

10th Year Career Development Report

Class of 2006

April 2017

In this report, the Career Development Office offers a snapshot of the employment experiences of the members of the Class of 2006 (“the Class”) in their first ten years since graduating from YLS.

The data in this report was compiled from multiple sources.¹ First employment information was provided from members of the Class to CDO nine months after graduation.² 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.³ Information about the Class five years after graduation is based on responses to CDO’s 5th Year Career Development Survey, as well as based upon independent research conducted by CDO.⁴ Information about the Class ten years after graduation is based on responses to CDO’s 10th Year Career Development Survey, as well as independent research by CDO.⁵

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 (6.7%), government (1.6%), academia (2.6%), and business (4.1%). In terms of post-clerkship employment, 68% of the Class worked for law firms in their first non-clerkship position, while 20% worked in either public interest or government.

Class of 2006	First Job After Graduation ⁶	First Non-Clerkship Job
Law Firms	42.5%	68%
Judicial Clerkship	42.5%	--
Public Interest	6.7%	13%
Government	1.6%	7%
Academia ⁷	2.6%	7%
Business	4.1%	5%

Employer Type Progression

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

Class of 2006	First Non-Clerkship Job	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
Law Firms	68%	48%	31%

¹ Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100%.

² 99% of the Class responded.

³ 85% of clerks responded.

⁴ 68% of the Class responded, although not every respondent answered every question. Through independent research, CDO obtained employment information from an additional 31% of the Class beyond the 68% who responded to the 5th Year Survey.

⁵ 44% 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 49% of the Class.

⁶ This data reflects first job choices (9 months after graduation) for graduates known to be employed and is rounded to the nearest tenth, as per current ABA requirements. For all other percentages in this report, we have rounded to the nearest half or one. For the Class of 2006, an additional 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.

⁷ Academia includes teaching, research, academic fellowships and academic administration.

Public Interest	13%	9%	12.5%
Government	7%	19%	17%
Academia	7%	14%	22%
Business	5%	9.5%	17%
Other	--	0.5%	0.5%

Not factoring judicial clerkships, 57% of 10th Year Survey respondents have 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 54% of the Class has clerked for a judge at some point in the ten years since graduation. One graduate is clerking and included in the other category.

Employer Type Progression and Gender

Among 10th Year Survey respondents, ten years after graduation, higher percentages of women than men are in public interest (19% vs. 7%) and government (19% vs. 17%). Higher percentages of men than women are in law firms (33% vs. 29%) and business (17% vs. 7%) and academia (26% vs. 24%).

Class of 2006	At Graduation		5 Years After Graduation		10 Years After Graduation	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Law Firms	44.8%	40.6%	41%	46%	29%	33%
Judicial Clerkship	40.2%	44.3%	4%	3%	2%	--
Public Interest	6.9%	6.6%	9%	7%	19%	7%
Academia	4.6%	0.9%	13%	20%	24%	26%
Government	2.3%	0.9%	23%	15%	19%	17%
Business	1.1%	6.6%	3%	7%	7%	17%
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--

Employment Locations

Ten years after graduation, a slightly smaller percentage of Class members are in New York as compared to at graduation. A slightly higher percent of Class members are in California as compared to at graduation and five years after graduation. A smaller percentage of Class members are in Washington, D.C. ten years after graduation as compared to five years after graduation, although there is still a slightly higher percentage of Class members there now than there were at graduation.

Top 3 Employment Locations	At Graduation	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
New York (including all cities)	31.5 %	27%	29%
Washington, D.C.	15%	25%	16.5%
California (including all cities)	13.5%	11%	16.5%

Job Satisfaction

In the 5th and 10th Year Career Development Surveys, respondents were asked to indicate their overall satisfaction with their current employment. Overall, 84% of 5th Year Survey respondents said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their current employment. Ten years after graduation, 94.5% of respondents reported being either satisfied or very satisfied.

Among respondents in law firms five years after graduation, 75% had reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their work, compared to 90% who reported being very satisfied or satisfied in law firms ten years after graduation. One hundred percent of respondents who worked in public interest both five and ten years post-graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment; similarly, 94% of respondents working in government both five and ten years after graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment. Eighty-five percent of respondents working in academia reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment five years after graduation, while 100% of respondents working in academia ten years post-graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment. Interestingly, while 100% of respondents working in business five years after graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their employment, only 88% of respondents working in business ten years after graduation reported being very satisfied or satisfied.

Class of 2006	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	49%	57%	35%	37.5%	9%	5%	6%	1%
Law Firms	33%	47%	42%	43%	13%	6%	6%	3%
Public Interest	70%	80%	30%	20%	--	--	--	--
Government	57%	68%	37%	26%	3%	5%	3%	--
Academia	52%	50%	33%	50%	10%	--	5%	--
Business	80%	55%	20%	33%	--	11%	--	--

Hours Spent Working

Overall, alumni survey respondents from the Class of 2006 seem to be working fewer hours ten years after graduation as compared to five years after graduation. While 75% of the Class reported working 2,000 or more hours five years after graduation, only 61.5% of the Class reported working that many hours ten years after graduation. The most commonly reported range of work hours for both 5th and 10th Year Career Development Survey respondents was 2,000-2,500 hours per year (55% and 49% respectively). The fields in which the highest percentage of respondents reported working the longest hours ten years post-graduation were law firms and government, with 72% and 70% of respondents in these sectors of reporting that they worked over 2,000 hours, respectively.

Class of 2006	Less than 1,700 hours		1,700-1,999 hours		2,000-2,500 hours		Over 2,500 hours	
	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years	5 years	10 years
Overall	8%	7.5%	18%	31%	55%	49%	20%	12.5%
Law Firms	6%	7%	15%	21%	60%	55%	19%	17%
Public Interest	--	20%	--	30%	30%	40%	40%	10%
Government	3%	--	20%	42%	43%	64%	20%	6%
Academia	5%	7%	24%	36%	57%	50%	5%	7%
Business	--	--	20%	57%	60%	43%	20%	--

Annual Salaries

The 5th and 10th Year Career Development Surveys for the Class of 2006 provided different salary range options, making comparisons difficult. What we can report is that:

- Five years after graduation, 80% of those in law firms reported salaries over \$150,000; ten years after graduation, 92% of those in law firms earn \$100,000 or more, with 54% of them earning \$250,000 or more.
- Five years after graduation, 90% of respondents working for public interest organizations reported salaries of \$30,000-\$149,999, and 40% reported salaries between \$75,000-149,999. Ten years after graduation, 100% reported salaries of \$60,000 or above, and 60% reported salaries ranging between \$100,000-250,000.
- Five years after graduation, 97% of respondents in government jobs reported earning between \$75,000-149,999; ten years after graduation, 65% of respondents reported salaries ranging between \$100,000-250,000.
- Five years after graduation, 38% of those in academia earned between \$75,000-149,999; ten years after graduation, 82% of respondents in academia report earning \$100,000 or more.
- Five years after graduation, 80% of those in business reported salaries over \$150,000; ten years after graduation, 100% of respondents in business earn over \$100,000, with 33% of them earning \$250,000 or more.

Pro Bono

Comparing information provided by respondents to the 10th Year and 5th Year Surveys, a smaller percentage of Class members in private sector employment reported doing pro bono work ten years post-graduation as opposed to five years out (at ten years only 73% reported doing any pro bono work while at five years out 84% reported doing some pro bono work). The percentage of respondents who reported doing more than 100 hours of pro bono work per year ten years post-graduation also declined from the percentage of those who reported doing more than 100 hours of pro bono work five years post-graduation (28% down to 17%).

Class of 2006	5 Years After Graduation	10 Years After Graduation
over 100 hours	28%	17%
51 - 100 hours	10%	14%
26 - 50 hours	28%	21%
1 - 25 hours	18%	21%
0 hours	16%	26%

Number of Years with Current Employer

Based on 10th Year Career Development Survey results, 36% of Class members have been with their current employers for more than five years, 21.5% between 3-5 years, 30% from 1-3 years, and 12% for less than one year.

Number of Job Changes Since Graduation

Fifty-seven percent of respondents to the 10th Year Career Development Survey have had two or three employers since graduation (not including judicial clerkships); 25% have had four or more employers since graduation; and 18% of respondents have had only one non-clerkship employer since graduation.

Plans to Stay with Current Employer

With regard to how long respondents plan to stay with their current employers, 49% responded that they plan to stay with their current employers for over five more years. Twenty and a half percent plan on staying 3-5 more years and 22% plan to stay 1-3 more years. Only 9% plan on leaving within the year.

Retrospective

The 10th 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. Forty-seven percent selected government, 37% selected public interest, 25% selected law firm practice, 25% selected academia, and 9% selected business.

According to data collected both through 10th Year Survey respondents and independent CDO research, ten years post-graduation 17% of the Class is working in government; 12% in public interest; 31% at law firms; 22% in academic; and 17% in business.

Class of 2006	Where did you envision working 10 years after graduation? <i>(Select as many as apply)</i>	Actual employment 10 years after graduation
Law Firm	25%	31%
Government	47%	17%
Public Interest	37%	12.5%
Academia	25%	22%

Business	9%	17%
Other	N/A	.5%
No Idea	10%	--

Use of CDO Alumni Resources

Twenty-seven percent of 10th Year Survey respondents reported using the CDO website to assist with their post-graduation career searches, and 20.5% reported having sought advice from CDO regarding career issues since graduation.