

ARE THINGS LOOKING UP FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

2016 2017

TOTAL GRADUATES IN 2016

35,815

30%
identify as an
ETHNIC MINORITY

TOTAL GRADUATES IN 2017

34,922 -2.5%

30% ±0%
identify as an
ETHNIC MINORITY

74%
BAR PASSAGE

77% +3%
BAR PASSAGE
FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

86.9%
EMPLOYED

88% +1.1%
EMPLOYED

\$66,539
**OVERALL
MEDIAN
STARTING
SALARY**

\$70,000 +5.2%
**OVERALL
MEDIAN
STARTING
SALARY**

♂ \$70,000 ♀ \$67,000

AVERAGE LAW SCHOOL DEBT:
(among those who borrowed)

\$112,800

\$108,000* -4.3%

*Does not include debt from other education – 45% of students enroll in law school with undergraduate debt.

11% Judicial Clerk
MEDIAN SALARY: \$56,748
7% Public Interest
MEDIAN SALARY: \$50,000
2% Academic
MEDIAN SALARY: \$50,000

54% Private Practice
MEDIAN SALARY: \$117,000
14% Business
MEDIAN SALARY: \$75,000
12% Government
MEDIAN SALARY: \$60,000

Lawyers have the highest 10-year job projection among positions requiring a graduate or professional degree.

To review other law school data and trends, read the 2018 Legal Education Data Deck.

Note: Employment figures are based on data reported to the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) ten months after graduation (March 15, 2018) and are based on 34,421 of 34,922 graduates whose data were reported to NALP. Salary information is based on graduates who reported their compensation. American Bar Association. (2018a). Statistics. Retrieved from https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/statistics.html. National Association for Law Placement. (2018). Class of 2017 national summary report [Data file]. Retrieved from https://www.nalp.org/uploads/Classof2017_NationalSummaryReport.pdf. Kowarski, I. (2017, May 23). 10 Law Schools Where Grads Have the Least Debt. *U.S. News & World Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/the-short-list-grad-school/articles/2017-05-23/10-law-schools-where-grads-have-the-least-student-debt>. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, NPSAS-16. Data presentation, analysis and commentary by AccessLex Institute. U.S. News & World Report. (2018). Which law school graduates have the most debt? Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/grad-debt-rankings>. Ward, S. F. (2018, March 22). New bar exam data released: Pass rate up almost 3 percentage points. *ABA Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/ultimate_and_first_time_bar_pass_rates_in_legal_ed_data_released_thursday/