



**Needs Assessment Report: A Survey of Legal Professionals Serving
Victims of Crime in the District of Columbia**

**Victim Legal Network of Washington, D.C. (“VLNDC”) Project
Justice Research and Statistics Association**

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Executive Summary

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is the research partner for the Victim Legal Network for the District of Columbia (VLNDC), collaborating with the victim services team of the Office of Victim Services Justice Grants (hereafter referred to as VST OVSJG) and the Network for Victim Recovery (NVRDC). The project, funded by the Office of Justice Program's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), seeks to expand the capacity of District service providers to provide legal education and services on an array of legal issues for victims of any type of crime.

Victims of crime often have a vast array of legal needs which generally fall into three types of services: civil, criminal and administrative. The current issue is *not* that there is a lack of agencies that provide legal services to victims of crime – the issue *is* that these legal service providers are setup in a disjointed patchwork across the DC area. For example, there are numerous legal resources for victims of crime in Washington, D.C. such as the Legal Aid Society, Break the Cycle, and Ayuda; yet, these agencies are tasked with providing *specific* types of services or providing services to *specific* sub-groups of crime victims. As a result, there remains a great need for diverse legal services for diverse victims of crimes in DC. The VLNDC intends on addressing this need.

JRSA's role on the project was to conduct a needs assessment of legal services and victim legal needs in DC. We approached this task by conducting a survey of legal services providers in D.C. who served victims of crime. The survey focused on 24 areas of the law across the three domains of criminal, civil and administrative law. We sought to answer the following questions:

- 1) Among crime victims seeking out legal services in the prior 6 month period, how many crimes were reported?
- 2) What is the current practice of D.C. legal professionals in providing legal remedies to victims (i.e., legal representation, brief advice or consultation, or referral)?
- 3) Why don't attorneys file a praecipe within these areas of the law (e.g., lack of resources, lack of sample motions, lack of sufficient expertise)?, and
- 4) What training interests do these legal professionals have in order to meet the needs of victims of crime?

The survey was launched to 253 attorneys in 35 legal provider agencies on November 15, 2015 and again on May 9, 2016, with follow-up reminders for participants one and two weeks following the launch. Of those 253, 213 surveys were delivered and 149 surveys were completed from 26 agencies; an overall response rate of 70%.

These legal provider agencies vary in size from small (e.g., with 1 to 3 attorneys reporting survey data) to medium (4 to fewer than 10 attorneys) to large (ranging from 14 to 36 attorneys). We explored the data at 2 levels – individual and by agency. We examined the frequencies and distributions based on individual attorney responses and then aggregated the individual data within each agency to report various key findings from an agency perspective.

Highlights include:

- The total number of crimes reported to these legal agencies varies widely – from 3 to 1,650 crimes over a 6 month period. In addition, the types of crimes also span from a low of 4 arsons, to 410 thefts, to a high of 1,262 sexual assaults. For a 6 month period, approximately 2,752 crimes are reported by crime victims seeking legal services.
- Of the 12 agencies reporting crime type data, 11 of 12 (or 92% of agencies) report victims of domestic violence, 8 of 12 (67%) agencies report victims of sexual assault, 7 of 12 (58%) report victims of stalking.
- On average, agencies identify 14 legal needs (ranging from 4 to 22 needs), and these needs vary. Landlord tenant, divorce, and child custody are most frequently reported, with civil protection orders, immigrant status, spousal support, victim’s compensation fund, and public housing are also prevalent. The least reported legal needs are Title IX, and grand jury assistance.
- The number and type of responses (brief advice, legal representation and/or referral to another agency) varies based on the legal need of the client. Based on the specific legal need, providers frequently provide brief advice and legal representation on criminal legal needs, but appear to refer out to their colleagues for most civil and administrative issues.
- From an agency perspective, on average, 12 agencies provide brief advice (ranging from 3 to 19 agencies); 8 agencies provide legal representation (ranging from 2 to 14 agencies); and 11 agencies provide referrals (ranging from 1 to 19).
- In looking at the number of agencies that file a praecipe in each of 24 legal needs, the top two legal needs where a praecipe is filed are in the civil domain -- child custody and civil protection orders. Among the administrative law issues, immigrant status and public benefits are most prevalent. Relatively few agencies file a praecipe in criminal cases.
- A quarter or more of attorneys did not file a praecipe for a criminal case because they stated they did not have any clients with a need for filing a praecipe. However, these are attorneys who previously identified having 1 or more clients who had a need for these services. Explanations include the client’s legal issue did not rise to the level of formal notification to the court; and/or the provider is not aware that filing a praecipe would be warranted and/or useful in these cases. Respondents also report that lack of sample motions and expertise are barriers to filing a praecipe. The VLNDC has the potential to directly impact these issues through cross-training.
- Within each legal topic, training on victim’s compensation is the highest priority within the criminal arena; civil protection orders is the priority among civil law; and public benefits is the highest priority in the administrative area. Overall, public benefits has the most interest; victim’s compensation is second; and public housing is third.

Study challenges and recommendations conclude the report.

Introduction

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is the research partner for the Victim Legal Network for the District of Columbia (VLNDC), collaborating with the victim services team of the Office of Victim Services Justice Grants (hereafter referred to as VST OVSJG) and the Network for Victim Recovery (NVRDC). The project, funded by the Office of Justice Program's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), seeks to expand the capacity of District service providers to provide legal education and services on an array of legal issues for victims of any type of crime. Victim legal networks are a new innovation in the delivery of victims' services. *Vision 21: Transforming Victims Services* performed a national assessment of the current state of victims' services and recommended the implementation of state-level victim legal networks. To achieve this goal, OVC offered VOCA administrators funding opportunities to 1) implement technology in support of providing training to service providers and 2) create a legal network to comprehensively address the legal needs of victims following their victimization.

In order to build the VLNDC, a Steering Committee comprised of VST OVSJG (program funder), NVRDC (project coordinator and subject matter expert), JRSA (research partner), and stakeholders from the legal services community worked to develop and implement this project. Together, our goal was to assess and identify the various legal needs of victims by surveying the local legal service provider community. The overall intention of this project is to train, organize, and mobilize a community-based network of legal service providers in Washington, D.C., to provide annual cross-training among network members, and to implement a web-based referral system. The goal is to holistically represent the interest of *all* victims experiencing *all* crime types in the D.C. area.

Needs Assessment Data

Legal Provider Survey Goals

JRSA's primary role on the project was to conduct a needs assessment of legal services and victim legal needs in DC. We approached this task¹ by conducting a survey² of legal services providers in D.C. who served victims of crime in order to identify existing services, capacity, and training priorities. The survey focused on 24 areas of the law across the three domains of criminal, civil and administrative law. We sought to answer the following questions:

- 1) Among crime victims seeking out legal services in the prior 6 month period, how many crimes were reported?
- 2) What is the current practice of D.C. legal professionals in providing legal remedies to victims (i.e., legal representation, brief advice or consultation, or referral)?
- 3) Why don't attorneys file a praecipe within these areas of the law (e.g., lack of resources, lack of sample motions, lack of sufficient expertise)?, and
- 4) What training interests do these legal professionals have in order to meet the needs of victims of crime?

¹ We also attempted to approach this project through analysis of systems/administrative data. However, obtaining additional data proved to be unsuccessful for many reasons. Those efforts are detailed in Appendix A.

²Study protocols were approved by the Justice Research and Statistics Association Institutional Review Board.

Survey Design

JRSA's primary role in the VLNDC was to conduct a needs assessment to expand the capacity of District service providers to provide legal education and services on an array of legal issues for victims of any type of crime. The needs assessment survey (see Appendix B for a description of the survey) was aimed at establishing a baseline knowledge, capacity, and service gaps of local legal service providers. In addition, VLNDC plans to use the information to create training materials for the annual 2-day cross-training.

The survey was developed over the first year of the project with the collaboration of the VLNDC partners and the Steering Committee. Initially JRSA requested intake forms from various agencies which provided legal services to victims of crime in the District. These forms were reviewed to get a sense of how service providers identify legal issues ("issue-spotting"). The Steering Committee also held several brain storming sessions regarding the content of the survey. In September 2015, OVC reviewed and commented on the survey, and then approved the survey in October 2015. Members of the Steering Committee and JRSA staff then tested the needs assessment prior to launch (excluding Steering Committee members who were an intended respondent) to ensure operability.

The survey was administered through a web-based service (Survey Monkey) with a total of 107 questions, with skip patterns built in for subject areas not applicable to particular participants.³ There were 2 versions of the survey, a "standard" survey and a "supervisor" survey both containing all 24 sections.⁴ For the supervisor survey, one representative (e.g. a supervisor) from each agency was asked to complete an additional page asking for the number of clients in the prior six month period who were victims of crime by specific crime type (i.e. homicide survivor, assault, domestic violence, stalking, robbery, etc.). Supervisor respondents were asked to provide best estimates for these numbers in the event they did not have the data readily available.

In both surveys, within those 24 domains of the law, the survey asked each respondent if they have had one or more clients in the last 6 months who were victims of crime. If so, if the attorney offered or provided brief advice or consultation; legal representation; and/or referral for legal assistance. The surveys also query if the respondent filed a praecipe (filing a formal appearance

³ A data dictionary/codebook of the survey is available upon request.

⁴ Within each version of the survey there was a subgroup for the surveys delivered to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The OAG versions of the survey differed only in the introduction to account for the dual role played by OAG – as both the government and victims' representatives. We asked OAG respondents to answer the questions solely from the perspective of the victim's representation.

in a case) for victims of crime.⁵ Each version of the survey took approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.⁶

Survey Outreach and Response Rates

A list of 35 legal services organizations was selected by NVRDC and VST OVSJG to be included in the needs assessment survey. The list initially contained only organizations that received funding from OVSJG to provide services to victims of crime. However, this list was small and omitted organizations with alternative funding streams. In addition, NVRDC and VST OVSJG surmised that there may be other legal providers in the District providing services to individuals who are victims of crime, who do not identify as a victim, and/or during the course of representation, they disclose they were a victim of a crime. Consequently, NVRDC and VST OVSJG felt that feedback from a wider span of providers could be valuable. Consequently, the list was expanded to include organizations in the D.C. Consortium of Legal Services providers, local law school clinical programs, and any other legal services providers offering free legal services in Washington D.C.

In the months before the survey, members of the VLNDC Steering Committee⁷ conducted outreach to legal service providers to introduce the survey and obtain email addresses for participants. Our goal was to ask 35 unique legal organizations, and among those 35 providers, to send the survey to specific attorneys who work with victims of crime. Through these efforts, names and contact information were collected, resulting in a total of 253 possible respondents.⁸

Just prior to the launch of the survey, Jabeen Adawi of NVRDC and Jaime Farrant of VST OVSJG sent emails to the Executive Directors at each agency, asking them to notify staff of a pending email invitation to complete the survey. Jabeen Adawi also met and/or spoke with staff from most of the target agencies, as well as presenting the project at various community meetings (such as the Victim Assistance Network or VAN).

Eligible participants then received an email from the principal investigator, Shawn Flower of JRSA, describing the purpose of the research project and the needs assessment survey. Within the email there was a link to Survey Monkey electronic survey. Participants were able to complete the survey from any computer, whether at home or at work. Surveys also included the option for the respondent to provide their name and contact information in case JRSA staff found it necessary to follow-up to clarify responses. Further, as the survey was sent via an email list

⁵ Upon review of the needs assessment results, NVRDC advised JRSA that despite the VLNDC Steering Committee attempts to clearly define the scope of this inquiry -- specifically with respect to reporting when filing a praecipe -- we may not have been entirely successful. While we included language in the introduction page of the survey to distinguish between advocacy and legal representation when filing a praecipe, questions arose from participants during the survey administration and they also included specific comments about this issue in the data. In addition, NVRDC found some of the results to be inconsistent with their knowledge and experiences in this arena. Please see Appendix C for a copy of the letter from NVRDC addressing this issue.

⁶ As skip-patterns were included in the development of the survey, the amount of time to complete the survey varied based on response. For instance, if a respondent had no clients who were victims of crime who needed assistance with filing a police report, then they would then skip to the next topic within the 24 legal issues.

⁷ Thanks to all the members of the VLNDC Steering Committee for their outreach efforts.

⁸ We struggled to obtain contact information for 8 law school agencies. While Jabeen Adawi continued her outreach to these institutions, we were not wholly successful in obtaining their buy-in into the project.

generated through Survey Monkey, the data retained the respondents' email address so that JRSA could target reminders. Once the data were extracted from Survey Monkey, the email address was stripped out and replaced with a four-digit research code.

Once the list of providers was finalized, the survey was sent to the respondents on November 15, 2015, with follow-up reminders for participants one week and two weeks following the initial request. The survey was then relaunched to the email list on May 9, 2016.⁹ The participants who did not complete their surveys by June 21, 2016, were contacted over the phone and sent individual email reminders. Over the next few weeks, two additional outreach attempts were made by phone and/or email to those that did not respond by Lisa Pierotte of JRSA or Jabeen Adawi of NVRDC, for a total of 3 additional outreach attempts. Some respondents stated issues with receiving the mass email invitation (i.e. delivery to junk/spam folder), so we created individualized links to send to each outstanding respondent by email. With this additional outreach, the overall response rate increased by 25% (i.e. 24% increase in the standard survey; 32% increase in the supervisor survey).

Among the 253 respondents, 213 surveys were delivered.¹⁰ Throughout the outreach process, individuals were removed from the list due to a variety of circumstances (e.g. left the firm, or extended leave during the prior 6 month period, and incorrect e-mail addresses). A total of 40 respondents were removed from the list of participants and 213¹¹ remained. Of those, 149¹² surveys were completed, for an overall response rate of 70%. The response rate varied by survey type (i.e., among 31 Supervisor surveys, 16 were returned, a response rate of 51%; the standard survey was sent to 182 individuals, and 133 completed the survey, a response rate of 73%).

Looking at the number of different agencies responding to the survey, among the 35 unique legal providers, 1 or more attorneys in 26 agencies responded, a 74% response rate. Of those 26 agencies, 16 supervisor surveys were completed – a 61% response rate.

One issue to consider related to the response rate in the survey is the distribution of responses from small, medium, and large legal providers. It is possible that attorneys from smaller firms have somewhat different concerns and focus than those in larger firms. To explore this issue further, we asked NVRDC to identify the provider agencies by organization size.¹³ The breakdown was in three categories -- small (6 or fewer legal staff members); medium (7 to 15

⁹ Those who had not responded to the survey in November 2015 were sent the survey again in May 2016. We conducted means difference tests looking at surveys completed in the first period versus the second survey period. Looking at 149 attorneys reporting, within the 24 areas of law, there were statistically significant differences ($p < .05$) in 3 areas – victims of crime requiring assistance with civil protection orders, divorce, and Title 9. We believe this is a reflection that the agencies which work more directly in these areas completed the survey in the earlier period. For example, only 2 agencies report having 1 or more clients who are victims of crime with Title IX legal needs, and the majority of the attorneys in those agencies completed the survey in the first period.

¹⁰ The final number of surveys delivered includes only those that successfully reached a respondent.

¹¹ The outreach process for the needs assessment was ongoing for months, which resulted in the addition of new respondents that were not included on the original e-mail list. Therefore, the final total of respondents includes new additions and deletions, resulting in the figure of 213.

¹² Total number of surveys submitted were 153, however, 4 surveys were removed from the data as the respondent started the survey, but only completed the consent question; no data were captured.

¹³ Personal communication, J. Adawi, August 16, 2016

staff) and large (16 and more staff). Table 1 provides the breakdown by number of agencies by size, and respondents by survey type (standard or supervisor) and by organization size. Among the 26 agencies, most (17 or 65%) were small; 6 (23%) were medium and 3 (12%) were large. As indicated, overall, a little more than half of the surveys (53%) were submitted by attorneys in small and medium firms; the remaining were submitted from attorneys in large firms. However, when observing the responses by survey type, we see that the majority of supervisor surveys (69%) were from small firms, followed by those in medium (19%) and large firms (2 respondents or 12% of all supervisor surveys). For the standard survey, half of surveys came from larger firms. When reviewing the results of this needs assessment, it is important to at least consider how these findings may be influenced by differences in respondents by organization size.

Table 1: Respondents by Survey Type and Organization Size

Organization Size	Agency		Standard Survey		Supervisor Survey		Totals	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Small: 1 to 6 Staff	17	65%	26	20%	11	69%	37	25%
Medium: 7 to 15	6	23%	39	29%	3	19%	42	28%
Large: 16 or More	3	12%	68	51%	2	12%	70	47%
Total	26	100%	133	100%	16	100%	149	100%

Methodology

For the analyses of the needs assessment results, JRSA performed descriptive statistics and frequencies for all responses to the survey. We explored the data at 2 levels – individual and by agency. We examined the frequencies and distributions based on individual attorney responses (N=149) and then aggregated the individual data within each agency to report various key findings from an agency perspective. We present the findings in both table and graphical forms for each of the 24 legal issues within the 3 domains of criminal, civil, and administrative law.

Results

Among Victims Seeking Legal Services in Prior 6 Months, How Many Crimes Reported?

Supervisors were asked to report their best estimate of the number of clients in the prior 6 months who were victims of a crime, by type of crime (see Table 2). They were also instructed to count by the type of crime – so that if a client was a victim of both robbery *and* sexual assault, that person would be counted twice. We provide the information reported by Agency, but replaced the agency name with a letter to protect confidentiality.

It is important to note that although 16 supervisors responded to the survey, not all supervisors completed the victims served by crime type question. As a result, the table below only includes 12 agencies that provided data. Based on communications with a few of the supervisors, we

discovered that some agencies do not track this information, while others do not have this data readily available.

The total number of crimes reported to these legal agencies varies widely – from 3 (Agency “K”) to a high of 1,650 crimes (Agency “C”) over a 6 month period. In addition, the types of crimes also span from a low of 4 arsons, to 410 thefts, to a high of 1,262 sexual assaults. Thus for a 6 month period, approximately 2,752 crimes (or 5,504 crimes annually) are reported by crime victims seeking legal services.

Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the top 10 crimes reported (2,689 crimes) to legal providers over the prior 6 month period, by percentage of crimes reported. As is clearly illustrated, sexual assault (23%), domestic violence (22%), and hate and bias crimes (19%) comprise the majority of crimes reported (64%).

Figure 2 breaks down the number of agencies with 1 or more victim of crime reporting a crime, by crime type. Of the agencies reporting, 11 of 12 (or 92% of agencies) report victims of domestic violence, 8 of 12 (67%) agencies report victims of sexual assault, 7 of 12 (58%) report victims of stalking. Interestingly, only 1 agency reports victims of burglary; 2 agencies each report victims of arson, animal cruelty, and other crimes; while 3 agencies report victims of homicide, abuse or neglect, hate or bias, and human trafficking (labor) crimes.

Table 2: Crimes Reported by Victims Seeking Legal Services, Prior 6 Months, by Crime Type

CRIME TYPE*	AGENCY												Total by Type
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
Homicide	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	12
Sexual Assault	40	10	400	1	0	0	1	30	0	144	0	5	631
Assault	30	20	200	1	0	0	0	80	0	11	0	0	342
Domestic Violence	30	30	200	26	20	150	0	100	4	28	3	2	593
Stalking	20	1	100	2	15	0	0	20	0	13	0	0	171
Robbery	0	15	100	0	0	0	0	10	0	5	0	0	130
Burglary	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Identity Theft	0	2	15	0	4	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	27
Abuse or Neglect	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	25
Human Trafficking – Sexual	40	0	15	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	61
Human Trafficking – Labor	0	10	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Theft	0	5	100	2	3	0	75	20	0	0	0	0	205
Hate or Bias	0	1	500	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	504
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
Other	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total By Agency	160	114	1650	36	53	150	76	285	5	203	3	17	2,752

*Crimes reported, not unique crime victims. Victims reporting 2 or more crime types are counted by each type of crime

Figure 1: Top 10 Crimes Reported by Percentage N=2,689

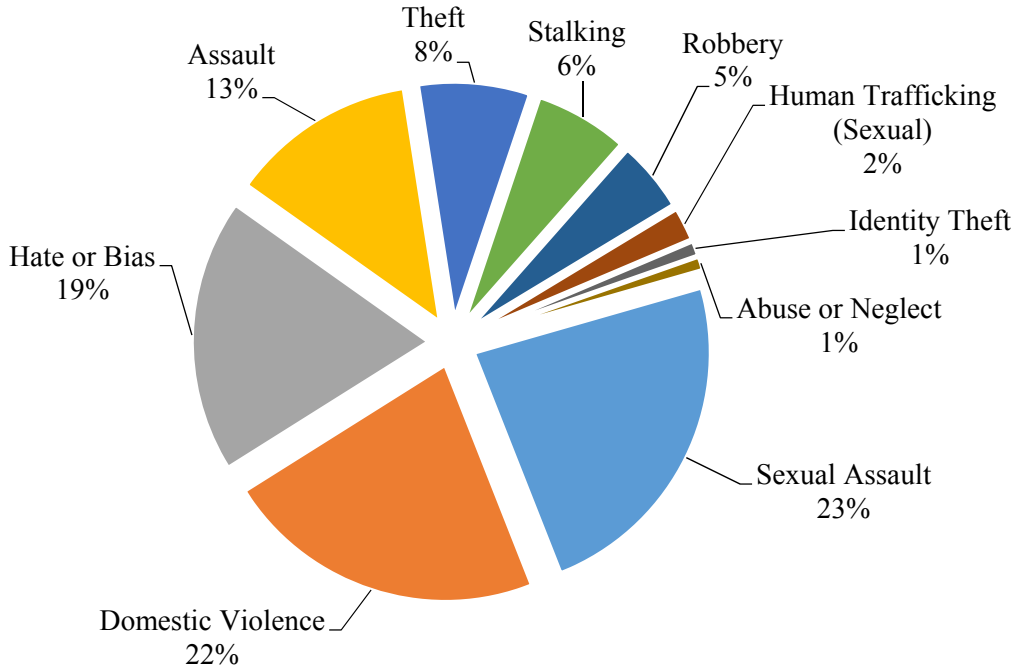
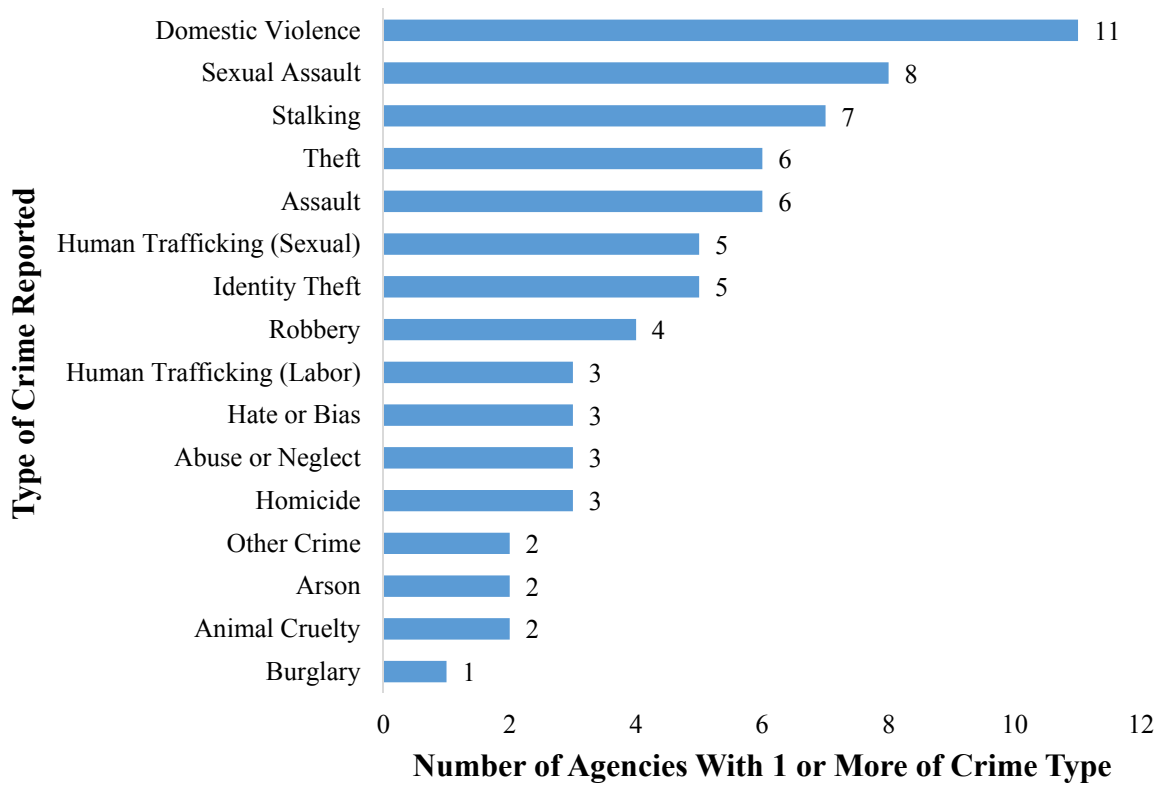


Figure 2: Number of Agencies Reporting Crimes by Type of Crime N=12



What is Current Practice of Providing Legal Remedies to Victims?

Agency Size and Identification of Legal Needs

Before exploring the survey results with respect to 24 identified legal issues among clients who are victims of crime, it is important to note that these legal provider agencies vary in size from small (e.g., with 1 to 3 attorneys reporting survey data) to medium (4 to fewer than 10 attorneys) to large (ranging from 14 to 36 attorneys).

This distinction is important because the number of attorneys reporting client legal issues is positively and statistically correlated with the number of needs identified (at .58 indicating a medium strength relationship). In other words, as the number of survey respondents *within* an agency increases, they report a higher number of type of legal needs. This also makes intuitive sense in that smaller firms are likely to have fewer clients and/or may specialize in particular topics (e.g., immigration), thus may have less exposure to clients with a wider range of issues.

To explore this, the number of client legal needs identified by agency¹⁴ was divided into thirds to provide the distribution of size of staff and number of client needs identified.

As indicated in Table 3, while 17 of 26 (65%) of the agencies were classified as small, they were quite diverse in the number of legal needs identified – over half (9 of 17 or 53%) noted clients with from 2 to 8 legal needs in the prior 6 month period, 5 (or 30%) had clients with 9 to 17 needs, with 3 (or 17%) with clients with 18 or more needs. Neither the medium or large sized organizations had fewer than 9 needs identified by clients.

Table 3: Number of Legal Needs by Organization Size

Organization Size	Number of Legal Needs Identified			Agencies
	2 to 8 Needs	9 to 17 Needs	18 or More Needs	
Small: 1 to 6 Staff	9	5	3	17
Medium: 7 to 15	0	3	3	6
Large: 16 and More Staff	0	0	3	3
Total	9	8	9	26

¹⁴ If 1 or more attorney identified a client with a legal need (among the 24 identified in the survey), the agency was coded as 1 or “Yes” as having clients with that need. The 24 needs were then summed by agency.

Legal Issues of Crime of Victims

As previously noted, the needs assessment survey was divided into three topic areas: criminal, civil, and administrative. Each of these three areas contained questions involving various legal needs a victim of crime may require (i.e. victim impact statement, civil protection order, immigrant removal defense) to generate a better understanding of the legal services provided to victims of crime in the D.C. area. Table 4 provides the breakdown of the number and percentage of 149 attorneys reporting 1 or more clients with the specific legal need in the prior 6 month period. Then, among those who did have at least 1 client, the number and percent of those who were provided brief advice, legal representation and/or a referral to another agency. Table 4 also provides the ranking of the highest number of clients, by domain and legal issue.

Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5 illustrate the percentage of respondents who report having clients who are victims of crime with specific legal needs in the prior 6 month period among the 3 domains of criminal, civil and administrative.

As reported in Figure 3, within the criminal domain, approximately a third of legal providers report having at least 1 client who is a victim of a crime who in the past 6 months who needed legal representation when meeting with a government attorney (45 or 30% of respondents) and legal services to secure money from the Victims Compensation Fund (44 or 30% of respondents). In addition, 26% (39 respondents) reported having clients who needed assistance with Victim Impact Statements, and 24% (35 respondents) needed help with filing police reports.

Figure 3: Attorneys Reporting Clients with Criminal Legal Needs N=149

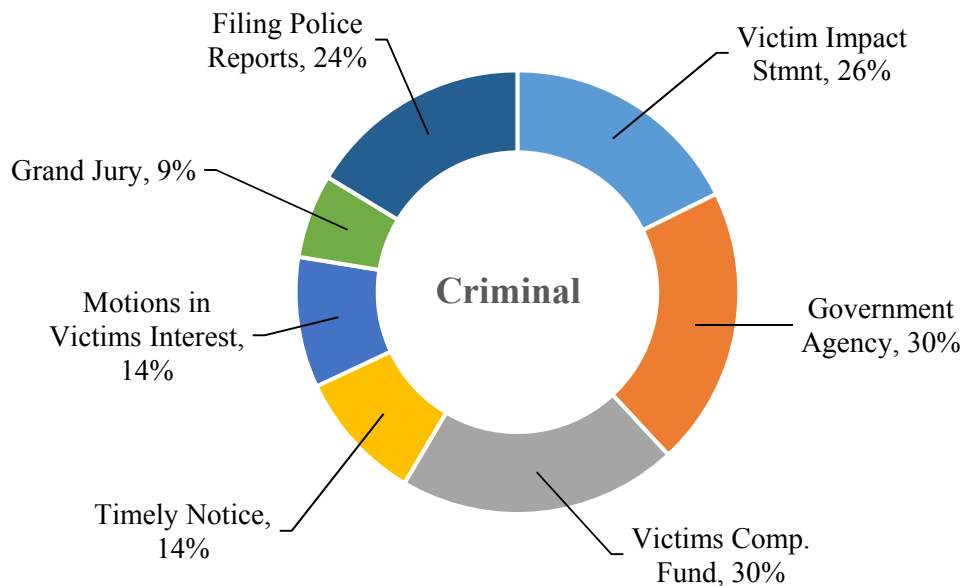


Figure 4 shows legal providers report landlord tenant (89 respondents or 60%), civil protection orders (80 or 54%) and child custody (79 or 53%) as the top three civil legal needs among clients who are victims of crime over the prior 6 month period. Divorce (71 or 48% of attorneys), personal injury (55 or 37%) and civil rights claims (51 or 34%) are also frequent legal needs of victims of crime.

Figure 4: Attorneys Reporting Clients with Civil Legal Needs N=149

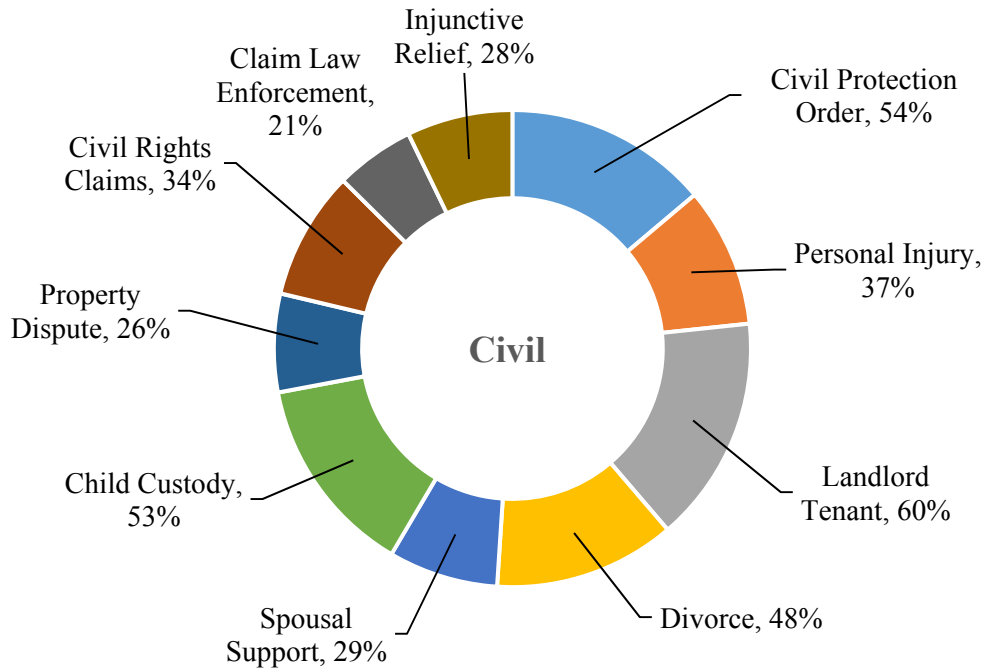
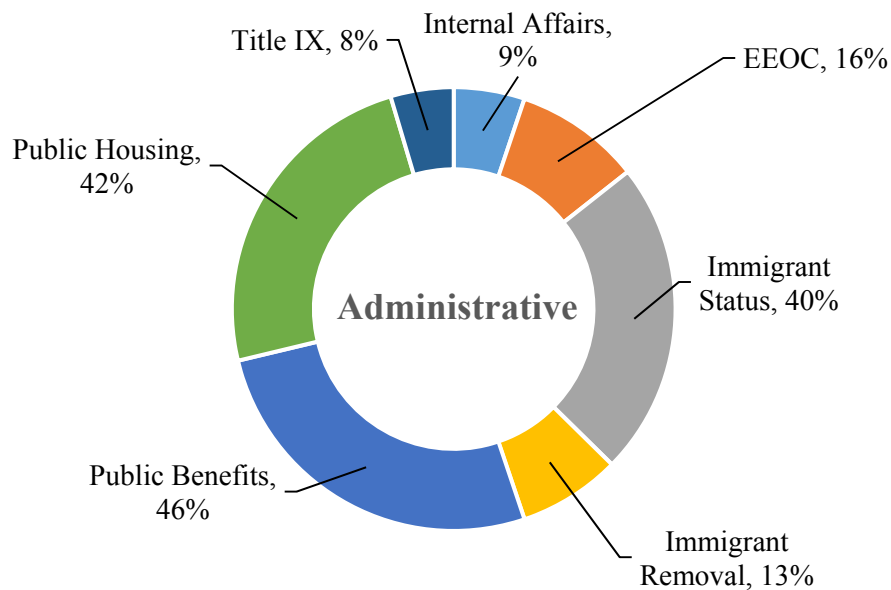


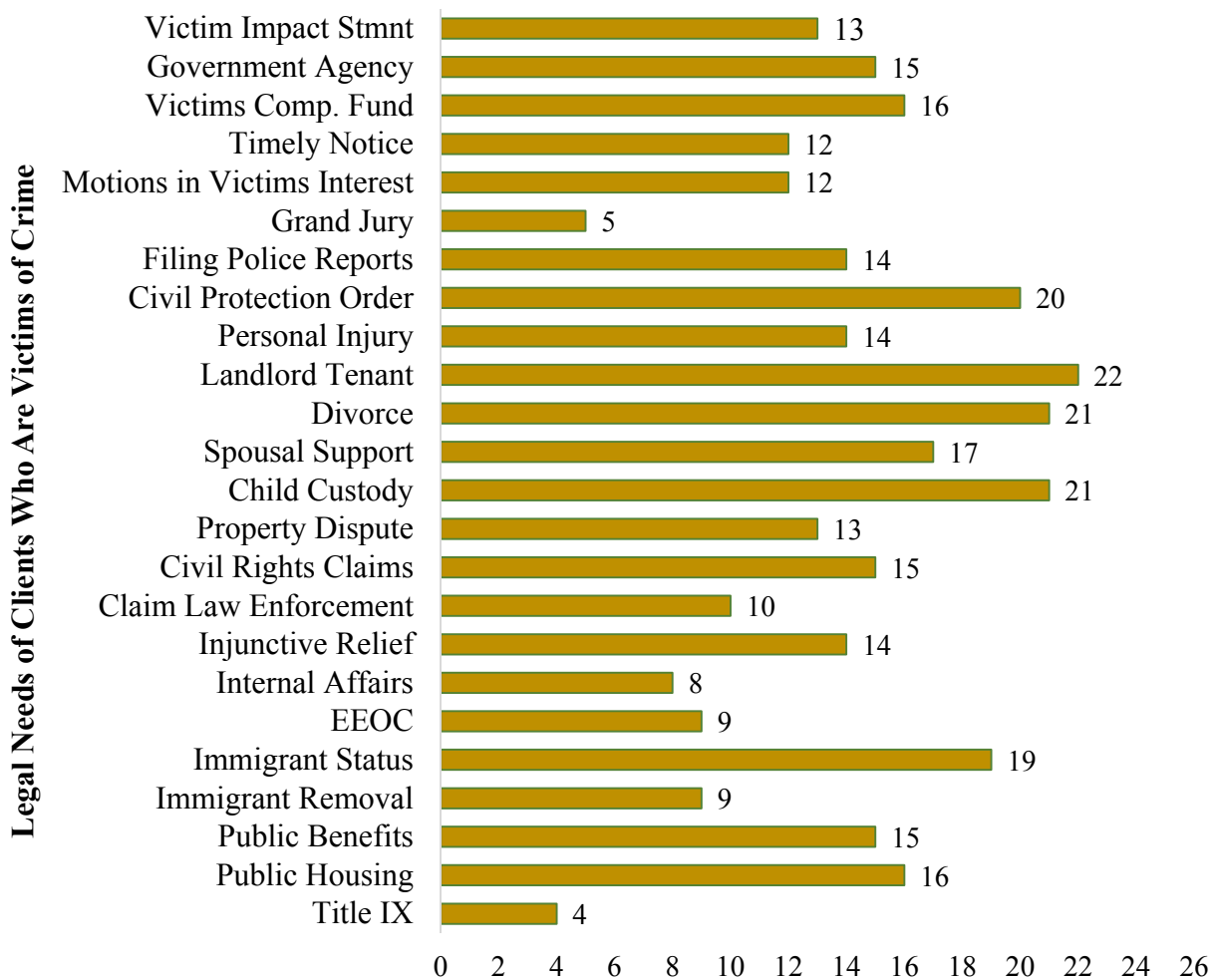
Figure 5 indicates that attorneys report public benefits (69 respondents or 46%), public housing (63 respondents or 42%), and immigration status (60 or 40%) as the top three administrative legal needs among clients who are victims of crime over the prior 6 month period. Note that Title IX is the least reported administrative legal need among attorneys. This may be underreported because while we targeted 8 university legal clinics in the survey, we received surveys from only 3 of these organizations.

Figure 5: Attorneys Reporting Clients with Administrative Legal Needs N=149



Another way to look at the needs of crime victims is by the number of agencies who have 1 or more attorneys reporting clients in the prior 6 months with specific legal needs. Figure 6 provides that detail. Looking at the 24 legal needs, on average, agencies identify 14 legal needs (ranging from 4 to 22 needs) and we see there is a fair amount of variation in these client needs. Landlord tenant (22 or 85% of agencies), divorce and child custody (both 21 or 81% of agencies) are most frequently reported, with civil protection orders (20 or 77%), immigrant status (19 or 73%), spousal support (17 or 65%), victims compensation fund (16 or 61%), and public housing (16 or 62% of agencies) are also prevalent. The least reported legal needs are Title IX, and grand jury assistance. As noted in the discussion on organization side and needs identified, these results should be viewed bearing in mind that agency size is related to the number of legal needs of crime victims.

Figure 6: Client Legal Needs Aggregated To Agency N=26



Number of Agencies With 1 or More Attorneys Reporting Client Need

The next section of this report explores the specific actions taken by attorneys who identify a specific legal need among victims of crime. We refer you again to Table 4 for the breakdown of the number and percentage of the 149 attorneys reporting their actions – be it brief advice, legal representation, and/or referral to another agency.

Table 4: Victims of Crime by Legal Need and Response N=149

<i>Topic Area</i>	<i>Top Priority</i>	<i># Attorneys with 1 or more Clients w/ Need</i>		<i>Brief Advice*</i>		<i>Legal Representation*</i>		<i>Referral*</i>	
	Rank	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
CRIMINAL LAW									
Victim Impact Stmt	3	39	26%	32	82%	20	51%	10	26%
Government Agency	1	45	30%	36	80%	23	51%	15	33%
Victims Fund	2	44	30%	38	86%	10	23%	12	27%
Timely Notice	5**	21	14%	16	76%	6	29%	5	24%
Motions Victim Interest	5**	21	14%	15	71%	17	81%	10	48%
Grand Jury	6	14	9%	11	79%	8	57%	1	71%
Filing Police Reports	4	35	24%	34	97%	11	31%	11	31%
CIVIL LAW									
Civil Protection Order	2	80	54%	63	79%	49	61%	62	78%
Personal Injury	5	55	37%	35	64%	7	13%	47	86%
Landlord Tenant	1	89	60%	60	67%	28	32%	79	89%
Divorce	4	71	48%	54	76%	33	47%	51	72%
Spousal Support	7	43	29%	34	79%	20	47%	32	74%
Child Custody	3	79	53%	61	77%	46	58%	60	76%
Property Dispute	9	38	26%	26	68%	14	37%	29	76%
Civil Rights Claim	6	51	34%	39	77%	20	39%	39	77%
Claim Law Enforce.	10	31	21%	23	74%	13	42%	20	65%
Injunctive Relief	8	42	28%	36	86%	34	81%	21	50%
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW									
Internal Affairs	6	14	9%	12	86%	9	64%	7	50%
EEOC - Equal Emp.	4	24	16%	19	79%	10	42%	21	88%
Immigrant Status	3	60	40%	37	62%	28	47%	53	88%
Immigrant Removal	5	19	13%	14	74%	12	63%	16	84%
Public Benefits	1	69	46%	57	83%	32	46%	51	74%
Public Housing	2	63	42%	48	76%	25	39%	48	76%
Title IX	7	12	8%	11	92%	10	83%	5	42%

**Note: If combined, totals can exceed 100% as respondents were able to select all that apply. **Tied Within Domain*

Provider Response – Advice, Representation, Referral?

For those victims of crime who have identified a legal need, the next question is how do these legal providers respond to that need? Referring again to Table 4 above, first note that the questions of whether the attorney provided brief advice, legal representation, or a referral to another agency was conditioned on the attorney identifying one or more clients with that legal need. Thus, the percentages reported are based on the figure listed as “N” under the column titled # of attorneys with 1 or more clients with Need; not on the total of 149 respondents. For example, among the 79 attorneys reporting at least 1 victim of a crime who needed assistance with child custody issues, 61 of 79 (77%) of attorneys provided brief advice to one or more of these clients; 46 of 79 (58%) provided legal representation, and 60 of 79 (76%) provided a referral to another agency.

The second issue is that these questions asked respondents to “check all that apply”. Therefore, these figures report *whether or not* an attorney utilizes that action of brief advice, legal representation, and/or referral to another agency – *regardless of how often they may take that action*. Stated another way, these results report a binary state – the attorney does or does not turn to this solution for a crime victim with this legal need; it is *not* a measure of how *frequently* they take this action. Further, these options are not mutually exclusive by client -- it is conceivable that an attorney may do more than one of these actions with the same client (e.g., provide both brief advice and a referral to another agency).

Table 5 provides insight into the range of actions (brief advice, legal representation and/or referral to another agency) taken by attorneys who report 1 or clients with a need for legal services. For example, among the 81 attorneys who report having a client with a need for a civil protection order, on average, they report 2.15 actions (so between 2 and 3 actions per attorney, on average) within a range of 0 and 3 responses (from no action to providing brief advice, and/or to legal representation, and/or making a referral to another agency). In contrast, among the 14 attorneys reporting a client requiring assistance with a grand jury proceeding, the range of responses is 0 to 2, and with an average of 1.43 actions (falling between 1 and 2 actions).

Table 5: Range of Attorney Responses by Legal Need N=149

Legal Area	N	Range of Responses	Mean (SD) ¹⁵
CRIMINAL LAW			
Victim Impact Statement	39	0 to 3	1.59 (.79)
Government Agency	45	0 to 3	1.64 (.77)
Victims Comp. Fund	44	0 to 3	1.36 (.65)
Timely Notice	21	0 to 3	1.29 (.78)
Motions in Victims Interest	23	1 to 3	1.83 (.83)
Grand Jury	14	0 to 2	1.43 (.65)

¹⁵SD stands for “Standard Deviation” which indicates how much the responses varied among the attorneys reporting. A larger SD means more variation in the responses (e.g., answers were more widely spread among the various response options), a smaller SD indicates more consistency or more similar responses.

Legal Area	N	Range of Responses	Mean (SD) ¹⁵
Filing Police Reports	35	0 to 3	1.60 (.60)
CIVIL LAW			
Civil Protection Order	81	0 to 3	2.15 (.82)
Personal Injury	55	0 to 3	1.62 (.68)
Landlord Tenant	89	0 to 3	1.88 (.80)
Divorce	71	0 to 3	1.94 (.83)
Spousal Support	43	1 to 3	2.00 (.76)
Child Custody	79	0 to 3	2.11 (.85)
Property Dispute	38	0 to 3	1.82 (.87)
Civil Rights Claims	51	0 to 3	1.92 (.77)
Claim Law Enforcement	31	0 to 3	1.81 (.91)
Injunctive Relief	42	1 to 3	2.17 (.76)
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW			
Internal Affairs	14	1 to 3	2.00 (.78)
EEOC	24	1 to 3	2.08 (.78)
Immigrant Status	60	1 to 3	1.95 (.87)
Immigrant Removal	19	1 to 3	2.21 (.92)
Public Benefits	69	0 to 3	2.03 (.77)
Public Housing	12	1 to 3	2.17 (.72)
Title IX	63	0 to 3	1.92 (.81)

Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 9 illustrate the provider responses captured in Table 4.

Looking at criminal legal needs in Figure 7, we see a wide range of responses to the needs of crime victims by these providers. For example, among the 39 attorneys reporting at least one client with a need for assistance with victim impact statements, 82% of the time they provide brief advice; 51% of the time they legally represent the client; and 26% of the time they refer the client to another agency for services to address this legal concern.

Observing the provider response to civil legal needs for victims of crime in Figure 8, the pattern of providing brief advice to address civil legal concerns is consistent with criminal legal needs – over 60% of time. In addition, while attorneys represent clients less in some areas of the law (e.g., personal injury and landlord tenant disputes), with respect to civil protection orders, child custody, and injunctive relief, they represent the client more than half the time. These attorneys also refer these clients to other agencies most of the time.

Finally, as evidenced in Figure 9 below, as with criminal and civil law, most of the time, attorneys provide brief advice to victims of crime with respect to administrative legal issues. These attorneys also report making referrals to other organizations to meet the administrative legal needs of their clients. Overall, attorneys working with crime victims appear to refer out to their colleagues for most civil and administrative issues.

Figure 7: Provider Response to Criminal Legal Needs

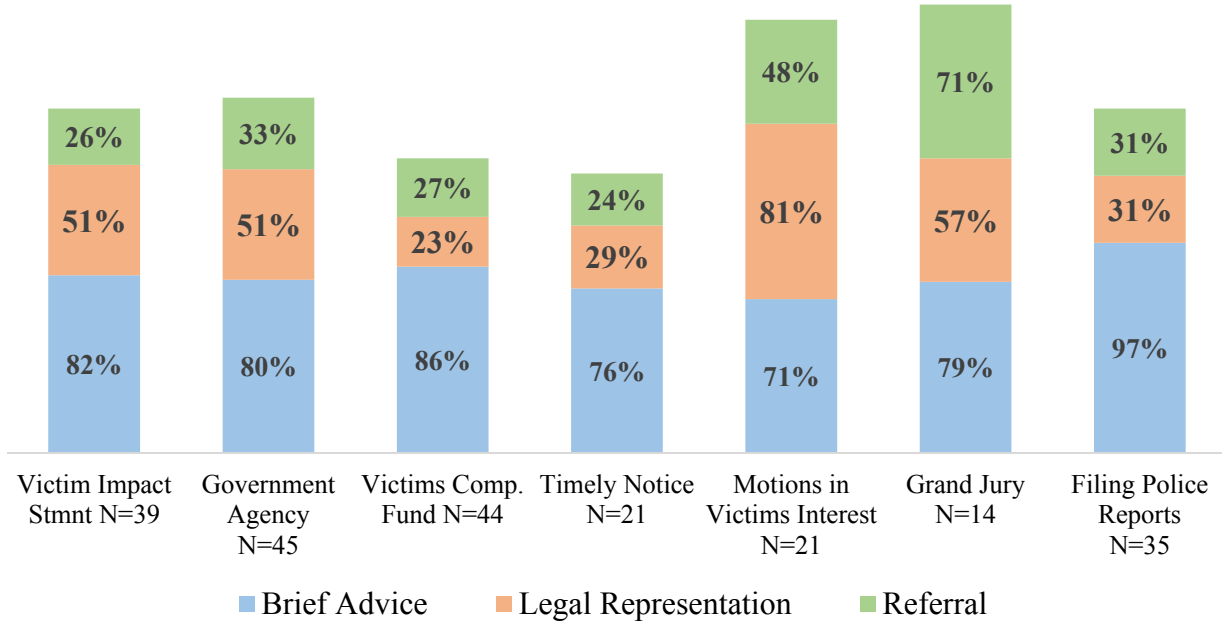


Figure 8: Provider Response to Civil Legal Needs

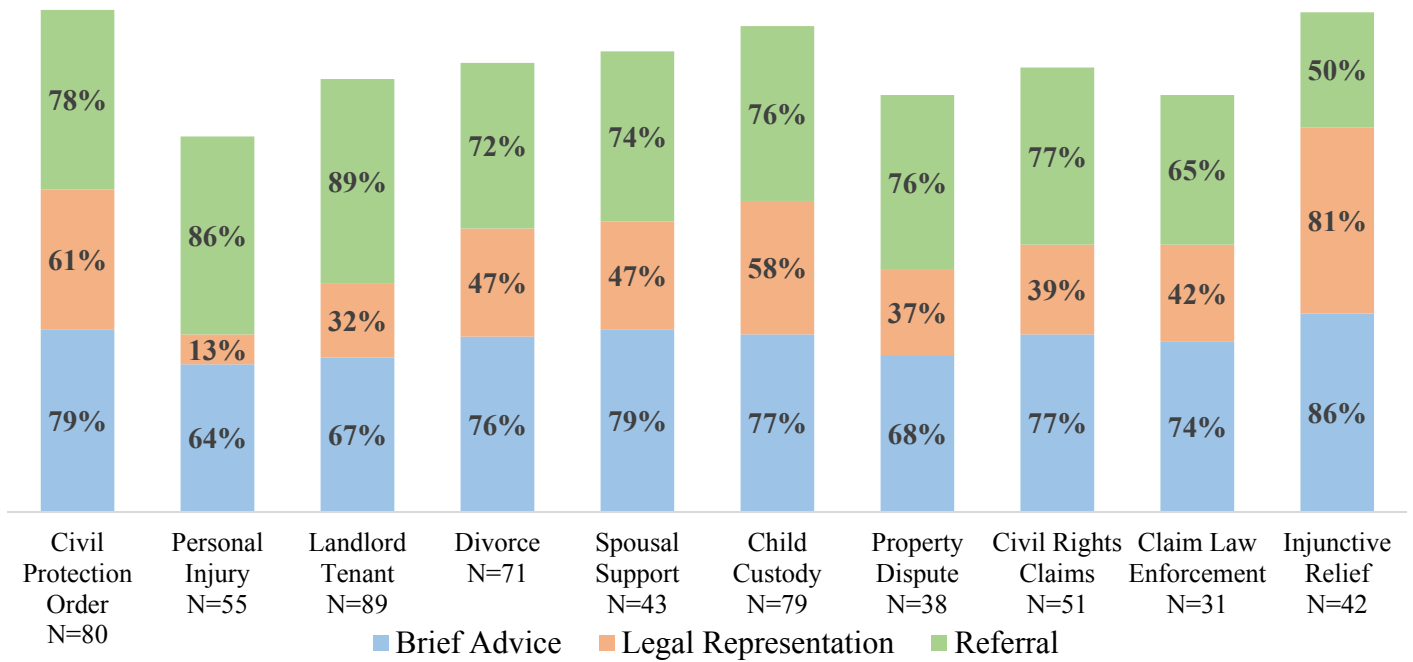
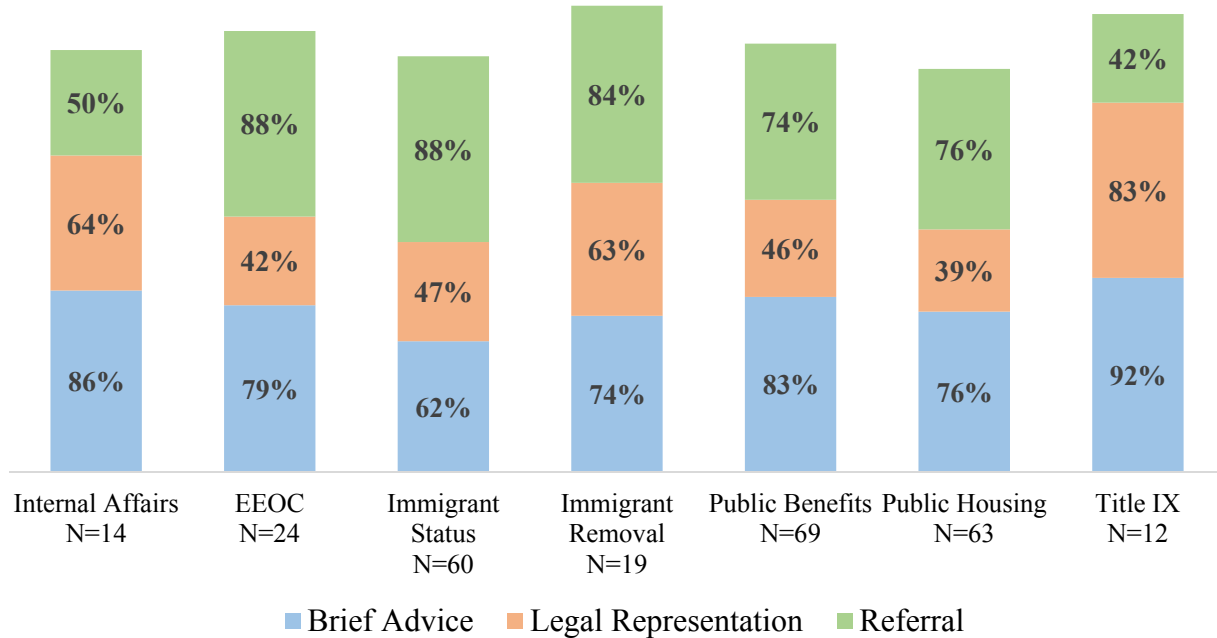


Figure 9: Provider Response to Administrative Legal Needs

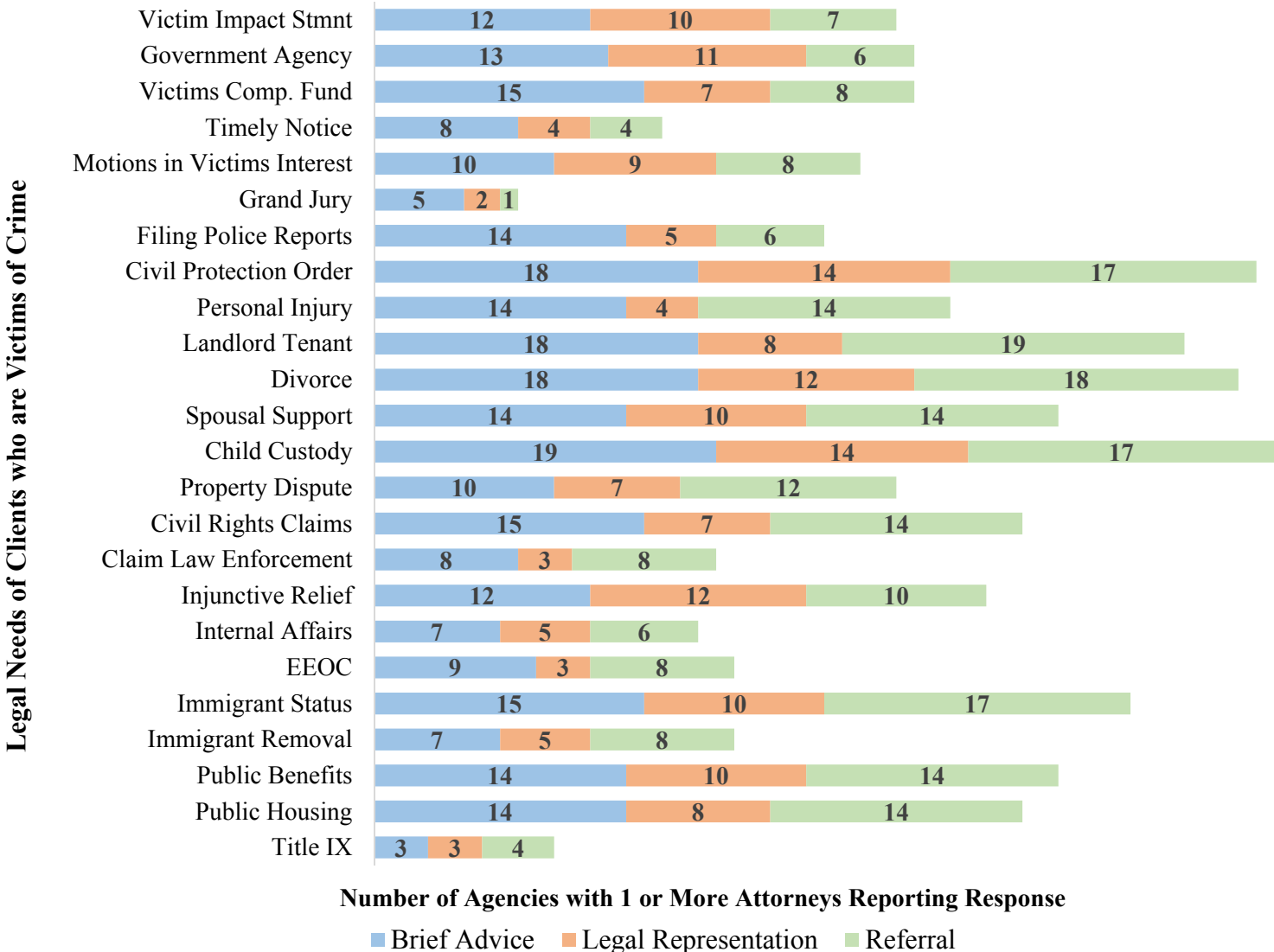


Similar to exploring the needs of crime victims by the number of agencies, Figure 10 details the attorney’s reported response to the legal needs expressed by victims of crime in the prior 6 month period, aggregated by agency. Looking at the 24 legal needs, on average, 12 agencies provide brief advice (ranging from 3 to 19 agencies); 8 agencies provide legal representation (ranging from 2 to 14 agencies); and 11 agencies, provide referrals (ranging from 1 to 19).¹⁶

Looking specifically at brief advice, we see that 19 (or 73%) of agencies provide brief advice on child custody, while 18 (69%) agencies provide advice on civil protection orders, landlord tenant issues, and divorce. At the other end of the spectrum, fewer agencies report provide brief advice on internal affairs and immigrant removal (7 agencies (or 27%), and in matters of grand jury indictments (5 or 19%), and Title IX 3 (or 11%). With respect to legal representation, 14 agencies (53%) represent clients in civil protection orders and child custody issues, 12 agencies (46%) represent clients in divorce proceedings, and 10 agencies (38%) represent clients with victim impact statements, spousal support, immigrant status, and public benefits. Fewer agencies represent clients in matters of timely notice, personal injury, (4 or 15%, respectively); claims against law enforcement, EEOC, Title IX, (3 or 11%) and grand jury indictments (2 or 7% of agencies). The pattern of referrals is similar to agencies providing brief advice. In addition, fewer agencies provide referrals to other agencies in the criminal legal domain, but are more likely to refer out for civil and administrative matters.

¹⁶ The issue of organization size and identification of legal issues (i.e., the higher number of respondents within an agency reported more types of legal needs) also applies to provider’s response. Correlations between numbers of respondents were significantly related to number of agencies providing brief advice (correlated at .56); legal representation (.61); and referrals to other organizations (.61).

Figure 10: Provider Response to Legal Needs Aggregated To Agency N=26



Why Don't Attorneys File a Praecipe Within These Areas of the Law?

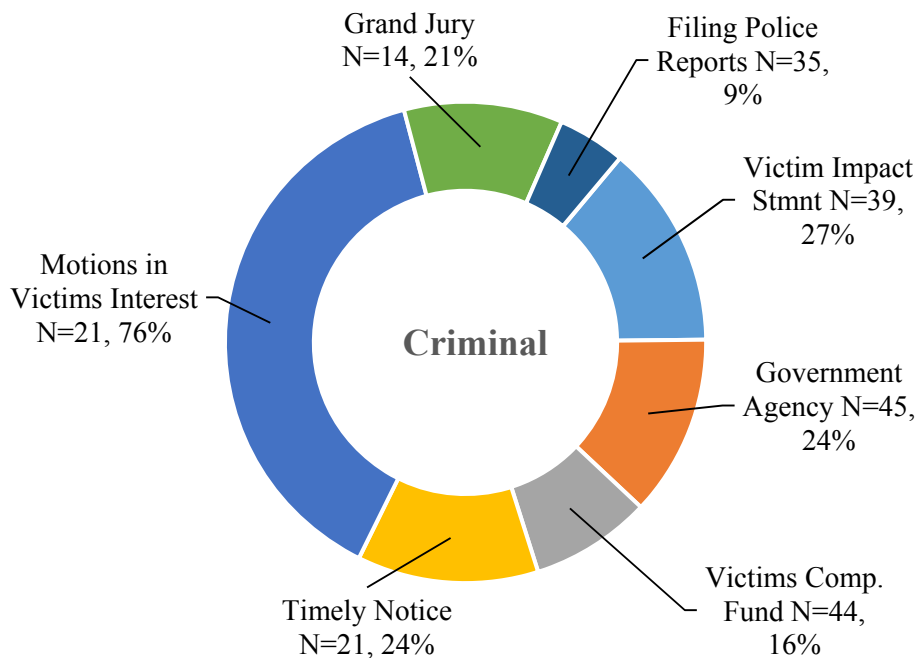
How Often Do Attorneys File a Praecipe?

The next step is to explore how often legal providers file a praecipe and if not, why not (see Table 6 below). A praecipe is a formal or written notice to the court or official body overseeing a matter, which notifies the party that an attorney is formally representing a client with regards to the matter. For each of the 24 domains, respondents were asked to answer whether or not they filed a praecipe on behalf of their clients who were victims of a crime. Note that these results likely reflect that in practice there are areas of the law where filing a praecipe is routine, but with other legal needs, the standard may be to utilize other options (e.g., providing brief advice).

Note that the question of whether or not an attorney filed a praecipe was conditioned on the attorney identifying one or more clients with that legal need. Thus, the percentages reported are based on the figure listed as "N" under the column titled # of Attorneys with 1 or more Clients w/ Need; *not* on the total of 149 respondents. We present both the number of attorneys, ("N"), with clients with these identified legal needs as well as the percentage of cases where a praecipe was filed in the labels in Figure 11, Figure 12, and Figure 13.

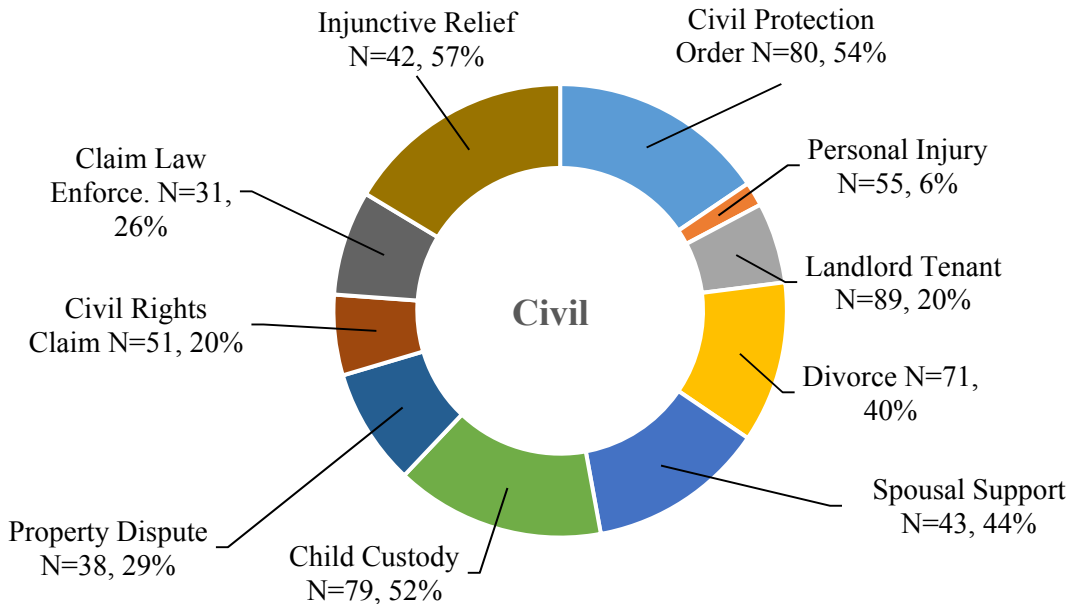
Figure 11 shows that among these attorneys, the majority file a praecipe in cases where the client required motions to be filed (among 21 attorneys with at least 1 client with this legal need, 16 or 76% filed a praecipe). About a quarter of the time, a praecipe was also filed clients requiring assistance with victim impact statements (of 39, 10 or 27% filed); representation with a government agency (of 45, 11 or 24%), and timely notice of writs and motions (of 21, 5 or 24% filed a praecipe).

Figure 11: Attorneys Reporting Filing Praecipe by Legal Need, Criminal Law



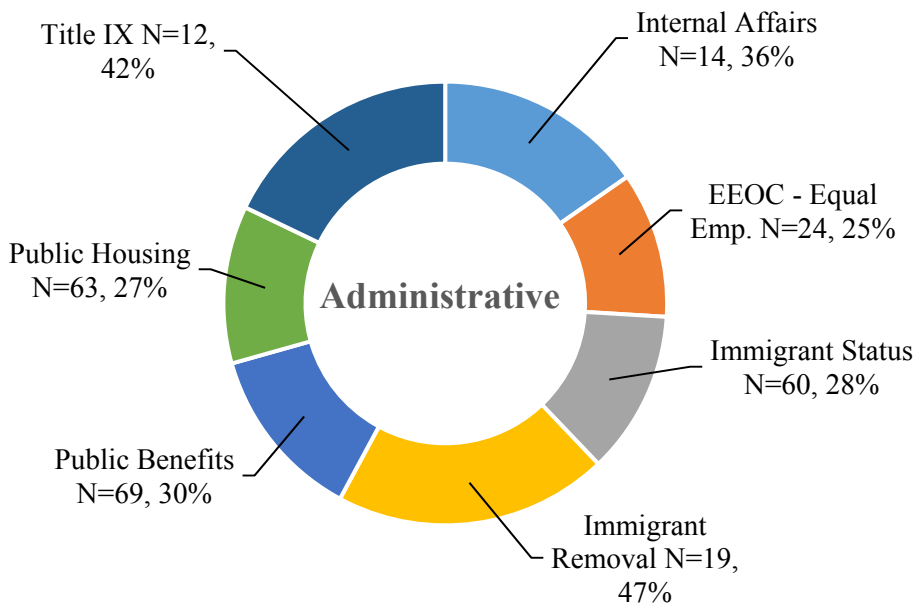
Attorneys filing a praecipe in civil cases also varies – from a low of 6% for those with personal injury legal needs (3 of 55 attorneys with 1 or more clients stated they filed a praecipe); to a high of 57% in injunctive relief cases (24 of 42 attorneys filed).

Figure 12: Attorneys Reporting Filing Praecipe by Legal Need, Civil Law



A lower percentage of respondents report filing a praecipe in administrative cases. Immigrant removal tops the list with 47% (reflecting 9 attorneys who file) in those cases; followed by public benefits cases (30% or 21 of 69) and immigrant status (28% or 17 of 60).

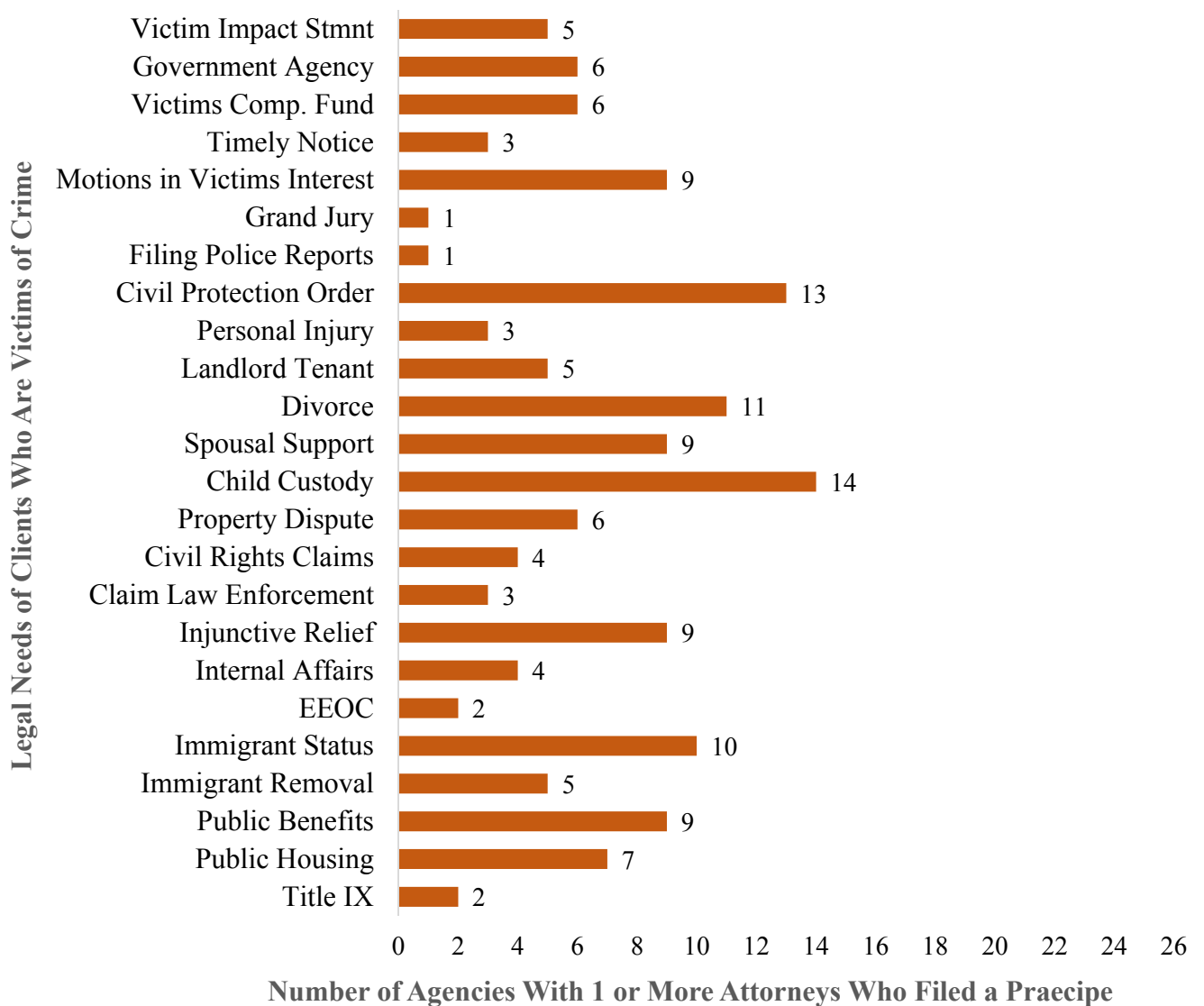
Figure 13: Attorneys Reporting Filing Praecipe by Legal Need, Administrative Law



Below in Figure 14, just as we did with the legal needs aggregated by agency, we look at the number of agencies that file a praecipe in each of 24 legal needs. The top two legal needs where a praecipe is filed are in the civil domain -- child custody (14 or 54% of agencies) and civil protection orders (13 or 50%). Among the administrative law issues, immigrant status (10 agencies or 38%) and public benefits (9 or 35%) are most prevalent.

Notably, relatively few agencies file a praecipe in criminal cases – with a high of 9 agencies (35%) filing for motions in victims interest, with 6 (23%) agencies filing for both victims compensation in and representation with a government agency.

Figure 14: Filing Praecipe by Client Legal Needs Aggregated To Agency N=26



The next section of this report explores why attorneys did not file a praecipe. As noted above, Table 6 provides the breakdown of the number and percentage of attorneys reporting their reasons for not filing, including no clients with a need for a praecipe, a lack of resources, a lack of sample motions, and/or a lacking expertise.

Table 6: File Praecept and Explanation When No Praecept Filed N=149

Topic Area	# of Attorneys w/ 1 or > Clients w/Need		File Praecept?		# NOT File Praecept	No Clients with Need*		Lack Resources*		Lack Sample Motions*		Lack Expertise*	
	N	%	N	%	N	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
CRIMINAL LAW													
Victim Impact Stmtnt	39	26%	10	27%	29	7	24%	2	7%	3	10%	7	24%
Government Agency	45	30%	11	24%	34	8	24%	8	24%	5	15%	10	29%
Victims Fund	44	30%	7	16%	37	12	32%	3	8%	2	5%	9	24%
Timely Notice	21	14%	5	24%	16	8	50%	0	0%	0	0%	3	19%
Motions Victim Interest	21	14%	16	76%	5	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%
Grand Jury	14	9%	3	21%	11	1	9%	0	0%	1	9%	3	27%
Filing Police Reports	35	24%	3	9%	32	9	28%	5	16%	1	3%	8	25%
CIVIL LAW													
Civil Protection Order	80	54%	43	54%	37	7	19%	5	14%	1	3%	10	27%
Personal Injury	55	37%	3	6%	52	6	12%	16	31%	1	2%	30	58%
Landlord Tenant	89	60%	18	20%	71	11	15%	8	11%	0	0%	34	48%
Divorce	71	48%	28	40%	43	4	9%	10	23%	0	0%	17	40%
Spousal Support	43	29%	19	44%	24	3	13%	5	21%	0	0%	6	25%
Child Custody	79	53%	41	52%	38	3	8%	5	13%	1	3%	16	42%
Property Dispute	38	26%	11	29%	27	0	0%	8	30%	2	7%	10	37%
Civil Rights Claim	51	34%	10	20%	41	4	10%	8	20%	0	0%	14	34%
Claim Law Enforce.	31	21%	8	26%	23	2	9%	6	26%	1	4%	9	39%
Injunctive Relief	42	28%	24	57%	18	3	17%	6	33%	1	6%	3	17%
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW													
Internal Affairs	14	9%	5	36%	9	2	22%	3	33%	1	11%	1	11%
EEOC - Equal Emp.	24	16%	6	25%	18	4	22%	6	33%	1	6%	8	44%
Immigrant Status	60	40%	17	28%	43	4	9%	7	16%	2	5%	24	56%
Immigrant Removal	19	13%	9	47%	10	1	10%	3	30%	1	10%	4	40%
Public Benefits	69	46%	21	30%	48	7	15%	6	13%	2	4%	17	35%
Public Housing	63	42%	17	27%	46	8	17%	4	9%	0	0%	18	39%
Title IX	12	8%	5	42%	7	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	1	14%

*Note: If combined, totals can exceed 100% as respondents were able to select all that apply.

Why Don't Attorneys File a Praecipe? By Legal Needs

Note that for reporting on the reasons for not filing a praecipe, we conditioned the percentage of on the number of attorneys who reported they did not file a praecipe.¹⁷ Therefore, the figure listed as “N” under the column titled # Not Filed Praecipe is the number used in calculating the percentage; *not* on the number of attorneys reporting one or more clients with that legal need. In addition, we asked respondents to “check all that apply”. Therefore, these figures capture whether the reason the attorney does not file a praecipe *applies (yes or no) – regardless of how often they may take that action*. The possible reasons included:

- No clients who needed legal representation on this issue;
- Lack of resources (e.g., caseload, confidentiality, scheduling conflicts, and/or financial);
- Lack of sample motions to rely upon;
- Feel they lack sufficient expertise in this area of the law; and
- Other reason (and a text box was provided to specify).

Again, these options are not mutually exclusive -- it is conceivable that an attorney may choose several reasons not to file a praecipe within a given legal need. Also note that the “Other Reason” attorneys did not file is not captured in Table 6 or in the figures below. This is because the specific reasons responses are in text form, and not as easily presented in a graph. (Although we did include the number of agencies who had 1 or more attorneys who stated the “other reason” in Figure 18 in order to provide a sense of the scope of that response.)

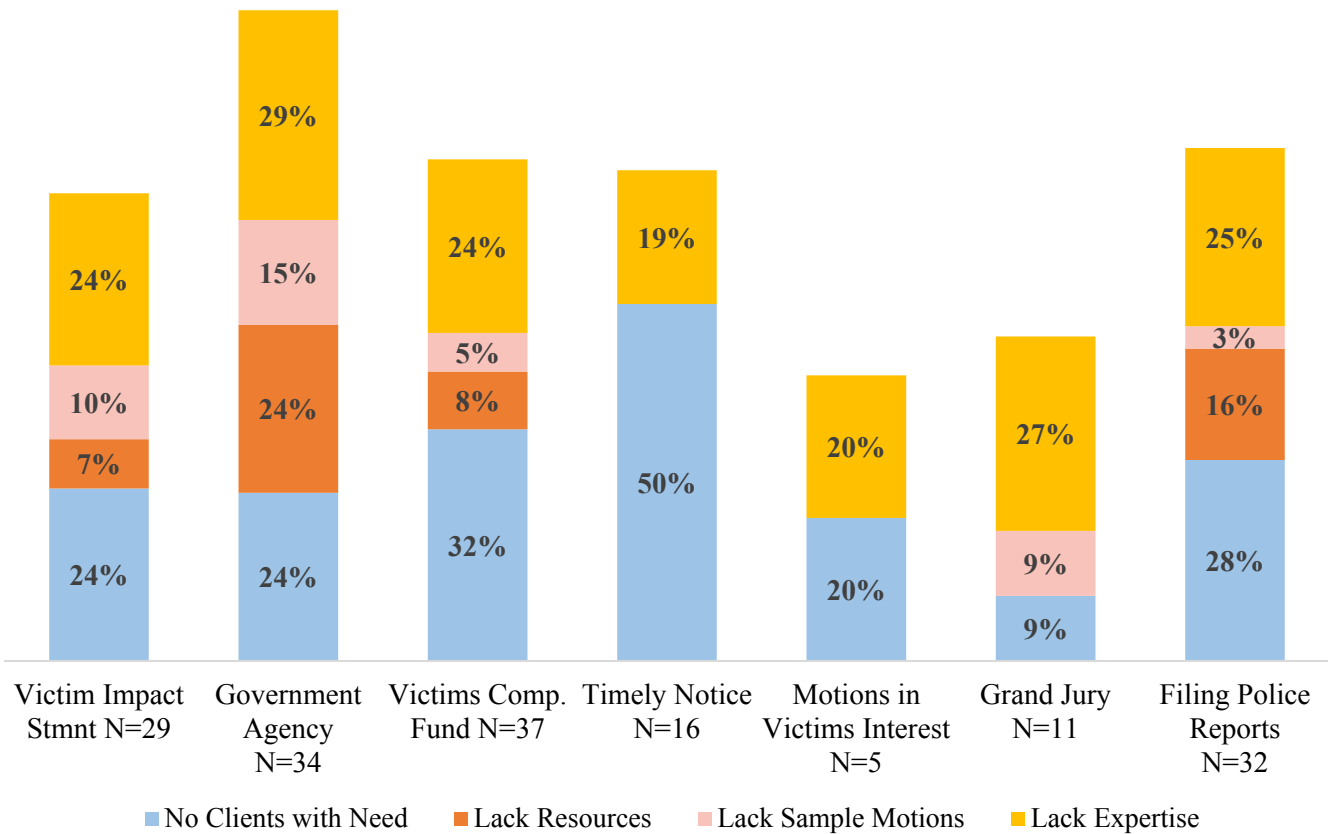
Figure 15, Figure 16, and Figure 17 illustrate reasons for not filing a praecipe as captured in Table 6.

Looking at criminal legal needs in Figure 15 we note that a quarter or more of attorneys did not file a praecipe because they did not have any clients with a need for filing a praecipe. For example, 24% (or 7 of 29 attorneys) did not file a praecipe for a victim impact statement; and 32% (or 12 of 37 attorneys) did not file for a victims compensation fund. However, these are attorneys who previously identified having 1 or more clients who had a need for these services.

Two possible explanations for these findings include 1) although they had clients with these legal issues, the client's need did not rise to the level of formal notification to the court (e.g., if they only provided brief advice); or 2) they are not aware that filing a praecipe would be warranted and/or useful in these cases. Also informative are the number of respondents who report that lack of sample motions and expertise are barriers to filing a praecipe. The VLNDC has the potential to directly impact all of these issues through cross-training. Finally, for those who view filing a praecipe as straining resources, the training may reduce this perception by helping attorneys to effectively engage in the praecipe process for these types of legal needs.

¹⁷ The survey employed skip-logic – so only those who said they did not file a praecipe were asked the follow-up questions of why they did not file a praecipe.

Figure 15: Reason Did Not File Praecipe, Criminal Legal Needs



It is likely that the VLNDC cross-training can also influence the practice of filing a praecipe for civil (Figure 16) and administrative (Figure 17) areas of the law. Over a third of respondents indicated that in 7 of 10 civil legal needs and 5 of 7 administrative legal needs they lacked expertise for filing a praecipe in these areas. For example, among 71 attorneys who did not file a praecipe in landlord tenant issue, 48% report lacking expertise; for child custody, among 38 attorneys, 42% report this issue. Examples from the administrative domain include public benefits and public housing legal needs. Among the respondents not filing a praecipe in the public benefits and public housing arenas, over 35% selected lack of expertise in both categories.

Similarly, a fifth or more of respondents in 7 of 10 civil legal areas and 3 of 7 administrative needs report lack of resources as one of the reasons for not filing a praecipe. For example, for the 52 attorneys reporting not filing a praecipe on a personal injury case, 31% reported lack of resources as an issue.

Figure 16: Reasons Did Not File Praecepte, Civil Legal Needs

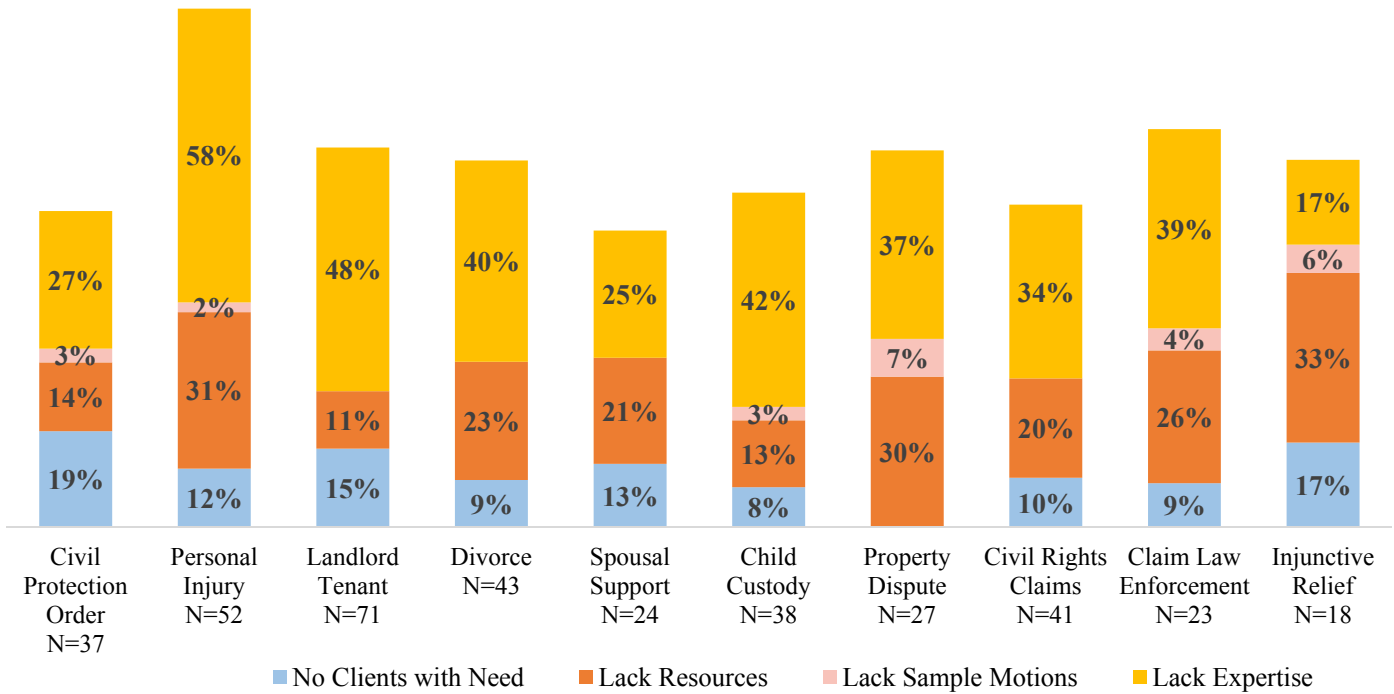


Figure 17: Reasons Did Not File Praecepte, Administrative Legal Needs

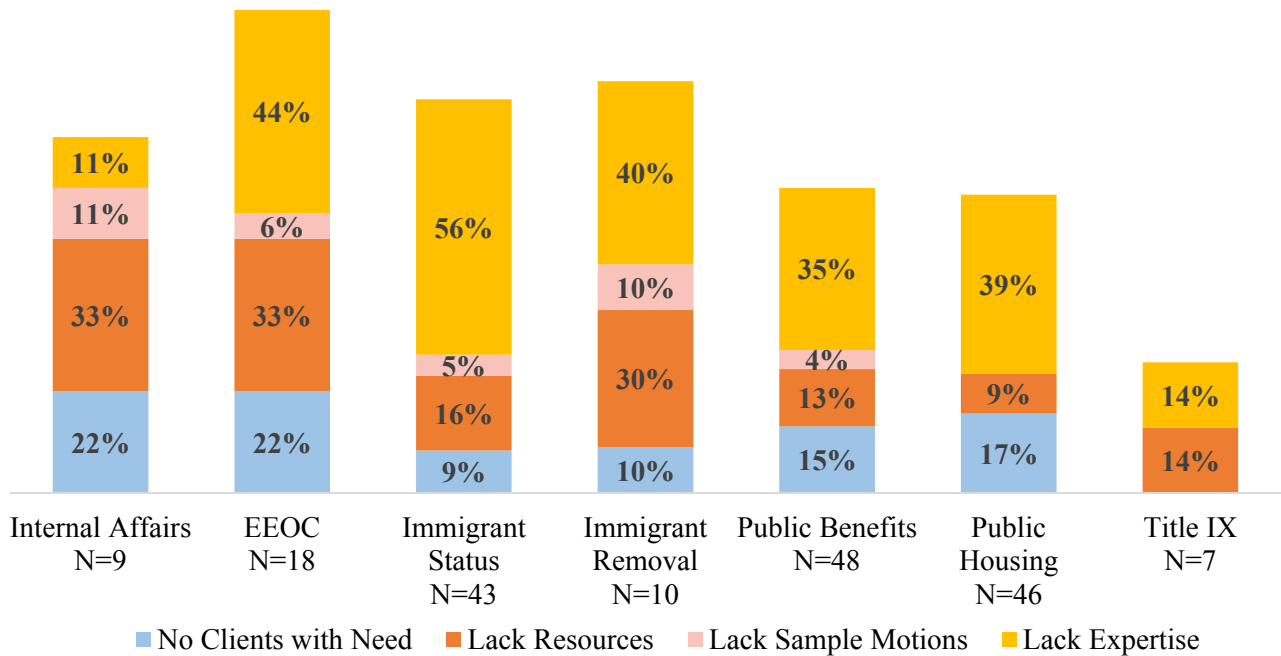


Figure 18 looks at the reasons attorneys did not file a praecipe, aggregated to the agency level and looking at the 24 legal needs. Recall that these results are conditioned on 1 or more attorneys identifying at least 1 client with this need *and* having at least 1 client for whom they did *not* file a praecipe. Further, even if only 1 attorney within an agency reports a reason for not filing a praecipe, then the agency as a whole is categorized as having this issue. Nonetheless, in thinking about the future efforts of the VLNDC, it is helpful to have a sense of how many agencies has 1 or more attorneys who may benefit from cross-training.

On average, looking across the 24 legal areas, 3 agencies (ranging from 0 to 8 agencies) report that they do not file a praecipe because they don't have clients with these needs. Likewise, 4 agencies (again, ranging from 0 to 8 agencies) don't file because of the lack of resources, while on average 1 agency, (ranging from 0 to 5 agencies) state they don't have sample motions, and 6 agencies, on average, (ranging from 1 to 12 agencies) state they lack of expertise as an issue.

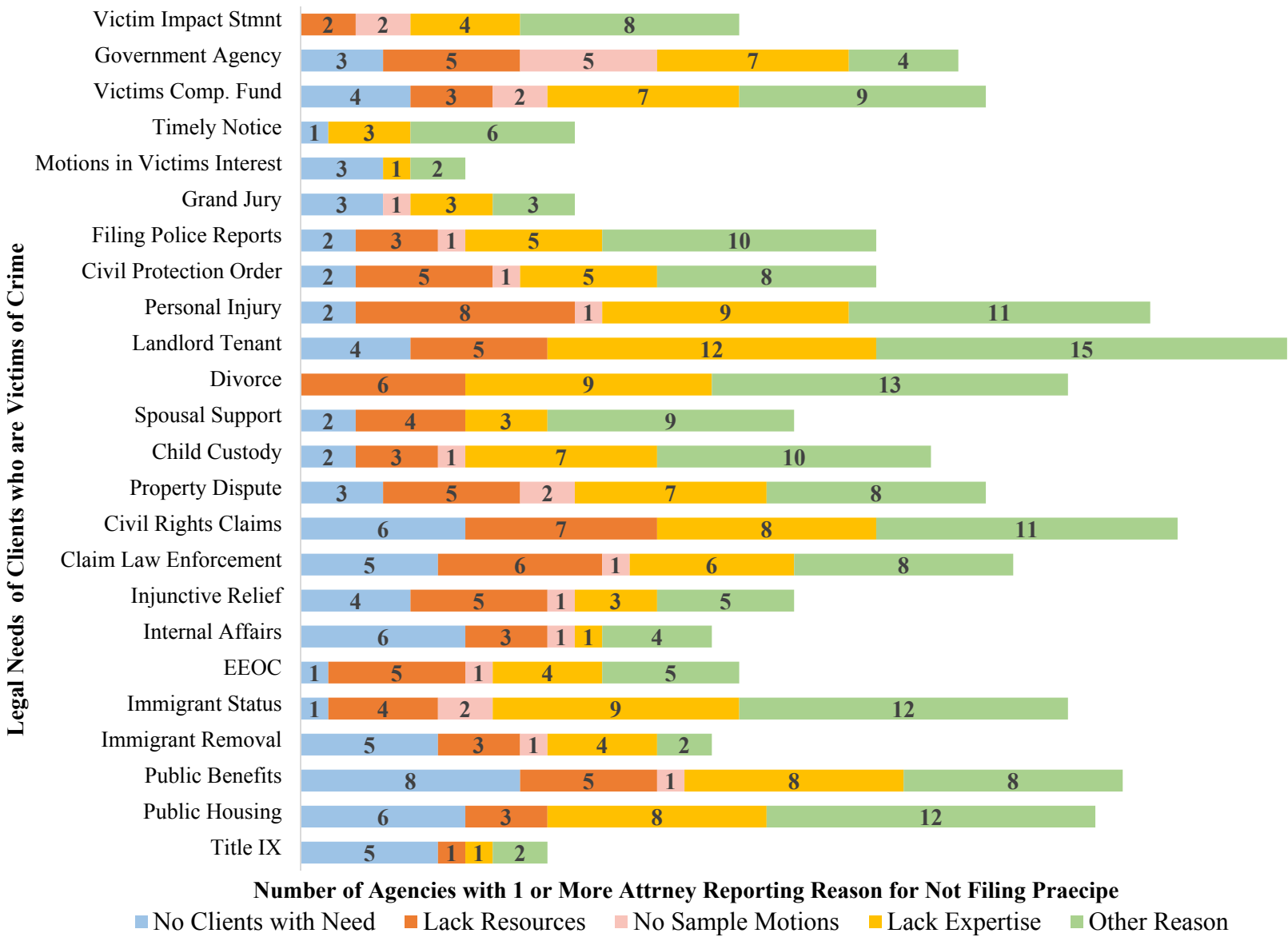
The issue of lack of expertise is likely the best area to initially target for cross-training. For example, 7 of 26 agencies (or 27%) representing clients with both victim compensation fund and representing a client with a government agency assert this reason for not filing a praecipe. VLNDC could also consider including at least aspect of civil law and administrative law in the initial cross-training session. For example, 12 (or 46%) of agencies with clients requiring assistance with landlord tenant issues state they lack expertise; as do 35% (9 of 26) of agencies in the area of immigrant status.

As previously noted, we included the response of "other reason" in this figure. Among the 24 legal areas, 8 agencies on average, (ranging from 2 to 15 agencies) had at least 1 attorney reporting "other reason" as to why they did not file a praecipe). The reasons for not filing a praecipe vary, but generally fall into the following 4 categories:

- **Out Of Agency or Attorney's Practice Area:** Respondents noted they referred cases to another agency or to another colleague in their organization.
- **Praecipe Not Applicable** (e.g., in criminal cases (filing a report with the police; Crime Victim's Compensation fund application; grand jury indictment); civil cases (e.g., divorce, personal injury) and administrative cases (e.g., EEOC, immigration, Title IX).
- **Advice, Advocacy Sufficient:** Client only needed advice, not full representation; Representation resolved issue without initiating a formal case (e.g., public benefits, civil rights claims, Title IX.)
- **Other** (e.g., concerns of representing a client in a matter against a state agency with whom the attorney partners; assisting victims from a state where respondent is not licensed; case filed prior to the respondent's involvement; represented client as Guardian Ad-Litem; grant restricted from handling certain cases; relied on practice when victim is represented in related civil (CPO) case, government attorney will confer; and client already represented by counsel).

The next section of this report focuses on the training and referral interests of these respondents.

Figure 18: Reasons Did Not File Praecipe Aggregated To Agency N=26



What are the Training Interests of These Legal Professionals?

Training Interests

Prior to asking each respondent about their specific training interests, the needs assessment required them to rank order the three topics areas from 1 to 3, with 1 representing the greatest level of interest and 3 representing the lowest level of interest. The results are in Table 7 below. Overall, 42% of respondents ranked civil legal needs training as their top priority interest, 33% ranked criminal legal needs training as their top priority interest, and 25% ranked administrative law as their top.

Table 7: Training Priorities By Legal Domain and Rank

Legal Area	Training Priority Ranking						Top Priority
	1		2		3		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Criminal	45	33%	42	31%	46	34%	2nd
Civil	57	42%	54	40%	25	19%	1st
Administrative	34	25%	38	28%	63	47%	3rd
Total	136	100%	134	100%	134	100%	

Respondents were asked to identify (by checking all that apply) among the 24 legal needs they would like to receive training. In addition to each of the legal areas, there was the option to select “No interest in training” for each of the legal domains – criminal, civil and administrative. Among these 149 respondents, the breakdown of those with no interest in training are as follows:

- 27 (18%) have no interest in training in criminal issues
- 30 (20%) have no interest in training in civil issues
- 19 (13%) have no interest in training in administrative issues

Table 8 highlights the most requested areas of interest in training with the hopes that these findings will provide guidance in the development of the annual cross-training. Attendees may be more responsive to training or willing to attend, if it is focused on areas that match their interests. We present this in three ways – by training topic, then by ranking these topics within each legal domain (by percentage of those requesting training among those who declared an interest in 1 or more topics in that area), and then overall (by the number of respondents who requested training). Note these numbers exclude those who stated they had no interest in training.

Within each legal topic, training on victim’s compensation is the highest priority within the criminal arena; civil protection orders is the priority among civil law; and public benefits is the highest priority in the administrative area. Overall, public benefits has the most interest; victim’s compensation is second; and public housing is third.

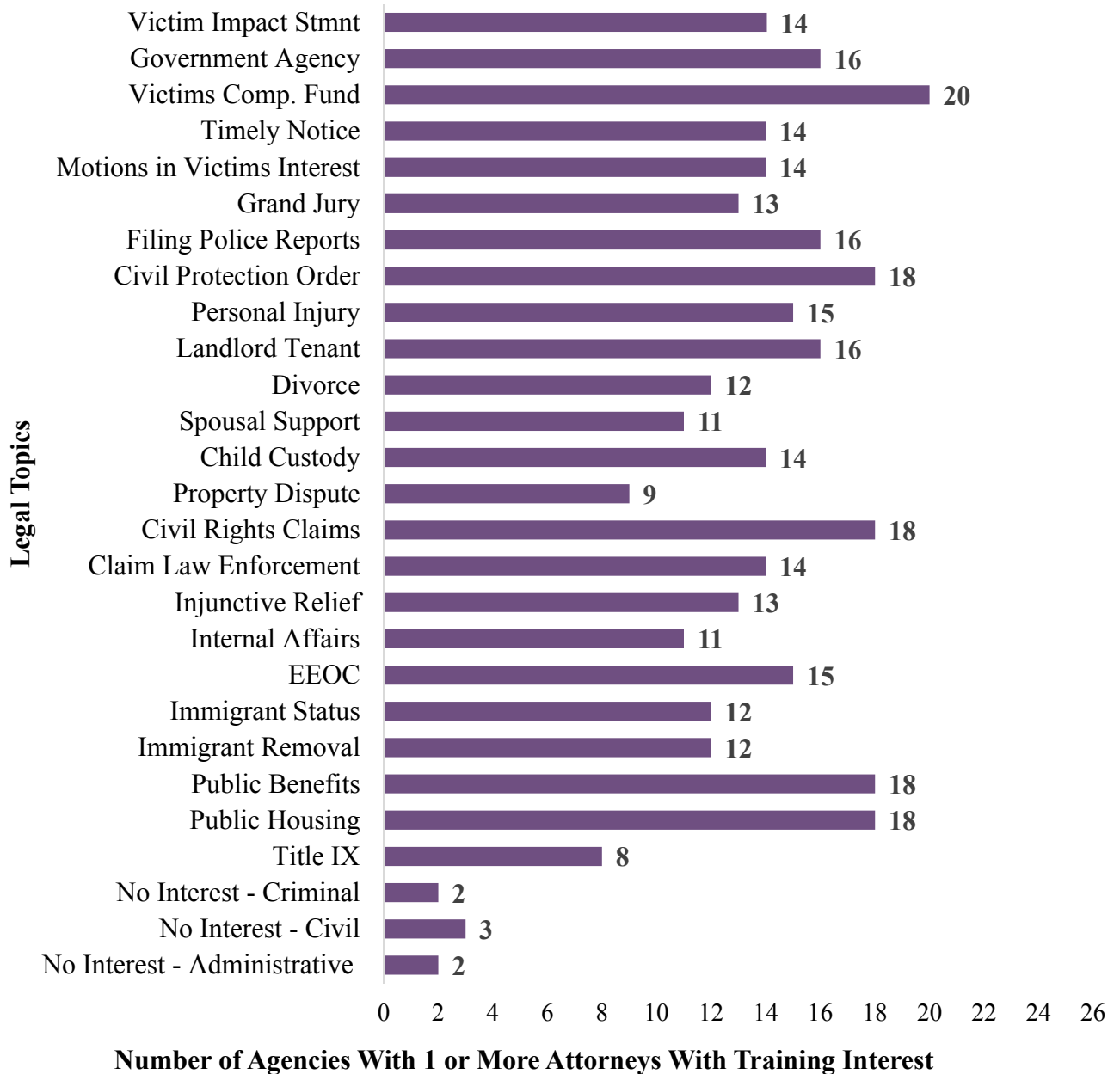
Table 8: Requested Training By Legal Need, Rank by Topic and Overall N=149

Legal Domain	Freq.	%	Rank of Topic By Legal Domain	Rank of Topic Overall
CRIMINAL LAW N=122				
Victim Impact Statements	44	36%	4	8**
Government Agency	43	35%	5	9**
Victims Fund	71	58%	1	2
Timely Notice	25	20%	7	17
Motions Victim Interest	46	38%	3	6
Grand Jury	32	26%	6	13
Filing Police Reports	49	40%	2	5**
CIVIL LAW N=119				
Civil Protection Order	55	46%	1	4
Personal Injury	44	37%	4	8**
Landlord Tenant	45	38%	3	7
Divorce	31	26%	7*	14**
Spousal Support	27	23%	8	16
Child Custody	38	32%	6	11
Property Dispute	19	16%	9	18**
Civil Rights Claim	49	41%	2	5**
Claim Law Enforcement	43	36%	5	9**
Injunctive Relief	31	26%	7*	14**
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW N=130				
Internal Affairs	29	22%	5*	15**
EEOC - Equal Emp.	35	27%	4	12
Immigrant Status	42	32%	3	10
Immigrant Removal	29	22%	5*	15**
Public Benefits	73	56%	1	1
Public Housing	63	48%	2	3
Title IX	19	15%	6	18**

*Tied within Domain **Tied overall

Figure 19 provides the training topical interests, aggregated by agency. Across the 24 legal areas, 1 or more attorneys within the agencies identified from 8 to 20 topics of interest. The most frequent topic (and consistent with the preceding discussion), is victims compensation – attorneys from 20 agencies selected this training topic. Eighteen agencies each included civil protection orders, civil rights claims, public benefits and public housing as a desired topic.

Figure 19: Requested Training by Legal Needs Aggregated To Agency N=26



In addition to these specific options, respondents were provided space to suggest additional training topics within the 3 legal areas. Suggestions by domain included:

Criminal:

- “Preparing child victims to testify--or working with the government's attorney who prepares the child”;
- “Training if any of these issues [criminal and administrative] are potential appellate issues ... (are they enforceable rights?)”;
- “Securing assistance for emergency shelter or finding a safe new home”;
- “Papering and charging process”

Civil:

- “Removing a matter from state to federal court”;
- “Employment claims for victims of crime (paid leave, requests for accommodation)”;
- “Financial fraud and exploitation”

Administrative:

- “Other rights for protection in educational settings when perpetrator also attends”.

Overall, this information suggests that respondents will be receptive to the annual cross-training, as it appears that legal services providers in the D.C. area want to know and learn more to better serve their clients, including those that are victims of crime.

Resources and Referrals

In addition to asking about training priorities, we asked respondents to identify if they were interested in receiving resources regarding referrals involved the three topic areas. Similar to the training question, there was the option to select “No interest in referrals or resources” for each of the legal domains – criminal, civil and administrative. Among these 149 respondents, and across the three domains, only 10% of respondents indicated they were not interested in receiving referrals or resources. Among the remaining 134 attorneys:

- 75 (56%) have interest in resources and referrals in criminal issues;
- 91 (68%) have interest in resources and referrals in civil matters; and
- 91 (68%) have interest in resources and referrals in administrative issues

We also aggregated this by agency, (including the agency as interested in receiving referrals or resources in at least 1 attorney indicated this interest) and found among these 26 agencies:

- 17 agencies (65%) have interest in resources and referrals in criminal issues;
- 19 agencies (73%) have interest in resources and referrals in civil matters; and
- 21 agencies (81%) have interest in resources and referrals in administrative issues

Therefore, the needs assessment found that referral information and resources is highly sought after by those working with victims of crime in respect to their legal needs. To that end, these findings support the implementation of a connected victim legal network that will be able to provide referrals and other helpful resources for VLNDC members and clients.

Study Challenges and Recommendations

Like any study, JRSA faced several challenges along the way to complete this project. As discussed in detail in Appendix A, one of the challenges was the inability to obtain additional quantitative data outside this survey. Other challenges included delivery of the survey and responses from legal services providers; obtaining numbers of crime victims by type of crime from more of the agencies; and obtaining additional data with respect to filing an appearance as legal representative of victims of crime. Through this process, we identified needed changes to the assessment survey and suggest procedures for future use.

Outreach and Response

- Outreach to organizations to ensure survey participation was labor intensive and time consuming. While the VLNDC Steering Committee partners spoke with many of the providers prior to the launch of the survey, obtaining responses from participants also required repeated calls and emails to individual respondents to encourage participation. One idea to increase participation would be to implement the survey as part of a continuing education process, however, the D.C. Bar does not require continuing legal education. Another idea is perhaps there may be a future opportunity to bring legal providers together to complete the survey – such as a conference. One option would be to set up kiosk with a computer and encourage participation by offering a raffle prize, and/or the survey could be sent upon registration to a conference.
- Based on the outreach efforts and initial responses, it is likely that most of the attorneys responding were primarily providing services to victims of gender-based violence. When VLNDC Steering Committee members discussed the survey with potential respondents, they found that organizations deflecting the survey to their domestic violence or sexual assault attorneys, and stating that these were the only attorneys that worked with victims of crime. For example, NVRDC had a conversation with one university clinical director who suggested that only the professors who handle the family law clinic would have anything to respond to. NVRDC clarified that the focus was on all types of crime victims, which could include simple assault, robbery, homicide and other crimes, and it was conceivable that these crime victims would receive services for related issues through another law school clinic. Thereafter, the director understood why we were reaching out to such a broad group of attorneys and was happy to encourage participation. This experience suggests that there may be a misconception in the community that unless you are serving victims of gender-based violence; you are not working with victims of crime. Outreach efforts in the future should consider this possibility, as well as include questions related to the respondent's primary area of expertise in future assessments.
- Other respondent related issues included the survey request e-mail was delivered to junk/spam folders. Contacting each respondent both by phone and individual e-mail proved to be the most effective way to obtain responses. Future use of this type of survey should utilize this method from the launch of the needs assessment. Another issue was

that some respondents felt unable to devote the time to complete the survey; encouragement through direct contact helped in this area as well. Across the board, legal services providers have complex and busy schedules, personal outreach helps to ensure that that the survey will be completed.

Obtaining Counts of Victimization by Crime Type

- When agencies enter the VLNDC, the network should consider providing assistance and guidance to generate better data collection by each agency to more accurately capture not only the number of crimes reported, but also by the number of unique (unduplicated) victims.
- The question of the number of crimes by crime type should be removed from the legal provider survey and this information should be requested from legal providers as a separate request, annually. If data on the number of crimes reported by victims of crimes can be more systematically captured, this may provide an interim measure of the impact of the VLNDC. For example, an increase in the number of crimes reported may indicate enhanced intake and/or issue-spotting skills, while an increase in the number of agencies reporting crime types may indicate a greater knowledge of the VLNDC.
- An area that appeared underreported was gender-based violence (Title IX cases). One option to obtain more information may be to access Cleary Act reporting information from college campuses in Washington D.C. The Cleary Act requires that university authorities report sexual assaults and gender-based violence that occur on campus. A possible concern with this strategy is that historically, campus based gender-based violence is underreported, so these data may not reflect the true rate of victimization. Given this, another option, in lieu or in concert with obtaining Cleary data, may be to survey Title IX Coordinators or Confidential Reporters on campuses. These reporters could help to clarify the number of victims reporting in these areas, and this would also provide an avenue to as assess their knowledge of the legal remedies available to the victims they serve.

Alternative Source of Data re: Filing a Praecipe

- Lastly, as courts continue to increase their utilization of electronic record keeping, obtaining data directly from court administrators should be considered. For example, it may be beneficial to determine if data can be obtained directly from the D.C. Superior Court regarding the total number of praecipe or motions of appearance filed relating to representation of victims in criminal cases.

Suggested Needs Assessment Revisions

Based on comments and questions of respondents, if the needs assessment were to be re-launched, revisions should be considered. Several respondents reached out to JRSA for clarification of the survey's content. Consequently, we recommend revisions to both the survey

introduction and individual survey items in order to address the following frequently asked questions:

- ***Does the client's victimization need to have occurred within the 6 months' time-frame or is it only the service(s) provided that must fall within the 6 months period?***
Suggestion: Provide further clarification that the victimization does not need to occur within the 6 months' time-frame.
- ***What if a praecipe is not appropriate or relevant to the legal topic? Does this have a broader application to any form of formal notice?*** Suggestion: Determine if the goal of the survey is to capture a broader application of formal notice and rephrase all questions involving the term 'praecipe'. For example, one respondent advised that the question related to police reports should be if the attorney was *retained* to offer the representation, and not whether a praecipe was filed.
- ***Can we (multiple providers from one agency) combine our responses and submit a single survey?*** Suggestion: Emphasize the importance of individual responses up-front and clarify why individual responses are necessary (e.g. need their specific training interests).
- ***Respondent's Area of Expertise and Total Years of Experience:*** A respondent's knowledge base likely impacts their training interests. For example, an attorney that does not primarily work in public benefits disputes is more likely to rank this interest as needed because it is outside of their primary practice area. Similarly, an attorney that works primarily in child custody disputes may not select the area of child custody disputes as a training interest. Therefore, future needs assessment surveys should capture the respondent's area of expertise and total years of experience.
- ***Consider Asking About Training Not Desired:*** Future renditions of the needs assessment might also include a question to specifically identify areas of training that are least likely desired or needed, in order to assess if there is sufficient saturation of a topic or topics.
- One of the final questions on the needs assessment survey asked respondents to provide feedback regarding other topics areas of law to be included in the needs assessment. The following list includes the suggestions from respondents:
 - *Defamation defense;*
 - *Housing discrimination;*
 - *Protections for survivors;*
 - *"Victims of intrafamily offenses" under the DC Human Rights Act;*
 - *Pro se litigants in CPO court;*
 - *Non-legal training on how DV relates to public housing issues/process for transfers; and*
 - *Distinguish between large and small value private property loss and personal injury claims.*

Conclusion

The purpose of this needs assessment was two-fold. First, to provide answers to the four primary questions (number of crimes reported; current practices of the D.C. legal community; praecipe filings by legal topic and reasons why they are not filed; and training interests of respondents). By answering these questions, we hoped to derive information that would guide the curriculum for the annual 2-day cross-training. As evidenced by the results outlined above, we believe that this goal was accomplished. The second goal was to establish a baseline, to assess the effectiveness of the VLNDC overall. If the needs assessment was conducted on an annual basis, any exhibited shifts over time, particularly in reports of the numbers of respondents who report that a lack of sample motions and expertise were the reasons for not filing a praecipe, may be the result of the efforts of the network. If the needs assessment is repeated in the future, we recommend targeting those who completed the initial assessment, and specifically comparing these individuals' responses using a pre-post design.¹⁸ With that design, shifts in knowledge or practice of these attorneys can be more easily attributed to the VLNDC.

The VLNDC has the potential to directly impact issues through the annual cross-training, which should also undergo an annual evaluation. Conducting evaluations of those who participate in the VLNDC cross-training is necessary to determine if the expected result of VLNDC are obtained/maintained over the years. For the cross-training evaluation, we recommend the use of legal vignettes in a pre- and post- test format. The results from the pre- and post- surveys can be compared to determine if there is a change in participants' knowledge, and the extent of change. Additionally, the comparison of the scores should provide insight into possible knowledge gaps that exist after training so that the future cross-training presentations may be adjusted to address inadequacies.¹⁹

Finally, this report is based on information provided by attorneys who work with victims of crime in Washington DC. Although there were 26 agencies in the sample, in some cases those agencies were represented by a single attorney. In addition, while there were 149 respondents, some of the findings in this report are based on a small number of respondents, particularly in areas of the law that may be less likely to be the focus of these agencies, thus we caution against overstating these findings. Despite this limitation, we remain hopeful that the information provided by the respondents will inform the VLNDC in construction of their cross-training program, and in setting priorities for the future, in order to more fully serve all victims of all types of crime in the District of Columbia. We conclude with a statement provided by one of the needs assessment respondents, which succinctly states a key goal of the network:

Our organization regularly assists victims ... [and] historically, we have acted in an advocacy role and have not entered appearances on behalf of victims/complaining witnesses in criminal cases. However, with some training and sample motions, I believe we would be better equipped to do so.

¹⁸ With approval of our Institutional Review Board, JRSA has retained a list with the identifications of those who completed the survey, enabling this future research possibility.

¹⁹ See Pierotte, L., & Flower, S. (2016). *Literature Review: Use of Vignettes as Proposed Evaluation Plan for the Victim Legal Network of Washington, D.C. ("VLNDC")* for a full discussion of this assessment method.

Appendix A: Efforts to Include Additional Data

In addition to the needs assessment survey, we attempted to approach this project using available administrative data, in hopes of contextualizing the information gained in the legal provider survey. Our efforts with respect to quantitative data focused on the criminal justice arena. We wanted to ascertain not only the number of victims of crime, including crimes both reported and unreported; but also to explore outcomes or dispositions of those cases. We also wanted to develop more detailed pictures of the offenders involved – demographic details as well as to better understand their relationship to victims.

Here the challenges were two-fold. First, the District of Columbia has a bifurcated system with the U.S. Attorney pursuing adults charged with a felony and/or Federal cases, and the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General pursuing adults charged with misdemeanor offenses. However, both courts processing cases in the District are Federal agencies. The U.S. District Court processes all Federal criminal cases and D.C. Superior Court pursues local crimes (e.g., local misdemeanor or felony charges) (see Appendix E for an illustration of the Criminal Justice System in the District of Columbia).

Our first step was explore the possibility of obtaining information directly from the court docket materials, including downloading data from the publicly available crimemap.dc.gov website. By analyzing these data, JRSA provided the VLNDC Steering Committee with a summary of the types of crimes that would be of particular interest to this project (e.g., homicide, sex abuse). We discussed the possibility of trying to obtain court documents for all homicides and sex abuse cases within a one year period, as well as a random sample of assault with dangerous weapons and property crimes. As the crimemap.gov data contains an incident number (referred to as a CCN), we hoped to use this information to link the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) police reports (PD-251). With a copy of the PD251, we could theoretically ascertain if the case went to court. Of those that went to court, we discussed engaging a Research Assistant from JRSA and intern or interns from NVRDC to collect information. The process would involve reviewing cases on court computers, and coding data into a database/excel spreadsheet created for this purpose.

Conceivably, these court documents could be reviewed for evidence of victim's assertions of rights and/or participation in crime victim's funds. However, we learned that we were only allowed to make three PD-251 requests per day, and it would be too costly (\$3 per PD-251) to pursue. In addition, upon review of several PD-251 reports, we confirmed that we would not be able to identify sexual assault victims (as their identities are shielded) and thus would be unable to track those cases. The PD-251 also did not provide suspect/defendant information; only victim and incident information.

In search of a viable alternative, we considered obtaining data through a series of steps (filing a request for information from the U.S. Attorney's office, going to the Superior Court to look up case numbers by randomly selecting case numbers as the court computer system generates case numbers in the following format:

20__-CMD- _____ (misd) or 20__-FEL _____ (felonies)

JRSA staff or NVRDC interns go to Superior Court, look up case numbers and code according to offense (e.g., Homicide, Sex abuse) and print the dockets. However, when we tried a random selection of FEL numbers, we were unable to retrieve any cases in the system. As a result, we discontinued our pursuit of any Metropolitan Police Department statistics and decided to explore other avenues for including alternative quantitative sources in the project.

We then made a request to VST OVSJG to facilitate data from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's (CJCC) Justice Information System (JUSTIS). We meet with CJCC staff in October 2015 to discuss the possibility of obtaining data from that system. At that point, we discovered that the JUSTIS system was a "snapshot" system – containing records of individuals on a particular day, and is not designed to provide historical data; thus this idea was abandoned.

We also made a request for data from the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund. After a meeting with VST OVSJG staff, they submitted copies of their State Performance report for FY2012, FY2013 and FY2014 but noted their concerns that the data is skewed because, for example, compensation for injuries would only include those who do not have Medicaid or private insurance. Upon further communication with JRSA, the CVC staff (Laura Banks-Reed, Director, and Kim Beverly, Research Division) advised that while they had individual level data in a database, they preferred that we utilize the aggregate data to meet our needs, due to confidentiality concerns. At that time, they were in the process of establishing a research application process, but it was not implemented in time to obtain data for this project.

Due to the many challenges faced in this search for data, we considered obtaining data from national sources. For example, we tried to obtain data on the number of victims in the District of Columbia by reviewing data collected by the National Crime Victims Survey (NCVS). Although there are approximately 50,000 families included in the sample, the samples are very small when reviewed by state. As a result, we discontinued our plan to utilize NCVS data as a source. Furthermore, we could not utilize data from the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) because Washington, D.C., does not participate in NIBRS.

Overall, our search to include additional system data for this project were unsuccessful. However, given the interest in understanding and serving victims of crime, we remain hopeful that in the coming years additional data sources will be developed that will allow future researchers to get a more comprehensive perspective of victims of crime, case dispositions, and outcomes in the District of Columbia.

Appendix B: Description of Legal Provider Survey



Victim Legal Network Needs Assessment Legal Provider Survey Summary

Victims often have co-existing and overlapping legal needs that arise in connection with their victimization. Needed legal services connected to victimization may include representation in the enforcement of victims' rights in criminal court, a wide range of civil legal assistance directly related to their victimization, immigration assistance, and assistance for victims of financial fraud and identity theft.

The District of Columbia received funding from the Office of Victims of Crime to develop the Victim Legal Network of DC (VLNDC): a coordinated community response creating a more streamlined and cross-trained referral process for a victim of a crime who arrives at any one provider's door requesting legal services. This includes a specific focus on increasing awareness of crime victims' rights issues among legal services providers and increasing access to informed representation for victims of crime engaged in the criminal justice system so that there is "no wrong door" for victims accessing legal services.

Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is the research partner for the VLNDC, in collaboration with the Office of Victim Services (OVS) and the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC). The purpose of the survey is to assess the capacity of legal providers in the District of Columbia to serve the varied needs of victims of crime. Please note that "victims of crime" includes anyone who is a victim, regardless of whether or not they availed themselves of the criminal justice system (e.g., filed a police report).

Only staff at JRSA will see the individual survey responses. Answers will be combined with the answers of other legal providers and will be presented to the group in summary form. The data will only be used for research or statistical purposes. While comments will not be attributed to anyone individually, it is possible that others will know who made the comment, depending on the content. Participation is voluntary, and one can stop the survey at any time. The survey uses skip logic to reduce time necessary to complete the survey. Based on pre-testing, we estimate it will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete the survey.

Survey Content -- Legal Provider Experience

We ask each respondent if they have had one or more clients in the last 6 months who were victims of crime who required legal services within each of the following legal areas:

CRIMINAL LEGAL NEEDS

- Preparing or Presenting a Victim Impact Statement
- Representation when meeting with Government Attorney
- Securing Money from Victims Fund
- Gaining a timely notice of proceedings, release, or escape
- Filing motions, briefs, or writs in the victim's interest
- Grand Jury Proceedings
- Filing Police Report

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CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS

- Civil Protection Order
- Tort or personal injury claim
- Landlord tenant dispute
- Divorce
- Spousal support
- Child custody
- Private property dispute
- Civil Rights Claim
- Civil complaint against a law enforcement officer or other government agency
- Injunctive relief

ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAL NEEDS

- Internal Affairs complaint against a law enforcement officer or other government agency
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claims
- Obtaining immigrant status (U,T, asylum, VAWA)
- Immigration removal defense
- Public Benefits disputes
- Public Housing relief
- Educational Campus proceedings regarding gender based victimization (Title IX)

If they say **No**, the survey moves onto to the next legal area.

If they say **Yes**, then we ask if they offered or provided brief advice or consultation; legal representation; and/or a referral for legal assistance. We also inquire as to if they filed a praecipe for these victims. If they didn't file a praecipe, we ask the respondent to advise (checking all that apply) whether it was because they didn't have clients who required representation; a lack of resources; due to a lack of sample motions; insufficient expertise, or other reason (and providing text space to specify).

Survey Content -- Training Priorities

We also ask respondents to rank, from one to three, the area of law (crime victim's rights, civil legal needs, and administrative legal needs) they are most interested in receiving training. Finally, we ask respondents to select those specific tasks within those domains that they would like to receive training that would best help them to serve their clients as it relates to victims of crime (selecting all that apply). Options also include no interest in training and an "other" category, where they can add a specific interest other than those listed.

Survey Content – Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

We end the survey with a request for the respondent's contact information so that JRSA may contact them with any questions. Providing this information is **OPTIONAL**. Note that while providing this additional contact information is optional, as we are submitting the survey to the respondent by email address, the survey data will contain the respondents email. This email address will be stripped out of the data and replaced with a 4 digit research ID number. In a

password protected file, JRSA will retain a list that links the research code to the respondent's email address so that if the opportunity arises, we can repeat the survey at a future date and compare responses between the baseline and future surveys.

Supervisor Survey Only

For supervisors, we also ask for the number of clients who were victims of crime within a specific time frame (e.g., 2014) – by type of crime, as follows:

- Homicide Survivor (Family member, close relative, loved ones of a homicide)
- Sexual Assault
- Assault (Non-Sexual)
- Domestic Violence/Threats
- Stalking
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Identity Theft
- Abuse or Neglect (physical or sexual)
- Human Trafficking - Sexual
- Human Trafficking - Labor
- Arson
- Theft
- Hate or Bias Crimes
- Cruelty to Animals
- Other

Appendix C: NVRDC Response to Needs Assessment Findings



NVRDC Feedback and Insight Regarding JRSA Needs Assessment Report August 2016

Choosing Terminology for Questions in Needs Assessment

Over the course of several discussions with the VLNDC Steering Committee, and multiple layers of feedback from practicing attorneys, NVRDC worked with JRSA to draft encompassing questions that would apply to various areas of law. We were also trying to be considerate of the length and ease of the use of the survey. However, it proved difficult to phrase questions in a way that would accommodate for diverse legal settings that we were tracking.

One of our detailed conversations centered on capturing the difference between legal representation and legal advocacy in criminal cases. While “entering an appearance” may be applicable in certain settings, there was concern that it was too narrow. The choice to use “enter a praecipe” was with the understanding that an explanation should be provided so it was applicable in various settings and not just in the traditional sense of a courtroom setting. We expanded it, for the purposes of the survey, to be any situation where an attorney represents to a court, agency, or board that they represent the victim in that case. However, it seems like this terminology may still have not been applicable to some of the legal topics in Administrative Law, thus still leaving some confusion for respondents.

Legal Assistance for Crime Victims’ Rights in Criminal Cases

We find it surprising that there was such a high response rate for agencies that provide services to victims in criminal cases. *See Figure 10.* Specifically, we were not expecting that at least one attorney in 9 different agencies surveyed provided legal representation to victims regarding their interest in criminal cases. NVRDC discussed this result, in particular, with the core group of VLNDC organizations (Ayuda, Amara and Legal Aid Society of DC). Collectively the group also expressed concern that this result was not indicative of actual practice since NVRDC was the only known agency to provide legal representation on this topic. While conceivably there may be one or two other organizations beginning this work, the likelihood of 9 organizations seemed unrealistically high.

Reflecting on this result, the core group hypothesized that there may have been a misunderstanding by respondents when reading “Motions in Victims Interest” or other categories in the criminal law section. Overall, they found that the results may be over-estimating services actually provided for crime victims in criminal cases.

Addressing Misinterpretation of Questions

After a detailed review of the entire needs assessment report, it is very likely that the intent of certain questions was not clear to the respondents answering the survey. Looking at the criminal law topics in particular, it is possible that the respondent did not understand what each topic was referring to. For example, in Figure 10, it is surprising that 9 agencies provide legal representation for victim’s interests. “Motions in Victims Interest” was intended to refer to a situation where an attorney files a motion

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in criminal court to enforce the crime victim's rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act. It may have been helpful to include bullet point explanations along with each legal area so that respondents better understood the nature of the question. Another example is "Victims Compensation Fund." We were surprised that 7 organizations were providing legal representation in this area. Again, the question may have been misunderstood to include any time a client files a request for compensation. However, it may not have even been appropriate to ask the question since more often than not, a request for Victims Compensation is not handled by an attorney, but assisted by an advocate.

NVRDC would be interested to conduct a follow up feedback survey to determine where attorneys may have found the needs assessment to be confusing, and what if any, clarifications they can offer to responses.

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Appendix D: Legal Providers in Survey Target Population

Organization size by number of legal staff – Small (6 or fewer); Medium (7 to 15); and Large (16 and more).

Agency Name	Size
Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.	S
Amara Legal Center	S
American University - Washington College of Law	S
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	S
Ayuda	M
Bread for the City	M
Break the Cycle	S
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition	S
Catholic Charities	S
Catholic University of America - Columbus School of Law (Community Legal Services)	S
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)	S
Children's Law Center	L
D.C. Law Students in Court (Overlaps with Law School Clinics)	S
DC Employment Justice Center	S
DC Prisoner Rights/Washington Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights and Urban Affairs	M
DC Volunteer Lawyers Project	M
Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment & Appeals Project (DV Leap)	S
George Washington University/Law Center	S
Georgetown University Law Center	S
Howard University School of Law	S
Karamah	S
Legal Aid Society of the DC	L
Legal Counsel for the Elderly	L
Neighborhood Legal Services Program	S
Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)	M
Office of Attorney General DV Unit	S
Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities	S
School Justice Project	S
The Women's Center	S
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition	S
University Legal Services	S
University of the District of Columbia - David A Clarke School of Law	S
US Attorney's Office (Victim Witness Assistance Unit)	S
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless	S
Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program	M

Appendix E: Washington DC Criminal Justice System

Major Local and Federal Criminal Justice Agencies in D.C.

