

Market for New Law Graduates Steady — Hovering around 89% for Third Year

The Class of 2004 marks the 31st consecutive year for which NALP has documented employment experiences of JD graduates. Figures for the Class of 2004 reveal an overall employment rate that was unchanged from that of the prior year — 88.9% of graduates for whom employment status was known. This compares with 89% for 2002, 90% for 2001, and 91.5% for 2000.

In the last seven years, the employment market for new law school graduates has remained relatively strong, standing close to or above an 89% employment rate. This differs dramatically with the early and mid

1990s, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range.

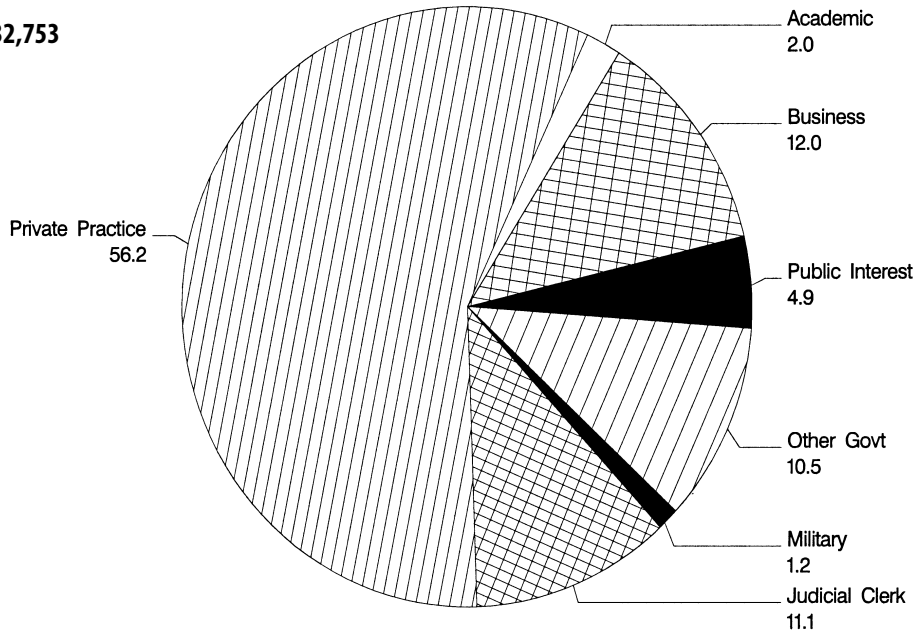
A total of 178 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 186 that were accredited at the time that the Class of 2004 graduated, participated in the survey and provided employment status information on 36,834 graduates, or 92% of all graduates, a coverage rate very close to that for the Class of 2003. Of these graduates for whom employment status was known, 73.2% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 7.5% obtained jobs for which a JD degree is preferred, or may even be required, but for which bar pas-

sage is not required. Comparable figures for the Class of 2003 were 73.7% and 6.5%, respectively. The percentage of graduates employed in other capacities was 6.7%, compared with 7.3% for the Class of 2003. As has been the case in recent years, most jobs, about 95%, were reported as full-time. An additional 3.5% of graduates were seeking a job, while 3.0% of graduates for whom employment status was known were studying for the bar full-time and neither working in any capacity nor actively seeking employment. Also of note is the fact that 2.5% of 2004 graduates were pursuing an advanced degree full-time; although a

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

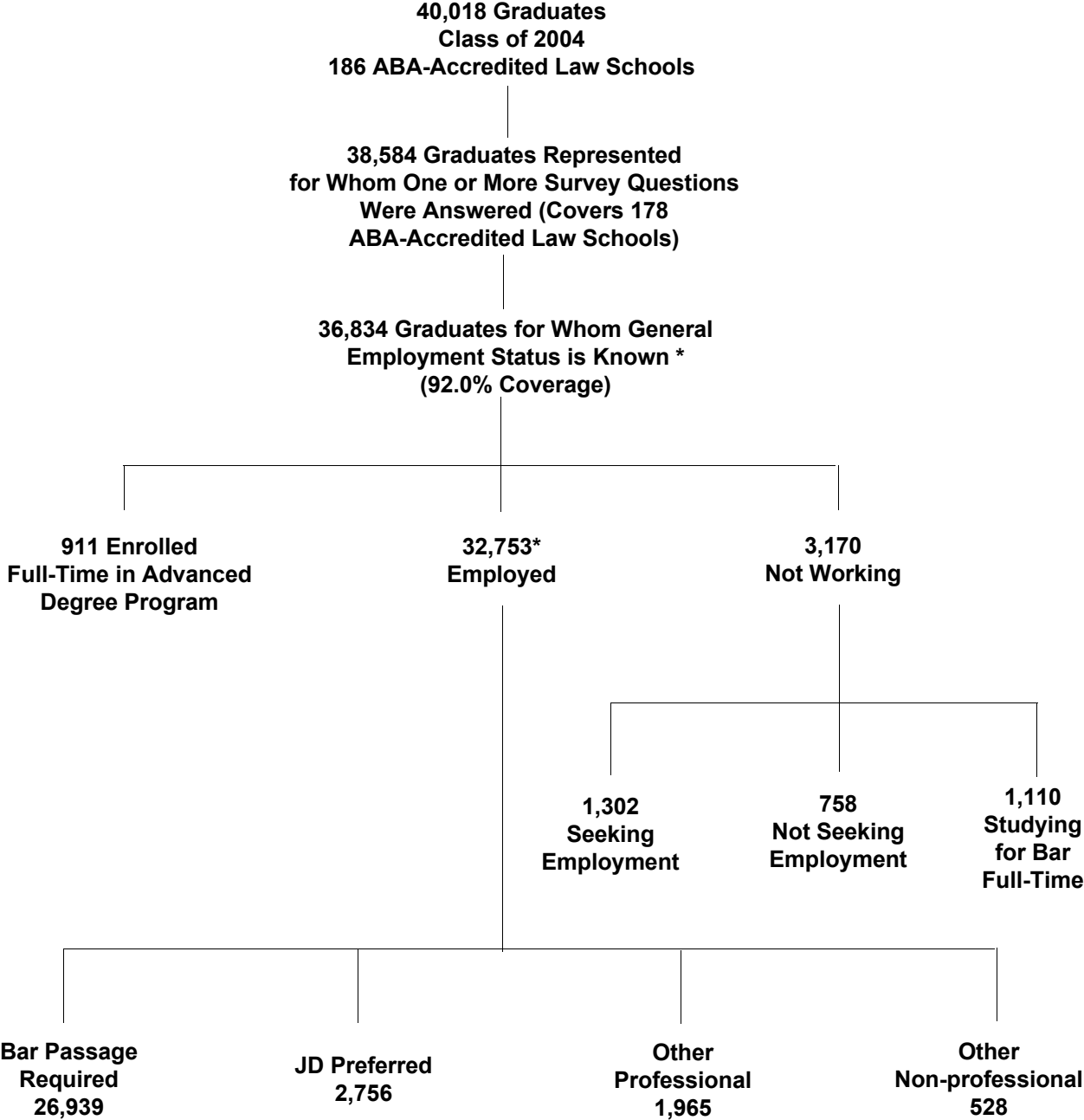
Class of 2004 — As of February 15, 2005

of jobs = 32,753



Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 2.3% of jobs, is not shown.

Class of 2004 — Scope of Employment Data



* This figure includes 565 graduates who were employed but who did not provide information on job type.
 Note: These Selected Findings are based on data received and analyzed as of April 28, 2005. Some figures in the full *Jobs & JDs* report to be published in late June 2005 may vary slightly because of additional data received after these Selected Findings were published.

decrease from 2.7% in 2003, this rate is among the highest in the 22 years that NALP has tracked this number.

Other findings from NALP's *Jobs and JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates—Class of 2004*:

- As in the prior 30 years that NALP has collected job data, most employed graduates (56.2%) chose private practice, a figure that decreased from 57.8% for the prior year but has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.
- Employment in business was 12%, compared with 11.5% in 2003. Prior to 2003, this figure had decreased steadily from a high of 14.2% in 1996. About 31% of these jobs were reported as requiring bar passage, and almost as many, 28%, were reported as JD preferred. Some of these business jobs represent graduates working

for agencies that place individuals in temporary legal jobs.

- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 27.7% of jobs taken by employed graduates, compared with 26.9% for the prior year. It should be noted that because of a change in the way in which public defenders are categorized (previously categorized as government and now categorized as public interest), the public interest employment figure of 4.9% is not directly comparable to the 3.1% figure for the prior class. Figures for public interest employment other than as public defender suggest that the rate is comparable to the rate for the Class of 2003.

There is much more to discover about the most recent developments in law school graduate employment. What are new law

graduates earning? Are most law firm opportunities in large law firms or small? How did women and minorities from the Class of 2004 fare? What cities and states offer the most employment opportunities, and where should a graduate look for the best paying jobs?

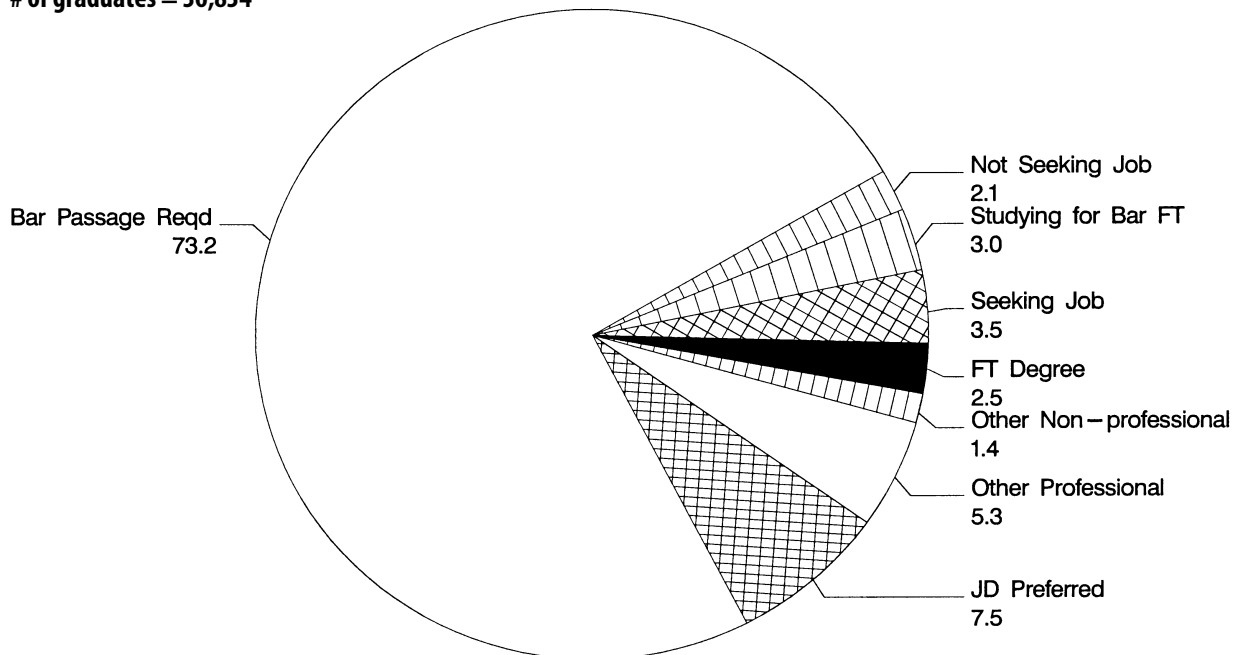
NALP's comprehensive *Jobs and JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2004* will answer these questions and more about the employment experiences of new law graduates and serve as a valuable resource and planning tool. This report is the only resource of its kind.

To order a copy of the full *Jobs and JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2004* report, to be published in late June 2005, fax or mail a copy of the form on the reverse side of this sheet to the NALP office, or simply call NALP with your order.

Initial Job Types

Class of 2004 — As of February 15, 2005

of graduates = 36,834



Note: The category of jobs for which type, e.g., bar passage required, or other, was not specified, accounts for 1.5% of jobs but is not shown on the chart. Overall, 95% of jobs were reported as full-time.

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