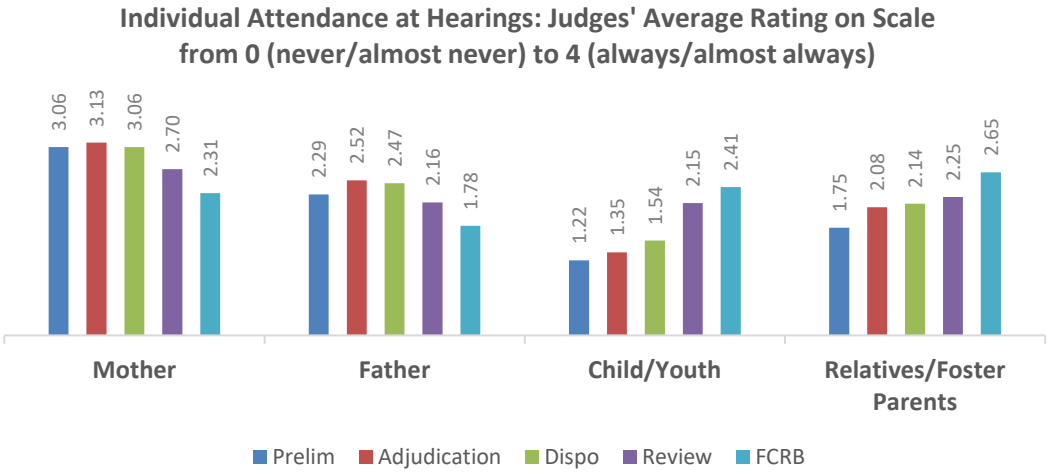
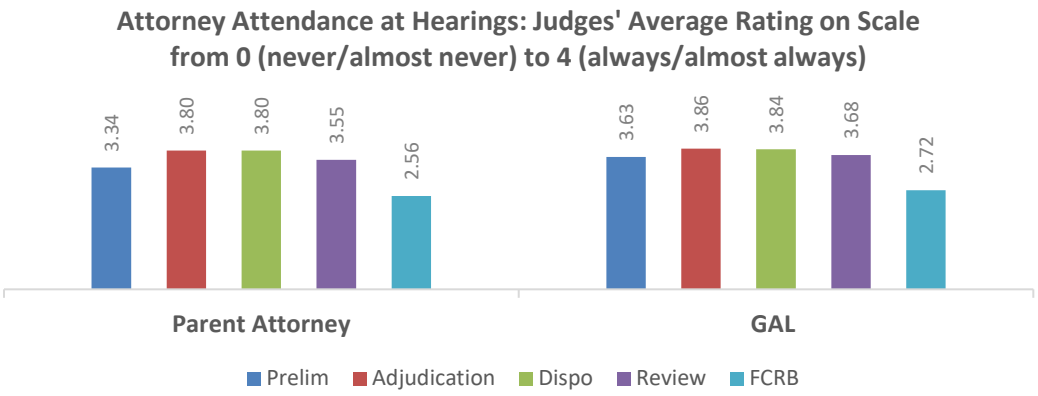
Attendance at Hearings: How Often Are Individuals Present?





103 Judges Statewide (68% response rate)

Mean Yrs on Juvenile Court Bench = 9.73

Most had 1 year of experience

Most judges reported that they "often" engaged parents and children/youth present in court hearings.

Compared to parent and child/youth engagement, judges were less likely to engage caregivers, relatives or foster parents present.

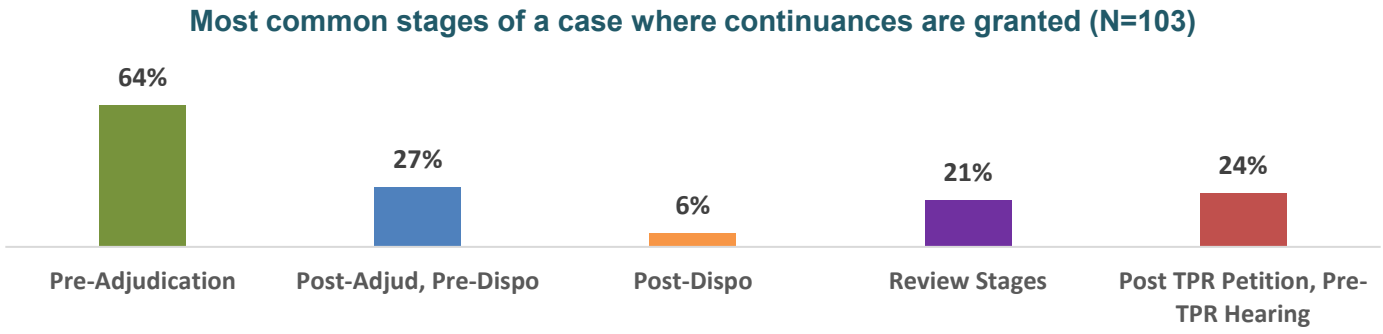
Quality Legal Representation: How Often Does the Following Occur?

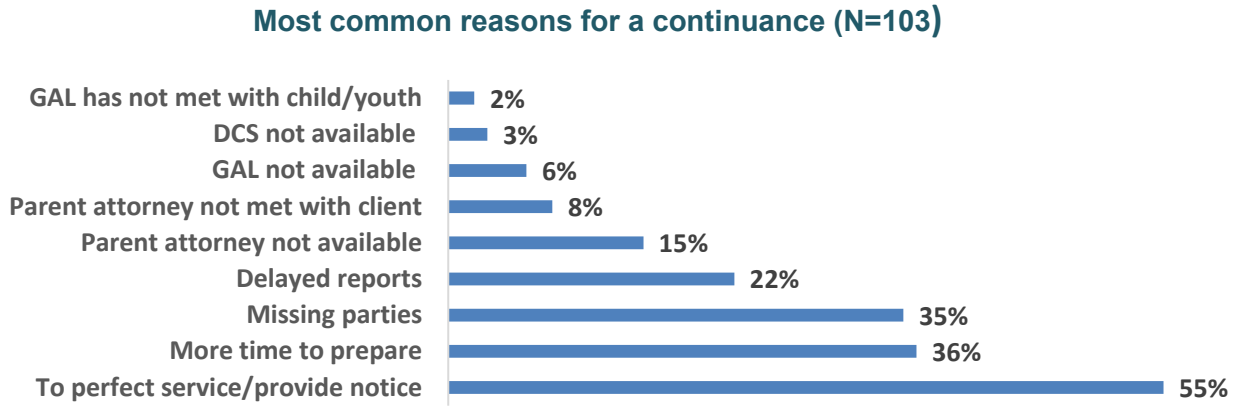
Parent Attorney Areas of Practice Strengths TOP 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)	Parent Attorney Areas of Practice Challenges BOTTOM 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)
Appear in court prepared for each case [mean =3.23]	Raising notice and service objections [mean =2.33]
Appear knowledgeable on applicable legal issues and legal arguments [mean =3.23]	Raising the issue that an immediate risk of harm no longer exists for reunification [mean =2.28]
Explain parents' rights and obligations prior to entry of settlement [mean =3.18]	Requesting discovery [mean =2.17]
GAL Areas of Practice Strength **TOP 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)**	**GAL Areas of Practice Challenge** **BOTTOM 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)**
Appear knowledgeable on applicable legal issues and legal arguments [mean =3.49]	Advocating for alternative placements to foster care [mean =2.43]
Appear in court prepared for each court appearance [mean=3.45]	Requesting discovery [mean =2.21]
Share the youth/child's wishes with the court [mean=3.35]	Raising the issue that an immediate risk of harm no longer exists for reunification [mean =2.08]

Court Practices: How Often does the Following Occur?

Areas of Court Practice Strength TOP 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)	Areas of Court Practice Challenge BOTTOM 3 Average Scores from 0 (never) to 4 (always)
Accommodations for parents who are non-English speaking, incarcerated, institutionalized, or remote to participate in hearings are ordered [mean =3.59]	Detailed written visitation orders are entered [mean =3.05]
There is discussion of what is preventing the child from returning home [mean =3.50]	Visitation orders take into consideration the nature, extent, and quality of time with siblings if living separately [mean =3.05]
The same GAL represents the youth/child across the life of the case [mean =3.49]	Transitional plans to reunify families when an immediate risk of harm no longer exists are presented to the court [mean =3.04]

Continuance Practice:





System Challenges Identified by Most Judges:

- Lack of Attorney Availability
- Poor Compensation for Attorneys
- High Attorney Caseloads