Legal Opinions Survey

This questionnaire is designed to assess people’s opinions and attitudes on various legal issues. Please read each item carefully and give as true a picture as possible of your own beliefs by writing in the number 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, as appropriate.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Agree & disagree equally
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree

___ 1. Appointed judges are more competent than elected judges.

___ 2. A suspect who runs from the police most probably committed the crime.

___ 3. A defendant should be found guilty only if 11 out of 12 jurors vote guilty.

___ 4. Most politicians are really as honest as humanly possible.

___ 5. Too often jurors hesitate to convict someone who is guilty out of pure sympathy.

___ 6. In most cases where the accused presents a strong defense, it is only because of a good lawyer.

___ 7. In general, children should be excused for their misbehavior.

___ 8. The death penalty is cruel and inhumane.

___ 9. Out of every 100 people brought to trial, at least 75 are guilty of the crime with which they are charged.

___ 10. For serious crimes like murder, a defendant should be found guilty if there is a 90% chance that he committed the crime.

___ 11. Defense lawyers don’t really care about guilty or innocence, they are just in the business to make money.

___ 12. Generally, the police make an arrest only when they are sure about who committed the crime.

___ 13. Circumstantial evidence is too weak to use in court.
14. Many accident claims filed against insurance companies are phony.

15. The defendant is often a victim of his own bad reputation.

16. If a grand jury recommends that a person be brought to trial, then that person probably committed the crime.

17. Extenuating circumstances should not be considered—if a person commits a crime, then that person should be punished.

18. Hypocrisy is on the increase in society.

19. Too many innocent people are wrongfully imprisoned.

20. If a majority of evidence—but not all of it—suggests that the defendant committed the crime, then the jury should vote *not guilty*.

21. If someone commits a victimless crime like gambling or possession of marijuana, he should not be convicted.

22. Some laws are made to be broken.