

Employment of New Law Graduates Just Shy of 89%

Employment Market is Steady for Second Year in a Row

The Class of 2003 marks three decades during which NALP has documented employment experiences of J.D. graduates on a yearly basis. Figures for the Class of 2003 reveal an overall employment rate that was virtually unchanged from that of the prior year — 88.9% of graduates for whom employment status was known, compared with 89% in 2002. This compares with 90% for 2001, and 91.5% for 2000, and is evidence of the effect of lingering weaknesses in the economy on the employment market for new law school graduates.

The recent drops notwithstanding, in the last six years the employment market for new law school graduates has remained relatively strong, standing close to or above an 89% employment rate. This differs dramatically with the early and mid 1990s, when employment rates were in the 84-85% range.

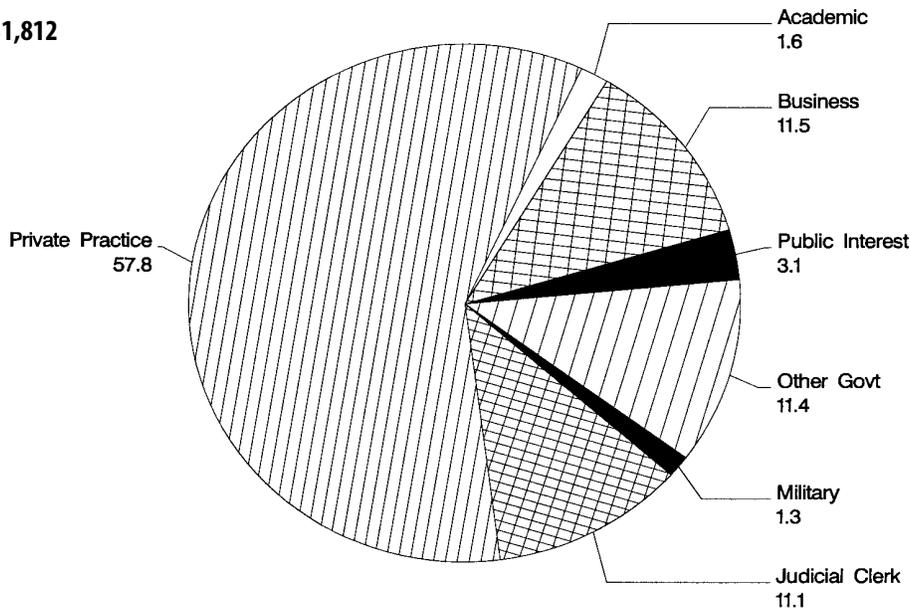
A total of 176 ABA-accredited law schools, out of 186 that were accredited at the time that the Class of 2003 graduated, participated in the survey, and provided employment status information on 35,787

graduates, or a record 92.1% of all graduates. Of these graduates for whom employment status was known, 73.7% obtained a job for which bar passage is required. An additional 6.5% 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 2002 were 75.3% and 5.2%, respectively. The percentage of graduates employed in other capacities was 7.3%, compared with 7.4% for the Class of 2002. As has been the case in recent years, most jobs, about 95%,

Initial Employment by Type of Employer

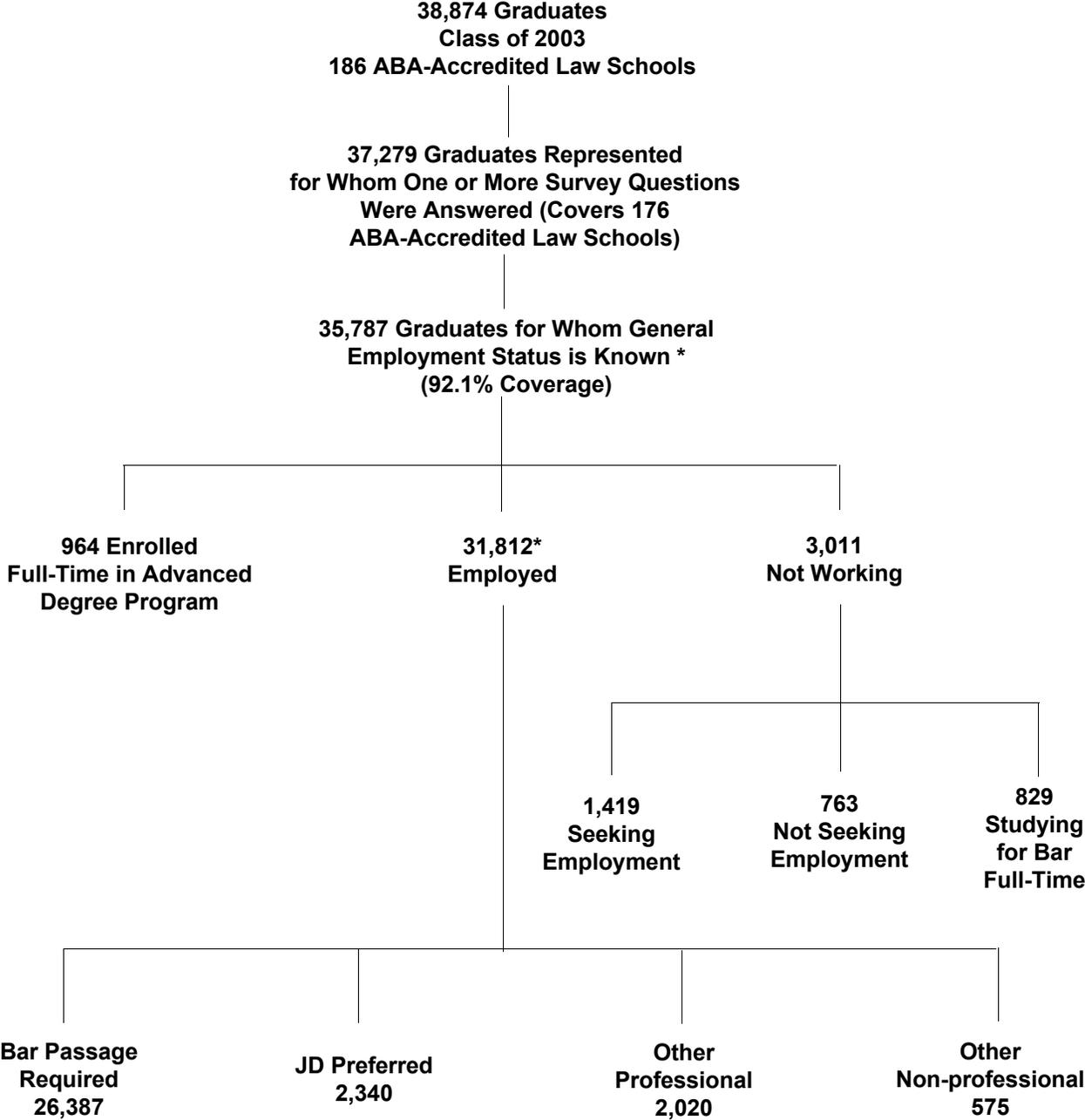
Class of 2003 — As of February 15, 2004

of jobs = 31,812



Note: Figures in this chart reflect all job types — both legal and other. For clarity, the category for unknown employer type, representing 2.1% of jobs, is not shown.

Class of 2003 — Scope of Employment Data



* Note: This figure includes 490 graduates who were employed but who did not provide information on job type.

were reported as full-time. A new category within the not working category, introduced with the Class of 2003, revealed that 2.3% of graduates for whom employment status was known were studying for the bar full-time and neither working in any capacity nor actively seeking employment. Also of note is the fact that 2.7% of 2003 graduates were pursuing an advanced degree full-time, an increase from 2.5% in 2002, and the highest rate in the 21 years that NALP has tracked this number.

Other findings from NALP's *Jobs and J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2003*:

- As in the prior 29 years that NALP has collected job data, most employed graduates (57.8%) chose private practice, a figure that decreased somewhat from the prior year, but that has fluctuated only between 55% and 58% since 1993.

- Employment in business was 11.5%, compared with 10.7% in 2002. Prior to 2003, this figure had decreased steadily from a high of 14.2% in 1996. About 27% of these jobs were reported as requiring bar passage, and almost as many, 26%, were reported as J.D. preferred.

- Public service jobs, including military and other government jobs, judicial clerkships, and public interest positions, accounted for 26.9% of jobs taken by employed graduates, a figure that is virtually unchanged from that for the prior year — 27%. It is worth noting that the figure of 3.1% in public interest organizations is the highest since 1990, the period of time during which jobs included in the public interest category has been constant.

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 law firms or small? How did women and minorities from the Class of 2003 fare? What cities and states offer the most employment opportunities, and where should a graduate look for the best paying jobs?

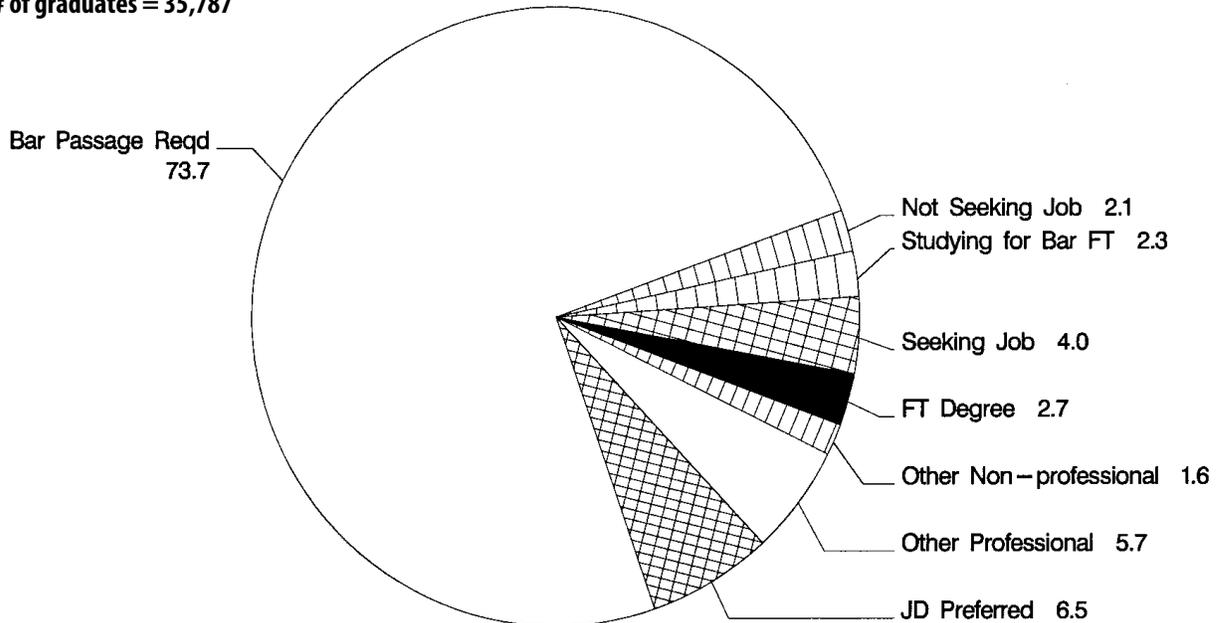
NALP's comprehensive *Jobs and J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2003* will answer these questions and more about the employment experiences of new law graduates and serve as a valuable resource and planning tool. This report is the only resource of its kind.

To order a copy of the full *Jobs and J.D.'s: Employment and Salaries of New Law Graduates — Class of 2003* report, to be published in late June 2004, 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 2003 — As of February 15, 2004

of graduates = 35,787



Note: The category of jobs for which type, e.g., bar passage required, or other, was not specified, accounts for 1.4% of jobs but is not shown on the chart. Overall, 95% of jobs were reported as full-time.