Solicitors Regulation Authority Solicitors' Education Research

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 1,866 adults aged 18+ living in England and Wales online between 17th and 18th August 2016. Data were weighted by gender, age, region and socio-economic grade to be representative of all English and Welsh adults. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

All press releases or other publications must be checked with ComRes before use. ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.

To commission a voting intention poll or a public opinion survey please contact Tom Mludzinski: tom.mludzinski@comresglobal.com

To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: pollwatch@comresglobal.com

Legal Services Survey
ONLINE Fieldwork: 17th-18th August 2016

Table 1
Q1. The next question is about solicitors. There are a number of different routes to becoming a solicitor, including apprenticeships, university degrees, work-based learning and international transfer schemes. Thinking about the training of solicitors, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: All respondents
Summary table

		As part of the process of qualifying as a solicitor, solicitors should have some training in the workplace	Everyone should pass the same final exam to become a solicitor, regardless of the type of training they do	I would have more confidence in solicitors if they all passed the same final exam
Unweighted base		1866	1866	1866
Weighted base		1866	1866	1866
NET: Agree		1624 87%	1468 79%	1423 76%
Strongly agree	(5)	939 50%	847 45%	831 45%
Tend to agree	(4)	686 37%	621 33%	592 32%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	211 11%	326 17%	382 20%
Tend to disagree	(2)	24 1%	64 3%	49 3%
Strongly disagree	(1)	6 *	8 *	12 1%
NET: Disagree		30 2%	72 4%	61 3%
Mean		4.35	4.20	4.17
Standard deviation		0.76	0.88	0.88
Standard error		0.02	0.02	0.02

Prepared by ComRes

Legal Services Survey
ONLINE Fieldwork: 17th-18th August 2016

Table 2

Q1. The next question is about solicitors. There are a number of different routes to becoming a solicitor, including apprenticeships, university degrees, work-based learning and international transfer schemes. Thinking about the training of solicitors, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: All respondents
As part of the process of qualifying as a solicitor, solicitors should have some training in the workplace

		Total	Gender Male (a)	Female (b)	Age 18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	Social Grade AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Employment Sector Public (m)	Private (n)
Unweighted base		1866	950	916	238	318	293	331	266	420	511	543	322	490	217	767
Weighted base		1866	914	952	224	299	355	317	280	392	509	546	396	415	244	801
NET: Agree		1624 87%	771 84%	854 90%A	182 81%	250 84%	295 83%	271 86%	256 91%CDEF	369 94%CDEF	459 90%L	475 87%l	347 88%l	344 83%	219 90%n	676 84%
Strongly agree	(5)	939 50%	435 48%	504 53%A	99 44%	143 48%	162 46%	163 51%	149 53%c	224 57%CDE	290 57%JKL	267 49%	188 48%	193 47%	129 53%	383 48%
Tend to agree	(4)	686 37%	335 37%	350 37%	83 37%	108 36%	134 38%	109 34%	107 38%	145 37%	169 33%	208 38%	158 40%i	150 36%	90 37%	293 37%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	211 11%	120 13%B	92 10%	36 16%GH	44 15%GH	56 16%GH	39 12%GH	19 7%	18 5%	41 8%	63 12%i	45 11%	62 15%l	23 9%	107 13%
Tend to disagree	(2)	24 1%	19 2%B	5 *	5 2%h	4 1%	3 1%	6 2%	3 1%	2 1%	8 2%	8 1%	4 1%	5 1%	1 1%	17 2%
Strongly disagree	(1)	6 *	5 1%	1 *	1 *	1 *	- -	1 *	2 1%	2 1%	1 *	1 *	1 *	4 1%ij	1 *	1 *
NET: Disagree		30 2%	24 3%B	6 1%	6 3%	4 1%	3 1%	7 2%	5 2%	4 1%	9 2%	8 2%	4 1%	9 2%	2 1%	18 2%
Mean		4.35	4.29	4.42A	4.22	4.30	4.28	4.34	4.42CdE	4.50CDEF	4.45JKL	4.34	4.34	4.26	4.41n	4.30
Standard deviation		0.76	0.81	0.70	0.82	0.78	0.76	0.79	0.73	0.66	0.72	0.75	0.73	0.83	0.71	0.79
Standard error		0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.03

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Legal Services Survey
ONLINE Fieldwork: 17th-18th August 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 2
Q1. The next question is about solicitors. There are a number of different routes to becoming a solicitor, including apprenticeships, university degrees, work-based learning and international transfer schemes. Thinking about the training of solicitors, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: All respondents
As part of the process of qualifying as a solicitor, solicitors should have some training in the workplace

		Total	England (a)	Scot-land (b)	North East (c)	North West (d)	York-shire & Humb-erside (e)	West Mid-lands (f)	East Mid-lands (g)	Wales (h)	East-ern (i)	London (j)	South East (k)	South West (l)	NET: Work-ing (m)	Work-ing full time (n)	Work-ing part time (o)	NET: Not work-ing (p)	Not working seeking work (q)	Not working and not seeking work (r)	Retired on a state pension only (s)	Retired with a private pension (t)	House person (u)
													Region						Which of the following best describes your current working status?				
Unweighted base		1866	1754	-	75	221	196	176	156	112	207	264	274	185	984	704	280	882	106	194	131	327	124
Weighted base		1866	1755	-**	92*	240	185	185	166	111*	185	259	259	185	1045	821	224	821	97*	166	125	312	121*
NET: Agree		1624 87%	1533 87%	- -	80 87%	216 90%Fh	166 90%F	148 80%	143 86%	92 83%	159 86%	226 87%f	233 90%Fh	160 87%	895 86%	700 85%q	194 87%q	730 89%m	76 78%	138 84%	114 92%nQr	295 94%NOQRu	106 88%q
Strongly agree	(5)	939 50%	883 50%	- -	46 49%	118 49%	95 52%	84 45%	86 52%	55 50%	84 45%	144 55%fi	135 52%	93 50%	512 49%	392 48%	120 53%r	427 52%	50 51%	72 43%	72 58%nR	174 56%NR	59 49%
Tend to agree	(4)	686 37%	649 37%	- -	35 38%	99 41%j	71 38%	64 35%	58 35%	37 33%	75 41%j	82 32%	98 38%	67 36%	383 37%	308 38%q	74 33%	303 37%	26 27%	67 40%Q	42 34%	121 39%q	47 39%q
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	211 11%	195 11%	- -	11 12%	21 9%	17 9%	28 15%dk	18 11%	16 14%	23 12%	30 12%	22 9%	25 13%	130 12%	103 13%sT	27 12%T	81 10%	21 22%NOSTU	23 14%sT	9 7%	15 5%	13 11%T
Tend to disagree	(2)	24 1%	21 1%	- -	- -	2 1%	1 1%	9 5%cDEIJKL	4 2%l	3 3%l	1 1%	1 1%	2 1%	- -	18 2%p	16 2%	3 1%	5 1%	- -	3 2%	- -	2 1%	- -
Strongly disagree	(1)	6 *	6 *	- -	1 1%	1 1%	- -	- -	1 1%	- -	1 1%	1 *	1 *	- -	2 *	2 *	- -	4 1%	- -	1 1%	2 2%noT	- -	1 1%
NET: Disagree		30 2%	27 2%	- -	1 1%	3 1%	1 1%	9 5%dEiJKL	5 3%L	3 3%l	2 1%	3 1%	3 1%	- -	21 2%	18 2%	3 1%	10 1%	- -	4 3%	2 2%	2 1%	1 1%
Mean		4.35	4.36	-	4.35	4.37f	4.41F	4.21	4.34	4.30	4.30	4.41F	4.41F	4.37f	4.32	4.31	4.39r	4.39m	4.29	4.24	4.46nR	4.50NoQRu	4.35
Standard deviation		0.76	0.75	-	0.76	0.72	0.68	0.87	0.83	0.81	0.76	0.75	0.71	0.71	0.77	0.78	0.74	0.73	0.81	0.81	0.76	0.63	0.75
Standard error		0.02	0.02	-	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.07

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - a/h - b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l - m/p - n/o/q/r/s/t/u
* small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing

Prepared by ComRes

Legal Services Survey
ONLINE Fieldwork: 17th-18th August 2016

Table 3
Q1. The next question is about solicitors. There are a number of different routes to becoming a solicitor, including apprenticeships, university degrees, work-based learning and international transfer schemes. Thinking about the training of solicitors, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: All respondents
Everyone should pass the same final exam to become a solicitor, regardless of the type of training they do

		Total	Gender		Age							Social Grade				Employment Sector	
			Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Private (n)
Unweighted base		1866	950	916	238	318	293	331	266	420	511	543	322	490	217	767
Weighted base		1866	914	952	224	299	355	317	280	392	509	546	396	415	244	801
NET: Agree		1468 79%	704 77%	763 80%	148 66%	219 73%c	251 71%	252 80%CE	237 85%CDE	359 92%CDEFG	408 80%l	443 81%L	304 77%	313 75%	202 83%N	594 74%
Strongly agree	(5)	847 45%	405 44%	442 46%	64 29%	115 38%C	150 42%C	140 44%C	140 50%CD	239 61%CDEFG	249 49%	241 44%	170 43%	188 45%	109 45%	322 40%
Tend to agree	(4)	621 33%	299 33%	321 34%	84 37%e	105 35%	102 29%	113 36%	98 35%	120 31%	159 31%	202 37%iL	134 34%	125 30%	93 38%	272 34%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	326 17%	170 19%	156 16%	60 27%FGH	66 22%fGH	94 27%FGH	50 16%H	31 11%H	26 7%	73 14%	86 16%	78 20%i	89 21%IJ	34 14%	171 21%M
Tend to disagree	(2)	64 3%	33 4%	30 3%	15 7%EH	13 4%H	9 3%H	15 5%H	9 3%H	2 1%	25 5%L	16 3%	13 3%	9 2%	7 3%	35 4%
Strongly disagree	(1)	8 *	6 1%	2 *	1 1%	1 *	-	-	2 1%	4 1%ef	2 *	1 *	1 *	4 1%	1 *	1 *
NET: Disagree		72 4%	40 4%	32 3%	17 7%EH	14 5%H	9 3%	15 5%H	11 4%h	7 2%	27 5%	18 3%	14 4%	13 3%	8 3%	36 4%
Mean		4.20	4.16	4.23	3.86	4.07C	4.11C	4.19C	4.30CDE	4.50CDEFG	4.23	4.22	4.16	4.16	4.24n	4.10
Standard deviation		0.88	0.90	0.85	0.93	0.89	0.88	0.87	0.85	0.74	0.90	0.83	0.87	0.90	0.82	0.89
Standard error		0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

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Table 3
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Base: All respondents
Everyone should pass the same final exam to become a solicitor, regardless of the type of training they do

		Total	England (a)	Scot-land (b)	North East (c)	North West (d)	York-shire & Humb-erside (e)	West Mid-lands (f)	East Mid-lands (g)	Wales (h)	East-ern (i)	London (j)	South East (k)	South West (l)	NET: Work-ing (m)	Work-ing full time (n)	Work-ing part time (o)	NET: Not work-ing (p)	Not working seeking work (q)	Not working and not seeking work (r)	Retired on a state pension only (s)	Retired with a private pension (t)	House person (u)
								Region										Which of the following best describes your current working status?					
Unweighted base		1866	1754	-	75	221	196	176	156	112	207	264	274	185	984	704	280	882	106	194	131	327	124
Weighted base		1866	1755	-**	92*	240	185	185	166	111*	185	259	259	185	1045	821	224	821	97*	166	125	312	121*
NET: Agree		1468 79%	1386 79%	- -	77 84%Fj	192 80%fj	148 80%Fj	130 70%	140 84%FhJ	82 74%	148 80%fj	186 72%	214 83%FhJ	151 82%FJ	796 76%	616 75%Q	180 80%Q	672 82%M	60 62%	122 74%q	107 86%NQR	285 91%NOQR U	97 80%Q
Strongly agree	(5)	847 45%	796 45%	- -	42 46%	112 47%	93 50%J	76 41%	79 47%	51 46%	89 48%j	100 39%	126 49%J	81 44%	431 41%	336 41%	95 42%	416 51%M	34 35%	63 38%	77 62%NOQR	180 58%NOQR	63 52%NQR
Tend to agree	(4)	621 33%	589 34%	- -	35 38%	80 33%	55 30%	54 29%	62 37%	31 28%	58 32%	86 33%	88 34%	71 38%	365 35%	280 34%s	85 38%qSu	256 31%	26 27%	59 36%s	31 25%	106 34%s	34 28%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	326 17%	302 17%	- -	11 11%	43 18%	31 17%	40 22%cGK	20 12%	25 22%cgk	33 18%	58 22%cGK	35 14%	30 16%	205 20%P	167 20%ST	38 17%T	122 15%	31 32%NOrS TU	37 22%ST	13 11%	20 6%	20 17%T
Tend to disagree	(2)	64 3%	59 3%	- -	2 3%	3 1%	6 3%	15 8%Deglk L	4 3%	4 4%	4 2%	14 5%Dl	9 3%	3 2%	42 4%	36 4%st	6 3%	22 3%	6 6%ST	7 4%	1 1%	5 2%	3 2%
Strongly disagree	(1)	8 *	8 *	- -	2 2%efil	3 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 *	1 *	-	2 *	2 *	-	6 1%	-	1 *	3 2%NOt	1 *	1 1%
NET: Disagree		72 4%	68 4%	- -	5 5%	6 2%	6 3%	15 8%DelkL	6 3%	4 4%	4 2%	15 6%dl	9 4%	3 2%	44 4%	38 5%t	6 3%	28 3%	6 6%t	7 4%	4 3%	7 2%	4 3%
Mean		4.20	4.20	-	4.22	4.23fJ	4.27FJ	4.03	4.27FJ	4.16	4.26FJ	4.04	4.27FJ	4.24FJ	4.13	4.11q	4.20Q	4.28M	3.90	4.07	4.42NOQ R	4.46NOQ RU	4.27nQr
Standard deviation		0.88	0.87	-	0.92	0.86	0.85	0.97	0.84	0.90	0.83	0.93	0.84	0.78	0.88	0.89	0.82	0.87	0.95	0.89	0.89	0.73	0.90
Standard error		0.02	0.02	-	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.09	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.08

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - a/h - b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l - m/p - n/o/q/r/s/t/u
* small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing

Legal Services Survey
ONLINE Fieldwork: 17th-18th August 2016

Table 4
Q1. The next question is about solicitors. There are a number of different routes to becoming a solicitor, including apprenticeships, university degrees, work-based learning and international transfer schemes. Thinking about the training of solicitors, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Base: All respondents
I would have more confidence in solicitors if they all passed the same final exam

		Total	Gender		Age							Social Grade				Employment Sector	
			Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Private (n)
Unweighted base		1866	950	916	238	318	293	331	266	420	511	543	322	490	217	767
Weighted base		1866	914	952	224	299	355	317	280	392	509	546	396	415	244	801
NET: Agree		1423 76%	693 76%	731 77%	150 67%	221 74%	245 69%	236 74%c	230 82%CDEF	342 87%CDEFg	389 76%	429 79%	298 75%	307 74%	189 78%	589 73%
Strongly agree	(5)	831 45%	396 43%	436 46%	60 27%	116 39%C	137 39%C	130 41%C	139 50%CDEf	250 64%CDEFG	239 47%	231 42%	178 45%	183 44%	102 42%	317 40%
Tend to agree	(4)	592 32%	297 32%	295 31%	90 40%EH	105 35%H	108 30%h	106 34%H	91 32%H	93 24%	150 30%	198 36%ll	120 30%	124 30%	87 36%	272 34%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	382 20%	187 20%	195 21%	64 29%fGH	70 24%GH	96 27%GH	67 21%gH	40 14%	44 11%	94 18%	104 19%	86 22%	98 24%i	45 18%	187 23%
Tend to disagree	(2)	49 3%	26 3%	23 2%	9 4%H	5 2%h	11 3%H	14 4%dH	8 3%H	1 *	23 5%JL	12 2%	9 2%	5 1%	9 4%	22 3%
Strongly disagree	(1)	12 1%	9 1%b	3 *	1 1%	2 1%	2 1%	* *	2 1%	4 1%	3 *	2 *	2 1%	5 1%	1 *	3 *
NET: Disagree		61 3%	35 4%	25 3%	10 5%H	7 2%	13 4%h	14 4%H	10 4%h	5 1%	26 5%JI	13 2%	12 3%	10 2%	10 4%	25 3%
Mean		4.17	4.14	4.20	3.88	4.10C	4.03c	4.11C	4.27CDEF	4.49CDEFG	4.18	4.18	4.17	4.14	4.15	4.09
Standard deviation		0.88	0.91	0.86	0.87	0.87	0.92	0.89	0.87	0.78	0.92	0.83	0.89	0.90	0.87	0.88
Standard error		0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

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Weighted base		1866	1755	-**	92*	240	185	185	166	111*	185	259	259	185	1045	821	224	821	97*	166	125	312	121*
NET: Agree		1423 76%	1345 77%	- -	76 82%	192 80%hj	140 76%	136 74%	126 75%	78 70%	140 76%	186 72%	211 81%fHJ	138 75%	778 74%	602 73%Q	175 78%Q	646 79%m	55 57%	118 71%Q	106 85%NQR	272 87%NOQR U	95 78%Q
Strongly agree	(5)	831 45%	779 44%	- -	36 39%	112 47%	91 49%j	81 44%	71 43%	52 47%	81 44%	104 40%	128 49%jl	74 40%	419 40%	328 40%r	91 41%r	412 50%M	31 32%	53 32%	80 64%NOQR U	188 60%NOQR u	60 49%nQR
Tend to agree	(4)	592 32%	566 32%h	- -	40 43%EfH	80 33%	49 27%	55 30%	54 33%	26 23%	60 32%	82 32%	83 32%	64 35%h	358 34%P	274 33%ST	84 38%QST	234 28%	24 25%	64 39%QST	27 21%	84 27%	35 29%
Neither agree nor disagree	(3)	382 20%	355 20%	- -	13 14%	44 18%	39 21%	38 21%	35 21%	28 25%ck	41 22%	61 24%K	40 15%	43 24%k	232 22%p	186 23%ST	46 21%sT	150 18%	35 36%NOST U	44 26%ST	16 13%	32 10%	22 18%T
Tend to disagree	(2)	49 3%	44 3%	- -	1 1%	2 1%	5 3%	10 5%DI	4 2%	5 5%Di	2 1%	10 4%d	7 3%	3 2%	31 3%	29 4%OS	2 1%	18 2%	5 5%OS	4 3%s	- -	7 2%	3 2%
Strongly disagree	(1)	12 1%	12 1%	- -	3 3%EkL	2 1%	- -	1 *	1 1%	- -	2 1%	2 1%	1 *	- -	4 *	4 *	1 *	7 1%	2 2%	1 *	2 2%	2 1%	1 1%
NET: Disagree		61 3%	55 3%	- -	4 4%	4 2%	5 3%	10 6%dl	5 3%	5 5%	4 2%	11 4%	8 3%	3 2%	35 3%	33 4%O	2 1%	26 3%	6 7%Ost	5 3%	2 2%	8 3%	4 3%
Mean		4.17	4.17	-	4.14	4.24j	4.22	4.12	4.14	4.13	4.17	4.07	4.27J	4.13	4.11	4.09Q	4.18QR	4.25M	3.80	4.00	4.46NOQ Ru	4.44NOQ RU	4.23QR
Standard deviation		0.88	0.88	-	0.91	0.85	0.88	0.94	0.89	0.95	0.87	0.92	0.85	0.83	0.88	0.89	0.80	0.89	1.01	0.85	0.84	0.81	0.90
Standard error		0.02	0.02	-	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.10	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.08

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - a/h - b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l - m/p - n/o/q/r/s/t/u
* small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing