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I N S T I T U T E

Attitudes towards the judicial system in Georgia

Caucasus Research Resource Centers

December 2011



4318 Respondents
4% Margin of Error (avg)
95% Confidence Interval

: 1944

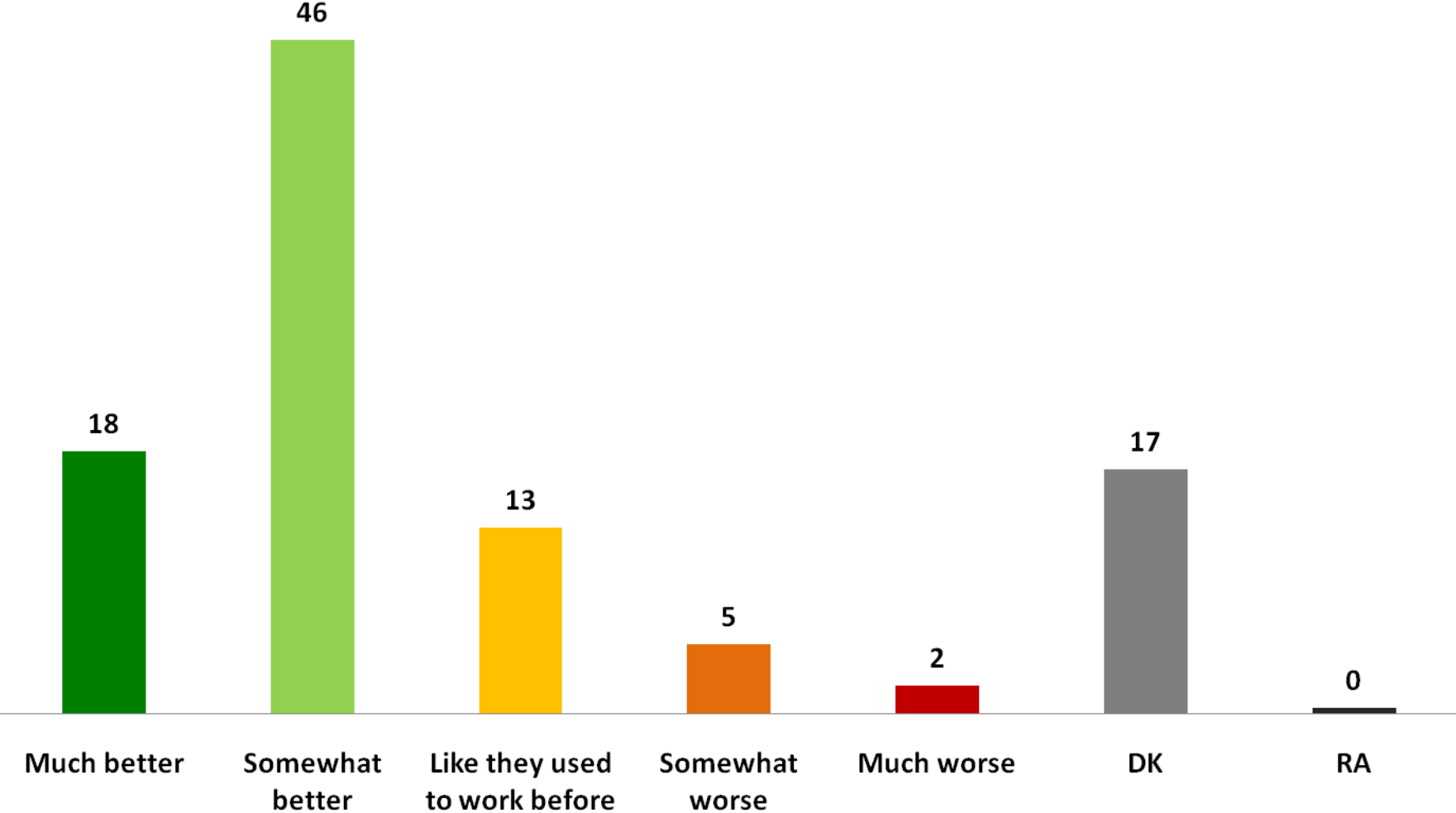


25 Focus Groups
38 In-depth Interviews

Since 2003

JUDICIARY IMPROVEMENTS

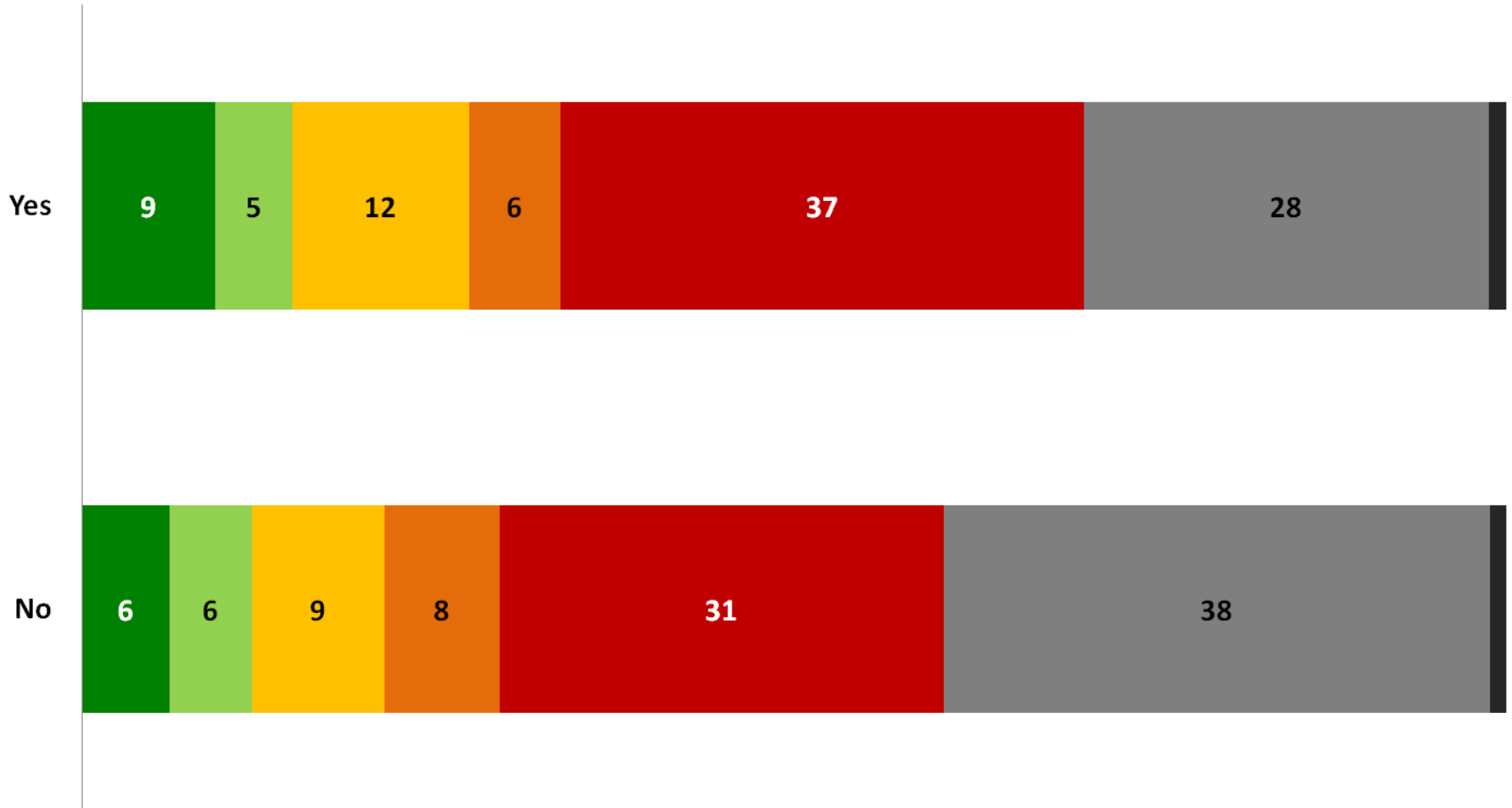
**Compared to the situation before the “Rose Revolution” in 2003,
now the Georgian courts work . . . (%)**



Judges in Georgia take bribes

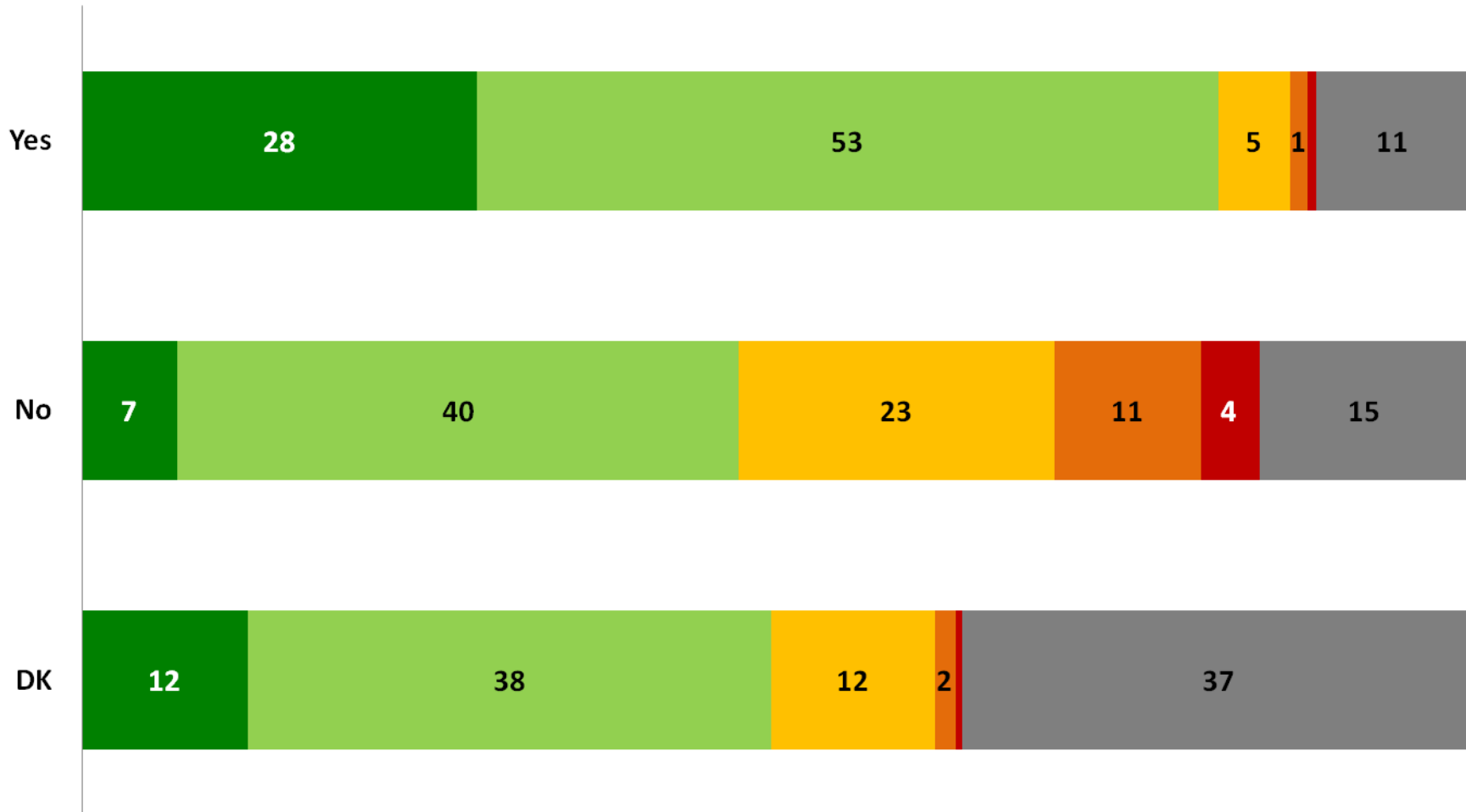
BY Court experience during the last 2 years (%)

■ Completely agree ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Completely disagree ■ DK ■ RA



Compared to the situation before the “Rose Revolution” in 2003, now the Georgian courts work ... BY Is Georgia a democracy? (%)

- Much better
- Somewhat better
- Like they used to work before
- Somewhat worse
- Much worse
- DK
- RA



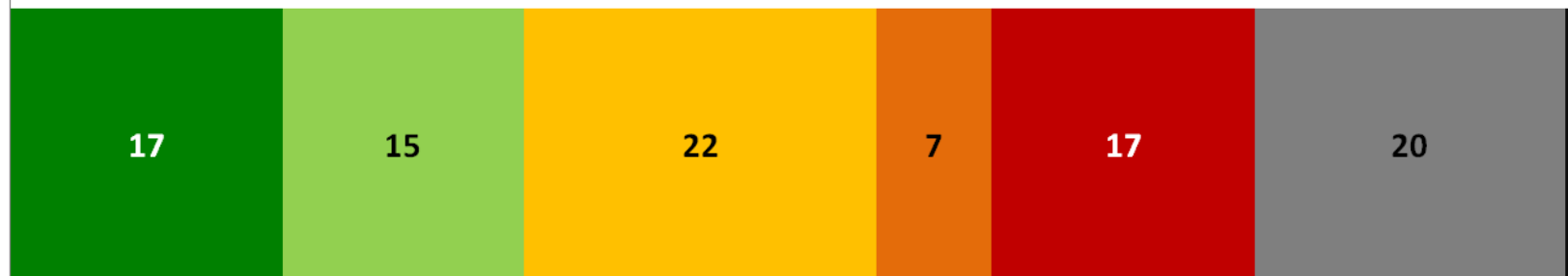
Georgians are divided and uncertain over legal system

TRUST AND INDEPENDENCE

Level of trust in judges and courts (%)

■ Completely trust ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Completely distrust ■ DK ■ RA

Judges



Courts



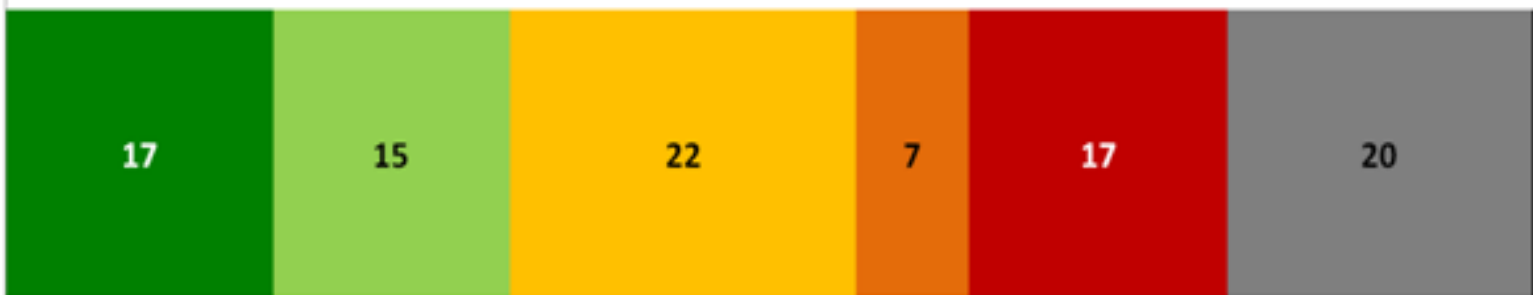
Level of trust in... (%)

■ Completely trust ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Completely distrust ■ DK ■ RA

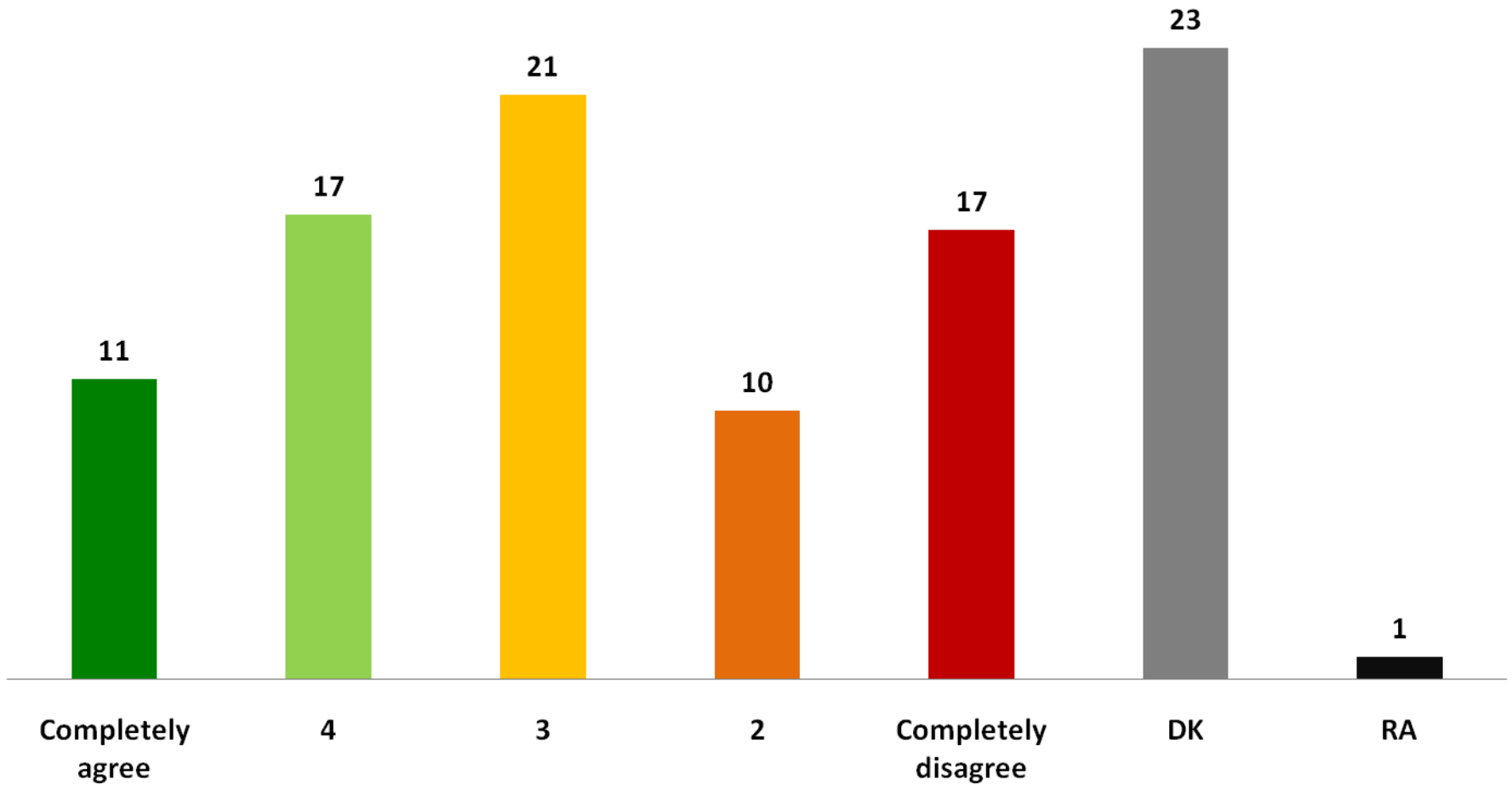
Patrol Police



Judges



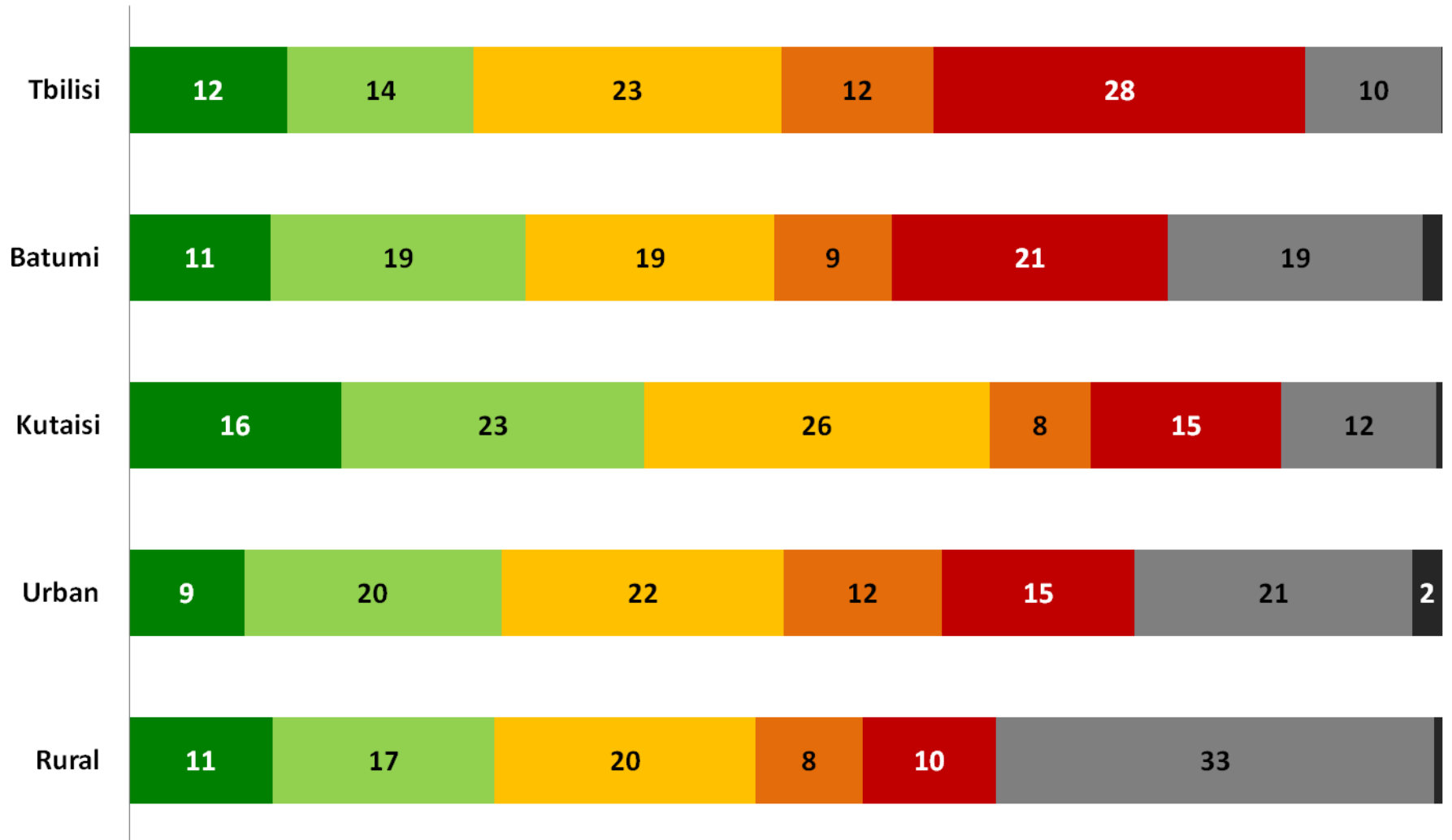
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the opinion that the judges are independent in Georgia? (%)



Judges are independent in Georgia

BY Settlement type (%)

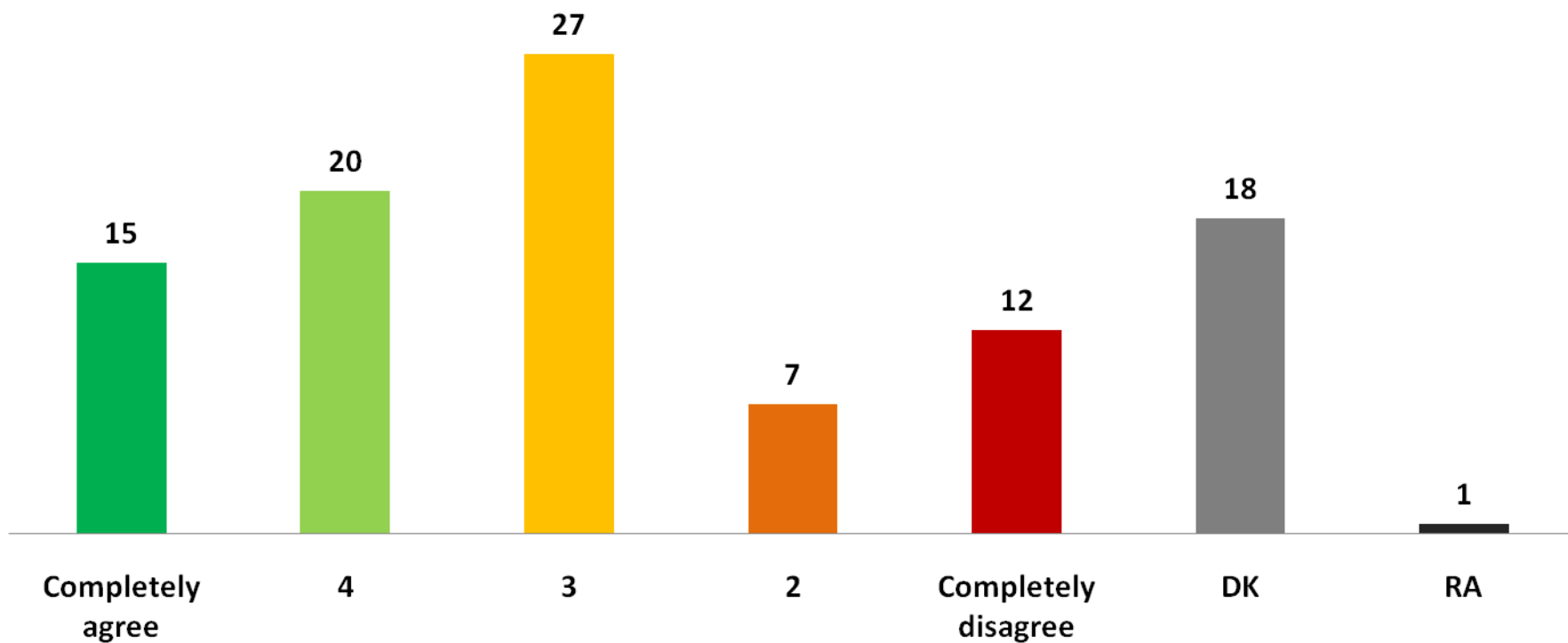
Legend: Completely agree (dark green), 4 (light green), 3 (yellow), 2 (orange), Completely disagree (red), DK (grey), RA (black)



Unsure if courts are fair, divided on justice

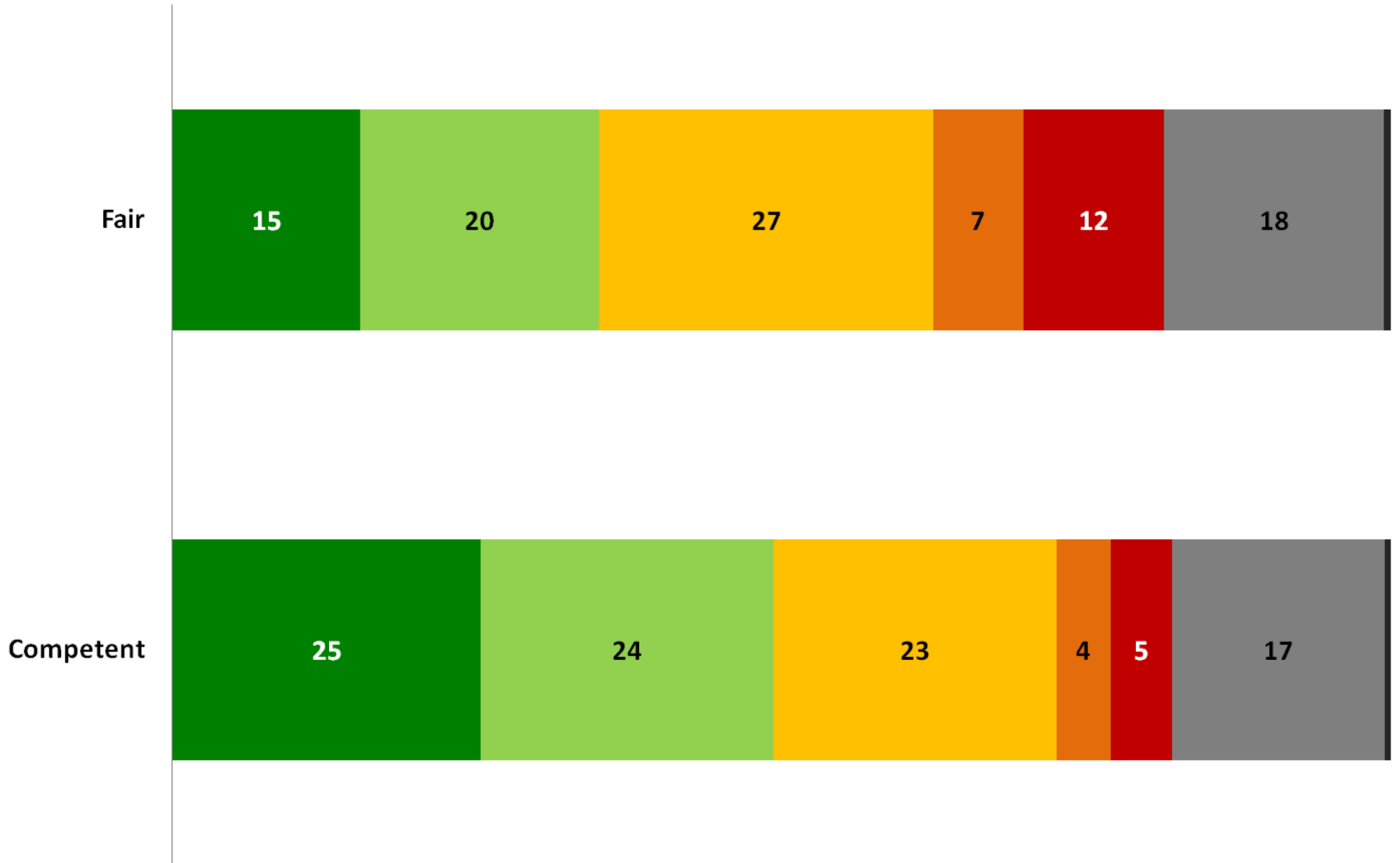
FAIRNESS

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the opinion that Georgian judges are fair? (%)



Georgian judges are ... (%)

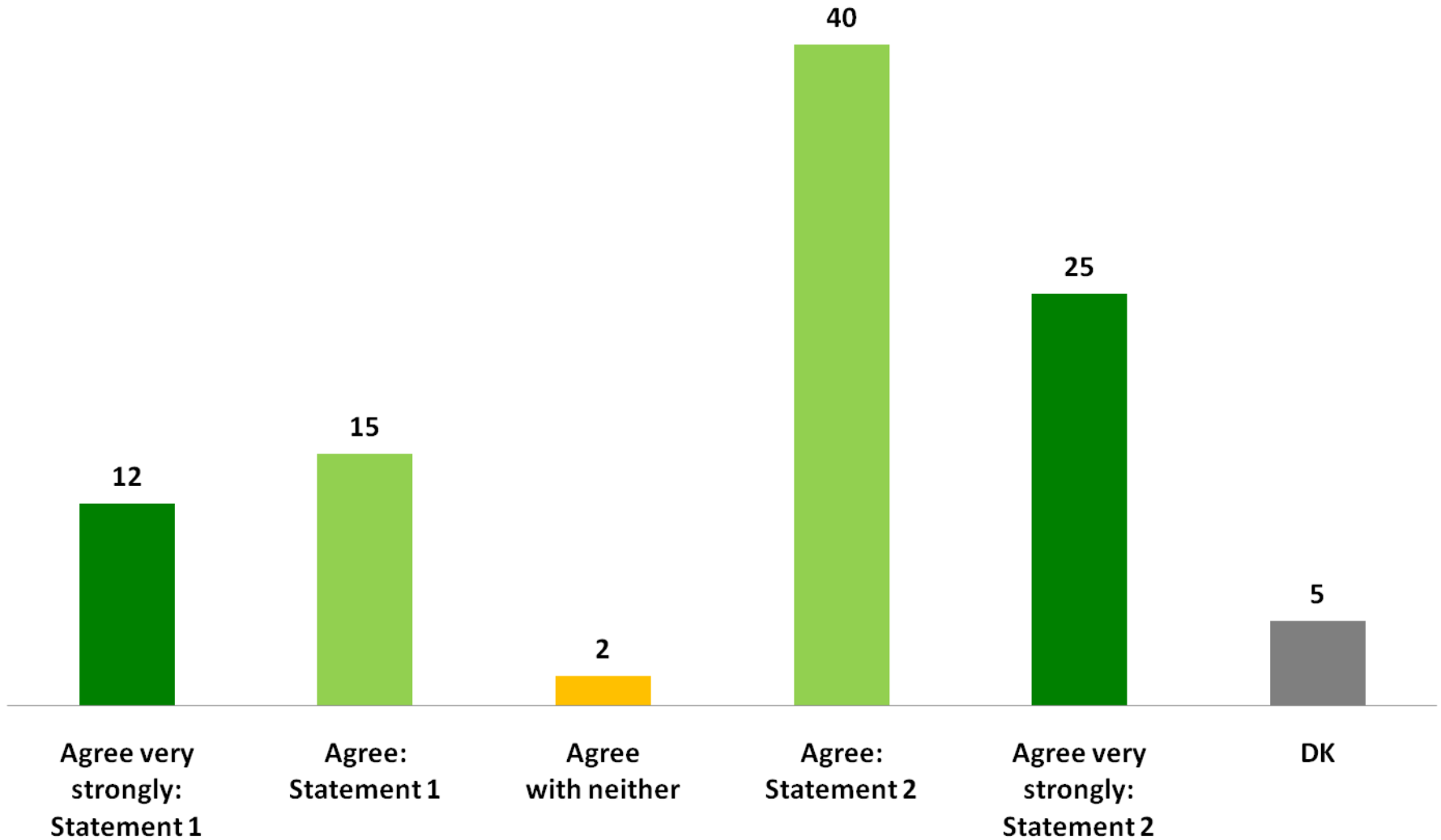
■ Completely agree ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Completely disagree ■ DK ■ RA



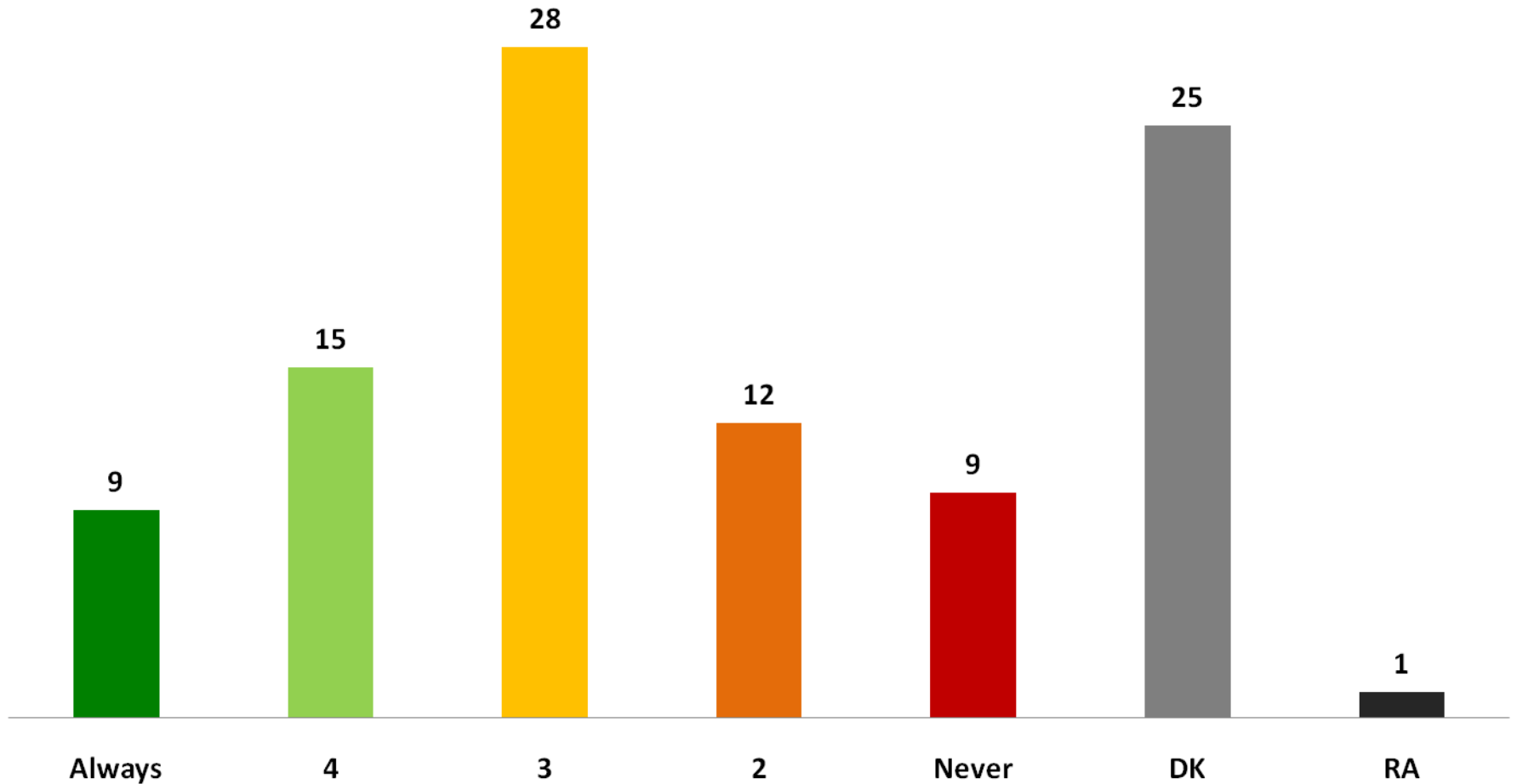
Which of the following statements do you agree with? (%)

Statement 1: Court should always strictly punish the offenders according to the law

Statement 2: Court should sometimes take into consideration the circumstances

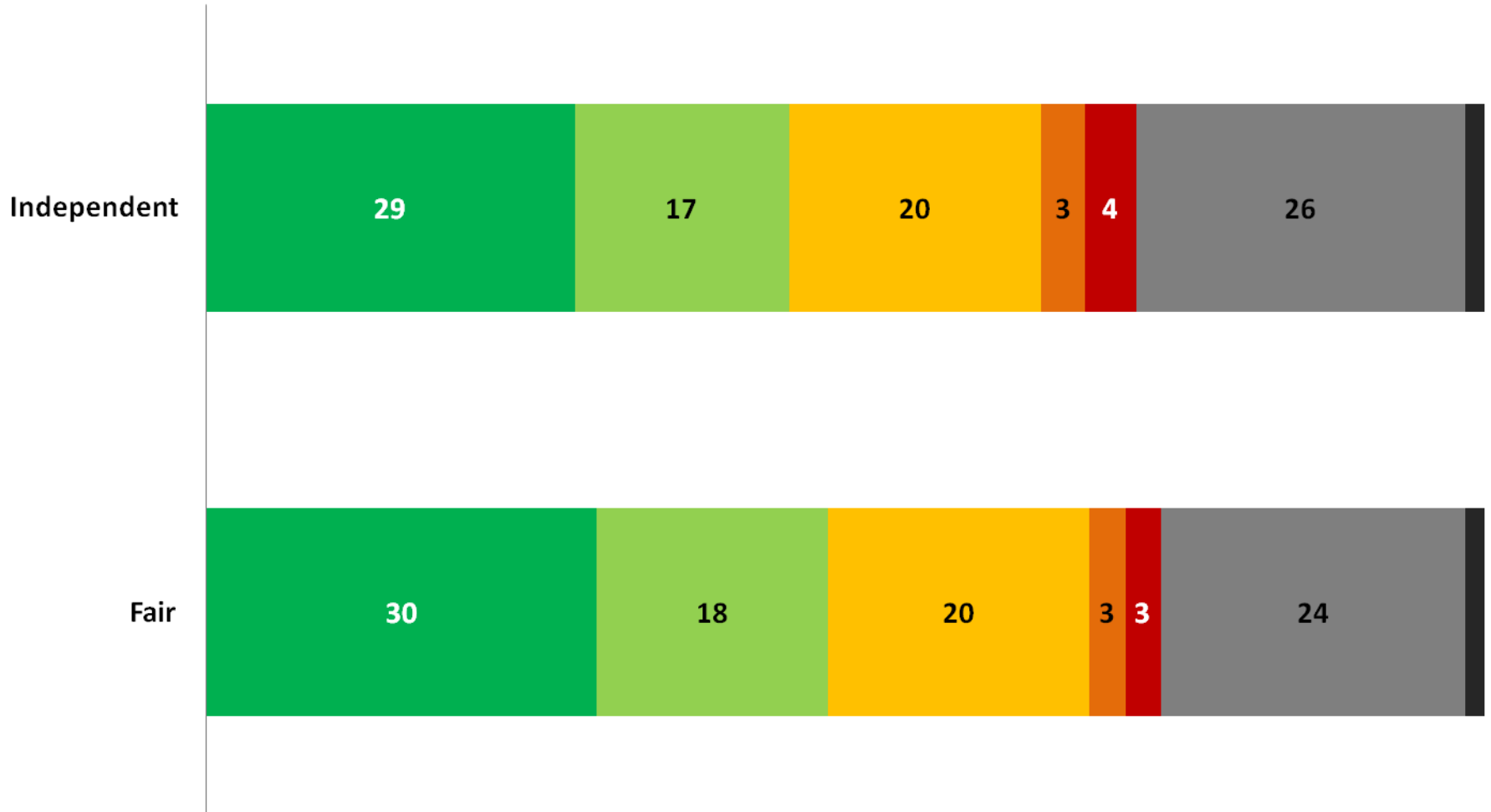


How often do the judges make mistakes that lead to non-guilty people's conviction? (%)

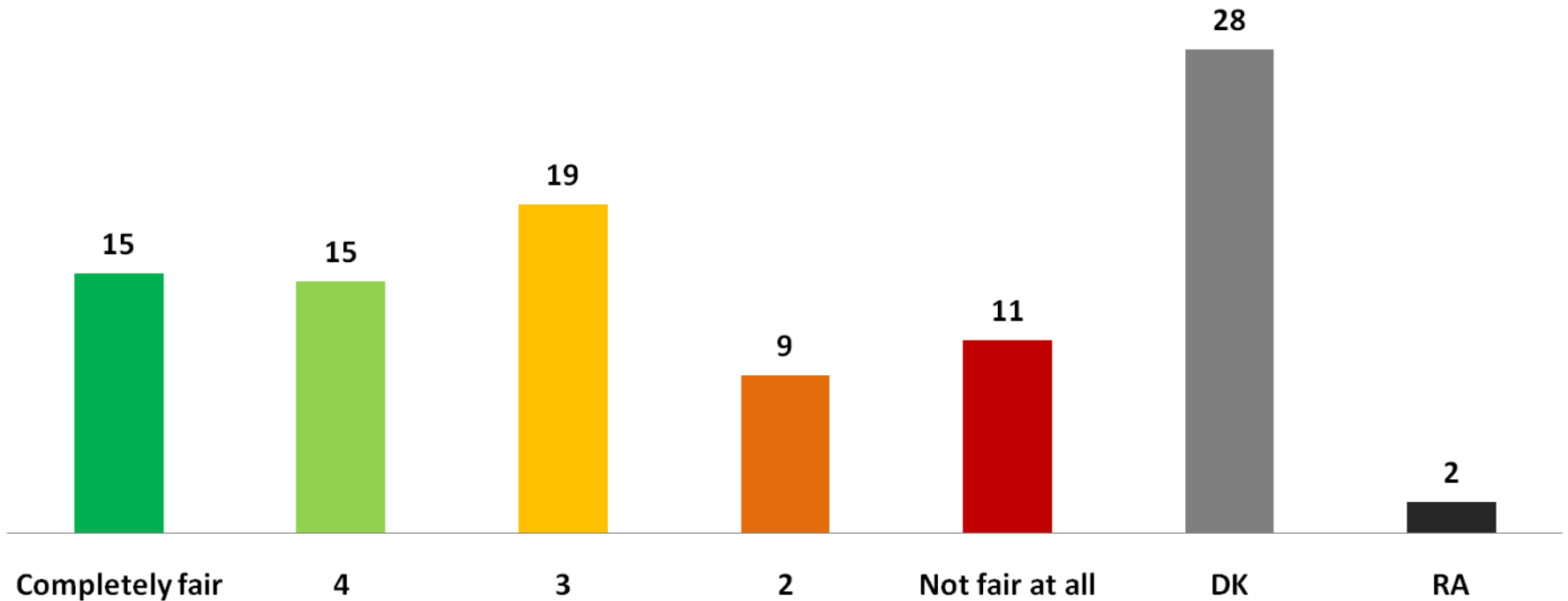


Suppose two neighbors have a dispute over land plot. How independent and fair do you think the judge will be while deciding this case? (%)

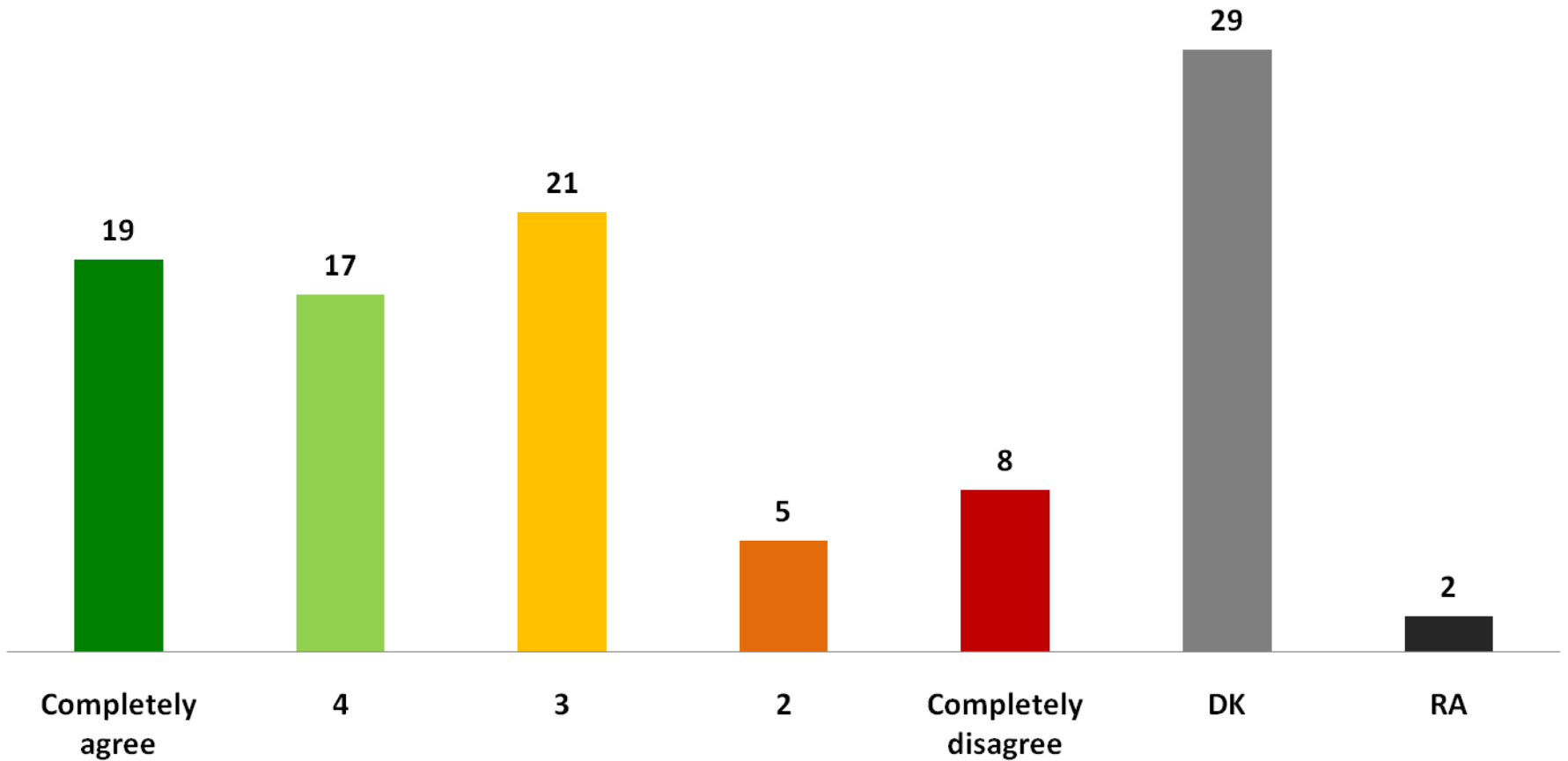
■ Completely ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Not at all ■ DK ■ RA



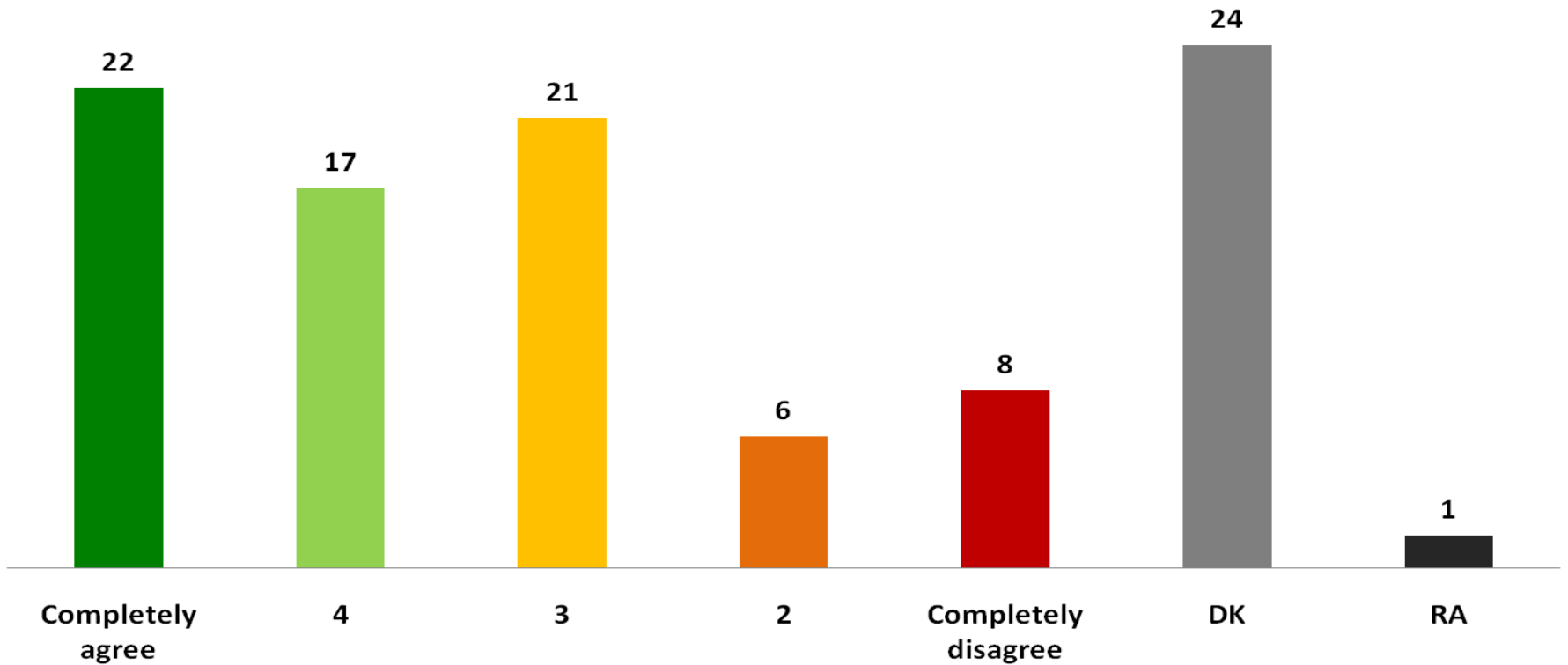
Suppose you have a dispute with a state body over a fine that you think you did not deserve. How fair do you think the judge will be while deciding this case?



When a person sues a state body, the judge will generally favor the state body over the person (%)

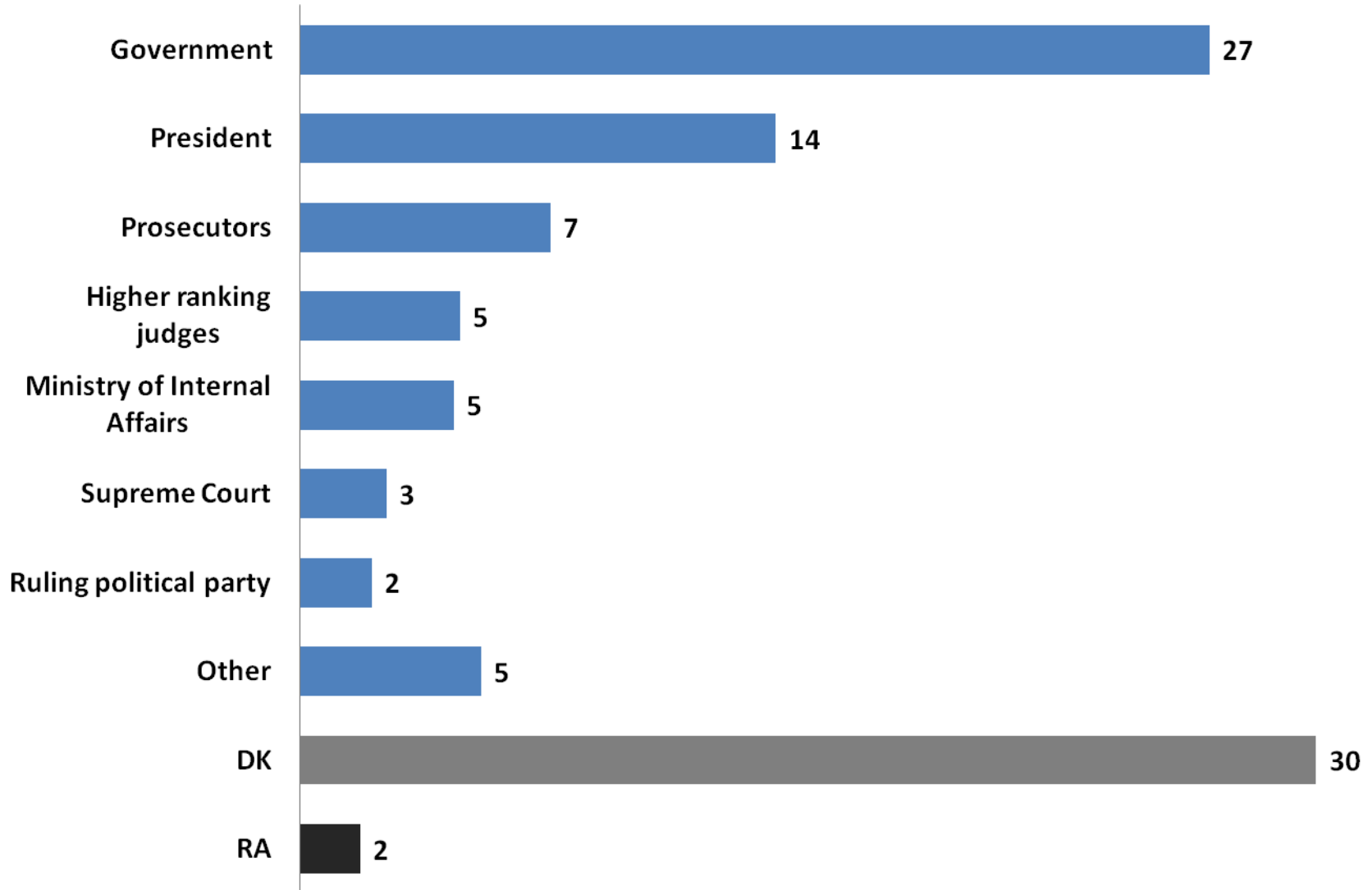


Judges in Georgia serve the government's interests (%)

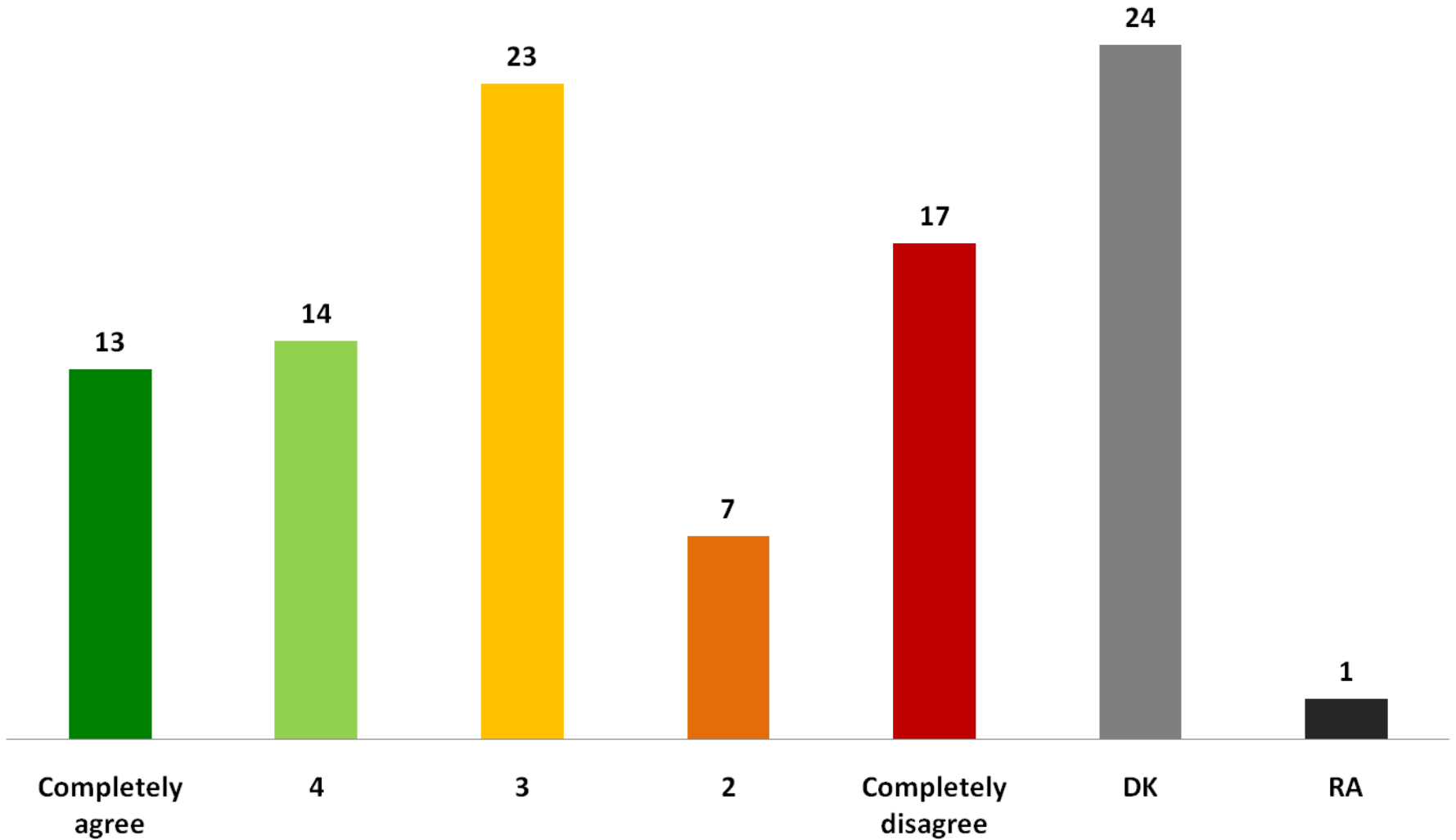


Whom or what do the Georgian judges depend on most? (%)

(This question was only asked to those respondents who tend to think that judges are not independent - 40%)



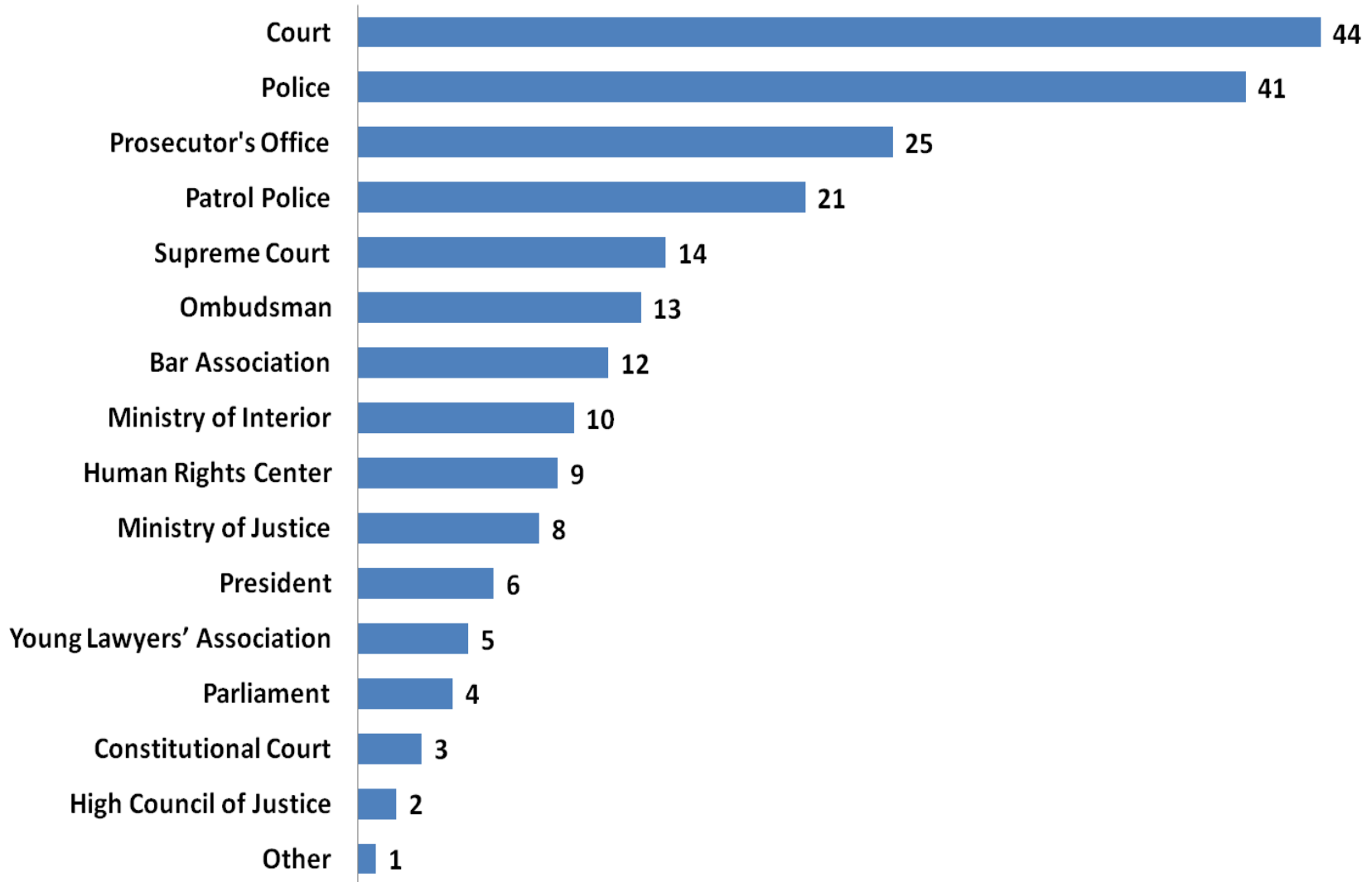
Bringing a case to the court will make the problem worse (%)



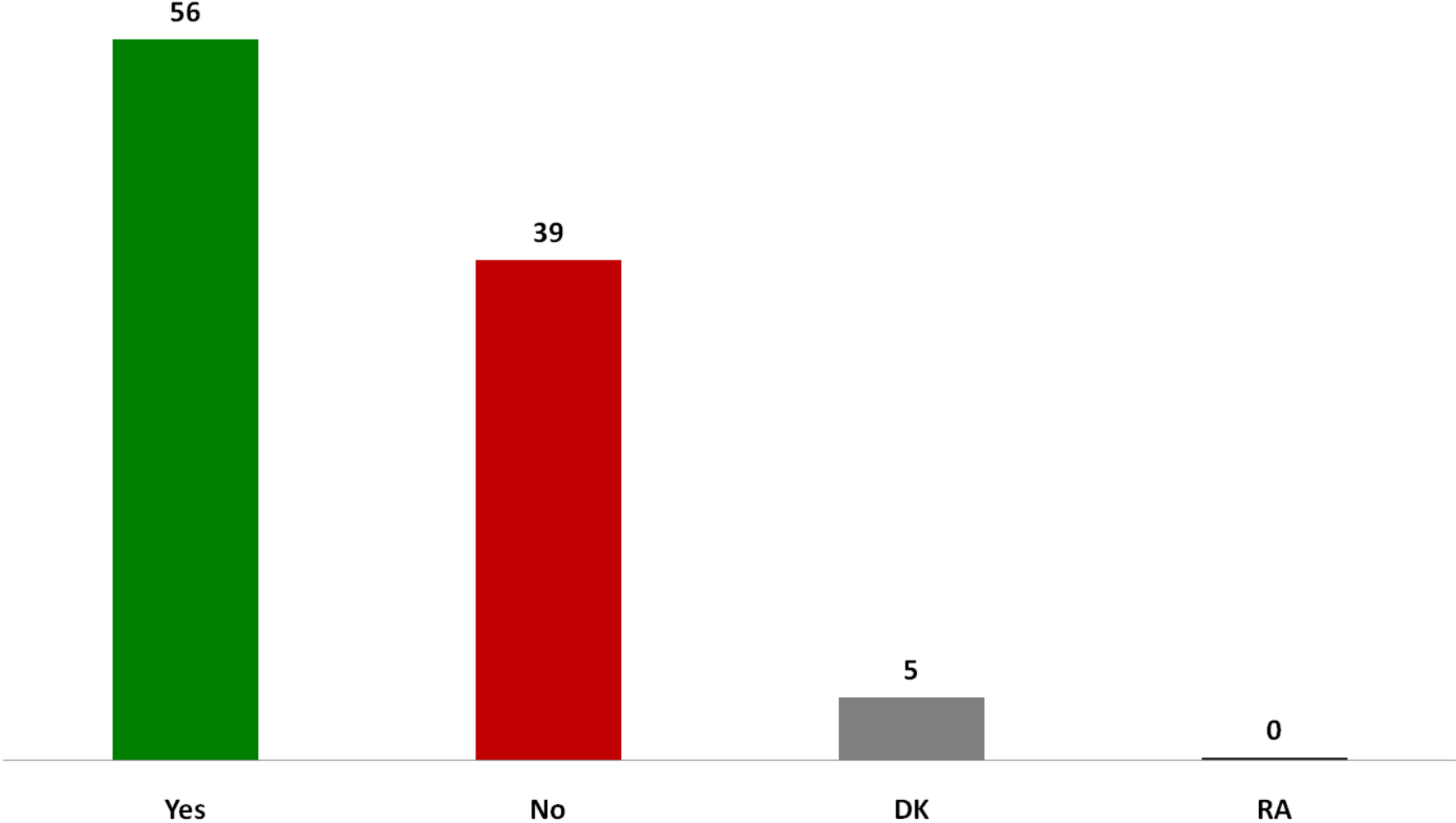
Operation of the Justice System

LIMITED AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

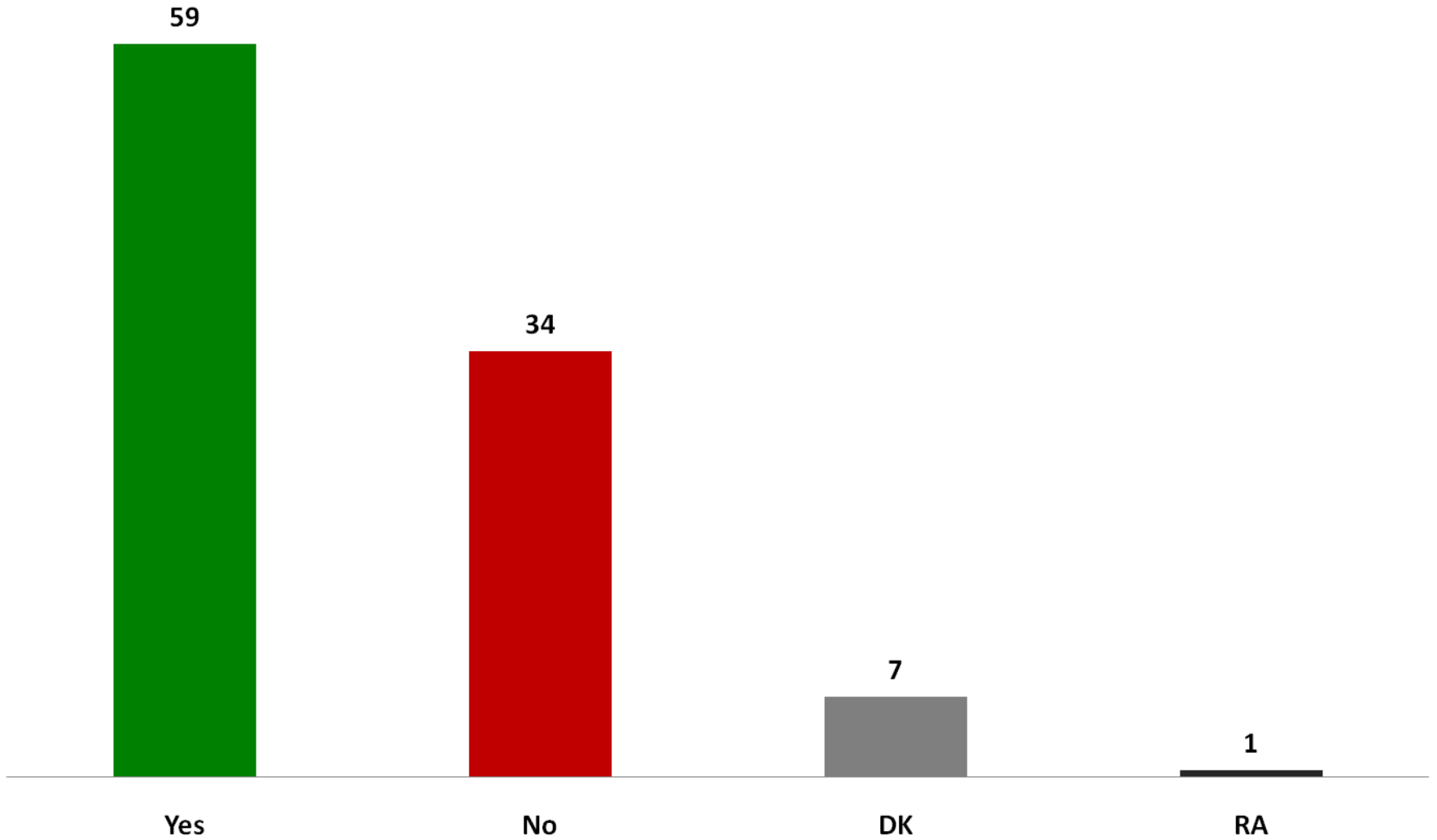
When you think of the Georgian judiciary, which comes to your mind most often? (%)



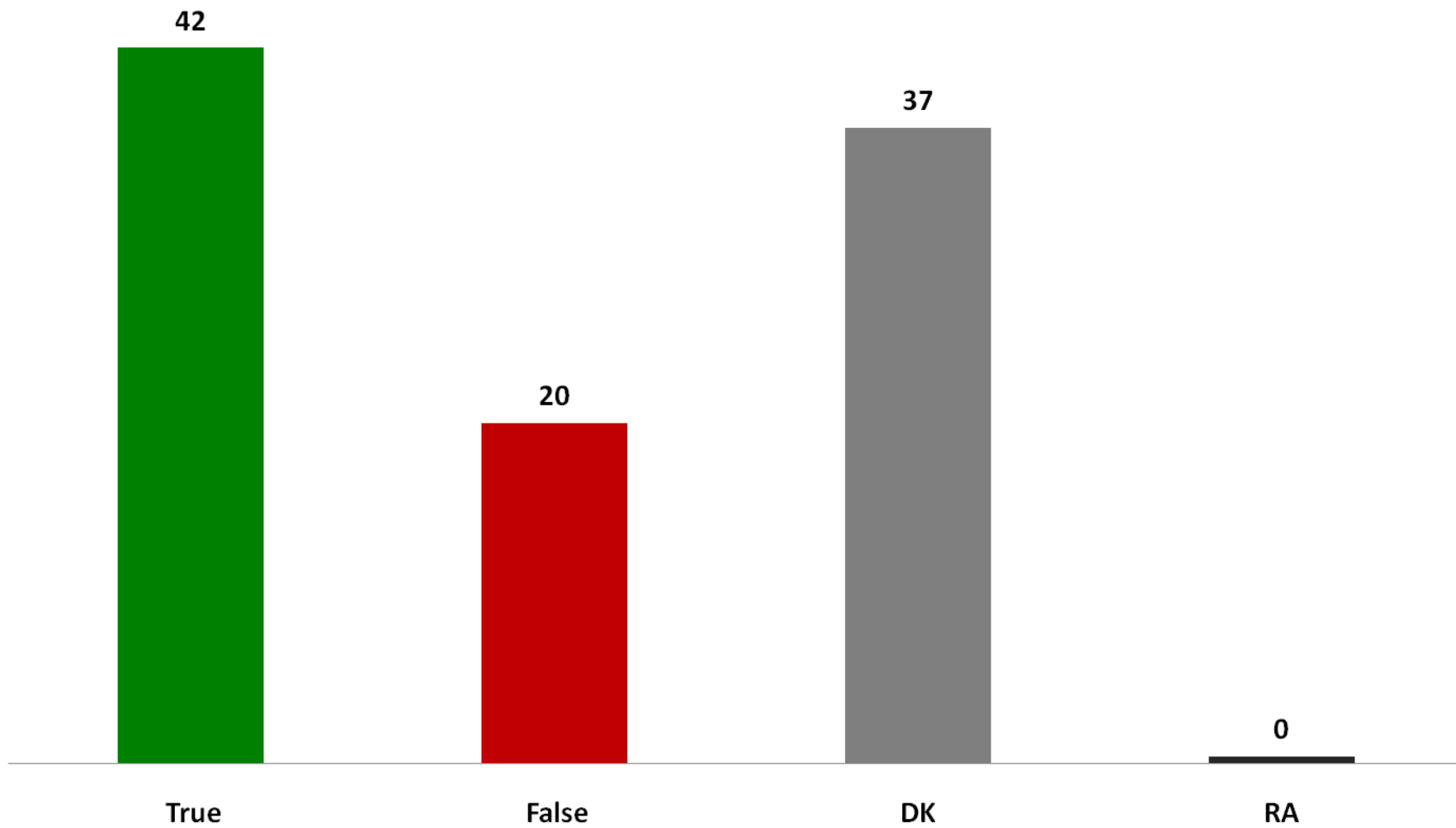
Have you heard about introduction of jury in Georgia? (%)



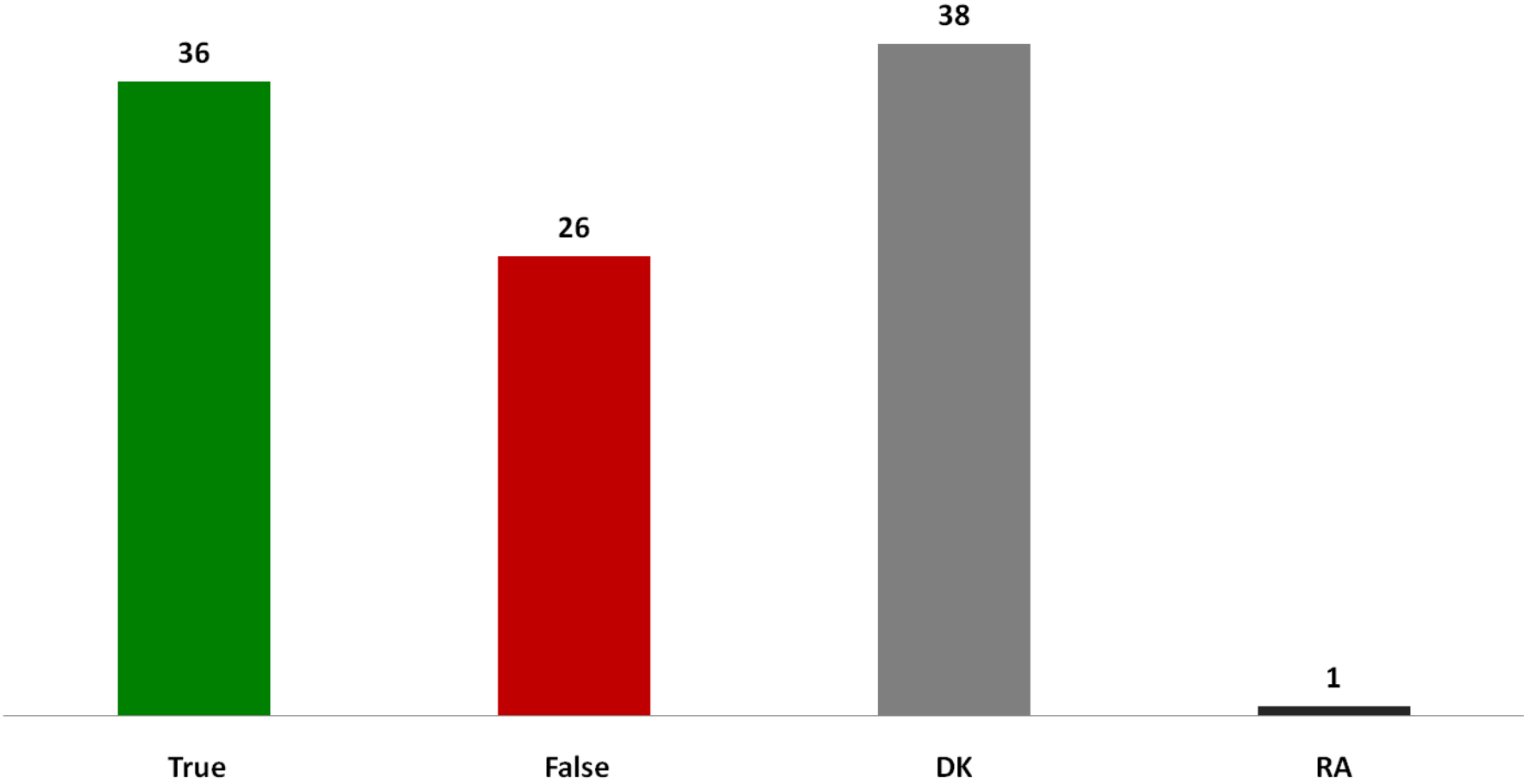
Have you heard about 'plea bargaining'? (%)



The Head of the Supreme Court of Georgia is legally allowed to alter decisions of all Georgian courts (%)

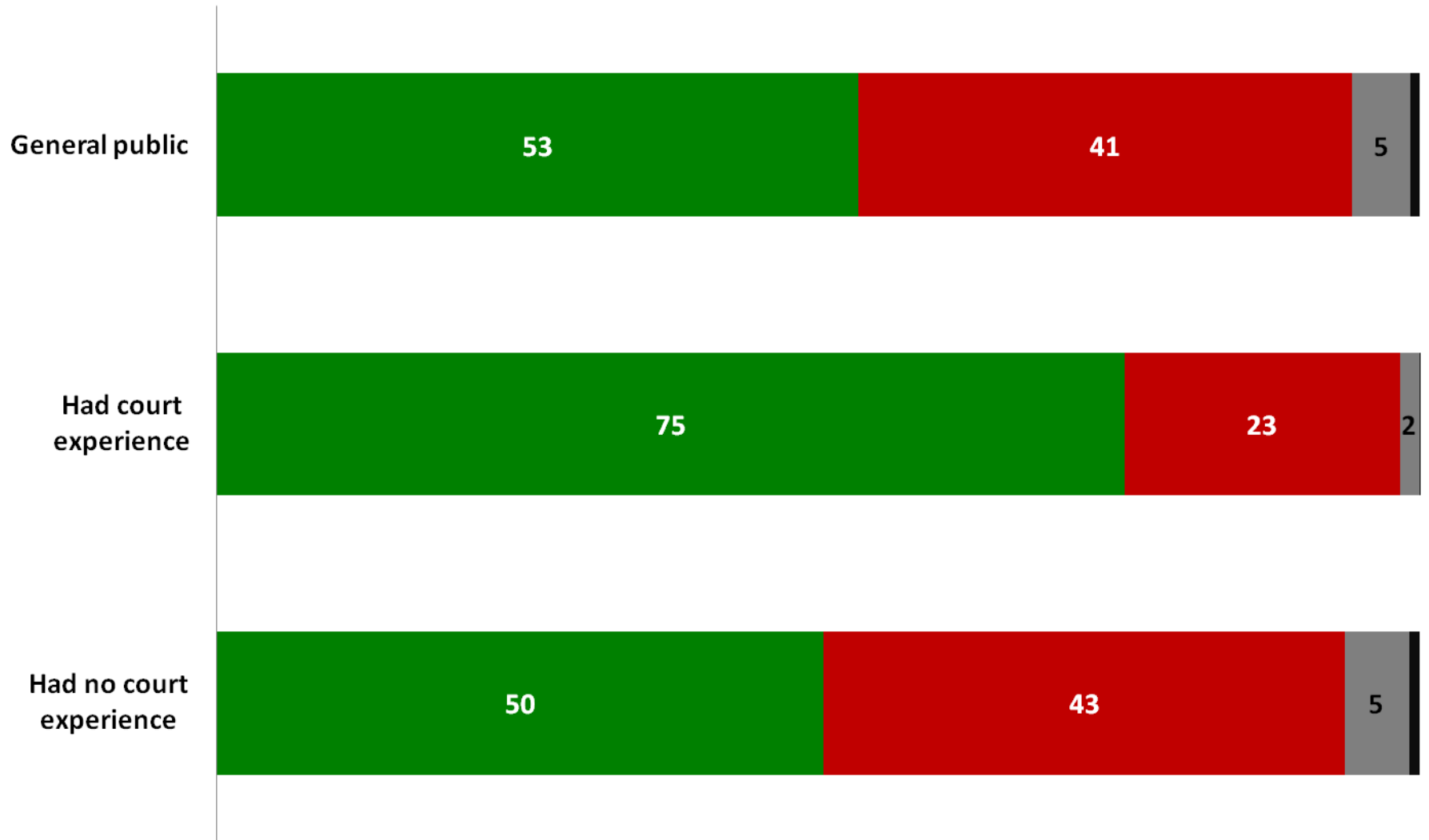


The President of Georgia is legally allowed to dismiss the Supreme Court of Georgia (%)



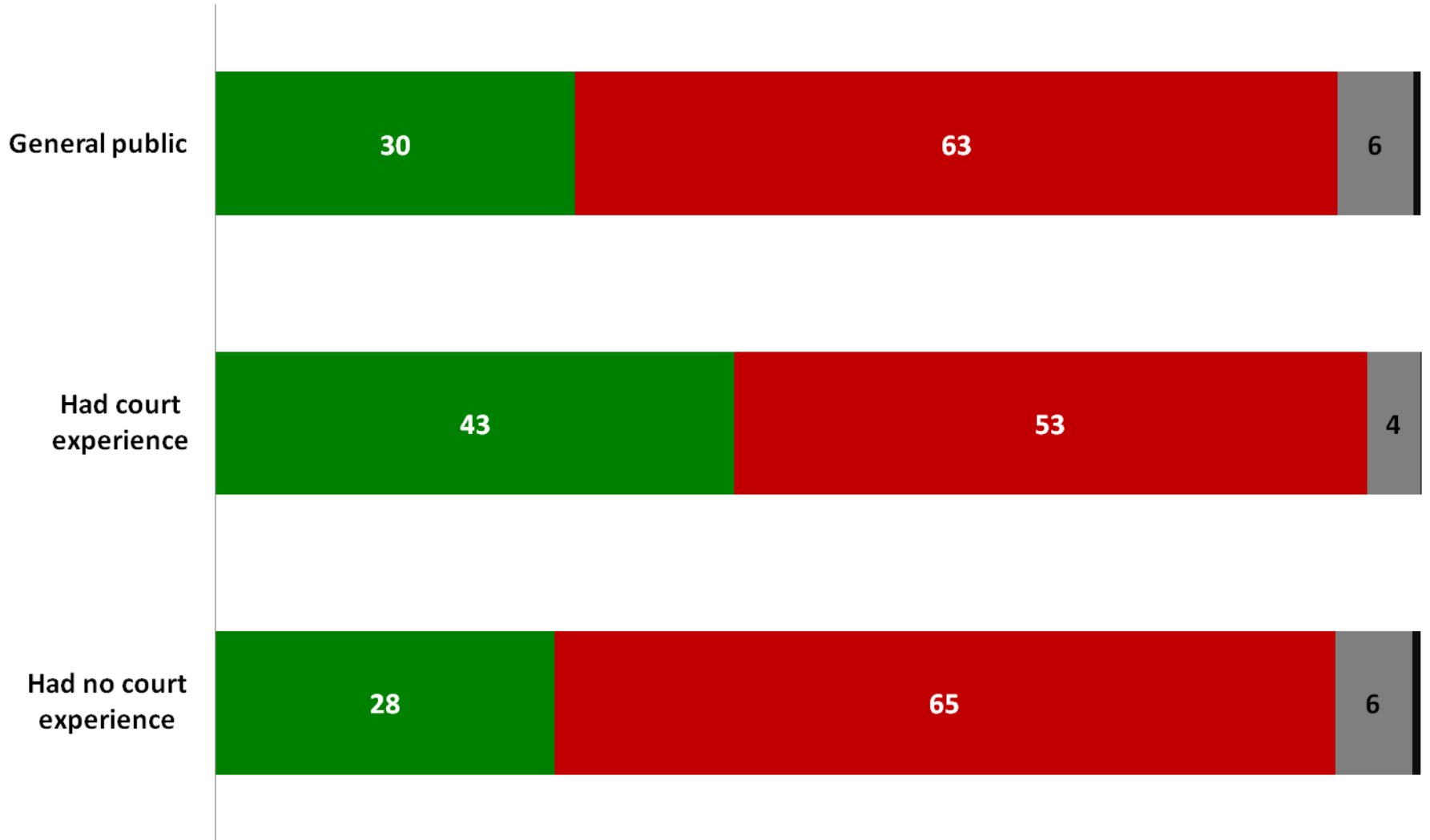
Have you heard about free legal aid provided by the state? BY Court experience (%)

■ Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ RA



Have you heard about free legal aid provided by NGOs? BY Court experience (%)

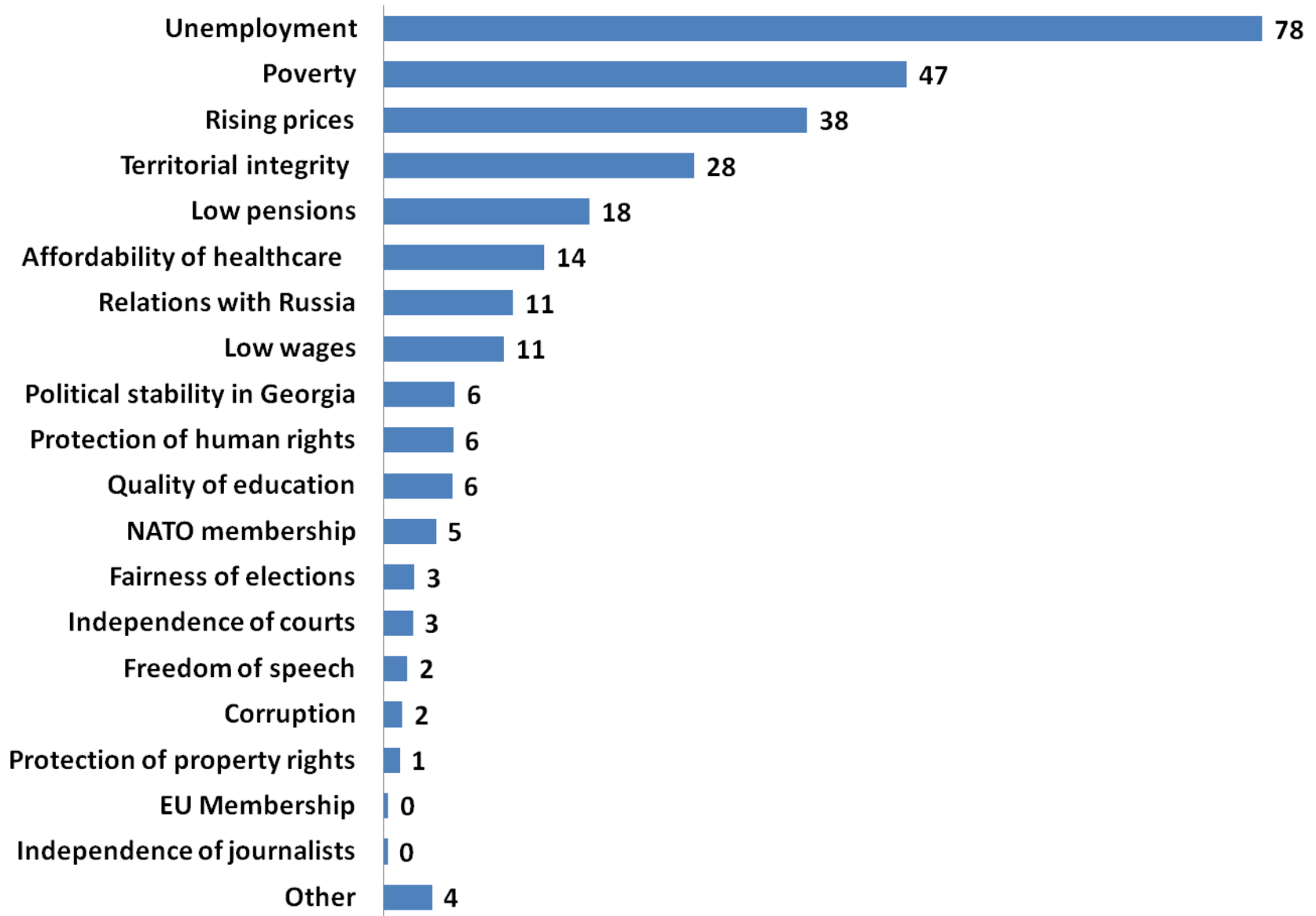
■ Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ RA



Some highlights

BRIGHT SPOTS?

Most important issue in Georgia (%)



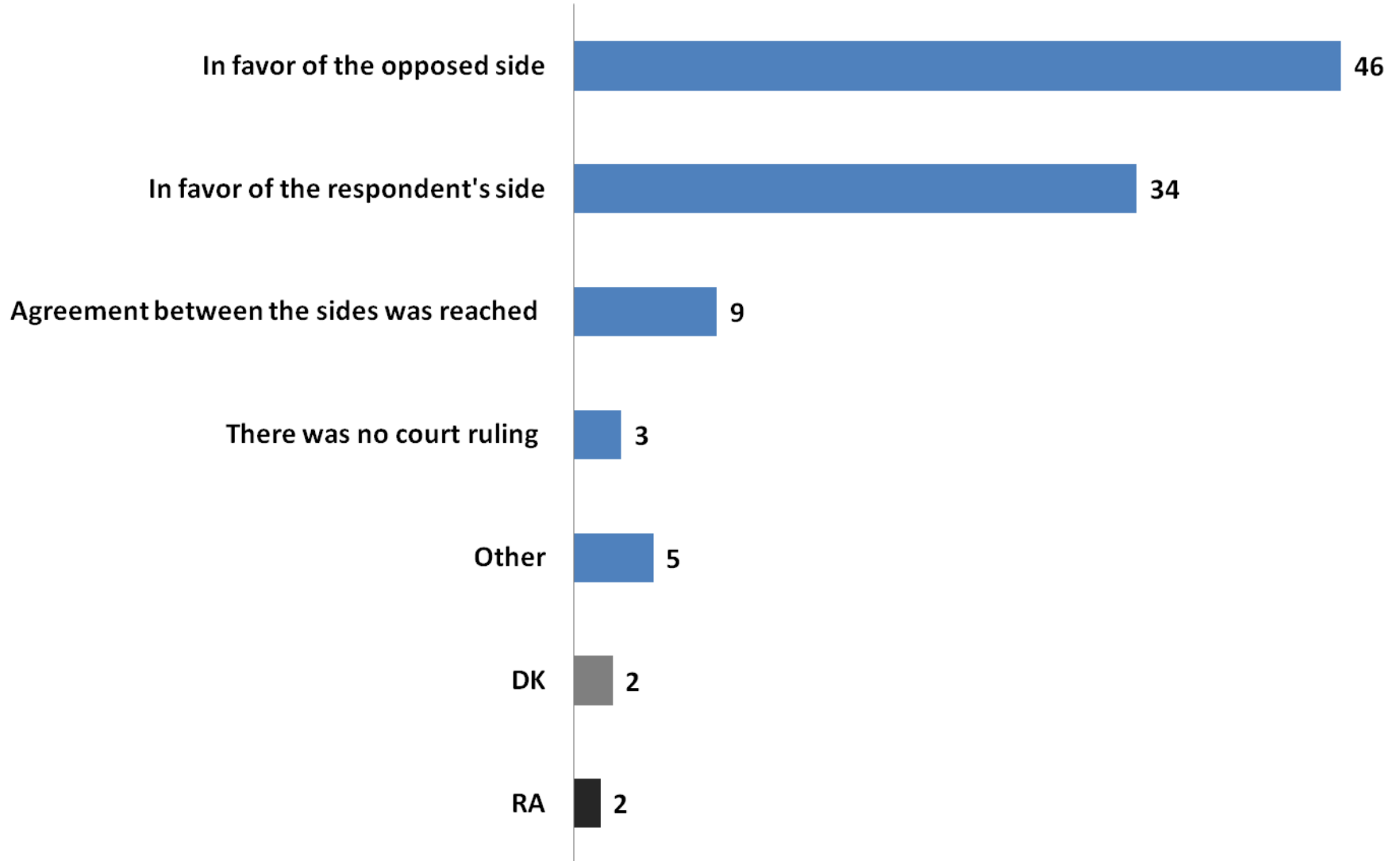
Have you, your family member, your close relative or close friend had any court experience during the last 2 years? (%)

■ Mentioned ■ Not mentioned ■ DK



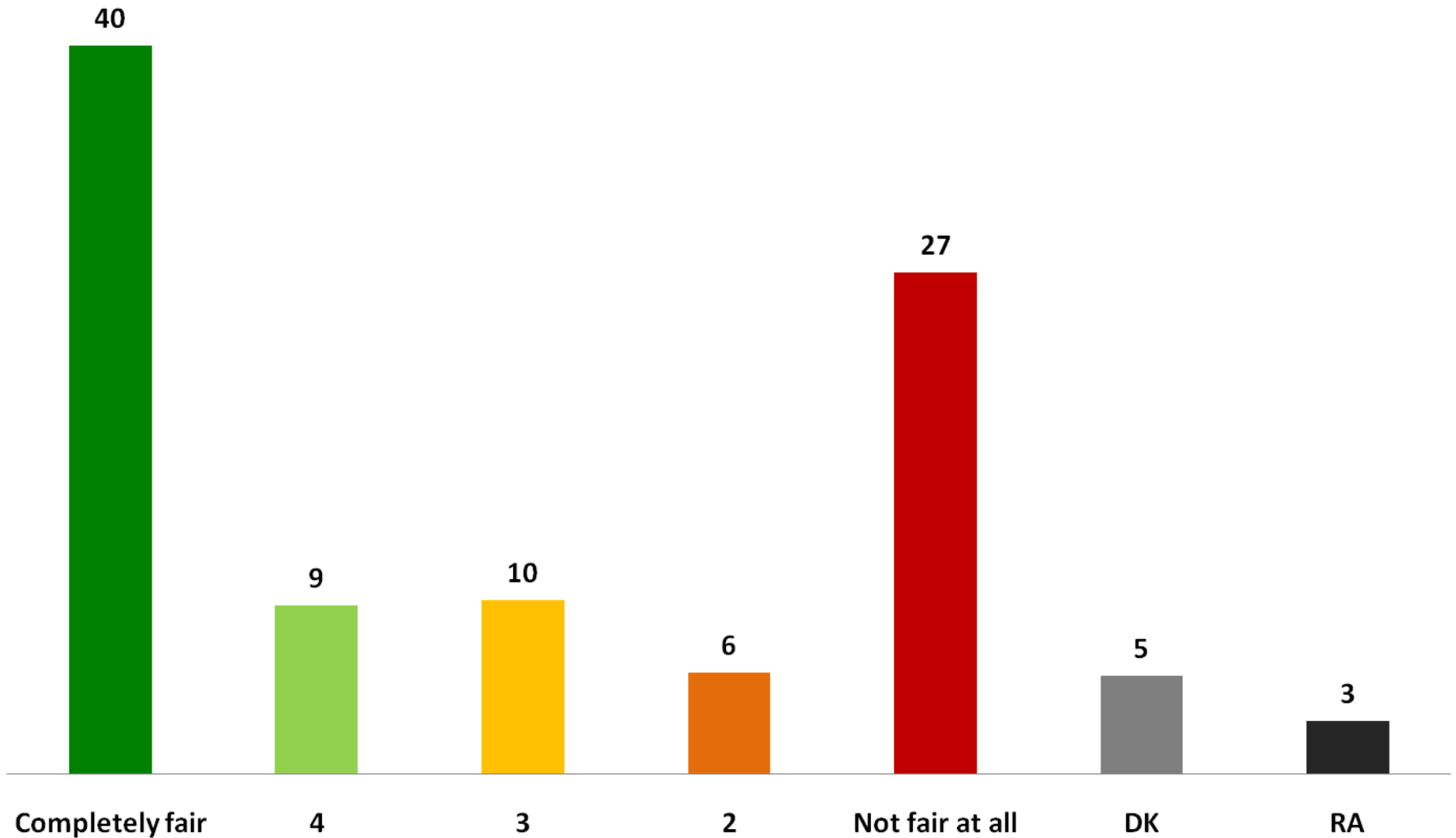
In whose favour was the decision made? (%)

(This question was only asked to those respondents who had any court experience during the last 2 years and whose court case is already finished)



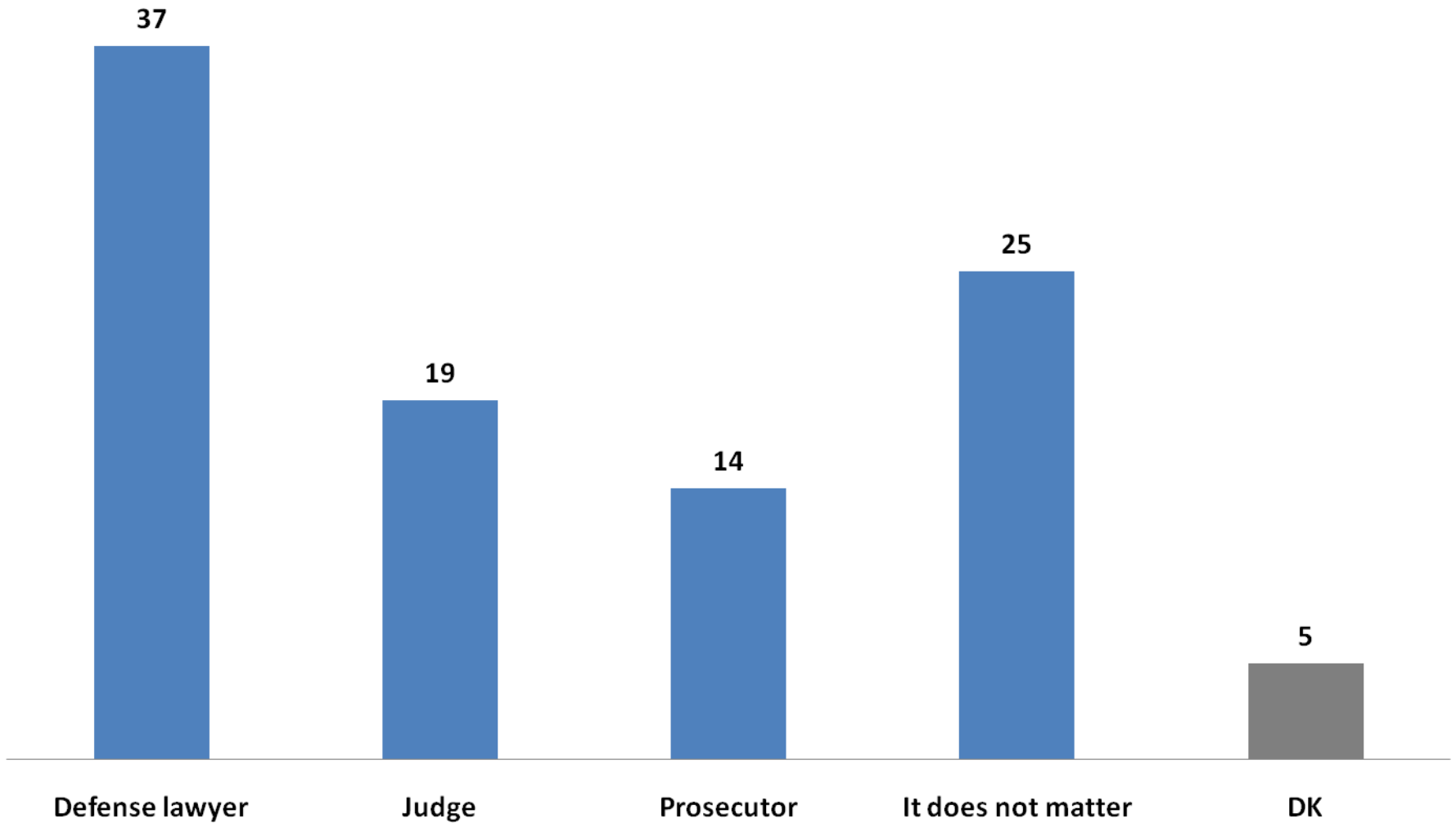
How fair do you think the decision of the court was? (%)

(This question was only asked to those respondents who had any court experience during the last 2 years and whose court case is already finished)



Which would you prefer as a future profession for your child? (%)

(Asked to those who would approve of their children entering the legal profession- 67%)





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