

WHAT'S NEW

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2012

NEW OR REVISED CHOICES FOR THE CLASS OF 2012

- The category of “Not employed—start date deferred” has been added to the job status options to conform with the ABA category. In order to qualify for this category, the graduate must have accepted a written offer of employment by the February 15th reporting date, and the start date, which falls after February 15 must be identified with certainty.
- A stipend may be reported as a per project amount if the project time span is not known. Whenever possible, however, calculate and report the stipend on a per month or per week basis even if the stipend is not paid on that basis.

EXPANDED or CLARIFIED DEFINITIONS

- Stipends are more explicitly defined and are distinguished from hourly wages (page 3). Note that the stipend amount must bear some relationship to the work performed. A nominal amount does not qualify as a stipend.
- The choice of “commercial internet job site” for source of job has been revised to refer to non-CSO jobs listings, either in print or online (page 5).
- The scope of law school funding has been clarified to specify not only stipends or hourly pay but also any law-school-funded grants (page 6).
- The conditions required for a graduate to be reported as a solo practitioner are more fully stated to include, for example, applying for a business license, obtaining practice insurance, and advertising (pages 6-7).
- Agency honors programs and positions with executive branch/administrative agencies are more fully described and defined (page 8). Most government jobs that are not in the military, the courts, or part of an agency honors programs are executive branch or administrative agency jobs.

- Salaries do not need to be reported for full-time jobs lasting less than a year. A stipend, if applicable, should be reported (page 10).

ALSO OF NOTE IN THE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

- The distinction between volunteering and employment is addressed (page 3).
- NALP maintains its exception to the “performing the duties of the job as of February 15th” rule **ONLY** in the case of a confirmed and accepted JAG Corps job (pages 3 and 8).
- The characterization of a job as to whether it is short-term or of no fixed duration is from the employer’s perspective, not the graduate’s. A job taken on what the graduate hopes is a short-term basis (while still looking for example) may well not be a short-term job from the perspective of the employer (page 5).
- For jobs lasting at least a year, be certain to also indicate whether the job is of fixed duration, e.g., a clerkship or a year-long fellowship, or of no fixed duration, e.g., a law firm associate or assistant district attorney (page 5).
- NALP has maintained its definition of a public interest law firm (page 6). This definition may deviate from current ABA definitions.
- Reporting of graduates who are performing contract work for one or more attorneys on an ad hoc basis is addressed on page 6. This definition may deviate from current ABA definitions.
- The section on business jobs clarifies the reporting of paralegals and law clerks working through an agency placement, and such positions that are long-term or ‘permanent’ and not through an agency (page 7).