

Table 2.18.2012

Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers

United States, selected years 1976-2012

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low	Don't know/refused
1976	6%	19%	48%	18%	8%	1%
1977	5	21	44	18	8	4
1981	4	21	41	19	8	7
1983	5	19	43	20	9	6
1985	6	21	40	21	9	3
1988	3	15	45	22	10	4
1990	4	18	43	23	9	4
1991	4	18	43	24	10	5
1992	3	15	43	25	11	3
1993	3	13	41	26	13	2
1994	3	14	36	27	15	1
1995	4	12	36	28	17	2
1996	3	14	39	29	14	3
1997	3	12	41	30	10	3
1999	1	12	45	28	13	1
2000	3	14	42	29	11	1
2001	4	14	50	23	8	1
2002	2	16	45	25	10	2
2003	3	13	47	25	11	1
2004	4	14	45	24	11	2
2005	3	15	46	25	10	1
2006	3	15	42	27	11	2
2007	2	13	49	25	10	1
2008	3	15	45	25	12	1
2009	3	10	45	28	12	1
2010	4	13	47	24	11	1
2011	3	16	43	27	10	1
2012	4	15	42	28	10	1

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2012 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,015 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Nov. 26-29, 2012. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279, p. 18; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293, p. 23; No. 322, p. 2; No. 334, p. 38; No. 387, p. 23; *The Gallup Poll*, May 22, 1991, p. 3; Nov. 10, 1995, p. 2; Jan. 2, 1997, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr991116.asp> [Mar. 22, 2000]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr001127.asp> [Apr. 18, 2001]; http://www.gallup.com/poll/topics/hnsty_ethcs.asp [Jan. 4, 2002]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr021204.asp> [Feb. 10, 2003]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/> [June 8, 2004]; <http://poll.gallup.com/> [Jan. 18, 2006]; <http://www.gallupoll.com/> [Sept. 5, 2007]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1654/Honesty-Ethics-Professions.aspx> [Mar. 19, 2008]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/112264/Nurses-Shine-While-Bankers-Slump-Ethics-Ratings.aspx> [Feb. 9, 2009]; <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1654/Honesty-Ethics-Professions.aspx> [Apr. 5, 2013]; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.