

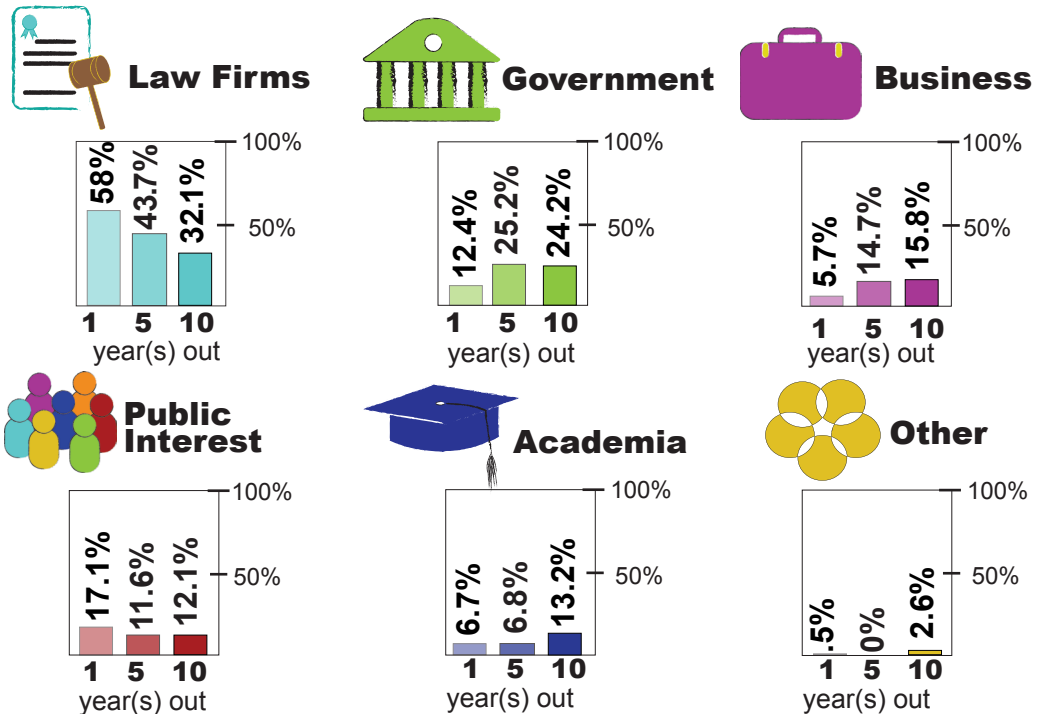
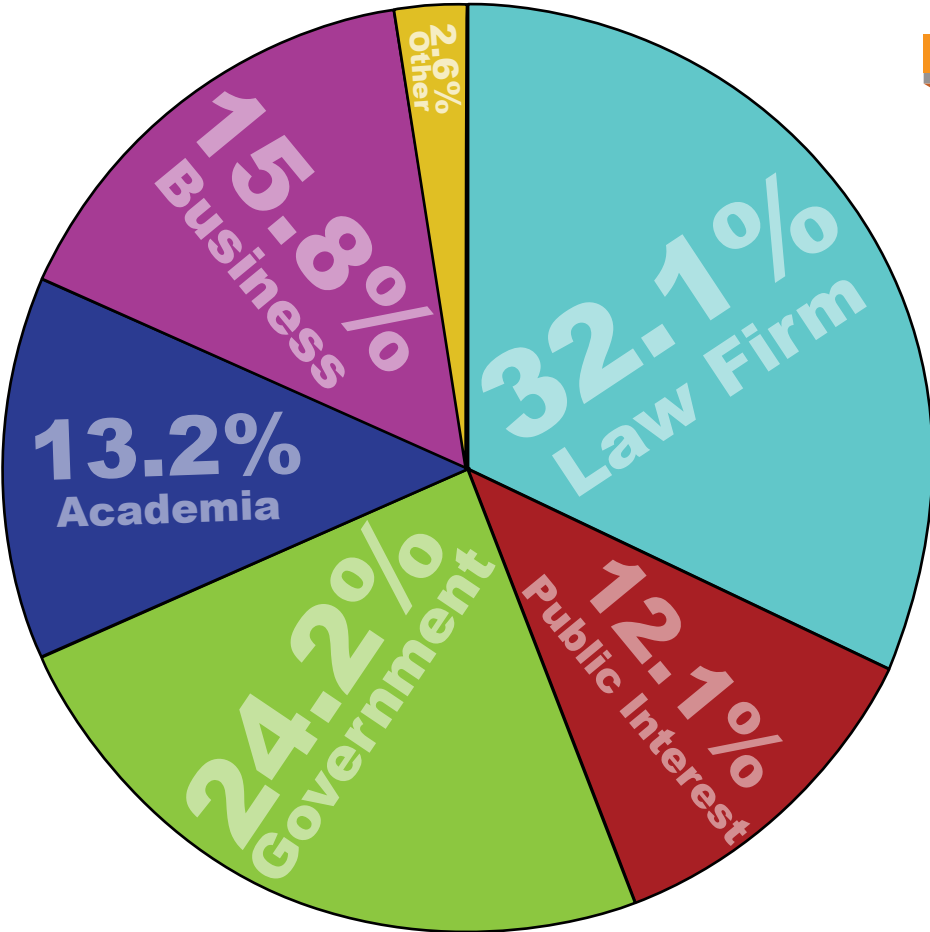
# YALE LAW SCHOOL 10th YEAR SURVEY RESULTS Class of 2010

Current employment 10 years after graduation

## Overall Job Satisfaction



## Employment 1, 5 & 10 years after graduation \*



\*This information does not include clerkships, which comprised 36.3% of the Class's first-year post-graduate employment.

**31.3%**

have worked in the public interest at some point since graduation (not including judicial clerkships)

**51.7%**

have clerked for a judge at some point since graduation.

**66%**

of those practicing law are litigators

# 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Report Class of 2010 May 2021

In this report, the Career Development Office offers a snapshot of the employment experiences of the members of the Class of 2010 (“the Class”) in their first ten years since graduating from YLS.

The information in this report was compiled from multiple sources.<sup>1</sup> First employment information was provided from members of the Class to CDO nine months after graduation.<sup>2</sup> Information about first non-clerkship employment incorporates the results of CDO’s Post-Clerkship Employment Survey sent to all graduates who clerked immediately after graduation.<sup>3</sup> Information about the Class five years after graduation is based on responses to CDO’s 5<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey, as well as based upon independent research conducted by CDO.<sup>4</sup> Information about the Class ten years after graduation is based on responses to CDO’s 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey, as well as independent research by CDO.<sup>5</sup>

## First Employer Type

Judicial clerkships and law firms were the most popular first employment choices of the Class. Smaller percentages commenced their careers in public interest (10.5%), government (10%), academia (3.2%), and business (4.2%). In terms of first non-clerkship employment, 58% of the Class worked for law firms in their first non-clerkship position, while 29% worked in either public interest or government.

Class of 2010	First Job After Graduation <sup>6</sup>	First Non-Clerkship Job
Law Firms	35.8%	58%
Judicial Clerkship	36.3%	--
Public Interest	10.5%	17.1%
Government	10%	12.4%
Academia <sup>7</sup>	3.2%	6.7%
Business <sup>8</sup>	4.2%	5.7%
Other	--	0.5%

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

<sup>2</sup> 99.5% of the Class responded.

<sup>3</sup> 98% of the Class is represented.

<sup>4</sup> 54% of the Class responded, although not every respondent answered every question. Through independent research, CDO obtained employment information from an additional 42% of the Class beyond the 54% who responded to the 5th Year Survey.

<sup>5</sup> 39% of the Class responded, although not every respondent answered every question. Through independent research, CDO obtained information about current employment type and geographic location from an additional 55% of the Class.

<sup>6</sup> As reported to the ABA, these data reflect first job choices (9 months after graduation) for graduates known to be employed. We have reflected this data exactly as reported by the ABA – rounded to the nearest tenth. For the Class of 2010, an additional 4.5% of members of the Class pursued an advanced degree immediately after graduation or upon concluding their clerkships; these graduates are not reflected in this chart.

<sup>7</sup> Academia as used throughout this report includes teaching, research, academic fellowships, and academic administration.

<sup>8</sup> Business as used throughout this report includes private-sector non-legal employers, for which Class members may be working in legal and/or non-legal capacities.

## Employer Type Progression

In comparing first non-clerkship employment with reported employment five and ten years after graduation, we see a progression away from law firm practice toward government, academia, and business.

Class of 2010	First Non-Clerkship Job	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
Law Firms	58%	43.7%	32.1%
Public Interest	17.1%	11.6%	12.1%
Government	12.4%	25.2%	24.2%
Academia	6.7%	6.8%	13.2%
Business	5.7%	14.7%	15.8%
Other	.5%	--	2.6%

Not factoring judicial clerkships, nearly 31.3% of the Class has worked for a public service employer (not-for-profit organization or government) at some point in the ten years since graduation. With respect to judicial clerkships, CDO's clerkship tracking informs us that 51.7% of the Class has clerked for a judge at some point in the ten years since graduation.

## Employer Type Progression and Gender<sup>9</sup>

Among 10<sup>th</sup> Year Survey respondents, ten years after graduation, a higher percentage of women than men are in law firms (27.6% vs. 22.2%), public interest (13.8% vs. 11.1%) and government (27.6% vs. 20%). A higher percentage of men than women are in business (17.8% vs. 13.8%) and academia (24.4% vs. 13.8%).

Interestingly, a higher percentage of women than men had reported being at law firms at graduation, as well as both 5 and 10 years after graduation. The percentage differences, however, have become progressively smaller in each measured interval since the Class's law school graduation.

Class of 2010	At Graduation		5 Years After Graduation		10 Years After Graduation	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Law Firms	41.6%	30.7%	51%	40%	27.6%	22.2%
Judicial Clerkship	34.8%	37.6%	2%	1.5%	3.4%	--
Public Interest	9%	11.9%	9%	18%	13.8%	11.1%
Academia	3.4%	3%	9%	9%	13.8%	24.4%

<sup>9</sup> As per office policy, when the number of members of the Class who have reported that they do not identify as male or female is quite small, responses from these Class members are not included within gender-based discussions within this report, so as not to reveal personal or identifiable information about any particular individuals.

Government	6.7%	12.9%	9%	24%	27.6%	20%
Business	4.5%	4%	19%	7.5%	13.8%	17.8%
Other	--	--	--	--	--	4.4%

## Employment Locations

In their first jobs post-graduation, nearly 55% of the Class worked in three locations: New York City, Washington, DC, and California (including all cities). Based upon survey responses and independent research, ten years after graduation an even greater percentage of the Class, 60.5%, works in these three locations due to more members of the Class working in California and New York.

Top 3 Employment Locations	At Graduation	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
New York	23.7%	30%	26.3%
Washington, D.C.	22.1%	26.3%	22.1%
California (including all cities)	8.9%	12.1%	12.1%

## Job Satisfaction

In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Surveys, Class respondents were asked to indicate their overall satisfaction with their current employment. Overall, 82% of 5<sup>th</sup> Year Survey respondents said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their current employment. Ten years after graduation, 92% of respondents reported being either satisfied or very satisfied.

Among respondents in law firms five years after graduation, 73% had reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their work, compared to 88.9% who reported being very satisfied or satisfied in law firms ten years after graduation. Very high (between 90% and 100%) percentages of respondents working in government, and academia reported being very satisfied or satisfied both five and ten year's post-graduation.

While 82% of respondents working in public interest reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment five years after graduation, 100% of respondents working in public interest ten years post-graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment.

Class of 2010	Very Satisfied		Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Not Satisfied	
	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years
Overall Satisfaction	45%	51%	37%	41%	15%	7%	3%	1%
Law Firms	21%	38.9%	52%	50%	23%	11.1%	4%	--

Public Interest	63%	55.6%	19%	44.4%	19%	--	--	--
Government	76%	44.4%	19%	50%	--	--	5%	5.6%
Academia	71%	85.7%	29%	7.1%	--	7.1%	--	--
Business	46.2%	41.7%	38.5%	58.3%	15%	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	100%	--	--

## Hours Spent Working

Overall, alumni survey respondents from the Class of 2010 seem to be working similar hours ten years after graduation as compared with five years after graduation. While 68% of the Class reported working 2,000 or more hours five years after graduation, 68.1% of the Class reported working that many hours ten years after graduation. The most commonly reported range of work hours for both 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey respondents was 2,000-2,499 hours per year (48% and 43.5% respectively).

The fields in which the highest percentage of respondents reported working the longest hours ten years post-graduation were business and public interest organizations, with 100% and nearly 78% of respondents in these sectors, respectively, reporting that they worked over 2,000 hours. This differs from the data reported by survey respondents for the Class of 2009, in which respondents in law firms and government reported working the most hours ten years after graduation.

Class of 2010	Less than 1,700 hours		1,700-1,999 hours		2,000-2,499 hours		2,500-2,999 hours		More than 3,000 hours	
	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years
Overall	5%	7.2%	26%	27.5%	48%	43.5%	20%	20.3%	--	4.3%
Law Firms	6.3%	11.1%	16.7%	33.3%	58.3%	33.3%	18.8%	22.2%	--	--
Public Interest	--	11.1%	46.7%	11.1%	26.7%	44.4%	26.7%	22.2%	--	11.1%
Government	4.8%	--	33.3%	44.4%	42.9%	38.9%	19%	11.1%	--	5.6%
Academia	--	--	40%	33.3%	20%	50%	40%	16.7%	--	--
Business	--	--	22.2%	--	66.7%	58.3%	11.1%	33.3%	--	8.3%

## Annual Salaries

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Surveys for the Class of 2010 provided different salary range options, making comparisons difficult. What we can report is that:

- Five years after graduation, 86% of those in law firms reported salaries over \$150,000; ten years after graduation, 44% of those in law firms reported earning \$250,000 or more.
- Five years after graduation, 25% of respondents working for public interest organizations reported salaries of \$30,000-\$74,999, and 75% reported salaries between \$75,000-149,999. Ten

years after graduation, 100% reported salaries of \$60,000 or above, and 78% reported salaries ranging between \$100,000-250,000.

- Five years after graduation, 24% of respondents in government jobs reported earning \$30,000 - \$74,999, 71% of respondents reported earning between \$75,000-149,999, and 5% of respondents reported earning more than \$150,000; ten years after graduation, 94% of respondents reported salaries ranging between \$100,000-250,000.
- Five years after graduation, 14% of those in academia reported earning less than \$30,000, 43% reported earning between \$30,000-\$74,999, and 43% reported earning \$75,000-\$149,999; ten years after graduation, 86% of those in academia reported earning more than \$60,000, and 57% reported earning between \$100,00-\$250,000.
- Five years after graduation, 73% of those in business reported salaries over \$150,000; ten years after graduation, 100% of respondents reported earning salaries over \$100,000, and 64% reported earning \$250,000 or more.

### Pro Bono

The percentage of respondents who reported doing more than 100 hours of pro bono work per year ten years post-graduation decreased from the percentage of those who reported doing more than 100 hours of pro bono work five years post-graduation, moving from 18% to 15%.<sup>10</sup>

Class of 2010	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
over 100 hours	18%	15%
51 - 100 hours	18%	9%
26 - 50 hours	18%	12%
1 - 25 hours	22%	24%
0 hours	23%	41%

### Number of Years with Current Employer

Nearly 36% percent of respondents to the 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey results reported having been with their current employers for more than five years. Slightly more than 12% reported having been with their current employers between 3-5 years, while almost 38% reported that they had been at their currently employers for 1-3 years, and over 13% for less than one year.

### Number of Job Changes Since Graduation

Over 53% of respondents to the 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey have had two or three employers since graduation (not including judicial clerkships); over 36% have had four or more employers since graduation; and slightly more than 10% of respondents have had only one non-clerkship employer since graduation.

### Plans to Stay with Current Employer

<sup>10</sup> Percentages in this table have been rounded to the nearest 0.5, and therefore columns may not total 100%.

With regard to how long respondents plan to stay with their current employers, about 36% responded that they plan to stay with their current employers for over five more years. Just over 22% percent reported that they plan to stay 3-5 more years and nearly 32% reported that they plan to stay 1-3 more years. Only slightly more than 9% of respondents reported that they plan to leave their current employers within the year.

## Retrospective

The 10<sup>th</sup> Year Career Development Survey asked, “When you graduated from YLS, in what area(s) did you envision working ten years after you graduated?” Respondents were able to select one or more choices. Twenty-eight percent selected government, 22.9% selected public interest and academia, 12.7% selected law firm practice, and 6.8% selected business.

According to data collected both through 10<sup>th</sup> Year Survey respondents and independent CDO research, ten years post-graduation 24.2% of the Class is working in government; 12.1% in public interest; 13.2% in academic; 32.1% at law firms; and 15.8% in business.

Class of 2010	Where did you envision working 10 years after graduation? <i>(Select as many as apply)</i>	Actual employment 10 years after graduation
Law Firm	12.7%	32.1%
Government	28%	24.2%
Public Interest	22.9%	12.1%
Academia	22.9%	13.2%
Business	6.8%	15.8%
Other	--	2.6%
No Idea	6.8%	--

## Use of CDO Alumni Resources

Thirty-four percent of 10<sup>th</sup> Year Survey respondents reported using the CDO website to assist with their post-graduation career searches, and 28% reported having sought advice from CDO regarding career issues since graduation.