

Employment of New Law Graduates Stands at 89%

Employment Market Contracts Slightly for Second Year in a Row

The Class of 2002 is the twenty-ninth consecutive class of J.D. graduates for which NALP has documented employment experiences. Figures for the Class of 2002 reveal that, for the second time since 1993, the employment rate for new law graduates dropped slightly, with a figure of 89% of graduates for whom employment status was known. This compares with 90% for 2001, and 91.5% for 2000, and is evidence of the effect of the general economic downturn on the employment market for new law school graduates.

The recent drops notwithstanding, in the last five years the employment market for new law school graduates has remained relatively strong, standing at or above an 89% employment rate. This differs dramatically with the early and mid-nineties, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range.

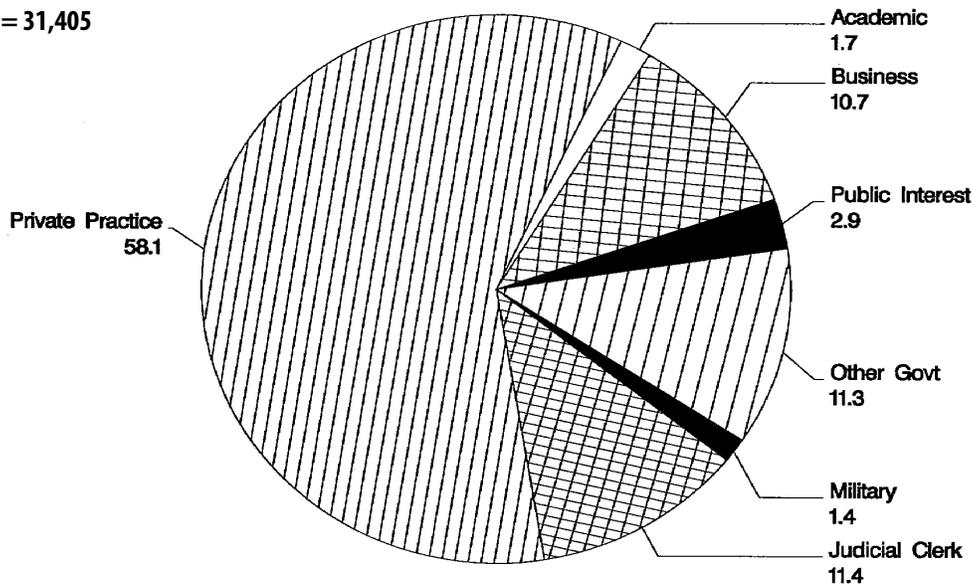
A total of 175 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 185 that were accredited at the time the Class of 2002 graduated, participated in the survey and provided employment status information on 35,295

graduates, or 91.5% of all graduates. Of these graduates for whom employment status was known, 75.3% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 5.2% obtained jobs for which a J.D. degree is preferred, or may even be required, but for which bar passage is not required. Comparable figures for the Class of 2001 were 75.9% and 6%, respectively. The percentage of graduates employed in other capacities was 7.4%, compared with 7% for the Class of 2001. As has been the case in recent years, most jobs, about 95%,

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

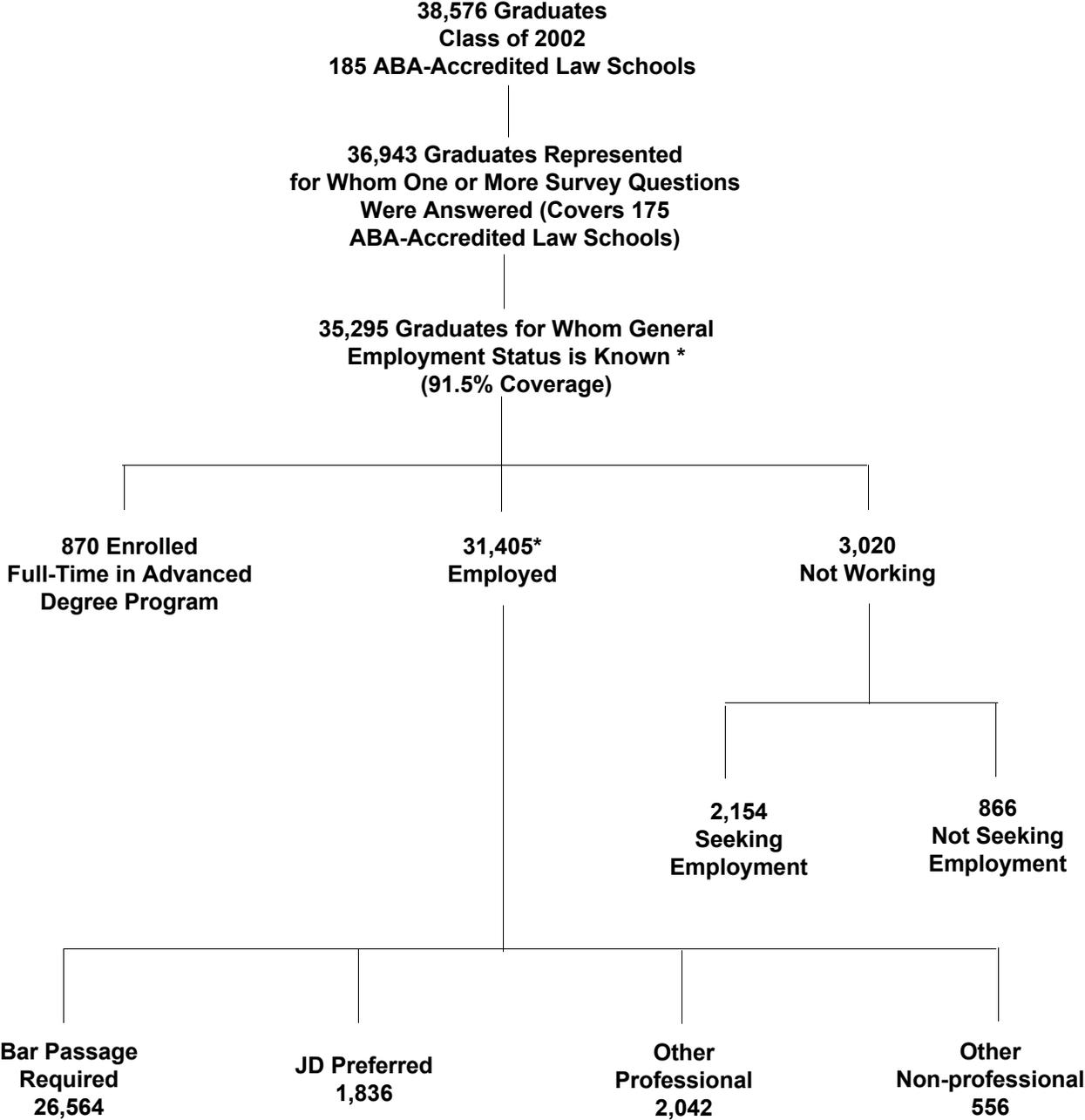
Class of 2002 — As of February 15, 2003

of jobs = 31,405



Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 2.5% of jobs, is not shown.

Class of 2002 — Scope of Employment Data



* Note: This figure includes 407 graduates who were employed but who did not provide information on job type.

were reported as full-time. Of particular note: 2.5% of 2002 graduates were pursuing an advanced degree full-time, the highest rate in the two decades that NALP has tracked this number.

Other findings from NALP's *Jobs & J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2002*:

- As in the prior 28 years that NALP has collected job data, most employed graduates (58.1%) chose private practice, a figure that increased somewhat from the prior year, but that has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.
- Employment in business was 10.7%, compared with 11.3% in 2001, a figure that has decreased from a high of 14.2% in 1996. About 28% of these jobs were reported as

requiring bar passage, and almost one-quarter were reported as J.D. preferred.

- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 27% of jobs taken by employed graduates, slightly lower than the figure of 27.6% for the Class of 2001.

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 2002 fare? What states offer the most abundant opportunities for employment and where should a graduate look for the best paying jobs?

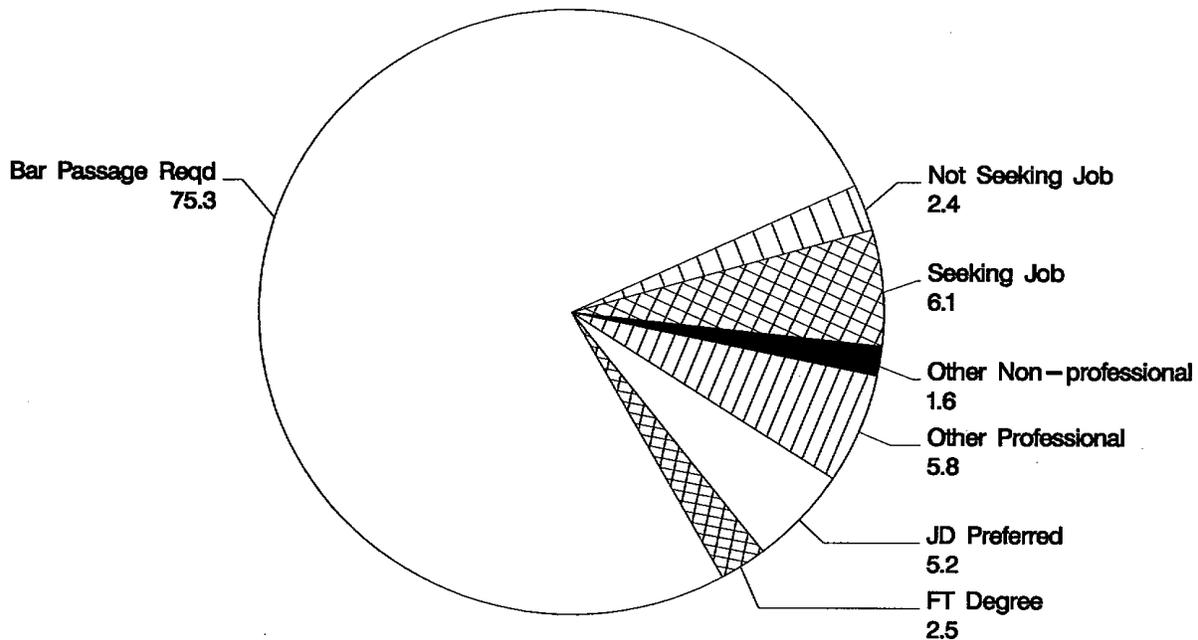
NALP's comprehensive *Jobs & J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2002* will answer these questions and more about the employment experiences of new law graduates and serve as a valuable resource and planning tool. This report is the only resource of its kind.

To order a copy of the full *Jobs & J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2002* to be published in late June 2003, 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 2002 — As of February 15, 2003

of graduates = 35,295



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, 95% of jobs were reported as full-time.