

Law Grads Hiring Report: Job Stats for the Class of 2019

Law.com breaks down the latest American Bar Association data on law school entry-level employment to determine which schools fared the best—and worst—in 10 different job categories.

By Karen Sloan

Among the J.D. class of 2019, four out of five graduates landed jobs that either require bar passage or for which a law degree offers an advantage within 10 months of leaving campus.

That's the strongest entry-level employment record in more than a decade, according to new data from the American Bar Association. But not every law school had such robust employment outcomes last year. Law.com has dug through a wealth of jobs data released by the ABA this month to spotlight how law schools performed in 10 different areas.

We have ranked schools according to their percentage of 2019 graduates in full-time, long-term jobs that require a J.D., which are often seen as the gold standard for new law graduates. Columbia Law School once again tops that list, sending nearly 97% of last year's graduates into those jobs. (Duke Law School; the University of Virginia School of Law; the University of Chicago Law School; and the University of Michigan Law School round out the top five.)

Federal clerkships are another prestigious and highly sought-after opportunity for new law graduates. In 2019, Stanford Law School unseated Yale Law School as the campus with the most recent graduates clerking for federal judges. Among those Stanford graduates, 29% landed federal clerkships. For Yale, that figure was nearly 26%.



Our other charts break down which schools sent the most graduates into large firm jobs, government and public-interest positions, and state and local clerkships. We've also calculated which schools sent the most graduates into large law firms or federal clerkships, a category we have dubbed "elite jobs."

But it's not all sunshine and rainbows out there on the entry-level legal job market. A number of law schools continue to struggle to help graduates secure legal jobs. We've ranked law schools according to the percentage of 2019 graduates who were unemployed and looking for work 10 months after leaving campus—where 16

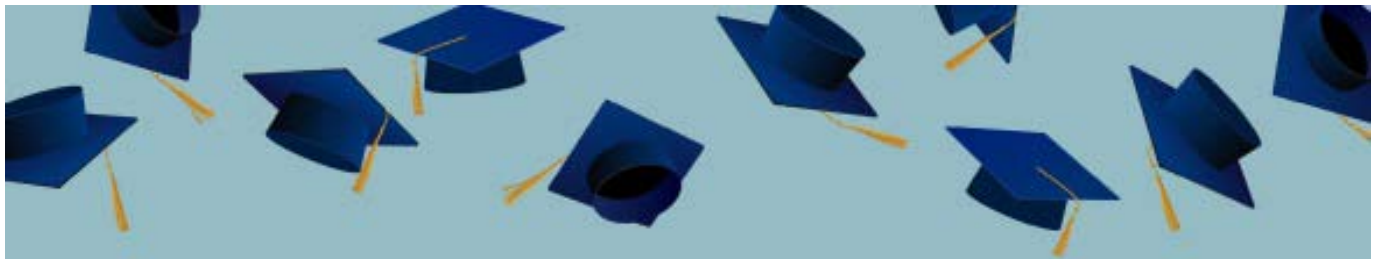
law schools had 15% or more of the class out of work and seeking jobs. Similarly, 35 law schools had 20% or more of their 2019 class underemployed, meaning they were either unemployed and seeking work, were in temporary or part-time work, or had nonprofessional jobs.

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STATE & LOCAL CLERKSHIPS

We've ranked law schools according to the percentage of 2019 graduates in state and local clerkships.

Rank	School		
1	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY		54.29%
2	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY		45.60%
3	BALTIMORE, UNIVERSITY OF		34.85%
4	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA - LAS VEGAS		30.58%
5	MARYLAND, UNIVERSITY OF		29.02%
6	WIDENER UNIVERSITY-DELAWARE		27.88%
7	DREXEL UNIVERSITY		27.61%
8	HAWAII, UNIVERSITY OF		24.10%
9	VERMONT LAW SCHOOL		22.88%
10	PENNSYLVANIA STATE - DICKINSON LAW		22.81%
11	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY		22.27%
12	REGENT UNIVERSITY		21.74%
13	MINNESOTA, UNIVERSITY OF		21.52%
14	ST. THOMAS, UNIVERSITY OF (MINNESOTA)		21.37%
15	OREGON, UNIVERSITY OF		19.79%
16	MONTANA, UNIVERSITY OF		19.72%
17	MITCHELL HAMLINE		19.59%
18	ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY		19.40%
19	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY		18.06%
20	SOUTH DAKOTA, UNIVERSITY OF		18.00%
21	RICHMOND, UNIVERSITY OF		17.50%
22	ARIZONA, UNIVERSITY OF		17.36%
23	CONNECTICUT, UNIVERSITY OF		17.14%
24	SOUTH CAROLINA, UNIVERSITY OF		16.59%
25	DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY		16.51%
26	WIDENER-COMMONWEALTH		15.79%



FULL-TIME LAW JOBS

Here's how law schools did in placing their 2019 graduates into fulltime, long-term law jobs that require passing the bar and were not funded by the schools themselves—widely viewed as the gold standard for new lawyer employment.

Rank	School	
15	ILLINOIS, UNIVERSITY OF	87.70%
16	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	87.63%
17	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY	87.62%
18	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	87.48%
19	MINNESOTA, UNIVERSITY OF	87.34%
20	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	87.14%
21	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	86.67%
22	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY	86.49%
23	NOTRE DAME, UNIVERSITY OF	86.01%
24	TEXAS AT AUSTIN, UNIVERSITY OF	85.86%
25	WISCONSIN, UNIVERSITY OF	85.81%
26	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	85.78%
27	MERCER UNIVERSITY	85.27%
28	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UNIVERSITY OF	85.27%
29	FLORIDA, UNIVERSITY OF	85.20%
30	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	85.16%
31	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY	84.73%
32	WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY	84.55%
34	BOSTON COLLEGE	83.40%

BAR PASSAGE REQUIRED & J.D. ADVANTAGE JOBS

Here's how schools did in placing 2019 graduates in either fulltime, long-term jobs that require bar passage, or for which a J.D. offers an advantage.

Rank	School	
30	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	90.74%
31	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	90.71%
32	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UNIVERSITY OF	90.18%
33	STANFORD UNIVERSITY	90.11%
34	WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	90.06%
35	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	89.88%
36	BOSTON UNIVERSITY	89.68%
37	ALABAMA, UNIVERSITY OF	89.47%
38	UTAH, UNIVERSITY OF	89.41%
39	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY	89.09%
40	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	89.01%
41	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	88.81%
42	DREXEL UNIVERSITY	88.81%
43	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	88.66%
44	TULSA, UNIVERSITY OF	88.64%
45	NOTRE DAME, UNIVERSITY OF	88.60%
46	MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY, UNIVERSITY OF	88.41%
47	BOSTON COLLEGE	88.26%
48	TEXAS AT AUSTIN, UNIVERSITY OF	87.88%
49	FORDHAM UNIVERSITY	87.70%
50	TENNESSEE, UNIVERSITY OF	87.61%
51	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY	87.57%
52	MARYLAND, UNIVERSITY OF	87.56%
53	DRAKE UNIVERSITY	87.50%
54	NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL	87.50%
55	NEBRASKA, UNIVERSITY OF	87.18%