Tools for Transparency — Introducing Denver Law Jobs: By the Numbers™

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law is pleased to announce the launch of Denver Law Jobs: By the Numbers™ ("Denver Law Jobs"), an interactive online tool that allows users to calculate our JD employment rate in any way they choose.

In the new world of law school transparency, we have seen two phenomena. First, more data is available than ever before, largely the result of the ABA’s mandate to schools to provide more detailed information on employment outcomes. But this has resulted in data overload; it is difficult to know how best to use all that data.

A second and related phenomenon is that there are more groups than ever telling users how they should read that data – which jobs should count and which jobs should not count. Some groups, like the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) say that users should count all jobs obtained by law graduates. Other groups say that users should only count some of the jobs obtained by law graduates. For example, Law School Transparency says that users should only count jobs that require bar passage, are not in solo practice, and are full-time permanent jobs. US News & World Report says that users should also count “JD Advantage” and solo jobs, so long as they are full-time permanent jobs. Still other groups, such as National Jurist, say that users should assign more weight to some types of jobs than others when calculating employment rates. The ABA provides no guidance on which jobs users should count.

The result is, ironically, a lack of transparency. Each of these groups talks about law school employment outcomes in ways that fit their own values – which are not necessarily the same values as those of individual law school applicants and other users of this information.

This is where Denver Law Jobs comes in. With just a few simple clicks, Denver Law Jobs allows individual users to calculate Denver Law’s JD employment rate in the way that is tailored to the user’s own values. They can calculate our employment rate using formulas that are commonly applied by organizations such as US News, NALP, Law School Transparency, and National Jurist. Alternatively, users can design their own employment formulas to focus on the employment outcomes that matter most to them.

Denver Law Jobs also describes each of the preset formulas, their strengths, their limitations, and the value judgments inherent to them. All of this is intended to educate prospective law students (and other interested observers) on different ways of thinking about postgraduate JD employment outcomes.

If users want to compare employment rates among law schools using either one of these preset formulas or their own employment formula, they can visit Law Jobs: By the Numbers™, at Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers (ETL), an initiative of IAALS, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver. Denver Law is a member of ETL’s consortium of law schools dedicated to improving legal education and creating more practice-ready lawyers. Both Denver Law and ETL are committed to accuracy and transparency in law school employment reporting.
If understanding our employment outcomes is important to you, we invite you to spend some time on Denver Law Jobs and ETL Law Jobs: By the Numbers. Please feel free to review our raw employment data and to talk to our Office of Career Development & Opportunities about the employment outcomes and the career services we provide.

Regards,

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