

China's Evolving Legal System

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Summary

In the past three decades, China's legal system has undergone significant reform. But only a few empirical studies have tried to measure whether the reforms are succeeding in protecting the rights of individuals or businesses. To come up with a better understanding of how well China's revamped legal system is performing in the protection of property rights, Minxin Pei worked with a group of researchers at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences to conduct two surveys of litigants in Shanghai covering 214 individuals and 190 companies. Respondents were asked a range of questions about their cases, including their preparations for trials and court proceedings.

Results of the study were mixed. While roughly half of corporate litigants admit to giving judges gifts or banquets to sway legal decisions in their favor, only 8% of litigants who lost their case thought that it was due to preferential treatment. Only one-fifth of respondents reported that rulings were fully enforced, but a majority were satisfied with the process, claiming that the outcome was consistent with their expectations.

The general picture of China's courts this study provides is also mixed. At least in Shanghai, the system is far from perfect, yet the majority of litigants are satisfied to have a legal recourse that may help resolve commercial disputes and protect their legitimate rights. Like most other studies on China's legal system, these two surveys confirm that China's legal reform remains a work in progress.

CORPORATE LITIGANTS

(Individual Litigants – page 11)

Table 1: Firm Types Based on Ownership

Type of Ownership	State owned	Individually/privately owned/non-public	Collectively owned	State-controlled	No answer	Total
Number	75	64	22	6	33	190
Percent	40	34	11	3	17	100

Table 2: Revenue of the Firms in the Sample

Amount of Annual Sales	1-5 million yuan	5.1-10 million yuan	10.1-50 million yuan	50.1 to 100 million yuan	No answer	Total
Number	47	15	44	3	81	190
Percent	25	8	23	2	43	100

Table 3: Number of Employees in the Firms in the Sample

Number of employees	Less than 100	101- 200	201- 500	501- 2000	More than 2000	No answer	Total
Number	80	48	33	6	7	16	190
Percent	42	25	17	3	4	9	100

Table 4: Why did you choose a lawsuit as the way to resolve this issue?

	Litigation is the most effective method	I've already tried other methods and they didn't work	The head of the company requested litigation	No Answer	Total
Number	57	48	6	79	190
Percent	30	25	3	42	100

Table 5: Who in the company decided to file a lawsuit?

	General manager or President	Board of directors	Legal advisor	Communist Party committee	No answer	Total
Number	103	34	26	6	21	190
Percent	54	18	14	3	11	100

Table 6: How did you learn information about the procedures of filing a lawsuit?

	Company's legal advisor	Lawyer	Learned through the experience of a peer	Mass media, such as a newspaper	Other ways	No answer
Number	62	47	13	9	10	49
Percent	33	25	7	5	5	26

Table 7: How did you find your lawyer?

	Company has legal advisor	Directly contact law firms	Company legal advisor's recommendation	Lawyer sought us out	Supervising agencies appointed one	No answer
Number	64	45	11	4	3	63
Percent	34	24	6	2	2	33

Table 8a: Why did you choose not to hire a lawyer?

	His fees are too high	Believe we are competent enough to represent ourselves	Hiring a lawyer makes no difference	Company is experiencing economic difficulties	No answer
Number	62	17	7	4	100
Percent	32.6	8.9	3.7	2.1	52.6

Table 8b: Why did you choose not to hire a lawyer? (Adjusted)

	His fees are too high	Believe we are competent enough to represent ourselves	Hiring a lawyer makes no difference	Company is experiencing economic difficulties	Total
Number	62	17	7	4	90
Percent	69	19	8	4	100

*Adjusted for the fact that the firms that did retain lawyers would not answer this question.

Table 9: When did you learn the lawyer's fees?

	When we spoke to the lawyer about the	When we decided to hire a lawyer	Before we met with the lawyer	After the lawsuit was over	No answer
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	details of our case				
Number	60	58	20	13	39
Percent	32	31	10	7	20

Table 10: Who played the main role in investigation and collection of evidence?

	Lawyer and I played the same role	Myself	Lawyer	Another professional that I hired	The court	No answer
Number	79	49	42	9	2	9
Percent	42	26	22	5	1	5

Table 11: What did your company do before the trial in order to prepare?

	Head of company made daily inquiries	Established a special investigation team	Personally initiated contact with the court	Seek contact between the head of the company and the court	Contact the court through an acquaintance	No answer
Number	48	16	12	3	2	109
Percent	25	8	6	2	1	57

Table 12a: Did the contact with the judge or with the court have any effect?

	Had an actual effect	Did not have any actual effect	The court turned us away	No answer
Number	43	25	3	119
Percent	23	13	2	63

Table 12b: Did the contact with the judge or with the court have any effect? (Adjusted)

	Had an actual effect	Had no actual effect	The court turned us away	Total
Number	43	25	3	71
Percent	61	35	4	100

* Adjusted for the fact that only those who said they contacted the court or judge would respond to this question.

Table 13: Did you use any method to try to influence the judge before the trial?

	Asking someone from the head office to intercede on our behalf	Give gifts and/or banquets	Other methods	No Answer
Number	10	100	61	19
Percent	5	47	28	10

Table 14: How did you learn the procedures of the trial?

	Our lawyers informed us	Judge informed me (includes written documents from the court)	Company's legal advisors told us	Through practice and experience	Through reading specialized periodicals and books	Knew nothing about the trial procedures before the end of the trial	No answer
Number	54	51	30	14	3	3	35
Percent	28	27	16	7	2	2	18

Table 15: Did the trial open according to the date notified by the judge?

	Yes, completely	No. After notification, one party (including its counsel) requested and received a delay from the judge	No, the judge changed the date on his own after notification or never got a notice of the date of the trial	No Answer
Number	173	5	0	12
Percent	91	3	0	6

Table 16: What do you think about the judge's behavior and professional quality as demonstrated in court?

	Dignified conduct; high professional quality	Acceptable conduct; low professional quality	Poor conduct; high professional quality	Poor conduct; low professional quality	No Answer
Number	120	32	12	6	20
Percent	63	17	6	3	11

Table 17: What do you think of your lawyer's professional quality, as demonstrated in court, and his impact on the trial proceedings?

	High professional quality; had a positive impact on the trial	High professional quality; had no substantial impact on the trial	Low professional quality; had a negative impact on the trial	Low professional quality; had no substantial impact on the trial	No answer
Number	118	27	6	5	34
Percent	62	14	3	3	18

Table 18: Do you believe that throughout the trial proceedings that the trial procedures formally complied with those stipulated by law?

	Complied	Because the judge did not “want trouble,” he did not abide by the trial procedures set forth by the law	Because one of the parties undertook methods to influence the judge, the laws pertaining to the trial proceedings were broken	Did not comply; Both parties thought it unnecessary to comply with the trial procedures stipulated by the law and the judge approved	No answer
Number	158	7	4	0	21
Percent	83	4	2	0	11

Table 19: What do you think about the victory/defeat of the lawsuit? How do you measure your victory/defeat?

	Our company won; the court met all or nearly all of my claims	I lost; the court met only part of my claims and it was not sufficient	Our company won; the court met only part of my claims; but it was sufficient	Our company lost; the court met most of my claims but did not completely satisfy me	No answer
Number	101	38	18	6	27
Percent	53	20	10	3	14

Table 20a: What to you think the main factor was in winning your case?

	My argument had legal merits	Abundant evidence	The high quality of my lawyer	Good luck	No answer
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Number	38	40	2	1	109
Percent	20	21	1	1	57

Table 20b: What to you think the main factor was in winning your case? (Adjusted)

	My argument had a legal basis	Abundant evidence	The high quality of my lawyer	Good luck	Total
Number	38	40	2	1	81
Percent	47	49	3	1	100

* Adjusted for the fact that only winning plaintiffs would answer this question.

Table 21a: What do you think the main factor was in losing your case?

	My argument did not have a legal basis	The low quality of my lawyer	Judge gave the other party preferential treatment	Not enough evidence	No answer
Number	12	4	15	27	132
Percent	6	2	8	14	70

Table 21b: What do you think the main factor was in losing your case?

	My argument did not have a legal basis	The low quality of my lawyer	Judge gave the other party preferential treatment	Not enough evidence	No answer
Number	12	4	15	27	58
Percent	21	6	26	47	100

* Adjusted for the fact that winning respondents would not answer this question.

Table 22a: Did you appeal? Why?

	Appealed; to get a fairer result	Did not appeal; the legal fees as well as the amount of time and energy spent are too much	Did not appeal; case did not have any legal basis, so I would not be able to get court's support	Did not appeal because I did not know I had the right to appeal	No answer
Number	43	20	12	0	115

Percent	23	11	6	0	61
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* Adjusted for the fact that only a small percentage of respondents feel unsatisfied with the trial outcomes (see Table 19)

Table 22b: Did you appeal? Why? (Adjusted)

	Appealed; to get a fairer result	Did not appeal; the legal fees as well as the amount of time and energy spent are too much	Did not appeal; case did not have any legal basis, so I would not be able to get court's support	Did not appeal because I did not know I had the right to appeal	Total
Number	43	20	12	0	75
Percent	57	27	16	0	100

* Adjusted for the fact that the majority of the respondents (63 percent) won satisfactory complete or partial victories and would not respond to this question.

Table 23a: After you appealed, did you plan to hire a lawyer? Why?

	Plan to hire; because of the lawyer's effect on the outcome on the case; they would use every talent, method to reverse the analysis of the situation, they also have the ability to convince	Plan to hire; did not originally hire and during the trial I felt it was important to have one	Do not plan to hire; had one originally and felt their role in the trial process was not very big	Did not plan to hire; I have been dissatisfied with the lawyers I have come into contact with	No answer
Number	33	2	6	5	144
Percent	17	1	3	3	76

Table 23b: After you appealed, did you plan to hire a lawyer? Why? (Adjusted)

	Plan to hire; because of the lawyer's effect on the outcome on the case; they would use every talent, method to reverse	Plan to hire; did not originally hire and during the trial I felt it was	Do not plan to hire; had one originally and felt their role in the trial process was not very big	Did not plan to hire; I have been dissatisfied with the lawyers I have come	Total
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	the judgments	important to have one		into contact with	
Number	33	2	6	5	46
Percent	72	4	13	11	100

* Adjusted for the fact that only a minority of the respondents, which have lost their cases and appealed, would answer this question.

Table 24a: How long did it take for the opposing party to carry out the court's ruling?

	More than 15 days	Within 15 days	Carried it out immediately	No answer
Number	55	26	1	108
Percent	29	14	1	57

Table 24b: How long did it take for the opposing party to carry out the court's ruling? (Adjusted)

	More than 15 days	Within 15 days	Carried it out immediately	Total
Number	55	26	1	82
Percent	77	32	1	100

* Adjusted for the fact that only winning plaintiffs would answer this question. We estimate that 119 firms in the sample (based on column No. 1 and No. 2 in Table 19) won satisfactory verdicts. Adjusted for this fact, the no-response rate is significantly lower than 57 percent (Table 24a).

Table 25a: Did you ask the court to enforce the judgment? Why?

	Yes, I did, because the opposing party failed to carry out the court's ruling	No, I did not, because the opposing party already carried out the court's ruling	No, I did not; the court's ruling already gave me 'face;' whether the opposing party carried out the ruling or not is not very important	No, I did not; I have already reached an agreement about postponing the carrying out of the ruling or we have agreed to no longer carry out the ruling	No answer
Number	57	14	1	2	116
Percent	30	7	1	1	61

Table 25b: Did you ask the court to enforce the judgment? Why? (Adjusted)

	Yes, I did,	No, I did not,	No, I did not; the	No, I did not; I	Total
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	because the opposing party failed to carry out the court's ruling	because the opposing party already carried out the court's ruling	court's ruling already gave me 'face;' whether the opposing party carried out the ruling or not is not very important	have already reached an agreement about postponing the carrying out of the ruling or we have agreed to no longer carry out the ruling	
Number	57	14	1	2	74
Percent	77	19	1	3	100

*Adjusted for the fact that losing parties would not answer this question.

Table 26: How long did it take the court to enforce the judgment? (Adjusted)

	Less than 3 months	Between 3 and 6 months	Between 6 months and 1 year	Over a year	Total
Number	17	23	12	14	66
Percent	26	35	18	21	100

*Adjusted for the fact that only winning plaintiffs would answer this question. Please note the discrepancy between the total number of respondents who claim to have asked the courts to enforce judgments in Table 25b (57 respondents) and the total number of respondents (66) that report the length of time it took to enforce judgments in this table. We believe the discrepancy comes from the possibility that some respondents that fail to answer the question for Table 25 choose to answer this question.

Table 27: What was the actual result of the court's enforcement?

	Completely enforced the terms of my request	Completely failed to meet the terms of my requested enforcement	It met less than 1/3 of the terms of my request	It met between 1/3 and 2/3 of the terms of my request	It met 2/3 or more of the terms of my request	Total
Number	11	10	15	10	7	53
Percent	21	19	28	19	13	100

Table 28: In what manner were the terms of your request for enforcement realized?

	The actual enforcement and terms of my request were completely the	The majority of the actual enforcement and the terms of my request	A small part of the actual enforcement and the terms of my request	The actual enforcement and the terms of my request were not the	Total
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	same	were the same	were the same	same at all	
Number	22	12	10	8	52
Percent	42	23	19	15	100

*Adjusted for the fact that only those who have requested enforcement would answer this question.

Table 29: Were the results of the lawsuit consistent with what you had expected beforehand?

	The court's ruling and what I had expected beforehand were completely or fundamentally consistent	The court's ruling and what I had expected beforehand were not the same nor fundamentally the same	The court's ruling and the extent to which it was achieved was consistent with my expectations beforehand, but even with this result, given the amount of time and energy I spent throughout the process, the lawsuit was not worth it	No answer
Number	123	42	2	23
Percent	65	22	1	12

INDIVIDUAL LITIGANTS

Table 1: Social Background of Litigants

Profession	Peasant	Workers	Businessmen	Professional	Managerial	Other	Total
Number	12	75	42	23	18	44	214
Percent	6	35	20	11	8	20	100

Table 2: Family Monthly Income of Litigants

Family Monthly Income	Under 1500 yuan	1500-2500 yuan	2500-4000 yuan	Over 7000 yuan	Other	Total
Number	81	61	54	11	7	214
Percent	38	29	26	5	2	100

Table 3: Education Background of Litigants

Education	Middle-School	High-School and Technical School	Three-Year College	Four-Year College	Graduate Degree	Other	Total
Number	76	46	37	26	1	22	214
Percent	36	22	17.5	12	0.5	12	100

Table 4: Political Affiliations of Litigants

Political Background	Communist Party Members	Youth League Members	Democratic Parties	No Political Affiliations	Total
Number	45	18	6	145	214
Percent	21	8	3	68	100

Table 5: Reasons for filing lawsuits

	Litigation is the Most Effective Means	Having Tried Other Means of Resolution, but Failed	Results of Litigation Are the Most Authoritative	No Answer	Total
Number	59	68	66	21	214
Percent	28	32	31	8	100

Table 6: How did you learn the information about filing a lawsuit?

	Mass Media, such as Newspaper	Family, Friends, and Colleagues	Specialized Journals	No Answer	Total
Number	72	50	16	76	214
Percent	34	24	8	36	100

Table 7: How did you find your lawyer?

	Recommended by Family, Friends, and Colleagues	Through Advertisement	Directly Contacting the Law Firm	No Answer	Total
Number	88	8	52	66	214
Percent	41	4	24	31	100

Note: The non-response rate for this question, at 31 percent, appears high, but because roughly a third of the litigants do not retain lawyers, the non-response rate is actually very low.

Table 8a: Why did you choose not to hire a lawyer?

	His Fees are too High	Dissatisfied after Initial Meeting	It Makes no Difference	No Answer (because they hired lawyers)	Total
Number	30	10	23	151	214
Percent	14	5	11	70	100

Note: The non-response rate for this question, at 70 percent, seems extremely high. But since two-thirds of the litigants retain lawyers, the non-response rate is actually very low.

Table 8b: Why did you choose not to hire a lawyer (adjusted)

	His Fees are too High	Dissatisfied after Initial Meeting	It Makes no Difference	Total
Number	30	10	23	63
Percent	48	16	36	100

Table 9: Who played the main role in investigation and collection of evidence?

	Lawyers	Myself	Lawyer and I Played the Same Role	No Answer	Total
Number	49	60	54	51	214
Percent	23	28	25	24	100

Table 10: Did you use any method to try to influence the judge before the trial?

	Yes	No, I was Unwilling to	I Initially Planned to Do so, but Gave up Because I could not Find the Right Way to	No Answer	Total
Number	10	100	61	43	214
Percent	5	47	28	20	100

Table 11a: Do you believe taking measures to influence the judge before the trial will produce real results?

	Yes	No	It All Depends on the Appropriateness of the Measure	No Answer	Total
Number	33	35	61	85	214
Percent	15	16	29	40	100

Table 11b: Do you believe taking measures to influence the judge before the trial will produce real results? (Adjusted)

	Yes	No	It All Depends on the Appropriateness of the Measure	Total
Number	33	35	61	129
Percent	26	27	47	100

Table 12: What was the principal method you used to try to influence the judge?

	Give banquets and/or presents	Ask influential people to intervene on your behalf	Other Methods	No Answer	Total
Number	0	10	14	190	214
Percent	0	4	7	89	100

Table 13: Did any of these methods of trying to influence the judge work?

	Real and substantive results	No real results	Not sure	No Answer	Total
Number	11	10	7	186	214
Percent	5	5	3	87	100

Table 14: How did you learn the procedure of the trial?

	Notification by the Judge (Including Written Documents)	Through Reading Special Journals and Books	Through Practice and Experience	Know Nothing About the Trial Procedure	No Answer	Total
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	from the Court)			Before the End of the Trial		
Number	100	13	15	51	35	214
Percent	47	6	7	24	16	100

Table 15: Did the Trial Open According to the Date Notified by the Judge?

	Yes, Completely	No. After Notification, One Party (Including its Counsel) Requested and Received a Delay from the Judge	No, the Judge Changed the Date on his Own After Notification	Never Got a Notice of the Date of the Trial	No Answer	Total
Number	193	9	5	0	7	214
Percent	90	4	2	0	4	100

Table 16: What do you think about the judge's conduct and professional quality?

	Dignified Conduct; High Professional Quality	Poor Conduct; High Professional Quality	Acceptable Conduct; Low Professional Quality	Poor Conduct; Low Professional Quality	No Answer	Total
Number	87	4	48	21	54	214
Percent	41	2	22	10	25	100

Table 17a: What do you think of your lawyer's professional quality, as demonstrated in court, and his impact on the trial proceedings?

	High Professional Quality; positive impact on the trial	Low Professional Quality; no substantial impact on the trial	High Professional Quality; No substantial impact on the trial	High Professional Quality; negative impact on the trial	No answer
Number	70	35	30	20	59
Percent	33	16	14	9	28

Table 17b: What do you think of your lawyer's professional quality, as demonstrated in court, and his impact on the trial proceedings? (Adjusted)

	High Professional Quality; positive impact on the trial	Low Professional Quality; no substantial impact on the trial	High Professional Quality; No substantial impact on the trial	High Professional Quality; negative impact on the trial	Total
Number	70	35	30	20	155
Percent	45	23	19	13	100

Note: Because roughly 30 percent of the litigants did not hire lawyers, the valid sample size should be adjusted to reflect this fact.

Table 18: Do you believe that throughout the trial proceedings that the trial procedures formally complied with those stipulated by law?

	Complied	Because the judge “wanted no trouble,” he did not abide by the trial procedures set forth by the law	Because one of the parties influenced the judge, the trial procedures were violated	Did not comply; Both parties thought it unnecessary to comply with the trial procedures stipulated by the law and the judge approved	No answer
Number	156	15	18	0	25
Percent	73	7	8	0	12

Table 19a: What do you think about the victory/defeat of the lawsuit? How do you measure your victory/defeat?

	I won; the court met all or the majority of my lawsuit’s requests	I won; the court met only part of my lawsuit’s requests; but it was sufficient	I lost; the court met only part of my lawsuit’s requests and it was not sufficient	I lost; the court met most of my lawsuit’s requests but did not completely satisfy the requests of my lawsuit	No answer
Number	85	38	38	6	47
Percent	40	18	18	3	22

Table 19b: What do you think about the victory/defeat of the lawsuit? How do you measure your victory/defeat? (Adjusted)

	I won; the court met all or the	I won; the court met only part of my lawsuit’s	I lost; the court met only part of my	I lost; the court met most of my lawsuit’s	No answer
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	majority of my lawsuit's requests	requests; but it was sufficient	lawsuit's requests and it was not sufficient	requests but did not completely satisfy the requests of my lawsuit	
Number	85	38	38	6	164
Percent	52	23	23	2	100

* Defendants might have not answered this question because they treat it as inapplicable to them; adjusting for this factor, we obtain these results.

Table 20a: What's the main factor for your victory?

	My argument had a legal basis	Abundant evidence	The high quality of my lawyer	Judge gave me favorable treatment	No answer
Number	48	59	2	3	102
Percent	22	28	1	1	48

Table 20b: What's the main factor for your victory? (Adjusted)

	My argument had a legal basis	Abundant evidence	The high quality of my lawyer	Judge gave me favorable treatment	Total
Number	48	59	2	3	112
Percent	42	53	2	3	100

* Roughly 48 percent did not answer because a large number of respondents did not believe they won a victory. (need to use the number of winners as real base)

Table 21a: What do you think the main factor was in losing your case?

	My argument did not have a legal basis	The low quality of my lawyer	Judge gave the other party favorable treatment	Not enough evidence	No answer
Number	3	10	40	19	142
Percent	1	5	19	9	66

Table 21b: What do you think the main factor was in losing your case? (Adjusted)

	My argument did not have a legal basis	The low quality of my lawyer	Judge gave the other party favorable treatment	Not enough evidence	No answer
Number	3	10	40	19	72
Percent	4	14	56	26	100

* Because a large number thought they won, the response rate for this question is low. After adjusting for this factor, we obtain these results.

Table 22a: Did you appeal? Why?

	I did, to get a fairer result	I did not; the costs of lawsuit as well as the amount of time and energy spent are too much	I did not; the case did not have any legal basis; I would not be able to get court's support	I Did not appeal because I did not know I had the right to appeal	No answer
Number	51	67	14	3	79
Percent	24	31	7	1	37

Table 22b: Did you appeal? Why? (Adjusted)

	I did, to get a fairer result	I did not; the lawsuit fee as well as the amount of time and energy spent is too much	I did not; the case did not have any legal basis; I would not be able to get court's support	I Did not appeal because I did not know I had the right to appeal	Total
Number	51	67	14	3	135
Percent	38	50	10	2	100

Note: Because a large number of litigants won complete victories, they did not need to appeal. This table is adjusted to reflect this fact.

Table 23a: After you appealed, did you plan to hire a lawyer? Why?

	I planned to hire one; because of the lawyer's effect on the outcome on the case; they would use every talent, method to reverse the analysis of the situation, they also have the ability to make a strong case.	I planned to hire; did not originally hire and during the trial I felt it was important to have one	Did not plan to hire; had one originally and felt their role in the trial process was not very big	Did not plan to hire; I have been dissatisfied with the lawyers I have come into contact with	No answer
Number	27	7	17	5	158
Percent	13	3	8	2	74

Table 23b: After you appealed, did you plan to hire a lawyer? Why?

	Plan to hire; because of the lawyer's effect on the outcome on the case; they would	Plan to hire; I did not hire a lawyer and during the trial I felt it	Do not plan to hire; had one originally and felt their role in the trial process	Did not plan to hire; I have been dissatisfied with the	Total
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	use every talent, method to reverse the analysis of the situation, they also have the ability to convince	was important to have one	was not very big	lawyers I have come into contact with	
Number	27	7	17	5	56
Percent	48	13	30	9	100

Note: The low response rate is due to the fact that only a small number of litigants appealed. We adjust for this fact in the table.

Table 24a: Did you ask the court to enforce the judgment? Why

	Yes, I did, because the opposing party failed to carry out the court's ruling	No, I did not apply because the opposing party already carried out the court's ruling	No, I did not apply; the court's ruling already gave me 'face;' whether the opposing party carried out the ruling or not is not very important	Did not apply; I have already reached an agreement about postponing the carrying out of the ruling or we have agreed to no longer carry out the ruling	No answer
Number	81	28	4	3	98
Percent	38	13	2	3	46

Table 24b: Did you ask the court to enforce the judgment? Why (Adjusted)

	Yes, I did, because the opposing party failed to carry out the court's ruling	No, I did not apply because the opposing party already carried out the court's ruling	No, I did not apply; the court's ruling already gave me 'face;' whether the opposing party carried out the ruling or not is not very important	Did not apply; I have already reached an agreement about postponing the carrying out of the ruling or we have agreed to no longer carry out the ruling	Total
Number	81	28	4	3	116
Percent	70	24	3	3	100

Note: We adjust for the fact that about 60 percent of the litigants in the sample won complete or partial victories. This explains why 46 percent of the respondents did not answer the question.

Table 25a: How long did it take the court to enforce the judgment

	Less than 3 months	Between 3 and 6 months	Between 6 months and 1 year	Over a year	No answer
Number	52	26	15	18	103
Percent	24	12	7	8	48

* Caution: the numbers here did not match the previous table; one possible reason, the respondent may be responding to how long it took to enforce the judgment, regardless of whether they have asked the court to do so.

Table 25b: How long did it take the court to enforce the judgment (Adjusted)

	Less than 3 months	Between 3 and 6 months	Between 6 months and 1 year	Over a year	Total
Number	52	26	15	18	111
Percent	47	23	14	16	100

Table 26a: What was the actual result of the court's execution?

	It completely failed to meet the terms of my requested enforcement	It met about less than 1/3 of the terms of my request	It met about between 1/3 and 2/3 of the request	It met about 2/3 or more of the request	No answer
Number	22	12	16	48	116
Percent	10	6	8	22	54

Table 26b: What was the actual result of the court's execution? (Adjusted)

	It completely failed to meet the terms of my requested enforcement	It met about less than 1/3 of the terms of my request	It met about between 1/3 and 2/3 of the request	It met about 2/3 or more of the request	Total
Number	22	12	16	48	98
Percent	22	12	18	48	100

* Adjusted for the fact that only those who won would answer this question.

Table 27: Were the results of the lawsuit consistent with what you had expected beforehand?

	They were completely	The court's ruling and what I had expected	The court's ruling and	The court's ruling and the	No answer
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	or basically consistent	beforehand were completely or basically consistent, but the extent the court ruling was executed was completely or basically different from what I had expected beforehand	what I had expected beforehand were not the same or basically the same	extent to which is was executed was consistent with my expectations beforehand, but even with this result, given the amount of time and energy I spent throughout the process, the lawsuit is not worth it	
Number	67	28	55	25	39
Percent	31	13	25	12	18

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