



Capturing the Record

A Study of Digital Court Recording in Texas

**A REPORT TO THE TEXAS JUDICIAL BRANCH
OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION**

Acknowledgments

The research team at the Public Policy Research Institute would like to thank the many individuals whose time and contributions made this study possible. This includes representatives from the Texas Office of Court Administration, members of the Stakeholder Working Group, individuals who completed the survey or participated in interviews, and officials from Texas courts who graciously allowed the research team to observe their proceedings. The team is grateful to all participants for their candor and engagement throughout this project.

Office of Court Administration
c/o Megan LaVoie, Executive Director
205 W 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear OCA and Ms. LaVoie,

On behalf of the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University, please find enclosed the final report prepared in response to House Bill 16 (89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session), which directed the Office of Court Administration to conduct a comprehensive study of digital court recording (DCR) and its potential role in addressing the ongoing shortage of Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) in Texas courts.

The study was conducted between January and September 2026. The research team at PPRI employed a mixed methods approach across five objectives: a multi-state DCR policy review and landscape scan; documentation of current DCR usage across Texas counties; a statewide survey and interviews assessing stakeholder perspectives on DCR adoption; a cost of implementation analysis comparing the CSR and DCR models across county types; and observations of DCR implementation. Data were collected from surveys distributed statewide to judges, court administrators, attorneys, and court reporters, as well as from semi-structured interviews, publicly available administrative data, and vendor materials.

The PPRI was established by the Texas Legislature in 1983 to conduct research to inform policymaking in Texas and beyond. The institute currently has about 36 full-time research staff with different levels of expertise, from PhDs in economics, political science, and public health, to other applied research experience in criminal justice, education, and other areas. Since its inception, the PPRI has secured more than \$150 million in externally funded projects averaging between \$4 and \$6 million a year. The PPRI has conducted research on behalf of federal, state, private, and international clients such as the Department of Justice, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Education Agency, Office of Court Administration, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, Arnold Ventures, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the United Nations. Policy reports by PPRI have been featured by national news media outlets and cited by policymakers such as the Attorney General, Secretary of Education, and the President of the United States.

The research team appreciates the support, guidance, and feedback from OCA staff throughout this project. We hope this report provides OCA, the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Legislature with the evidence needed to inform any necessary policy changes regarding the use of DCR in Texas courts. The PPRI deeply appreciates the opportunity to partner with OCA on this important and timely study.

Sincerely,



George Naufal, PhD
Public Policy Research Institute – Texas A&M University

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1 Key Terms

Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC)

American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Automated Speech Recognition (ASR)

Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART)

Certified Electronic Reporter (CER)

Certified Electronic Transcriber (CET)

Certified Shorthand/Stenographic Reporter (CSR)

Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR)

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Digital Audio Recording with Human Monitoring (DAR)

Digital Court Recording (DCR)

Electronic Court Recorder Operator (ECRO)

Electronic Sound Recording (ESR)

Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC)

Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS)

National Court Reporters Association (NCRA)

National Court Reporters Association's Registered Professional Reporter (RPR)

Passive Audio Recording (PAR)

Stakeholder Working Group (SWG)

Texas Court Reporters Association (TCRA)

Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA)

Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure (TRAP)

Words per minute (WPM)

2 Executive Summary

Texas courts are facing a growing gap between the supply of Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) and the demand for verbatim court records. The number of active CSRs in Texas declined by nearly 400 between FY 2005 and FY 2025, while the number of trial court benches grew by more than 14% over the same period. Training programs have contracted sharply, both in Texas and nationally, and the existing CSR workforce is aging, with more than half of Texas-based reporters first certified before 2000. These supply-side pressures are particularly acute in rural jurisdictions, as CSRs are geographically concentrated in urban centers and courts increasingly struggle to maintain docket continuity.

House Bill 16 (89th Legislature, Special Session) directed the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to conduct a comprehensive study of digital court recording (DCR). OCA contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University to carry out the study. The research team employed a mixed-methods approach across five objectives: a multi-state policy landscape scan; documentation of current DCR usage across Texas counties; a statewide survey and interviews assessing stakeholder perspectives; a cost comparison of CSR and DCR implementation; and observations of DCR implementation across Texas courtrooms.

The national landscape scan of all 50 states and the federal courts reveals that DCR is broadly authorized and in active use across the country. Nineteen states operate under permissive statewide authorization, eight mandate DCR, twenty states use hybrid or conditional authorization, and only three states, including Texas, do not have an explicit statutory framework for use of DCR as an alternative to stenographic reporting. Where DCR is authorized, states universally require human monitoring of recordings, set technical standards for audio capture and data retention, and establish certification or training requirements for court recorder personnel.

In Texas, 42 of 254 counties have formal administrative orders authorizing electronic recording, all 42 for civil matters and 21 for criminal matters. A survey of courts statewide found that approximately 24% of responding courts (n = 240) use DCR as their primary recording method, with the heaviest concentration in municipal courts (74.5%) and the lowest in district courts (5.2%) and probate courts (0.0%). DCR is also widely used informally in rural jurisdictions when a CSR is unavailable and for magistration proceedings conducted via videoconference.

Stakeholder perspectives, gathered through a statewide survey of 1,714 Texas respondents and 63 structured interviews, are sharply divided by professional role and court level. Court reporters are the most resistant to DCR adoption, with roughly 89% disagreeing that DCR produces a record as accurate as a stenographic reporter. Judges express similar, but less stated, skepticism. Court recorders and appellate-level respondents are considerably more receptive. Across all groups, there is strong agreement that a trained human must be present to monitor any recording, that centralized multi-courtroom monitoring is unacceptable, and that Texas policy on DCR needs to be clarified and standardized.

The cost analysis compares direct implementation costs on a per-courtroom basis. Equipment and supply costs are excluded for CSRs, as these are borne by the reporter rather than the county. The court recorder is assumed to be a county employee, with recruitment and onboarding costs included accordingly. Under default assumptions, DCR costs an estimated \$72,733 per courtroom annually, compared to \$167,941 in urban counties, \$133,143 in mid-

size counties, and \$118,463 in rural counties for a CSR. The cost advantage of DCR ranges from approximately \$45,700 per courtroom in rural settings to \$95,200 in urban settings. Over a ten-year horizon for a three-courtroom rural county, the cumulative cost difference is estimated at approximately \$1.7 million (\$1.3 million in present value). These figures reflect direct implementation costs only; potential downstream costs related to transcript accuracy differences are addressed qualitatively in the report.

Based on these findings, the report presents seven recommendations for consideration by OCA, the JBCC, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Legislature. First, the legal framework for DCR in Texas should be clarified, specifying what technical standards apply, and who bears responsibility for monitoring and transcription. Second, a formal certification and training pathway for court recorder personnel should be established, modeled on the rigor of existing CSR certification. Third, minimum technical and operational standards for DCR systems should be set, including multi-channel audio capture, real-time monitoring, redundant backup, and defined data retention requirements. Fourth, a one-recorder-per-courtroom rule should be explicitly required, prohibiting centralized multi-courtroom monitoring arrangements that stakeholders broadly view as incompatible with record integrity. Fifth, targeted investments in the CSR pipeline should accompany any DCR expansion, including support for court reporting programs, recognition of national certifications for stenographic and voice reporters, and outreach to prospective students, treating DCR as a complement to the stenographic workforce rather than a replacement. Sixth, policymakers should address the current absence of regulation on transcript pricing, which is creating access to justice concerns for litigants across both CSR and DCR settings. Finally, additional study may be useful to assess accuracy and effectiveness of digital models in Texas courtrooms.

3 Introduction

The verbatim record produced from a court hearing is the only thing that remains when the hearing has closed and parties have departed the courthouse. This artifact serves as the truth of the proceedings. It captures what was said, evidence admitted, and rulings made during the proceedings. The verbatim record is the item examined during the appeals process and serves as a window to the proceedings for the appellate justices. The livelihood and freedoms of individuals are decided by the justice system, and the importance of the record produced cannot be overstated.

Court reporting as a profession and field can be dated back to ancient Rome, where Tuilius, secretary to Cicero, created the first recorded formal shorthand system.¹ In more modern times, the appointment of Thomas Gurney as the first official shorthand writer to the British Parliament established verbatim court reporting as a recognized civil service position.² In addition, Issac introduced the practice of Phonography, which shifted shorthand from spelling-based characters to sound-based characters. As stenography continued to evolve, John Robert Gregg introduced Gregg Shorthand, a script system of shorthand that became the dominant manual shorthand method in American courtrooms throughout the early 20th century.³ In the early 20th century, mechanical stenography emerged to improve the speed at which stenographers could capture the verbatim record. In 1911, Ward Stone Ireland invented the Stenotype Machine, which introduced the modern chorded 22-key layout. This allowed stenographers to press combinations of keys simultaneously to write full syllables per stroke, thus surpassing manual handwriting speeds.⁴ Stenography remained virtually the same until the emergence of Computer-Aided Transcription (CAT) in the 1970s.⁵ CAT translated the digital shorthand notes of stenographers to English text. As CAT technology improved, real-time feeds emerged allowing judges and attorneys to have live access to the transcript being produced.⁶

As the field of stenography has evolved, so has the field of digital court recording (DCR). Starting as early as the 1950s, courts began utilizing reel-to-reel magnetic tapes and multi-channel cassette recorders as a back-up or alternative to stenographers to capture the verbatim record.⁷ As technology improved, courts transitioned from analog cassette tape to multi-channel digital audio recording (DAR) in the 1990s.⁸ As with previous efforts, many courts utilized these recordings as a back-up or alternative to stenographers for capturing the record. In the 2010s, courts expanded their recording systems from audio-only to audio and video systems.⁹ Additionally, the mid-2010s saw the integration of automatic speech recognition (ASR) to generate draft transcripts, aid with speaker identification, and real-time

1. Gamer, M. (2024). Writing the History of the Tironian Notes in the Sixteenth Century. De Gruyter. DOI: 10.1515/9783111382692-003

2. Butler, E. H. (1951). *The Story of British Shorthand*. Pitman Publishing.

3. Tursi, M. (2013). The History of Shorthand: From Pitman to Gregg. Intersteno Research Commission.

4. Encyclopædia Britannica. Shorthand & Machine Stenography. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/shorthand>

5. S. P. Willis, "Understanding Key Elements and Stakeholder Insights in Court Reporting and Digital Transcription" (Digital Commons Publication, University of Nebraska Omaha, 2025).

6. Willis.

7. Hewitt, W. E. (1990). *Court Reporting: Technology and the Future*. National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

8. Lederer, F. I. (1998). "The Technology-Augmented Courtroom (Courtroom 21 Project)." William & Mary Law School / National Center for State Courts.

9. Cornell Law School Research. (2014). Courtroom Technology and the Digital Record.

viewing of the transcript to judges and attorneys.¹⁰ The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic forced further expansive adoption of remote video hearings and accelerated some courts' transition to DCR.¹¹

As the profession of stenographic court reporting has evolved, it has experienced ebbs and flows in the demand for certification. Currently, Texas is facing a shortage of Certified Short-hand Reporters (CSRs), at the same time as the population of the state and the size of caseloads and complexity of cases has increased. This poses a challenge to the courts' responsibility to maintain an accurate and timely verbatim record.

The impetus for exploring DCR and its potential for use in Texas stems from a documented workforce shortage within the CSR profession. In FY 2005, there were 2,755 CSRs, while in FY 2025, there were 2,366.¹² While the number of CSRs has gone down 14% in 20 years, the number of trial court benches has increased by over 14%.¹³ This shortage is not merely an inconvenience but has the potential to be a significant impediment to the efficient operation of the courts.

The shortage of CSRs has been identified as a contributor to transcription service delays and subsequent case backlogs, undermining the pace of justice. The necessity of paying increasingly higher salaries in critical high-demand urban jurisdictions demonstrates that the CSR shortage represents a significant economic burden beyond simple lack of availability. This financial pressure confirms the strategic importance of a cost evaluation which assesses whether DCR adoption can provide fiscal stability and long-term savings, even if initial capital investment is substantial. This challenge is not limited to urban jurisdictions, though. In less-populous rural jurisdictions, it can be even more difficult to meet the demand, as generally CSRs are centered around urban areas. The current legal framework has narrowly defined the "official court reporter."¹⁴ Legislative proposals sought to mitigate this crisis by expanding the pool of qualified court professionals to include "registered court recorders," regulated by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC).¹⁵

House Bill 16 charges the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) to conduct a study on DCR which culminates in recommendations of any necessary changes to the current statutes, rules, regulations, or standards regarding the use of DCR in Texas.¹⁶ The legislation also dictated the creation of a stakeholder workgroup to provide feedback. See appendix A for more information. To facilitate this request, OCA has contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University. The primary aims of this study are:

- Conduct a landscape scan of the United States for their policies on DCR
- Document the current penetration of DCR use in Texas

10. Willis, "Key Elements and Stakeholder Insights."

11. Lederer, F. I. (2020). "The Evolving Technology-Augmented Courtroom Before, During, and After the Pandemic." William & Mary Law School Faculty Publications.

12. R. Morgan and H. Behl, *Court Professions: A Presentation to the Texas Judicial Council*, Texas Office of Court Administration, Austin, TX, June 2025.

13. Morgan and Behl.

14. Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 154.001 (West 2025).

15. Texas Legislature, Senate Research Center, Bill Analysis for Committee Substitute Senate Bill 1538, 89th Leg., Reg. Sess., May 14, 2025, Texas Legislature Online, <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/analysis/html/SB01538S.htm>

16. House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, Bill Analysis: HB 16, 89th Leg., 2nd Spec. Sess. (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/892/analysis/html/HB00016H.htm>.

- Assess stakeholder perspectives of DCR adoption via an electronic survey and interviews
- Evaluate the costs to a county and the State of Texas to implement DCR
- Evaluate the efficiency and accuracy of DCR

The ultimate policy goal of this study is therefore not to compare technologies, but to evaluate DCR and provide the JBCC, OCA, the Supreme Court, and the Legislature with an analysis that informs potential policy changes, if appropriate, that would ensure the integrity of the official record-keeping structure.¹⁷

17. House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence, *Bill Analysis: HB 16, 89th Leg., 2nd Spec. Sess.*, September 2025, <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/892/analysis/html/HB00016H.htm>.

4 Trends in CSR Certification

Becoming a CSR in Texas requires passing a certification examination administered by the Texas Court Reporters Association (TCRA) on behalf of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC). Beyond holding a high school diploma or GED and clearing a background check, no college degree is required, and there is no requirement that a candidate's training come from a Texas institution. The certification exam consists of two parts: a written examination (\$75 fee) and a skills examination (\$125 fee). CSRs must renew their certification every two years and complete 10 hours of continuing education per renewal period, including at least 2.5 hours in ethics or Texas rules.¹⁸ Although the pathway to certification does not mandate a degree, the practical reality is that the vast majority of candidates enroll in structured court reporting programs to develop the speed and accuracy required to pass the skills examination, which requires capturing speech at 225 words per minute with 95% accuracy.¹⁹ The shrinking number of programs offering this training, both in Texas and nationally, is a key structural driver of the CSR shortage.

4.1 Certification Pathway

The JBCC oversees court reporter certification in Texas under Section 154.101 of the Texas Government Code, which states that no person may engage in shorthand reporting in Texas unless certified by the Supreme Court of Texas. Certification may be granted for written shorthand, machine shorthand, oral stenography, or any other method authorized by the Supreme Court. Apprentice and provisional certifications are also available under Section 154.1011 for candidates who have not yet completed all requirements for full certification.²⁰

The certification examination is administered by the TCRA. Candidates must first qualify through the JBCC, then register separately with the TCRA. Exam dates are offered on a limited schedule each year. Certifications expire on the last day of the month of the second anniversary of issuance and must be renewed biennially. The JBCC is the primary regulatory body, operating under the Texas Judicial Branch.

4.2 Court Reporting Programs in Texas

The JBCC maintains an official list of recognized court reporting schools. As of April 2026, only six schools appear on this list. These schools fall into two regulatory categories: those overseen by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), which are public colleges offering formal degrees and certificates, and those overseen by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), which are private or for-profit institutions offering vocational training. Table 1 presents the six currently recognized programs.

18. Judicial Branch Certification Commission, *Court Reporter Certification*, accessed August 27, 2026, <https://www.txcourts.gov/jbcc/court-reporters-certification/>.

19. Judicial Branch Certification Commission.

20. Texas Legislature, *Texas Government Code, Chapter 154: Court Reporters*, Texas Statutes, Sections 154.101 and 154.1011, 2023, <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.154.htm>.

Table 1: JBCC-Recognized Court Reporting Programs in Texas (as of April 2026)

Institution	Location	Regulator	Credential(s) Offered	Of-
San Antonio College	San Antonio	THECB	AAS, Certificate	
Del Mar College	Corpus Christi	THECB	AAS, Certificate	
Lamar State College Orange	Orange	THECB	AAS, Certificate	
Arlington Career Institute	Grand Prairie	TWC	Certificate	
Mark Kislingbury Academy	Houston	TWC	Certificate	
PAF Training Programs, LLC	Houston	TWC	Certificate	

Notes: THECB = Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; TWC = Texas Workforce Commission. AAS = Associate of Applied Science. Source: JBCC Court Reporting Schools list, <https://www.txcourts.gov/jbcc/court-reporters-certification/court-reporting-schools/>, updated April 1, 2026.

In addition to the six JBCC-recognized programs, several institutions appear to offer court reporting instruction outside of the JBCC recognition framework. These include the University of Houston-Downtown (continuing education program, offered online), Vernon College (online-only certificate of completion), and El Paso Community College (Associate of Applied Science and certificate). These programs prepare students for the CSR and National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) examinations but are not currently listed on the JBCC recognized schools page. Their status reflects the fact that JBCC recognition is not a prerequisite for sitting the CSR exam, as the exam is open to any qualifying applicant regardless of where they trained.

4.3 Program Closures and Declining Capacity

The current six-program landscape represents a contraction from previous years. Several programs that once trained court reporters in Texas have closed, citing low enrollment, high program costs, and declining student interest. Table 2 documents known program closures in Texas.

Table 2: Known Court Reporting Program Closures in Texas

Institution	Location	Year Closed	Reason Cited
Alvin Community College	Alvin	2017	Low enrollment, low graduation rates, high costs
Court Reporting Institute of Dallas	Dallas	Unknown	Unknown
National Institute of Court Reporting	Houston	Unknown	Unknown

Notes: The Alvin Community College closure was voted on by the Board of Regents on July 27, 2017, with a 5-3 vote to phase out the program, which had been in operation since 1975. At the time of closure, the program was described as one of the strongest in the state. Sources: Click2Houston (2017); courtreportingschoolsintexas.com.

The Alvin Community College closure is particularly illustrative. The program had trained court reporters for more than four decades and was described by the Houston Court Reporters Association as one of the best in the state.²¹ Despite active advocacy from the court reporting community, the Board of Regents voted to phase it out, citing a review showing that demand for the program had dropped significantly over the prior decade. At the time, Texas already had only a small number of court reporting programs; this closure reduced that number further and was widely noted as a sign of a broader pipeline problem.

4.4 Active CSR Licensees in Texas, 2026

The below analysis draws on the 2026 JBCC Licensee List, which records all individuals holding a current court reporter certification in Texas.²² The dataset includes 2,405 certified shorthand reporters, all of whom hold active certifications as of the date of extraction. Of these, 2,195 (91.3%) report a Texas address, while 210 (8.7%) hold Texas certifications but report an address in another state. All figures presented below include both groups unless otherwise noted, as both hold valid Texas CSR credentials and may practice in Texas courts.

4.4.1 Endorsement Type

Figure 1 presents the distribution of active CSRs by endorsement type. The large majority of CSRs, 1,990 (82.7%), hold a machine shorthand endorsement, reflecting the dominance of stenographic machine reporting as the primary certification method in Texas. An additional 370 reporters (15.4%) hold an oral stenography endorsement, and 43 (1.8%) hold a general endorsement. Four reporters hold dual endorsements and six had missing endorsement information.

21. Click2Houston / KPRC, *Alvin Community College votes to eliminate court reporting program*, <https://www.click2houston.com>, Published July 27, 2017, 2017.

22. Judicial Branch Certification Commission, *Court Reporter Licensee List — Individual Certifications*, Data extract, Texas Office of Court Administration, Accessed July 2026. Active certifications only. 2026.

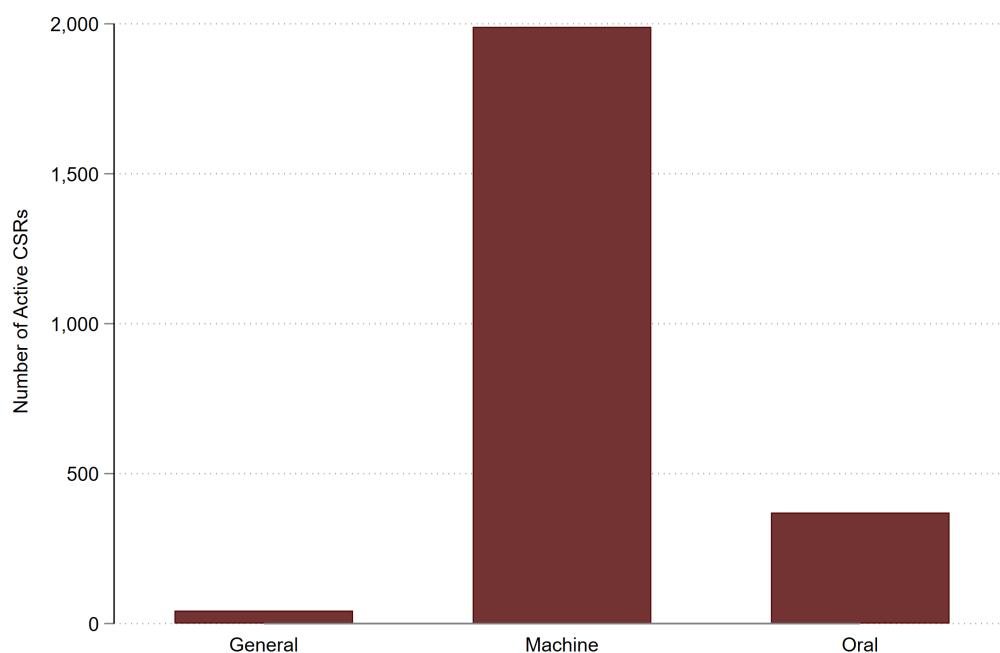


Figure 1: Active CSRs by Endorsement Type, Texas 2026

Notes: Source: JBCC Licensee List, 2026. Counts are not mutually exclusive; reporters with dual endorsements are counted in both categories. N = 2,405.

4.4.2 Work Category

Figure 2 presents the breakdown of active CSRs by work category. Among reporters who provided this information, approximately 955 (39.7%) identify as freelance reporters, while approximately 700 (29.1%) identify as official court reporters. A small number (approximately 70, or 2.9%) report another category, and the remaining 28.3% did not report a work category. The predominance of freelance reporters is consistent with national patterns, in which a substantial share of the CSR workforce operates independently rather than as court-employed official reporters.²³ This distinction matters for policy purposes: counties that rely on freelance reporters may face greater supply volatility than those with dedicated official reporter positions.

²³. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*, <https://www.ncra.org/home/about-ncra/NCRA-Statistics>, Includes data on approved programs, average reporter age, and certification completions, 2022.

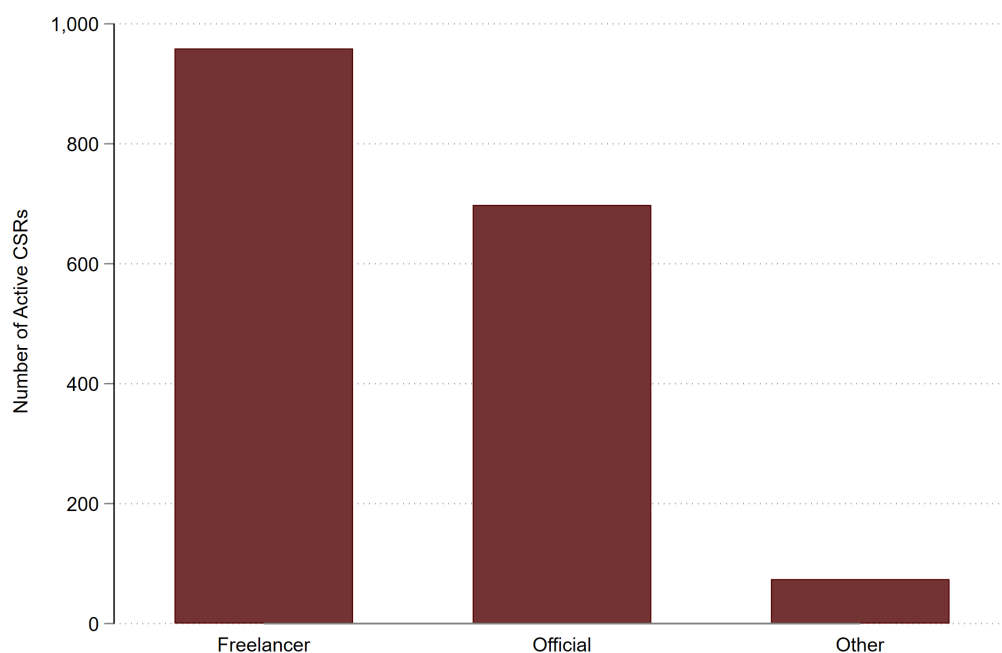


Figure 2: Active CSRs by Work Category, Texas 2026

Notes: Source: JBCC Licensee List, 2026. N = 2,405.

4.4.3 Certification Trends Over Time

Figure 3 presents annual new CSR certifications in Texas from 1978 to 2026, separately for reporters with Texas addresses and those with out-of-state addresses. Several patterns are notable. First, new certifications among Texas-based reporters peaked in the early 1990s, reaching approximately 96 in a single year, before declining sharply through the late 1990s and into the 2000s. This peak coincides with a period of strong growth in court reporter training programs nationally and in Texas, several of which have since closed. Second, new certifications reached a sustained trough between approximately 2007 and 2015, when annual figures for Texas-based reporters dropped to between 10 and 25, well below replacement levels given retirement rates among the existing workforce.²⁴ Third, there has been a notable uptick in new certifications since approximately 2019, with annual figures rising again toward 60 to 80 in recent years. This recent increase may partly reflect the growth of online training programs, which have expanded access to court reporter education beyond the small number of brick-and-mortar programs remaining in Texas.

A striking feature of the current active CSR workforce is its age profile as measured by certification tenure. Approximately 55.4% of Texas-based active CSRs received their first certification before the year 2000, meaning the majority of the workforce has been certified for at least 26 years. Among out-of-state CSRs holding Texas credentials, 25.7% were first certified before 2000. This pattern is consistent with national data showing that the average age of employed

24. National Court Reporters Association, *The Ducker Report: Court Reporting Industry Outlook*, National Court Reporters Association, Commissioned workforce pipeline study, 2014, <https://www.ncra.org>.

stenographic court reporters is approximately 55 years, and that a disproportionate share of the current workforce is approaching retirement age.²⁵

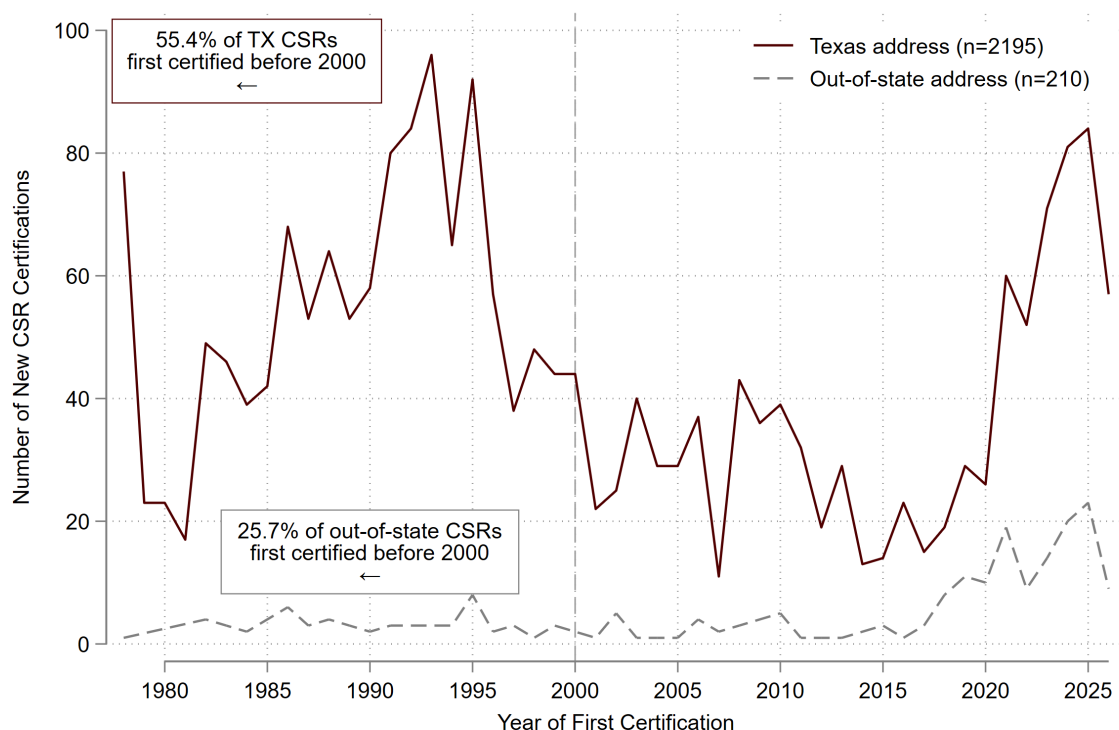


Figure 3: New CSR Certifications by Year, Texas 1978--2026

Notes: Source: JBCC Licensee List, 2026. Figure shows number of individuals receiving their first CSR certification in each year, separately by address location. The dashed vertical line marks the year 2000. Percentages shown reflect the share of each group first certified before 2000.

4.4.4 Geographic Distribution

Figure 4 presents the geographic distribution of active Texas-based CSRs by county. The map reveals a pronounced concentration of reporters in urban and suburban counties, particularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Harris County (Houston), Travis County (Austin), and Bexar County (San Antonio), mirroring the population distribution of the state. A large share of rural counties, particularly in West Texas and the Panhandle, have few or no active CSRs. This geographic distribution means that rural courts cannot simply recruit locally when CSR vacancies arise and must rely on reporters willing to travel or work remotely, or on alternative recording methods such as DCR.

25. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*.

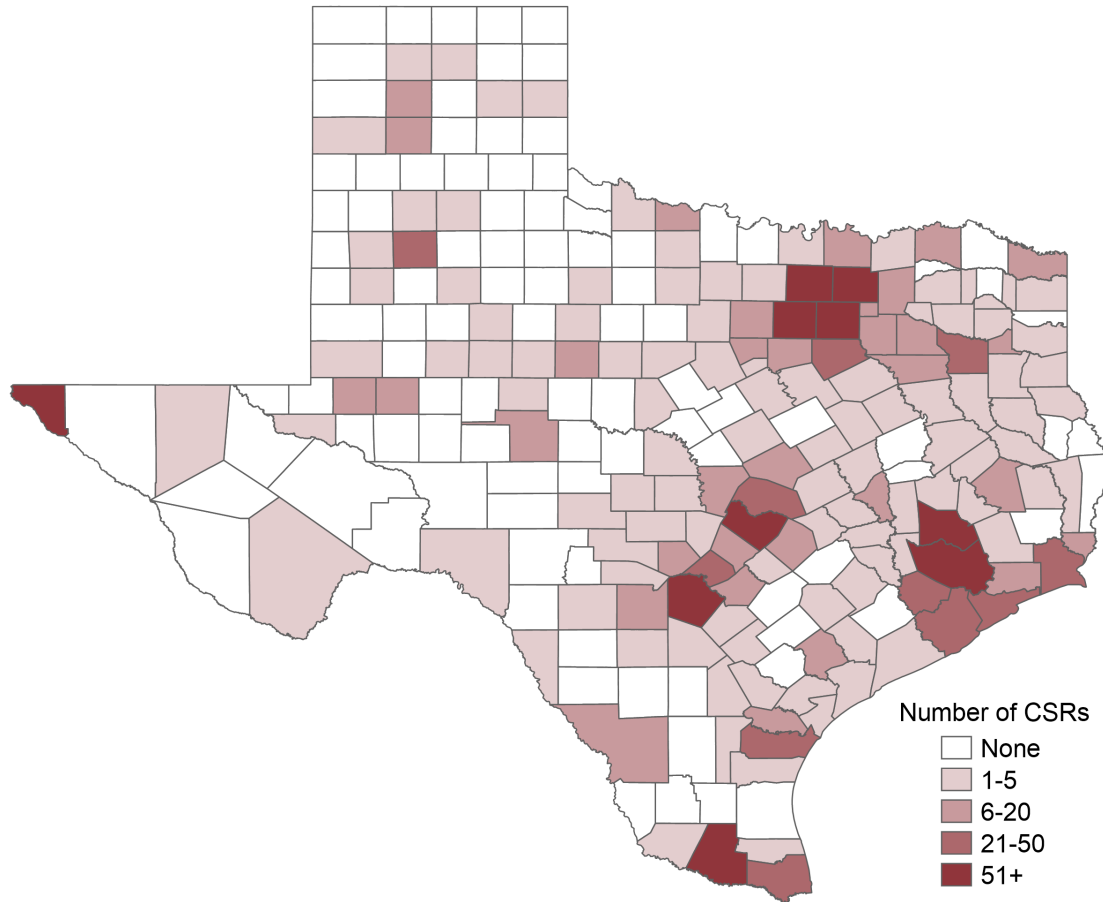


Figure 4: Active CSRs by County, Texas 2026

Notes: Source: JBCC Licensee List, 2026. Map shows active CSRs with a Texas address only (n = 2,195). Counties are shaded by number of active CSRs. White counties have no active CSRs with a local address on record.

Taken together, these patterns paint a consistent picture of a workforce that is aging, geographically concentrated, and producing new entrants at levels that may not fully offset projected retirements over the coming decade. The recent uptick in new certifications is encouraging but remains well below the levels seen during the pipeline’s peak in the early 1990s. These supply-side dynamics provide important context for evaluating the potential role of DCR as a supplemental or alternative method of court recording, particularly in rural and underserved jurisdictions.

4.5 National Trends in Court Reporting Programs

The decline in court reporting training capacity in Texas mirrors a national pattern. The NCRA, which operates a voluntary approval program for court reporting schools through its Council on Approved Student Education, provides the most systematic data on program availability over time.

Table 3 summarizes key national statistics on court reporting programs and the workforce pipeline.

Table 3: National Trends in Court Reporting Programs and Workforce Supply

Indicator	Value	Source / Year
NCRA-approved programs nationally	26	NCRA, 2015
NCRA-approved programs nationally	26	NCRA, 2022
NCRA-approved programs nationally	19	NCRA, March 2026
Stenographic CSRs retiring annually	1,120	NCRA Ducker Report, 2014
New stenographers entering field annually	200	NCRA Ducker Report, 2014
Net annual loss of stenographers	920	NCRA Ducker Report, 2014
Total NCRA certifications completed nationally	364	NCRA, 2021
Estimated annual job openings (US)	2,000	BLS, 2021–2031 projection
Decrease in stenographic court reporters, 2013–2022	~5,000	NCRA, 2022
Average age of employed stenographic reporter	55 years	NCRA, 2022
Texas court reporters employed	620	BLS, 2021

Notes: The NCRA Ducker Report (2014) is the most widely cited source on pipeline dynamics but reflects conditions as of that year and may not capture more recent trends. BLS = Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS's 620 figure counts court reporters in traditional wage-and-salary employment relationships tracked by its Occupational Employment Statistics program, while the 2,195 figure on p.24 reflects all individuals holding active CSR certification in Texas, including those working as independent contractors, freelancers, or in other arrangements BLS does not capture in this occupational category. NCRA approved program count as of March 18, 2026 sourced from <https://www.ncra.org/home/about-ncra/NCRA-Statistics>.

Several features of this national picture are worth emphasizing. First, despite the growth of online court reporting programs over the past decade, the number of NCRA-approved programs did not increase between 2015 and 2022, holding steady at 26.²⁶ By March 2026 that number had fallen to 19, a 27% decline in just four years.²⁷ Second, the ratio of new entrants to exits documented in the Ducker Report remains unfavorable: for every 1,120 stenographers who retire, only approximately 200 new stenographers enter the field, a net annual loss of 920.²⁸ Third, in 2021 only 364 total NCRA certifications were completed nationally, against an estimated 2,000 annual job openings, leaving a gap that cannot be filled by the current pipeline.²⁹ Fourth, the average age of an employed stenographic court reporter is 55 years, meaning a large share of the current workforce is approaching retirement.³⁰

26. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*.

27. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Approved Program Statistics*, <https://www.ncra.org/home/about-ncra/NCRA-Statistics>, Accessed March 18, 2026. Reports 19 NCRA-approved court reporting programs nationally. 2026.

28. National Court Reporters Association, *The Ducker Report: Court Reporting Industry Outlook*.

29. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook: Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners*, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/court-reporters.htm>, 2021–2031 employment projections. Estimated 2,000 annual job openings nationally. 2021.

30. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*.

4.6 Implications for Texas

Taken together, these trends point to a structural supply-side constraint that goes beyond current wage levels or working conditions. The number of institutions training court reporters in Texas has declined, and the institutions that remain are producing a relatively small number of graduates each year. Between 2022 and 2026, the national count of NCRA-approved programs fell by nearly a third, a trend that is consistent with what has occurred in Texas.³¹ Because no Texas-specific degree is required for CSR certification, candidates may in principle train through any program or through self-directed study; in practice, however, most candidates rely on structured programs to achieve the speed and accuracy required to pass the examination, making the institutional landscape a meaningful constraint on supply.

The aging of the existing CSR workforce compounds the pipeline problem. With an average reporter age of 55 nationally and a large share of the workforce expected to exit over the coming decade,³² the gap between supply and demand is likely to widen unless alternative recording methods, such as DCR, are adopted to supplement or replace CSR capacity in settings where reporters are unavailable.

31. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*; National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Approved Program Statistics*.

32. National Court Reporters Association, *NCRA Workforce Statistics and Program Data*.

5 Definitions of DCR

5.1 Defining DCR Modalities

To conduct an objective and methodologically sound analysis, the study must operate with clear, professional definitions of DCR modalities, distinguishing between passive electronic recording and professionally managed digital court recording. These definitions are used throughout the project and were confirmed by a working group of stakeholders.

5.1.1 Digital Audio Recording with Human Monitoring (DAR)

This form of DCR involves a trained, qualified human reporter actively monitoring a recording device or system within the courtroom or deposition setting.³³ This professional, often credentialed by an organization such as the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT) as a Certified Electronic Reporter (CER), is responsible for active management of the record.³⁴ Key responsibilities include:

- Confidence Monitoring: The reporter actively tracks multiple audio channels throughout the proceeding to ensure quality and continuous audio capture.³⁵
- Equipment Management: Setting up sophisticated recording hardware and dedicated microphones to dampen background noise and capture sound clearly.³⁶
- Real-time Annotation and Logging: Taking detailed, time-stamped log notes to identify speakers, note key moments, and align exhibits.³⁷ This human-generated log is specifically cited in the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure as a requisite part of the official record for electronically recorded proceedings.³⁸

Usually, as part of a Legal Transcriptionist workflow, the same individual who works within the courtroom or an off-site Certified Electronic Transcriber (CET) will create the certified transcript of the proceedings. It is important to note that DAR encompasses both how the record is captured as well as how the transcript of the proceeding is produced, while other methods of DCR may only refer to how the record is captured or transcript is produced.

The research team would like to acknowledge that DAR is the more accurate term when referring to this specific digital court recording modality, however, this modality was frequently

33. Texas Supreme Court, *In re Texas Court Reporters Association*, Case No. 25-0463, filed June 13, 2025, 2025, <https://search.txcourts.gov/Case.aspx?cn=25-0463&coa=cossup>.

34. American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers, "Certification Exams," AAERT, accessed November 24, 2025, <https://aaert.org/become-certified/certification-program/>.

35. Texas Supreme Court, *In re Texas Court Reporters Ass'n*.

36. Texas Supreme Court.

37. Texas Supreme Court.

38. Texas Judicial Branch Certification Commission, "Uniform Format Manual," under "Court Reporters Certification | Statutes, Rules, and Resources for Court Reporters & Firms," Texas Courts, accessed November 24, 2025, <https://www.txcourts.gov/jbcc/court-reporters-certification/statutes-rules-and-resources-for-court-reporters-firms/uniform-format-manual/>.

referred to as DCR throughout the survey and other study materials. Additionally, stakeholders frequently used the term DCR to refer to DAR. The reader should interpret the use of DCR throughout the document to refer to digital audio recording with human monitoring.

5.1.2 Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Integration

Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) is the process by which speech to text software is used on the digital court recording to assist in transcription production or provide a real time text feed of the ASR to judges and attorneys while on the record. Additionally, these software programs allow for instantaneous text feeds for the Court and counsel to review. However, these systems generally produce a raw text transcript and cannot perform the professional duties necessary for a legal record, such as administering oaths, marking exhibits, or managing courtroom decorum.³⁹

An important consideration for ASR is that it defines how the transcript from the recording of the proceeding is produced but does not define how the recording is captured.

5.1.3 Passive Audio Recording

Passive Audio Recording (PAR) is the process by which the proceeding is recorded using commercially available recording devices, and the recording is not actively monitored by a trained, certified human reporter. The audio file is transcribed after the proceedings using either the Legal Transcriptionist workflow, ASR, or another method. PAR refers to the method by which the recording of the proceedings is made, but does not specify the method by which the transcript is created.

39. Jake Gibbs, "What Is Digital Court Reporting?," Rev, July 30, 2024, accessed November 24, 2025, <https://www.rev.com/blog/digital-court-reporting>.

6 National DCR Policy Landscape

The landscape of DCR statutes, standards, and implementations varies widely across the country, often reflecting each state's unique judicial culture. How deeply a state integrates technological modalities to capture the record depends on localized factors, such as the availability of certified shorthand reporters and institutional comfort with electronic capture. Despite these operational differences, every jurisdiction shares the same foundational mandate: capturing an unassailable, verbatim record of proceedings to preserve its integrity for future legal review.

This report details the key themes and findings from a comprehensive scan of statutes across all 50 states, alongside the baseline statutory framework governing United States federal district courts. The underlying policy scan began by defining the “courts of record” and identifying the specific case types legally requiring an official record. From there, the research focused on documenting state-level authorization models for DCR, the specific recording types and platforms permitted, and prevailing certification standards for both digital and traditional court reporters. Ultimately, this report synthesizes these high-level themes to map the shifting landscape of modern court reporting.

6.1 Methods

This landscape analysis was conducted through a systematic review of the primary legal and administrative authorities governing court proceedings across all 50 states. The research protocol relied exclusively on official governmental sources, including state constitutions, statutory codes, and court-promulgated rules of civil, criminal, and appellate procedure. Federal baselines were established using Title 28 of the United States Code and the Guide to Judiciary Policy issued by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. This legal foundation was supplemented by official judicial branch publications, such as Supreme Court administrative orders, court operating rules, and technical manuals from state AOC or equivalent Unified Judicial Systems.

6.2 Cases that Require an Official Record

To contextualize how states capture their records, it is first necessary to define which courts and proceedings legally require a verbatim record. While specific requirements fluctuate by jurisdiction and court tier, clear trends emerge across state lines. Generally, “courts of record” encompass general jurisdiction trial courts and appellate divisions, which are constitutionally or statutorily mandated to preserve an accurate account of their proceedings.

Foremost among these trends are the specific case types that trigger a mandatory record. In criminal matters, nearly all states statutorily require a verbatim record for felony trials and post-indictment evidentiary hearings. Only seven states deviate from this statutory mandate—Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, New Hampshire, Oregon, Texas, Washington—where the official court reporter creates a record only upon a party's request or at the direction of the presiding judge.

However, even in these exception states, creating a full record for felonies remains a deeply entrenched institutional norm rather than a strict statutory duty.

Protection expands further in high-stakes cases: every state universally mandates a verbatim record for capital or death penalty cases. Similarly, the vast majority of jurisdictions require records for felony arraignments, pleas, and sentencings. For these critical stages, states generally cluster into three categories: those with explicit standalone recording statutes; those with sweeping “every stage” criminal recording mandates; and those utilizing a request-based statutory system that relies on a default practice of recording. Ultimately, across all frameworks, courts prioritize capturing felony pleas and sentencings to facilitate appellate review and definitively document the waiver of constitutional rights.

Recording requirements for misdemeanor cases are far more fragmented. State approaches generally bifurcate into two categories: jurisdictions extending their blanket “every stage” criminal recording rules to misdemeanors, and those requiring a formal statutory request. For context, 36 states have an “every stage” recording mandate for misdemeanors, and the remaining 13 states require a request from one of the parties to record the proceedings. While request-based states almost always capture felony proceedings as a matter of course, it remains highly uncertain whether misdemeanor cases receive the same consistent coverage in practice. Table 4 summarizes the verbatim record requirements for felony trials, arraignment, pleas, & sentencing, “every stage” mandates, policy for requesting a verbatim record, and guidelines for misdemeanor offenses. Appendix B details the statewide variations across felony and misdemeanor milestones.

Table 4: Verbatim Record Requirements for Criminal Proceedings

Dimension	Policy Category	N	States in Category
Felony trials (mandatory vs. discretion)	Mandatory	41	AK, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY
	Discretion / request	7	AL, IA, KS, NH, OR, TX, WA
	Mandatory (jury trials)	1	AZ
	Mandatory (on court/party order)	1	CA
Felony arraignment, plea, & sentencing rules	All proceedings / universal mandate	35	AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IN, IA, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI
	Specifically named stages	9	AK, CA, ID, IL, KS, ME, NV, NC, WY
	Discretionary / request-based	4	AZ, OR, TX, WA
	Not specified	2	AL, NH
"Every stage" mandate	Yes	33	AK, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NV, NJ, NY, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY
	No	14	AL, AZ, CA, GA, IL, IA, KS, MN, MT, NH, NM, NC, OR, TX
	Yes (contested matters)	1	AR
	Yes (parallel recording)	1	ID
	Partial (limited jurisdictions)	1	WA
Request by statute / practice default	Mandatory default	40	AK, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY
	Request required (statute/rule)	9	AL, AZ, CA, IA, KS, MT, OR, TX, WA
	Discretionary / practice varies	1	NH
Misdemeanor-level recording policy	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)	31	AK, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IN, IA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SD, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, WY
	Discretionary / request-based	12	AL, AZ, CA, GA, IL, KS, LA, NH, NC, OR, TN, TX
	Mandatory (tiered / limited)	5	AR, MS, NJ, NY, VA
	Not specified / unclear	2	KY, SC

In civil litigation, 20 states mandate a verbatim record for proceedings, 13 states have a conditional mandate for a record, while 15 states require a record only upon the request of a party or the court. However, when civil proceedings intersect with fundamental liberties, such as juvenile justice or the termination of parental rights, states frequently impose strict recording mandates that bypass general civil rules due to the high stakes involved. In terms of juvenile criminal proceedings, 41 states explicitly mandate a verbatim record. For parental rights cases, 15 states explicitly mandate a verbatim record in these proceedings.

Conversely, certain categories of civil cases are routinely exempted or explicitly barred from verbatim recording requirements. The most prevalent exclusions occur in small claims courts or small-dollar disputes. Additional recording exemptions are frequently carved out for non-testimonial matters or within lower-tier courts whose decisions are appealed de novo (resulting in a complete retrial in a higher court, which renders the initial record unnecessary). Table 5 provides a summary of the requirements for a verbatim record in civil, juvenile, and parental rights cases. Appendix C maps these civil, juvenile, and parental rights recording requirements alongside state-specific exemptions.

Table 5: Verbatim Record Requirements for Civil Matters

Dimension	Policy Category	N	States in Category
Civil case requirements	Mandatory (statewide/general)	20	AK, CO, CT, DE, IN, MD, MA, MI, NE, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, RI, SC, SD, UT, VT, WI
	Mandatory (conditional/tiered)	13	AR, HI, ID, KY, ME, MN, MS, MO, MT, NJ, NM, WA, WY
	Discretionary / request-based	15	AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, IA, KS, LA, NV, NH, OR, TN, TX, VA, WV
	Other (assignment / general framework)	2	IL, PA
Juvenile matter requirements	Mandatory (statewide/general)	41	AL, AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI, WY
	Mandatory (conditional/tiered)	4	AR, KS, LA, MS
	Discretionary / request-based	2	OR, TN
	Other (special rules / jurisdiction-based)	3	NH, VA, WA
Parental rights requirements	Included in juvenile/family court framework	32	AL, AZ, AR, CT, GA, HI, KS, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TX, VT, WA, WV
	Mandatory (directly expressed)	15	AK, CA, CO, DE, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, ME, ND, SD, TN, UT, WI
	Other / discretionary / paternity / not specified	3	NH, VA, WY
Verbatim record exceptions	Lower courts & minor offenses	22	AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, DE, KS, KY, LA, MN, MS, NV, NM, NY, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV
	Small claims / conciliation	11	CT, FL, GA, HI, MI, MO, NE, NC, ND, OR, SD
	Chambers, sidebar, pretrial, or ADR conferences	10	ID, IL, MD, MT, NH, NJ, RI, WA, WI, WY
	Uncontested, non-appealable, or nontestimonial	4	IA, ME, PA, VT
	No explicit exceptions / none noted	3	IN, MA, OH

6.3 Digital Court Recording Authorization Models by State

To satisfy these verbatim recording directives, jurisdictions rely on certified shorthand reporters, utilizing stenography or voice writing, or integrated DCR methodologies. Given the operational diversity across state lines, court systems have built distinct frameworks to formally integrate and authorize DCR within their courtrooms. These authorization models generally align with one of the following seven categories:

- **Mandatory Statewide Use** – digital court recording is the primary method for creating the official court record
- **Permissive Statewide Authorization** – digital court recording is utilized alongside stenography and the choice of which method to use is at the discretion of the court or presiding judge
- **Conditional Use** – digital court recording is permitted for use when a certified shorthand reporter is unavailable
- **Jurisdictional Use** – digital court recording is the primary method of record capture for lower-level courts, while use of certified shorthand reporters is mandatory for general jurisdiction trial courts
- **Mandatory Backup** – digital court recording is run simultaneously with certified shorthand reporting to ensure record integrity
- **Consent-Based Authorization** – all parties must agree to the use of digital court recording to capture the official record. If the parties do not agree, certified shorthand reporting must be used
- **No Explicit Statutory Framework** – digital court recording is no explicit statutory framework exists to replace certified shorthand reporters as the primary method to capture the verbatim record

In addition to having a predominate authorization model, some states employ a combination of models. Table 6 summarizes the authorizations models by number of states in each authorization model. Appendix D presents the authorization model and specific details of its implementation by state.

Table 6: Digital Court Recording Authorization Models

Authorization Model	N	States in Category
Permissive	19	AZ, CO, FL, GA, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WI
Mandatory	8	AK, CT, IL, IN, KY, MA, NJ, UT
Mandatory / permissive	8	IA, ME, MD, NV, NM, WA, WV, WY
Conditional	6	CA, HI, MS, NC, OK, TN
Jurisdictional	3	AR, DE, MT
No Explicit Statutory Framework	3	NH, NY, TX
Consent-based	1	AL
Mandatory backup / conditional	1	ID
Mandatory / backup	1	NE

6.4 Permitted Modalities and Technical Standards of Digital Court Recording

Beyond broad authorization frameworks, state policies dictate which modalities of digital recording are permissible in the courtroom. Although the precise definition of DCR varies across jurisdictions, common administrative threads exist. Regulators typically delineate between standalone electronic audio, integrated audiovisual systems, and the specific human oversight required to monitor them. Furthermore, many states designate specific vendor software and baseline hardware requirements to enforce uniformity across subdivisions. Table 7 summarizes the modality of DCR by number of states in each modality. Appendix E itemizes these permitted modalities and dominant enterprise platforms by state.

Table 7: Authorized Types of Digital Court Recording by State

Standardized DCR Category	N	States in Category
Audio & video	21	AK, AL, AZ, CA, DE, FL, GA, ID, IL, KY, MD, MI, MO, ND, NV, OH, OK, PA, TN, UT, VT
Audio only	15	AR, CO, IN, KS, LA, MA, ME, MT, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OR, SD, WI
Unspecified electronic / mechanical	12	CT, HI, IA, MN, NC, RI, SC, TX, VA, WA, WV, WY
Restricted / not authorized	2	MS, NH

To safeguard the legal viability of a digital record, states also establish precise operational and post-production standards. Statutes and administrative rules frequently detail specialized hardware criteria (such as multi-channel microphone isolation) necessary to achieve acceptable fidelity. Policies also define live monitoring duties to catch audibility issues in real-time, alongside data-integrity rules governing digital file storage, redundancy backups, and long-term historical retention. Table 8 summarizes the type of audio capture permitted, monitoring and operations necessary, and storage and backup requirements. Appendix F outlines these hardware, operational oversight, and retention mandates across all 50 states.

Table 8: Digital Court Recording Technical & Operational Standards

Core Dimension	Standardized Category	N	States in Category
Audio capture	Basic hardware required	13	FL, GA, HI, ID, KY, MD, NM, NV, PA, SC, SD, TN, WI
	Not specified	10	AK, AL, CO, CT, IL, MA, NJ, UT, WV, WY
	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	7	AR, AZ, CA, DE, IN, MI, NC
	Court-approved equipment only	1	MN
Monitoring & operations	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	11	AK, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, IN, MI, MN, TN, WI
	Active logging & tagging	10	DE, HI, ID, KY, MD, NM, SD, UT, WV, WY
	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	6	AL, CT, IL, MA, NC, NJ
	General operator duties	4	CO, NV, PA, SC
Storage & backup	Redundant backup & disaster recovery	12	AR, AZ, FL, GA, IN, MI, MN, NV, SC, TN, UT, WI
	Defined term retention	9	AL, CA, CO, HI, ID, KY, MD, SD, WY
	Secure state / AOC-administered archival	5	DE, NC, NJ, NM, WV
	Active media migration & preservation	4	AK, IL, MA, PA
	Basic electronic preservation	1	CT

Note. Counts reflect the 31 states with identifiable DCR technical or operational standards. The remaining 19 states (IA, KS, LA, ME, MO, MS, MT, ND, NE, NH, NY, OH, OK, OR, TX, RI, VA, VT, WA) had no such standards located and are excluded.

6.5 Oversight

As states implement digital court recording, they must establish clear governance and oversight mechanisms. Unlike traditional stenographic reporting, which often relies on independent licensing boards, many states directly integrate DCR oversight into the judicial branch.

Most jurisdictions fall into one of two categories: those utilizing centralized, statewide oversight through their supreme court or AOC, and those delegating management to local district-level leadership. Beyond managing personnel and day-to-day operations, many states also designate a specific technical body to establish baseline hardware specifications and software standard operating procedures. Table 9 summarizes the models of oversight, agencies responsible for that oversight, as well as the official responsible for designation of technical specifications of DCR. Appendix G outlines these statewide governance structures, highlighting the entities responsible for both operational administration and technical standards by state.

Table 9: Oversight and Control of Digital Court Recording

Core Dimension	Primary Category / Model	N	States in Category
Local vs. statewide control	Statewide authorization; local discretion	20	AL, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, KS, LA, MI, MN, NC, ND, OH, PA, RI, SD, VA, VT, WV
	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	13	HI, IA, ID, KY, MD, ME, MO, MT, NE, NM, NV, WA, WY
	Statewide mandatory requirement	10	AK, CT, IL, IN, MA, NJ, OR, SC, UT, WI
	Local control / authorization	7	AR, MS, NH, NY, OK, TN, TX
Oversight body (primary authority)	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) / state court administration	31	AK, AZ, CO, CT, FL, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VT, WV
	Judicial council, board, or commission	11	AL, AR, CA, GA, LA, MI, MN, MS, NM, UT, WY
	Supreme court / chief justice	6	DE, MA, ME, NH, WA, WI
	Local / individual judges or courts	2	NV, TX
Official responsible for technical specs	AOC / technology division	36	AK, AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, OK, OR, SC, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY
	Local / individual judges or courts	5	HI, OH, PA, RI, TX
	Judicial council, board, or commission	4	AZ, CA, LA, SD
	Not specified	4	MS, NH, NV, NY
	Supreme court / chief justice	1	GA

6.6 Professional Training and Certification

As jurisdictions integrate digital court recorders into their workforce, administrative officials must define the baseline qualifications and certifications required for employment. Structurally, states approach workforce verification through one of four primary frameworks:

- **Formal State-Level Certification Models:** States establish centralized, statutorily mandated certification programs and licensing requirements specifically tailored to digital court recorders.
- **Internal Judicial Branch Training and Certification:** The state's judicial branch—or a designated administrative body—develops and operates an internal, court-administered workforce training program. While bypassing formal external licensing, these programs provide a rigorous, system-specific onboarding standard.
- **Reliance on National Certification:** States outsource testing standards by accepting credentials directly from the AAERT, typically requiring or heavily favoring the CER and CET designations.
- **No Explicit Certification Requirements:** States do not mandate a separate, dedicated certification for digital court recorders. Instead, qualifications are left to local judicial discretion, general court employment benchmarks, or vendor-vetting procedures.

Table 10 summarizes the state-specific certification model, requirements for continuing education, and primary certifying body for all states. Appendix H details these state-specific certification models alongside the primary oversight body responsible for maintaining those workforce standards.

Table 10: Digital Court Recording Certification Models

Core Dimension	Primary Category / Model	N	States in Category
Certification / licensure required	None / no specific DCR certification program	27	AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, ID, IN, KS, KY, ME, MO, MS, MT, NC, NH, NV, NY, OK, OR, SC, SD, TX, VA, VT, WV, WY
	Internal judicial branch training / certification	10	AK, GA, IA, IL, MN, NE, NJ, NM, UT, WI
	Local discretion / court-specific approval	6	FL, HI, OH, PA, RI, WA
	Position-specific / national credential required	5	DE, MA, MD, ND, TN
	Formal state certification required	2	LA, MI
Primary certifying / oversight entity	State court administration / AOC (SCA, OJA, SCAO)	19	AK, CO, CT, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, MO, MT, ND, NE, NY, OK, OR, SC, SD, VT, WY
	State supreme court / judicial council / chief justice	10	GA, HI, MD, MN, NH, RI, UT, VA, WA, WI
	Dedicated reporting board / certification commission	9	AL, AR, CA, LA, MI, MS, NJ, NM, NV
	Local judicial district / presiding judges & district clerks	9	AZ, DE, FL, KS, NC, OH, PA, TN, TX
	Specialized state transcript / technology services units	3	MA, ME, WV

6.7 The Federal Framework: A Baseline for Comparison

Beginning in 1982 with amendments to the Court Reporters Act, specifically 28 U.S.C. § 753(b), the federal court system was officially permitted to utilize electronic sound recording as an alternative to stenographic means to take the official record of the proceedings. The adoption of electronic sound recording by the federal court system provides a meaningful frame of reference for state policies as the program was successfully piloted and has withstood decades of successful appellate reviews⁴⁰.

6.7.1 Statutory Mandate

Under 28 U.S.C. § 753—colloquially known as the Court Reporters Act—all proceedings in United States District Courts must be recorded verbatim. This statute establishes the foundational framework for record-preservation methods, transcription, and personnel certification. Under this mandate, verbatim recording is strictly required for criminal and civil trials, arraign-

40. J. Michael Greenwood et al., *A Comparative Evaluation of Stenographic and Audiotape Methods for United States District Court Reporting* (Washington, D.C.: Federal Judicial Center, 1983).

ments, pleas, and sentencing hearings, as well as all evidentiary hearings presided over by U.S. Magistrate or Bankruptcy Judges. The sole exception to this rule applies to civil matters, where parties may opt out of a verbatim record by mutual agreement and with the explicit approval of the presiding judge.

6.7.2 Authorization Model

The federal court system operates under a permissive authorization model. Guided by rules promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States, a court's proceedings may be captured via traditional stenography, mechanical means, ESR, or any other method approved by the judge. Ultimately, the choice of modality remains within the final discretion of the presiding judge.

6.7.3 Technical Standards

In addition to authorizing ESR, 28 U.S.C. § 753 establishes the statutory framework for court reporting in federal courts. The precise technical specifications required to ensure a digital recording is legally viable are set out in the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 6.⁴¹ These standards govern hardware configurations, audio capture, real-time index logging, and data redundancy.

- **Hardware and Audio Capture Standards:** Federal ESR systems must deliver high-fidelity audio capable of separating participant voices to guarantee clear, accurate transcription. To achieve this, systems must record across a minimum of four distinct, isolated audio channels to prevent speakers from overlapping or drowning out one another. Courtrooms must be equipped with at least four separate microphones positioned to capture the judge, the witness, plaintiff or prosecution counsel, and defense counsel, with each microphone routed to its own dedicated channel. Furthermore, ESR operators must be provided with real-time visual indicator tools, such as graphical Volume Unit (VU) meters, to verify that audio signals are recording at optimal levels.
- **Real-Time Indexing:** An audio file cannot legally serve as the official record unless it is accompanied by a synchronized data log created in real time by an ECRO or deputy clerk. Federal guidelines require the ESR system to automatically apply digital timestamps to every note entry in the log. This log must contain key structural markers to assist future transcribers, including the swearing-in of witnesses, speaker identifications, the introduction of exhibits or evidence, and sidebar conferences.
- **Data Integrity and Redundancy:** Federal law mandates a 10-year retention period for all official audio files. To prevent data loss, ESR systems must write data concurrently to a secure local hard drive and instantly push a mirrored backup file over the judicial network to a centralized server maintained by the Clerk's Office. If a court utilizes a stenographer who captures a digital audio backup alongside their shorthand notes, that

41. Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 6: Court Reporting* (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 2018).

audio must also be formatted unalterably and backed up to the court server to ensure its absolute integrity

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Regardless of the capture method, any transcript produced from a federal proceeding must adhere to uniform production standards, enforcing consistent typography, line counts, and page layouts. Furthermore, transcript requests must be submitted using standardized federal forms to ensure that billing strictly aligns with federal fee caps.

6.7.4 Oversight and Certification

Governance, compliance, and certification for digital court recording within the federal courts are managed entirely within the judicial branch. Administration flows through a structured hierarchy of national policymaking bodies, local district leadership, and individual judicial oversight:

- **The Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS):** This body establishes national rules, fee structures, and uniform transcript guidelines. The JCUS is also responsible for testing, validating, and approving the enterprise multi-channel digital systems permitted in federal courtrooms.
- **The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO):** The AO handles the day-to-day administration of the rules set by the JCUS. It defines the technical specifications for courtroom ESR systems and manages nationwide equipment procurement.
- **The Clerk of the Court:** Operating at the local level across the 94 judicial districts, the Clerk of the Court—alongside a Court Reporting Supervisor—manages operational oversight, tracks transcript requests, audits transcript volumes, and handles daily workforce assignments.
- **The Chief Judge and Circuit Court Judicial Council:** Formal administrative complaints regarding transcript delays, overcharges, or operational violations are escalated to and reviewed by the district's Chief Judge and the regional Circuit Court Judicial Council.

While 28 U.S.C. § 753 does not establish a universal federal license for court reporters or ECROs, judicial policy enforces strict accountability standards. Under 28 U.S.C. § 753(b), federal employees operating ESR systems, as well as outside transcription vendors, must certify

42. Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 6: Court Reporting* (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 2018).

the accuracy of their records and transcripts under penalty of perjury. A transcript is only considered official if it originates from records verified by an authorized reporter or transcriber.

Notably, personnel producing federal records are exempt from holding individual state licenses. For stenographic court reporters, however, the JCUS requires proficiency that meets or exceeds the National Court Reporters Association's Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) standard. Individual federal districts retain the discretion to require RPR or Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) credentials for employment, and many implement a mandatory one-year probationary period for new hires to evaluate their real-time performance and transcript production.

6.7.5 Digital Court Recording in Texas Federal Courts

The federal judicial system in Texas is divided into four distinct districts: the Northern (N.D. Tex.), Southern (S.D. Tex.), Eastern (E.D. Tex.), and Western (W.D. Tex.). Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 753(b), all four districts formally utilize ESR as a permanent, authorized method for maintaining the verbatim record. Operationally, each district is governed by its own localized Court Reporting Management Plan, which tailors the deployment of recording technologies to meet regional caseload demands.

While specific implementation strategies fluctuate across the state, a consistent operational baseline exists: the Texas federal districts universally mandate ESR for lower-tier proceedings while prioritizing traditional stenographic court reporters for general jurisdiction District Judges. Consequently, ESR is the standard default for all formal proceedings presided over by U.S. Magistrate Judges and U.S. Bankruptcy Judges.

Despite these slight regional variations in personnel deployment, the underlying technical and operational standards remain entirely uniform. All four Texas federal district courts strictly adhere to the rigorous hardware, data-redundancy, and administrative mandates established nationally by the JCUS and the AO.

6.8 Summary

This comprehensive scan of statutes, rules, and administrative policies across all 50 states reveals a complex and deeply nuanced landscape regarding digital court recording. Yet, despite the highly individualized policies codified by individual jurisdictions, several overarching themes emerge regarding how states capture, preserve, and govern the verbatim record nationwide.

6.8.1 Universal Imperative for Verbatim Records in Critical Matters

While states vary widely in the technical modalities, they use to capture proceedings, they share an identical, foundational goal: securing an unassailable verbatim record to safeguard appellate review and document judicial outcomes.

- **Criminal Matters:** Nearly all states statutorily mandate a verbatim record for felony trials, post-indictment evidentiary hearings, capital or death penalty cases, and felony arraignments, pleas, and sentencings. Even in the rare exception states where statutes frame recording as discretionary or request-based, producing a complete record remains the absolute cultural norm in practice. Conversely, state policies diverge heavily at the misdemeanor level, where jurisdictions generally bifurcate into those with sweeping “every stage” criminal recording mandates and those relying strictly on an explicit request by a party.
- **Civil Proceedings:** Standard civil litigation requirements are split between states mandating a universal record for all formal events and those operating on a request-only basis for final judgments. However, when civil proceedings directly intersect with individual liberty or parental rights (such as juvenile delinquency or the termination of parental rights), states heavily prioritize the matter, universally mandating a verbatim record regardless of standard civil monetary thresholds.
- **Common Exemptions:** Consistent exceptions to verbatim recording requirements exist across almost all states. Small claims courts, low-dollar disputes, and nontestimonial or informal chamber conferences are routinely and explicitly exempted from formal record preservation.

6.8.2 Diverse Models of Digital Court Recording Authorization

States have adapted their statutory frameworks to authorize DCR through varying operational lenses, primarily driven by resource availability and institutional comfort. These organizational approaches span a wide spectrum, including mandatory statewide use, permissive statewide authorization, jurisdictional distinctions (e.g., lower-level courts vs. general jurisdiction courts), and conditional fallback use when traditional shorthand reporters are unavailable. Notably, blanket general prohibitions or highly restrictive anti-DCR frameworks persist in only a very small number of states.

6.8.3 Rigorous Technical, Operational, and Retention Standards

As DCR becomes deeply embedded in modern court infrastructure, states are increasingly implementing granular technical specifications to replicate or exceed the fidelity of a live, traditional reporter. Authorized setups range from standalone electronic audio to integrated audiovisual networks. To enforce quality control, state guidelines frequently mandate multi-channel isolation (separating individual voices onto independent tracks), high-fidelity microphone arrays, and strict prohibitions against mute-button toggling to prevent gaps in the record.

Furthermore, a prominent operational theme is the requirement for “confidence monitoring” active human oversight by trained operators or court clerks who listen in real time to flag audibility issues before they ruin the record. Finally, safeguarding data integrity has led to widespread mandates for daily backup schedules, concurrent recording to mirrored or separate locations, and long-term retention timelines spanning from five years to permanent

archival storage. Within this space, enterprise platforms like For The Record and CourtSmart have emerged as dominant statewide software standards.

6.8.4 Integration of Oversight into the Judicial Branch

Administratively, states are generally split between centralized statewide oversight (administered by the Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, or the State Court Administrator) and localized management handled by chief or presiding district judges. Regardless of the exact governance hierarchy, State Court Administrators or judicial branch IT departments are now predominantly tasked with defining hardware baselines and software configurations, standardizing technology procurement across all court divisions.

6.8.5 Stratified Approaches to Professional Training and Certification

As the operational role of the digital court recorder expands, states have established four distinct workforce verification strategies to ensure technical competency:

- **Internal Judicial Curricula:** Many states design and administer their own rigorous training frameworks and operational certifications internally through the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- **Formal State Licenses:** A select few states have integrated digital reporting into their formal statutory licensing bodies, creating dedicated state-level credentials.
- **National Credentials:** Other states outsource verification by explicitly requiring or preferring national certifications, primarily from AAERT.
- **Local and Vendor Discretion:** A final group of states bypasses formalized DCR certifications entirely. Instead, they delegate baseline qualifications to local judicial discretion, general court employment standards, or the rigorous technical vetting of approved external transcription vendors.

7 Texas DCR Usage

The Texas justice system is composed of 496 district courts and 537 county-level courts⁴³. This decentralized network operates under a complex framework of administrative and procedural codes to ensure service to all Texans. As the judicial landscape evolves, electronic recording has emerged as a key method for capturing official proceedings, guided by a mix of formal mandates and informal practices.

This report examines the current landscape and utilization of Digital Court Recording (DCR) across the state based on documented policies. To assess DCR prevalence, the research team conducted a comprehensive audit of:

- Local Rules and Standing Orders filed with the Texas Judicial Branch for all 254 counties
- Administrative Orders filed with the Texas Supreme Court from 1990 through April 2026
- Texas Statutes, including the Government Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Rules of Civil Procedure, which provide the legal framework for electronic records.

Additionally, we conducted a brief survey of the courts of record in Texas to identify those using certified shorthand reporters (CSRs) or DCRs. This multi-layered validation process identifies where electronic recording is officially sanctioned and explores how courts leverage this technology to maintain docket efficiency.

7.1 Methods

To understand DCR usage, researchers first analyzed Local Rules and Standing Orders maintained by the Texas Judicial Branch. The team reviewed every county to determine if specific rules existed for the county as a whole, for individual judicial districts, or for specific district courts. When these orders were located, the county was coded based on whether electronic recording was permitted for civil cases, criminal cases, or both. Each of the amendments to the Local Rules and Standing Orders were also coded for themes and language consistency across documents.

Additionally, the team reviewed Administrative Orders from the Texas Supreme Court (1990–April 2026) to identify any amendments to local rules. All findings were then subjected to a final validation search to confirm the status of each county's recording procedures.⁴⁴

Finally, to assess the permeation of DCR usage among courts, a short survey was distributed to the district courts, county courts at law, county courts, and municipal courts of record. The survey was distributed to the point of contact for each court as identified by OCA. The survey was distributed to 1,199 recipients. We emailed recipients who did not complete the survey a weekly reminder each week for a period of three weeks. This resulted in a total of 244 completed responses.

43. Office of Court Administration, "Court Structure of Texas," Texas Judicial Branch, October 2023, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1457606/court-structure-chart-october-2023.pdf>.

44. Supreme Court of Texas, "Administrative Orders," Texas Judicial Branch, accessed April 27, 2026, <https://www.txcourts.gov/supreme/administrative-orders/>.

7.2 Current Usage of Digital Court Recording in Texas

DCR usage is categorized into formal and informal applications. Due to the varied nature of these practices, precisely quantifying state-wide usage remains challenging.

7.2.1 Administrative Orders with Supreme Court and Local Rules of Practice

Of Texas' 254 counties, 42 have official documentation outlining the use of electronic recording for the official court record.

- Civil Cases: All 42 counties with orders permit DCR for official civil records.
- Criminal Cases: Only 21 of these 42 counties extend this authorization to criminal matters.

Figure 5 displays the counties in Texas that have orders filed with the Texas Supreme Court to allow electronic recording. Table 11 lists the counties that have orders filed to allow electronic recording, the year the order was filed and the type of cases in which electronic recording is allowed. However, it is important to note, counties are no longer required to file orders with the Supreme Court to utilize DCR in their jurisdiction.

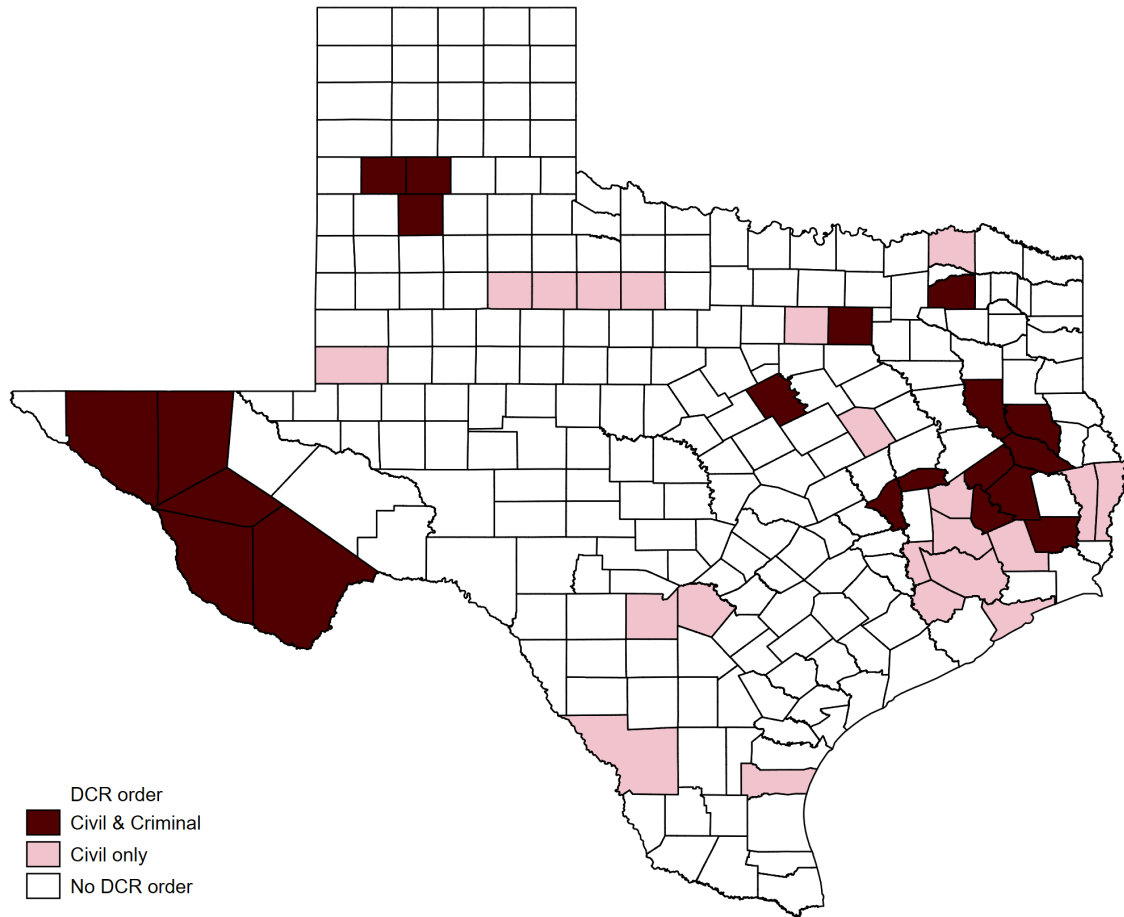


Figure 5: Texas Counties with Local Rules and Standing Orders

Table 11: Texas Counties with Electronic Recording Orders

County	Orders with Supreme Court	Year Passed	Civil	Criminal
Andrews	Yes	2015	X	
Angelina	Yes	2020	X	X
Bexar	Yes	1990	X	
Bosque	Yes	2025	X	X
Brazos	Yes	1990	X	X
Brewster	Yes	2019	X	X
Castro	Yes	2024	X	X
Cherokee	Yes	2019	X	X
Culberson	Yes	2019	X	X
Dallas	Yes	1991	X	X
Fort Bend	Yes	2024	X	
Freestone	Yes	2023	X	X
Galveston	Yes	2022	X	
Hale	Yes	2024	X	X
Hardin	Yes	2004	X	X
Harris	Yes	1991	X	
Haskell	Yes	1993	X	
Hopkins	Yes	2020	X	X
Hudspeth	Yes	2019	X	X
Jasper	Yes	2006	X	
Jeff Davis	Yes	2019	X	X
Kent	Yes	1993	X	
Kleberg	Yes	1992	X	
Lamar	Yes	2018	X	
Liberty	Yes	1991	X	
Limestone	Yes	1991	X	
Madison	Yes	2023	X	X
Medina	Yes	1995	X	
Montgomery	Yes	1990	X	
Nacogdoches	Yes	2022	X	X
Newton	Yes	2010	X	
Polk	Yes	2019	X	X
Presidio	Yes	2019	X	X
San Jacinto	Yes	2022	X	X
Stonewall	Yes	1993	X	
Swisher	Yes	2024	X	X
Tarrant	Yes	2011	X	
Throckmorton	Yes	1993	X	
Trinity	Yes	2022	X	X
Walker	Yes	2018	X	
Waller	Yes	2018	X	
Webb	Yes	2010	X	

The Local Rules and Standing Orders follow a template and contain standard language, regardless of the county or court which adopts the order. Each Local Rules and Standing Orders document clearly identifies the court with which the order applies as well as whether it can be used in civil proceedings, criminal proceedings or both. A small number of orders also define the use of DCR in probate or juvenile matters.

These Local Rules and Standing Orders define the duties of the Court Recorder, the individual responsible for creating the official record. Additionally, the Local Rules and Standing Orders explicitly state that no stenographic record shall be required of any proceedings electronically recorded. Further, the court must also designate an official court recorder for the proceedings.

The Local Rules and Standing Order explicitly state the duties of the court recorder. These duties include ensuring the recording system is functioning properly throughout the proceeding, making a detailed, legible log for all proceedings, filing the original log and exhibits with the clerk after the proceeding ends, storing of the recording, prohibiting access to the recording without written order of the judge, preparing a certified copy of the original recording, and performing other duties as assigned by the presiding judge and prescribed by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Appellate Procedure. These duties are similar to those of a certified shorthand reporter as outlined in the Texas Government Code.

7.2.2 Digital Court Recording Penetration

In addition to reviewing the Local Rules and Standing Orders filed with the Supreme Court, we deployed a short electronic survey to the district courts, county courts at law, county courts, and municipal courts of record. We received a total of 244 complete responses, representing an approximately 20% response rate. While numerous counties and courts did not respond to our request, those that did gave us an approximation of the courts, counties, and types of cases in which DCR is used. Table 12 presents the distribution of responses by court type and Figure 6 depicts the reported recording modality used by surveyed courts across Texas counties.

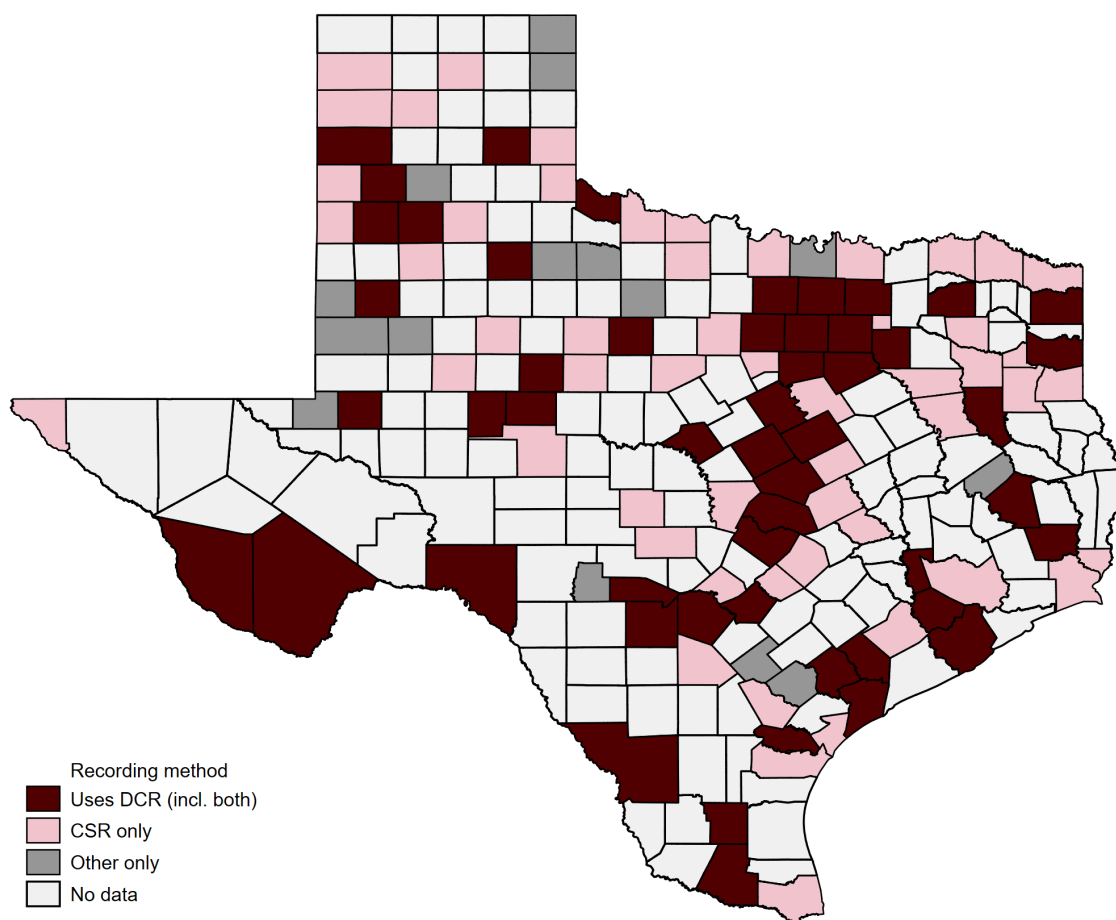


Figure 6: Recording Modality by County

Table 12: Survey Response by Court Type

Court type	Freq.	%
District	96	39.3
County Court	54	22.1
Municipal	52	21.3
Court at Law	39	16.1
Probate	3	1.2
Total	244	100.0

The survey asked courts to identify the primary modality employed to capture the verbatim record. Most respondents, approximately 60%, reported they employ a CSR to capture the verbatim record. Approximately 23.8% of respondents reported using DCR to capture the verbatim record. Interestingly, approximately 6% of respondents reported using both CSR and DCR to capture the record. Many of those who responded as Other indicated they are not a court of record and do not record proceedings. Four courts did not report the method used to capture the verbatim record. Table 13 presents the distribution of recording modality.

Table 13: Reported Recording Modality

Method	Freq.	%
Certified Shorthand Reporter / Stenographer (CSR)	143	59.6
Digital Court Recording (DCR)	57	23.8
Other	25	10.4
Both CSR and DCR	15	6.2
Total	240	100.0

Those who reported using DCR or DCR and CSR as the modality for recording the verbatim record in their court were then asked to report the type of DCR used. Most respondents report using Digital Audio Recording (DAR) with human monitoring. It is important to note that very few respondents report utilizing automated speech recognition (ASR) alone. Table 14 presents the distribution of recording technology utilized.

Table 14: DCR Technology Type

Technology	Freq.	% of DCR courts
Digital Audio Recording (DAR) with human monitoring	37	48.0
Other	20	26.0
Passive audio recording	17	22.1
Automated speech recognition	2	2.6
DAR with human monitoring + passive audio	1	1.3
Total	77	100.0

While the number of reported uses of DCR and CSR is important, it is also important to consider their uses by court type. Over 90% of district courts report using CSRs to capture the verbatim record. By contrast, 74.5% of municipal courts report utilizing DCR. This suggests that lower-level courts are more likely to adopt DCR technologies. Table 15 presents the DCR use by Court Type.

Table 15: DCR Use by Court Type

Court type	CSR	DCR	Both	Other	Total	% DCR
District	90 (93.8%)	5 (5.2%)	1 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	96 (100%)	6.2
Court at Law	30 (79.0%)	1 (2.6%)	7 (18.4%)	0 (0.0%)	38 (100%)	21.1
County Court	17 (32.7%)	13 (25.0%)	7 (13.5%)	15 (28.8%)	52 (100%)	38.5
Probate	3 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100%)	0.0
Municipal	3 (5.9%)	38 (74.5%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (19.6%)	51 (100%)	74.5
Total	143 (59.6%)	57 (23.8%)	15 (6.3%)	25 (10.4%)	240 (100%)	30.0

Note. Values are reported as frequency (percentage).

Finally, those who reported using DCR or DCR and CSR as the modality for recording the verbatim record in their court were asked to identify whether the technology was used for all hearings or specific hearings. Respondents could choose more than one modality. Most respondents reported DCR was used for specific hearing types, suggesting an alternative method of record capture for some hearing types. Approximately 41.6% of respondents reported utiliz-

ing DCR for all proceedings in their court. Table 16 presents the distribution of DCR scope of use.

Table 16: DCR Scope of Use

Scope	Freq.	% of Respondents
Specific hearing / proceeding types	45	58.4
All proceedings	32	41.6
Total	77	100.0

7.2.3 Informal and Supplemental Usage

DCR is frequently employed through informal policies, which are difficult to quantify:

- Rural Backup: In jurisdictions covering multiple counties, DCR is often used when a court reporter cannot be physically present.
- Administrative Efficiency: Many courts use DCR for uncontested probate, guardianship, routine status conferences, and plea agreements, citing Rule 359 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure⁴⁵ as legal precedent.
- Remote Proceedings: Under Rule 21d of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure⁴⁶, courts may use videoconferencing or teleconferencing functionality to record hearings as the official record.
- Depositions: Rule 199 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure⁴⁷ permits depositions to be captured via electronic recording, provided all parties are notified and the record adheres to Rule 13 of the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure⁴⁸.

7.2.4 Magistration and Jail Proceedings

Beginning in 1989, through House Bill 273, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 15.17 began permitting magistration via close-circuit two-way television. This article was further updated in 2011 through House Bill 976 to permit magistration via two-way electronic communication, including secure videoconferencing⁴⁹. The statute explicitly allows the electronic recording of these videoconferences to serve as the official record. Most counties now conduct magistrations this way to reduce the logistical burden of transporting defendants.

45. Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, r. 359, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1462348/texas-rules-of-civil-procedure-march-1-2026.pdf>.

46. Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, r. 21d, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1462348/texas-rules-of-civil-procedure-march-1-2026.pdf>.

47. Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, r. 199, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1462348/texas-rules-of-civil-procedure-march-1-2026.pdf>.

48. Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, r. 13, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1437631/texas-rules-of-appellate-procedure-updated-with-amendments-effective-2117-with-appendices.pdf>.

49. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 15.17, <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.15.htm#15.17>.

7.2.5 Technological Capabilities

While most Texas courts still rely on Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) for contested hearings and jury trials, nearly all courtrooms are equipped with multichannel audio technology. Currently, these recordings primarily help CSRs refine their official transcripts, though the equipment is fully capable of producing high-quality, standalone records.

7.3 Summary

The research reveals a dual-track system for digital recording in Texas, categorized by formal authorization and widespread informal usage:

7.3.1 Formal Authorization

Out of 254 counties, 42 have established official documentation governing electronic recording. While all 42 allow DCR for civil cases, only 21 extend this authorization to criminal matters. These rules define the critical role of the Court Recorder, who is responsible for system maintenance, detailed logging, and ensuring a transcribable record.

7.3.2 Informal and Supplemental Usage

Beyond formal local rules, DCR is frequently utilized in the following contexts:

- Rural Jurisdictions: Used as a backup when official court reporters are unavailable.
- Administrative Hearings: Employed for uncontested probate, guardianship, and routine status conferences to improve docket efficiency.
- Remote Proceedings: Utilizing the recording features of videoconferencing and teleconferencing platforms.
- Magistration: Often conducted via secure videoconferencing to reduce the logistical burden of transporting arrested persons.

7.3.3 Technological Integration

While most Texas courts still rely on Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs) for contested hearings and jury trials, nearly all courtrooms are now equipped with multichannel audio technology. Currently, these high-quality recordings primarily serve as a supplemental tool for CSRs to refine their transcripts, though the equipment is fully capable of producing standalone official records. Ultimately, while the use of digital recording is widespread, its informal nature in many jurisdictions makes it difficult to fully quantify its impact across the entire state judicial system.

8 Stakeholder Perspectives on DCR Usage and Implementation: Survey Results

This section presents findings from the statewide survey administered as part of the evaluation of DCR and CSR practices in Texas. The survey gathered responses from a broad cross-section of court personnel, including court reporters, court recorders, judges, attorneys, and Other Courtroom Actors, across all levels of the Texas court system and a range of urban and rural jurisdictions.

8.1 Survey Methodology

8.1.1 Survey Administration

The survey was administered using the Texas A&M University's Qualtrics platform. It was distributed to 4,302 recipients, with an initial invitation sent on April 17, 2026, followed by two reminder emails on April 22, 2026, and May 8, 2026. The survey closed on May 22, 2026 at 5:00 PM, yielding a total of 2,078 complete responses.

8.1.2 Survey Structure

The survey began with an introductory text detailing the purpose and process of the survey and a set of general demographic questions, followed by context-specific definitions provided to respondents to orient them to the sections that followed. The substantive portion of the survey was organized into five sections.

The first section addressed court reporter availability and current usage, comprising five agreement-scale statements, followed by modality-specific questions asking whether each modality (Digital Court Recording and Human Monitoring [DCR], Automated Speech Recognition [ASR], and Passive Audio Recording [PAR]) is currently used in the respondent's jurisdiction, where used, whether it is applied to lower-level or non-evidentiary proceedings, or to any type of proceeding.

The second section examined perceptions of trust, accuracy, and preferences regarding each modality. For each of the three modalities, respondents rated seven statements on an agreement scale, covering perceived accuracy relative to a human stenographic record, trust in record integrity, sufficiency for appellate review, potential efficiency gains, comfort with a centralized monitoring model, preference for a record produced by a human stenographic reporter, and absence of preference between modalities.

The third section asked respondents to identify which method they considered superior, based on their opinion or experience, across seven factors: verbatim accuracy, turnaround time, cost-effectiveness for the court, cost-effectiveness for litigants, room control, handling accents and technical jargon, and long-term archiving. Response options included ASR, PAR, DCR with human monitoring, no difference between modalities, unsure, and stenography.

The fourth section addressed perceived barriers to implementing or expanding DCR, asking respondents to rate the severity of eight potential barriers, statutory and legal hurdles, initial capital cost, technical support, resistance from the local bar, resistance from the judiciary, cybersecurity risks, the quality of the human element, and a lack of demonstrated local success, on a five-point severity scale ranging from “Not a Barrier” to “Extreme”. Respondents were also given the option to specify any other barrier not listed.

The survey concluded with an opportunity for respondents to provide final comments and to sign up for a follow-up interview for qualitative data collection and analysis. Appendix I presents the full survey.

8.1.3 Data Cleaning

Survey responses were downloaded from Qualtrics and uploaded to STATA for analysis. Following a preliminary examination of the data, respondents were divided into Texas and non-Texas subsamples, with the primary analysis limited to Texas respondents; non-Texas responses are addressed separately in Appendices L, M, and N.

Respondent role was originally recorded using nine categories: Attorney, County Commissioner, Court Recorder, Court Recording Organization, Court Reporter, Court Reporting Organization, Judge, Other, and Other Courtroom Actors. For purposes of disaggregated analysis, these were collapsed into six categories: Attorney, Court Recorder, Court Reporter, Judge, Other, and Other Courtroom Actors. A parallel collapsing process was applied to court level: the original categories of Appellate/Supreme Court, Commissioner’s Court, County Court at Law, District Court, Federal Court, Justice/Municipal Court, and Other were collapsed into five categories. The five categories are: Appellate/Supreme Court, County Court at Law, District Court, Federal Court, and Other (includes Justice/Municipal Courts). Additional detail on how individual write-in and “Other” responses were reclassified into these final categories is provided in the corresponding section below.

Additionally, county of employment was further classified as urban or rural based on a population threshold of 250,000 classified as urban and counties below this threshold classified as rural.

A sanity check was also preformed to identify missing data and prevent extreme missingness from influencing results. In total, 58 respondents had missing information across 14 variables and were removed from the analysis, resulting in the finalized analytic sample (N = 2,020).

Qualitative responses provided in the final comments section were extracted into a separate CSV file for qualitative coding and analysis, presented in the corresponding sections below.

8.1.4 Analytical Approach

Analysis proceeded in two stages. First, a full-sample analysis of the finalized Texas respondent sample was conducted for each survey measure, prior to any disaggregation; these results are presented in the Appendix K. Second, disaggregated analyses were conducted by respondent role and court level, and where appropriate, by urbanicity, to examine whether perceptions varied across professional and jurisdictional context. Results throughout are pre-

sented as frequency and percentage tables accompanied by corresponding figures for visual comparison.

8.2 Survey Results

The analysis proceeds in several parts. It begins with an overview of respondent demographics and sample distribution, describing the geographic, professional, and tenure-related characteristics of the sample to provide context for interpreting the substantive findings that follow. Subsequent sections examine respondent perceptions of court reporter availability and the use of alternative officers; trust in the accuracy, integrity, and appellate sufficiency of DCR, ASR, and PAR relative to the traditional stenographic record; direct comparisons between these recording methods across a range of practical factors; and perceived barriers to implementing or expanding DCR within Texas courts.

Throughout, findings are disaggregated by respondent role, court level, and, where applicable, urbanicity, in order to assess whether and how these perceptions vary across professional and jurisdictional context. Full-sample results for each measure, prior to disaggregation, are provided in Appendix K, and non-Texas responses in Appendices L, M, and N. Where relevant, differences across roles, court levels, and geographic settings are highlighted to identify where consensus exists among Texas court personnel and where meaningful divides remain.

8.2.1 Respondent Demographic and Sample Distribution

This section presents an overview of the respondent sample, describing key demographic and professional characteristics of survey participants. Specifically, this section examines respondents' geographic distribution across Texas, including residency status, county of employment, and urban versus rural classification, followed by an overview of respondents' professional roles, court level, and tenure in their current position. Together, these characteristics provide important context for interpreting the substantive survey findings presented in subsequent sections. It is important to keep in mind that sample sizes may differ from one item to the next, given that some respondents skip one or more questions.

The substantial majority of respondents reported residing in Texas, with 1,714 respondents (84.85%) identifying as in-state and 306 respondents (15.15%) identifying as out-of-state (Table 17). Respondents indicating "Outside of Texas" ($n = 306$) were excluded from this statewide, county-level breakdown and are addressed separately in the Appendix. This distribution is illustrated in Figure 7, which shows the relative proportions of in-state and out-of-state respondents.

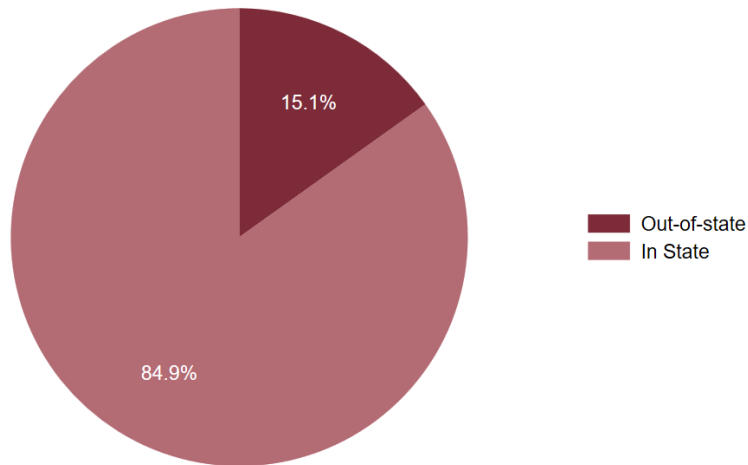


Figure 7: Texas Residency Status of Respondents

Table 17: Texas Residency Status of Respondents

Texas Residency	Freq.	%
Out-of-state	306	15.15
In State	1,714	84.85
Total	2,020	100.00

Geographic distribution of in-state respondents varied considerably by county, as shown in Figure 8. Respondent density was heaviest across the Interstate 35 corridor and the greater Houston, Dallas–Fort Worth, and San Antonio metropolitan areas, with several counties in these regions reporting 2% or more of total respondents. Counties in West Texas and the Panhandle, by contrast, more frequently reported minimal or no responses.

Respondents were also asked to identify their primary county of employment within Texas. Harris county accounted for the largest share of responses at 16.16%, followed by Dallas (9.22%), Bexar (8.46%), Travis (6.07%), and Tarrant (5.25%) counties. The remaining counties in the top ten each contributed less than five percent of responses individually, though collectively the ten counties listed represent the largest concentrations of respondent activity across the state (Table 18).

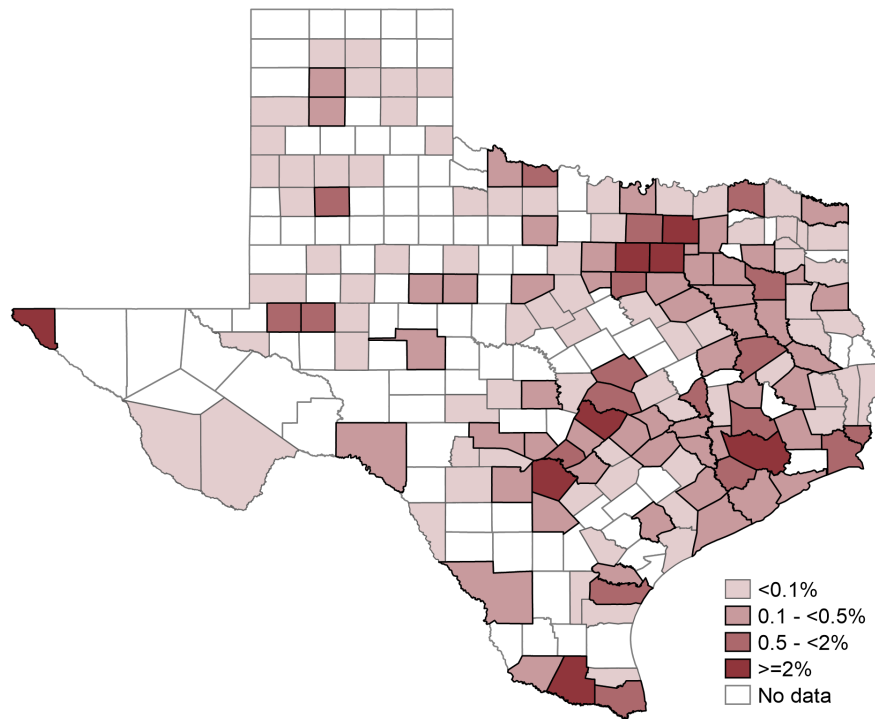


Figure 8: Respondent Density by Texas County

Table 18: Primary County of Employment (Top Counties; Excluding Non-County Responses)

County	Freq.	%
Harris	277	16.16
Dallas	158	9.22
Bexar	145	8.46
Travis	104	6.07
Tarrant	90	5.25
Hidalgo	56	3.27
Collin	54	3.15
El Paso	49	2.86
Denton	40	2.33
Bell	26	1.52

Among in-state respondents, the majority reported working in urban areas. Of the 1,714 in-state respondents, 1,200 (70.01%) identified as urban and 514 (29.99%) identified as rural (Table 19). This roughly two-to-one urban-to-rural split is illustrated in Figure 9.

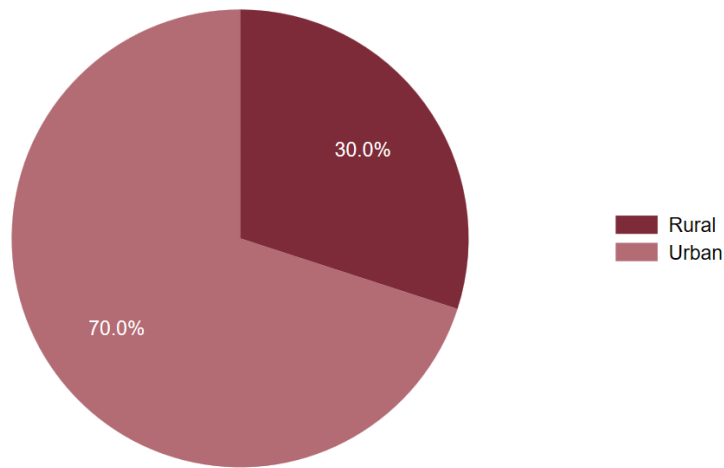


Figure 9: Urban vs. Rural Classification of Respondents

Table 19: Urban vs. Rural Classification of Respondents

Classification	Freq.	%
Rural	514	29.99
Urban	1,200	70.01
Total	1,714	100.00

Respondents were asked to identify their primary role within the county court system. For purposes of disaggregated analysis throughout this report, several original response categories were consolidated into broader role groupings. Specifically, “Court Reporting Organization” responses were combined with “Court Reporter,” “Court Recording Organization” responses were combined with “Court Recorder,” and “County Commissioner” responses were combined with “Other” due to its negligible frequency. The full, unconsolidated role breakdown is presented in Appendix K (Table 62).

Following this consolidation, Court Reporters represented the largest share of respondents at 63.82%, followed by Judges (14.49%), Attorneys (12.16%), Court Recorders (3.97%), Other (2.81%), and Other Courtroom Actors (2.75%) (Table 20). This distribution is illustrated in Figure 10, which displays the six consolidated role categories in descending order of frequency.

Additionally, respondents who selected “Other” for their county role were further reviewed to identify more specific information provided in open-ended responses. Write-in responses that corresponded to one of the main role categories, such as Court Reporter or Court Recorder, were reclassified accordingly and incorporated into those respective categories. The remaining write-in responses, including Transcriptionists and Scopists, Firm/Agency Owners and Management, Students and Educators, Legal Professionals, Captioners and Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) Providers, Business/Administrative Staff, Videographers, and Other, were retained within the “Other” category. Similarly, the “Other Courtroom Actors” category included roles such as clerks, bailiffs, and personnel in administrative positions.

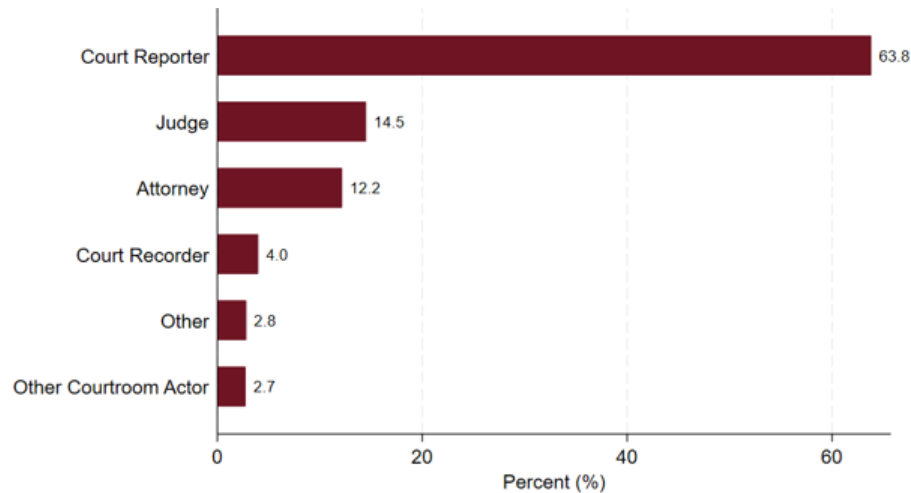


Figure 10: County Role of Respondents

Table 20: County Role of Respondents for Disaggregation Analysis

Role	Freq.	%
Court Reporter	1,092	63.82
Judge	248	14.49
Attorney	208	12.16
Court Recorder	68	3.97
Other	48	2.81
Other Courtroom Actors	47	2.75
Total	1,711	100.00

Respondents were also asked to identify the court level at which they primarily worked. For purposes of the disaggregated analysis, District Court represented the largest share of respondents at 58.95%, followed by Other (16.13%), County Court at Law (11.93%), Appellate/Supreme Court (10.73%), and Federal Court (2.26%) (Table 21). Figure 11 also displays the five court level categories in descending order of frequency.

Those who selected “Other” for their court level were further reviewed to identify more specific court-level information provided in open-ended responses. These write-in responses were subsequently grouped into the following categories: County Court, District Court, Federal Court, Appellate/Supreme Court, and Other. Responses categorized as other included court systems such as Municipal courts, or no specific court identified. The unconsolidated court level breakdown is presented in Appendix K (Table 63).

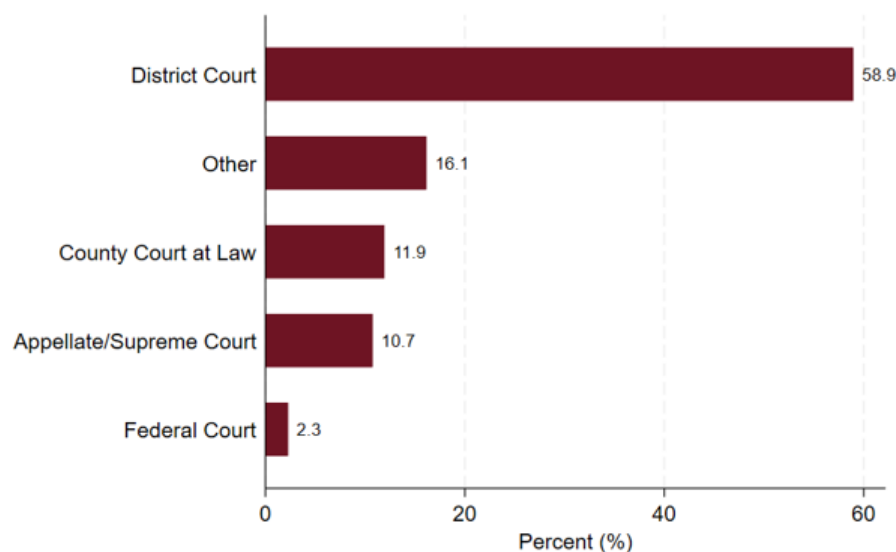


Figure 11: Court Level of Respondents for Disaggregation

Table 21: Court Level of Respondents for Disaggregation

Court Level	Freq.	%
District Court	939	58.95
Other	257	16.13
County Court at Law	190	11.93
Appellate/Supreme Court	171	10.73
Federal Court	36	2.26
Total	1,593	100.00

Tenure in current role varied widely among respondents, with nearly half (46.81%) reporting 13 or more years of service (Table 22). Roughly one in five respondents (22.35%) had served between one and four years, while smaller shares fell into the five-to-eight-year (15.56%) and nine-to-twelve-year (9.13%) ranges. Only 6.14% of respondents were in their current role for less than one year, suggesting relatively low recent turnover within the sample. Figure 12 presents this distribution graphically, highlighting the pronounced concentration of respondents at the upper end of the tenure spectrum.

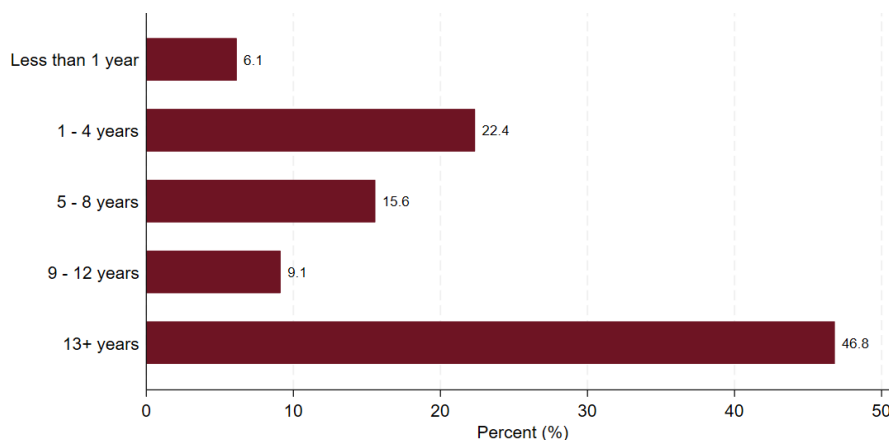


Figure 12: Years Served in Current Role

Table 22: Years in Current Role

Years in Current Role	Freq.	%
Less than one year	105	6.14
1-4 years	382	22.35
5-8 years	266	15.56
9-12 years	156	9.13
13+ years	800	46.81
Total	1,709	100.00

Taken together, these findings show that the sample is broadly representative of Texas’s geographic and professional diversity, while also revealing clear areas of concentration. The overwhelming majority of respondents were based in Texas (84.85%), with representation spanning both major urban centers, such as Harris, Dallas, and Bexar Counties, and a smaller share of rural jurisdictions, reflecting a predominantly urban court workforce (70.01% urban versus 29.99% rural). In terms of professional role, Court Reporters made up the clear majority of respondents (63.82%), followed at a distance by Judges and Attorneys, while court level was similarly concentrated, with District Court accounting for well over half of all responses (58.95%). Finally, respondent tenure skewed heavily toward long-serving professionals, with nearly half (46.81%) reporting 13 or more years in their current role. This distribution suggests that the survey findings that follow are grounded primarily in the perspectives of experienced, urban-based Court Reporters operating within Texas’s District Court system, a consideration that should inform the interpretation of subsequent results.

8.2.2 Availability & Current Usage

This section examines respondent perceptions of court reporter availability and the use of alternative officers, covering five measures: perceived shortage of court reporters, whether case delays stem from this shortage, difficulty finding a reporter, use of deposition officers as an alternative, and general openness to alternatives to court reporters. These perceptions

are presented by disaggregation by respondent role, court level, and urbanicity, to examine whether views on court reporter availability differ across professional and jurisdictional contexts.

Breaking down responses by respondent role showed clear differences in how respondents encounter and interpret court reporter shortages. Agreement that a shortage exists was highest among Judges (71.25%) and those in the “Other” category (62.00%), but fell to just 37.60% among Court Reporters themselves. The picture changed when respondents were asked whether the shortage caused case delays: most Court Reporters (61.27%) and Other Courtroom Actors (68.09%) disagreed or strongly disagreed, while Judges were more evenly divided, with 51.83% disagreeing and 34.01% agreeing. On the use of deposition officers as a substitute, most roles leaned toward disagreement, though Court Recorders reported the highest combined agreement (38.23%) that they had used such alternatives, followed by Attorneys (25.97%). The same divide carried over to broader views on alternatives, where 83.22% of Court Reporters rejected the idea that alternatives were suitable, while Court Recorders were more receptive, with 46.27% agreeing or strongly agreeing. Figures 13 & 14 and Table 23 present these patterns across all five measures and role categories, showing a consistent gap between Court Reporters’ comparatively skeptical views of shortage-related claims and the greater concern expressed by Judges and other courtroom personnel.

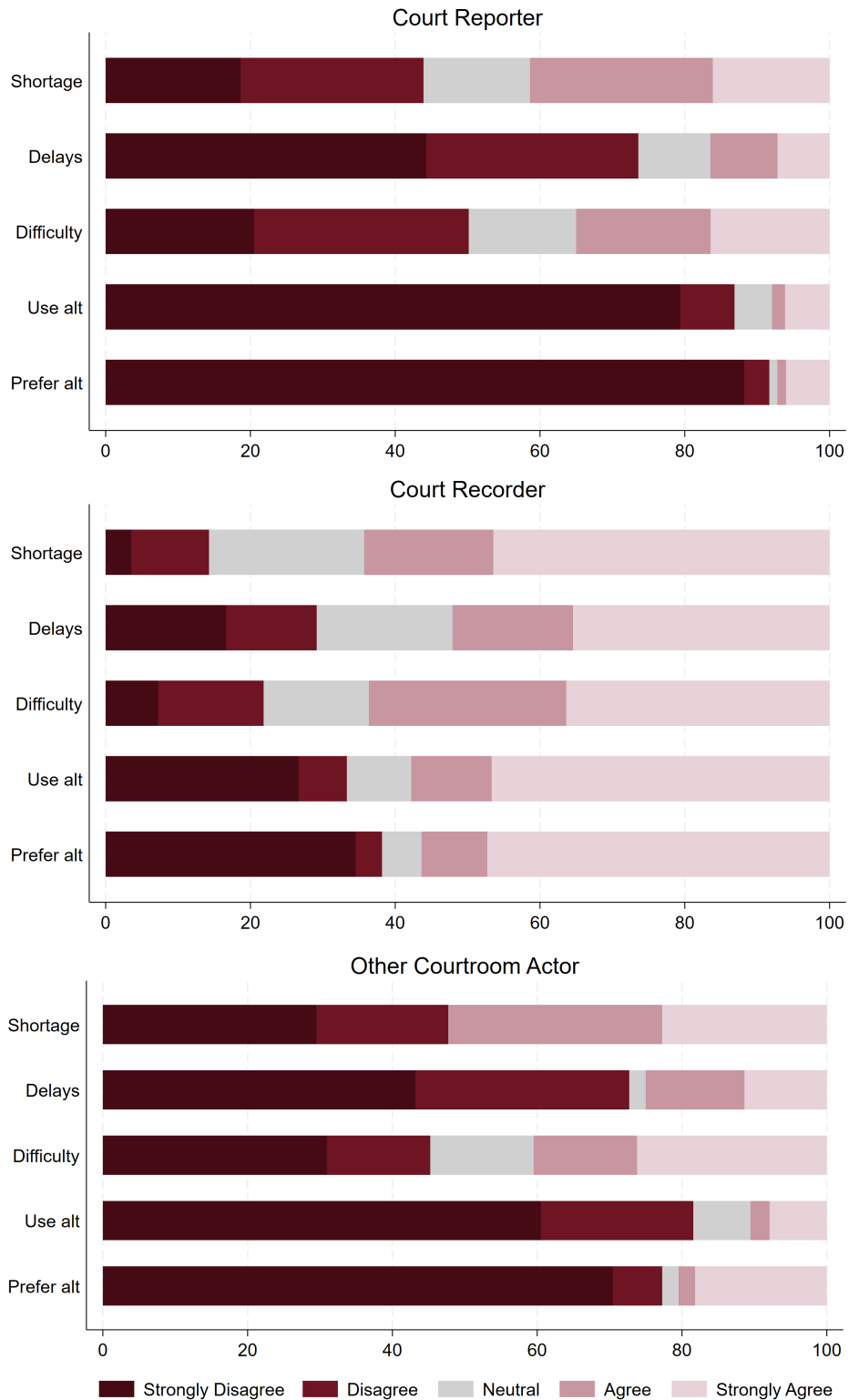


Figure 13: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Role (1 of 2)

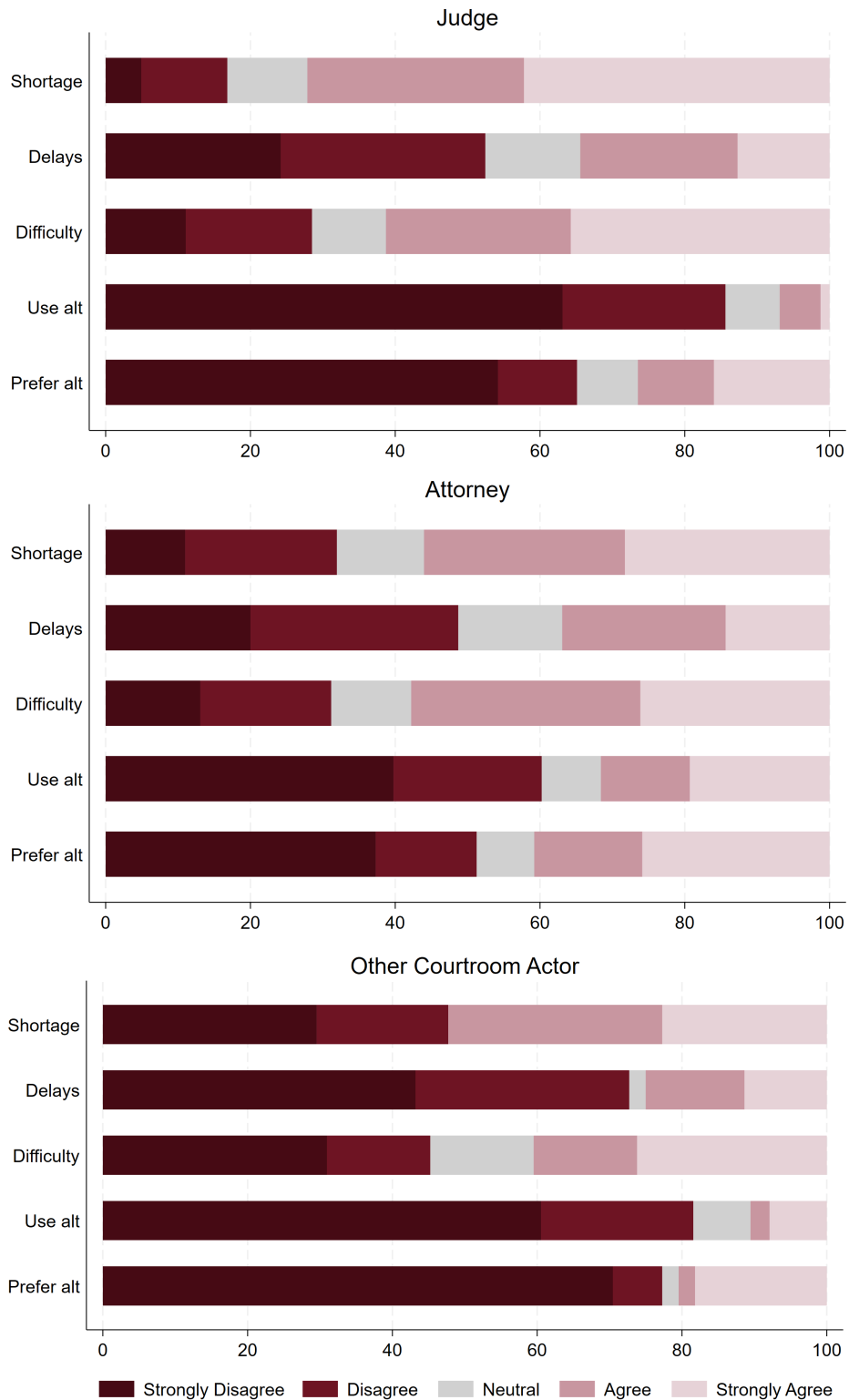


Figure 14: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Role (2 of 2)

Table 23: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Courtroom Actors	Total
Shortage of court reporters	Strongly Disagree	21 (10.10)	2 (2.94)	184 (16.96)	12 (4.86)	3 (6.00)	13 (27.66)	235 (13.78)
	Disagree	40 (19.23)	6 (8.82)	249 (22.95)	29 (11.74)	7 (14.00)	8 (17.02)	339 (19.88)
	Neutral	23 (11.06)	12 (17.65)	145 (13.36)	27 (10.93)	1 (2.00)	0 (0.00)	208 (12.20)
	Agree	53 (25.48)	10 (14.71)	249 (22.95)	73 (29.55)	9 (18.00)	13 (27.66)	407 (23.87)
	Strongly Agree	54 (25.96)	26 (38.24)	159 (14.65)	103 (41.70)	22 (44.00)	10 (21.28)	374 (21.94)
	DK/NA	17 (8.17)	12 (17.65)	99 (9.12)	3 (1.21)	8 (16.00)	3 (6.38)	142 (8.33)
	N	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,085 (100.00)	247 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	1,705 (100.00)
Cases delayed/ impacted due to shortage	Strongly Disagree	39 (18.75)	8 (11.76)	401 (36.89)	59 (23.89)	6 (12.00)	19 (40.43)	532 (31.17)
	Disagree	56 (26.92)	6 (8.82)	265 (24.38)	69 (27.94)	2 (4.00)	13 (27.66)	411 (24.08)
	Neutral	28 (13.46)	9 (13.24)	90 (8.28)	32 (12.96)	4 (8.00)	1 (2.13)	164 (9.61)
	Agree	44 (21.15)	8 (11.76)	84 (7.73)	53 (21.46)	13 (26.00)	6 (12.77)	208 (12.19)
	Strongly Agree	28 (13.46)	17 (25.00)	65 (5.98)	31 (12.55)	12 (24.00)	5 (10.64)	158 (9.26)
	DK/NA	13 (6.25)	20 (29.41)	182 (16.74)	3 (1.21)	13 (26.00)	3 (6.38)	234 (13.71)
	N	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,087 (100.00)	247 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	1,707 (100.00)
Difficulty finding reporter	Strongly Disagree	26 (12.50)	4 (5.88)	192 (17.70)	26 (10.57)	4 (8.00)	13 (27.66)	265 (15.55)
	Disagree	36 (17.31)	8 (11.76)	278 (25.62)	41 (16.67)	4 (8.00)	6 (12.77)	373 (21.89)
	Neutral	22 (10.58)	8 (11.76)	139 (12.81)	24 (9.76)	2 (4.00)	6 (12.77)	201 (11.80)
	Agree	63 (30.29)	15 (22.06)	174 (16.04)	60 (24.39)	9 (18.00)	6 (12.77)	327 (19.19)
	Strongly Agree	52 (25.00)	20 (29.41)	154 (14.19)	84 (34.15)	20 (40.00)	11 (23.40)	341 (20.01)
	DK/NA	9 (4.33)	13 (19.12)	148 (13.64)	11 (4.47)	11 (22.00)	5 (10.64)	197 (11.56)
	N	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,085 (100.00)	246 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	1,704 (100.00)
Used deposition officer	Strongly Disagree	68 (32.69)	12 (17.65)	490 (45.29)	101 (40.89)	10 (20.41)	23 (48.94)	704 (41.39)
	Disagree	35 (16.83)	3 (4.41)	46 (4.25)	36 (14.57)	3 (6.12)	8 (17.02)	131 (7.70)
	Neutral	14 (6.73)	4 (5.88)	32 (2.96)	12 (4.86)	2 (4.08)	3 (6.38)	67 (3.94)
	Agree	21 (10.10)	5 (7.35)	11 (1.02)	9 (3.64)	2 (4.08)	1 (2.13)	49 (2.88)
	Strongly Agree	33 (15.87)	21 (30.88)	38 (3.51)	2 (0.81)	10 (20.41)	3 (6.38)	107 (6.29)
	DK/NA	37 (17.79)	23 (33.82)	465 (42.98)	87 (35.22)	22 (44.90)	9 (19.15)	643 (37.80)
	N	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,082 (100.00)	247 (100.00)	49 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	1,701 (100.00)
Alternative to court reporter	Strongly Disagree	75 (36.06)	19 (28.36)	869 (80.09)	129 (52.44)	21 (42.00)	31 (65.96)	1,144 (67.18)
	Disagree	28 (13.46)	2 (2.99)	34 (3.13)	26 (10.57)	0 (0.00)	3 (6.38)	93 (5.46)
	Neutral	16 (7.69)	3 (4.48)	11 (1.01)	20 (8.13)	6 (12.00)	1 (2.13)	57 (3.35)
	Agree	30 (14.42)	5 (7.46)	12 (1.11)	25 (10.16)	2 (4.00)	1 (2.13)	75 (4.40)
	Strongly Agree	52 (25.00)	26 (38.81)	59 (5.44)	38 (15.45)	14 (28.00)	8 (17.02)	197 (11.57)
	DK/NA	7 (3.37)	12 (17.91)	100 (9.22)	8 (3.25)	7 (14.00)	3 (6.38)	137 (8.04)
	N	208 (100.00)	67 (100.00)	1,085 (100.00)	246 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	1,703 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

Disaggregating perceptions by court level also revealed meaningful variation in how shortage-related issues were viewed across settings. Appellate/Supreme Court (59.06%) and “Other” court respondents (46.10%) were the most likely to agree or strongly agree that a shortage of court reporters exists, while County Court at Law respondents were more evenly divided, with 38.62% disagreeing and 46.04% agreeing. When asked whether case delays stemmed from this shortage, County Court at Law (73.02%) and District Court (60.23%) respondents were the most likely to disagree or strongly disagree, whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents split almost evenly (38.60% disagree, 39.77% agree). On difficulty finding a reporter, agreement was highest among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents (52.63%), while District Court and “Other” court respondents fell more closely between agreement and disagreement (roughly 34–41% in either direction). On the use of deposition officers as an alternative, disagreement was substantial across every court level, ranging from 41.96% among “Other” court respondents to 52.78% among Federal Court respondents, with agreement staying low throughout (3.17% to 26.90%). The same divide carried over to broader views on alternatives to court reporters, where County Court at Law (84.13%) and District Court (74.74%) respondents voiced the strongest disagreement, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were comparatively more receptive, with 33.33% agreeing or strongly agreeing that alternatives were suitable. Figures 15 & 16 and Table 24 present these patterns across all six measures and court levels, showing that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently expressed greater openness to alternatives and greater concern about shortages relative to County Court at Law and District Court respondents.

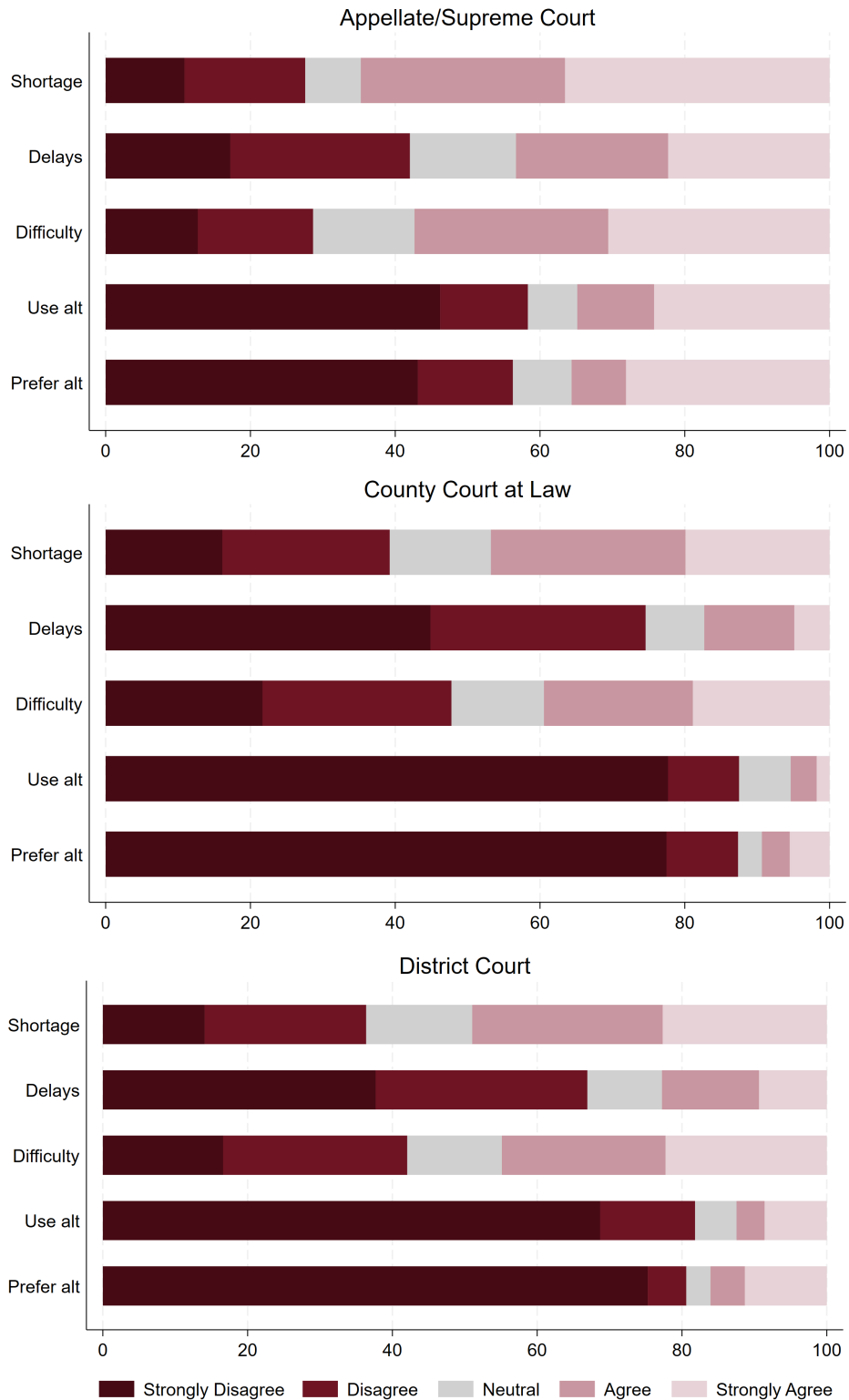


Figure 15: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Court Level (1 of 2)

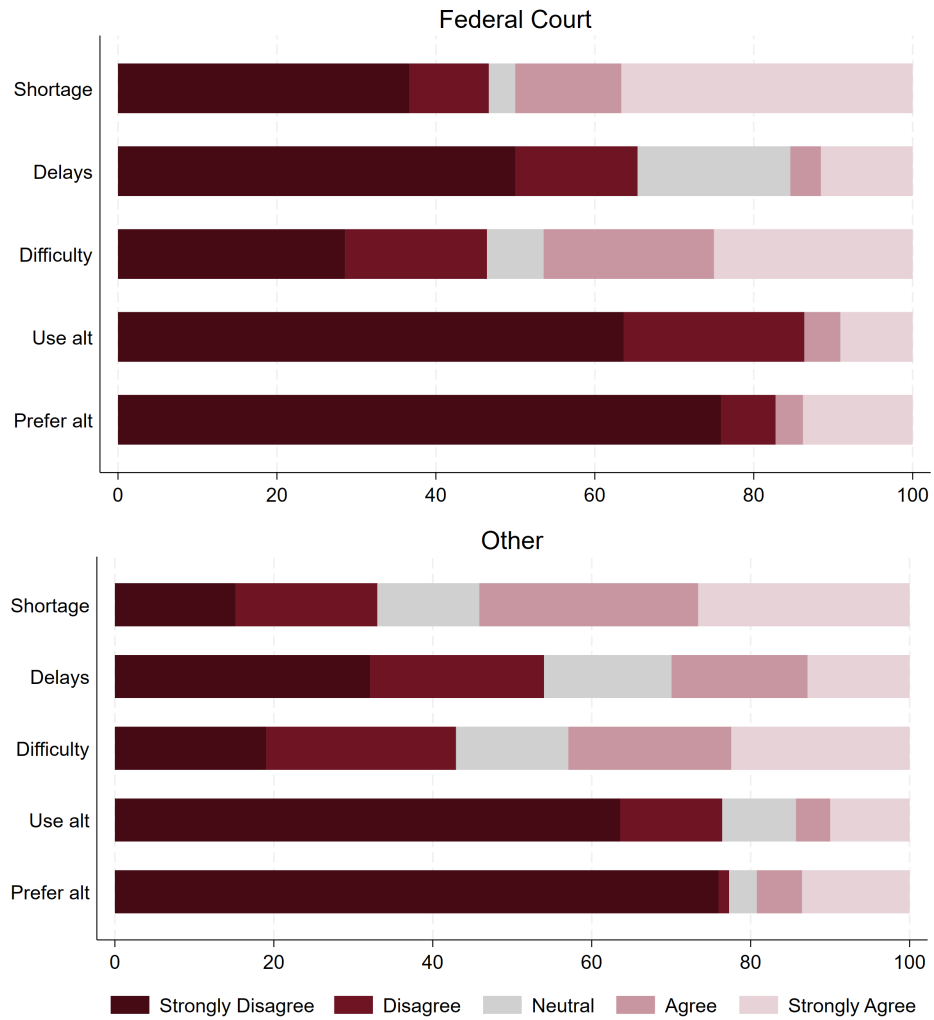


Figure 16: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 24: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Shortage of court reporters	Strongly Disagree	17 (9.94)	30 (15.87)	123 (13.13)	11 (31.43)	33 (12.89)	214 (13.48)
	Disagree	26 (15.20)	43 (22.75)	195 (20.81)	3 (8.57)	39 (15.23)	306 (19.27)
	Neutral	12 (7.02)	26 (13.76)	128 (13.66)	1 (2.86)	28 (10.94)	195 (12.28)
	Agree	44 (25.73)	50 (26.46)	230 (24.55)	4 (11.43)	60 (23.44)	388 (24.43)
	Strongly Agree	57 (33.33)	37 (19.58)	198 (21.13)	11 (31.43)	58 (22.66)	361 (22.73)
	DK/NA	15 (8.77)	3 (1.59)	63 (6.72)	5 (14.29)	38 (14.84)	124 (7.81)
	N	171	189	937	35	256	1,588
Cases delayed/impacted due to shortage	Strongly Disagree	27 (15.79)	83 (43.92)	318 (33.90)	13 (36.11)	60 (23.35)	501 (31.49)
	Disagree	39 (22.81)	55 (29.10)	247 (26.33)	4 (11.11)	41 (15.95)	386 (24.26)
	Neutral	23 (13.45)	15 (7.94)	87 (9.28)	5 (13.89)	30 (11.67)	160 (10.06)
	Agree	33 (19.30)	23 (12.17)	113 (12.05)	1 (2.78)	32 (12.45)	202 (12.70)
	Strongly Agree	35 (20.47)	9 (4.76)	79 (8.42)	3 (8.33)	24 (9.34)	150 (9.43)
	DK/NA	14 (8.19)	4 (2.12)	94 (10.02)	10 (27.78)	70 (27.24)	192 (12.07)
	N	171	189	938	36	257	1,591
Difficulty finding reporter	Strongly Disagree	20 (11.70)	39 (20.63)	141 (15.06)	8 (22.22)	39 (15.23)	247 (15.55)
	Disagree	25 (14.62)	47 (24.87)	216 (23.08)	5 (13.89)	49 (19.14)	342 (21.54)
	Neutral	22 (12.87)	23 (12.17)	111 (11.86)	2 (5.56)	29 (11.33)	187 (11.78)
	Agree	42 (24.56)	37 (19.58)	192 (20.51)	6 (16.67)	42 (16.41)	319 (20.09)
	Strongly Agree	48 (28.07)	34 (17.99)	189 (20.19)	7 (19.44)	46 (17.97)	324 (20.40)
	DK/NA	14 (8.19)	9 (4.76)	87 (9.29)	8 (22.22)	51 (19.92)	169 (10.64)
	N	171	189	936	36	256	1,588
Used deposition officer	Strongly Disagree	61 (35.67)	87 (46.03)	408 (43.59)	14 (38.89)	89 (34.90)	659 (41.52)
	Disagree	16 (9.36)	11 (5.82)	78 (8.33)	5 (13.89)	18 (7.06)	128 (8.07)
	Neutral	9 (5.26)	8 (4.23)	34 (3.63)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.10)	64 (4.03)
	Agree	14 (8.19)	4 (2.12)	23 (2.46)	1 (2.78)	6 (2.35)	48 (3.02)
	Strongly Agree	32 (18.71)	2 (1.06)	51 (5.45)	2 (5.56)	14 (5.49)	101 (6.36)
	DK/NA	39 (22.81)	77 (40.74)	342 (36.54)	14 (38.89)	115 (45.10)	587 (36.99)
	N	171	189	936	36	255	1,587
Alternative to court reporter	Strongly Disagree	69 (40.35)	141 (74.60)	652 (69.81)	22 (61.11)	174 (67.70)	1,058 (66.67)
	Disagree	21 (12.28)	18 (9.52)	46 (4.93)	2 (5.56)	3 (1.17)	90 (5.67)
	Neutral	13 (7.60)	6 (3.17)	29 (3.10)	0 (0.00)	8 (3.11)	56 (3.53)
	Agree	12 (7.02)	7 (3.70)	41 (4.39)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.06)	74 (4.66)
	Strongly Agree	45 (26.32)	10 (5.29)	98 (10.49)	4 (11.11)	31 (12.06)	188 (11.85)
	DK/NA	11 (6.43)	7 (3.70)	68 (7.28)	7 (19.44)	28 (10.89)	121 (7.62)
	N	171	189	934	36	257	1,587

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

When perceptions were broken down by urbanicity, the differences proved more modest than those seen across role or court level, but a few patterns still stood out. As Table 25 shows, rural respondents were somewhat more likely than urban respondents to agree or strongly agree that a shortage of court reporters exists (52.54% versus 42.93%), while urban respondents were slightly more likely to disagree or strongly disagree (34.90% versus 30.79%). On whether case delays stemmed from this shortage, rural (56.95%) and urban (54.52%) respondents both leaned heavily toward disagreement, and their agreement rates were fairly close as well (24.66% and 20.07%, respectively). Difficulty finding a reporter drew more agreement from rural respondents (47.55%) than urban ones (35.62%), who were in turn somewhat more likely to disagree or strongly disagree (39.90% versus 31.71% among rural respondents). On the use of deposition officers as an alternative, disagreement ran similarly high in both groups (50.10% rural, 48.66% urban), though urban respondents reported modestly higher agreement (10.17% versus 6.85%). This carried over into broader views on alternatives to court reporters, where rural (73.28%) and urban (72.36%) respondents overwhelmingly disagreed, and agreement stayed low and comparable across groups (17.29% rural, 15.41% urban). Figure 17 presents these patterns visually, showing that while rural and urban respondents diverged somewhat on perceived shortage and difficulty finding reporters, their views lined up more closely on the use of alternatives to court reporters.

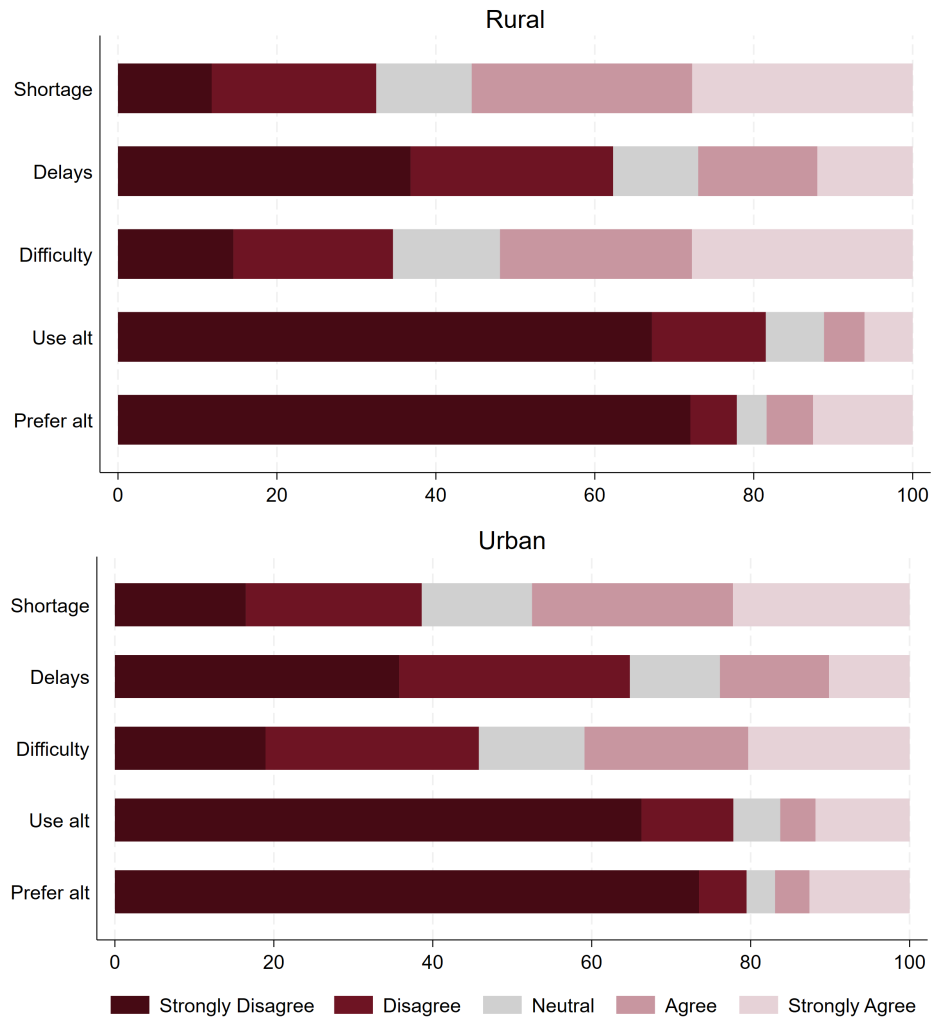


Figure 17: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Urbanicity

Table 25: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, by Urbanicity

Measure	Urbanicity	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	N
Shortage of court reporters	Rural	57 (11.18)	100 (19.61)	58 (11.37)	134 (26.27)	134 (26.27)	27 (5.29)	510
	Urban	178 (14.90)	239 (20.00)	150 (12.55)	273 (22.85)	240 (20.08)	115 (9.62)	1,195
	<i>Total</i>	235 (13.78)	339 (19.88)	208 (12.20)	407 (23.87)	374 (21.94)	142 (8.33)	1,705
Cases delayed/ impacted due to shortage	Rural	172 (33.66)	119 (23.29)	50 (9.78)	70 (13.70)	56 (10.96)	44 (8.61)	511
	Urban	360 (30.10)	292 (24.41)	114 (9.53)	138 (11.54)	102 (8.53)	190 (15.89)	1,196
	<i>Total</i>	532 (31.17)	411 (24.08)	164 (9.61)	208 (12.19)	158 (9.26)	234 (13.71)	1,707
Difficulty finding reporter	Rural	68 (13.31)	94 (18.40)	63 (12.33)	113 (22.11)	130 (25.44)	43 (8.41)	511
	Urban	197 (16.51)	279 (23.39)	138 (11.57)	214 (17.94)	211 (17.69)	154 (12.91)	1,193
	<i>Total</i>	265 (15.55)	373 (21.89)	201 (11.80)	327 (19.19)	341 (20.01)	197 (11.56)	1,704
Used deposition officer	Rural	211 (41.29)	45 (8.81)	23 (4.50)	16 (3.13)	19 (3.72)	197 (38.55)	511
	Urban	493 (41.43)	86 (7.23)	44 (3.70)	33 (2.77)	88 (7.39)	446 (37.48)	1,190
	<i>Total</i>	704 (41.39)	131 (7.70)	67 (3.94)	49 (2.88)	107 (6.29)	643 (37.80)	1,701
Alternative to court reporter	Rural	345 (67.78)	28 (5.50)	18 (3.54)	28 (5.50)	60 (11.79)	30 (5.89)	509
	Urban	799 (66.92)	65 (5.44)	39 (3.27)	47 (3.94)	137 (11.47)	107 (8.96)	1,194
	<i>Total</i>	1,144 (67.18)	93 (5.46)	57 (3.35)	75 (4.40)	197 (11.57)	137 (8.04)	1,703

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

A different pattern was revealed when perceptions of DCR use were disaggregated by respondent role, especially with respect to current utilization. Table 26 below presents this data. Over half of Court Recorders (52.94%) and about a third of “Other” respondents (34.69%) agreed or strongly agreed that their jurisdiction or office currently uses DCR. Far fewer Court Reporters and Other Courtroom Actors shared that view, with more than 60% of each disagreeing or strongly disagreeing (60.74% and 69.57%, respectively). Attorneys were more divided, with 53.37% voicing disagreement, while Judges leaned skeptical at 61.38%, closer to the Court Reporters than to the Court Recorders. Views on whether DCR use was confined to lower-level or non-evidentiary proceedings followed a similar divide, though uncertainty blurred it: Court Recorders again reported the highest agreement (25.00%), but DK/NA responses turned up across every role, ranging from 30.43% among Other Courtroom Actors to 51.03% among Judges, a sign that many respondents simply did not know how DCR was being applied within their own jurisdiction. Whether DCR was used for any type of proceeding produced much the same split, with Court Recorders once again the most receptive (41.18% agreement) and Other Courtroom Actors (56.52%) and Court Reporters (47.15%) the most resistant. Taken together, these three measures, presented in Figures 18 & 19, point to a consistent contrast: Court Recorders view DCR adoption favorably, while Court Reporters and Other Courtroom Actors remain considerably more skeptical of its use.

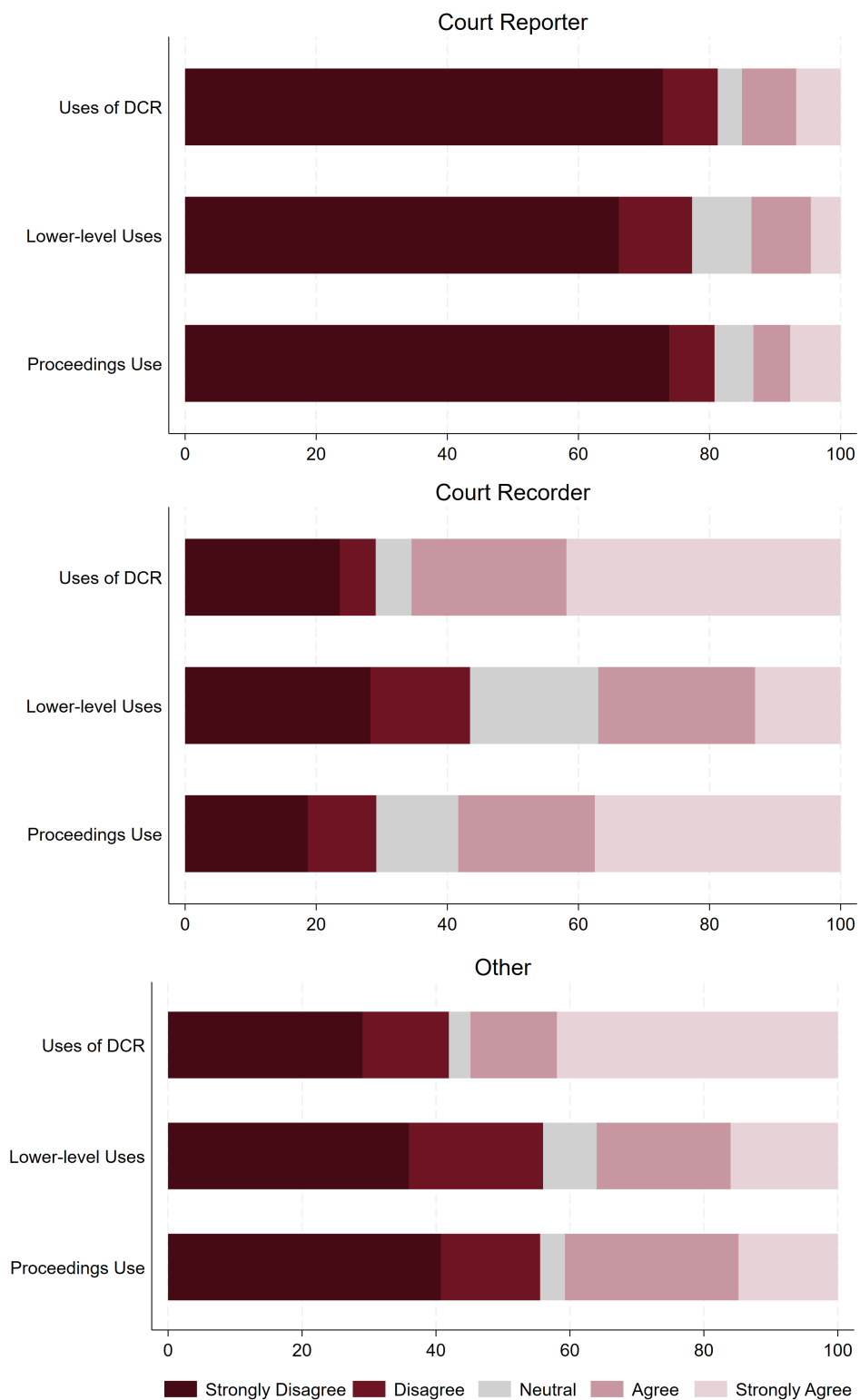


Figure 18: DCR Adoption by Role (1 of 2)

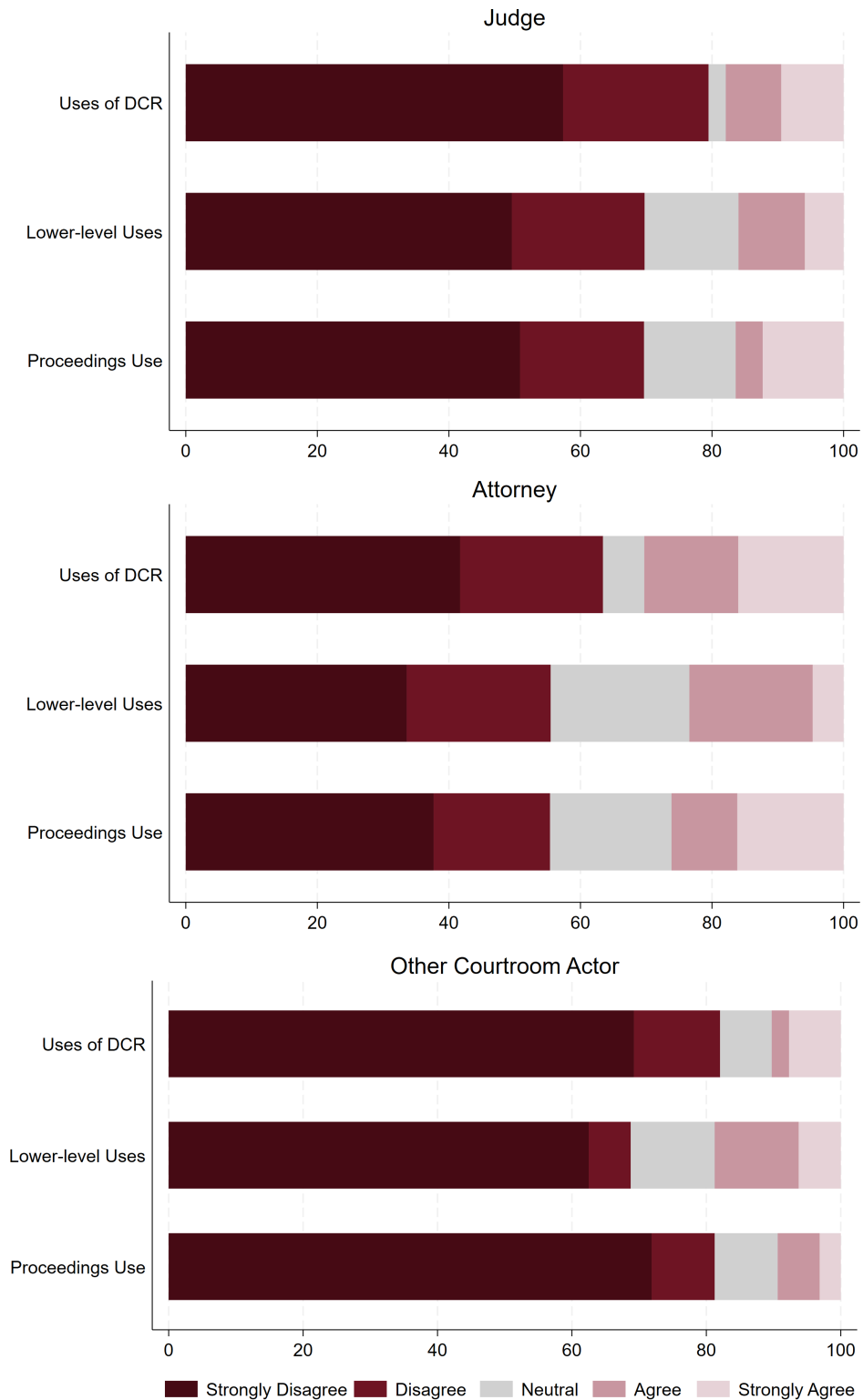


Figure 19: DCR Adoption by Role (2 of 2)

Table 26: Perceptions of DCR Use, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Courtroom Actors	Total
DCR Uses	Strongly Disagree	73 (35.10)	13 (19.12)	591 (54.47)	109 (44.31)	9 (18.37)	27 (58.70)	822 (48.30)
	Disagree	38 (18.27)	3 (4.41)	68 (6.27)	42 (17.07)	4 (8.16)	5 (10.87)	160 (9.40)
	Neutral	11 (5.29)	3 (4.41)	30 (2.76)	5 (2.03)	1 (2.04)	3 (6.52)	53 (3.11)
	Agree	25 (12.02)	13 (19.12)	67 (6.18)	16 (6.50)	4 (8.16)	1 (2.17)	126 (7.40)
	Strongly Agree	28 (13.46)	23 (33.82)	55 (5.07)	18 (7.32)	13 (26.53)	3 (6.52)	140 (8.23)
	DK/NA	33 (15.87)	13 (19.12)	274 (25.25)	56 (22.76)	18 (36.73)	7 (15.22)	401 (23.56)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,085 (100.00)	246 (100.00)	49 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,702 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	43 (20.77)	13 (19.12)	380 (35.25)	59 (24.28)	9 (18.37)	20 (43.48)	524 (30.99)
	Disagree	28 (13.53)	7 (10.29)	64 (5.94)	24 (9.88)	5 (10.20)	2 (4.35)	130 (7.69)
	Neutral	27 (13.04)	9 (13.24)	52 (4.82)	17 (7.00)	2 (4.08)	4 (8.70)	111 (6.56)
	Agree	24 (11.59)	11 (16.18)	52 (4.82)	12 (4.94)	5 (10.20)	4 (8.70)	108 (6.39)
	Strongly Agree	6 (2.90)	6 (8.82)	26 (2.41)	7 (2.88)	4 (8.16)	2 (4.35)	51 (3.02)
	DK/NA	79 (38.16)	22 (32.35)	504 (46.75)	124 (51.03)	24 (48.98)	14 (30.43)	767 (45.36)
	<i>N</i>	207 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,078 (100.00)	243 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,691 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	49 (23.79)	9 (13.24)	461 (43.12)	62 (25.62)	11 (23.40)	23 (50.00)	615 (36.65)
	Disagree	23 (11.17)	5 (7.35)	43 (4.02)	23 (9.50)	4 (8.51)	3 (6.52)	101 (6.02)
	Neutral	24 (11.65)	6 (8.82)	37 (3.46)	17 (7.02)	1 (2.13)	3 (6.52)	88 (5.24)
	Agree	13 (6.31)	10 (14.71)	35 (3.27)	5 (2.07)	7 (14.89)	2 (4.35)	72 (4.29)
	Strongly Agree	21 (10.19)	18 (26.47)	48 (4.49)	15 (6.20)	4 (8.51)	1 (2.17)	107 (6.38)
	DK/NA	76 (36.89)	20 (29.41)	445 (41.63)	120 (49.59)	20 (42.55)	14 (30.43)	695 (41.42)
	<i>N</i>	206 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,069 (100.00)	242 (100.00)	47 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,678 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

Perceptions of ASR use tracked closely with what respondents reported for DCR, though a few distinctions are worth noting. As shown in Figures 20 & 21, Court Reporters (59.24%), Judges (62.34%), and Other Courtroom Actors (69.57%) most often disagreed or strongly disagreed that ASR is currently used within their jurisdiction or office, while Court Recorders were far more split, with 33.82% disagreeing and 32.36% agreeing or strongly agreeing, nearly even. Attorneys and respondents in the “Other” category fell in between, disagreement outweighing agreement in both groups (52.41% versus 15.87% for Attorneys, 34.69% versus 20.41% for “Other”). On lower-level or non-evidentiary use specifically, agreement stayed low across most roles, though Court Recorders again stood out at 20.59% agreeing or strongly agreeing, against less than 7% among Court Reporters and Judges. DK/NA responses, notably, exceeded 45% for several roles, including Attorneys, Court Reporters, Judges, and the “Other” category, reflecting widespread uncertainty about how ASR is applied once adopted. A comparable divide held for use in any type of proceeding, with Other Courtroom Actors (54.35%) and Court Reporters (47.25%) reporting the highest disagreement, while Court Recorders once more reported the highest agreement (23.88%). On the whole, these results mirror the DCR findings, with Court Recorders consistently more favorable toward ASR adoption than Court Reporters, Judges, and Other Courtroom Actors. The frequencies and percentages are presented in Table 27.

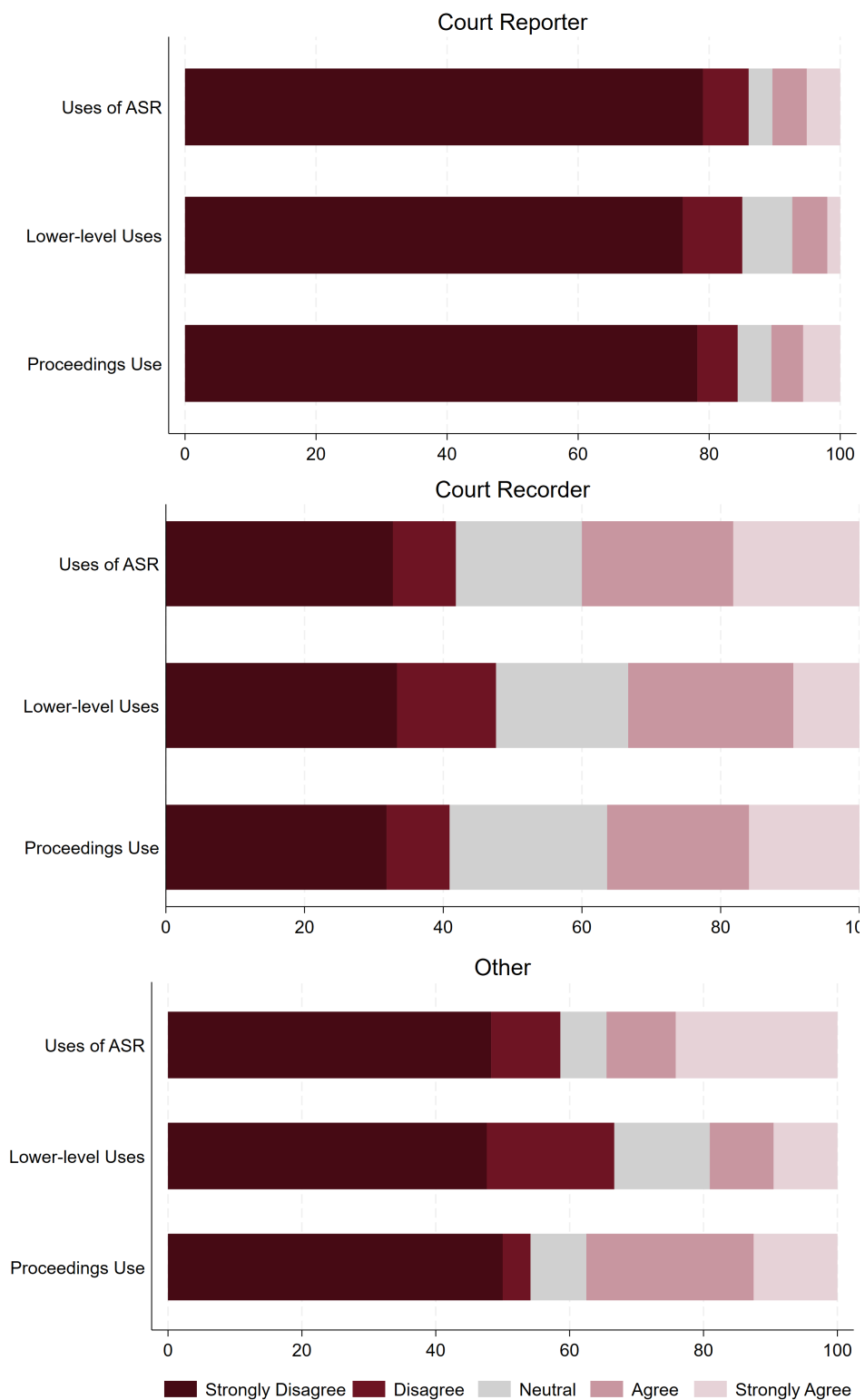


Figure 20: ASR Adoption by Role (1 of 2)

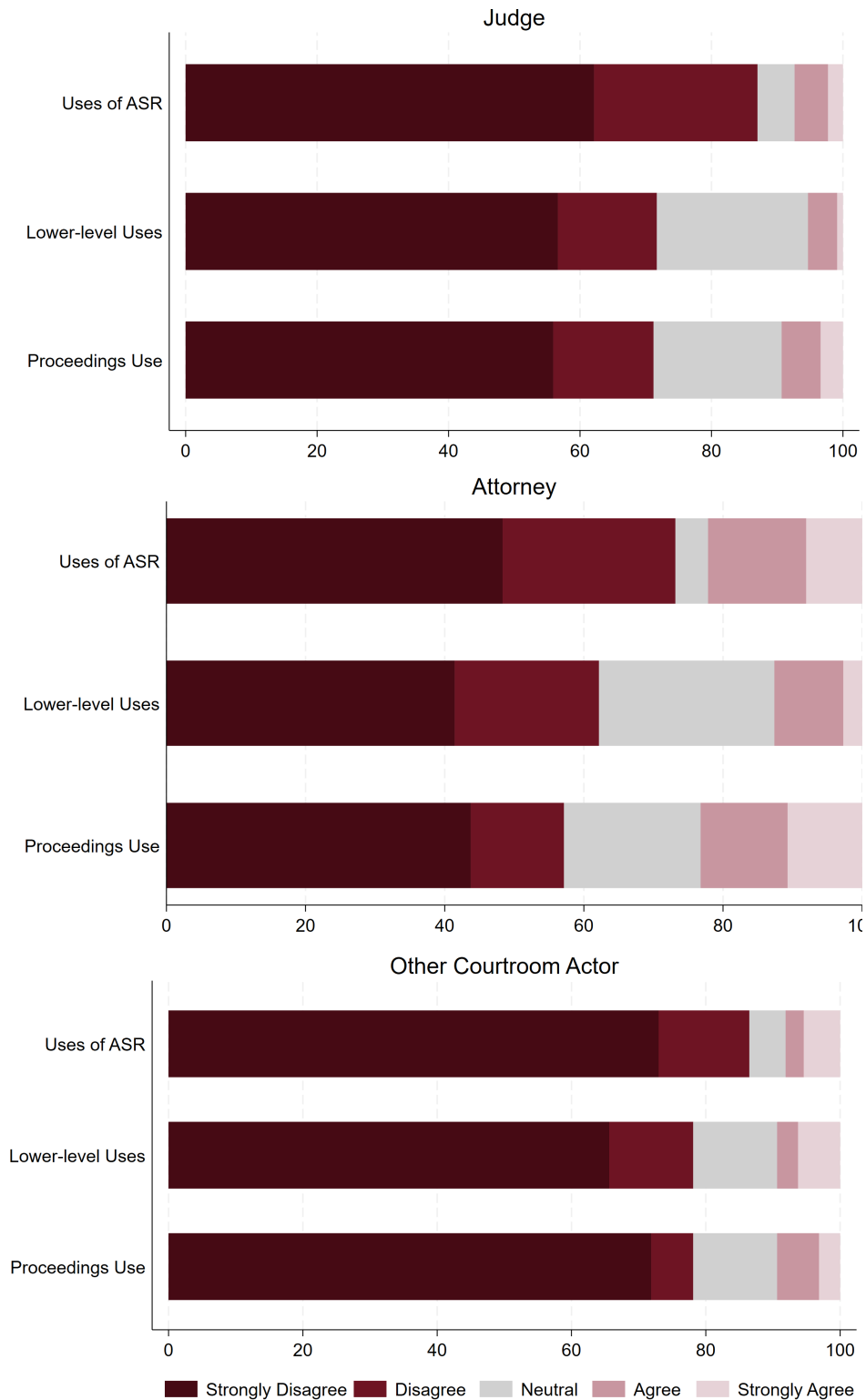


Figure 21: ASR Adoption by Role (2 of 2)

Table 27: Perceptions of ASR Use, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Courtroom Actors	Total
ASR Uses	Strongly Disagree	72 (34.62)	18 (26.47)	589 (54.44)	110 (44.53)	14 (28.57)	27 (58.70)	830 (48.82)
	Disagree	37 (17.79)	5 (7.35)	52 (4.81)	44 (17.81)	3 (6.12)	5 (10.87)	146 (8.59)
	Neutral	7 (3.37)	10 (14.71)	27 (2.50)	10 (4.05)	2 (4.08)	2 (4.35)	58 (3.41)
	Agree	21 (10.10)	12 (17.65)	39 (3.60)	9 (3.64)	3 (6.12)	1 (2.17)	85 (5.00)
	Strongly Agree	12 (5.77)	10 (14.71)	38 (3.51)	4 (1.62)	7 (14.29)	2 (4.35)	73 (4.29)
	DK/NA	59 (28.37)	13 (19.12)	337 (31.15)	70 (28.34)	20 (40.82)	9 (19.57)	508 (29.88)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,082 (100.00)	247 (100.00)	49 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,700 (100.00)
ASR Lower-Level	Strongly Disagree	46 (22.12)	14 (20.59)	427 (39.65)	64 (26.34)	10 (20.83)	21 (45.65)	582 (34.44)
	Disagree	23 (11.06)	6 (8.82)	51 (4.74)	17 (7.00)	4 (8.33)	4 (8.70)	105 (6.21)
	Neutral	28 (13.46)	8 (11.76)	43 (3.99)	26 (10.70)	3 (6.25)	4 (8.70)	112 (6.63)
	Agree	11 (5.29)	10 (14.71)	30 (2.79)	5 (2.06)	2 (4.17)	1 (2.17)	59 (3.49)
	Strongly Agree	3 (1.44)	4 (5.88)	11 (1.02)	1 (0.41)	2 (4.17)	2 (4.35)	23 (1.36)
	DK/NA	97 (46.63)	26 (38.24)	515 (47.82)	130 (53.50)	27 (56.25)	14 (30.43)	809 (47.87)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,077 (100.00)	243 (100.00)	48 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,690 (100.00)
ASR Procedural	Strongly Disagree	49 (23.67)	14 (20.90)	470 (43.80)	66 (27.39)	12 (25.00)	23 (50.00)	634 (37.69)
	Disagree	15 (7.25)	4 (5.97)	37 (3.45)	18 (7.47)	1 (2.08)	2 (4.35)	77 (4.58)
	Neutral	22 (10.63)	10 (14.93)	31 (2.89)	23 (9.54)	2 (4.17)	4 (8.70)	92 (5.47)
	Agree	14 (6.76)	9 (13.43)	29 (2.70)	7 (2.90)	6 (12.50)	2 (4.35)	67 (3.98)
	Strongly Agree	12 (5.80)	7 (10.45)	34 (3.17)	4 (1.66)	3 (6.25)	1 (2.17)	61 (3.63)
	DK/NA	95 (45.89)	23 (34.33)	472 (43.99)	123 (51.04)	24 (50.00)	14 (30.43)	751 (44.65)
	<i>N</i>	207 (100.00)	67 (100.00)	1,073 (100.00)	241 (100.00)	48 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,682 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

Views on PAR closely resembled those expressed toward DCR and ASR, with Court Reporters and Other Courtroom Actors once again registering the strongest opposition to current use, and are presented in Table 28. Roughly two-thirds of Other Courtroom Actors (67.39%) and 62.51% of Court Reporters disagreed or strongly disagreed that PAR is currently used in their jurisdiction or office, well above the disagreement seen among Court Recorders (44.12%) and respondents in the “Other” category (38.78%). Agreement stayed modest across all roles, though Attorneys reported the highest combined agreement at 21.64%. On lower-level or non-evidentiary use, disagreement peaked among Court Reporters (45.97%) and Other Courtroom Actors (45.65%), while the “Other” category reported the lowest (22.91%); as with DCR and ASR, DK/NA responses ran substantial across nearly every role, topping out at 58.33% among “Other” respondents. PAR use in any type of proceeding followed the same general contour, with Court Reporters (51.91%) and Other Courtroom Actors (54.35%) most likely to disagree, and agreement holding under 20% for every role, including Court Recorders, who reported the highest at 19.11%. Figures 22 & 23 depict this distribution across all three PAR measures, reinforcing a pattern consistent with DCR and ASR: Court Reporters and Other Courtroom Actors remain the most resistant to alternative recording modalities, while Court Recorders and Attorneys express relatively greater openness.

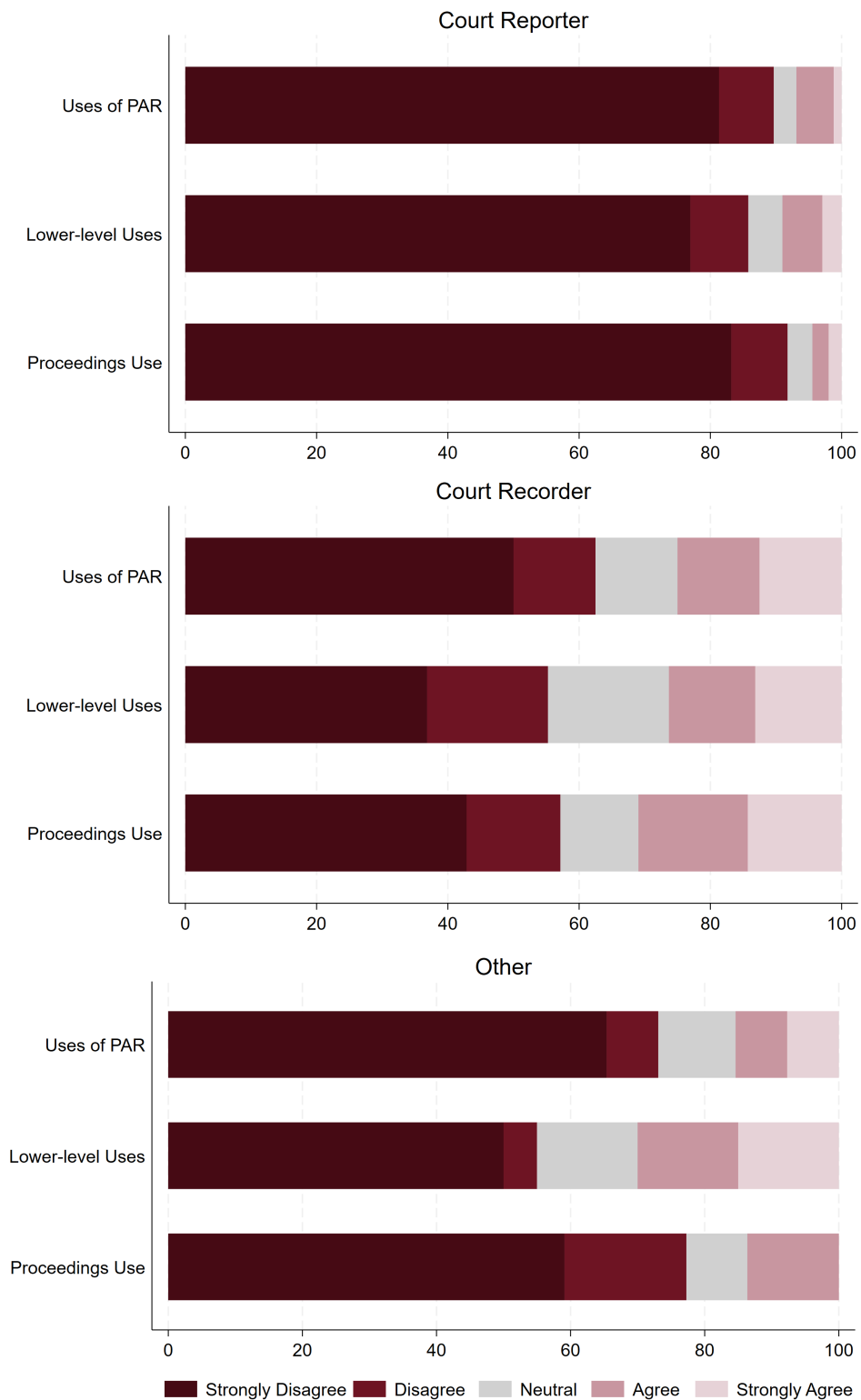


Figure 22: PAR Adoption by Role (1 of 2)

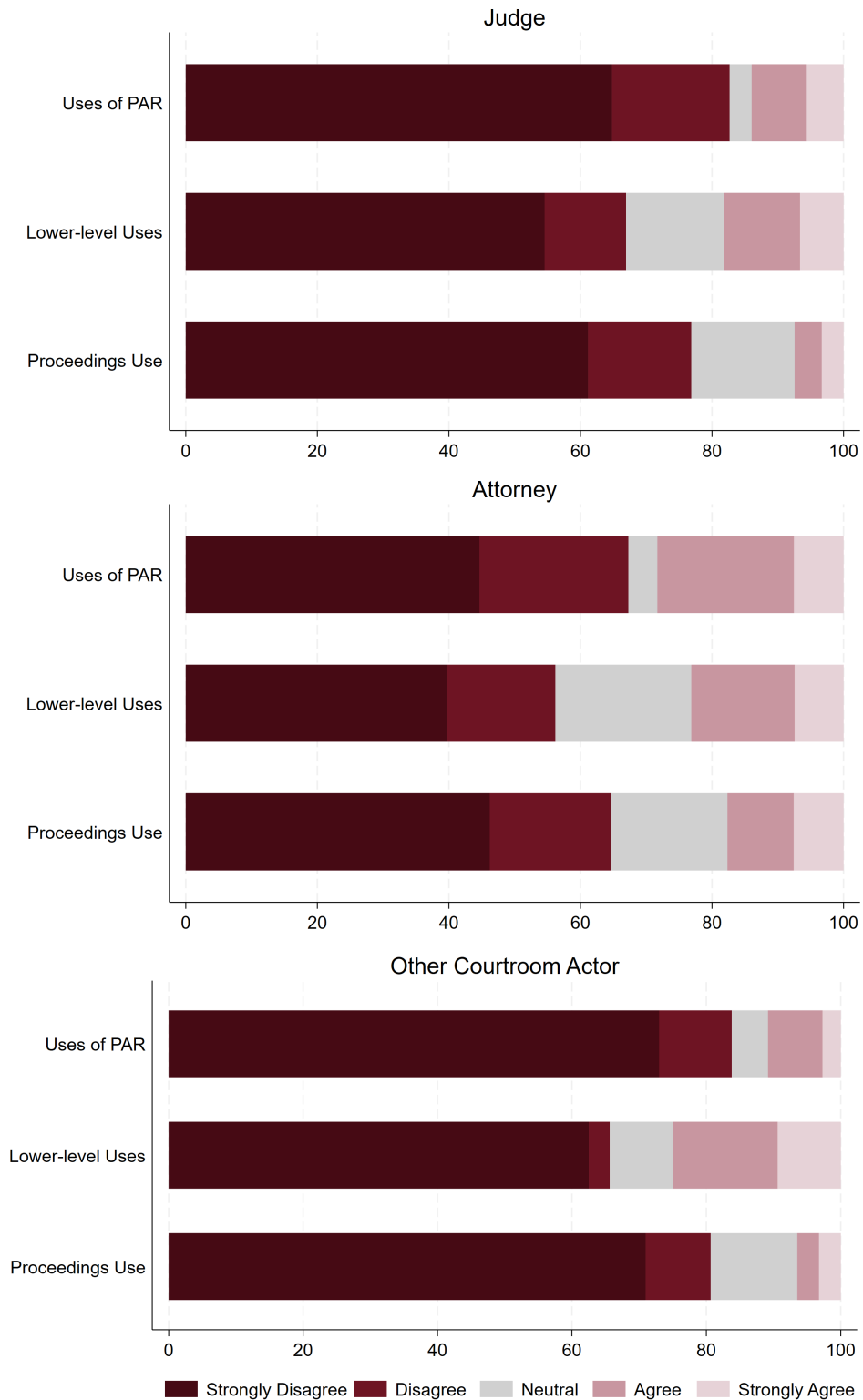


Figure 23: PAR Adoption by Role (2 of 2)

Table 28: Perceptions of PAR Use, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Courtroom Actors	Total
PAR Uses	Strongly Disagree	71 (34.13)	24 (35.29)	614 (56.69)	116 (47.15)	17 (34.69)	27 (58.70)	869 (51.12)
	Disagree	36 (17.31)	6 (8.82)	63 (5.82)	32 (13.01)	2 (4.08)	4 (8.70)	143 (8.41)
	Neutral	7 (3.37)	6 (8.82)	26 (2.40)	6 (2.44)	3 (6.12)	2 (4.35)	50 (2.94)
	Agree	33 (15.87)	6 (8.82)	43 (3.97)	15 (6.10)	2 (4.08)	3 (6.52)	102 (6.00)
	Strongly Agree	12 (5.77)	6 (8.82)	9 (0.83)	10 (4.07)	2 (4.08)	1 (2.17)	40 (2.35)
	DK/NA	49 (23.56)	20 (29.41)	328 (30.29)	67 (27.24)	23 (46.94)	9 (19.57)	496 (29.18)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,083 (100.00)	246 (100.00)	49 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,700 (100.00)
PAR Lower-Level	Strongly Disagree	48 (23.08)	14 (20.59)	444 (41.23)	66 (26.94)	10 (20.83)	20 (43.48)	602 (35.58)
	Disagree	20 (9.62)	7 (10.29)	51 (4.74)	15 (6.12)	1 (2.08)	1 (2.17)	95 (5.61)
	Neutral	25 (12.02)	7 (10.29)	30 (2.79)	18 (7.35)	3 (6.25)	3 (6.52)	86 (5.08)
	Agree	19 (9.13)	5 (7.35)	35 (3.25)	14 (5.71)	3 (6.25)	5 (10.87)	81 (4.79)
	Strongly Agree	9 (4.33)	5 (7.35)	17 (1.58)	8 (3.27)	3 (6.25)	3 (6.52)	45 (2.66)
	DK/NA	87 (41.83)	30 (44.12)	500 (46.43)	124 (50.61)	28 (58.33)	14 (30.43)	783 (46.28)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,077 (100.00)	245 (100.00)	48 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,692 (100.00)
PAR Procedural	Strongly Disagree	55 (26.44)	18 (26.47)	505 (47.06)	74 (30.33)	13 (27.08)	22 (47.83)	687 (40.72)
	Disagree	22 (10.58)	6 (8.82)	52 (4.85)	19 (7.79)	4 (8.33)	3 (6.52)	106 (6.28)
	Neutral	21 (10.10)	5 (7.35)	23 (2.14)	19 (7.79)	2 (4.17)	4 (8.70)	74 (4.39)
	Agree	12 (5.77)	7 (10.29)	15 (1.40)	5 (2.05)	3 (6.25)	1 (2.17)	43 (2.55)
	Strongly Agree	9 (4.33)	6 (8.82)	12 (1.12)	4 (1.64)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.17)	32 (1.90)
	DK/NA	89 (42.79)	26 (38.24)	466 (43.43)	123 (50.41)	26 (54.17)	15 (32.61)	745 (44.16)
	<i>N</i>	208 (100.00)	68 (100.00)	1,073 (100.00)	244 (100.00)	48 (100.00)	46 (100.00)	1,687 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

Court level also proved to be a meaningful axis of variation in perceptions of DCR use, particularly around current adoption. Disagreement that DCR is currently used was highest among County Court at Law respondents (74.60%), followed by District Court (62.39%), whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were far more divided, with 45.03% disagreeing and 32.75% agreeing or strongly agreeing, the highest combined agreement of any court level. Federal Court respondents sat in between, at 41.67% disagreeing and 27.78% agreeing. On lower-level or non-evidentiary use, disagreement held fairly steady across court levels, from 28.34% among “Other” court respondents to 46.24% among County Court at Law respondents, though agreement stayed low throughout, never topping 13% for any level; as in the role-based breakdown, DK/NA responses were pervasive, reaching 55.51% among “Other” court respondents. For use in any type of proceeding, County Court at Law respondents again led in disagreement (50.81%), while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents stood apart with the highest agreement (25.44%), a notably wider gap than at any other court level. Figures 24 & 25 and Table 29 display these patterns across all three measures, with County Court at Law and District Court respondents consistently voicing the greatest skepticism toward DCR adoption, and Appellate/Supreme Court respondents showing comparatively greater openness.

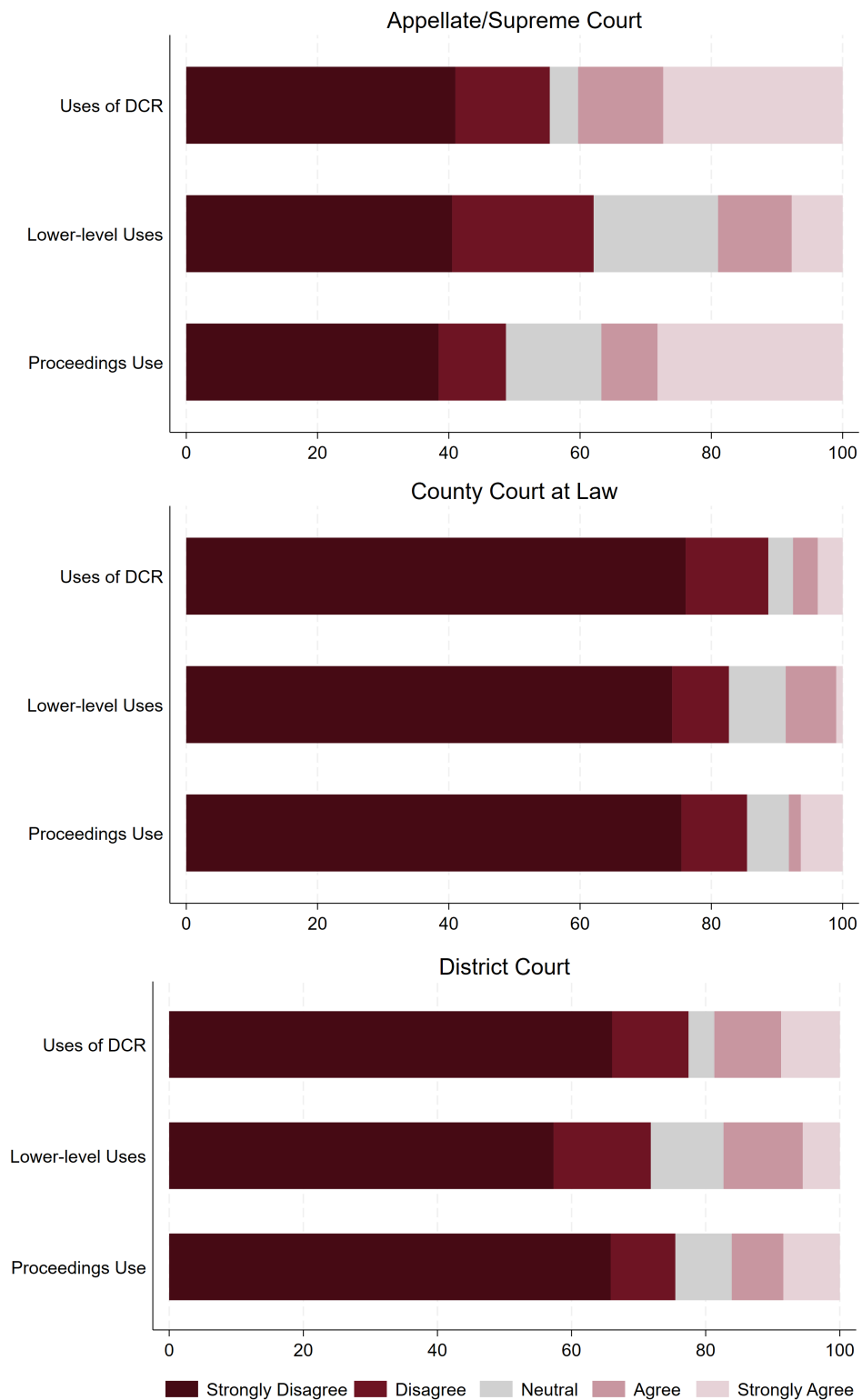


Figure 24: DCR Adoption by Court Level (1 of 2)

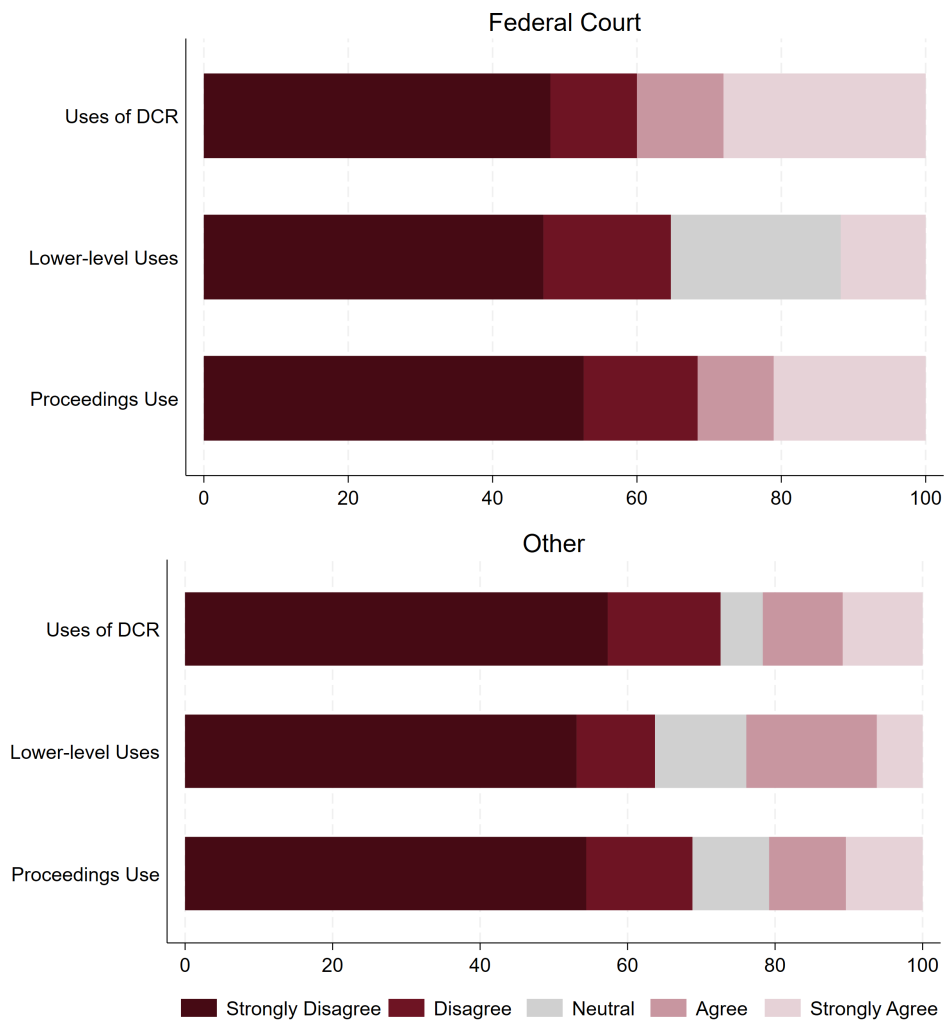


Figure 25: DCR Adoption by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 29: Perceptions of DCR Use, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
DCR Uses	Strongly Disagree	57 (33.33)	121 (64.02)	498 (53.21)	12 (33.33)	90 (35.43)	778 (49.05)
	Disagree	20 (11.70)	20 (10.58)	86 (9.19)	3 (8.33)	24 (9.45)	153 (9.65)
	Neutral	6 (3.51)	6 (3.17)	29 (3.10)	0 (0.00)	9 (3.54)	50 (3.15)
	Agree	18 (10.53)	6 (3.17)	75 (8.01)	3 (8.33)	17 (6.69)	119 (7.50)
	Strongly Agree	38 (22.22)	6 (3.17)	66 (7.05)	7 (19.44)	17 (6.69)	134 (8.45)
	DK/NA	32 (18.71)	30 (15.87)	182 (19.44)	11 (30.56)	97 (38.19)	352 (22.19)
	N	171	189	936	36	254	1,586
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	47 (27.49)	77 (41.40)	301 (32.40)	8 (22.22)	60 (23.62)	493 (31.28)
	Disagree	25 (14.62)	9 (4.84)	76 (8.18)	3 (8.33)	12 (4.72)	125 (7.93)
	Neutral	22 (12.87)	9 (4.84)	57 (6.14)	4 (11.11)	14 (5.51)	106 (6.73)
	Agree	13 (7.60)	8 (4.30)	62 (6.67)	0 (0.00)	20 (7.87)	103 (6.54)
	Strongly Agree	9 (5.26)	1 (0.54)	29 (3.12)	2 (5.56)	7 (2.76)	48 (3.05)
	DK/NA	55 (32.16)	82 (44.09)	404 (43.49)	19 (52.78)	141 (55.51)	701 (44.48)
	N	171	186	929	36	254	1,576
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	45 (26.63)	83 (44.86)	368 (39.83)	10 (28.57)	68 (27.09)	574 (36.70)
	Disagree	12 (7.10)	11 (5.95)	54 (5.84)	3 (8.57)	18 (7.17)	98 (6.27)
	Neutral	17 (10.06)	7 (3.78)	47 (5.09)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.18)	84 (5.37)
	Agree	10 (5.92)	2 (1.08)	43 (4.65)	2 (5.71)	13 (5.18)	70 (4.48)
	Strongly Agree	33 (19.53)	7 (3.78)	47 (5.09)	4 (11.43)	13 (5.18)	104 (6.65)
	DK/NA	52 (30.77)	75 (40.54)	365 (39.50)	16 (45.71)	126 (50.20)	634 (40.54)
	N	169	185	924	35	251	1,564

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

ASR use by court level showed a pattern closely paralleling that of DCR. Once again, County Court at Law respondents were the most likely to disagree that ASR is currently used (76.07%), followed by District Court (62.86%), while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents reported the highest combined agreement (23.98%), well above the 4.25% among County Court at Law. Federal and "Other" court respondents landed closer to the middle, disagreeing at 40.00% and 41.17% respectively, with agreement modest in both (17.14% and 9.02%). On lower-level use, disagreement was highest among District Court (41.68%) and County Court at Law (51.90%) respondents, whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were comparatively split, at 43.86% disagreeing and 9.94% agreeing; DK/NA responses were again widespread, exceeding 57% among both Federal and "Other" court respondents. For use in any type of proceeding, the divide seen for current use resurfaced: Appellate/Supreme Court respondents reported the highest agreement (21.77%), while County Court at Law (53.53%) and District Court (44.87%) respondents were the most likely to disagree. Figures 26 & 27 present these patterns across all three measures, echoing the DCR findings in that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently expressed greater acceptance of ASR than their counterparts in County Court at Law and District Court. The frequencies and percentages are also presented in Table 30.

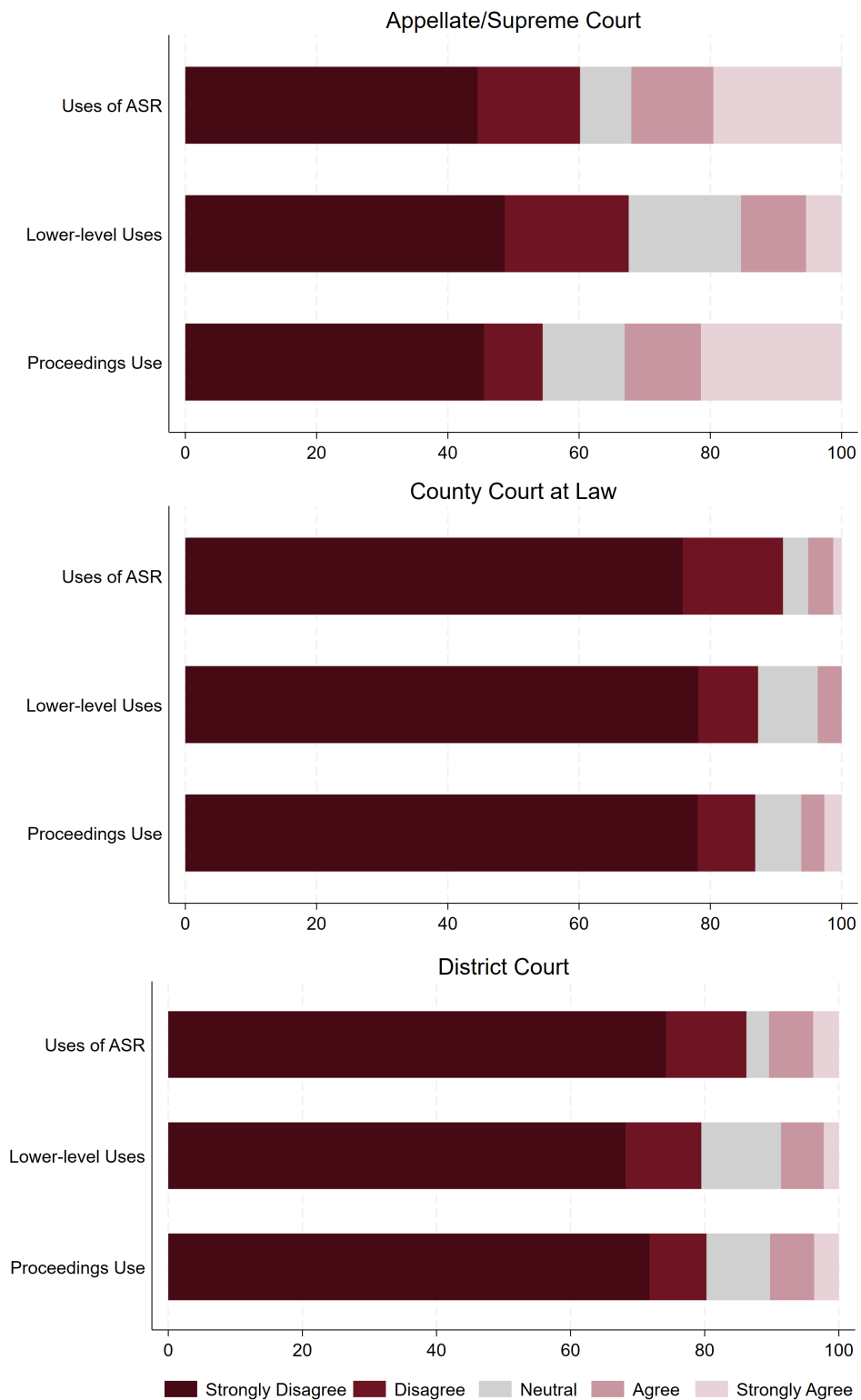


Figure 26: ASR Adoption by Court Level (1 of 2)

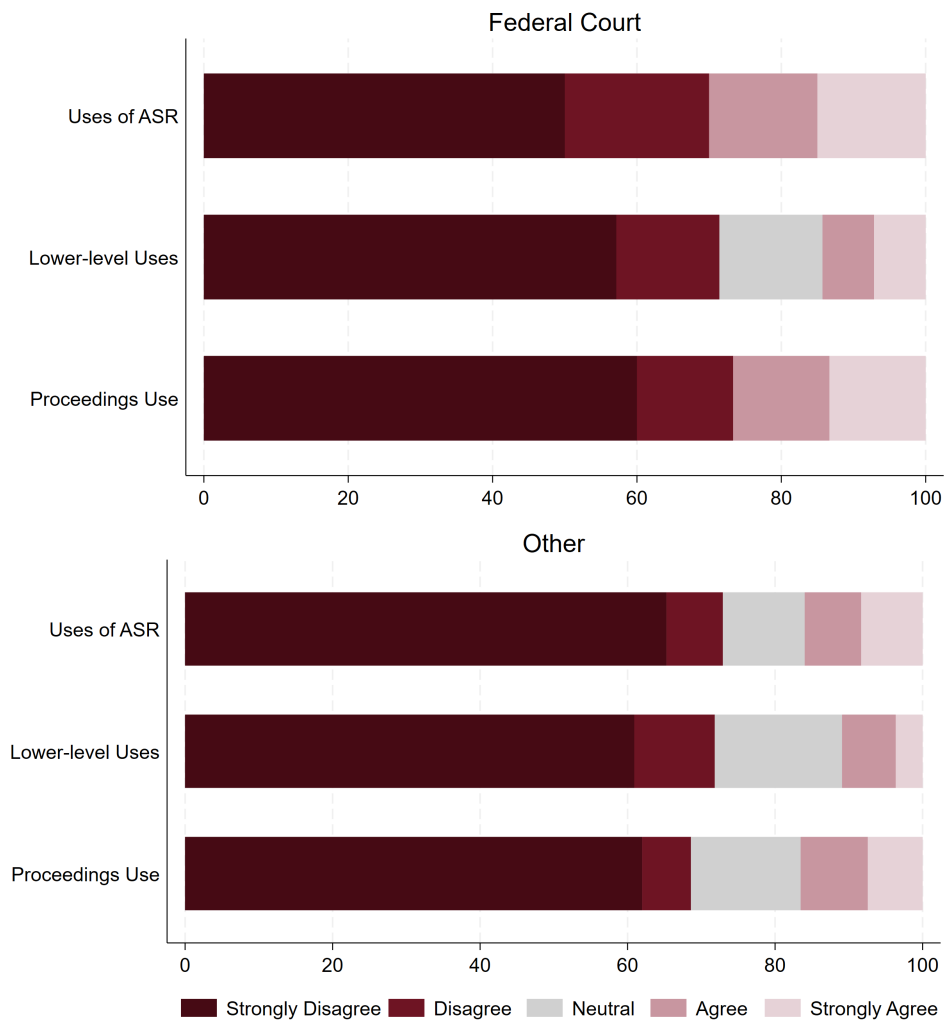


Figure 27: ASR Adoption by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 30: Perceptions of ASR Use, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
ASR Uses	Strongly Disagree	57 (33.33)	119 (63.30)	507 (54.11)	10 (28.57)	94 (36.86)	787 (49.62)
	Disagree	20 (11.70)	24 (12.77)	82 (8.75)	4 (11.43)	11 (4.31)	141 (8.89)
	Neutral	10 (5.85)	6 (3.19)	23 (2.45)	0 (0.00)	16 (6.27)	55 (3.47)
	Agree	16 (9.36)	6 (3.19)	45 (4.80)	3 (8.57)	11 (4.31)	81 (5.11)
	Strongly Agree	25 (14.62)	2 (1.06)	26 (2.77)	3 (8.57)	12 (4.71)	68 (4.29)
	DK/NA	43 (25.15)	31 (16.49)	254 (27.11)	15 (42.86)	111 (43.53)	454 (28.63)
	N	171	188	937	35	255	1,586
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	54 (31.58)	86 (46.49)	333 (35.77)	8 (23.53)	67 (26.17)	548 (34.75)
	Disagree	21 (12.28)	10 (5.41)	55 (5.91)	2 (5.88)	12 (4.69)	100 (6.34)
	Neutral	19 (11.11)	10 (5.41)	58 (6.23)	2 (5.88)	19 (7.42)	108 (6.85)
	Agree	11 (6.43)	4 (2.16)	31 (3.33)	1 (2.94)	8 (3.12)	55 (3.49)
	Strongly Agree	6 (3.51)	0 (0.00)	11 (1.18)	1 (2.94)	4 (1.56)	22 (1.40)
	DK/NA	60 (35.09)	75 (40.54)	443 (47.58)	20 (58.82)	146 (57.03)	744 (47.18)
	N	171	185	931	34	256	1,577
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	51 (30.00)	89 (48.11)	371 (40.11)	9 (25.71)	75 (29.41)	595 (37.90)
	Disagree	10 (5.88)	10 (5.41)	44 (4.76)	2 (5.71)	8 (3.14)	74 (4.71)
	Neutral	14 (8.24)	8 (4.32)	49 (5.30)	0 (0.00)	18 (7.06)	89 (5.67)
	Agree	13 (7.65)	4 (2.16)	34 (3.68)	2 (5.71)	11 (4.31)	64 (4.08)
	Strongly Agree	24 (14.12)	3 (1.62)	19 (2.05)	2 (5.71)	9 (3.53)	57 (3.63)
	DK/NA	58 (34.12)	71 (38.38)	408 (44.11)	20 (57.14)	134 (52.55)	691 (44.01)
	N	170	185	925	35	255	1,570

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

The final modality measure, PAR, produced results consistent with both DCR and ASR when disaggregated by court level. Here again, County Court at Law respondents reported the highest disagreement with current PAR use (76.07%), followed closely by District Court (64.31%), while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents stood out with the highest combined agreement (15.79%) and comparatively lower disagreement (54.97%). Federal Court respondents were the most likely to select DK/NA (48.57%); among the remaining Federal respondents, disagreement (37.15%) outweighed agreement (11.43%). On lower-level use, District Court (43.14%) and County Court at Law (50.80%) respondents were again the most likely to disagree, while agreement stayed low at every court level, peaking at 13.45% among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents; DK/NA responses were once more considerable, reaching 62.86% among Federal Court respondents. For use in any type of proceeding, the strongest disagreement came from County Court at Law (56.15%) and District Court (49.84%) respondents, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents reported the highest agreement (10.06%), in keeping with the pattern seen across all three modalities. Figures 28 & 29 illustrate these results, confirming that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently expressed the greatest openness to alternative recording modalities across DCR, ASR, and PAR, while County Court at Law and District Court respondents remained the most consistently skeptical. Table 31 present the respective data.

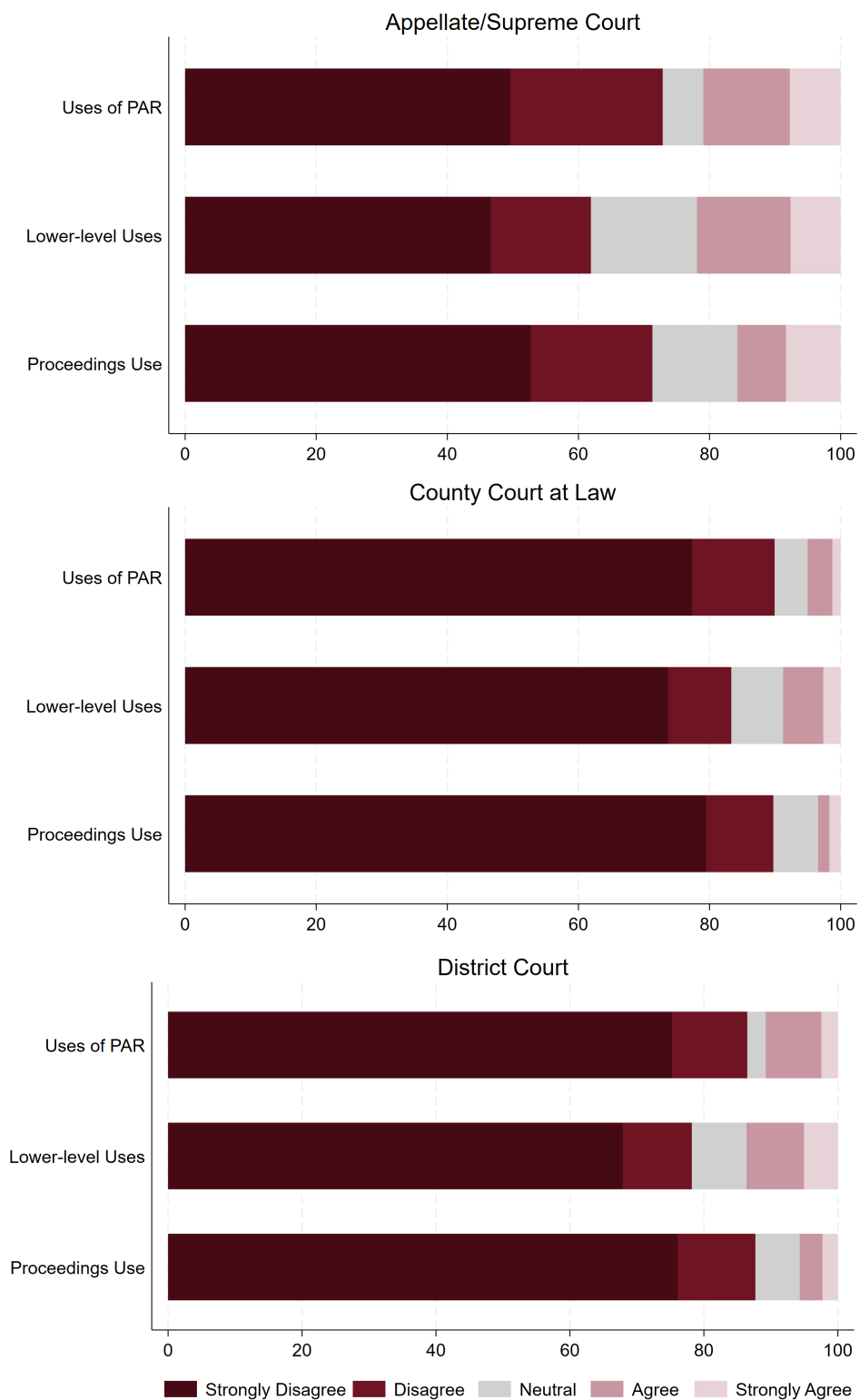


Figure 28: PAR Adoption by Court Level (1 of 2)

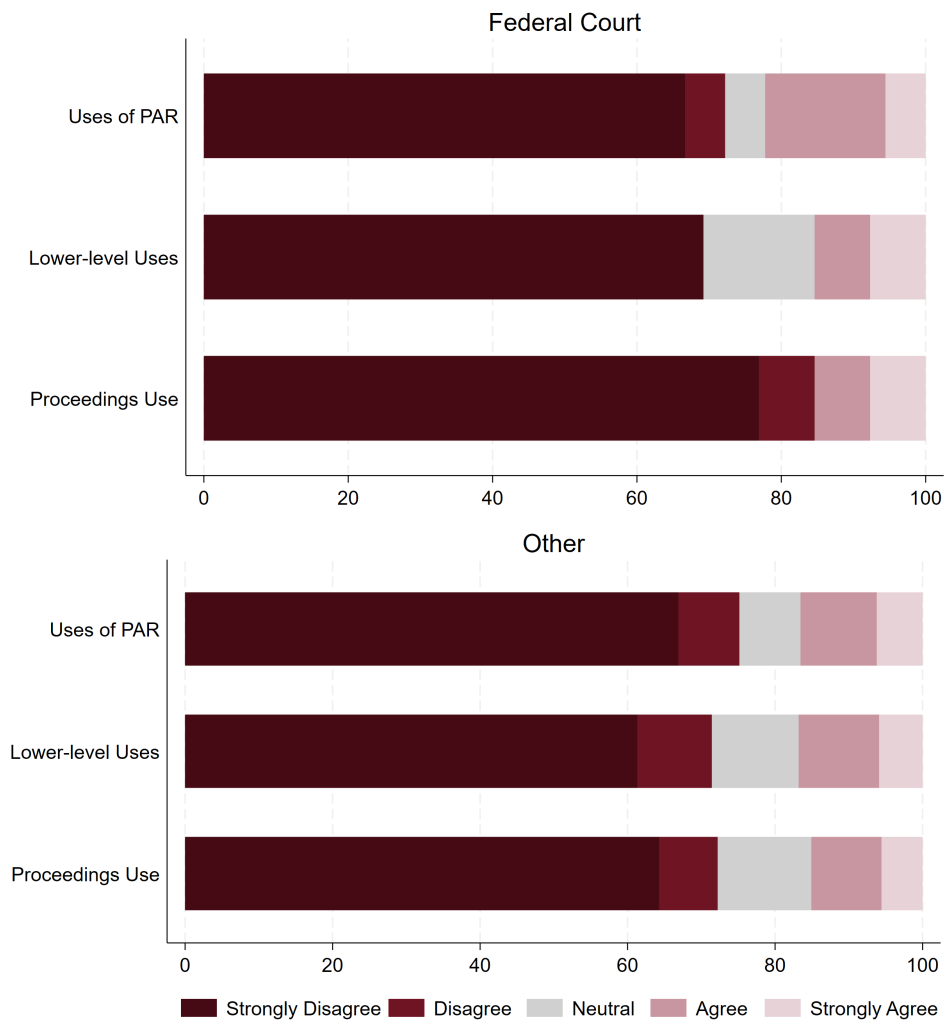


Figure 29: PAR Adoption by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 31: Perceptions of PAR Use, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
PAR Uses	Strongly Disagree	64 (37.43)	123 (65.43)	524 (55.98)	12 (34.29)	97 (37.89)	820 (51.70)
	Disagree	30 (17.54)	20 (10.64)	78 (8.33)	1 (2.86)	12 (4.69)	141 (8.89)
	Neutral	8 (4.68)	8 (4.26)	19 (2.03)	1 (2.86)	12 (4.69)	48 (3.03)
	Agree	17 (9.94)	6 (3.19)	58 (6.20)	3 (8.57)	15 (5.86)	99 (6.24)
	Strongly Agree	10 (5.85)	2 (1.06)	17 (1.82)	1 (2.86)	9 (3.52)	39 (2.46)
	DK/NA	42 (24.56)	29 (15.43)	240 (25.64)	17 (48.57)	111 (43.36)	439 (27.68)
	N	171	188	936	35	256	1,586
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	49 (28.65)	84 (44.92)	349 (37.45)	9 (25.71)	73 (28.74)	564 (35.72)
	Disagree	16 (9.36)	11 (5.88)	53 (5.69)	0 (0.00)	12 (4.72)	92 (5.83)
	Neutral	17 (9.94)	9 (4.81)	42 (4.51)	2 (5.71)	14 (5.51)	84 (5.32)
	Agree	15 (8.77)	7 (3.74)	44 (4.72)	1 (2.86)	13 (5.12)	80 (5.07)
	Strongly Agree	8 (4.68)	3 (1.60)	26 (2.79)	1 (2.86)	7 (2.76)	45 (2.85)
	DK/NA	66 (38.60)	73 (39.04)	418 (44.85)	22 (62.86)	135 (53.15)	714 (45.22)
	N	171	187	932	35	254	1,579
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	57 (33.73)	93 (49.73)	402 (43.27)	10 (28.57)	81 (31.89)	643 (40.85)
	Disagree	20 (11.83)	12 (6.42)	61 (6.57)	1 (2.86)	10 (3.94)	104 (6.61)
	Neutral	14 (8.28)	8 (4.28)	35 (3.77)	0 (0.00)	16 (6.30)	73 (4.64)
	Agree	8 (4.73)	2 (1.07)	18 (1.94)	1 (2.86)	12 (4.72)	41 (2.60)
	Strongly Agree	9 (5.33)	2 (1.07)	12 (1.29)	1 (2.86)	7 (2.76)	31 (1.97)
	DK/NA	61 (36.09)	70 (37.43)	401 (43.16)	22 (62.86)	128 (50.39)	682 (43.33)
	N	169	187	929	35	254	1,574

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

Findings from this section indicate that perceptions of court reporter availability and the acceptability of alternatives vary considerably by professional role and court level, but far less by urbanicity. Judges and respondents in the “Other” category consistently expressed the greatest concern about shortages, while Court Reporters themselves were the most skeptical that a shortage exists. On the acceptability of alternatives, the strongest positions came from the two groups with the most direct stake in the outcome: Court Recorders were the most receptive, while Court Reporters were the most resistant. A similar pattern emerged by court level, with Appellate/Supreme Court respondents reporting the highest concern about shortages and the greatest acceptance of alternatives, in contrast to County Court at Law and District Court respondents, who were the most resistant. By comparison, rural and urban respondents held largely similar views across all five measures, suggesting that professional role and court level, rather than geographic context, are the more salient factors shaping perceptions of court reporter availability. These patterns suggest that efforts to address perceived shortages or introduce alternative recording methods may be most readily accepted among Judges, Appellate-level courts, and roles outside of court reporting itself, while facing greater resistance from Court Reporters and from County Court at Law and District Court settings.

8.2.3 Perceptions of Acceptance & Reliability

Beyond availability and shortage, Section III turns to how respondents evaluate the trustworthiness and usability of alternative recording technologies themselves. Seven statements were posed for each modality (DCR, ASR, and PAR), covering perceived accuracy relative to a stenographic record, trust in record integrity, sufficiency for appellate review, potential efficiency gains, comfort with centralized monitoring, preference for a human stenographic reporter, and indifference between recording methods. Results are presented separately for each modality and disaggregated by respondent role and court level to assess whether these evaluations differ across professional and jurisdictional lines.

This section shifts to respondents’ trust in and perceptions of the alternative recording modalities, again disaggregated by respondent role. Among these groups, Court Reporters voiced the most pronounced skepticism toward DCR on nearly every measure: 88.70% disagreed or strongly disagreed that a DCR-produced record is as accurate as one produced by a human stenographic reporter, with comparable disagreement on record integrity (88.51%) and appellate sufficiency (87.58%). Court Recorders saw it very differently, as 69.11% agreed or strongly agreed that DCR records are as accurate as stenographic records, alongside similarly high agreement on integrity (67.64%) and appellate sufficiency (66.17%). Judges and Other Courtroom Actors leaned closer to Court Reporters, roughly 60–67% of each group disagreeing across the accuracy, integrity, and appellate sufficiency measures, while Attorneys were more evenly split, disagreement only modestly outpacing agreement on all three. A similar divide shaped perceptions of efficiency gains from DCR adoption, with Court Recorders the most optimistic (70.58% agree or strongly agree) and Court Reporters the least (8.84%). Support for a centralized monitoring model was low across the board, though here too Court Recorders were the most receptive (39.70% agree or strongly agree), against just 3.78% among Court Reporters and 10.53% among Judges. On preference, the overwhelming majority of Court Reporters (85.01%), Judges (68.82%), and Other Courtroom Actors (69.57%) agreed or strongly agreed that they preferred a record from a human stenographic reporter, whereas Court Recorders were more divided (35.30% disagree, 44.12% agree). In the same vein, most

Court Reporters (89.29%), Other Courtroom Actors (80.43%), and Judges (76.51%) disagreed that they had no preference between a stenographic and DCR-produced record, a clear signal in favor of the former, while Court Recorders were again the most ambivalent (38.23% disagree, 36.76% agree). Figures 30 & 31 and Table 32 present these patterns across all seven measures, illustrating a consistent contrast between Court Reporters' strong preference for stenographic records and Court Recorders' comparatively favorable view of DCR.

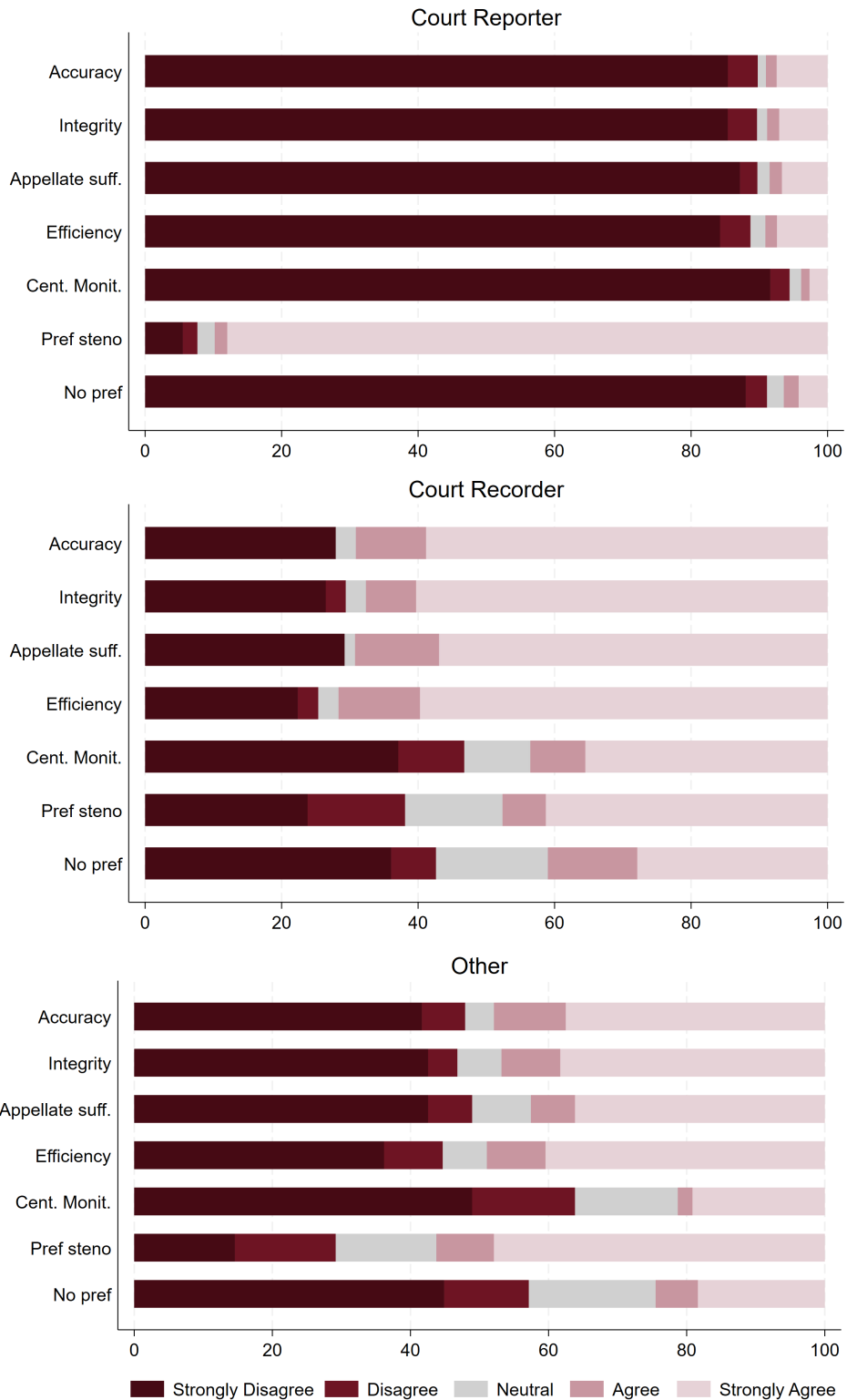


Figure 30: DCR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (1 of 2)

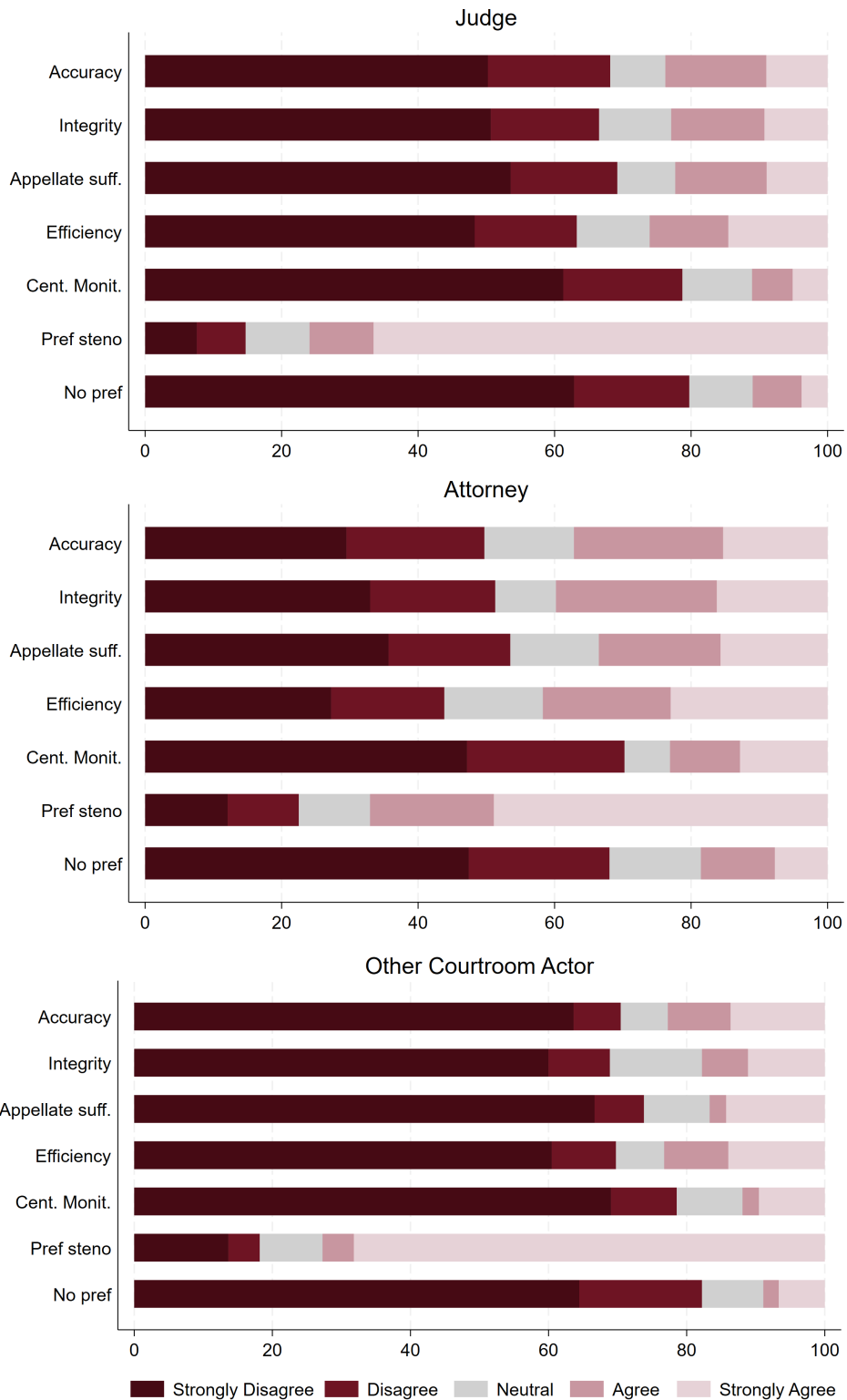


Figure 31: DCR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (2 of 2)

Table 32: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Courtroom Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	54 (26.21)	19 (27.94)	918 (84.38)	112 (45.34)	20 (40.00)	28 (60.87)	1,151 (67.51)
	Disagree	37 (17.96)	0 (0.00)	47 (4.32)	40 (16.19)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.52)	130 (7.62)
	Neutral	24 (11.65)	2 (2.94)	13 (1.19)	18 (7.29)	2 (4.00)	3 (6.52)	62 (3.64)
	Agree	40 (19.42)	7 (10.29)	17 (1.56)	33 (13.36)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.70)	106 (6.22)
	Strongly Agree	28 (13.59)	40 (58.82)	80 (7.35)	20 (8.10)	18 (36.00)	6 (13.04)	192 (11.26)
	DK/NA	23 (11.17)	0 (0.00)	13 (1.19)	24 (9.72)	2 (4.00)	2 (4.35)	64 (3.75)
	N	206	68	1,088	247	50	46	1,705
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	63 (30.58)	18 (26.47)	917 (84.28)	115 (46.56)	20 (40.00)	27 (58.70)	1,160 (68.04)
	Disagree	35 (16.99)	2 (2.94)	46 (4.23)	36 (14.57)	2 (4.00)	4 (8.70)	125 (7.33)
	Neutral	17 (8.25)	2 (2.94)	16 (1.47)	24 (9.72)	3 (6.00)	6 (13.04)	68 (3.99)
	Agree	45 (21.84)	5 (7.35)	19 (1.75)	31 (12.55)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.52)	107 (6.28)
	Strongly Agree	31 (15.05)	41 (60.29)	76 (6.99)	21 (8.50)	18 (36.00)	5 (10.87)	192 (11.26)
	DK/NA	15 (7.28)	0 (0.00)	14 (1.29)	20 (8.10)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.17)	53 (3.11)
	N	206	68	1,088	247	50	46	1,705
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	66 (32.04)	19 (27.94)	925 (85.10)	120 (48.78)	20 (40.00)	28 (60.87)	1,178 (69.17)
	Disagree	33 (16.02)	0 (0.00)	27 (2.48)	35 (14.23)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.52)	101 (5.93)
	Neutral	24 (11.65)	1 (1.47)	19 (1.75)	19 (7.72)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.70)	71 (4.17)
	Agree	33 (16.02)	8 (11.76)	19 (1.75)	30 (12.20)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.17)	94 (5.52)
	Strongly Agree	29 (14.08)	37 (54.41)	71 (6.53)	20 (8.13)	17 (34.00)	6 (13.04)	180 (10.57)
	DK/NA	21 (10.19)	3 (4.41)	26 (2.39)	22 (8.94)	3 (6.00)	4 (8.70)	79 (4.64)
	N	206	68	1,087	246	50	46	1,703
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	51 (24.88)	15 (22.06)	888 (81.77)	113 (45.75)	17 (34.00)	26 (56.52)	1,110 (65.22)
	Disagree	31 (15.12)	2 (2.94)	47 (4.33)	35 (14.17)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.70)	123 (7.23)
	Neutral	27 (13.17)	2 (2.94)	23 (2.12)	25 (10.12)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.52)	83 (4.88)
	Agree	35 (17.07)	8 (11.76)	18 (1.66)	27 (10.93)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.70)	96 (5.64)
	Strongly Agree	43 (20.98)	40 (58.82)	78 (7.18)	34 (13.77)	19 (38.00)	6 (13.04)	220 (12.93)
	DK/NA	18 (8.78)	1 (1.47)	32 (2.95)	13 (5.26)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.52)	70 (4.11)
	N	205	68	1,086	247	50	46	1,702
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	92 (44.66)	23 (33.82)	973 (89.51)	144 (58.30)	23 (46.00)	29 (63.04)	1,284 (75.35)
	Disagree	45 (21.84)	6 (8.82)	30 (2.76)	41 (16.60)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.70)	133 (7.81)
	Neutral	13 (6.31)	6 (8.82)	18 (1.66)	24 (9.72)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.70)	72 (4.23)
	Agree	20 (9.71)	5 (7.35)	13 (1.20)	14 (5.67)	1 (2.00)	1 (2.17)	54 (3.17)
	Strongly Agree	25 (12.14)	22 (32.35)	28 (2.58)	12 (4.86)	9 (18.00)	4 (8.70)	100 (5.87)
	DK/NA	11 (5.34)	6 (8.82)	25 (2.30)	12 (4.86)	3 (6.00)	4 (8.70)	61 (3.58)
	N	206	68	1,087	247	50	46	1,704
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	22 (10.68)	15 (22.06)	57 (5.24)	17 (6.88)	7 (14.00)	6 (13.04)	124 (7.28)
	Disagree	19 (9.22)	9 (13.24)	22 (2.02)	16 (6.48)	7 (14.00)	2 (4.35)	75 (4.40)
	Neutral	19 (9.22)	9 (13.24)	26 (2.39)	21 (8.50)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.70)	86 (5.05)
	Agree	33 (16.02)	4 (5.88)	19 (1.75)	21 (8.50)	4 (8.00)	2 (4.35)	83 (4.87)
	Strongly Agree	89 (43.20)	26 (38.24)	905 (83.26)	149 (60.32)	23 (46.00)	30 (65.22)	1,222 (71.71)
	DK/NA	24 (11.65)	5 (7.35)	58 (5.34)	23 (9.31)	2 (4.00)	2 (4.35)	114 (6.69)
	N	206	68	1,087	247	50	46	1,704
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	92 (45.10)	22 (32.35)	934 (86.24)	149 (60.32)	22 (44.00)	29 (63.04)	1,248 (73.50)
	Disagree	40 (19.61)	4 (5.88)	33 (3.05)	40 (16.19)	6 (12.00)	8 (17.39)	131 (7.71)
	Neutral	26 (12.75)	10 (14.71)	26 (2.40)	22 (8.91)	9 (18.00)	4 (8.70)	97 (5.71)
	Agree	21 (10.29)	8 (11.76)	23 (2.12)	17 (6.88)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.17)	73 (4.30)
	Strongly Agree	15 (7.35)	17 (25.00)	45 (4.16)	9 (3.64)	9 (18.00)	3 (6.52)	98 (5.77)
	DK/NA	10 (4.90)	7 (10.29)	22 (2.03)	10 (4.05)	1 (2.00)	1 (2.17)	51 (3.00)
	N	204	68	1,083	247	50	46	1,698

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. DCR = Digital Court Recording.

For ASR, these same trust-related measures produced a pattern much like DCR's, though Court Recorders' views were somewhat less uniformly favorable. On accuracy, 91.10% of Court Reporters disagreed or strongly disagreed that an ASR-produced record matches the accuracy of a stenographic record, against just 4.77% agreement; Court Recorders, by comparison, were far more divided, leaning only modestly toward disagreement (46.27% disagreeing, 37.31% agreeing). The same divide reappeared for integrity (90.82% of Court Reporters disagreeing versus 41.79% agreement among Court Recorders) and appellate sufficiency (89.60% versus 37.88%, respectively). Efficiency perceptions mirrored the contrast, with 87.10% of Court Reporters disagreeing that ASR would improve court efficiency, while Court Recorders were the only group whose agreement matched its disagreement (42.43% each) and Attorneys trended toward agreement as well (36.72% agree or strongly agree versus 41.54% disagree). Enthusiasm for centralized monitoring was low throughout, Court Reporters again the most opposed (93.01% disagree or strongly disagree) and Court Recorders the least (33.34% agree or strongly agree). On preference, 84.76% of Court Reporters and 71.14% of Judges agreed or strongly agreed that they preferred a stenographically produced record, a view shared by 64.44% of Other Courtroom Actors, whereas Court Recorders were more evenly divided (27.27% disagree, 46.97% agree). In line with this, most Court Reporters (90.90%) and Judges (76.23%) disagreed that they had no preference between ASR and stenographic records, while Court Recorders again stayed comparatively split (46.97% disagree, 24.24% agree). Table 33 presents the data, and Figures 32 & 33 display these results across all seven measures, reaffirming that Court Reporters' confidence in stenographic records carries across recording modalities, while Court Recorders continue to hold the most balanced, and at times favorable, view of automated alternatives.

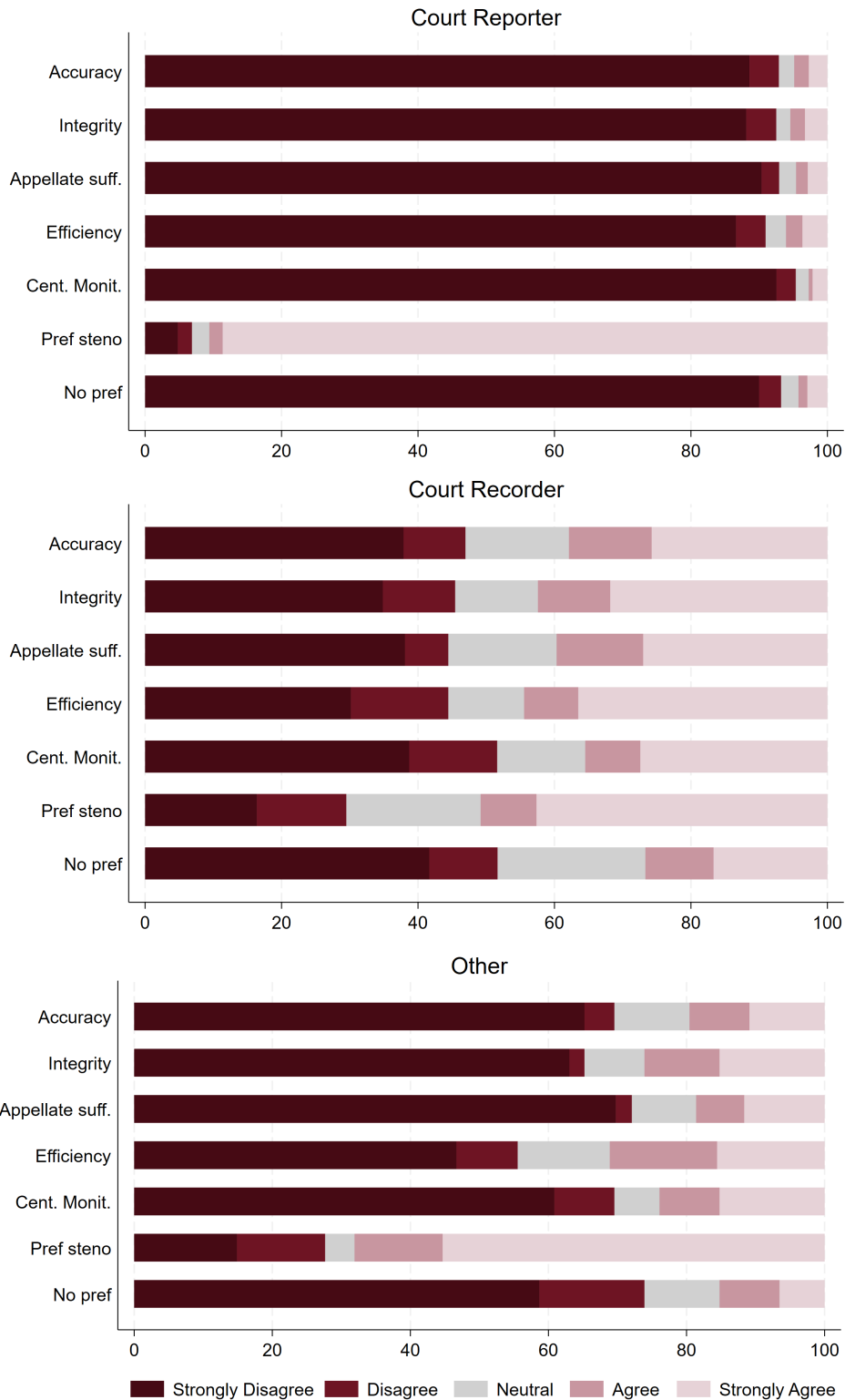


Figure 32: ASR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (1 of 2)

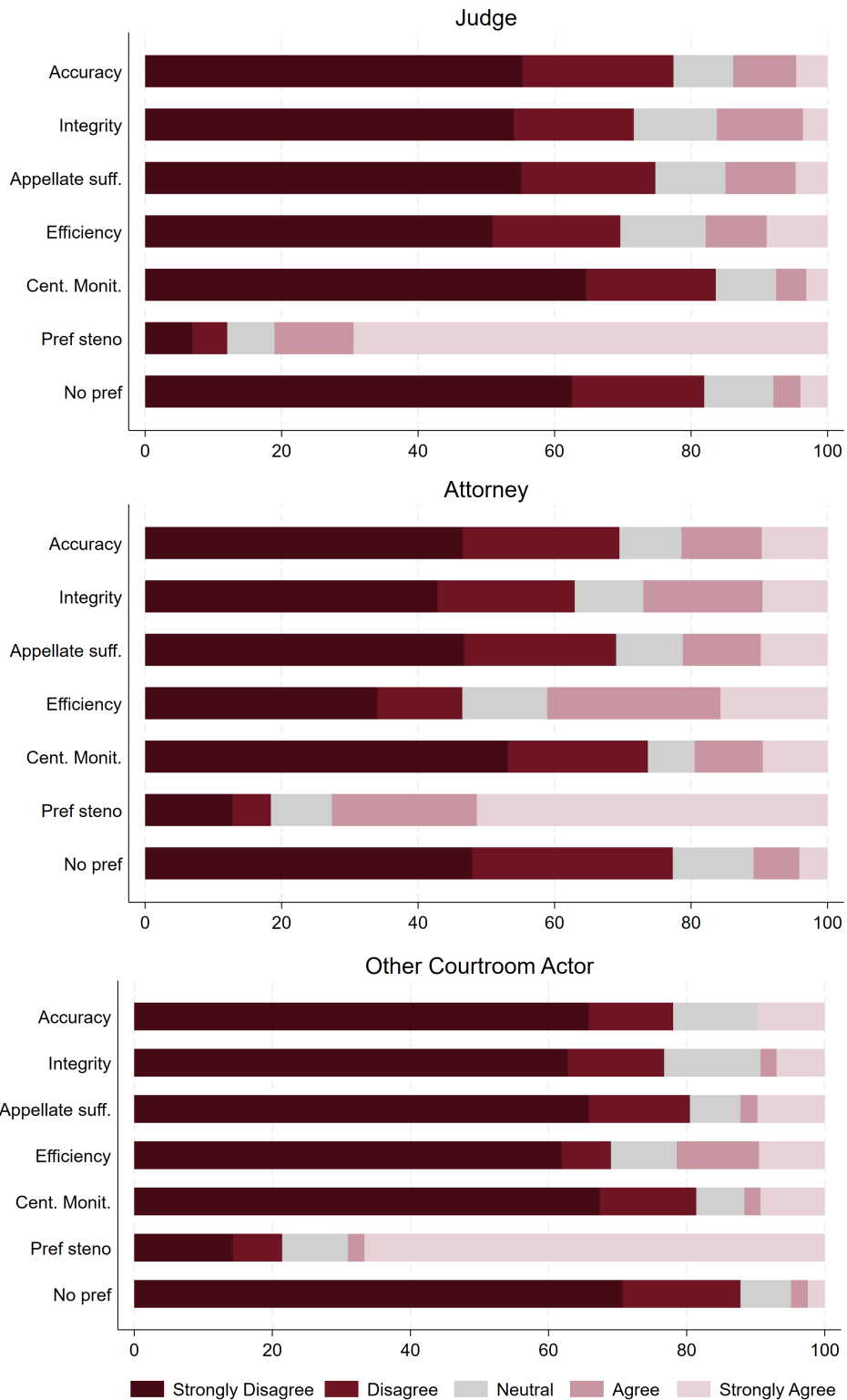


Figure 33: ASR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (2 of 2)

Table 33: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	87 (42.03)	25 (37.31)	947 (86.88)	120 (48.58)	30 (60.00)	27 (60.00)	1,236 (72.45)
	Disagree	43 (20.77)	6 (8.96)	46 (4.22)	48 (19.43)	2 (4.00)	5 (11.11)	150 (8.79)
	Neutral	17 (8.21)	10 (14.93)	24 (2.20)	19 (7.69)	5 (10.00)	5 (11.11)	80 (4.69)
	Agree	22 (10.63)	8 (11.94)	23 (2.11)	20 (8.10)	4 (8.00)	0 (0.00)	77 (4.51)
	Strongly Agree	18 (8.70)	17 (25.37)	29 (2.66)	10 (4.05)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.89)	83 (4.87)
	DK/NA	20 (9.66)	1 (1.49)	21 (1.93)	30 (12.15)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.89)	80 (4.69)
	N	207	67	1,090	247	50	45	1,706
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	81 (39.13)	23 (34.33)	942 (86.50)	120 (48.58)	29 (58.00)	27 (60.00)	1,222 (71.67)
	Disagree	38 (18.36)	7 (10.45)	47 (4.32)	39 (15.79)	1 (2.00)	6 (13.33)	138 (8.09)
	Neutral	19 (9.18)	8 (11.94)	22 (2.02)	27 (10.93)	4 (8.00)	6 (13.33)	86 (5.04)
	Agree	33 (15.94)	7 (10.45)	23 (2.11)	28 (11.34)	5 (10.00)	1 (2.22)	97 (5.69)
	Strongly Agree	18 (8.70)	21 (31.34)	35 (3.21)	8 (3.24)	7 (14.00)	3 (6.67)	92 (5.40)
	DK/NA	18 (8.70)	1 (1.49)	20 (1.84)	25 (10.12)	4 (8.00)	2 (4.44)	70 (4.11)
	N	207	67	1,089	247	50	45	1,705
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	86 (41.55)	24 (36.36)	946 (87.11)	118 (47.77)	30 (60.00)	27 (60.00)	1,231 (72.37)
	Disagree	41 (19.81)	4 (6.06)	27 (2.49)	42 (17.00)	1 (2.00)	6 (13.33)	121 (7.11)
	Neutral	18 (8.70)	10 (15.15)	26 (2.39)	22 (8.91)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.67)	83 (4.88)
	Agree	21 (10.14)	8 (12.12)	18 (1.66)	22 (8.91)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.22)	73 (4.29)
	Strongly Agree	18 (8.70)	17 (25.76)	30 (2.76)	10 (4.05)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.89)	84 (4.94)
	DK/NA	23 (11.11)	3 (4.55)	39 (3.59)	33 (13.36)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.89)	109 (6.41)
	N	207	66	1,086	247	50	45	1,701
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	63 (30.43)	19 (28.79)	900 (82.95)	114 (46.15)	21 (42.00)	26 (57.78)	1,143 (67.24)
	Disagree	23 (11.11)	9 (13.64)	45 (4.15)	42 (17.00)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.67)	126 (7.41)
	Neutral	23 (11.11)	7 (10.61)	31 (2.86)	28 (11.34)	6 (12.00)	4 (8.89)	99 (5.82)
	Agree	47 (22.71)	5 (7.58)	25 (2.30)	20 (8.10)	7 (14.00)	5 (11.11)	109 (6.41)
	Strongly Agree	29 (14.01)	23 (34.85)	38 (3.50)	20 (8.10)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.89)	121 (7.12)
	DK/NA	22 (10.63)	3 (4.55)	46 (4.24)	23 (9.31)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.67)	102 (6.00)
	N	207	66	1,085	247	50	45	1,700
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	101 (48.79)	24 (36.36)	981 (90.25)	146 (59.35)	28 (56.00)	29 (64.44)	1,309 (76.95)
	Disagree	39 (18.84)	8 (12.12)	30 (2.76)	43 (17.48)	4 (8.00)	6 (13.33)	130 (7.64)
	Neutral	13 (6.28)	8 (12.12)	20 (1.84)	20 (8.13)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.67)	67 (3.94)
	Agree	19 (9.18)	5 (7.58)	6 (0.55)	10 (4.07)	4 (8.00)	1 (2.22)	45 (2.65)
	Strongly Agree	18 (8.70)	17 (25.76)	23 (2.12)	7 (2.85)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.89)	76 (4.47)
	DK/NA	17 (8.21)	4 (6.06)	27 (2.48)	20 (8.13)	4 (8.00)	2 (4.44)	74 (4.35)
	N	207	66	1,087	246	50	45	1,701
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	23 (11.11)	10 (15.15)	49 (4.50)	15 (6.10)	7 (14.00)	6 (13.33)	110 (6.46)
	Disagree	10 (4.83)	8 (12.12)	21 (1.93)	11 (4.47)	6 (12.00)	3 (6.67)	59 (3.46)
	Neutral	16 (7.73)	12 (18.18)	26 (2.39)	15 (6.10)	2 (4.00)	4 (8.89)	75 (4.40)
	Agree	38 (18.36)	5 (7.58)	20 (1.84)	25 (10.16)	6 (12.00)	1 (2.22)	95 (5.58)
	Strongly Agree	92 (44.44)	26 (39.39)	903 (82.92)	150 (60.98)	26 (52.00)	28 (62.22)	1,225 (71.93)
	DK/NA	28 (13.53)	5 (7.58)	70 (6.43)	30 (12.20)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.67)	139 (8.16)
	N	207	66	1,089	246	50	45	1,703
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	93 (45.15)	25 (37.88)	955 (87.78)	142 (58.20)	27 (54.00)	29 (64.44)	1,271 (74.81)
	Disagree	57 (27.67)	6 (9.09)	34 (3.12)	44 (18.03)	7 (14.00)	7 (15.56)	155 (9.12)
	Neutral	23 (11.17)	13 (19.70)	27 (2.48)	23 (9.43)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.67)	94 (5.53)
	Agree	13 (6.31)	6 (9.09)	14 (1.29)	9 (3.69)	4 (8.00)	1 (2.22)	47 (2.77)
	Strongly Agree	8 (3.88)	10 (15.15)	31 (2.85)	9 (3.69)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.22)	62 (3.65)
	DK/NA	12 (5.83)	6 (9.09)	27 (2.48)	17 (6.97)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.89)	70 (4.12)
	N	206	66	1,088	244	50	45	1,699

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. ASR = Automated Speech Recognition.

Of the three modalities, PAR drew the strongest opposition from Court Reporters, whose disagreement or strong disagreement topped 90% on accuracy (94.95%), integrity (94.95%), appellate sufficiency (93.76%), efficiency (91.99%), and centralized monitoring (94.93%). Court Recorders still skewed toward disagreement on most measures, but were less resistant than they had been toward DCR and ASR; on accuracy, for example, 62.69% disagreed and 20.89% agreed, a wider gap than for the other two modalities yet still the most balanced view among the six roles. Attorneys were relatively more open to PAR's efficiency benefits in particular, with 27.05% agreeing or strongly agreeing that it would improve court operations, the highest agreement of any role on that measure, though 48.31% still disagreed. Judges and Other Courtroom Actors once again tracked closely with Court Reporters across most measures, disagreement consistently above 60% and often nearing 80%, as with centralized monitoring among Judges (79.26%) and no preference within the same group (80.90%). The two preference items lined up most closely with the prior modalities: Court Reporters (85.78%) and Judges (69.23%) most strongly favored a stenographically produced record, while Court Recorders were the most open to PAR, with only a slim majority (53.73%) expressing a preference for the stenographer and 20.90% not preferring one. These results can be seen in Table 34, as well as in Figures 34 & 35 illustrate these results, showing that opposition to alternative modalities, already high for DCR and ASR among Court Reporters, Judges, and Other Courtroom Actors, was strongest of all for PAR.

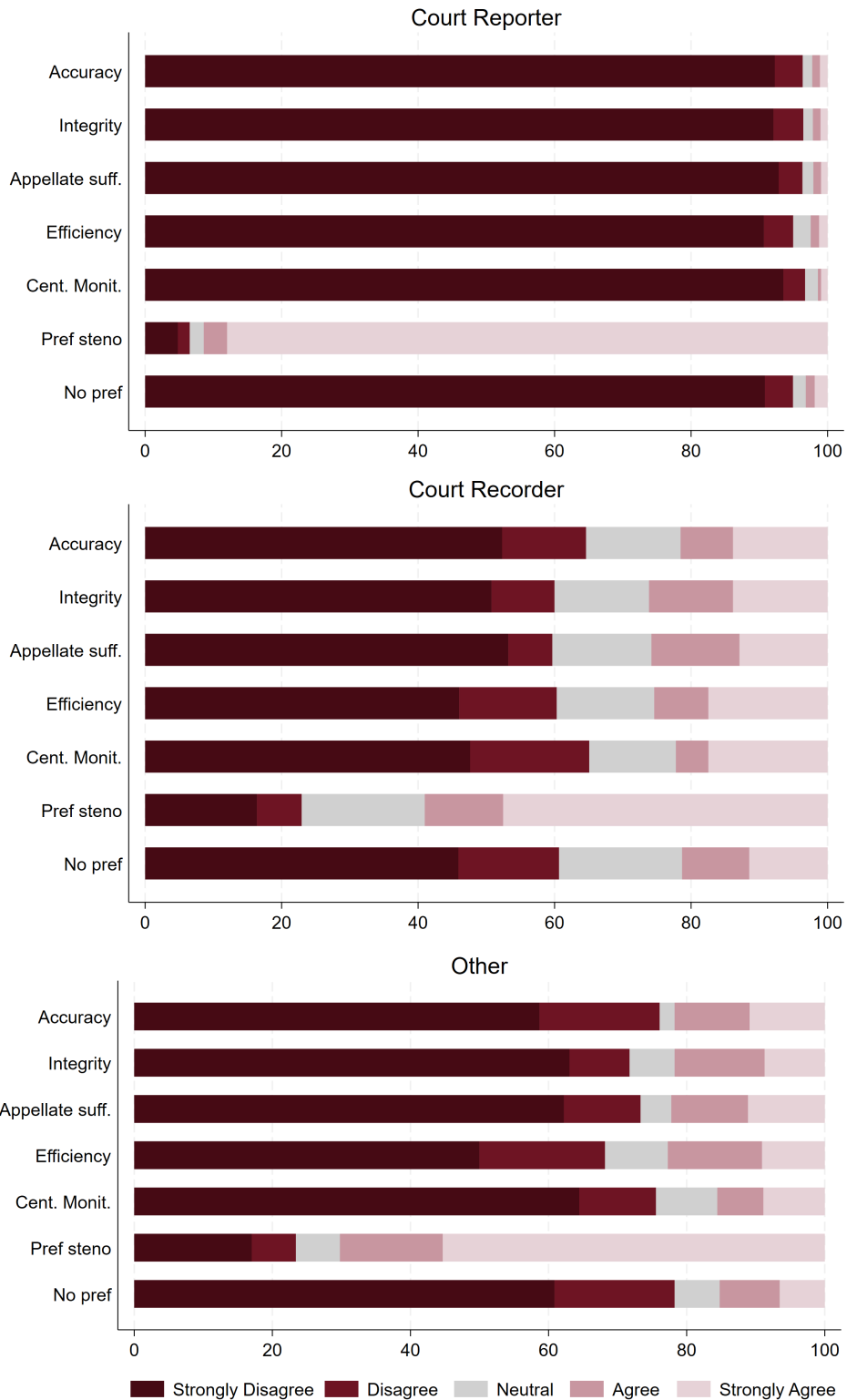


Figure 34: PAR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (1 of 2)

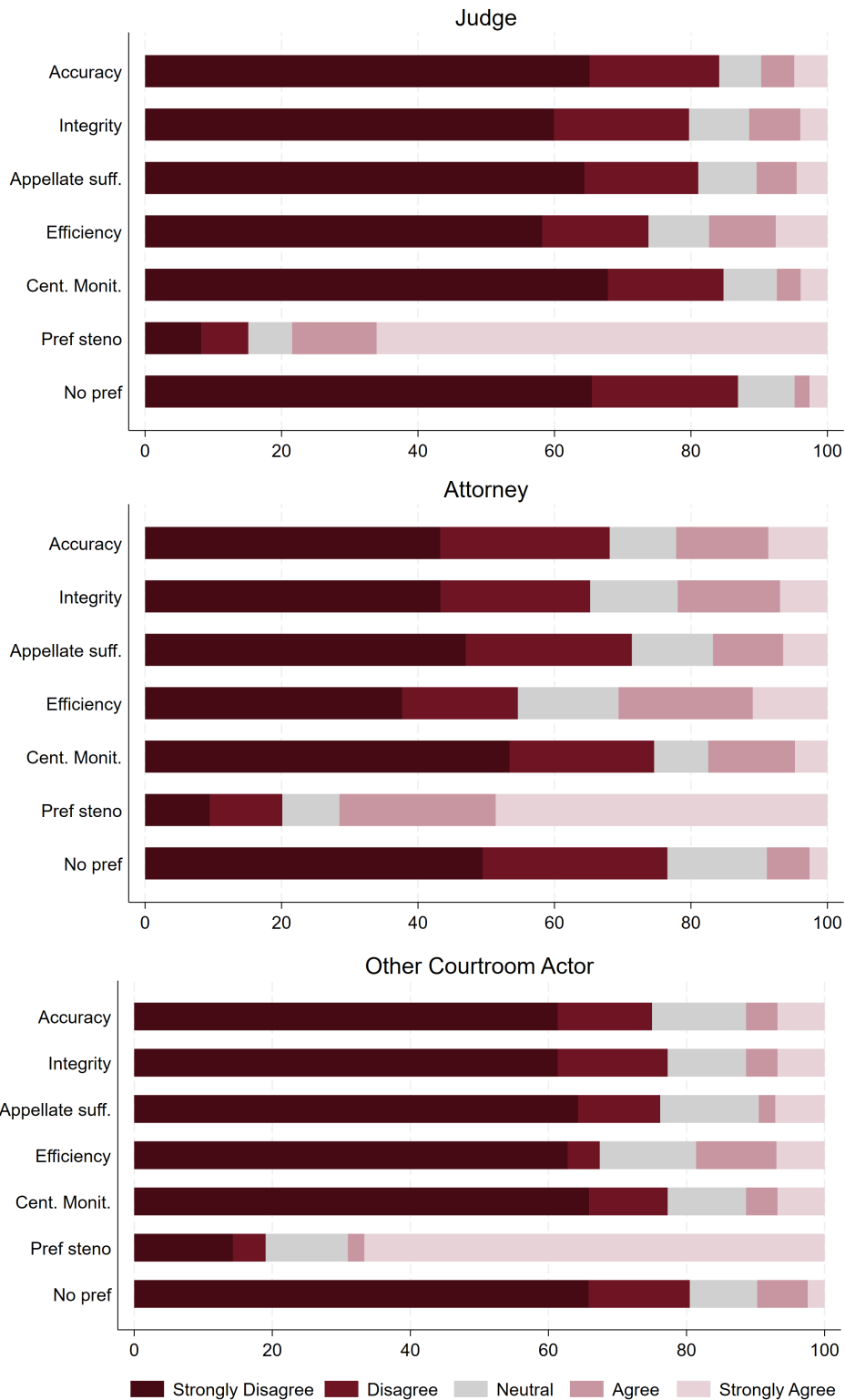


Figure 35: PAR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Role (2 of 2)

Table 34: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Respondent Role

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	80 (38.65)	34 (50.75)	990 (90.91)	148 (60.16)	27 (54.00)	27 (60.00)	1,306 (76.64)
	Disagree	46 (22.22)	8 (11.94)	44 (4.04)	43 (17.48)	8 (16.00)	6 (13.33)	155 (9.10)
	Neutral	18 (8.70)	9 (13.43)	15 (1.38)	14 (5.69)	1 (2.00)	6 (13.33)	63 (3.70)
	Agree	25 (12.08)	5 (7.46)	12 (1.10)	11 (4.47)	5 (10.00)	2 (4.44)	60 (3.52)
	Strongly Agree	16 (7.73)	9 (13.43)	12 (1.10)	11 (4.47)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.67)	56 (3.29)
	DK/NA	22 (10.63)	2 (2.99)	16 (1.47)	19 (7.72)	4 (8.00)	1 (2.22)	64 (3.76)
	N	207	67	1,089	246	50	45	1,704
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	81 (39.13)	33 (49.25)	987 (90.63)	136 (55.28)	29 (58.00)	27 (60.00)	1,293 (75.88)
	Disagree	41 (19.81)	6 (8.96)	47 (4.32)	45 (18.29)	4 (8.00)	7 (15.56)	150 (8.80)
	Neutral	24 (11.59)	9 (13.43)	15 (1.38)	20 (8.13)	3 (6.00)	5 (11.11)	76 (4.46)
	Agree	28 (13.53)	8 (11.94)	12 (1.10)	17 (6.91)	6 (12.00)	2 (4.44)	73 (4.28)
	Strongly Agree	13 (6.28)	9 (13.43)	11 (1.01)	9 (3.66)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.67)	49 (2.88)
	DK/NA	20 (9.66)	2 (2.99)	17 (1.56)	19 (7.72)	4 (8.00)	1 (2.22)	63 (3.70)
	N	207	67	1,089	246	50	45	1,704
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	87 (42.23)	33 (50.00)	985 (90.37)	143 (58.13)	28 (56.00)	27 (60.00)	1,303 (76.51)
	Disagree	45 (21.84)	4 (6.06)	37 (3.39)	37 (15.04)	5 (10.00)	5 (11.11)	133 (7.81)
	Neutral	22 (10.68)	9 (13.43)	17 (1.56)	19 (7.72)	2 (4.00)	6 (13.33)	75 (4.40)
	Agree	19 (9.22)	8 (12.12)	12 (1.10)	13 (5.28)	5 (10.00)	1 (2.22)	58 (3.41)
	Strongly Agree	12 (5.83)	8 (12.12)	10 (0.92)	10 (4.07)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.67)	48 (2.82)
	DK/NA	21 (10.19)	4 (6.06)	29 (2.66)	24 (9.76)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.67)	86 (5.05)
	N	206	66	1,090	246	50	45	1,703
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	69 (33.33)	29 (43.28)	954 (87.85)	131 (53.04)	22 (44.90)	27 (60.00)	1,232 (72.43)
	Disagree	31 (14.98)	9 (13.43)	45 (4.14)	35 (14.17)	8 (16.33)	2 (4.44)	130 (7.64)
	Neutral	27 (13.04)	9 (13.43)	27 (2.49)	20 (8.10)	4 (8.16)	6 (13.33)	93 (5.47)
	Agree	36 (17.39)	5 (7.46)	13 (1.20)	22 (8.91)	6 (12.24)	5 (11.11)	87 (5.11)
	Strongly Agree	20 (9.66)	11 (16.42)	13 (1.20)	17 (6.88)	4 (8.16)	3 (6.67)	68 (4.00)
	DK/NA	24 (11.59)	4 (5.97)	34 (3.13)	22 (8.91)	5 (10.20)	2 (4.44)	91 (5.35)
	N	207	67	1,086	247	49	45	1,701
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	101 (48.79)	30 (44.78)	997 (91.80)	156 (63.41)	29 (58.00)	29 (64.44)	1,342 (78.89)
	Disagree	40 (19.32)	11 (16.42)	34 (3.13)	39 (15.85)	5 (10.00)	5 (11.11)	134 (7.88)
	Neutral	15 (7.25)	8 (11.94)	20 (1.84)	18 (7.32)	4 (8.00)	5 (11.11)	70 (4.12)
	Agree	24 (11.59)	3 (4.48)	5 (0.46)	8 (3.25)	3 (6.00)	2 (4.44)	45 (2.65)
	Strongly Agree	9 (4.35)	11 (16.42)	10 (0.92)	9 (3.66)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.67)	46 (2.70)
	DK/NA	18 (8.70)	4 (5.97)	20 (1.84)	16 (6.50)	5 (10.00)	1 (2.22)	64 (3.76)
	N	207	67	1,086	246	50	45	1,701
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	17 (8.21)	10 (14.93)	49 (4.50)	18 (7.29)	8 (16.00)	6 (13.33)	108 (6.33)
	Disagree	19 (9.18)	4 (5.97)	18 (1.65)	15 (6.07)	3 (6.00)	2 (4.44)	61 (3.58)
	Neutral	15 (7.25)	11 (16.42)	21 (1.93)	14 (5.67)	3 (6.00)	5 (11.11)	69 (4.04)
	Agree	41 (19.81)	7 (10.45)	35 (3.21)	27 (10.93)	7 (14.00)	1 (2.22)	118 (6.92)
	Strongly Agree	87 (42.03)	29 (43.28)	900 (82.57)	144 (58.30)	26 (52.00)	28 (62.22)	1,214 (71.16)
	DK/NA	28 (13.53)	6 (8.96)	67 (6.15)	29 (11.74)	3 (6.00)	3 (6.67)	136 (7.97)
	N	207	67	1,090	247	50	45	1,706
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	95 (45.89)	28 (41.79)	969 (89.06)	150 (60.98)	28 (56.00)	27 (61.36)	1,297 (76.20)
	Disagree	52 (25.12)	9 (13.43)	44 (4.04)	49 (19.92)	8 (16.00)	6 (13.64)	168 (9.87)
	Neutral	28 (13.53)	11 (16.42)	20 (1.84)	19 (7.72)	3 (6.00)	4 (9.09)	85 (4.99)
	Agree	12 (5.80)	6 (8.96)	14 (1.29)	5 (2.03)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.82)	44 (2.59)
	Strongly Agree	5 (2.42)	7 (10.45)	20 (1.84)	6 (2.44)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.27)	42 (2.47)
	DK/NA	15 (7.25)	6 (8.96)	21 (1.93)	17 (6.91)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.82)	66 (3.88)
	N	207	67	1,088	246	50	44	1,702

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. Steno = Stenographic.

Broken down by court level, the Section III trust and preference measures for DCR produced patterns broadly consistent with the role-based findings, County Court at Law and District Court respondents voicing the strongest skepticism throughout. On accuracy, 80.96% of County Court at Law respondents and 78.00% of District Court respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that DCR produces a record as accurate as a stenographic reporter, against 45.03% among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, who also reported the highest agreement of any court level (35.67%). The same divide held for integrity (80.42% disagreement among County Court at Law respondents versus 38.60% agreement among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents) and appellate sufficiency (81.91% versus 36.26%, respectively). Efficiency perceptions followed the same contour, with Appellate/Supreme Court respondents reporting the highest agreement (38.24%) and County Court at Law respondents the highest disagreement (79.79%). Support for centralized monitoring was low at every court level, though Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were comparatively more open (19.30% agree or strongly agree) than County Court at Law (5.29%) or District Court (8.45%) respondents. On preference, the pattern reversed direction: County Court at Law (78.30%), District Court (78.95%), and “Other” court (78.43%) respondents most strongly favored a stenographically produced record, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were far more divided (24.12% disagree, 55.29% agree). In turn, most County Court at Law (85.11%) and District Court (83.16%) respondents disagreed that they had no preference between DCR and stenographic records, whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were again more evenly split (63.32% disagree, 21.89% agree). Figure 36 & 37 present these results across all seven measures, reinforcing that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently express the greatest openness to DCR, a pattern that mirrors the comparatively favorable views seen among Court Recorders in the role-based disaggregation. See also, Table 35 for respective frequencies and percentages.

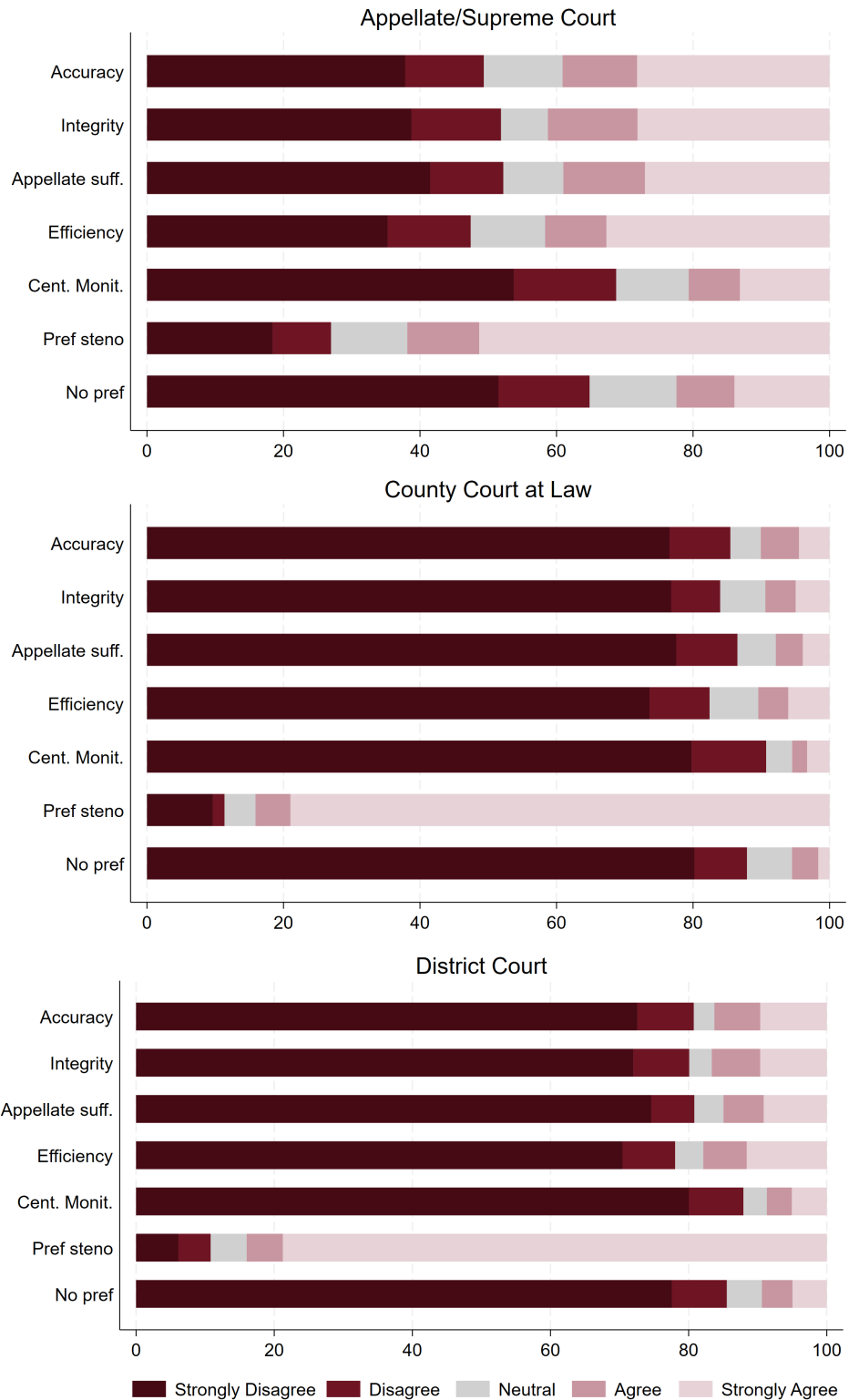


Figure 36: DCR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (1 of 2)

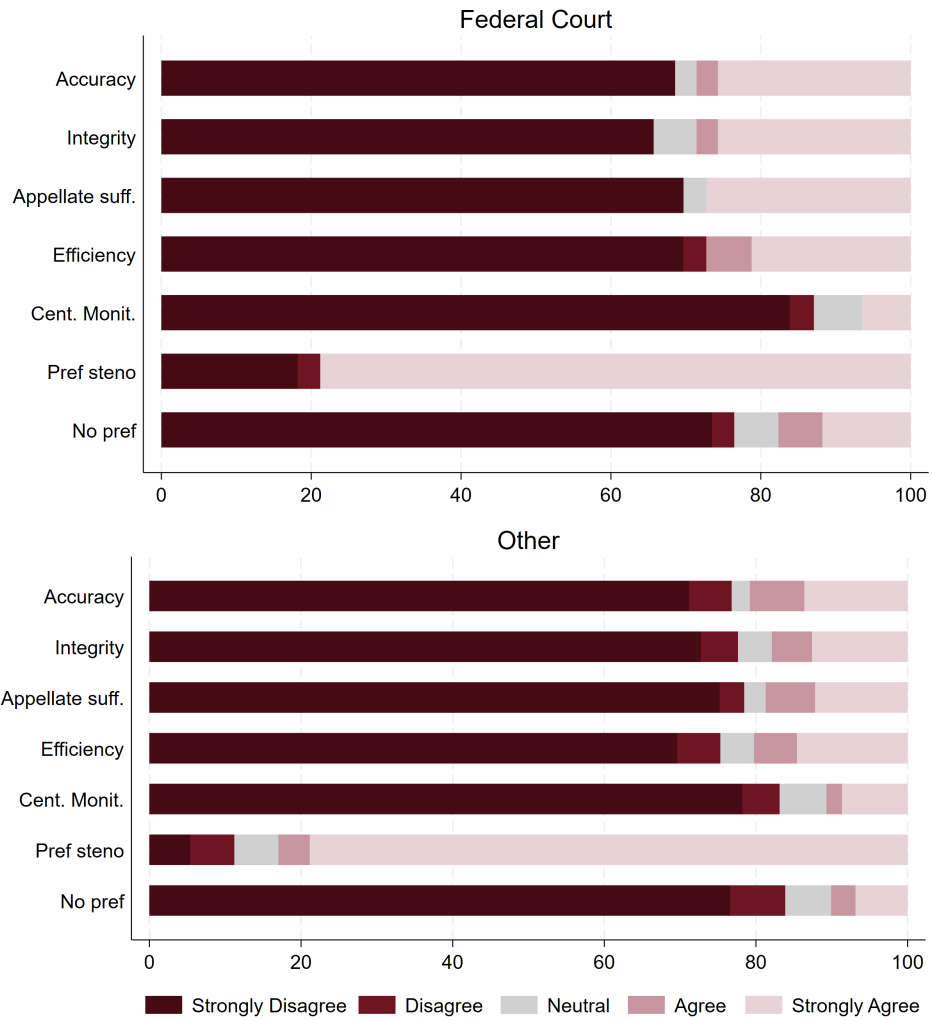


Figure 37: DCR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 35: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	59 (34.50)	137 (72.49)	656 (70.09)	24 (66.67)	178 (69.80)	1,054 (66.41)
	Disagree	18 (10.53)	16 (8.47)	74 (7.91)	0 (0.00)	14 (5.49)	122 (7.69)
	Neutral	18 (10.53)	8 (4.23)	27 (2.88)	1 (2.78)	6 (2.35)	60 (3.78)
	Agree	17 (9.94)	10 (5.29)	60 (6.41)	1 (2.78)	18 (7.06)	106 (6.68)
	Strongly Agree	44 (25.73)	8 (4.23)	87 (9.29)	9 (25.00)	34 (13.33)	182 (11.47)
	DK/NA	15 (8.77)	10 (5.29)	32 (3.42)	1 (2.78)	5 (1.96)	63 (3.97)
	N	171	189	936	36	255	1,587
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	62 (36.26)	139 (73.54)	658 (70.30)	23 (63.89)	179 (70.20)	1,061 (66.86)
	Disagree	21 (12.28)	13 (6.88)	74 (7.91)	0 (0.00)	12 (4.71)	120 (7.56)
	Neutral	11 (6.43)	12 (6.35)	30 (3.21)	2 (5.56)	11 (4.31)	66 (4.16)
	Agree	21 (12.28)	8 (4.23)	64 (6.84)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.10)	107 (6.74)
	Strongly Agree	45 (26.32)	9 (4.76)	88 (9.40)	9 (25.00)	31 (12.16)	182 (11.47)
	DK/NA	11 (6.43)	8 (4.23)	22 (2.35)	1 (2.78)	9 (3.53)	51 (3.21)
	N	171	189	936	36	255	1,587
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	66 (38.60)	138 (73.40)	669 (71.55)	23 (63.89)	185 (72.55)	1,081 (68.20)
	Disagree	17 (9.94)	16 (8.51)	56 (5.99)	0 (0.00)	8 (3.14)	97 (6.12)
	Neutral	14 (8.19)	10 (5.32)	38 (4.06)	1 (2.78)	7 (2.75)	70 (4.42)
	Agree	19 (11.11)	7 (3.72)	52 (5.56)	0 (0.00)	16 (6.27)	94 (5.93)
	Strongly Agree	43 (25.15)	7 (3.72)	82 (8.77)	9 (25.00)	30 (11.76)	171 (10.79)
	DK/NA	12 (7.02)	10 (5.32)	38 (4.06)	3 (8.33)	9 (3.53)	72 (4.54)
	N	171	188	935	36	255	1,585
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	55 (32.35)	134 (71.28)	639 (68.27)	23 (63.89)	172 (67.72)	1,023 (64.58)
	Disagree	19 (11.18)	16 (8.51)	69 (7.37)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.51)	119 (7.51)
	Neutral	17 (10.00)	13 (6.91)	37 (3.95)	0 (0.00)	11 (4.33)	78 (4.92)
	Agree	14 (8.24)	8 (4.26)	57 (6.09)	2 (5.56)	14 (5.51)	95 (6.00)
	Strongly Agree	51 (30.00)	11 (5.85)	105 (11.22)	7 (19.44)	36 (14.17)	210 (13.26)
	DK/NA	14 (8.24)	6 (3.19)	29 (3.10)	3 (8.33)	7 (2.76)	59 (3.72)
	N	170	188	936	36	254	1,584
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	86 (50.29)	146 (77.25)	730 (78.07)	26 (72.22)	190 (74.51)	1,178 (74.27)
	Disagree	24 (14.04)	20 (10.58)	72 (7.70)	1 (2.78)	12 (4.71)	129 (8.13)
	Neutral	17 (9.94)	7 (3.70)	31 (3.32)	2 (5.56)	15 (5.88)	72 (4.54)
	Agree	12 (7.02)	4 (2.12)	33 (3.53)	0 (0.00)	5 (1.96)	54 (3.40)
	Strongly Agree	21 (12.28)	6 (3.17)	46 (4.92)	2 (5.56)	21 (8.24)	96 (6.05)
	DK/NA	11 (6.43)	6 (3.17)	23 (2.46)	5 (13.89)	12 (4.71)	57 (3.59)
	N	171	189	935	36	255	1,586
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	28 (16.47)	17 (8.99)	54 (5.77)	6 (16.67)	13 (5.10)	118 (7.44)
	Disagree	13 (7.65)	3 (1.59)	41 (4.38)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.49)	72 (4.54)
	Neutral	17 (10.00)	8 (4.23)	46 (4.91)	0 (0.00)	14 (5.49)	85 (5.36)
	Agree	16 (9.41)	9 (4.76)	46 (4.91)	0 (0.00)	10 (3.92)	81 (5.11)
	Strongly Agree	78 (45.88)	139 (73.54)	693 (74.04)	26 (72.22)	190 (74.51)	1,126 (71.00)
	DK/NA	18 (10.59)	13 (6.88)	56 (5.98)	3 (8.33)	14 (5.49)	104 (6.56)
	N	170	189	936	36	255	1,586
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	85 (50.30)	146 (77.66)	703 (75.43)	25 (69.44)	190 (74.51)	1,149 (72.72)
	Disagree	22 (13.02)	14 (7.45)	72 (7.73)	1 (2.78)	18 (7.06)	127 (8.04)
	Neutral	21 (12.43)	12 (6.38)	46 (4.94)	2 (5.56)	15 (5.88)	96 (6.08)
	Agree	14 (8.28)	7 (3.72)	40 (4.29)	2 (5.56)	8 (3.14)	71 (4.49)
	Strongly Agree	23 (13.61)	3 (1.60)	45 (4.83)	4 (11.11)	17 (6.67)	92 (5.82)
	DK/NA	4 (2.37)	6 (3.19)	26 (2.79)	2 (5.56)	7 (2.75)	45 (2.85)
	N	169	188	932	36	255	1,580

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. DCR = Digital Court Recording.

By court level, ASR results closely tracked the pattern seen for DCR, with County Court at Law and District Court respondents once again reporting the strongest opposition. On accuracy, 85.63% of County Court at Law respondents and 82.71% of District Court respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that ASR produces a record as accurate as a stenographic reporter, against 59.65% among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, who reported the highest combined agreement at 22.22%. The divide carried through for integrity (85.11% disagreement among County Court at Law respondents versus 24.56% agreement among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents) and appellate sufficiency (84.04% versus 22.80%, respectively). On efficiency, Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were again the most favorable, 33.34% agreeing or strongly agreeing that ASR would improve court operations, more than four times the rate among County Court at Law respondents (5.32%). Support for centralized monitoring stayed low throughout, though Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were comparatively more receptive (16.96% agree or strongly agree) than County Court at Law (2.67%) or District Court (6.20%) respondents. Preference results reversed direction once more: County Court at Law (79.26%), District Court (80.34%), and "Other" court (79.53%) respondents most strongly favored a stenographically produced record, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were more divided (26.32% disagree, 54.97% agree). In the same way, most County Court at Law (86.70%) and District Court (86.05%) respondents disagreed that they had no preference, whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents again stayed more evenly split (66.66% disagree, 16.37% agree). Presented in Table 36, and Figures 38 & 39 and consistent with the DCR findings, these results indicate that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents maintain a comparatively favorable view of ASR relative to County Court at Law and District Court respondents.

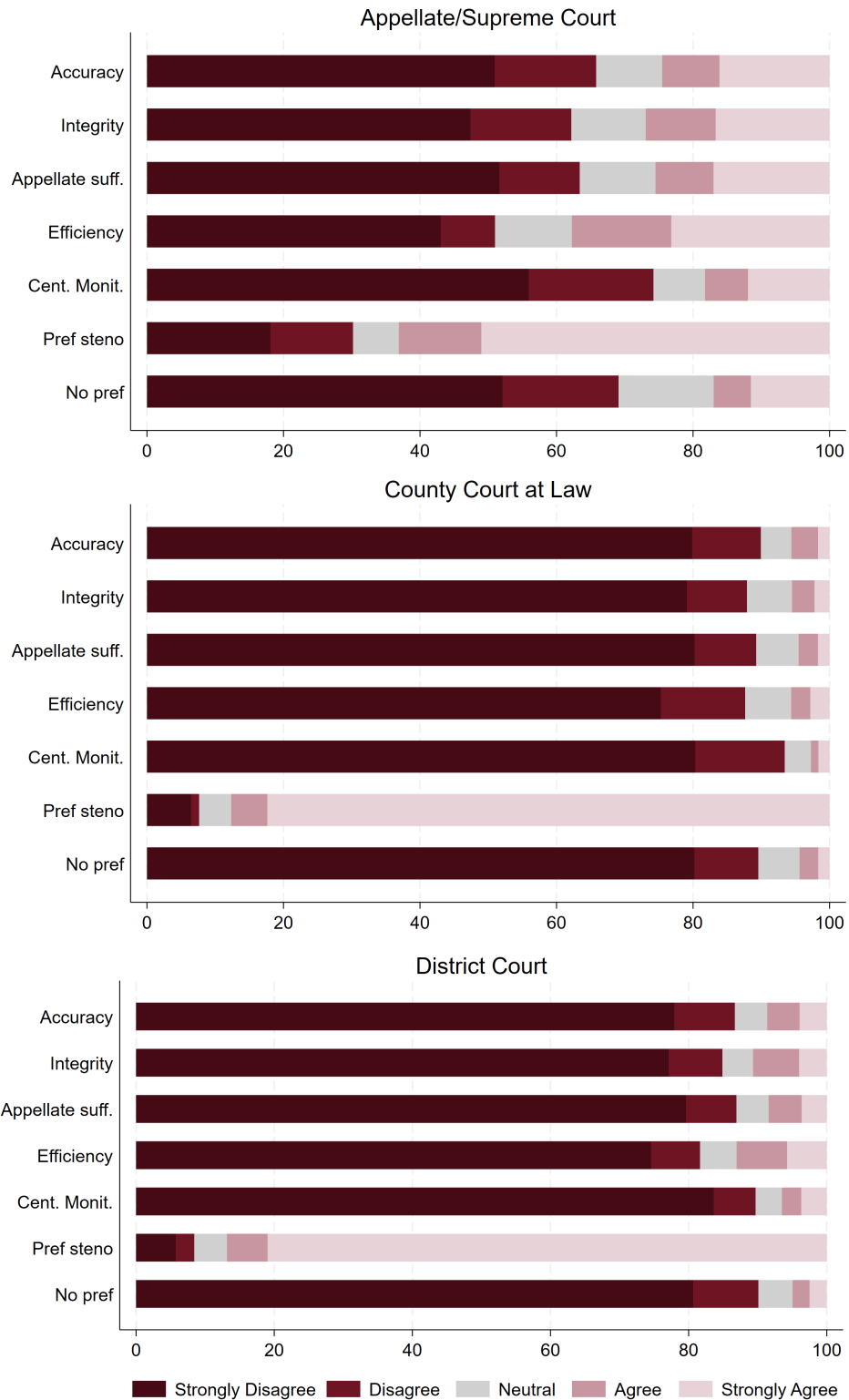


Figure 38: ASR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (1 of 2)

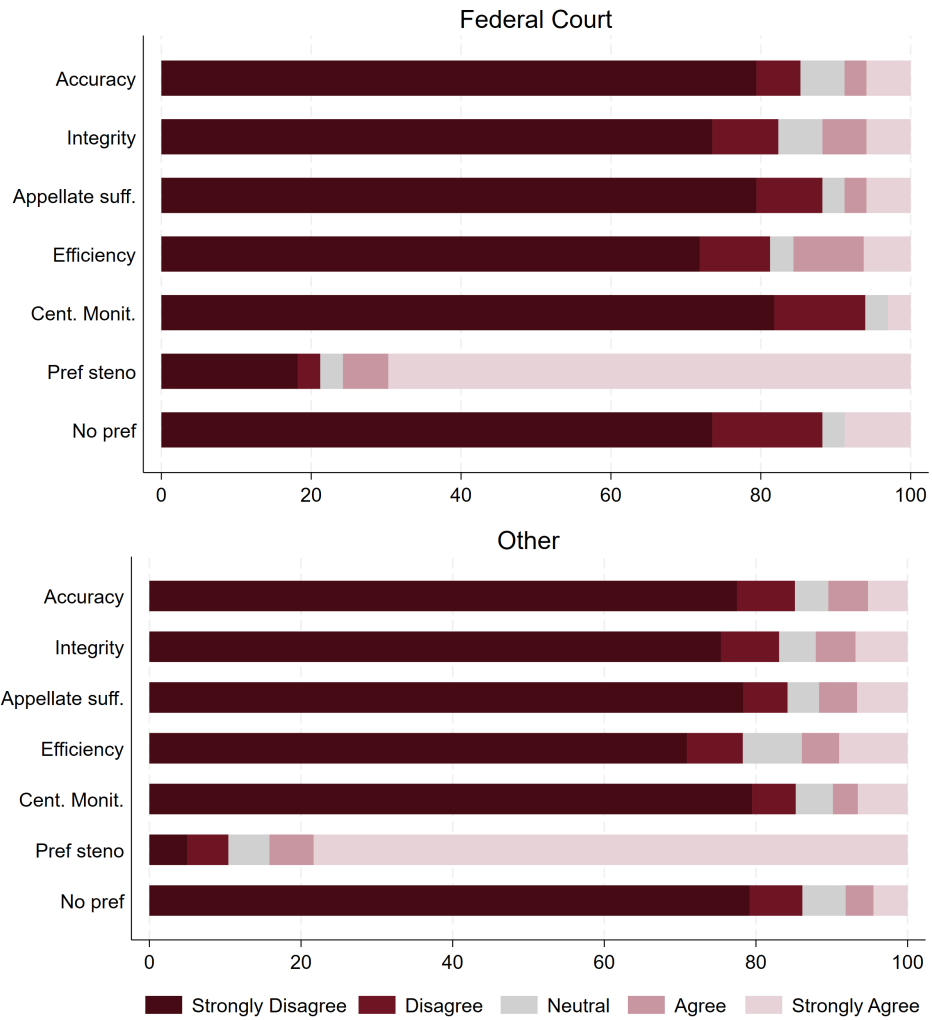


Figure 39: ASR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 36: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	79 (46.20)	143 (76.06)	697 (74.39)	27 (75.00)	193 (75.39)	1,139 (71.73)
	Disagree	23 (13.45)	18 (9.57)	78 (8.32)	2 (5.56)	19 (7.42)	140 (8.82)
	Neutral	15 (8.77)	8 (4.26)	42 (4.48)	2 (5.56)	11 (4.30)	78 (4.91)
	Agree	13 (7.60)	7 (3.72)	42 (4.48)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.08)	76 (4.79)
	Strongly Agree	25 (14.62)	3 (1.60)	35 (3.74)	2 (5.56)	13 (5.08)	78 (4.91)
	DK/NA	16 (9.36)	9 (4.79)	43 (4.59)	2 (5.56)	7 (2.73)	77 (4.85)
	N	171	188	937	36	256	1,588
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	74 (43.27)	144 (76.60)	694 (74.15)	25 (69.44)	187 (73.05)	1,124 (70.83)
	Disagree	23 (13.45)	16 (8.51)	70 (7.48)	3 (8.33)	19 (7.42)	131 (8.25)
	Neutral	17 (9.94)	12 (6.38)	40 (4.27)	2 (5.56)	12 (4.69)	83 (5.23)
	Agree	16 (9.36)	6 (3.19)	60 (6.41)	2 (5.56)	13 (5.08)	97 (6.11)
	Strongly Agree	26 (15.20)	4 (2.13)	36 (3.85)	2 (5.56)	17 (6.64)	85 (5.36)
	DK/NA	15 (8.77)	6 (3.19)	36 (3.85)	2 (5.56)	8 (3.12)	67 (4.22)
	N	171	188	936	36	256	1,587
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	79 (46.20)	142 (75.53)	701 (75.05)	27 (77.14)	188 (73.73)	1,137 (71.83)
	Disagree	18 (10.53)	16 (8.51)	64 (6.85)	3 (8.57)	14 (5.49)	115 (7.26)
	Neutral	17 (9.94)	11 (5.85)	41 (4.39)	1 (2.86)	10 (3.92)	80 (5.05)
	Agree	13 (7.60)	5 (2.66)	42 (4.50)	1 (2.86)	12 (4.71)	73 (4.61)
	Strongly Agree	26 (15.20)	3 (1.60)	32 (3.43)	2 (5.71)	16 (6.27)	79 (4.99)
	DK/NA	18 (10.53)	11 (5.85)	54 (5.78)	1 (2.86)	15 (5.88)	99 (6.25)
	N	171	188	934	35	255	1,583
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	65 (38.01)	134 (71.28)	663 (70.99)	23 (65.71)	173 (68.11)	1,058 (66.88)
	Disagree	12 (7.02)	22 (11.70)	63 (6.75)	3 (8.57)	18 (7.09)	118 (7.46)
	Neutral	17 (9.94)	12 (6.38)	47 (5.03)	1 (2.86)	19 (7.48)	96 (6.07)
	Agree	22 (12.87)	5 (2.66)	65 (6.96)	3 (8.57)	12 (4.72)	107 (6.76)
	Strongly Agree	35 (20.47)	5 (2.66)	51 (5.46)	2 (5.71)	22 (8.66)	115 (7.27)
	DK/NA	20 (11.70)	10 (5.32)	45 (4.82)	3 (8.57)	10 (3.94)	88 (5.56)
	N	171	188	934	35	254	1,582
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	89 (52.05)	147 (78.61)	748 (80.00)	27 (75.00)	194 (76.38)	1,205 (76.12)
	Disagree	29 (16.96)	24 (12.83)	54 (5.78)	4 (11.11)	14 (5.51)	125 (7.90)
	Neutral	12 (7.02)	7 (3.74)	34 (3.64)	1 (2.78)	12 (4.72)	66 (4.17)
	Agree	10 (5.85)	2 (1.07)	25 (2.67)	0 (0.00)	8 (3.15)	45 (2.84)
	Strongly Agree	19 (11.11)	3 (1.60)	33 (3.53)	1 (2.78)	16 (6.30)	72 (4.55)
	DK/NA	12 (7.02)	4 (2.14)	41 (4.39)	3 (8.33)	10 (3.94)	70 (4.42)
	N	171	187	935	36	254	1,583
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	27 (15.79)	11 (5.85)	50 (5.34)	6 (16.67)	12 (4.72)	106 (6.69)
	Disagree	18 (10.53)	2 (1.06)	23 (2.46)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.12)	57 (3.60)
	Neutral	10 (5.85)	8 (4.26)	41 (4.38)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.12)	73 (4.61)
	Agree	18 (10.53)	9 (4.79)	51 (5.45)	2 (5.56)	14 (5.51)	94 (5.93)
	Strongly Agree	76 (44.44)	140 (74.47)	701 (74.89)	23 (63.89)	188 (74.02)	1,128 (71.17)
	DK/NA	22 (12.87)	18 (9.57)	70 (7.48)	3 (8.33)	14 (5.51)	127 (8.01)
	N	171	188	936	36	254	1,585
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	86 (50.29)	146 (77.66)	718 (77.04)	25 (69.44)	194 (76.38)	1,169 (73.94)
	Disagree	28 (16.37)	17 (9.04)	84 (9.01)	5 (13.89)	17 (6.69)	151 (9.55)
	Neutral	23 (13.45)	11 (5.85)	44 (4.72)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.51)	93 (5.88)
	Agree	9 (5.26)	5 (2.66)	22 (2.36)	0 (0.00)	9 (3.54)	45 (2.85)
	Strongly Agree	19 (11.11)	3 (1.60)	22 (2.36)	3 (8.33)	11 (4.33)	58 (3.67)
	DK/NA	6 (3.51)	6 (3.19)	42 (4.51)	2 (5.56)	9 (3.54)	65 (4.11)
	N	171	188	932	36	254	1,581

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. Steno = Stenographic.

The final court-level disaggregation, covering PAR and depicted in Figures 40 & 41, produced the strongest overall skepticism of the three modalities, in keeping with the role-based analysis. County Court at Law respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that PAR produces a record as accurate as a stenographic reporter at the highest rate of any court level (90.42%), followed closely by Federal Court (91.67%) and District Court (86.74%) respondents, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents stayed comparatively more open, at 69.01% disagreeing and 17.54% agreeing or strongly agreeing. The same held for integrity (89.36% disagreement among County Court at Law respondents versus 16.47% agreement among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents) and appellate sufficiency (86.70% versus 15.89%, respectively). On efficiency, Appellate/Supreme Court respondents again reported the highest agreement (22.23%), more than double the rate at any other court level, while County Court at Law (86.70%) and District Court (82.57%) respondents were the most resistant. Support for centralized monitoring was minimal at every court level, though Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were once more comparatively receptive (13.45% agree or strongly agree) relative to County Court at Law (1.59%) or District Court (4.19%) respondents. Preference results echoed those for DCR and ASR: County Court at Law (79.26%), District Court (80.58%), and “Other” court (80.47%) respondents most strongly favored a stenographically produced record, while Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were more divided (23.98% disagree, 56.72% agree). In turn, most County Court at Law (89.31%) and District Court (87.72%) respondents disagreed that they had no preference, whereas Appellate/Supreme Court respondents remained the most evenly split of any court level (69.59% disagree, 13.45% agree). The frequencies and percentages can also be found in Table 37. Taken together with the DCR and ASR findings, these results confirm a consistent pattern across all three modalities: Appellate/Supreme Court respondents express the greatest openness to alternative recording technologies, while County Court at Law, District Court, and Federal Court respondents remain the most firmly committed to the stenographic record.

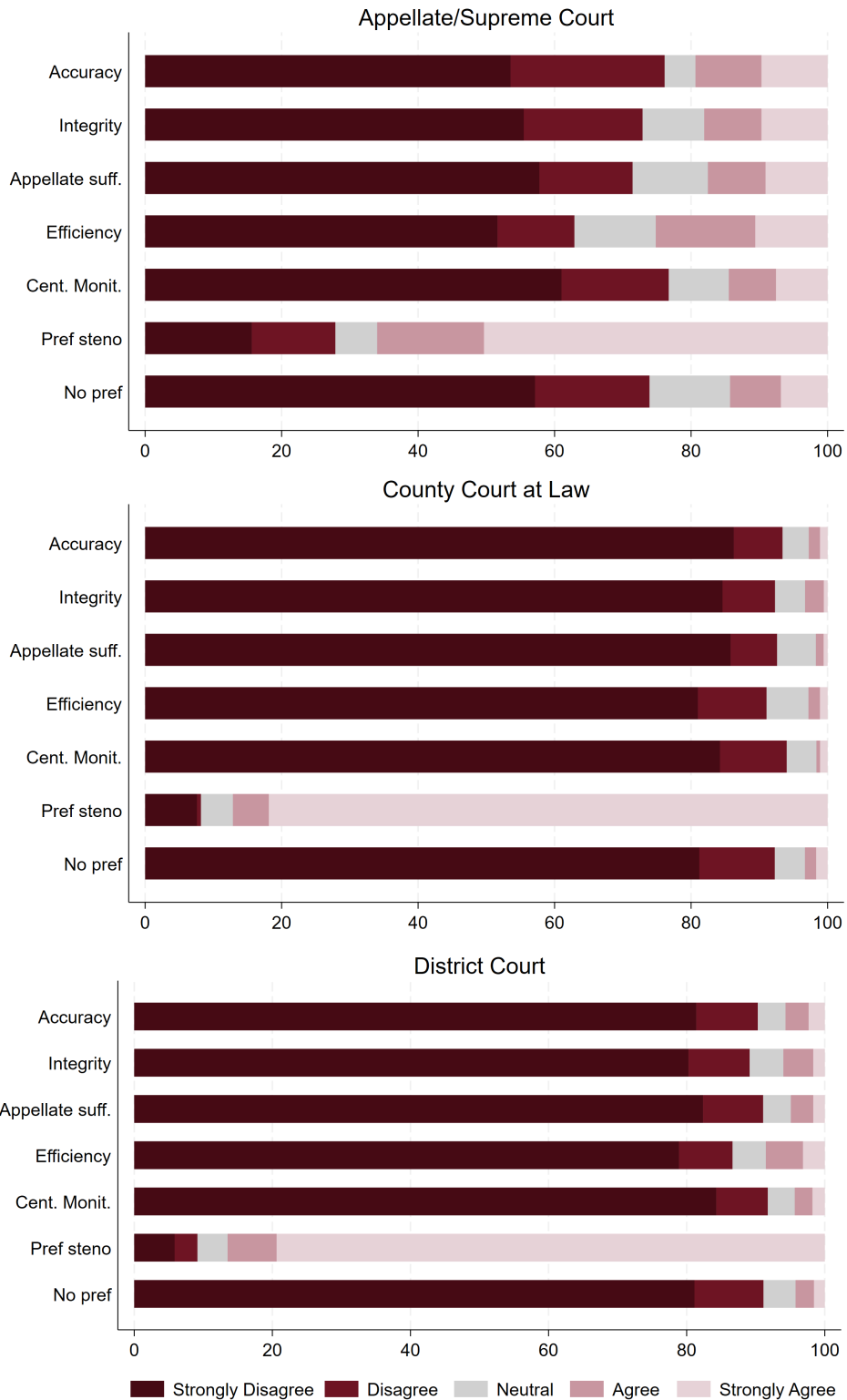


Figure 40: PAR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (1 of 2)

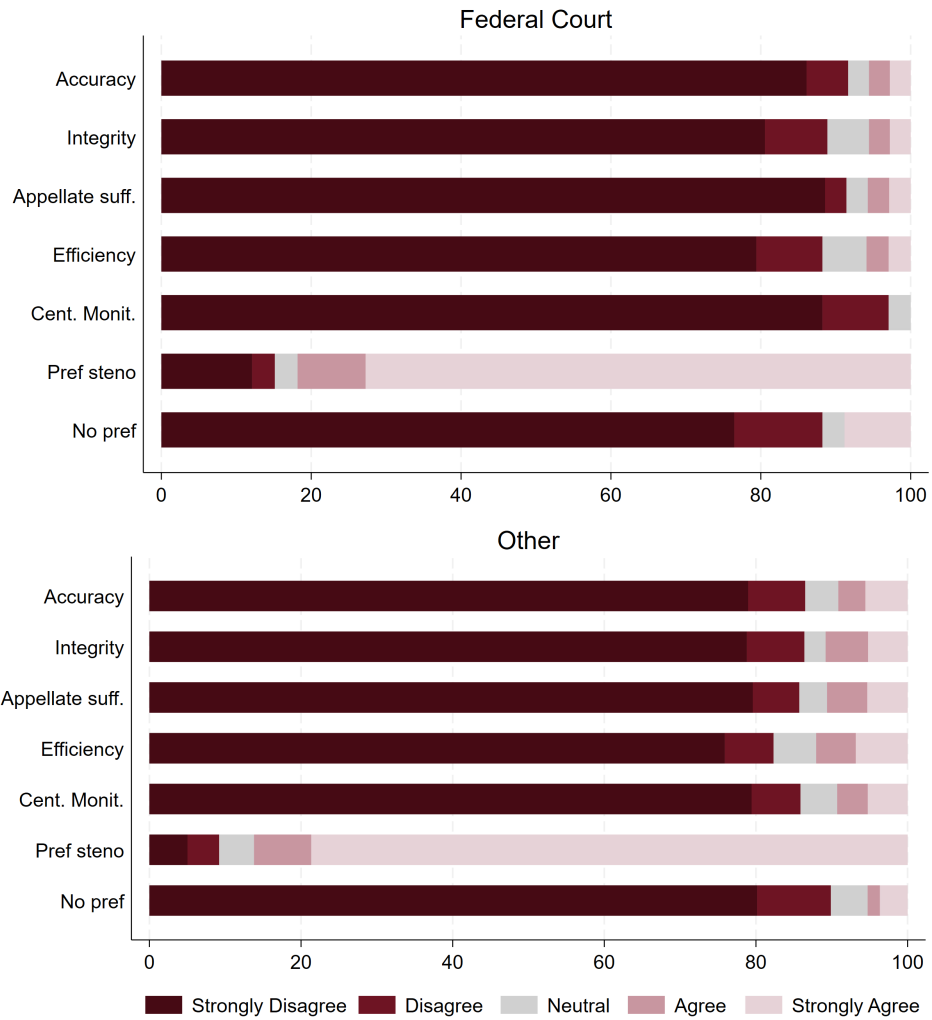


Figure 41: PAR Perceptions of Acceptance and Reliability by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 37: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Court Level

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	83 (48.54)	157 (83.51)	731 (78.18)	31 (86.11)	199 (77.73)	1,201 (75.73)
	Disagree	35 (20.47)	13 (6.91)	80 (8.56)	2 (5.56)	19 (7.42)	149 (9.39)
	Neutral	7 (4.09)	7 (3.72)	36 (3.85)	1 (2.78)	11 (4.30)	62 (3.91)
	Agree	15 (8.77)	3 (1.60)	30 (3.21)	1 (2.78)	9 (3.52)	58 (3.66)
	Strongly Agree	15 (8.77)	2 (1.06)	21 (2.25)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.47)	53 (3.34)
	DK/NA	16 (9.36)	6 (3.19)	37 (3.96)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.56)	63 (3.97)
	N	171	188	935	36	256	1,586
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	86 (50.59)	154 (81.91)	724 (77.35)	29 (80.56)	197 (76.95)	1,190 (75.03)
	Disagree	27 (15.88)	14 (7.45)	80 (8.55)	3 (8.33)	19 (7.42)	143 (9.02)
	Neutral	14 (8.24)	8 (4.26)	44 (4.70)	2 (5.56)	7 (2.73)	75 (4.73)
	Agree	13 (7.65)	5 (2.66)	39 (4.17)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.47)	72 (4.54)
	Strongly Agree	15 (8.82)	1 (0.53)	15 (1.60)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.08)	45 (2.84)
	DK/NA	15 (8.82)	6 (3.19)	34 (3.63)	0 (0.00)	6 (2.34)	61 (3.85)
	N	170	188	936	36	256	1,586
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	89 (52.35)	151 (80.32)	739 (79.04)	31 (86.11)	195 (76.17)	1,205 (76.03)
	Disagree	21 (12.35)	12 (6.38)	78 (8.34)	1 (2.78)	15 (5.86)	127 (8.01)
	Neutral	17 (10.00)	10 (5.32)	36 (3.85)	1 (2.78)	9 (3.52)	73 (4.61)
	Agree	13 (7.65)	2 (1.06)	29 (3.10)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.08)	58 (3.66)
	Strongly Agree	14 (8.24)	1 (0.53)	15 (1.60)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.08)	44 (2.78)
	DK/NA	16 (9.41)	12 (6.38)	38 (4.06)	1 (2.78)	11 (4.30)	78 (4.92)
	N	170	188	935	36	256	1,585
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	78 (45.61)	145 (77.13)	703 (75.19)	27 (75.00)	189 (74.12)	1,142 (72.05)
	Disagree	17 (9.94)	18 (9.57)	69 (7.38)	3 (8.33)	16 (6.27)	123 (7.76)
	Neutral	18 (10.53)	11 (5.85)	43 (4.60)	2 (5.56)	14 (5.49)	88 (5.55)
	Agree	22 (12.87)	3 (1.60)	48 (5.13)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.10)	87 (5.49)
	Strongly Agree	16 (9.36)	2 (1.06)	28 (2.99)	1 (2.78)	17 (6.67)	64 (4.04)
	DK/NA	20 (11.70)	9 (4.79)	44 (4.71)	2 (5.56)	6 (2.35)	81 (5.11)
	N	171	188	935	36	255	1,585
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	97 (56.73)	155 (82.45)	757 (81.22)	30 (83.33)	197 (76.95)	1,236 (78.08)
	Disagree	25 (14.62)	18 (9.57)	67 (7.19)	3 (8.33)	16 (6.25)	129 (8.15)
	Neutral	14 (8.19)	8 (4.26)	35 (3.76)	1 (2.78)	12 (4.69)	70 (4.42)
	Agree	11 (6.43)	1 (0.53)	23 (2.47)	0 (0.00)	10 (3.91)	45 (2.84)
	Strongly Agree	12 (7.02)	2 (1.06)	16 (1.72)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.08)	43 (2.72)
	DK/NA	12 (7.02)	4 (2.13)	34 (3.65)	2 (5.56)	8 (3.12)	60 (3.79)
	N	171	188	932	36	256	1,583
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	23 (13.45)	13 (6.91)	51 (5.44)	4 (11.11)	12 (4.69)	103 (6.49)
	Disagree	18 (10.53)	1 (0.53)	29 (3.09)	1 (2.78)	10 (3.91)	59 (3.72)
	Neutral	9 (5.26)	8 (4.26)	38 (4.06)	1 (2.78)	11 (4.30)	67 (4.22)
	Agree	23 (13.45)	9 (4.79)	62 (6.62)	3 (8.33)	18 (7.03)	115 (7.24)
	Strongly Agree	74 (43.27)	140 (74.47)	693 (73.96)	24 (66.67)	188 (73.44)	1,119 (70.47)
	DK/NA	24 (14.04)	17 (9.04)	64 (6.83)	3 (8.33)	17 (6.64)	125 (7.87)
	N	171	188	937	36	256	1,588
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	92 (53.80)	147 (78.61)	731 (78.10)	26 (72.22)	198 (77.95)	1,194 (75.38)
	Disagree	27 (15.79)	20 (10.70)	90 (9.62)	4 (11.11)	24 (9.45)	165 (10.42)
	Neutral	19 (11.11)	8 (4.28)	42 (4.49)	1 (2.78)	12 (4.72)	82 (5.18)
	Agree	12 (7.02)	3 (1.60)	24 (2.56)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.57)	43 (2.71)
	Strongly Agree	11 (6.43)	3 (1.60)	14 (1.50)	3 (8.33)	9 (3.54)	40 (2.53)
	DK/NA	10 (5.85)	6 (3.21)	35 (3.74)	2 (5.56)	7 (2.76)	60 (3.79)
	N	171	187	936	36	254	1,584

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. Steno = Stenographic.

A clear and consistent divide runs through all three modalities examined in this section. Court Reporters voiced the strongest distrust of DCR, ASR, and PAR alike, routinely disagreeing that these technologies could match the accuracy, integrity, or appellate sufficiency of a stenographic record and just as routinely affirming a preference for the human reporter. At the opposite end of nearly every measure stood Court Recorders, whose views of all three alternative modalities were comparatively favorable and at times outright positive. The same divide reappeared by court level: Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were consistently the most receptive to DCR, ASR, and PAR, while County Court at Law and District Court respondents held most firmly to the stenographic record. Opposition also intensified somewhat moving from DCR to ASR to PAR, especially among Court Reporters, Judges, and Other Courtroom Actors, a sign that concerns may compound as recording methods move further from direct human oversight. Together, these results point to role and court level, rather than the specific modality in question, as the primary axes along which trust in alternative recording technologies diverges.

8.2.4 Comparison of DCR and Court Reporting

Section IV shifts from perceptions of trust and accuracy to a direct comparison between recording methods, asking respondents which method they consider superior across seven practical factors: verbatim accuracy, turnaround time, cost-effectiveness for the court, cost-effectiveness for litigants, room control, handling accents or technical jargon, and long-term archiving. Unlike the agreement-scale measures examined in the preceding sections, respondents selected a single preferred method for each factor from among ASR, PAR, DCR with human monitoring, no difference between modalities, unsure, or stenography. Findings are disaggregated by respondent role, court level, and urbanicity to identify where preferences for a particular method are most and least consistent.

Respondents were asked to identify which method they viewed as superior across seven factors related to court reporting and recording. Broken down by role, these responses revealed sharp contrasts, most notably between Court Reporters and Court Recorders. On verbatim accuracy, 92.83% of Court Reporters chose stenography as superior, against just 40.30% of Court Recorders, who instead favored DCR at a far higher rate (44.78%) than any other role. The gap widened further on turnaround time, where only 28.36% of Court Recorders selected stenography compared to 80.46% of Court Reporters, the former leaning instead toward DCR (38.81%) or no difference between modalities (20.90%). Judges stood out here as well, 28.81% selecting “Unsure,” the highest share of any role. Cost-effectiveness for the court told much the same story, with Court Recorders again the least likely to favor stenography (26.87%) and the most likely to favor DCR (53.73%), while Judges once more reported substantial uncertainty (33.74% unsure). A comparable split appeared for cost-effectiveness to litigants, where Court Recorders favored DCR at the highest rate of any role (47.76%) and stenography at the lowest (23.88%). On room control, Court Reporters (92.17%) and Judges (82.72%) most strongly favored stenography, while Court Recorders were far more divided, with 37.31% favoring stenography and 40.30% favoring DCR, a near-even split with a slight edge to DCR. Handling accents and technical jargon produced a similar contrast, Court Reporters (92.08%) and Judges (80.66%) favoring stenography against just 34.33% among Court Recorders. On long-term archiving, finally, Court Reporters (82.38%) again favored stenography most strongly, while Court Recorders were the only role to favor DCR (44.78%) over stenography (29.85%),

and Attorneys reported the highest share of “Unsure” responses (32.20%). Figures 42 & 43 depict these results as a heatmap across all seven factors and six roles, illustrating that Court Recorders consistently diverge from Court Reporters, Judges, and Other Courtroom Actors in favoring DCR over stenography, while uncertainty stays comparatively elevated among Judges and Attorneys on cost- and time-related factors, while Table 38 presents the data.

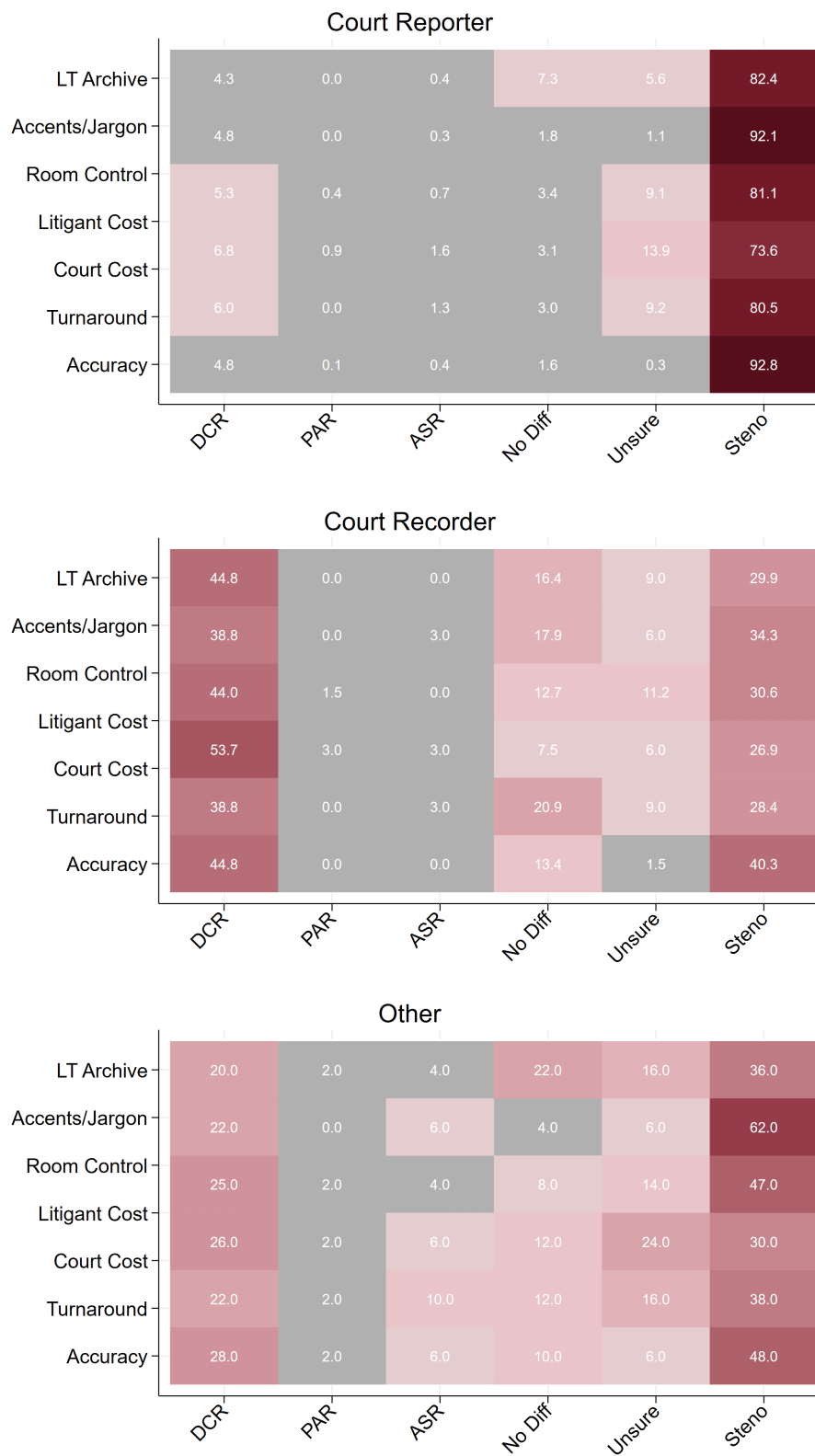


Figure 42: Comparative Perceptions by Role Group (1 of 2)

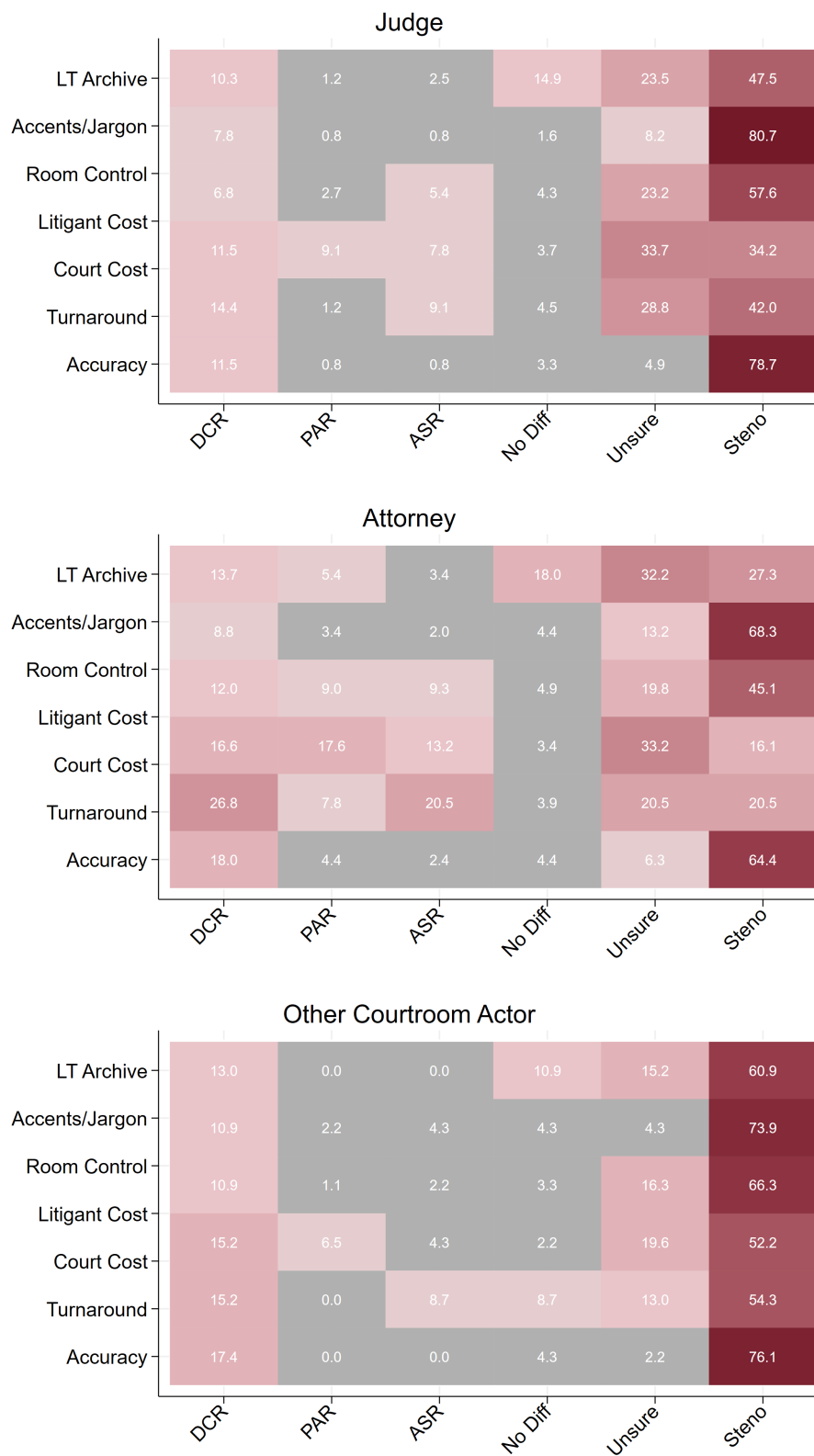


Figure 43: Comparative Perceptions by Role Group (2 of 2)

Table 38: Comparison of DCR and Court Reporting, by Respondent Role

Factor	Method	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Verbatim Accuracy	ASR	5 (2.44)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.37)	2 (0.82)	3 (6.00)	0 (0.00)	14 (0.82)
	PAR	9 (4.39)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.09)	2 (0.82)	1 (2.00)	0 (0.00)	13 (0.76)
	DCR	37 (18.05)	30 (44.78)	52 (4.78)	28 (11.48)	14 (28.00)	8 (17.39)	169 (9.94)
	No Difference	9 (4.39)	9 (13.43)	18 (1.65)	8 (3.28)	5 (10.00)	2 (4.35)	51 (3.00)
	Unsure	13 (6.34)	1 (1.49)	3 (0.28)	12 (4.92)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.17)	33 (1.94)
	Stenography	132 (64.39)	27 (40.30)	1,010 (92.83)	192 (78.69)	24 (48.00)	35 (76.09)	1,420 (83.53)
	N	205	67	1,088	244	50	46	1,700
Turnaround Time	ASR	42 (20.49)	2 (2.99)	14 (1.29)	22 (9.05)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.70)	89 (5.25)
	PAR	16 (7.80)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.23)	1 (2.00)	0 (0.00)	20 (1.18)
	DCR	55 (26.83)	26 (38.81)	65 (5.99)	35 (14.40)	11 (22.00)	7 (15.22)	199 (11.73)
	No Difference	8 (3.90)	14 (20.90)	33 (3.04)	11 (4.53)	6 (12.00)	4 (8.70)	76 (4.48)
	Unsure	42 (20.49)	6 (8.96)	100 (9.22)	70 (28.81)	8 (16.00)	6 (13.04)	232 (13.68)
	Stenography	42 (20.49)	19 (28.36)	873 (80.46)	102 (41.98)	19 (38.00)	25 (54.35)	1,080 (63.68)
	N	205	67	1,085	243	50	46	1,696
Cost-Effective for Court	ASR	27 (13.17)	2 (2.99)	17 (1.57)	19 (7.82)	3 (6.00)	2 (4.35)	70 (4.13)
	PAR	36 (17.56)	2 (2.99)	10 (0.92)	22 (9.05)	1 (2.00)	3 (6.52)	74 (4.36)
	DCR	34 (16.59)	36 (53.73)	74 (6.82)	28 (11.52)	13 (26.00)	7 (15.22)	192 (11.32)
	No Difference	7 (3.41)	5 (7.46)	34 (3.13)	9 (3.70)	6 (12.00)	1 (2.17)	62 (3.66)
	Unsure	68 (33.17)	4 (5.97)	151 (13.92)	82 (33.74)	12 (24.00)	9 (19.57)	326 (19.22)
	Stenography	33 (16.10)	18 (26.87)	799 (73.64)	83 (34.16)	15 (30.00)	24 (52.17)	972 (57.31)
	N	205	67	1,085	243	50	46	1,696
Cost-Effective for Litigants	ASR	32 (15.61)	0 (0.00)	15 (1.38)	23 (9.47)	2 (4.00)	2 (4.35)	74 (4.36)
	PAR	30 (14.63)	2 (2.99)	9 (0.83)	13 (5.35)	1 (2.00)	1 (2.17)	56 (3.30)
	DCR	29 (14.15)	32 (47.76)	63 (5.81)	18 (7.41)	13 (26.00)	6 (13.04)	161 (9.49)
	No Difference	11 (5.37)	5 (7.46)	48 (4.42)	10 (4.12)	6 (12.00)	1 (2.17)	81 (4.78)
	Unsure	64 (31.22)	12 (17.91)	190 (17.51)	100 (41.15)	13 (26.00)	13 (28.26)	392 (23.11)
	Stenography	39 (19.02)	16 (23.88)	760 (70.05)	79 (32.51)	15 (30.00)	23 (50.00)	932 (54.95)
	N	205	67	1,085	243	50	46	1,696
Room Control	ASR	6 (2.93)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.09)	3 (1.23)	2 (4.00)	0 (0.00)	12 (0.71)
	PAR	7 (3.41)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.00)	0 (0.00)	8 (0.47)
	DCR	20 (9.76)	27 (40.30)	52 (4.79)	15 (6.17)	12 (24.00)	4 (8.70)	130 (7.67)
	No Difference	9 (4.39)	12 (17.91)	25 (2.30)	11 (4.53)	2 (4.00)	2 (4.35)	61 (3.60)
	Unsure	17 (8.29)	3 (4.48)	7 (0.65)	13 (5.35)	1 (2.00)	2 (4.35)	43 (2.54)
	Stenography	146 (71.22)	25 (37.31)	1,000 (92.17)	201 (82.72)	32 (64.00)	38 (82.61)	1,442 (85.02)
	N	205	67	1,085	243	50	46	1,696
Accents/Technical Jargon	ASR	4 (1.95)	2 (2.99)	3 (0.28)	2 (0.82)	3 (6.00)	2 (4.35)	16 (0.94)
	PAR	7 (3.41)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.82)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.17)	10 (0.59)
	DCR	18 (8.78)	26 (38.81)	52 (4.79)	19 (7.82)	11 (22.00)	5 (10.87)	131 (7.72)
	No Difference	9 (4.39)	12 (17.91)	19 (1.75)	4 (1.65)	2 (4.00)	2 (4.35)	48 (2.83)
	Unsure	27 (13.17)	4 (5.97)	12 (1.10)	20 (8.23)	3 (6.00)	2 (4.35)	68 (4.01)
	Stenography	140 (68.29)	23 (34.33)	1,000 (92.08)	196 (80.66)	31 (62.00)	34 (73.91)	1,424 (83.91)
	N	205	67	1,086	243	50	46	1,697
Long-Term Archiving	ASR	7 (3.41)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.37)	6 (2.48)	2 (4.00)	0 (0.00)	19 (1.12)
	PAR	11 (5.37)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.24)	1 (2.00)	0 (0.00)	15 (0.89)
	DCR	28 (13.66)	30 (44.78)	47 (4.34)	25 (10.33)	10 (20.00)	6 (13.04)	146 (8.62)
	No Difference	37 (18.05)	11 (16.42)	79 (7.29)	36 (14.88)	11 (22.00)	5 (10.87)	179 (10.57)
	Unsure	66 (32.20)	6 (8.96)	61 (5.63)	57 (23.55)	8 (16.00)	7 (15.22)	205 (12.10)
	Stenography	56 (27.32)	20 (29.85)	893 (82.38)	115 (47.52)	18 (36.00)	28 (60.87)	1,130 (66.71)
	N	205	67	1,084	242	50	46	1,694

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%).

Broken down by court level, the Section IV responses revealed a pattern distinct from the role-based findings: rather than Court Recorders diverging from other roles, it was Appellate/Supreme Court respondents who most consistently departed from the other four court levels. As shown in Table 39, On verbatim accuracy, only 61.76% of Appellate/Supreme Court respondents selected stenography as superior, against 89.89% of County Court at Law and 86.07% of District Court respondents, with the Appellate/Supreme group instead favoring DCR at a far higher rate (22.94%) than any other court level. That divide widened on turnaround time, where just 30.59% of Appellate/Supreme Court respondents chose stenography, less than half the rate among County Court at Law (70.59%), District Court (66.13%), Federal Court (66.67%), and “Other” court (66.01%) respondents; the Appellate/Supreme group instead spread its responses across DCR (28.24%) and ASR (15.88%). The same held for cost-effectiveness to the court, where Appellate/Supreme Court respondents favored stenography least (27.06%) and DCR most (25.88%), while County Court at Law respondents stayed the most committed to stenography (68.98%) of any court level. Cost-effectiveness for litigants followed the same contour, with Appellate/Supreme Court respondents evenly split between stenography (24.71%) and Unsure (24.71%), against County Court at Law respondents, who favored stenography at more than double that rate (64.52%). On room control and handling accents or technical jargon, Appellate/Supreme Court respondents again reported the lowest preference for stenography (68.82% and 67.06%, respectively), though still a majority, while County Court at Law respondents remained its strongest supporters on both measures (91.44% and 89.84%). On long-term archiving, finally, Appellate/Supreme Court respondents were the only court level where stenography did not command a clear majority relative to the alternatives combined, 36.47% favoring stenography and the rest split across DCR (21.76%), Unsure (19.41%), and No Difference (17.65%). Figures 44 & 45 present these results as a heatmap across all seven factors and five court levels, underscoring that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently express the greatest openness to alternatives to stenography, a pattern paralleling the comparatively favorable views of Court Recorders in the role-based disaggregation.

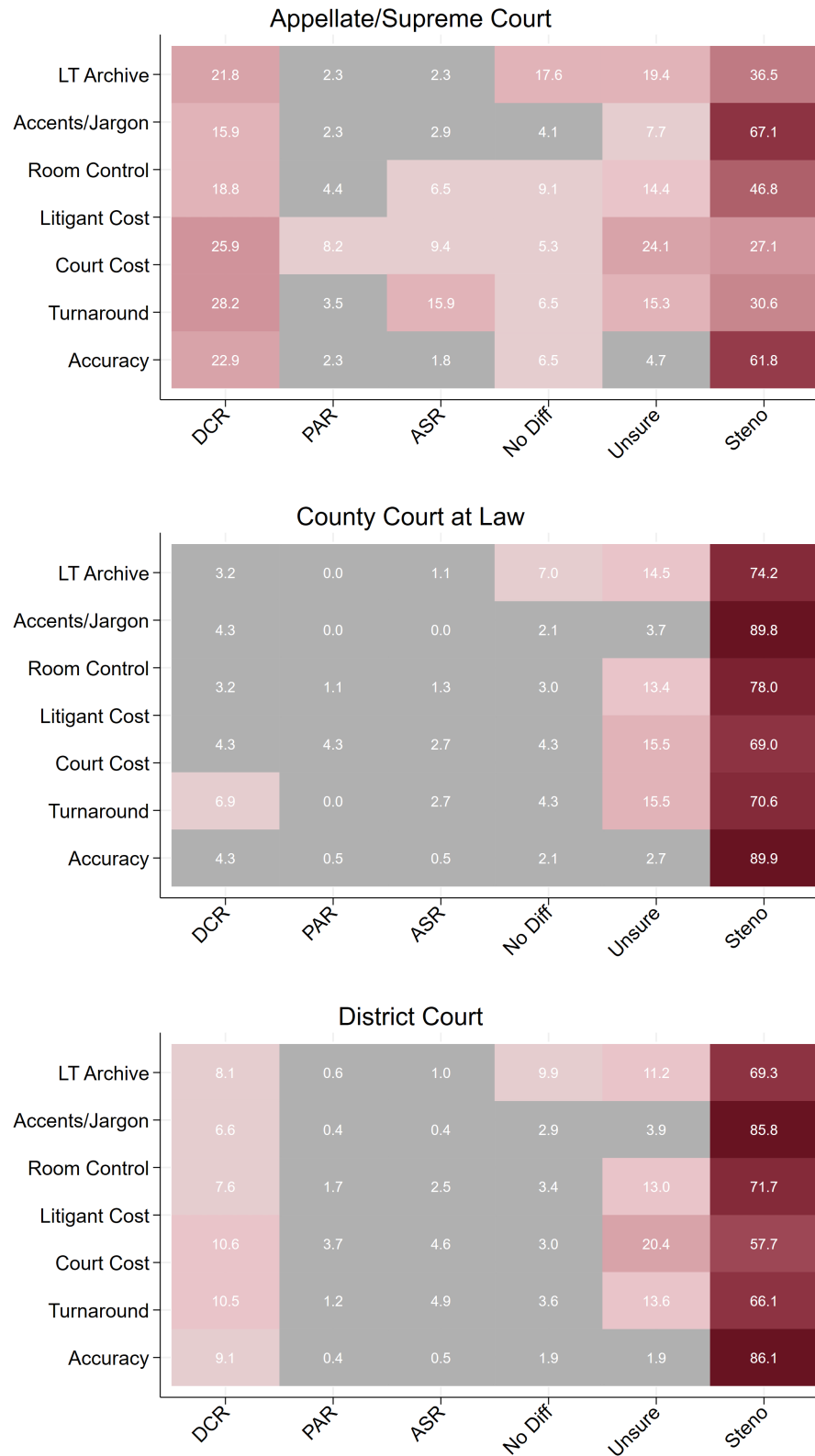


Figure 44: Comparative Perceptions by Court Level (1 of 2)

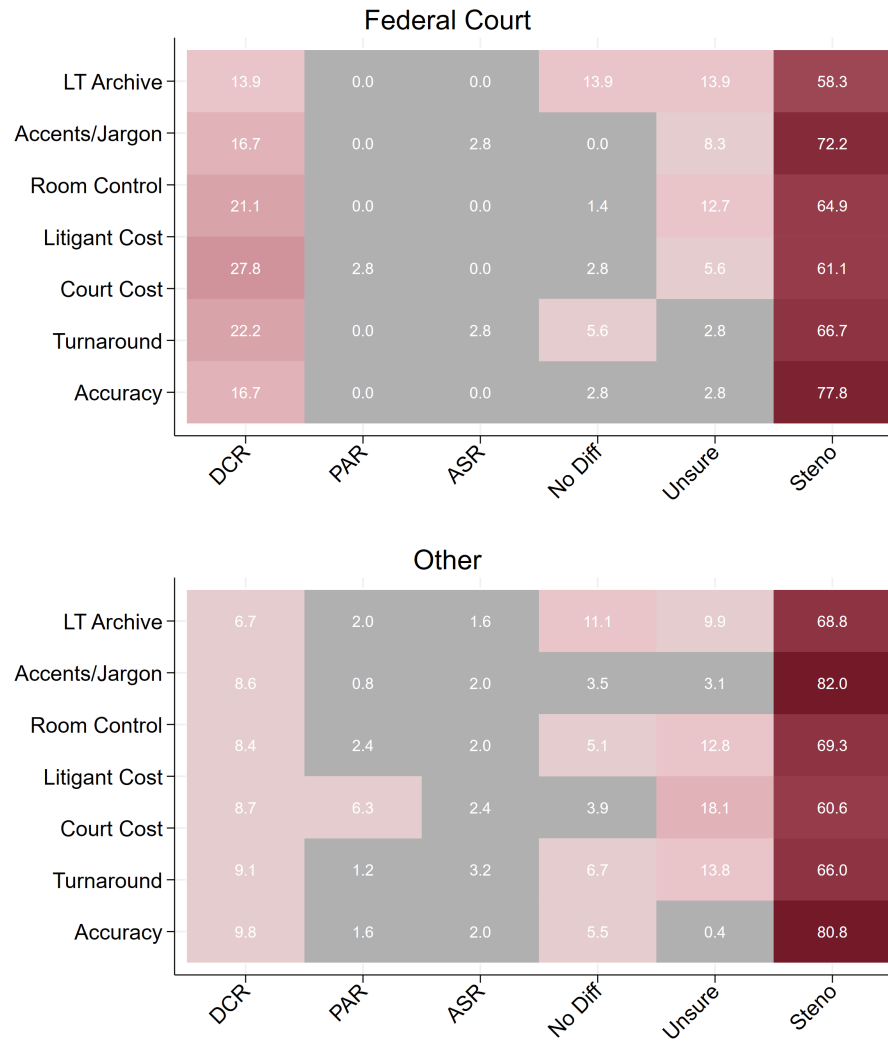


Figure 45: Comparative Perceptions by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 39: Comparison of DCR and Court Reporting, by Court Level

Factor	Method	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	ASR	3 (1.76)	1 (0.53)	5 (0.54)	0 (0.00)	5 (1.96)	14 (0.88)
	PAR	4 (2.35)	1 (0.53)	4 (0.43)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.57)	13 (0.82)
	DCR	39 (22.94)	8 (4.26)	85 (9.11)	6 (16.67)	25 (9.80)	163 (10.30)
	No Difference	11 (6.47)	4 (2.13)	18 (1.93)	1 (2.78)	14 (5.49)	48 (3.03)
	Unsure	8 (4.71)	5 (2.66)	18 (1.93)	1 (2.78)	1 (0.39)	33 (2.09)
	Stenography	105 (61.76)	169 (89.89)	803 (86.07)	28 (77.78)	206 (80.78)	1,311 (82.87)
	N	170	188	933	36	255	1,582
Turnaround Time	ASR	27 (15.88)	5 (2.67)	46 (4.93)	1 (2.78)	8 (3.16)	87 (5.51)
	PAR	6 (3.53)	0 (0.00)	11 (1.18)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.19)	20 (1.27)
	DCR	48 (28.24)	13 (6.95)	98 (10.50)	8 (22.22)	23 (9.09)	190 (12.03)
	No Difference	11 (6.47)	8 (4.28)	34 (3.64)	2 (5.56)	17 (6.72)	72 (4.56)
	Unsure	26 (15.29)	29 (15.51)	127 (13.61)	1 (2.78)	35 (13.83)	218 (13.81)
	Stenography	52 (30.59)	132 (70.59)	617 (66.13)	24 (66.67)	167 (66.01)	992 (62.82)
	N	170	187	933	36	253	1,579
Cost-Effective for Court	ASR	16 (9.41)	5 (2.67)	43 (4.61)	0 (0.00)	6 (2.36)	70 (4.43)
	PAR	14 (8.24)	8 (4.28)	34 (3.65)	1 (2.78)	16 (6.30)	73 (4.62)
	DCR	44 (25.88)	8 (4.28)	99 (10.62)	10 (27.78)	22 (8.66)	183 (11.59)
	No Difference	9 (5.29)	8 (4.28)	28 (3.00)	1 (2.78)	10 (3.94)	56 (3.55)
	Unsure	41 (24.12)	29 (15.51)	190 (20.39)	2 (5.56)	46 (18.11)	308 (19.51)
	Stenography	46 (27.06)	129 (68.98)	538 (57.73)	22 (61.11)	154 (60.63)	889 (56.30)
	N	170	187	932	36	254	1,579
Cost-Effective for Litigants	ASR	18 (10.59)	5 (2.69)	41 (4.39)	0 (0.00)	9 (3.54)	73 (4.62)
	PAR	12 (7.06)	4 (2.15)	29 (3.11)	0 (0.00)	10 (3.94)	55 (3.48)
	DCR	39 (22.94)	6 (3.23)	78 (8.36)	9 (25.00)	20 (7.87)	152 (9.63)
	No Difference	17 (10.00)	6 (3.23)	38 (4.07)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.12)	75 (4.75)
	Unsure	42 (24.71)	45 (24.19)	221 (23.69)	5 (13.89)	60 (23.62)	373 (23.62)
	Stenography	42 (24.71)	120 (64.52)	526 (56.38)	21 (58.33)	142 (55.91)	851 (53.89)
	N	170	186	933	36	254	1,579
Room Control	ASR	4 (2.35)	0 (0.00)	6 (0.64)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.39)	11 (0.70)
	PAR	3 (1.76)	0 (0.00)	3 (0.32)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.78)	8 (0.51)
	DCR	25 (14.71)	6 (3.21)	64 (6.87)	6 (17.14)	23 (9.02)	124 (7.86)
	No Difference	14 (8.24)	5 (2.67)	26 (2.79)	0 (0.00)	13 (5.10)	58 (3.68)
	Unsure	7 (4.12)	5 (2.67)	22 (2.36)	4 (11.43)	5 (1.96)	43 (2.72)
	Stenography	117 (68.82)	171 (91.44)	810 (87.00)	25 (71.43)	211 (82.75)	1,334 (84.54)
	N	170	187	931	35	255	1,578
Accents/Jargon	ASR	5 (2.94)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.43)	1 (2.78)	5 (1.96)	15 (0.95)
	PAR	4 (2.35)	0 (0.00)	4 (0.43)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.78)	10 (0.63)
	DCR	27 (15.88)	8 (4.28)	61 (6.55)	6 (16.67)	22 (8.63)	124 (7.85)
	No Difference	7 (4.12)	4 (2.14)	27 (2.90)	0 (0.00)	9 (3.53)	47 (2.98)
	Unsure	13 (7.65)	7 (3.74)	36 (3.87)	3 (8.33)	8 (3.14)	67 (4.24)
	Stenography	114 (67.06)	168 (89.84)	799 (85.82)	26 (72.22)	209 (81.96)	1,316 (83.34)
	N	170	187	931	36	255	1,579
Long-Term Archiving	ASR	4 (2.35)	2 (1.08)	9 (0.97)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.58)	19 (1.20)
	PAR	4 (2.35)	0 (0.00)	6 (0.64)	0 (0.00)	5 (1.98)	15 (0.95)
	DCR	37 (21.76)	6 (3.23)	75 (8.05)	5 (13.89)	17 (6.72)	140 (8.88)
	No Difference	30 (17.65)	13 (6.99)	92 (9.87)	5 (13.89)	28 (11.07)	168 (10.65)
	Unsure	33 (19.41)	27 (14.52)	104 (11.16)	5 (13.89)	25 (9.88)	194 (12.30)
	Stenography	62 (36.47)	138 (74.19)	646 (69.31)	21 (58.33)	174 (68.77)	1,041 (66.01)
	N	170	186	932	36	253	1,577

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%).

Compared with the role- and court-level breakdowns, the urbanicity disaggregation showed far less variation, rural and urban respondents holding broadly similar views across all seven factors. On verbatim accuracy, both groups favored stenography by a wide margin (81.53% rural, 84.38% urban), with DCR a distant second in each (10.81% rural, 9.57% urban). Turnaround time produced a similarly close alignment, 62.20% of rural and 64.31% of urban respondents selecting stenography, though rural respondents reported somewhat higher uncertainty (16.73% unsure versus 12.37% urban). Cost-effectiveness for the court and for litigants held to the same near-parity, stenography favored by 57.00% of rural and 57.44% of urban respondents on the former and by 53.65% and 55.51%, respectively, on the latter; uncertainty, notably, was the second most common response for both groups on litigant cost (27.22% rural, 21.36% urban). The strongest convergence of any factors came on room control and handling accents or technical jargon, where stenography drew roughly 83–85% of both rural and urban respondents and no other method reached double digits in either group. The one factor where a modest gap emerged was long-term archiving, with rural respondents favoring stenography slightly more often (67.98%) than urban respondents (66.16%), though “No Difference” was somewhat more common among the latter (11.36% versus 8.70% rural). Figure 46 and Table 40 show these results as a paired heatmap, illustrating that, unlike the pronounced divides seen by role and court level, rural and urban respondents held largely consistent views on the relative merits of stenography and alternative recording methods.

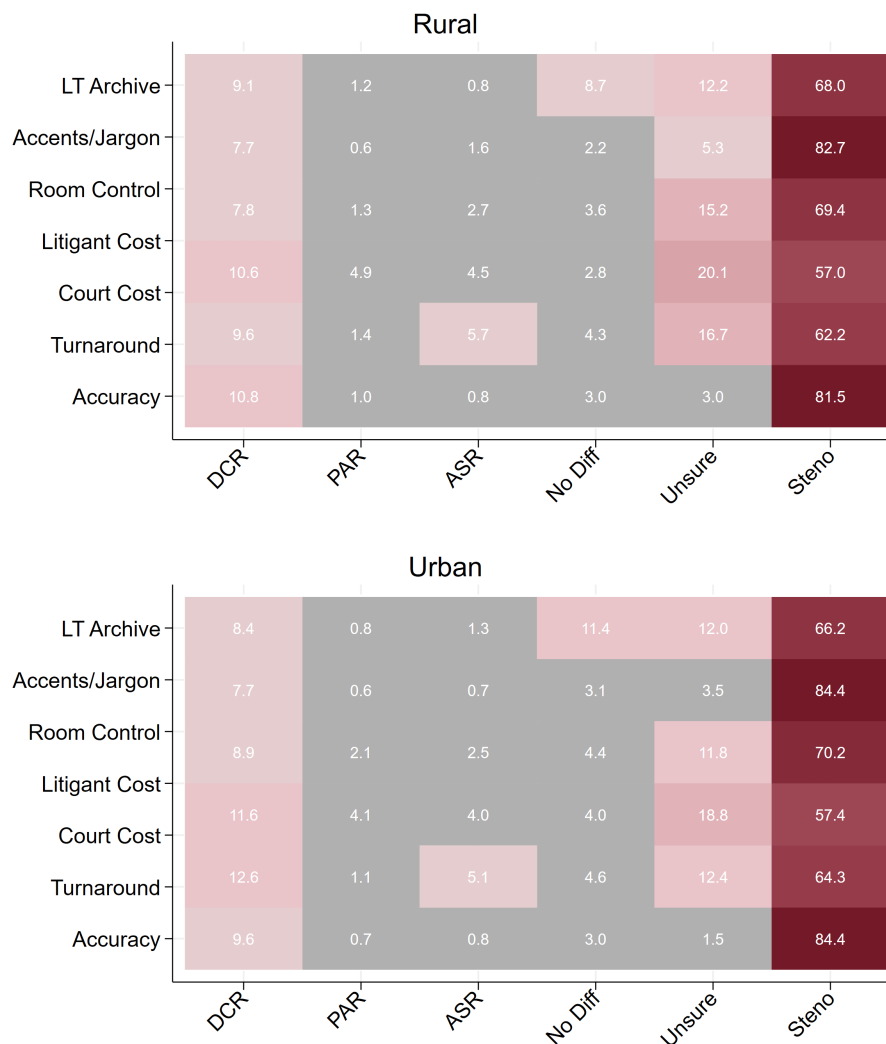


Figure 46: Comparative Perceptions by Urbanicity

The comparative results in this section largely reaffirm the divides identified in Sections III and IV, while also revealing where those divides narrow. By role, Court Recorders stood apart from every other group, favoring DCR over stenography on several factors, including cost-effectiveness for the court and turnaround time, whereas Court Reporters, Judges, and Other Courtroom Actors overwhelmingly selected stenography as superior across nearly all seven factors. A parallel pattern emerged by court level, with Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently the least likely to favor stenography and the most likely to select DCR or express uncertainty, while County Court at Law and District Court respondents remained firmly aligned with stenography throughout. Urbanicity, by contrast, produced little meaningful variation, with rural and urban respondents selecting stenography at comparable rates across all seven factors, reinforcing the pattern observed in Section II that geographic context plays a more limited role than professional role or court level in shaping views of recording methods. Overall, these findings suggest that resistance to alternative recording methods is concentrated among Court Reporters and courts operating at the trial level, while greater

Table 40: Comparison of DCR and Court Reporting, by Urbanicity

Factor	Urbanicity	ASR	PAR	DCR	No Difference	Unsure	Stenography
Accuracy	Rural	4 (0.79)	5 (0.98)	55 (10.81)	15 (2.95)	15 (2.95)	415 (81.53)
	Urban	10 (0.84)	8 (0.67)	114 (9.57)	36 (3.02)	18 (1.51)	1,005 (84.38)
	Total	14 (0.82)	13 (0.76)	169 (9.94)	51 (3.00)	33 (1.94)	1,420 (83.53)
Turnaround Time	Rural	29 (5.71)	7 (1.38)	49 (9.65)	22 (4.33)	85 (16.73)	316 (62.20)
	Urban	60 (5.05)	13 (1.09)	150 (12.63)	54 (4.55)	147 (12.37)	764 (64.31)
	Total	89 (5.25)	20 (1.18)	199 (11.73)	76 (4.48)	232 (13.68)	1,080 (63.68)
Cost-Effective for Court	Rural	23 (4.54)	25 (4.93)	54 (10.65)	14 (2.76)	102 (20.12)	289 (57.00)
	Urban	47 (3.95)	49 (4.12)	138 (11.61)	48 (4.04)	224 (18.84)	683 (57.44)
	Total	70 (4.13)	74 (4.36)	192 (11.32)	62 (3.66)	326 (19.22)	972 (57.31)
Cost-Effective for Litigants	Rural	23 (4.54)	11 (2.17)	44 (8.68)	19 (3.75)	138 (27.22)	272 (53.65)
	Urban	51 (4.29)	45 (3.78)	117 (9.84)	62 (5.21)	254 (21.36)	660 (55.51)
	Total	74 (4.36)	56 (3.30)	161 (9.49)	81 (4.78)	392 (23.11)	932 (54.95)
Room Control	Rural	4 (0.79)	2 (0.39)	35 (6.89)	18 (3.54)	16 (3.15)	433 (85.24)
	Urban	8 (0.67)	6 (0.51)	95 (8.00)	43 (3.62)	27 (2.27)	1,009 (84.93)
	Total	12 (0.71)	8 (0.47)	130 (7.67)	61 (3.60)	43 (2.54)	1,442 (85.02)
Accents/Jargon	Rural	8 (1.57)	3 (0.59)	39 (7.68)	11 (2.17)	27 (5.31)	420 (82.68)
	Urban	8 (0.67)	7 (0.59)	92 (7.74)	37 (3.11)	41 (3.45)	1,004 (84.44)
	Total	16 (0.94)	10 (0.59)	131 (7.72)	48 (2.83)	68 (4.01)	1,424 (83.91)
Long-Term Archiving	Rural	4 (0.79)	6 (1.19)	46 (9.09)	44 (8.70)	62 (12.25)	344 (67.98)
	Urban	15 (1.26)	9 (0.76)	100 (8.42)	135 (11.36)	143 (12.04)	786 (66.16)
	Total	19 (1.12)	15 (0.89)	146 (8.62)	179 (10.57)	205 (12.10)	1,130 (66.71)

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%).

openness is found among Court Recorders and Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, regardless of whether the comparison concerns trust, as in Section III, or direct preference, as examined here.

8.2.5 Perceived Barriers to Implementation

The final section examined in this part of the report addresses perceived barriers to implementing or expanding DCR within Texas courts. Respondents rated eight potential barriers, ranging from statutory and legal hurdles to concerns about cybersecurity, the loss of human oversight, and a lack of demonstrated local success, on a five-point severity scale from “Not a Barrier” to “Extreme,” with an additional “I Don’t Know” option. As in the preceding sections, results are disaggregated by respondent role, court level, and urbanicity to determine whether perceived barriers vary according to professional background or jurisdictional context.

On nearly every barrier, disaggregated by respondent role, Court Reporters and Judges reported the highest perceived severity, while Court Recorders consistently reported the lowest. For statutory and legal hurdles, 68.51% of Court Reporters and 56.56% of Judges rated this an extreme or significant barrier, against just 41.80% of Court Recorders. Initial capital cost drew a similar split, Court Reporters (53.18%) and Judges (54.92%) again the most concerned and Court Recorders the only role to rate it below one-fifth (17.91%). Technical support followed the same shape, with Judges (66.39%) and Court Reporters (62.81%) reporting the greatest concern and Court Recorders the least (29.86%). Resistance from the local bar registered as a substantial barrier for Court Reporters above all (70.60%), though Judges (59.43%), the “Other” category (62.50%), and Other Courtroom Actors (60.87%) trailed close behind, while Court Recorders stayed comparatively less concerned (46.27%). Judiciary resistance drew the highest overall concern of any barrier examined, Court Reporters (75.12%) and Judges (75.00%) rating it extreme or significant at nearly identical rates against 47.76% among

Court Recorders. Cybersecurity risks weighed similarly on Court Reporters (76.88%), the highest rate observed for this barrier, while Court Recorders again reported the lowest concern (29.86%). The “human element” registered most sharply among Court Reporters (82.88%), the single highest rating recorded across all barriers and roles, with Judges (72.95%) and the “Other” category (65.31%) also voicing substantial concern, whereas Court Recorders were comparatively more sanguine (40.91%). A lack of demonstrated local success, finally, was rated an extreme or significant barrier by 63.12% of Court Reporters and 57.44% of Judges, against roughly 42% among both Attorneys and Court Recorders. Figures 47 & 48, as well as Tables 41 & 42 present these results across all eight core barriers and six roles, underscoring a consistent divide in which Court Reporters and Judges perceive nearly every barrier to DCR implementation as more severe than do Court Recorders, Attorneys, and the remaining roles.

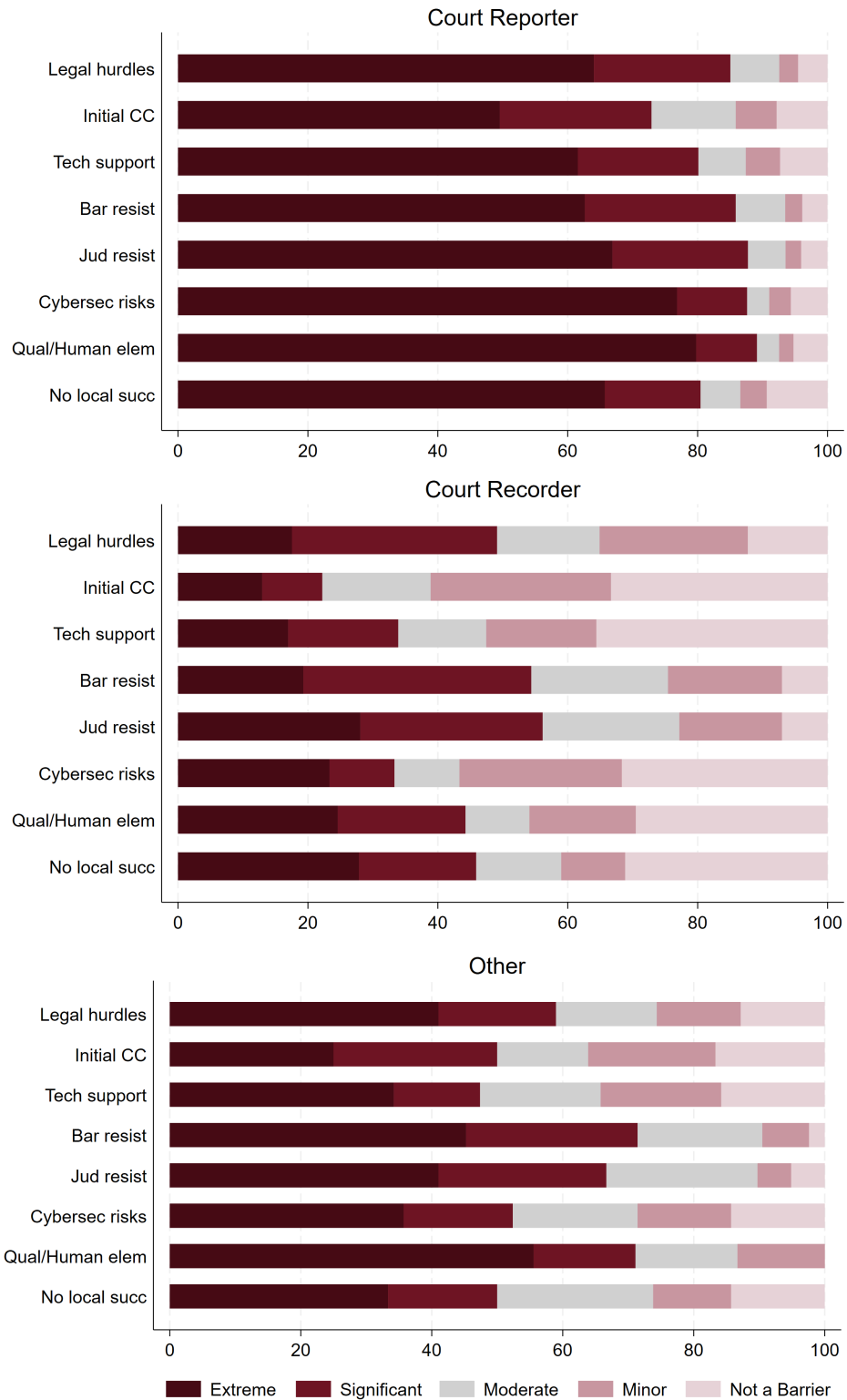


Figure 47: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Role (1 of 2)

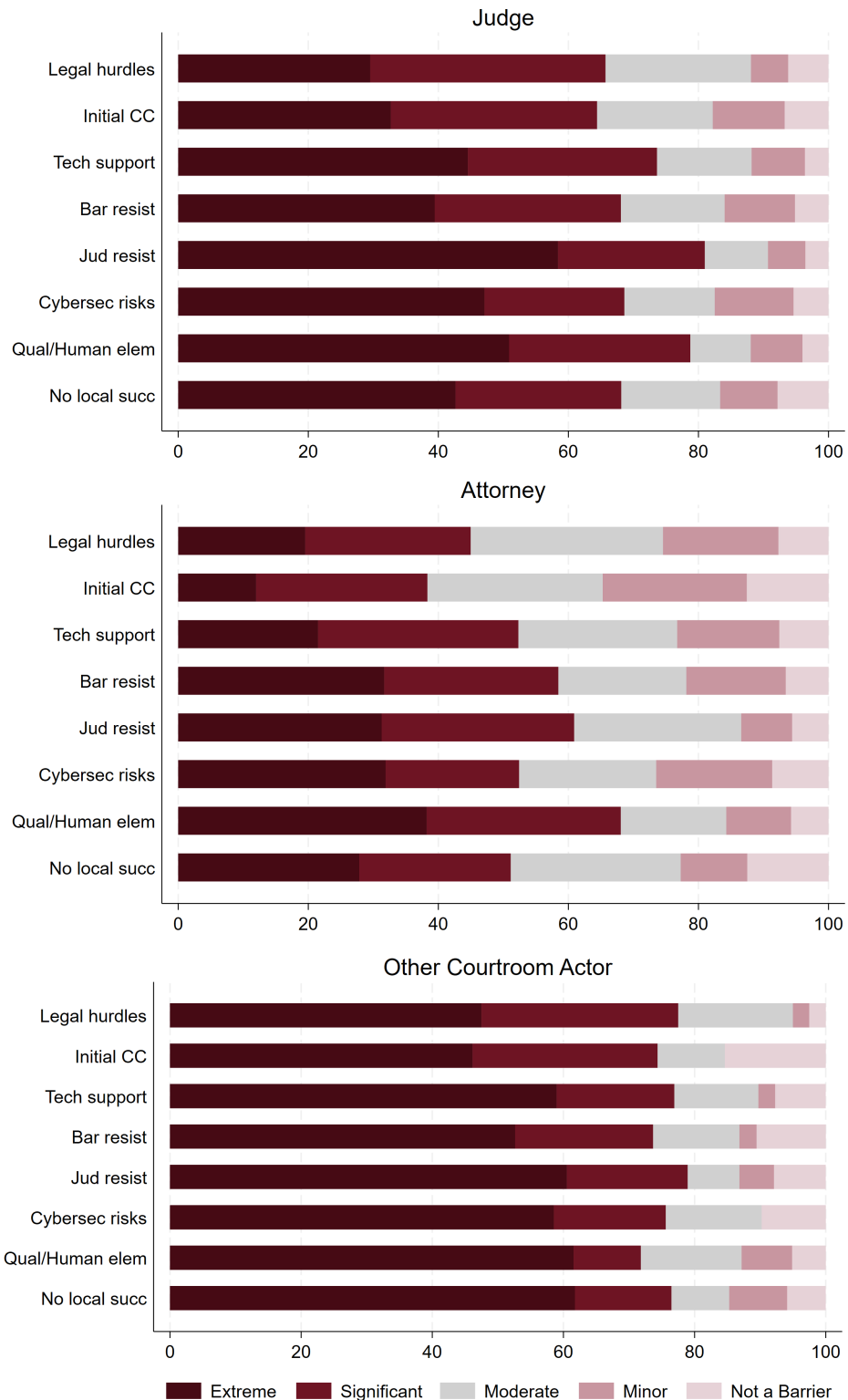


Figure 48: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Role (2 of 2)

Table 41: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Respondent Role (Part 1 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Statutory/ Legal Hurdles	Extreme	33 (16.42)	10 (14.93)	552 (51.59)	62 (25.41)	16 (33.33)	19 (41.30)	692 (41.29)
	Significant	43 (21.39)	18 (26.87)	181 (16.92)	76 (31.15)	7 (14.58)	12 (26.09)	337 (20.11)
	Moderate	50 (24.88)	9 (13.43)	65 (6.07)	47 (19.26)	6 (12.50)	7 (15.22)	184 (10.98)
	Minor	30 (14.93)	13 (19.40)	25 (2.34)	12 (4.92)	5 (10.42)	1 (2.17)	86 (5.13)
	Not a Barrier	13 (6.47)	7 (10.45)	39 (3.64)	13 (5.33)	5 (10.42)	1 (2.17)	78 (4.65)
	I Don't Know	32 (15.92)	10 (14.93)	208 (19.44)	34 (13.93)	9 (18.75)	6 (13.04)	299 (17.84)
N		201	67	1,070	244	48	46	1,676
Initial Capital Cost	Extreme	20 (9.95)	7 (10.45)	386 (36.14)	68 (27.87)	9 (18.37)	18 (39.13)	508 (30.33)
	Significant	44 (21.89)	5 (7.46)	182 (17.04)	66 (27.05)	9 (18.37)	11 (23.91)	317 (18.93)
	Moderate	45 (22.39)	9 (13.43)	101 (9.46)	37 (15.16)	5 (10.20)	4 (8.70)	201 (12.00)
	Minor	37 (18.41)	15 (22.39)	49 (4.59)	23 (9.43)	7 (14.29)	0 (0.00)	131 (7.82)
	Not a Barrier	21 (10.45)	18 (26.87)	61 (5.71)	14 (5.74)	6 (12.24)	6 (13.04)	126 (7.52)
	I Don't Know	34 (16.92)	13 (19.40)	289 (27.06)	36 (14.75)	13 (26.53)	7 (15.22)	392 (23.40)
N		201	67	1,068	244	49	46	1,675
Technical Support	Extreme	37 (18.50)	10 (14.93)	514 (48.26)	98 (40.16)	13 (27.08)	23 (50.00)	695 (41.62)
	Significant	53 (26.50)	10 (14.93)	155 (14.55)	64 (26.23)	5 (10.42)	7 (15.22)	294 (17.60)
	Moderate	42 (21.00)	8 (11.94)	61 (5.73)	32 (13.11)	7 (14.58)	5 (10.87)	155 (9.28)
	Minor	27 (13.50)	10 (14.93)	44 (4.13)	18 (7.38)	7 (14.58)	1 (2.17)	107 (6.41)
	Not a Barrier	13 (6.50)	21 (31.34)	61 (5.73)	8 (3.28)	6 (12.50)	3 (6.52)	112 (6.71)
	I Don't Know	28 (14.00)	8 (11.94)	230 (21.60)	24 (9.84)	10 (20.83)	7 (15.22)	307 (18.38)
N		200	67	1,065	244	48	46	1,670
Resistance from Local Bar	Extreme	58 (28.86)	11 (16.42)	550 (51.50)	84 (34.43)	19 (39.58)	20 (43.48)	742 (44.32)
	Significant	49 (24.38)	20 (29.85)	204 (19.10)	61 (25.00)	11 (22.92)	8 (17.39)	353 (21.09)
	Moderate	36 (17.91)	12 (17.91)	67 (6.27)	34 (13.93)	8 (16.67)	5 (10.87)	162 (9.68)
	Minor	28 (13.93)	10 (14.93)	23 (2.15)	23 (9.43)	3 (6.25)	1 (2.17)	88 (5.26)
	Not a Barrier	12 (5.97)	4 (5.97)	34 (3.18)	11 (4.51)	1 (2.08)	4 (8.70)	66 (3.94)
	I Don't Know	18 (8.96)	10 (14.93)	190 (17.79)	31 (12.70)	6 (12.50)	8 (17.39)	263 (15.71)
N		201	67	1,068	244	48	46	1,674

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). Continued in Table 42.

Table 42: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Respondent Role (Part 2 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Judge	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Resistance from Judiciary	Extreme	56 (27.72)	16 (23.88)	612 (57.25)	132 (54.10)	16 (33.33)	23 (50.00)	855 (51.01)
	Significant	53 (26.24)	16 (23.88)	191 (17.87)	51 (20.90)	10 (20.83)	7 (15.22)	328 (19.57)
	Moderate	46 (22.77)	12 (17.91)	53 (4.96)	22 (9.02)	9 (18.75)	3 (6.52)	145 (8.65)
	Minor	14 (6.93)	9 (13.43)	22 (2.06)	13 (5.33)	2 (4.17)	2 (4.35)	62 (3.70)
	Not a Barrier	10 (4.95)	4 (5.97)	37 (3.46)	8 (3.28)	2 (4.17)	3 (6.52)	64 (3.82)
	I Don't Know	23 (11.39)	10 (14.93)	154 (14.41)	18 (7.38)	9 (18.75)	8 (17.39)	222 (13.25)
<i>N</i>		202	67	1,069	244	48	46	1,676
Cybersecurity Risks	Extreme	59 (29.21)	14 (20.90)	720 (67.42)	105 (43.03)	15 (31.25)	24 (52.17)	937 (55.94)
	Significant	38 (18.81)	6 (8.96)	101 (9.46)	48 (19.67)	7 (14.58)	7 (15.22)	207 (12.36)
	Moderate	39 (19.31)	6 (8.96)	32 (3.00)	31 (12.70)	8 (16.67)	6 (13.04)	122 (7.28)
	Minor	33 (16.34)	15 (22.39)	31 (2.90)	27 (11.07)	6 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	112 (6.69)
	Not a Barrier	16 (7.92)	19 (28.36)	53 (4.96)	12 (4.92)	6 (12.50)	4 (8.70)	110 (6.57)
	I Don't Know	17 (8.42)	7 (10.45)	131 (12.27)	21 (8.61)	6 (12.50)	5 (10.87)	187 (11.16)
<i>N</i>		202	67	1,068	244	48	46	1,675
Quality of Human Element	Extreme	73 (36.14)	15 (22.73)	793 (74.18)	115 (47.13)	25 (51.02)	24 (52.17)	1,045 (62.35)
	Significant	57 (28.22)	12 (18.18)	93 (8.70)	63 (25.82)	7 (14.29)	4 (8.70)	236 (14.08)
	Moderate	31 (15.35)	6 (9.09)	34 (3.18)	21 (8.61)	7 (14.29)	6 (13.04)	105 (6.26)
	Minor	19 (9.41)	10 (15.15)	22 (2.06)	18 (7.38)	6 (12.24)	3 (6.52)	78 (4.65)
	Not a Barrier	11 (5.45)	18 (27.27)	52 (4.86)	9 (3.69)	0 (0.00)	2 (4.35)	92 (5.49)
	I Don't Know	11 (5.45)	5 (7.58)	75 (7.02)	18 (7.38)	4 (8.16)	7 (15.22)	120 (7.16)
<i>N</i>		202	66	1,069	244	49	46	1,676
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success	Extreme	49 (24.38)	17 (25.37)	548 (51.55)	87 (35.95)	14 (28.57)	21 (45.65)	736 (44.12)
	Significant	41 (20.40)	11 (16.42)	123 (11.57)	52 (21.49)	7 (14.29)	5 (10.87)	239 (14.33)
	Moderate	46 (22.89)	8 (11.94)	51 (4.80)	31 (12.81)	10 (20.41)	3 (6.52)	149 (8.93)
	Minor	18 (8.96)	6 (8.96)	34 (3.20)	18 (7.44)	5 (10.20)	3 (6.52)	84 (5.04)
	Not a Barrier	22 (10.95)	19 (28.36)	78 (7.34)	16 (6.61)	6 (12.24)	2 (4.35)	143 (8.57)
	I Don't Know	25 (12.44)	6 (8.96)	229 (21.54)	38 (15.70)	7 (14.29)	12 (26.09)	317 (19.00)
<i>N</i>		201	67	1,063	242	49	46	1,668

Broken down by court level, perceived barriers followed a pattern consistent with the earlier Section III and IV findings: Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently rated barriers as less severe than their counterparts in County Court at Law and District Court. On statutory and legal hurdles, 64.02% of County Court at Law and 62.44% of District Court respondents rated this an extreme or significant barrier, against 46.71% among Appellate/Supreme Court respondents. The gap widened for initial capital cost, where County Court at Law respondents reported the highest concern (58.73%), nearly 24 percentage points above Appellate/Supreme Court respondents (35.33%). Technical support showed a similar divide, County Court at Law (68.79%) and District Court (61.79%) respondents voicing substantially greater concern than Appellate/Supreme Court respondents (46.38%). Resistance from the local bar and from the judiciary held to the same pattern, with County Court at Law respondents reporting the highest concern on both (70.37% and 80.95%, respectively), the latter figure standing as the single highest barrier rating recorded across any court level. Cybersecurity risks were rated an extreme or significant barrier by more than three-quarters of County Court at Law respondents (77.66%), against less than half of Appellate/Supreme Court respondents (46.10%). The “human element” was the most pronounced of any measure, County Court at Law (83.59%) and District Court (78.26%) respondents reporting the highest concern, while even Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, the most consistently moderate group, still rated it a majority concern (60.84%). A lack of demonstrated local success, finally, registered as an extreme or significant barrier for 62.15% of “Other” court respondents and 61.37% of County Court at Law respondents, against roughly half of Appellate/Supreme Court (50.61%) and Federal Court (50.00%) respondents. Figures 49 & 50, and Tables 43 & 44 show these results across all eight core barriers and five court levels, reinforcing that Appellate/Supreme Court respondents consistently perceive fewer and less severe barriers to DCR implementation than respondents in County Court at Law and District Court.

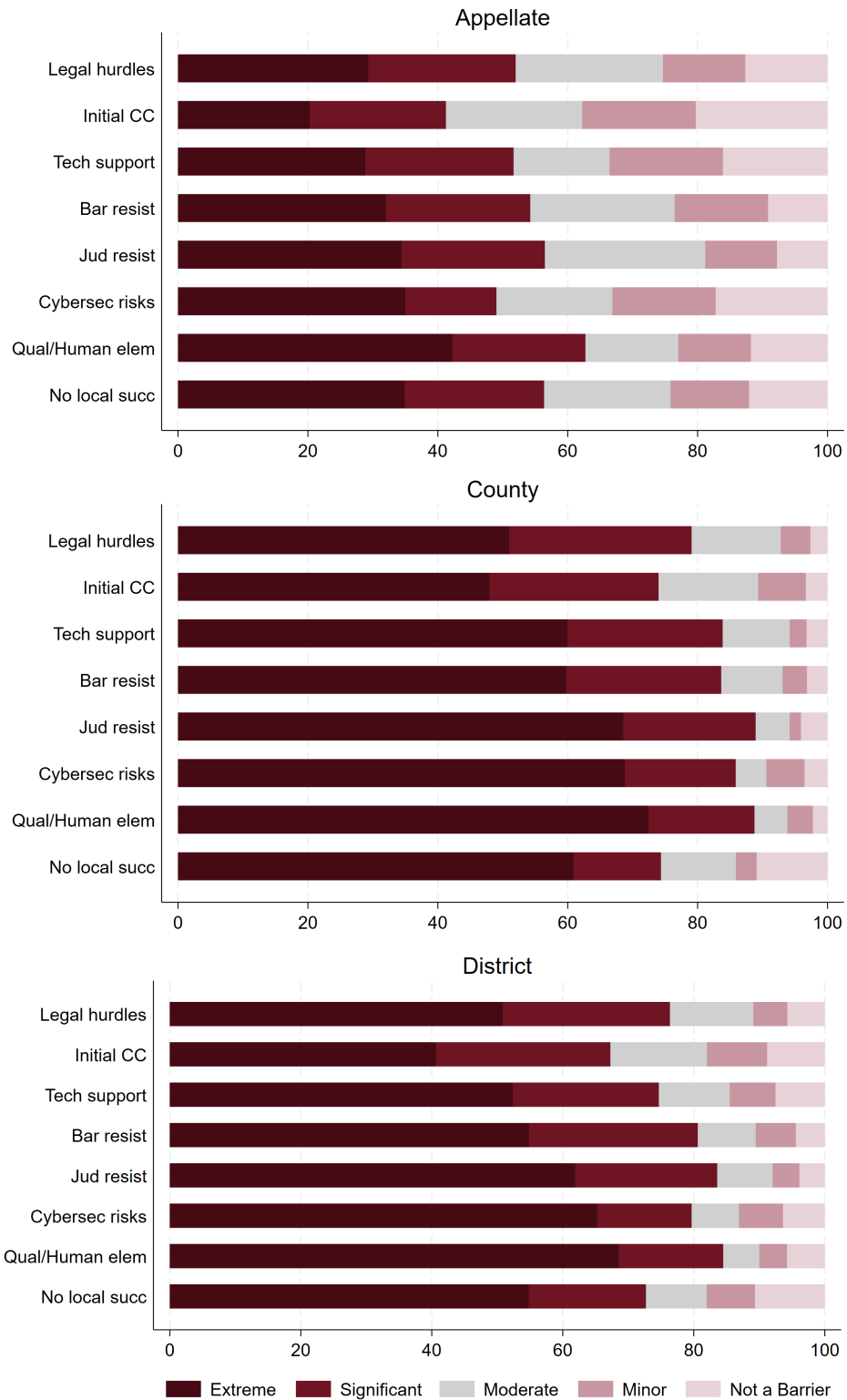


Figure 49: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Court Level (1 of 2)

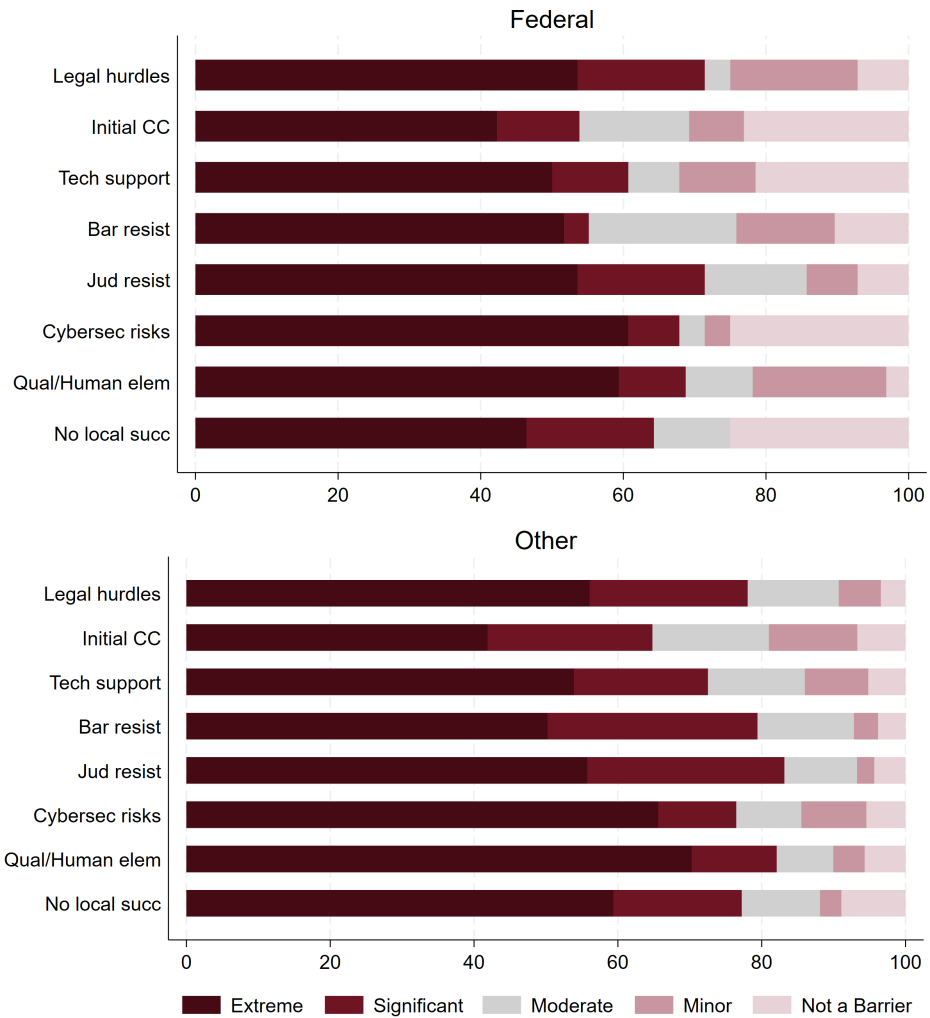


Figure 50: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Court Level (2 of 2)

Table 43: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Court Level (Part 1 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Appellate	County	District	Federal	Other	Total
Statutory/ Legal Hurdles	Extreme	44 (26.35)	78 (41.27)	383 (41.59)	15 (42.86)	115 (45.63)	635 (40.60)
	Significant	34 (20.36)	43 (22.75)	192 (20.85)	5 (14.29)	45 (17.86)	319 (20.40)
	Moderate	34 (20.36)	21 (11.11)	96 (10.42)	1 (2.86)	26 (10.32)	178 (11.38)
	Minor	19 (11.38)	7 (3.70)	39 (4.23)	5 (14.29)	12 (4.76)	82 (5.24)
	Not a Barrier	19 (11.38)	4 (2.12)	43 (4.67)	2 (5.71)	7 (2.78)	75 (4.80)
	I Don't Know	17 (10.18)	36 (19.05)	168 (18.24)	7 (20.00)	47 (18.65)	275 (17.58)
<i>N</i>		167	189	921	35	252	1,564
Initial Capital Cost	Extreme	29 (17.37)	72 (38.10)	287 (31.30)	11 (31.43)	75 (29.53)	474 (30.35)
	Significant	30 (17.96)	39 (20.63)	188 (20.50)	3 (8.57)	41 (16.14)	301 (19.27)
	Moderate	30 (17.96)	23 (12.17)	104 (11.34)	4 (11.43)	29 (11.42)	190 (12.16)
	Minor	25 (14.97)	11 (5.82)	65 (7.09)	2 (5.71)	22 (8.66)	125 (8.00)
	Not a Barrier	29 (17.37)	5 (2.65)	62 (6.76)	6 (17.14)	12 (4.72)	114 (7.30)
	I Don't Know	24 (14.37)	39 (20.63)	211 (23.01)	9 (25.71)	75 (29.53)	358 (22.92)
<i>N</i>		167	189	917	35	254	1,562
Technical Support	Extreme	43 (25.90)	93 (49.21)	397 (43.34)	14 (40.00)	104 (41.27)	651 (41.78)
	Significant	34 (20.48)	37 (19.58)	169 (18.45)	3 (8.57)	36 (14.29)	279 (17.91)
	Moderate	22 (13.25)	16 (8.47)	82 (8.95)	2 (5.71)	26 (10.32)	148 (9.50)
	Minor	26 (15.66)	4 (2.12)	53 (5.79)	3 (8.57)	17 (6.75)	103 (6.61)
	Not a Barrier	24 (14.46)	5 (2.65)	57 (6.22)	6 (17.14)	10 (3.97)	102 (6.55)
	I Don't Know	17 (10.24)	34 (17.99)	158 (17.25)	7 (20.00)	59 (23.41)	275 (17.65)
<i>N</i>		166	189	916	35	252	1,558
Resistance from Local Bar	Extreme	49 (29.52)	95 (50.26)	422 (45.92)	15 (42.86)	105 (41.50)	686 (43.92)
	Significant	34 (20.48)	38 (20.11)	198 (21.55)	1 (2.86)	61 (24.11)	332 (21.25)
	Moderate	34 (20.48)	15 (7.94)	68 (7.40)	6 (17.14)	28 (11.07)	151 (9.67)
	Minor	22 (13.25)	6 (3.17)	47 (5.11)	4 (11.43)	7 (2.77)	86 (5.51)
	Not a Barrier	14 (8.43)	5 (2.65)	34 (3.70)	3 (8.57)	8 (3.16)	64 (4.10)
	I Don't Know	13 (7.83)	30 (15.87)	150 (16.32)	6 (17.14)	44 (17.39)	243 (15.56)
<i>N</i>		166	189	919	35	253	1,562

Note. Frequencies and column percentages are reported as n (%). Continued in Table 44.

Table 44: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Court Level (Part 2 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Appellate	County	District	Federal	Other	Total
Resistance from Judiciary	Extreme	53 (31.74)	118 (62.43)	498 (54.13)	15 (42.86)	116 (45.85)	800 (51.15)
	Significant	34 (20.36)	35 (18.52)	174 (18.91)	5 (14.29)	57 (22.53)	305 (19.50)
	Moderate	38 (22.75)	9 (4.76)	68 (7.39)	4 (11.43)	21 (8.30)	140 (8.95)
	Minor	17 (10.18)	3 (1.59)	33 (3.59)	2 (5.71)	5 (1.98)	60 (3.84)
	Not a Barrier	12 (7.19)	7 (3.70)	31 (3.37)	2 (5.71)	9 (3.56)	61 (3.90)
	I Don't Know	13 (7.78)	17 (8.99)	116 (12.61)	7 (20.00)	45 (17.79)	198 (12.66)
	<i>N</i>	167	189	920	35	253	1,564
Cybersecurity Risks	Extreme	55 (32.93)	117 (62.23)	533 (57.87)	17 (50.00)	145 (57.31)	867 (55.47)
	Significant	22 (13.17)	29 (15.43)	118 (12.81)	2 (5.88)	24 (9.49)	195 (12.48)
	Moderate	28 (16.77)	8 (4.26)	59 (6.41)	1 (2.94)	20 (7.91)	116 (7.42)
	Minor	25 (14.97)	10 (5.32)	55 (5.97)	1 (2.94)	20 (7.91)	111 (7.10)
	Not a Barrier	27 (16.17)	6 (3.19)	52 (5.65)	7 (20.59)	12 (4.74)	104 (6.65)
	I Don't Know	10 (5.99)	18 (9.57)	104 (11.29)	6 (17.65)	32 (12.65)	170 (10.88)
	<i>N</i>	167	188	921	34	253	1,563
Quality of Human Element	Extreme	68 (40.96)	129 (68.25)	584 (63.48)	19 (52.78)	161 (63.89)	961 (61.48)
	Significant	33 (19.88)	29 (15.34)	136 (14.78)	3 (8.33)	27 (10.71)	228 (14.59)
	Moderate	23 (13.86)	9 (4.76)	47 (5.11)	3 (8.33)	18 (7.14)	100 (6.40)
	Minor	18 (10.84)	7 (3.70)	36 (3.91)	6 (16.67)	10 (3.97)	77 (4.93)
	Not a Barrier	19 (11.45)	4 (2.12)	49 (5.33)	1 (2.78)	13 (5.16)	86 (5.50)
	I Don't Know	5 (3.01)	11 (5.82)	68 (7.39)	4 (11.11)	23 (9.13)	111 (7.10)
	<i>N</i>	166	189	920	36	252	1,563
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success	Extreme	52 (31.33)	95 (50.26)	402 (43.98)	13 (36.11)	120 (47.81)	682 (43.83)
	Significant	32 (19.28)	21 (11.11)	131 (14.33)	5 (13.89)	36 (14.34)	225 (14.46)
	Moderate	29 (17.47)	18 (9.52)	68 (7.44)	3 (8.33)	22 (8.76)	140 (9.00)
	Minor	18 (10.84)	5 (2.65)	54 (5.91)	0 (0.00)	6 (2.39)	83 (5.33)
	Not a Barrier	18 (10.84)	17 (8.99)	78 (8.53)	7 (19.44)	18 (7.17)	138 (8.87)
	I Don't Know	17 (10.24)	33 (17.46)	181 (19.80)	8 (22.22)	49 (19.52)	288 (18.51)
	<i>N</i>	166	189	914	36	251	1,556

In line with the pattern seen in Sections III and IV, urbanicity produced only modest differences in perceived barriers to DCR implementation, rural and urban respondents rating most barriers similarly. As revealed in Table 45, statutory and legal hurdles show that 60.36% of rural and 61.84% of urban respondents rated this an extreme or significant barrier, a difference of under two percentage points. Initial capital cost opened a slightly wider gap, with rural respondents somewhat more concerned (53.29%) than urban respondents (47.53%), who in turn reported a notably higher rate of “I Don’t Know” responses (25.89% versus 17.56% rural). Resistance from the local bar was again closely aligned between groups (65.94% rural versus 65.19% urban), while technical support showed a somewhat wider gap, with rural respondents modestly more concerned (63.60%) than urban respondents (57.35%). Judiciary resistance and cybersecurity risks held to the same close alignment, both groups rating judiciary resistance the more severe of the two (71.92% rural, 70.02% urban) relative to cybersecurity risks (67.80% rural, 68.52% urban). The “human element” was the most consistently rated of any measure, 75.50% of rural and 76.83% of urban respondents calling it an extreme or significant concern, the closest alignment observed across all eight barriers. Aside from technical support, the widest gap came on lack of demonstrated local success, where urban respondents reported somewhat greater concern (59.40%) than rural respondents (56.22%). Figure 51 presents these results as a paired stacked bar chart, illustrating that, unlike the pronounced divides seen by role and court level, rural and urban respondents held largely comparable views on the severity of barriers to DCR implementation.

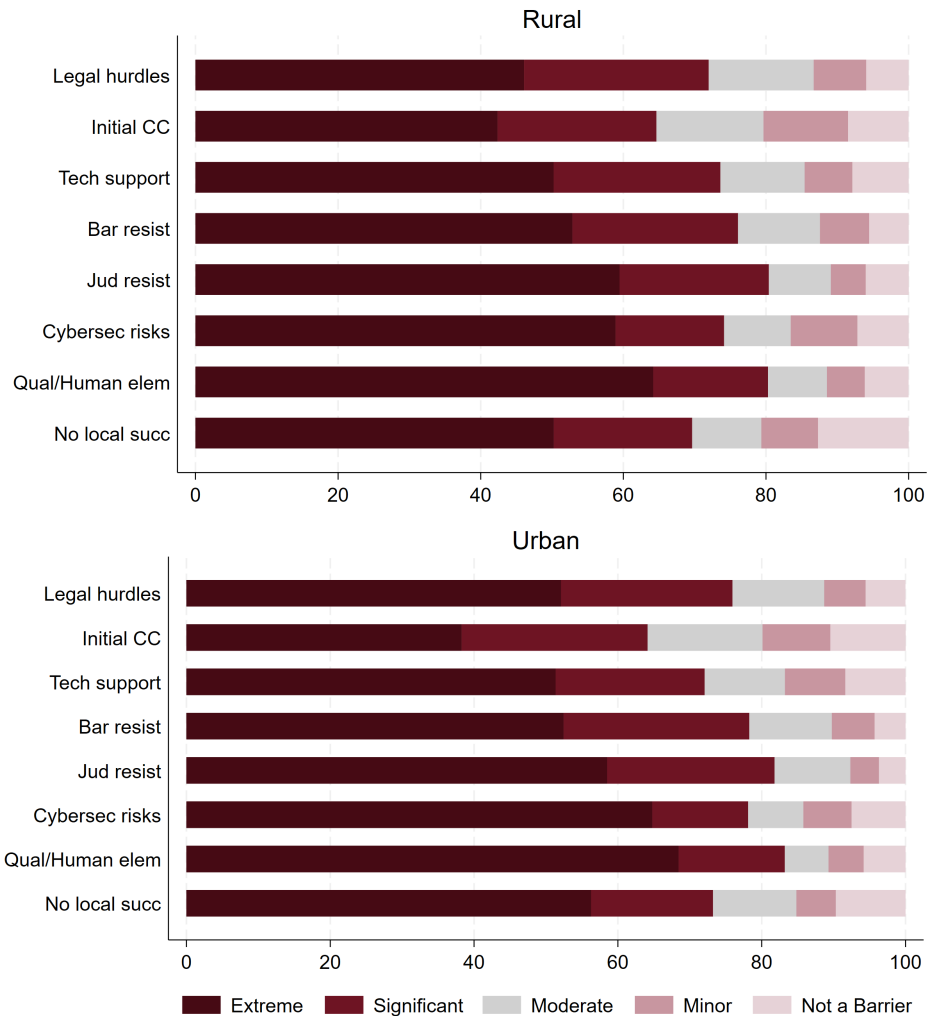


Figure 51: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Urbanicity

Perceived barriers to DCR implementation followed much the same pattern established throughout this report. Court Reporters and Judges rated nearly every barrier as more severe than did Court Recorders, with the loss of the human element and resistance from the judiciary standing out as the most pronounced barriers of all, especially among Court Reporters. A comparable divide surfaced by court level, County Court at Law and District Court respondents consistently reporting greater concern across all eight barriers than Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, who remained the most measured group throughout. Urbanicity once again produced only modest differences, rural and urban respondents rating most barriers within a few percentage points of one another, underscoring that role and court level, rather than geography, remain the dominant factors shaping perceived resistance to DCR adoption. Set alongside the findings from Sections II through IV, this pattern points to a consistent set of stakeholders, namely Court Reporters, Judges, and trial-level courts, who perceive the greatest obstacles to and place the least trust in alternative recording technologies, while Court Recorders and Appellate-level courts remain comparatively receptive across every dimension examined in this report.

Table 45: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Urbanicity

Barrier	Urbanicity	Extreme	Significant	Moderate	Minor	Not a Barrier	I Don't Know
Statutory/ Legal Hurdles	Rural	194 (38.65)	109 (21.71)	62 (12.35)	31 (6.18)	25 (4.98)	81 (16.14)
	Urban	498 (42.42)	228 (19.42)	122 (10.39)	55 (4.68)	53 (4.51)	218 (18.57)
	<i>Total</i>	692 (41.29)	337 (20.11)	184 (10.98)	86 (5.13)	78 (4.65)	299 (17.84)
Initial Capital Cost	Rural	175 (34.93)	92 (18.36)	62 (12.38)	49 (9.78)	35 (6.99)	88 (17.56)
	Urban	333 (28.36)	225 (19.17)	139 (11.84)	82 (6.98)	91 (7.75)	304 (25.89)
	<i>Total</i>	508 (30.33)	317 (18.93)	201 (12.00)	131 (7.82)	126 (7.52)	392 (23.40)
Technical Support	Rural	217 (43.40)	101 (20.20)	51 (10.20)	29 (5.80)	34 (6.80)	68 (13.60)
	Urban	478 (40.85)	193 (16.50)	104 (8.89)	78 (6.67)	78 (6.67)	239 (20.43)
	<i>Total</i>	695 (41.62)	294 (17.60)	155 (9.28)	107 (6.41)	112 (6.71)	307 (18.38)
Resistance from Local Bar	Rural	230 (45.82)	101 (20.12)	50 (9.96)	30 (5.98)	24 (4.78)	67 (13.35)
	Urban	512 (43.69)	252 (21.50)	112 (9.56)	58 (4.95)	42 (3.58)	196 (16.72)
	<i>Total</i>	742 (44.32)	353 (21.09)	162 (9.68)	88 (5.26)	66 (3.94)	263 (15.71)
Resistance from Judiciary	Rural	267 (53.19)	94 (18.73)	39 (7.77)	22 (4.38)	27 (5.38)	53 (10.56)
	Urban	588 (50.09)	234 (19.93)	106 (9.03)	40 (3.41)	37 (3.15)	169 (14.40)
	<i>Total</i>	855 (51.01)	328 (19.57)	145 (8.65)	62 (3.70)	64 (3.82)	222 (13.25)
Cybersecurity Risks	Rural	271 (53.88)	70 (13.92)	43 (8.55)	43 (8.55)	33 (6.56)	43 (8.55)
	Urban	666 (56.83)	137 (11.69)	79 (6.74)	69 (5.89)	77 (6.57)	144 (12.29)
	<i>Total</i>	937 (55.94)	207 (12.36)	122 (7.28)	112 (6.69)	110 (6.57)	187 (11.16)
Quality of Human Element	Rural	303 (60.36)	76 (15.14)	39 (7.77)	25 (4.98)	29 (5.78)	30 (5.98)
	Urban	742 (63.20)	160 (13.63)	66 (5.62)	53 (4.51)	63 (5.37)	90 (7.67)
	<i>Total</i>	1,045 (62.35)	236 (14.08)	105 (6.26)	78 (4.65)	92 (5.49)	120 (7.16)
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success	Rural	202 (40.56)	78 (15.66)	39 (7.83)	32 (6.43)	51 (10.24)	96 (19.28)
	Urban	534 (45.64)	161 (13.76)	110 (9.40)	52 (4.44)	92 (7.86)	221 (18.89)
	<i>Total</i>	736 (44.12)	239 (14.33)	149 (8.93)	84 (5.04)	143 (8.57)	317 (19.00)

8.3 Summary

Across every dimension examined in this analysis, a single pattern consistently emerges: professional role and court level, far more than geographic context, shape how Texas court personnel perceive court reporter availability, alternative recording technologies, and the barriers to adopting them. Court Reporters and Judges, together with respondents at the trial-court level, particularly County Court at Law and District Court, expressed the greatest confidence in the current stenographic system and the greatest resistance to DCR, ASR, and PAR alike. Court Recorders and Appellate/Supreme Court respondents, by contrast, stood apart as the most receptive audience for alternative modalities, whether the question concerned perceived shortages, trust in record accuracy and integrity, direct comparisons of recording methods, or the severity of barriers to implementation.

This divide was not confined to a single measure or section but recurred throughout the survey analysis. Respondents who work most directly with the stenographic record, namely Court Reporters, were the least likely to perceive a shortage, the most skeptical that alternative technologies could match the accuracy or integrity of a human-produced transcript, and the most concerned about barriers such as the loss of the “human element” and resistance from the judiciary. Judges frequently expressed views that tracked closely with Court Reporters, particularly regarding trust in alternative modalities and comfort with centralized monitoring, suggesting that those with direct oversight of courtroom proceedings share a common set of reservations about departing from the traditional stenographic model. Court Recorders, who by the nature of their role already work with digital recording systems, consistently expressed the most favorable views of DCR, ASR, and PAR across nearly every measure, from efficiency gains to appellate sufficiency to overall preference. Appellate/Supreme Court respondents mirrored this pattern at the court level, reporting the least resistance to alternative technologies and the greatest openness to their expanded use.

Notably, urbanicity, which might be expected to correlate with resource availability or exposure to technology, revealed comparatively little influence across the measures examined. Rural and urban respondents held closely aligned views on court reporter shortages, trust in alternative modalities, method preference, and perceived barriers to implementation, with differences typically confined to a few percentage points. This suggests that resistance to or acceptance of alternative recording technologies in Texas courts is driven less by regional infrastructure or geography and more by the professional stakes particular roles hold in the outcome, a distinction with direct implications for any effort to expand DCR, ASR, or PAR adoption statewide.

Taken as a whole, these findings underscore that perceptions of alternative recording technologies in Texas courts fall along consistent and predictable lines. The concerns are concentrated among Court Reporters and Judges and within trial-level courts, where resistance is most pronounced and trust in alternative modalities lowest, while Court Recorders and Appellate-level courts remain comparatively receptive across every dimension examined. The specific barriers that recur most forcefully throughout the analysis, namely resistance from the judiciary, cybersecurity concerns, and the perceived loss of human oversight, define the terrain on which any broader shift away from the stenographic model would have to be negotiated.

9 Stakeholder Perspectives on DCR Usage and Implementation: Qualitative Findings

Participants had two opportunities to provide open-ended (or qualitative) thoughts on CSR and DCR. The first was the final question of the survey that gave them space to write any additional comments. Also, at the end of the survey, respondents could opt into participating in an interview and provide their email address for follow-up.

9.1 Interview Methods

Over 500 respondents from the survey opted to participate in interviews. To ensure we heard from all representatives, we randomly selected a sample from each group of all those provided emails based on their primary role. These individuals received an email invitation to select a time to schedule a virtual interview. We recruited from each group until we reached saturation, meaning no new information was likely to be obtained through an additional interview. We reached out to 302 participants. 75 interviews were scheduled, with 63 completed. Table 46 shows the number of interviews per stakeholder.

Table 46: Number of interview participants by role

Role	Count
Official Court Reporter	10
Freelance Court Reporter	9
Court Reporter Organization	6
Court Recorder	2
Deposition (Freelance) Recorder	1
Digital Recording Organization	3
Judge	14
Attorney	13
Court Administrator/Manager	1
Other	4
Total	63

The research team relied on a structured interview questionnaire. This ensured that all participants received the same questions (see Appendix O for questionnaire). At least two members from the research team participated in each interview. One asked the questions while the other took detailed notes. We also recorded the interviews as a back-up and to gather illustrative quotes of the main ideas. Recordings will be deleted following completion of analysis.

9.1.1 Analysis Methods

To analyze the interview data, the research team combined a rapid analysis process alongside a content analysis approach. As the name suggests, rapid analysis is often less time

consuming than traditional qualitative analysis. A rapid analysis process is well-suited for a mixed-methods study, such as this, to triangulate the findings of other research methods used. Additionally, a rapid analysis process is an often more deductive approach where the themes and questions to be answered are known beforehand, as is the case in this study. Because the research team intends to answer specific questions via the interviews, a content analysis approach focusing on appearance of certain codes was the best fit.

The interview notes from each interview were coded via line-by-line coding using ATLAS.ti (Version 26). Initial codes were developed prior to the coding process to align with critical questions. Coders could then apply additional codes, as needed. Codes are grouped into categories and themes to describe the main topics. In addition, we received 1,330 responses to the open-ended question from the survey. These open-ended comments were read and coded alongside the interviews.

Qualitative analysis is not meant to show how many individuals agree or disagree with a statement (that is better suited for surveys) but instead provides context and a deeper understanding of stakeholder perspectives. The intent is to answer “why” and “how” questions. We focus on describing common perspectives but also point out when and how the stakeholders disagree along the main topics – workforce availability and local climate, attitudes toward adoption, accuracy, and Texas policy landscape. Our main findings from this analysis are provided in Table 47, then detailed in following sections. When possible, we included a quote from an interview or survey participant that best illustrates our findings.

Table 47: Summary Findings from Qualitative Analysis of Stakeholders

Topic	Finding
Workforce availability and local climate	Differing perspectives on availability of CSR Individual and systemic reasons given for lack of CSRs Courts turn to digital means because they cannot find a CSR Budget concerns are influencing how records are created High costs are creating a barrier to justice
Attitude towards adoption	CSR is a known process with an accountable individual DCR can improve speed of court and access to records Different opinions on feasibility of integrating DCR An individual still needs to be involved Opposition to central monitoring
Accuracy	Multiple factors can influence record quality Legal implications of taking the record
Texas Policy Landscape	Texas policies on DCR need to be clarified Education and experience are necessary to build comfort with DCR modalities Promoting CSR as a career Stakeholders have mixed feelings on the future

9.2 Workforce Availability and Local Climate

Interviews began with a discussion of CSR availability and use of DCR in each interviewee's jurisdiction. In many ways, CSRs are seen as the default model or the known process and entity and are often used as a foundation for comparison. From these conversations we learned more information on the availability of CSRs, why there might be a lack of CSRs in certain areas, and what might motivate courts to consider DCR. From here, we also heard how increasing costs of taking the record are influencing justice.

9.2.1 Differing perspectives on availability of CSR

It should be noted that stakeholders are mixed on whether there is a shortage of CSRs to take records. Some attorneys and judges note having no issues – they either have a CSR assigned to them or they can find one when they need one. Some describe short-term situations where they struggle to find a replacement CSR when their dedicated CSR is out on leave.

Many CSRs themselves report seeing no shortage or suggest that there may be an appearance of a shortage only because they have to turn down requests that are not given with sufficient lead time. As Freelance Court Reporter 2 notes: *“a large firm has a habit of sending an email out at 4:45 the day before they want a court reporter.”*

Official Court Reporter 4 summarizes:

“We haven’t had trouble filling the positions...I have 4 counties. One of them is somewhat urban and then the other three are more rural. I believe those are the harder ones to get, but when I need a sub...we just make sure we schedule it out. We have a group of freelance court reporters that we work with out of [large city] and they have been able to accommodate us the last few years, as long as we can schedule out a little bit [we don’t have a problem]; short term is a little bit harder.”

Still others describe a significant challenge. Judges and their court staff report spending hours trying to find a CSR in some cases. One judge describes their situation looking for a CSR as:

“Abysmal. The lack of reporters is an issue. It is a constant battle to try to find someone that can come and do my hearings. I had to cancel yesterday because one county only gives me a reporter 12 times a year, so I had to finish and reschedule my docket. I cover [multiple] counties...I usually only have one court reporter and if she’s not available and she can’t change her docket with her regular judge, then my cases are delayed.” – Judge

9

Multiple stakeholders cite that the difference in opinion likely lies in urban versus rural settings, with urban and suburban areas having many CSRs to choose from and rural areas more likely facing a gap.

9.2.2 Individual and systemic reasons given for lack of CSRs

For those who report trouble finding a CSR, the reasons given are numerous. One of the commonly cited reasons is that a notable portion of currently licensed CSRs are retiring or getting close to retirement. New CSRs are not being trained to replace them and therefore the pool of available CSRs is not being refilled. Stakeholders report that schools that teach stenography are shutting down and that fewer students are graduating, often because passing the exam is difficult. We heard from multiple stakeholders about pulling CSRs out of retirement to work on cases or that once a CSR retired, they turned to digital means as they could not find a new CSR to hire.

We also heard from stakeholders that freelancing CSRs may turn down jobs that are too far away, require them to be in-person, or are unappealing assignments. One stakeholder notes: *“As an owner of a court reporting firm, court reporters no longer want to go out on live depositions. We struggle daily to find court reporters to do depositions.”* At the same time, judges feel that CSRs are turning down their requests to cover court because the CSR can earn more for depositions, so they are opting to take those over court proceedings.

From the CSR perspective, they report not taking jobs in certain jurisdictions because the pay is too low compared to neighboring communities or the judge can be difficult to work with. Some CSRs noted that judges can come off as rude and demeaning to the profession or not take the record creation seriously, making the CSR's job of maintaining an accurate record more difficult. Others noted that each court has different rules and it can be difficult to keep up with all the rules, so as a CSR they prefer to limit the places they work.

Still others cite the expanding number of courts, increasing requests to have proceedings on the record, and pressure from the state to process cases faster as compounding the challenge. More courts and cases leads to a higher need for record-keeping and burdening those in the field. A court reporter illustrates this change:

“I feel like there's an increase in workload. I feel like there's a lot more work out there than there used to be when I first started...what you have to do now is you just have to schedule [CSRs] way in advance. Where before you could [find a CSR with] two, three weeks [notice], now you have to do it at least four to six weeks out.” – Official Court Reporter 1

9.2.3 Courts turn to digital means because they cannot find a CSR

Judges and attorneys provided examples of having to cancel hearings and proceedings because of an inability to find a CSR. Judges who worked with juveniles were particularly anxious about meeting tight deadlines to have hearings. Another judge felt the problem was particularly significant in appellate court. And multiple stakeholders pointed out the problem is magnified in rural areas. One stakeholder wrote *“In a rural jurisdiction like mine, I'm having an extremely hard time finding reporters...something has to give.”*

These judges and courts often turn to digital means out of necessity, after they have exhausted the ability to find a CSR. One judge calls their digital recording approach a *“life-saver”* and elaborated on the scope of their struggle:

"It can take months to find a court reporter. We have reached out to very far distances and to get one, over 2.5 hours away. They are not willing to travel long distances to reach us. We are paying more for the reporting than what the case is about." – Judge 14

A comment in our survey had this to say about the benefits of DCR on workflow:

"With DCR there can be more than one court staff member trained to operate the equipment, so in case of illness or emergency of the primary DCR operator, trials can still go on. With shorthand – illness or emergency of the reporter means the court must normally shut down because there is no one else on the staff who can use shorthand to take the court record. DCR staff can aid other court staff when not in court because they are not involved (normally) in transcription duties, which are (or should be) delegated to off-site transcribers...As a trial judge I chose to abandon shorthand reporting in favor of tape recording (and then DCR) and used it successfully for 10 years until retirement."

Even when the judge is comfortable using digital means and they have the infrastructure set up, some will still attempt to reach out to a CSR first to see if they are willing to take the case. Judge 14 sees their approach as more of a hybrid model and elaborates:

"I know there is concern among court reporters that their jobs are being replaced. But we have not had much pushback on it. I always check with reporter first, and there's always a job for a court reporter, an actual physical person to do the record if necessary. I don't look at it as replacing a court reporter. I look at it as like enhancing or assisting them...If you really sweat over your docket and you've got stuff that, especially in eviction appeals and things like that, that do not need to wait, you really might have a different outlook on [the use of digital]. And if you were in rural Texas and your closest court reporter organization is over an hour away or 2.5 hours away, and you know your people are wanting trials, you can't provide."

9.2.4 Budget concerns are influencing how records are created

Knowing that costs are a practical concern of running court, we asked our stakeholders what role budgets play in how they keep the record. They agree that budget concerns play a role in decision-making and that the costs to obtaining a record are getting higher, but disagree on whether stenographic or digital means are actually cheaper.

For many courts, the decision to move to digital recording is in response to a lack of CSRs in the area. However, budget was also cited as an issue in making the decision. As Judge 3 states: *"If we had the funding, I would put a court reporter in every courtroom for every proceeding that needs a record."*

Generally, DCR is perceived as cheaper than CSR according to our stakeholders. For CSRs, the costs vary based on if the CSR is a salaried employee or a freelancer. Freelancing CSRs often charge for an appearance fee, travel costs, and other fees that are up to their discretion. With digital, the costs can vary based on the type of recording, who is monitoring the recording, and who is transcribing the record (and their qualifications). It is also generally agreed that a

transcriptionist for a digital recording company will be paid a lower salary or fee than a CSR completing a transcription.

One comment from the survey summarized many of the concerns from a county cost perspective:

"Our budget is small and limited, and when we need the assistance of a reporter the cost is high and travel for them is for 1 to 2 hours depending on which one we can get. The ability to record with a commercial recorder and then download to thumb drive and or copy to paper is very effective for our county."

Attorney 3 summarizes some of the key cost-related issues and the thought process behind switching to digital:

"[The court reporter] could name his price basically...I wouldn't say we're destitute, but we're not a well-off county. And so the problem, and I think that's what ultimately pushed the judge over to the recording system, was it was very inefficient...we couldn't get cases moved – civil or criminal. We would have those two days a week that he negotiated for the reporter to be here and he was having to pay the reporter whether he recorded one hearing or a full day's worth of hearings. We were just bleeding money out of the district judge's budget, and it just didn't make any sense for us to keep doing that...never mind the fact that then that court reporter was driving...several hours. I mean, it was just, it was very inefficient and not cost effective at all."

Multiple stakeholders feel their county commissioners were in favor of limiting the budget and therefore pushing them towards digital means. Others noted that a new court would be created without any budget for a CSR at all, so the judge would implement digital means as an alternative.

Where stakeholder perspectives diverge is whether the true costs to the court are actually lower when using digital. Those who are in favor of digital argue that the costs are in fact lower. As feedback from our survey shows:

"Our court uses a Digital Recorder with Automated Speech Recognition and a Human monitored system. We saved nearly \$200k off our budget over the life of a 4-year term and guaranteed we would never be without a Court Recorder. We had struggled with keeping Court Stenographers on a county budget that could not compete with larger counties and since we went Digital, we are extremely happy. Not only can we pull up instant reviews in Court if necessary, we can listen to the audio to verify what someone said. I am grateful for this system!"

Whereas those who oppose digital argue that the costs to the court are the same. They contend that DCR companies claim their costs are lower but then include administrative costs and other fees that inflate their initial estimates. Another survey comment describes:

"Court reporting firms have become increasingly abusive, adding tons of extra fees. For example, charging hundreds of dollars extra when the deposition is by Zoom. Charging thousands of dollars for exhibits when I provided the exhibits as .pdf file and the court reporter merely emailed the same file back to me."

Costs seem to be generally increasing, with stakeholders reporting increasing appearance fees or travel stipends, higher salary demands because of the shortages, or higher administrative fees being tacked on to the process of obtaining a record. Another significant concern, that arises in our interviews and surveys, was the costs of obtaining the transcript after it is created. It's important to note that this was not a specific line of questioning in either the survey or the interview, but that stakeholders felt strongly enough about it to bring it up. The transcript price is generally unregulated and paid to the individual or business that created the transcript; both CSRs and DCRs can charge what they like to provide a transcript. This has led to large variation in the costs of obtaining one, with many folks noting the price being too high, often costing hundreds to thousands of dollars per transcript. As Attorney 6 illustrates:

"There are really no parameters in which they are allowed to charge us...so I can go to one court reporter and ask for a transcript and it could be 50 pages and they could charge me \$250 and I can go to another court reporter and the transcript is 9 pages and they can charge me \$250. There's no regulation on it based on the number of pages...Then that is totally separate from their salary. So they get paid by the county and then transcript fees, they get in addition to that. The only time they get paid by the county for is if somebody files that they're indigent and so they cannot afford to pay for their transcript, then therefore the county will compensate [the CSR] for that transcript versus the individual paying it. And then they're also allowed to charge us a copy fee...Almost all of them charge if you need it expedited."

9.2.5 High costs are creating a barrier to justice

Multiple stakeholders note that the costs of either obtaining the CSR/DCR or the costs of obtaining a deposition transcription is hindering access to justice, suggesting these high costs are having a more significant impact than just going over-budget. From our survey, we received comments such as *"the cost of shorthand transcripts (and copies) has gotten out of hand and is becoming an access to justice issue"* and *"the cost of court reporting makes smaller cases too expensive to litigate"* and similar sentiments. This cost as a barrier to justice was a noted concern across all stakeholder types but Attorney 5 provides a concrete example, that typifies the responses we heard:

"What I'm seeing is a lot of people aren't going to school for court reporting anymore. And if they are, they're switching to the verbal (or oral)...there's just not enough people. And so it's making it more difficult to have depositions. It's taking longer to get the transcripts. It's getting more expensive. And it's really an access to justice issue because if my client has a small, let's say, workers' comp retaliation case that might be worth \$20,000, and I need to take several depositions, it may mean that we can't take those cases anymore because deposition costs have become so outrageously expensive. Whereas companies...that offer this non-stenographic alternative make it way more affordable and honestly way more efficient in moving cases, because we get the video right away, we can try to settle cases much more quickly."

9.3 Attitudes Towards Adoption

Stakeholders typically have strong opinions on reporting or recording methods; the qualitative analysis helped articulate what their experiences have been and what they see are the advantages of each model. Stakeholders feel comfortable with CSR as it is a known approach with an accountable individual behind it, while digital proponents highlight efficiency. Stakeholders had diverging perspectives on when and how digital recording should be allowed but overall they agreed that a human needs to be involved in some way and are wary of a centralized model approach.

9.3.1 CSR is a known process with an accountable individual

Stakeholders expressed a multitude of reasons for preferring a CSR. For some, they feel more comfortable with the known CSR experience compared to the unknown technology experience. It was noted by multiple individuals that courts, attorneys, and judges can be resistant to change; they prefer to maintain the standard and process they are used to. Others are apprehensive about digital recording being too technology-based, losing a human touch in terms of capturing non-verbal gestures and recording conversations when it should not be. Some stakeholders cite a long-standing relationship with the CSR in their jurisdiction, so that they see a shift to digital as taking a job away from someone they personally know. Stakeholders also appreciate that a CSR undergoes rigorous training and, more importantly, takes accountability for keeping the record.

Attorney 6 summarizes many of these feelings:

"We're kind of very conservative [in that way], very old school. We like people, I mean, we were probably one of the counties who went back to court post-COVID fastest; we did not stay on Zoom for long. So I could see [them] being like, no, we like in person, we like butts in chairs, we like humans, we like the interaction, we like to know the person, that sort of thing."

9.3.2 DCR can improve speed of court and access to records

For those that express a preference for DCR, the common benefit was efficiency. Those who are familiar with DCR say that it is faster to set a court proceeding or deposition because they do not have to find a CSR, especially in areas where there is a shortage. They also feel they obtain a transcript faster, with some systems providing a rough transcript immediately. Others note the audio or video recording as a back-up to a transcript is a nice addition.

As one response from the survey discusses their mode of DCR:

"I've used it for years and it is vastly superior to in-person stenographer. The transcript is created from the recording by a certified court reporter. The digital streams get every word even if there is commotion or interruption. The parties get their transcripts much more quickly. It eliminated cancellations and problems related to court reporter"

unavailability for emergency hearings and [temporary restraining order] review (which must be on the record)."

9.3.3 Different opinions on feasibility of integrating DCR

While some stakeholders are against DCR for any proceeding and others support DCR for all proceedings, others feel there is a middle-ground where DCR could complement or supplement the CSR model. Stakeholders are open to considering DCR in lower-level, easier, or smaller stakes cases. Some suggested looking for the venues that will be less likely to have appeals (such as civil cases), non-evidentiary hearings, or non-adversarial proceedings (like plea bargains). Depositions, traffic court, magistration, foreclosure and tax-lien proceedings were also suggested as specific instances where digital might work.

Attorney 2 suggests a deliberate approach for those jurisdictions seeking to implement digital court recording:

"We need to have all the bumps worked out. And I'd say so starting in the JP courts, starting with hearings. First non-evidentiary hearings, then evidentiary hearings, then trials, and then after that, maybe going to the civil courts, and then finally to the criminal courts. Because, when life and liberty is on the line, we don't really want to experiment."

Some felt when or where DCR was rolled out depended heavily on the technology infrastructure, requiring multiple microphones, quiet rooms, and only one person talking at a time. A comment from our survey emphasizes this model only works with the right guardrails in place: *"I think that with the right technology, regulation, and oversight, there is a real potential for benefit for adopting digital recording. It is not an either/or world, it is a both/and world."*

A representative from an organization that utilizes both stenographic and digital methods adds this on how the methods can complement each other:

"One of the biggest things that we are advocating with our company is that we use our digital reporters on jobs that stenographers do not want. So, you know, there's a lot of jobs out there that are your one-to-two-hour jobs that aren't very lucrative, in person or remote, that stenographers don't think is worth their time."

9.3.4 An individual still needs to be involved

Both DCR proponents and opponents expressed concern with any system relying too much on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The general feeling was that while AI is a helpful tool, it does not always get the transcription right and that a person must be involved with monitoring the recording and checking the transcription that is created to ensure it is accurate. While in theory DCR could be fully AI-driven, that was not the experience we heard about from our stakeholders; all had some level of involvement from an individual trained to create transcriptions.

Those in the DCR field noted this is a common misconception: *"there's a lot of fear and certainty and doubt around AI doing these crazy things when that's not the case at all...so you have a lot*

of mischaracterizations or incorrect statements being thrown out there, so I do think the bench sometimes has to sort through those sort of dialogues."

CSRs also pointed out that a portion of their job is to interrupt and ask individuals to repeat themselves if they are unclear. There are concerns that a remote person or a court without human monitoring at all would not do this. Additionally, an individual must still take care of any evidence entered as exhibits.

Judge 2 describes how their court has adapted with the switch to digital:

"The attorneys I've had are pretty good. The 'court reporter in the sky' is what they call it, because the dome cameras in there that are watching, when we have that and not [someone] necessarily on site. They'll chime in if they miss something or can't hear something and the attorneys are like, 'oh, yep, somebody's still watching.' The only thing I would say is labeling exhibits. If somebody wants to introduce evidence, the court reporter physically is not there. So myself or the bailiff – we've got to kind of keep an eye on that – make sure that's being done correctly."

9.3.5 Opposition to central monitoring

One area our stakeholders agreed upon was an opposition to centralized monitoring systems where one individual monitors multiple proceedings at once. Freelance CSR 7 notes that monitoring multiple courtrooms *"sounds like a recipe for disaster,"* with many stakeholders echoing a similar sentiment. The concerns are that an individual monitoring multiple courtrooms at once would not be able to spot technical issues, interrupt court if necessary, or be able to listen and actively pay attention. Stakeholders stressed that there needs to be one actively present person to take the record per courtroom.

9.4 Accuracy

Conversations on accuracy focused on two key components – what influences accuracy of the record and what are the implications from a legal perspective.

9.4.1 Multiple factors can influence record quality

Challenges to creating an accurate record are numerous. Accents, technical or medical jargon, multiple speakers, fast speakers, and difficult spellings are all things any taker of the record must be trained to respond to according to our stakeholders. Audio recordings are seen as a helpful back-up to solve some of these challenges, but the audio must be well-recorded. Hardware that breaks and background noises can be a distraction that makes capturing good audio difficult. Additionally, as our stakeholders pointed out, if someone makes a nonverbal gesture, they need to be redirected in the moment to respond verbally so it can be captured on the record.

All of these challenges rely on an individual actively listening, monitoring the technical aspects and being willing and able to speak up if there is an issue. CSRs feel they are well-trained to do this whether in person or virtually. DCR proponents point out that this may fall to a DCR operator or the judge in the room if the DCR is not physically present.

9.4.2 Legal implications of taking the record

Stakeholders are concerned with accuracy because errors to the transcript record can lead to challenges in court. Stakeholders had stories of appeals, retrials, delayed court as new transcripts were created, or other legal challenges. Given the relative newness of digital records, these apprehensions were more often applied to digital recording methods but the stories we heard included both stenographic and digital recording methods.

Attorneys offer another perspective on the reality of court or legal challenges. Some attorneys noted that they will immediately object and challenge if a digital recording will be used, citing it as less accurate than a CSR. Others suggest that they will offer to pay for digital recording as a legal strategy to have the other attorneys object and then pay for a CSR. Still others say it is impractical to challenge cases based on small errors in the transcriptions. Stakeholders noted that to pay an attorney to re-listen to audio to check a transcript or to re-try a case on a small error is cost-prohibitive.

As Judge 3 notes, the scope of these challenges is potentially small but unknown:

"The other thing that always needs to be taken into consideration is, so we record with a court reporter every single legal proceeding that takes place in the courtroom. I'd say maybe 5% of those, the record is requested by a lawyer for some reason and of that 5%, maybe a third end up in an actual appeal where the transcript goes up to the Court of Appeals and becomes the record of what happened in the courtroom. So it's a tiny, tiny percent that goes to the Court of Appeals. But here's the thing, on any given day, I don't know which one of those proceedings is going to be the one where that record really makes a difference. And if that record happens to be one where the digital transcription didn't quite work right, I've got no recourse. That means I've got to retry that case."

Finally, the representative from an organization that utilizes both stenographic and digital methods provides another perspective on accuracy of the record:

"No matter what platform or how many people in the room, audio quality is really important. Also possible accents, technical language such as medical language that maybe none of us know. However, I think if you've got the record captured, you can always go back and really dig in there and make sure that things have been heard correctly. I also have to remind people...that even a stenographer who is certified through the state of Texas – which Texas and California have two of the hardest tests to pass – it's only at 95% accuracy. It's not 100%. People think it's verbatim word for word 100%, but they're tested at 95%. Do we want it to be 100%? Sure, but you have a human factor involved, right. And so, you know, right now, as long as we can get close to that and get a really nice transcript put together, I don't see a difference. You could hold up three transcripts side by side, one from a steno, one from a voice, one from a digital and I

would challenge you to be able to see the difference between any of them. The fact still remains, though, is that are all three of them admissible in court, and [all of them can be challenged].”

9.5 Texas Policy Landscape

We ended interviews with a discussion of policies and solutions as a way to guide decision-makers in Texas towards the future. One of the primary goals was to identify what needs to be clarified in Texas legislation about DCR to ensure appropriate use, but we also used this time to determine how decision-makers can increase access to both CSR or DCR methods. We also captured perspectives on how these stakeholders saw the future of record-taking.

9.5.1 Texas policies on DCR need to be clarified

First and foremost, stakeholders agree that Texas policy needs to be clarified on what is allowed and not allowed in terms of digital recording of proceedings. Some felt that digital recordings should not be allowed at all because Texas does not have an explicit statutory framework that permits DCR; others feel that different sections of policies are in conflict.

With this in mind, the stakeholders suggested a multitude of ways to craft policy to ensure DCR provides a record they would feel comfortable using as the final product:

- They recommend clearly laying out who is allowed to be responsible for each piece of the process – including who is recording, who is monitoring the recording, who is handling the physical evidence, and who is transcribing after the recording is made.
- They requested to include plans for physically handling exhibits and a plan for having backup technology in place if there is a technology failure.
- They believe the policies should consider how to handle AI, the potential for digital manipulation, and ensure privacy and protection of individuals’ voice and data.

Accountability is an important concern to our stakeholders; they would like someone who will be accountable to the courts if there is an issue with the record, as CSRs are now. They also feel this person should be certified through a rigorous certification process similar to the CSR process and face the same continuing education and background check requirements. Multiple stakeholders suggested if DCR is embraced it needs to parallel the CSR experience. One of the comments from the survey sums this up best:

“If digital recording is approved, I think it would be ideal if it was added as another CSR method, where digital ‘recorders’ have the same requirements as stenographers. This would include passing the same written test, skills test, taking the same continuing education classes and following the same ethics rules. Digital ‘recorders’ would be present for the proceeding, responsible for the record and sign their name to the certificate just as a stenographer and would be held accountable the same. To sum it up, it would be another Certified Shorthand Reporting (CSR) method in addition to oral and machine.”

9.5.2 Education and experience are necessary to build comfort with DCR modalities

Even with ideally written policy, stakeholders stress additional education and exposure to digital recording process is needed. As Attorney 5 notes *"I think I would encourage exposure and discussion. It's one thing to hear someone talk about [DCR], it's another thing to experience it."* Many individuals expressed apprehension or a lack of knowledge on the different modalities of DCR.

A representative from a court reporting organization elaborates on how DCR can be perceived as a shortcut to ineffective record-keeping:

"We don't want our clients, attorneys or anybody else, going to a deposition saying, 'you know what, I'm going to throw my phone on the table and this is what we're going to do today.' So I think there's some stigma and the way that it's done because digital reporting is not done the same way with every company. And some companies do it the right way and some do not. And some rely heavily on AI and, you know, set their iPhone down on the counter...and hit record and hopefully they did everything. That's what we don't want."

Our stakeholders emphasize that overcoming this stigma and building awareness of how DCR works and what safeguards are in place will be necessary for uptake. Freelance CSR 1 points out that time will be needed for individuals to accept digital as they describe a similar acceptance process for voice recording: *"it's like when it was just stenography and then they added a voice...people were so against voice in the beginning and now everybody's cool with it. I think you're going to have that same situation with digital."*

9.5.3 Promoting CSR as a career

Through our conversations, we asked what else could be done to promote the field of CSR as a profession and close the gap in availability. The primary solution is better promotion of the field as most see the core of the problem being a lack of awareness of CSR as a career option. Multiple stakeholders suggested introducing the career to high school students as an alternative to trade or traditional four-year college study. Others recommended targeting pre-law or law students who are interested in legal matters but do not necessarily want to become a lawyer; still others suggested utilizing more advertising and social media campaigns to promote the field. They emphasized promoting the importance of the job, salary, employment benefits, and potential lifestyle options. Additional solutions included offering scholarships and grants to make schooling more affordable, ensuring the courses can be covered by Pell grants, allowing for the national stenographic and voice reporting certifications to count in Texas without re-testing, and revisiting the exam standards.

9.5.4 Stakeholders have mixed feelings on the future

Finally, we asked stakeholders how they envisioned the record would be taken in their jurisdiction in the next five years. Once again, responses were split. Those who prefer CSR and

have sufficient CSRs envision they will stay with CSR. Those who are invested in digital are optimistic that all recording will be done digitally. A few felt it would stay the same, while a larger proportion felt it would become increasingly digital. These latter responses cited more advanced technology, national trends, politics, and the CSR shortage as the driving factors towards more digital adoption.

One survey response summarized many of the key concerns when they offered:

"If Texas is truly interested in addressing the growing access to justice gap, utilizing modern court reporting/transcribing tools and technology would be an excellent start. I do worry about removing the human in the loop until such time as the technology has been around long enough and is consistently used in a responsible and ethical manner to ensure accuracy and fairness."

9.6 Summary

The interview and survey process allows us to capture comprehensive perspectives from those most connected to creating a record. Feelings on DCR are mixed. With some stakeholders feeling nothing can or should replace CSRs; other prefer digital; and still others feel they have no choice but to use digital means. Additionally, budget constraints, rising transcript fees, and high appearance costs are increasingly viewed as barriers to justice.

Stakeholders value CSRs for their established accountability, rigorous training, and human adaptability, whereas DCR proponents praise its efficiency, speed, and ability to keep dockets moving. However, there is strong consensus across groups that human oversight remains essential; stakeholders universally oppose fully automated AI systems and centralized monitoring across multiple courtrooms due to accuracy risks. Moving forward, stakeholders urge Texas policymakers to clarify ambiguous DCR regulations on who is responsible, while improving career promotion for CSRs. While opinions on the future remain divided, many expect record-keeping to shift toward a hybrid or increasingly digital model driven by technology trends, but insist that the proper guardrails must be in place for its use.

10 Costs to Implement DCR

This section presents a cost analysis comparing the ongoing costs of employing CSRs with the costs of implementing DCR. The analysis draws on salary data collected as part of the PPRI 2023 court staff salary study,⁵⁰ vendor-provided equipment and software pricing, and research team estimates where no external source was available. All CSR salary figures are adjusted to 2026 dollars using Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index data (cumulative inflation factor: 1.089, reflecting an average annual rate of approximately 2.9 percent from 2023 to 2026).⁵¹

10.1 Framework and Assumptions

The analysis compares costs on a *per courtroom-equivalent* basis, assuming by default one CSR per active courtroom. Both CSR costs (expressed per full-time equivalent) and DCR costs (expressed per courtroom) are therefore directly comparable under this assumption, which can be adjusted if a county's staffing ratio differs.

CSR costs include base salary, fringe benefits, transcription fees, recruitment and onboarding, and continuing legal education. Equipment and supply costs are not included, as court reporters in Texas are generally responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own stenographic equipment. The cost of recruiting and onboarding for a single candidate is amortized over an assumed average CSR tenure. The choice of tenure assumption has minimal impact on the overall cost comparison: amortizing the \$2,667 recruitment cost over 5, 10, 15 or 20 years yields annual figures of \$533, \$267, \$178 and \$133, respectively, all of which represent less than 0.3% of total annual CSR costs.⁵² The base case uses a five-year tenure assumption.

DCR costs include capital expenditures (software license, hardware, installation, and initial training), ongoing maintenance, real-time transcription, outsourced transcript production,⁵³ recruitment and onboarding of the court recorder, and the salary and benefits of a court recorder staff position required to monitor and operate the system. Transcription software of this kind is not unique to DCR. Voice-writers rely on it to produce the record, and some stenographic reporters use recording software to support their production as well. The court recorder is assumed to be a county employee, not a contractor or freelancer; recruitment and onboarding costs are therefore treated as a county expense, amortized over the same five-year assumed tenure used for CSR recruitment. One-time DCR capital costs, totaling approximately \$10,800 per courtroom under the default scenario (software license: \$2,500; hardware and setup: \$5,500; installation: \$2,000; initial training: \$800), are amortized over a five-year period, yielding the annual figures shown in Table 50. The software license component is modeled as a one-time capital expense; site visit data did not consistently distinguish one-time licensing costs from recurring subscription or maintenance fees across vendors, so this

50. Public Policy Research Institute, *Court Personnel Workload Analysis*, Final Report (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University, 2023), Table 8.

51. BLS CPI-U annual averages: 2023 = 299.7, 2024 = 309.6, 2025 = 317.7, 2026 estimated at 326.3. Source: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>.

52. Share calculated against the Urban CSR total of \$167,941.

53. Estimated based on a typical outsourced transcription rate range of \$35 to \$60 per audio hour; no single external source was identified for this figure.

treatment may not fully reflect actual vendor pricing structures. Annual maintenance is estimated at five percent of total capital cost, covering software upgrades, hardware upkeep, and minor repairs. Additionally, the ten-year projection accounts for a full technology refresh at Year 5, assuming a five-year replacement cycle for court technology infrastructure.

One caveat is worth noting. The DCR training cost estimate covers onboarding of the court recorder role only and does not account for any additional training that may be needed for judges, court clerks, or IT personnel involved in system setup and operation.

It is also important to note that this analysis captures direct implementation costs only and hence may not reflect downstream costs, such as transcript corrections, re-hearings, or legal challenges to the record. These potential costs are not quantified here but are addressed as a qualitative consideration elsewhere in this report.

Key assumptions and their sources are summarized in Table 48.

Table 48: Key Cost Model Assumptions and Sources

Assumption	Value	Source
CSR salary, Urban mean (2026 \$)	\$125,570	PPRI (2023)
CSR salary, Mid-Size mean (2026 \$)	\$98,802	PPRI (2023)
CSR salary, Rural mean (2026 \$)	\$87,510	PPRI (2023)
Fringe benefits rate	30%	Research team estimate
CSR salary growth (long-run)	4%/yr	Research team estimate
Transcription fees	\$3,167/yr	Research team estimate
DCR software license	\$2,500	Texas DCR vendor materials
DCR hardware & setup	\$5,500	Texas DCR vendor materials
Annual maintenance	5% of capital	Research team estimate
Real-time transcription	\$2/audio hr	Texas DCR vendor materials
Real-time transcription hours (annual)	1,000 hrs	Research team estimate
Outsourced transcription	\$45/audio hr	Research team estimate
Outsourced transcription hours (annual)	200 hrs	Research team estimate
Court recorder salary (mean)	\$45,000	Research team estimate
Court recorder recruitment (one-time)	\$2,667	Research team estimate
DCR salary growth (long-run)	4%/yr	Research team estimate
Courtrooms per county (10-yr scenario)	3	Illustrative scenario
Discount rate	5%	Research team estimate

Notes: PPRI (2023) refers to the PPRI 2023 court staff salary study; salary figures are CPI-adjusted from 2023 to 2026. The discount rate of 5% reflects a standard assumption for the public sector cost of capital, used to convert future cost savings to present value. Court recorder is assumed to be a county employee.

10.2 Annual Cost Comparison

Table 49 presents the estimated annual CSR cost per courtroom-equivalent by county type, under the assumptions summarized in Table 48. Salary figures vary by county type, reflecting differences documented in the PPRI 2023 court staff salary study.⁵⁴

Table 49: Estimated Annual CSR Cost per Courtroom-Equivalent (2026 \$)

Cost Component	Urban	Mid-Size	Rural
Base salary (mean, 2026 \$)	\$125,570	\$98,802	\$87,510
Fringe benefits (30%)	\$37,671	\$29,641	\$26,253
Transcription fees	\$3,167	\$3,167	\$3,167
Recruitment / onboarding (amortized)	\$533	\$533	\$533
Training / CLE	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
CSR total	\$167,941	\$133,143	\$118,463

Notes: Recruitment/onboarding amortized over five-year assumed tenure. Equipment and supply costs excluded as these are borne by the reporter, not the county. Urban = large metropolitan; Mid-Size = mid-population; Rural = lower-population jurisdictions, per PPRI 2023 court staff salary study strata.

Table 50 presents the estimated annual DCR cost per courtroom across low, default, and high scenarios. DCR costs do not vary by county type in the base case because vendor pricing is largely uniform across jurisdictions; the low-to-high range reflects vendor pricing variation rather than urban-rural differences. The court recorder is assumed to be a county employee; recruitment and onboarding costs are accordingly included as a county expense.

Table 50: Estimated Annual DCR Cost per Courtroom (2026 \$)

Cost Component	Low	Default	High
Software license (amortized)	\$380	\$500	\$600
Hardware & setup (amortized)	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,200
Installation (amortized)	\$200	\$400	\$600
Training (amortized)	\$100	\$160	\$300
Annual maintenance (5% of capital)	\$420	\$540	\$675
Real-time transcription	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Outsourced transcript production	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Court recorder recruitment (amortized)	\$300	\$533	\$800
Court recorder salary (mean)	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$60,000
Court recorder fringe benefits (30%)	\$10,500	\$13,500	\$18,000
DCR total	\$58,900	\$72,733	\$93,175

Notes: Low/high estimates reflect the range of vendor pricing and salary assumptions. Real-time transcription and outsourced transcript costs are held constant across scenarios. Real-time transcription is estimated at 1,000 audio hours/year and outsourced transcription at 200 audio hours/year per courtroom. Court recorder salary and recruitment are research team estimates; the Low/High range reflects variation around the \$2,667 base recruitment cost. Court recorder is assumed to be a county employee; recruitment cost amortized over five-year assumed tenure.

54. County types follow the PPRI 2023 court staff salary study strata: Urban = large metropolitan jurisdictions; Mid-Size = mid-population jurisdictions; Rural = lower-population jurisdictions. Salary figures for each stratum are drawn from Table 8 of that study.

Under the assumptions summarized in Table 48, DCR is estimated to cost substantially less than employing a CSR across all three county types. Table 51 summarizes the estimated annual difference per courtroom, calculated as the CSR total minus the DCR default total.

Table 51: Estimated Annual Difference per Courtroom-Equivalent, CSR minus DCR Default (2026 \$)

	Urban	Mid-Size	Rural
CSR total	\$167,941	\$133,143	\$118,463
DCR total (default)	\$72,733	\$72,733	\$72,733
Annual difference	\$95,208	\$60,410	\$45,730

The estimated annual difference ranges from approximately \$45,700 in rural counties to \$95,200 in urban counties, driven primarily by the large gap in labor costs. Even under the high DCR estimate (\$93,175), the annual difference remains positive across all county types. The annual difference is sensitive to assumptions about transcript production: courts that require transcripts more frequently, or that pay higher per-hour rates, would see outsourced transcription costs rise and the estimated advantage narrow accordingly.

10.3 Ten-Year Cost Projection

The annual comparison above captures a single-year snapshot. A multi-year perspective matters because the annual difference widens over time: DCR's non-labor costs, maintenance, real-time transcription, and outsourced transcript production, are assumed to remain flat in real terms, while both CSR and court-recorder salaries grow at the same rate.

To illustrate the long-run trajectory, we focus on the rural scenario, where the annual cost difference is smallest and the case for DCR adoption is therefore most conservative. Table 52 presents a ten-year projection for a single rural county with three courtrooms. CSR salary and benefits grow at four percent annually in this projection.⁵⁵ DCR recurring costs are held flat, while court recorder staff costs and recruitment grow at four percent annually, consistent with the CSR salary growth assumption. A full technology refresh is assumed at Year 5, with the one-time capital cost (equivalent to the original Year 1 outlay) incurred in that year; Years 6 through 10 then mirror the flat recurring cost pattern of Years 2 through 5.

55. The four percent long-run growth rate is a research team estimate applied uniformly to CSR and court-recorder salaries.

Table 52: Ten-Year Cost Projection, Rural County (3 Courtrooms), CSR vs. DCR (2026 \$, thousands)

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
CSR (\$K)	355	369	384	399	415	432	449	466	485	504
DCR (\$K)	244*	219	226	234	274*	250	259	268	277	287
Difference (\$K)	111	151	158	165	141	181	190	199	208	217
Cumulative (\$K)	111	262	420	585	726	908	1,098	1,297	1,504	1,722

Notes: Values rounded to nearest thousand and independently, so a difference row may not exactly equal the subtraction of the rounded CSR and DCR rows above. *Denotes years with one-time capital outlays: Year 1 reflects the initial hardware, software, installation, and training investment; Year 5 reflects a full technology refresh at the same cost. In both years the annual difference narrows relative to adjacent years but remains positive. Years 6–10 follow the same flat recurring cost pattern as Years 2–5. CSR costs grow at 4%/yr; DCR recurring costs are held flat; court recorder staff and recruitment costs grow at 4%/yr.

Several features of this projection are worth highlighting. First, both Year 1 and Year 5 show elevated DCR costs due to capital expenditures, but in both cases the annual cost difference remains positive, meaning DCR remains less expensive than CSRs even in those years. Second, the annual cost difference grows over the ten-year horizon because DCR's recurring costs are held flat while both labor lines grow at the same rate, rising from approximately \$111,000 in Year 1 to \$217,000 in Year 10.

Over the full ten-year period, the cumulative difference between CSR and DCR costs reaches approximately \$1.7 million for this rural three-courtroom county. To express the value of these future savings in today's dollars, we apply a standard discounting approach: savings that occur further in the future are valued somewhat less than savings available today, because resources available now can be invested and generate returns.⁵⁶ Because DCR is less expensive than CSRs from Year 1 onward in this scenario, there is no breakeven period: the cost advantage of DCR is present from the outset.

These projections are illustrative and reflect the default model assumptions. All key inputs, including the number of courtrooms, county type, salary growth rates, and transcript volume, can be adjusted to reflect the specific characteristics of a given county.

10.4 Summary

Across all three county types, DCR is estimated to be substantially less costly than employing CSRs on an annual basis, with the estimated difference per courtroom ranging from roughly \$45,700 in rural settings to nearly \$95,200 in urban settings under default assumptions. The cost difference is driven primarily by the gap in labor costs: CSR salaries and benefits substantially exceed the combined cost of a court recorder position plus DCR technology, even in rural counties where reporter salaries are lowest. Over a ten-year horizon for a three-courtroom rural county, the cumulative cost advantage of DCR is estimated at approximately \$1.7 million (\$1.3 million in present value terms). The advantage grows over time because DCR's recurring

⁵⁶ Applying a five percent discount rate to the ten-year stream of annual cost differences yields a net present value (NPV) of approximately \$1.3 million. This means the full expected savings over ten years, expressed in 2026 dollars, is worth roughly \$1.3 million to the county.

costs are held flat while both labor lines grow at the same rate, even after accounting for the upfront capital investment in Year 1 and the technology refresh in Year 5. These findings hold across the full range of DCR cost assumptions: even the high-cost DCR scenario (\$93,175 per courtroom annually) remains less expensive than a CSR in all county types. It bears noting, however, that this analysis is limited to direct implementation costs and assumes a CSR or DCR is hired to work in the county or court. This does not account for freelancing or depositions. Potential downstream costs associated with accuracy differences between CSRs and DCRs, such as transcript corrections or legal challenges to the record, are not captured here and may affect the total cost comparison.

11 DCR & Court Reporting Assessment

House Bill 16 (HB 16) charges OCA and, by extension, the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) to evaluate “the accuracy and effectiveness of digital court recording.” Given this charge, we developed an initial proposal to evaluate digital court recording in comparison to stenographic court reporting. The proposed research design was reviewed by the SWG, who pointed out numerous challenges in the design, leading to the abandonment of the original proposal. Upon this conclusion, OCA proposed an alternative design to evaluate the accuracy and efficiency of DCR. However, this design has its own limitations and may not adequately answer the question of accuracy and efficiency.

This section presents a summary of the proposed evaluations and their limitations. Because of significant challenges in both proposals, the evaluation turned to reviewing the literature more closely to consider the question of accuracy. The objective literature evaluating digital court recording as well as the corporate efficacy literature are discussed. The literature is presented to establish the current body of knowledge on digital court recording and areas for future evaluation. This is supplemented with information obtained from observational visits to Texas courtrooms employing DCR to discuss real-world application and implementation. Finally, a future evaluation is detailed that would provide more robust accuracy information.

11.1 Challenges to Current Proposed Evaluation

11.1.1 Original Proposal

To fulfill the directive of HB 16 to study “the accuracy and effectiveness of digital court recording,” our team proposed a controlled before and after assessment of implementation of digital court recording at the county level. This evaluative approach would allow us to draw conclusions about the impacts of implementation of digital court recording on the criminal justice system. The proposed evaluation uses a mix of data pulled from transcripts and administrative data. The SWG was given the opportunity to review the proposed evaluation. During this review, the SWG pointed out the data we would like to use either did not exist or was not relevant to the evaluation. Additionally, in the initial preparation work for the design of the evaluation, it was clear additional data collection would be necessary to conduct this evaluation as most counties did not advertise their use of digital court recording. Further, it became clear our proposal did not fit the needs of the SWG to evaluate accuracy and effectiveness of digital court recording. The SWG felt strongly that a comparison model of evaluation was not an ideal approach to fulfill the charge in HB 16.

11.1.2 Revised Proposal

To more adequately evaluate “the accuracy and effectiveness of digital court recording” as worded in HB 16, OCA proposed evaluating digital court recording based on the Texas Government Code 154.103, the statute which governs the certification of court reporters. In the newly proposed evaluation, digital court recording providers would be invited to participate

by submitting their products for testing utilizing the court reporter's certification examination. Their resulting products from completion of the court reporter's certification exam would be scored by those who have historically scored the court reporter's evaluation.

While on the surface the evaluation of digital court recorders by the statute which certifies court reporters appears to determine if digital court recorders meet the standards of court reporters, we believe this proposed evaluation does not adequately answer the charge of HB 16. As written, the proposed evaluation answers the question of whether digital court recording is accurate, however, it does not address whether the modality is effective. In other words, this evaluation can tell whether digital court recording can meet the minimum accuracy threshold in Texas, but it does not address whether it is a beneficial use of the courts' resources. Additionally, previous literature has already demonstrated digital court recording to meet the minimum accuracy thresholds.

The court reporter certification examination is structured to demonstrate a court reporter can capture the audio they hear at certain word per minute (WPM) thresholds. This benchmark is not necessarily applicable to digital court recording as technology is not limited by WPM constraints to capture the audio in a proceeding. Further, the evaluation of passive audio recording and how this record is deemed acceptable will need additional development. It is likely this form of record will need to be evaluated by a different standard than the other proposed modalities entirely.

The evaluation proposes testing digital court recording in the same conditions in which court reporters are tested. This does not accurately reflect how digital court recording is implemented in the judicial system. A court reporter owns their own technologies they utilize in their day-to-day work, where a digital court recording system is installed in a static environment. The current court reporter's certification exam reflects the reality that a court reporter can bring the necessary items, such as their dictionary, with them to the examination room.

Finally, the evaluation does not distinguish who would be creating the final transcript for purposes of review. For this evaluation to go forward, it would be critical to standardize who, such as a certified transcriptionist or certified court reporter, is creating the transcript. Additionally, all transcripts should be presented in the appropriate format, using the Uniform Format Manual for Texas Reporters' Records.

11.2 Literature Review

The literature evaluating digital court recording methods compared with stenographic court reporting is limited, with few peer-reviewed publications. However, many additional studies comparing the two methodologies have been authored by groups, such as courts, court reporters, and digital court recording agencies, arguing the accuracy and value of each modality.

This literature highlights two key themes related to the proposed comparative analysis of the methodologies: accuracy and veracity of the record and cost-effectiveness and management of the record.

A key issue in the debate between digital court recording and stenographic court reporting is which method produces a more accurate, reliable, and verbatim record. In 1983, the Federal Judicial Center conducted a landmark evaluation comparing transcripts produced from

audio recordings versus stenographic means.⁵⁷ In a side-by-side comparison, evaluators determined transcripts produced from audio recordings could be a reasonable proxy for stenographic methods with appropriate management and supervision of the recording.⁵⁸ This initial study was further validated at the state level, with an independent review by the Iowa Judicial Council reaching the same conclusion.⁵⁹ The AAERT Government Relations Committee, representing the electronic reporting profession, has similarly argued in favor of digital recording methods, though as an advocacy organization its findings should be read in that context.⁶⁰ Additionally, studies from the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) and those representing the interest of digital court recording both issued white papers expressing their views. The NCRA argues that stenographic court reporters are the “guardians of the record” and can interpret the nuance of the court proceedings that cannot be done by a recording.⁶¹ By contrast, proponents of digital court recording emphasize the risk of a lack of verbatim record when court reporters retire or become unavailable⁶² and argue that digital capture allows for an “unfiltered” and verifiable verbatim record.⁶³

In addition to accuracy, evaluations examined the economic impact of the modality of producing the verbatim record. Studies considered the personnel costs and overhead to the court and litigants for the production of a verbatim record. The 1983 Federal Judicial Center study found cost advantages for audio-based recording,⁶⁴ a finding echoed by a state-level review conducted by the Connecticut Judicial Branch.⁶⁵ While the personnel costs of stenographic court reporting are known, a previously unrecognized cost of stenographic court reporting is the separate per-page fees court reporters are allowed to charge for transcripts produced.⁶⁶ This additional cost is frequently omitted in cost comparisons but remains an important consideration in the adoption of court reporting modalities. The costs of producing a verbatim court record underscore the question of who owns the official court record. Traditionally, stenographic court reporters own their personal shorthand dictionaries and notes taken during the proceedings. Due to this, it is challenging for others to produce official transcripts from the notes of other court reporters. As a result of this challenge and the expansion of digital court recording, some states have adopted the stance that the official court record belongs to the public and should be under the custody of the Judicial Branch.⁶⁷

57. J. Michael Greenwood et al., *A Comparative Evaluation of Stenographic and Audiotape Methods for United States District Court Reporting* (Washington, DC: Federal Judicial Center, 1983).

58. Greenwood et al., *A Comparative Evaluation*.

59. Iowa Judicial Council Committee on Digital Audio/Visual Recording Technology (DART), *Digital Audio/Visual Recording Technology (DART) Committee Final Report & Findings* (Des Moines, IA: Iowa Judicial Branch, December 30, 2009).

60. Geoffrey L. Hunt and Richard Russell, *Analysis and Advantages of Digital Court Reporting and Recording in the Courts, Deposition, and Administrative Hearings Markets* (Vienna, VA: American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers [AAERT] Government Relations Committee, 2016).

61. National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), *Emerging Ethical and Legal Issues Related to the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Voice Cloning, and Digital Audio Recording of Legal Proceedings* (Vienna, VA: National Court Reporters Association, 2023).

62. Hunt and Russell, *Analysis and Advantages of Digital Court Reporting*.

63. Hunt and Russell, *Analysis and Advantages of Digital Court Reporting*.

64. Greenwood et al., *A Comparative Evaluation*.

65. State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, *Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters: Final Report*, prepared by Joette Katz (Hartford, CT: State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, 2010).

66. State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, *Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters*.

67. State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, *Committee on Court Recording Monitors and Court Reporters*.

11.2.1 Corporate Efficacy Literature

In addition to peer-reviewed evaluations and advocacy group position papers, companies that develop digital court recording software and hardware have produced studies highlighting the reliability and accuracy of their products. Although these companies have likely conducted internal evaluations of product performance, few have made their findings publicly available. The available studies primarily emphasize administrative cost savings for courts, transcript accuracy, and reduced transcript turnaround times.

One key theme presented in the corporate literature is that a digital file allows the record to seamlessly transition from an isolated asset owned by an individual reporter into an interconnected, state-owned asset integrated directly into Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) case management systems, remote public access servers, and electronic filing queues.⁶⁸ In addition to record ownership, the corporation-driven evaluations demonstrate the conversion from a stenographic court reporting driven system to a digital court recording system can save the court hundreds of thousands of dollars over time by reducing or eliminating human-salary costs.⁶⁹

As technology improves and new products are introduced, corporations have presented the benefits of automated speech recognition (ASR) and additional automated workflows. For example, For The Record (FTR) has stated their automated real-time text engines achieve high accuracy rates in standard courtroom acoustic settings.⁷⁰ In addition, early adopters of digital court recording reported decreased transcript processing times as vendors began integrating automated workflows to draft initial text before sending files to human editors.⁷¹

An important caveat of these corporation-produced studies is that they emphasize the positive attributes of their products, while minimizing the limitations. Additionally, each of these evaluations were conducted under optimal conditions and may or may not reflect the real-world application and limitations many courtrooms may face.

11.3 Texas Courtroom Observations

To complement the survey and interview findings, PPRI conducted in-person site visits to four Texas courts actively using DCR. Courts were identified for potential site visits using a brief screening survey distributed to gather information on current DCR usage (see Appendix J). The visits took place between July and August 2026 and included the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court at Fort Hood, the 2nd Judicial District Court in Cherokee County, County Court at Law No. 2 in Webb County, and the Calhoun County Courthouse in Port Lavaca. Each visit involved observation of live court proceedings, interviews with judges and court staff, and demonstrations

68. Julie Helling, *Cost Savings Realized From Adopting a Digital Court Record* (Louisville, KY: Justice AV Solutions [JAVS] White Paper Series, 2018), 4–6, <https://www.javs.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/02-Cost-Savings-Realized.pdf>.

69. Helling, *Cost Savings Realized*.

70. For The Record (FTR), “Modernizing Court Records: Empowering Justice Through Integrity and Innovation,” For The Record Solutions Portal, accessed June 29, 2026, <https://fortherecord.com/>.

71. Radhika Anand, “Implementing Digital Court Recording (DCR): Maximizing Existing Personnel Resources,” *The Court Manager* 25, no. 2 (2010): 70–71.

of the DCR systems in use. The following narrative summarizes the key findings from those visits, with a cross-site comparison presented in Table 53.

11.3.1 Fort Hood --- Fifth Judicial Circuit Court

The Fifth Judicial Circuit Court at Fort Hood has operated DCR since the early 2000s, predating the tenure of all current court staff. The court transitioned from stenographic reporting by following the lead of other federal district courts. PPRI researchers visited on July 9, 2026 and observed arraignment and a guilty plea.

The court currently uses a system by Eclipse, having previously used For The Record (FTR) until that contract expired. The system is installed in two courtrooms, each staffed by an enlisted court reporter. The setup consists of a rugged box, a laptop with dual screens, and seven to eight microphones, one for each participant. The system is fully offline except for software updates and is designed to function in harsh environments if necessary. In the last five years of operation, the only components requiring replacement have been the microphones.

The court employs a hybrid approach: the system automatically transcribes audio in real time using automated speech recognition, but a certified shorthand reporter (CSR) monitors the live transcription through headphones, makes corrections during the proceeding, and finalizes the transcript after the fact. The CSR is the only person who sees the live transcription, though the court plans to extend that feed to the judge in the future. Court staff estimate that 70 to 80% of the transcript is accurate as produced live; the most common correction involves speaker attribution when two participants speak in rapid succession or over each other. Interruptions to the proceeding for record correction occur approximately once every 10 to 15 hearings.

The CSR also handles exhibits and may mute individual microphone channels in real time, for example, when defense counsel confers with a client. Before each proceeding, the CSR labels each microphone and assigns it to the appropriate participant. The judge actively supported accurate record-keeping by guiding speakers to speak clearly, slowly, and to repeat when necessary.

11.3.2 Cherokee County --- 2nd Judicial District Court

The 2nd Judicial District Court in Cherokee County transitioned to DCR in 2020 following an extended inability to hire a replacement court reporter. After the court's longtime reporter departed and the court received no serious applicants over two months of recruiting, Judge R. Chris Day identified Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) at a judicial conference in Kentucky and led the court's adoption of the system. The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals approved Cherokee County's local rules governing electronic recording in November 2019 (Misc. Docket Nos. 19-9112 and 19-013). PPRI researchers visited on August 3, 2026 and observed two hours of pretrial hearings.

The JAVS system is installed in two courtrooms. Initial setup costs range from approximately \$10,000 to \$100,000 depending on courtroom size and features; annual maintenance is approximately \$1,659 for the smaller courtroom and \$7,775 for the larger courtroom. The court

estimates annual savings of approximately \$80,000 after the first year of operation. Court coordinators were formally appointed as official court recorders by Judge Day and sworn in under oath, consistent with the court's local rules and Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure (TRAP) Rules 13.1 and 13.2. Both received supplemental compensation totaling \$20,000 split between them in recognition of their expanded duties.

The system provides four-layer redundancy: two internal hard drives within the JAVS unit, plus two additional backups maintained by county IT. Five cameras automatically track each speaker, and fixed plus wireless microphones cover all courtroom positions including the gallery for voir dire. When a full transcript is requested, the court contracts with a transcription service in Corpus Christi at \$3 per page. Software updates are installed by JAVS staff during on-site visits.

Judge Day noted several practical advantages of county-owned recordings over the prior CSR model. The court had experienced ongoing difficulty obtaining the prior reporter's stenographic records for appealed cases after her departure. Under DCR, all records remain with the court, backed up redundantly by the county network administrator. Attorneys no longer pay per-page fees to the court reporter to access records, and jurors may review audio and video of witness testimony during deliberations upon request. In six years of operation the system has experienced no failures. Judge Day has since shared his experience widely with other Texas judges, providing guidance on the TRAP rules governing electronic recording, steps for local rule adoption, vendor selection, and personnel and budget considerations.

11.3.3 Webb County --- County Court at Law No. 2

County Court at Law No. 2 in Webb County has operated without a stenographic court reporter since 2022, following a series of retirements and unsuccessful recruitment efforts that began when Judge Victor Villarreal took the bench in 2017. The court transitioned initially to Zoom and YouTube during the COVID-19 pandemic and adopted a SoniClear DCR system in 2024 to supplement and formalize those recordings. PPRI researchers visited on August 5, 2026 and observed the court's pro se docket.

The court adopted formal local rules governing electronic recording, approved by Judge Villarreal and effective January 1, 2023 (Administrative Orders 22-1229-1 and 22-1229-2). Those rules designate court recorders, specify their duties consistent with TRAP Rule 13.2, govern the handling of exhibits, and address the appellate record. A third administrative order adopted in 2024 (Administrative Order 24-0807-01) establishes continuance and scheduling policies for the court.

The SoniClear system is installed in the main courtroom alongside the existing Zoom and YouTube infrastructure which include multiple cameras placed throughout the courtroom. Despite numerous microphones, including dedicated units at the bench, witness stand, prosecution and defense tables, and a railing in front of the clerk's desk, plus handheld microphones for voir dire, the court records only a single audio channel. Recordings are stored in the Zoom cloud and on an external hard drive. The court does not transcribe all hearings; transcripts are produced on request by contracted remote stenographic reporters, or by a roving reporter when the court anticipates a contested hearing likely to result in a transcript request, which occurs one to two times per year. Hearings are also streamed live and archived on YouTube.

The court administrator serves as the primary monitor during hearings, listening through headphones and providing live Spanish interpretation. All exhibits must be uploaded to an on-line evidence platform 48 hours before a hearing; court clerks manage exhibit intake and case archiving during proceedings. The judge consistently reminded participants to speak clearly and into the microphone at the start of each hearing and corrected speakers as needed during proceedings. We note that the judge and court staff demonstrated a strong commitment to producing a high-quality record and were acutely aware of the conditions necessary for a clean audio recording.

11.3.4 Calhoun County Courthouse

PPRI visited the Calhoun County Courthouse in Port Lavaca on August 19, 2026 and observed seven court proceedings. The court currently uses a hybrid model: a CSR from Victoria handles non-jury trials that have a higher likelihood of being appealed, A CSR from Brownsville handles jury trials, and CPS cases identified as likely to be appealed, while DCR covers all other proceedings. DCR also runs simultaneously as a backup whenever a CSR is present, giving the reporter a fallback if audio is missed. However, the main CSR who travels from Victoria is retiring at the end of the year and the court is adapting by moving to utilize DCR as a substitute.

The court's DCR setup is not a commercial system. Rather, it was assembled in-house by the county IT department during the COVID-19 pandemic using a \$2,000 grant, built around Zoom as the primary recording platform. The setup includes one camera facing the judge's area, three ceiling microphones, and a TV and general-purpose computer to display the Zoom session. The court coordinator connects their laptop, joins the Zoom meeting, establishes host privileges, and records from there. Recordings are stored in the Zoom cloud and on a hard drive. The court coordinator noted they have completed approximately 70% of an AAERT digital court recording certification course, though the path to a JBCC-recognized credential remains unresolved; the county attorney has not yet provided guidance on whether the coordinator can serve as the official court recorder under current state standards.

PPRI noted several limitations. The three ceiling microphones may not adequately capture defendants during pleas because the defendant faces away from the microphones. The court coordinator was absent from the courtroom for portions of the first two proceedings observed. While the setup had been completed, the court coordinator was not in the courtroom to monitor the recordings and ensure it was running. The CSR who was present that day filled the monitoring role. It is unclear how monitoring is handled when a CSR is not present. No DCR case has been appealed to date.

11.3.5 Cross-Site Comparison

The four courts visited reflect a wide range of approaches to DCR implementation, from purpose-built commercial systems with multi-layer redundancy and formal court recorder appointments to ad hoc Zoom-based setups assembled in-house. Table 53 summarizes the key features across all four sites.

Several themes cut across all four sites. First, workforce shortage was the primary driver of DCR adoption in three of the four courts; Fort Hood was the exception, having followed the

Table 53: Comparison of DCR Systems Across Four Texas Court Site Visits

Feature	Fort Hood (5th Circuit)	Cherokee County (2nd District)	Webb County (CCL#2)	County Calhoun County
DCR System	Eclipse	JAVS	SoniClear + Zoom/ YouTube	Zoom (in-house)
System Cost	Not disclosed	\$10k–\$100k initial; \$1,659–\$7,775/yr	Not disclosed	\$2,000 (COVID grant)
Years in Use	Since early 2000s	Since 2020	Zoom since COVID; SoniClear since 2024	Since COVID
Reason for Switch	Followed federal court model	No CSR applicants	Repeated CSR retirements	CSR retiring; shortage
Audio Channels	Multi-channel	Multi-channel	Single channel	Single channel
Video	No	Yes (5 cameras)	Yes	Yes (1 camera)
Microphones	7–8 (per participant)	Fixed + wireless	Fixed + handheld	3 ceiling mics
Live Monitoring	CSR w/ headphones	Court coordinator	Court administrator w/ headphones	Court coordinator
Live Transcription	Yes (ASR; CSR corrects)	No	No	No
Redundancy	Not specified	4 copies (2 internal + 2 IT)	Zoom cloud + hard drive + YouTube	Zoom cloud + hard drive
Transcription	CSR or coordinator	\$3/page contracted	Contracted CSR on request	Contracted if appealed
Exhibit Handling	CSR manages	Coordinators file with clerk	Online platform; clerks manage	CSR manages when present
Formal Recorder	CSR (military)	Yes (sworn, TRAP 13.1/13.2)	Yes (local rules 22-1229)	Pending
Local Rules	Federal framework	Yes (TX Supreme Court & CCA, 2019)	Yes (Admin. Orders 22-1229, 24-0807)	No
Failures	None (mics replaced)	None in 6 years	None	Computer/TV replaced
CSR Still Used	Yes (hybrid)	No	No (roving 1–2x/yr)	Yes (jury trials/CPS)

CCL = County Court at Law; JAVS = Justice AV Solutions; ASR = Automated Speech Recognition.

broader federal model decades earlier. Second, all four courts designated a trained individual to actively monitor the recording in real time, consistent with stakeholder perspectives gathered in the survey and interviews. Third, courts operating longer under DCR had more formalized structures, including sworn recorder appointments, local rules, and redundant storage, while newer or less resourced implementations showed gaps in monitoring continuity and credential clarity. Fourth, none of the visited courts reported an appellate challenge attributable to a DCR record quality issue, though only one court (Cherokee County) reported a completed appeal under the DCR record. Finally, the quality of the record across all sites depended heavily on the judge’s active management of the courtroom: directing speakers to use microphones, avoiding simultaneous speech, and repeating statements when necessary.

11.4 Proposed Future Evaluation

Given the limitations of the two previously proposed evaluations, we propose a more comprehensive future evaluation in lieu of either proposal. The proposed future evaluation would consist of a multi-method concurrent validity study. In the future evaluation, we would have ample time to set up a side-by-side comparison evaluation where all data needed to evaluate digital court recording in real-world applications is available.

Our proposed study will employ a prospective, concurrent testing framework over a continuous six- to twelve-month evaluation period within selected Texas courts. Courts will be purposively sampled to ensure representation across both high-volume urban dockets and resource-constrained rural jurisdictions, directly accounting for the geographical disparities of the state. To establish a true experimental baseline, selected courtrooms will simultaneously deploy three distinct data capture modalities for all official proceedings: stenography, digital court recording, and an independent control baseline.

Upon conclusion of the data collection period, pairs of matching transcripts generated from stenography and digital court recording will be subjected to a blinded evaluation against the independent ground-truth audio. The analysis will quantitatively and qualitatively measure three primary dimensions: verbatim text accuracy (word error rate); word count and format; and functional use and turnaround time.

This study design mirrors the rigorous methodologies used in the literature. Additionally, this design better addresses the question of “the accuracy and effectiveness of digital court recording.” An important caveat of this evaluation design and approach is that it would best be accomplished during a phased piloting approach. Additionally, due to the involvement of multiple courts across the state of Texas, this evaluation would need longer than the interim between legislatures to complete.

12 Findings and Recommendations

This section synthesizes the main findings from each component of the study and presents recommendations for consideration by the Office of Court Administration, the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, the Texas Supreme Court, and the Legislature.

12.1 Key Findings

12.1.1 CSR Workforce

- The number of active CSRs in Texas declined 14% between FY 2005 and FY 2025, while the number of trial court benches grew by more than 14% over the same period.
- Only six schools are currently recognized by the JBCC to train court reporters in Texas, down from a larger number in prior decades, and national program counts fell by 27% between 2022 and 2026.
- More than half of Texas-based active CSRs received their first certification before 2000, placing a disproportionate share of the workforce near retirement age.
- Certified CSRs are geographically concentrated in urban centers, leaving rural courts with limited access to local reporters and increasing reliance on travel or alternative recording methods.
- Nationally, approximately 1,120 stenographers retire annually while only 200 new stenographers enter the field, a net annual loss of 920.

12.1.2 National DCR Policy Landscape

- DCR is broadly authorized across the country. Nineteen states operate under permissive statewide authorization, eight mandate DCR statewide, twenty states use hybrid or conditional authorization, and only three states, including Texas, do not have an explicit statutory framework for DCR to replace stenographic reporting.
- Where DCR is authorized, states universally require human monitoring, set technical standards for multi-channel audio capture and data retention, and establish certification or training requirements for court recorder personnel.
- The federal court system has used electronic sound recording as an authorized alternative to stenography since 1982, under rigorous technical and oversight standards administered by the Judicial Conference of the United States.
- All four Texas federal districts currently use electronic sound recording as the standard method for Magistrate Judge and Bankruptcy Judge proceedings.

12.1.3 Current DCR Usage in Texas

- Of Texas's 254 counties, 42 have formal administrative orders authorizing electronic recording, all 42 for civil matters and 21 for criminal matters.
- A statewide court survey found that approximately 24% of responding courts (n = 240) use DCR as their primary recording method, with the heaviest concentration in municipal courts (74.5%) and the lowest in district courts (5.2%) and probate courts (0.0%).
- DCR is widely used informally in rural jurisdictions when a CSR cannot be found and for magistration proceedings conducted via secure videoconference.
- Nearly all Texas courtrooms are equipped with multichannel audio technology, though it is currently used primarily as a supplemental tool rather than for the official record.
- Local Rules and Standing Orders governing court recorder duties closely parallel the statutory duties of CSRs.

12.1.4 Stakeholder Perspectives

- Professional role and court level, rather than urbanicity, are the primary factors shaping views on DCR. Court reporters and judges are the most resistant; court recorders and appellate-level respondents are the most receptive according to our survey.
- Roughly 8.9% of court reporter survey respondents agreed that DCR produces a record as accurate as a stenographic reporter. Court recorders agreed at a rate of about 69%.
- Across all stakeholder groups, there is near-universal agreement that a trained human must actively monitor any recording, that centralized multi-courtroom monitoring is unacceptable, and that AI alone is insufficient to produce a legally sufficient record.
- Stakeholders agree that Texas policy on DCR is ambiguous and needs to be clarified.
- Budget constraints and the inability to find a CSR are the primary drivers pushing courts toward DCR adoption, particularly in rural jurisdictions.
- Stakeholders emphasized rising transcript costs, which are largely unregulated, and inability to find a cost-effective way to take the record are creating access to justice concerns for litigants in both CSR and DCR settings.

12.1.5 Cost Comparison

- Under default assumptions, DCR costs an estimated \$72,733 per courtroom annually, compared to \$167,941 in urban counties, \$133,143 in mid-size counties, and \$118,463 in rural counties for a CSR. These figures exclude equipment and supply costs for CSRs, which are borne by the reporter rather than the county, and include recruitment and onboarding costs for the court recorder, who is assumed to be a county employee.

- The estimated annual cost difference per courtroom ranges from approximately \$45,700 in rural settings to \$95,200 in urban settings.
- Over a ten-year horizon for a three-courtroom rural county, the cumulative cost difference is approximately \$1.7 million (\$1.3 million in present value), growing over time because DCR's recurring costs are held flat while both labor lines grow at the same rate.
- Even the high-cost DCR scenario (\$93,175 per courtroom annually) remains less expensive than employing a CSR in all county types.
- This analysis captures direct implementation costs only. Potential downstream costs associated with transcript accuracy differences are not quantified and may affect the total cost comparison.

12.1.6 Observing Court Use of DCR

- In three of the four Texas courts observed, the transition to DCR was driven primarily by an ongoing shortage of CSRs and the inability to hire replacements.
- Implementing DCR improved operational efficacy by transitioning the court record from an isolated asset owned by an individual reporter into an interconnected, jurisdiction-owned asset with redundant backups.
- DCR provided significant financial benefits, with one court estimating \$80,000 in annual savings after the first year and reporting zero system failures over six years of operation.
- One jurisdiction utilizes transcripts and feels that the live transcript is mostly accurate and can easily be corrected after. The other three jurisdictions do not create a transcription unless it is requested, then offer the recording to be transcribed by a freelance CSR.
- All courts had a system in place to maintain accuracy of the record including human monitoring and active courtroom management.

12.1.7 Accuracy and Effectiveness of DCR compared to CSR

- Record accuracy is not defined in statute. However, stakeholders refer to 95% verbatim standard based on the CSR exam thresholds. There is not a comparable standard or certification process for digital modalities in Texas.
- Stakeholder opinions on DCR accuracy are divided and often tied to their role in the court, though limited federal and corporate research supports its accuracy.
- High-quality audio recordings give courts a reliable backup and allow transcripts to be reviewed and corrected after proceedings.
- Directly comparing live accuracy between digital and stenographic reporters in a controlled study is difficult and requires testing across various modalities and settings. Another option - comparing official submitted transcripts - is impractical because errors are usually corrected before filing, and courts rarely retain audio for later comparison.

- Observations of DCR use in courtrooms found that accuracy is maximized with live human monitoring of the audio and robust courtroom management by the judge and court staff.
- Efficacy is less clearly defined but should be measured by transcript delivery speeds, overall case processing times, and how often records are challenged or appealed.
- DCR users report increased court capacity, but courts currently do not track quantitative data on transcript processing times, error rates, or appeals.
- Of the courts where we observed DCR use, all felt that the DCR system was sufficient for their needs and none of the courts reported an impact on appeals due to the record.

12.2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Clarify the legal framework for DCR in Texas.

This framework should specify what technical standards apply, who is responsible for monitoring and transcription, who is responsible for exhibits, and what backup procedures are required in the event of a technology failure. The policy should be reviewed every 2-3 years. Without regular review, technological advances may render certain guidelines obsolete and Texas will once again enter an unclear policy arena.

Recommendation 2: Establish a certification and training program for court recorders.

Texas should develop a formal certification pathway for court recorder personnel, modeled on the rigor of the existing CSR certification process. Certification should include a skills examination, ethics requirements, continuing education, and background check standards comparable to those required of CSRs. The JBCC is a natural home for this function.

Recommendation 3: Set minimum technical and operational standards for DCR systems.

Any authorized DCR system should be required to meet minimum technical standards, including multi-channel audio capture with voice isolation, real-time confidence monitoring by a trained court recorder, time-stamped log notes, redundant backup of audio files, and a defined retention period. These standards should align with the federal technical specifications set out in the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 6 as a baseline.

Recommendation 4: Require one trained court recorder per courtroom.

Any DCR policy should explicitly prohibit centralized monitoring arrangements in which a single individual monitors multiple simultaneous proceedings. Stakeholders across all role groups and court levels expressed strong opposition to this model. One trained, accountable individual per courtroom is the minimum standard consistent with the integrity of the official record.

Recommendation 5: Invest in the CSR pipeline alongside DCR expansion.

DCR should be viewed as a complement to the CSR workforce, not a replacement. The Legislature should consider targeted investments to grow the CSR pipeline, including scholarships and grant support for court reporting programs, as well as recognition of national stenographic and voice reporting certification exams as an acceptable prerequisite to Texas certification without re-testing, outreach to high school and pre-law students, and a review of examination standards to reduce barriers without compromising quality.

Recommendation 6: Address transcript cost regulation.

The current absence of regulation on transcript pricing, for both CSRs and DCR-produced transcripts, impacts public access to the court record. Considering the concerns raised by stakeholders about this issue and its impact on access to justice, policymakers should explore standardized fee schedules or caps and should require greater transparency in transcript fee structures across all recording methods.

Recommendation 7: Consider further study on DCR accuracy and effectiveness.

While the current evidence base, including stakeholder perspectives, national policy experience, and prior research, provides a sufficient foundation to guide near-term Texas policy development and DCR implementation, meaningful gaps remain on the questions of accuracy and effectiveness. Additional study may be able to answer these questions, but rigorous experimentation would require testing across multiple conditions and digital modalities, creating novel data collection strategies, and sufficient time to establish the necessary structures. OCA and the Legislature should consider commissioning a targeted accuracy and efficacy study as DCR is piloted in Texas, building in data collection requirements from the outset so that evidence accumulates as implementation proceeds.

13 Conclusion

Texas courts are navigating a genuine and growing tension between the integrity of the official record and the practical realities of a shrinking CSR workforce. The evidence gathered through this study, spanning a national policy landscape, a statewide survey of more than 1,700 court personnel, 63 stakeholder interviews, a detailed cost analysis, and a review of current DCR usage across all 254 counties, points consistently in the same direction. The status quo is not sustainable, and DCR offers a viable path forward *if* implemented with the same rigor and accountability that has long defined the CSR profession.

No tenable stakeholder position in this study advocates for eliminating human involvement from the record-taking process. The debate is not about technology replacing people; it is about which people - with what training and under what standards - are responsible for the record. That framing, shared across the spectrum of stakeholder perspectives, offers a workable foundation for policy reform.

The recommendations in this report are designed to preserve the integrity of the official record while giving Texas courts, particularly rural courts facing the most acute workforce pressures, access to a broader range of credentialed, accountable record-keeping options. Clarifying the legal framework, establishing rigorous certification standards for court recorders, setting minimum technical requirements, and investing in the CSR pipeline are not competing priorities. They are complementary steps toward a court recording system that is accurate, accessible, and sustainable for the long term.

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15 Appendices

A Stakeholder Working Group

Effective execution of this study required the establishment of a strategically composed Stakeholder Working Group (SWG). This group was consulted throughout the study to ensure research activities are in line with the needs of the larger judicial community. This group provided feedback on survey instruments, questionnaires, and the research plan. Additionally, this group served as liaisons between the research team at PPRI and their respective organizations in the recruitment of study participants to complete the survey and participate in interviews.

A.1 Membership

The composition of the SWG was critical to obtaining necessary judicial acceptance and regulatory alignment. The legislature which directed OCA to conduct this study¹ provided a framework for this SWG. Membership should include judges of courts of record, representatives of shorthand reporters who serve as official court reporters, representatives of organizations of shorthand reporters who specialize in reporting depositions, individuals who provide digital court recording services, attorneys who use shorthand and digital court recording services, and the public. Ultimately, 23 individuals representing these diverse backgrounds were invited to participate in the SWG. Table 54 displays the background of the stakeholders who participated in the SWG.

Table 54: Background of SWG Members

Background	Number of Participants
Court Reporters	4
Court Recorders	2
Judicial Officers	4
Criminal Defense Attorney	1
Prosecuting Attorney	1
Civil Litigator	1
County Commissioner	3
Court Administrator	3
Member of the Public	1
Appellate Court Clerk	1
Court Reporter Educator	1
Digital Court Recorder Educator	1

A.2 Meetings

The SWG was convened two times over the course of the study. The first meeting held on March 5, 2026, served as an opportunity for the research team to introduce ourselves and review the research plan with the SWG. At this time, the research team also introduced the survey instrument and interview questions. SWG members were invited to review the research plan, survey instrument, and interview questions and provide feedback to the research team.

During the second meeting of the SWG held on June 23, 2026, we presented the initial findings from the survey analysis and presented an updated plan for evaluating the accuracy and efficacy of DCR. Following this meeting, the SWG were invited to provide comment and feedback on the proposed evaluation of DCR. In between meetings, the SWG provided feedback through email.

B Comprehensive State-by-State Verbatim Record Requirements for Criminal Proceedings

Table 55: Comprehensive State-by-State Verbatim Record Requirements for Criminal Proceedings

State	Felony Trials (Mandatory vs. Discretion)	Felony Arraignment, Plea, & Sentencing Rules	“Every Stage” Mandate	Request by Statute / Practice Default	Misdemeanor-Level Recording Policy
Alabama	Discretion / request	Not specified	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Alaska	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Arizona	Mandatory (jury trials)	Discretionary / request-based	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Arkansas	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes (contested matters)	Mandatory default	Mandatory (tiered / limited)
California	Mandatory (on court/party order)	Specifically named stages	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Colorado	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Connecticut	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Delaware	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Florida	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Georgia	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	No	Mandatory default	Discretionary / request-based
Hawaii	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Idaho	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	Yes (parallel recording)	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Illinois	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	No	Mandatory default	Discretionary / request-based
Indiana	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Iowa	Discretion / request	All proceedings / universal mandate	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Kansas	Discretion / request	Specifically named stages	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Kentucky	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Not specified / unclear
Louisiana	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Discretionary / request-based
Maine	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Maryland	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Massachusetts	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)

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Table 55 (continued)

State	Felony Trials (Mandatory vs. Discretion)	Felony Arraignment, Plea, & Sentencing Rules	"Every Stage" Mandate	Request by Statute / Practice Default	Misdemeanor-Level Recording Policy
Michigan	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Minnesota	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	No	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Mississippi	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (tiered / limited)
Missouri	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Montana	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Nebraska	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Nevada	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
New Hampshire	Discretion / request	Not specified	No	Discretionary / practice varies	Discretionary / request-based
New Jersey	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (tiered / limited)
New Mexico	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	No	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
New York	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (tiered / limited)
North Carolina	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	No	Mandatory default	Discretionary / request-based
North Dakota	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Ohio	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Oklahoma	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Oregon	Discretion / request	Discretionary / request-based	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Pennsylvania	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Rhode Island	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
South Carolina	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Not specified / unclear
South Dakota	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Tennessee	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Discretionary / request-based

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Table 55 (continued)

State	Felony Trials (Mandatory vs. Discretion)	Felony Arraignment, Plea, & Sentencing Rules	“Every Stage” Mandate	Request by Statute / Practice Default	Misdemeanor-Level Recording Policy
Texas	Discretion / request	Discretionary / request-based	No	Request required (statute/rule)	Discretionary / request-based
Utah	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Vermont	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Virginia	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (tiered / limited)
Washington	Discretion / request	Discretionary / request-based	Partial (limited jurisdictions)	Request required (statute/rule)	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
West Virginia	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Wisconsin	Mandatory	All proceedings / universal mandate	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)
Wyoming	Mandatory	Specifically named stages	Yes	Mandatory default	Mandatory (statewide / all courts)

C Comprehensive State-by-State Verbatim Record Requirements for Civil Matters

Table 56: Comprehensive State-by-State Verbatim Record Requirements for Civil Matters

State	Civil Case Requirements	Juvenile Matter Requirements	Parental Rights Requirements	Cases Where Verbatim Record Is Not Required
Alabama	On request or judge direction	Mandatory	(Included in juvenile)	District court (general); municipal; child support
Alaska	Mandatory (electronic)	Mandatory (electronic)	Mandatory (electronic)	Minor offenses (some types)
Arizona	On request or court discretion	Statutory mandate applies	Covered under juvenile/dependency	Justice courts (not courts of record)
Arkansas	Mandatory for contested matters	Mandatory for contested matters	Covered under contested matters	District court (own jurisdiction); waived matters
California	On request or court order	Mandatory (public expense)	Mandatory (declare minor free from custody)	Infractions and misdemeanors (unless ordered)
Colorado	Mandatory / universal	Mandatory / universal	Prioritized for reporter coverage	Municipal courts; uncontested domestic
Connecticut	Mandatory (Superior Court)	Mandatory	(Included in juvenile/family)	Small claims
Delaware	Mandatory (all sessions)	Mandatory (Family Court)	Mandatory (Family Court)	Justice of the Peace
Florida	On request (party pays)	Mandatory	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	Small claims (reporting at public expense not mandated)
Georgia	Discretionary	Mandatory (unless waived)	Covered under juvenile	Small claims; municipal; arraignments/pleas/bond
Hawaii	Mandatory for oral proceedings	Records clearly maintained	(Included in family/juvenile)	Small claims (no separate verbatim mandate)
Idaho	Mandatory for trials/dispositive motions	Mandatory (magistrate)	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	Sidebar conferences (if not feasible)
Illinois	By assignment or party election	Mandatory (circuits with DCR)	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	Pretrial settlement conferences (remote)
Indiana	Mandatory (all hearings/trials)	Mandatory	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	(No explicit trial court exceptions found)
Iowa	On request (appealable actions)	Mandatory (unless waived)	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	Non-appealable actions
Kansas	Judge-directed	Recorded as juvenile offender record	(Included in family/probate)	Municipal courts
Kentucky	Mandatory in circuit court	Mandatory (adjudications)	(Part of family court)	District court misdemeanors (not specified)
Louisiana	When directed by court	As required by law/court	(Juvenile/family)	Misdemeanors (on motion only)
Maine	Mandatory (testimonial)	Mandatory	Mandatory (termination of parental rights)	Civil nontestimonial (unless requested)
Maryland	Mandatory	Mandatory	(Part of family/juvenile)	ADR proceedings
Massachusetts	Mandatory	Mandatory	(Part of Probate & Family)	(No explicit trial court exceptions noted)
Michigan	Mandatory verbatim record	Mandatory	Covered under family/juvenile	Small claims; municipal courts
Minnesota	Mandatory (contested trials)	Mandatory (juvenile protection)	(Part of juvenile protection)	Conciliation court

Continued on next page

Table 56 (continued)

State	Civil Case Requirements	Juvenile Matter Requirements	Parental Rights Requirements	Cases Where Verbatim Record Is Not Required
Mississippi	Mandatory if >\$50 at issue	Specialized youth court (judge directed)	(Chancery/youth court)	Municipal; justice court (unless private)
Missouri	Mandatory (before circuit judge)	Mandatory	(Family/circuit)	Municipal divisions; small claims
Montana	Mandatory in district	Mandatory (youth court)	(Part of youth court)	Informal discussions/conferences
Nebraska	Mandatory (all trial courts)	Mandatory	(Juvenile/district)	Small claims (not specified as verbatim)
Nevada	On request (district court)	Mandatory (district court)	(Part of district court)	Municipal courts (unless jury trial)
New Hampshire	Court rules govern	(Sealed; rules based)	(Not specified)	Administrative emergency actions; pretrial conferences
New Jersey	Mandatory (trial divisions)	Mandatory	(Part of family division)	Settlement/case management/calendar calls
New Mexico	Mandatory in district	Mandatory	(Part of Children's Court)	Municipal court
New York	Mandatory (courts of record)	Mandatory	(Part of family court)	Town and village courts
North Carolina	Mandatory	Mandatory (adjudicatory/disposition)	(Juvenile/district)	Small claims; infractions; DV emergencies
North Dakota	Mandatory	Mandatory (practice/policy)	Mandatory (permanent)	Small claims; traffic cases
Ohio	Mandatory (common pleas)	Mandatory	(Part of juvenile court)	(None noted for courts of record)
Oklahoma	Mandatory (courts of record)	Mandatory	(Part of district court)	Municipal courts (not of record)
Oregon	On request	On request	(Juvenile/circuit)	Small claims (justice courts)
Pennsylvania	Governed by general framework	Mandatory (with exceptions)	(Orphans'/juvenile)	MDJ preliminary hearings; detention hearings
Rhode Island	Mandatory	Mandatory (Family Court)	(Part of Family Court)	Chambers/bench conferences
South Carolina	Mandatory	Mandatory	(Family Court)	Municipal court
South Dakota	Mandatory	Mandatory	(UJS broad rule)	Small claims; child support referees
Tennessee	On request	(Available via special rule)	Available for TPR	General sessions and municipal
Texas	On request	Mandatory	(Juvenile/district)	Municipal court (unless requested)
Utah	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory where deprivation possible	Justice courts (not of record)
Vermont	Mandatory	Mandatory	(Family division)	Probate (judge request only)
Virginia	Permissive (court "may")	(De novo appeal process)	(General civil provision)	District court level (not of record)
Washington	On request (superior); mandatory (limited)	(Superior court jurisdiction)	(Part of superior court rules)	Chambers/sidebar conferences
West Virginia	Permissive	Mandatory record	(Family/circuit)	Magistrate non-jury trial
Wisconsin	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory (TPR trials)	Settlement/pretrial conferences; pre-complaint
Wyoming	On request (district); mandatory (circuit)	Mandatory	Paternity (discretionary audio)	Informal discussions/conferences

D Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Authorization

Table 57: Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Authorization

State	Authorization Model	Specific Authorization Details
Alabama	Consent-based	Circuit and district courts require unanimous written consent of the parties and the judge. Co-equal authorized method in juvenile court.
Alaska	Mandatory	Mandatory statewide; electronic audio recording has been the official record since 1980. No stenographers used.
Arizona	Permissive	Permanently authorized statewide for any purpose; court discretion determines use (except mandatory reporter for capital and felony jury trials).
Arkansas	Jurisdictional	Authorized for district judges on circuit matters; circuit judges must obtain individual Supreme Court approval.
California	Conditional	Permitted only in limited civil, misdemeanor, and infraction cases when a reporter is unavailable. Generally prohibited in felony and unlimited civil cases.
Colorado	Permissive	Authorized statewide; chief judge discretion determines method. Stenography is the stated “preferred method.”
Connecticut	Mandatory	Mandatory statewide use of digital recording equipment for all required court records since 2019.
Delaware	Jurisdictional	Fallback in Superior Court (reporter shortage); mandatory and universal in Family Court and the Court of Common Pleas.
Florida	Permissive	Authorized by Supreme Court rule; implementation left to the chief judge of each circuit via administrative order.
Georgia	Permissive	Effective January 1, 2026; authorized statewide for many proceedings at the judge’s discretion (except felony trials and death penalty cases).
Hawaii	Conditional	Authorized in circuit court whenever a court reporter is not in attendance; mandated by rule in such cases.
Idaho	Mandatory backup / conditional	Mandatory parallel recording for all district proceedings; primary method in the magistrate division; permissive fallback if a reporter is unavailable.
Illinois	Mandatory	Permanently authorized statewide; jurisdictions with electronic systems installed are required to utilize and staff them.
Indiana	Mandatory	Mandatory statewide requirement for audio recording of all hearings and trials in all case types as of January 1, 2024.
Iowa	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory for all magistrate trials; permissive for juvenile, mental health, and criminal preliminary hearings.
Kansas	Permissive	Permissive statewide authorization for any district court to use equipment meeting Supreme Court specifications.
Kentucky	Mandatory	Mandated official record for appeals; has replaced traditional reporters for all civil and criminal proceedings in circuit courts.
Louisiana	Permissive	Authorized statutory “digital reporting” by certified digital reporters (CDR); explicitly prohibited in several large judicial districts.
Maine	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory primary method in District Court; authorized alternative for many Superior Court proceedings (except jury trials).
Maryland	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory in District Court; authorized permanent statewide alternative in circuit court; reporter presence not required.
Massachusetts	Mandatory	Authorized and used as the default method statewide across all seven trial court departments (FTR system).
Michigan	Permissive	Permissive statewide authorization for any trial court to use approved audio and video recording equipment.

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Table 57 (continued)

State	Authorization Model	Specific Authorization Details
Minnesota	Permissive	Authorized statewide for all proceedings except felony trials, jury trials, and contested trials.
Mississippi	Conditional	Supplemental aid only; authorized as an emergency measure if a reporter is unavailable. No standalone replacement authority.
Missouri	Permissive	Permanently authorized and standard for associate circuit and probate divisions; not authorized for circuit judge proceedings.
Montana	Jurisdictional	Authorized for justice, municipal, and small claims courts; recognized by judicial policy as an archival/audio court reporter role in district courts.
Nebraska	Mandatory / backup	Permanently authorized statewide; default method for all county court proceedings; archival and fallback for district court.
Nevada	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory default for justice courts; permissive for district courts (requires county board approval).
New Hampshire	Not generally authorized	Not expressly authorized for the official trial court record; permitted for party use and standard for administrative hearings.
New Jersey	Mandatory	Mandatory statewide system (CourtSmart) in all Superior and Tax Court trial divisions where equipped.
New Mexico	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory for magistrate and metropolitan proceedings as of 2024; permissive alternative in district courts.
New York	Not generally authorized	No statewide authorization for substituted DCR use; operational use of FTR in certain New York City Civil Court parts only.
North Carolina	Conditional	Authorized statewide as an alternative for superior and district courts when reporters are not available.
North Dakota	Permissive	One of three co-equal mandated methods (audio, video, or stenography) for preserving the district court record statewide.
Ohio	Permissive	Permissive statewide authorization for all courts at the discretion of the administrative judge (except capital cases).
Oklahoma	Conditional	Judge may order electronic recording only if no court reporter is available; not a primary authorized method.
Oregon	Permissive	Authorized statewide as the standard court-provided reporting technique (FTR) for all circuit courts.
Pennsylvania	Permissive	Permanently authorized statewide as an alternative method; the president judge of each district selects recording personnel.
Rhode Island	Permissive	Permissive authorization for Superior, Family, and District courts; mandatory for housing matters.
South Carolina	Permissive	Authorized by statute and implemented statewide through the Digital Court Reporter Project in nearly 60 courtrooms.
South Dakota	Permissive	Authorized statewide for all magistrate court trials and all Unified Judicial System (UJS) proceedings.
Tennessee	Conditional	Authorized only for specific courts designated by the Supreme Court; fallback in criminal cases if no reporter is available.
Texas	Not generally authorized	Authorized for municipal courts of record; not generally authorized for district or statutory county courts.
Utah	Mandatory	Video or audio recording system is the mandatory default method for all courts of record.
Vermont	Permissive	Authorized statewide for any Superior Court or Judicial Bureau proceeding; widely used as default with approved vendors.
Virginia	Permissive	Authorized as a permanent alternative for all criminal and civil cases in a court of record (circuit courts).
Washington	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory for all proceedings in courts of limited jurisdiction; permissive for superior courts (except capital cases).
West Virginia	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory for family court, magistrate jury trials, and municipal jury trials; permissive alternative for circuit courts.

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Table 57 (continued)

State	Authorization Model	Specific Authorization Details
Wisconsin	Permissive	Established as a standard statewide method alongside stenography; director-approved “alternative means.”
Wyoming	Mandatory / permissive	Mandatory for circuit and municipal courts. In district court, authorized only for paternity cases and decision recording.

E Comprehensive State-by-State Authorized Types of Digital Court Recording

Table 58: Comprehensive State-by-State Authorized Types of Digital Court Recording

State	Standardized DCR Category	Original Statutory Description / Notes	Primary Platforms or Technical Specifications
Alabama	Audio & video	Audio electronic recording machines, video recording systems, and photographic means.	Not specified statewide.
Alaska	Audio & video	Electronic audio recording (mandatory statewide default) and video recording where authorized.	Centralized court system.
Arizona	Audio & video	Electronic recording devices (audio and video).	Non-proprietary open digital formats (e.g., WAV, MP3).
Arkansas	Audio only	Digital audio recording.	High-quality microphones and A/V mixer required.
California	Audio & video	Sound-only (four-channel audio) and audio-and-video systems.	Multi-channel equipment (at least eight microphones for A/V).
Colorado	Audio only	Digital electronic sound recording.	For The Record (FTR) used in various districts.
Connecticut	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Digital recording equipment (mandatory statewide).	Approved by the Chief Justice.
Delaware	Audio & video	Digital audio, digital video, and multi-channel digital recording.	For The Record (FTR) used statewide.
Florida	Audio & video	Electronic record (audio, analog, digital, or video).	Locally determined by circuit.
Georgia	Audio & video	Digital recording systems (audio or audiovisual).	High-fidelity multi-channel recording.
Hawaii	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Tape or other appropriate device.	Sufficient to permit full transcription.
Idaho	Audio & video	Electronic recording; video conferencing for remote hearings.	For The Record (FTR) or Zoom.
Illinois	Audio & video	Electronic recording systems and video conferencing services.	Approved and installed by the AOIC.
Indiana	Audio only	Audio recording (mandatory statewide for all trial courts).	Open digital formats (e.g., MP3, WAV); WORM technology for masters.
Iowa	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic recording.	Securely maintained as prescribed by the SCA.
Kansas	Audio only	Electronic sound recording.	Must meet Supreme Court specifications.
Kentucky	Audio & video	Official electronic recording (audio/video).	Dual simultaneous recordings.
Louisiana	Audio only	Digital, electronic, or audio recording equipment.	Utilized by a Certified Digital Reporter (CDR).
Maine	Audio only	Electronic sound recording (ESR).	Coordinated by the Office of Transcript Operations.
Maryland	Audio & video	Audio or audio-video recording.	CourtSmart or For The Record (FTR).
Massachusetts	Audio only	Digital audio recording system.	For The Record (FTR) deployed statewide.
Michigan	Audio & video	Audio and video recording equipment.	Multi-channel isolating voices.
Minnesota	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic recording equipment; audiomagnetic devices (administrative).	CourtSmart standard.
Mississippi	Restricted / not authorized	Recording machines (aid to stenography only) and emergency audio/video.	Not authorized as a standalone replacement.
Missouri	Audio & video	Electronic, magnetic, mechanical sound, or video recording.	Approved by OSCA prior to use.

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Table 58 (continued)

State	Standardized DCR Category	Original Statutory Description / Notes	Primary Platforms or Technical Specifications
Montana	Audio only	Electronic recording or audio recordings.	Explicitly authorized for lower-tier courts.
Nebraska	Audio only	Digital audio recording system.	Approved digital recording software.
Nevada	Audio & video	Sound recording equipment and legal video recorders.	Video recording requires court reporter presence.
New Hampshire	Restricted / not authorized	Recording devices (authorized for party use and administrative matters only).	Not authorized for official trial records.
New Jersey	Audio only	CourtSmart (digital sound recording).	Primary server recording is the official record.
New Mexico	Audio only	Audio recording and digital recording.	For The Record (FTR) or Lanier systems.
New York	Audio only	Digital audio systems.	For The Record (FTR) used in New York City Civil Court.
North Carolina	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic or mechanical devices; digital recording equipment.	WebEx or proprietary DCR software.
North Dakota	Audio & video	Audio-recording software or video-recording software.	Must meet specifications in administrative policies.
Ohio	Audio & video	Audio electronic recording devices or audio/video recording systems.	Permissive for all courts at the judge's discretion.
Oklahoma	Audio & video	Electronically recorded; videotape pilot.	Authorized when no reporter is available.
Oregon	Audio only	Audio records pursuant to OSCA policies.	For The Record (FTR) used statewide.
Pennsylvania	Audio & video	Electronic means (audio or audio-visual).	For The Record (FTR) in some districts.
Rhode Island	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic court reporting (electronic means).	Cassette-era language remains in statutes.
South Carolina	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Discs, belts, or direct electronic recordings.	Expansion includes digital court reporting.
South Dakota	Audio only	Electrical devices or digital audio systems.	Computer-assisted recording position created 2005.
Tennessee	Audio & video	Electronic recording (videotape, CD-ROM, DVD, etc.).	Authorized only for specific courts.
Texas	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic recording device (limited).	Good quality required for municipal courts of record.
Utah	Audio & video	Video or audio recording system (mandatory default).	For The Record (FTR) used statewide.
Vermont	Audio & video	Electronic sound or sound and video recording equipment.	Approved vendors include eScribers and AVTranz.
Virginia	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Mechanical or electronic devices.	Permanent statutory alternative since 1950.
Washington	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic means / electronic record.	Mandatory in courts of limited jurisdiction.
West Virginia	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic means approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals.	Electronic Recording Operator (ERO) position established.
Wisconsin	Audio only	Monitored digital audio recording (DAR).	For The Record (FTR) (CCAP-approved only).
Wyoming	Unspecified electronic / mechanical	Electronic means.	Mandatory in circuit and municipal courts.

F Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Technical & Operational Standards

Table 59: Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Technical & Operational Standards

State	Standardized Audio Capture Category	Standardized Monitoring & Operational Category	Standardized Storage & Backup Category
Alabama	Not specified	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Defined term retention
Alaska	Not specified	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Active media migration & preservation
Arizona	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Arkansas	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
California	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Defined term retention
Colorado	Not specified	General operator duties	Defined term retention
Connecticut	Not specified	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Basic electronic preservation
Delaware	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Active logging & tagging	Secure state / AOC-administered archival
Florida	Basic hardware required	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Georgia	Basic hardware required	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Hawaii	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Idaho	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Illinois	Not specified	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Active media migration & preservation
Indiana	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Kentucky	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Maryland	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Massachusetts	Not specified	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Active media migration & preservation
Michigan	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Minnesota	Court-approved equipment only	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Nevada	Basic hardware required	General operator duties	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
New Jersey	Not specified	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Secure state / AOC-administered archival
New Mexico	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Secure state / AOC-administered archival
North Carolina	Multi-channel (voice isolation)	Intermittent monitoring / oversight	Secure state / AOC-administered archival
Pennsylvania	Basic hardware required	General operator duties	Active media migration & preservation
South Carolina	Basic hardware required	General operator duties	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
South Dakota	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Tennessee	Basic hardware required	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Texas	Basic hardware required	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention
Utah	Not specified	Active logging & tagging	Redundant backup & disaster recovery

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Table 59 (continued)

State	Standardized Audio Capture Category	Standardized Monitoring & Operational Category	Standardized Storage & Backup Category
West Virginia	Not specified	Active logging & tagging	Secure state / AOC-administered archival
Wisconsin	Basic hardware required	Continuous active monitoring (confidence / live playback)	Redundant backup & disaster recovery
Wyoming	Not specified	Active logging & tagging	Defined term retention

G Comprehensive State-by-State Oversight and Control of Digital Court Recording

Table 60: Comprehensive State-by-State Oversight and Control of Digital Court Recording

State	Local vs. Statewide Control	Oversight Body	Official Responsible for Technical Specifications
Alabama	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; AOC; Board of Court Reporting	Administrative Director of Courts
Alaska	Statewide mandatory requirement	Administrative Director of Courts	Administrative Director of Courts
Arizona	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; AOC	Commission on Technology; AOC
Arkansas	Local control / authorization	AOC; Board of Certified Court Reporter Examiners	AOC
California	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Judicial Council; Court Reporters Board	Judicial Council; Administrative Director
Colorado	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; Chief Justice; SCAO	SCAO
Connecticut	Statewide mandatory requirement	Chief Court Administrator	Chief Justice (approval); Chief Court Administrator
Delaware	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Chief Justice; president judges of individual courts	AOC (technical policy); president judges (local)
Florida	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; OSCA; circuit chief judges	OSCA; chief judge (local orders)
Georgia	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; Judicial Council; circuit chief judges	Supreme Court (minimum specs); chief judges
Hawaii	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; Court Administrator	Individual presiding judges
Idaho	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; Administrative Director of Courts	Administrative Director of Courts
Illinois	Statewide mandatory requirement	Supreme Court; AOC	AOC
Indiana	Statewide mandatory requirement	IOJA	IOJA
Iowa	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; SCA	SCA
Kansas	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; OJA	OJA
Kentucky	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; Chief Justice; AOC	AOC
Louisiana	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters; Supreme Court	Board of Examiners (tech approval); trial judges
Maine	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; Office of Transcript Operations (OTO)	Office of Transcript Operations (OTO)
Maryland	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Chief Justice; AOC; county administrative judges	State Court Administrator; Judicial Information Systems (JIS)

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Table 60 (continued)

State	Local vs. Statewide Control	Oversight Body	Official Responsible for Technical Specifications
Massachusetts	Statewide mandatory requirement	Chief Justice of Trial Court; Office of Transcription Services (OTS)	Office of Transcription Services (OTS)
Michigan	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; SCAO; Board of Review	SCAO
Minnesota	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Judicial Council; State Court Administrator	State Court Administrator
Mississippi	Local control / authorization	Board of Certified Court Reporters; Supreme Court	Not specified (authorized only as aid/emergency)
Missouri	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; OSCA	OSCA
Montana	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; Office of Court Administrator	Judicial Branch IT Department
Nebraska	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; State Court Administrator	Nebraska Judicial Branch; State Court Administrator
Nevada	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Individual presiding judges	Not specified
New Hampshire	Local control / authorization	Supreme Court	Not specified (party use only)
New Jersey	Statewide mandatory requirement	Administrative Director of Courts; AOC	Administrative Director of Courts
New Mexico	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Board Governing the Recording of Judicial Proceedings; AOC	AOC
New York	Local control / authorization	Chief Administrator of Courts (Office of Court Administration)	Not specified (no statewide authorization)
North Carolina	Statewide authorization; local discretion	AOC; senior resident superior judges	AOC
North Dakota	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; State Court Administrator	State Court Administrator
Ohio	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Administrative judges; Supreme Court	Individual trial courts
Oklahoma	Local control / authorization	Supreme Court; AOC	AOC
Oregon	Statewide mandatory requirement	Supreme Court; OSCA	State Court Administrator
Pennsylvania	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts; president judges	President judges (qualitative criteria)
Rhode Island	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Presiding/chief justices; AOC	Presiding justice (discretionary)
South Carolina	Statewide mandatory requirement	Supreme Court; Court Administration	South Carolina Court Administration
South Dakota	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Unified Judicial System; SCAO	SCAO; UJS Technology Council
Tennessee	Local control / authorization	Supreme Court; AOC	Administrative Director; AOC

Continued on next page

Table 60 (continued)

State	Local vs. Statewide Control	Oversight Body	Official Responsible for Technical Specifications
Texas	Local control / authorization	Supreme Court; Judicial Branch Certification Commission; Office of Court Administration	Governing body (municipal); court recorders
Utah	Statewide mandatory requirement	Judicial Council; AOC	AOC
Vermont	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; Court Administrator	Court Administrator
Virginia	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court; AOC	Individual circuit judges (approval); AOC
Washington	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; individual courts	Individual courts; AOC (advisory)
West Virginia	Statewide authorization; local discretion	Supreme Court of Appeals; AOC	Division of Technology Services (AOC)
Wisconsin	Statewide mandatory requirement	Director of State Courts; Supreme Court	Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP); Director of State Courts
Wyoming	Statewide mandatory (tiered)	Supreme Court; district judges; Wyoming Judicial Council	State Court Administrator

H Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Certification Models

Table 61: Comprehensive State-by-State Digital Court Recording Certification Models

State	DCR Certification Model	Primary Oversight Body
Alabama	None; general court reporter licensing applies only to verbatim personal reporting.	AOC / Board of Court Reporting
Alaska	Internal judicial branch; training standards established by the Administrative Director.	Administrative Director of Courts
Arizona	None; operators are court employees governed by general employment requirements.	AOC / local presiding judges
Arkansas	None; transcripts from recordings must be prepared by a Certified Court Reporter (CCR).	AOC / Board of CCR Examiners
California	None; official records must generally be produced by a licensed Certified Short-hand Reporter.	Judicial Council / Court Reporters Board
Colorado	None; operators are judicial district employees under chief judge supervision.	SCAO / chief judges
Connecticut	None; court recording monitors must take a sworn oath of office.	Chief Court Administrator
Delaware	Position-specific; transcribers must hold AAERT certification or have passed the NCRA Written Knowledge Test.	President judges / AOC
Florida	Local discretion; circuits establish own qualifications; some require national AAERT credentials.	OSCA / circuit chief judges
Georgia	Internal judicial branch; monitors must complete training approved by the circuit's chief judge.	Supreme Court / chief judges
Hawaii	Court-specific approval; transcripts must be prepared by a competent person approved by the court.	Supreme Court / Court Administrator
Idaho	None; magistrate division recording personnel are expressly exempt from CSR certification.	Administrative Director of Courts
Illinois	Internal judicial branch; personnel must complete AOIC training and certification.	AOIC
Indiana	None; equipment is operated by the official reporter or a person designated by the court.	Office of Judicial Administration (IOJA)
Iowa	Internal judicial branch; transcribers must have SCA-approved training or experience.	State Court Administrator (SCA)
Kansas	None; transcripts are prepared by court personnel under clerk direction.	OJA / district court clerks
Kentucky	None; digital systems have replaced traditional reporters in circuit courts.	Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Louisiana	Formal state certification; Certified Digital Reporter (CDR) requires Board exam or AAERT reciprocity.	Board of Examiners of CSR
Maine	None; Office of Transcript Operations (OTO) manages quality via contracted vendors.	OTO (Judicial Branch)
Maryland	Position-specific; certification by a national/state body is required (or two years' experience).	Chief Justice / AOC
Massachusetts	Position-specific; Approved Court Transcribers must hold national credentials (AAERT, etc.) or relevant experience.	Office of Transcription Services (OTS)
Michigan	Formal state certification; Certified Electronic Recorder/Operator (CER/CEO) requires Board-approved course and exam.	SCAO / Board of Review
Minnesota	Internal judicial branch; ECR/EREO certification issued by SCA under Judicial Council policy.	Judicial Council / State Court Administrator

Continued on next page

Table 61 (continued)

State	DCR Certification Model	Primary Oversight Body
Mississippi	None; standalone DCR is not authorized for the official record.	Board of CCR / Supreme Court
Missouri	None; DCR used by associate/probate judges; transcripts by OSCA or approved contractors.	OSCA
Montana	None; policy recognizes “audio court reporters” but no state certification exists.	Office of Court Administrator
Nebraska	Internal judicial branch; certification training program for courtroom clerks operating DAR systems.	Nebraska Judicial Branch / SCA
Nevada	None for audio; formal state certification for “legal video recorders” created in 2025.	Presiding judges / CCR Board
New Hampshire	None; no separate certification track exists for digital reporting.	Supreme Court
New Jersey	Internal judicial branch; “Certified Transcribers” certified by the Transcriber Certification Board.	Appellate Division OAS / Transcriber Board
New Mexico	Internal judicial branch; court monitors undergo district training and temporary/full Board certification.	Board Governing Recording / AOC
New York	None; no separate state certification exists for digital court reporters.	Chief Administrator (OCA)
North Carolina	None for technicians; AOC certifies and maintains a list of approved transcriptionists.	NCAOC / senior resident judges
North Dakota	Position-specific; requires national AAERT CER/CET certifications (or ability to obtain in two years).	State Court Administrator
Ohio	Local discretion; trial courts determine if transcribers have the necessary qualifications.	Administrative judges
Oklahoma	None; electronic recording only used if no court reporter is available.	AOC
Oregon	None; audio records made pursuant to State Court Administrator policies.	State Court Administrator
Pennsylvania	Local discretion; “Court Recorders” are certified by the president judge of each judicial district.	President judges / AOPC
Rhode Island	Local discretion; Presiding Justice has sole discretion to employ/assign electronic court reporters.	Presiding/chief justices / AOSC
South Carolina	None; same qualifications as all reporters; HGTC digital reporter certificate available.	Court Administration
South Dakota	None; UJS Computer Assisted Court Recorders governed by general employment standards.	SCAO / UJS
Tennessee	National credential; AAERT CER exam passage accepted for state licensure.	Administrative Director / AOC
Texas	None; no separate DCR certification program exists currently.	Judicial Branch Certification Commission
Utah	Internal judicial branch; transcribers approved by appellate court administrator; must be Utah CCR or work under one.	Appellate Court Administrator
Vermont	None; operators must take an oath; transcripts produced by court-approved vendors.	Court Administrator
Virginia	None; recording done by individual designated to report and record the trial.	Supreme Court / OES
Washington	Court-specific approval; minimum is CCR or AAERT certification, or one year of supervised mentorship.	Individual courts / Supreme Court
West Virginia	None; Electronic Recording Operator (ERO) role recognized but no published certification found.	Division of Technology Services (AOC)

Continued on next page

Table 61 (continued)

State	DCR Certification Model	Primary Oversight Body
Wisconsin	Internal judicial branch; requires CCAP DAR training; AAERT certification preferred.	Director of State Courts
Wyoming	None; no certification program exists for electronic recording operators.	State Court Administrator

I Full Survey



Survey Introduction

Texas Judicial Record-Making Perception Survey

This research aims to understand the perceptions of Texas legal stakeholders regarding Digital Court Recording (DCR). Your responses will remain confidential and contribute to a better understanding of the evolving landscape of record-making in Texas courts.

Thank you for participating.

General Questions

Section 1: General Questions

What is your primary county of employment?

What is your primary role in this county? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Judge
- ☐ County Commissioner
- ☐ Court Administrator/Manager
- ☐ Official Court Reporter
- ☐ Freelance Court Reporter
- ☐ Court Recorder
- ☐ Deposition (Freelance) Recorder
- ☐ Clerk
- ☐ Attorney
- ☐ Court Reporter Organization
- ☐ Digital Recording Organization
- ☐ Other, please specify

What level of court(s) do you work in? Select all that apply.

- ☐ County Court at Law
- ☐ District Court
- ☐ Appellate Court
- ☐ Commissioners Court
- ☐ Other, please specify

How long have you served in your current role?

- ☐ Less than one year
- ☐ 1 - 4 years
- ☐ 5 - 8 years
- ☐ 9 - 12 years
- ☐ 13+ years

Context specific definitions

To conduct an objective assessment, the study must operate with clear, professional definitions of court reporting methods, distinguishing between digital court recording and stenography.

Texas House Bill 16 (89-2) defines Digital Court Recording (DCR) as the practice of making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding before a grand jury or court personnel through the use of digital technology, electronic recording equipment, or other recording and transcribing technology.

The Texas Government Code defines shorthand reporting and court reporting as the practice of shorthand reporting for use in litigation in the courts of this state by making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding

before a grand jury, referee, or court commissioner using written symbols in shorthand, machine shorthand, or oral stenography (voice writing). Court reporting is performed by a certified shorthand reporter (CSR).

Definitions of different DCR modalities will be provided for each question. Please keep these definitions in mind as you answer each of the survey questions. Additionally, you may substitute terms such as "law firm" for "jurisdiction" or "depositions" for "hearings" or "proceedings", if you are an attorney who uses reporting services in that way.

Availability & Current Usage

Section 2: Availability & Current Usage

Please rate your agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
My local jurisdiction/law office is currently experiencing a shortage of certified stenographic court reporters.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
Cases in my court/office/county have been delayed or impacted because of a shortage of certified stenographic court reporters.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a reporter for 'short notice' or emergency hearings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have used a deposition officer other than a court reporter to record a deposition.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would like an alternative to a court reporter to record depositions and court hearings or other proceedings.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

For the following statements, please rate each modality respective to each defined role:

Digital Court Recording (DCR) with Human Monitoring –

A trained, certified person operating within a courtroom or deposition setting actively monitors a recording device or system and provides real-time annotation and logging.

Usually, as part of a Legal Transcriptionist workflow, the same individual who works within the courtroom or an off-site Certified Electronic Transcriber (CET) will create the certified transcript.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
My jurisdiction/law office currently utilizes Digital Court Reporting (DCR) for at least some proceedings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If DCR is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is primarily used for lower-level or non-evidentiary hearings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If DCR is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is used for any type of proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Systems – The process by which speech to text software is used on the digital court recording to assist in transcription production or provide a real time text feed of the ASR to judges and attorneys while on the record.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
My jurisdiction/law office currently utilizes Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Systems for at least some proceedings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If ASR is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is primarily used for lower-level or non-evidentiary hearings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If ASR is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is used for any type of proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Passive Audio Recording – The process by which the proceeding is recorded using commercially available recording devices that is not actively monitored by a trained, certified human reporter. The audio file is then transcribed.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
My jurisdiction/law office currently utilizes Passive Audio Recording for at least some proceedings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If Passive Audio Recording is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is primarily used for lower-level or non-evidentiary hearings or depositions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
If Passive Audio Recording is used in my jurisdiction/by my office, it is used for any type of proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Perceptions of Acceptance & Reliability

Section 3: Perceptions of Acceptance & Reliability

For the following statements, please rate each modality respective to each defined role:

Digital Court Recording (DCR) with Human Monitoring –

A trained, certified person operating within a courtroom or deposition setting actively monitors a recording device or system and provides real-time annotation and logging. Usually, as part of a Legal Transcriptionist workflow, the same individual who works within the courtroom or an off-site Certified Electronic Transcriber (CET) will create the certified transcript.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
I believe a court record produced from DCR is as accurate as a record produced by a human stenographic court reporter.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I trust the integrity of a court record produced from DCR to be free from tampering or data loss.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A court record produced from DCR is sufficient for the purposes of appellate review.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The use of DCR would increase the overall efficiency of court operations in my area.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
I am comfortable with a 'Centralized Monitoring' model where one person monitors multiple courtrooms utilizing DCR.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I prefer to rely on a record created by the human stenographic court reporter who took down the proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I do not have a preference as to whether the court record is generated by a human stenographic reporter or DCR.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Systems – The process by which speech to text software is used on the digital court recording to assist in transcription production or provide a real time text feed of the ASR to judges and attorneys while on the record.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
I believe a court record produced from ASR is as accurate as a record produced by a human stenographic court reporter.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I trust the integrity of a court record produced from ASR to be free from tampering or data loss.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A court record produced from ASR is sufficient for the purposes of appellate review.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The use of ASR would increase the overall efficiency of court operations in my area.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am comfortable with a 'Centralized Monitoring' model where one person monitors multiple courtrooms utilizing ASR.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I prefer to rely on a record created by the human stenographic court reporter who took down the proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
I do not have a preference as to whether the court record is generated by a human stenographic reporter or ASR.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Passive Audio Recording – The process by which the proceeding is recorded using commercially available recording devices that is not actively monitored by a trained, certified human reporter. The audio file is then transcribed.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
I believe a court record produced from Passive Audio Recording is as accurate as a record produced by a human stenographic court reporter.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I trust the integrity of a court record produced from Passive Audio Recording to be free from tampering or data loss.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know/Not Applicable
A court record produced from Passive Audio Recording is sufficient for the purposes of appellate review.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The use of Passive Audio Recording would increase the overall efficiency of court operations in my area.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am comfortable with a 'Centralized Monitoring' model where one person monitors multiple courtrooms utilizing Passive Audio Recording.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I prefer to rely on a record created by the human stenographic court reporter who took down the proceeding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I do not have a preference as to whether the court record is generated by a human stenographic reporter or Passive Audio Recording.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting

Section 4: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting

In your opinion or experience, which method is superior for the following factors:

Verbatim Accuracy (capturing exactly what was said)	
Turnaround Time (how quickly a final transcript is produced)	
Cost-effectiveness for the Court (budgetary impact of technology and personnel)	
Cost-effectiveness for Litigants (price per page for transcripts for parties)	
Room Control (ability to interrupt and ask speakers to repeat themselves)	
Handling Accents/Technical Jargon (correctly interpreting diverse speakers and language)	
Long-term Archiving (maintaining the record for more than 10 years)	

Perceived Barriers to Implementation

Section 5: Perceived Barriers to Implementation

Please respond to each of the prompts below by selecting one of the following options found in the matrix table.

What do you perceive as the primary barriers to implementing or expanding the DCR modality of your choice in your jurisdiction?

	Not a Barrier	Minor Barrier	Moderate Barrier	Significant Barrier	Extreme Barrier	I Don't Know
Statutory/Legal Hurdles (concerns over legal compliance)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Initial Capital Cost (investment in hardware, software, and other technological support for DCR)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technical Support (lack of IT staff to maintain digital systems)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resistance from the Local Bar (attorneys prefer shorthand/stenographic method)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resistance from Judiciary (judges prefer stenographic method)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cybersecurity Risks (fear of hacking or data breaches)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of the "Human Element" (fear of losing the oversight of human stenographer)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success (not having seen DCR used successfully)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Not a
BarrierMinor
BarrierModerate
BarrierSignificant
BarrierExtreme
BarrierI Don't
Know

Other, please specify

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Final Comments

Is there anything else you would like to share about digital court recording or shorthand/stenographic court reporting?

Interview Sign up

Would you be willing to participate in a virtual interview (30 minutes) with the research team about this topic? If Yes, share your name and email information. Your responses will not be linked to your contact information.

Name

Email address

Powered by Qualtrics

J Short DCR Survey

Introduction

Texas A&M's Public Policy Research Institute, under contract with the Office of Court Administration, is conducting a brief survey to identify courts currently utilizing Digital Court Recording. Information gathered may be used to inform future research, including outreach and potential site visits. This survey should take approximately 2–3 minutes to complete.

Section 1: Court Information

In which County is your Court located?

[Open response]

What is the name of your Court?

[Open response]

Section 2: Recording Method

How are proceedings in your court currently recorded?

- Certified Shorthand Reporter/Stenographer (CSR)
- Digital Court Recording (DCR)
- Both CSR and DCR
- Other, please explain: *[Open response]*

Section 3: Digital Court Recording

Approximately what year did your court begin using Digital Court Recording?

[Open response]

What Digital Court Recording method/modality does your court currently use? (Select all that apply)

- Digital Audio Recording (DAR) with Human Monitoring
- Passive Audio Recording
- Automated Speech Recognition System
- Other, please specify: *[Open response]*

How is Digital Court Recording used in your court?

- All proceedings
- Specific hearing/proceeding types

For which hearing/proceeding types do you use Digital Court Recording?

- Routine dockets
- Jury selection
- Trials (jury or bench)
- Hearings where testimony is taken and evidence received
- Other, please specify: *[Open response]*

Which case types utilize Digital Court Recording? (Select all that apply)

- Criminal
- Civil
- Depositions
- Family
- Juvenile
- Specialty Courts
- Other, please specify: *[Open response]*

Section 4: Follow-up

We may conduct site visits to courts that are using both Certified Shorthand Reporters and Digital Court Recording. Would your court be willing to be contacted regarding future discussions and potential site visits related to this study?

- Yes
- No

If yes:

Please provide the name of a contact person

[Open response]

Please provide the email address of that contact person

[Open response]

Please provide the phone number of that contact person

[Open response]

K Preliminary Analysis

Table 62: Respondent Role

Respondent Role	Freq.	%
Attorney	204	11.92
County Commissioner	2	0.12
Court Recorder	46	2.69
Court Recording Organization	22	1.29
Court Reporter	1,006	58.80
Court Reporting Organization	67	3.92
Judge	246	14.38
Other	84	4.91
Other Courtroom Actor	34	1.99
Total	1,711	100.00

Table 63: Respondent Court Level

Court Level	Freq.	%
Appellate/Supreme Court	169	10.61
Commissioners Court	13	0.82
County Court at Law	190	11.93
District Court	934	58.63
Federal Court	36	2.26
Justice/Municipal Court	3	0.19
Other	248	15.57
Total	1,593	100.00

Table 64: Tenure Length of Respondents

Tenure Length	Freq.	%
Less than one year	105	6.14
1-4 years	382	22.35
5-8 years	266	15.56
9-12 years	156	9.13
13+ years	800	46.81
Total	1,709	100.00

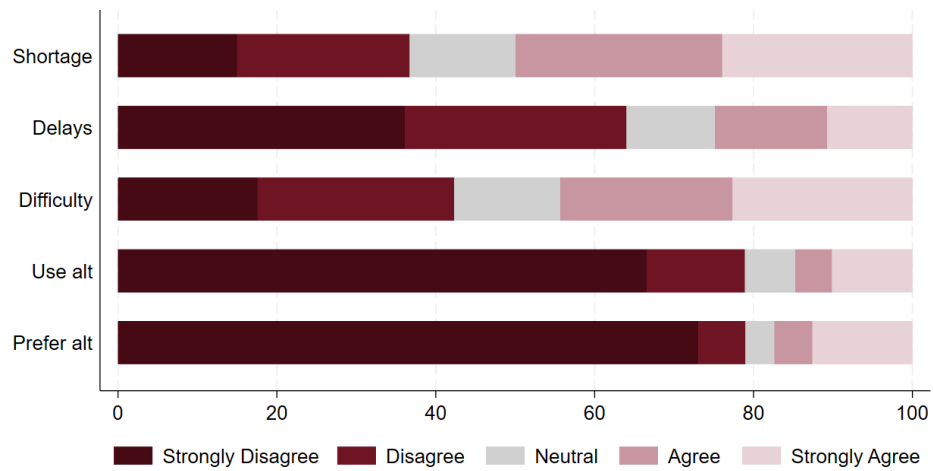


Figure 52: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use

Table 65: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use

Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	Total
Shortage of court reporters	235 (13.78)	339 (19.88)	208 (12.20)	407 (23.87)	374 (21.94)	142 (8.33)	1,705 (100.00)
Delay due to shortage	532 (31.17)	411 (24.08)	164 (9.61)	208 (12.19)	158 (9.26)	234 (13.71)	1,707 (100.00)
Difficulty finding reporter	265 (15.55)	373 (21.89)	201 (11.80)	327 (19.19)	341 (20.01)	197 (11.56)	1,704 (100.00)
Used deposition officer	704 (41.39)	131 (7.70)	67 (3.94)	49 (2.88)	107 (6.29)	643 (37.80)	1,701 (100.00)
Alternative to court reporter	1,144 (67.18)	93 (5.46)	57 (3.35)	75 (4.40)	197 (11.57)	137 (8.04)	1,703 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

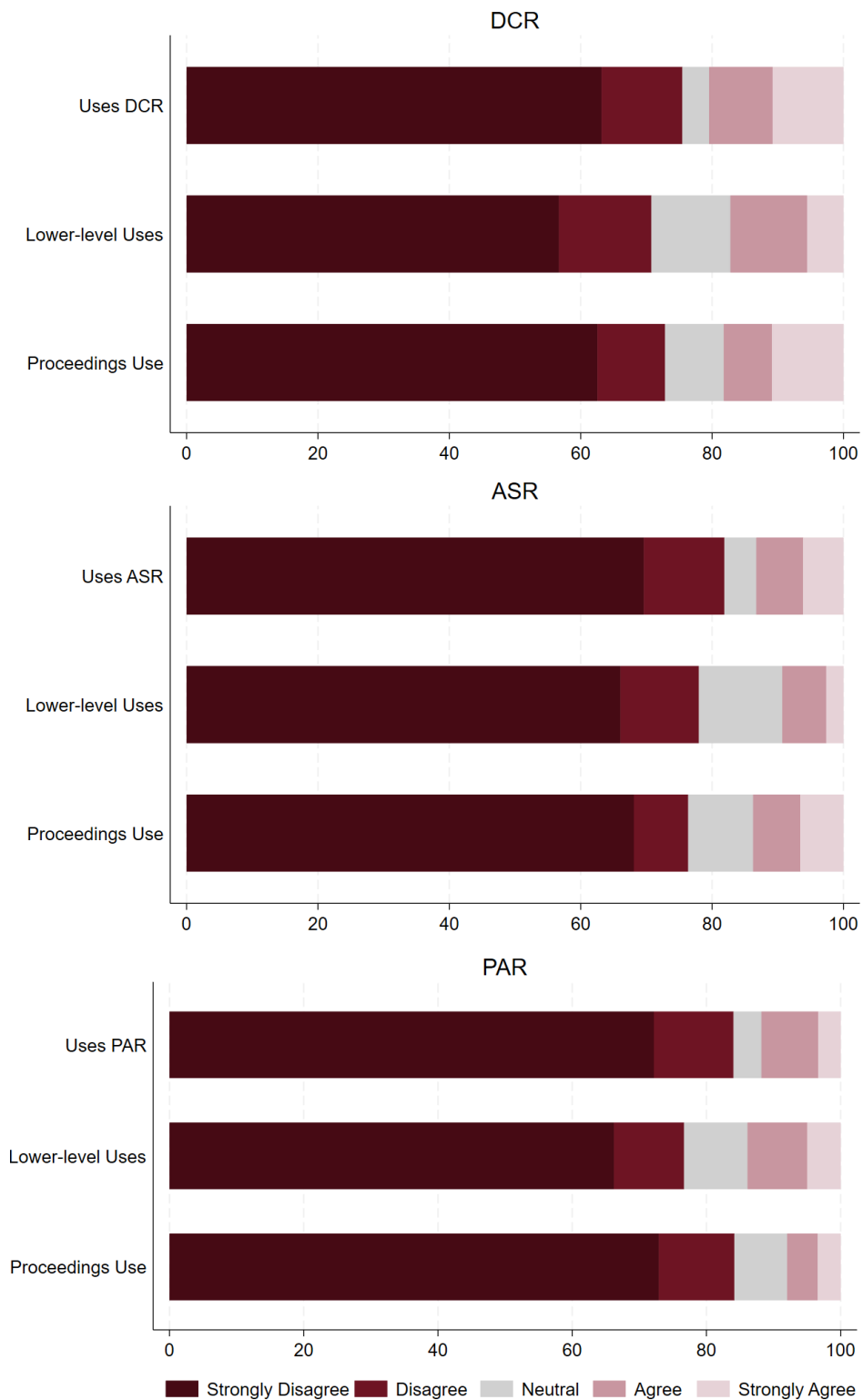


Figure 53: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use, by Modality

Table 66: Perceptions of Digital Court Recording (DCR), Automated Speech Recognition (ASR), and Passive Audio Recording (PAR) Uses

Modality	Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	Total
DCR	Uses of DCR	822 (48.30)	160 (9.40)	53 (3.11)	126 (7.40)	140 (8.23)	401 (23.56)	1,702 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	524 (30.99)	130 (7.69)	111 (6.56)	108 (6.39)	51 (3.02)	767 (45.36)	1,691 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	615 (36.65)	101 (6.02)	88 (5.24)	72 (4.29)	107 (6.38)	695 (41.42)	1,678 (100.00)
ASR	Uses of ASR	830 (48.82)	146 (8.59)	58 (3.41)	85 (5.00)	73 (4.29)	508 (29.88)	1,700 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	582 (34.44)	105 (6.21)	112 (6.63)	59 (3.49)	23 (1.36)	809 (47.87)	1,690 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	634 (37.69)	77 (4.58)	92 (5.47)	67 (3.98)	61 (3.63)	751 (44.65)	1,682 (100.00)
PAR	Uses of PAR	869 (51.12)	143 (8.41)	50 (2.94)	102 (6.00)	40 (2.35)	496 (29.18)	1,700 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	602 (35.58)	95 (5.61)	86 (5.08)	81 (4.79)	45 (2.66)	783 (46.28)	1,692 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	687 (40.72)	106 (6.28)	74 (4.39)	43 (2.55)	32 (1.90)	745 (44.16)	1,687 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

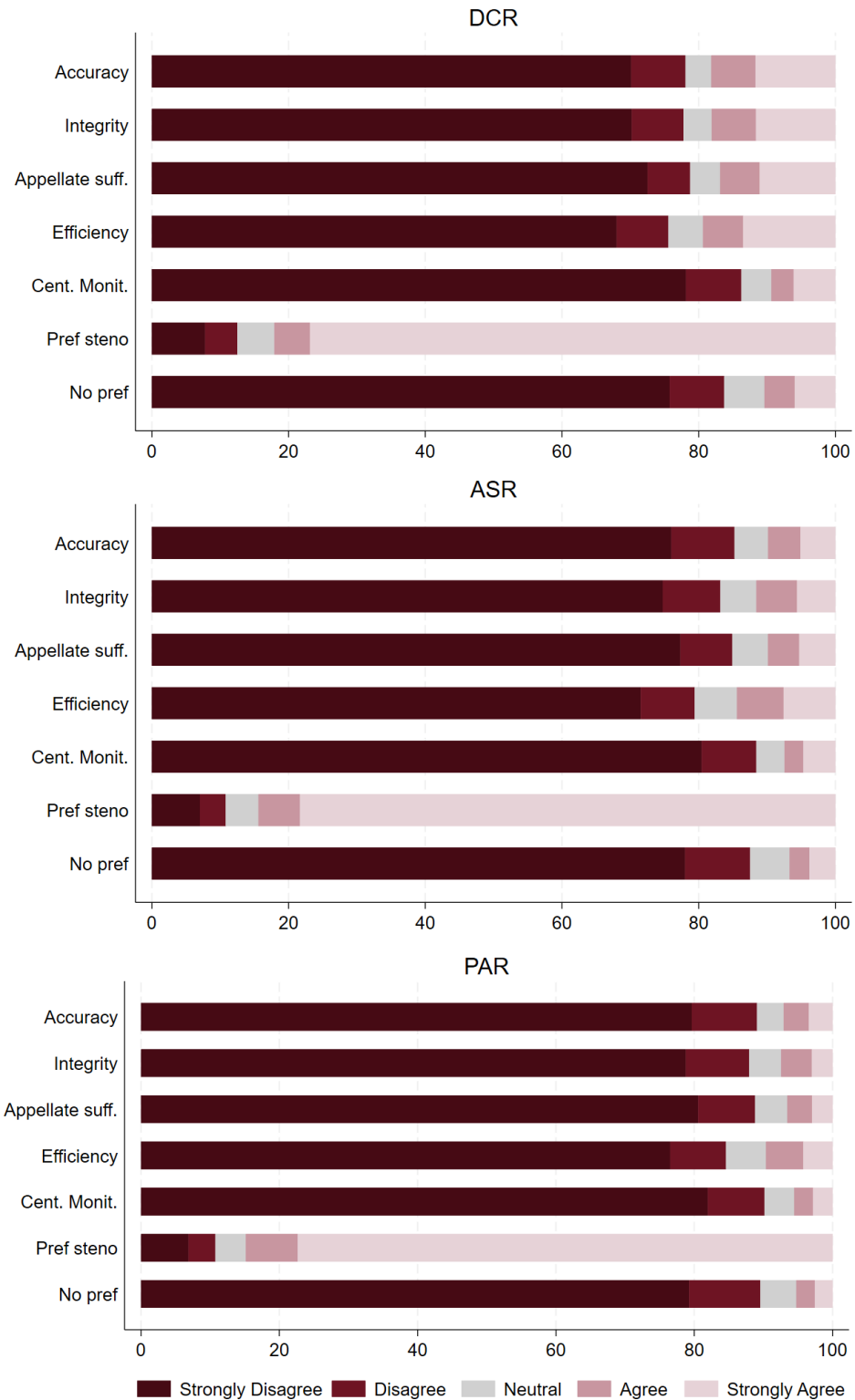


Figure 54: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference, by Modality

Table 67: Perceptions of Digital Court Recording Modalities by Measure

Modality	Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N
DCR	Accuracy	1,151 (67.15)	130 (7.58)	62 (3.62)	106 (6.18)	192 (11.20)	1,641
	Integrity	1,160 (67.68)	125 (7.29)	68 (3.97)	107 (6.24)	192 (11.20)	1,652
	Appellate sufficiency	1,178 (68.73)	101 (5.89)	71 (4.14)	94 (5.48)	180 (10.50)	1,624
	Efficiency	1,110 (64.76)	123 (7.18)	83 (4.84)	96 (5.60)	220 (12.84)	1,632
	Centralized monitoring	1,284 (74.91)	133 (7.76)	72 (4.20)	54 (3.15)	100 (5.83)	1,643
	Preference for stenographer	124 (7.23)	75 (4.38)	86 (5.02)	83 (4.84)	1,222 (71.30)	1,590
	No preference	1,248 (72.81)	131 (7.64)	97 (5.66)	73 (4.26)	98 (5.72)	1,647
ASR	Accuracy	1,236 (72.11)	150 (8.75)	80 (4.67)	77 (4.49)	83 (4.84)	1,626
	Integrity	1,222 (71.30)	138 (8.05)	86 (5.02)	97 (5.66)	92 (5.37)	1,635
	Appellate sufficiency	1,231 (71.82)	121 (7.06)	83 (4.84)	73 (4.26)	84 (4.90)	1,592
	Efficiency	1,143 (66.69)	126 (7.35)	99 (5.78)	109 (6.36)	121 (7.06)	1,598
	Centralized monitoring	1,309 (76.37)	130 (7.58)	67 (3.91)	45 (2.63)	76 (4.43)	1,627
	Preference for stenographer	110 (6.42)	59 (3.44)	75 (4.38)	95 (5.54)	1,225 (71.47)	1,564
	No preference	1,271 (74.15)	155 (9.04)	94 (5.48)	47 (2.74)	62 (3.62)	1,629
PAR	Accuracy	1,306 (76.20)	155 (9.04)	63 (3.68)	60 (3.50)	56 (3.27)	1,640
	Integrity	1,293 (75.44)	150 (8.75)	76 (4.43)	73 (4.26)	49 (2.86)	1,641
	Appellate sufficiency	1,303 (76.02)	133 (7.76)	75 (4.38)	58 (3.38)	48 (2.80)	1,617
	Efficiency	1,232 (71.88)	130 (7.58)	93 (5.43)	87 (5.08)	68 (3.97)	1,610
	Centralized monitoring	1,342 (78.30)	134 (7.82)	70 (4.08)	45 (2.63)	46 (2.68)	1,637
	Preference for stenographer	108 (6.30)	61 (3.56)	69 (4.03)	118 (6.88)	1,214 (70.83)	1,570
	No preference	1,297 (75.67)	168 (9.80)	85 (4.96)	44 (2.57)	42 (2.45)	1,636

Note. Values are presented as n (%); N is the total number of respondents for each measure.

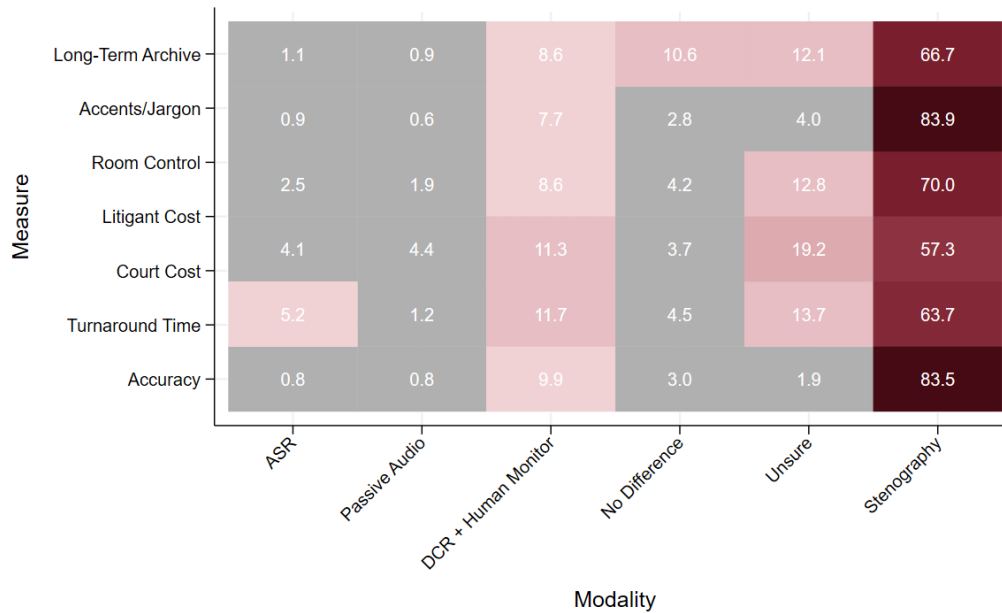


Figure 55: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting, Full Sample

Table 68: Perceptions of Preferred Court Reporting Modality Across Performance Measures

Measure	ASR	PAR	DCR	No Difference	Unsure	Stenography	Total
Verbatim Accuracy	14 (0.8)	13 (0.8)	169 (9.9)	51 (3.0)	33 (1.9)	1,420 (82.9)	1,700
Turnaround Time	89 (5.2)	20 (1.2)	199 (11.6)	76 (4.4)	232 (13.5)	1,080 (63.0)	1,696
Cost-Effectiveness (Court)	70 (4.1)	74 (4.3)	192 (11.2)	62 (3.6)	326 (19.0)	972 (56.7)	1,696
Cost-Effectiveness (Litigants)	74 (4.3)	56 (3.3)	161 (9.4)	81 (4.7)	392 (22.9)	932 (54.4)	1,696
Room Control	12 (0.7)	8 (0.5)	130 (7.6)	61 (3.6)	43 (2.5)	1,442 (84.1)	1,696
Accents / Technical Jargon	16 (0.9)	10 (0.6)	131 (7.6)	48 (2.8)	68 (4.0)	1,424 (83.1)	1,697
Long-Term Archiving	19 (1.1)	15 (0.9)	146 (8.5)	179 (10.4)	205 (12.0)	1,130 (65.9)	1,694

Note. Values are presented as n (%).

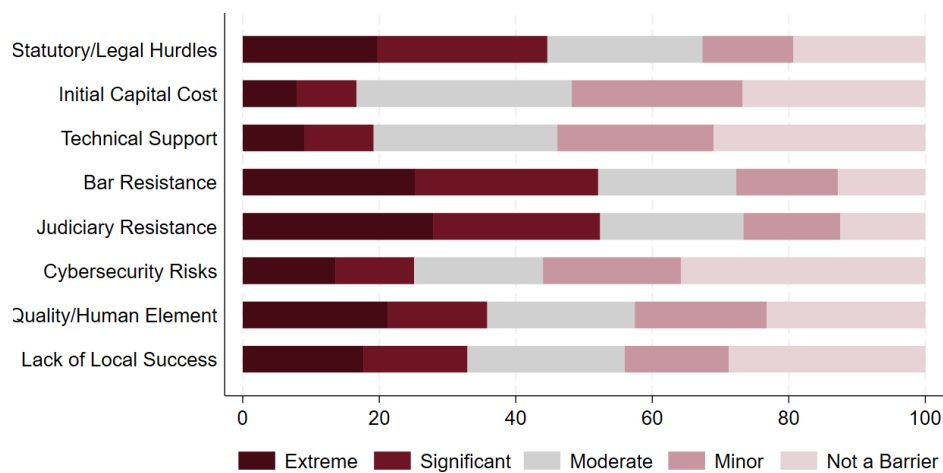


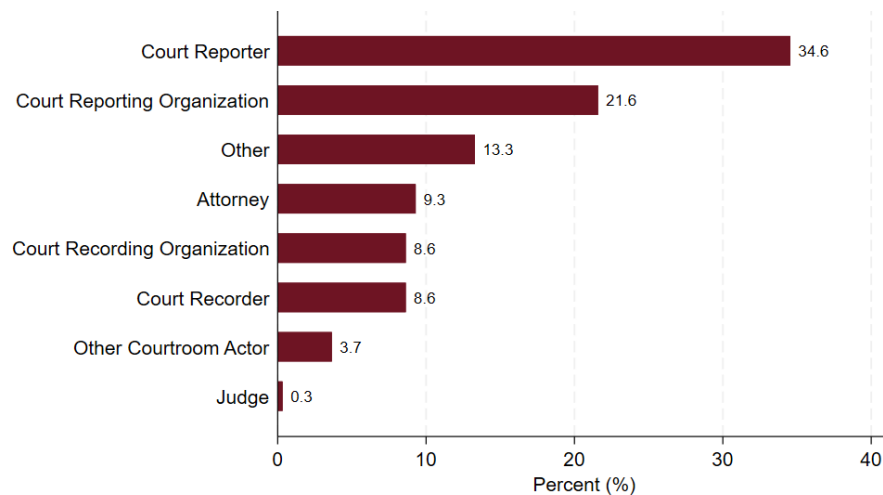
Figure 56: Perceived Barriers to DCR Adoption

Table 69: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of Court Technology and Reform Initiatives

Barrier	Extreme	Significant	Moderate	Minor	Not a Barrier	I Don't Know	Total
Statutory/Legal Hurdles	692 (40.4)	337 (19.7)	184 (10.7)	86 (5.0)	78 (4.6)	299 (17.4)	1,676
Initial Capital Cost	508 (29.6)	317 (18.5)	201 (11.7)	131 (7.6)	126 (7.4)	392 (22.9)	1,675
Technical Support	695 (40.6)	294 (17.2)	155 (9.0)	107 (6.2)	112 (6.5)	307 (17.9)	1,670
Bar Resistance	742 (43.3)	353 (20.6)	162 (9.5)	88 (5.1)	66 (3.9)	263 (15.3)	1,674
Judiciary Resistance	855 (49.9)	328 (19.1)	145 (8.5)	62 (3.6)	64 (3.7)	222 (13.0)	1,676
Cybersecurity Risks	937 (54.7)	207 (12.1)	122 (7.1)	112 (6.5)	110 (6.4)	187 (10.9)	1,675
Quality/Human Element	1,045 (61.0)	236 (13.8)	105 (6.1)	78 (4.6)	92 (5.4)	120 (7.0)	1,676
Lack of Local Success	736 (42.9)	239 (13.9)	149 (8.7)	84 (4.9)	143 (8.3)	317 (18.5)	1,668
Other	189 (11.0)	22 (1.3)	14 (0.8)	3 (0.2)	16 (0.9)	186 (10.9)	430

Note. Values are presented as n (%).

L Non-Texas Preliminary Analysis

**Figure 57: County Role of Non-Texas Respondents****Table 70: County Role of Non-Texas Respondents**

Role	Frequency	Percent
Court Reporter	169	56.33
Court Recorder	52	17.33
Other	40	13.33
Attorney	28	9.33
Other Courtroom Actor	11	3.67
Total	300	100.00

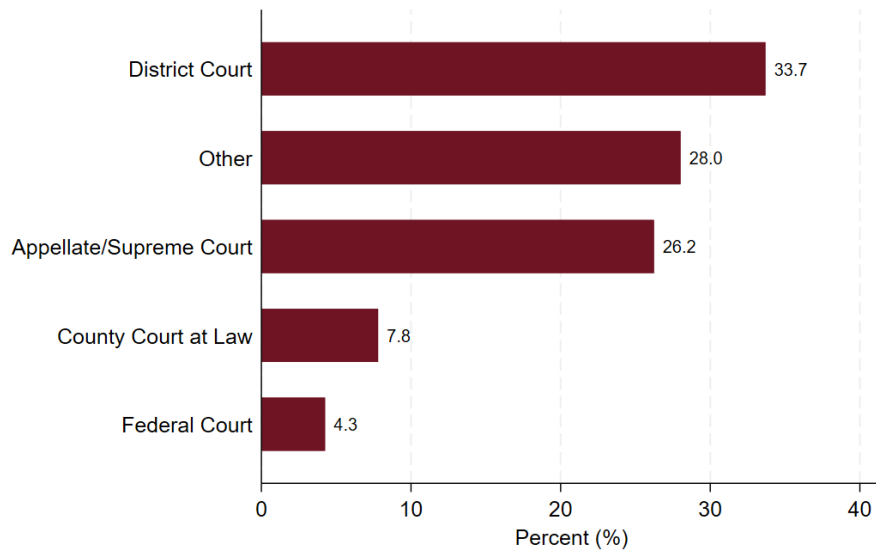


Figure 58: Court Level of Non-Texas Respondents

Table 71: Court Level of Non-Texas Respondents

Court Level	Frequency	Percent
District Court	95	33.69
Other	79	28.01
Appellate/Supreme Court	74	26.24
County Court at Law	22	7.80
Federal Court	12	4.26
Total	282	100.00

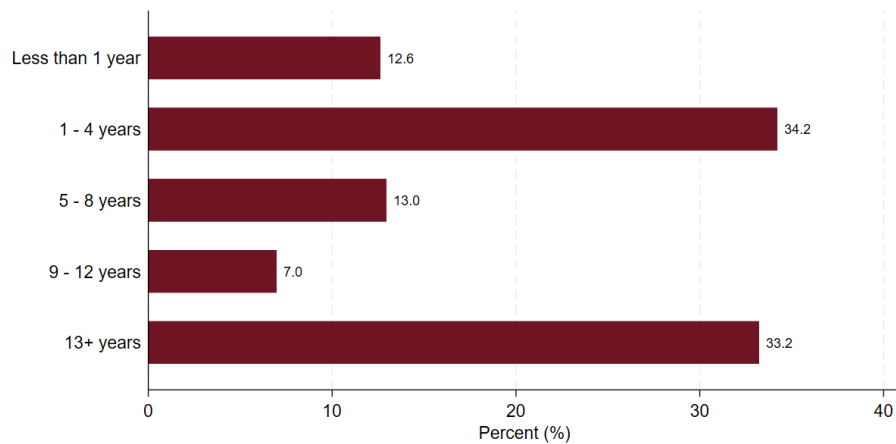


Figure 59: Years in Current Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Table 72: Years in Current Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Years in Current Role	Frequency	Percent
1-4 years	103	34.22
13+ years	100	33.22
5-8 years	39	12.96
9-12 years	21	6.98
Less than one year	38	12.62
Total	301	100.00

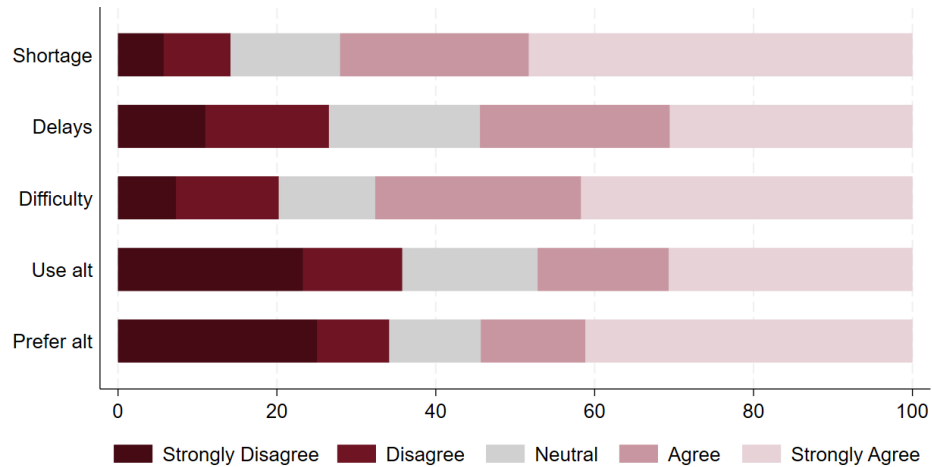


Figure 60: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, Non-Texas Respondents

Table 73: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	Total
Shortage of court reporters	15 (4.97)	22 (7.28)	36 (11.92)	62 (20.53)	126 (41.72)	41 (13.58)	302 (100.00)
Delay due to shortage	25 (8.31)	35 (11.63)	43 (14.29)	54 (17.94)	69 (22.92)	75 (24.92)	301 (100.00)
Difficulty finding reporter	18 (6.00)	32 (10.67)	30 (10.00)	64 (21.33)	103 (34.33)	53 (17.67)	300 (100.00)
Used deposition officer	41 (13.67)	22 (7.33)	30 (10.00)	29 (9.67)	54 (18.00)	124 (41.33)	300 (100.00)
Alternative to court reporter	61 (20.33)	22 (7.33)	28 (9.33)	32 (10.67)	100 (33.33)	57 (19.00)	300 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

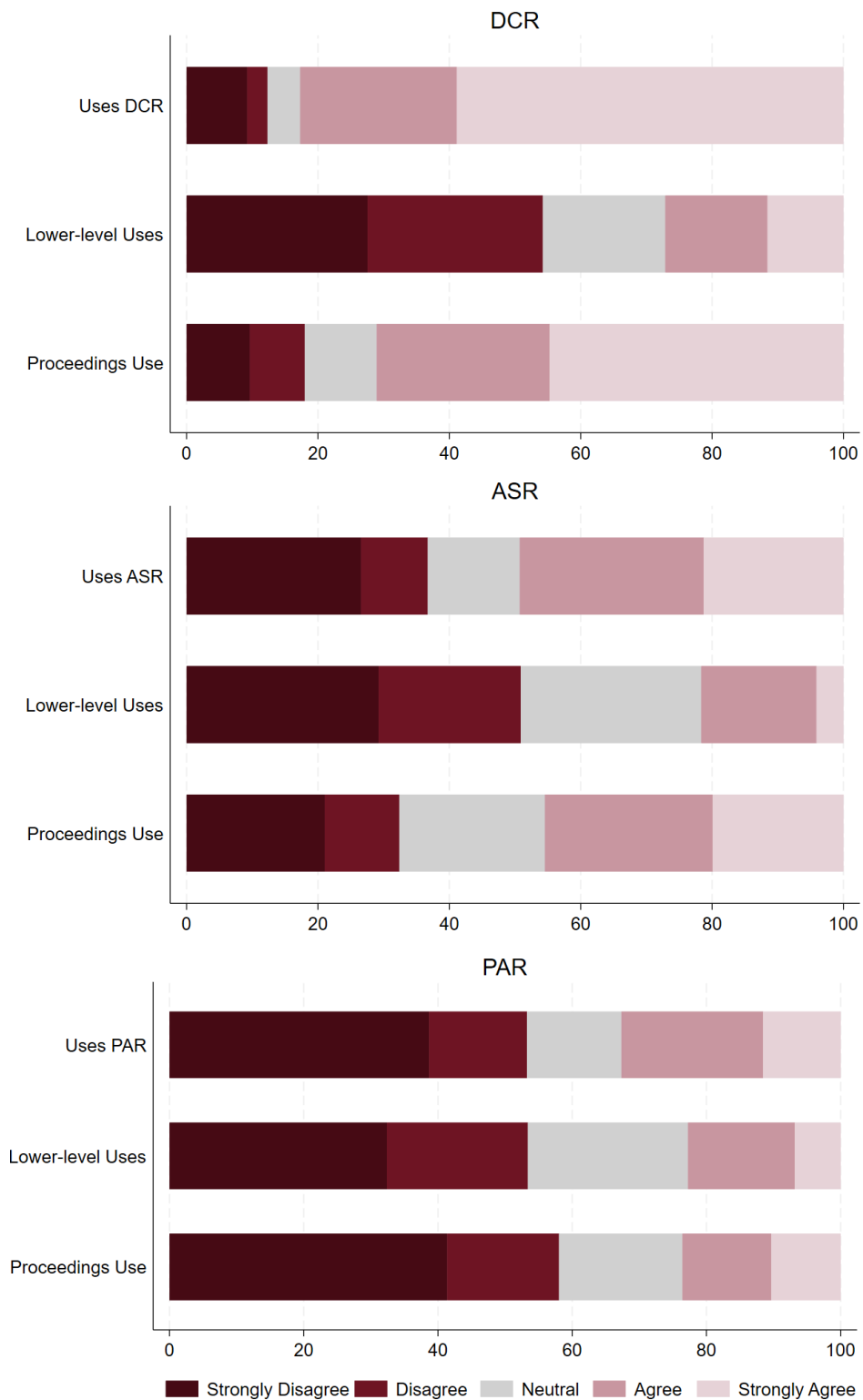


Figure 61: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use, by Modality

Table 74: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use, by Modality

Modality	Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	Total
DCR	Uses of DCR	24 (7.95)	8 (2.65)	13 (4.30)	62 (20.53)	153 (50.66)	42 (13.91)	302 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	62 (20.60)	60 (19.93)	42 (13.95)	35 (11.63)	26 (8.64)	76 (25.25)	301 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	22 (7.33)	19 (6.33)	25 (8.33)	60 (20.00)	102 (34.00)	72 (24.00)	300 (100.00)
ASR	Uses of ASR	55 (18.21)	21 (6.95)	29 (9.60)	58 (19.21)	44 (14.57)	95 (31.46)	302 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	50 (16.67)	37 (12.33)	47 (15.67)	30 (10.00)	7 (2.33)	129 (43.00)	300 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	37 (12.42)	20 (6.71)	39 (13.09)	45 (15.10)	35 (11.74)	122 (40.94)	298 (100.00)
PAR	Uses of PAR	77 (25.50)	29 (9.60)	28 (9.27)	42 (13.91)	23 (7.62)	103 (34.11)	302 (100.00)
	Lower-level uses	57 (18.94)	37 (12.29)	42 (13.95)	28 (9.30)	12 (3.99)	125 (41.53)	301 (100.00)
	Proceedings use	72 (24.00)	29 (9.67)	32 (10.67)	23 (7.67)	18 (6.00)	126 (42.00)	300 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

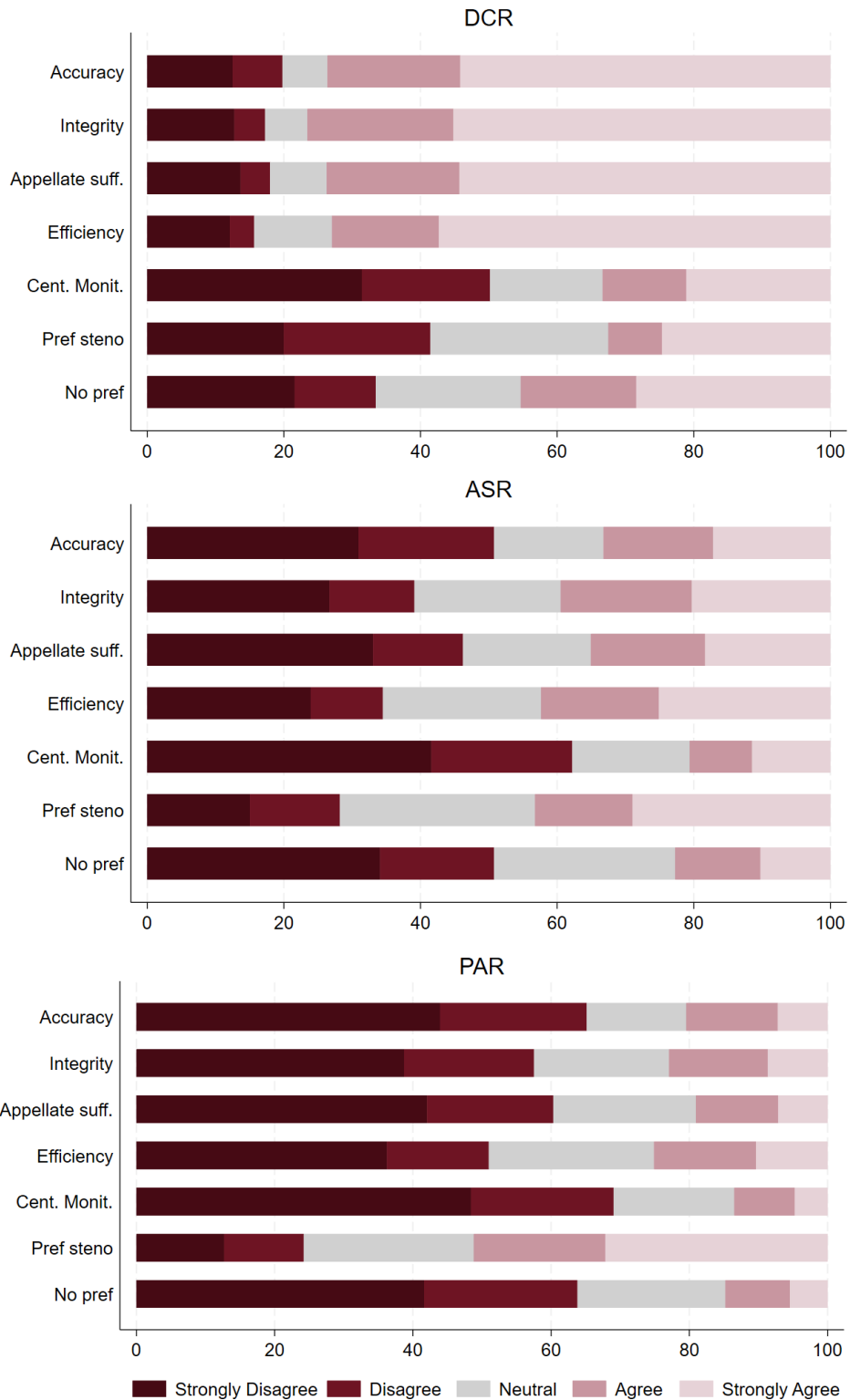


Figure 62: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use, by Modality

Table 75: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, ASR, and PAR, Non-Texas Respondents

Modality	Measure	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/NA	Total
DCR	Accuracy	36 (11.76)	21 (6.86)	19 (6.21)	56 (18.30)	156 (50.98)	18 (5.88)	306 (100.00)
	Integrity	37 (12.09)	13 (4.25)	18 (5.88)	62 (20.26)	160 (52.29)	16 (5.23)	306 (100.00)
	Appellate sufficiency	38 (12.42)	12 (3.92)	23 (7.52)	54 (17.65)	151 (49.35)	28 (9.15)	306 (100.00)
	Efficiency	34 (11.11)	10 (3.27)	32 (10.46)	44 (14.38)	161 (52.61)	25 (8.17)	306 (100.00)
	Centralized monitoring	82 (26.80)	49 (16.01)	43 (14.05)	32 (10.46)	55 (17.97)	45 (14.71)	306 (100.00)
	Preference for stenographer	56 (18.30)	60 (19.61)	73 (23.86)	22 (7.19)	69 (22.55)	26 (8.50)	306 (100.00)
	No preference	60 (19.61)	33 (10.78)	59 (19.28)	47 (15.36)	79 (25.82)	28 (9.15)	306 (100.00)
ASR	Accuracy	81 (26.47)	52 (16.99)	42 (13.73)	42 (13.73)	45 (14.71)	44 (14.38)	306 (100.00)
	Integrity	71 (23.20)	33 (10.78)	57 (18.63)	51 (16.67)	54 (17.65)	40 (13.07)	306 (100.00)
	Appellate sufficiency	83 (27.12)	33 (10.78)	47 (15.36)	42 (13.73)	46 (15.03)	55 (17.97)	306 (100.00)
	Efficiency	61 (19.93)	27 (8.82)	59 (19.28)	44 (14.38)	64 (20.92)	51 (16.67)	306 (100.00)
	Centralized monitoring	109 (35.62)	54 (17.65)	45 (14.71)	24 (7.84)	30 (9.80)	44 (14.38)	306 (100.00)
	Preference for stenographer	40 (13.07)	35 (11.44)	76 (24.84)	38 (12.42)	77 (25.16)	40 (13.07)	306 (100.00)
	No preference	90 (29.41)	44 (14.38)	70 (22.88)	33 (10.78)	27 (8.82)	42 (13.73)	306 (100.00)
PAR	Accuracy	116 (37.91)	56 (18.30)	38 (12.42)	35 (11.44)	19 (6.21)	42 (13.73)	306 (100.00)
	Integrity	103 (33.66)	50 (16.34)	52 (16.99)	38 (12.42)	23 (7.52)	40 (13.07)	306 (100.00)
	Appellate sufficiency	106 (34.64)	46 (15.03)	52 (16.99)	30 (9.80)	18 (5.88)	54 (17.65)	306 (100.00)
	Efficiency	91 (29.74)	37 (12.09)	60 (19.61)	37 (12.09)	26 (8.50)	55 (17.97)	306 (100.00)
	Centralized monitoring	122 (39.87)	52 (16.99)	44 (14.38)	22 (7.19)	12 (3.92)	54 (17.65)	306 (100.00)
	Preference for stenographer	32 (10.46)	29 (9.48)	62 (20.26)	48 (15.69)	81 (26.47)	54 (17.65)	306 (100.00)
	No preference	107 (34.97)	57 (18.63)	55 (17.97)	24 (7.84)	14 (4.58)	49 (16.01)	306 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable. A small number of blank/unlabeled responses per item (4–6 respondents) are included within the DK/NA category.

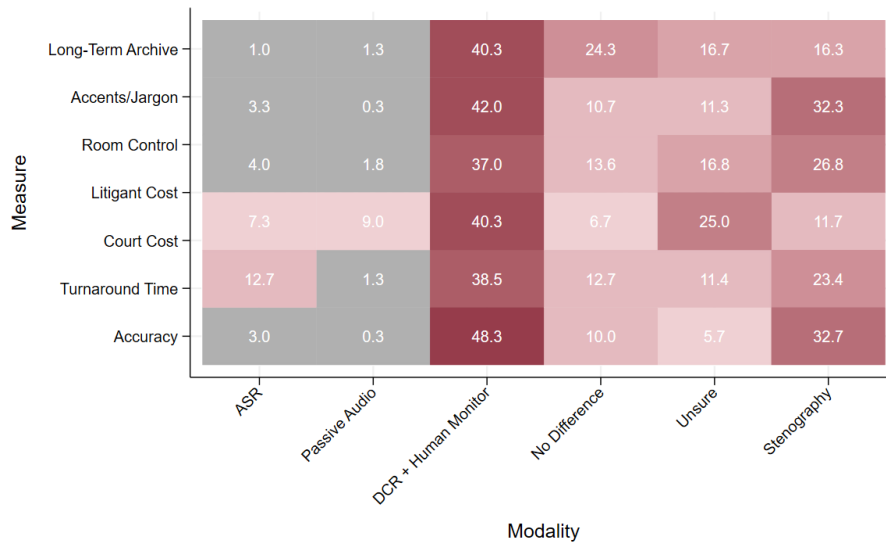


Figure 63: Perceptions of Preferred Court Reporting Modality Across Performance Measures, Non-Texas Respondents

Table 76: Perceptions of Preferred Court Reporting Modality Across Performance Measures, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	ASR	DCR + Human Monitor	Passive Audio	Stenography	No Difference	Unsure	Total
Verbatim Accuracy	9 (3.00)	145 (48.33)	1 (0.33)	98 (32.67)	30 (10.00)	17 (5.67)	300 (100.00)
Turnaround Time	38 (12.71)	115 (38.46)	4 (1.34)	70 (23.41)	38 (12.71)	34 (11.37)	299 (100.00)
Cost-Effectiveness (Court)	22 (7.33)	121 (40.33)	27 (9.00)	35 (11.67)	20 (6.67)	75 (25.00)	300 (100.00)
Cost-Effectiveness (Litigants)	20 (6.71)	111 (37.25)	11 (3.69)	34 (11.41)	42 (14.09)	80 (26.85)	298 (100.00)
Room Control	4 (1.34)	110 (36.79)	0 (0.00)	126 (42.14)	39 (13.04)	20 (6.69)	299 (100.00)
Accents / Technical Jargon	10 (3.33)	126 (42.00)	1 (0.33)	97 (32.33)	32 (10.67)	34 (11.33)	300 (100.00)
Long-Term Archiving	3 (1.00)	121 (40.33)	4 (1.33)	49 (16.33)	73 (24.33)	50 (16.67)	300 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). Room Control had no Passive Audio Recording responses (0.00%).

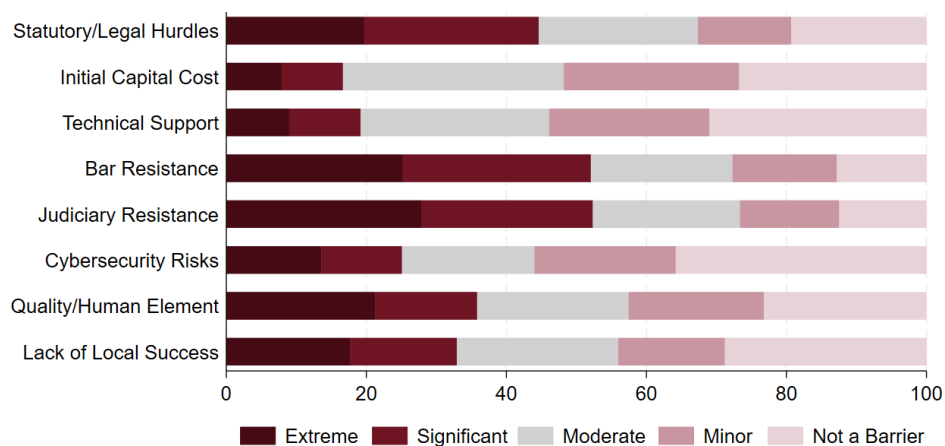


Figure 64: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, Non-Texas Respondents

Table 77: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, Non-Texas Respondents

Barrier	Not a Barrier	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Extreme	I Don't Know	Total
Statutory/Legal Hurdles	45 (15.15)	31 (10.44)	53 (17.85)	58 (19.53)	46 (15.49)	64 (21.55)	297 (100.00)
Initial Capital Cost	61 (20.54)	57 (19.19)	72 (24.24)	20 (6.73)	18 (6.06)	69 (23.23)	297 (100.00)
Technical Support	76 (25.59)	56 (18.86)	66 (22.22)	25 (8.42)	22 (7.41)	52 (17.51)	297 (100.00)
Bar Resistance	31 (10.47)	36 (12.16)	49 (16.55)	65 (21.96)	61 (20.61)	54 (18.24)	296 (100.00)
Judiciary Resistance	29 (9.76)	33 (11.11)	49 (16.50)	57 (19.19)	65 (21.89)	64 (21.55)	297 (100.00)
Cybersecurity Risks	87 (29.39)	49 (16.55)	46 (15.54)	28 (9.46)	33 (11.15)	53 (17.91)	296 (100.00)
Quality/Human Element	59 (19.93)	49 (16.55)	55 (18.58)	37 (12.50)	54 (18.24)	42 (14.19)	296 (100.00)
Lack of Local Success	70 (23.57)	37 (12.46)	56 (18.86)	37 (12.46)	43 (14.48)	54 (18.18)	297 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%).

M Non-Texas Disaggregated by Role

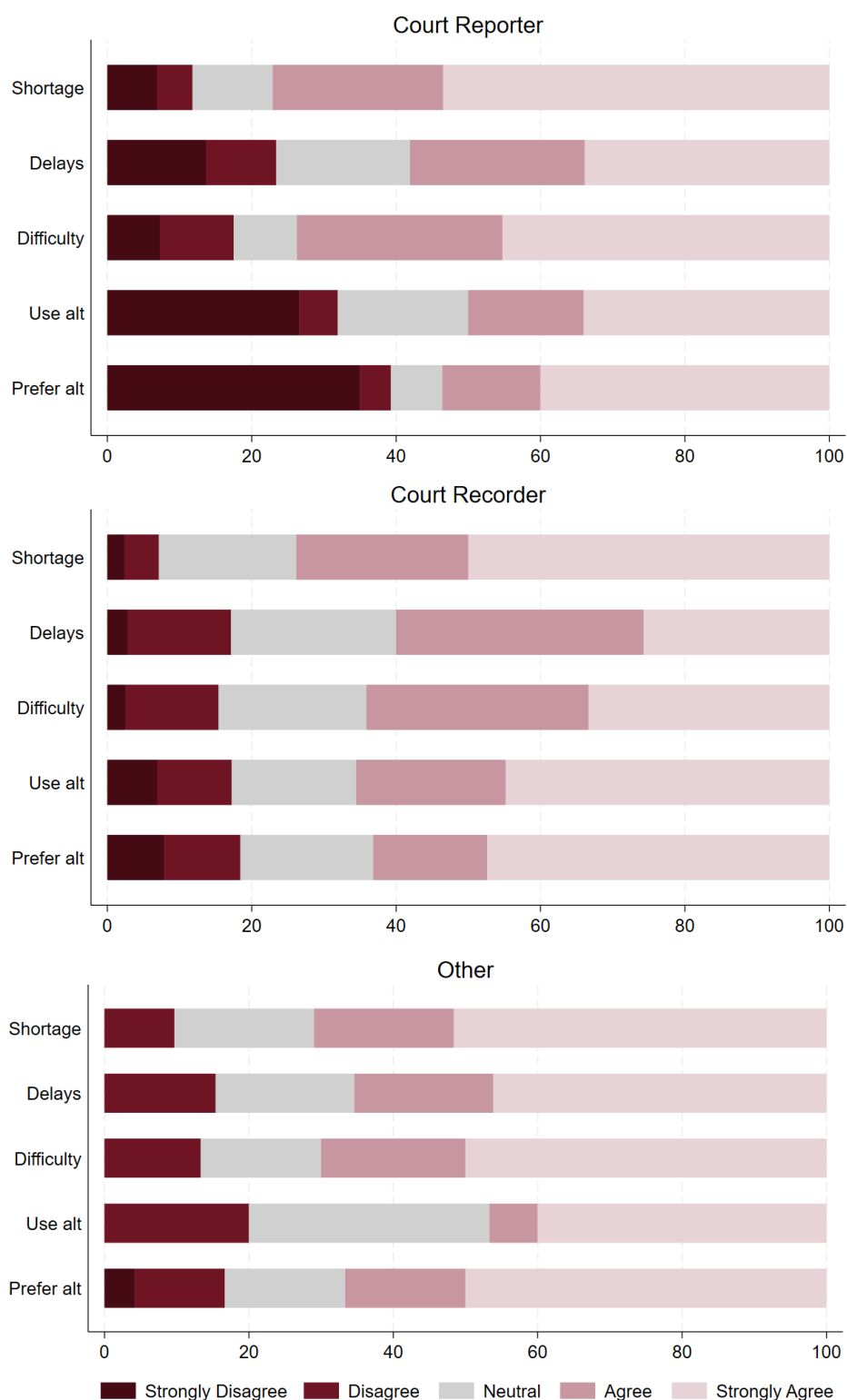


Figure 65: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

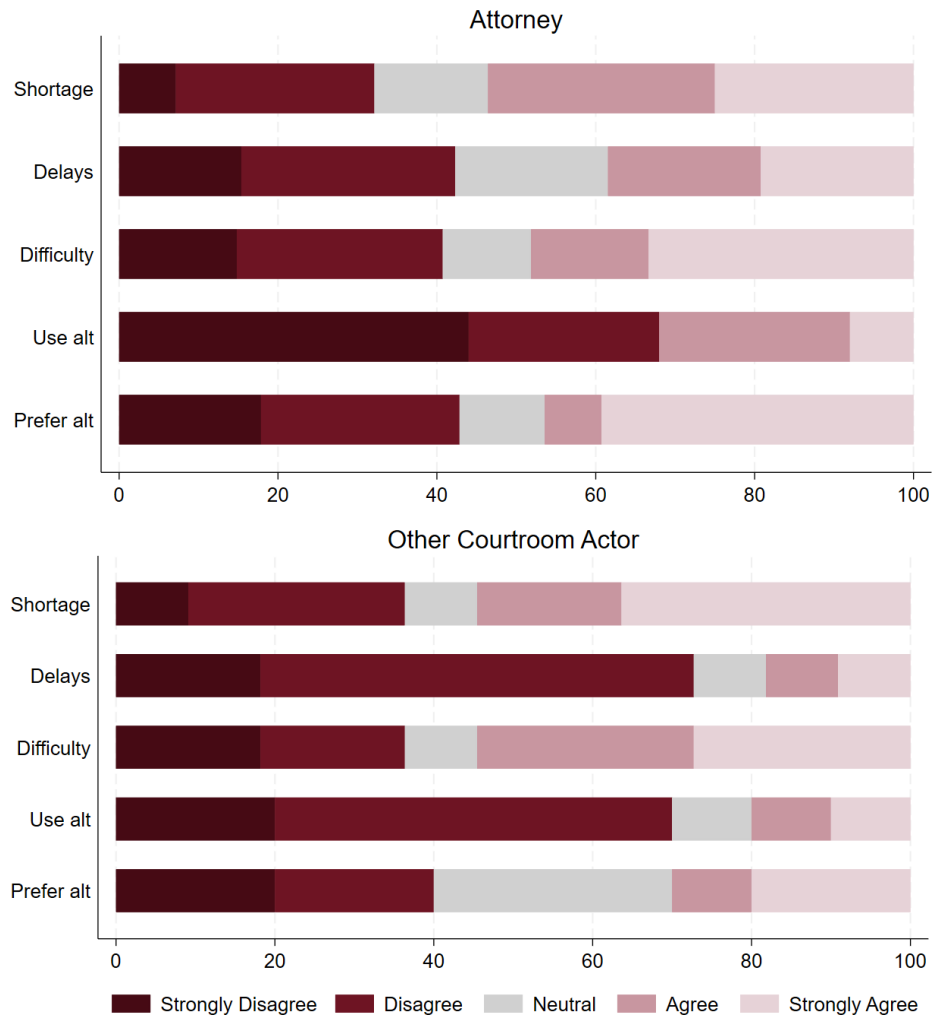


Figure 66: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 78: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Shortage of court reporters	Strongly Disagree	2 (7.14)	1 (1.92)	10 (6.02)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	14 (4.71)
	Disagree	7 (25.00)	2 (3.85)	7 (4.22)	3 (7.50)	3 (27.27)	22 (7.41)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	8 (15.38)	16 (9.64)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	35 (11.78)
	Agree	8 (28.57)	10 (19.23)	34 (20.48)	6 (15.00)	2 (18.18)	60 (20.20)
	Strongly Agree	7 (25.00)	21 (40.38)	77 (46.39)	16 (40.00)	4 (36.36)	125 (42.09)
	DK/NA	0 (0.00)	10 (19.23)	22 (13.25)	9 (22.50)	0 (0.00)	41 (13.80)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Cases delayed/impacted due to shortage	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.29)	1 (1.92)	17 (10.30)	0 (0.00)	2 (18.18)	24 (8.11)
	Disagree	7 (25.00)	5 (9.62)	12 (7.27)	4 (10.00)	6 (54.55)	34 (11.49)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	8 (15.38)	23 (13.94)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	42 (14.19)
	Agree	5 (17.86)	12 (23.08)	30 (18.18)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	53 (17.91)
	Strongly Agree	5 (17.86)	9 (17.31)	42 (25.45)	12 (30.00)	1 (9.09)	69 (23.31)
	DK/NA	2 (7.14)	17 (32.69)	41 (24.85)	14 (35.00)	0 (0.00)	74 (25.00)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Difficulty finding reporter	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.81)	1 (1.92)	10 (6.06)	0 (0.00)	2 (18.18)	17 (5.76)
	Disagree	7 (25.93)	5 (9.62)	14 (8.48)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	32 (10.85)
	Neutral	3 (11.11)	8 (15.38)	12 (7.27)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	29 (9.83)
	Agree	4 (14.81)	12 (23.08)	39 (23.64)	6 (15.00)	3 (27.27)	64 (21.69)
	Strongly Agree	9 (33.33)	13 (25.00)	62 (37.58)	15 (37.50)	3 (27.27)	102 (34.58)
	DK/NA	0 (0.00)	13 (25.00)	28 (16.97)	10 (25.00)	0 (0.00)	51 (17.29)
	N	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Used deposition officer	Strongly Disagree	11 (39.29)	2 (3.85)	25 (15.24)	0 (0.00)	2 (18.18)	40 (13.56)
	Disagree	6 (21.43)	3 (5.77)	5 (3.05)	3 (7.50)	5 (45.45)	22 (7.46)
	Neutral	0 (0.00)	5 (9.62)	17 (10.37)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	28 (9.49)
	Agree	6 (21.43)	6 (11.54)	15 (9.15)	1 (2.50)	1 (9.09)	29 (9.83)
	Strongly Agree	2 (7.14)	13 (25.00)	32 (19.51)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	54 (18.31)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	23 (44.23)	70 (42.68)	25 (62.50)	1 (9.09)	122 (41.36)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Alternative to court reporter	Strongly Disagree	5 (17.86)	3 (5.77)	49 (29.88)	1 (2.50)	2 (18.18)	60 (20.34)
	Disagree	7 (25.00)	4 (7.69)	6 (3.66)	3 (7.50)	2 (18.18)	22 (7.46)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	7 (13.46)	10 (6.10)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	27 (9.15)
	Agree	2 (7.14)	6 (11.54)	19 (11.59)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	32 (10.85)
	Strongly Agree	11 (39.29)	18 (34.62)	56 (34.15)	12 (30.00)	2 (18.18)	99 (33.56)
	DK/NA	0 (0.00)	14 (26.92)	24 (14.63)	16 (40.00)	1 (9.09)	55 (18.64)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

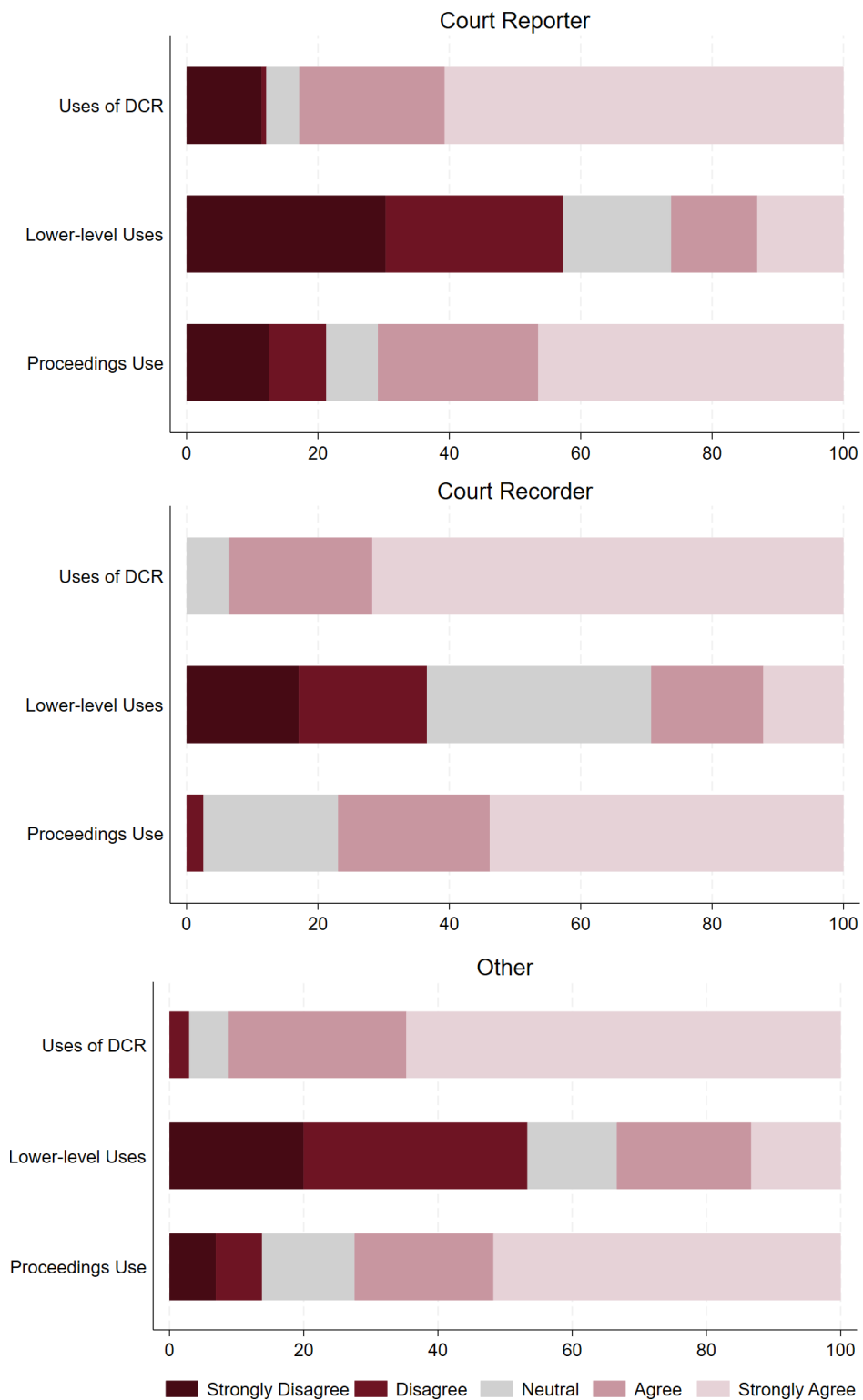


Figure 67: DCR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

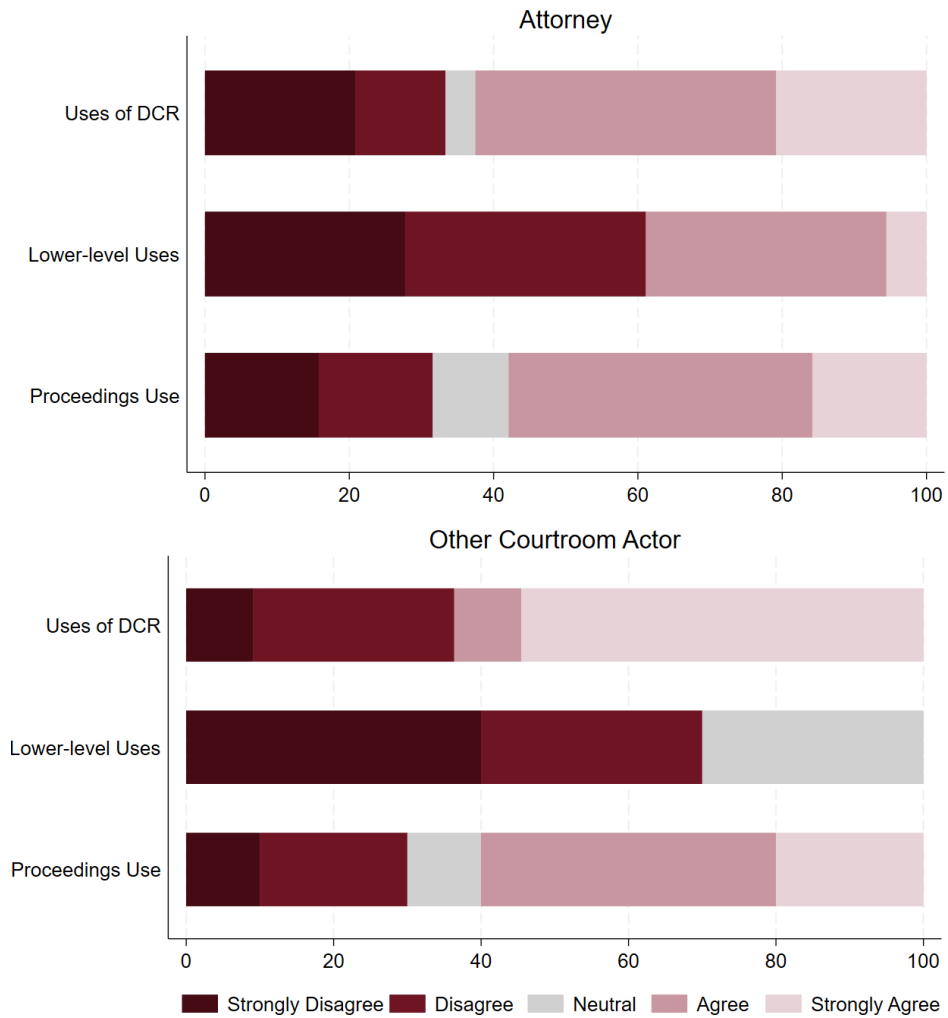


Figure 68: DCR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 79: Perceptions of Digital Court Recording (DCR) Use, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Uses of DCR	Strongly Disagree	5 (17.86)	0 (0.00)	16 (9.64)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	22 (7.41)
	Disagree	3 (10.71)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.60)	1 (2.50)	3 (27.27)	8 (2.69)
	Neutral	1 (3.57)	3 (5.77)	7 (4.22)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	13 (4.38)
	Agree	10 (35.71)	10 (19.23)	31 (18.67)	9 (22.50)	1 (9.09)	61 (20.54)
	Strongly Agree	5 (17.86)	33 (63.46)	85 (51.20)	22 (55.00)	6 (54.55)	151 (50.84)
	DK/NA	4 (14.29)	6 (11.54)	26 (15.66)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	42 (14.14)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	5 (18.52)	7 (13.46)	37 (22.29)	6 (15.00)	4 (36.36)	59 (19.93)
	Disagree	6 (22.22)	8 (15.38)	33 (19.88)	10 (25.00)	3 (27.27)	60 (20.27)
	Neutral	0 (0.00)	14 (26.92)	20 (12.05)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	41 (13.85)
	Agree	6 (22.22)	7 (13.46)	16 (9.64)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	35 (11.82)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.70)	5 (9.62)	16 (9.64)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	26 (8.78)
	DK/NA	9 (33.33)	11 (21.15)	44 (26.51)	10 (25.00)	1 (9.09)	75 (25.34)
	N	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	3 (11.11)	0 (0.00)	16 (9.70)	2 (5.00)	1 (9.09)	22 (7.46)
	Disagree	3 (11.11)	1 (1.92)	11 (6.67)	2 (5.00)	2 (18.18)	19 (6.44)
	Neutral	2 (7.41)	8 (15.38)	10 (6.06)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	25 (8.47)
	Agree	8 (29.63)	9 (17.31)	31 (18.79)	6 (15.00)	4 (36.36)	58 (19.66)
	Strongly Agree	3 (11.11)	21 (40.38)	59 (35.76)	15 (37.50)	2 (18.18)	100 (33.90)
	DK/NA	8 (29.63)	13 (25.00)	38 (23.03)	11 (27.50)	1 (9.09)	71 (24.07)
	N	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

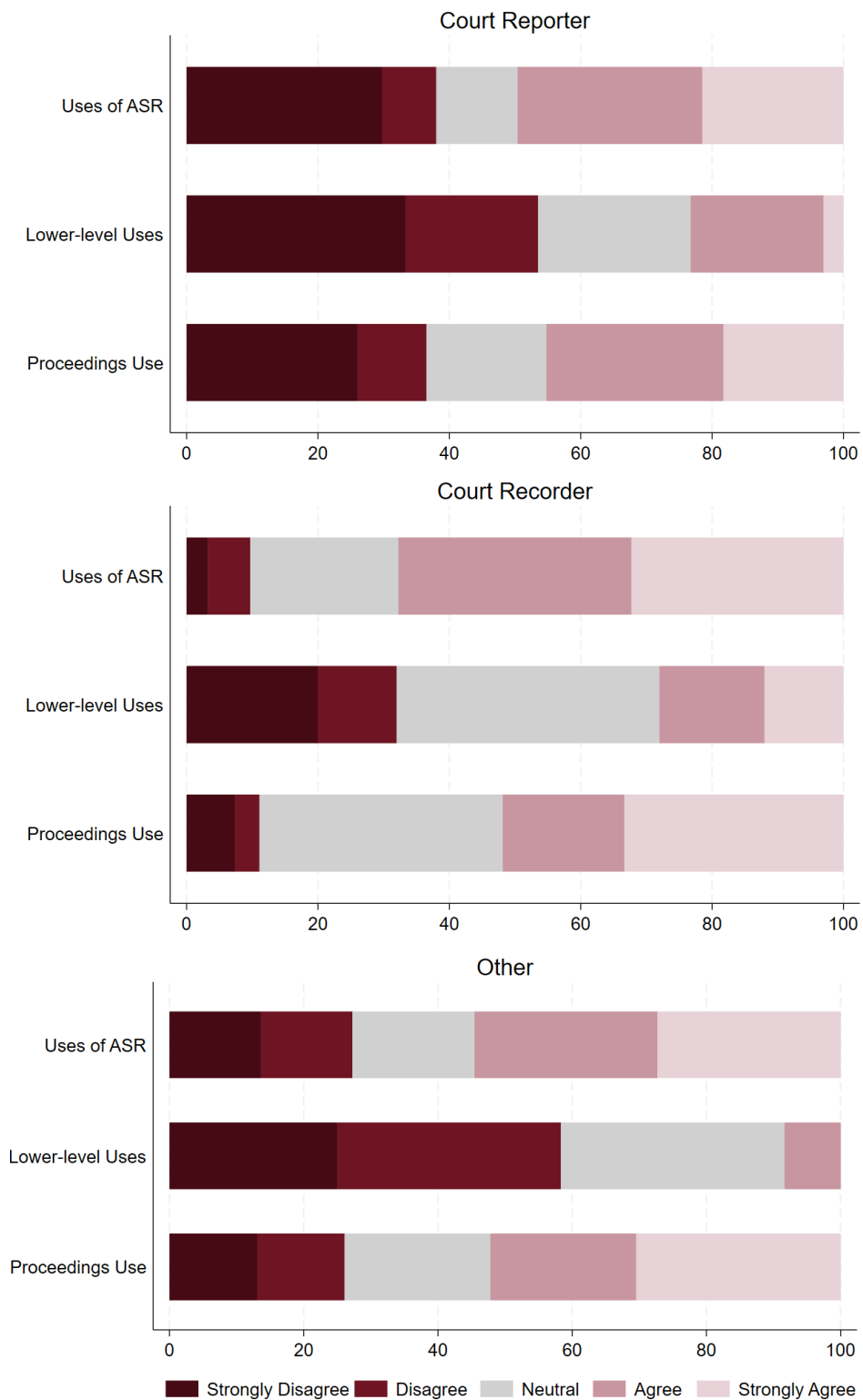


Figure 69: ASR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

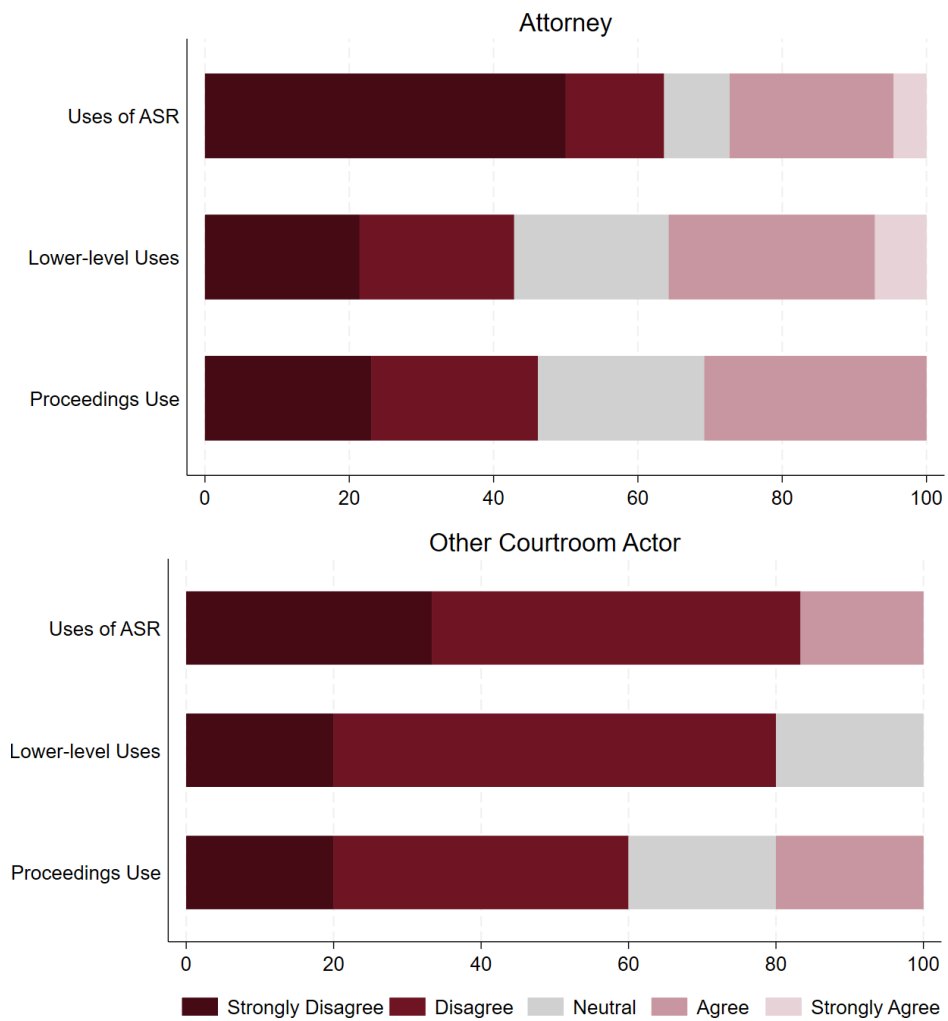


Figure 70: ASR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 80: Perceptions of Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Use, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Uses of ASR	Strongly Disagree	11 (39.29)	1 (1.92)	36 (21.69)	3 (7.50)	2 (18.18)	53 (17.85)
	Disagree	3 (10.71)	2 (3.85)	10 (6.02)	3 (7.50)	3 (27.27)	21 (7.07)
	Neutral	2 (7.14)	7 (13.46)	15 (9.04)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	28 (9.43)
	Agree	5 (17.86)	11 (21.15)	34 (20.48)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	57 (19.19)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.57)	10 (19.23)	26 (15.66)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	43 (14.48)
	DK/NA	6 (21.43)	21 (40.38)	45 (27.11)	18 (45.00)	5 (45.45)	95 (31.99)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	3 (11.11)	5 (9.62)	33 (20.00)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	48 (16.27)
	Disagree	3 (11.11)	3 (5.77)	20 (12.12)	8 (20.00)	3 (27.27)	37 (12.54)
	Neutral	3 (11.11)	10 (19.23)	23 (13.94)	8 (20.00)	1 (9.09)	45 (15.25)
	Agree	4 (14.81)	4 (7.69)	20 (12.12)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	30 (10.17)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.70)	3 (5.77)	3 (1.82)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (2.37)
	DK/NA	13 (48.15)	27 (51.92)	66 (40.00)	16 (40.00)	6 (54.55)	128 (43.39)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	3 (11.11)	2 (3.85)	27 (16.56)	3 (7.50)	1 (9.09)	36 (12.29)
	Disagree	3 (11.11)	1 (1.92)	11 (6.75)	3 (7.50)	2 (18.18)	20 (6.83)
	Neutral	3 (11.11)	10 (19.23)	19 (11.66)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	38 (12.97)
	Agree	4 (14.81)	5 (9.62)	28 (17.18)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	43 (14.68)
	Strongly Agree	0 (0.00)	9 (17.31)	19 (11.66)	7 (17.50)	0 (0.00)	35 (11.95)
	DK/NA	14 (51.85)	25 (48.08)	59 (36.20)	17 (42.50)	6 (54.55)	121 (41.30)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	163 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	293 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

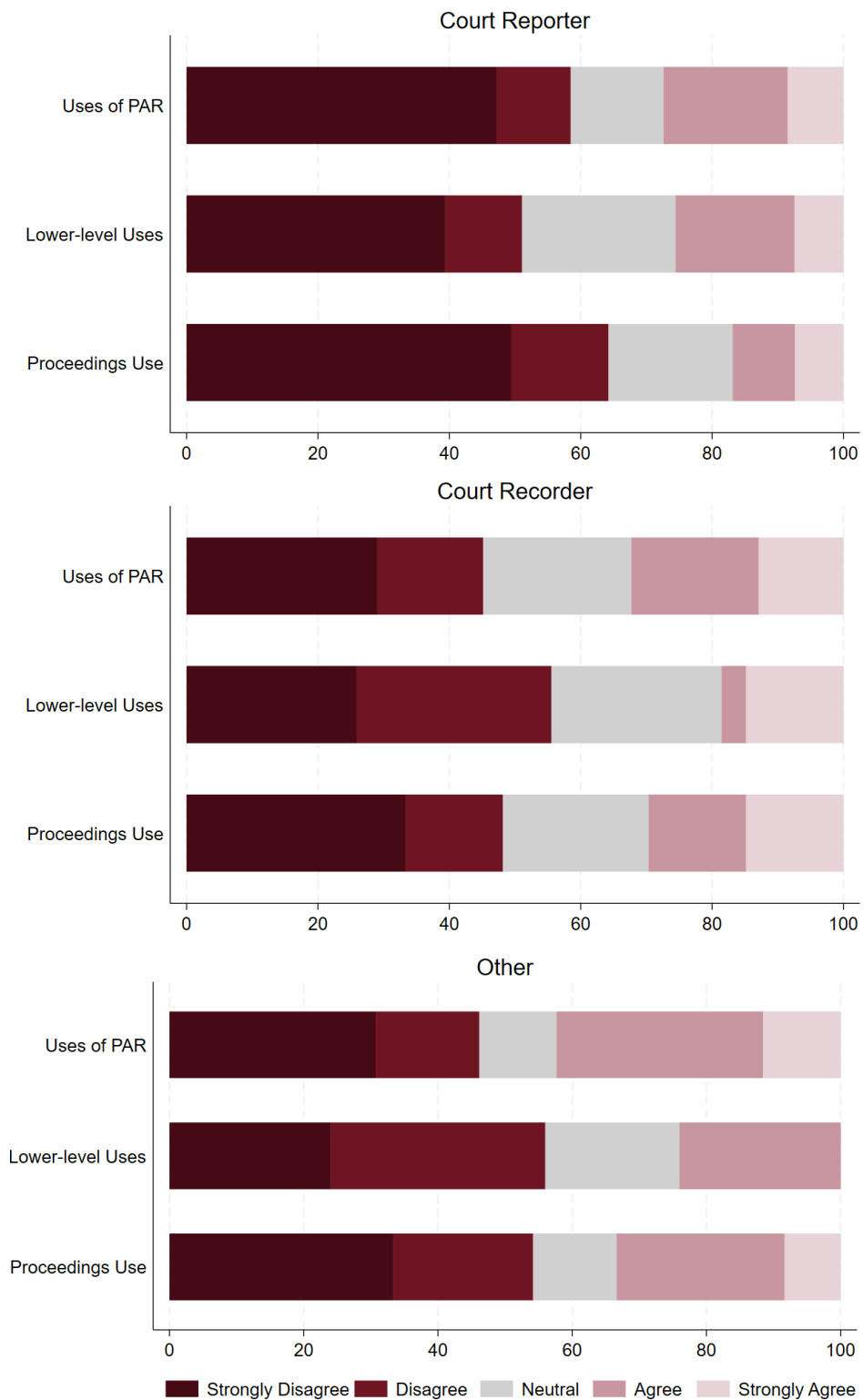


Figure 71: PAR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

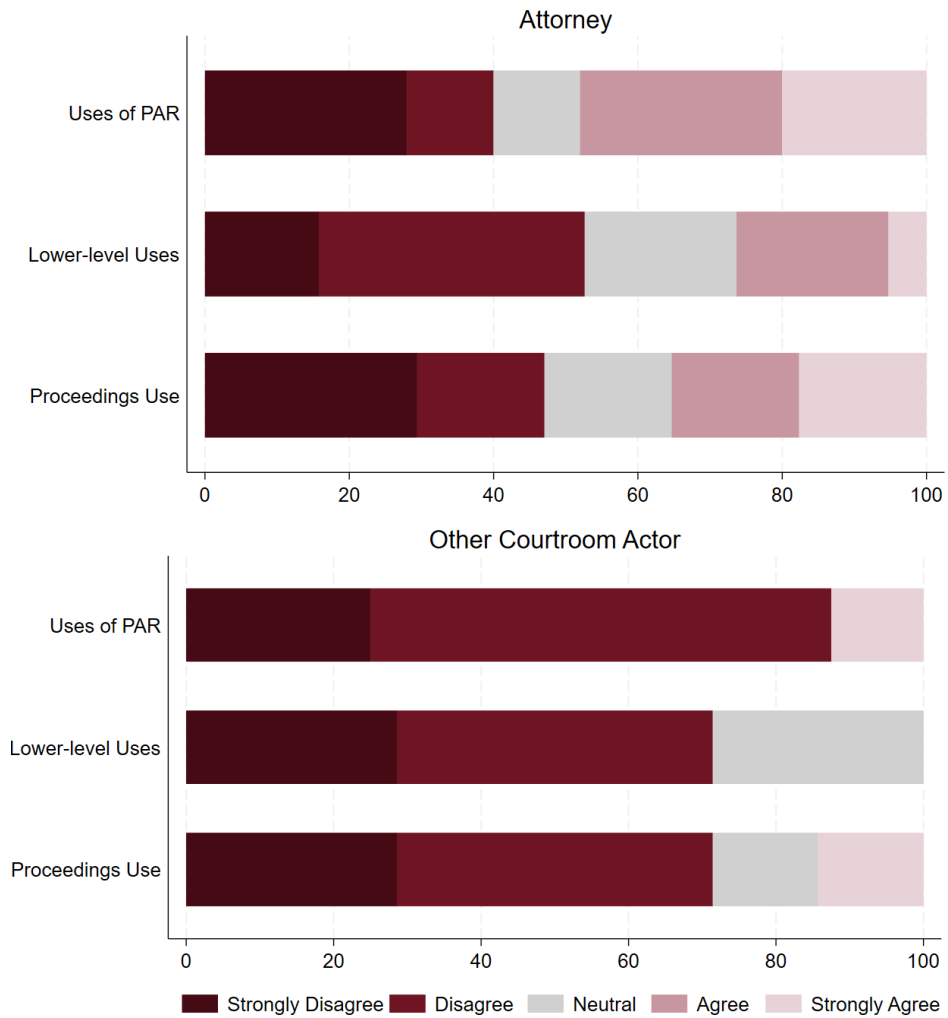


Figure 72: PAR Adoption by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 81: Perceptions of Passive Audio Recording (PAR) Use, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Uses of PAR	Strongly Disagree	7 (25.00)	9 (17.31)	50 (30.12)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	76 (25.59)
	Disagree	3 (10.71)	5 (9.62)	12 (7.23)	4 (10.00)	5 (45.45)	29 (9.76)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	7 (13.46)	15 (9.04)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	28 (9.43)
	Agree	7 (25.00)	6 (11.54)	20 (12.05)	8 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	41 (13.80)
	Strongly Agree	5 (17.86)	4 (7.69)	9 (5.42)	3 (7.50)	1 (9.09)	22 (7.41)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	21 (40.38)	60 (36.14)	14 (35.00)	3 (27.27)	101 (34.01)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	3 (11.11)	7 (13.46)	37 (22.29)	6 (15.00)	2 (18.18)	55 (18.58)
	Disagree	7 (25.93)	8 (15.38)	11 (6.63)	8 (20.00)	3 (27.27)	37 (12.50)
	Neutral	4 (14.81)	7 (13.46)	22 (13.25)	5 (12.50)	2 (18.18)	40 (13.51)
	Agree	4 (14.81)	1 (1.92)	17 (10.24)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	28 (9.46)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.70)	4 (7.69)	7 (4.22)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	12 (4.05)
	DK/NA	8 (29.63)	25 (48.08)	72 (43.37)	15 (37.50)	4 (36.36)	124 (41.89)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	5 (18.52)	9 (17.31)	47 (28.48)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	71 (24.07)
	Disagree	3 (11.11)	4 (7.69)	14 (8.48)	5 (12.50)	3 (27.27)	29 (9.83)
	Neutral	3 (11.11)	6 (11.54)	18 (10.91)	3 (7.50)	1 (9.09)	31 (10.51)
	Agree	3 (11.11)	4 (7.69)	9 (5.45)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	22 (7.46)
	Strongly Agree	3 (11.11)	4 (7.69)	7 (4.24)	2 (5.00)	1 (9.09)	17 (5.76)
	DK/NA	10 (37.04)	25 (48.08)	70 (42.42)	16 (40.00)	4 (36.36)	125 (42.37)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

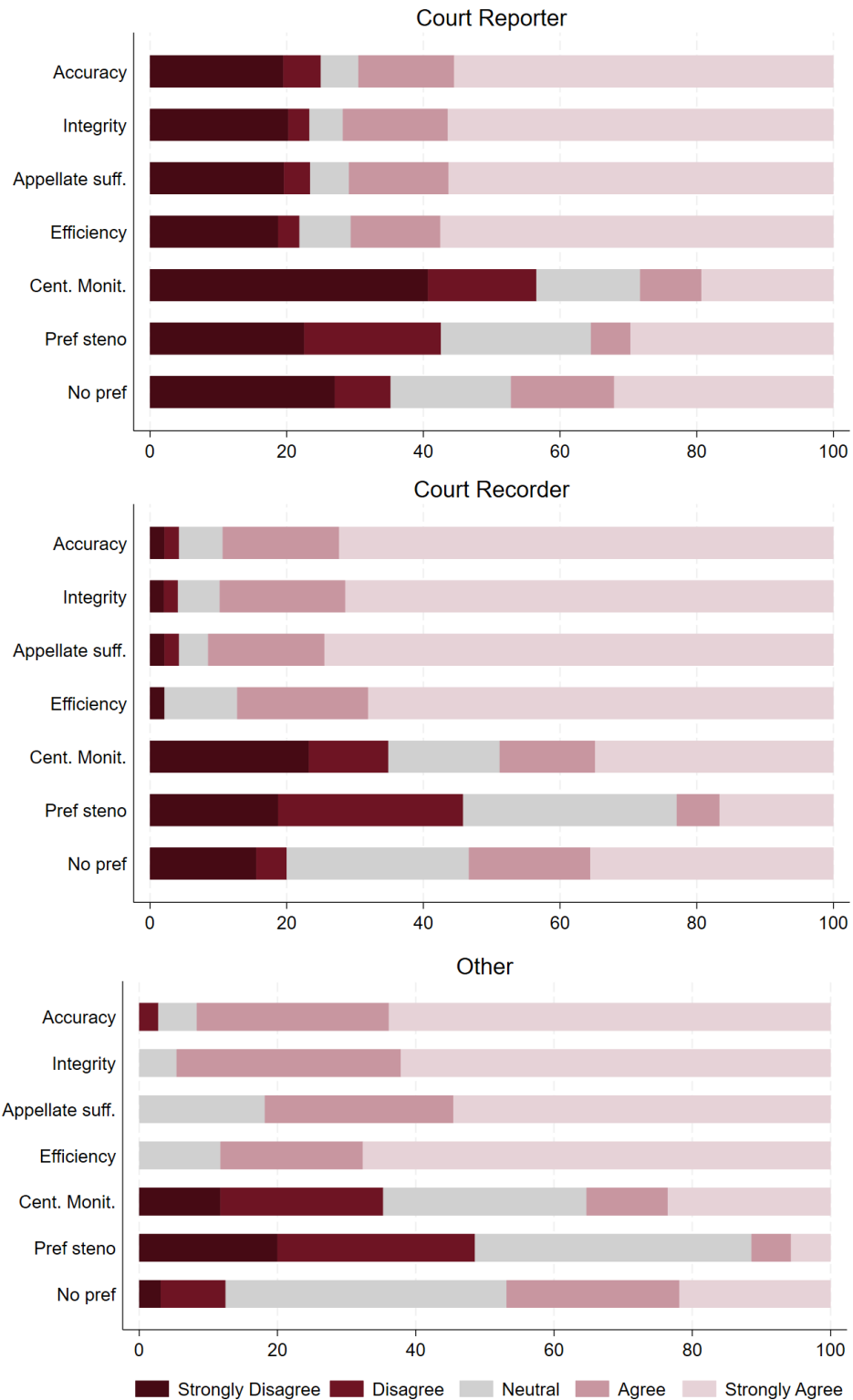


Figure 73: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

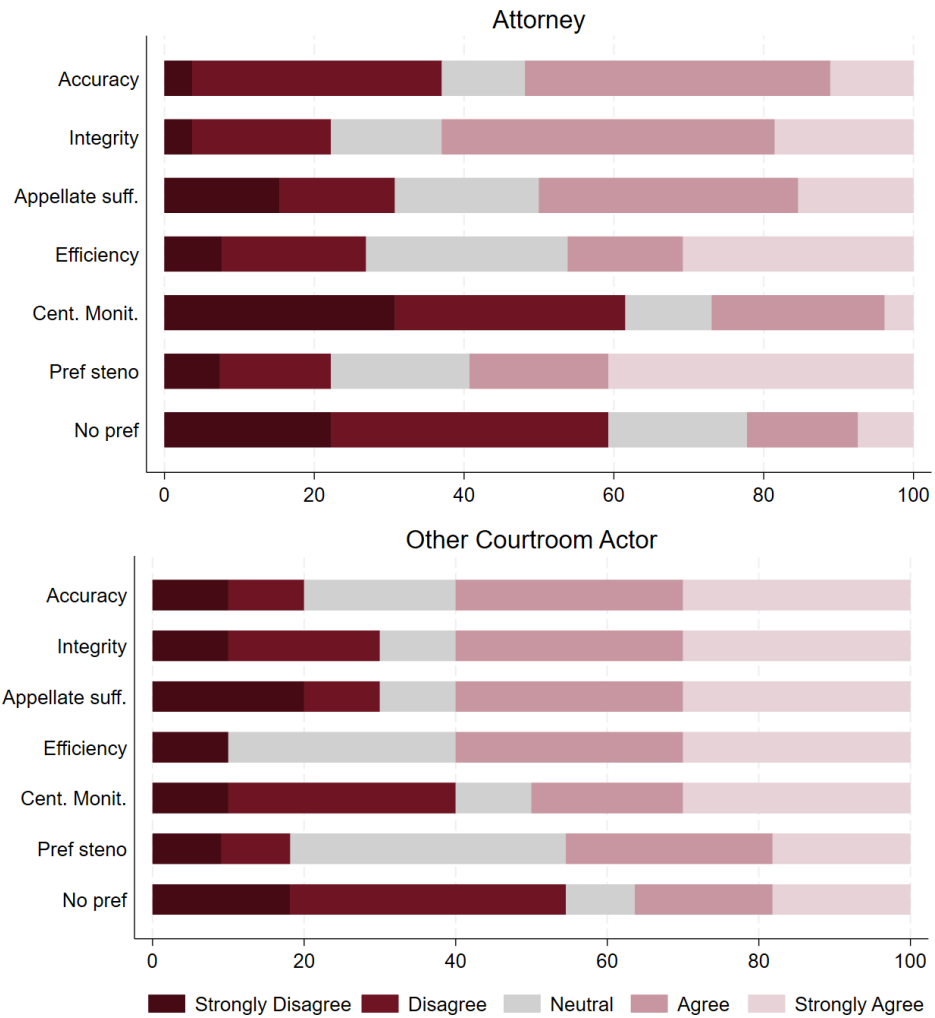


Figure 74: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 82: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	1 (3.57)	1 (1.92)	32 (19.16)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	35 (11.74)
	Disagree	9 (32.14)	1 (1.92)	9 (5.39)	1 (2.50)	1 (9.09)	21 (7.05)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	3 (5.77)	9 (5.39)	2 (5.00)	2 (18.18)	19 (6.38)
	Agree	11 (39.29)	8 (15.38)	23 (13.77)	10 (25.00)	3 (27.27)	55 (18.46)
	Strongly Agree	3 (10.71)	34 (65.38)	91 (54.49)	23 (57.50)	3 (27.27)	154 (51.68)
	DK/NA	1 (3.57)	5 (9.62)	3 (1.80)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	14 (4.70)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	167 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	298 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	1 (3.57)	1 (1.92)	33 (19.76)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	36 (12.08)
	Disagree	5 (17.86)	1 (1.92)	5 (2.99)	0 (0.00)	2 (18.18)	13 (4.36)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	3 (5.77)	8 (4.79)	2 (5.00)	1 (9.09)	18 (6.04)
	Agree	12 (42.86)	9 (17.31)	25 (14.97)	12 (30.00)	3 (27.27)	61 (20.47)
	Strongly Agree	5 (17.86)	35 (67.31)	92 (55.09)	23 (57.50)	3 (27.27)	158 (53.02)
	DK/NA	1 (3.57)	3 (5.77)	4 (2.40)	3 (7.50)	1 (9.09)	12 (4.03)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	167 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	298 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.29)	1 (1.92)	31 (18.56)	0 (0.00)	2 (18.18)	38 (12.75)
	Disagree	4 (14.29)	1 (1.92)	6 (3.59)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	12 (4.03)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	2 (3.85)	9 (5.39)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	23 (7.72)
	Agree	9 (32.14)	8 (15.38)	23 (13.77)	9 (22.50)	3 (27.27)	52 (17.45)
	Strongly Agree	4 (14.29)	35 (67.31)	89 (53.29)	18 (45.00)	3 (27.27)	149 (50.00)
	DK/NA	2 (7.14)	5 (9.62)	9 (5.39)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	24 (8.05)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	167 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	298 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	2 (7.14)	1 (1.92)	30 (17.96)	0 (0.00)	1 (9.09)	34 (11.41)
	Disagree	5 (17.86)	0 (0.00)	5 (2.99)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	10 (3.36)
	Neutral	7 (25.00)	5 (9.62)	12 (7.19)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	31 (10.40)
	Agree	4 (14.29)	9 (17.31)	21 (12.57)	7 (17.50)	3 (27.27)	44 (14.77)
	Strongly Agree	8 (28.57)	32 (61.54)	92 (55.09)	23 (57.50)	3 (27.27)	158 (53.02)
	DK/NA	2 (7.14)	5 (9.62)	7 (4.19)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	21 (7.05)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	167 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	298 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	8 (28.57)	10 (19.23)	59 (35.54)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	82 (27.61)
	Disagree	8 (28.57)	5 (9.62)	23 (13.86)	8 (20.00)	3 (27.27)	47 (15.82)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	7 (13.46)	22 (13.25)	10 (25.00)	1 (9.09)	43 (14.48)
	Agree	6 (21.43)	6 (11.54)	13 (7.83)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	31 (10.44)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.57)	15 (28.85)	28 (16.87)	8 (20.00)	3 (27.27)	55 (18.52)
	DK/NA	2 (7.14)	9 (17.31)	21 (12.65)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	39 (13.13)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	2 (7.14)	9 (17.31)	35 (20.96)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	54 (18.12)
	Disagree	4 (14.29)	13 (25.00)	31 (18.56)	10 (25.00)	1 (9.09)	59 (19.80)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	15 (28.85)	34 (20.36)	14 (35.00)	4 (36.36)	72 (24.16)
	Agree	5 (17.86)	3 (5.77)	9 (5.39)	2 (5.00)	3 (27.27)	22 (7.38)
	Strongly Agree	11 (39.29)	8 (15.38)	46 (27.54)	2 (5.00)	2 (18.18)	69 (23.15)
	DK/NA	1 (3.57)	4 (7.69)	12 (7.19)	5 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	22 (7.38)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	167 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	298 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	6 (21.43)	7 (13.46)	43 (25.90)	1 (2.56)	2 (18.18)	59 (19.93)
	Disagree	10 (35.71)	2 (3.85)	13 (7.83)	3 (7.69)	4 (36.36)	32 (10.81)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	12 (23.08)	28 (16.87)	13 (33.33)	1 (9.09)	59 (19.93)
	Agree	4 (14.29)	8 (15.38)	24 (14.46)	8 (20.51)	2 (18.18)	46 (15.54)
	Strongly Agree	2 (7.14)	16 (30.77)	51 (30.72)	7 (17.95)	2 (18.18)	78 (26.35)
	DK/NA	1 (3.57)	7 (13.46)	7 (4.22)	7 (17.95)	0 (0.00)	22 (7.43)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	39 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

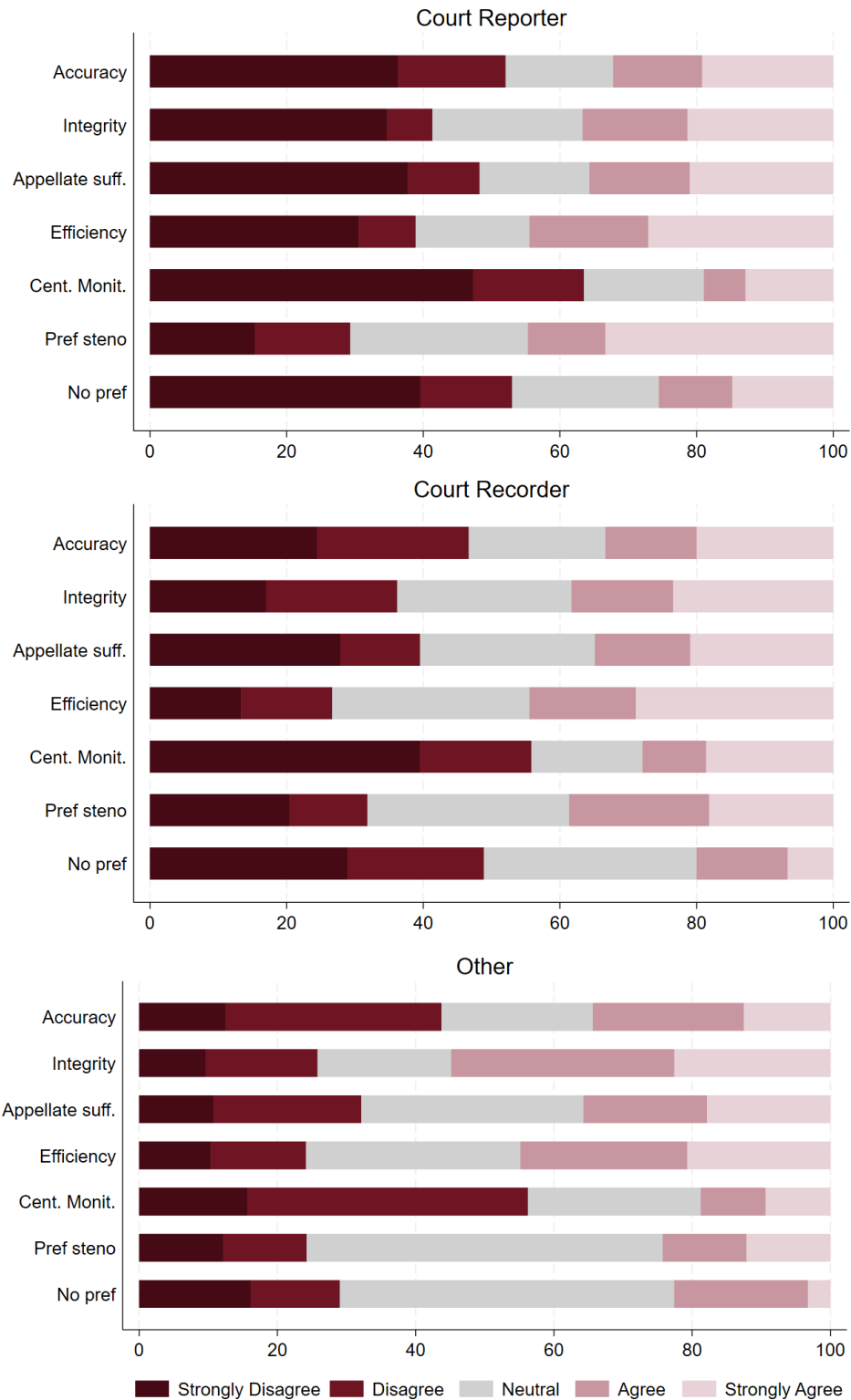


Figure 75: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

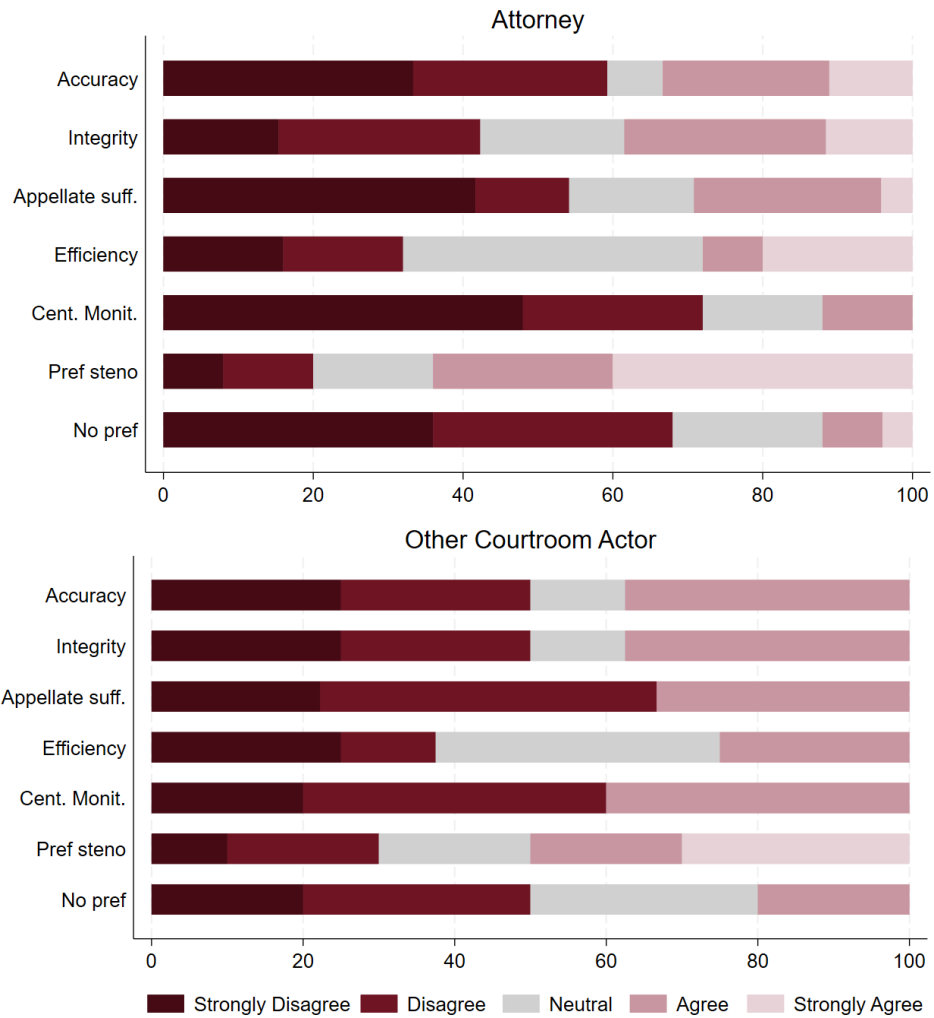


Figure 76: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 83: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	9 (32.14)	11 (21.15)	53 (31.93)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	79 (26.60)
	Disagree	7 (25.00)	10 (19.23)	23 (13.86)	10 (25.00)	2 (18.18)	52 (17.51)
	Neutral	2 (7.14)	9 (17.31)	23 (13.86)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	42 (14.14)
	Agree	6 (21.43)	6 (11.54)	19 (11.45)	7 (17.50)	3 (27.27)	41 (13.80)
	Strongly Agree	3 (10.71)	9 (17.31)	28 (16.87)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	44 (14.81)
	DK/NA	1 (3.57)	7 (13.46)	20 (12.05)	8 (20.00)	3 (27.27)	39 (13.13)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.29)	8 (15.38)	52 (31.33)	3 (7.50)	2 (18.18)	69 (23.23)
	Disagree	7 (25.00)	9 (17.31)	10 (6.02)	5 (12.50)	2 (18.18)	33 (11.11)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	12 (23.08)	33 (19.88)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	57 (19.19)
	Agree	7 (25.00)	7 (13.46)	23 (13.86)	10 (25.00)	3 (27.27)	50 (16.84)
	Strongly Agree	3 (10.71)	11 (21.15)	32 (19.28)	7 (17.50)	0 (0.00)	53 (17.85)
	DK/NA	2 (7.14)	5 (9.62)	16 (9.64)	9 (22.50)	3 (27.27)	35 (11.78)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	10 (35.71)	12 (23.08)	54 (32.73)	3 (7.50)	2 (18.18)	81 (27.36)
	Disagree	3 (10.71)	5 (9.62)	15 (9.09)	6 (15.00)	4 (36.36)	33 (11.15)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	11 (21.15)	23 (13.94)	9 (22.50)	0 (0.00)	47 (15.88)
	Agree	6 (21.43)	6 (11.54)	21 (12.73)	5 (12.50)	3 (27.27)	41 (13.85)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.57)	9 (17.31)	30 (18.18)	5 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	45 (15.20)
	DK/NA	4 (14.29)	9 (17.31)	22 (13.33)	12 (30.00)	2 (18.18)	49 (16.55)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.29)	6 (11.54)	44 (26.67)	3 (7.69)	2 (18.18)	59 (20.00)
	Disagree	4 (14.29)	6 (11.54)	12 (7.27)	4 (10.26)	1 (9.09)	27 (9.15)
	Neutral	10 (35.71)	13 (25.00)	24 (14.55)	9 (23.08)	3 (27.27)	59 (20.00)
	Agree	2 (7.14)	7 (13.46)	25 (15.15)	7 (17.95)	2 (18.18)	43 (14.58)
	Strongly Agree	5 (17.86)	13 (25.00)	39 (23.64)	6 (15.38)	0 (0.00)	63 (21.36)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	7 (13.46)	21 (12.73)	10 (25.64)	3 (27.27)	44 (14.92)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	39 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	12 (42.86)	17 (32.69)	70 (42.17)	5 (12.50)	2 (18.18)	106 (35.69)
	Disagree	6 (21.43)	7 (13.46)	24 (14.46)	13 (32.50)	4 (36.36)	54 (18.18)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	7 (13.46)	26 (15.66)	8 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	45 (15.15)
	Agree	3 (10.71)	4 (7.69)	9 (5.42)	3 (7.50)	4 (36.36)	23 (7.74)
	Strongly Agree	0 (0.00)	8 (15.38)	19 (11.45)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	30 (10.10)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	9 (17.31)	18 (10.84)	8 (20.00)	1 (9.09)	39 (13.13)
	N	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	297 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	2 (7.14)	9 (17.65)	23 (13.86)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	39 (13.18)
	Disagree	3 (10.71)	5 (9.80)	21 (12.65)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	35 (11.82)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	13 (25.49)	39 (23.49)	17 (42.50)	2 (18.18)	75 (25.34)
	Agree	6 (21.43)	9 (17.65)	17 (10.24)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	38 (12.84)
	Strongly Agree	10 (35.71)	8 (15.69)	50 (30.12)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	75 (25.34)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	7 (13.73)	16 (9.64)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	34 (11.49)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	9 (33.33)	13 (25.00)	59 (35.54)	5 (12.50)	2 (18.18)	88 (29.73)
	Disagree	8 (29.63)	9 (17.31)	20 (12.05)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	44 (14.86)
	Neutral	5 (18.52)	14 (26.92)	32 (19.28)	15 (37.50)	3 (27.27)	69 (23.31)
	Agree	2 (7.41)	6 (11.54)	16 (9.64)	6 (15.00)	2 (18.18)	32 (10.81)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.70)	3 (5.77)	22 (13.25)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	27 (9.12)
	DK/NA	2 (7.41)	7 (13.46)	17 (10.24)	9 (22.50)	1 (9.09)	36 (12.16)
	N	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

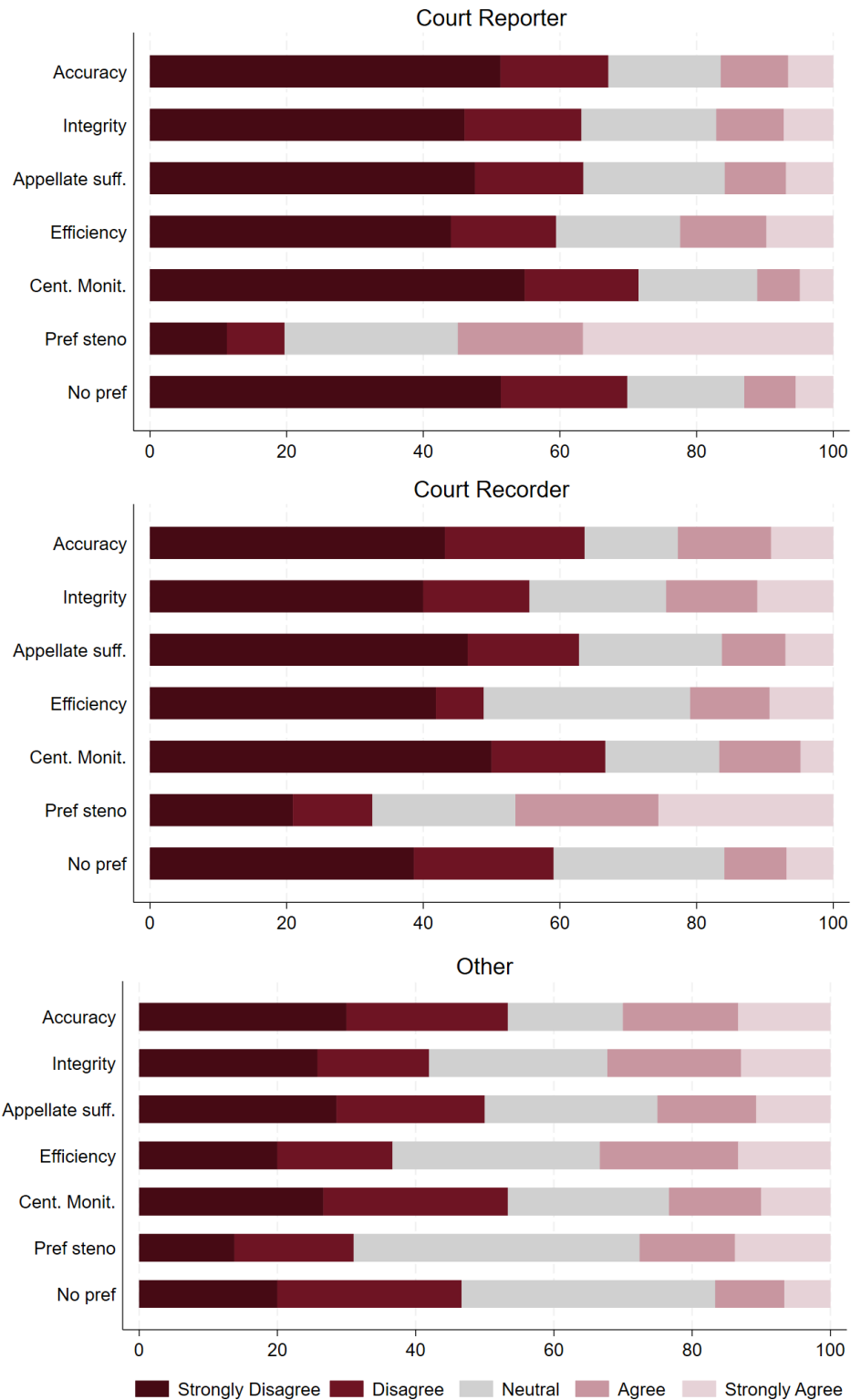


Figure 77: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

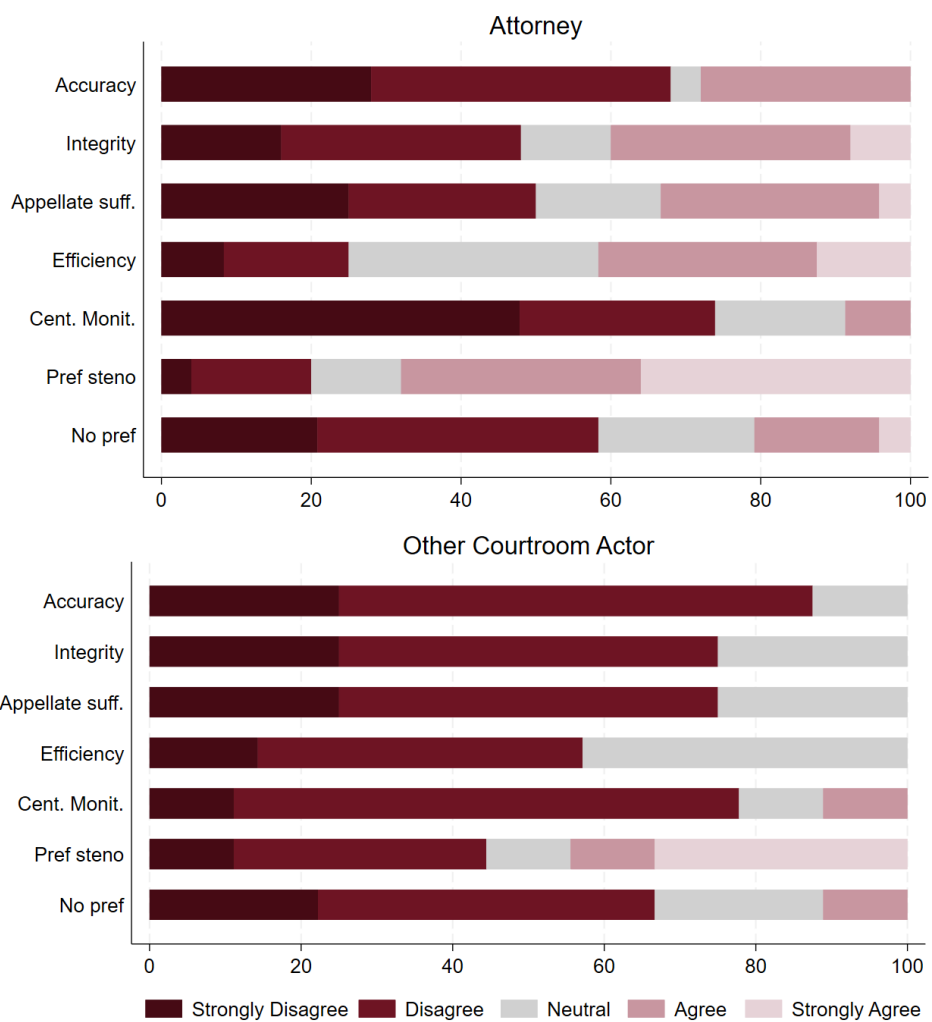


Figure 78: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 84: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	7 (25.00)	19 (37.25)	78 (46.99)	9 (22.50)	2 (18.18)	115 (38.85)
	Disagree	10 (35.71)	9 (17.65)	24 (14.46)	7 (17.50)	5 (45.45)	55 (18.58)
	Neutral	1 (3.57)	6 (11.76)	25 (15.06)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	38 (12.84)
	Agree	7 (25.00)	6 (11.76)	15 (9.04)	5 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	33 (11.15)
	Strongly Agree	0 (0.00)	4 (7.84)	10 (6.02)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	18 (6.08)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	7 (13.73)	14 (8.43)	10 (25.00)	3 (27.27)	37 (12.50)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	4 (14.29)	18 (35.29)	70 (42.17)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	102 (34.46)
	Disagree	8 (28.57)	7 (13.73)	26 (15.66)	5 (12.50)	4 (36.36)	50 (16.89)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	9 (17.65)	30 (18.07)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	52 (17.57)
	Agree	8 (28.57)	6 (11.76)	15 (9.04)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	35 (11.82)
	Strongly Agree	2 (7.14)	5 (9.80)	11 (6.63)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	22 (7.43)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	6 (11.76)	14 (8.43)	9 (22.50)	3 (27.27)	35 (11.82)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	6 (21.43)	20 (39.22)	69 (41.57)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	105 (35.47)
	Disagree	6 (21.43)	7 (13.73)	23 (13.86)	6 (15.00)	4 (36.36)	46 (15.54)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	9 (17.65)	30 (18.07)	7 (17.50)	2 (18.18)	52 (17.57)
	Agree	7 (25.00)	4 (7.84)	13 (7.83)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	28 (9.46)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.57)	3 (5.88)	10 (6.02)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	17 (5.74)
	DK/NA	4 (14.29)	8 (15.69)	21 (12.65)	12 (30.00)	3 (27.27)	48 (16.22)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	2 (7.14)	18 (35.29)	63 (38.18)	6 (15.00)	1 (9.09)	90 (30.51)
	Disagree	4 (14.29)	3 (5.88)	22 (13.33)	5 (12.50)	3 (27.27)	37 (12.54)
	Neutral	8 (28.57)	13 (25.49)	26 (15.76)	9 (22.50)	3 (27.27)	59 (20.00)
	Agree	7 (25.00)	5 (9.80)	18 (10.91)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	36 (12.20)
	Strongly Agree	3 (10.71)	4 (7.84)	14 (8.48)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	25 (8.47)
	DK/NA	4 (14.29)	8 (15.69)	22 (13.33)	10 (25.00)	4 (36.36)	48 (16.27)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	11 (39.29)	21 (41.18)	79 (47.59)	8 (20.00)	1 (9.09)	120 (40.54)
	Disagree	6 (21.43)	7 (13.73)	24 (14.46)	8 (20.00)	6 (54.55)	51 (17.23)
	Neutral	4 (14.29)	7 (13.73)	25 (15.06)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	44 (14.86)
	Agree	2 (7.14)	5 (9.80)	9 (5.42)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	21 (7.09)
	Strongly Agree	0 (0.00)	2 (3.92)	7 (4.22)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	12 (4.05)
	DK/NA	5 (17.86)	9 (17.65)	22 (13.25)	10 (25.00)	2 (18.18)	48 (16.22)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	296 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	1 (3.57)	9 (18.00)	16 (9.64)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	31 (10.51)
	Disagree	4 (14.29)	5 (10.00)	12 (7.23)	5 (12.50)	3 (27.27)	29 (9.83)
	Neutral	3 (10.71)	9 (18.00)	36 (21.69)	12 (30.00)	1 (9.09)	61 (20.68)
	Agree	8 (28.57)	9 (18.00)	26 (15.66)	4 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	48 (16.27)
	Strongly Agree	9 (32.14)	11 (22.00)	52 (31.33)	4 (10.00)	3 (27.27)	79 (26.78)
	DK/NA	3 (10.71)	7 (14.00)	24 (14.46)	11 (27.50)	2 (18.18)	47 (15.93)
	N	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	166 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	5 (17.86)	17 (33.33)	75 (45.45)	6 (15.00)	2 (18.18)	105 (35.59)
	Disagree	9 (32.14)	9 (17.65)	27 (16.36)	8 (20.00)	4 (36.36)	57 (19.32)
	Neutral	5 (17.86)	11 (21.57)	25 (15.15)	11 (27.50)	2 (18.18)	54 (18.31)
	Agree	4 (14.29)	4 (7.84)	11 (6.67)	3 (7.50)	1 (9.09)	23 (7.80)
	Strongly Agree	1 (3.57)	3 (5.88)	8 (4.85)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	14 (4.75)
	DK/NA	4 (14.29)	7 (13.73)	19 (11.52)	10 (25.00)	2 (18.18)	42 (14.24)
	N	28 (100.00)	51 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

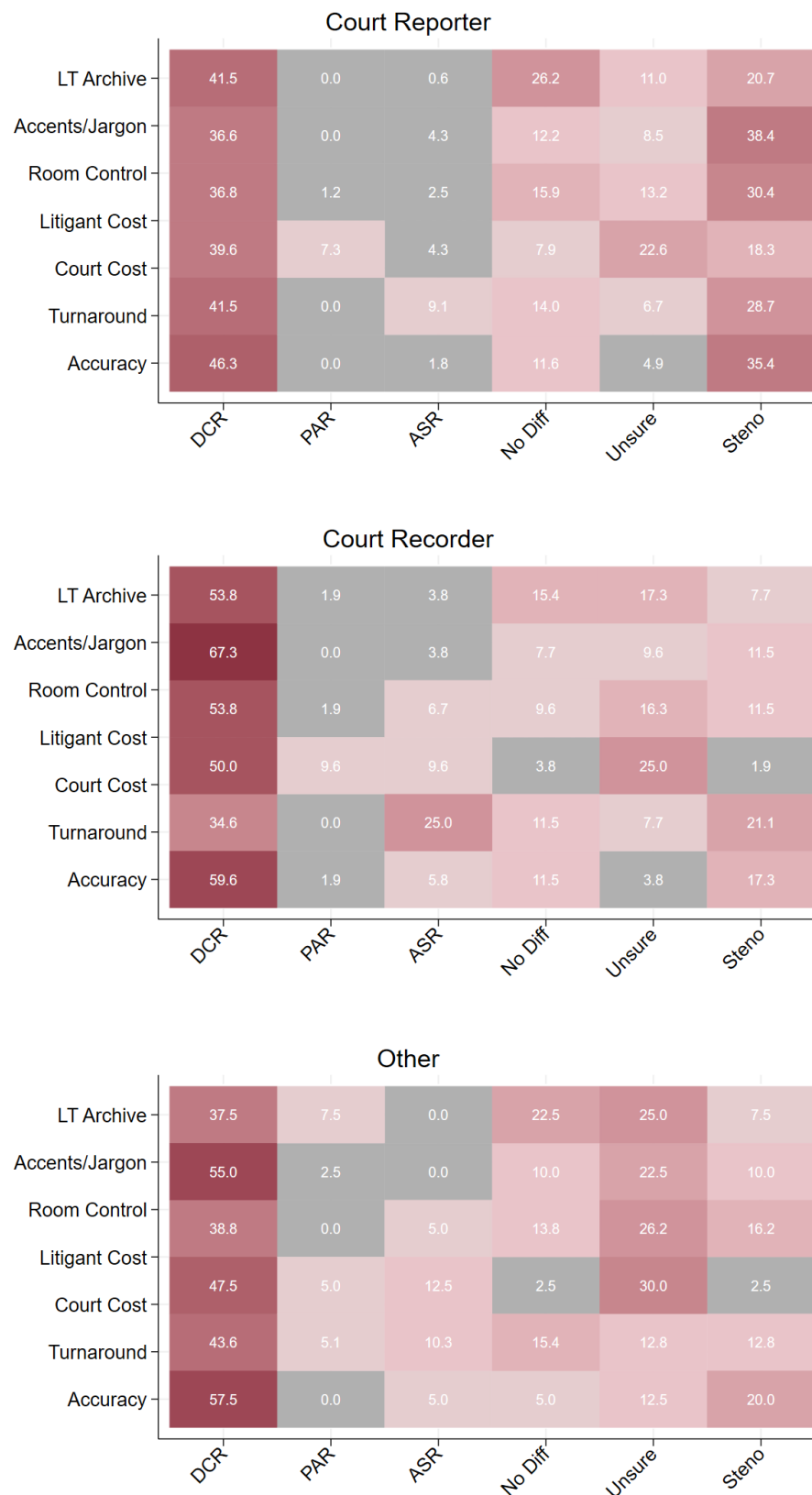


Figure 79: Comparative Perceptions by Role Group, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

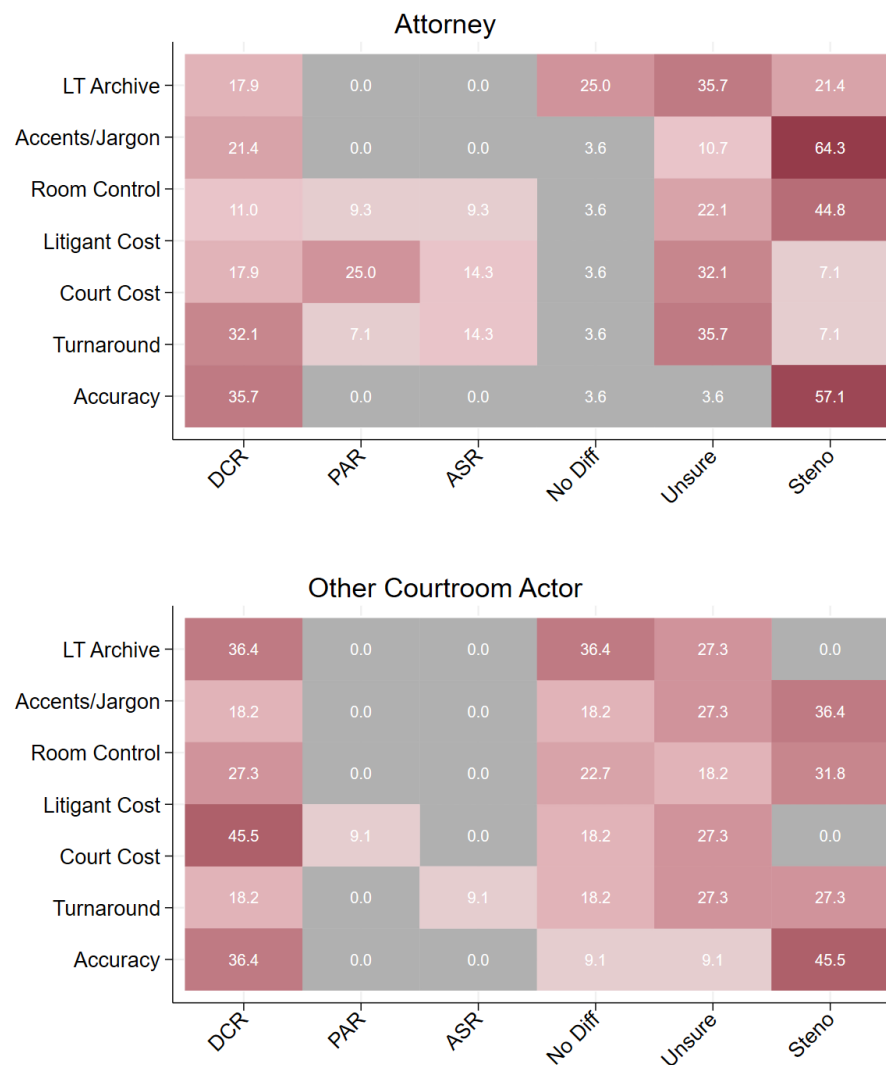


Figure 80: Comparative Perceptions by Role Group, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 85: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents

Factor	Method	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Verbatim Accuracy	ASR	0 (0.00)	3 (5.77)	3 (1.83)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	8 (2.71)
	DCR	10 (35.71)	31 (59.62)	76 (46.34)	23 (57.50)	4 (36.36)	144 (48.81)
	No Difference	1 (3.57)	6 (11.54)	19 (11.59)	2 (5.00)	1 (9.09)	29 (9.83)
	PAR	0 (0.00)	1 (1.92)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.34)
	Stenography	16 (57.14)	9 (17.31)	58 (35.37)	8 (20.00)	5 (45.45)	96 (32.54)
	Unsure	1 (3.57)	2 (3.85)	8 (4.88)	5 (12.50)	1 (9.09)	17 (5.76)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Turnaround Time	ASR	4 (14.29)	13 (25.00)	15 (9.15)	4 (10.26)	1 (9.09)	37 (12.59)
	DCR	9 (32.14)	18 (34.62)	68 (41.46)	17 (43.59)	2 (18.18)	114 (38.78)
	No Difference	1 (3.57)	6 (11.54)	23 (14.02)	6 (15.38)	2 (18.18)	38 (12.93)
	PAR	2 (7.14)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (5.13)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.36)
	Stenography	2 (7.14)	11 (21.15)	47 (28.66)	5 (12.82)	3 (27.27)	68 (23.13)
	Unsure	10 (35.71)	4 (7.69)	11 (6.71)	5 (12.82)	3 (27.27)	33 (11.22)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	39 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	294 (100.00)
Cost-Effective for Court	ASR	4 (14.29)	5 (9.62)	7 (4.27)	5 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	21 (7.12)
	DCR	5 (17.86)	26 (50.00)	65 (39.63)	19 (47.50)	5 (45.45)	120 (40.68)
	No Difference	1 (3.57)	2 (3.85)	13 (7.93)	1 (2.50)	2 (18.18)	19 (6.44)
	PAR	7 (25.00)	5 (9.62)	12 (7.32)	2 (5.00)	1 (9.09)	27 (9.15)
	Stenography	2 (7.14)	1 (1.92)	30 (18.29)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	34 (11.53)
	Unsure	9 (32.14)	13 (25.00)	37 (22.56)	12 (30.00)	3 (27.27)	74 (25.08)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Cost-Effective for Litigants	ASR	5 (18.52)	5 (9.62)	6 (3.68)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	20 (6.83)
	DCR	4 (14.81)	25 (48.08)	59 (36.20)	17 (42.50)	5 (45.45)	110 (37.54)
	No Difference	1 (3.70)	3 (5.77)	32 (19.63)	3 (7.50)	3 (27.27)	42 (14.33)
	PAR	5 (18.52)	2 (3.85)	4 (2.45)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	11 (3.75)
	Stenography	2 (7.41)	3 (5.77)	26 (15.95)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	33 (11.26)
	Unsure	10 (37.04)	14 (26.92)	36 (22.09)	14 (35.00)	3 (27.27)	77 (26.28)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	163 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	293 (100.00)
Room Control	ASR	0 (0.00)	2 (3.85)	2 (1.23)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.36)
	DCR	2 (7.14)	31 (59.62)	61 (37.42)	14 (35.00)	1 (9.09)	109 (37.07)
	No Difference	1 (3.57)	7 (13.46)	20 (12.27)	8 (20.00)	2 (18.18)	38 (12.93)
	Stenography	23 (82.14)	9 (17.31)	73 (44.79)	11 (27.50)	7 (63.64)	123 (41.84)
	Unsure	2 (7.14)	3 (5.77)	7 (4.29)	7 (17.50)	1 (9.09)	20 (6.80)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	163 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	294 (100.00)
Accents/Technical Jargon	ASR	0 (0.00)	2 (3.85)	7 (4.27)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	9 (3.05)
	DCR	6 (21.43)	35 (67.31)	60 (36.59)	22 (55.00)	2 (18.18)	125 (42.37)
	No Difference	1 (3.57)	4 (7.69)	20 (12.20)	4 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	31 (10.51)
	PAR	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.34)
	Stenography	18 (64.29)	6 (11.54)	63 (38.41)	4 (10.00)	4 (36.36)	95 (32.20)
	Unsure	3 (10.71)	5 (9.62)	14 (8.54)	9 (22.50)	3 (27.27)	34 (11.53)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)
Long-Term Archiving	ASR	0 (0.00)	2 (3.85)	1 (0.61)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.02)
	DCR	5 (17.86)	28 (53.85)	68 (41.46)	15 (37.50)	4 (36.36)	120 (40.68)
	No Difference	7 (25.00)	8 (15.38)	43 (26.22)	9 (22.50)	4 (36.36)	71 (24.07)
	PAR	0 (0.00)	1 (1.92)	0 (0.00)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.36)
	Stenography	6 (21.43)	4 (7.69)	34 (20.73)	3 (7.50)	0 (0.00)	47 (15.93)
	Unsure	10 (35.71)	9 (17.31)	18 (10.98)	10 (25.00)	3 (27.27)	50 (16.95)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	52 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	295 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). ASR = Automated Speech Recognition. DCR = Digital Court Recording. PAR = Passive Audio Recording. Room Control had no Passive Audio Recording responses for any role (0.00%).

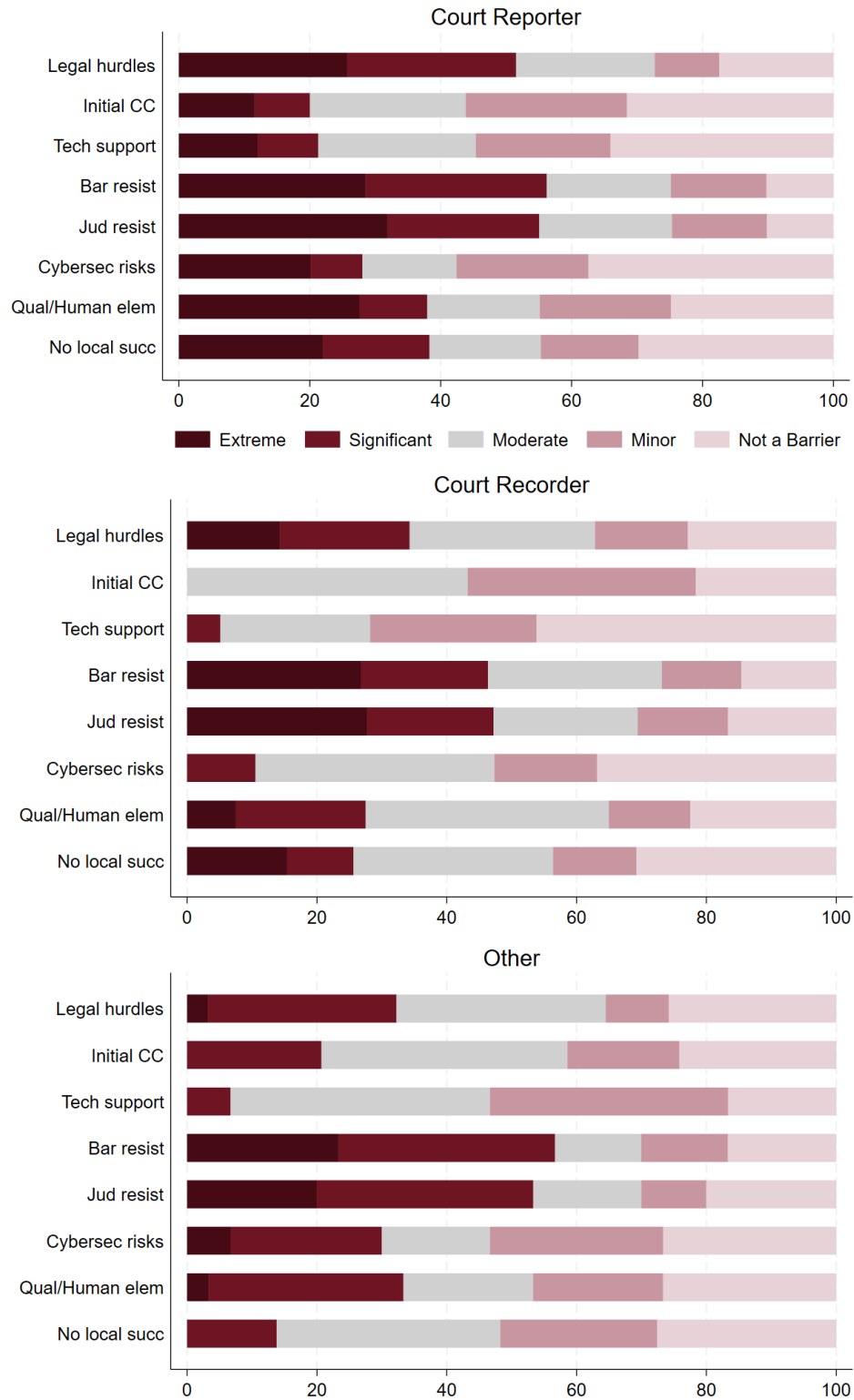


Figure 81: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

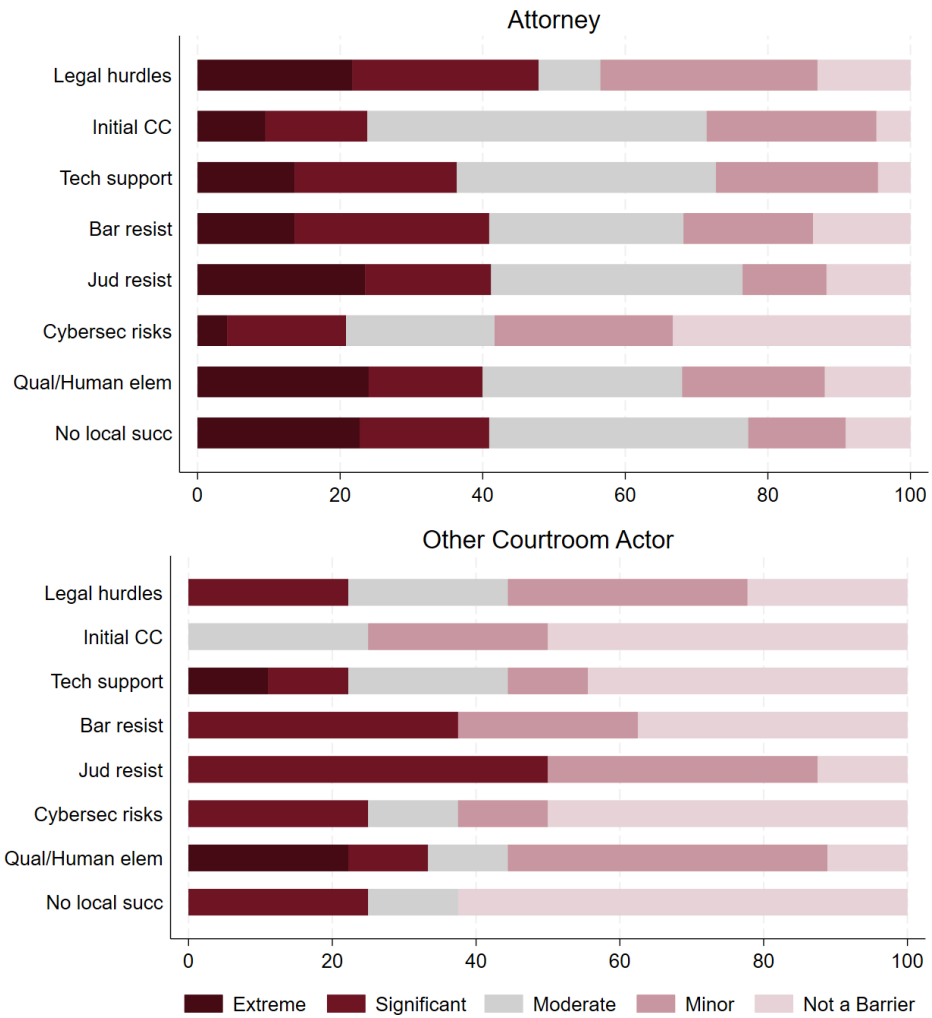


Figure 82: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Role, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 86: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (Part 1 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Statutory/ Legal Hurdles	Extreme	5 (17.86)	5 (10.00)	34 (20.61)	1 (2.50)	0 (0.00)	45 (15.41)
	Significant	6 (21.43)	7 (14.00)	34 (20.61)	9 (22.50)	2 (22.22)	58 (19.86)
	Moderate	2 (7.14)	10 (20.00)	28 (16.97)	10 (25.00)	2 (22.22)	52 (17.81)
	Minor	7 (25.00)	5 (10.00)	13 (7.88)	3 (7.50)	3 (33.33)	31 (10.62)
	Not a Barrier	3 (10.71)	8 (16.00)	23 (13.94)	8 (20.00)	2 (22.22)	44 (15.07)
	I Don't Know	5 (17.86)	15 (30.00)	33 (20.00)	9 (22.50)	0 (0.00)	62 (21.23)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	292 (100.00)
Initial Capital Cost	Extreme	2 (7.14)	0 (0.00)	15 (9.09)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	17 (5.82)
	Significant	3 (10.71)	0 (0.00)	11 (6.67)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	20 (6.85)
	Moderate	10 (35.71)	16 (32.00)	31 (18.79)	11 (27.50)	2 (22.22)	70 (23.97)
	Minor	5 (17.86)	13 (26.00)	32 (19.39)	5 (12.50)	2 (22.22)	57 (19.52)
	Not a Barrier	1 (3.57)	8 (16.00)	41 (24.85)	7 (17.50)	4 (44.44)	61 (20.89)
	I Don't Know	7 (25.00)	13 (26.00)	35 (21.21)	11 (27.50)	1 (11.11)	67 (22.95)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	292 (100.00)
Technical Support	Extreme	3 (10.71)	0 (0.00)	17 (10.30)	0 (0.00)	1 (11.11)	21 (7.19)
	Significant	5 (17.86)	2 (4.00)	13 (7.88)	2 (5.00)	1 (11.11)	23 (7.88)
	Moderate	8 (28.57)	9 (18.00)	34 (20.61)	12 (30.00)	2 (22.22)	65 (22.26)
	Minor	5 (17.86)	10 (20.00)	29 (17.58)	11 (27.50)	1 (11.11)	56 (19.18)
	Not a Barrier	1 (3.57)	18 (36.00)	48 (29.09)	5 (12.50)	4 (44.44)	76 (26.03)
	I Don't Know	6 (21.43)	11 (22.00)	24 (14.55)	10 (25.00)	0 (0.00)	51 (17.47)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	292 (100.00)
Resistance from Local Bar	Extreme	3 (10.71)	11 (22.00)	39 (23.78)	7 (17.50)	0 (0.00)	60 (20.62)
	Significant	6 (21.43)	8 (16.00)	38 (23.17)	10 (25.00)	3 (33.33)	65 (22.34)
	Moderate	6 (21.43)	11 (22.00)	26 (15.85)	4 (10.00)	0 (0.00)	47 (16.15)
	Minor	4 (14.29)	5 (10.00)	20 (12.20)	4 (10.00)	2 (22.22)	35 (12.03)
	Not a Barrier	3 (10.71)	6 (12.00)	14 (8.54)	5 (12.50)	3 (33.33)	31 (10.65)
	I Don't Know	6 (21.43)	9 (18.00)	27 (16.46)	10 (25.00)	1 (11.11)	53 (18.21)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	291 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). Continued in Table 87.

Table 87: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Respondent Role, Non-Texas Respondents (Part 2 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Attorney	Court Recorder	Court Reporter	Other	Other Court Actors	Total
Resistance from Judiciary	Extreme	4 (14.29)	10 (20.00)	44 (26.67)	6 (15.00)	0 (0.00)	64 (21.92)
	Significant	3 (10.71)	7 (14.00)	32 (19.39)	10 (25.00)	4 (44.44)	56 (19.18)
	Moderate	6 (21.43)	8 (16.00)	28 (16.97)	5 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	47 (16.10)
	Minor	2 (7.14)	5 (10.00)	20 (12.12)	3 (7.50)	3 (33.33)	33 (11.30)
	Not a Barrier	2 (7.14)	6 (12.00)	14 (8.48)	6 (15.00)	1 (11.11)	29 (9.93)
	I Don't Know	11 (39.29)	14 (28.00)	27 (16.36)	10 (25.00)	1 (11.11)	63 (21.58)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	292 (100.00)
Cybersecurity Risks	Extreme	1 (3.57)	0 (0.00)	28 (17.07)	2 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	31 (10.65)
	Significant	4 (14.29)	4 (8.00)	11 (6.71)	7 (17.50)	2 (22.22)	28 (9.62)
	Moderate	5 (17.86)	14 (28.00)	20 (12.20)	5 (12.50)	1 (11.11)	45 (15.46)
	Minor	6 (21.43)	6 (12.00)	28 (17.07)	8 (20.00)	1 (11.11)	49 (16.84)
	Not a Barrier	8 (28.57)	14 (28.00)	52 (31.71)	8 (20.00)	4 (44.44)	86 (29.55)
	I Don't Know	4 (14.29)	12 (24.00)	25 (15.24)	10 (25.00)	1 (11.11)	52 (17.87)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	164 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	291 (100.00)
Quality of Human Element	Extreme	6 (22.22)	3 (6.00)	40 (24.24)	1 (2.50)	2 (22.22)	52 (17.87)
	Significant	4 (14.81)	8 (16.00)	15 (9.09)	9 (22.50)	1 (11.11)	37 (12.71)
	Moderate	7 (25.93)	15 (30.00)	25 (15.15)	6 (15.00)	1 (11.11)	54 (18.56)
	Minor	5 (18.52)	5 (10.00)	29 (17.58)	6 (15.00)	4 (44.44)	49 (16.84)
	Not a Barrier	3 (11.11)	9 (18.00)	36 (21.82)	8 (20.00)	1 (11.11)	57 (19.59)
	I Don't Know	2 (7.41)	10 (20.00)	20 (12.12)	10 (25.00)	0 (0.00)	42 (14.43)
	<i>N</i>	27 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	291 (100.00)
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success	Extreme	5 (17.86)	6 (12.00)	31 (18.79)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	42 (14.38)
	Significant	4 (14.29)	4 (8.00)	23 (13.94)	4 (10.00)	2 (22.22)	37 (12.67)
	Moderate	8 (28.57)	12 (24.00)	24 (14.55)	10 (25.00)	1 (11.11)	55 (18.84)
	Minor	3 (10.71)	5 (10.00)	21 (12.73)	7 (17.50)	0 (0.00)	36 (12.33)
	Not a Barrier	2 (7.14)	12 (24.00)	42 (25.45)	8 (20.00)	5 (55.56)	69 (23.63)
	I Don't Know	6 (21.43)	11 (22.00)	24 (14.55)	11 (27.50)	1 (11.11)	53 (18.15)
	<i>N</i>	28 (100.00)	50 (100.00)	165 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	9 (100.00)	292 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). "Other" barrier category, not reported due to its substantially smaller and self-selected sample (N = 79).

N Non-Texas Disaggregated by Court Level

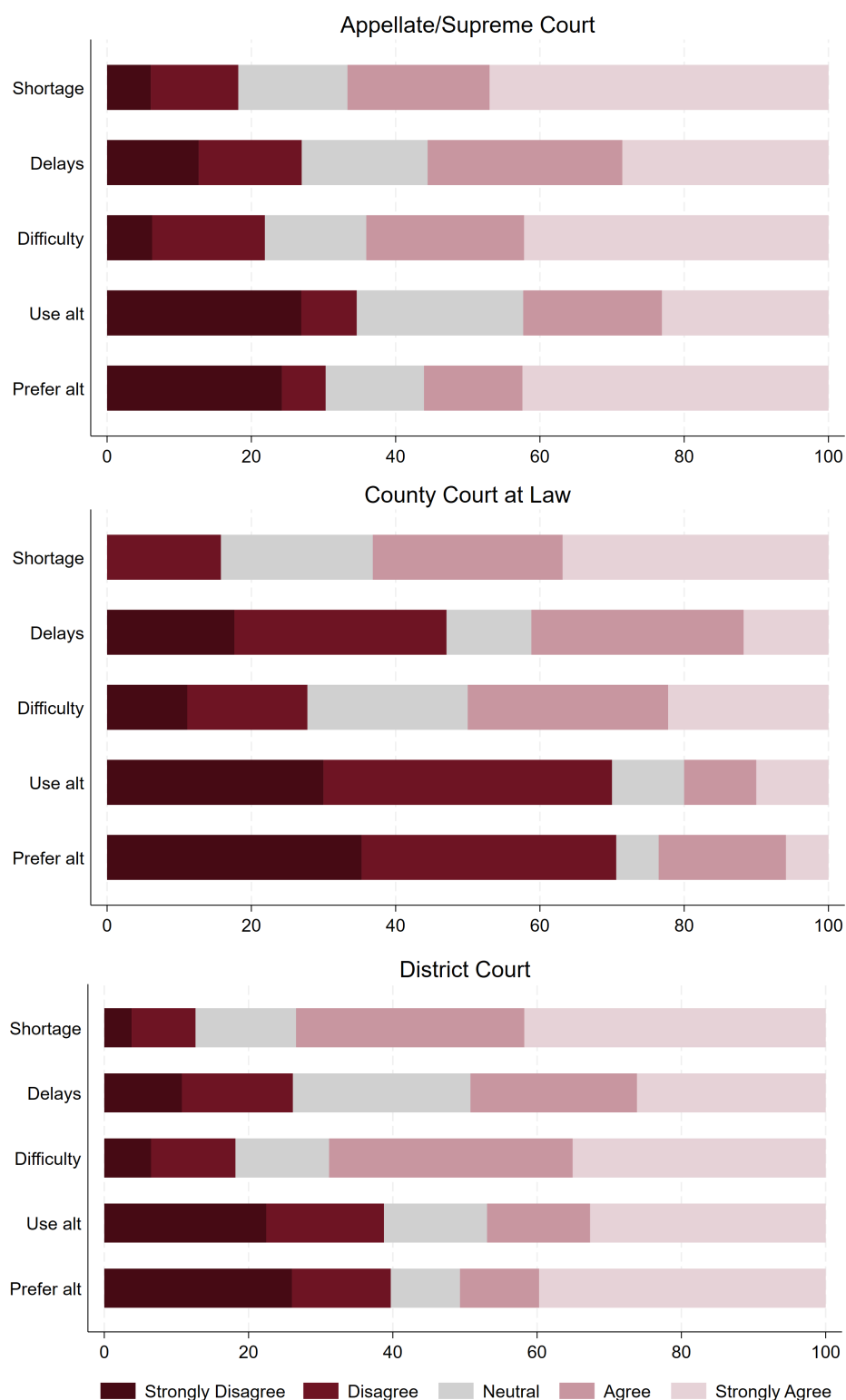


Figure 83: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

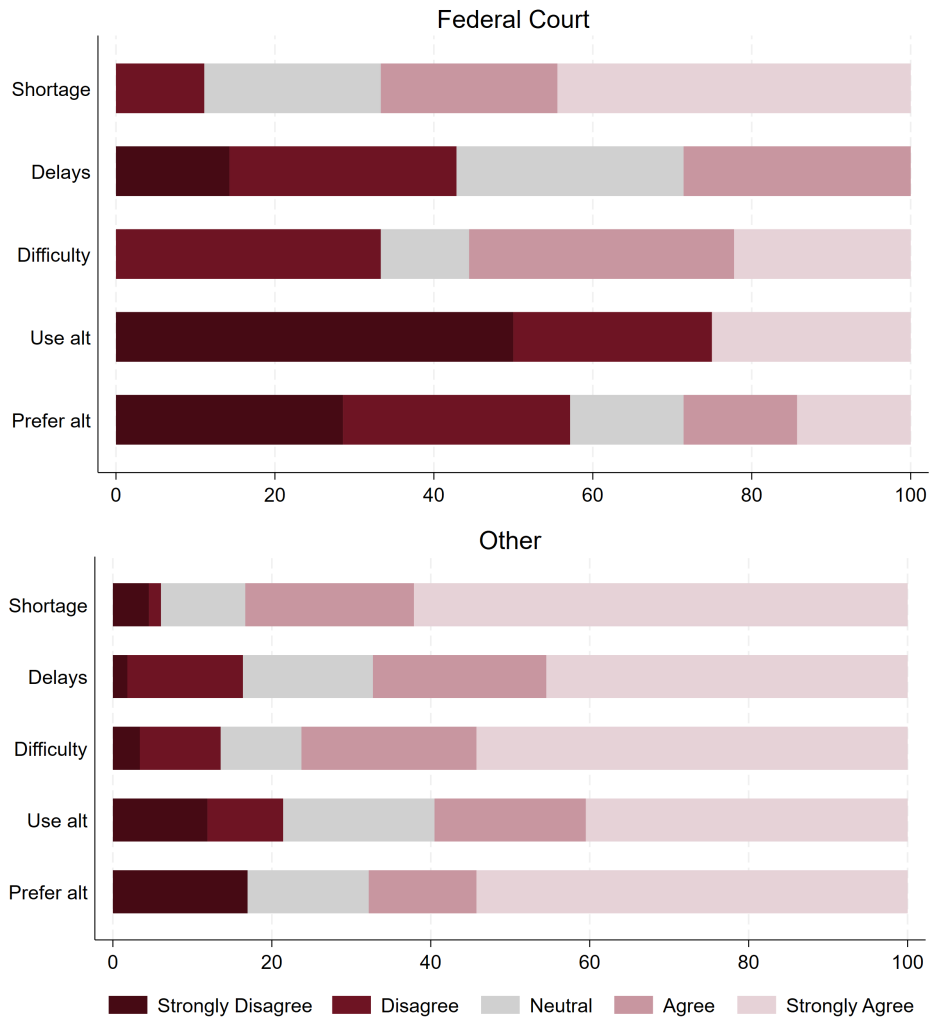


Figure 84: Perceptions of Availability and Current Use by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 88: Perceptions of Court Reporter Availability and Alternative Officer Use, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Shortage of court reporters	Strongly Disagree	4 (5.41)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.80)	10 (3.58)
	Disagree	8 (10.81)	3 (13.64)	7 (7.53)	1 (9.09)	1 (1.27)	20 (7.17)
	Neutral	10 (13.51)	4 (18.18)	11 (11.83)	2 (18.18)	7 (8.86)	34 (12.19)
	Agree	13 (17.57)	5 (22.73)	25 (26.88)	2 (18.18)	14 (17.72)	59 (21.15)
	Strongly Agree	31 (41.89)	7 (31.82)	33 (35.48)	4 (36.36)	41 (51.90)	116 (41.58)
	DK/NA	8 (10.81)	3 (13.64)	14 (15.05)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.46)	40 (14.34)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Cases delayed/impacted due to shortage	Strongly Disagree	8 (10.81)	3 (13.64)	7 (7.53)	1 (9.09)	1 (1.27)	20 (7.17)
	Disagree	9 (12.16)	5 (22.73)	10 (10.75)	2 (18.18)	8 (10.13)	34 (12.19)
	Neutral	11 (14.86)	2 (9.09)	16 (17.20)	2 (18.18)	9 (11.39)	40 (14.34)
	Agree	17 (22.97)	5 (22.73)	15 (16.13)	2 (18.18)	12 (15.19)	51 (18.28)
	Strongly Agree	18 (24.32)	2 (9.09)	17 (18.28)	0 (0.00)	25 (31.65)	62 (22.22)
	DK/NA	11 (14.86)	5 (22.73)	28 (30.11)	4 (36.36)	24 (30.38)	72 (25.81)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Difficulty finding reporter	Strongly Disagree	4 (5.48)	2 (9.09)	5 (5.38)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.53)	13 (4.68)
	Disagree	10 (13.70)	3 (13.64)	9 (9.68)	3 (27.27)	6 (7.59)	31 (11.15)
	Neutral	9 (12.33)	4 (18.18)	10 (10.75)	1 (9.09)	6 (7.59)	30 (10.79)
	Agree	14 (19.18)	5 (22.73)	26 (27.96)	3 (27.27)	13 (16.46)	61 (21.94)
	Strongly Agree	27 (36.99)	4 (18.18)	27 (29.03)	2 (18.18)	32 (40.51)	92 (33.09)
	DK/NA	9 (12.33)	4 (18.18)	16 (17.20)	2 (18.18)	20 (25.32)	51 (18.35)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Used deposition officer	Strongly Disagree	14 (18.92)	3 (13.64)	11 (11.96)	2 (18.18)	5 (6.33)	35 (12.59)
	Disagree	4 (5.41)	4 (18.18)	8 (8.70)	1 (9.09)	4 (5.06)	21 (7.55)
	Neutral	12 (16.22)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.61)	0 (0.00)	8 (10.13)	28 (10.07)
	Agree	10 (13.51)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.61)	0 (0.00)	8 (10.13)	26 (9.35)
	Strongly Agree	12 (16.22)	1 (4.55)	16 (17.39)	1 (9.09)	17 (21.52)	47 (16.91)
	DK/NA	22 (29.73)	12 (54.55)	43 (46.74)	7 (63.64)	37 (46.84)	121 (43.53)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	92 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Alternative to court reporter	Strongly Disagree	16 (21.62)	6 (27.27)	19 (20.65)	2 (18.18)	10 (12.66)	53 (19.06)
	Disagree	4 (5.41)	6 (27.27)	10 (10.87)	2 (18.18)	0 (0.00)	22 (7.91)
	Neutral	9 (12.16)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.61)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.39)	27 (9.71)
	Agree	9 (12.16)	3 (13.64)	8 (8.70)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.13)	29 (10.43)
	Strongly Agree	28 (37.84)	1 (4.55)	29 (31.52)	1 (9.09)	32 (40.51)	91 (32.73)
	DK/NA	8 (10.81)	5 (22.73)	19 (20.65)	4 (36.36)	20 (25.32)	56 (20.14)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	92 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

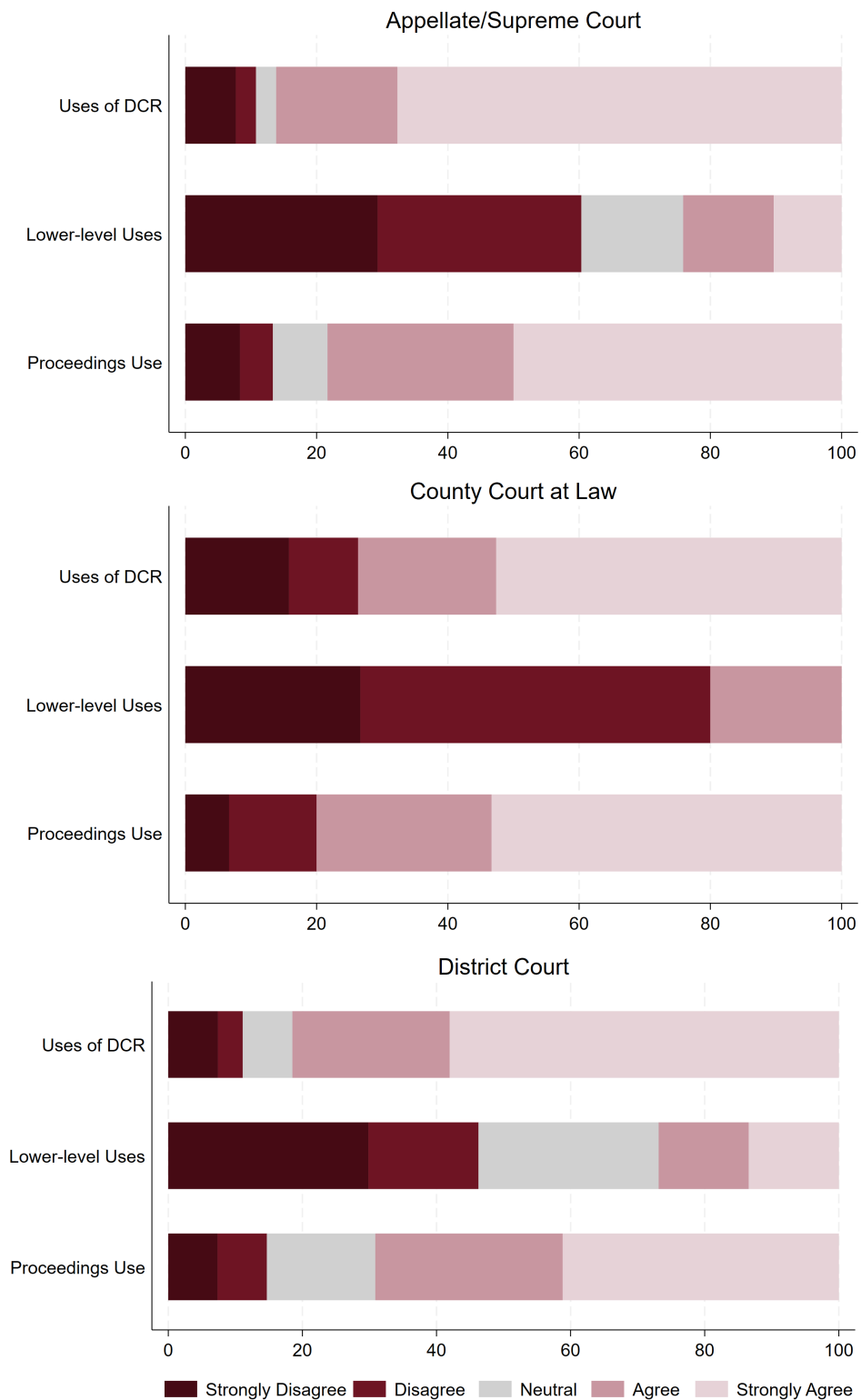


Figure 85: DCR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

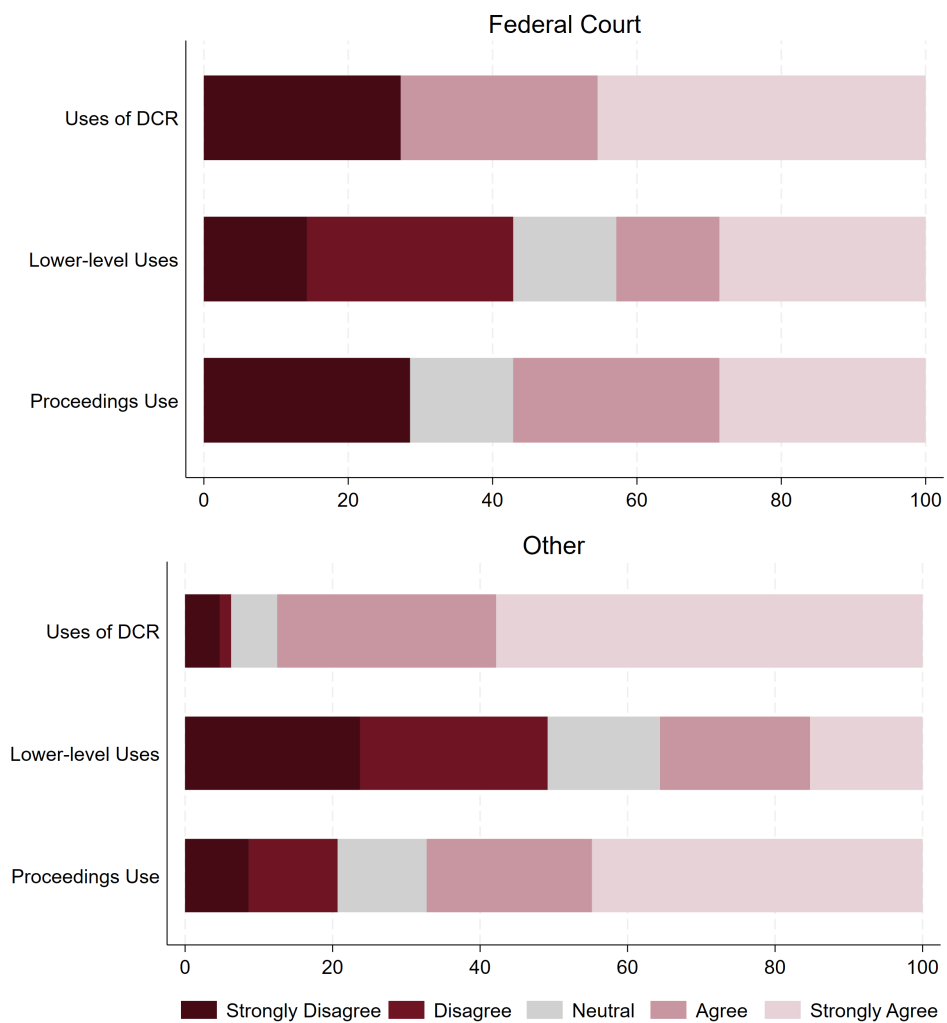


Figure 86: DCR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 89: Perceptions of Digital Court Recording (DCR) Use, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Uses of DCR	Strongly Disagree	5 (6.76)	3 (13.64)	6 (6.38)	3 (27.27)	3 (3.80)	20 (7.14)
	Disagree	2 (2.70)	2 (9.09)	3 (3.19)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.27)	8 (2.86)
	Neutral	2 (2.70)	0 (0.00)	6 (6.38)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	12 (4.29)
	Agree	12 (16.22)	4 (18.18)	19 (20.21)	3 (27.27)	19 (24.05)	57 (20.36)
	Strongly Agree	44 (59.46)	10 (45.45)	47 (50.00)	5 (45.45)	37 (46.84)	143 (51.07)
	DK/NA	9 (12.16)	3 (13.64)	13 (13.83)	0 (0.00)	15 (18.99)	40 (14.29)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	17 (22.97)	4 (19.05)	20 (21.28)	1 (9.09)	14 (17.72)	56 (20.07)
	Disagree	18 (24.32)	8 (38.10)	11 (11.70)	2 (18.18)	15 (18.99)	54 (19.35)
	Neutral	9 (12.16)	0 (0.00)	18 (19.15)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.39)	37 (13.26)
	Agree	8 (10.81)	3 (14.29)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	12 (15.19)	33 (11.83)
	Strongly Agree	6 (8.11)	0 (0.00)	9 (9.57)	2 (18.18)	9 (11.39)	26 (9.32)
	DK/NA	16 (21.62)	6 (28.57)	27 (28.72)	4 (36.36)	20 (25.32)	73 (26.16)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	5 (6.76)	1 (4.76)	5 (5.32)	2 (18.18)	5 (6.41)	18 (6.47)
	Disagree	3 (4.05)	2 (9.52)	5 (5.32)	0 (0.00)	7 (8.97)	17 (6.12)
	Neutral	5 (6.76)	0 (0.00)	11 (11.70)	1 (9.09)	7 (8.97)	24 (8.63)
	Agree	17 (22.97)	4 (19.05)	19 (20.21)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.67)	55 (19.78)
	Strongly Agree	30 (40.54)	8 (38.10)	28 (29.79)	2 (18.18)	26 (33.33)	94 (33.81)
	DK/NA	14 (18.92)	6 (28.57)	26 (27.66)	4 (36.36)	20 (25.64)	70 (25.18)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	78 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

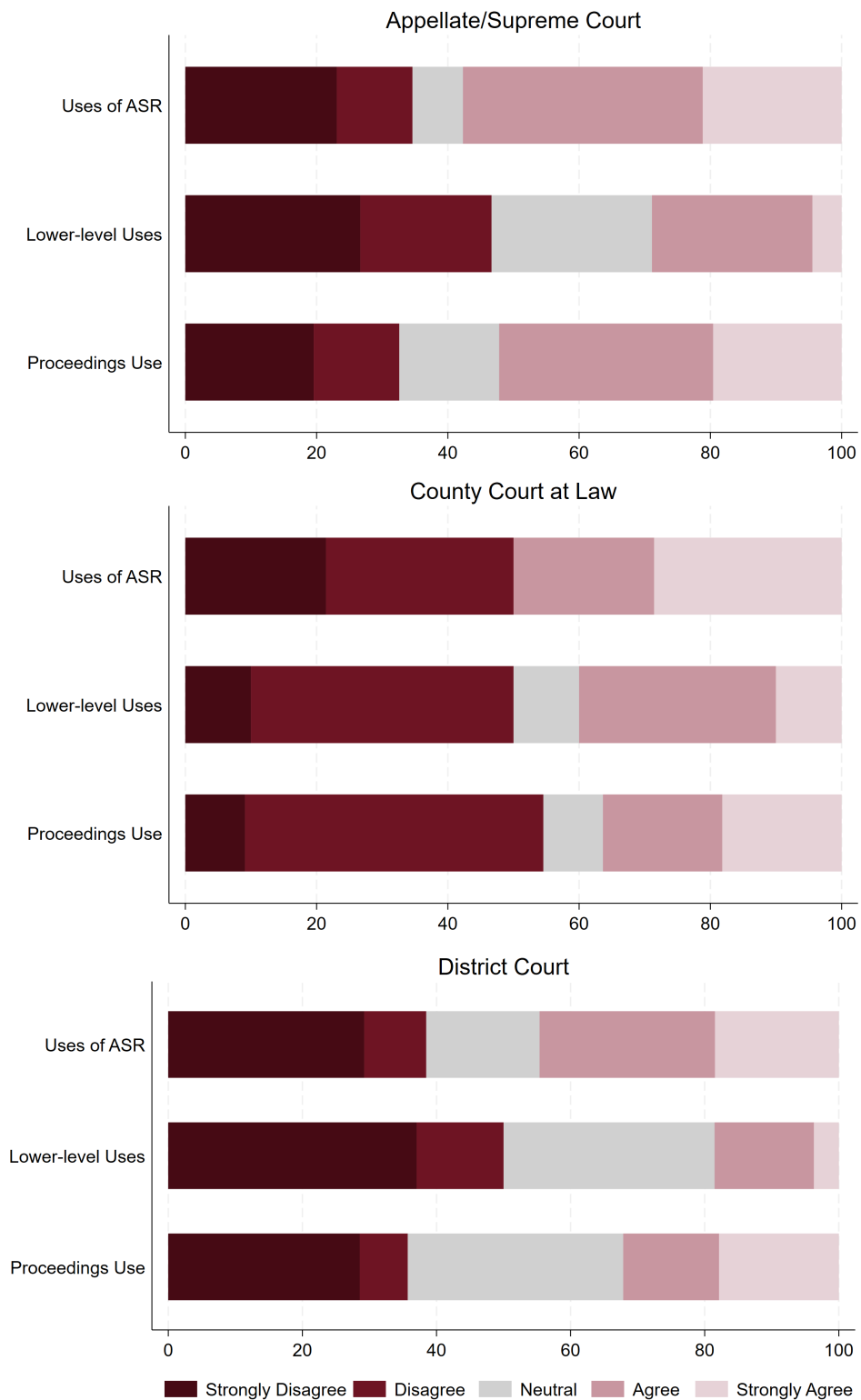


Figure 87: ASR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

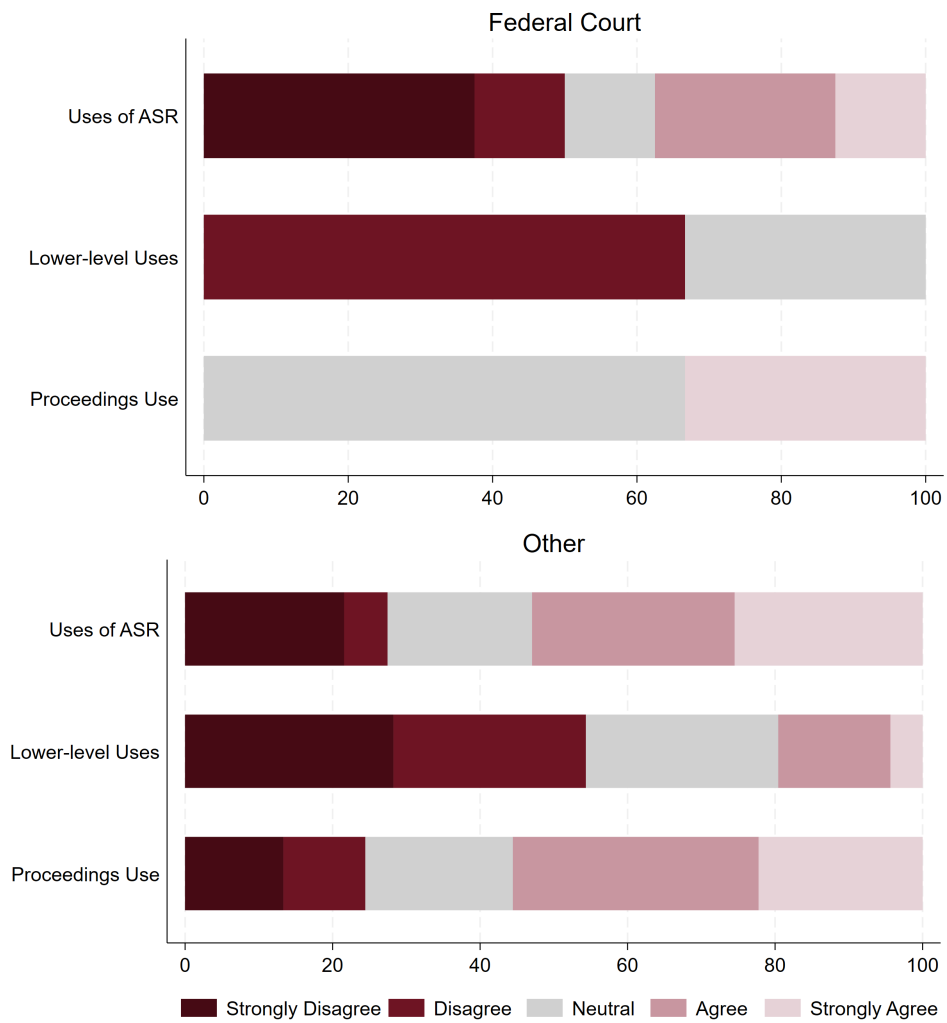


Figure 88: ASR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 90: Perceptions of Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Use, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Uses of ASR	Strongly Disagree	12 (16.22)	3 (13.64)	19 (20.21)	3 (27.27)	11 (13.92)	48 (17.14)
	Disagree	6 (8.11)	4 (18.18)	6 (6.38)	1 (9.09)	3 (3.80)	20 (7.14)
	Neutral	4 (5.41)	0 (0.00)	11 (11.70)	1 (9.09)	10 (12.66)	26 (9.29)
	Agree	19 (25.68)	3 (13.64)	17 (18.09)	2 (18.18)	14 (17.72)	55 (19.64)
	Strongly Agree	11 (14.86)	4 (18.18)	12 (12.77)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.46)	41 (14.64)
	DK/NA	22 (29.73)	8 (36.36)	29 (30.85)	3 (27.27)	28 (35.44)	90 (32.14)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	12 (16.22)	1 (4.76)	20 (21.51)	0 (0.00)	13 (16.46)	46 (16.55)
	Disagree	9 (12.16)	4 (19.05)	7 (7.53)	2 (18.18)	12 (15.19)	34 (12.23)
	Neutral	11 (14.86)	1 (4.76)	17 (18.28)	1 (9.09)	12 (15.19)	42 (15.11)
	Agree	11 (14.86)	3 (14.29)	8 (8.60)	0 (0.00)	7 (8.86)	29 (10.43)
	Strongly Agree	2 (2.70)	1 (4.76)	2 (2.15)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.53)	7 (2.52)
	DK/NA	29 (39.19)	11 (52.38)	39 (41.94)	8 (72.73)	33 (41.77)	120 (43.17)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	9 (12.16)	1 (4.76)	16 (17.20)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.79)	32 (11.59)
	Disagree	6 (8.11)	5 (23.81)	4 (4.30)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.49)	20 (7.25)
	Neutral	7 (9.46)	1 (4.76)	18 (19.35)	2 (18.18)	9 (11.69)	37 (13.41)
	Agree	15 (20.27)	2 (9.52)	8 (8.60)	0 (0.00)	15 (19.48)	40 (14.49)
	Strongly Agree	9 (12.16)	2 (9.52)	10 (10.75)	1 (9.09)	10 (12.99)	32 (11.59)
	DK/NA	28 (37.84)	10 (47.62)	37 (39.78)	8 (72.73)	32 (41.56)	115 (41.67)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	77 (100.00)	276 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

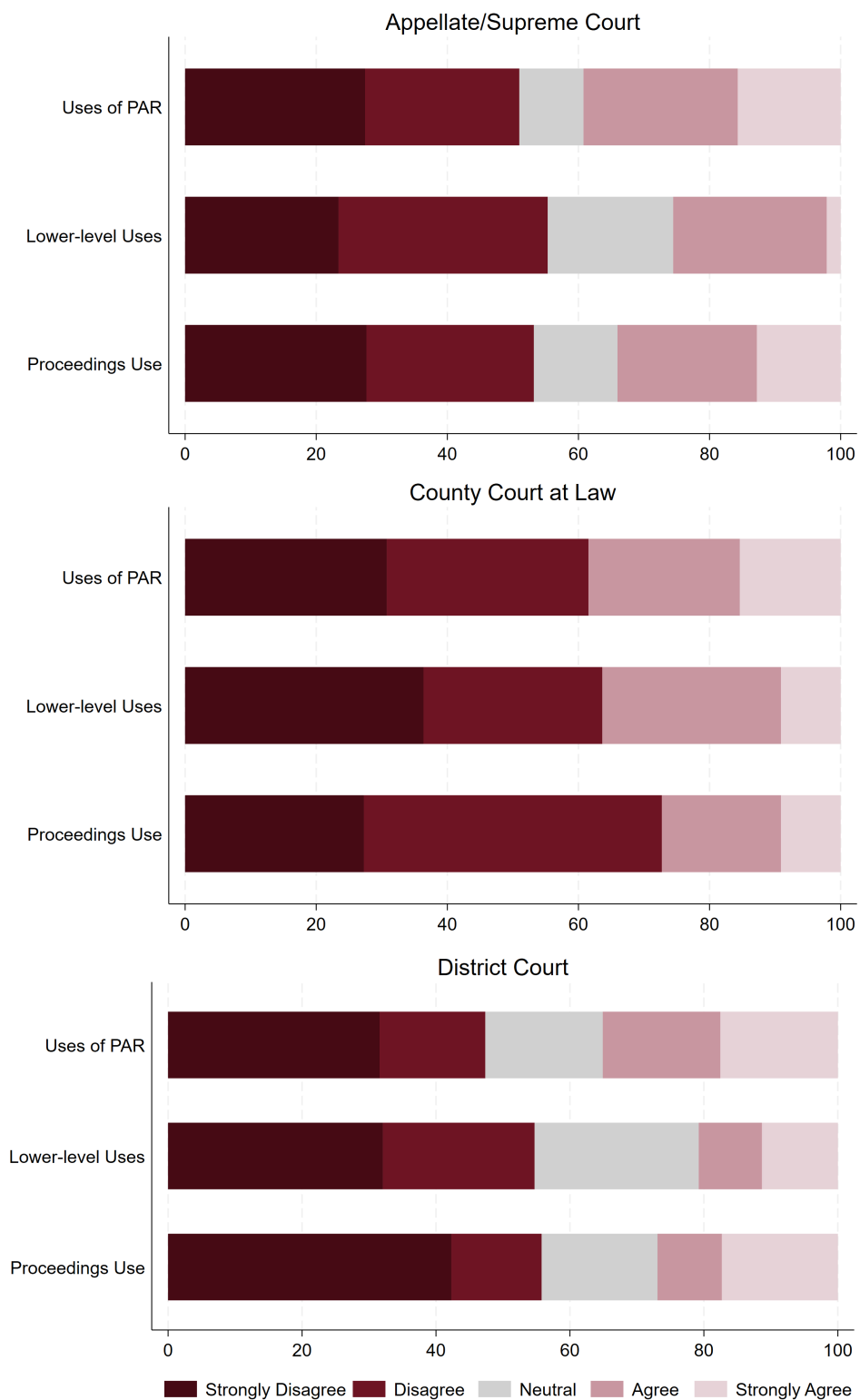


Figure 89: PAR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

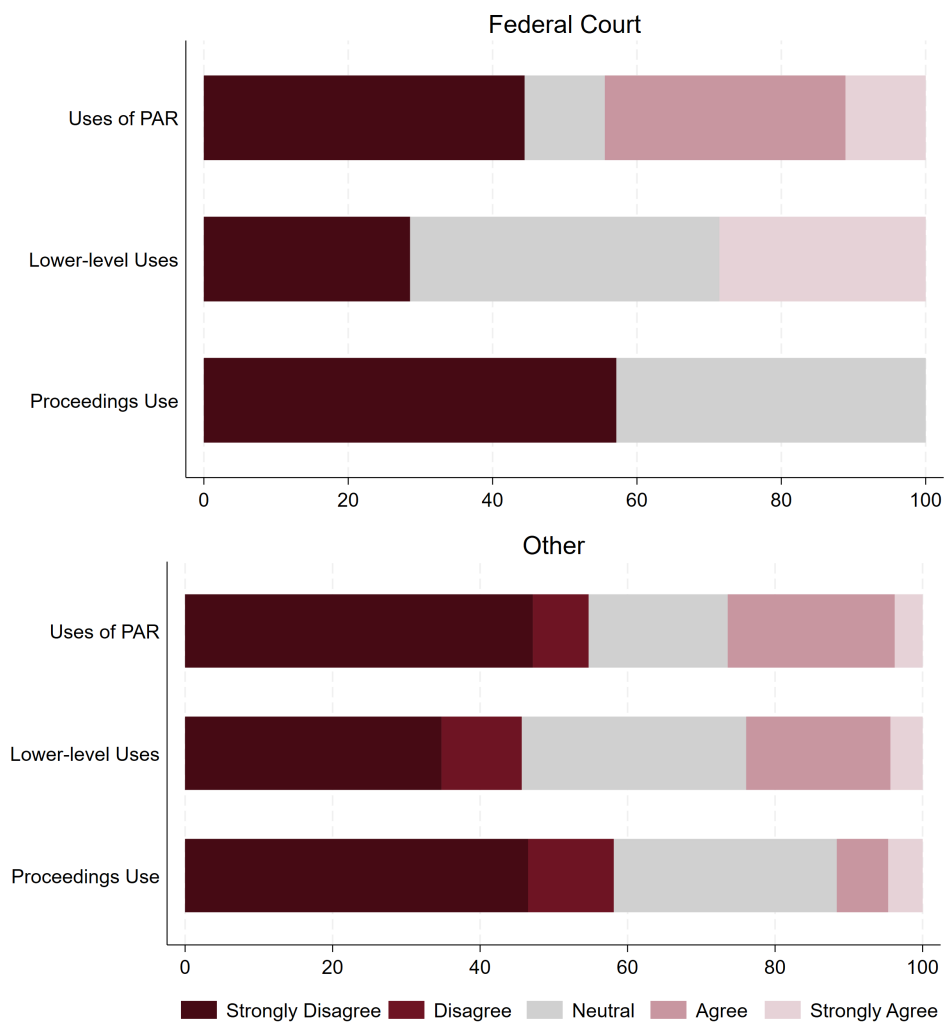


Figure 90: PAR Adoption by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 91: Perceptions of Passive Audio Recording (PAR) Use, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Uses of PAR	Strongly Disagree	14 (18.92)	4 (18.18)	18 (19.15)	4 (36.36)	25 (31.65)	65 (23.21)
	Disagree	12 (16.22)	4 (18.18)	9 (9.57)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	29 (10.36)
	Neutral	5 (6.76)	0 (0.00)	10 (10.64)	1 (9.09)	10 (12.66)	26 (9.29)
	Agree	12 (16.22)	3 (13.64)	10 (10.64)	3 (27.27)	12 (15.19)	40 (14.29)
	Strongly Agree	8 (10.81)	2 (9.09)	10 (10.64)	1 (9.09)	2 (2.53)	23 (8.21)
	DK/NA	23 (31.08)	9 (40.91)	37 (39.36)	2 (18.18)	26 (32.91)	97 (34.64)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Lower-Level Use	Strongly Disagree	11 (14.86)	4 (19.05)	17 (18.09)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	50 (17.92)
	Disagree	15 (20.27)	3 (14.29)	12 (12.77)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.33)	35 (12.54)
	Neutral	9 (12.16)	0 (0.00)	13 (13.83)	3 (27.27)	14 (17.72)	39 (13.98)
	Agree	11 (14.86)	3 (14.29)	5 (5.32)	0 (0.00)	9 (11.39)	28 (10.04)
	Strongly Agree	1 (1.35)	1 (4.76)	6 (6.38)	2 (18.18)	2 (2.53)	12 (4.30)
	DK/NA	27 (36.49)	10 (47.62)	41 (43.62)	4 (36.36)	33 (41.77)	115 (41.22)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Procedural Use	Strongly Disagree	13 (17.57)	3 (14.29)	22 (23.66)	4 (36.36)	20 (25.32)	62 (22.30)
	Disagree	12 (16.22)	5 (23.81)	7 (7.53)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.33)	29 (10.43)
	Neutral	6 (8.11)	0 (0.00)	9 (9.68)	3 (27.27)	13 (16.46)	31 (11.15)
	Agree	10 (13.51)	2 (9.52)	5 (5.38)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.80)	20 (7.19)
	Strongly Agree	6 (8.11)	1 (4.76)	9 (9.68)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.53)	18 (6.47)
	DK/NA	27 (36.49)	10 (47.62)	41 (44.09)	4 (36.36)	36 (45.57)	118 (42.45)
	<i>N</i>	74 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

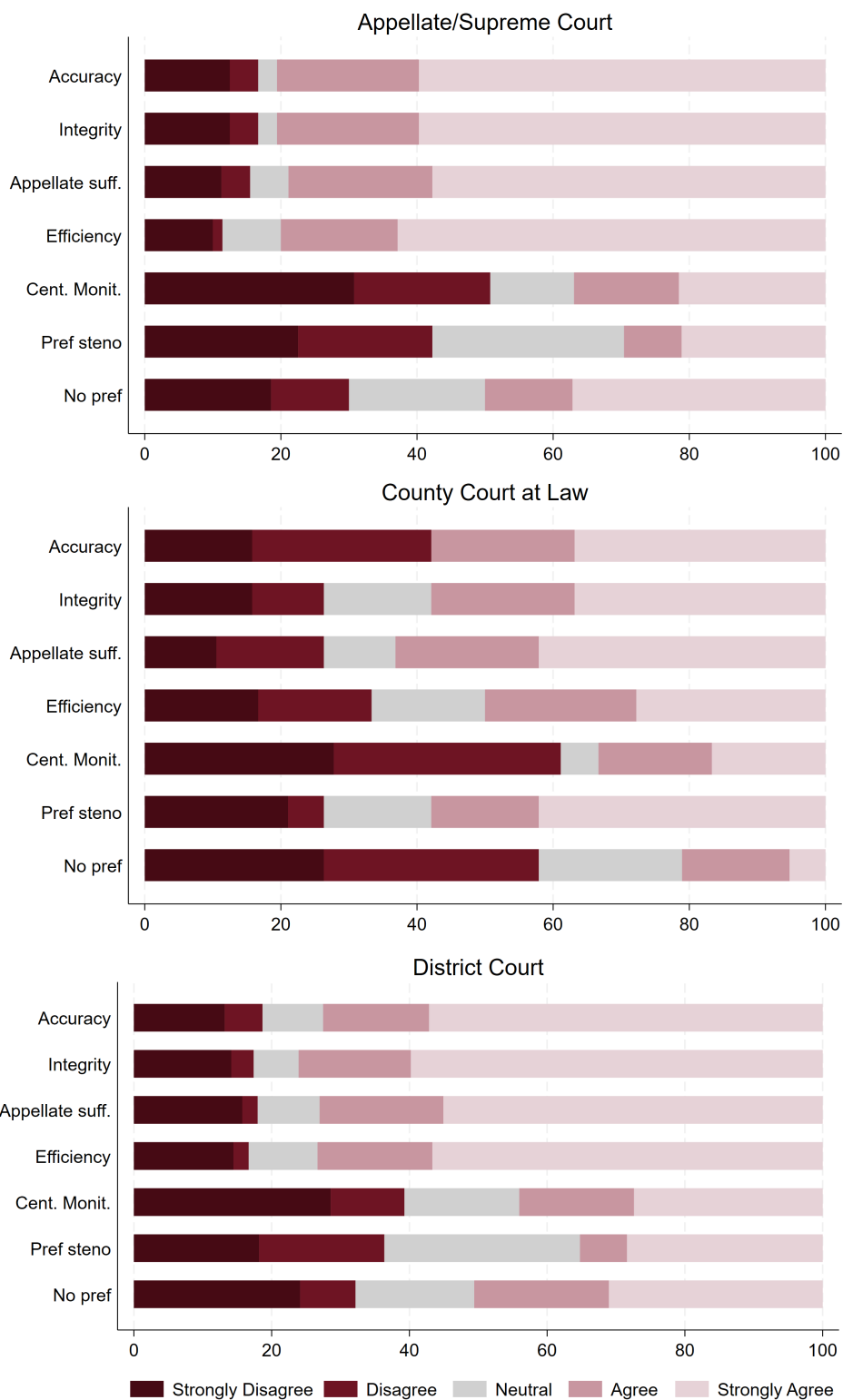


Figure 91: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

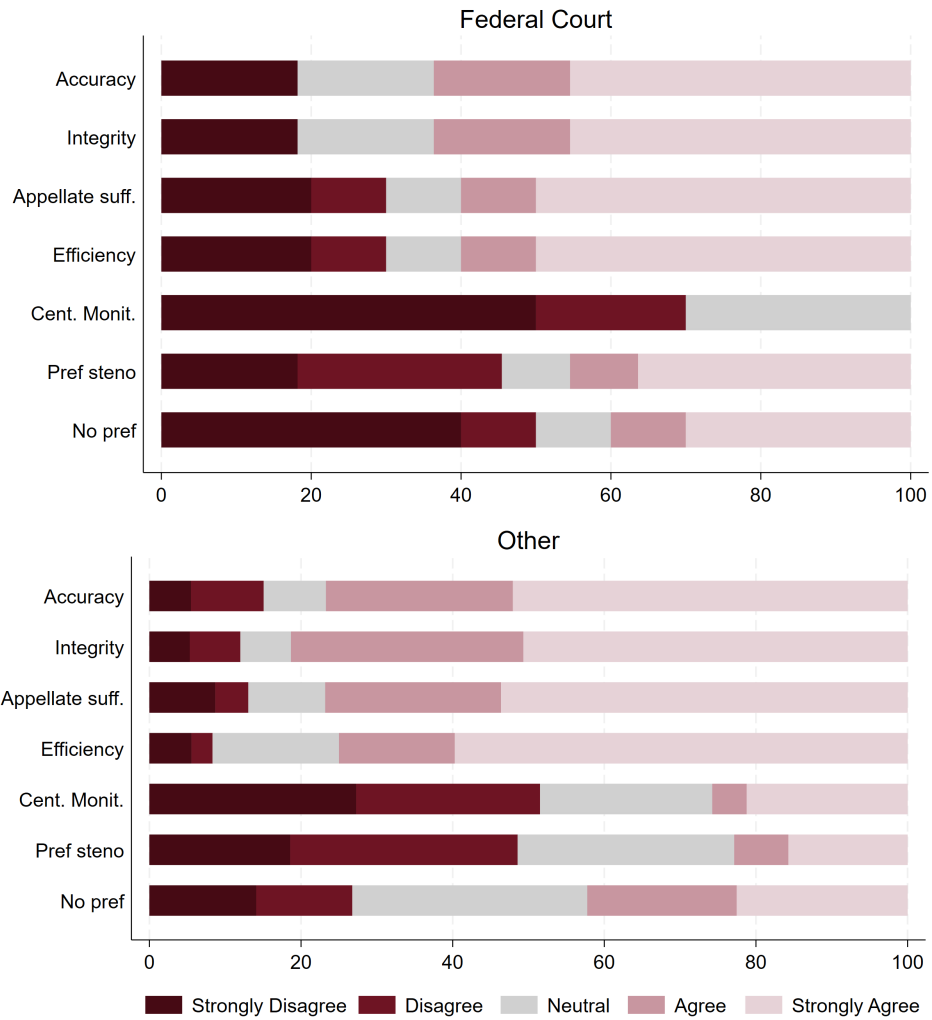


Figure 92: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 92: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding DCR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	9 (12.16)	3 (13.64)	12 (12.77)	2 (18.18)	4 (5.06)	30 (10.71)
	Disagree	3 (4.05)	5 (22.73)	5 (5.32)	0 (0.00)	7 (8.86)	20 (7.14)
	Neutral	2 (2.70)	0 (0.00)	8 (8.51)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.59)	18 (6.43)
	Agree	15 (20.27)	4 (18.18)	14 (14.89)	2 (18.18)	18 (22.78)	53 (18.93)
	Strongly Agree	43 (58.11)	7 (31.82)	52 (55.32)	5 (45.45)	38 (48.10)	145 (51.79)
	DK/NA	2 (2.70)	3 (13.64)	3 (3.19)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	14 (5.00)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	9 (12.16)	3 (13.64)	13 (13.83)	2 (18.18)	4 (5.06)	31 (11.07)
	Disagree	3 (4.05)	2 (9.09)	3 (3.19)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.33)	13 (4.64)
	Neutral	2 (2.70)	3 (13.64)	6 (6.38)	2 (18.18)	5 (6.33)	18 (6.43)
	Agree	15 (20.27)	4 (18.18)	15 (15.96)	2 (18.18)	23 (29.11)	59 (21.07)
	Strongly Agree	43 (58.11)	7 (31.82)	55 (58.51)	5 (45.45)	38 (48.10)	148 (52.86)
	DK/NA	2 (2.70)	3 (13.64)	2 (2.13)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	11 (3.93)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	8 (10.81)	2 (9.09)	14 (14.89)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.59)	32 (11.43)
	Disagree	3 (4.05)	3 (13.64)	2 (2.13)	1 (9.09)	3 (3.80)	12 (4.29)
	Neutral	4 (5.41)	2 (9.09)	8 (8.51)	1 (9.09)	7 (8.86)	22 (7.86)
	Agree	15 (20.27)	4 (18.18)	16 (17.02)	1 (9.09)	16 (20.25)	52 (18.57)
	Strongly Agree	41 (55.41)	8 (36.36)	49 (52.13)	5 (45.45)	37 (46.84)	140 (50.00)
	DK/NA	3 (4.05)	3 (13.64)	5 (5.32)	1 (9.09)	10 (12.66)	22 (7.86)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	7 (9.46)	3 (13.64)	13 (13.83)	2 (18.18)	4 (5.06)	29 (10.36)
	Disagree	1 (1.35)	3 (13.64)	2 (2.13)	1 (9.09)	2 (2.53)	9 (3.21)
	Neutral	6 (8.11)	3 (13.64)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	12 (15.19)	31 (11.07)
	Agree	12 (16.22)	4 (18.18)	15 (15.96)	1 (9.09)	11 (13.92)	43 (15.36)
	Strongly Agree	44 (59.46)	5 (22.73)	51 (54.26)	5 (45.45)	43 (54.43)	148 (52.86)
	DK/NA	4 (5.41)	4 (18.18)	4 (4.26)	1 (9.09)	7 (8.86)	20 (7.14)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	20 (27.40)	5 (22.73)	24 (25.53)	5 (45.45)	18 (22.78)	72 (25.81)
	Disagree	13 (17.81)	6 (27.27)	9 (9.57)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	46 (16.49)
	Neutral	8 (10.96)	1 (4.55)	14 (14.89)	3 (27.27)	15 (18.99)	41 (14.70)
	Agree	10 (13.70)	3 (13.64)	14 (14.89)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.80)	30 (10.75)
	Strongly Agree	14 (19.18)	3 (13.64)	23 (24.47)	0 (0.00)	14 (17.72)	54 (19.35)
	DK/NA	8 (10.96)	4 (18.18)	10 (10.64)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.46)	36 (12.90)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	16 (21.62)	4 (18.18)	16 (17.02)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.46)	51 (18.21)
	Disagree	14 (18.92)	1 (4.55)	16 (17.02)	3 (27.27)	21 (26.58)	55 (19.64)
	Neutral	20 (27.03)	3 (13.64)	25 (26.60)	1 (9.09)	20 (25.32)	69 (24.64)
	Agree	6 (8.11)	3 (13.64)	6 (6.38)	1 (9.09)	5 (6.33)	21 (7.50)
	Strongly Agree	15 (20.27)	8 (36.36)	25 (26.60)	4 (36.36)	11 (13.92)	63 (22.50)
	DK/NA	3 (4.05)	3 (13.64)	6 (6.38)	0 (0.00)	9 (11.39)	21 (7.50)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	280 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	13 (17.81)	5 (22.73)	21 (22.34)	4 (36.36)	10 (12.82)	53 (19.06)
	Disagree	8 (10.96)	6 (27.27)	7 (7.45)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.54)	31 (11.15)
	Neutral	14 (19.18)	4 (18.18)	15 (15.96)	1 (9.09)	22 (28.21)	56 (20.14)
	Agree	9 (12.33)	3 (13.64)	17 (18.09)	1 (9.09)	14 (17.95)	44 (15.83)
	Strongly Agree	26 (35.62)	1 (4.55)	27 (28.72)	3 (27.27)	16 (20.51)	73 (26.26)
	DK/NA	3 (4.11)	3 (13.64)	7 (7.45)	1 (9.09)	7 (8.97)	21 (7.55)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	78 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

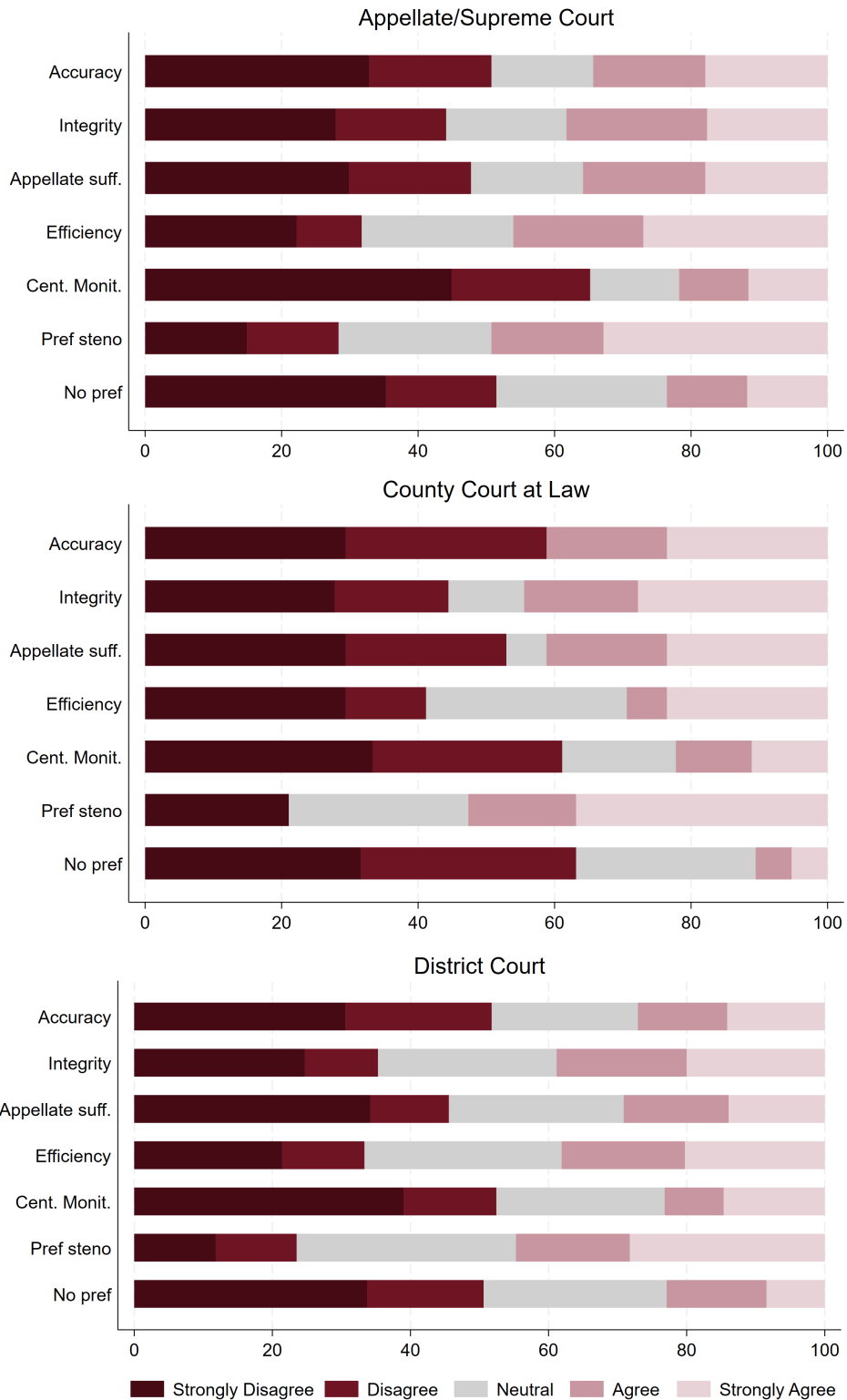


Figure 93: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

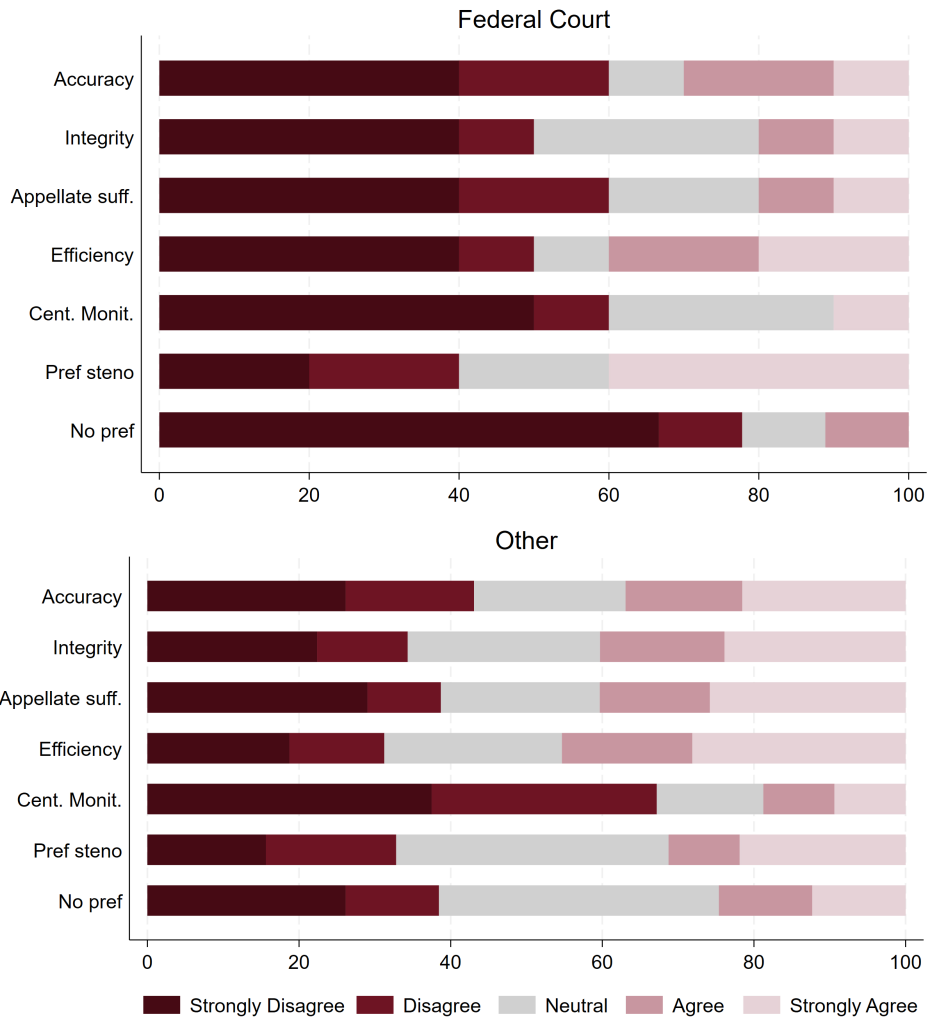


Figure 94: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 93: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding ASR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	22 (30.14)	5 (22.73)	26 (27.66)	4 (36.36)	17 (21.52)	74 (26.52)
	Disagree	12 (16.44)	5 (22.73)	18 (19.15)	2 (18.18)	11 (13.92)	48 (17.20)
	Neutral	10 (13.70)	0 (0.00)	18 (19.15)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.46)	42 (15.05)
	Agree	11 (15.07)	3 (13.64)	11 (11.70)	2 (18.18)	10 (12.66)	37 (13.26)
	Strongly Agree	12 (16.44)	4 (18.18)	12 (12.77)	1 (9.09)	14 (17.72)	43 (15.41)
	DK/NA	6 (8.22)	5 (22.73)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	14 (17.72)	35 (12.54)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	19 (26.03)	5 (22.73)	21 (22.34)	4 (36.36)	15 (18.99)	64 (22.94)
	Disagree	11 (15.07)	3 (13.64)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.13)	32 (11.47)
	Neutral	12 (16.44)	2 (9.09)	22 (23.40)	3 (27.27)	17 (21.52)	56 (20.07)
	Agree	14 (19.18)	3 (13.64)	16 (17.02)	1 (9.09)	11 (13.92)	45 (16.13)
	Strongly Agree	12 (16.44)	5 (22.73)	17 (18.09)	1 (9.09)	16 (20.25)	51 (18.28)
	DK/NA	5 (6.85)	4 (18.18)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	12 (15.19)	31 (11.11)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	20 (27.40)	5 (22.73)	27 (29.03)	4 (36.36)	18 (22.78)	74 (26.62)
	Disagree	12 (16.44)	4 (18.18)	9 (9.68)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.59)	33 (11.87)
	Neutral	11 (15.07)	1 (4.55)	20 (21.51)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.46)	47 (16.91)
	Agree	12 (16.44)	3 (13.64)	12 (12.90)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.39)	37 (13.31)
	Strongly Agree	12 (16.44)	4 (18.18)	11 (11.83)	1 (9.09)	16 (20.25)	44 (15.83)
	DK/NA	6 (8.22)	5 (22.73)	14 (15.05)	1 (9.09)	17 (21.52)	43 (15.47)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	14 (19.44)	5 (22.73)	18 (19.15)	4 (36.36)	12 (15.38)	53 (19.13)
	Disagree	6 (8.33)	2 (9.09)	10 (10.64)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.26)	27 (9.75)
	Neutral	14 (19.44)	5 (22.73)	24 (25.53)	1 (9.09)	15 (19.23)	59 (21.30)
	Agree	12 (16.67)	1 (4.55)	15 (15.96)	2 (18.18)	11 (14.10)	41 (14.80)
	Strongly Agree	17 (23.61)	4 (18.18)	17 (18.09)	2 (18.18)	18 (23.08)	58 (20.94)
	DK/NA	9 (12.50)	5 (22.73)	10 (10.64)	1 (9.09)	14 (17.95)	39 (14.08)
	N	72 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	78 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	31 (42.47)	6 (27.27)	32 (34.04)	5 (45.45)	24 (30.38)	98 (35.13)
	Disagree	14 (19.18)	5 (22.73)	11 (11.70)	1 (9.09)	19 (24.05)	50 (17.92)
	Neutral	9 (12.33)	3 (13.64)	20 (21.28)	3 (27.27)	9 (11.39)	44 (15.77)
	Agree	7 (9.59)	2 (9.09)	7 (7.45)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	22 (7.89)
	Strongly Agree	8 (10.96)	2 (9.09)	12 (12.77)	1 (9.09)	6 (7.59)	29 (10.39)
	DK/NA	4 (5.48)	4 (18.18)	12 (12.77)	1 (9.09)	15 (18.99)	36 (12.90)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	279 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	10 (13.89)	4 (18.18)	10 (10.64)	2 (18.18)	10 (12.66)	36 (12.95)
	Disagree	9 (12.50)	0 (0.00)	10 (10.64)	2 (18.18)	11 (13.92)	32 (11.51)
	Neutral	15 (20.83)	5 (22.73)	27 (28.72)	2 (18.18)	23 (29.11)	72 (25.90)
	Agree	11 (15.28)	3 (13.64)	14 (14.89)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	34 (12.23)
	Strongly Agree	22 (30.56)	7 (31.82)	24 (25.53)	4 (36.36)	14 (17.72)	71 (25.54)
	DK/NA	5 (6.94)	3 (13.64)	9 (9.57)	1 (9.09)	15 (18.99)	33 (11.87)
	N	72 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	94 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	24 (32.88)	6 (27.27)	28 (30.11)	6 (54.55)	17 (21.52)	81 (29.14)
	Disagree	11 (15.07)	6 (27.27)	14 (15.05)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.13)	40 (14.39)
	Neutral	17 (23.29)	5 (22.73)	22 (23.66)	1 (9.09)	24 (30.38)	69 (24.82)
	Agree	8 (10.96)	1 (4.55)	12 (12.90)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.13)	30 (10.79)
	Strongly Agree	8 (10.96)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.53)	0 (0.00)	8 (10.13)	24 (8.63)
	DK/NA	5 (6.85)	3 (13.64)	10 (10.75)	2 (18.18)	14 (17.72)	34 (12.23)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

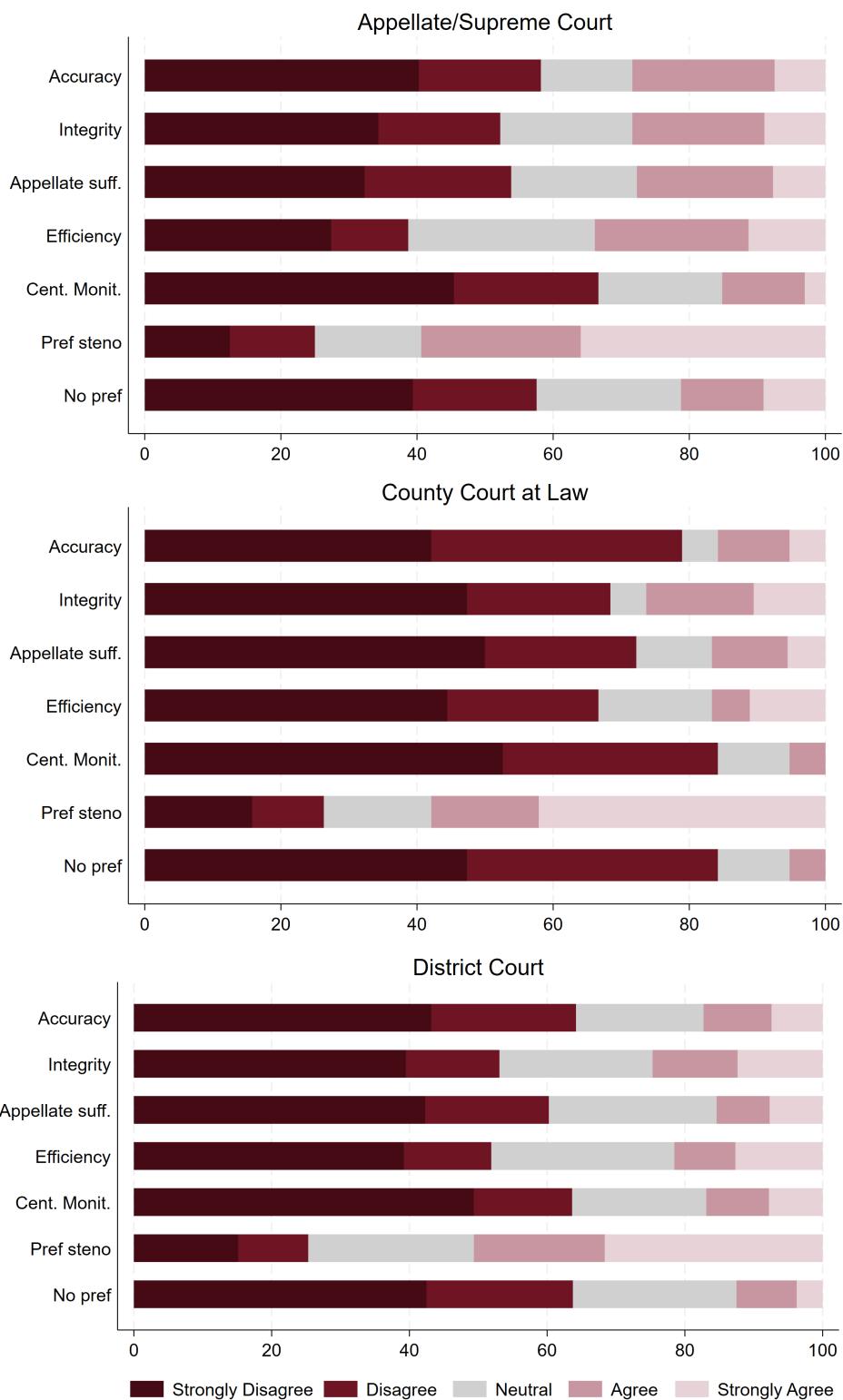


Figure 95: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

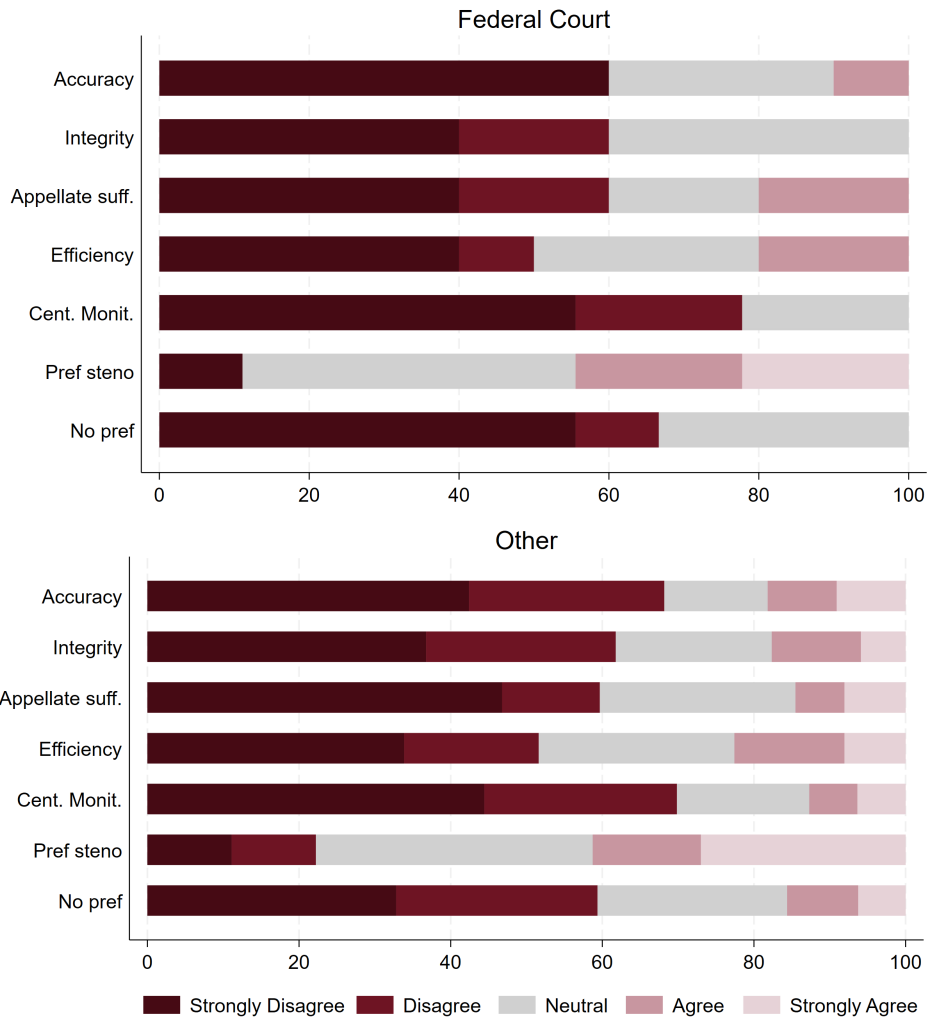


Figure 96: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 94: Perceptions of Trust, Accuracy, and Preference Regarding PAR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Measure	Response	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Accuracy	Strongly Disagree	27 (36.99)	8 (36.36)	35 (37.63)	6 (54.55)	28 (35.44)	104 (37.41)
	Disagree	12 (16.44)	7 (31.82)	17 (18.28)	0 (0.00)	17 (21.52)	53 (19.06)
	Neutral	9 (12.33)	1 (4.55)	15 (16.13)	3 (27.27)	9 (11.39)	37 (13.31)
	Agree	14 (19.18)	2 (9.09)	8 (8.60)	1 (9.09)	6 (7.59)	31 (11.15)
	Strongly Agree	5 (6.85)	1 (4.55)	6 (6.45)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	18 (6.47)
	DK/NA	6 (8.22)	3 (13.64)	12 (12.90)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.46)	35 (12.59)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Integrity	Strongly Disagree	23 (31.51)	9 (40.91)	32 (34.41)	4 (36.36)	25 (31.65)	93 (33.45)
	Disagree	12 (16.44)	4 (18.18)	11 (11.83)	2 (18.18)	17 (21.52)	46 (16.55)
	Neutral	13 (17.81)	1 (4.55)	18 (19.35)	4 (36.36)	14 (17.72)	50 (17.99)
	Agree	13 (17.81)	3 (13.64)	10 (10.75)	0 (0.00)	8 (10.13)	34 (12.23)
	Strongly Agree	6 (8.22)	2 (9.09)	10 (10.75)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	22 (7.91)
	DK/NA	6 (8.22)	3 (13.64)	12 (12.90)	1 (9.09)	11 (13.92)	33 (11.87)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Appellate Sufficiency	Strongly Disagree	21 (28.77)	9 (40.91)	33 (35.48)	4 (36.36)	29 (36.71)	96 (34.53)
	Disagree	14 (19.18)	4 (18.18)	14 (15.05)	2 (18.18)	8 (10.13)	42 (15.11)
	Neutral	12 (16.44)	2 (9.09)	19 (20.43)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	51 (18.35)
	Agree	13 (17.81)	2 (9.09)	6 (6.45)	2 (18.18)	4 (5.06)	27 (9.71)
	Strongly Agree	5 (6.85)	1 (4.55)	6 (6.45)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.33)	17 (6.12)
	DK/NA	8 (10.96)	4 (18.18)	15 (16.13)	1 (9.09)	17 (21.52)	45 (16.19)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Efficiency	Strongly Disagree	17 (23.61)	8 (36.36)	31 (33.33)	4 (36.36)	21 (26.58)	81 (29.24)
	Disagree	7 (9.72)	4 (18.18)	10 (10.75)	1 (9.09)	11 (13.92)	33 (11.91)
	Neutral	17 (23.61)	3 (13.64)	21 (22.58)	3 (27.27)	16 (20.25)	60 (21.66)
	Agree	14 (19.44)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.53)	2 (18.18)	9 (11.39)	33 (11.91)
	Strongly Agree	7 (9.72)	2 (9.09)	10 (10.75)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.33)	24 (8.66)
	DK/NA	10 (13.89)	4 (18.18)	14 (15.05)	1 (9.09)	17 (21.52)	46 (16.61)
	N	72 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
Centralized Monitoring	Strongly Disagree	30 (41.10)	10 (45.45)	38 (40.86)	5 (45.45)	28 (35.44)	111 (39.93)
	Disagree	14 (19.18)	6 (27.27)	11 (11.83)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	49 (17.63)
	Neutral	12 (16.44)	2 (9.09)	15 (16.13)	2 (18.18)	11 (13.92)	42 (15.11)
	Agree	8 (10.96)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.53)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	20 (7.19)
	Strongly Agree	2 (2.74)	0 (0.00)	6 (6.45)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	12 (4.32)
	DK/NA	7 (9.59)	3 (13.64)	16 (17.20)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	44 (15.83)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)
Preference for Stenographer	Strongly Disagree	8 (10.96)	3 (13.64)	12 (12.90)	1 (10.00)	7 (8.86)	31 (11.19)
	Disagree	15 (20.55)	3 (13.64)	15 (16.13)	2 (20.00)	9 (11.39)	44 (15.88)
	Neutral	10 (13.70)	3 (13.64)	19 (20.43)	4 (40.00)	23 (29.11)	59 (21.30)
	Agree	15 (20.55)	3 (13.64)	15 (16.13)	2 (20.00)	9 (11.39)	44 (15.88)
	Strongly Agree	23 (31.51)	8 (36.36)	25 (26.88)	2 (20.00)	17 (21.52)	75 (27.08)
	DK/NA	9 (12.33)	3 (13.64)	14 (15.05)	1 (10.00)	16 (20.25)	43 (15.52)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
No Preference	Strongly Disagree	26 (35.62)	9 (40.91)	34 (36.56)	5 (45.45)	21 (26.58)	95 (34.17)
	Disagree	12 (16.44)	7 (31.82)	17 (18.28)	1 (9.09)	17 (21.52)	54 (19.42)
	Neutral	14 (19.18)	2 (9.09)	19 (20.43)	3 (27.27)	16 (20.25)	54 (19.42)
	Agree	8 (10.96)	1 (4.55)	7 (7.53)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	22 (7.91)
	Strongly Agree	6 (8.22)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	13 (4.68)
	DK/NA	7 (9.59)	3 (13.64)	13 (13.98)	2 (18.18)	15 (18.99)	40 (14.39)
	N	73 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	278 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%); DK/NA = I Don't Know/Not Applicable.

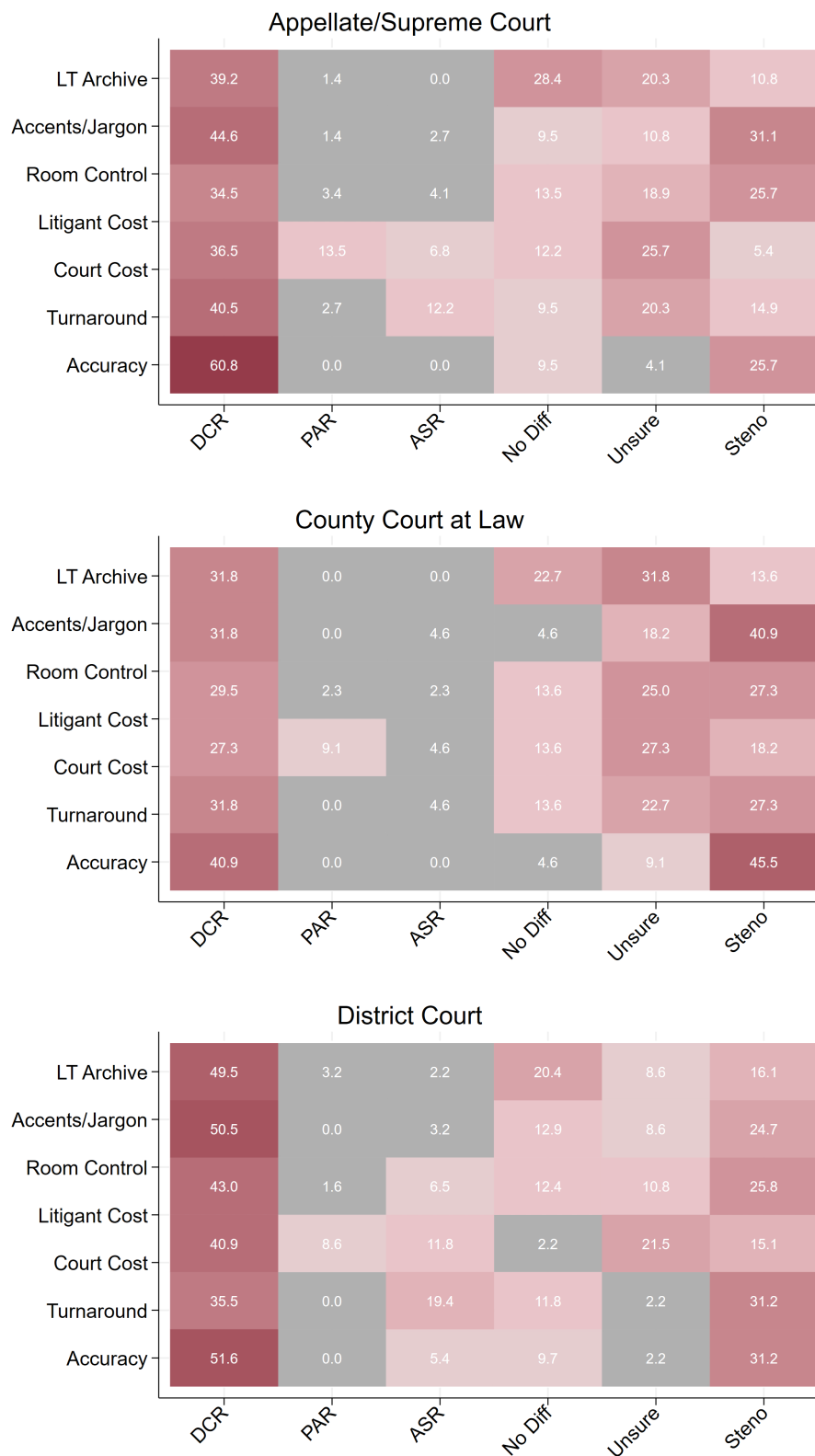


Figure 97: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)



Figure 98: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 95: Comparison of Digital Court Recording and Court Reporting, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents

Factor	Method	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Verbatim Accuracy	ASR	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	5 (5.38)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.90)	8 (2.89)
	DCR	45 (60.81)	9 (40.91)	48 (51.61)	6 (54.55)	30 (38.96)	138 (49.82)
	No Difference	7 (9.46)	1 (4.55)	9 (9.68)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.69)	27 (9.75)
	PAR	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.30)	1 (0.36)
	Stenography	19 (25.68)	10 (45.45)	29 (31.18)	4 (36.36)	24 (31.17)	86 (31.05)
	Unsure	3 (4.05)	2 (9.09)	2 (2.15)	0 (0.00)	10 (12.99)	17 (6.14)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	77 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
Turnaround Time	ASR	9 (12.16)	1 (4.55)	18 (19.35)	2 (18.18)	8 (10.53)	38 (13.77)
	DCR	30 (40.54)	7 (31.82)	33 (35.48)	3 (27.27)	31 (40.79)	104 (37.68)
	No Difference	7 (9.46)	3 (13.64)	11 (11.83)	2 (18.18)	13 (17.11)	36 (13.04)
	PAR	2 (2.70)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.63)	4 (1.45)
	Stenography	11 (14.86)	6 (27.27)	29 (31.18)	3 (27.27)	14 (18.42)	63 (22.83)
	Unsure	15 (20.27)	5 (22.73)	2 (2.15)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.53)	31 (11.23)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	76 (100.00)	276 (100.00)
Cost-Effective for Court	ASR	5 (6.76)	1 (4.55)	11 (11.83)	1 (9.09)	3 (3.90)	21 (7.58)
	DCR	27 (36.49)	6 (27.27)	38 (40.86)	6 (54.55)	36 (46.75)	113 (40.79)
	No Difference	9 (12.16)	3 (13.64)	2 (2.15)	0 (0.00)	5 (6.49)	19 (6.86)
	PAR	10 (13.51)	2 (9.09)	8 (8.60)	2 (18.18)	4 (5.19)	26 (9.39)
	Stenography	4 (5.41)	4 (18.18)	14 (15.05)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.79)	30 (10.83)
	Unsure	19 (25.68)	6 (27.27)	20 (21.51)	0 (0.00)	23 (29.87)	68 (24.55)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	77 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
Cost-Effective for Litigants	ASR	6 (8.11)	1 (4.55)	9 (9.68)	0 (0.00)	3 (4.00)	19 (6.91)
	DCR	25 (33.78)	6 (27.27)	37 (39.78)	5 (45.45)	28 (37.33)	101 (36.73)
	No Difference	10 (13.51)	4 (18.18)	13 (13.98)	0 (0.00)	12 (16.00)	39 (14.18)
	PAR	5 (6.76)	1 (4.55)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.67)	11 (4.00)
	Stenography	5 (6.76)	3 (13.64)	13 (13.98)	2 (18.18)	6 (8.00)	29 (10.55)
	Unsure	23 (31.08)	7 (31.82)	18 (19.35)	4 (36.36)	24 (32.00)	76 (27.64)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	75 (100.00)	275 (100.00)
Room Control	ASR	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.32)	4 (1.45)
	DCR	26 (35.14)	7 (31.82)	43 (46.24)	6 (54.55)	21 (27.63)	103 (37.32)
	No Difference	10 (13.51)	2 (9.09)	10 (10.75)	0 (0.00)	14 (18.42)	36 (13.04)
	Stenography	33 (44.59)	9 (40.91)	35 (37.63)	5 (45.45)	33 (43.42)	115 (41.67)
	Unsure	5 (6.76)	4 (18.18)	2 (2.15)	0 (0.00)	7 (9.21)	18 (6.52)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	76 (100.00)	276 (100.00)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	76 (100.00)	276 (100.00)
Accents/Technical Jargon	ASR	2 (2.70)	1 (4.55)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.60)	8 (2.89)
	DCR	33 (44.59)	7 (31.82)	47 (50.54)	6 (54.55)	25 (32.47)	118 (42.60)
	No Difference	7 (9.46)	1 (4.55)	12 (12.90)	0 (0.00)	10 (12.99)	30 (10.83)
	PAR	1 (1.35)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)
	Stenography	23 (31.08)	9 (40.91)	23 (24.73)	4 (36.36)	27 (35.06)	86 (31.05)
	Unsure	8 (10.81)	4 (18.18)	8 (8.60)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.88)	34 (12.27)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	77 (100.00)	277 (100.00)
Long-Term Archiving	ASR	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	2 (2.15)	0 (0.00)	1 (1.30)	3 (1.08)
	DCR	29 (39.19)	7 (31.82)	46 (49.46)	4 (36.36)	25 (32.47)	111 (40.07)
	No Difference	21 (28.38)	5 (22.73)	19 (20.43)	1 (9.09)	25 (32.47)	71 (25.63)
	PAR	1 (1.35)	0 (0.00)	3 (3.23)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (1.44)
	Stenography	8 (10.81)	3 (13.64)	15 (16.13)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.88)	41 (14.80)
	Unsure	15 (20.27)	7 (31.82)	8 (8.60)	4 (36.36)	13 (16.88)	47 (16.97)
	N	74 (100.00)	22 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	77 (100.00)	277 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). ASR = Automated Speech Recognition. DCR = Digital Court Recording. PAR = Passive Audio Recording. Room Control had no Passive Audio Recording responses for any court level (0.00%).

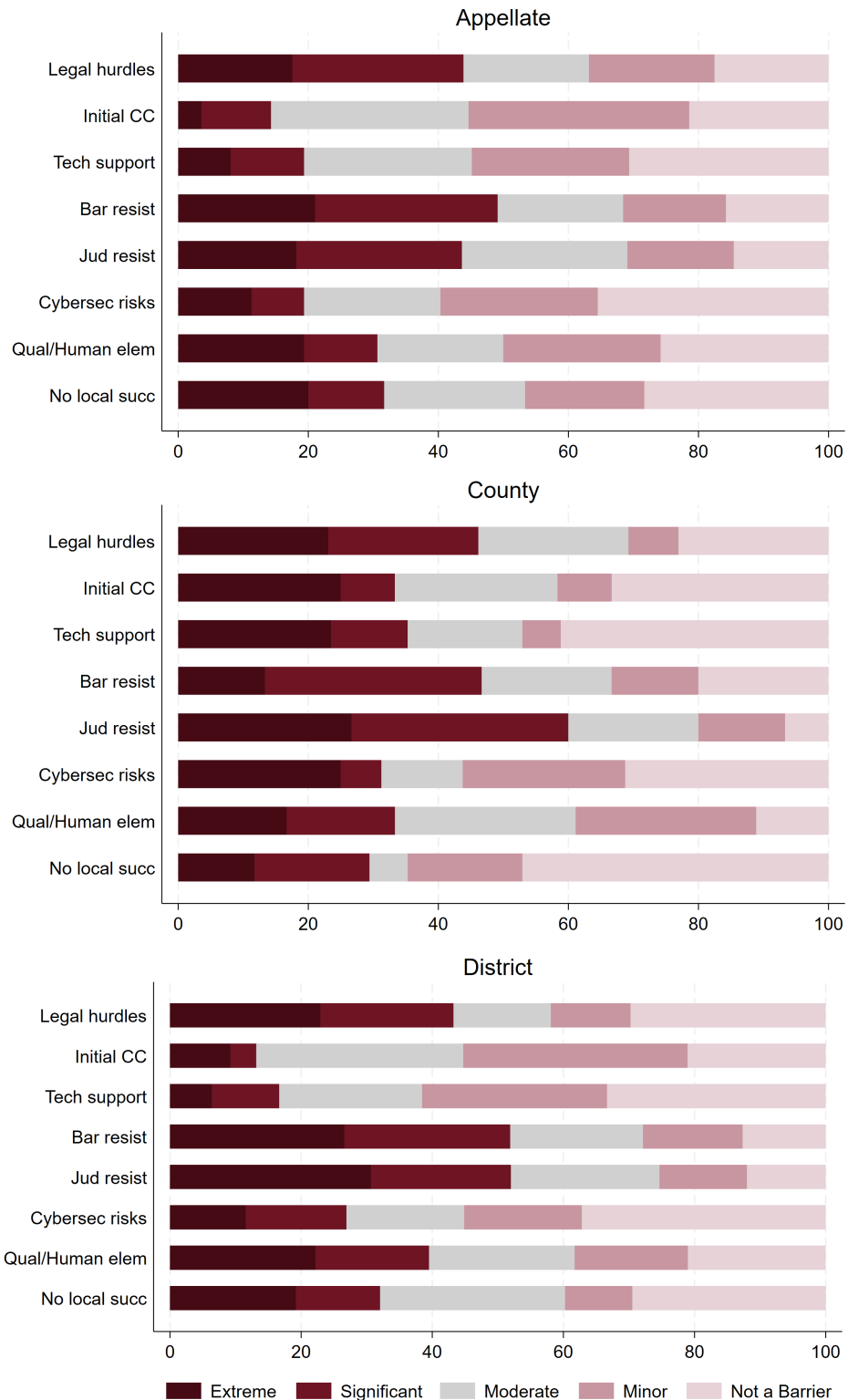


Figure 99: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (1 of 2)

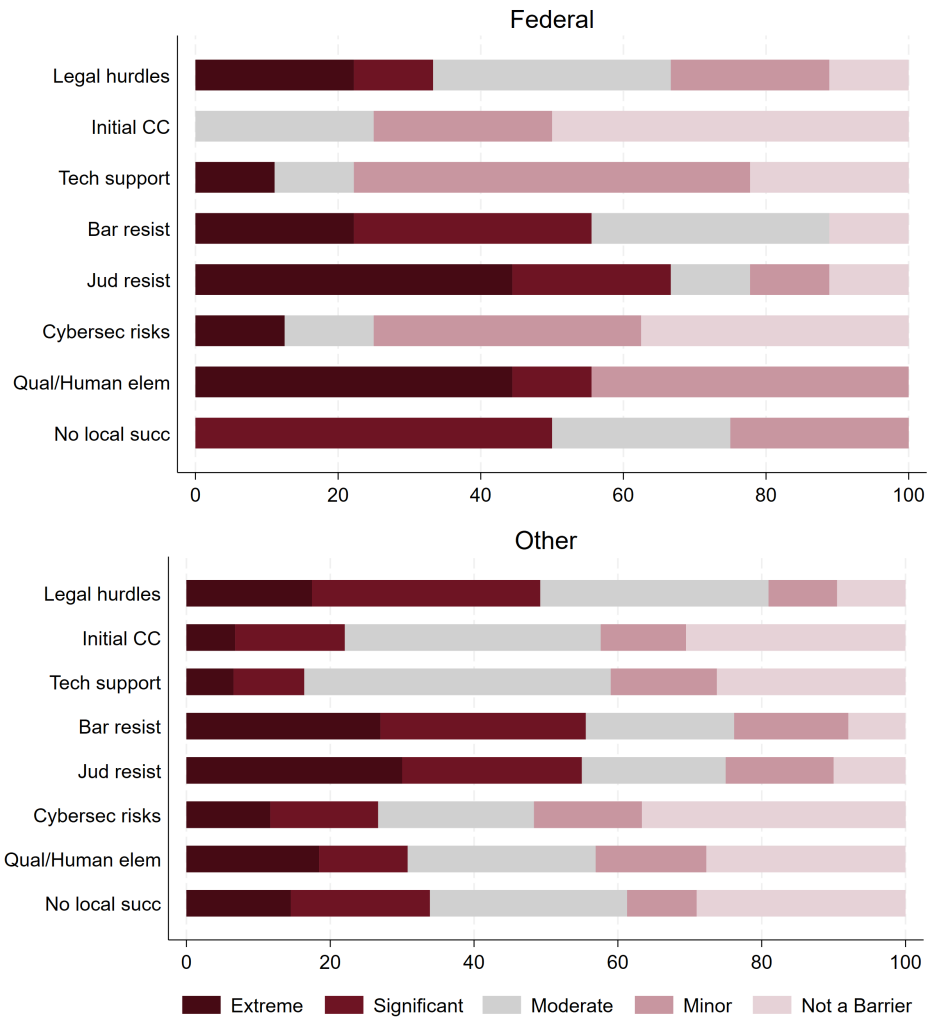


Figure 100: Perceived Barriers to Implementation of DCR, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (2 of 2)

Table 96: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (Part 1 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Statutory/ Legal Hurdles	Extreme	10 (13.70)	3 (14.29)	17 (18.89)	2 (18.18)	11 (13.92)	43 (15.69)
	Significant	15 (20.55)	3 (14.29)	15 (16.67)	1 (9.09)	20 (25.32)	54 (19.71)
	Moderate	11 (15.07)	3 (14.29)	11 (12.22)	3 (27.27)	20 (25.32)	48 (17.52)
	Minor	11 (15.07)	1 (4.76)	9 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.59)	29 (10.58)
	Not a Barrier	10 (13.70)	3 (14.29)	22 (24.44)	1 (9.09)	6 (7.59)	42 (15.33)
	I Don't Know	16 (21.92)	8 (38.10)	16 (17.78)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	58 (21.17)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)
Initial Capital Cost	Extreme	2 (2.74)	3 (14.29)	7 (7.78)	0 (0.00)	4 (5.06)	16 (5.84)
	Significant	6 (8.22)	1 (4.76)	3 (3.33)	0 (0.00)	9 (11.39)	19 (6.93)
	Moderate	17 (23.29)	3 (14.29)	24 (26.67)	2 (18.18)	21 (26.58)	67 (24.45)
	Minor	19 (26.03)	1 (4.76)	26 (28.89)	2 (18.18)	7 (8.86)	55 (20.07)
	Not a Barrier	12 (16.44)	4 (19.05)	16 (17.78)	4 (36.36)	18 (22.78)	54 (19.71)
	I Don't Know	17 (23.29)	9 (42.86)	14 (15.56)	3 (27.27)	20 (25.32)	63 (22.99)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)
Technical Support	Extreme	5 (6.85)	4 (19.05)	5 (5.56)	1 (9.09)	4 (5.06)	19 (6.93)
	Significant	7 (9.59)	2 (9.52)	8 (8.89)	0 (0.00)	6 (7.59)	23 (8.39)
	Moderate	16 (21.92)	3 (14.29)	17 (18.89)	1 (9.09)	26 (32.91)	63 (22.99)
	Minor	15 (20.55)	1 (4.76)	22 (24.44)	5 (45.45)	9 (11.39)	52 (18.98)
	Not a Barrier	19 (26.03)	7 (33.33)	26 (28.89)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	70 (25.55)
	I Don't Know	11 (15.07)	4 (19.05)	12 (13.33)	2 (18.18)	18 (22.78)	47 (17.15)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)
Resistance from Local Bar	Extreme	12 (16.44)	2 (9.52)	21 (23.60)	2 (18.18)	17 (21.52)	54 (19.78)
	Significant	16 (21.92)	5 (23.81)	20 (22.47)	3 (27.27)	18 (22.78)	62 (22.71)
	Moderate	11 (15.07)	3 (14.29)	16 (17.98)	3 (27.27)	13 (16.46)	46 (16.85)
	Minor	9 (12.33)	2 (9.52)	12 (13.48)	0 (0.00)	10 (12.66)	33 (12.09)
	Not a Barrier	9 (12.33)	3 (14.29)	10 (11.24)	1 (9.09)	5 (6.33)	28 (10.26)
	I Don't Know	16 (21.92)	6 (28.57)	10 (11.24)	2 (18.18)	16 (20.25)	50 (18.32)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	89 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	273 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%). Continued in Table 97.

Table 97: Perceived Barriers to DCR Implementation, by Court Level, Non-Texas Respondents (Part 2 of 2)

Barrier	Level	Appellate/Supreme Court	County Court at Law	District Court	Federal Court	Other	Total
Resistance from Judiciary	Extreme	10 (13.70)	4 (19.05)	23 (25.56)	4 (36.36)	18 (22.78)	59 (21.53)
	Significant	14 (19.18)	5 (23.81)	16 (17.78)	2 (18.18)	15 (18.99)	52 (18.98)
	Moderate	14 (19.18)	3 (14.29)	17 (18.89)	1 (9.09)	12 (15.19)	47 (17.15)
	Minor	9 (12.33)	2 (9.52)	10 (11.11)	1 (9.09)	9 (11.39)	31 (11.31)
	Not a Barrier	8 (10.96)	1 (4.76)	9 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	6 (7.59)	25 (9.12)
	I Don't Know	18 (24.66)	6 (28.57)	15 (16.67)	2 (18.18)	19 (24.05)	60 (21.90)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)
Cybersecurity Risks	Extreme	7 (9.59)	4 (19.05)	9 (10.00)	1 (9.09)	7 (8.86)	28 (10.22)
	Significant	5 (6.85)	1 (4.76)	12 (13.33)	0 (0.00)	9 (11.39)	27 (9.85)
	Moderate	13 (17.81)	2 (9.52)	14 (15.56)	1 (9.09)	13 (16.46)	43 (15.69)
	Minor	15 (20.55)	4 (19.05)	14 (15.56)	3 (27.27)	9 (11.39)	45 (16.42)
	Not a Barrier	22 (30.14)	5 (23.81)	29 (32.22)	3 (27.27)	22 (27.85)	81 (29.56)
	I Don't Know	11 (15.07)	5 (23.81)	12 (13.33)	3 (27.27)	19 (24.05)	50 (18.25)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)
Quality of Human Element	Extreme	12 (16.44)	3 (14.29)	18 (20.00)	4 (36.36)	12 (15.38)	49 (17.95)
	Significant	7 (9.59)	3 (14.29)	14 (15.56)	1 (9.09)	8 (10.26)	33 (12.09)
	Moderate	12 (16.44)	5 (23.81)	18 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	17 (21.79)	52 (19.05)
	Minor	15 (20.55)	5 (23.81)	14 (15.56)	4 (36.36)	10 (12.82)	48 (17.58)
	Not a Barrier	16 (21.92)	2 (9.52)	17 (18.89)	0 (0.00)	18 (23.08)	53 (19.41)
	I Don't Know	11 (15.07)	3 (14.29)	9 (10.00)	2 (18.18)	13 (16.67)	38 (13.92)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	78 (100.00)	273 (100.00)
Lack of Demonstrated Local Success	Extreme	12 (16.44)	2 (9.52)	15 (16.67)	0 (0.00)	9 (11.39)	38 (13.87)
	Significant	7 (9.59)	3 (14.29)	10 (11.11)	4 (36.36)	12 (15.19)	36 (13.14)
	Moderate	13 (17.81)	1 (4.76)	22 (24.44)	2 (18.18)	17 (21.52)	55 (20.07)
	Minor	11 (15.07)	3 (14.29)	8 (8.89)	2 (18.18)	6 (7.59)	30 (10.95)
	Not a Barrier	17 (23.29)	8 (38.10)	23 (25.56)	0 (0.00)	18 (22.78)	66 (24.09)
	I Don't Know	13 (17.81)	4 (19.05)	12 (13.33)	3 (27.27)	17 (21.52)	49 (17.88)
	<i>N</i>	73 (100.00)	21 (100.00)	90 (100.00)	11 (100.00)	79 (100.00)	274 (100.00)

Note. Values are presented as n (%).

0 Interview Questions: An Evaluation of Digital Court Recording in Texas

To conduct an objective assessment, the study must operate with clear, professional definitions of court recording methods, distinguishing between digital court recording and stenography.

Texas House Bill 16 (89-2) defines Digital Court Recording as the practice of making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding before a grand jury or court personnel through the use of digital technology, electronic recording equipment, or other recording and transcribing technology.

The Texas Government Code defines shorthand reporting and court reporting as the practice of shorthand reporting for use in litigation in the courts of this state by making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding before a grand jury, referee, or court commissioner using written symbols in shorthand, machine shorthand, or oral stenography (voice writing). Court reporting is performed by a certified court reporter (CSR).

For the following conversation, we will use the following definitions of each court recording modality:

- Digital Audio Recording (DAR) with Human Monitoring – A trained, certified human reporter operating within a courtroom or deposition setting actively monitors the recording and provides real-time annotation and logging. Usually, as part of a Legal Transcriptionist workflow, the same individual who works within the courtroom or an off-site Certified Electronic Transcriber (CET) will create the certified transcript.
- Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) Systems – The process by which speech to text software are used on the digital court recording to assist in transcription production or provide a real time text feed of the ASR to judges and attorneys while on the record.
- Passive Audio Recording – The process by which the proceeding is recorded using commercially available recording devices that are not actively monitored by a trained, certified person. The audio file is then transcribed.

Please keep these definitions of Digital Court Recording (DCR) in mind as you answer the interview questions.

0.1 Workforce Availability and Local Climate

- From your vantage point, how would you describe the current state of court reporting services in your jurisdiction?
- Some jurisdictions report difficulty in finding court reporters for ‘short notice’ (or other) hearings or depositions. To what extent has the availability, or lack thereof, of reporters impacted the courts in your jurisdiction? Specifically, how has it impacted case flow and the daily docket?

- What, if any, other challenges are you currently experiencing in ensuring that an accurate record is taken and available?
- In your experience, for which types of proceedings is Digital Court Recording (DCR) most frequently utilized locally? Where do you still see a primary reliance on stenography?
- Do you believe that there are certain case types that are more appropriate for DCR than others? If so, what are they?
- How have budget constraints influenced decisions about how proceedings are recorded?

0.2 Attitudes Towards Adoption

- What do you believe are the primary factors that could lead a Texas jurisdiction to transition toward Digital Court Recording (DCR)?
- Conversely, what do you perceive as the most significant ‘deal-breakers’ or concerns holding them back?
- What do you believe is the ideal mix of hearings where the record is captured through DCR and stenography? Do you believe they are complements of one another or substitutes?
- How would you characterize the general attitude of the bench regarding changes in how the record is produced?
- How would you characterize the general attitude of the local bar regarding changes in how transcripts (court proceedings and depositions) are produced?
- Is there an active dialogue between the bench and the bar on this topic?

0.3 Perceptions of Quality, Accuracy and the “Human Element”

- When you think about a ‘verbatim record’, what specific elements (such as speaker identification, handling accents, and technical jargon) do you believe are the most challenging for any reporting method to capture?
- What is your perspective on the sufficiency of a court record produced from digital methods when it reaches the appellate level? Have you seen or heard of cases where the method of recording impacted the appeal?
- One emerging trend in digital court recording is ‘Centralized Monitoring’, where one person monitors multiple courtrooms from a centralized location. What are your thoughts or concerns regarding this model in terms of creating an accurate court record?

0.4 Texas Policy Landscape

- The Office of Court Administration is currently contracting with us to evaluate Digital Court Recording (DCR). If you were advising the OCA, what is the most critical factor they should consider regarding the effectiveness of Digital Court Recording (DCR)?
- Do you feel the current Texas Government Code provides enough guidance for the use of Digital Court Recording (DCR)? If not, what needs to be clarified or standardized at the state level?
- Do you believe that current statewide rules (Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, etc.) provide enough guidance for the use of Digital Court Recording? If not, what needs to be clarified or standardized?
- Looking ahead five years, how do you envision the 'official record' in your jurisdiction being captured, preserved, and produced in your county? How do you envision depositions being produced in your county? Do you see Digital Court Recording (DCR) and stenography co-existing, or one being more prevalent than the other?
- What, if anything, could be done from a policy standpoint to increase your level of comfort with adoption of digital recording modalities?

0.5 Wrap-Up

- Finally, is there anything else you would like to tell us?