

# A Message from Dean Katz



UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

## Strong Employment Outcomes for the Class of 2014

We have completed our survey of employment outcomes for Denver Law's JD Class of 2014 and reported the results to the American Bar Association (ABA). We are pleased to report that 91.7% of the members of Denver Law's JD Class of 2014 who sought employment were employed in professional positions as of March 15, 2015 (the ABA "Reporting Date"). More details on the employment outcomes for the Class of 2014 are available on our [website](#).

Our 91.7% "Professional Rate" compares favorably to the national professional rate of 88%. The Professional Rate includes all Bar Required, JD Advantage and Other Professional jobs and divides that by the total number of graduates who were seeking work. It omits nonprofessional positions. And, consistent with US Department of Labor methodology, it also excludes graduates who were not known to be in the labor market.<sup>1</sup> We count Bar Required, JD Advantage and Other Professional jobs because we believe they are generally good employment outcomes. Similarly, we include part-time and temporary positions because they are often stepping stones to full-time, long-term jobs. That said, we know most graduates would prefer to find full-time, long-term jobs sooner, and we are constantly trying to improve in this area.

Many commentators (including *US News & World Report*) prioritize Bar Required and JD Advantage jobs and we are pleased that Denver Law's employment outcomes continue to improve in these areas. In the class of 2014, 85.6% of our graduates landed Bar Required or JD Advantage jobs (up from 84.3% for the class of 2013), which exceeds the national percentage, 78.6%. Focusing more narrowly on the employment rate that *US News* publishes—the percentage of graduates in full-time, long-term, Bar Required or JD Advantage jobs—we continue to see steady improvement. The table below shows that we have improved by about 17.3% by this measure since the class of 2010.

<b>US News Employment Rate</b>	Class of 2010 <i>(Estimated)</i> 2	Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014	% Change from Class of 2010 to Class of 2014
% of all JD grads in FT/LT/ Bar Req'd and JD Advantage Jobs	48%	56.8%	59.3%	64.6%	65.3%	+17.3%

The class of 2014 employment results show that the job market for new law graduates, both locally and nationally, continues to recover from the Great Recession, which is consistent with the uptick in entry level job opportunities we are seeing. We are proud of our graduates for their diligence and the results they have achieved in an improving, but still challenging, job market.

The upward trend in the rate at which our graduates are finding full-time, long-term jobs is encouraging, but we want to accelerate this trend. This will require assistance from the entire

Denver Law community. Therefore, we have included a Career Development Initiative in our new Strategic Plan and we are forming an implementation committee to guide this effort. Among other things, the committee will consider ways to embed career and professional development into the experience of every law student and to continue to build relationships with alumni and employers for the benefit of our students.

## Our Commitment to Accurate and Transparent Reporting

There is still a significant amount of public distrust regarding law school employment reporting. We continue to be at the forefront of reporting accurately and transparently. Denver Law was the first law school to subject its employment data to outside review. For the classes of 2010 through 2012, we had our employment data audited on a sample basis by the University's Office of Institutional Compliance & Internal Audit and those audits found no evidence of misconduct in our employment reporting.

Beginning with the class of 2015, all law schools will be subject to auditing by the ABA. In connection with that, Denver Law was one of eight schools to participate in a "beta test" of the ABA's new audit protocol by submitting its class of 2013 employment data for peer review (and we will volunteer to do so again for the class of 2014).

In the interest of transparency, our website provides all of the information that the ABA requires and more. As required by the ABA, we provide a detailed [summary](#) that shows the employment status of every graduate as of the Reporting Date. For employed graduates, the ABA summary identifies which category each job falls into—Bar Required, JD Advantage, Other Professional, and Nonprofessional. It also identifies whether jobs are full-time, part-time, long-term or short-term, as well as the number of jobs that are funded by the university. Going beyond ABA requirements, we also provide full-time salary information and, when it comes out this summer, we will post Denver Law's school report from the National Association of Law Placement (NALP), which provides even more detailed information.

Finally, we continue to offer [Denver Law Jobs: By the Numbers](#)<sup>TM</sup>, a unique online calculator that allows users to calculate our employment rate using one of the major employment rate formulas, or to calculate our employment rate using a self-designed formula. That way, users can evaluate our employment outcomes based on what is important to them.

If you have any questions about our employment outcomes, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,



Martin J. Katz  
Dean and Professor of Law



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

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, we exclude graduates who were enrolled in full-time degree programs in lieu of work, graduates who were not seeking work, graduates with offers of employment to start after the Reporting date, and graduates whose status as of the Reporting Date was unknown.

<sup>2</sup> Due to different reporting standards at the time we reported on the class of 2010, we did not specifically track the number of full-time, long-term, Bar Required and JD Advantage jobs in the way that factors into the current *US News* formula. Therefore, these figures are estimates based on the data we have from the class of 2010.



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