Employment of New Law Graduates Stands at 90%
Employment Market Remains Relatively Strong Despite Small Downturn

The Class of 2001 is the twenty-eighth consecutive class of J.D. graduates for which NALP has documented employment experiences. Figures for the Class of 2001 reveal that, for the first time since 1993, the employment rate for new law graduates decreased, with a figure of 90% of graduates for whom employment status was known. This compares with a figure of 91.5% for the prior year, and is evidence of the effect of the general economic downturn on the employment market for new law school graduates.

The decrease notwithstanding, it is also the case that in recent years the employment market for new law school graduates has been relatively strong, standing at or above the 90% employment rate mark. This contrasts with the early and mid-nineties, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range.

A total of 174 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 184 that were accredited at the time the Class of 2001 graduated, participated in the survey and provided employment status information on 34,602 graduates, or 91.8% of all graduates. Of these graduates for whom employment status was known, 75.9% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 6% obtained jobs for which a J.D. degree is preferred, or may even be required, but for which bar passage is not required. As has been the case in recent years, most jobs, about 96%, were reported as full-time. Also of note is the fact that 2.4% of graduates were continuing to pursue an advanced degree full-time, the highest rate in the close to two decades that NALP has tracked this number in a comparable manner. Finally, new job classifications, effective with the Class of 2001, per-

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### Initial Employment by Type of Employer

**Class of 2001 — As of February 15, 2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Interest</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Govt</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Clerk</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 1.9% of jobs, is not shown.
Class of 2001 — Scope of Employment Data

37,687 Graduates
Class of 2001
174 of 184 ABA-Accredited Law Schools

36,225 Graduates Represented
for Whom One or More Survey Questions
Were Answered (Covers 174
ABA-Accredited Law Schools)

34,602 Graduates for Whom General
Employment Status is Known *
(91.8% Coverage)

837 Enrolled
Full-Time in Advanced
Degree Program

31,163*
Employed

2,602
Not Working

1,821
Seeking
Employment

781
Not Seeking
Employment

Bar Passage
Required
26,279

JD Preferred
2,058

Other
Professional
1,912

Other
Non-professional
530

* Note: This figure includes
384 graduates who were
employed but who did not
provide information on
job type.
mit a more precise tracking of the extent to which law graduates are using their law degree in ways other than the practice of law in the traditional sense. However, because of these changes, exact comparisons with prior years are not available. The new classifications, however, permit a more precise tracking of the extent to which law graduates are using their law degree in ways other than the practice of law in the traditional sense.

Other findings from NALP’s Jobs & JD’s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2001:

- Employment in business was 11.3%, compared with 12.5% in 2000, and a figure that has decreased from a high of 14.2% in 1996. About 29% of these jobs were reported as requiring bar passage, and almost one-quarter were reported as JD preferred.

- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 27.6% of jobs taken by employed graduates, similar to the figure for the Class of 2000.

- There is much more to discover about the most recent developments in law school graduate employment. What are new law graduates earning and where are they working? Are most law firm opportunities in large law firms or small? How did women and minorities from the Class of 2001 fare? What states offer the most abundant opportunities for employment 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 2001 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 2001 to be published in late June 2002, 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 2001 — As of February 15, 2002

# of graduates = 34,602

![Pie chart](chart.png)

- Bar Passage Reqd: 75.9%
- Not Seeking Job: 2.3%
- Seeking Job: 5.3%
- Other Non-professional: 1.5%
- Other Professional: 5.5%
- JD Preferred: 6.0%
- FT Degree: 2.4%

Note: The category of jobs for which type, e.g., bar passage required, or other, was not specified, accounts for 1.1% of jobs but is not shown on the chart. Overall, 96% of jobs were reported as full-time.