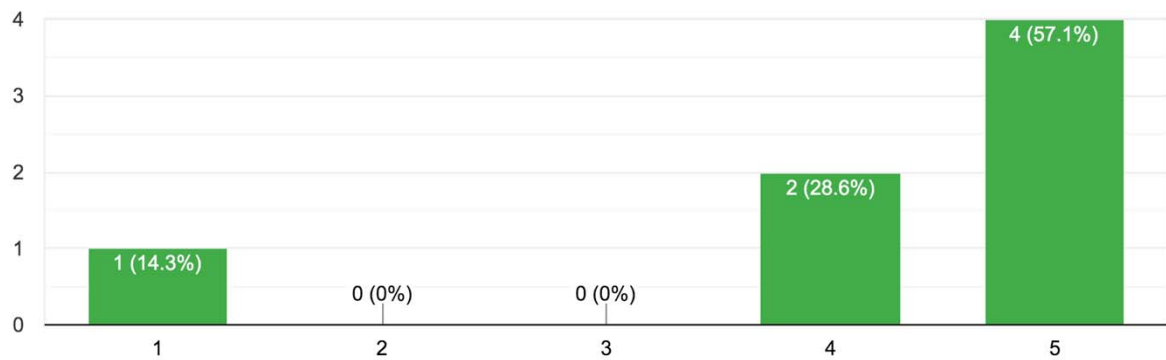
7 responses



Conference Evaluation Responses

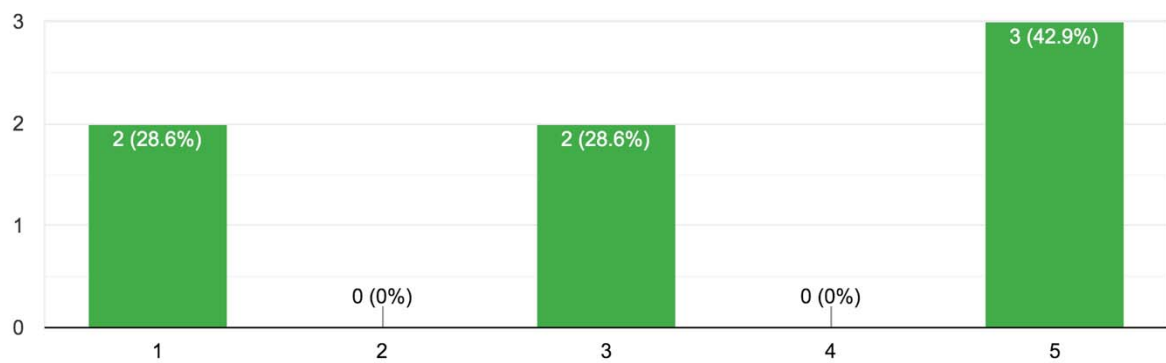
The subject matter covered in this seminar is not covered in most judicial seminars that I attend.

7 responses



Attendance at this seminar should remain open only to judges in the State of Louisiana.

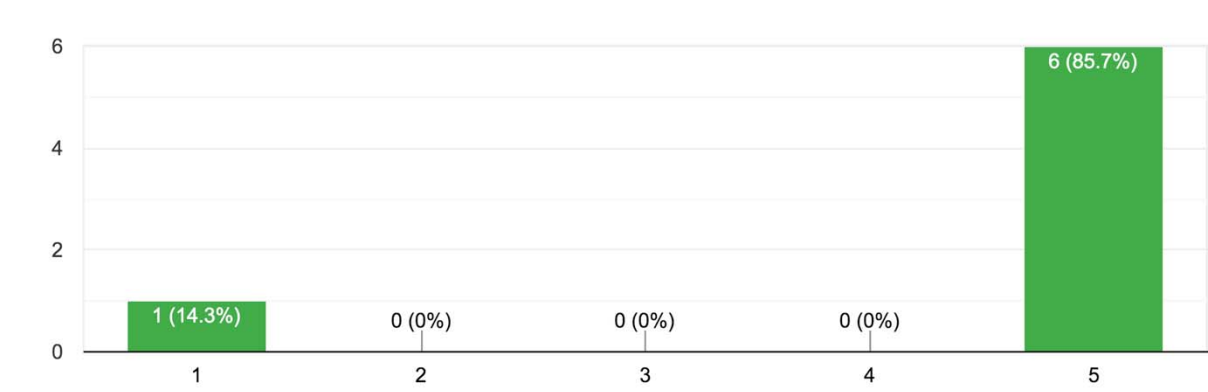
7 responses



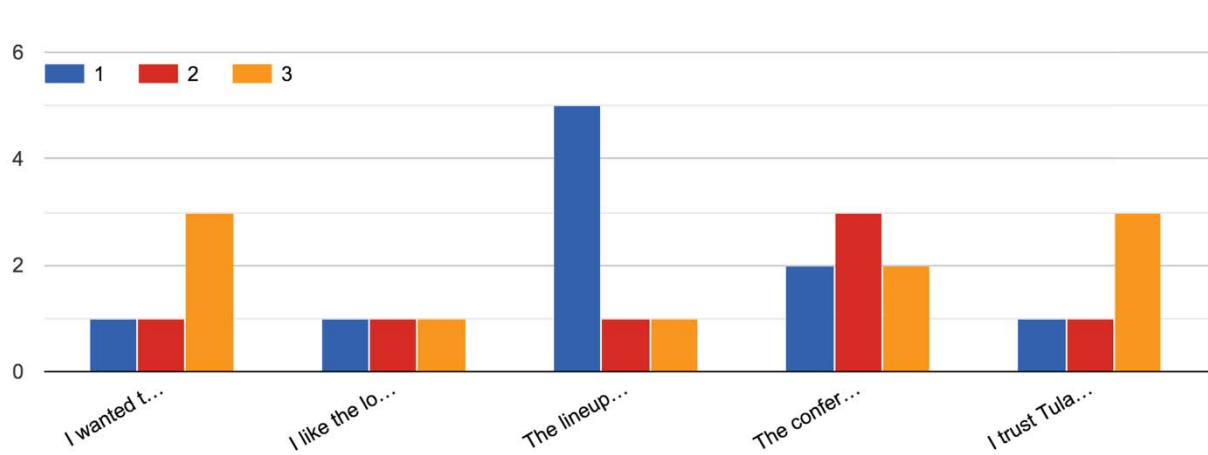
Conference Evaluation Responses

I will attend this seminar in the future.

7 responses



Please rank, in order of most (1) to least (3) important, the top three reasons that you registered to attend this conference.



Comments:1 response

"This was an informative and wonderful conference!"