



Class of 2012 Employment Statistics

Recently, we submitted Denver Law's employment outcomes for the JD Class of 2012 to the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Association of Law Placement (NALP). We are pleased to report that **90.5% of the members of Denver Law's JD Class of 2012 who sought employment were employed in professional positions** as of February 15, 2013. More details on the employment outcomes for the Class of 2012 are available on our [website](#).

This year, we included only professional positions—that is, positions requiring bar admission (“Bar Required”), where the JD provides an advantage (“JD Advantage”), and other positions that require professional skills or training—in our 90.5% employment rate.

We have excluded nonprofessional positions, as we believe that those positions do not reflect the career paths that draw most students to law school. In past years, like most schools, and consistent with ABA reporting standards, we included nonprofessional positions in our employment rate. However, we consider our new formula to be more appropriate and more consistent with our students' professional goals. (Six graduates from the class of 2012 held nonprofessional positions.)

Moreover, 77% of the professional jobs obtained by the class of 2012 were full time, long-term positions, an improvement of about 4% over the class of 2011. While we are still working to help more of our graduates find full time, long-term positions, we are pleased with the increase in the number of graduates who found these high quality positions. Additionally, we find that part time and temporary positions often lead to full time long-term positions.

These figures represent significant progress for Denver Law graduates in a job market that is still recovering from the Great Recession. We are extremely proud of our graduates for their diligence and perseverance, and the results that they have achieved. That said, we still have work to do. Our ultimate goal is to come as close as possible to having 100% of our graduates employed in full time, long-term, professional positions within 9 months after graduation.

Our Office of Career Development and Opportunities (“CDO”) 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 can take our employment success to the next level.

Our Commitment to Accurate and Transparent Reporting

Nationally, the accuracy and transparency of law school employment data continues to be viewed with great skepticism. We are proud to be at the forefront of both accuracy and transparency with respect to reporting JD employment outcomes.

Denver Law was the first law school to subject its employment data to auditing, and the class of 2012 was the third class in a row for which we volunteered for an audit. As we did with the previous two classes, we had our employment data audited on a sample basis by the University'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. We believe that other schools will soon follow our lead in having their employment data audited.

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 2012, we provide full time salary information, including the total number of salaries that were reported and the total percentage of the class reporting a salary. (And we were able to obtain salary information from 18% more of our graduates than last year.) We also report the number of our graduates' jobs that were school funded (33, mostly judicial and faculty fellows) and the number of our graduates whose employment status is unknown (4).

In addition, we promote transparency by providing the formula we use to calculate our employment rate. We calculate the employment rate by dividing the total number of JD graduates employed in any professional capacity (legal, non-legal, full time, part time, long-term and short-term) 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 this formula provides the best indicator of the percentage of job-seekers who found professional jobs.

While we believe our formula provides the most meaningful reflection of our results, there are several other ways to calculate law school employment rates. For example, in their ranking publication, *US News & World Report* counts only full time, long-term Bar Required and JD Advantage jobs and their calculation includes graduates who were not seeking work. Organizations such as NALP, Law School Transparency, and *National Jurist* each apply different formulas to present law school employment outcomes.

Because there are so many competing formulas for calculating law school employment rates, we will soon be launching **Denver Law Jobs**, an online calculator that allows users to calculate our employment rate using the major formulas that currently exist, or to calculate our employment rate using a self-designed formula. And, we are partnering with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System to launch a national version of the Law Jobs calculator, which will allow users to compare the employment rates of all ABA-approved law schools using different formulas. We are excited about the contribution the Law Jobs calculators will make to the transparency of law school employment data. After all, giving users control of how they calculate employment rates offers maximum transparency.

Best regards,

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