

This report outlines summary findings from NALP’s First-year Summer Activity Survey of the Class of 2003. Results are based on 3,467 students representing 101 law schools.

Table 1. What did first-year students do during the summer?

	# of students	% of students
Did not work or study	60	1.7%
Summer school and/or study abroad	266	7.7
Worked only	2,558	73.8
Worked and summer school/study abroad	583	16.8
Total	3,467	100.0

Note: It is probable that students who did not work or attend school were less inclined to return the survey. However, even assuming some undercount of these students, the relative frequency of activities is apparent. Counts for summer study do not include students who received credits for an externship, or who worked for credit. Since some respondents may have reported study abroad also as summer school, the two categories were combined to avoid double-counting.

Table 2. Types of jobs taken during the first summer

	# of students	% of students
Paid legal position	1,807	57.5%
Volunteer legal position	442	14.1
Nonlegal position	307	9.8
Research assistant position	237	7.5
Work-study position	104	3.3
Judicial extern	226	7.2
Type of job not reported	18	0.6
Total	3,141	100.0

Note: The paid legal category includes students who received a stipend or grant for their work, even though they were not paid directly by their employer. The volunteer legal category includes a few unpaid legal interns, externs other than judicial externs, and practicum for credit. A few positions were reported as research assistant or paid legal, with funding indicated as work-study. To the extent possible, these jobs were counted in the work-study category.

Table 3. Employer types for jobs taken after first year of law school

Employer type	# of jobs	% of jobs
All Law Firms	1,105	35.2%
Law firm of 1-10 attorneys	484	15.4
Law firm of 11-25 attorneys	148	4.7
Law firm of 26-50 attorneys	93	3.0
Law firm of 51-100 attorneys	95	3.0
Law firm of 101-250 attorneys	111	3.5
Law firm of 251-500 attorneys	78	2.5
Law firm of 501+ attorneys	96	3.1
Other Employers	2,014	64.1
Business	260	8.3
Corporate legal	93	3.0
Federal government	417	13.3
State government	382	12.2
Local government	224	7.1
Public interest	331	10.5
Other or academic	307	9.8
Total	3,141	100.0

Note: Figures are for the first job reported. The academic category includes law clinics. A few jobs with campus legal services were counted as public interest jobs. Numbers and percentages do not add up to the totals shown because a few jobs for which employer type was not reported are not shown.

Table 4. Salaries for paid legal jobs

Employer type	25th %-ile	Median	75th %-ile	Average	# of salaries reported
Jobs paid hourly					
Law firm of 1-10 attorneys	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$12.05	333
Law firm of 11-25 attorneys	11.00	12.00	15.00	13.18	69
Law firm of 26-50 attorneys	12.00	15.00	18.00	15.26	19
Law firm of 51-100 attorneys	13.00	16.00	20.00	16.47	15
Law firm of 101-250 attorneys	12.00	14.00	23.00	17.88	8
Law firm of 251-500 attorneys	12.50	17.00	20.00	16.43	15
Law firm of 501+ attorneys	15.00	18.00	20.00	17.73	13
Business	10.00	13.00	15.00	13.89	21
Corporate legal	13.50	15.00	20.00	16.60	50
Federal government	12.00	14.00	14.58	13.14	39
State government	9.43	10.00	12.00	10.91	120
Local government	10.00	11.00	12.50	11.28	67
Public interest	9.00	10.00	12.75	11.40	56
Other or academic	8.50	10.75	14.50	12.05	10

Table 4 continued

Jobs paid monthly					
Law firm of 1-10 attorneys	\$1,050	\$1,900	\$2,700	\$2,038	12
Law firm of 11-25 attorneys	2,500	2,600	3,000	2,791	11
Law firm of 26-50 attorneys	2,900	3,967	4,500	3,546	10
Law firm of 51-100 attorneys	1,750	2,600	3,965	3,122	13
Law firm of 101-250 attorneys	1,300	6,000	7,500	4,786	7
Law firm of 251-500 attorneys	2,833	6,020	7,500	5,171	5
Law firm of 501+ attorneys	1,350	5,200	8,250	4,986	11
Business	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,200	5
Corporate legal	2,400	2,858	3,000	3,303	6
Federal government	1,700	3,200	4,420	3,080	8
State government	1,000	1,200	1,600	1,328	23
Local government	940	1,000	1,750	1,288	5
Public interest	958	1,300	1,850	1,400	28
Other or academic	900	998	1,060	1,026	6
Jobs paid weekly					
Law firm of 1-10 attorneys	\$400	\$500	\$900	\$668	66
Law firm of 11-25 attorneys	650	800	1,000	909	47
Law firm of 26-50 attorneys	900	1,000	1,300	1,172	55
Law firm of 51-100 attorneys	950	1,100	1,500	1,301	57
Law firm of 101-250 attorneys	1,000	1,300	2,000	1,475	91
Law firm of 251-500 attorneys	1,488	1,860	2,300	1,845	52
Law firm of 501+ attorneys	1,900	2,200	2,400	2,086	61
Business	450	500	850	672	13
Corporate legal	500	800	1,000	818	11
Federal government	435	500	576	662	34
State government	300	300	400	344	27
Local government	250	500	500	424	15
Public interest	300	350	450	366	53
Jobs paid by summer					
Federal government	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,250	\$2,950	13
State government	2,000	3,000	4,200	3,089	9
Local government	2,800	3,000	3,000	2,842	6
Public interest	3,000	3,500	4,000	3,350	39

Note: Jobs paid by the summer typically are those for which the student received a stipend for the summer. Since jobs with a stipend were counted as paying jobs, some salary figures may be quite low. Weekly, monthly, and summer salaries are based on full-time jobs. Hourly figures include both full- and part-time jobs.

Table 5. Salaries for nonlegal positions

Type of job	25th %-ile	Median	75th %-ile	Average	#of salaries reported
Jobs paid hourly					
Nonlegal position	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$15.58	138
Research assistant position	8.25	9.50	11.65	10.10	190
Work/study position	9.00	10.00	12.00	10.40	65
Jobs paid monthly					
Nonlegal position	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,504	38
Jobs paid weekly					
Nonlegal position	\$350	\$613	\$957	\$688	44
Research assistant position	300	400	400	359	11
Work/study position	300	350	400	433	9
Jobs paid by summer					
Work/study position	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$3,500	8

Note: Weekly, monthly, and summer salaries are based on full-time jobs. Hourly figures include both full- and part-time jobs.

Table 6. Timing of job offers

	# of jobs	% of jobs
APRIL	729	27.4%
MARCH	637	23.9
MAY	524	19.7
FEBRUARY	280	10.5
JUNE	180	6.8
JANUARY	163	6.1
DECEMBER	62	2.3
JULY	48	1.8

Note: This analysis does not include individuals who reported that they were continuing in a job held prior to and/or during their first year of law school. The total count of individuals on which the percentages are based includes a small number of individuals who reported that they received their job offer prior to December of their first year.

Table 7. Source of jobs taken for summer after first year of law school

	Prior job	Job Fair	Job posting	Referral	Self-initiated	Spring OCI	Other
Law Firms of 1-25 attorneys	9.6%	0.6%	30.4%	33.8%	17.7%	5.3%	2.2%
Law Firms of 26-100 attorneys	9.6	1.6	16.5	22.9	20.2	26.1	3.2
Law Firms of 101+ attorneys	9.5	3.2	12.7	21.1	29.2	19.0	4.2
Business/corporate legal	31.4	0.6	21.2	20.3	12.5	1.2	10.2
Government	5.0	10.8	25.8	24.1	22.1	5.3	6.0
Public interest or academic	5.8	6.1	29.6	18.9	19.7	2.8	16.0

Note: Figures are based on 3,061 jobs for which source was reported. Percentages may not add up to 100 across because the category for commercial Internet job site is not shown. The job posting category includes, in addition to jobs posted in the career services office, jobs posted elsewhere on campus, e-mail notification, and announcements by professors. Return to a prior job includes continuing a job that the student started during the school year.

Table 8. Students working one job or two

	# of students	% of students
One job	2,567	81.7%
Two jobs	574	18.3
Total	3,141	100.0

Note: Percentages are based on students who worked.

Table 9. Location of job relative to law school

	# of jobs	% of jobs
Region of law school	2,034	67.2%
Region w/prior connection	674	22.3
Other region	319	10.5
Total	3,027	100.0

Note: Law school region and the region to which a student has a prior connection may be one and the same. If the student checked both, region of law school was generally retained as the response.