



The State Bar *of California*

## 3.1 Presentation on 2024 Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship Grant Cohort

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LALF Grants Committee – October 4, 2024

# Legal Aid Leaders Fellowship (LALF) Background

## Program Overview

- New paid summer internship for law students launched in 2023
- Funded through a \$5 donation from the attorney licensing fee (Business and Professions Code § 6140.03)
- Competitive grants process open to qualified legal services projects or qualified support centers

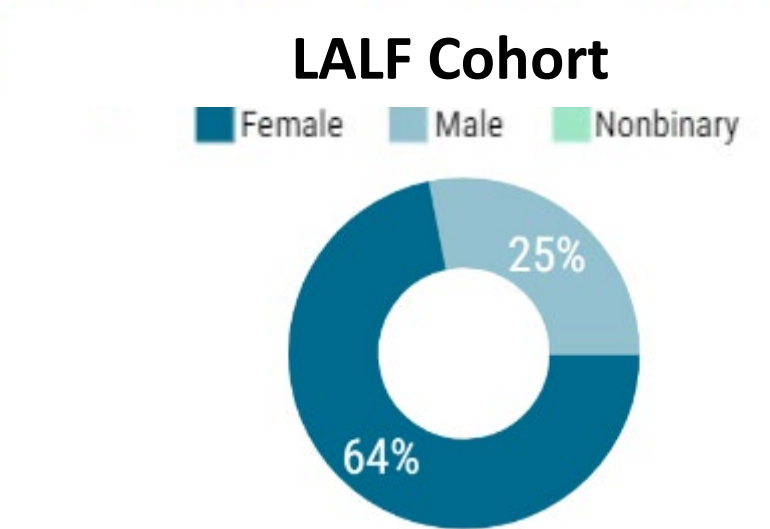
Legal Aid Leadership Fellows Program Overview (2023 and 2024)

|                    | 2023      | 2024      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Funding awarded    | \$759,000 | \$742,000 |
| Students           | 76        | 76        |
| Host Organizations | 35        | 34        |
| Total Hours        | 26,875    | 30,251    |

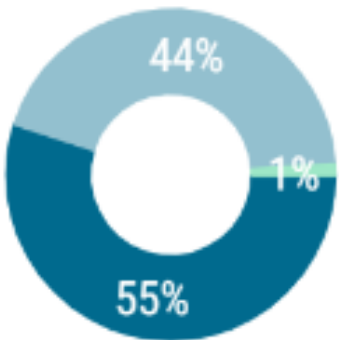
*Note: This data only include State Bar-funded fellows.*

## LALF Cohort Demographics: Gender Identity

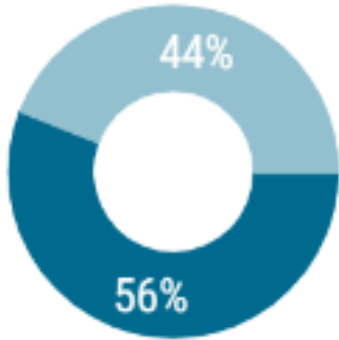
The following slides compare demographic information of the 2024 LALF Cohort with the California attorney population, California adult population, and California law students.



### CA Attorneys



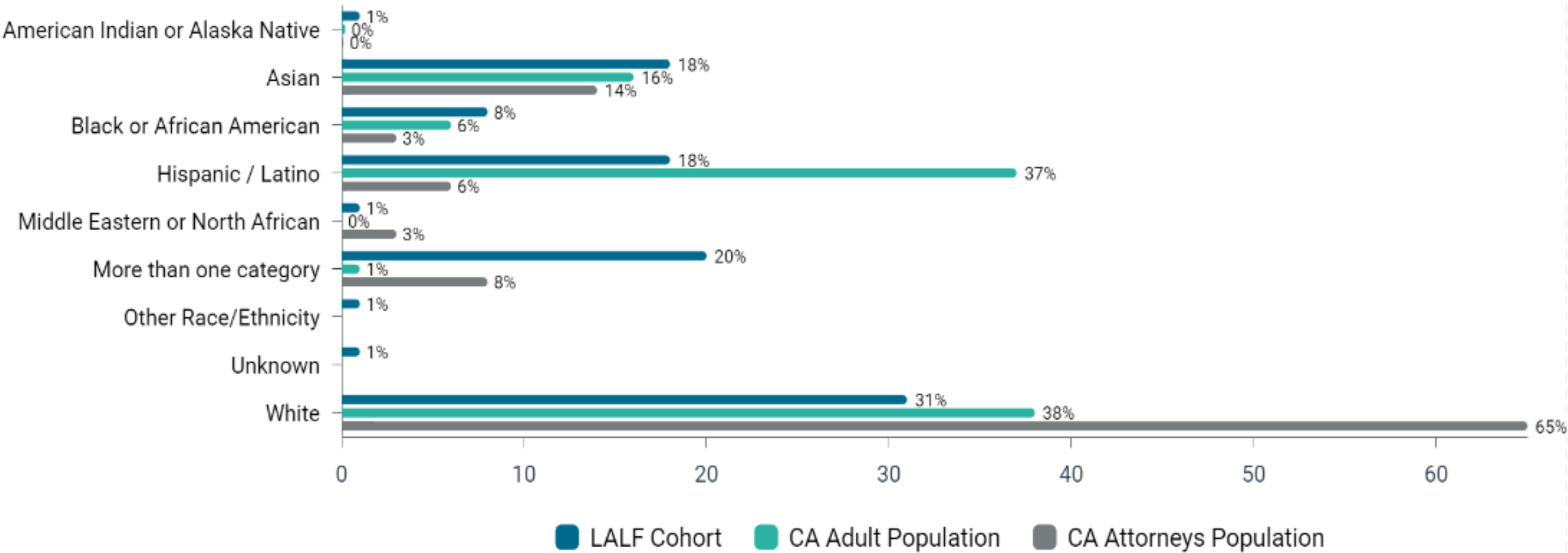
### CA Law Students



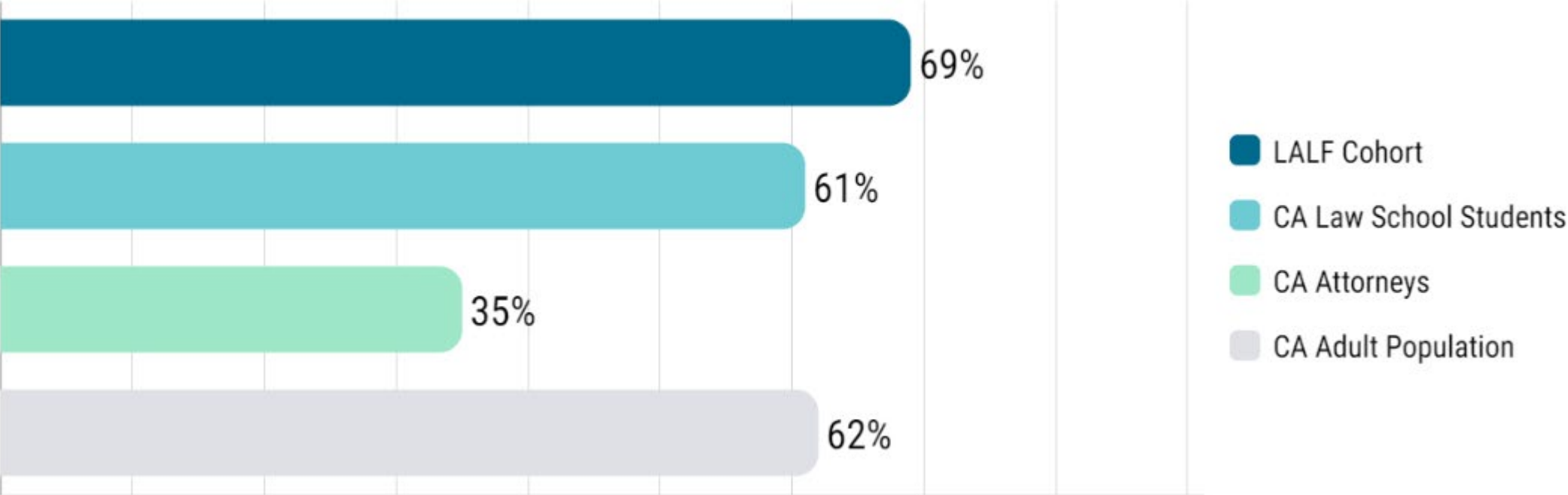
*Note: The data collected for California's attorney and overall population is from the State Bar's 2023 Report Card on The Diversity of California's Legal Profession*



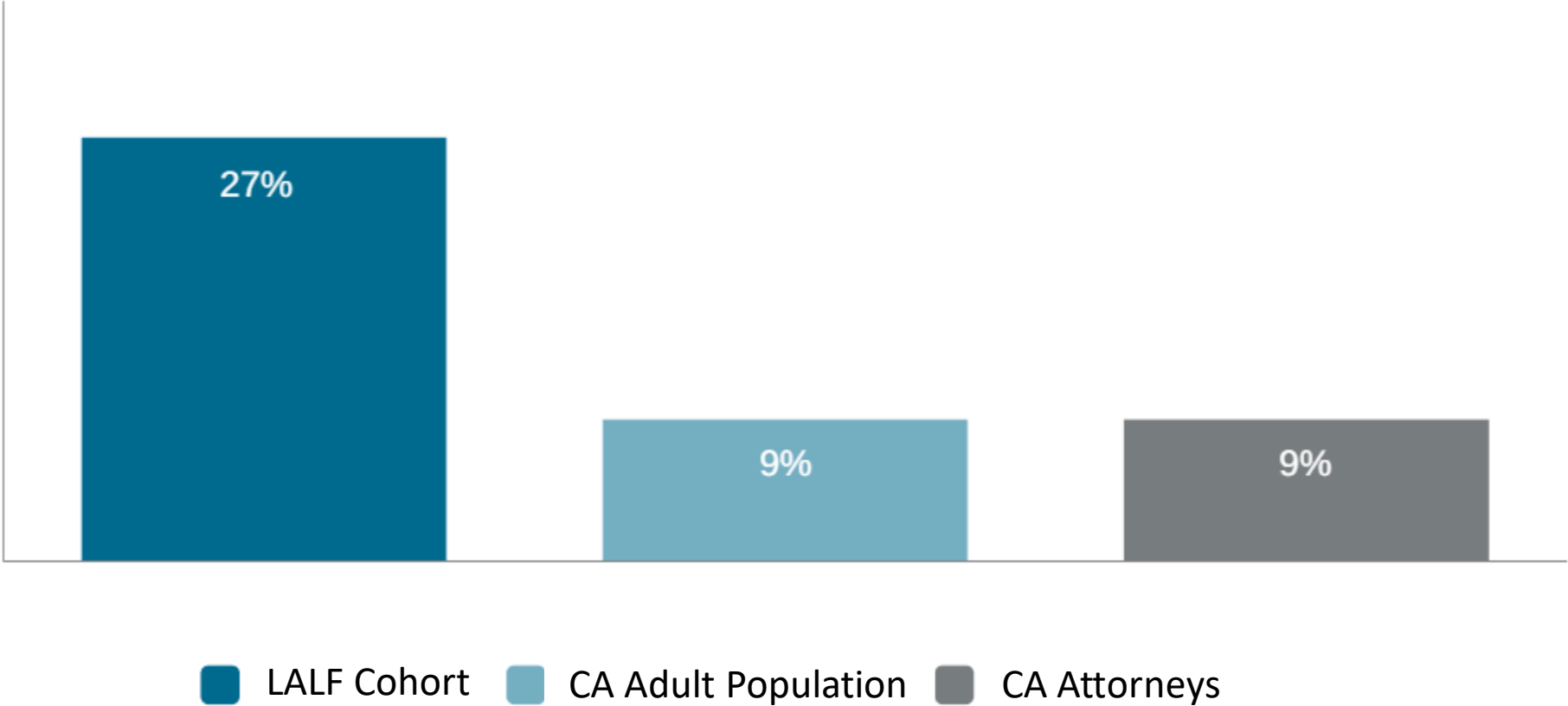
## LALF Cohort Demographics: Race and Ethnicity



LALF Cohort Demographics: Race and Ethnicity (continued)

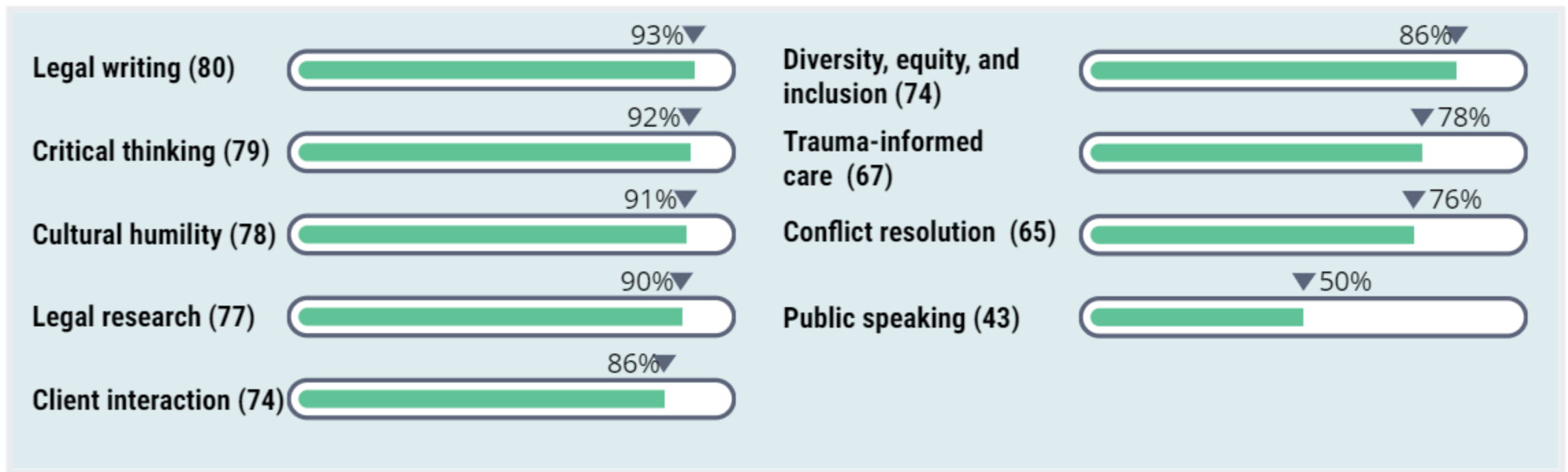


LALF Cohort Demographics: Sexual Orientation (LGBTQIA+)



## Areas of Law and Legal Skills

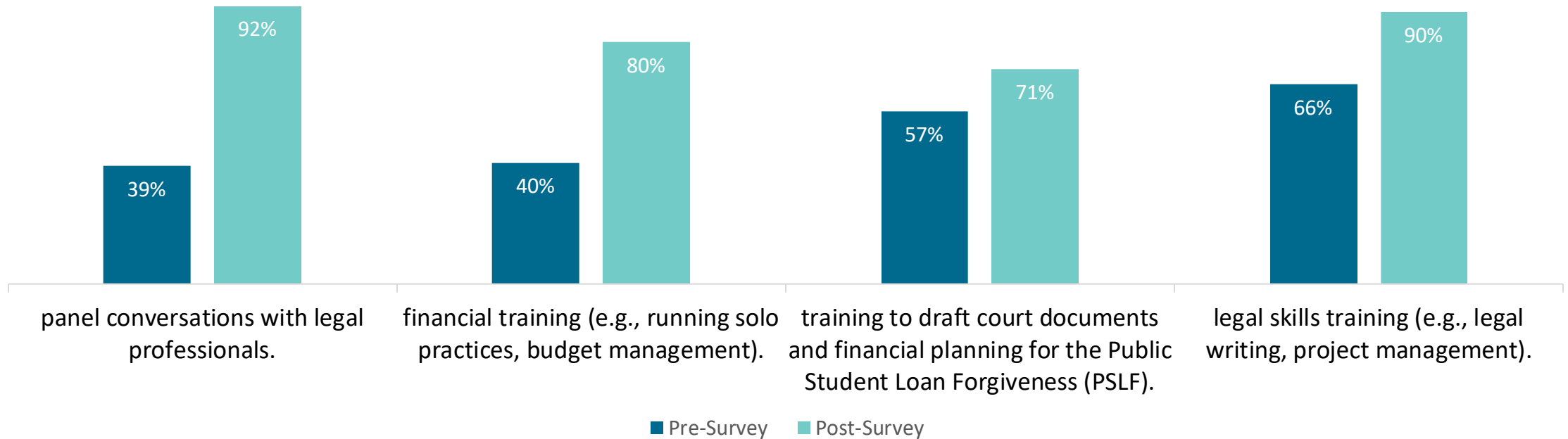
- Law students gained substantive and procedural law training, mentorship, exposure to public interest law, and in-court observations.
- Fellows worked in areas of law such as housing, family/domestic violence, immigration, disability rights, and employment.



# Professional Development Opportunities

- Attitudes towards panel discussions with attorneys and additional financial training for solo practice and budget management saw significant changes from the presurvey.

## If offered, I would participate in...





## FEEDBACK FOR CHANGELAWYER WEBINARS

"Talked about issues whose importance isn't immediately apparent but are nevertheless foundational to success. They offer helpful advice on the way to approach work and how best to handle myself and maintain a good mindset for my own health as well as productivity."



"They provided insights that were extremely relevant to law students on the path to becoming lawyers which law school by and large does not cover. The mindfulness webinar in particular teaches a method of stress management that would never be more than a footnote in law school."

"Attorney's addressing the problems with burnout, imposter syndrome, and having confidence to be in the room even if you're a first-generation law student."

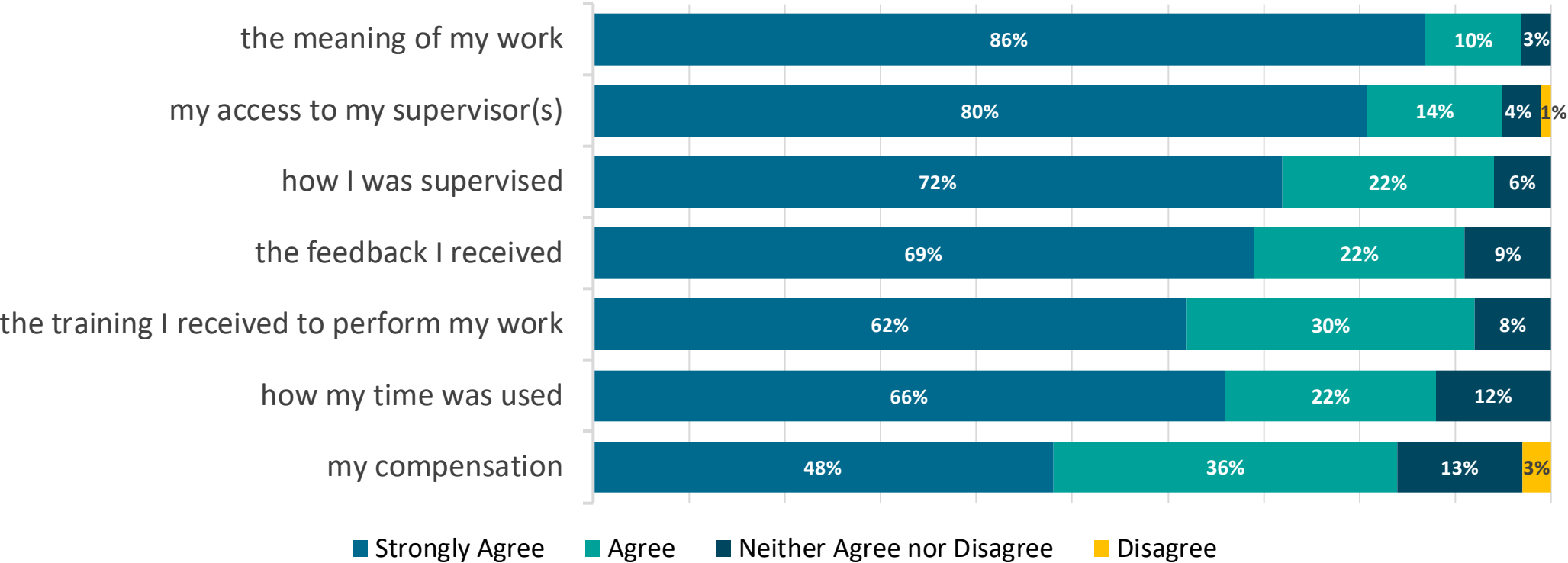
- ChangeLawyers is a nonprofit organization based in California that focuses on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession.
- Fellows attended 261 webinars, averaging 3 webinars per fellow.
- The webinars are described as providing a holistic view of public interest law while also practical career advice, emphasizing mental health, and mindfulness.



# Overall Experience

When asked about what would be important to contribute to a positive fellowship experience in the pre-survey, the top three factors were clear training, access to supervisors, and mentorship.

## During my fellowship, I was satisfied with...



## Overall Experience

- 96% of respondents (68% strongly agree and 28% agree) stated that the fellowship experience met their expectations.
- 97% of respondents (78% strongly agree and 19% agree) would recommend the fellowship to other law students interested in legal aid.



67%

Fellows with **high** and **very high** levels of interest in pursuing a career in legal aid after law school, following the fellowship program.



86%

Fellows who may have not otherwise been able to work for a legal aid organization without State Bar funding.

