

GO-TO Law Schools



RANK	LAW SCHOOL	NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR ASSOCIATES TO NLJ 250 FIRMS	NUMBER OF J.D.s IN 2010	% OF GRADUATES AT NLJ 250 FIRMS
1	University of Chicago Law School	115	195	58.97
2	Cornell University Law School	112	192	58.33
3	Columbia Law School	239	433	55.20
4	University of Pennsylvania Law School	145	272	53.31
5	Harvard Law School	287	577*	49.74
6	University of Virginia School of Law	175	374	46.79
7	University of California, Berkeley School of Law	135	296	45.61
8	Northwestern University School of Law	126	284	44.37
9	New York University School of Law	209	483*	43.27
10	University of Michigan Law School	158	372	42.47
11	Stanford Law School	72	173	41.62
12	Duke Law School	81	213	38.03
13	Georgetown University Law Center	242	644	37.58
14	University of California at Los Angeles School of Law	123	350	35.14
15	Yale Law School	67	198*	33.84
16	Boston College Law School	89	265	33.58
17	Boston University School of Law	81	270	30.00
18	Vanderbilt University Law School	62	208	29.81
19	University of Southern California Gould School of Law	56	195	28.72
20	University of Texas School of Law	101	379	26.65
21	Fordham University School of Law	123	479*	25.68
22	George Washington University Law School	127	513	24.76
23	University of Notre Dame Law School	41	172	23.84
24	Emory University School of Law	54	255	21.18
25	Washington University in St. Louis School of Law	51	269	18.96
26	University of Illinois College of Law	35	195	17.95
27	Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law	42	259	16.22
28	College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law	33	214	15.42
29	University of California, Davis School of Law	30	195	15.38
30	Wake Forest University School of Law	25	166	15.06
31	Howard University School of Law	20	133	15.04
32	Georgia State University College of Law	22	162	13.58
33	Seton Hall University School of Law	41	320	12.81
34	Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law	48	381	12.60
35	University of California Hastings College of the Law	52	419	12.41
36	University of Wisconsin Law School	31	252	12.30
37	University of Iowa College of Law	24	197	12.18
38	University of Maryland College of Law	29	242**	11.98
39	University of Minnesota Law School	34	284	11.97
40	Villanova University School of Law	28	235**	11.91
41	University of North Carolina School of Law	28	237	11.81
42	University of Houston Law Center	33	284	11.62
42	Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law	23	198	11.62
44	Tulane University Law School	29	252	11.51
45	University of Georgia School of Law	25	218	11.47
46	Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law	33	293	11.26
47	Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School	16	145	11.03
48	Loyola University Chicago School of Law	29	266	10.90
49	Rutgers School of Law—Newark	28	258	10.85
50	Washington and Lee University School of Law	13	123	10.57

* Graduate class size based on average of last three years.

**Graduate class size based on latest data in the ABA/LSAC Official Guide to Law Schools.

At first glance, it looked like a brighter picture for first-year associate hiring in 2010. After all, the top two schools on the list supplied nearly 3% more of their graduates to the nation's 250 largest law firms, compared with 2009. But overall, this year's Go-To Law Schools sent fewer graduates into the big-firm market. The percentage of 2010 graduates taking jobs at NLJ 250 law firms was 27.3%, compared with 30.3% of 2009 graduates.

We've ranked the top 50 law schools by the percentage of juris doctor graduates in 2010 who took jobs at NLJ 250 firms, the nation's largest law firms identified by our NLJ 250 annual survey. Besides the top 50 Go-To Law Schools, we've identified firm favorites—the schools from which law firms on the NLJ 250 recruited the most graduates. This year, we've also included annual tuition costs at the 50 Go-To Law Schools.

—LEIGH JONES

The University of Chicago Law School jumped to No. 1 from No. 4 last year. Last year, the No. 1 school sent 55.9% of its graduates to NLJ 250 firms.

Columbia Law School was ranked No. 1 in 2008 and in 2007. In 2009, the school sent 246 graduates to NLJ 250 law firms.

Northwestern topped the list last year, with 142 of its graduates hired by NLJ 250 law firms.

The number of 2010 graduates taking jobs at NLJ 250 firms was 3,822. The number of J.D. graduates from those schools was 13,989.

New to the top 50 this year are Georgia State, Rutgers—Newark, Seton Hall and Tulane.

Last year, the No. 50 school, Chicago-Kent College of Law, sent 13.2% of its class to NLJ 250 firms.

METHODOLOGY: Data for the Go-To Law Schools special report is provided by law firms surveyed for *The National Law Journal's* NLJ 250, our annual survey of the nation's 250 largest law firms. We also queried the law schools for hiring data. Ranks were determined by the percentage of 2010 graduates who took jobs as first-year associates at NLJ 250 law firms. We determined the percentage by using the 2010 juris doctor graduating class size provided by each school. The ranking does not reflect law school graduates who took jobs as judicial clerks after graduation.