

LAW SCHOOLS

GO-TO LAW SCHOOLS



How bad was it in 2009? *The National Law Journal's* annual Go-To Law School List paints a pretty sorry picture of first-year associate employment at the nation's 250 largest law firms last year. The No. 1 law school sent just 55.9% of its 2009 graduates to NLJ 250 law firms. In 2008, the highest percentage of graduates heading to NLJ 250 firms was 70.5%. Importantly, the 2009 percentages include deferred associates, so an even smaller group actually went to work last year. Remember, the list consists of the very top performing schools, where job prospects in years past have proven recession-proof. Not so in 2009.

We've ranked the top 50 law schools by the percentage of 2009 juris doctor graduates who snagged jobs at NLJ 250 firms by Sept. 30, 2009. Numbers are based on information gathered from our annual NLJ 250 survey—statistics we get from the nation's largest law firms. We've also identified firm favorites—the schools from which the top law firms on the NLJ 250 recruited most of its first-years in 2009. —Leigh Jones

RANK	LAW SCHOOL	PERCENT OF GRADUATES	NUMBER OF GRADS HIRED	NUMBER OF J.D.s AWARDED
1	Northwestern University School of Law	55.9	142	254
2	Columbia Law School	54.4	246	444
3	Stanford Law School	54.1	98	181
4	University of Chicago Law School	53.1	110	207
5	University of Virginia School of Law	52.8	214	405
6	University of Michigan Law School	51	209	410
7	University of Pennsylvania Law School	50.8	131	258
8	New York University School of Law	50.1	236	471
9	University of California, Berkeley School of Law	50	138	276
10	Duke Law School	49.8	109	219
11	Harvard Law School	47.6	270	567
12	Vanderbilt University Law School	47.1	89	189
13	Georgetown University Law Center	42.8	289	676
14	Cornell Law School	41.5	78	188
15	University of Southern California Gould School of Law	41.3	86	208
16	University of Texas School of Law	36.6	156	426
17	University of California at Los Angeles School of Law	35.9	129	359
18	Yale Law School	35.3	72	204
19	Boston College Law School	34.6	88	254
19	Boston University School of Law	34.6	94	272
21	George Washington University Law School	31.6	176	557
22	Fordham University School of Law	29.4	138	470
23	University of Notre Dame Law School	28.8	57	198
24	Washington University in St. Louis School of Law	27.5	80	291
25	University of Illinois College of Law	26.7	51	191
26	Emory University School of Law	23.5	51	217
27	University of Wisconsin Law School	23.3	60	258
28	Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law	23	65	282
29	College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law	21.8	42	193
30	Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law	20.1	71	354
31	Wake Forest University School of Law	20	30	150
32	University of Iowa College of Law	19.8	40	202
32	University of Washington School of Law	19.8	33	167
34	Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School	19.6	31	158
35	University of Minnesota Law School	19.4	45	232
36	Washington and Lee University School of Law	19.3	27	140
37	University of Houston Law Center	18.2	52	286
38	Howard University School of Law	17.8	26	146
39	University of California, Davis School of Law	16.7	32	192
39	Villanova University School of Law	16.7	39	234
41	Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law	16.6	37	223
42	University of California Hastings College of the Law	16.2	68	421
42	Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law	16.2	46	284
44	University of Georgia School of Law	15.8	34	215
45	American University Washington College of Law	15.1	68	449
45	University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law	15.1	22	146
45	Loyola University Chicago School of Law	15.1	46	304
48	University of North Carolina School of Law	15	34	227
49	University of Maryland School of Law	14.2	32	226
50	Chicago-Kent College of Law	13.2	38	287

Columbia was the No. 1 go-to law school in 2008 and in 2007.

Vanderbilt was the only school to send a greater percentage of its graduating class in 2009 to NLJ 250 firms compared with 2008, when it sent 44.6% to NLJ 250 schools.

No. 1 ranked Northwestern jumped from No. 5 on the Go-To Law School List last year. It sent 62.9% of its 2008 grads to NLJ 250 firms.

Stanford climbed to the No. 3 spot from No. 11 last year. The reason? Consistency, in spite of the recession. In 2008, its graduating class had 176 students, 99 of whom went to NLJ 250 firms. Those numbers are very close to Class of 2009 results.

Georgetown had the highest number of 2009 graduates—289—hired by NLJ 250 firms. It also had the largest graduating class.

About 30% of graduates at Yale, Stanford and Harvard, combined, head to judicial clerkships right after graduation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

The average percentage of graduating classes from the top 50 schools hired by NLJ 250 firms was 30.3%. The total number of 2009 graduates hired by NLJ 250 firms from all law schools was 4,555. Law schools accredited by the American Bar Association awarded 43,588 law degrees in the 2008-2009 academic year.