

**YALE LAW SCHOOL
CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

5TH YEAR ALUMNI SURVEY

CLASS OF

20

17

INTRODUCTION

In this report, the Career Development Office (“CDO”) offers a snapshot of the employment experiences of the Class of 2017 (“the Class”) in their first five years since graduating from YLS.

Compilation of Data

The data in this report has been compiled from multiple sources.[1] Information about first employment after graduation was provided by members of the Class to CDO approximately ten months after graduation, as required by the American Bar Association.[2] Information about first non-clerkship employment incorporates survey responses to CDO’s Post-Clerkship Employment Survey (the “Post-Clerk Survey”), which was sent to all graduates who clerked immediately after graduation, and incorporates independent research by CDO.[3] Information about employment type and geographic location five years after graduation is based on survey responses to CDO’s 5th Year Career Development Survey (the “5th Year Survey”), sent to all members of the Class in May 2022, and also incorporates independent research by CDO. [4] Information about debt burden at graduation was provided by the YLS Financial Aid Office. The remainder of the information in this report is based solely on the 5th Year Survey results.

[1] Due to rounding, totals within the tables contained within this report may not equal 100%.

[2] 99% of the Class responded.

[3] 100% of the Class is represented.

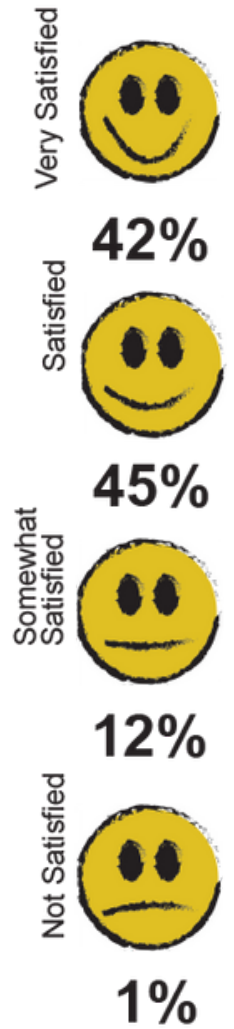
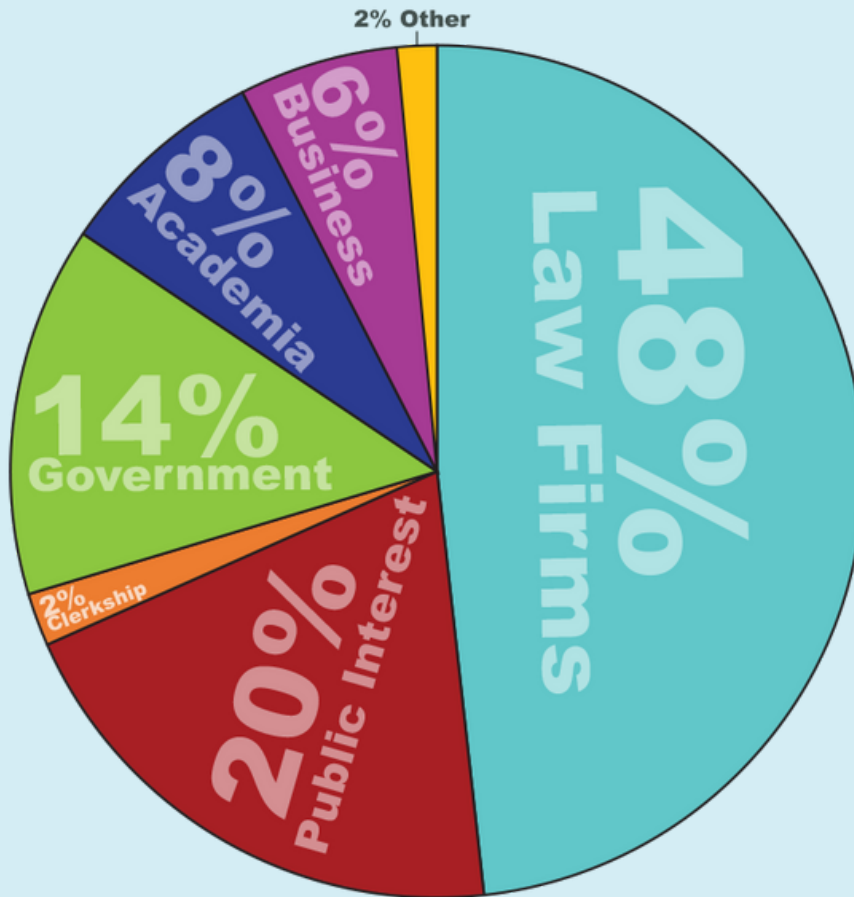
[4] 36% of the Class responded to the 5th year survey, although not every respondent answered every question. Through independent research, CDO obtained employment information from an additional 54% of the Class.

2017 SNAPSHOT

OVERALL JOB SATISFACTION

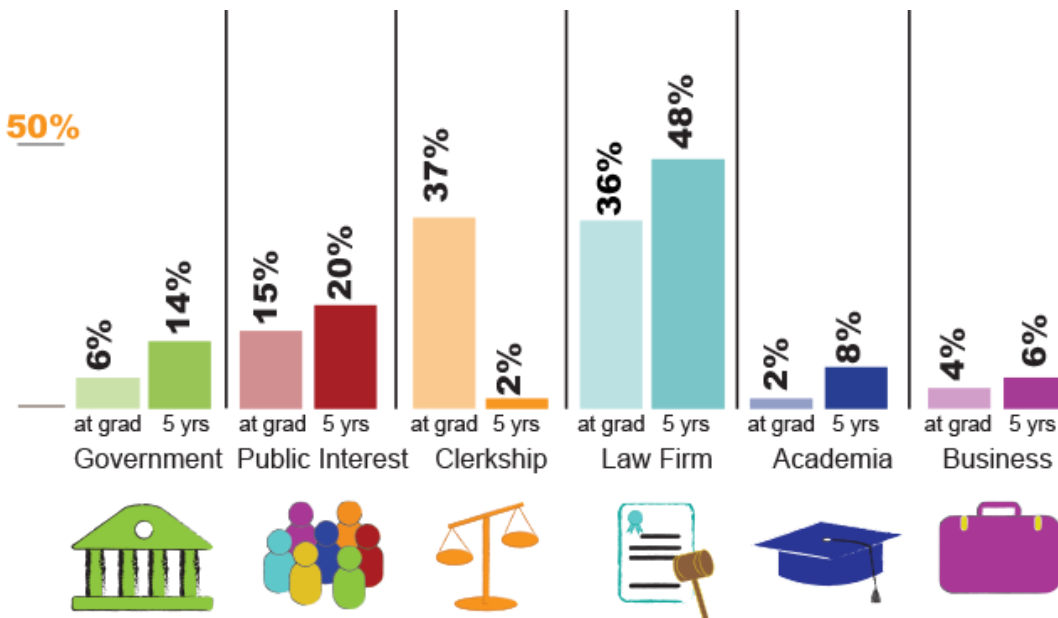
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT 5 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION

Percentages based on total number of grads for which we collected data on sector



AT GRADUATION AND FIFTH YEAR EMPLOYMENT*

*The at graduation data depicts percentages of all employed graduates 10 months after graduation as reported to the ABA.



53%

OF THE CLASS HAS
CLERKED FOR A JUDGE
AT SOME POINT IN THE
FIVE YEARS SINCE
GRADUATION

36%

OF RESPONDANTS
HAVE WORKED IN THE
PUBLIC INTEREST AT
SOME POINT SINCE
GRADUATION

First Employer Type

Judicial clerkships and law firms were the most popular first job choices of the Class, and together comprised 74% of the total first employers. Smaller percentages commenced their careers in public interest, government, academia, and business. Given that so many of our graduates clerk, the chart below also includes information about the first non-clerkship job choices of those who clerked upon graduation. As shown below, law firms constituted the first non-clerkship job choice for over half of the Class.

Class of 2017	First Job After Graduation ^[5]	First Non-Clerkship Job of Clerks	First Non-Clerkship Job of Class
Law Firms	36.3%	57%	56%
Judicial Clerkships	37.2%	--	--
Public Interest	14.6%	31.5%	30%
Government	5.6%	6%	5%
Academia ^[6]	1.8%	3%	3%
Business	4.2%	1.5%	5%

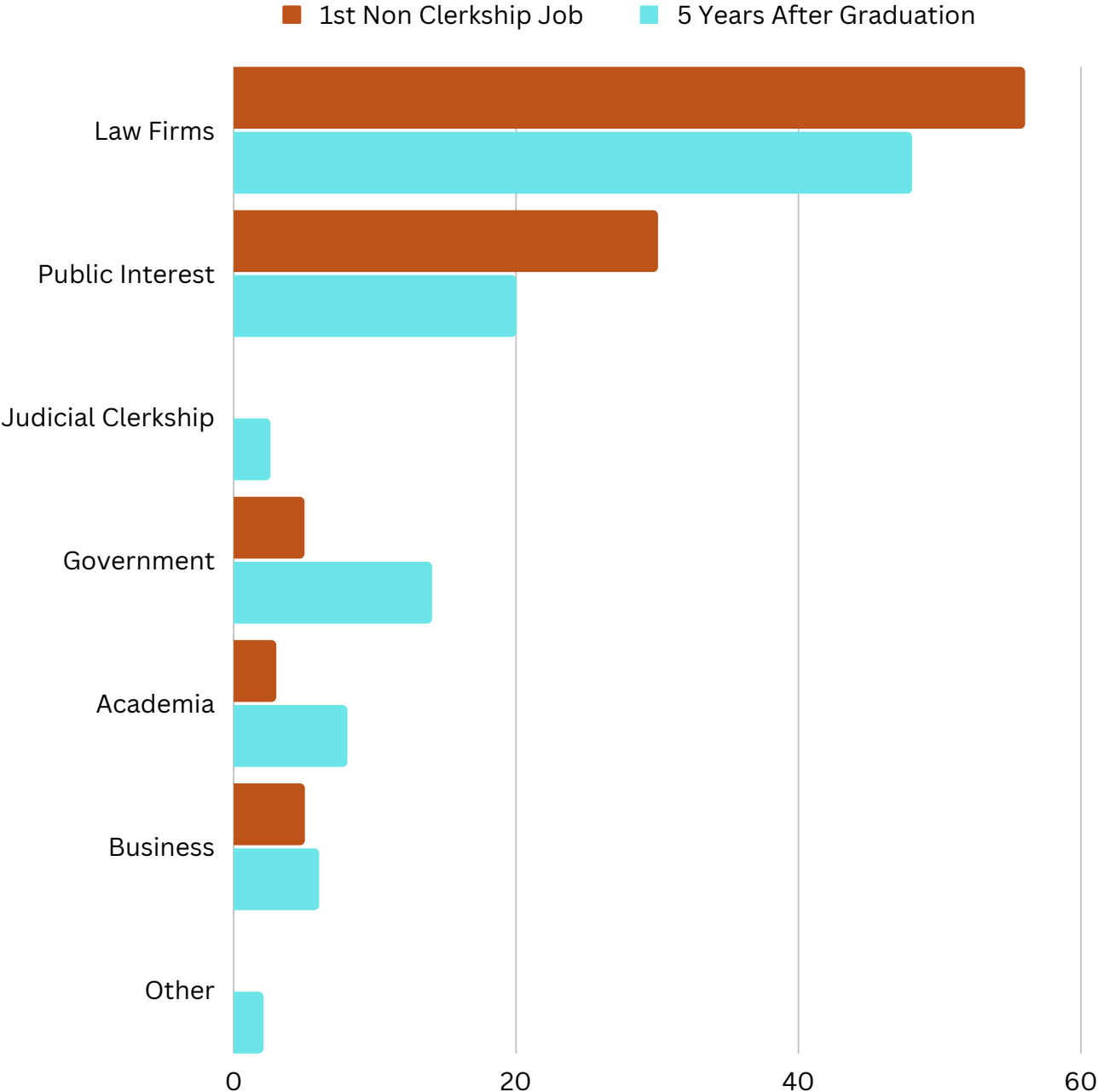
[5] As reported to the ABA, this data reflects first job choices (10 months after graduation) for graduates known to be employed. We have reflected this data exactly as reported by the ABA – rounded to the nearest tenth. For all other percentages in this report, we have rounded to the nearest half or one.

[6] Academia includes teaching, research, academic fellowships, and academic administration.

Employment Five Years after YLS Graduation: Employer Type

When comparing first non-clerkship job choices with where members of Class are working five years after graduation, fewer graduates are now working for law firms and public interest organizations, and more graduates are in government, business, and academia. Nonetheless, nearly half (48%) of respondents were working at law firms five years after graduating from law school.

With respect to public interest, 36% of respondents have worked in public interest (nonprofit or government, not including clerkships) at some point since graduation. With respect to judicial clerkships, CDO's clerkship tracking informs us that about 53% of the Class has clerked for one or more judges at some point in the five years since graduation.



EMPLOYER TYPE PROGRESSION AND GENDER ^[1]



Men > Women

A higher percentage of men than women commenced their careers in law firms and business; five years later, that trend continued.



Women > Men

More women than men worked at public interest organizations, both upon graduation and five years later.

[1] Responses from members of the Class who have reported that they do not identify as male or female are not included so as to not to reveal personal or identifiable information about particular individuals.

TYPE OF WORK

Approximately 85% of survey respondents reported practicing law in their current jobs. Among respondents practicing law, 72% are litigators, 12% are transactional lawyers, and 16% work in the regulatory space. Of the 14% of respondents who indicated that they were not practicing law, 45% are in public interest, 27% are in business, 18% are in academia, and 1% are in government.

Percentage of Respondents Currently Practicing Law in Their current Jobs

Primary Focus of Those Who Currently Practice Law

Transactional
12%

Regulatory
16%

Litigation
72%

Not
Practicing
Law
15%

Practicing
Law
85%

EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

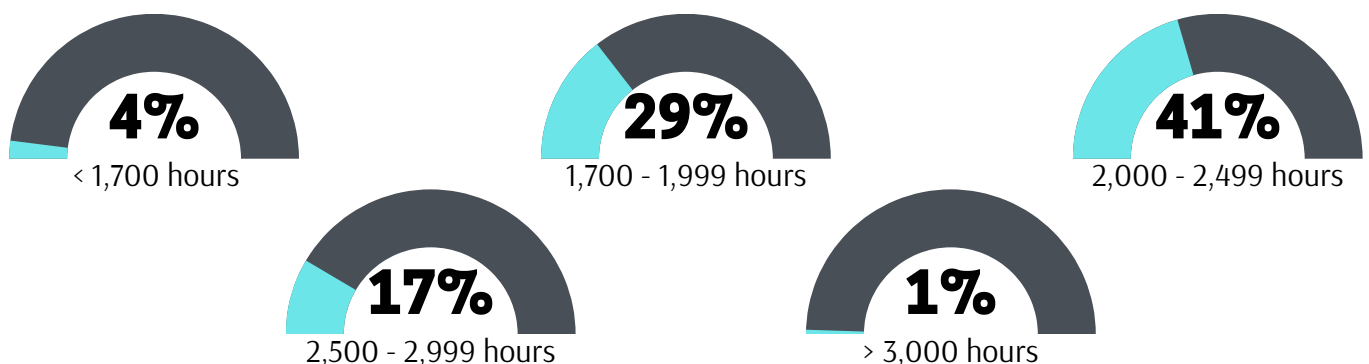
Upon graduation, the employment locations of three quarters of the Class fell in three locations: New York City, Washington, D.C., and California (including all cities), with New York being the most popular location. Five years after graduation, data collected from survey responses combined with the office's independent research indicates that more than three quarters of Class members continue to work in New York, Washington, or California, with New York continuing to be the most popular location.



WORK SCHEDULES

Based on 5th Year Survey results, the most commonly reported range of work hours was 2,000-2,500 hours per year, with about 41% of respondents reporting working hours in that range. Slightly over 25.3% of survey respondents reported working more than 2,500 hours.

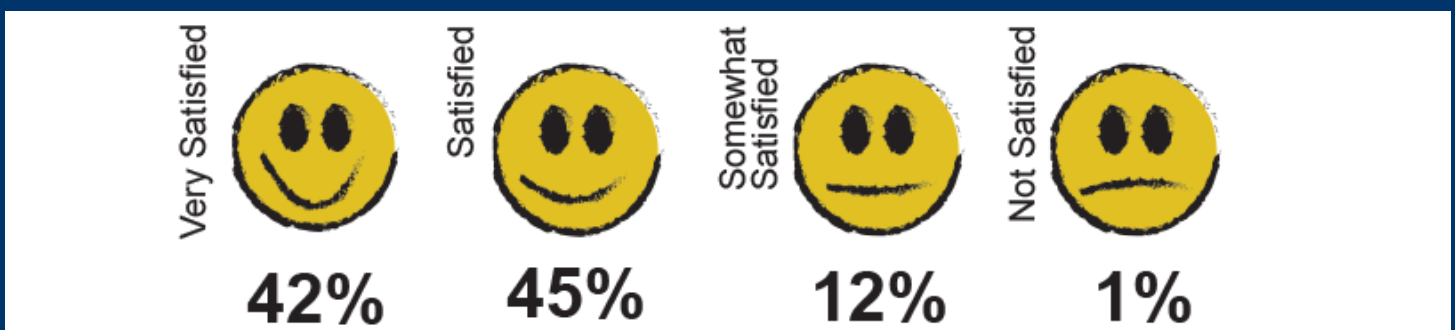
Overall reported hours worked per year 5 years after Graduation



JOB SATISFACTION

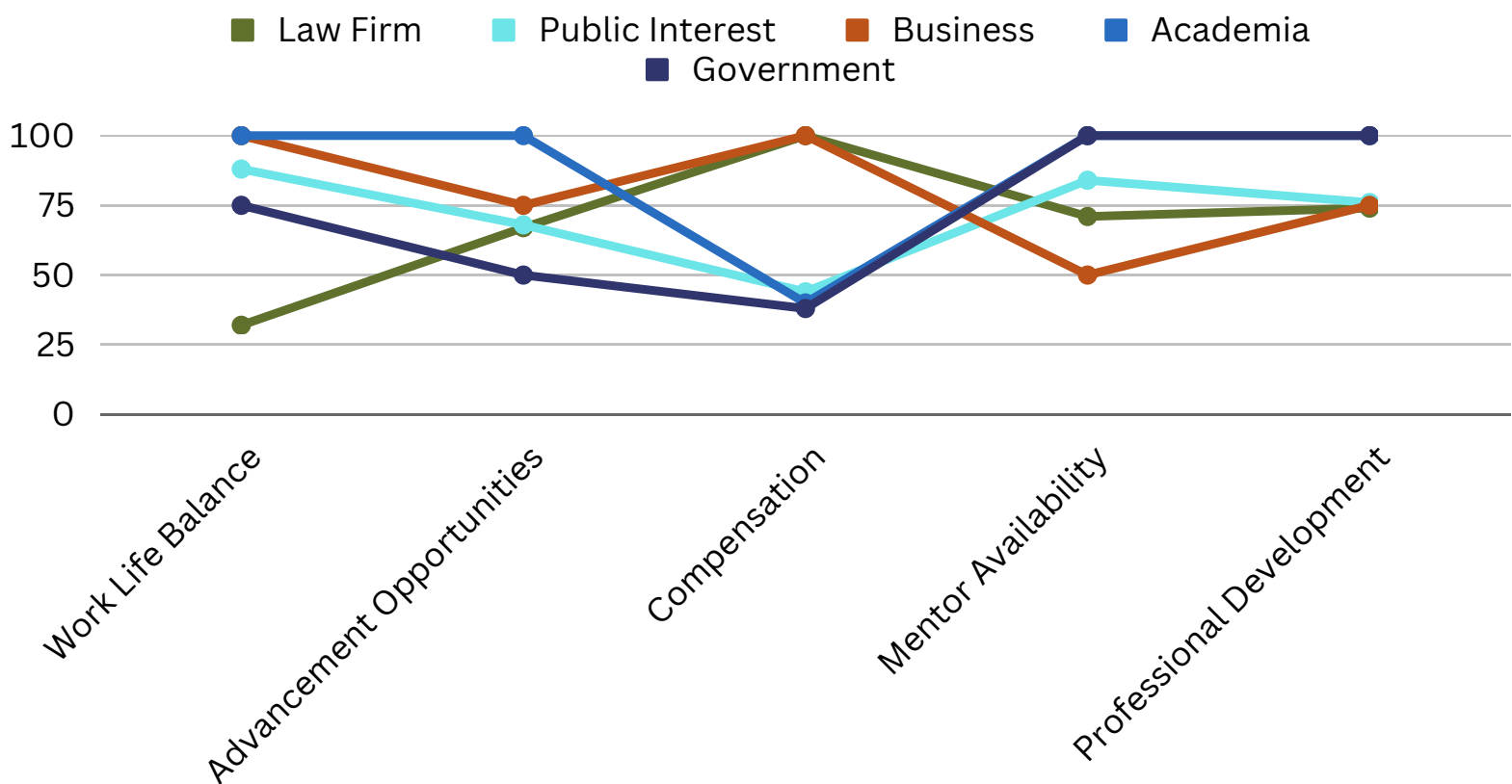
Overall, respondents working for law firms reported that they were less satisfied than their counterparts working in public interest and government, academia, and business (approximately 80% of respondents in law firms reported being “very satisfied” or “satisfied,” compared to 88% in public interest, and 100% in government, academia, and business). Law firm respondents from the Class of 2017 expressed higher percentage levels of job satisfaction than their counterparts in the Class of 2016 (approximately 80% of respondents working for law firms from the Class of 2017 reported being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” compared with 66% of respondents working for law firms from the Class of 2016).

Both men and women within the Class who responded to the survey expressed high rates of job satisfaction— 91% of women reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with their current positions, as did just over 83% of men.



SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF WORK

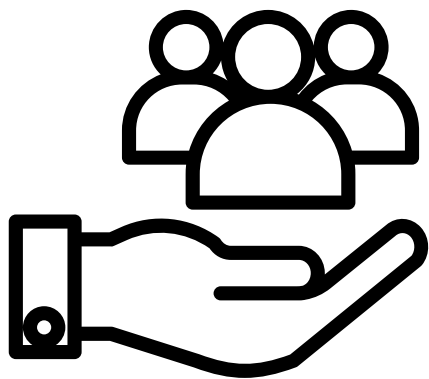
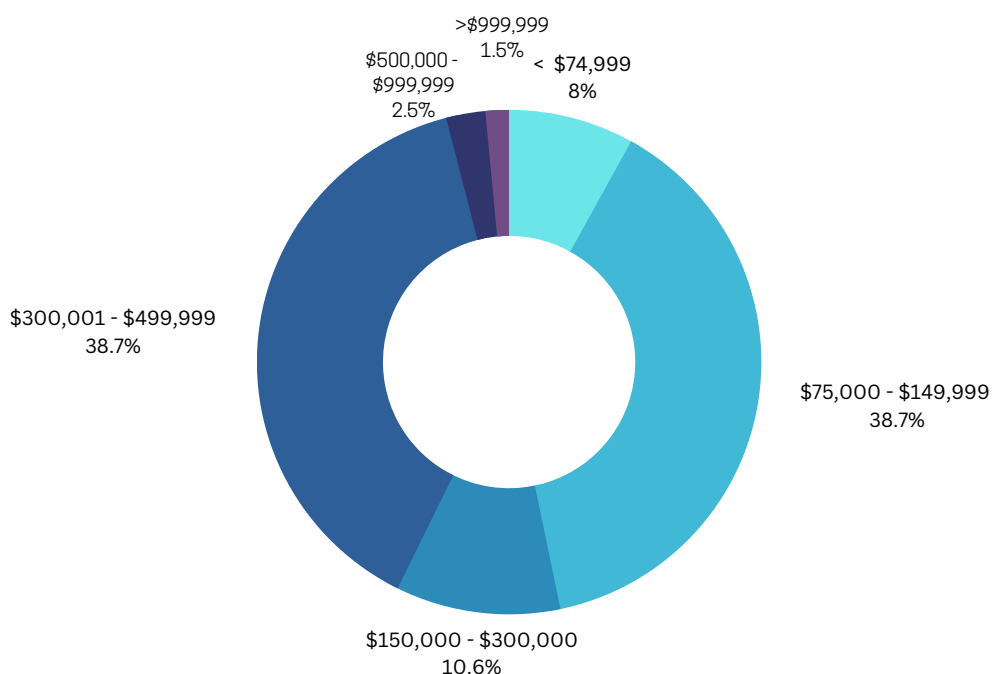
Respondents were asked to rank their satisfaction with certain aspects of their work. The chart below shows the percentage of respondents who chose either satisfied or very satisfied. The results show that alumni in law firms and business are most satisfied with their compensation, while alumni in academia and government are most satisfied with mentoring and professional development.



SALARY

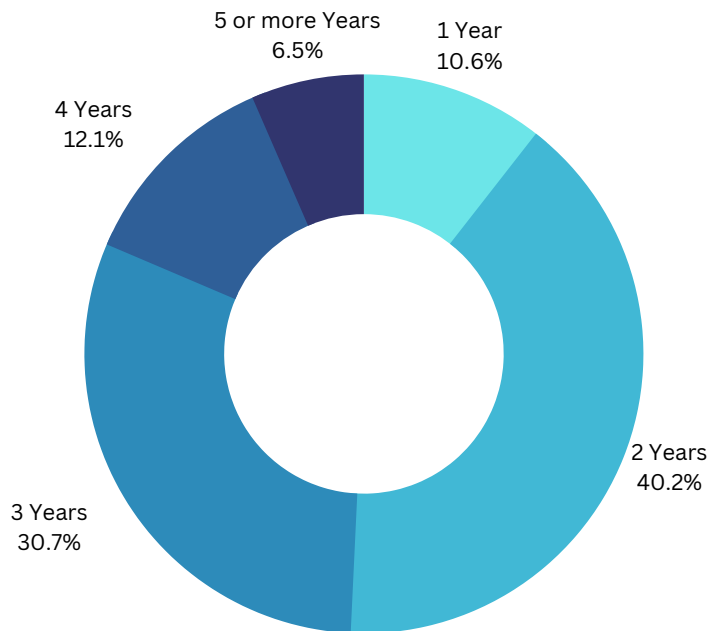
5th Year Survey respondents working at law firms reported the highest incomes, with 82% of those in law firms reporting salaries of \$300,000 or above. Seventy-five percent of respondents in government and 68% of respondents working for public interest employers reported earning between \$75,000 and \$149,999. Half of respondents working for business employers reported receiving salaries over \$300,000. Among academics, 100% reported earning between \$75,000 and \$149,999.

Overall Reported Salaries of the Class of 2017



45% of 5th year survey respondents reported devoting over 50 hours to pro bono per year in their current employment.

Number of Years with Current Employer



Among survey respondents, 77% have been with their current employers for one or more years, and 36% have been with their current employers for more than three years. An additional 23% of survey respondents reported having been with their current employers for less than a single year.

Job Changes

38%

5th Year Career Development Survey respondents are in their first non clerkship job

38%

are in their second non-clerkship jobs

21%

are in their third, fourth, or fifth non-clerkship jobs

USE OF CDO ALUMNI RESOURCES



Twenty two percent of 5th Year Survey respondents reported using the CDO website to assist with their post-graduation career searches, and about 9% reported having sought advice from CDO regarding career issues since graduation.