

Market for Class of 2008 Law Graduates Shrinks

NALP research analyses for the Class of 2008 reveal an overall employment rate that decreased for the first time since 2003, to 89.9% of graduates for whom employment status was known. This compares with a rate of 91.9% for 2007, 90.7% for 2006, 89.6% for 2005, 88.9% for 2004 and 2003, 89% for 2002, 90% for 2001, and 91.5% for 2000. The 91.9% employment rate for the Class of 2007 represented a 20-year high and the 89.9% employment rate for the Class of 2008, while reversing an upward trend, is considerably higher than the rates that prevailed during much of the 1990s.

The Class of 2008 marks the 35th consecutive year for which NALP has documented employment experiences of JD

graduates. For more than a decade the employment market for new law school graduates has remained relatively strong and remarkably steady, standing close to or above an 89% employment rate since 1997. This contrasts with the early and mid 1990s, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range (with 1993 standing out as the lowest rate in more than 20 years, at 83.4%). And, while the economic downturn did have an effect on employment opportunities for the Class of 2008, much of that class obtained employment before the downturn intensified in late 2008 (and in fact a number of members of this class would have received offers for employment in 2007).

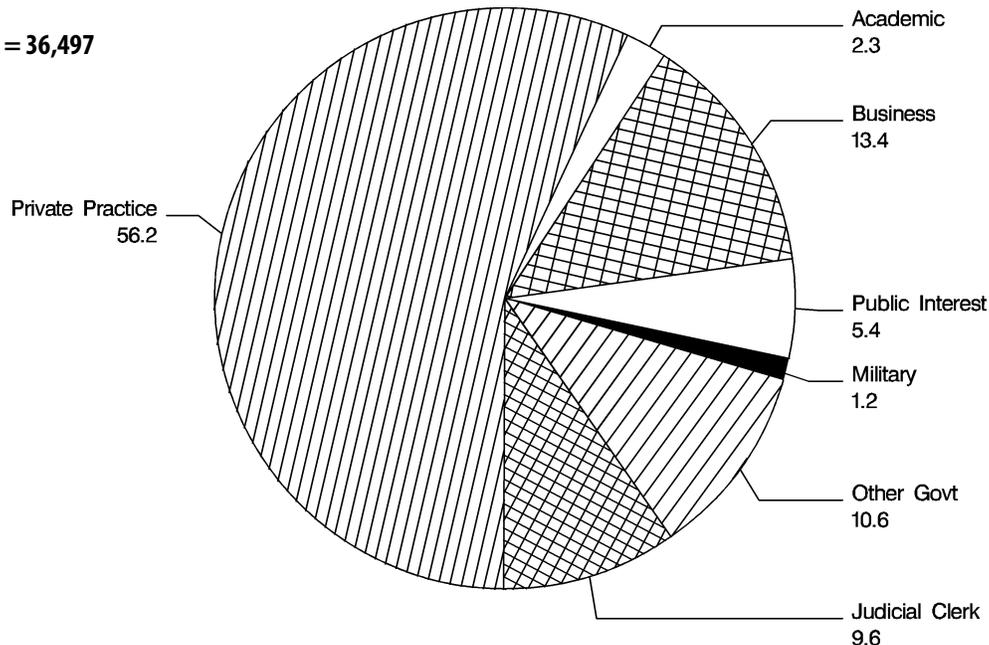
A total of 188 ABA-accredited law schools

participated in the survey and provided employment information on 40,582 graduates, or 93.1% of all graduates, the highest coverage ever. Of those graduates for whom employment status was known, 74.7% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 8.1% 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 2007 were 76.9% and 7.7%, respectively. The percentage of graduates employed in other capacities was 6.2%, similar to the rate for the Class of 2007. However, the rate of part-time employment was up slightly, at about 6.5% of jobs, compared with about 5% in recent prior years. Well over 2% of 2008 graduates were pursu-

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

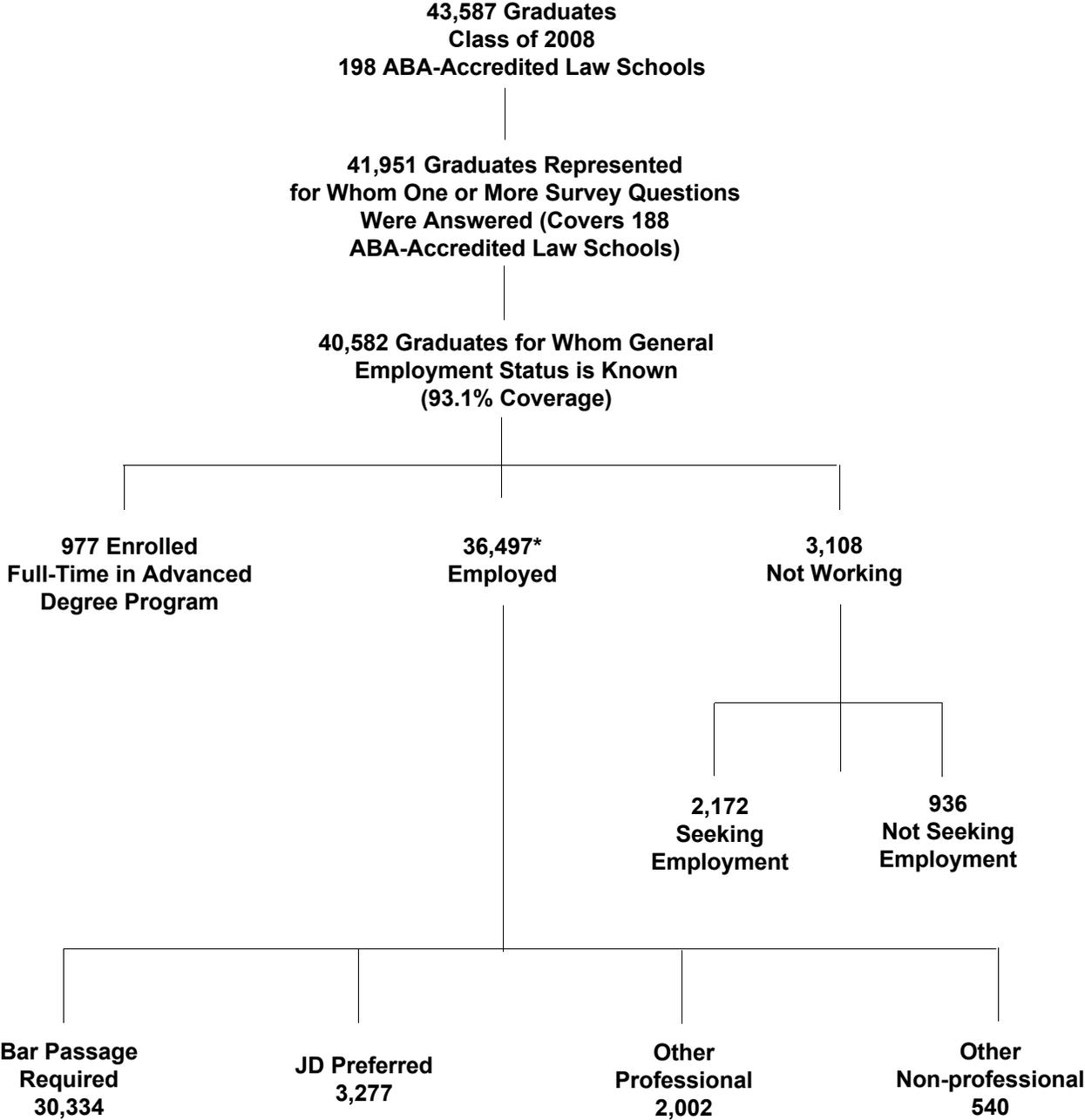
Class of 2008 — As of February 15, 2009

of jobs = 36,497



Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 1.2% of jobs, is not shown.

Class of 2008 — Scope of Employment Data



* This figure includes 344 graduates who were employed but who did not provide information on job type.

ing an advanced degree full-time, leaving almost 8% who were not working or pursuing an advanced degree as of February 15.

Other findings from *Jobs & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2008*:

- As in all prior years that NALP has collected job information, most employed graduates (56.2%) chose private practice, compared with 55.5% in 2007. This figure has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.
- Employment in business was 13.4%, down from 14.1% in 2007. However, the percentage of jobs in business has been in the 13-14% range for the past five years. About 33% of these jobs were reported as requiring bar passage, and 30% were reported as JD pre-

ferred. Just over 11% of these business jobs represent graduates working for agencies that place individuals in temporary legal, law clerk, or paralegal jobs.

- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 26.8% of jobs taken by employed graduates, compared with 27.3% for the prior year. This percentage has remained relatively stable for almost three decades. Public interest organizations, including public defenders, accounted for 5.4% of jobs, compared with 5.8% in 2007.

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 firms or small? How did women and minorities from the Class of 2008 fare? What cities and states offer the most employment opportunities, and where should a graduate look for the best-paying jobs?

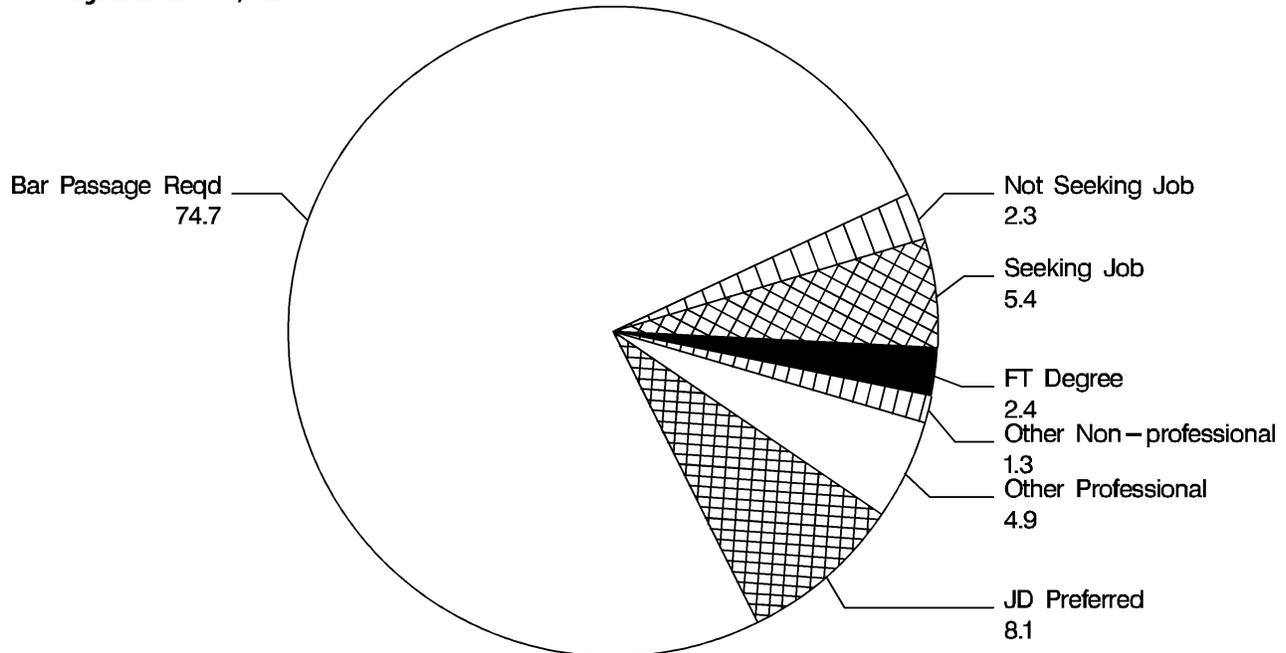
NALP's comprehensive *Jobs & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2008* will answer these questions and more about the employment experiences of new law graduates and serve as a valuable resource and planning tool. This report is the only resource of its kind.

To order a copy of the full *Jobs & JD's: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2008* report, to be published in July 2009, fax or mail a copy of the form on the next page to the NALP office, or simply call NALP with your order.

Initial Job Types

Class of 2008 — As of February 15, 2009

of graduates = 40,582



Note: The category of jobs for which type, e.g., bar passage required, or other, was not specified, accounts for 0.85% of jobs but is not shown on the chart. Overall, 94% of jobs were reported as full-time.

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