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RESEARCH

The Impact of the Community Court Model on Defendant Perceptions of Fairness

A Case Study at the Red Hook
Community Justice Center

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Submitted to the U. S. Bureau of Justice Assistance

September 2006

Appendix 1: Survey Instrument			
<p>Hello my name is _____. I'm with the Center for Court Innovation. We're conducting a survey to learn about your experience today in court. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Your responses will be kept confidential. In fact, we will not even ask you for your name. The information is for research purposes only. The survey will be about 10 minutes long.</p>			
<p>Today's Date _____</p>		<p>Time _____ Survey _____ was _____ taken AM / PM</p>	<p>ENGLISH (1) SPANISH (2)</p>
Please circle your answer below.			
1		<p>1 You pled guilty today. 2 Your case was dismissed today or the judge said it would be dismissed if you stayed out of trouble. 3 You pled guilty on this case in the past and were here for a progress report on your mandate. (skip to Q2) 4 You had a court appearance in an ongoing matter on which you have not pled guilty. (skip to Q2) 5 None of those things happened. Note to interviewer: Probe for what did happen. 6 Don't know. Note to interviewer: Probe for what did happen.</p>	
1a		<p>1 Yes 2 No</p>	
2		<p>1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know.</p>	
3		<p>1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't know.</p>	
4		<p>About how many minutes did it take you to get through security today? _____</p>	SKIP IF INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED
5		<p>Once you were in the courtroom, about how long did you have to wait before the judge heard your case? (Please elicit a response in hours and/or minutes, whichever is appropriate). _____</p>	SKIP IF INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED
6		<p>I found waiting in the courtroom to be:</p> <p>1 Very unpleasant 2 Unpleasant 3 Neither pleasant nor unpleasant 4 Pleasant 5 Very pleasant</p>	SKIP IF INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED

For each of the statements below, please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement by placing a check mark in the appropriate column.		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
		1	2	3	4	5
7	The judge listened to you.					
8	Your lawyer seemed very interested in helping you.					
9	The court officers treated you with respect.					
10	The judge listened to you via your attorney.					
11	Your lawyer treated you with respect.					
12	The prosecutor seemed very interested in helping you.					
13	The judge clearly explained to you everything that was happening with your case today.					
14	You understood the judge's instructions to you about your case.					
15	Your lawyer listened to you.					
16	The judge treated you fairly.					
17	Your lawyer cared more about winning your case over with quickly.					
18	The judge got all the information needed to make a good decision.					
19	The prosecutor treated you with respect.					
20	The judge showed favoritism towards one party in your case.					
21	You understood the judge's instructions to you about your case today.					
22	Your lawyer was honest with you.					

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
		1	2	3	4	5
23	The judge cared most about getting your case over with quickly.					
24	Your lawyer treated you fairly.					
25	Throughout your case, the judge tried to understand your particular needs for services or any other needs you had.					
26	The judge treated you with respect.					
27	The prosecutor cared most about getting your case over with quickly.					
28	The judge carefully considered what you or your lawyer said when making a decision.					
29	The court officers gave clear answers to your questions, if you had any.					
Now, I'd like you to think about your case overall. Do you strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree or agree, agree or strongly agree with the following:						
30	Your case today was handled fairly by the court.					
31	Thinking about today's experience in the courtroom <u>only</u> , your legal rights in court were taken into account.					
32	You were treated the way you deserved in court today.					
33	The outcome of your case was fair.					
Please circle your answer below.						
34	Have you had a court case anywhere else besides the court you're in today (e.g. Downtown Brooklyn, a different Borough or State, etc.)?	1 Yes	2 No	If yes, where? _____ If no, skip to question 44		
Thinking about that other case experience:						
35	About how many minutes did it take you to get through security?	_____				

36		Once you were in the courtroom, about how long did you have to wait before the judge heard your case? (Please elicit a response in hours and/or minutes, whichever is appropriate). _____				
37	1 2 3 4 5	I found waiting in the courtroom to be: Very unpleasant Unpleasant Neither pleasant nor unpleasant Pleasant Very pleasant				
Thinking about that other court case experience, overall:						
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
		1	2	3	4	5
38		The court case was fair.				
39		You were treated the way you deserved.				
40		The judge tried to understand my needs and feelings.				
41		You understood the judge's instructions to you about your case.				
42		The outcome of your case was fair.				
Please circle your answers below.						
43	1 2 3 4	Overall, my experience here in court today was: Better than my experience at the other court. Worse than my experience at the other court. About the same as my experience at the other court. I don't know/can't remember.				

44	1 2	What is your sex? Male Female
45		What is your age?
46	1 2 3 4 5	How would you best identify yourself? White Black/African American Hispanic/Latino Asian or Pacific Islander Other (please specify:) _____
47	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	What is the highest level of education you have completed? No high school diploma or GED High school diploma or GED Some college or technical training school Associate's degree Bachelor's degree Some graduate school Graduate or professional degree
48	1 2 3	Are you currently in school? Yes, full time Yes, part-time No
49	1 2 3	Are you employed? Yes, full time Yes, part-time No
50	1 2 3	What language is most spoken in your household? English Spanish Other (please specify:) _____
51	1 2 3 4 5 6	What area do you live in? Red Hook Sunset Park Gowanus/Wyckoff Park Slope Cobble Hill/Carroll Gardens Other _____
52	1 2	Do you currently live in public housing? Yes No
53		Is there anything else you would like to add concerning how you were treated today in court? _____ _____ _____

