

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.

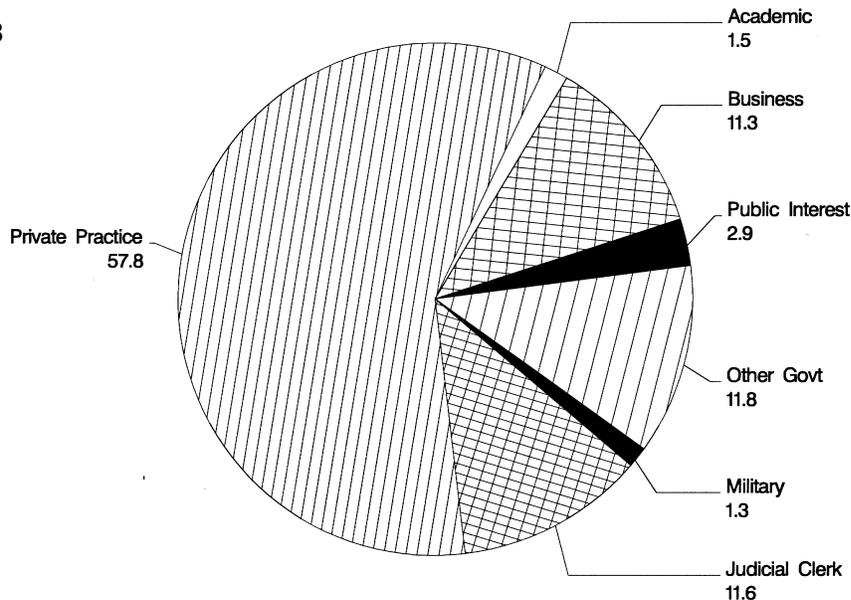
A total of 174 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 184 that were accredited at the time the Class of 2001 graduated, participated in the survey and provided employment status information on 34,602 graduates, or 91.8% of all graduates. Of these graduates for whom employment

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-

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

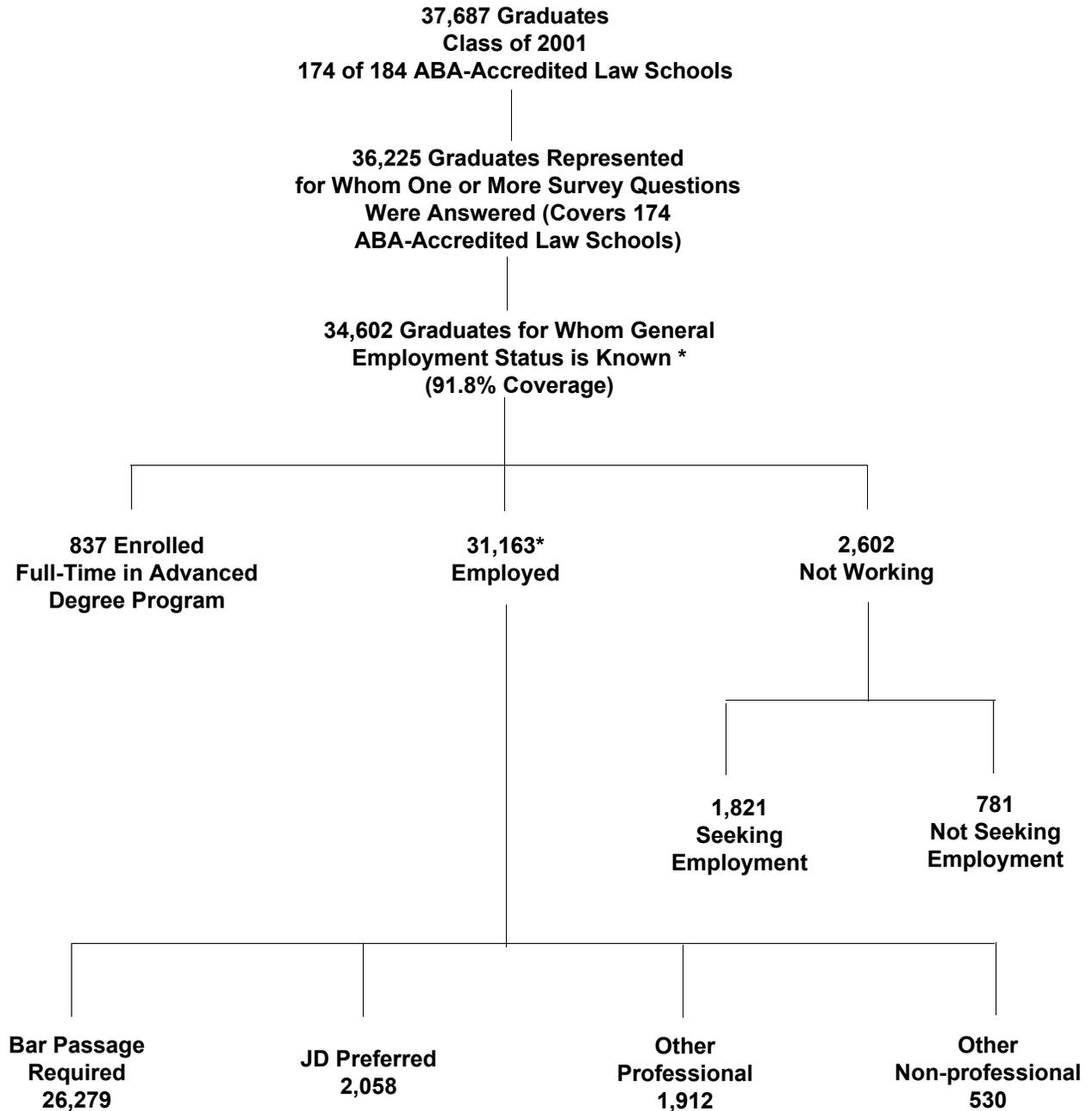
Class of 2001 — As of February 15, 2002

of jobs = 31,163



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



* 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*:

- As in the prior 27 years that NALP has collected job data, most employed graduates (57.8%) chose private practice, a figure that increased somewhat over that for the prior year, but that has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.

- 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.

