

Re: CDO reports 96.6% employment rate for Denver Law JD Class of 2011

April 17, 2012

We are pleased to report that 96.6% of the members of Denver Law's JD Class of 2011 who sought employment were employed as of February 15, 2012. This is up 6.1% from the 90.5% employment rate we reported for the Class of 2010. Our detailed employment report for the Class of 2011 is available on the Office of Office of Career Development & Opportunities' (CDO) [website](#). We are delighted with this improvement in our employment rate.

Moreover, nearly 97% of these jobs were professional jobs. That is, they were jobs requiring bar admission, jobs where the JD degree provides an advantage, or other professional jobs. And 71% of the total positions were full-time long-term jobs (8.5% were full-time short-term, 7% were part-time long-term, and 13% were part-time short-term).

Nationally, the transparency and veracity of law school employment data has come under a great deal of scrutiny. Not only are we proud of Denver Law's improved employment rate, but we are equally proud of the accuracy and transparency of our statistics.

For the second year in a row, we voluntarily subjected our employment statistics to an audit on a sample basis by the University of Denver's Office of Institutional Compliance & Internal Audit, an independent office reporting directly to the Audit Committee of the University of Denver's Board of Trustees. The auditors concluded there was no evidence of misconduct in our employment reporting. This is not surprising to us, of course. But letting the world know that our data can be trusted is important to us. And we hope that other schools follow our lead.

In the interest of transparency, our website contains all of the information that the ABA requires and more. We report the number of jobs by job category (bar admission required; JD advantage; professional; and nonprofessional), as well as the number of full time, part time, short term and long term jobs in each category. In addition, while the ABA did not request salary data for the class of 2011, we provide salary information, including the total number of salaries that were reported. We also report the number of our graduates' jobs which were law school funded (27, mostly judicial fellows) and the number of our graduates whose employment status is unknown (3).

We also promote transparency by describing our formula for calculating the employment rate we report, and noting that other entities use different formulas. We calculate the employment rate by dividing the total number of JD graduates employed in any capacity (legal, non-legal, full time and part time) by the total number of graduates whose employment status is known. Graduates not seeking employment, those with deferred job offers, and those who have gone on to pursue additional full time degrees in lieu of any employment are not included in our calculation because they are not in the job market. We also exclude graduates whose employment status is unknown. We believe that this formula provides the best indicator of the percentage of job-seekers who found jobs.

While we believe that our formula most accurately captures the data, there are other ways to calculate employment rates, and the detailed information we provide permits visitors to our website to calculate our employment rate in any way they prefer. For example, *US News & World Report* currently calculates a school's employment rate by dividing the total number of jobs by the total number of JD graduates (including those not in the job market and those whose employment status is unknown). Applying *US News*' current formula, our employment rate is 89.5% (an increase of 7.1% from last year's *US News* figure).

Our efforts to be accurate and transparent in our employment reporting are being noticed. In fact, the March 2012 issue of *The National Jurist* gave Denver Law an "A" for the transparency of the employment data we report on our website. (In this survey, more than 50% of the nation's law schools received grades of "D" or "F.")

The employment outcomes for the class of 2011 are primarily the result of their hard work and perseverance. Our Office of Career Development & Opportunities' initiatives also seem to be bearing fruit. For example, our new job matching program links graduates' skills and interests with employers' needs. Further, beginning with an exit interview for each graduating law student, the CDO stays in regular touch with those who need ongoing job search assistance. And our new contract work initiative allows us to serve as a free clearinghouse for those seeking contract legal work (which, we find, often leads to full-time work). Additionally, our Alumni Council's jobs initiative, which includes rigorous mock interviews and networking, provides Denver Law students more opportunities than ever before to make valuable alumni contacts.

While we are pleased with the upward trend in our employment rate, we still have work to do. Our next goal is to improve the rate of graduates employed in full time, long term, professional positions 9 months after graduation. The CDO staff will lead this effort, but getting jobs is a team sport. If everyone in the Denver Law community (faculty, staff, alumni and students) does what they can to improve the employment outcomes for our students we have a chance to take our employment success to the next level.

In particular, students can improve their employment prospects by scheduling regular career consultations in the CDO, attending career-related programming, following through on networking opportunities and keeping in mind that while you are a law student, you are always looking for a job. Finally, we encourage students to be responsive to our attempts to follow up with you during law school and beyond. This will give us more opportunity to assist you and will also improve our ability to report accurate employment data.

We look forward to continuing to serve you!

Best regards,

Eric Bono, J.D.  
Assistant Dean for Career Opportunities