



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

## Class of 2015 Shows Significant and Sustained Improvement in Employment Outcomes

Recently, we submitted the employment outcomes for Denver Law's JD class of 2015 to the American Bar Association (ABA). (Click [here](#) to review the ABA Employment Summary for this class.)<sup>1</sup> We are pleased that our class of 2015 employment results improved sharply from the class of 2014, accelerating the upward trend we have experienced over the past five years. These results also compare favorably on a national scale. Highlights include:

- **Professional Employment Rate (excluding non-seekers): 93.3 %** of our class of 2015 graduates who sought employment obtained professional positions. This rate exceeds the national average of 88.2% and our own class of 2014 rate of 91.7%.

The Professional Employment Rate includes Bar Required, JD Advantage and Other Professional jobs. We do not count our graduates who hold non-professional jobs in this measure (there were two of them), as those types of jobs are not typically the reason that people come to law school. This measure includes part-time as well as full-time, and short-term as well as long-term jobs. Similar to the method employed by the U.S. Department of Labor, this measure excludes graduates from the denominator who were not known to be seeking work – specifically, two graduates who were in full-time degree programs, one graduate who accepted a position that began after March 15, two graduates who were not seeking work and five graduates whose status is unknown. (The measures below, unlike the U.S. Department of Labor measure, count all graduates in the denominator, including non-seekers.)

- **Long Term, Full-Time Professional Employment Rate (all graduates): 74.6%** of our class of 2015 graduates obtained professional positions that were long-term and full-time. This rate exceeds the national average of 73.5%, and our class of 2014 rate of 67.5%.

While we believe that part-time and short-term jobs can be stepping stones to full-time, long-term jobs, we have committed to try to help our graduates land their first full-time, long-term job sooner. So we are particularly gratified by the significant increase in this measure over the last few years, *an increase of 7.1 percentage points from last year and 21.6 percentage points since 2010.*

- **Bar Required and JD Advantage Jobs (all graduates): 88.2%** of our class of 2015 graduates landed a Bar Required or JD Advantage job. This rate exceeds the national average of 78.8% and our own class of 2014 rate of 85.6%. This measure includes part-time as well as full-time, and short-term as well as long-term jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> We correct our employment numbers if we learn new information about a particular graduate's job status as of 3/15/16 (the counting date). It can take some time for these amended numbers to be reflected on the ABA's website. For that reason, the numbers we provide may differ slightly from the ABA Employment Summary.

- US News and World Report Table Rate – Long-Term, Full-Time Bar Required and JD Advantage Jobs (all graduates): 73.5%** of our class 2015 graduates landed long-term, full-time, Bar Required or JD Advantage jobs. Our *US News* Table Rate for the class of 2015 exceeds the national average rate of 71.2%, and our class of 2014 rate of 65.3%. The progress we have made on this front is extremely encouraging. *We improved 8.2 percentage points since last year, and about 26.2 percentage points since 2010* on this important measure.

(The *US News* table includes law school funded jobs. If we exclude school-funded jobs from this calculation, our rate is 71.7%, exceeding the national rate of 70.1%.)

The table below shows the *significant improvement we’ve made in all of these measures* since 2010.<sup>2</sup>

<b>Denver Law Employment Statistics</b>								
	2010						Change	Change
<b>Denver Law</b>	(Est.)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	from 2014	From 2010
All Professional (excluding nonseekers)	87.3%	94.0%	90.5%	94.1%	91.7%	93.3%	1.6%	6.0%
FT/LT Professional (out of all grads)	53.0%	63.40%	66.9%	69.7%	67.5%	74.6%	7.1%	21.6%
All Bar Required + JD Advantage (out of all grads)	69.5%	79.8%	77.9%	84.3%	85.6%	88.2%	2.6%	18.7%
FT/LT Bar Required + JD Advantage ( <i>US News</i> )	47.3%	56.8%	59.3%	64.8%	65.3%	73.5%	8.2%	26.2%
							<b>DU v</b>	
<b>National Averages</b>		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	National	
All Professional (excluding nonseekers)		87.1%	86.4%	85.7%	88.0%	88.2%	5.1%	
FT/LT Professional (out of all grads)		66.8%	69.6%	70.8%	74.5%	73.5%	1.1%	
All Bar Required + JD Advantage (out of all grads)		74.8%	75.2%	75.8%	78.6%	78.8%	9.4%	
FT/LT Bar Required + JD Advantage ( <i>US News</i> )		63.0%	65.7%	67.1%	71.1%	71.2%	2.3%	

These figures show that the job market for new law graduates is still challenging, but seems to be recovering steadily from the impact of the Great Recession. We are proud of our graduates for the results they have achieved in this environment. More details on the employment outcomes for the class of 2015 are available on our [website](#).

While we are proud of the strong upward trend in our employment outcomes, there is always room for improvement. To that end, we are excited that the faculty recently passed the [Career Development Initiative](#) of the law school’s 2015 strategic plan, which will help provide incoming JD students with the tools they need to compete in the entry-level job market. We believe that over time, this new initiative will help take our employment results to the next level.

### **Our Commitment to Accurate and Transparent Reporting**

We are proud to be at the forefront of accuracy and transparency in employment reporting. Beginning with the class of 2015, all ABA-accredited law schools are subject to auditing of their employment

<sup>2</sup> As a result of different reporting conventions in place for the class of 2010, we have estimated Denver Law rates, and do not have national data for that graduating class.

outcomes. As the first law school to voluntarily subject its employment outcomes to independent review beginning with the class of 2010, Denver Law was five years ahead of this curve.

In the interest of transparency, our website contains all of the information that the ABA requires and more. For example, while the ABA does not require schools to report salary data, we think it is important to do so as we understand that salary information is often an important factor for prospective students in choosing a law school. We disclose all of the salary information we are able to collect on graduates with full-time, long-term jobs. We also identify the total number of salaries that were reported and the percentage of the class reporting a salary.

In addition, we promote transparency by providing the formula we use to calculate our Professional Employment Rate, as well as the other rates we publish. As noted above, we believe our formula provides the best assessment of the employment outcomes of our graduates who were seeking work. However, as also noted above, we recognize that there are many different ways to calculate employment rates that many organizations (including, for example, *US News*, NALP, Law School Transparency, and *National Jurist*) use different formulas. Depending on one's goals, it may make sense to use a particular formula over others. For that reason, we provide [Denver Law Jobs: By the Numbers™](#), an online calculator that allows users to determine our employment rate using all of the major formulas, or to calculate our employment rate using a self-designed formula. We are proud of the contribution the Denver Law Jobs calculator is making to the transparency of our employment data. After all, giving users control of how they calculate employment rates promotes maximum transparency.

Please join us in congratulating the class of 2015 on their employment outcomes. We are very proud of them. We are also grateful for the incredible work of our Career Development and Opportunities Office – their efforts helped shape these positive employment outcomes.

Thank you for all of the help that you provide our graduates in pursuing their career goals. We cannot overstate the importance of community participation in this endeavor. If you have any questions about our employment outcomes, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,



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Dean and Professor of Law



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