

Ovadia Career Planning & Placement Office

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How did 2014 graduates get their jobs?*

- Nationally, less than 15% of graduates found jobs through fall OCI (only exception large law firms (100+ lawyers)).
- Graduates found jobs in smaller law firms, government and public interest organizations most frequently through self-initiated contacts, job postings and referrals.

*NALP

Employment Market for Class of 2014 Law Graduates

- According to NALP 9 months after graduation 85.6% of those for whom employment status was known were employed (includes all types of jobs – part time, short term, non-legal). In Florida 81% were employed; FIU Law's total employment rate was 92.8%.
- 65% of those employed had jobs for which bar passage was required. In Florida 62% of graduates had jobs requiring bar passage; 70% of FIU Law graduates found work where bar passage was required. An additional 17.5% FIU Law graduates found jobs for which a JD was an advantage.
- About half of those employed obtained a job in private practice (73.3% of FIU Law graduates found work in the private sector).
- Public sector employment (29%) was the second most common work setting (17.5% of FIU Law graduates found jobs in the public sector).

Job Centers*

1. New York City
2. Washington, DC
3. Chicago
4. Los Angeles
5. Houston
6. Boston
7. San Francisco
8. Atlanta
9. Miami
10. Philadelphia

* NALP

What salaries did the class of 2014 obtain?*

- The national median salary for those working full time in a job lasting at least a year was \$60,000 (Florida \$50,000).
- Nationally, salaries greater than \$74,000 accounted for 34% of salaries, salaries of \$55,000 or less accounted for 41% percent of salaries (Florida 25% - 75% percentile; \$41,000 - \$70,000).
- The median salary at law firms was \$85,000 (Florida median salary was \$60,000).
- Median salary for government jobs and judicial clerkships was \$52,000.

* NALP

Florida Legal Market Overview

- As of 11/01/15 there were 84,791 lawyers eligible and in good standing to practice law in Florida. The total bar membership is 102,090. 63% of these lawyers are male; 37% are female.*
- 73% of lawyers in Florida practice in firms with less than 10 lawyers.
Salary ranges reported for Class of 2013 in firms with 2-10 lawyers. 25th to 75th percentile; \$45,000 - \$60,000. Median \$50,000.**

* From the Florida Bar

**NALP

2013 Florida Legal Market Overview

- NALP reports there were 2,340 entry level law jobs taken in Florida. The breakdown is as follows: 15.6% business, 3.2% clerkships, 14.2% government, 9.1% public service and 55% private practice.
- NALP reports there were 1,223 entry level law firm jobs taken in Florida. The breakdown is as follows: Firms with 2-10 lawyers 49.4%, firms with 11-25 lawyers 14.8%, firms with 26-100 lawyers 11.6%, firms with 101-250 lawyers 7%, firms 251+ lawyers 5.9%.
- In Miami, NALP reports 500 entry level law firm jobs taken. The breakdown is as follows: Firms with 2-10 lawyers 42.3%, 11-25 lawyers 17.5%, 26-100 lawyers 8.9%, 101-250 lawyers 7.6% and 251+ lawyers 12.4%.
 - 12% of jobs were with solo practices (either joining a solo lawyers, or starting a solo practice.)
 - In Miami 60% of those employed worked in private practice, 24% in public interest and 12% in government.

The Law Firm Hiring Process: Large Firms (100 or more attorneys)

- Have formalized hiring procedures, and a hiring timeline. They hire summer clerks early in the fall, and typically make permanent offers to the summer clerks at the end of the summer.
- Hire on campus, receive resumes and can be contacted directly.
- Specific person in the firm is in charge of hiring – that’s all he/she does.
- Tend to be risk averse when it comes to hiring – rely on factors that have worked in the past – grades, law review etc.

Medium Firms (25 to 100 lawyers)

- May participate in job fairs or on campus recruiting, direct contact is very common. They may not have a set hiring timeline.
- May not have a dedicated in-house recruiter, but may have a hiring partner or hiring committee who have additional responsibilities.
- Concern with grades will vary from firm to firm.

Small Firms and Solo Practitioners

- Hire on as needed basis – those with organized hiring plans generally start hiring in the spring.
- Prepare to find these jobs in the fall.
- Check Symplicity and Fla. Bar Journal for postings.
- Ask the Ovadia CP&P Office for information on smaller firms that have hired FIU Law graduates.
- Part-time school year work.

Public Interest

- Wide range of practice areas.
- Large public interest organizations hire in the fall.
- Funding is a key issue – EJW Summer corps, other sources
- Volunteer
- NALP reports that public interest jobs accounted for 7.5% (2,687) of jobs taken by the class of 2014.

Government

- Wide range of practice areas
- Honors Internship Handbook
(<http://arizonahandbooks.com/u/GHPPHandbookFIULaw> - for password, email lawcareer@fiu.edu)
- USAJobs.gov
- Many programs have fall deadlines
- Read weekly blog from Ovadia CP&P Office
- Attend presentations organized by the Ovadia CP&P Office and FIU
- Relevant experience and demonstrated interest and commitment is very important
- Be strategic about where you volunteer and what clinics and externships you take
- CLI program – trial practice and substantive experience
- NALP reports that 4,255 members of the class of 2013 took jobs with the federal, state or local government. This excludes judicial clerks and public defenders.
- NALP reports that 3,315 members of the class of 2013 took federal, state or local judicial clerkships.