

Market for New Law Graduates Up, Approaching 90% for First Time Since 2001

The Class of 2005 marks the 32nd consecutive year for which NALP has documented employment experiences of JD graduates. Figures for the Class of 2005 reveal an overall employment rate that increased modestly from that of the prior year, to 89.6% of graduates for whom employment status was known. This compares with a rate of 88.9% for 2004 and 2003, 89% for 2002, 90% for 2001, and 91.5% for 2000.

In the last eight years, the employment market for new law school graduates has remained relatively strong, standing close to or above an 89% employment rate. This con-

trasts with the early and mid 1990s, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range.

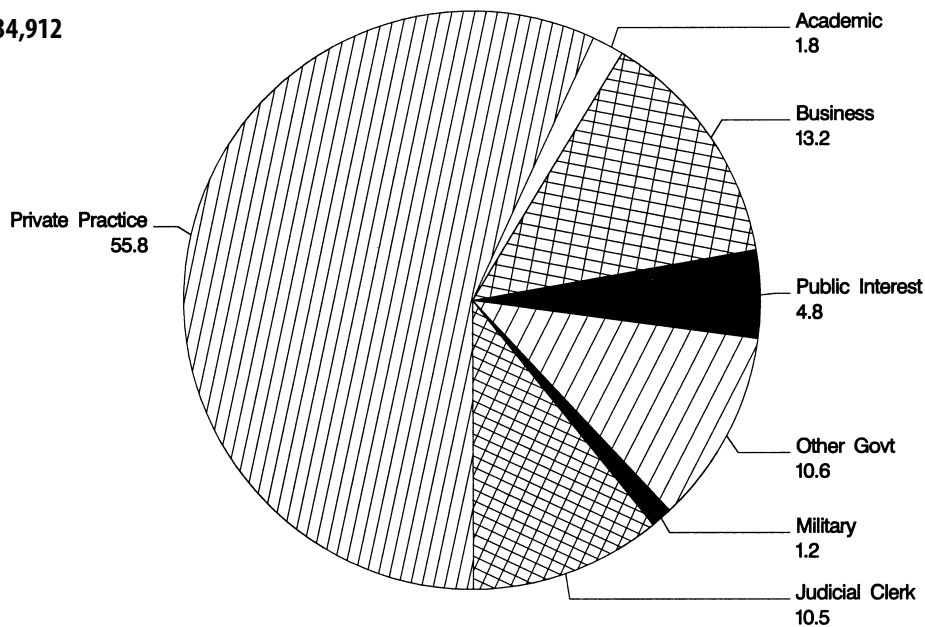
A total of 177 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 188 that were accredited at the time that the Class of 2005 graduated, participated in the survey and provided employment status information on 38,951 graduates, or 91.3% of all graduates, a coverage rate just slightly below that for the Class of 2004. Of these graduates for whom employment status was known, 74.3% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 7.5% obtained jobs for which a JD is preferred, or may even be required, but for

which bar passage is not required. Comparable figures for the Class of 2004 were 73.2% and 7.5%, respectively. The percentage of graduates employed in other capacities was 6.4%, compared with 6.7% for the Class of 2004. As has been the case in recent years, most jobs, about 95%, were reported as full-time. An additional 3.1% of graduates were seeking a job, while 3% 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. Over 2% of 2005 graduates were pursuing an advanced degree full-time.

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

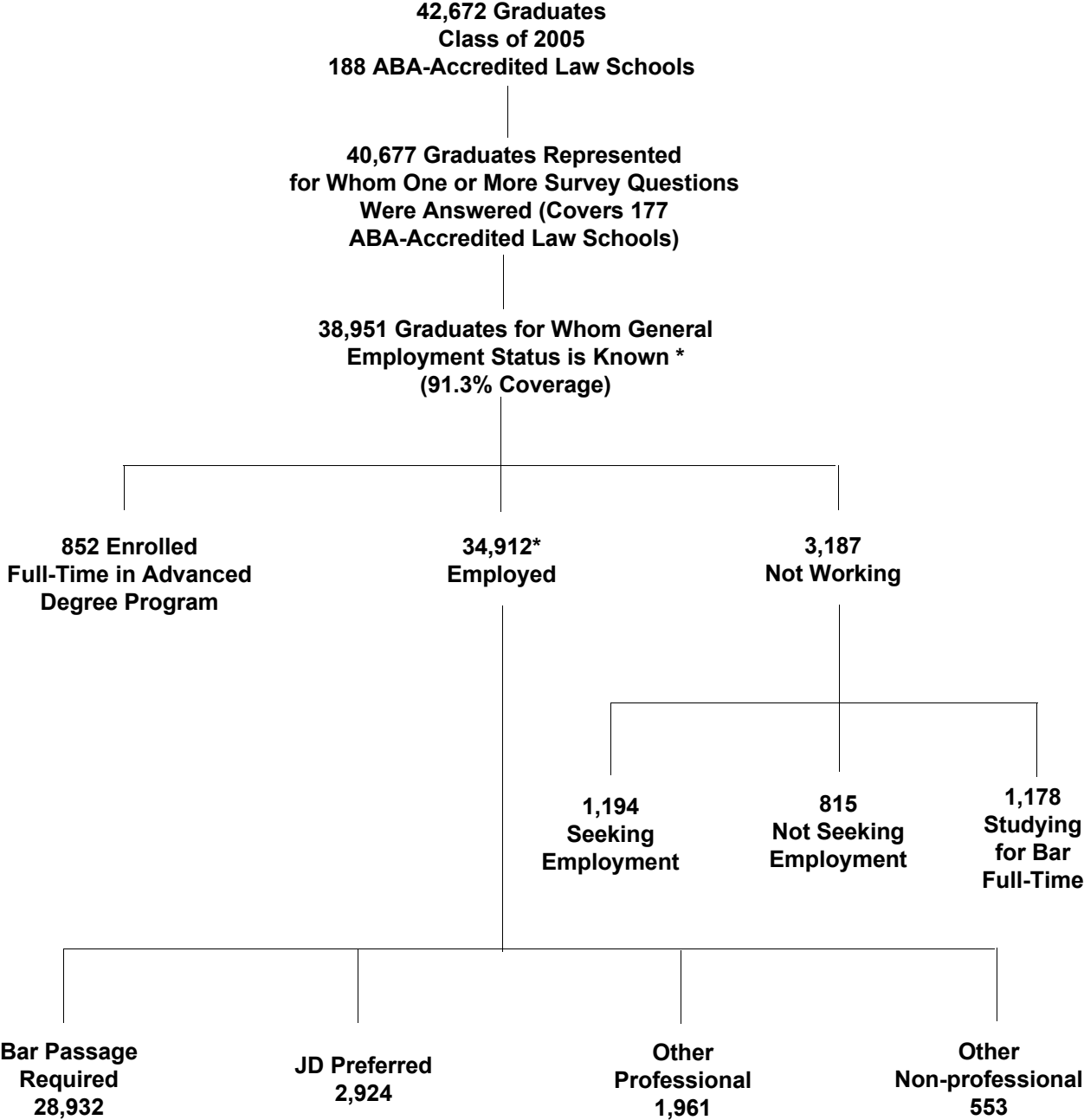
Class of 2005 — As of February 15, 2006

of jobs = 34,912



Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 2.1% of jobs, is not shown.

Class of 2005 — Scope of Employment Data



* This figure includes 542 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 May 10, 2006. Some figures in the full *Jobs & JDs* report to be published in July 2006 may vary slightly because of additional data received after these Selected Findings were published.

Other findings from NALP's *Jobs & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2005*:

- As in all prior years that NALP has collected job information, most employed graduates (55.8%) chose private practice, a figure that decreased slightly from 56.2% for the prior year, but that has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.
- Employment in business was 13.2%, compared with 12% in 2004, thus marking the second consecutive increase this figure. Prior to 2003, it had decreased steadily from a high of 14.2% in 1996. About 32% of these jobs were reported as requiring bar passage, and almost as many, 30%, were

reported as JD preferred. Some of these business jobs represent graduates working for agencies that place individuals in temporary legal jobs.

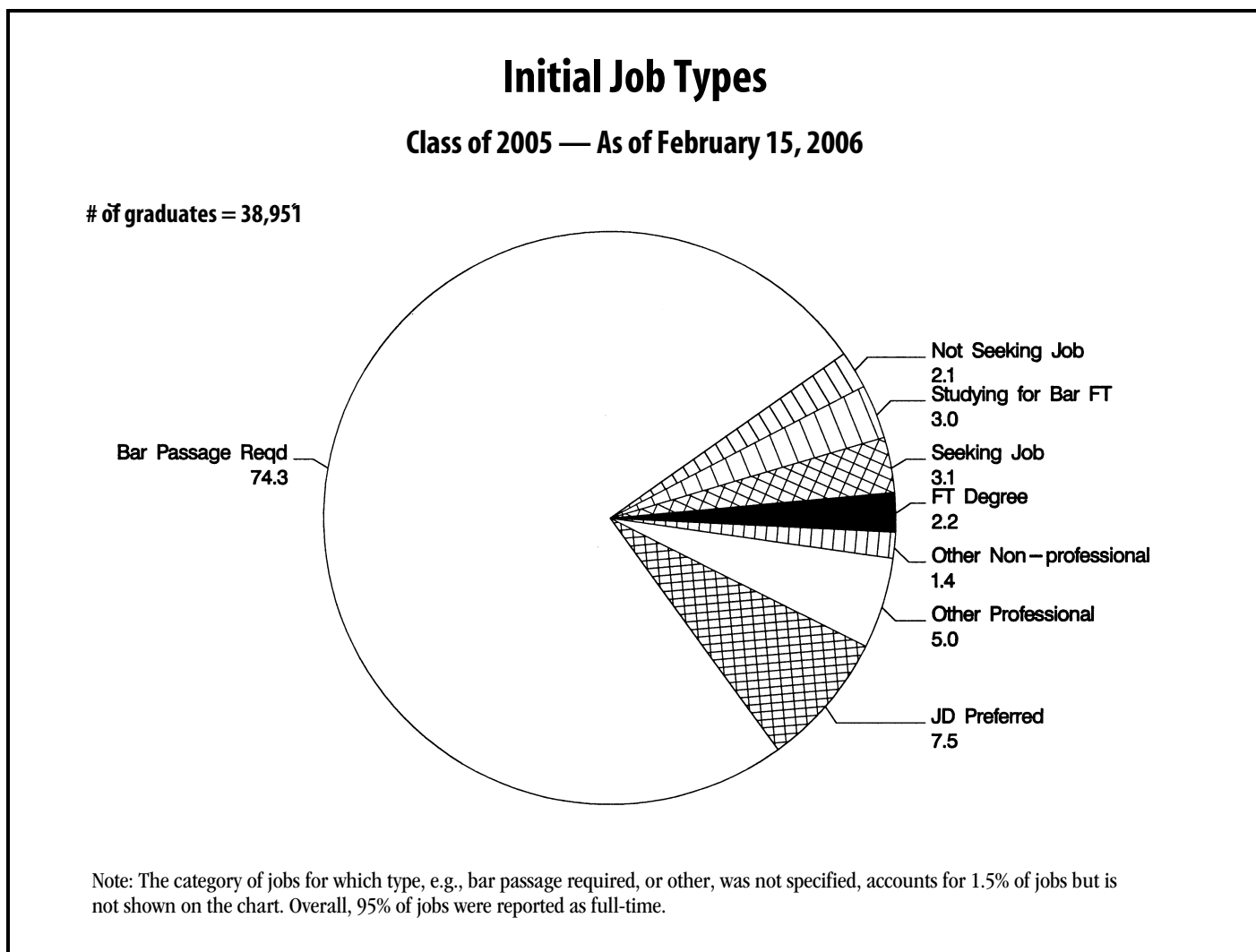
- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 27.1% of jobs taken by employed graduates, compared with 27.7% for the prior year. Public interest organizations, including public defenders, accounted for 4.8% of jobs, compared with 4.9% in 2004.

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 oppor-

tunities in large firms or small? How did women and minorities from the Class of 2005 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 & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2005* 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 & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2005* report, to be published in July 2006, fax or mail a copy of the form on the next page to the NALP office, or simply call NALP with your order.



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