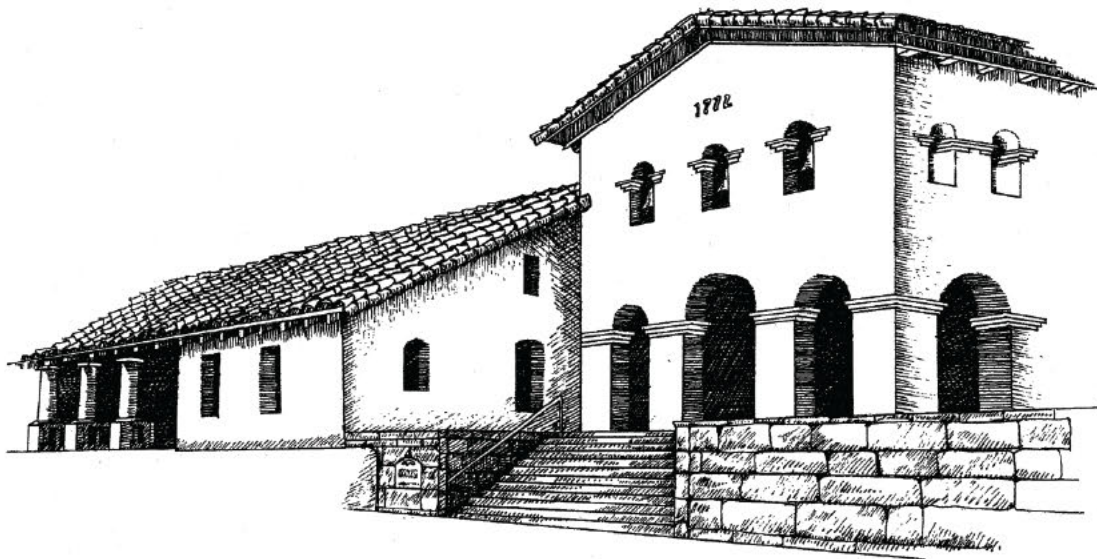


# JUDICIAL EVALUATION POLL

San Luis Obispo County Bar Association



2021



OCTOBER 8, 2021

HON. JACQUELYN H. DUFFY, PRESIDING JUDGE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO SUPERIOR COURT  
1050 MONTEREY STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408  
JACQUELYN.DUFFY@SLO.COURTS.CA.GOV

DEAR JUDGE DUFFY,

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association (the “**SLOCBA**”), it is my pleasure to offer to you for review the results (the “**Report**”) of the 2021 Judicial Evaluation Poll (the “**Poll**”). The Poll was conducted via an online data collection program called “JotForm” and was administered by our Judicial Evaluation Committee, Lisa Toke, Gregory Francisco Gillett, and Kevin Elder. The Poll was made available for forty-five (45) calendar days and publicized to all contacts (members and non-members) of the SLOCBA starting on July 26, 2021 with a consistent marketing campaign, including email reminders, social media posts, and mentions during SLOCBA events in order to solicit participation.

We are pleased with the engagement of the local bar, including the thoughtfulness in the responses provided. The Poll responses were anonymous but vetted, via IP addresses, to ensure that each participant submitted only one response. One hundred thirteen (113) individuals participated in the Poll.

We offer the enclosed Report to you and the honorable bench and look forward to any further discussion on how the SLOCBA can assist the bench in continuing a legacy of quality justice in San Luis Obispo County. The SLOCBA is grateful for its relationship with the bench, and we hope the Report will serve as an opportunity for our relationship to grow stronger.

The Report will be posted on the SLOCBA website, and our members will be notified of its availability to review on November 1, 2021. Pursuant to American Bar Association guidance, we will be redacting all comments from the Report that is posted online. The SLOCBA will not be issuing a press release and will not be providing comment to any media outlets that may seek to discuss the Report.

Very truly yours,

Joe Benson, Bar President  
Kara Stein-Conaway, Bar Vice President

cc: Board  
Judicial Evaluation Committee

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OVERVIEW

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Participants: 113

Bar Member Participants: 107

Non-Bar Member Participants: 6


Total Judicial Officer Responses (including comments): 496

Total Current Bar Members: 486

Dates Distributed: July 26, 2021; August 6, 2021; August 25, 2021; September 3, 2021; September 7, 2021; and September 9, 2021.

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The poll was conducted online with an introduction explaining the purpose of the poll and a request to have the participants identify if they are Bar members.



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

## Judicial Evaluation Poll

San Luis Obispo County Bar Association

The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association periodically polls its members and non-members who practice before SLO County courts to provide feedback on our judicial officers. You need to be an attorney to participate, but you do not need to be a member of the Bar. We do, however, ask that you only evaluate the judicial officers with whom you have professional experience. The submissions will be anonymous and we ask that any comments be constructive and civil in nature.


If you have technical questions or concerns regarding this poll, please email Gregory Gillett by clicking [here](#).

I am member of the SLO County Bar Association \*

Yes

No

Participants were offered the survey guidelines, including definitions of each category to be rated.



## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

You are being asked to evaluate judicial officers who you practice before and have enough information to give a rating between 1-10 (**1 = Needs Improvement** and **10 = Excellent**) on the following categories:

**Efficiency in courtroom management** - How well does the judicial officer manage court time including, but not limited to, starting/finishing their calendar on time?

**Courteous and attentive in the courtroom** - How courteous and attentive is the judicial officer to attorneys, parties, self-represented litigants, jurors, and witnesses?

**Quality of written work product** - What is the quality of the judicial officer's written work product including, but not limited to, rulings on motions, tentative rulings, findings and orders, statements of decision, and judicial opinions?

**Controls for bias/fairness** - How well does the judicial officer control for bias, exhibit impartiality, and pursue fairness?

**Judicial demeanor** - How do you rate this judicial officer's demeanor/temperament in the courtroom?

**Preparedness** - Is this judicial officer prepared for hearings, motions, and/or trials?

**Understands the law** - How well does this judicial officer understand the law?

**Follows the law** - How well does this judicial officer follow the law?

**Ability to handle pretrial matters** - How well does this judicial officer handle pretrial matters?

**Ability to conduct trial** - How well does this judicial officer conduct trial?

**Rules decisively** - How well does this judicial officer rule clearly and decisively?


You do not have to rate the judicial officer on all categories by selecting N/A.

Finally, there will be a section to give general constructive feedback.

Back

Next

Participants were given a list of judicial officers to select and evaluate.



## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Please select the judicial officers with whom you have experience and who you are prepared to evaluate.

[List of categories for reference.](#)

**Judicial Officers \***

- Hernaldo J. Baltodano, Judge
- Erin M. Childs, Commissioner
- Tana L. Coates, Judge
- Timothy Covello, Judge
- Charles S. Crandall, Judge
- Jacquelyn H. Duffy, Judge
- Rita Coyne Federman, Judge
- Ginger E. Garrett, Judge
- Matthew G. Guerrero, Judge
- Dodie A. Harman, Judge
- Linda D. Hurst, Judge
- Leslie Kraut, Commissioner
- Jesse J. Marino, Judge
- Gayle L. Peron, Judge
- Craig B. van Rooyen, Judge

Thank you for your participation in the Judicial Evaluation. Please press submit below to deliver your forms.

Upon selecting a judicial officer, the participants were given the evaluation as to those selected. Participants were also offered the opportunity to supplement their ratings with comments.

**Judge Hernaldo Baltodano**

	1-10
Efficiency in courtroom management	▼
Courteous and attentive in the courtroom	▼
Quality of written work product	▼
Controls for bias/fairness	▼
Judicial demeanor	▼
Preparedness	▼
Understands the law	▼
Follows the law	▼
Ability to handle pretrial matters	▼
Ability to conduct trial	▼
Rules decisively	▼
Overall rating	▼

**Comments - Baltodano**

Please provide brief positive and/or constructive comments about this judicial officer that expand on the categories above or address other aspects of the judicial officer's professional abilities.



Upon submission, the participants were thanked for their participation and they received confirmation that their polls were received.



# Thank You!

Your submission has been received.

Each evaluation was collected by the JotForm program and emailed to the administrator.

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## LIMITATIONS

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The primary limitation of this poll is the size of the sample as it relates to each judicial officer. The overall participation from the Bar was significant and therefore provides validity to the results. However, there are limited sample sizes for some judicial officers who preside over subject matter where counsel is limited (juvenile, small claims, traffic), or where their calendars are primarily administrative. Thus, there are some natural limitations for some judicial officers whose assignments do not call for work within specific categories, i.e., written work product or trials). The Report indicates results derived from small sample sizes by highlighting the results in **red font**.

Another limitation of the Poll is that it was only offered in electronic format. Although the Poll was compatible with all electronic devices (computer, tablet, phone), there were no paper copies available for completion. However, in addition to the Poll being announced via email, it was posted in the Bar Bulletin and no paper copies were received.

Similarly, some participants may have had technical difficulties when undertaking the survey. However, no requests for assistance were received by the administrator.

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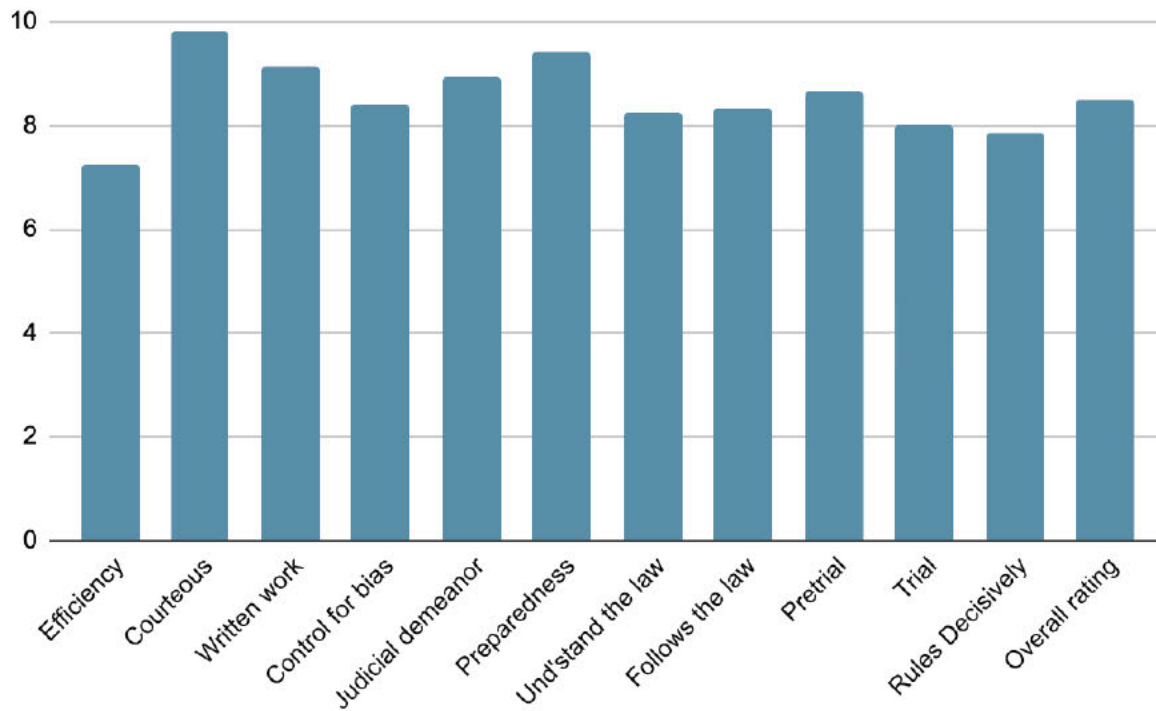
## NOTATIONS

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The “Overall” score is not the average of the participant’s rating for the other categories. Rather, it is the participant’s rating of the judicial officer’s overall performance.

Responses from computers were more likely to have written comments in addition to ratings.

Average	
7.25	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.83	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
9.14	Quality of written work product
8.42	Controls for bias/fairness
8.92	Judicial demeanor
9.42	Preparedness
8.25	Understands the law
8.33	Follows the law
8.67	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.00	Ability to conduct trial
7.83	Rules decisively
8.50	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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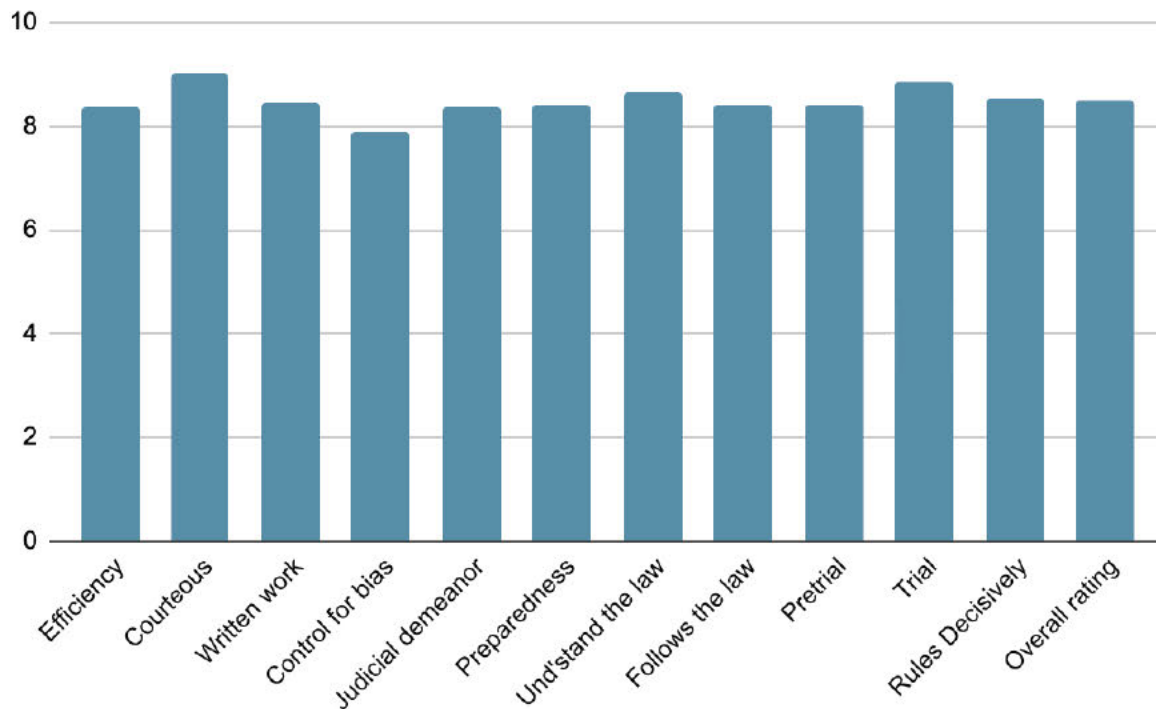
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Average	
8.38	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.00	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.47	Quality of written work product
7.90	Controls for bias/fairness
8.38	Judicial demeanor
8.40	Preparedness
8.67	Understands the law
8.43	Follows the law
8.42	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.84	Ability to conduct trial
8.55	Rules decisively
8.48	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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[REDACTED]

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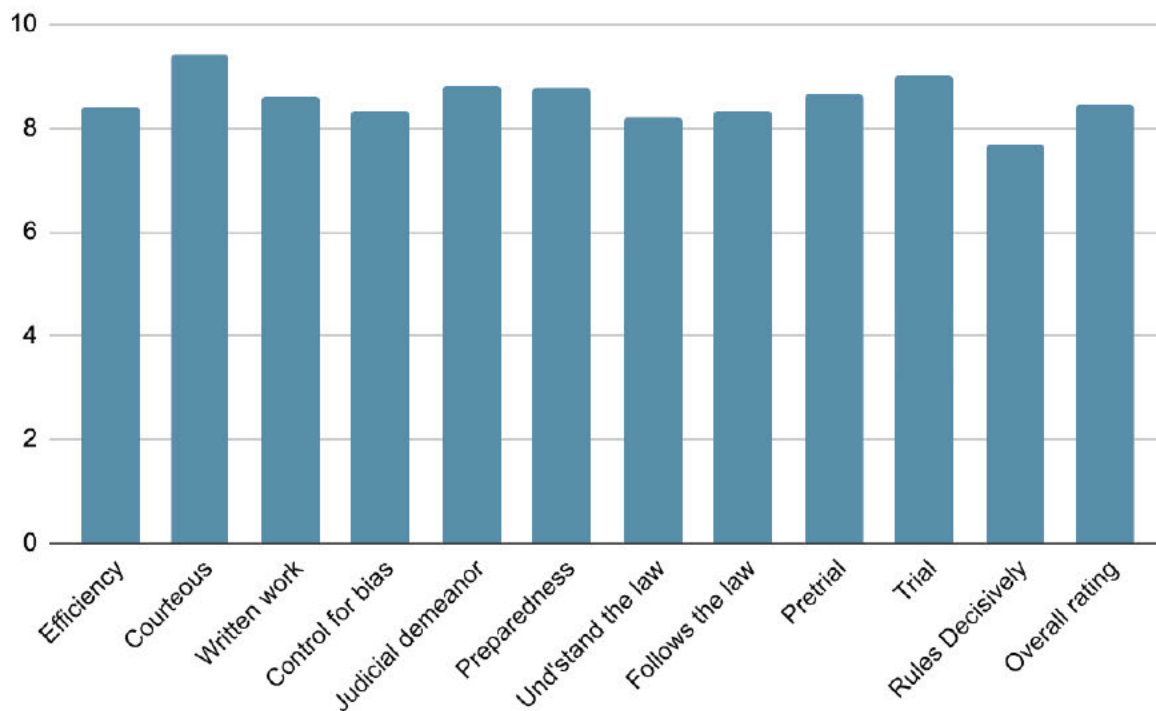
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Average	
8.40	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.40	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.60	Quality of written work product
8.33	Controls for bias/fairness
8.82	Judicial demeanor
8.76	Preparedness
8.23	Understands the law
8.32	Follows the law
8.67	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9.00	Ability to conduct trial
7.70	Rules decisively
8.47	Overall rating





**COMMENTS**

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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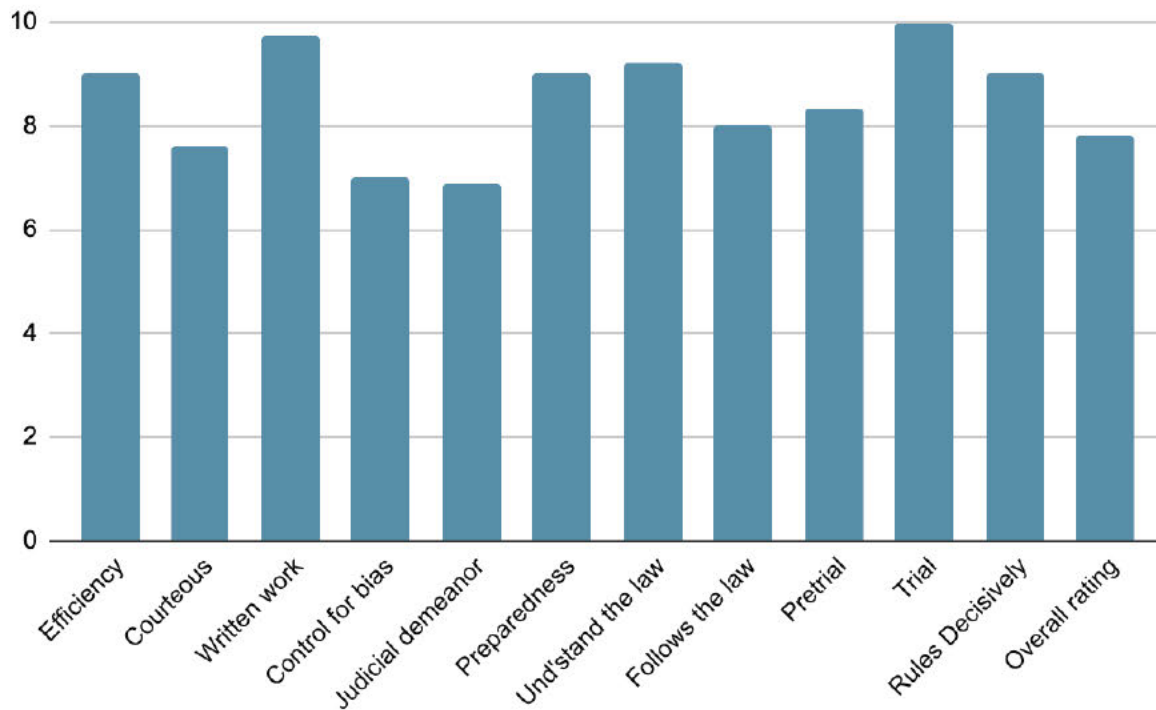
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Average	
9.00	Efficiency in courtroom management
7.60	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
9.75	Quality of written work product
7.00	Controls for bias/fairness
6.90	Judicial demeanor
9.00	Preparedness
9.22	Understands the law
8.00	Follows the law
8.33	Ability to handle pretrial matters
10.00	Ability to conduct trial
9.00	Rules decisively
7.80	Overall rating



**COMMENTS**

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[REDACTED]

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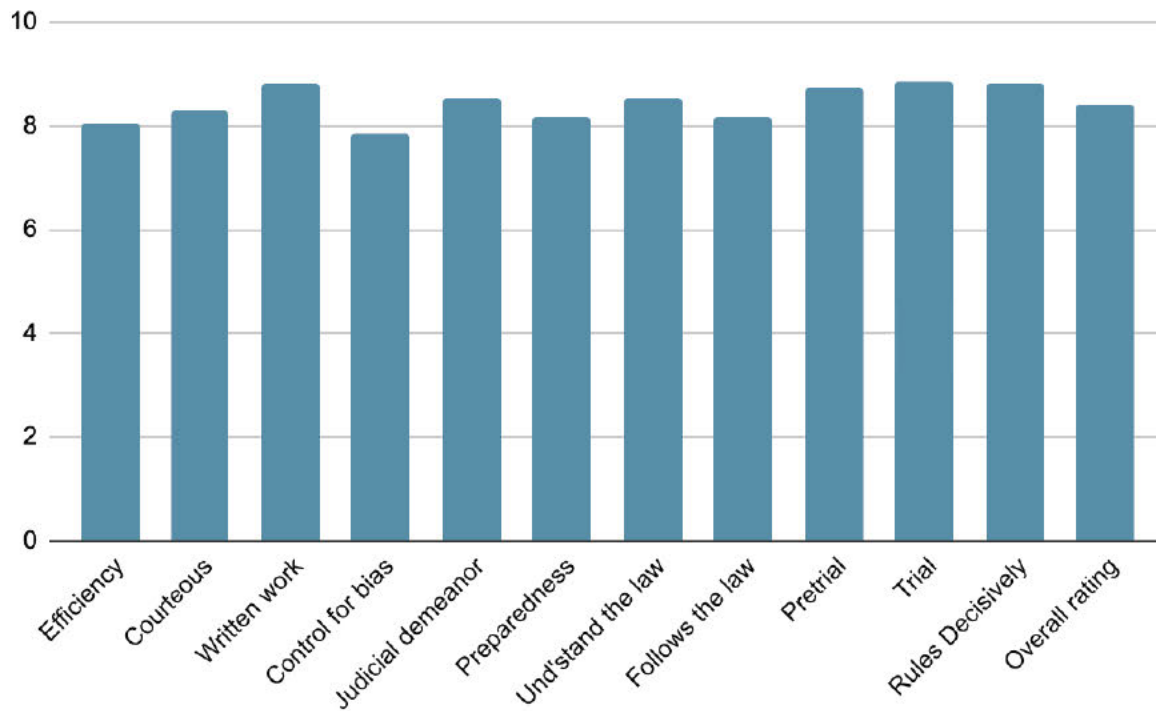
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Average	
8.07	Efficiency in courtroom management
8.29	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.82	Quality of written work product
7.87	Controls for bias/fairness
8.53	Judicial demeanor
8.19	Preparedness
8.53	Understands the law
8.18	Follows the law
8.73	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.86	Ability to conduct trial
8.81	Rules decisively
8.41	Overall rating



**COMMENTS**

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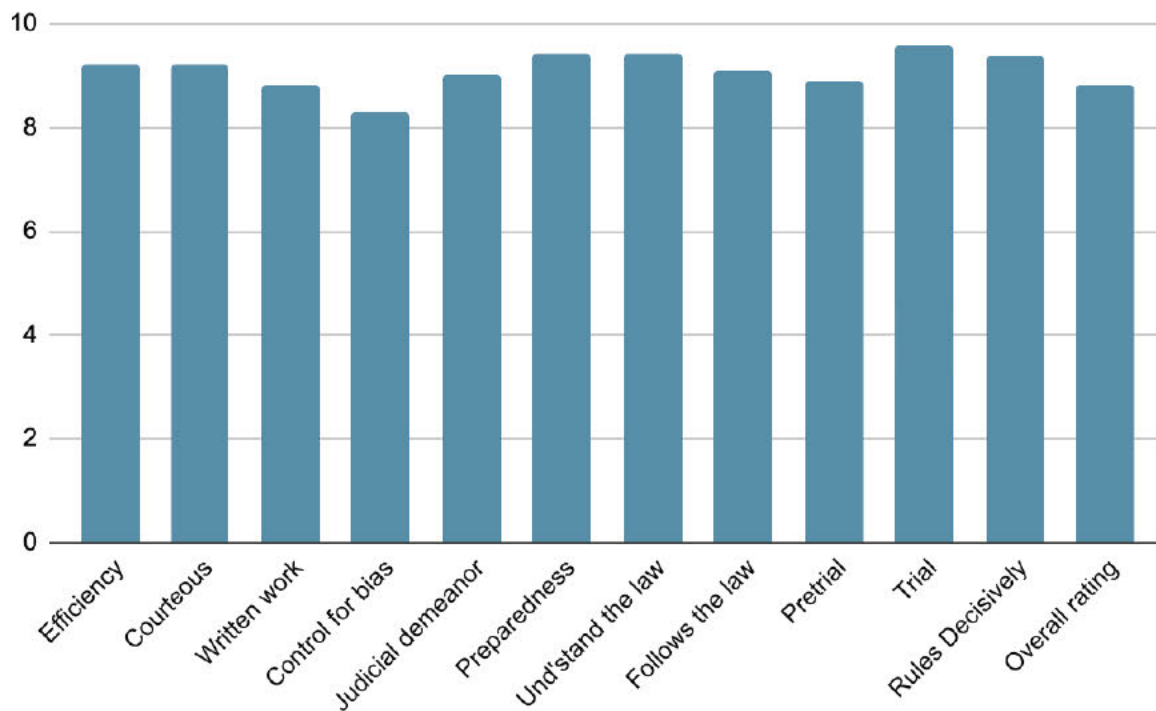
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Average	
9.20	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.20	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.80	Quality of written work product
8.30	Controls for bias/fairness
9.00	Judicial demeanor
9.40	Preparedness
9.40	Understands the law
9.10	Follows the law
8.89	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9.60	Ability to conduct trial
9.38	Rules decisively
8.80	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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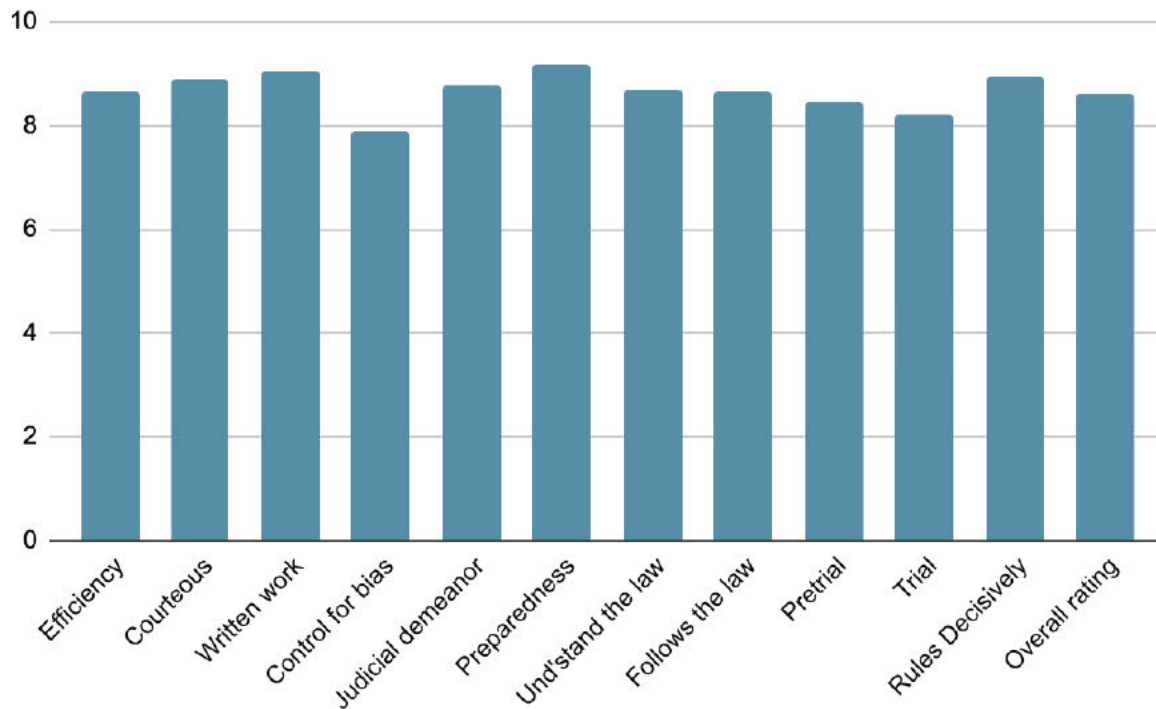
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Average	
8.65	Efficiency in courtroom management
8.89	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
9.07	Quality of written work product
7.88	Controls for bias/fairness
8.78	Judicial demeanor
9.18	Preparedness
8.71	Understands the law
8.65	Follows the law
8.47	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.23	Ability to conduct trial
8.94	Rules decisively
8.61	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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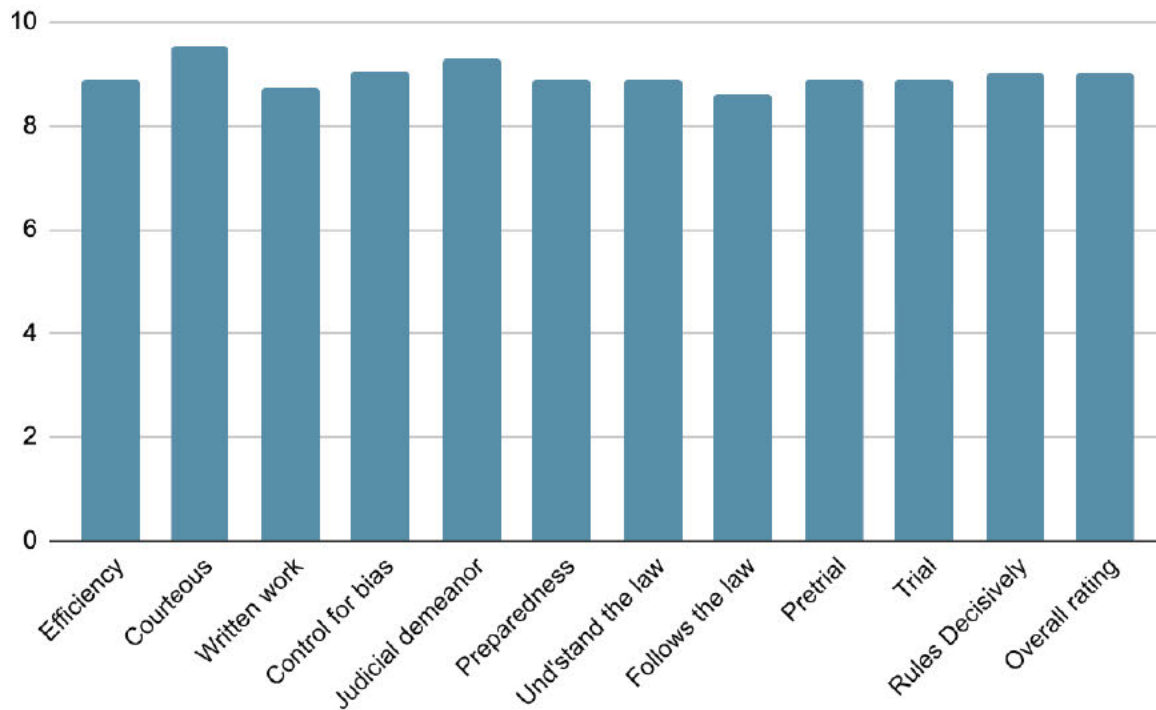
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Average	
8.90	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.52	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.75	Quality of written work product
9.07	Controls for bias/fairness
9.31	Judicial demeanor
8.89	Preparedness
8.90	Understands the law
8.62	Follows the law
8.88	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.90	Ability to conduct trial
9.00	Rules decisively
9.00	<b>Overall rating</b>



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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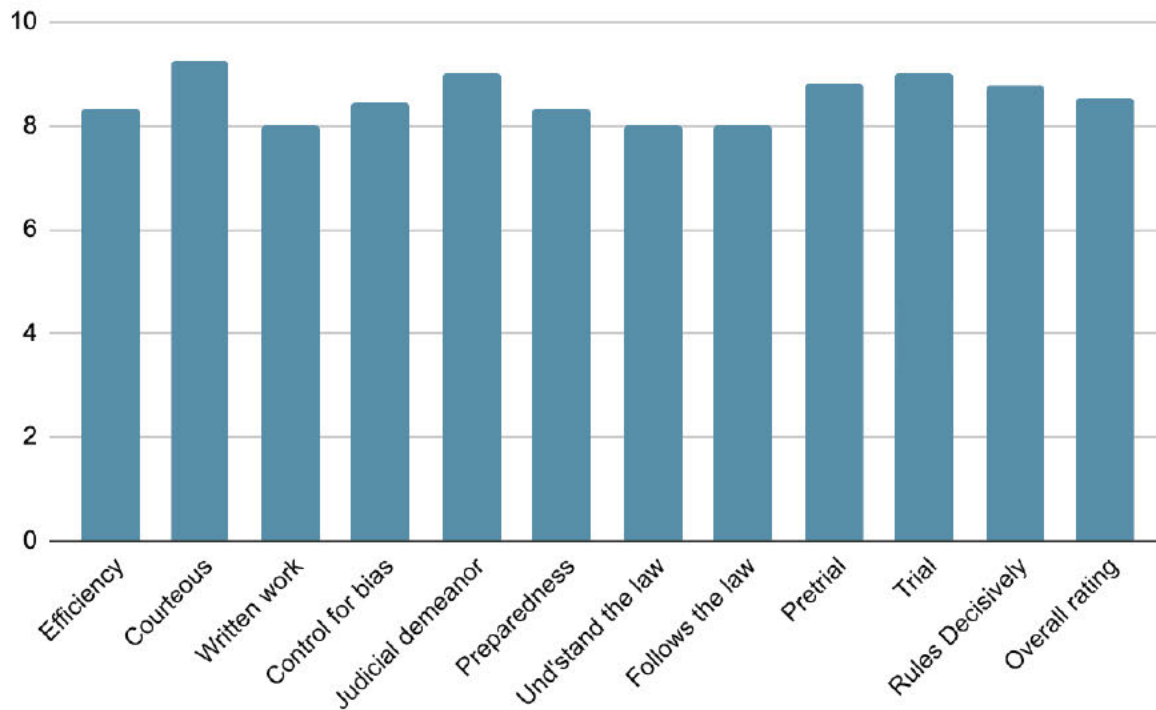
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Average	
8.32	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.27	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.00	Quality of written work product
8.45	Controls for bias/fairness
9.00	Judicial demeanor
8.32	Preparedness
8.00	Understands the law
8.00	Follows the law
8.80	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9.00	Ability to conduct trial
8.76	Rules decisively
8.55	<b>Overall rating</b>



COMMENTS

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[REDACTED]

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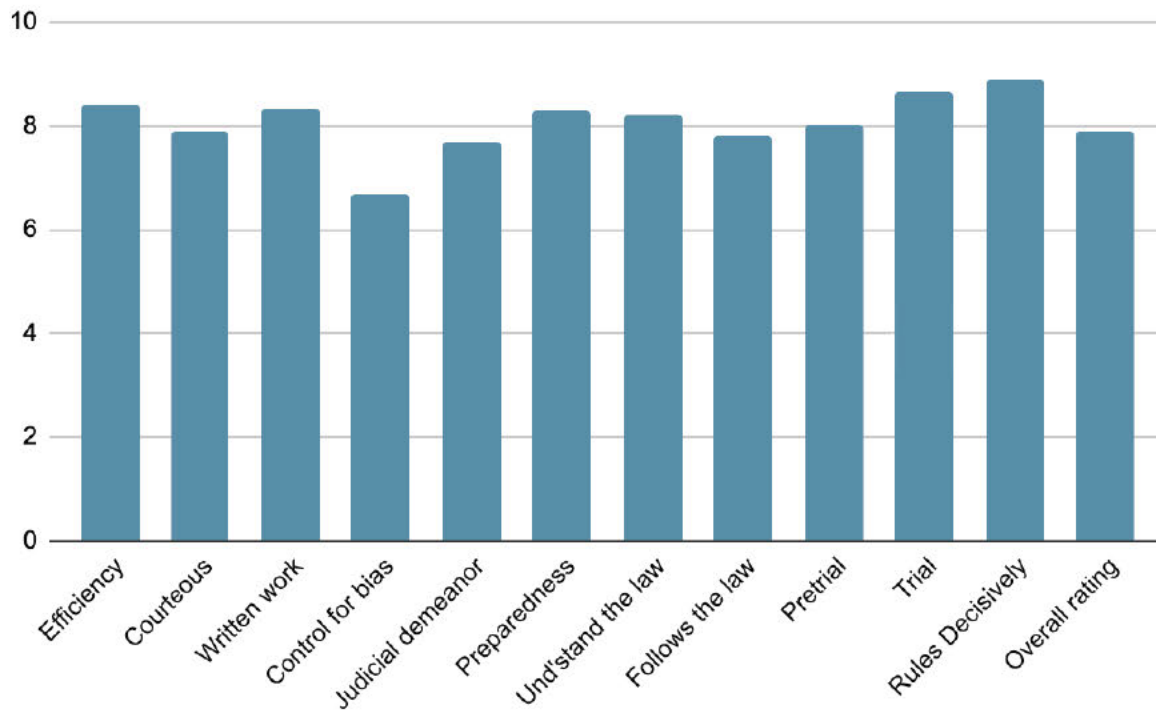
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Average	
8.40	Efficiency in courtroom management
7.90	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.33	Quality of written work product
6.67	Controls for bias/fairness
7.70	Judicial demeanor
8.30	Preparedness
8.20	Understands the law
7.80	Follows the law
8.00	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.67	Ability to conduct trial
8.90	Rules decisively
7.90	Overall rating





**COMMENTS**

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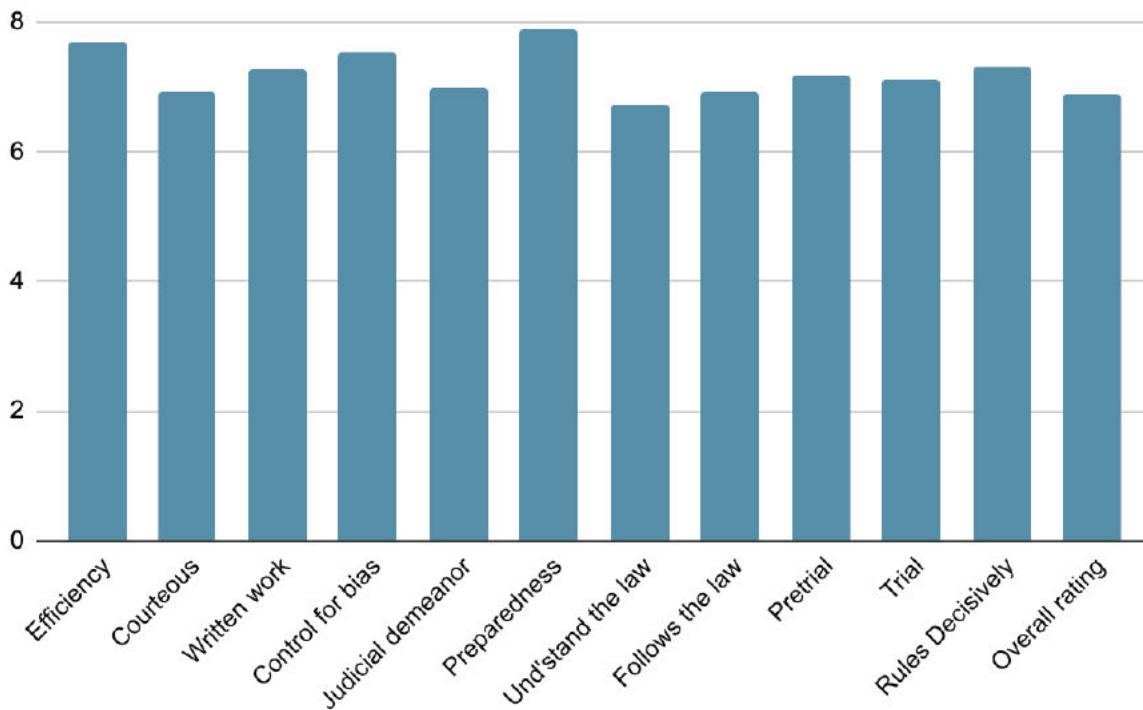
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Average	
7.71	Efficiency in courtroom management
6.94	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
7.28	Quality of written work product
7.52	Controls for bias/fairness
7.00	Judicial demeanor
7.88	Preparedness
6.73	Understands the law
6.91	Follows the law
7.18	Ability to handle pretrial matters
7.11	Ability to conduct trial
7.31	Rules decisively
6.88	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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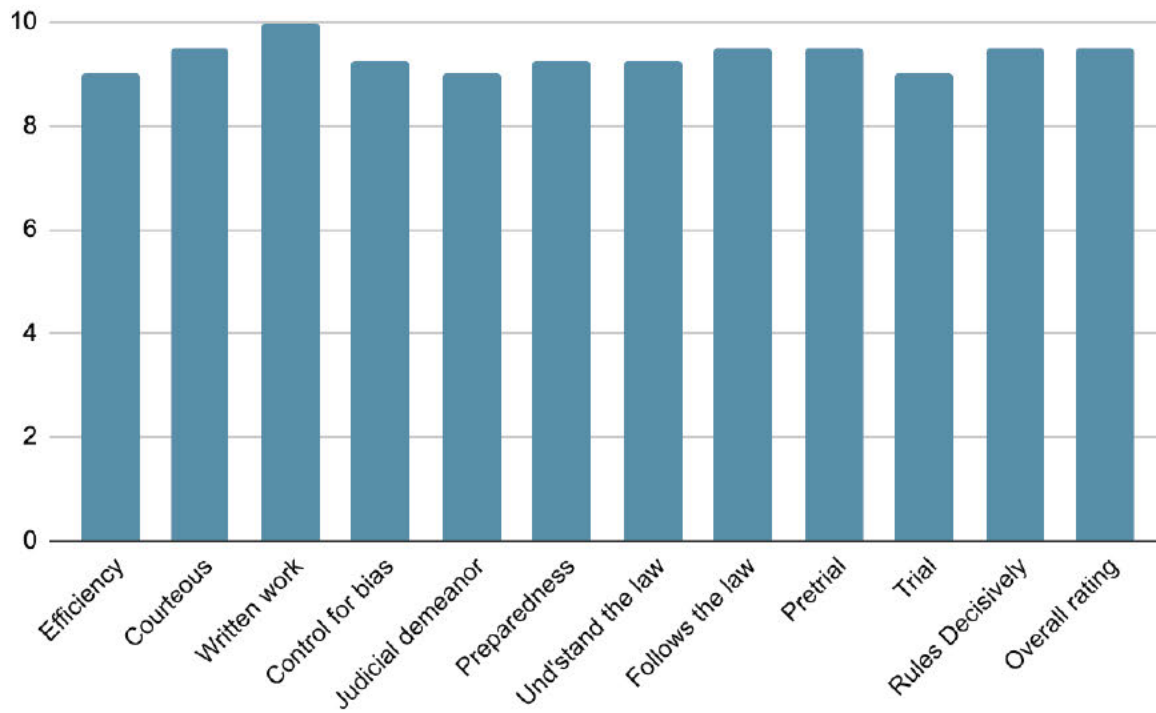
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Average	
9	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.5	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
10	Quality of written work product
9.25	Controls for bias/fairness
9	Judicial demeanor
9.25	Preparedness
9.25	Understands the law
9.5	Follows the law
9.5	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9	Ability to conduct trial
9.5	Rules decisively
9.5	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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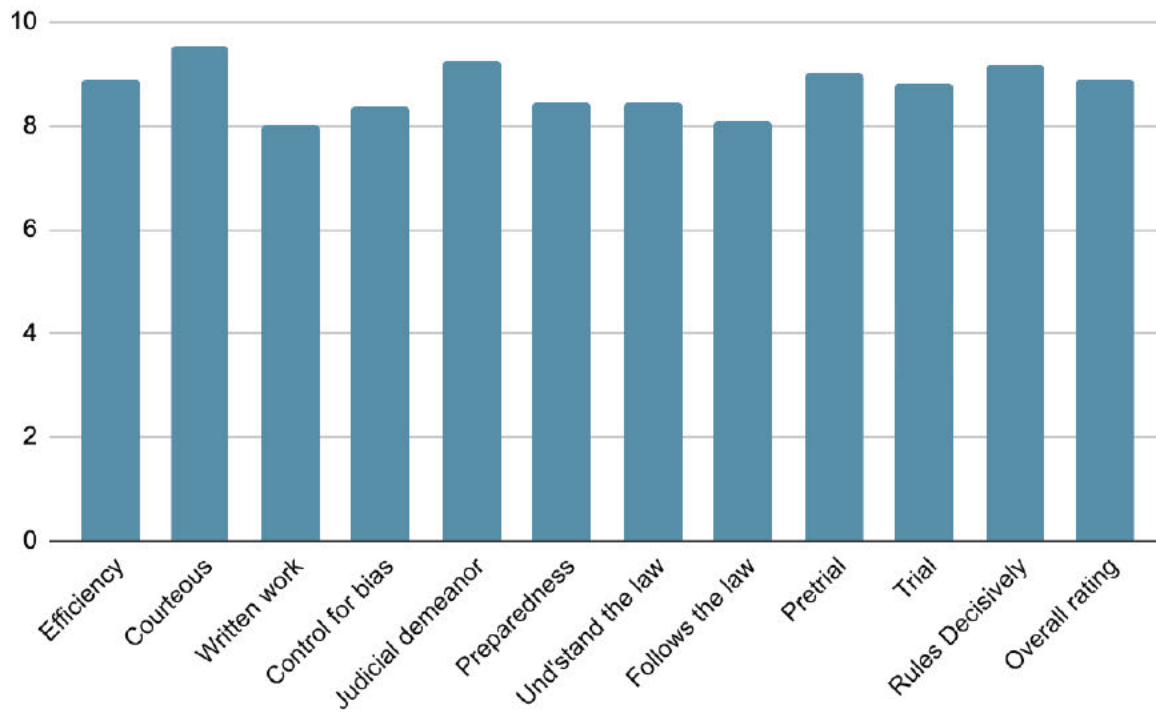
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Average	
8.91	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.55	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
8.00	Quality of written work product
8.36	Controls for bias/fairness
9.27	Judicial demeanor
8.45	Preparedness
8.45	Understands the law
8.09	Follows the law
9.00	Ability to handle pretrial matters
8.83	Ability to conduct trial
9.18	Rules decisively
8.91	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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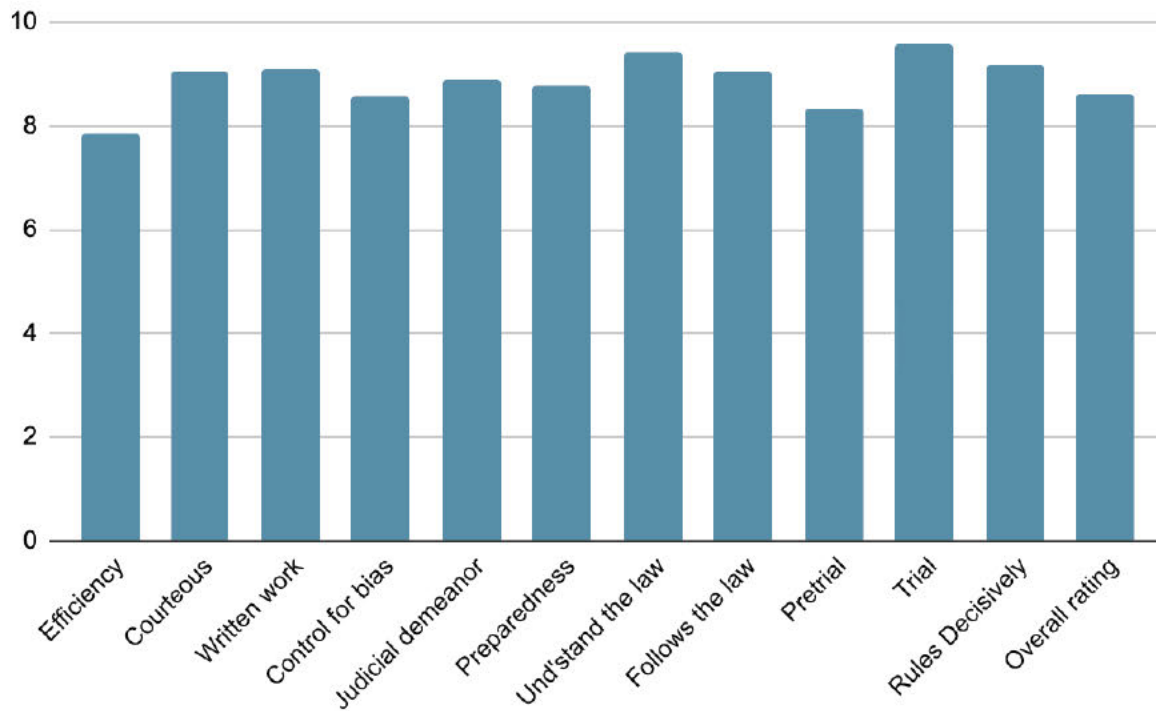
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Average	
7.84	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.05	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
9.11	Quality of written work product
8.56	Controls for bias/fairness
8.89	Judicial demeanor
8.79	Preparedness
9.42	Understands the law
9.05	Follows the law
8.33	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9.56	Ability to conduct trial
9.16	Rules decisively
8.61	<b>Overall rating</b>



**COMMENTS**

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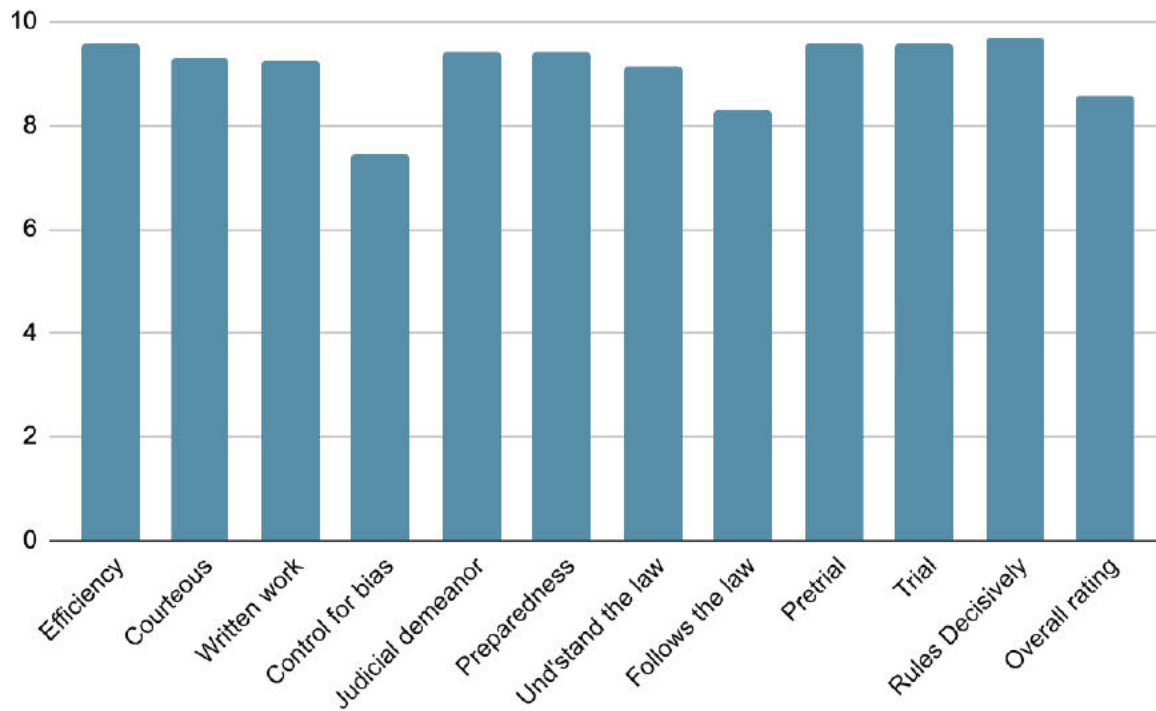
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Average	
9.57	Efficiency in courtroom management
9.29	Courteous and attentive in the courtroom
9.25	Quality of written work product
7.43	Controls for bias/fairness
9.43	Judicial demeanor
9.43	Preparedness
9.14	Understands the law
8.29	Follows the law
9.57	Ability to handle pretrial matters
9.60	Ability to conduct trial
9.71	Rules decisively
8.57	Overall rating



**COMMENTS**

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[REDACTED]

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