

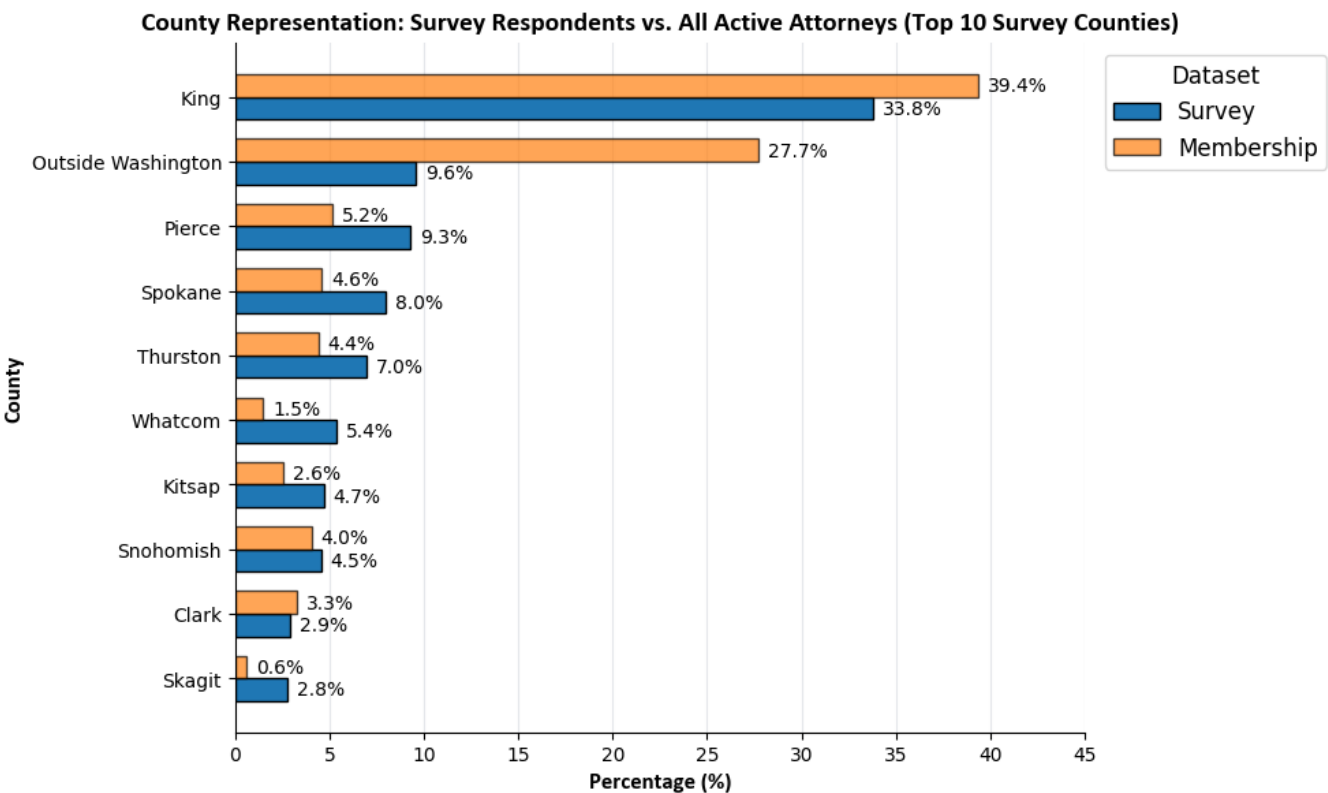
Attorney Oath Survey Result Analysis

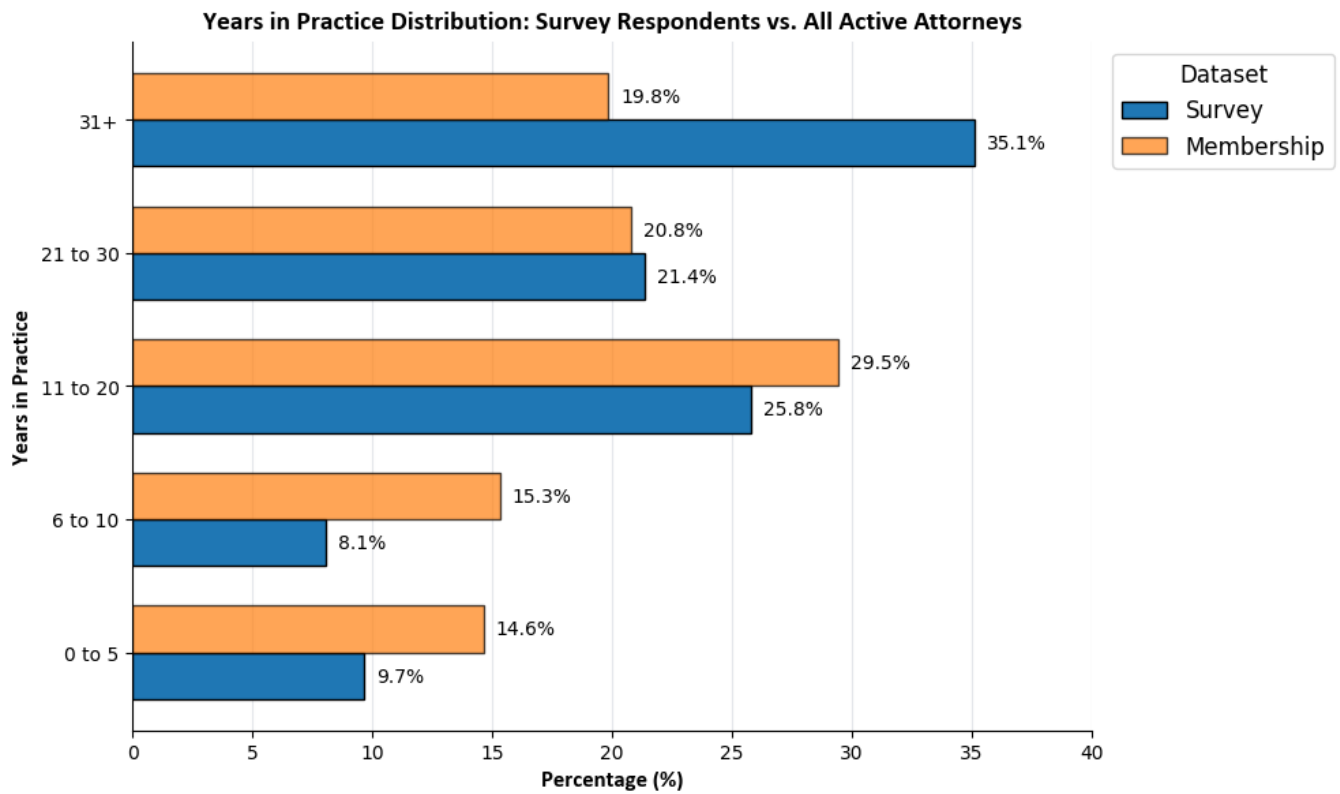
This report visualizes each survey question of the Attorney Oath Survey by showing how responses vary according to the respondent’s years in practice, field of practice, and county.

All visualizations and analyses in this report are based solely on responses that were submitted; any questions that were skipped or left unanswered are not included in the visualizations or quantitative summaries. Additionally, all qualitative response summaries were generated using Microsoft Copilot.

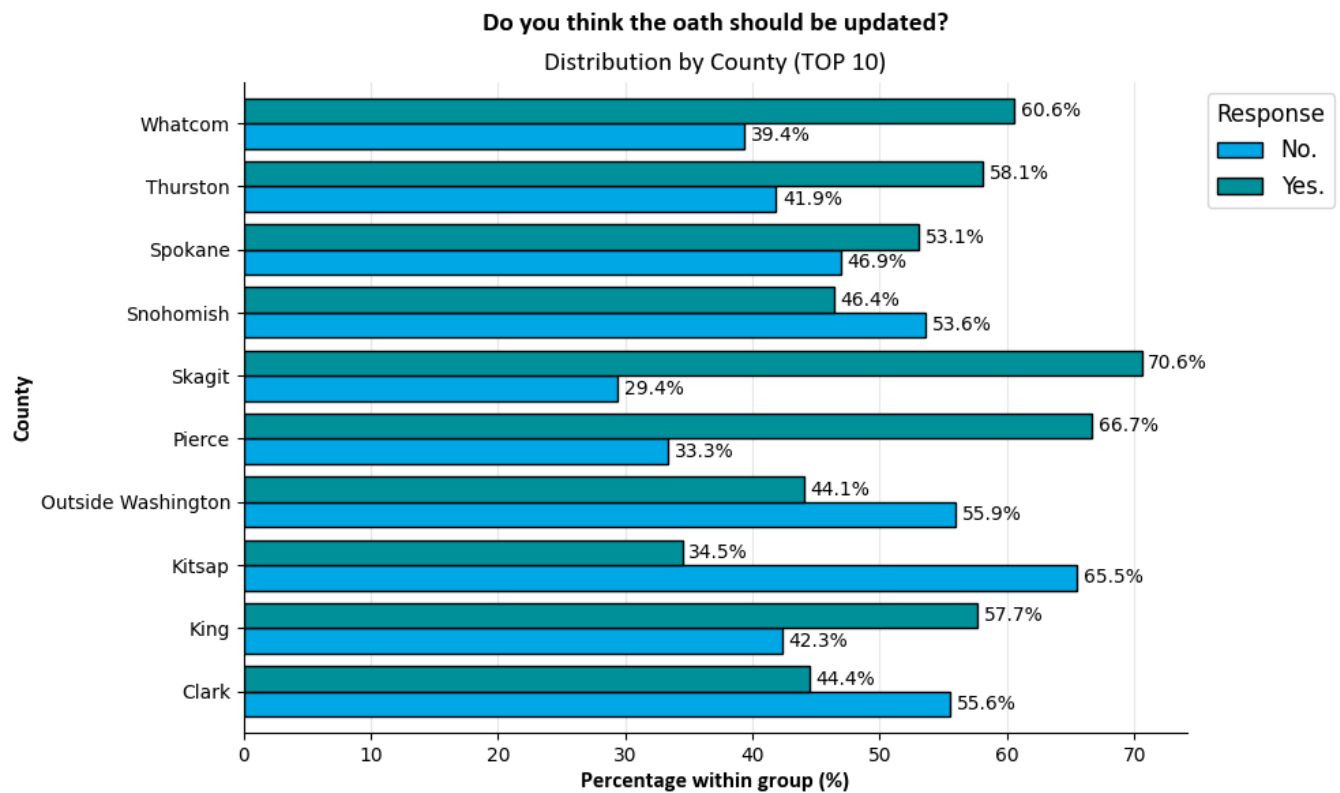
Comparison of Survey Respondents and Active Attorneys

Visualizing the distribution of survey respondents alongside the full active membership to assess representativeness by demographic category of **County** and **Years in Practice**



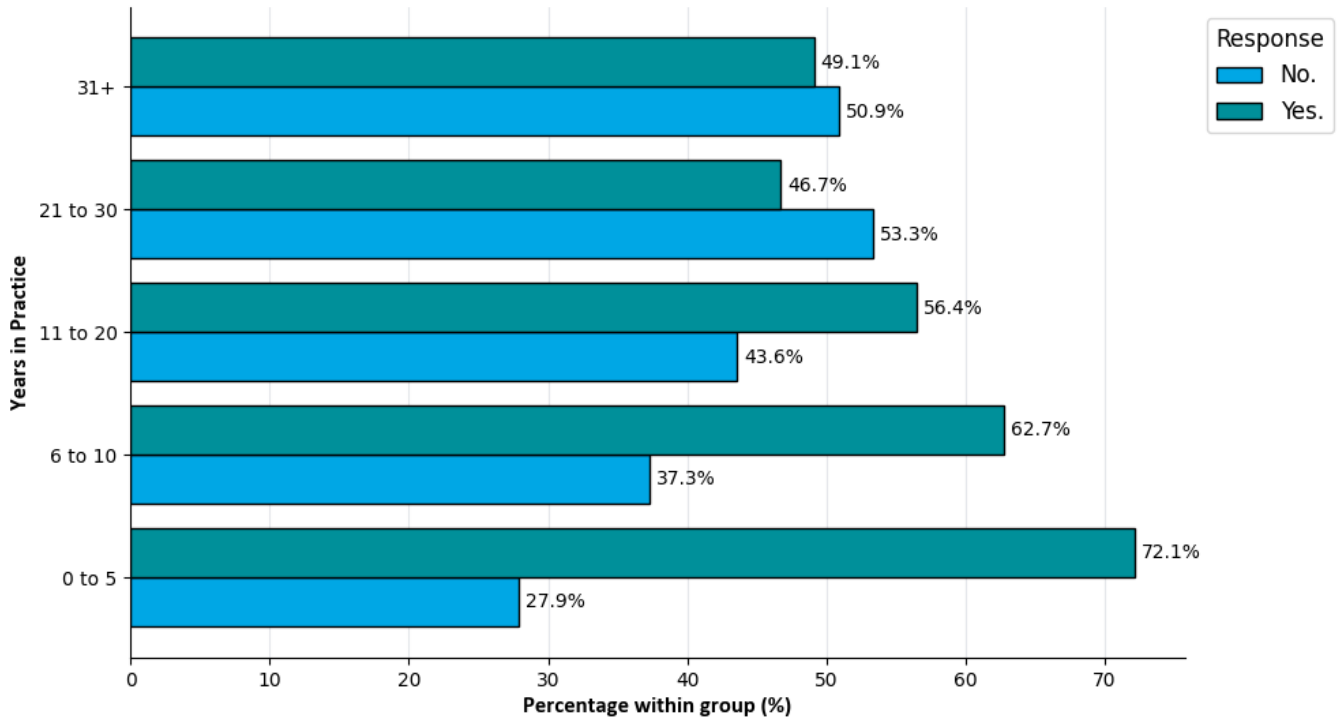


Question 1



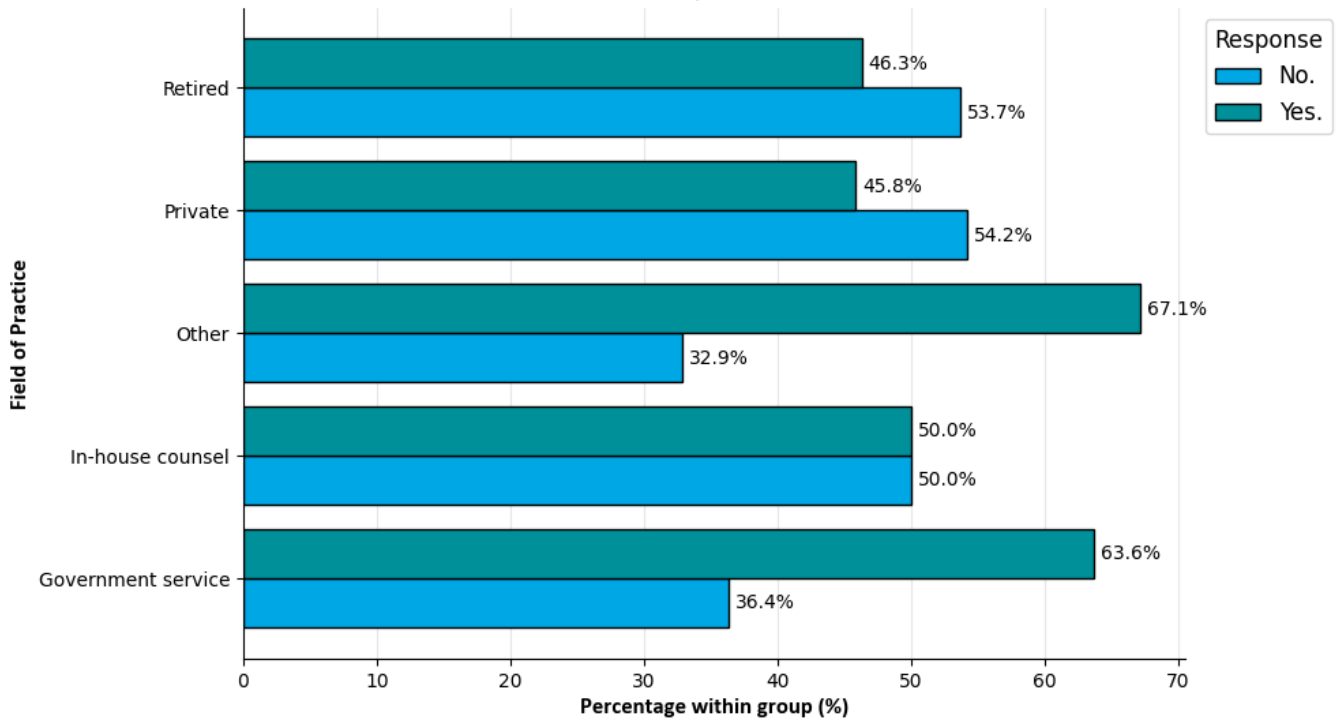
Do you think the oath should be updated?

Distribution by Years in Practice



Do you think the oath should be updated?

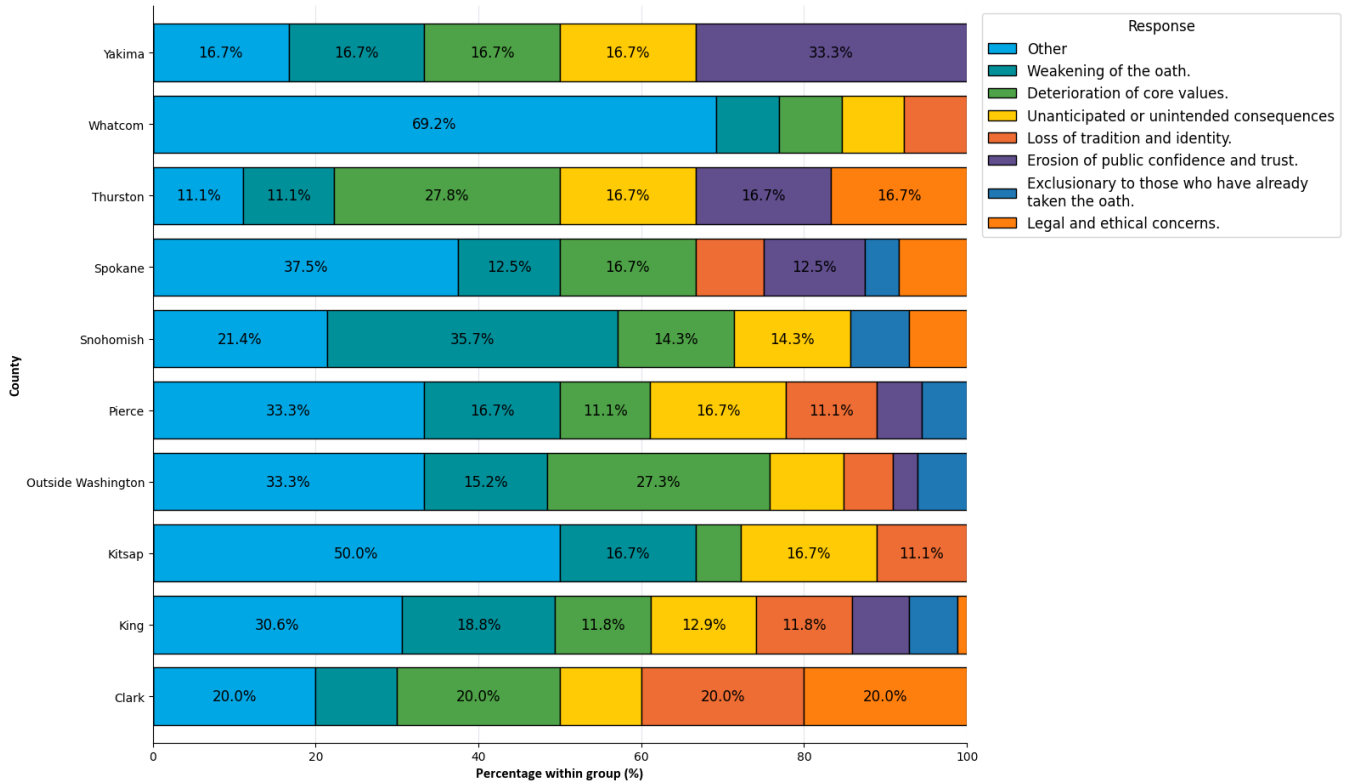
Distribution by Field of Practice



Question 2

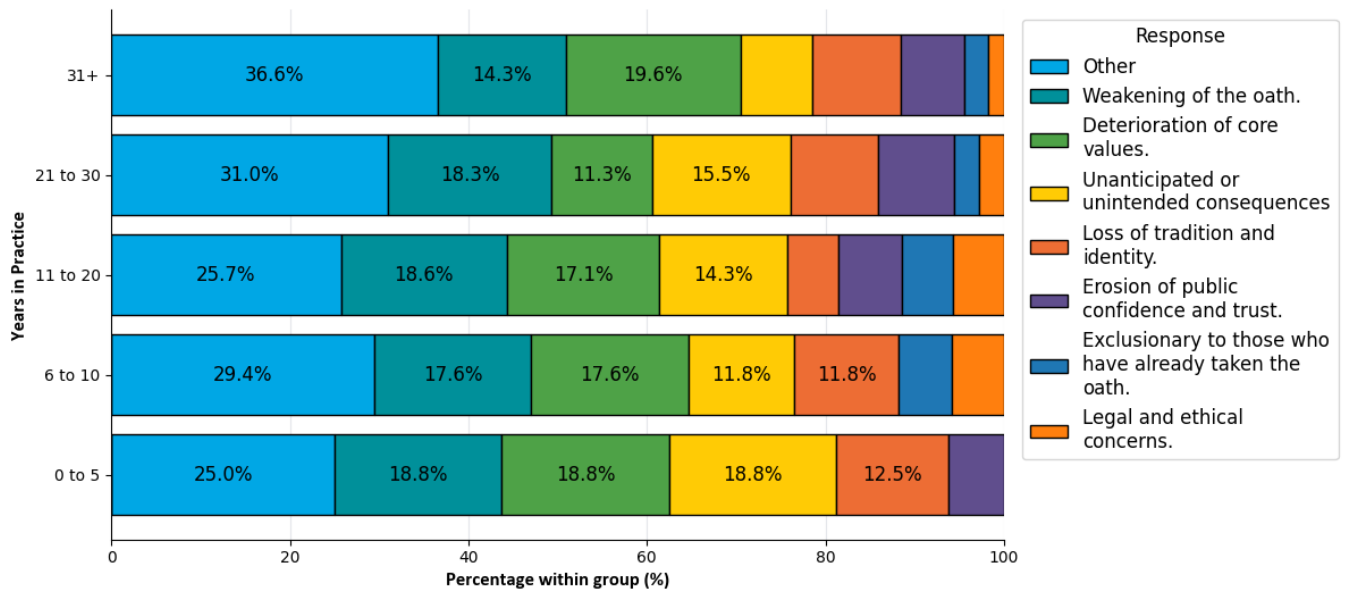
What adverse impacts do you anticipate if the oath were to change?

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



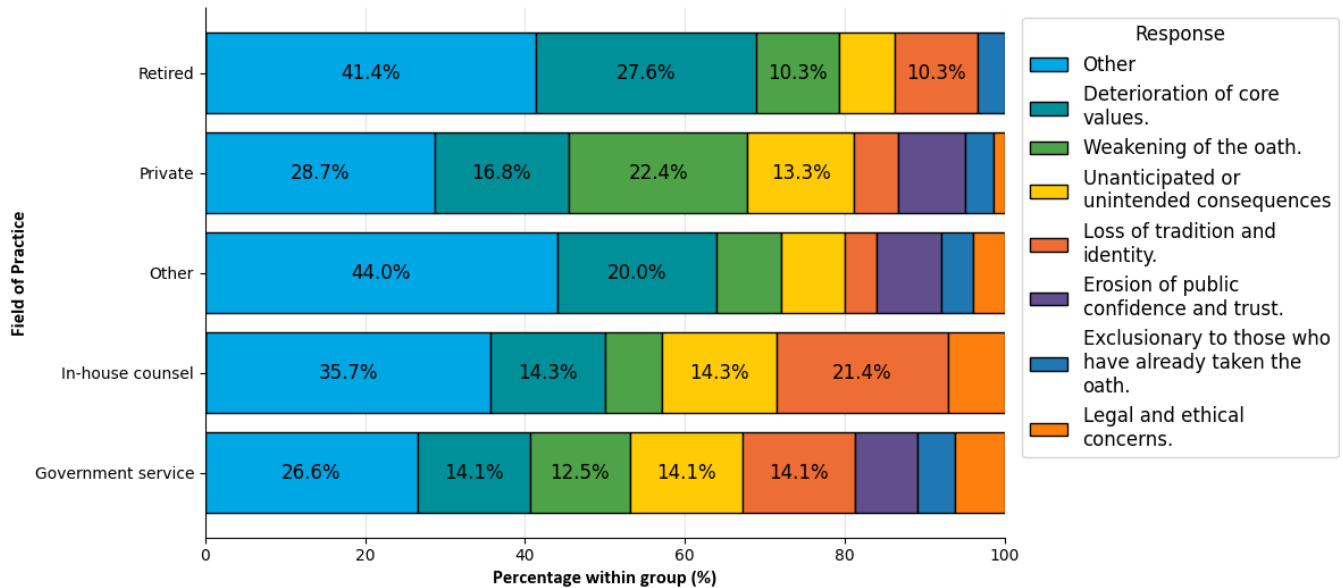
What adverse impacts do you anticipate if the oath were to change?

Distribution by Years in Practice



What adverse impacts do you anticipate if the oath were to change?

Distribution by Field of Practice



Summary of “Other” Responses: Anticipated Adverse Impacts

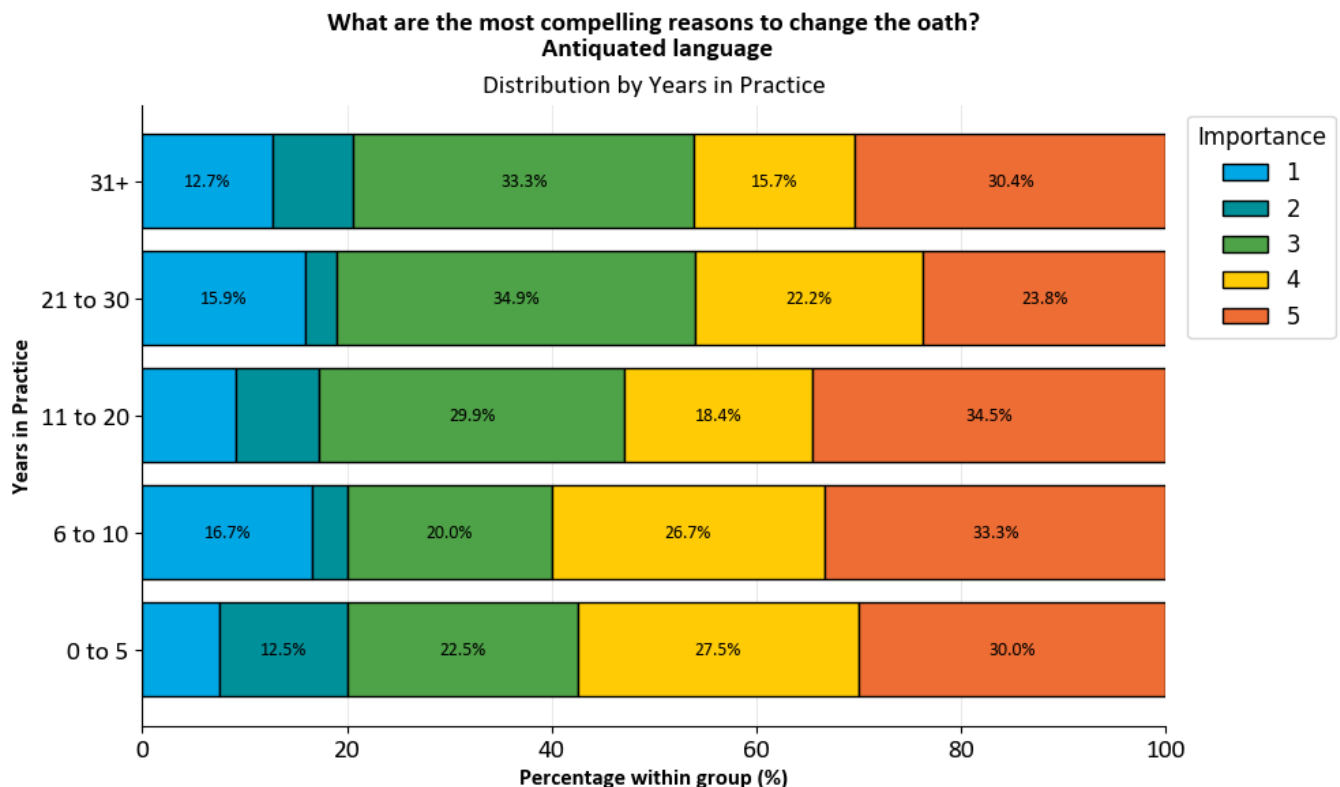
- **Many respondents selected “all of the above”** — they felt multiple adverse impacts could occur, not just one.
- **Politicization concerns** — fear that changes could introduce ideological or partisan language into the oath.
- **Loss of tradition / weakening the oath** — worry that revising long-standing wording could dilute its meaning or importance.
- **Erosion of public trust** — concern that inconsistent or politically influenced changes could reduce confidence in the profession.
- **Unintended or unpredictable consequences** — especially without seeing proposed language or understanding the purpose of the change.
- **Lack of clarity or context** — many said they cannot evaluate impacts without knowing what changes are being suggested.
- **Waste of time and resources** — some believe the oath is fine as is and changing it is unnecessary or inefficient.
- **Concern about survey design** — frustration that only one choice could be selected when multiple applied.
- **A minority expressed no concerns** or said impacts depend entirely on the specific wording.

Question 3

Summary of “Most Important Elements to Retain in the Current Oath”

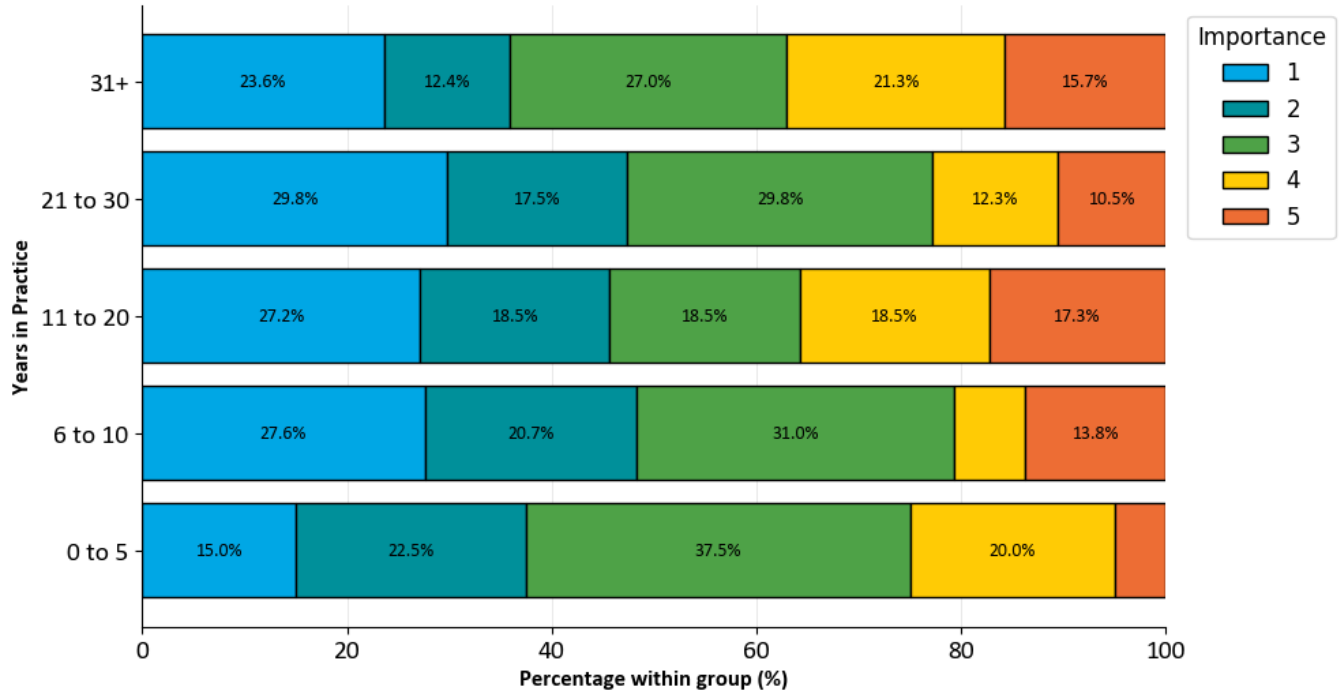
- **Many respondents want the entire oath kept as-is** — they see no need for changes and believe all provisions remain relevant and foundational.
- **Strong emphasis on upholding the U.S. and Washington State Constitutions** — repeatedly identified as the most essential element.
- **Ethics, honesty, integrity, and candor to the court** — widely viewed as core duties that must remain unchanged.
- **Attorney–client confidentiality** — frequently cited as a critical provision to preserve.
- **Commitment to avoid frivolous or unjust actions** — many respondents highlighted paragraph 5 as especially important.
- **Civility and professionalism** — some specifically referenced the “offensive personalities” clause, either valuing its tradition or wanting its intent preserved even if language is updated.
- **Duty to the defenseless or oppressed** — considered meaningful by many, though some noted the need for clarification.
- **Respect for courts and judicial officers** — identified as fundamental to the profession.
- **Tradition and continuity** — many respondents expressed that retaining a uniform oath across generations is important to identity, history, and unity within the profession.
- **Concerns about change** — numerous comments warned against politicizing the oath, adding modern ideological language, or incorporating “trendy” concepts.
- **Some support minor modernizing edits** — but only if the core concepts and intent remain intact.

Question 4



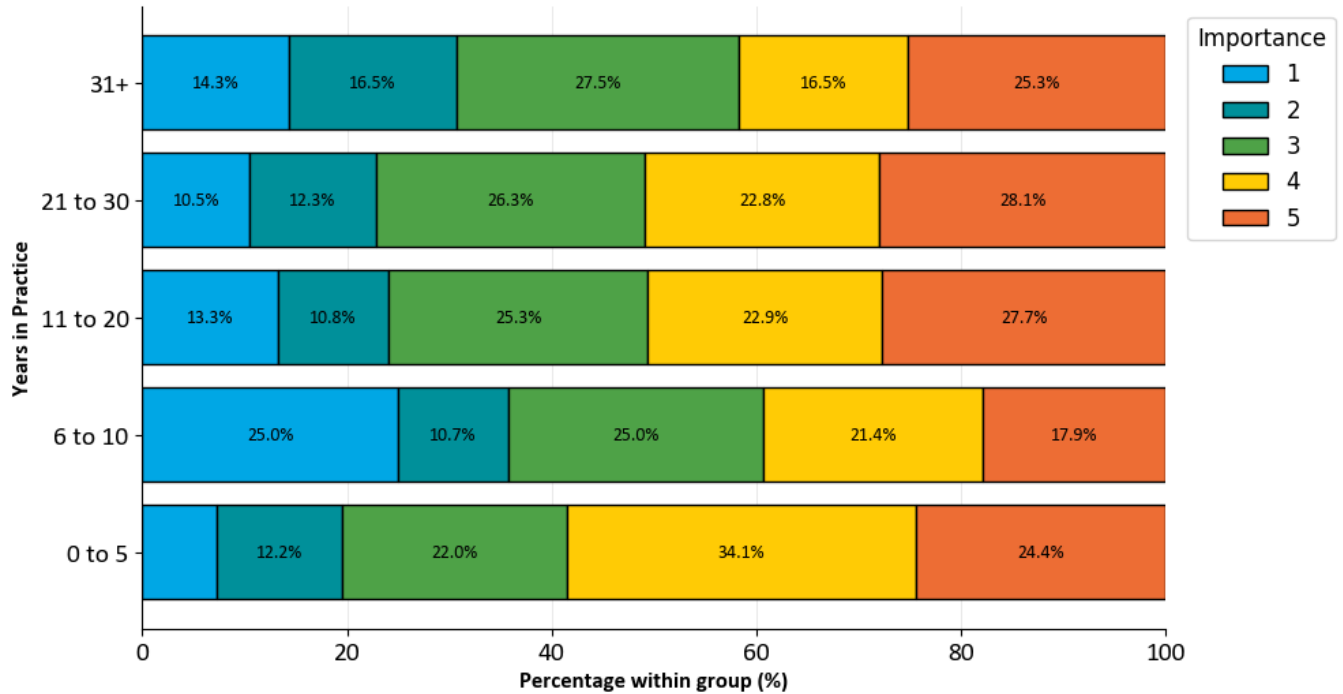
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Not inspirational

Distribution by Years in Practice



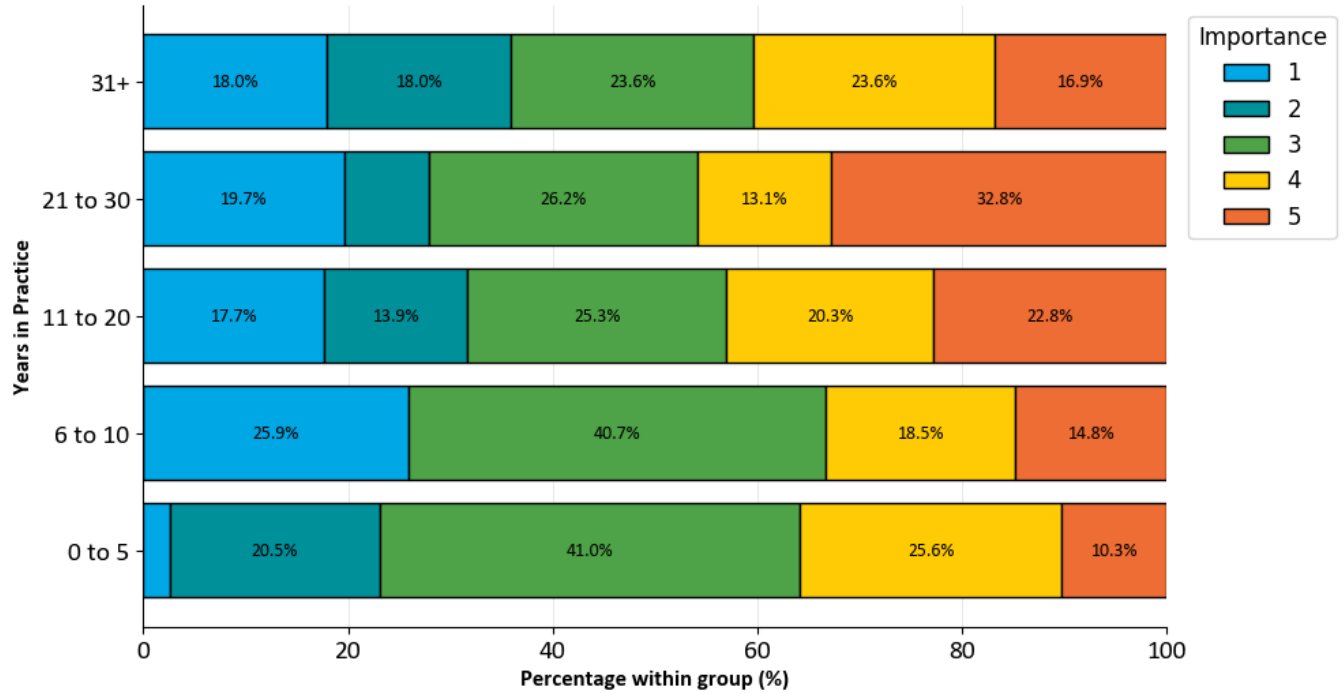
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Confusing

Distribution by Years in Practice



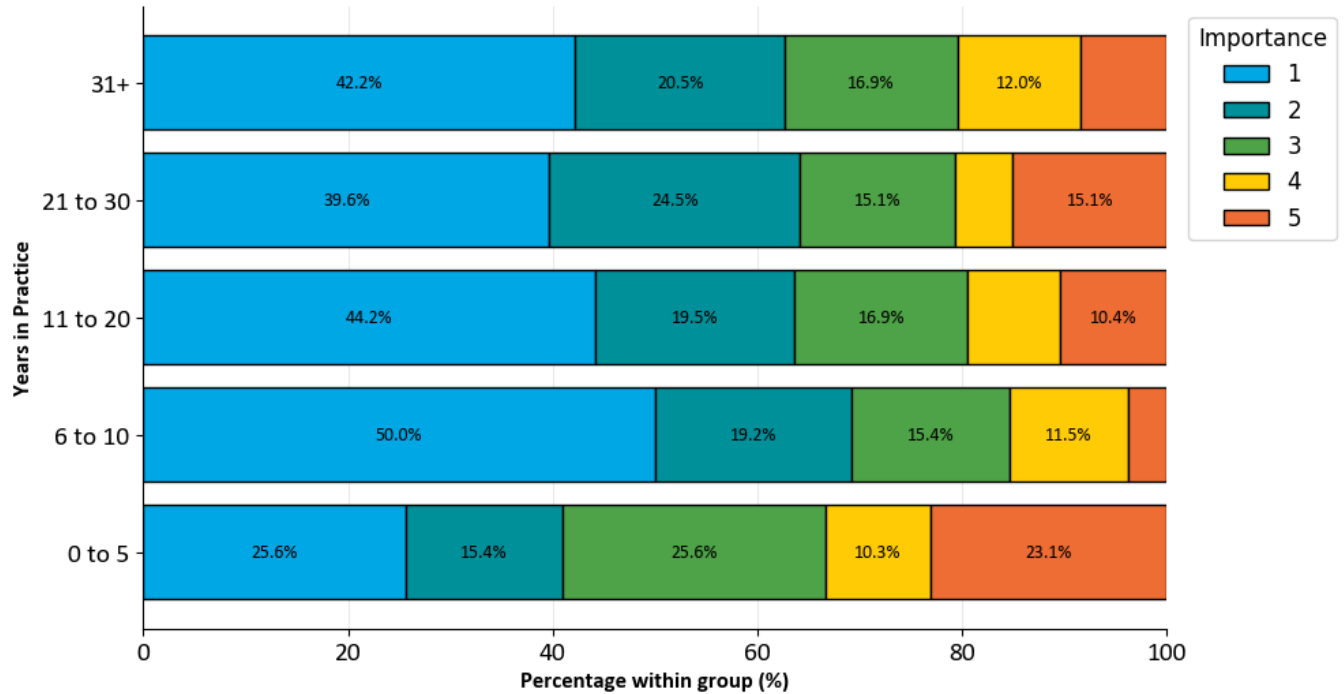
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Missing concepts

Distribution by Years in Practice



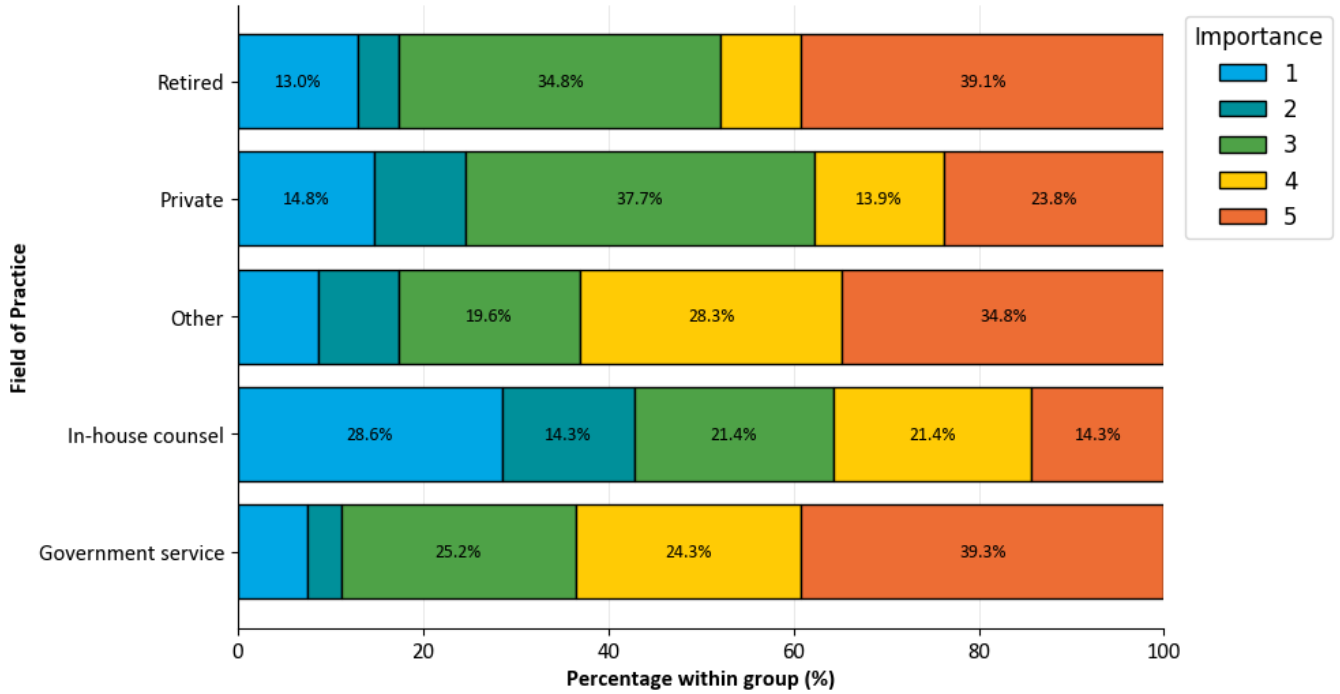
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Concepts you do not agree with

Distribution by Years in Practice



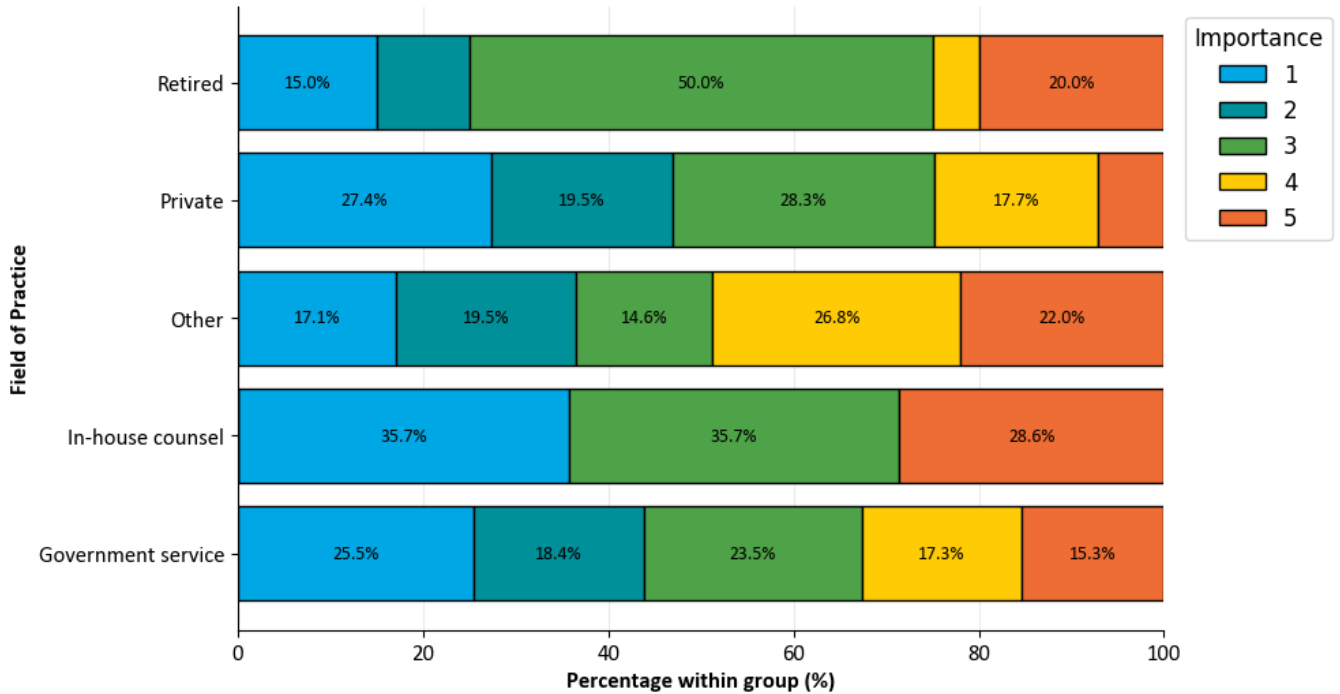
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Antiquated language

Distribution by Field of Practice



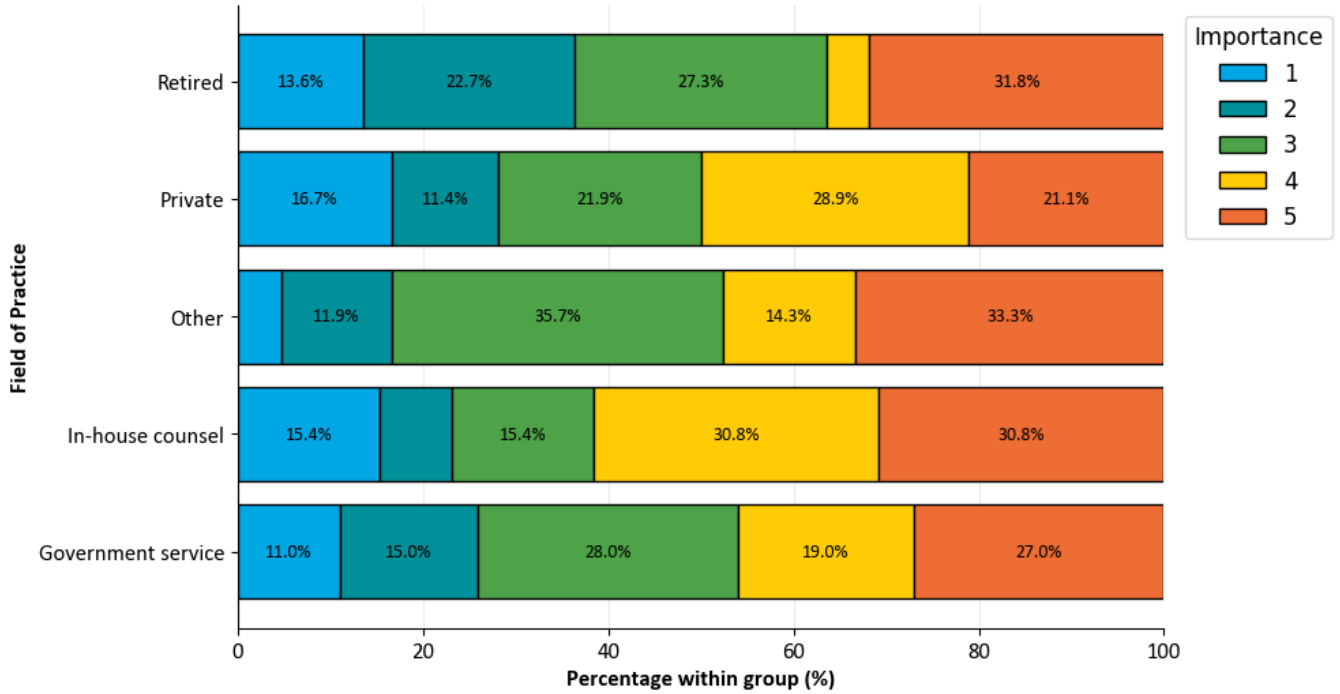
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Not inspirational

Distribution by Field of Practice



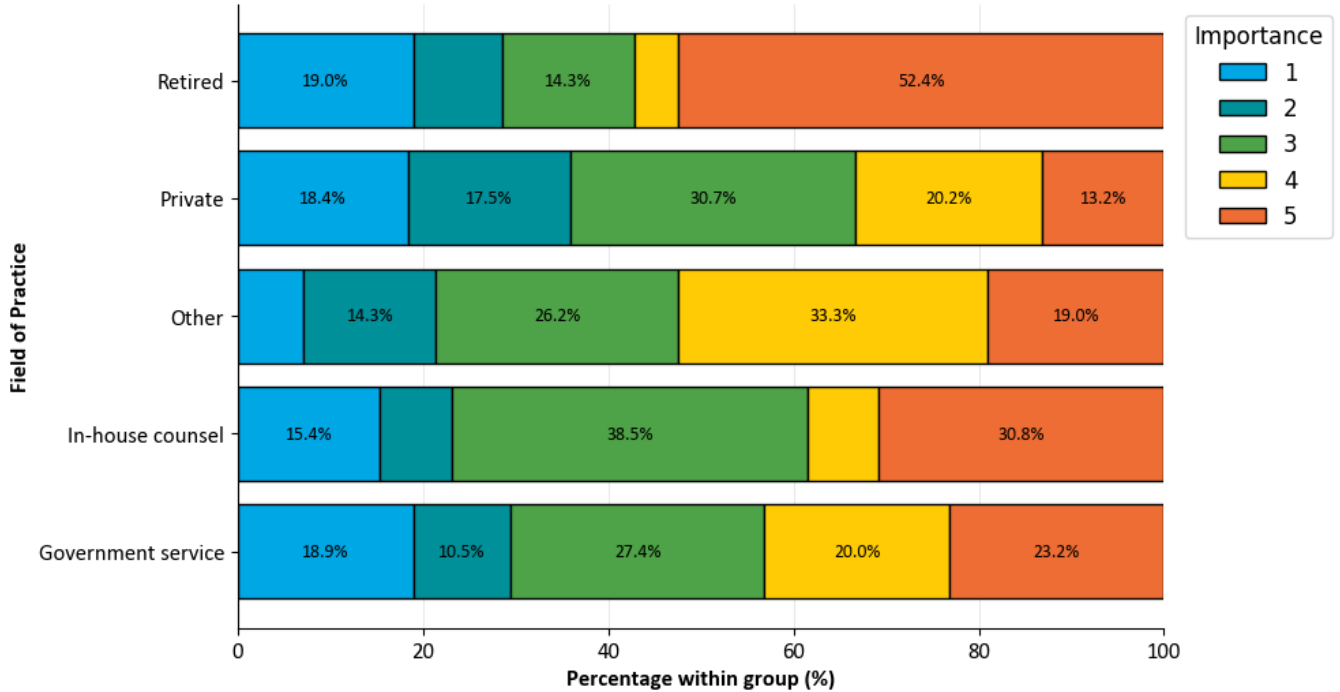
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Confusing

Distribution by Field of Practice



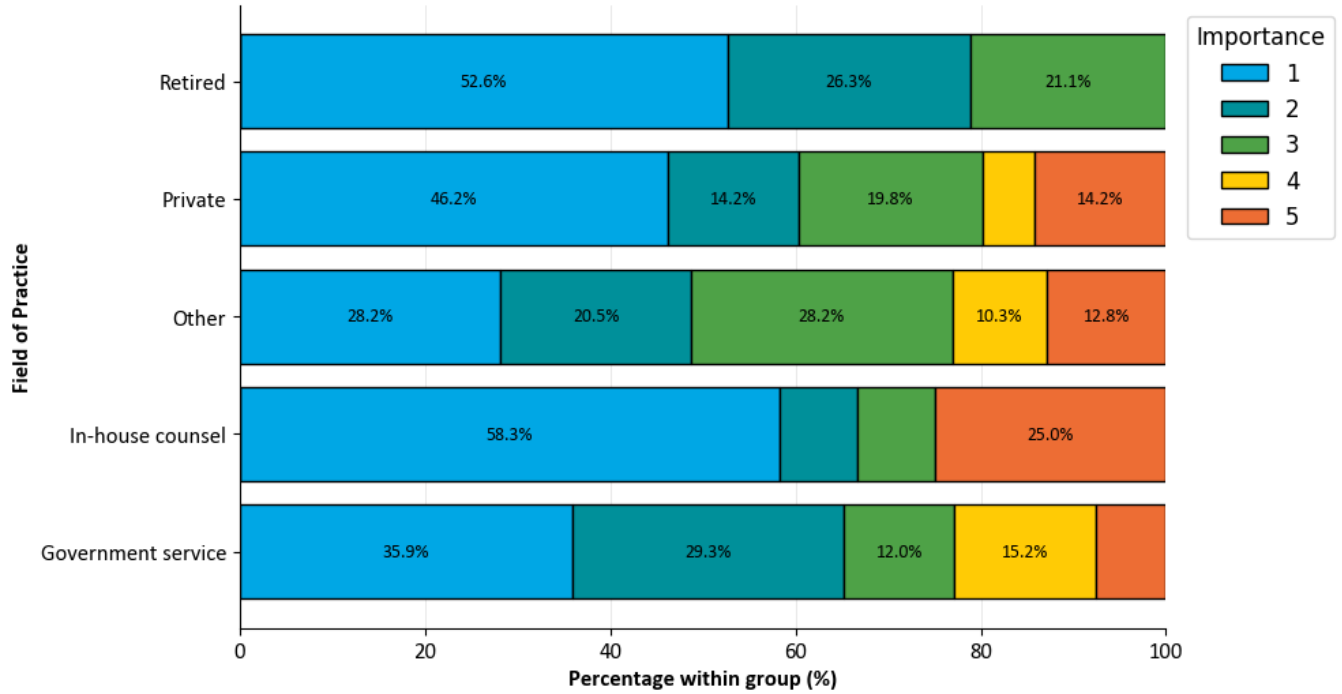
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Missing concepts

Distribution by Field of Practice



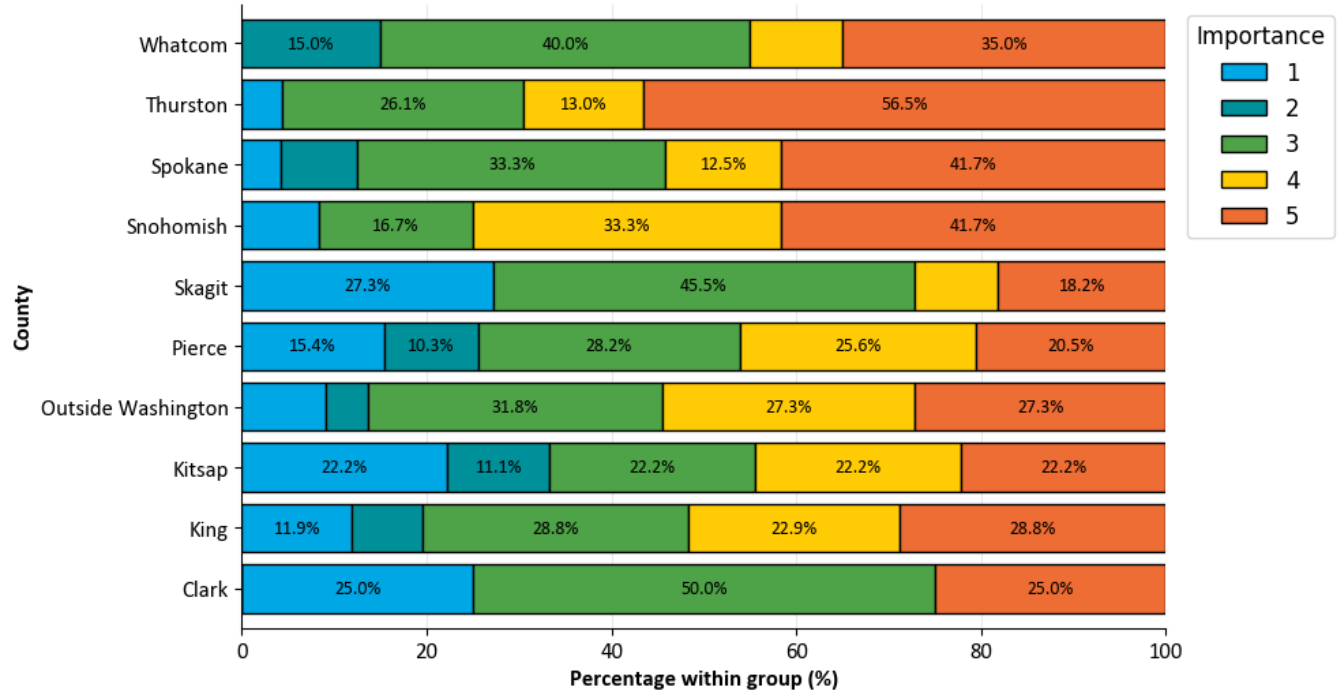
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Concepts you do not agree with

Distribution by Field of Practice



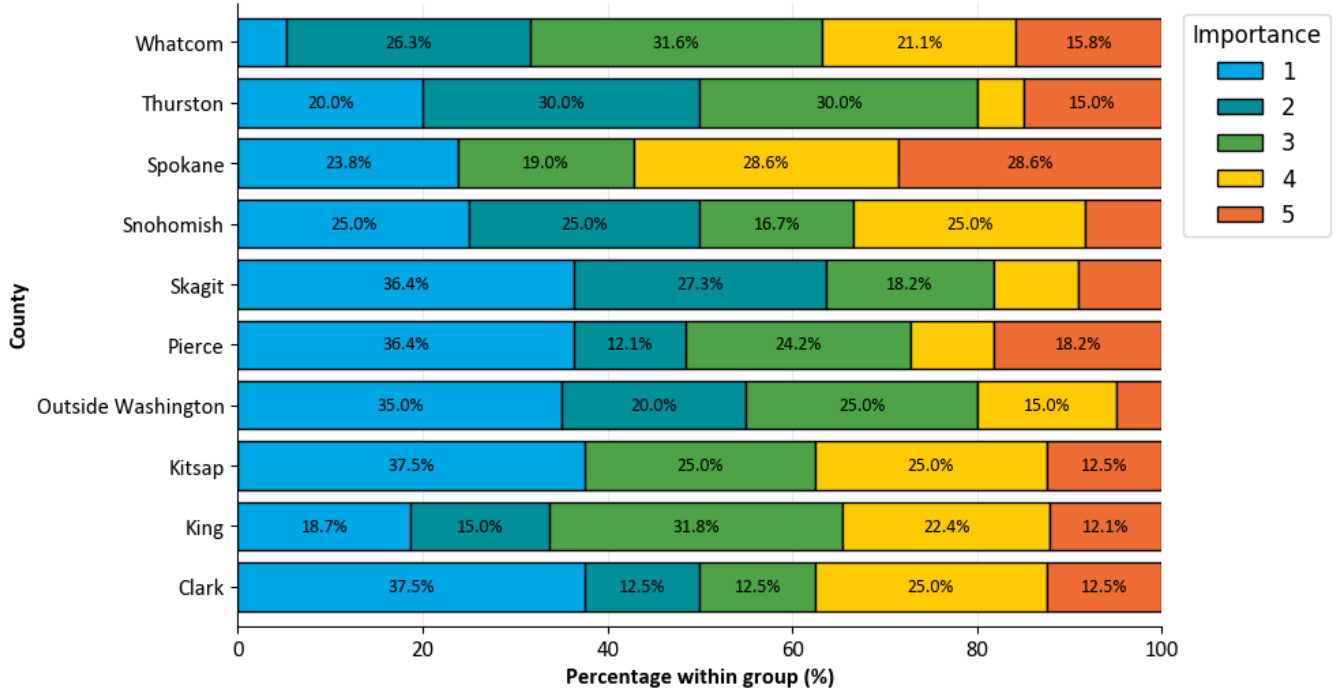
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Antiquated language

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



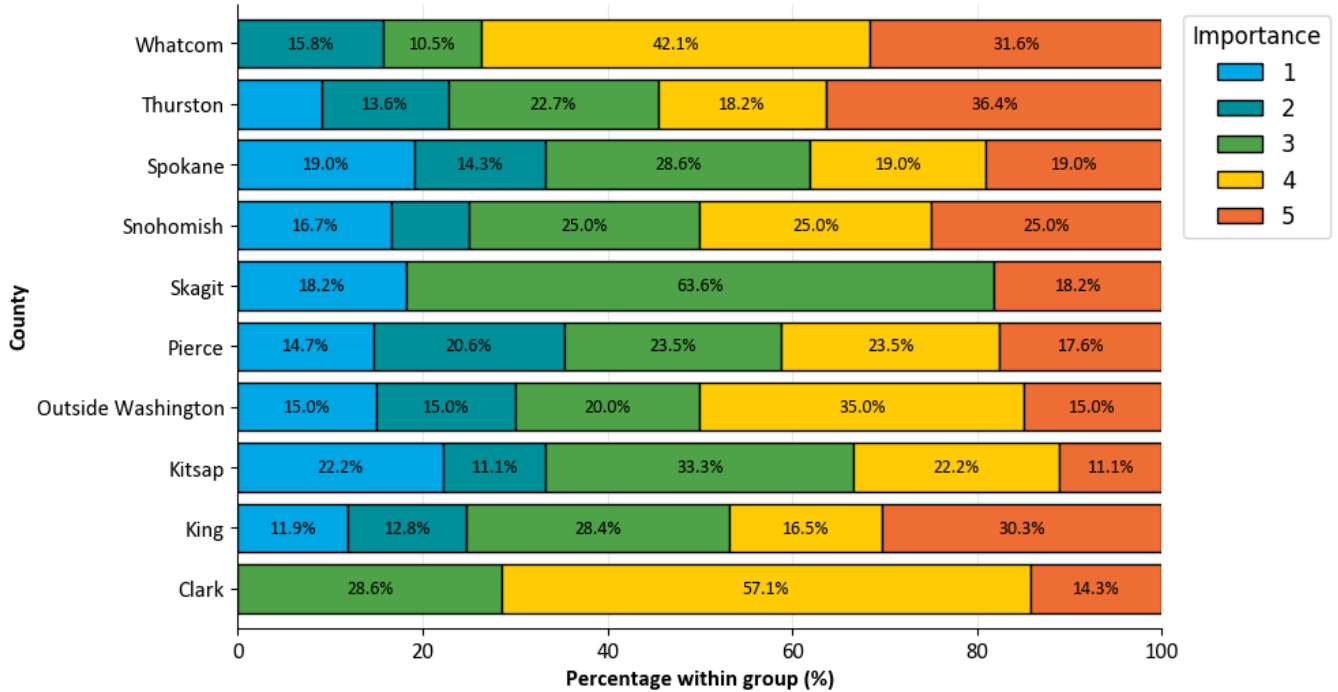
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Not inspirational

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



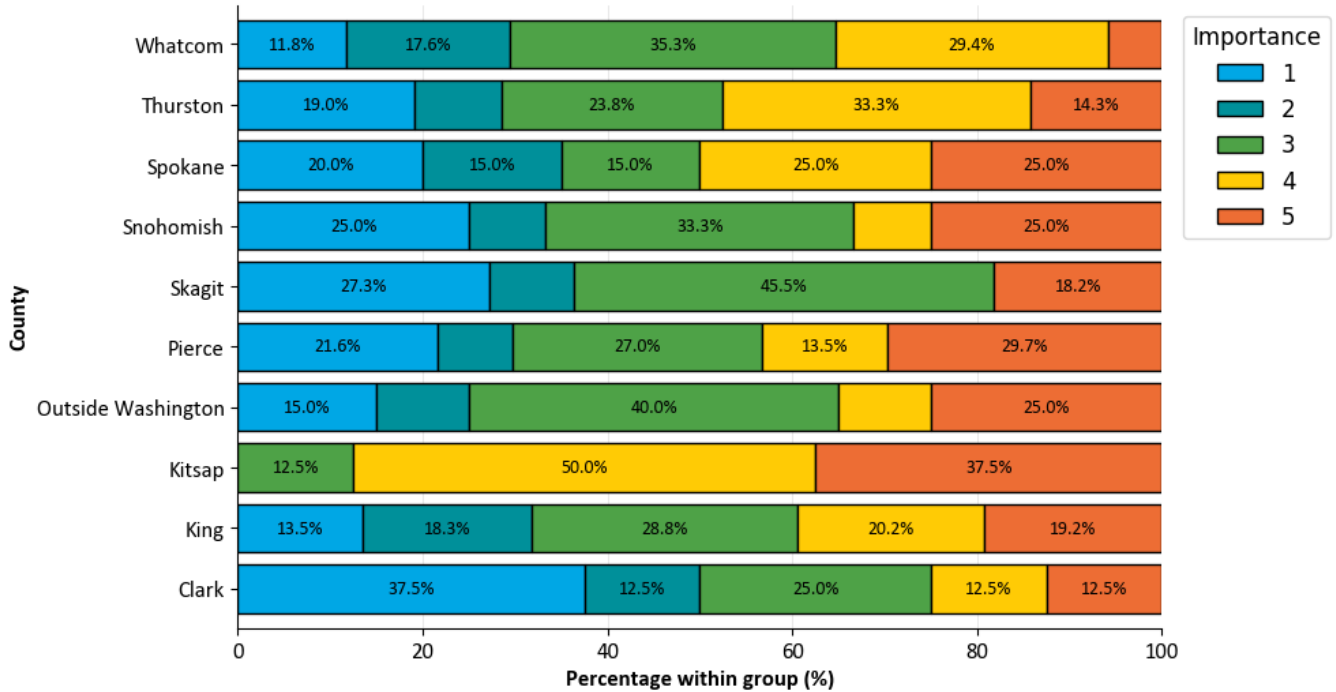
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Confusing

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



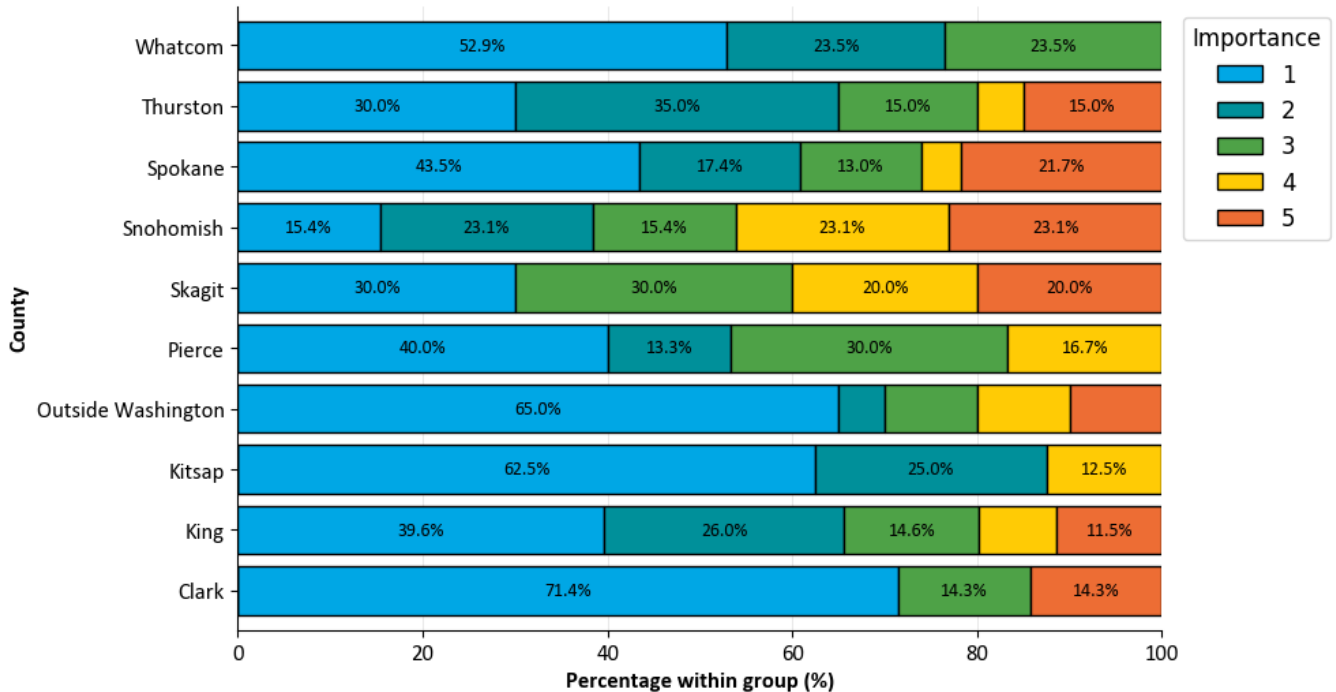
What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Missing concepts

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What are the most compelling reasons to change the oath? Concepts you do not agree with

Distribution by County (TOP 10)

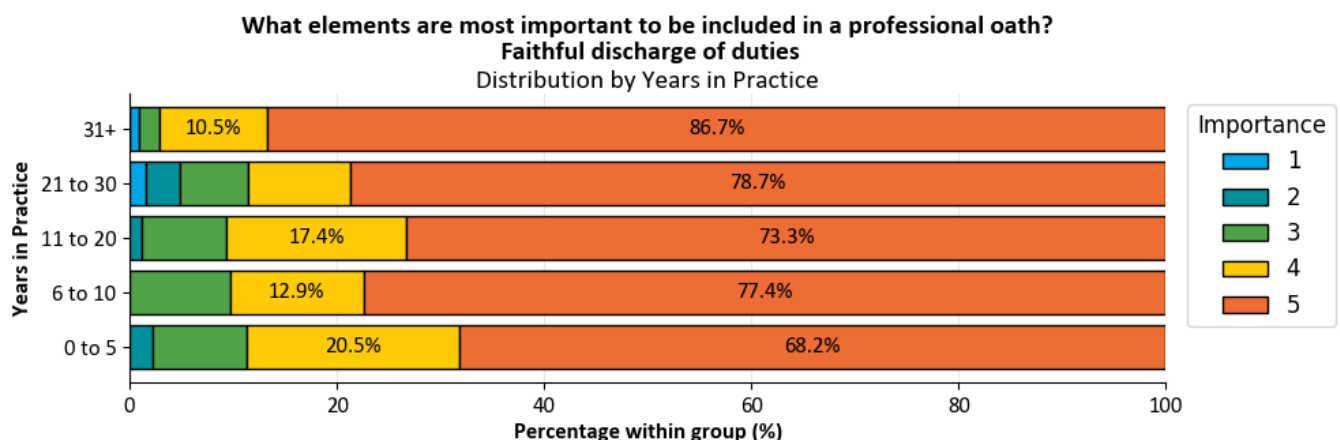
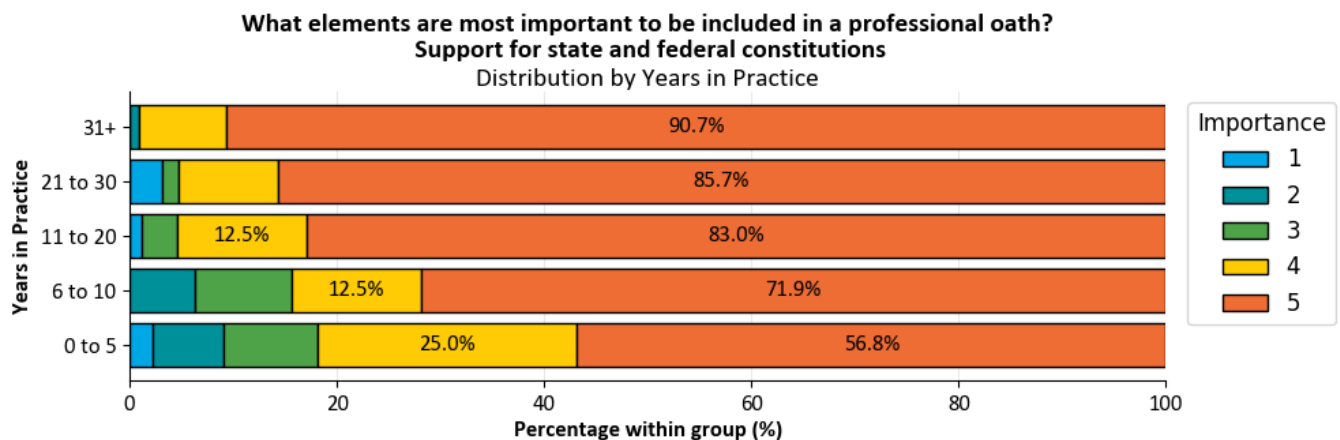


Summary of "Other" Responses: Reasons to Change the Oath

- **The oath is too long** — many respondents said it should be shorter, simpler, and more concise.

- **Use plain, modern language** — several cited confusing, outdated, or grammatically incorrect phrasing (especially “abstain from all offensive personalities”).
- **Improve clarity** — some sections are vague, contradictory, or difficult to interpret.
- **Align with RPCs** — respondents noted redundancy, suggesting the oath could simply reference the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- **Strengthen constitutional language** — a few wanted “support” changed to stronger terms such as “uphold” or “defend.”
- **Address outdated or unclear provisions** — especially paragraph 8 and parts of paragraph 5.
- **Reinforce civility, integrity, and professionalism** — some supported updating language to more clearly state these expectations.
- **Add clarity around modern expectations** — suggestions included referencing respect, candor, or modern values without being ideological.
- **Update to reflect contemporary legal practice** — e.g., acknowledging administrative hearings or money-handling obligations.
- **Some respondents saw no compelling reason to change the oath at all** — but answered because the question required input.

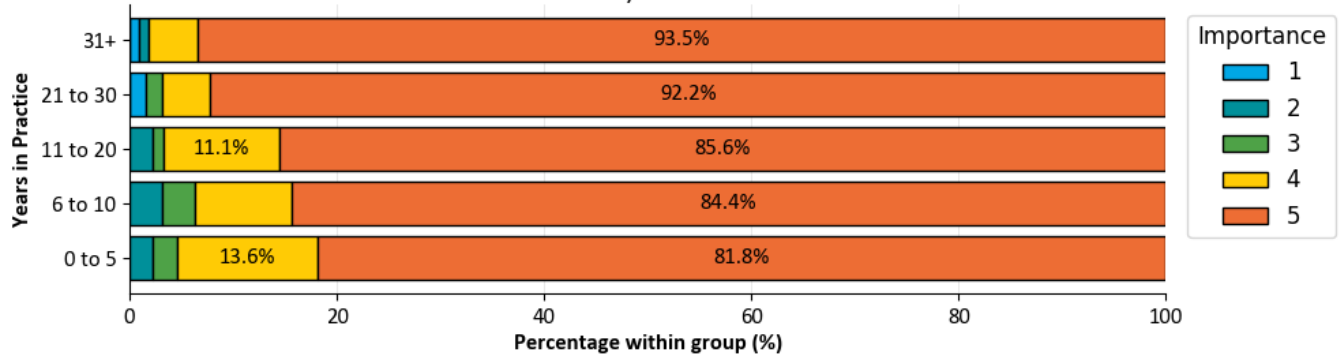
Question 5



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Honesty and honorable conduct

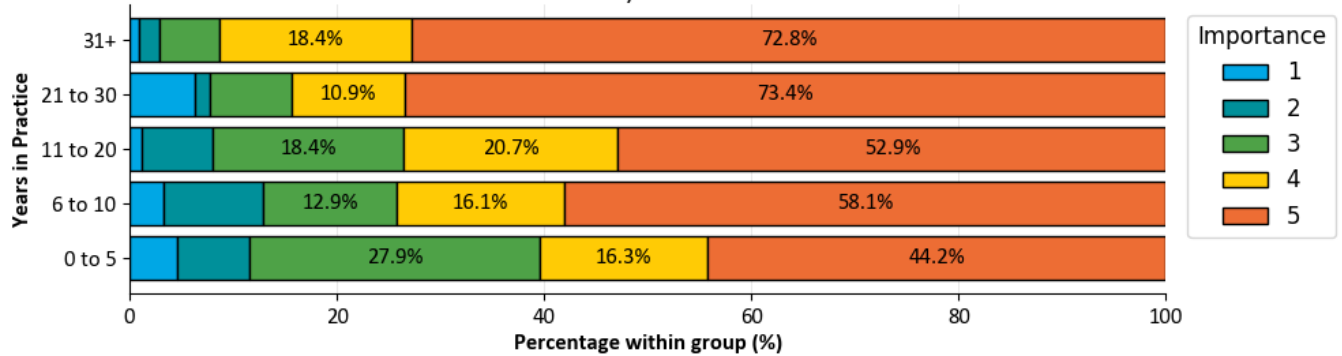
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Maintain respect for the judiciary

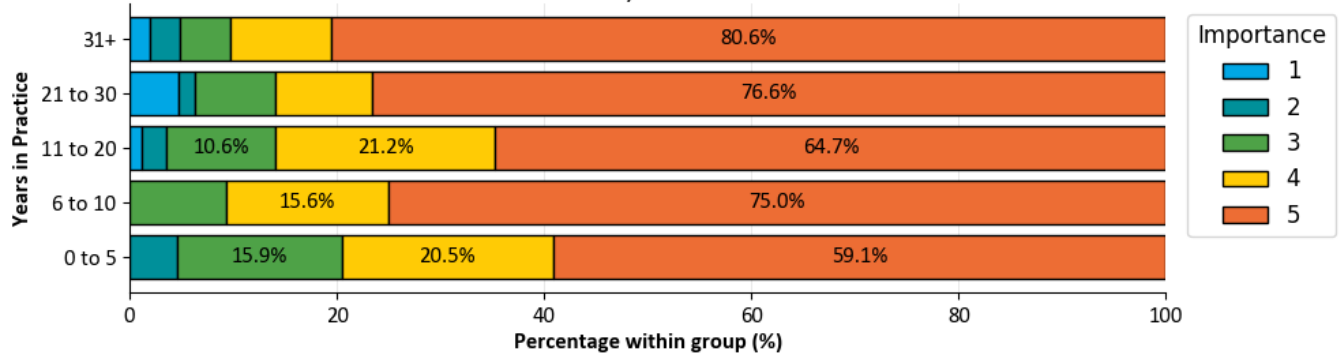
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Confidentiality

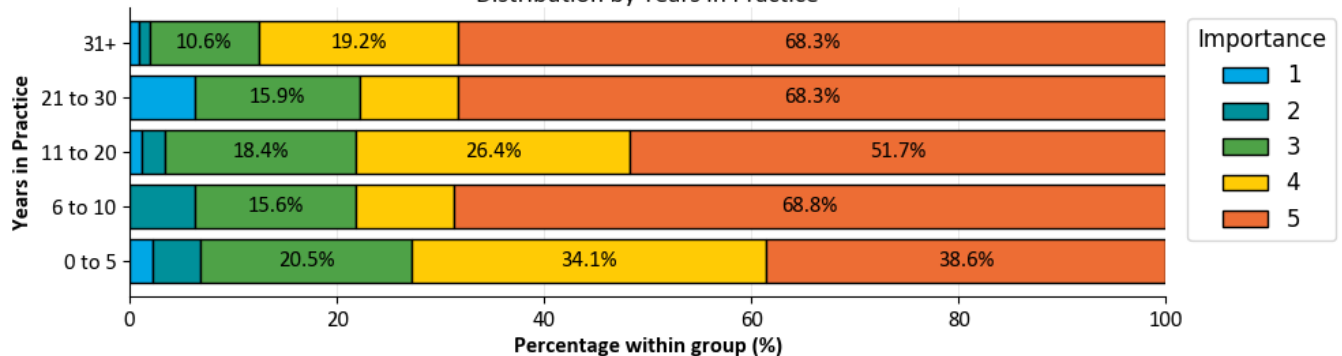
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Civility

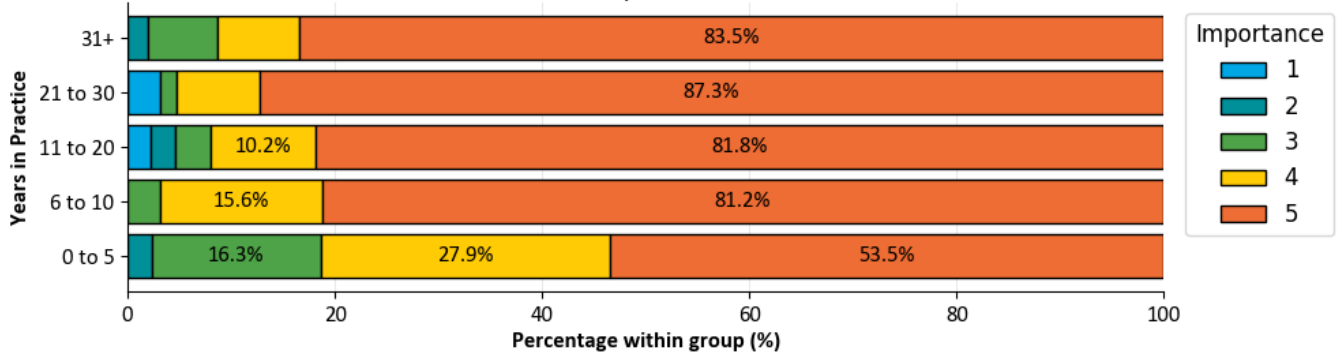
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Candor before the court

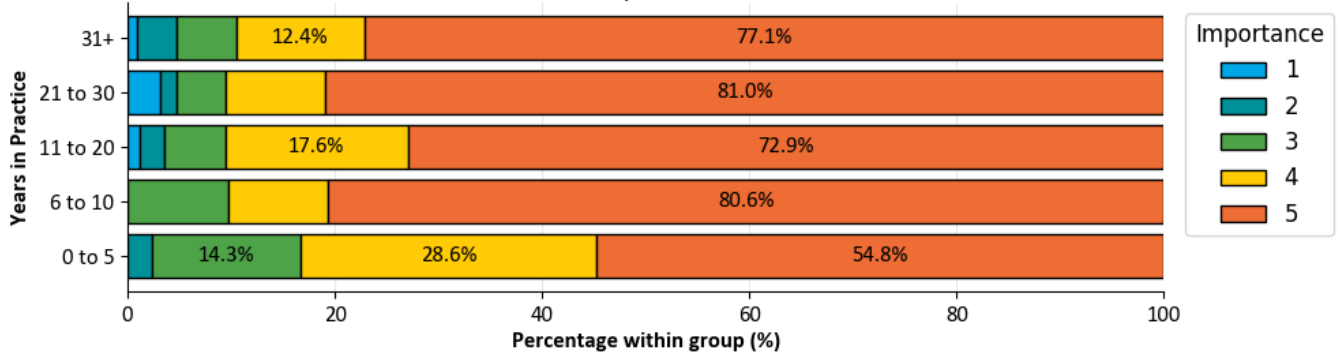
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Avoidance of false and misleading statements

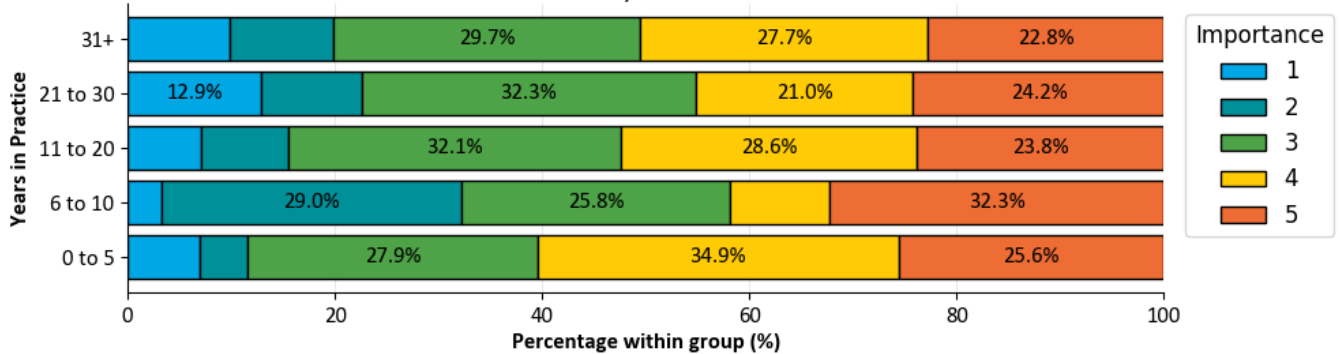
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Public service

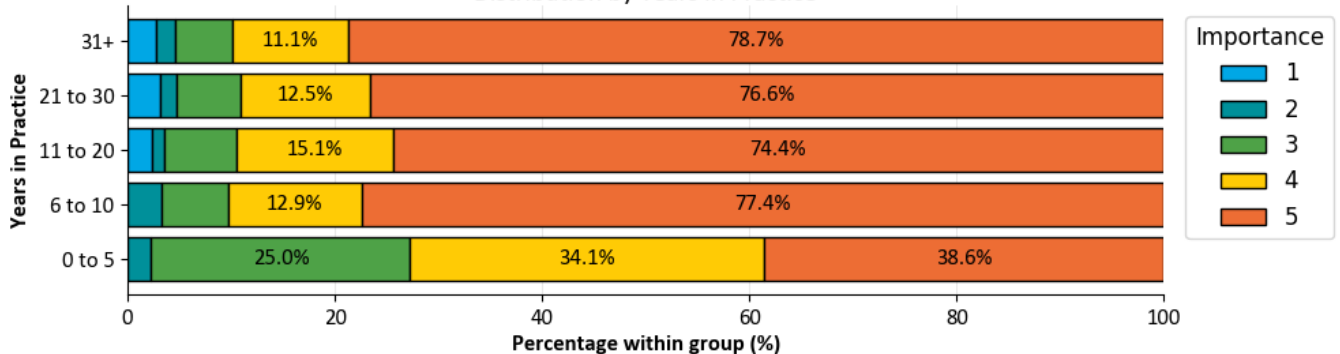
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Adherence to Rules of Professional Conduct

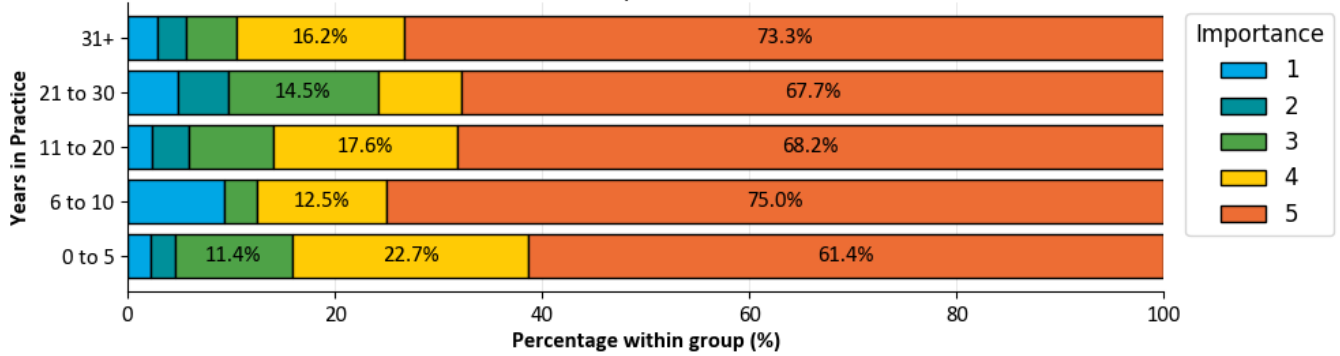
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Integrity of the profession

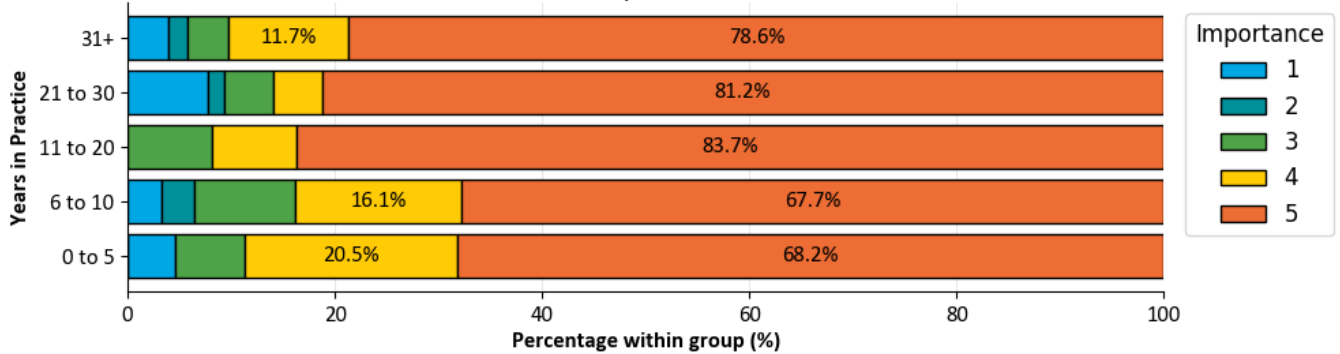
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Upholding democracy and the rule of law

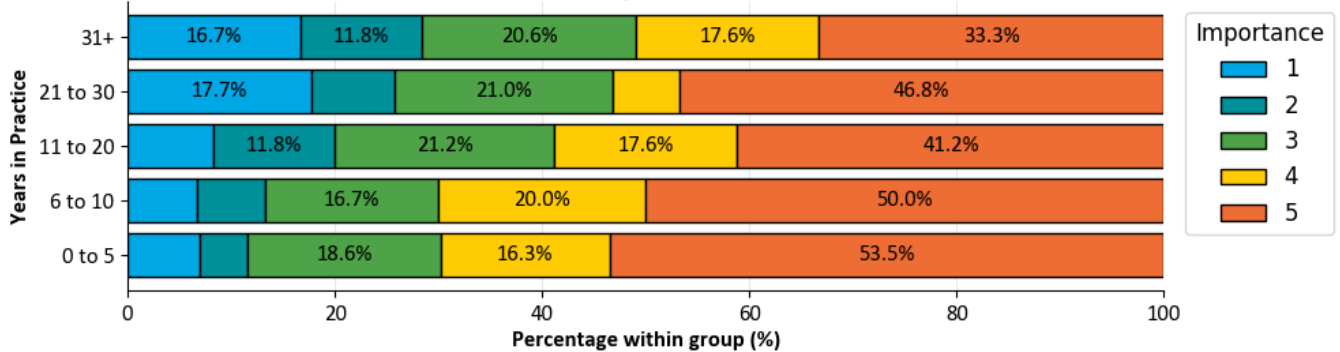
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Ensuring the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms

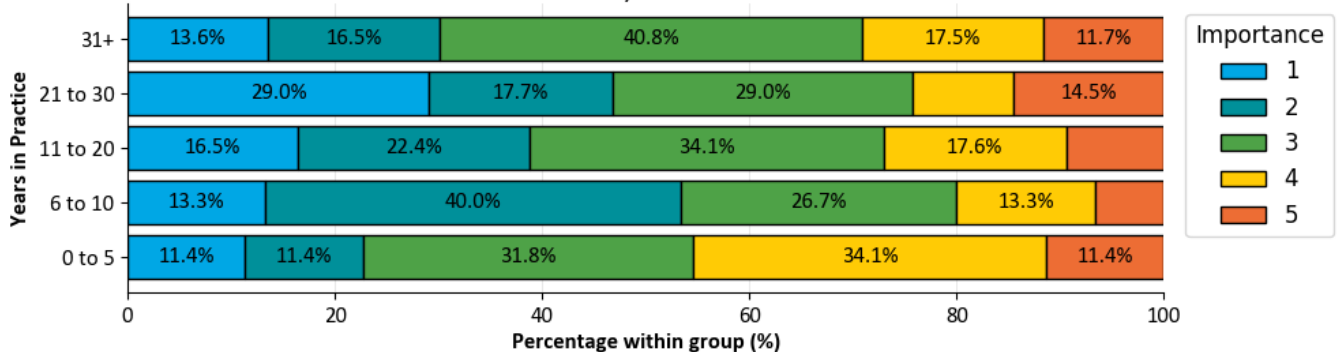
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Pro bono service

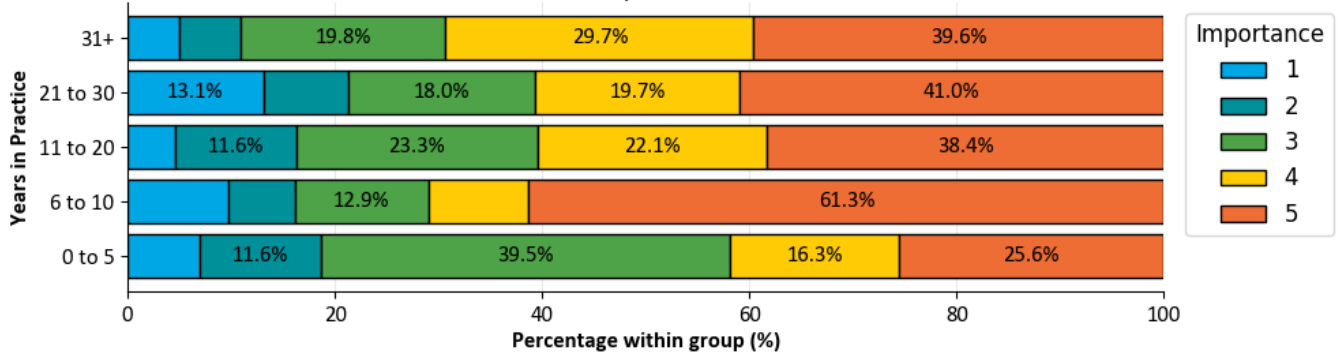
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Dignity of the profession

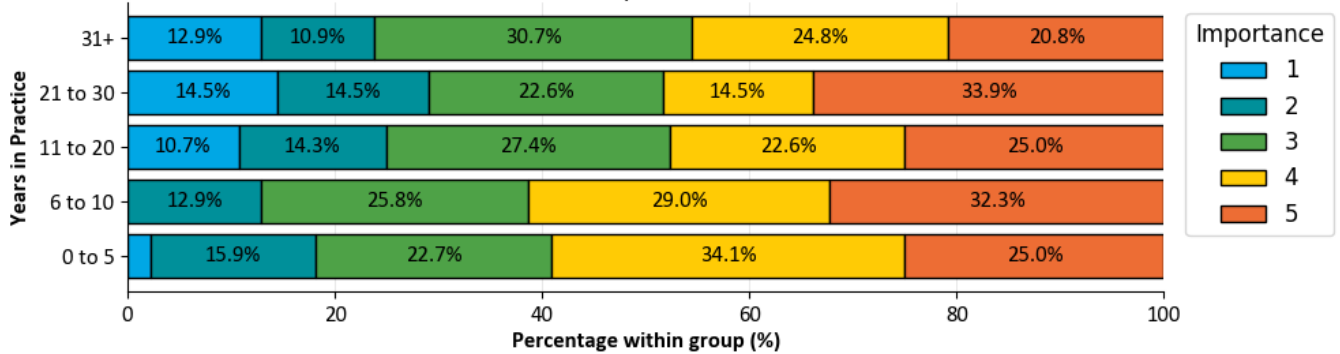
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Improving the law

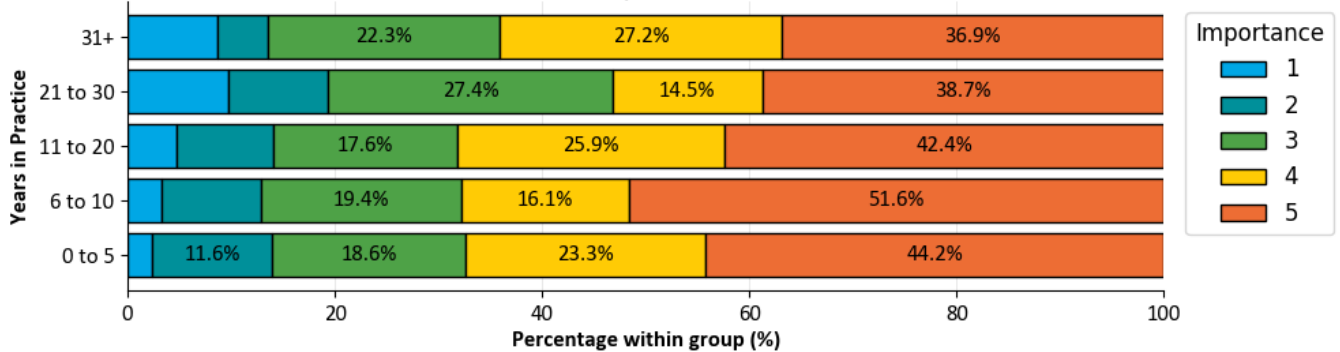
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Access to justice

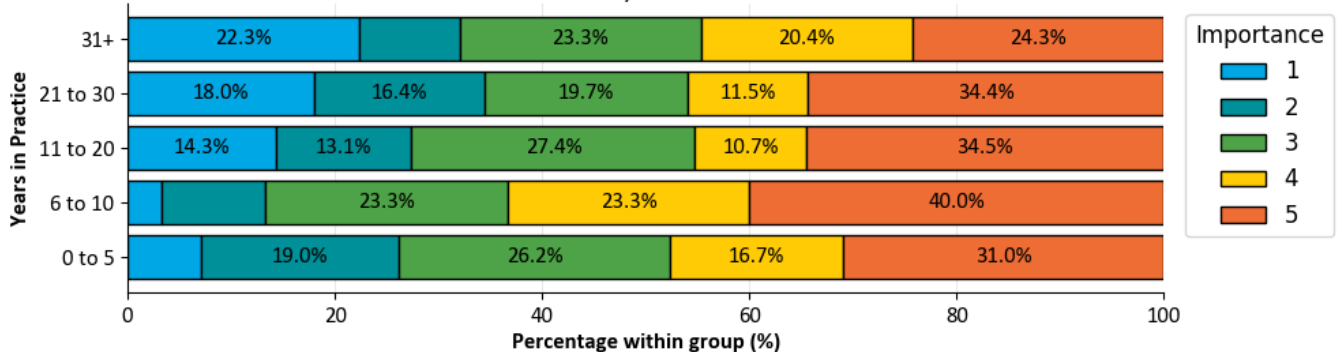
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

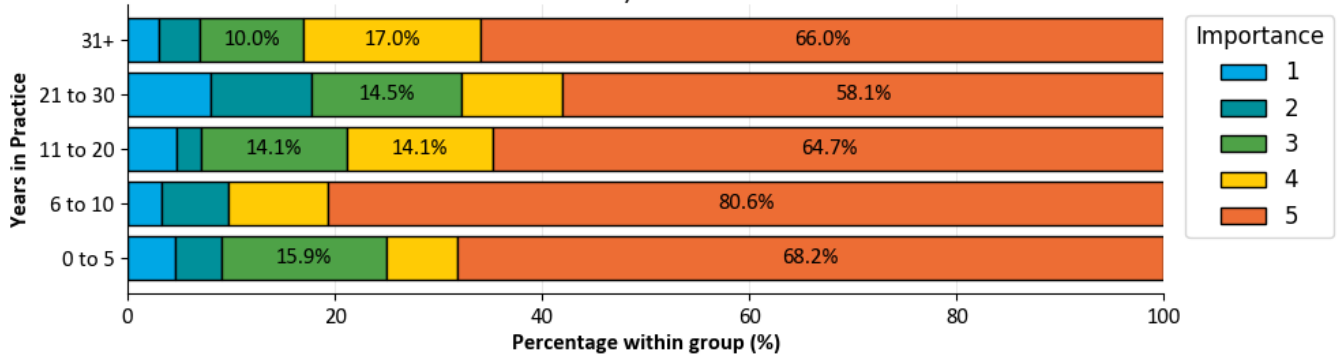
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Justice for all

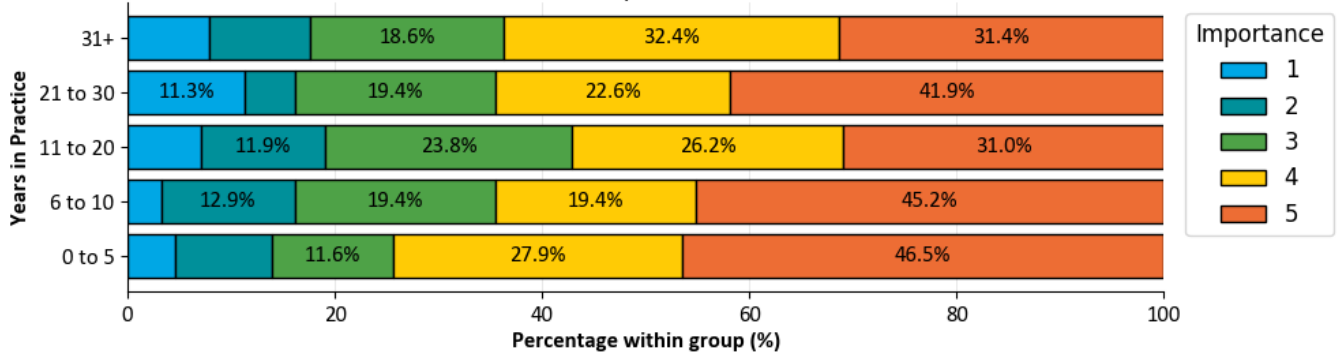
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Legal needs of the defenseless and oppressed

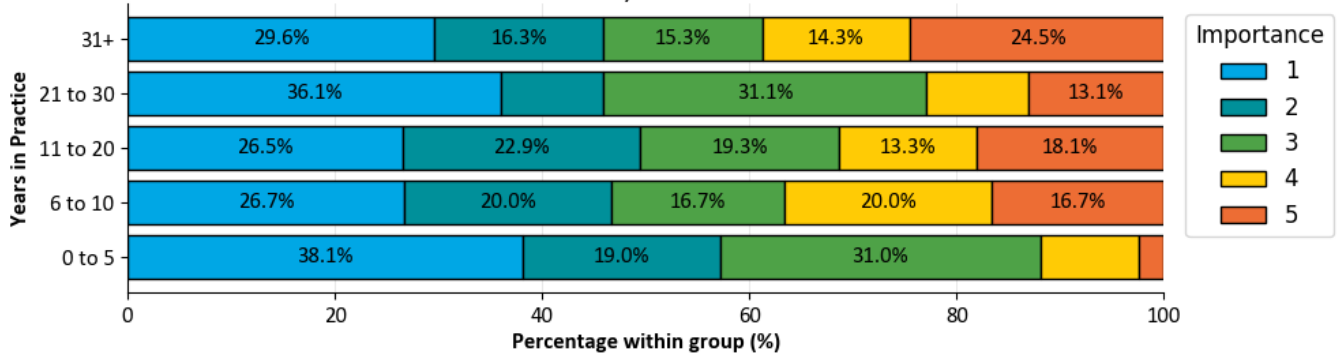
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Abstaining from all offensive personalities

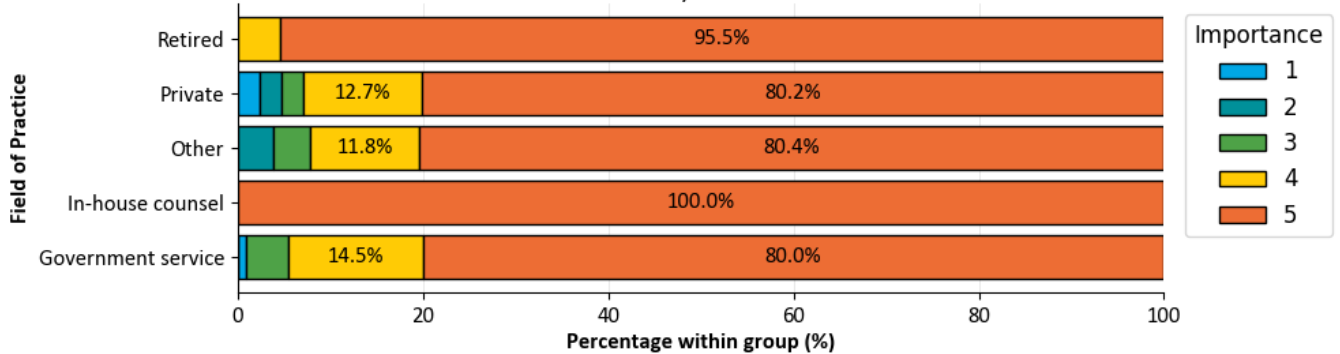
Distribution by Years in Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Support for state and federal constitutions

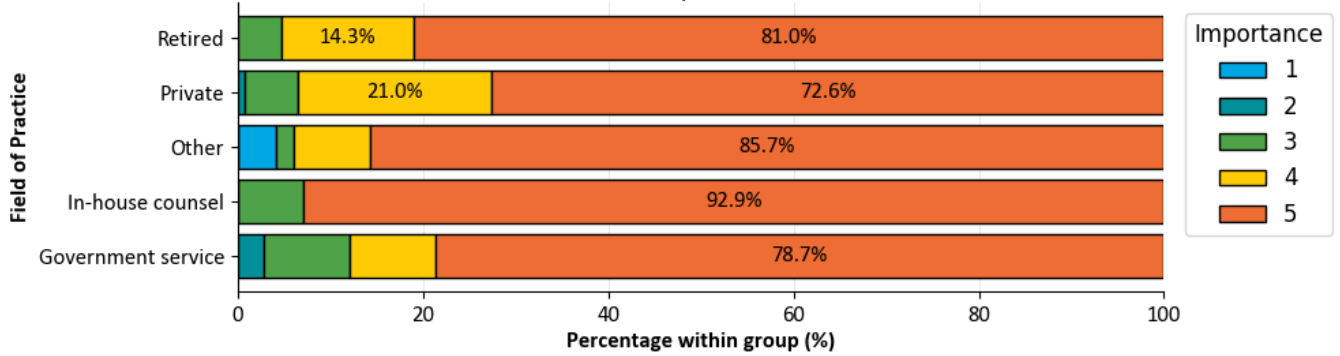
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Faithful discharge of duties

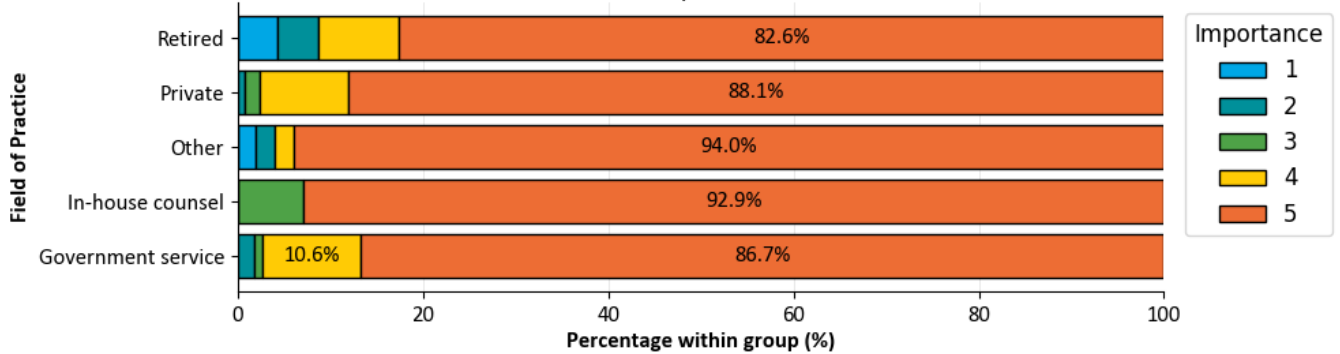
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Honesty and honorable conduct

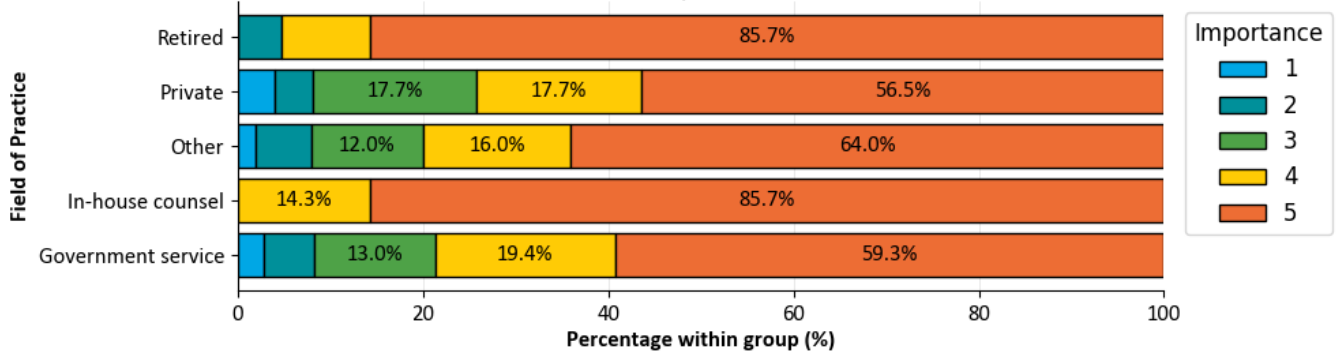
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Maintain respect for the judiciary

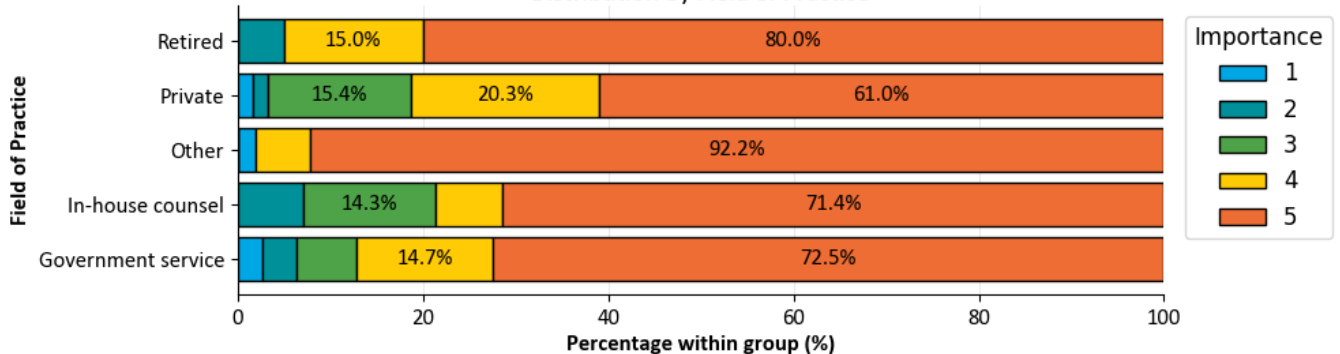
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Confidentiality

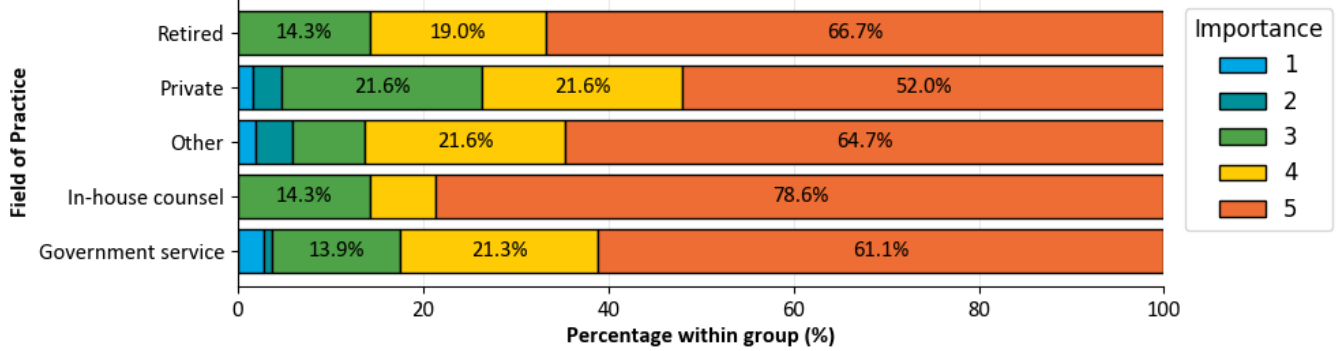
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Civility

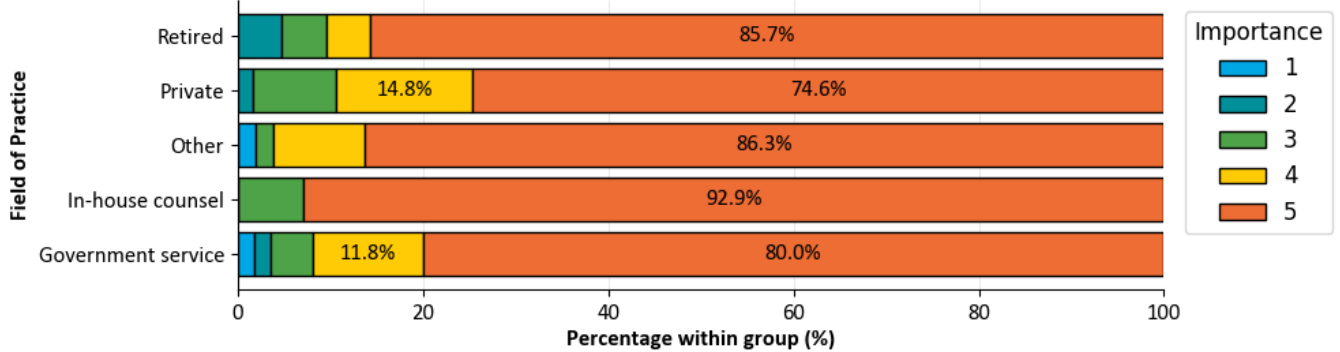
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Candor before the court

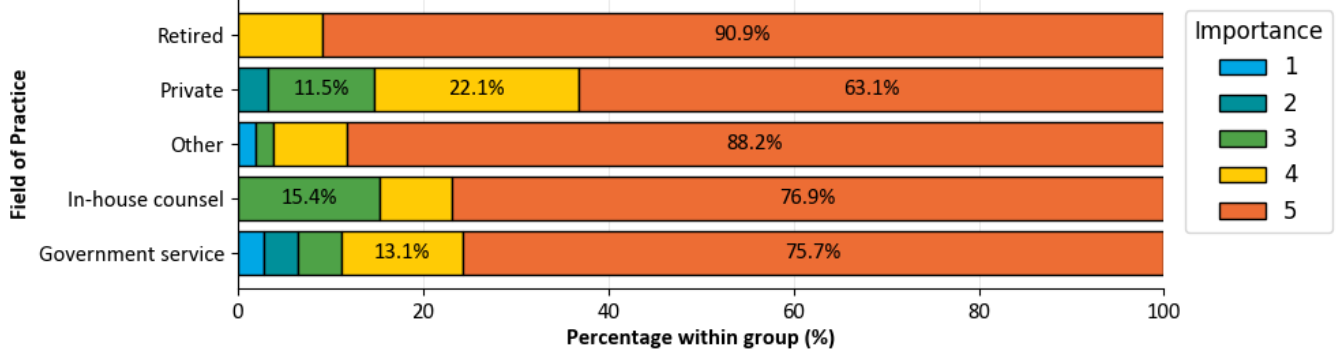
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Avoidance of false and misleading statements

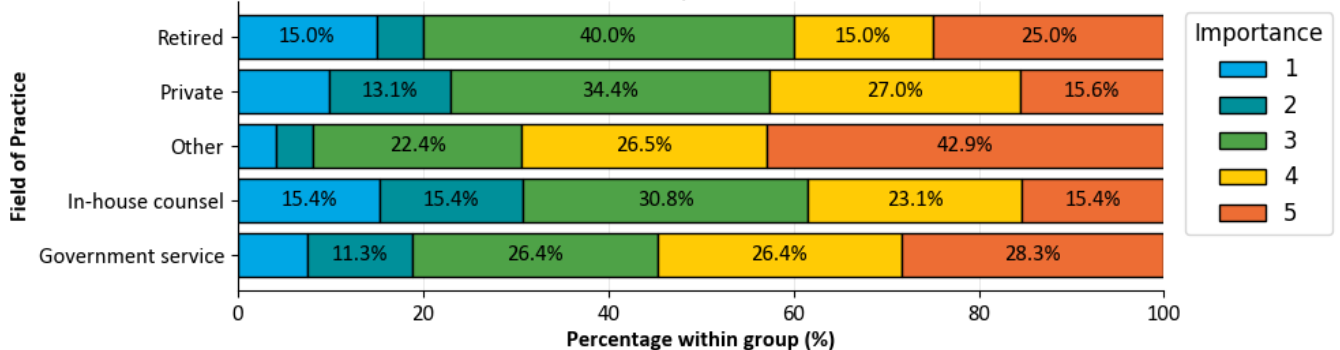
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

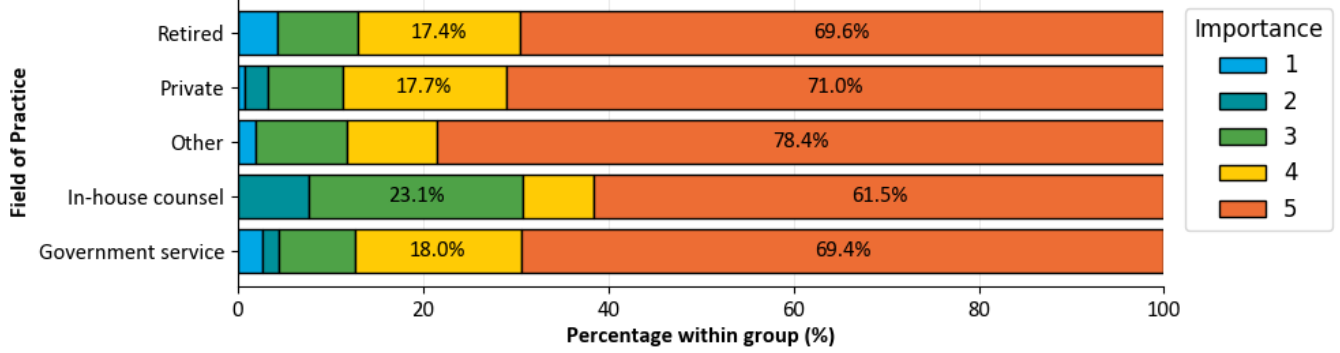
Public service

Distribution by Field of Practice



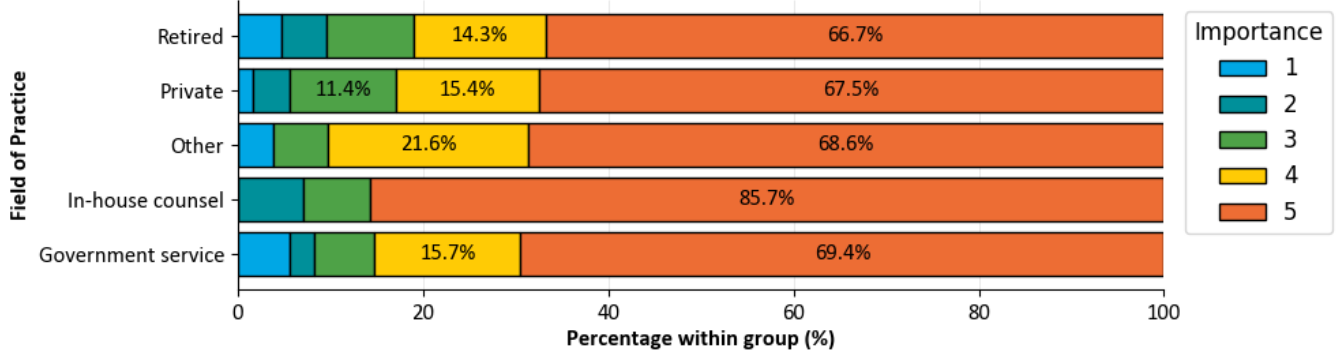
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Adherence to Rules of Professional Conduct

Distribution by Field of Practice



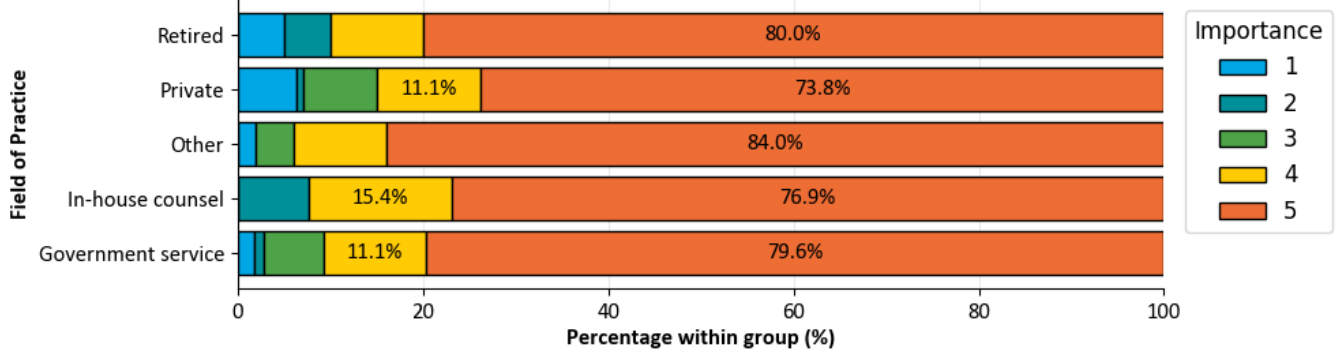
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Integrity of the profession

Distribution by Field of Practice



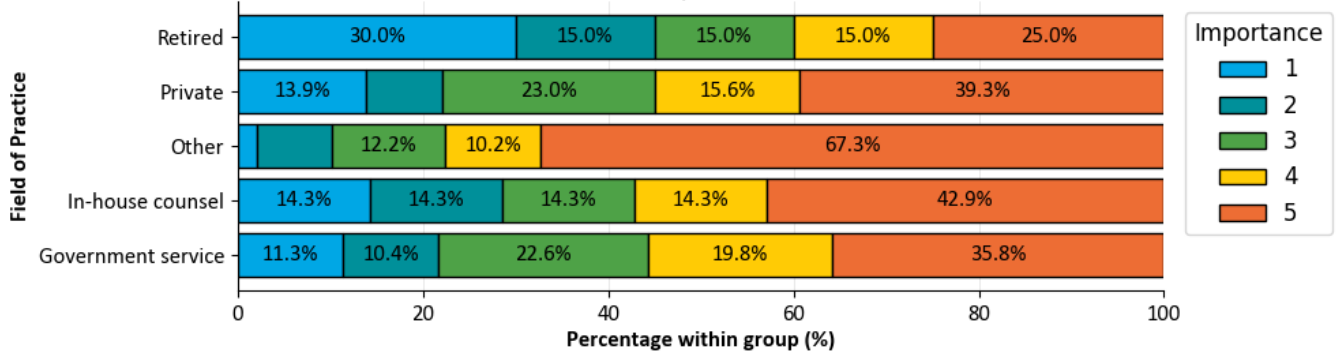
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Upholding democracy and the rule of law

Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Ensuring the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms

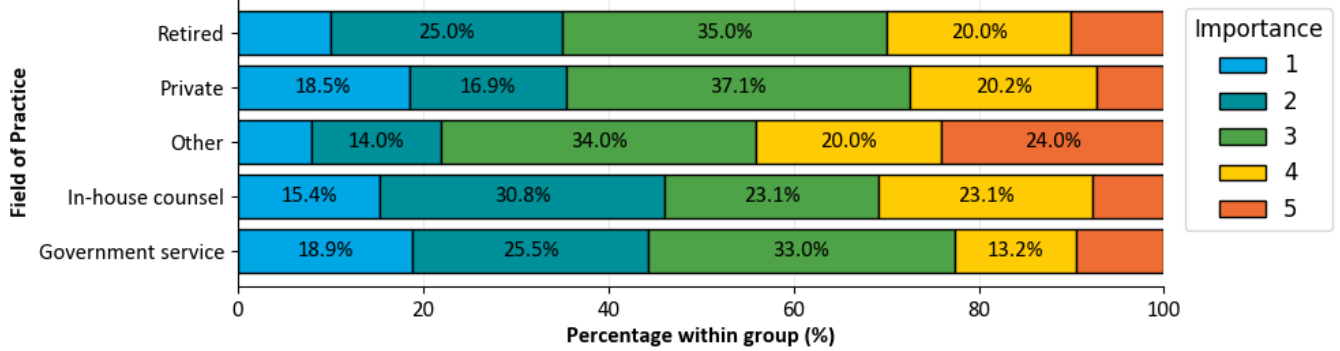
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Pro bono service

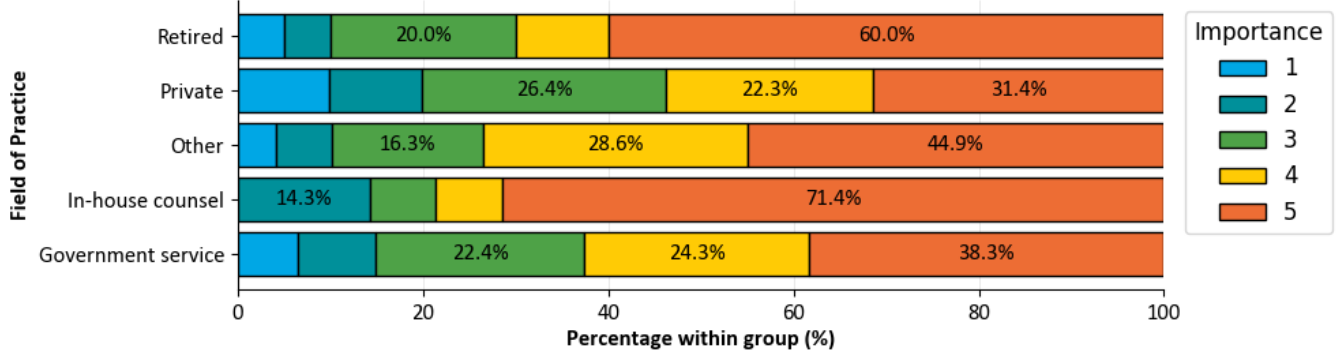
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Dignity of the profession

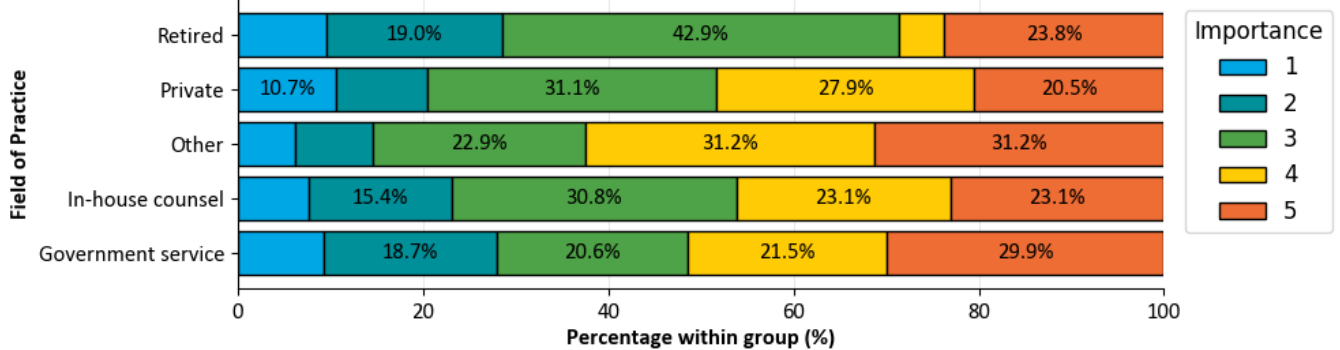
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Improving the law

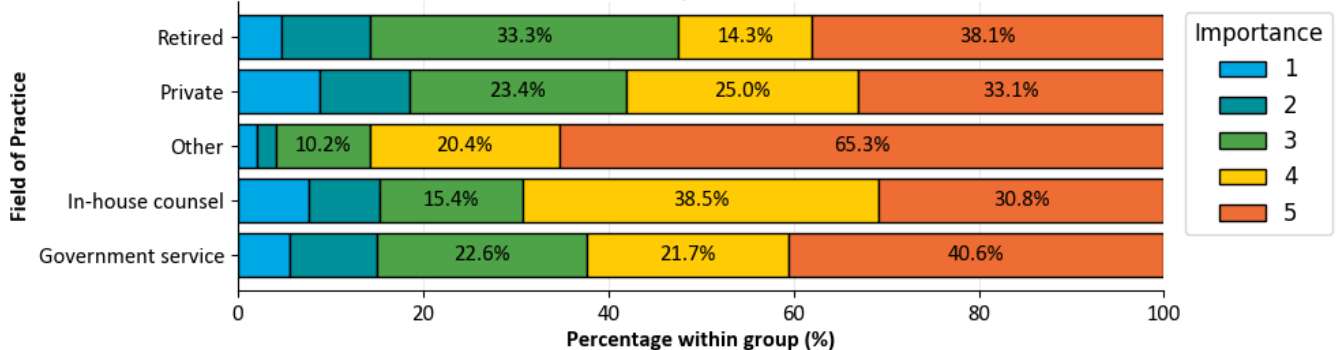
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Access to justice

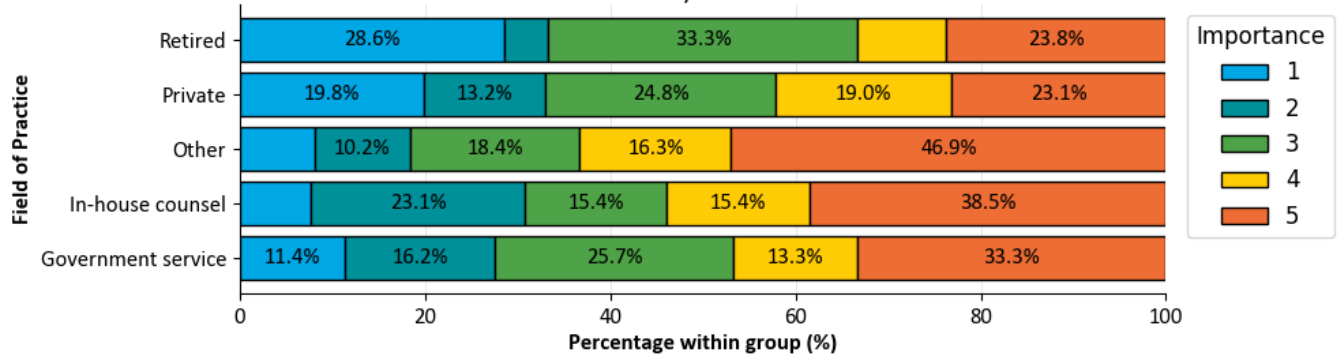
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion

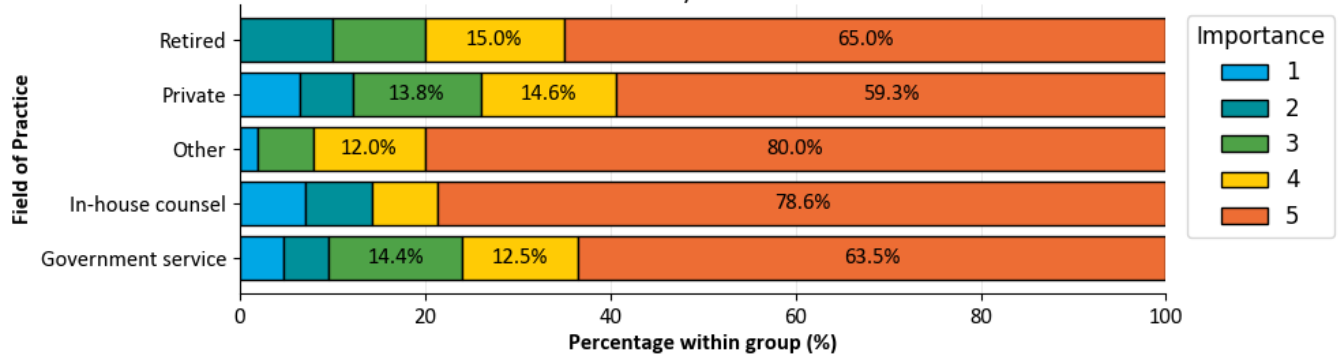
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Justice for all

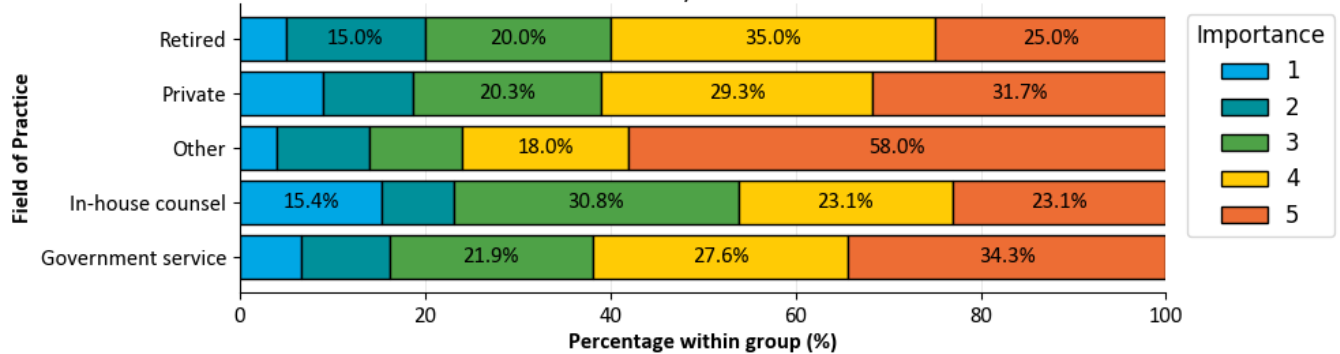
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Legal needs of the defenseless and oppressed

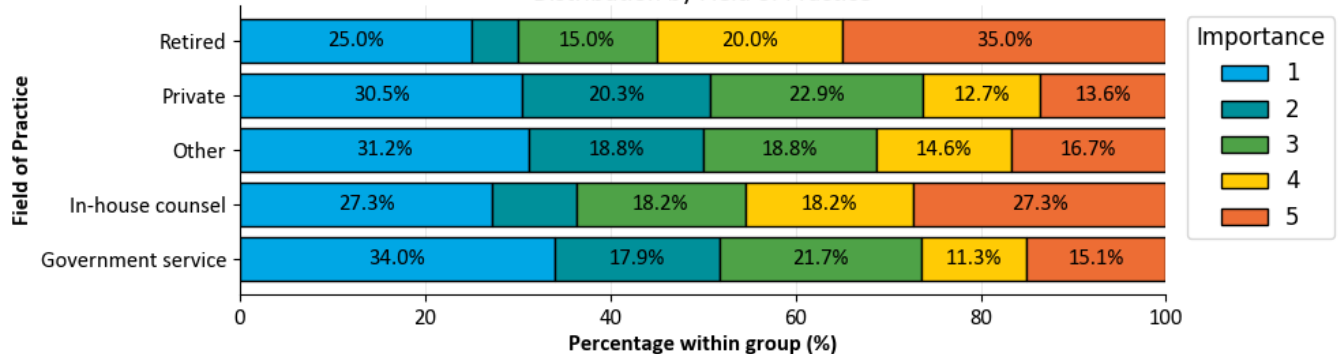
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Abstaining from all offensive personalities

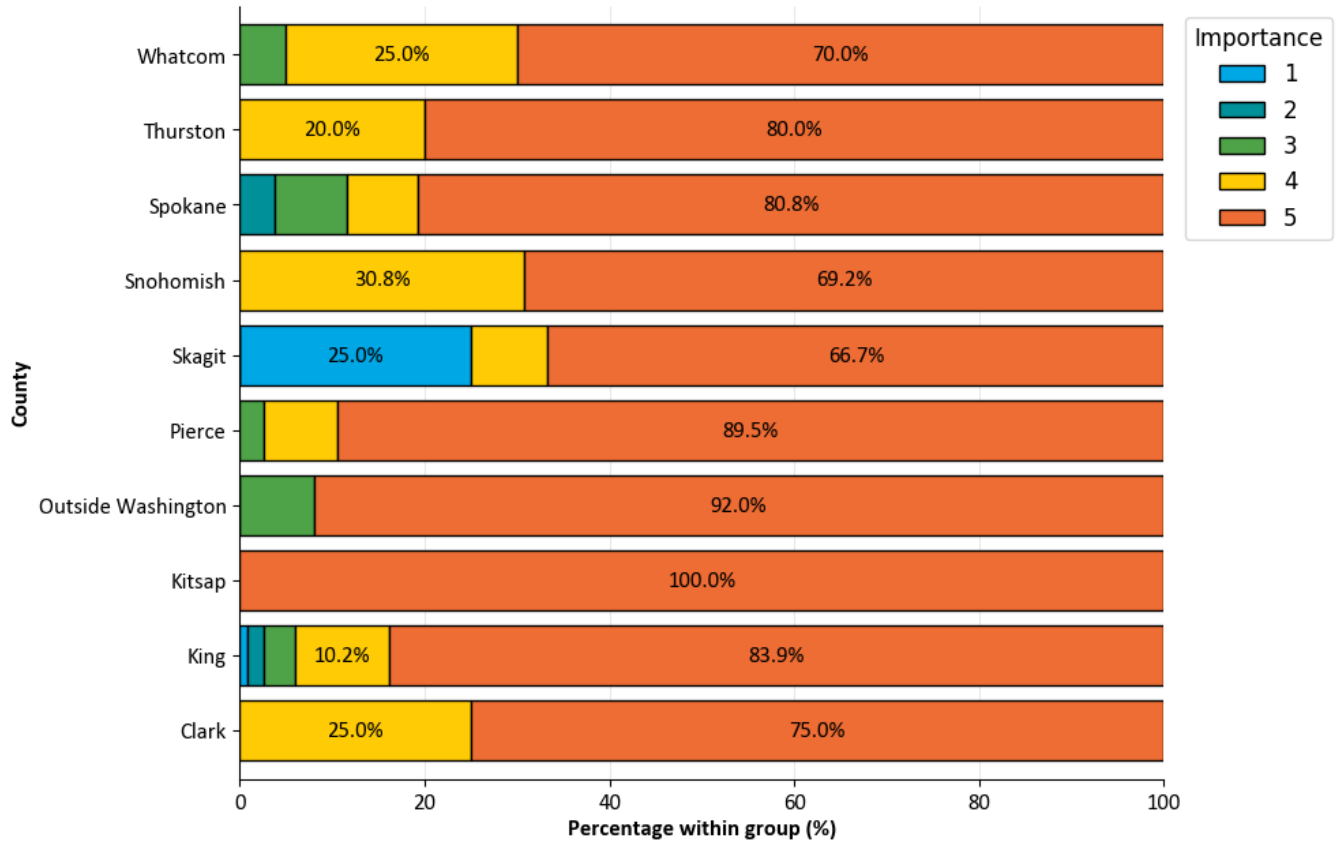
Distribution by Field of Practice



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Support for state and federal constitutions

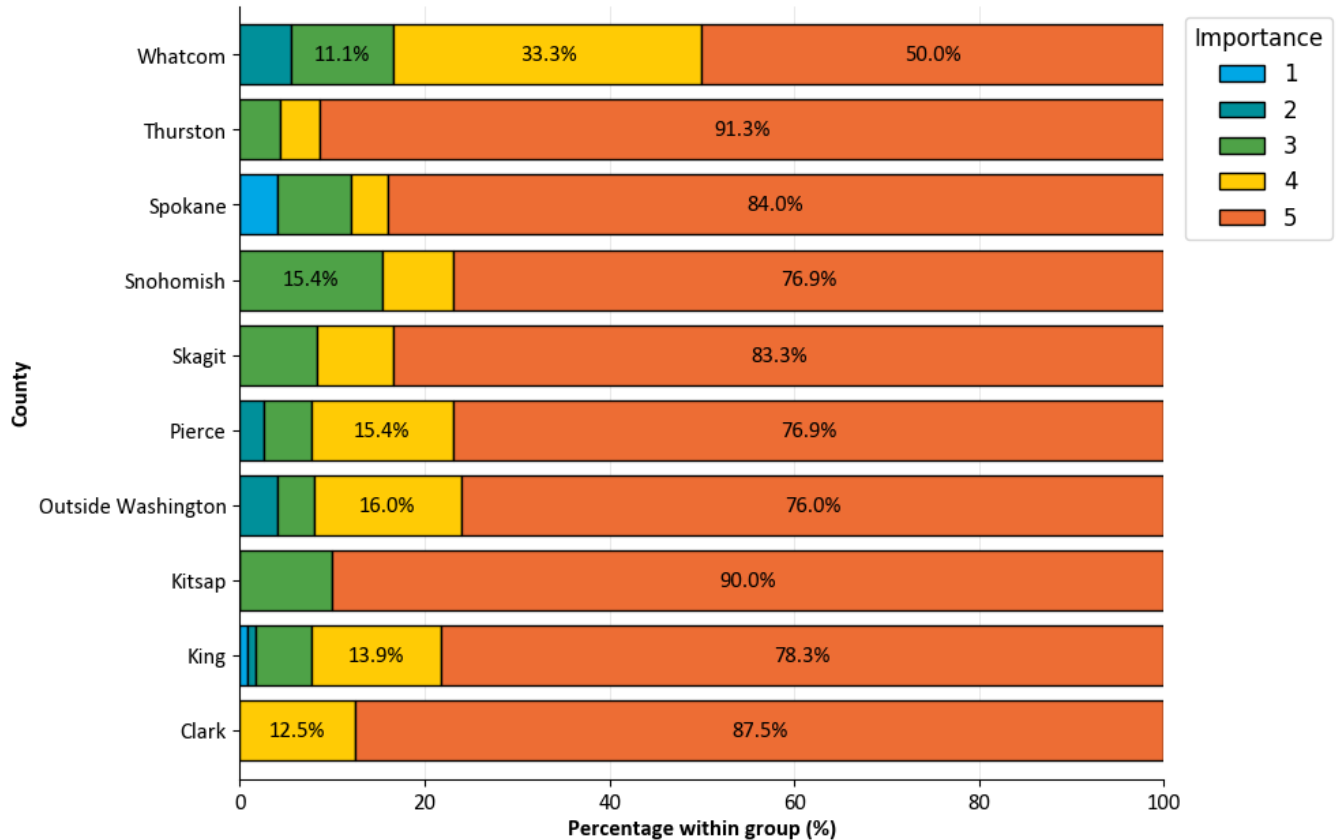
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Faithful discharge of duties

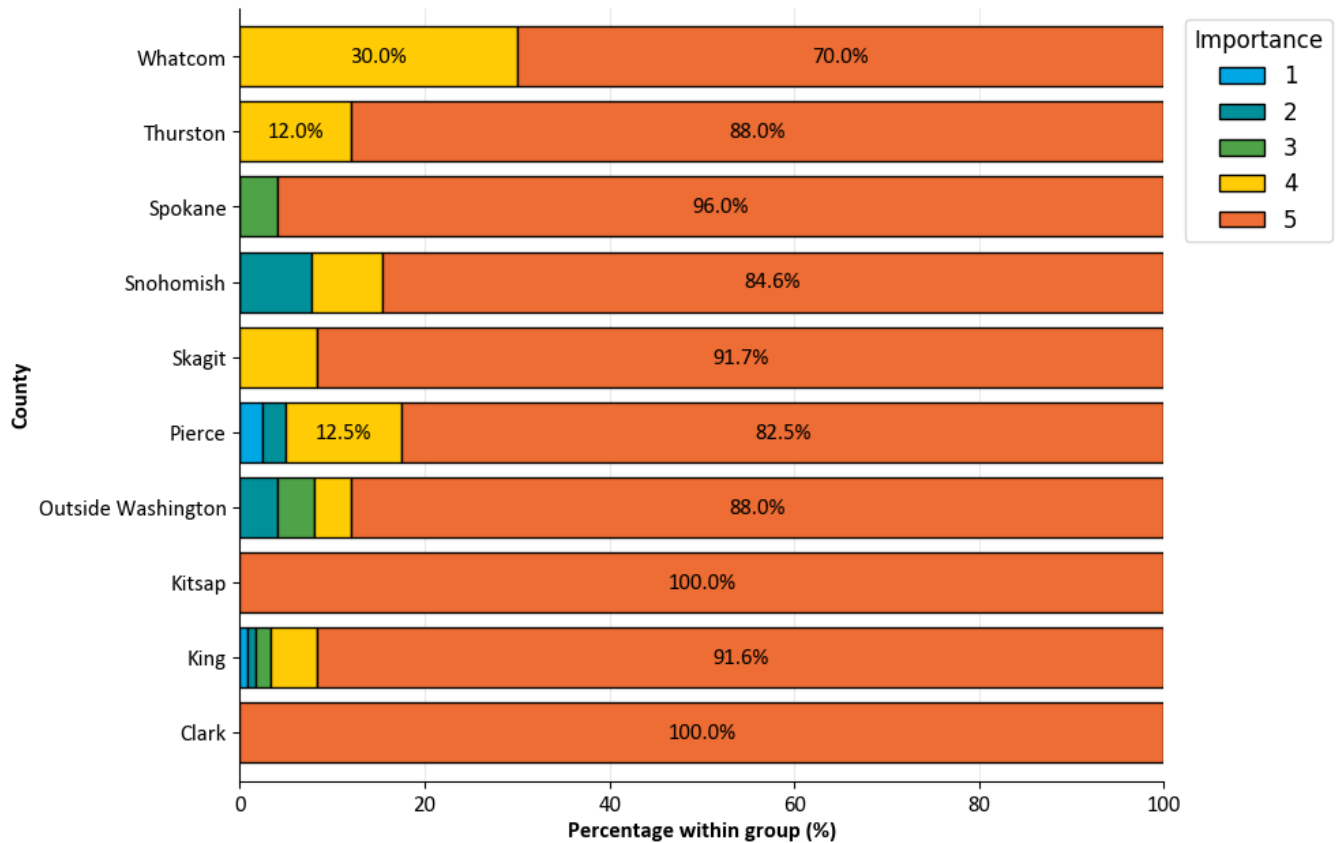
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Honesty and honorable conduct

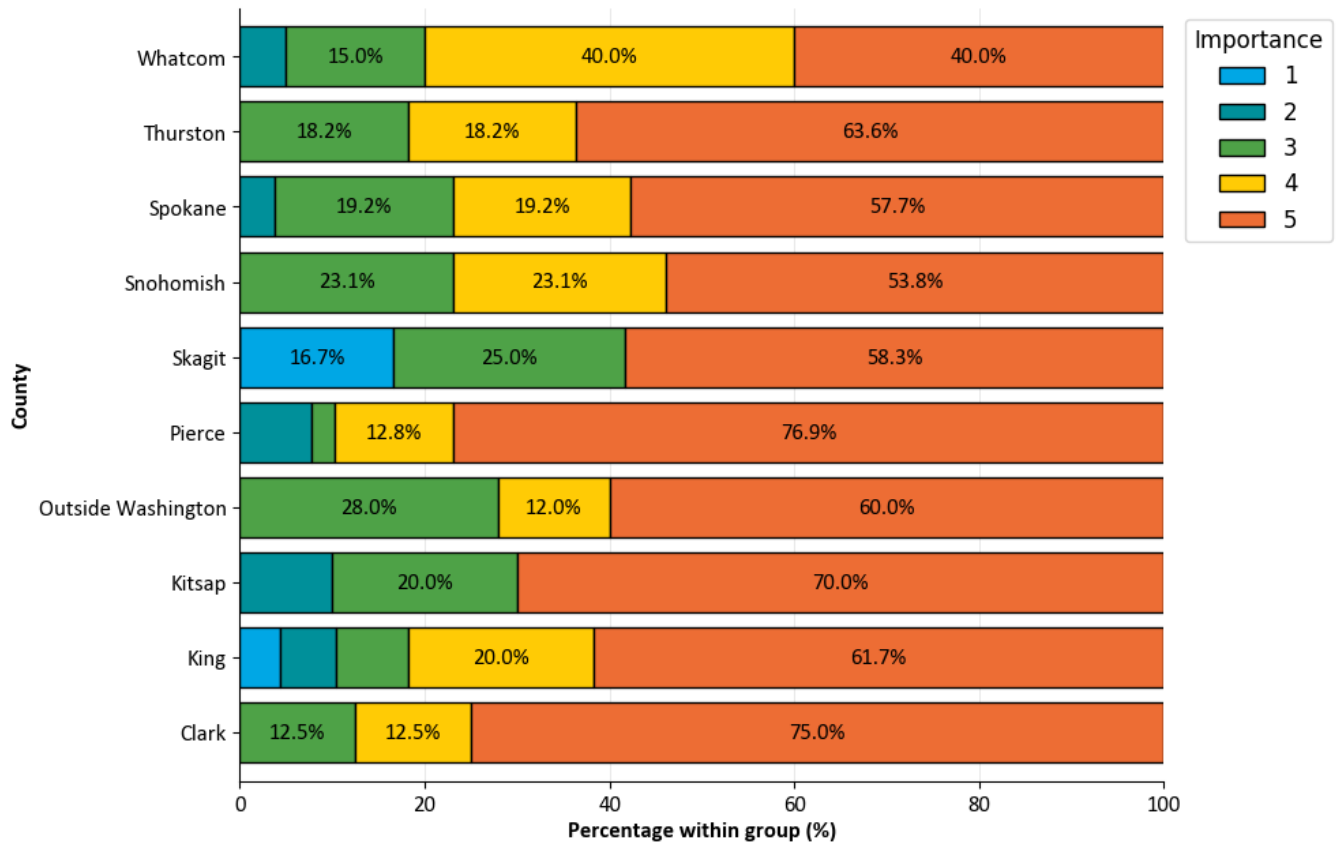
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Maintain respect for the judiciary

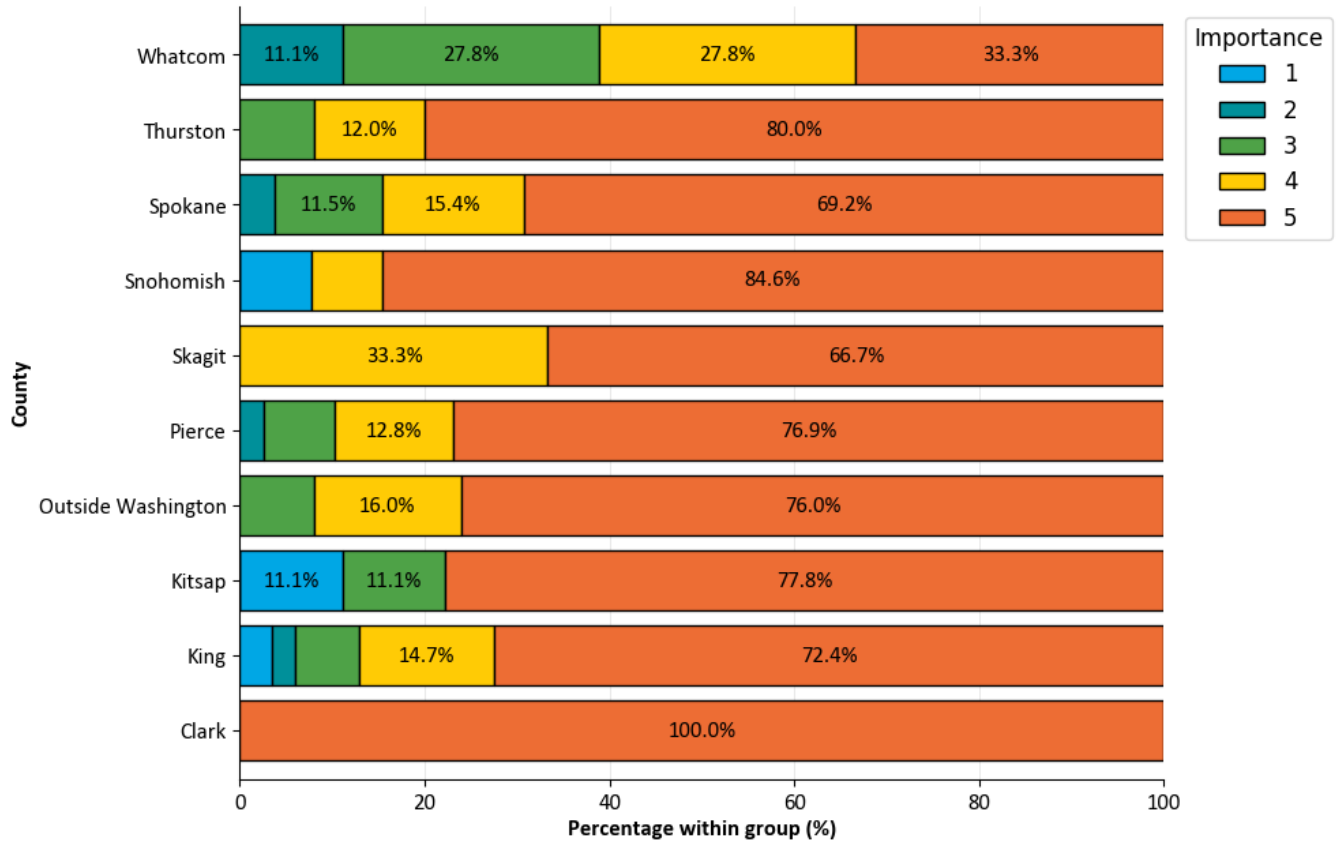
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Confidentiality

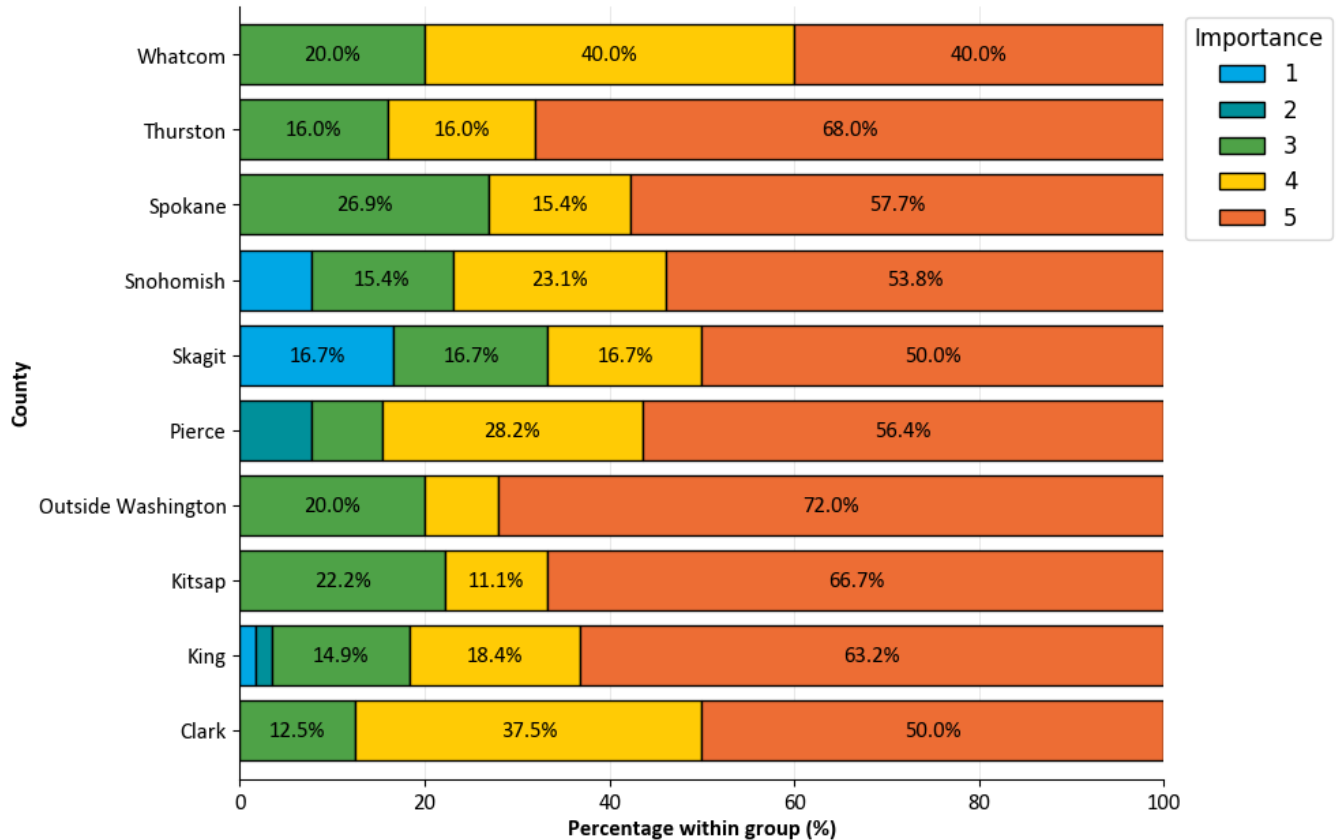
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Civility

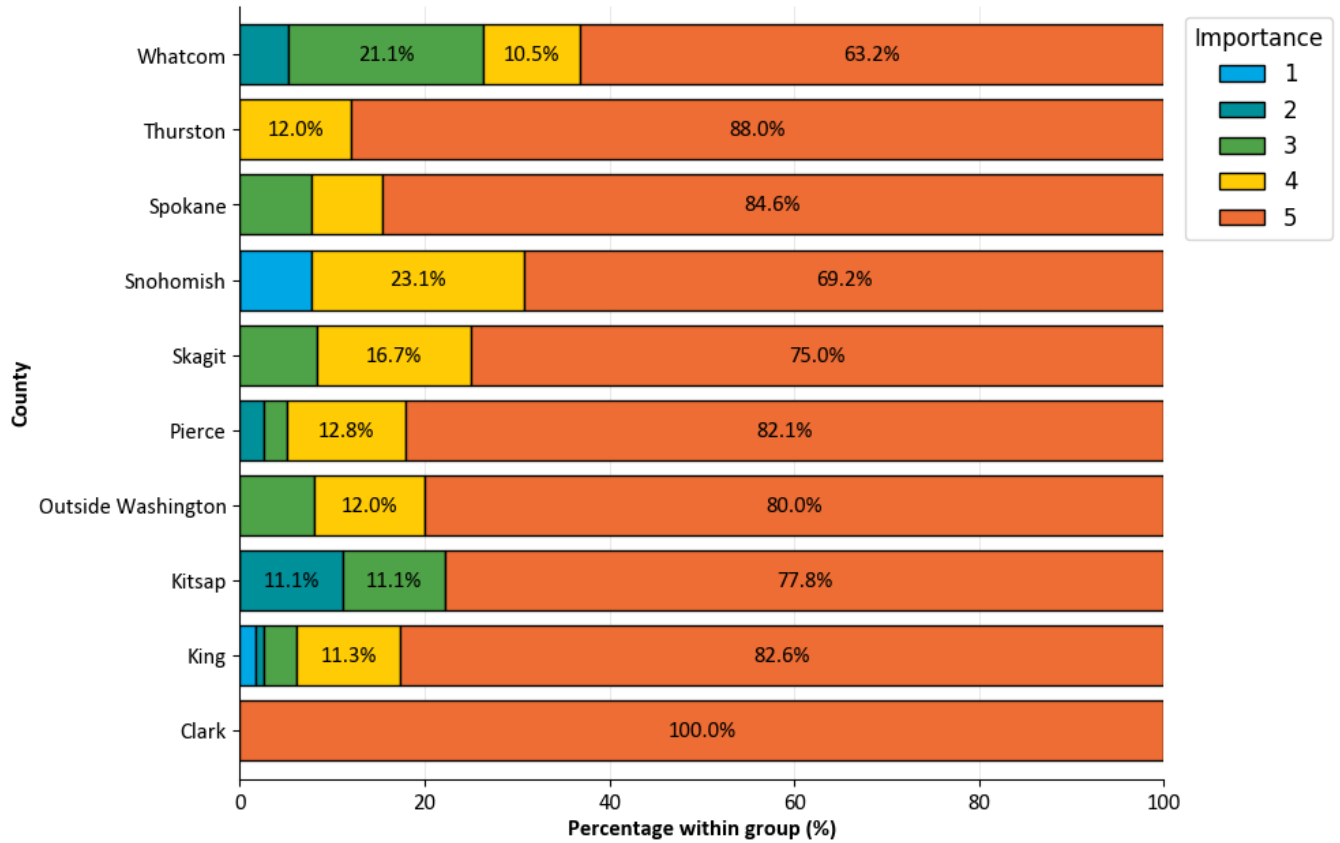
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Candor before the court

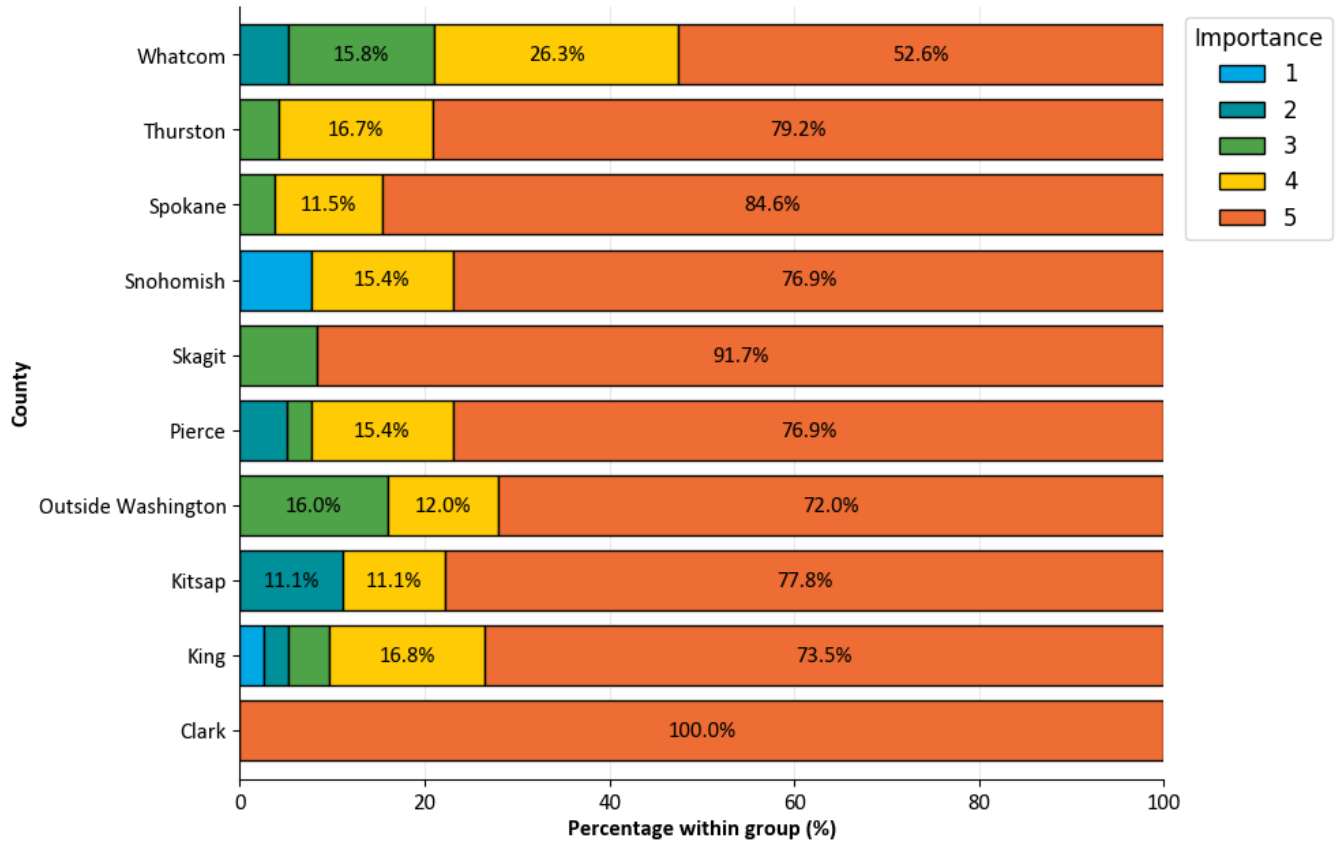
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Avoidance of false and misleading statements

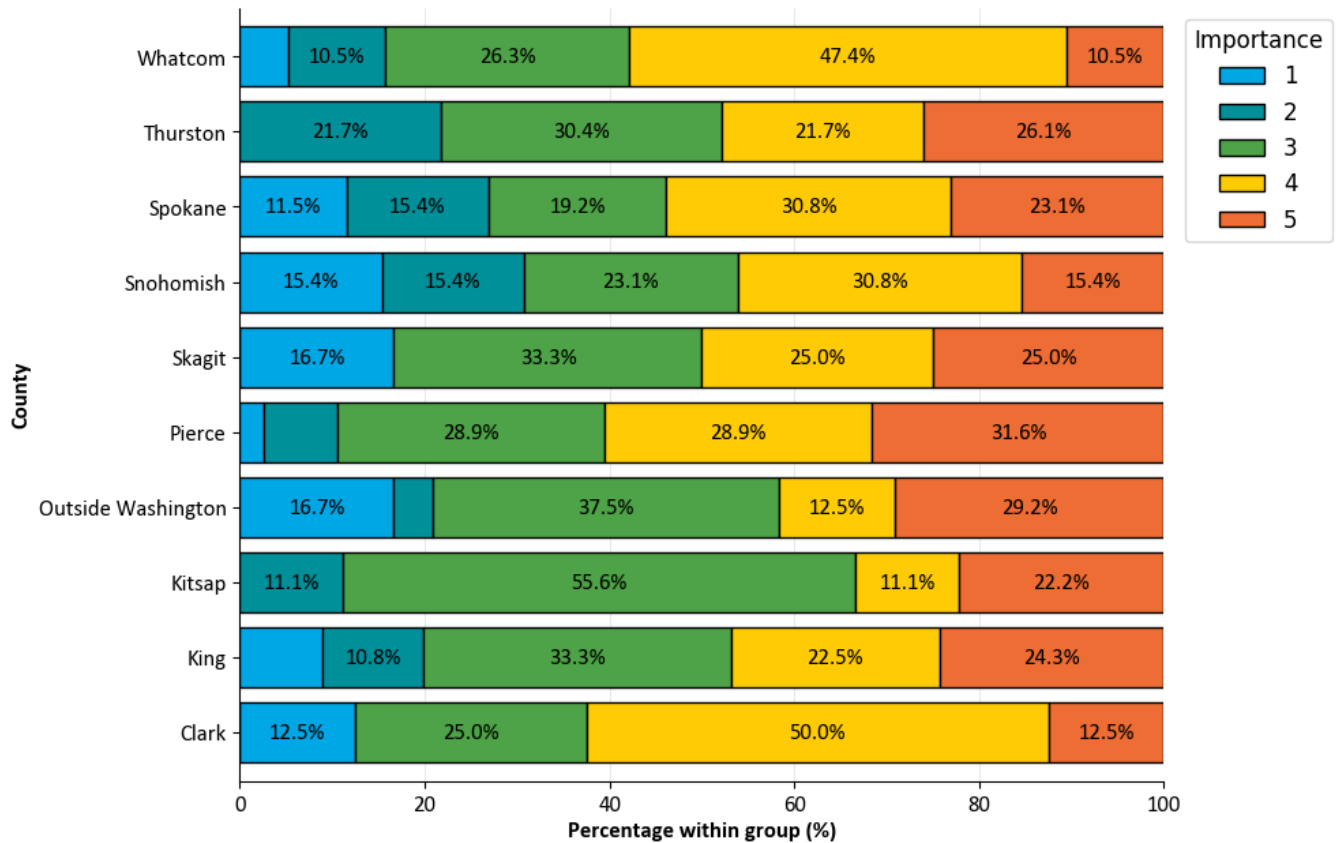
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Public service

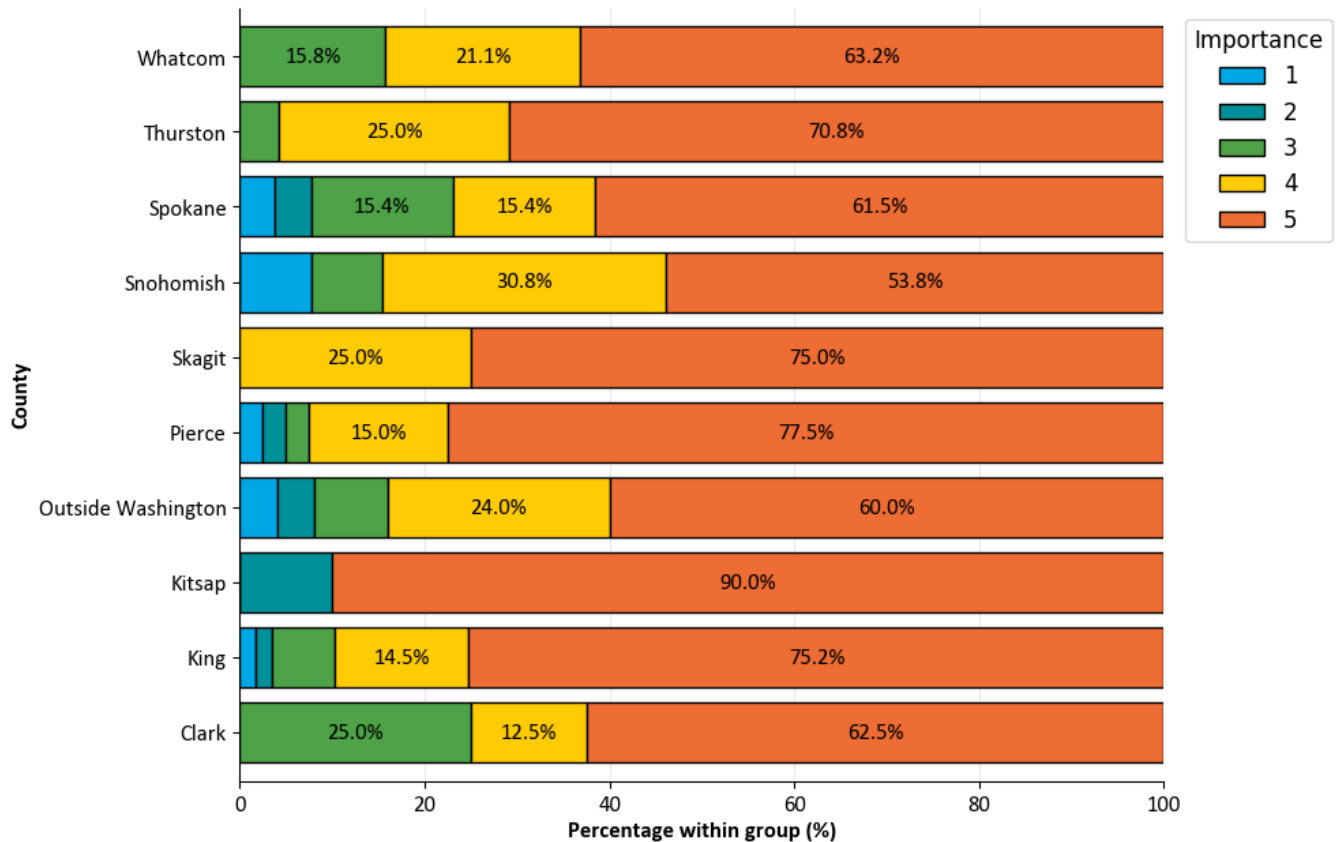
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

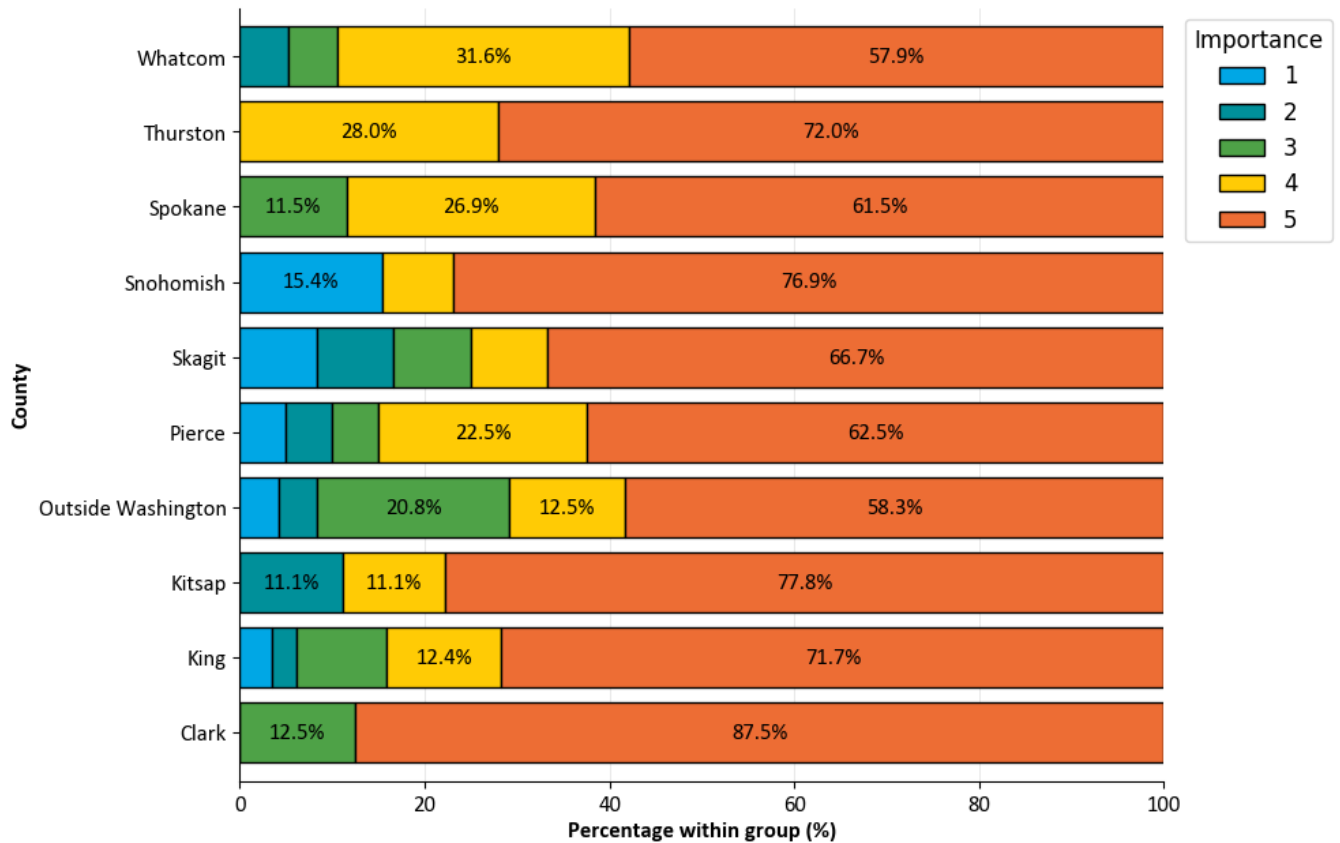
Adherence to Rules of Professional Conduct

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



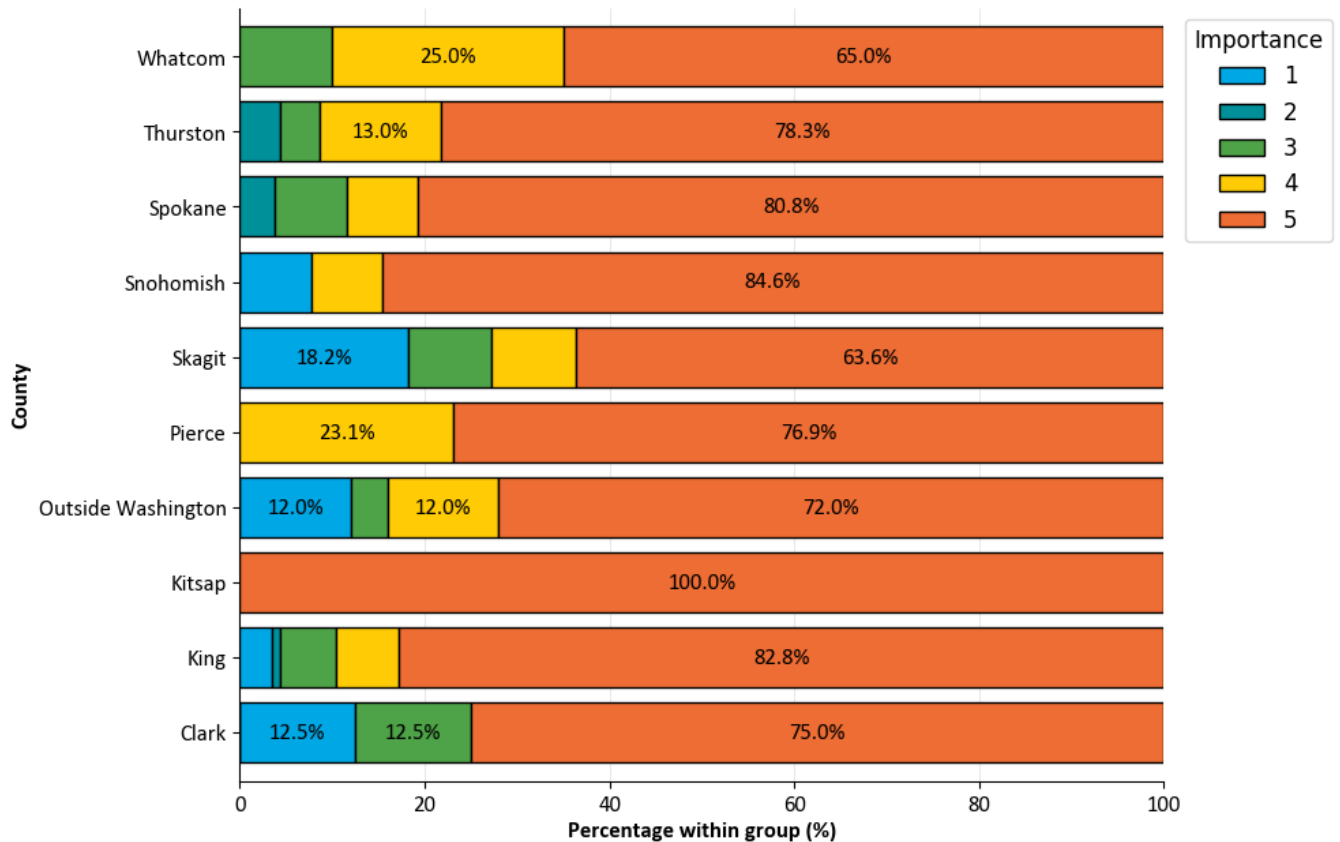
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Integrity of the profession Distribution by County (TOP 10)

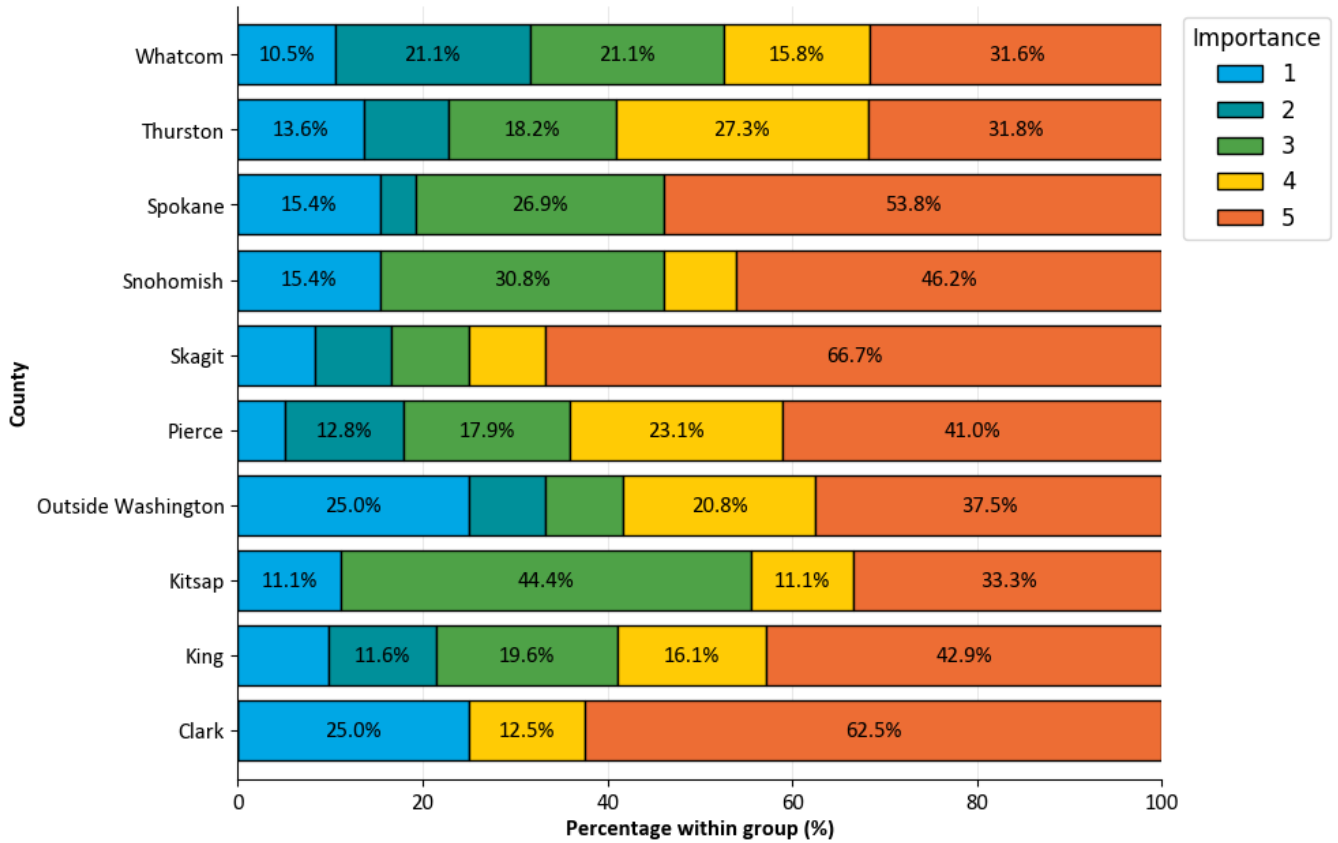


What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

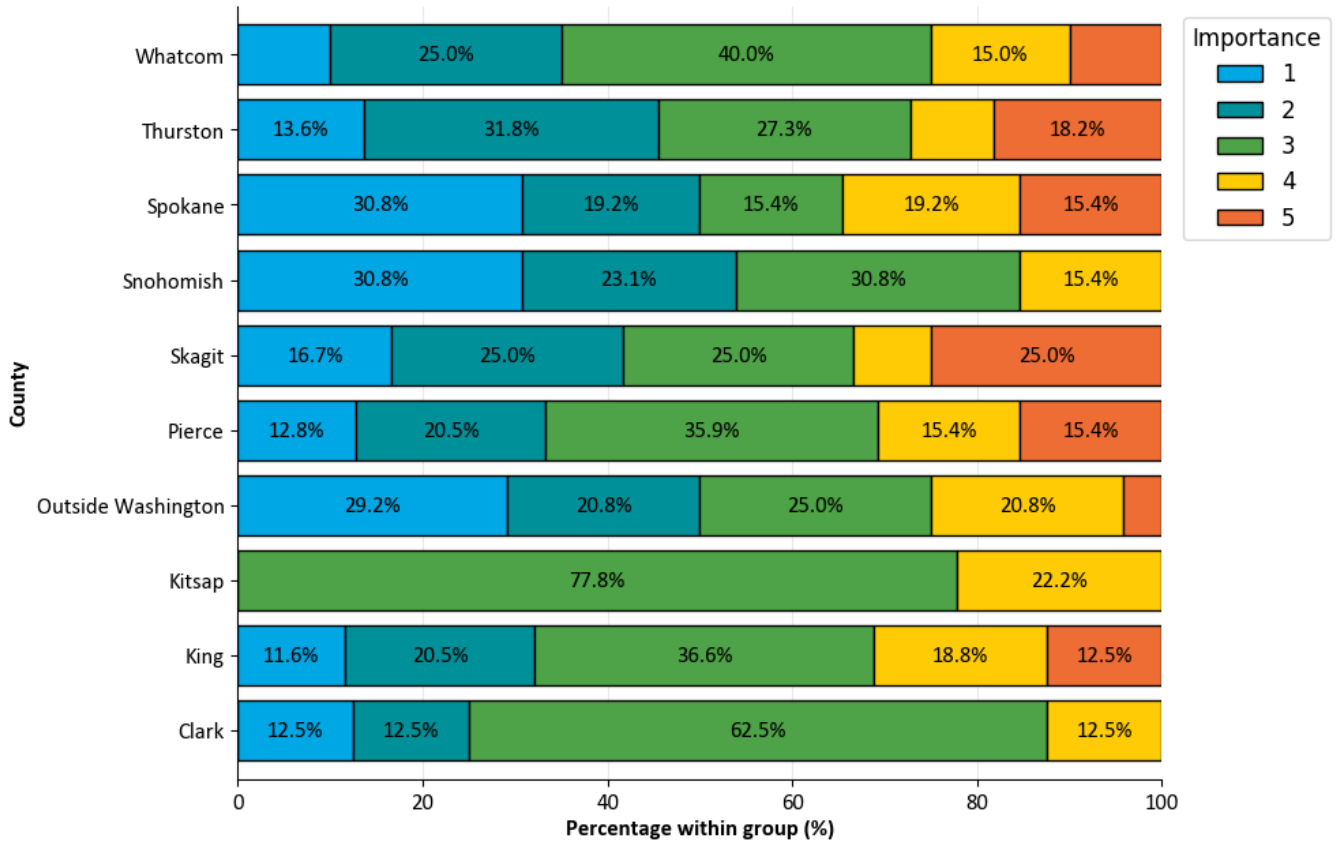
Upholding democracy and the rule of law Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Ensuring the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms
 Distribution by County (TOP 10)

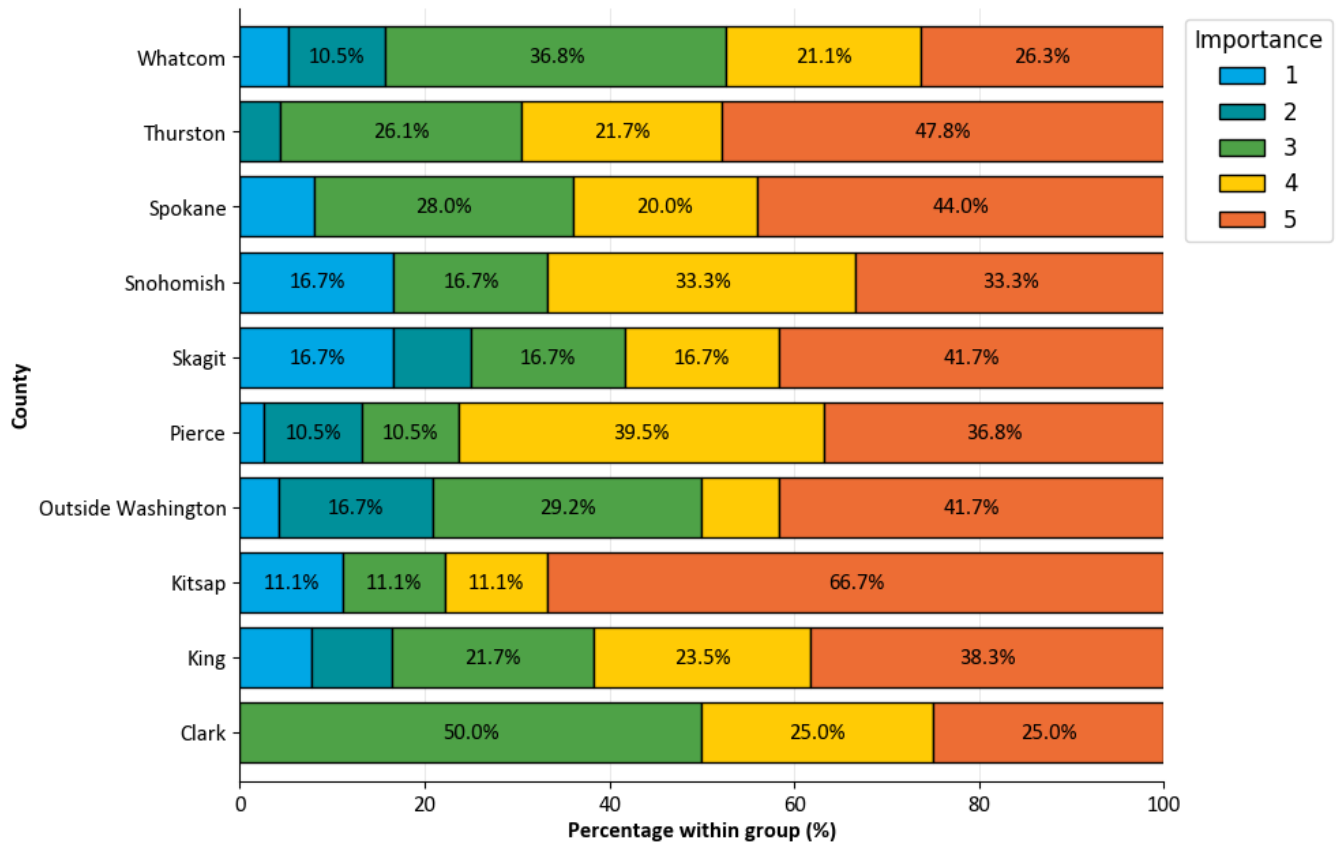


What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?
Pro bono service
 Distribution by County (TOP 10)



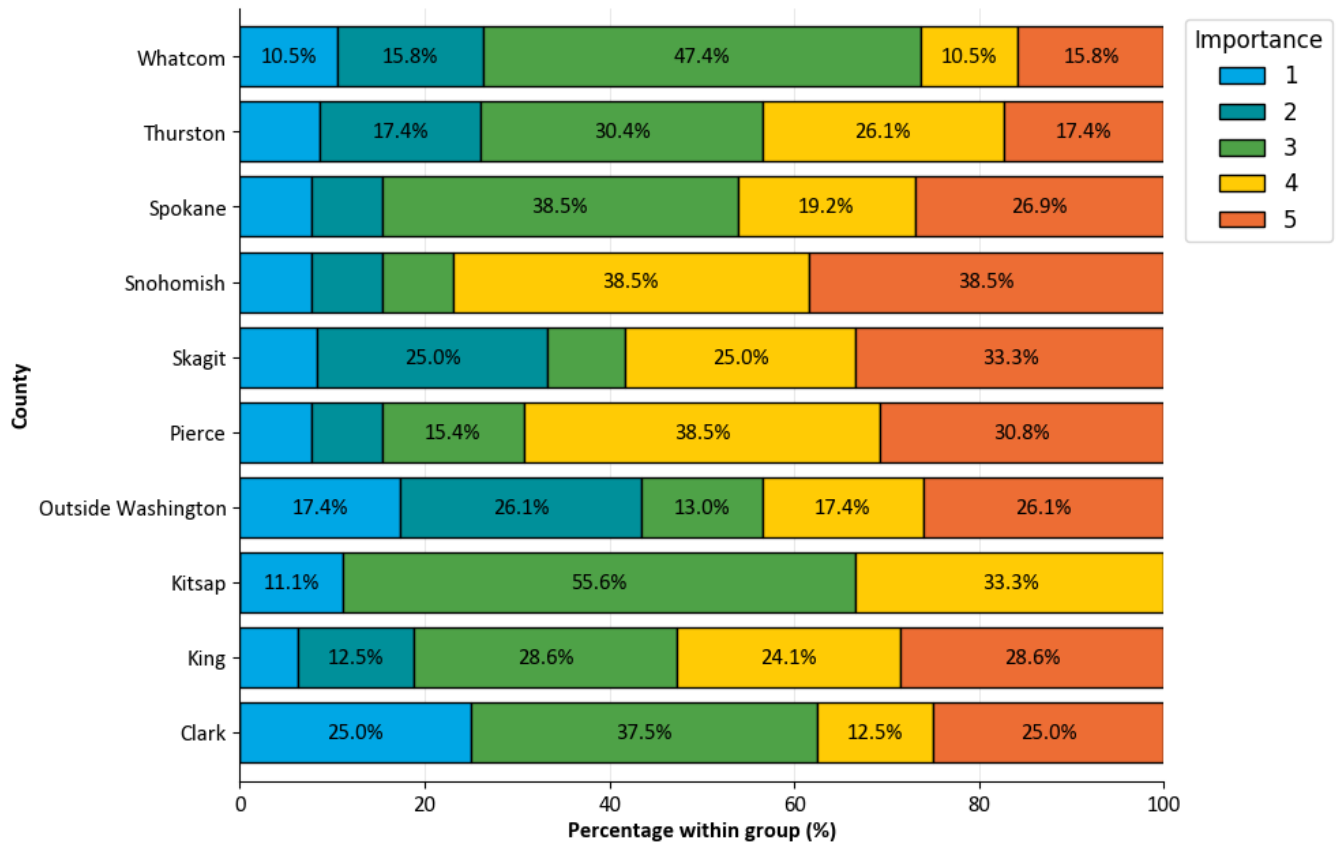
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Dignity of the profession Distribution by County (TOP 10)



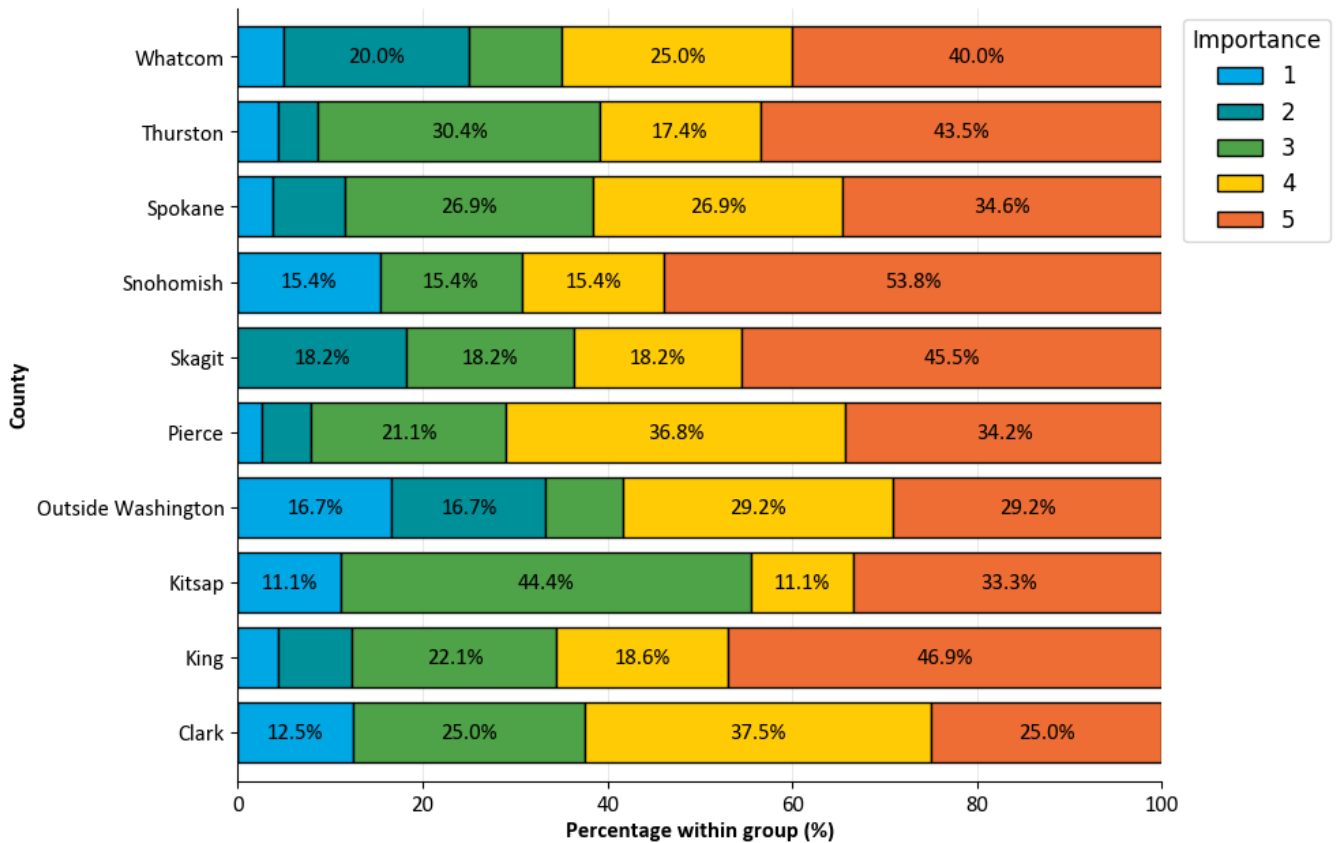
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Improving the law Distribution by County (TOP 10)



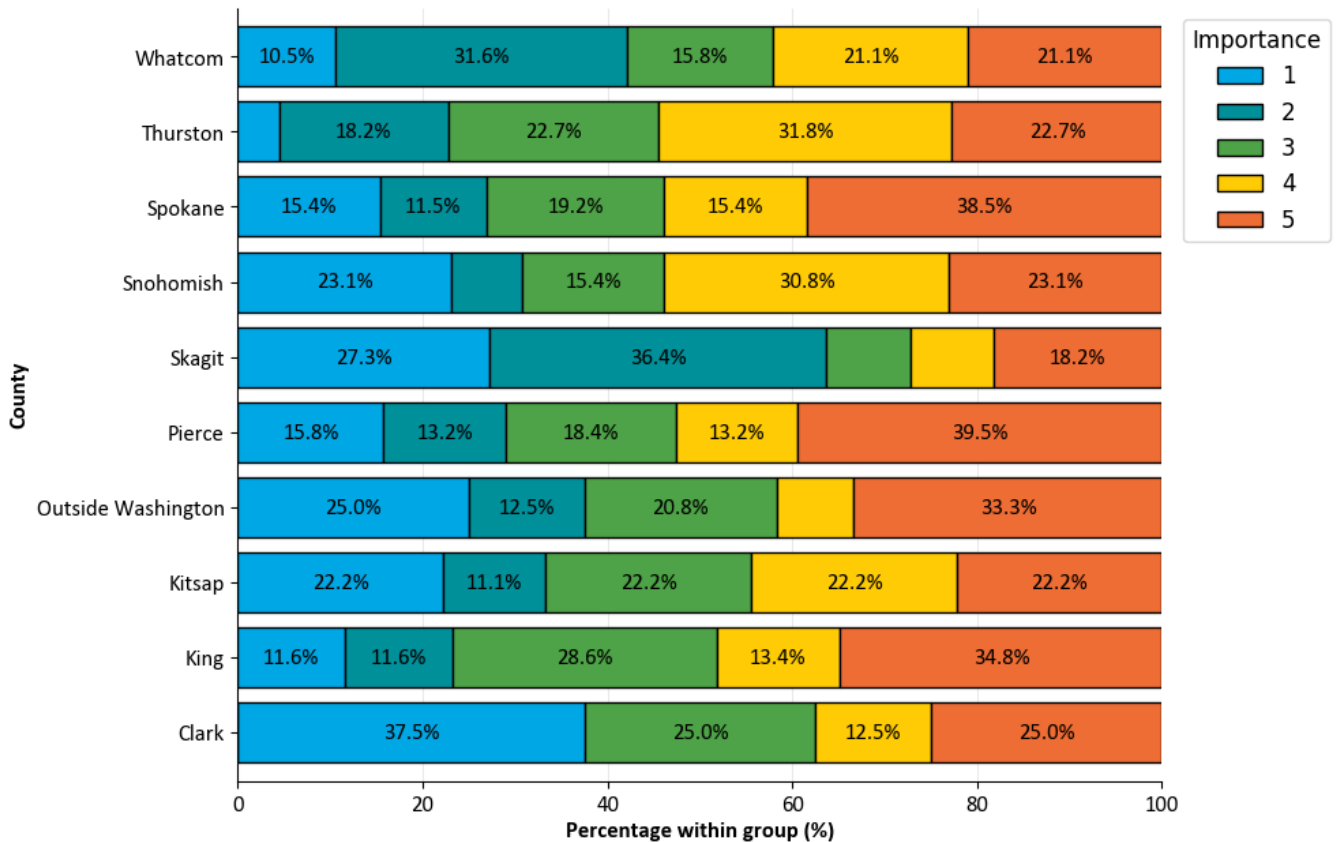
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Access to justice Distribution by County (TOP 10)



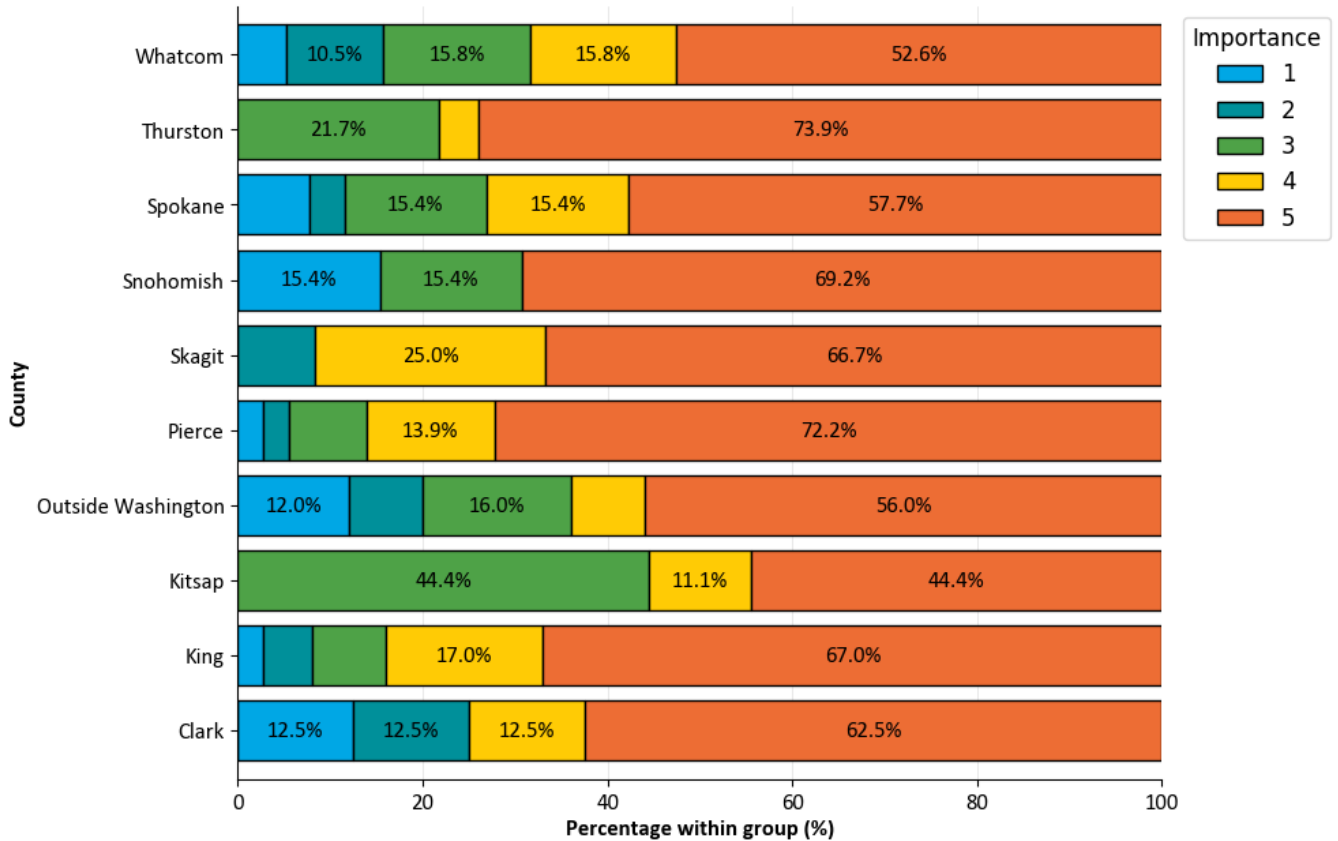
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion Distribution by County (TOP 10)



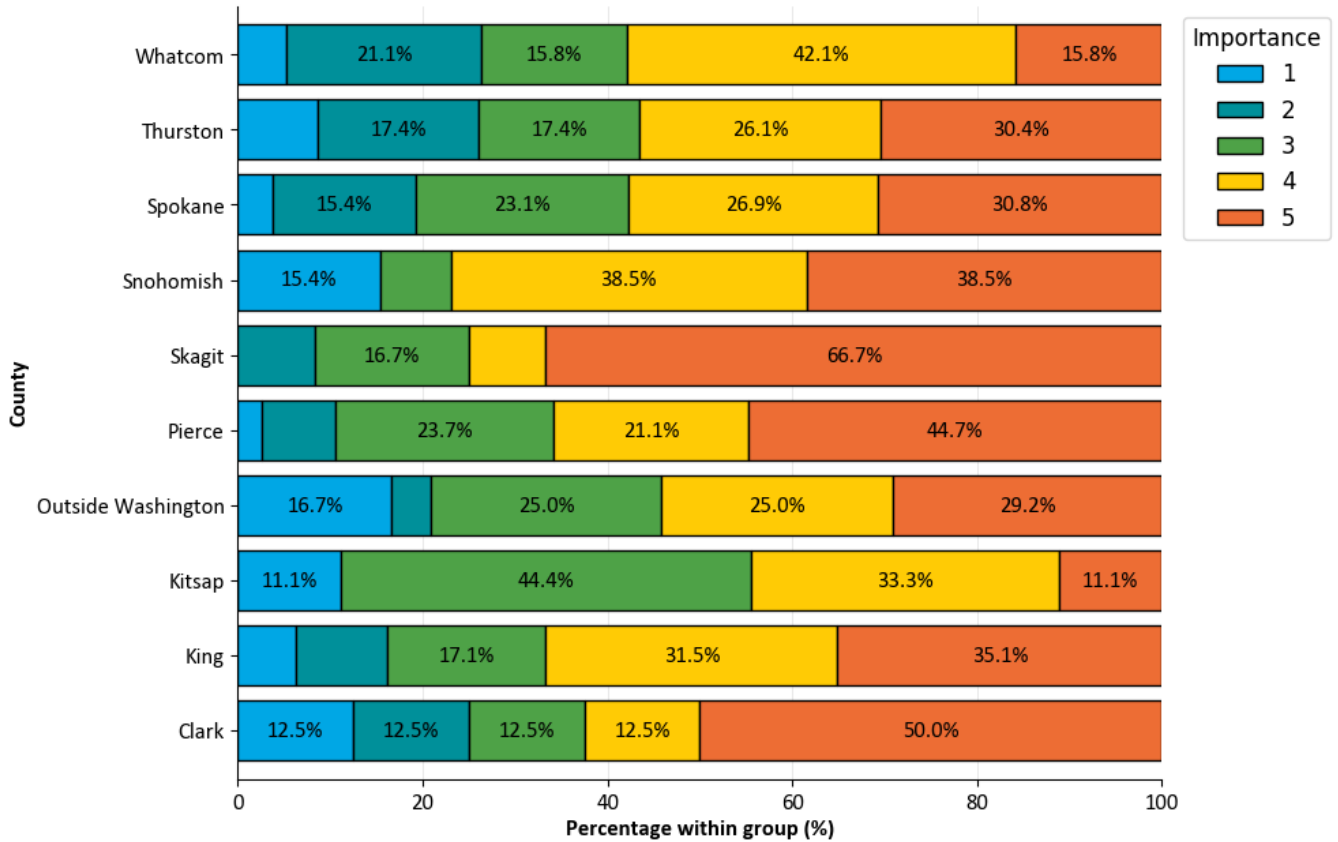
What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath? Justice for all

Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath? Legal needs of the defenseless and oppressed

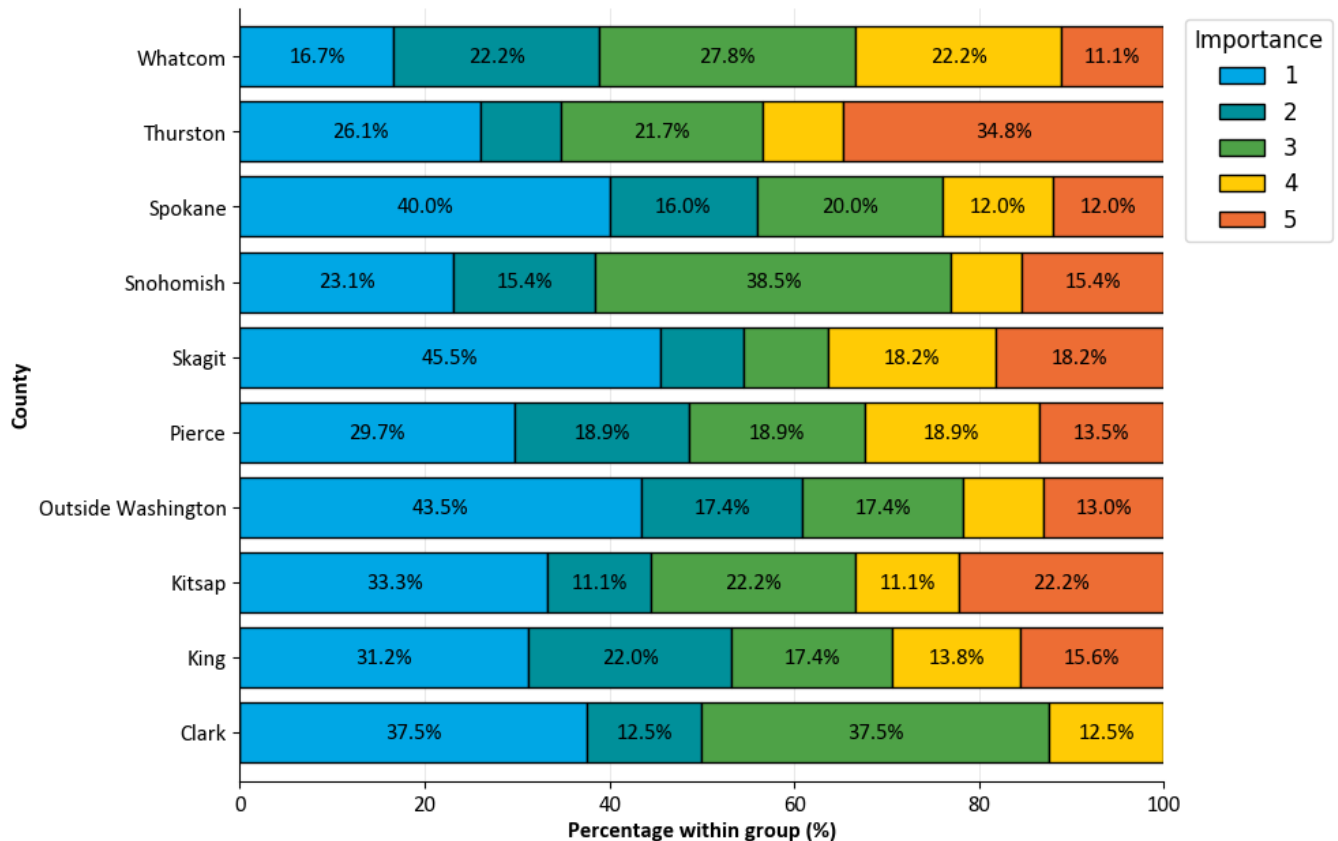
Distribution by County (TOP 10)



What elements are most important to be included in a professional oath?

Abstaining from all offensive personalities

Distribution by County (TOP 10)

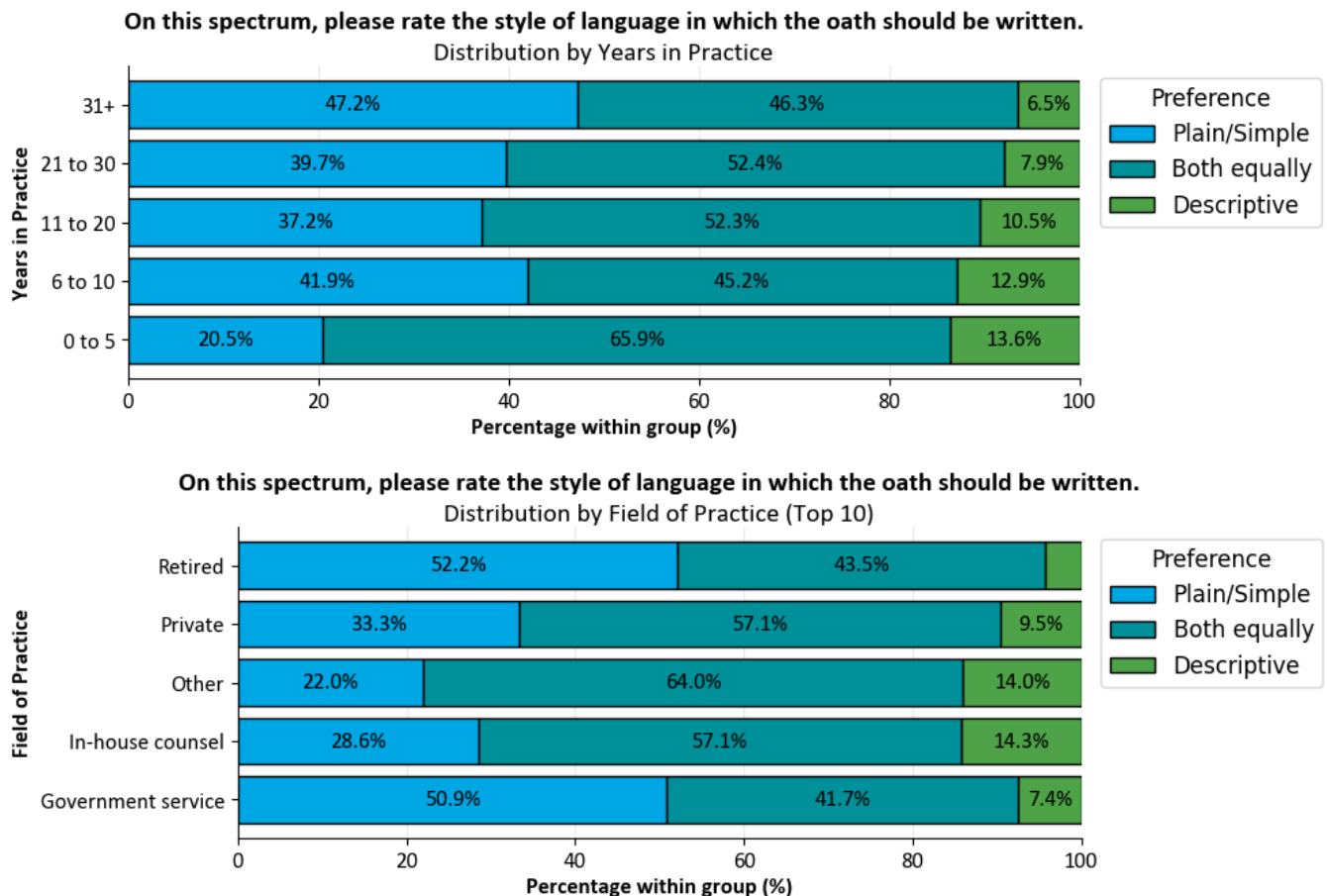


Summary of “Other” Responses: Elements Most Important in a Professional Oath

- **Clarify or replace “abstaining from all offensive personalities”** — overwhelmingly cited as unclear, outdated, confusing, or needing modern language about civility, respect, or professionalism.
- **Plain, modern, and clear language** — requests to remove antiquated phrasing, vague wording, and confusing grammar.
- **Focus on core ethical duties** — honesty, integrity, candor to courts, respect for all parties, and avoidance of frivolous actions.
- **Stronger constitutional commitment** — some want clearer or stronger language about upholding the U.S. and Washington constitutions.
- **Access to justice** — including efficiency, reduced cost, and good-faith advising on mediation and arbitration.
- **Broaden civility concepts** — kindness, respect, professionalism, and avoidance of harassment or abusive conduct.
- **Clarify vague or subjective concepts** — e.g., “justice for all,” “improving the law,” “dignity of the profession,” “defenseless or oppressed.”
- **Additions related to modern practice** — e.g., responsible use of AI, cooperation with investigations.

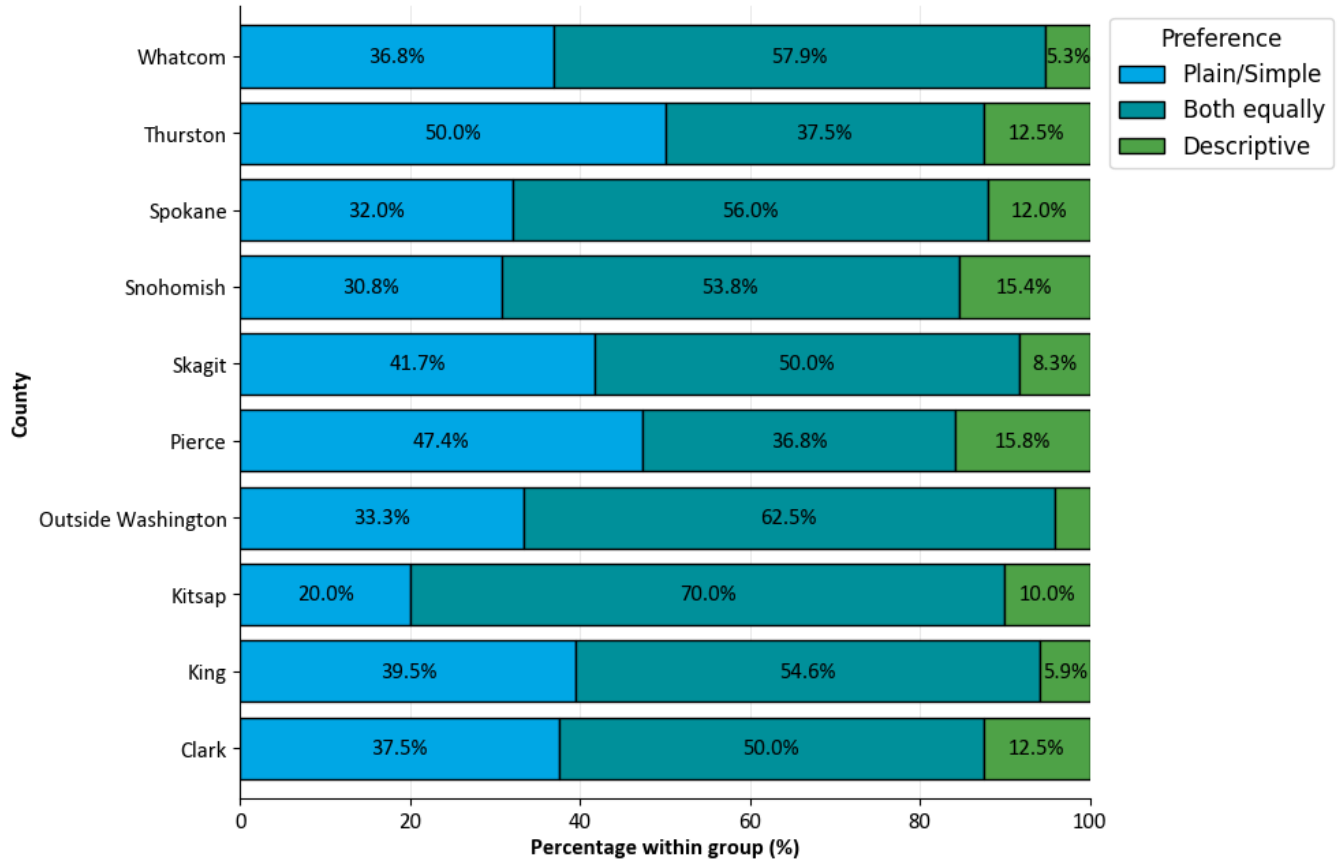
- **Protect rights of all people** — comments calling for explicit respect for all identities, regardless of federal protections.
- **Avoid requirements to take certain cases** — objections to language interpreted as forcing representation.
- **Concerns about duplicative categories** — several noted elements already covered by RPCs or overlapping concepts.

Question 6



On this spectrum, please rate the style of language in which the oath should be written.

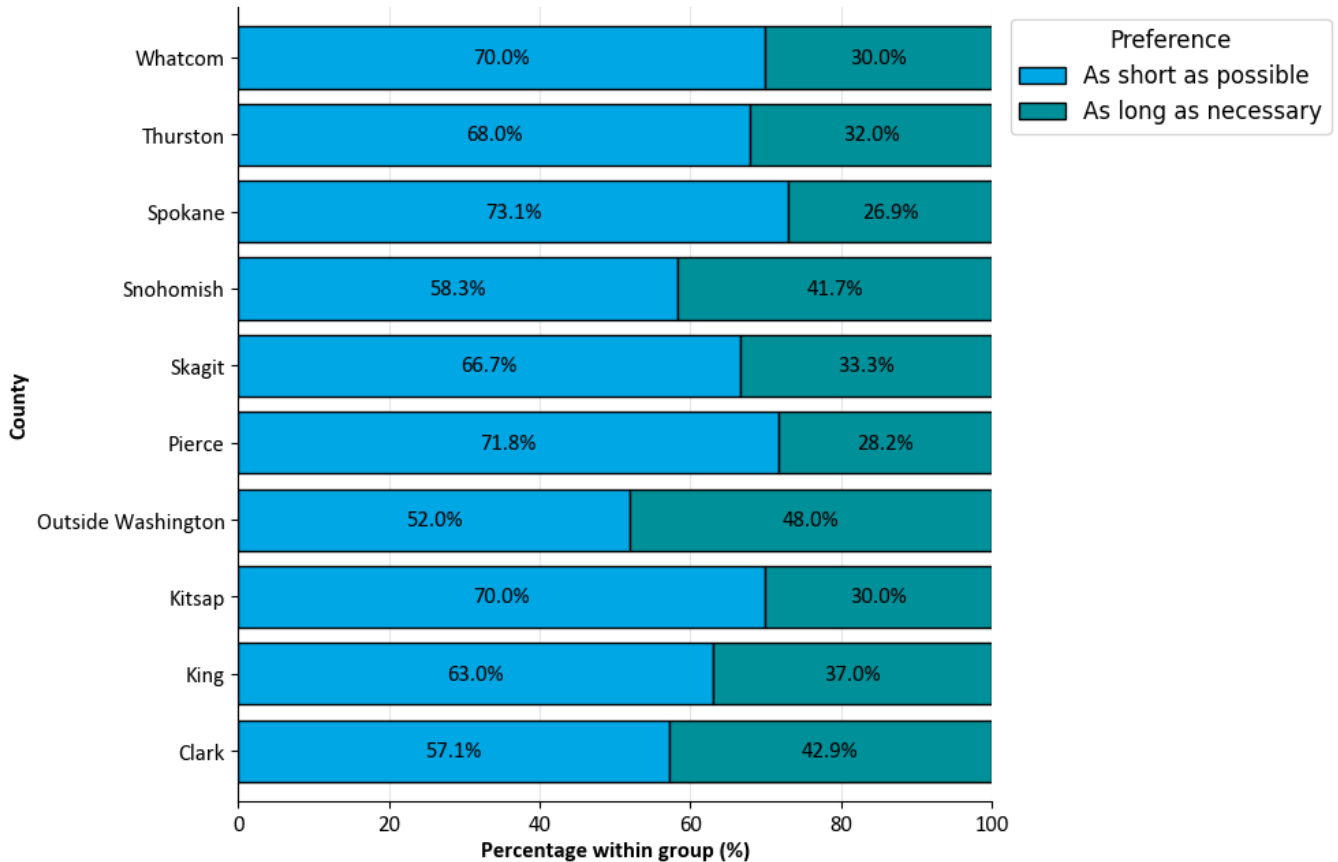
Distribution by County (Top 10)



Question 7

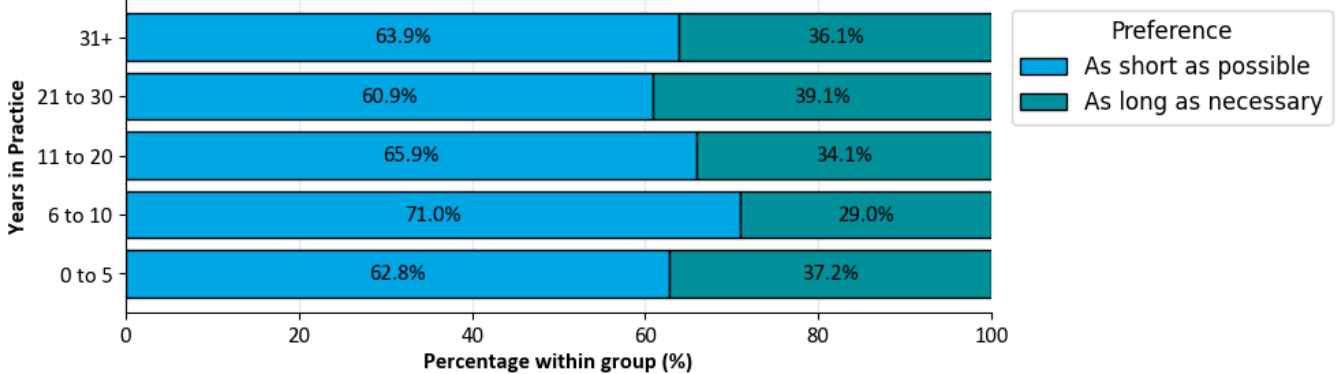
On this spectrum, please rate how long the oath should be.

Distribution by County (Top 10)



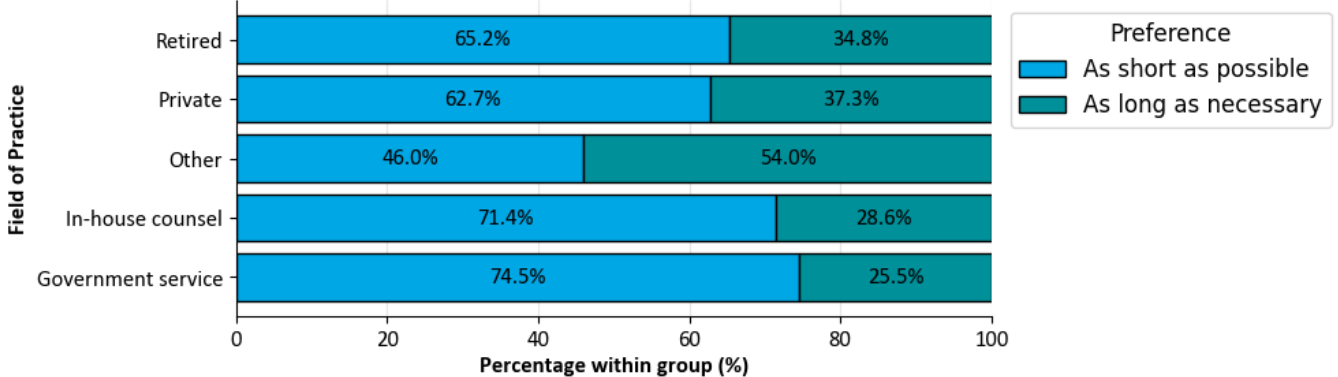
On this spectrum, please rate how long the oath should be.

Distribution by Years in Practice



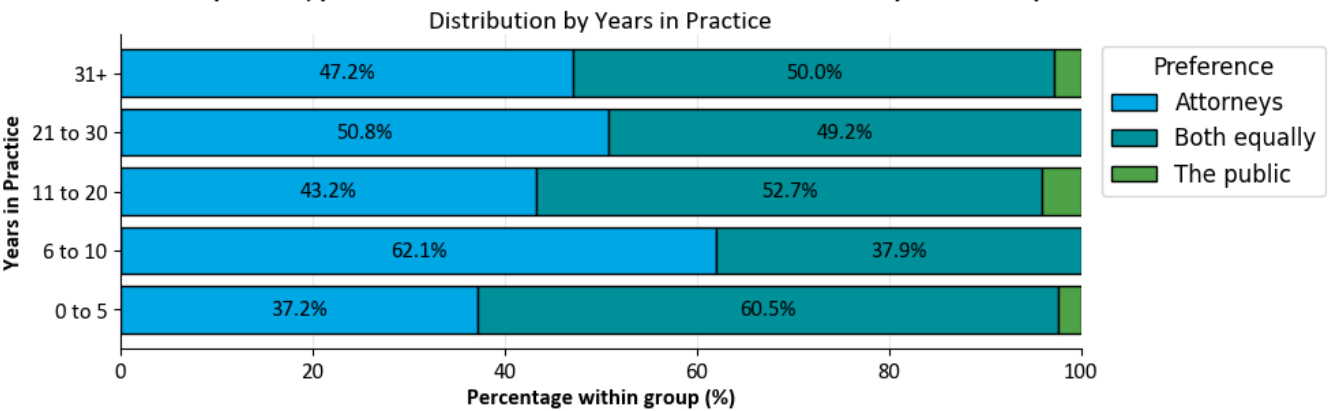
On this spectrum, please rate how long the oath should be.

Distribution by Field of Practice (Top 10)

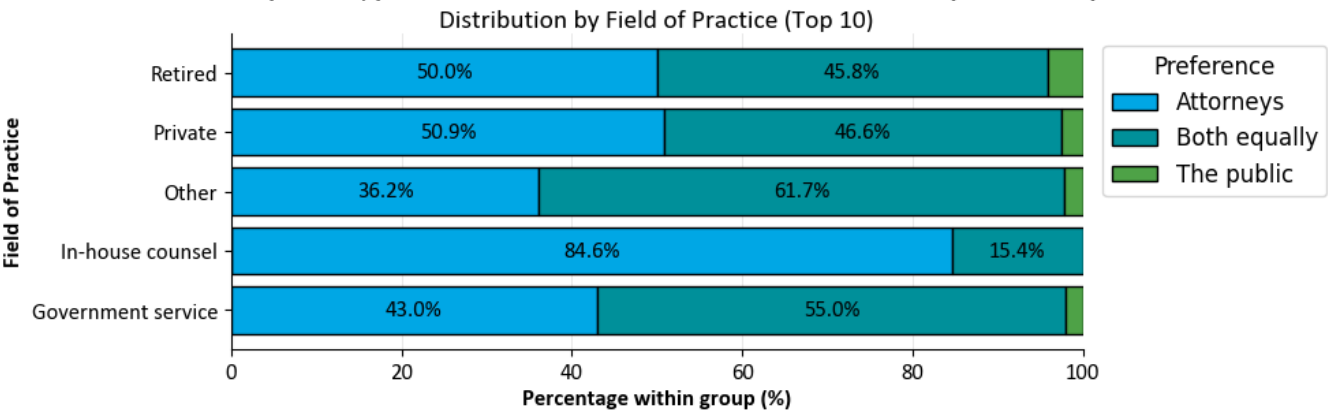


Question 8

On this spectrum, please rate the audience to whom the oath should speak and inspire.

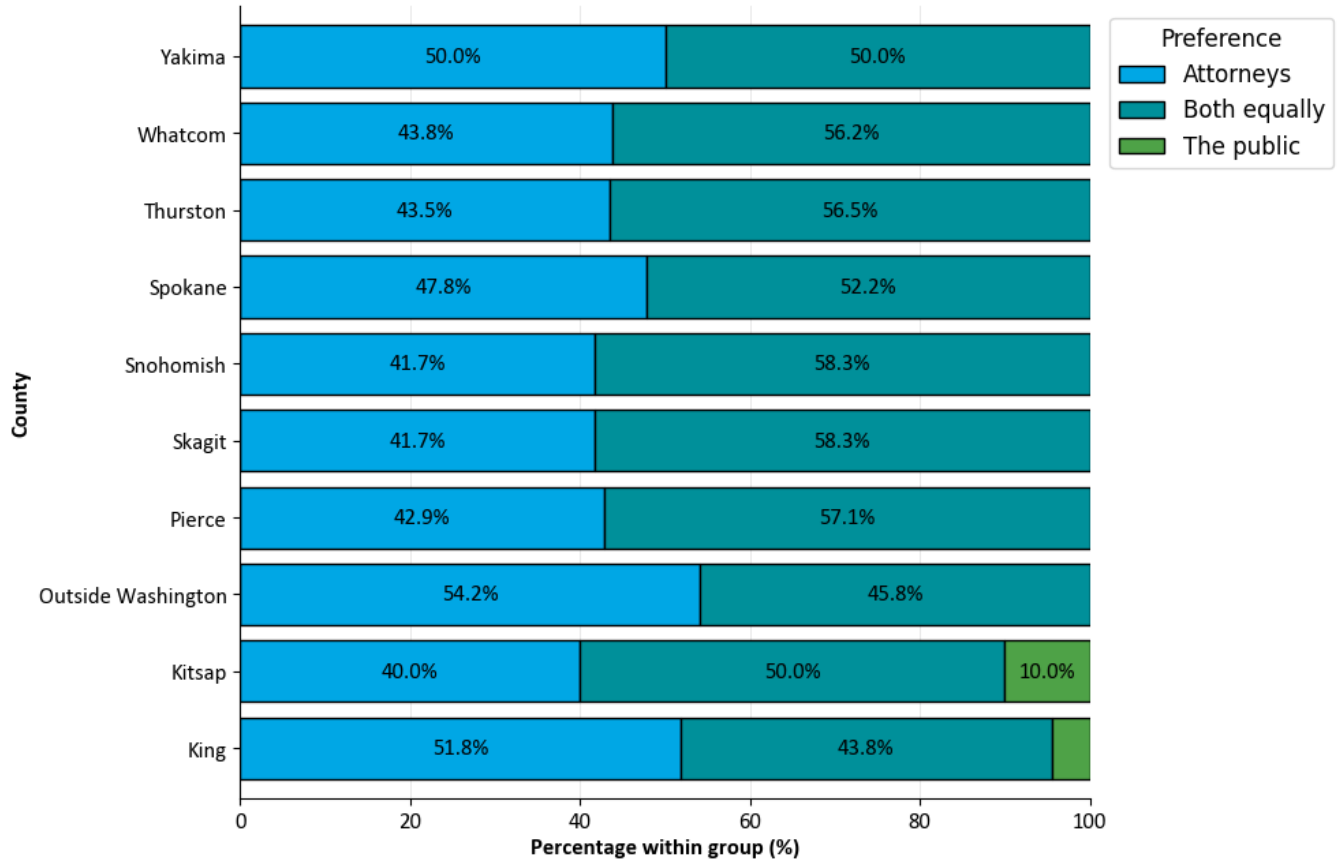


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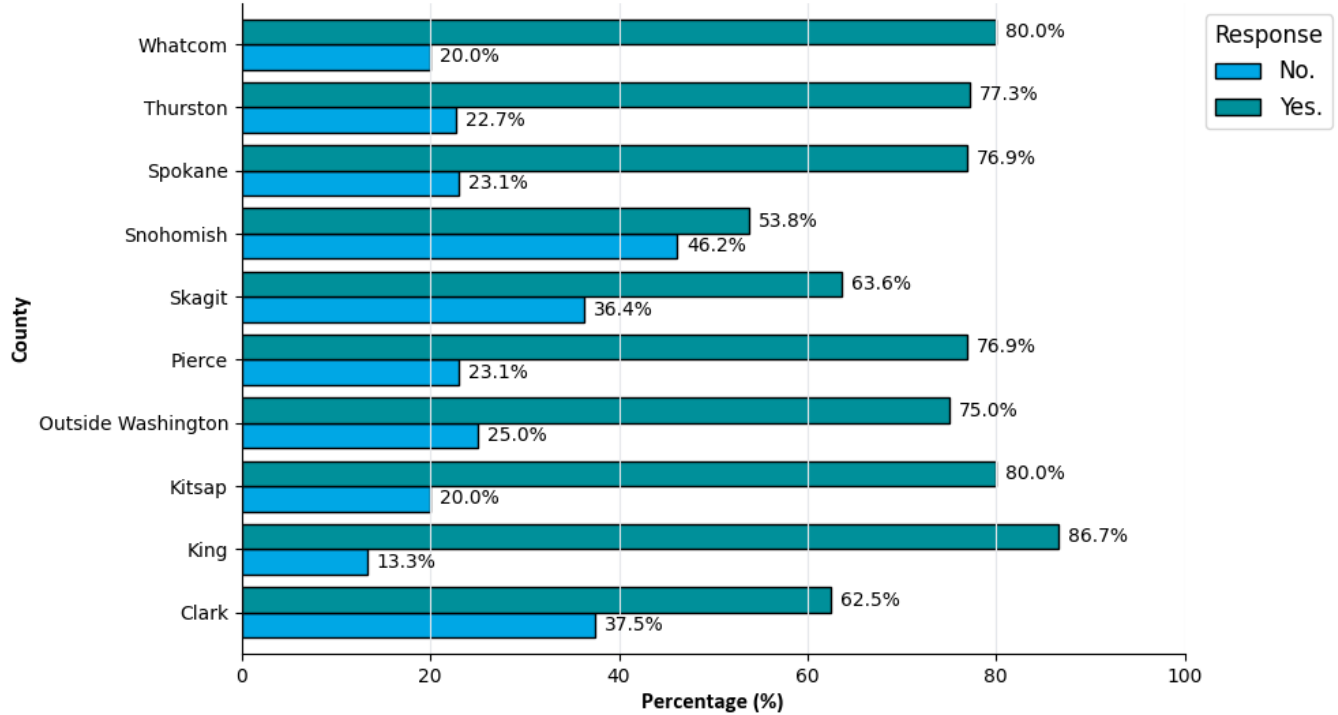
Distribution by County (Top 10)



Question 9

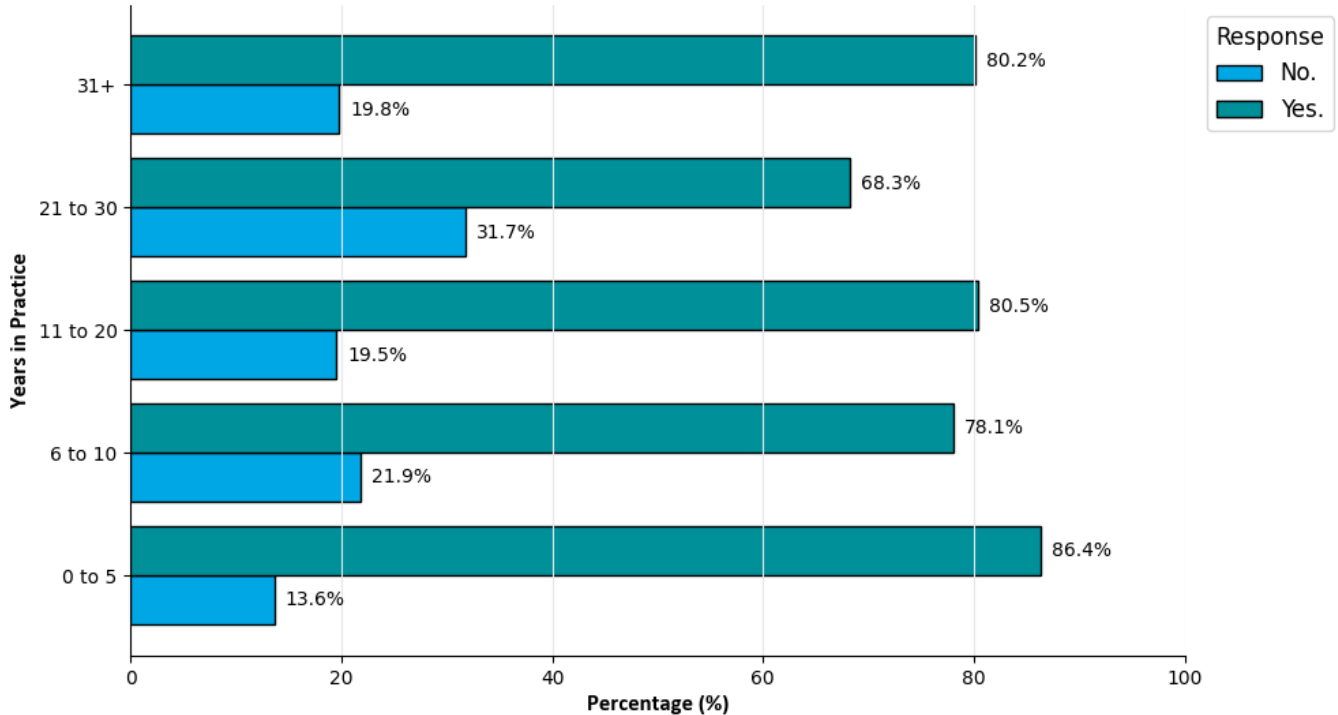
Should the oath be inspirational to those who take it?

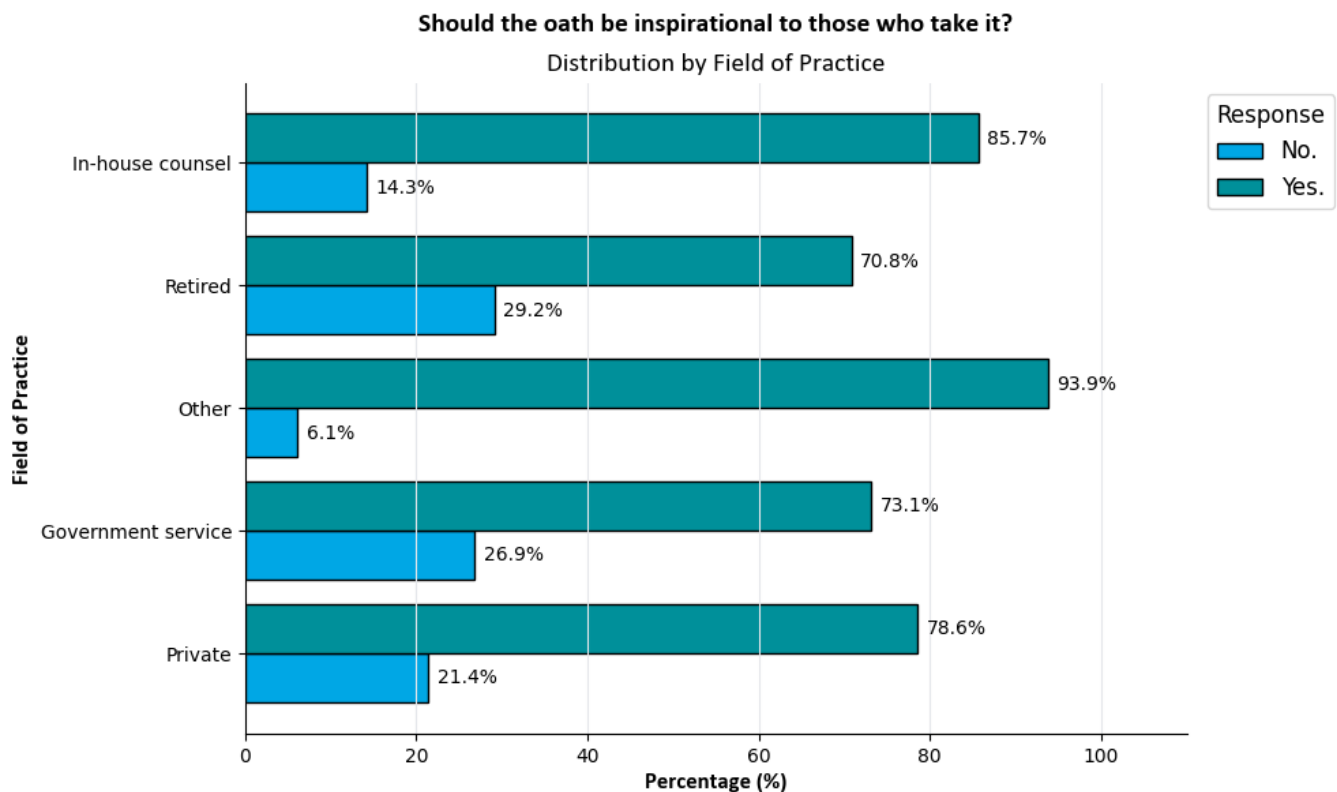
Distribution by County (Top 10)



Should the oath be inspirational to those who take it?

Distribution by Years in Practice





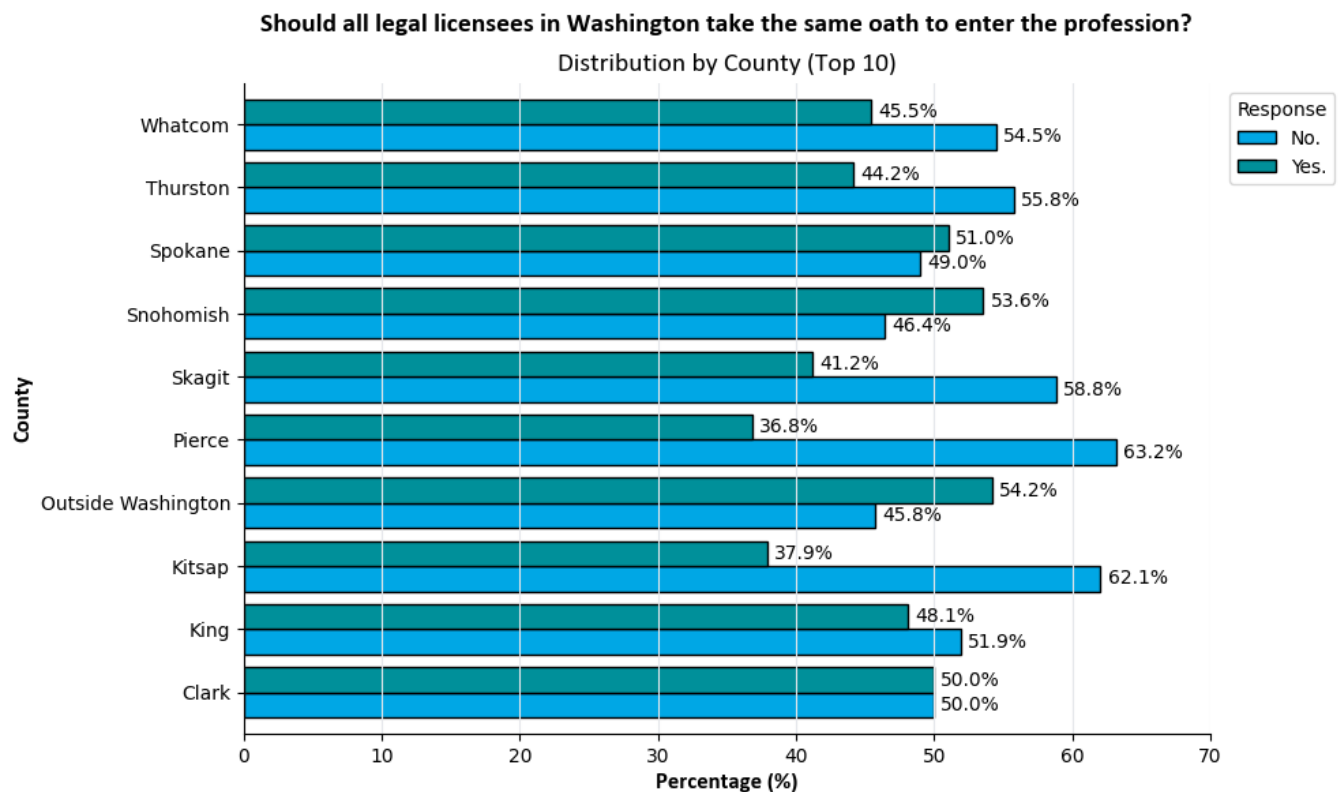
Question 10

Summary of Responses: What Would Make the Oath Inspirational

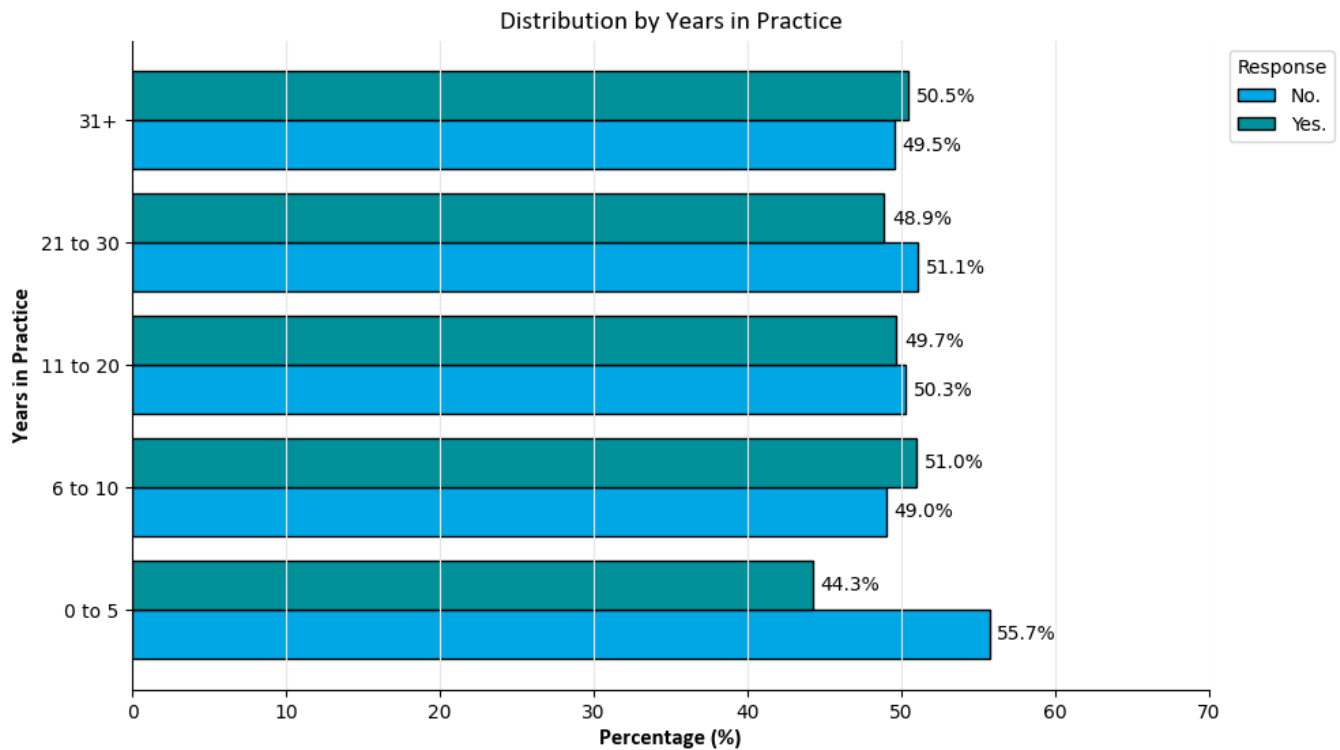
- **Clear, modern, and plain language** — removal of antiquated, confusing, or vague wording (especially “offensive personalities”); use of strong, active, memorable phrasing.
- **Emphasis on the rule of law and constitutional duty** — highlighting the attorney’s role in defending the U.S. and Washington Constitutions, democratic principles, and the integrity of legal institutions.
- **Aspirational vision of the profession** — focusing on justice, fairness, ethical responsibilities, service to others, and the higher purpose of the legal profession.
- **Civility, integrity, and professionalism** — invoking commitments to truth, respect, decorum, candor, and ethical behavior toward courts, clients, and the public.
- **Recognition of the privilege and responsibility of practicing law** — framing law as a calling, not just a job; acknowledging the public trust placed in attorneys.
- **Connection to tradition and history** — referencing the long lineage of the profession, rule-of-law foundations, and Washington-specific legal heritage.
- **Highlighting service and access to justice** — encouraging support for the vulnerable, improving justice system accessibility, and advocating responsibly.
- **Stronger inspirational structure** — use of preambles, short impactful statements, poetic or mission-oriented language, or clear separation of aspirational vs. mandatory duties.

- **Clarity of purpose** — focusing on why lawyers matter to society, how their actions uphold civil society, and how they contribute to justice, stability, and democracy.
- **Language about personal growth and higher standards** — challenging attorneys to rise to high ideals, act with integrity, and understand the impact of their conduct.
- **Recognition of attorneys' unique power** — emphasizing responsibility to use legal expertise for good, uphold justice, and safeguard civic values.
- **A more ceremonial or meaningful swearing-in experience** — some noted that the setting and delivery of the oath also influence its inspirational impact.
- **Shorter, clearer, more memorable statements** — brevity, clarity, and emotional resonance help the oath feel more meaningful.

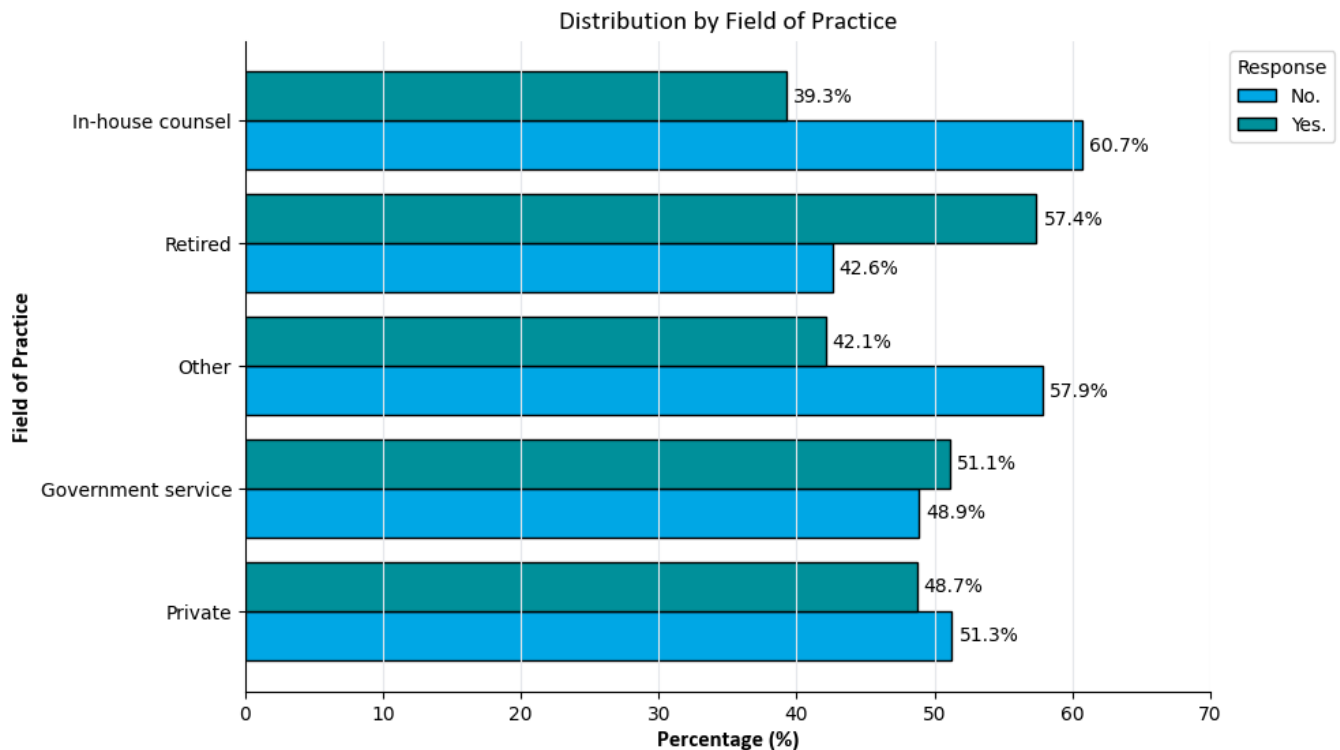
Question 11



Should all legal licensees in Washington take the same oath to enter the profession?



Should all legal licensees in Washington take the same oath to enter the profession?



Question 12

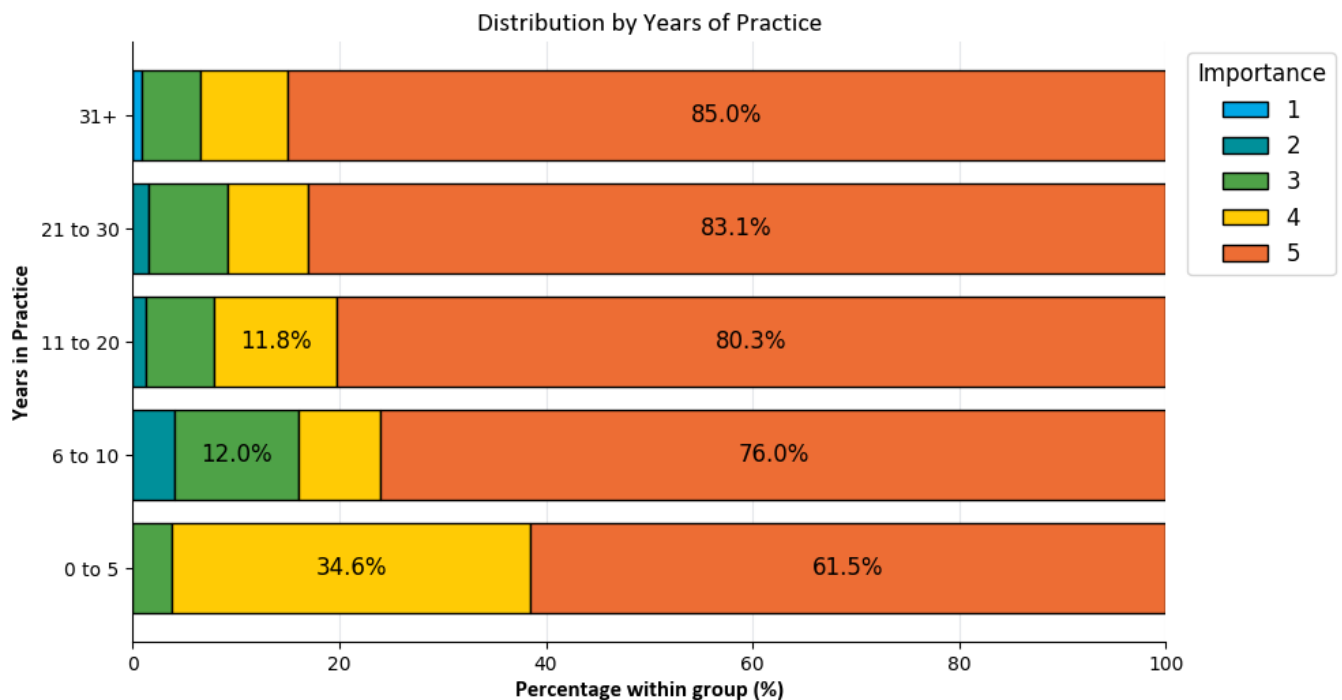
Summary of Responses: Reasons to Keep the Attorney Oath Separate & Unique Elements

- **Attorneys have broader powers and responsibilities**
 - Full authority to practice law, appear in court, advise clients, and make strategic legal judgments.
 - Greater ability to impact outcomes—and cause harm—than LPOs or LLLTs.
- **Higher ethical and fiduciary duties**
 - Attorneys carry heightened obligations: confidentiality, candor, court integrity, duty to justice.
 - Many emphasized that attorneys are officers of the court and should have standards that reflect that role.
- **Different training, education, and licensure level**
 - Years of law school, bar exam, and professional vetting justify a distinct oath.
 - Respondents stressed the significant effort and expertise required to become an attorney.
- **Clear role distinction for the public**
 - A shared oath could blur lines between attorneys and limited-license professionals.
 - Public must understand who is (and is not) qualified to provide full legal representation.
- **Unique responsibilities attorneys hold**
 - Representing clients in court
 - Supervising limited licensees
 - Upholding constitutional and democratic principles
 - Advocating for the unpopular or vulnerable
 - Full professional accountability under the RPCs
- **Need to reflect the attorney's broader scope of practice**
 - Limited licensees have narrow practice rights; their oaths need to reflect limitations.
 - Attorney oath must reflect full, unrestricted practice authority.
- **Preservation of tradition, history, and professional identity**
 - Many view the attorney oath as a symbol of the profession's heritage and prestige.
 - Keeping it distinct honors the legacy of the legal profession.
- **Protecting the integrity of the profession**
 - Concerns that merging oaths would dilute standards or diminish the value of being an attorney.
 - Some expressed frustration that the attorney role is increasingly undervalued or eroded.
- **Elements many said should remain unique to attorneys**
 - Duty of candor to judges and the court
 - Duty to the constitutions
 - Duty to avoid frivolous or unjust actions
 - Confidentiality and fiduciary obligations
 - Duty to the defenseless or oppressed (though some noted it may need clarification)
 - Professional honor, integrity, and civility
 - Broad obligation to the justice system as a whole

- **Limited licensees need different commitments**
 - Oaths should emphasize limitations of their authority and obligation to disclose those limits.
 - They do not share the same representational or advocacy duties.
- **Some respondents indicated uncertainty**
 - A minority said they did not know enough about the other license types to compare.

Question 13

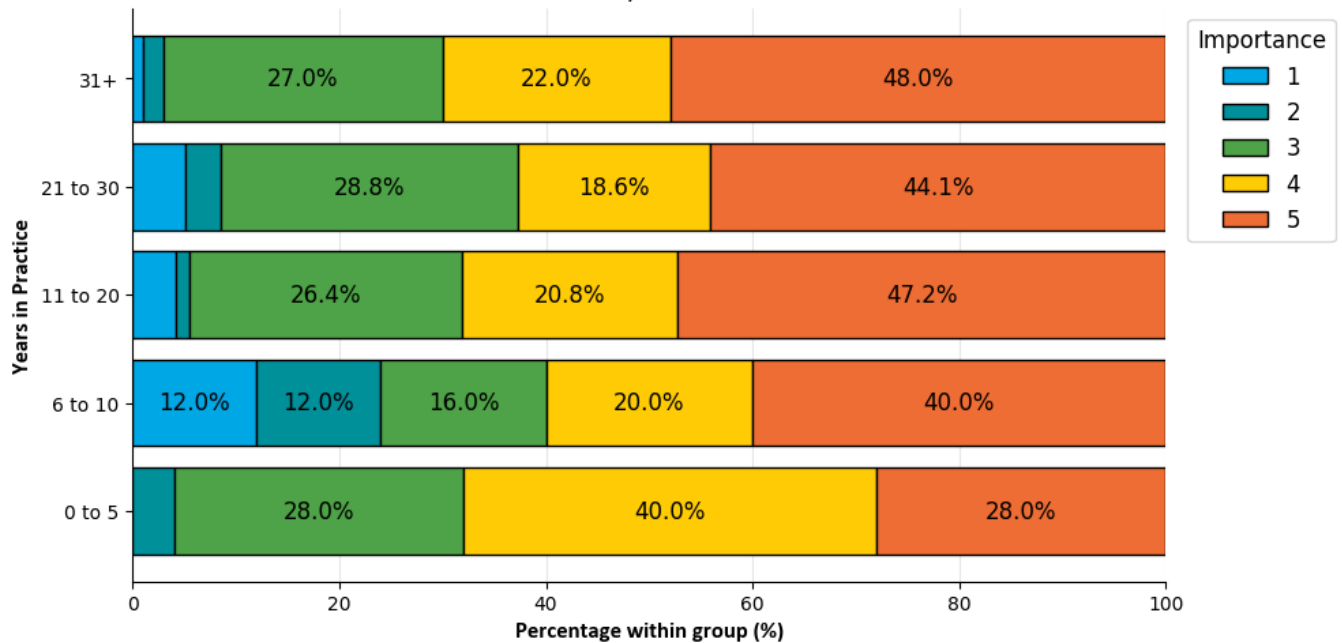
Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?
Common ethical responsibilities and duties among all legal licensees.



Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?

It's not necessary to reference specific rules with limitations for certain licensees if there is language about following all ethical rules and expectations.

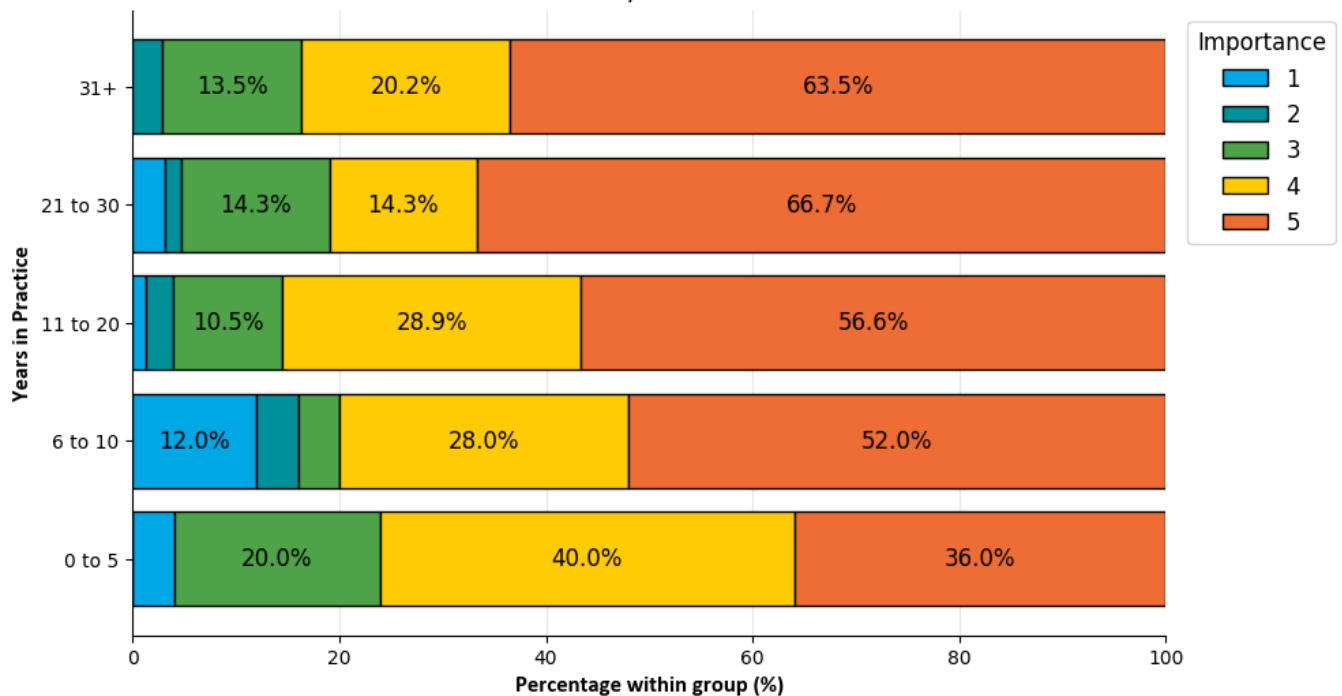
Distribution by Years of Practice



Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?

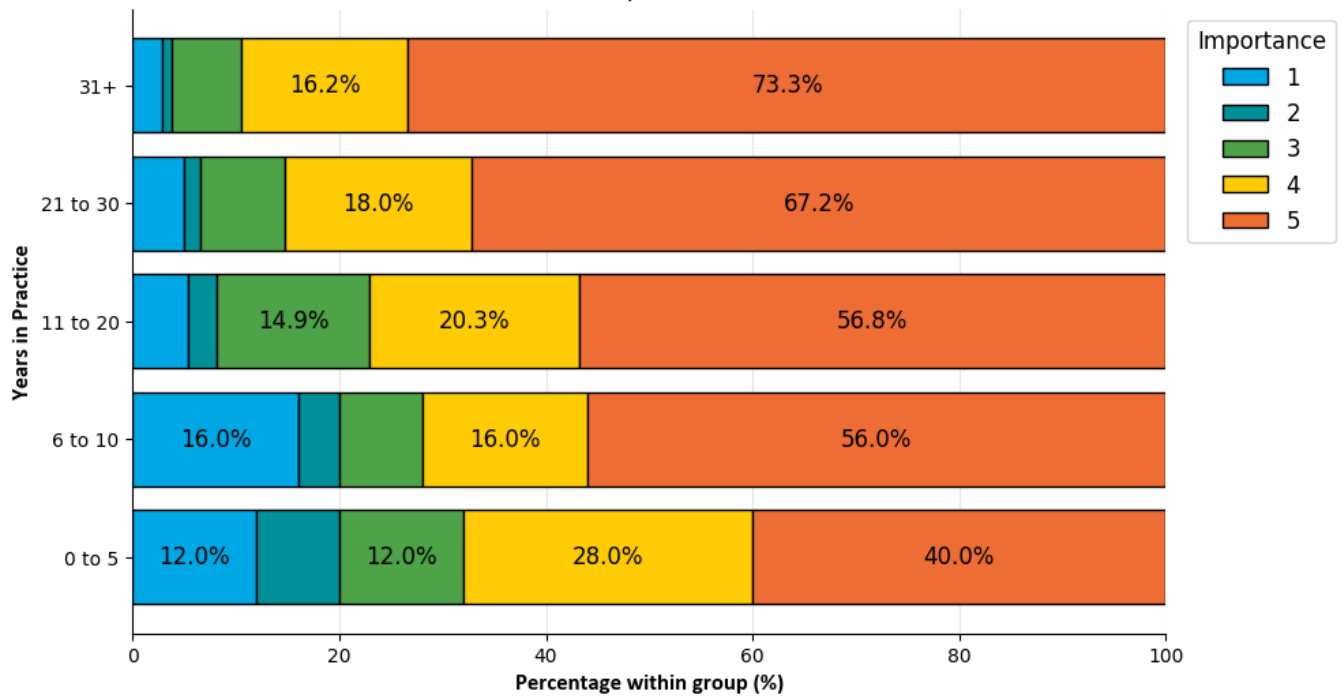
Unified approach and treatment for all legal licensees.

Distribution by Years of Practice



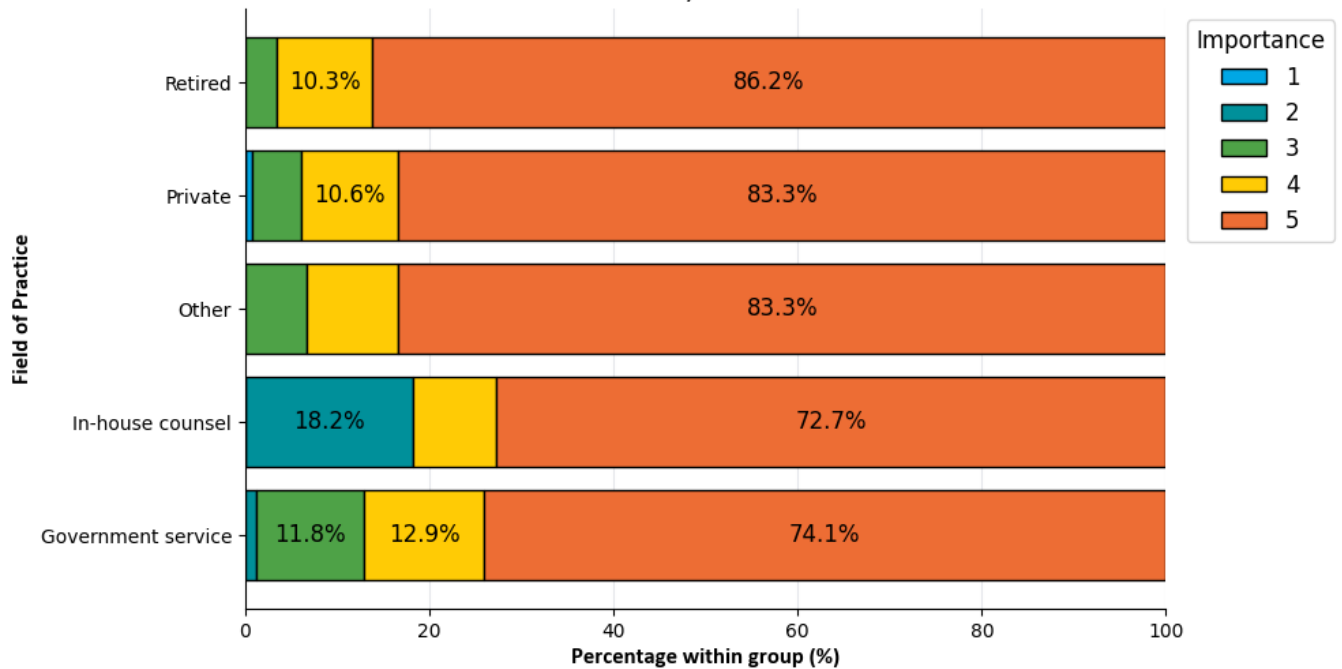
Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?
Unified message to the public about legal licensees.

Distribution by Years of Practice



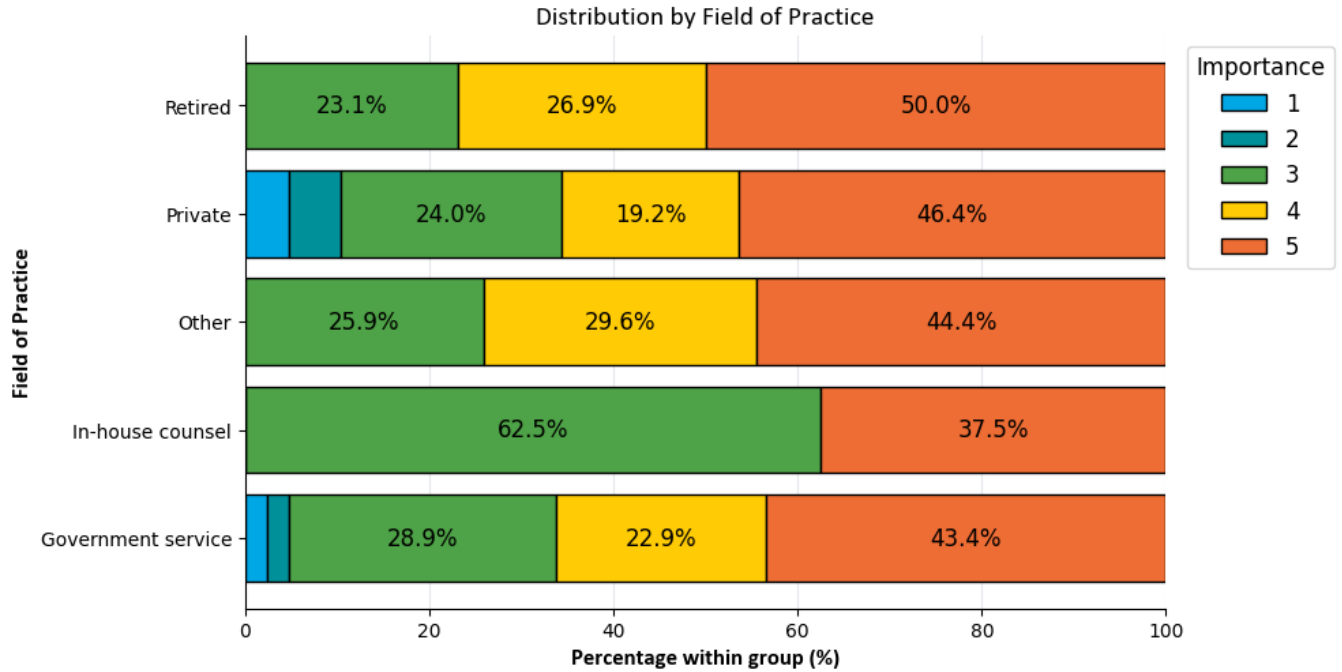
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Common ethical responsibilities and duties among all legal licensees.

Distribution by Field of Practice



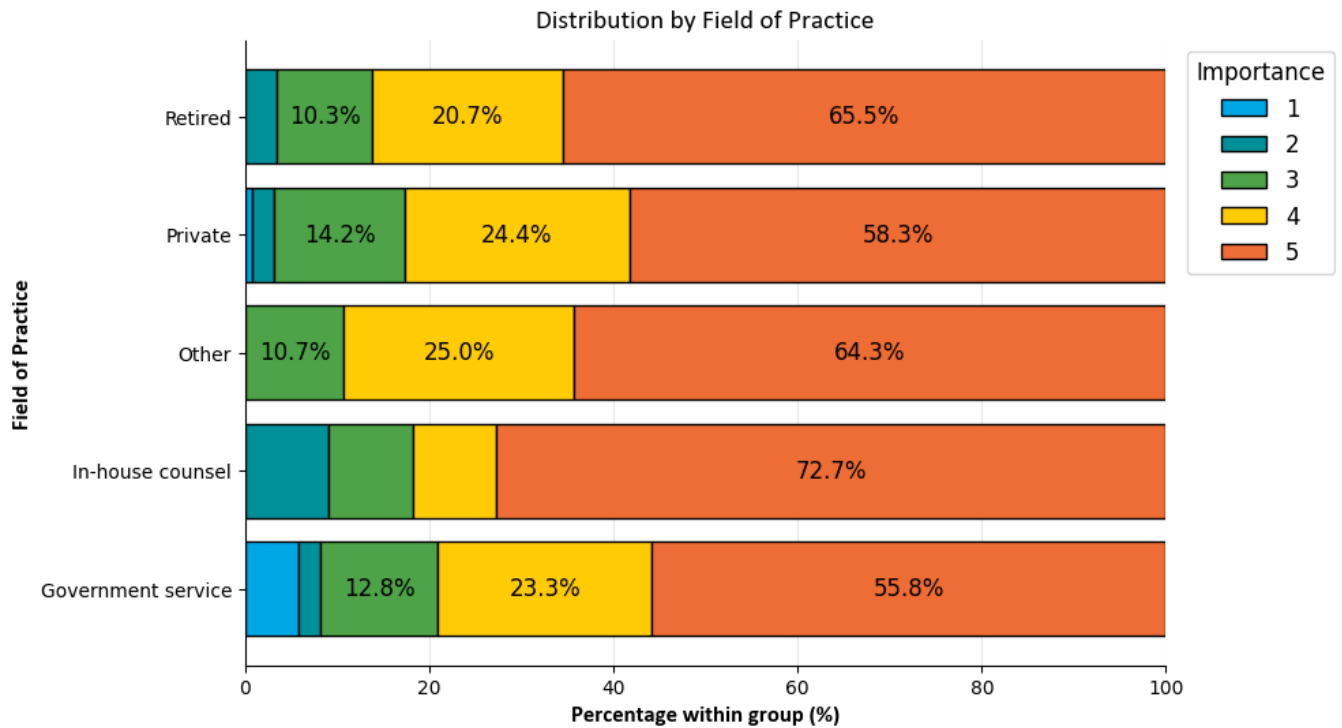
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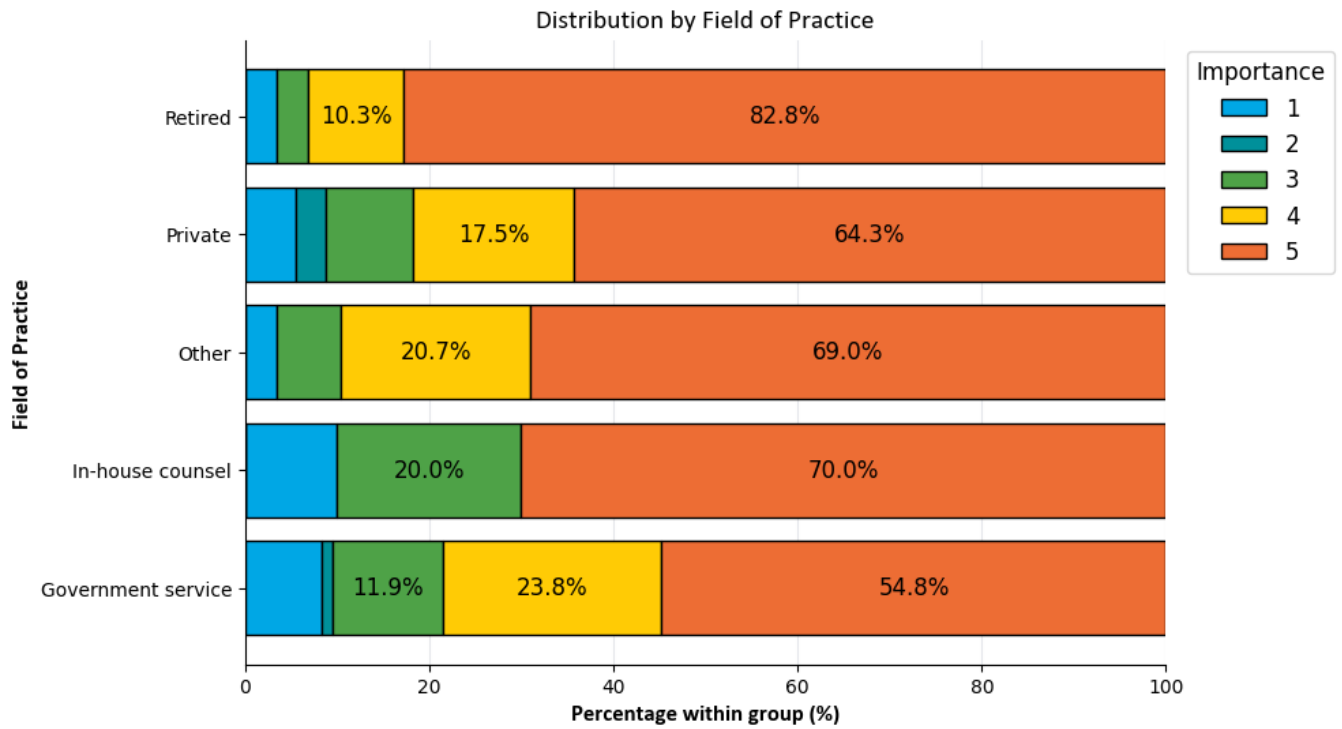


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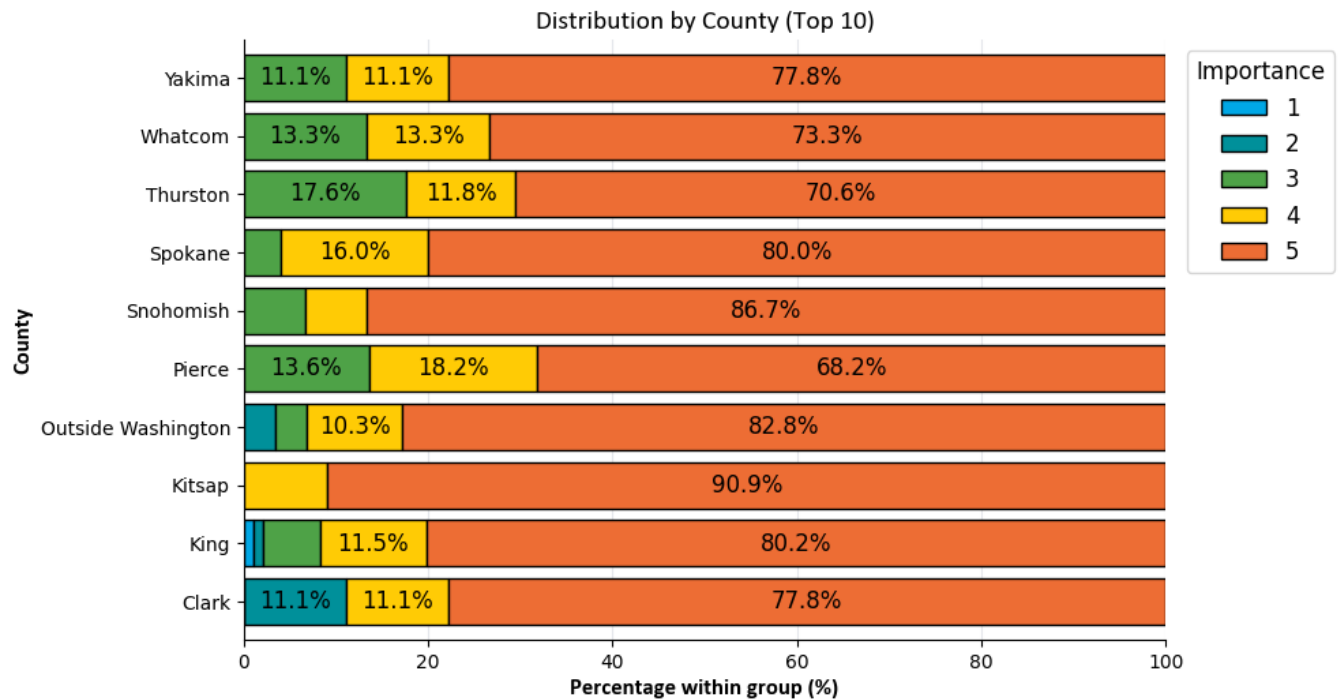
Unified approach and treatment for all legal licensees.



Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?
Unified message to the public about legal licensees.



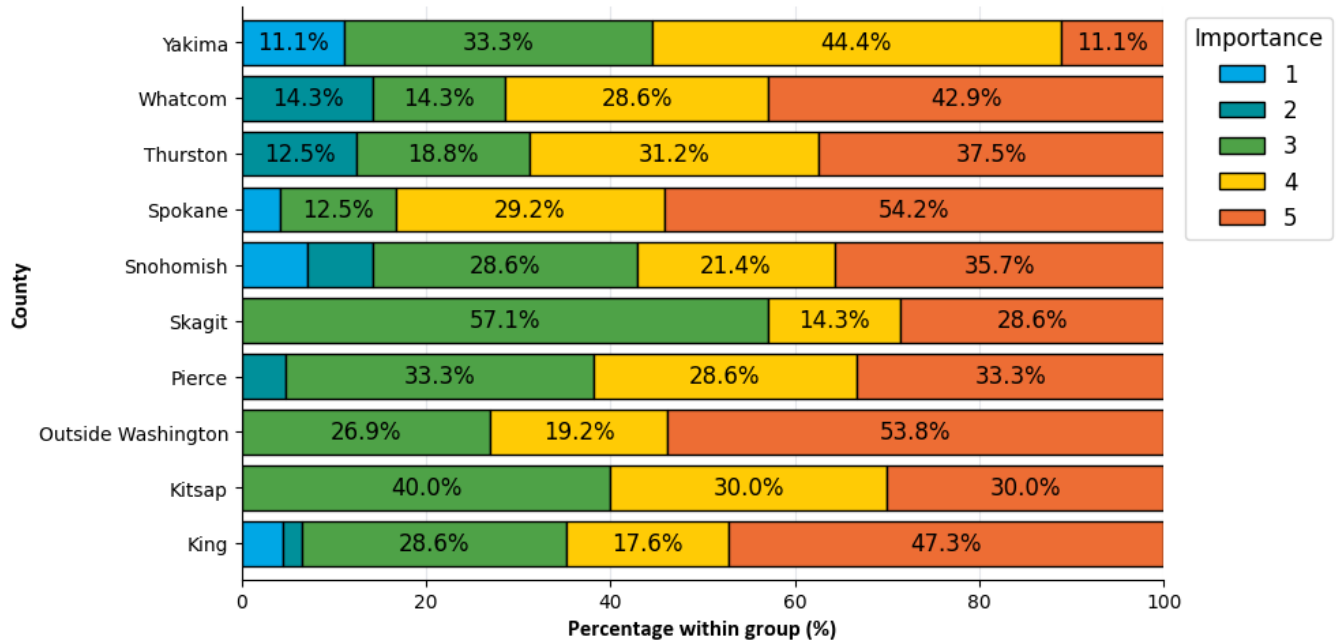
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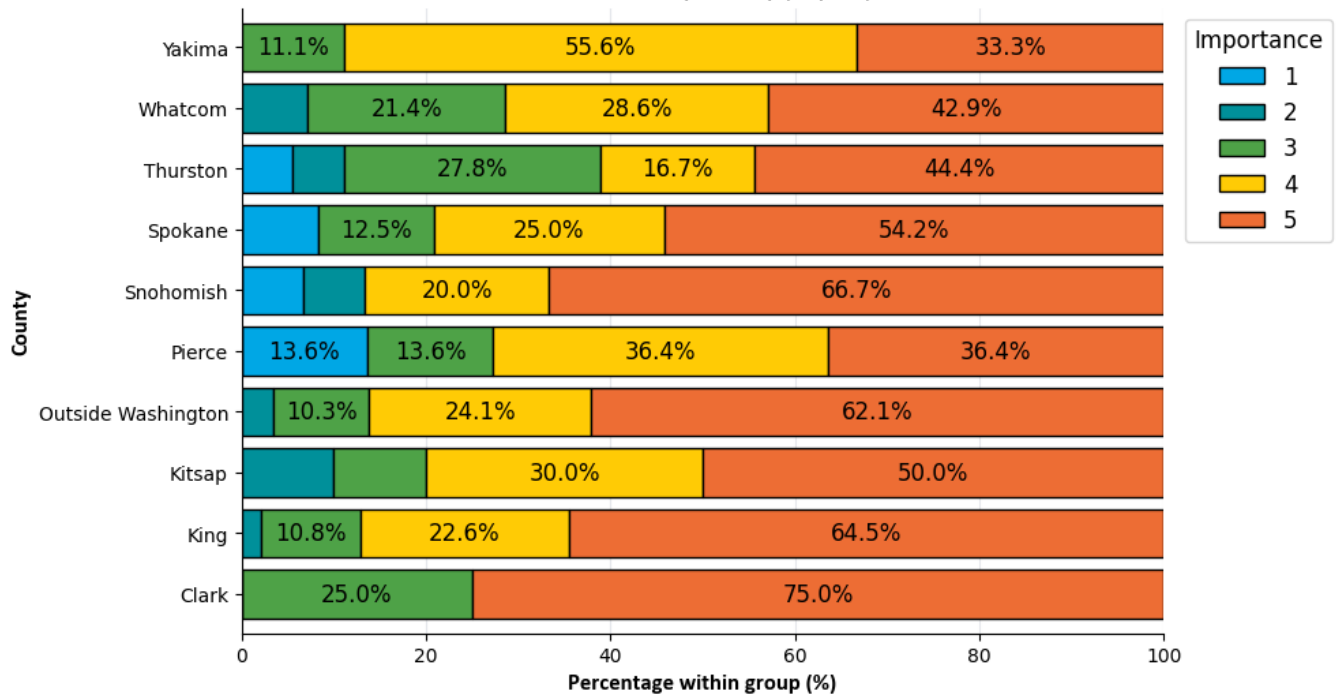
Distribution by County (Top 10)



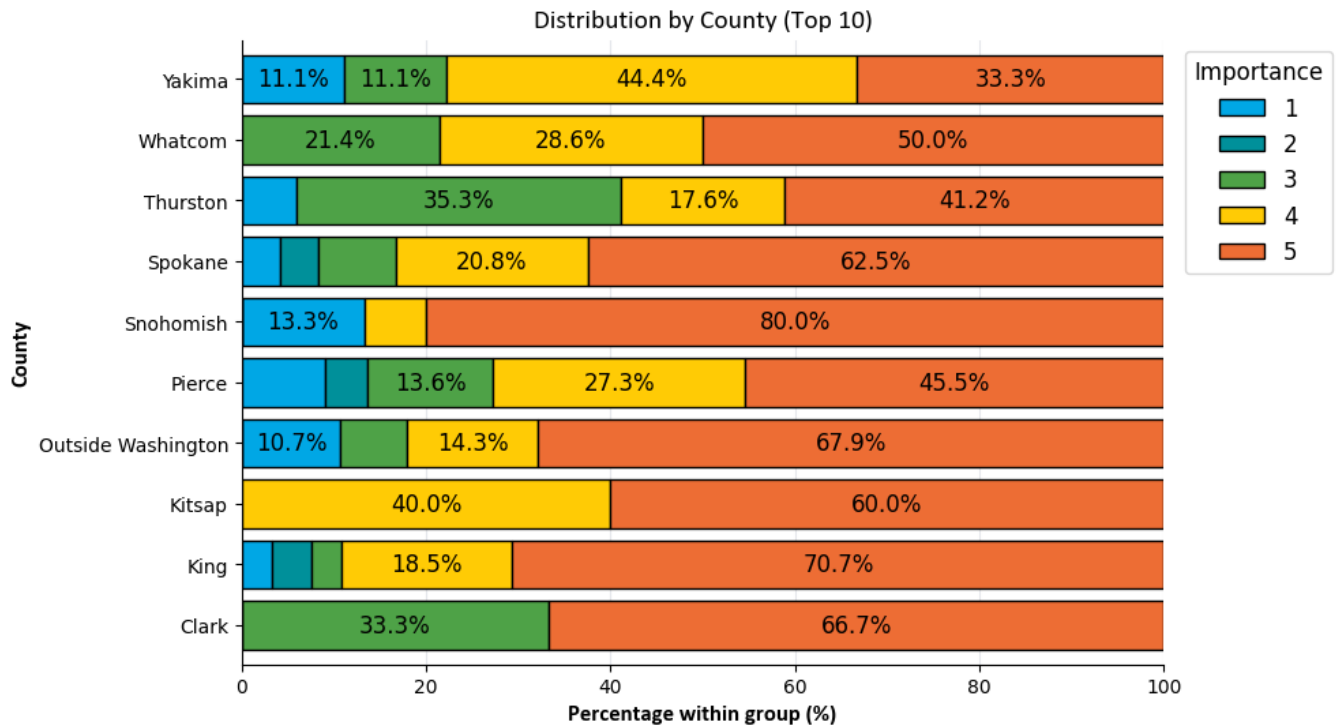
Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?

Unified approach and treatment for all legal licensees.

Distribution by County (Top 10)



**Why do you think it is important for there to be one common oath for all legal professionals in Washington?
Unified message to the public about legal licensees.**



Summary of “Other” Responses: Reasons for One Common Oath

- Some support a shared oath to reinforce **common ethical values** across all legal professionals.
- A single oath could provide **clear baseline expectations** for the public.
- It may **reduce confusion** and be easier to administer.
- Could signal **respect for all licensure paths** into the profession.
- Some believe limited-license professionals should take the oath **more seriously**, and a shared oath might help.
- A few value **reducing hierarchy** between attorneys and other legal professionals.
- Several were **uncertain** or felt they didn’t know enough to answer.

Question 14

Summary of Responses: Drawbacks of Unifying the Three Legal-Licensee Oaths

- **Public confusion about roles and qualifications**
 - Risk that clients may assume all license types have the same training, authority, and scope of practice.
 - Could blur the distinction between attorneys and limited-license professionals.

- **Dilution or “watering down” of attorney standards**
 - Concern that a unified oath may lower expectations for attorneys or imply all legal providers carry equal responsibilities.
 - Some fear this would undermine the prestige and rigor of the attorney role.
- **Mismatch between oath language and actual scope of practice**
 - Certain duties in the attorney oath (e.g., court advocacy, fiduciary obligations, full representation) do not apply to LLLTs or LPOs.
 - A single oath may include irrelevant or misleading commitments for some roles.
- **Potential for misrepresentation**
 - Limited-license professionals might believe (or imply) they have the same authority as attorneys because they took the same oath.
- **Difficulty tailoring ethical expectations**
 - Each license type has different restrictions, obligations, and oversight mechanisms; a single oath could gloss over those differences.
- **Risk of lowering or defaulting to the “lowest common denominator”**
 - Concern that the unified version would need to be simplified to apply broadly, weakening the attorney-specific commitments.
- **Loss of clarity for the public and profession**
 - Reduced transparency about who can do what and who bears ultimate responsibility.
 - Important for accountability and consumer protection.
- **Some saw no drawbacks**
 - A minority believed unification would not cause problems or felt unsure due to limited knowledge of the other licenses.

Question 15

Summary of “Other” Responses: Memories of First Taking the Oath of Attorney

- **Sense of pride, honor, and accomplishment**
 - Many recalled feeling proud, excited, or deeply honored to join the profession.
 - For some, it marked a major personal milestone after years of hard work.
- **Solemnity and seriousness of the moment**
 - Respondents often described the ceremony as formal, meaningful, or weighty.
 - The courtroom setting, presence of judges, or family made it feel significant.

- **Feeling the responsibility of becoming an attorney**
 - Many remembered sensing the gravity of their ethical duties, public trust, and obligations under the law.
- **Language was long, outdated, or confusing**
 - A very common theme: the oath felt cumbersome, wordy, hard to recite, or unclear.
 - “Abstaining from offensive personalities” was repeatedly remembered as odd, confusing, or humorous.
- **Tradition and history**
 - Some were inspired by the continuity of taking the same oath as generations before them.
 - The historic or ceremonial aspects stood out more than the specific words.
- **Emotional or personal significance**
 - People remembered who administered the oath, who attended, or the importance of sharing it with family.
 - Some were moved to tears or felt humbled.
- **Little or no memory of the actual wording**
 - Many said they remembered almost nothing of the oath itself—only the setting or the feeling of the moment.
- **COVID-era swearing-in felt less meaningful**
 - Those sworn in remotely described the moment as quick, impersonal, or forgettable.
- **Mixed impact**
 - Some found it inspirational; others thought it was just a procedural step.