

Schools of Law

THE TOP 100 SCHOOLS

Rank/School	Overall score	Peer assessment score (5.0=highest)	Assessment score by lawyers/judges (5.0=highest)	'08 undergrad GPA 25th-75th percentile	'08 LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 acceptance rate	'08 student/faculty ratio	'07 grads employed at graduation	Employed 9 months after graduation	School's bar passage rate in jurisdiction	Jurisdiction's overall bar passage rate*
1. Yale University (CT)	100	4.8	4.8	3.81-3.97	169-177	8%	6.8	96.4%	99.5%	91.9%/NY	77%
2. Harvard University (MA)	95	4.8	4.8	3.74-3.95	170-176	12%	10.0	97.2%	99.3%	99.2%/NY	77%
3. Stanford University (CA)	93	4.7	4.8	3.76-3.94	168-172	9%	8.6	100.0%	100.0%	94.4%/CA	66%
4. Columbia University (NY)	88	4.6	4.6	3.58-3.82	170-175	15%	9.3	98.8%	98.8%	94.8%/NY	77%
5. New York University	87	4.5	4.5	3.56-3.85	169-173	23%	9.6	99.6%	99.8%	95.8%/NY	77%
6. University of California—Berkeley	84	4.5	4.5	3.7-3.92	164-170	11%	12.3	97.4%	99.3%	82.4%/CA	66%
6. University of Chicago	84	4.6	4.6	3.57-3.79	169-173	18%	9.7	96.5%	99.5%	98.9%/IL	89%
8. University of Pennsylvania	82	4.3	4.4	3.46-3.88	166-171	16%	11.6	97.2%	99.6%	98.9%/NY	77%
9. University of Michigan—Ann Arbor	81	4.4	4.5	3.54-3.82	166-170	21%	12.4	97.4%	99.5%	95.7%/NY	77%
10. Duke University (NC)	80	4.2	4.4	3.55-3.85	165-170	25%	10.2	97.7%	100.0%	87.7%/NY	77%
10. Northwestern University (IL)	80	4.0	4.3	3.4-3.81	166-172	18%	9.1	97.6%	99.6%	96.0%/IL	89%
10. University of Virginia	80	4.3	4.6	3.56-3.89	166-171	20%	13.5	97.0%	99.2%	99.1%/NY	77%
13. Cornell University (NY)	78	4.2	4.3	3.24-3.84	166-168	21%	9.9	96.8%	98.9%	90.9%/NY	77%
14. Georgetown University (DC)	75	4.1	4.4	3.43-3.79	166-170	24%	12.1	94.7%	97.4%	93.8%/NY	77%
15. University of California—Los Angeles	74	4.0	3.8	3.49-3.87	164-169	17%	11.6	97.5%	99.7%	85.9%/CA	66%
15. University of Texas—Austin	74	4.1	4.2	3.42-3.82	164-168	25%	12.9	96.8%	99.3%	88.5%/TX	84%
17. Vanderbilt University (TN)	73	3.8	4.1	3.52-3.86	164-169	24%	13.4	96.3%	98.2%	80.0%/NY	77%
18. University of Southern California (Gould)	72	3.7	3.6	3.48-3.71	165-167	21%	11.5	93.3%	98.2%	87.7%/CA	66%
19. Washington University in St. Louis	69	3.6	3.9	3.2-3.7	162-168	27%	11.1	94.1%	99.7%	98.5%/MO	90%
20. Boston University	66	3.4	3.6	3.48-3.82	163-166	29%	11.8	99.3%	99.7%	93.7%/MA	86%
20. Emory University (GA)	66	3.5	3.8	3.42-3.71	164-166	24%	10.7	97.1%	97.0%	93.6%/GA	85%
20. University of Minnesota—Twin Cities	66	3.5	3.7	3.29-3.82	163-167	30%	12.6	85.4%	98.9%	98.6%/MN	93%
23. Indiana University—Bloomington (Maurer)	65	3.3	3.5	3.39-3.85	156-165	25%	10.0	87.2%	98.5%	90.9%/IN	84%
23. University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign	65	3.4	3.6	3.2-3.8	160-167	29%	12.3	87.4%	98.7%	94.7%/IL	89%
23. University of Notre Dame (IN)	65	3.3	3.8	3.42-3.78	163-166	23%	13.4	88.1%	99.0%	88.6%/IL	89%
26. Boston College	64	3.4	3.7	3.49-3.77	162-165	20%	13.5	85.7%	98.1%	94.0%/MA	86%
26. University of Iowa	64	3.4	3.8	3.36-3.83	158-164	38%	14.3	87.4%	99.2%	85.7%/IA	90%
28. Col. of William and Mary (Marshall-Wythe) (VA)	63	3.3	3.6	3.35-3.79	160-166	25%	12.2	88.2%	99.1%	83.1%/VA	76%
28. George Washington University (DC)	63	3.5	3.8	3.28-3.83	162-168	23%	15.0	88.2%	92.8%	94.3%/NY	77%
30. Fordham University (NY)	62	3.3	3.4	3.32-3.72	161-166	25%	13.9	87.9%	98.5%	88.5%/NY	77%
30. University of Alabama	62	3.0	3.3	3.22-3.83	158-165	31%	10.1	90.3%	99.3%	99.2%/AL	78%
30. University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill	62	3.5	3.9	3.4-3.77	157-163	19%	15.4	71.2%	98.0%	86.5%/NC	76%
30. University of Washington	62	3.2	3.5	3.52-3.85	159-166	25%	11.6	92.7%	98.9%	88.4%/WA	78%
30. Washington and Lee University (VA)	62	3.4	3.8	3.27-3.7	160-166	33%	9.5	75.0%	93.3%	83.3%/VA	76%
35. Ohio State University (Moritz)	61	3.3	3.5	3.36-3.78	159-164	32%	13.2	84.3%	98.5%	90.5%/OH	86%
35. University of California—Davis	61	3.4	3.5	3.45-3.75	158-163	30%	12.1	86.7%	96.2%	83.3%/CA	66%
35. University of Georgia	61	3.1	3.3	3.39-3.82	159-164	24%	14.4	89.6%	99.2%	92.7%/GA	85%
35. University of Wisconsin—Madison	61	3.5	3.6	3.39-3.76	157-163	29%	13.2	84.1%	99.3%	99.2%/WI	92%
39. University of California (Hastings)	60	3.3	3.7	3.38-3.72	161-165	24%	14.9	69.0%	97.2%	80.0%/CA	66%
40. Wake Forest University (NC)	59	3.1	3.6	3.3-3.7	160-165	29%	10.3	78.5%	94.3%	81.0%/NC	76%
41. Brigham Young University (Clark) (UT)	58	2.8	3.3	3.51-3.88	161-166	31%	17.2	80.4%	99.5%	96.1%/UT	85%
41. George Mason University (VA)	58	2.8	3.3	3.31-3.79	160-165	19%	14.2	96.5%	99.5%	87.3%/VA	76%
43. University of Arizona (Rogers)	57	3.2	3.3	3.36-3.76	159-164	34%	12.0	75.0%	95.1%	87.6%/AZ	78%
43. University of Maryland	57	2.9	3.1	3.37-3.77	160-165	15%	11.9	84.8%	97.9%	84.2%/MD	76%
45. American University (Washington) (DC)	56	3.0	3.2	3.17-3.59	159-163	21%	13.3	87.1%	98.3%	88.0%/NY	77%
45. Tulane University (LA)	56	3.1	3.4	3.33-3.76	159-163	36%	15.1	79.8%	96.5%	69.2%/LA	63%
45. University of Colorado—Boulder	56	3.0	3.1	3.41-3.79	160-165	22%	12.6	82.5%	93.9%	93.2%/CO	78%
45. University of Utah (Quinney)	56	2.8	3.1	3.38-3.79	157-162	32%	9.5	91.8%	100.0%	80.4%/UT	85%
49. Southern Methodist University (Dedman) (TX)	54	2.7	3.2	3.29-3.85	154-165	29%	15.0	81.4%	98.1%	92.6%/TX	84%
49. Yeshiva University (Cardozo) (NY)	54	2.8	2.9	3.29-3.72	159-165	28%	16.0	80.4%	98.0%	90.7%/NY	77%
51. University of Florida (Levin)	53	3.1	3.3	3.3-3.7	156-162	31%	15.4	75.8%	95.9%	85.3%/FL	78%
52. Florida State University	52	2.8	2.8	3.31-3.72	157-161	33%	14.6	79.9%	99.5%	88.9%/FL	78%
52. University of Cincinnati	52	2.6	2.9	3.25-3.79	156-162	40%	9.7	74.6%	99.2%	86.7%/OH	86%
52. University of Connecticut	52	2.9	3.0	3.17-3.64	156-162	23%	11.3	69.0%	96.6%	90.3%/CT	86%
55. Arizona State University (O'Connor)	51	3.0	3.1	3.38-3.77	156-162	28%	9.1	N/A	92.3%	83.5%/AZ	78%
55. Case Western Reserve University (OH)	51	2.8	3.2	3.28-3.68	156-160	38%	12.5	82.3%	96.8%	80.3%/OH	86%
55. Pepperdine University (CA)	51	2.4	3.1	3.36-3.77	158-162	32%	15.2	70.7%	96.6%	77.4%/CA	66%
55. University of Kentucky	51	2.6	3.0	3.29-3.84	157-162	34%	15.8	77.2%	100.0%	90.4%/KY	87%

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59. University of Houston	50	2.6	3.0	3.12-3.67	157-163	29%	13.4	80.2%	98.2%	89.9%/TX	84%
59. University of Tennessee-Knoxville	50	2.7	2.9	3.34-3.78	154-161	29%	13.8	68.9%	97.8%	89.1%/TN	80%
61. Brooklyn Law School (NY)	49	2.7	2.6	3.22-3.66	162-165	30%	18.6	71.5%	97.7%	83.3%/NY	77%
61. Lewis and Clark College (Northwestern) (OR)	49	2.5	3.0	3.19-3.67	157-163	37%	10.1	N/A	96.0%	81.6%/OR	81%
61. University of San Diego	49	2.8	2.9	3.1-3.55	158-162	35%	13.5	N/A	98.0%	77.3%/CA	66%
61. Villanova University (PA)	49	2.6	3.3	3.19-3.64	160-163	38%	18.0	69.5%	97.0%	86.4%/PA	83%
65. Baylor University (Umphey) (TX)	48	2.5	3.2	3.39-3.79	156-162	33%	15.4	61.2%	93.3%	98.5%/TX	84%
65. Georgia State University	48	2.4	2.7	3.12-3.7	158-162	20%	11.9	N/A	99.6%	95.7%/GA	85%
65. Pennsylvania State University (Dickinson)	48	2.4	2.9	3.34-3.76	154-159	34%	10.3	N/A	96.4%	81.4%/PA	83%
65. Temple University (Beasley) (PA)	48	2.7	3.0	3.23-3.65	159-164	40%	12.8	60.9%	94.6%	87.3%/PA	83%
65. University of Kansas	48	2.7	3.1	3.15-3.77	154-160	36%	11.6	67.1%	95.5%	91.9%/KS	91%
65. University of Missouri	48	2.7	3.2	3.24-3.71	156-160	43%	18.4	52.9%	97.9%	95.0%/MO	90%
71. Loyola Marymount University (CA)	47	2.3	2.9	3.17-3.61	158-163	33%	15.4	N/A	98.2%	77.8%/CA	66%
71. University of Miami (FL)	47	2.8	3.0	3.17-3.68	155-160	52%	16.6	76.7%	97.6%	86.4%/FL	78%
71. University of Oklahoma	47	2.5	3.0	3.28-3.77	154-160	29%	13.3	63.9%	96.9%	94.0%/OK	91%
71. University of Pittsburgh	47	2.8	2.9	3.13-3.66	157-161	37%	13.1	75.5%	95.7%	89.5%/PA	83%
75. Louisiana State Univ.-Baton Rouge (Hebert)	46	2.3	2.9	3.25-3.75	154-159	38%	16.9	77.2%	97.4%	78.8%/LA	63%
75. University of Nevada-Las Vegas (Boyd)	46	2.4	2.6	3.2-3.71	155-160	23%	16.8	75.7%	97.9%	80.2%/NV	74%
77. Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent)	45	2.7	2.6	3.25-3.74	157-163	37%	11.6	72.1%	91.8%	93.5%/IL	89%
77. Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey-Camden	45	2.6	2.8	3.14-3.71	157-160	32%	13.2	75.2%	93.2%	82.1%/NJ	82%
77. Seattle University	45	2.4	2.9	3.17-3.6	154-160	35%	13.5	67.9%	99.7%	76.9%/WA	78%
77. Seton Hall University (NJ)	45	2.5	2.9	3.11-3.65	154-160	47%	14.7	86.8%	97.4%	82.0%/NJ	82%
77. University of Denver (Sturm)	45	2.5	2.8	3.21-3.64	155-160	31%	15.4	68.6%	97.1%	74.8%/CO	78%
77. University of New Mexico	45	2.5	2.8	3.04-3.61	150-157	25%	11.0	62.4%	99.2%	87.8%/NM	83%
77. University of Oregon	45	2.8	3.2	3.11-3.61	157-160	40%	16.9	58.0%	94.9%	73.1%/OR	81%
77. University of Richmond (Williams) (VA)	45	2.4	2.9	3.11-3.55	159-162	30%	13.7	65.9%	95.1%	89.6%/VA	76%
85. Santa Clara University (CA)	44	2.5	3.0	3.11-3.56	157-161	41%	17.2	68.5%	95.6%	69.9%/CA	66%
85. University at Buffalo-SUNY	44	2.5	2.2	3.18-3.71	154-160	31%	14.5	82.4%	97.8%	80.6%/NY	77%
87. DePaul University (IL)	43	2.4	2.8	2.99-3.58	156-161	37%	14.2	86.6%	94.3%	88.7%/IL	89%
87. Indiana University-Indianapolis	43	2.5	2.9	3.07-3.71	151-159	39%	16.4	79.7%	96.5%	84.9%/IN	84%
87. Loyola University Chicago	43	2.4	3.0	3.11-3.67	154-162	32%	14.5	N/A	92.7%	88.6%/IL	89%
87. Marquette University (WI)	43	2.4	3.0	3.12-3.6	154-159	38%	16.3	66.7%	96.7%	100.0%/WI	92%
87. Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey-Newark	43	2.6	2.8	2.99-3.56	155-160	26%	19.2	83.6%	94.8%	83.6%/NJ	82%
87. St. John's University (NY)	43	2.3	2.6	3.2-3.72	155-161	38%	16.8	74.6%	96.0%	87.7%/NY	77%
87. University of South Carolina	43	2.4	2.7	3.05-3.67	156-160	34%	13.5	61.2%	95.2%	92.4%/SC	82%
94. Catholic Univ. of America (Columbus) (DC)	42	2.5	2.9	3.04-3.52	155-159	34%	14.8	70.1%	95.3%	86.1%/MD	76%
94. Northeastern University (MA)	42	2.4	2.7	3.18-3.6	154-162	34%	17.0	N/A	92.6%	86.9%/MA	86%
94. St. Louis University	42	2.3	3.2	3.2-3.67	153-159	48%	17.6	67.2%	96.6%	89.9%/MO	90%
94. University of Arkansas-Fayetteville	42	2.4	2.7	3.25-3.73	153-159	31%	13.0	N/A	93.4%	79.6%/AR	80%
98. University of Louisville (Brandeis) (KY)	41	2.3	2.7	3.2-3.75	155-160	42%	14.8	54.3%	97.9%	89.2%/KY	87%
98. University of San Francisco	41	2.1	2.7	2.98-3.51	156-161	36%	15.8	N/A	95.7%	83.0%/CA	66%
100. Gonzaga University (WA)	40	2.2	3.0	3.2-3.61	153-156	43%	14.6	N/A	96.8%	75.4%/WA	78%
100. Hofstra University (NY)	40	2.5	2.6	2.99-3.54	152-158	39%	15.2	N/A	96.8%	83.9%/NY	77%
100. University of Maine	40	2.3	2.7	3.11-3.5	155-159	49%	14.0	N/A	97.1%	88.6%/ME	84%

Sources: U.S. News and the schools. Assessment data collected by Synovate. N/A means that the data were not provided by the school. Western State University and University of La Verne in California, Florida A&M University, John Marshall Law School-Atlanta, Charleston School of Law in South Carolina, Faulkner University in Alabama, Liberty University in Virginia, Phoenix School of Law in Arizona, Charlotte School of Law and Elon University in North Carolina, and Drexel University in Pennsylvania are not ranked because as of June 2008 they were only provisionally approved by the American Bar Association. Three law schools in Puerto Rico—Catholic University, Inter-America University, and the University of Puerto Rico—are not ranked. Note: The state bar examination pass rates for first-time test takers in summer 2007 and winter 2007 were provided by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

METHODOLOGY

The rankings of 184 accredited law schools are based on a weighted average of the 12 measures of quality described below (more on methodology: Page 66).

Quality assessment (weighted by .40): Quality was measured by two surveys conducted in fall 2008. The dean and three faculty members at each school were asked to rate schools from "marginal" (1) to "outstanding" (5); 71 percent voted. Their average rating for a school is weighted by .25 in the ranking model. Lawyers and judges also rated schools; 31 percent responded. The two most recent years lawyers' and judges'

surveys were averaged and are weighted by .15.

Selectivity (.25): For all full-time and part-time students entering in 2008, this combines median LSAT scores (50 percent), median undergrad GPA (40 percent), and proportion of applicants accepted (10 percent).

Placement success (.20): Success is determined by employment rates for 2007 graduates at graduation (20 percent) and nine months after (70 percent) as well as their bar passage rate (10 percent). Employment rates include graduates reported as working or pursuing graduate degrees; for the nine-month rate only, 25 percent of those whose status is un-

known are also counted as working. Those not seeking jobs are excluded. All others are counted as unemployed. The bar passage rate indicator is the ratio of a school's rate in the cited jurisdiction to the overall state rate, computed for first-time test takers in summer 2007 and winter 2007. The jurisdiction cited is the state where the largest number of 2007 grads first took the test.

Faculty resources (.15): Resources are based on average 2007 and 2008 expenditures per student for instruction, library, and supporting services (65 percent) and on all other items, including financial aid (10 percent); 2008 student/teacher

ratio (20 percent); and total number of volumes and titles in library (5 percent).

Overall rank: A school's score on each indicator was standardized. Then scores were weighted, totaled, and rescaled so that the top school received 100 and other schools received a percentage of the top score.

Specialty rankings: Rankings are based solely on votes by law faculty who are listed in the AALS Directory of Law Teachers 2007-2008 as teaching in the field or by directors of clinical and legal writing programs. They named up to 15 of the best in each field. Schools receiving the most votes are listed.

SPECIALTIES

PROGRAMS RANKED BEST BY FACULTY WHO TEACH IN THE FIELD

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Pepperdine University (CA)
2. University of Missouri
3. Harvard University (MA)
4. Hamline University (MN)
5. Ohio State University (Moritz)
6. Marquette University (WI)
7. University of Oregon
8. Yeshiva Univ. (Cardozo) (NY)
9. University of Nevada—Las Vegas (Boyd)
10. Fordham University (NY)

CLINICAL TRAINING

1. Georgetown University (DC)
2. American University (Washington) (DC)
3. New York University
4. University of New Mexico
5. Washington Univ. in St. Louis
6. CUNY—Queens College
7. Yale University (CT)
8. University of Maryland
9. University of Michigan—Ann Arbor
10. Stanford University (CA)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

1. Vermont Law School
2. Lewis and Clark College (Northwestern) (OR)
3. Pace University (NY)

4. Georgetown University (DC)
5. Univ. of California—Berkeley
6. Univ. of Colorado—Boulder
7. University of Maryland
8. Duke University (NC)
9. New York University
10. University of Oregon

HEALTH LAW

1. St. Louis University
2. University of Houston
3. University of Maryland
4. Boston University
5. Case Western Reserve University (OH)
6. Georgetown University (DC)
7. Georgia State University
8. Seton Hall University (NJ)
9. Loyola University Chicago
10. Indiana University—Indianapolis

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

1. Stanford University (CA)
2. Univ. of California—Berkeley
3. George Washington Univ. (DC)
4. Columbia University (NY)
5. Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent)
6. Franklin Pierce Law Center (NH)
7. University of Houston

8. Santa Clara University (CA)
8. Yeshiva Univ. (Cardozo) (NY)
10. Duke University (NC)

INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. Columbia University (NY)
2. New York University
3. Harvard University (MA)
4. Georgetown University (DC)
5. Yale University (CT)
6. American University (Washington) (DC)
7. University of Michigan—Ann Arbor
8. George Washington Univ. (DC)
9. University of Virginia
10. Stanford University (CA)
10. Univ. of California—Berkeley

LEGAL WRITING

1. Seattle University
2. Mercer University (George) (GA)
3. University of Nevada—Las Vegas (Boyd)
4. John Marshall Law School (IL)
5. Stetson University (FL)
6. University of Oregon
7. Temple Univ. (Beasley) (PA)
8. Indiana Univ.—Indianapolis
9. Boston College
10. Northwestern University (IL)

TRIAL ADVOCACY

1. Stetson University (FL)
2. Temple Univ. (Beasley) (PA)
3. New York University
4. Georgetown University (DC)
4. Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago-Kent)
4. Washington Univ. in St. Louis
7. Baylor University (Umphrey) (TX)
7. South Texas College of Law
9. Samford University (Cumberland) (AL)
10. American University (Washington) (DC)
10. Northwestern University (IL)

TAX LAW

1. New York University
2. Georgetown University (DC)
2. University of Florida (Levin)
4. Northwestern University (IL)
5. Harvard University (MA)
6. Boston University
6. University of California—Los Angeles
6. University of Miami (FL)
9. University of Michigan—Ann Arbor
10. Stanford University (CA)

Other Schools to Consider

The next two quartiles of schools are listed alphabetically in two groups, the Third Tier and Fourth Tier. Law schools within each of these tiers should be considered broadly similar in quality. To be listed, a law school must be accredited and fully approved by

the American Bar Association and must draw most of its students from the United States. Remember that in considering a law school, you should look not only at its ranking or tier but also at other characteristics—its location, price, course offerings, and faculty expertise, to name a few. More information on all the schools is available in the directory, beginning on Page 144.

THIRD TIER

(ranking begins at 103; schools are listed alphabetically)

Rank/School	Peer assessment score (5.0=highest)	Assessment score by lawyers/judges (5.0=highest)	'08 undergrad GPA 25th-75th percentile	'08 LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 acceptance rate	'08 student/faculty ratio	'07 grads employed at graduation	Employed 9 months after graduation	School's bar passage rate in jurisdiction	Jurisdiction's overall bar passage rate*
Albany Law School (NY)	2.2	2.3	2.9-3.56	152-156	43%	13.8	N/A	97.5%	85.8%/NY	77%
Chapman University (CA)	1.9	2.1	3.16-3.57	155-159	24%	10.0	85.5%	92.1%	69.9%/CA	66%
Cleveland State University (Cleveland-Marshall)	2.1	2.5	3.06-3.6	152-157	39%	13.8	70.5%	95.3%	87.1%/OH	86%
Creighton University (NE)	2.1	2.8	3.15-3.67	151-156	56%	18.5	70.9%	98.0%	91.2%/IA	90%
Drake University (IA)	2.1	2.7	3.07-3.68	153-157	48%	13.4	N/A	97.4%	91.8%/IA	90%
Franklin Pierce Law Center (NH)	2.0	2.6	3.04-3.55	149-155	45%	13.6	66.2%	96.1%	83.3%/NH	84%
Howard University (DC)	2.4	2.7	3-3.5	150-156	24%	18.6	89.7%	91.3%	59.0%/NY	77%
Loyola University New Orleans	2.2	3.0	3.03-3.5	149-156	50%	17.4	60.5%	95.8%	68.9%/LA	63%
Mercer University (George) (GA)	2.3	2.5	3.08-3.69	153-157	37%	12.5	56.1%	96.0%	87.8%/GA	85%
Michigan State University	2.2	2.9	3.08-3.59	151-157	55%	18.2	N/A	94.4%	91.0%/MI	86%
New York Law School	2.3	2.6	3.03-3.52	151-157	43%	22.1	N/A	93.4%	86.3%/NY	77%
Ohio Northern University (Pettit)	1.7	2.1	3-3.65	148-156	31%	12.2	N/A	95.2%	94.9%/OH	86%
Quinnipiac University (CT)	2.1	2.1	3.01-3.58	154-159	38%	9.5	N/A	94.0%	90.8%/CT	86%
Samford University (Cumberland) (AL)	2.0	2.3	2.97-3.53	154-158	47%	17.1	56.1%	95.6%	94.9%/AL	78%
Southwestern Law School (CA)	2.0	1.9	2.96-3.48	153-157	31%	14.4	85.2%	95.6%	63.4%/CA	66%
Stetson University (FL)	2.2	2.4	3.12-3.59	152-157	34%	16.8	N/A	92.8%	82.0%/FL	78%
Syracuse University (NY)	2.4	2.8	3.05-3.49	152-156	50%	12.6	N/A	91.7%	81.3%/NY	77%

Continued on Page 26

Rank/School	Peer assessment score (5.0=highest)	Assessment score by lawyers/judges (5.0=highest)	'08 undergrad GPA 25th-75th percentile	'08 LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 acceptance rate	'08 student/faculty ratio	'07 grads employed at graduation	Employed 9 months after graduation	School's bar passage rate in jurisdiction	Jurisdiction's overall bar passage rate*
Texas Tech University	2.1	2.6	3.2-3.7	154-159	34%	15.2	N/A	93.9%	90.3%/TX	84%
University of Akron (OH)	1.9	2.5	3.02-3.64	150-158	34%	11.8	79.4%	94.2%	86.5%/OH	86%
University of Arkansas—Little Rock (Bowen)	2.2	2.5	3.03-3.6	149-155	26%	13.9	44.2%	98.0%	77.2%/AR	80%
University of Hawaii (Richardson)	2.4	2.6	3.12-3.68	153-159	30%	9.2	69.2%	90.7%	83.2%/HI	82%
University of Idaho	2.0	2.5	2.85-3.58	151-157	45%	15.6	N/A	97.3%	82.1%/ID	81%
University of Memphis (Humphreys)	2.0	2.4	3.12-3.62	154-158	30%	16.0	69.5%	93.5%	93.6%/TN	80%
University of Mississippi	2.3	2.9	3.19-3.68	154-159	34%	18.3	57.5%	88.9%	92.2%/MS	88%
University of Missouri—Kansas City	2.3	2.5	3.07-3.68	152-157	44%	13.2	N/A	97.2%	92.3%/MO	90%
University of Montana	2.1	2.5	3.25-3.65	151-156	41%	12.6	N/A	94.1%	84.7%/MT	88%
University of Nebraska—Lincoln	2.5	3.0	3.23-3.78	155-160	46%	13.6	77.3%	81.1%	91.3%/NE	89%
University of North Dakota	1.9	2.6	3.13-3.73	148-153	42%	14.4	N/A	96.9%	82.8%/ND	79%
University of South Dakota	2.0	2.7	3.05-3.63	148-155	53%	14.7	63.9%	98.6%	90.7%/SD	89%
University of St. Thomas (MN)	1.9	2.6	3.01-3.59	154-160	49%	17.6	N/A	96.4%	88.8%/MN	93%
University of the Pacific (McGeorge) (CA)	2.2	2.6	3.01-3.5	155-159	42%	13.0	N/A	93.8%	72.8%/CA	66%
University of Toledo (OH)	2.0	2.3	3-3.73	152-159	32%	14.6	83.0%	98.1%	86.0%/OH	86%
University of Wyoming	2.1	3.0	3.27-3.63	150-155	34%	11.9	N/A	95.6%	73.2%/WY	70%
Vermont Law School	2.3	2.7	2.95-3.48	152-158	54%	13.3	65.7%	94.7%	73.3%/VT	70%
Wayne State University (MI)	2.2	2.6	3.18-3.69	149-157	45%	14.9	N/A	94.6%	93.4%/MI	86%
West Virginia University	2.2	2.5	3.11-3.76	150-156	42%	13.1	70.3%	98.7%	72.1%/WV	74%
William Mitchell College of Law (MN)	1.9	2.3	3.15-3.65	150-157	57%	21.9	45.4%	96.5%	91.0%/MN	93%

FOURTH TIER

(ranking begins at 140; schools are listed alphabetically)

Rank/School	Peer assessment score (5.0=highest)	Assessment score by lawyers/judges (5.0=highest)	'08 undergrad GPA 25th-75th percentile	'08 LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 acceptance rate	'08 student/faculty ratio	'07 grads employed at graduation	Employed 9 months after graduation	School's bar passage rate in jurisdiction	Jurisdiction's overall bar passage rate*
Appalachian School of Law (VA)	1.4	1.6	2.67-3.39	147-152	45%	16.3	N/A	64.8%	89.7%/TN	80%
Ave Maria School of Law (MI)	1.3	1.9	2.9-3.46	146-153	58%	16.9	N/A	80.8%	75.0%/MI	86%
Barry University (FL)	1.3	1.6	2.7-3.24	149-153	54%	27.3	N/A	86.2%	81.7%/FL	78%
California Western School of Law	1.8	2.1	3-3.52	150-155	53%	18.0	N/A	85.1%	69.2%/CA	66%
Campbell University (Wiggins) (NC)	1.6	2.2	3.03-3.55	153-157	31%	16.9	47.2%	92.4%	93.6%/NC	76%
Capital University (OH)	1.8	2.0	2.93-3.47	150-155	55%	15.0	N/A	80.8%	87.3%/OH	86%
CUNY—Queens College	2.0	2.2	3.23-3.48	151-155	26%	10.0	N/A	89.8%	81.5%/NY	77%
Duquesne University (PA)	1.9	2.5	3.17-3.66	151-154	46%	17.3	N/A	89.0%	89.7%/PA	83%
Florida Coastal School of Law	1.4	1.6	2.92-3.48	147-153	62%	19.6	N/A	96.4%	80.3%/FL	78%
Florida International University	1.6	2.0	3.05-3.58	152-156	26%	19.8	N/A	93.2%	87.8%/FL	78%
Golden Gate University (CA)	1.7	2.1	2.95-3.43	151-155	50%	17.3	N/A	92.9%	68.4%/CA	66%
Hamline University (MN)	2.0	2.4	3.1-3.59	150-156	48%	15.4	N/A	91.6%	91.6%/MN	93%
John Marshall Law School (IL)	1.9	2.3	2.96-3.51	152-156	42%	16.3	N/A	90.9%	89.7%/IL	89%
Mississippi College	1.6	2.2	2.78-3.6	148-153	53%	18.7	55.9%	96.7%	89.8%/MS	88%
New England School of Law (MA)	1.8	2.2	2.94-3.48	150-154	55%	23.5	45.2%	85.0%	83.2%/MA	86%
North Carolina Central University	1.6	2.1	3.02-3.4	144-150	23%	17.5	N/A	83.3%	82.1%/NC	76%
Northern Illinois University	1.7	2.2	2.86-3.51	151-155	42%	18.2	43.5%	94.1%	83.1%/IL	89%
Northern Kentucky University (Chase)	1.7	2.0	3.02-3.56	151-156	45%	16.0	N/A	90.0%	80.4%/KY	87%
Nova Southeastern University (Broad) (FL)	1.8	2.0	3.06-3.55	147-152	41%	14.8	N/A	89.9%	75.7%/FL	78%
Oklahoma City University	1.6	2.0	2.86-3.43	147-152	65%	15.3	N/A	90.9%	94.6%/OK	91%
Pace University (NY)	2.1	2.1	3.07-3.55	152-156	39%	16.8	N/A	88.8%	84.7%/NY	77%
Regent University (VA)	1.3	1.6	3.07-3.63	150-156	49%	18.7	73.1%	91.7%	78.2%/VA	76%
Roger Williams University (RI)	1.8	2.1	3-3.5	149-155	58%	16.2	N/A	87.2%	87.8%/MA	86%
Southern Illinois University—Carbondale	2.0	2.3	2.98-3.64	151-156	39%	12.3	N/A	88.1%	88.6%/IL	89%
Southern University (LA)	1.5	1.8	2.48-3.13	143-149	39%	11.5	N/A	85.9%	N/A	N/A
South Texas College of Law	1.8	2.2	2.98-3.53	150-156	45%	18.8	N/A	85.4%	88.4%/TX	84%
St. Mary's University (TX)	1.8	2.3	2.74-3.43	149-155	51%	22.4	N/A	91.6%	84.6%/TX	84%
St. Thomas University (FL)	1.5	1.9	2.63-3.25	148-151	45%	20.9	N/A	80.4%	72.6%/FL	78%
Suffolk University (MA)	2.1	2.4	3-3.5	153-158	49%	17.3	N/A	93.9%	86.1%/MA	86%
Texas Southern University (Marshall)	1.6	1.9	2.67-3.27	145-151	30%	11.9	N/A	91.0%	63.2%/TX	84%
Texas Wesleyan University	1.8	1.6	2.86-3.43	150-155	48%	24.2	55.9%	82.3%	87.6%/TX	84%
Thomas Jefferson School of Law (CA)	1.6	2.1	2.82-3.36	147-152	38%	16.7	N/A	86.7%	57.8%/CA	66%
Thomas M. Cooley Law School (MI)	1.4	1.9	2.92-3.33	144-149	61%	21.1	N/A	77.8%	80.5%/MI	86%
Touro College (Fuchsberg) (NY)	1.7	1.6	2.9-3.43	149-153	44%	15.1	N/A	77.3%	69.9%/NY	77%
University of Baltimore	2.0	2.5	2.96-3.53	151-156	39%	18.6	90.4%	94.8%	73.5%/MD	76%
University of Dayton (OH)	2.0	2.5	2.88-3.44	148-153	55%	14.6	N/A	91.5%	86.8%/OH	86%
University of Detroit Mercy	1.5	2.0	2.89-3.37	146-153	46%	16.2	N/A	94.0%	90.9%/MI	86%
University of the District of Columbia (Clarke)	1.5	1.5	3-3.25	149-155	26%	12.4	N/A	73.8%	61.8%/MD	76%
University of Tulsa (OK)	2.0	2.4	2.98-3.61	152-157	44%	12.4	50.9%	89.6%	86.9%/OK	91%
Valparaiso University (IN)	2.0	2.7	3.06-3.64	149-153	44%	15.8	56.3%	93.4%	85.2%/IN	84%
Washburn University (KS)	2.0	2.4	3.01-3.6	150-155	60%	12.7	N/A	93.2%	89.5%/KS	91%
Western New England College (MA)	1.6	1.8	2.92-3.45	149-155	54%	14.9	N/A	87.5%	80.0%/MA	86%
Whittier Law School (CA)	1.4	2.1	2.82-3.31	151-155	46%	7.5	56.7%	95.7%	54.0%/CA	66%
Widener University (DE)	1.9	2.3	2.85-3.4	149-153	56%	17.1	61.7%	88.5%	87.1%/PA	83%
Willamette University (Collins) (OR)	2.1	2.7	3-3.43	152-157	48%	15.7	N/A	90.3%	86.5%/OR	81%

*The state bar examination pass rates for first-time test takers in summer 2007 and winter 2007 were provided by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. Note: Numbers with ¹ are from the fall 2007 entering class or school year and 2006 graduating class as reported to the American Bar Association.



Part-Time Law Schools

Part-time J.D. law programs play a vital role in legal education. According to the American Bar Association, about 16 percent of all J.D. students are enrolled part time, and for many working adults, attending part time is the only way they can afford to go to law school. This year, *U.S. News* presents its first-ever ranking of the 87 accredited law schools with part-time J.D. programs. *U.S. News* defines a part-time J.D. program as a law school that has a

separate admissions process for part-time students and has at least 20 part-time students enrolled. The rankings are based solely on a fall 2008 peer assessment survey that asked academics at law schools to choose up to 15 “law schools with outstanding part-time law J.D. programs.” Programs are ranked based on the number of votes they received in descending order; those with a statistically insignificant number are listed as unranked.

THE TOP SCHOOLS

School	'08 part-time undergrad LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 part-time enrollment
1. Georgetown University (DC)	162-167	374
2. George Washington University (DC)	160-166	285
3. Fordham University (NY)	160-164	307
4. American University (Washington) (DC)	159-161	226
5. George Mason University (VA)	158-163	218
6. University of Maryland	156-161	183
7. Temple University (Beasley) (PA)	158-161	201
7. University of San Diego	156-158	230
9. University of Denver (Sturm)	153-157	253
10. Illinois Inst. of Technology (Chicago-Kent)	155-159	252
11. New York Law School	149-154	406
12. Seattle University	154-160	231
13. Loyola Marymount University (CA)	156-160	295
13. Suffolk University (MA)	151-156	621
15. Georgia State University	157-161	193
16. Loyola University Chicago	151-157	249
16. Stetson University (FL)	150-157	236
18. University of Connecticut	155-159	188
18. University of Houston	154-161	200
18. Yeshiva University (Cardozo) (NY)	158-160	127
21. Catholic Univ. of America (Columbus) (DC)	154-158	328
21. DePaul University (IL)	154-157	275
21. Indiana University—Indianapolis	148-155	315
24. William Mitchell College of Law (MN)	146-153	387
25. Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey—Newark	152-159	234
25. Santa Clara University (CA)	154-159	231
27. Southwestern Law School (CA)	150-154	312
28. Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey—Camden	157-159	202
28. University of Baltimore	150-154	444
28. University of San Francisco	155-159	148
28. University of the Pacific (McGeorge) (CA)	153-157	387
32. Lewis and Clark College (Northwestern) (OR)	155-162	193
33. University of Hawaii (Richardson)	147-153	36
34. South Texas College of Law	149-153	314

School	'08 part-time undergrad LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 part-time enrollment
34. University of Nevada—Las Vegas (Boyd)	153-159	116
36. Seton Hall University (NJ)	152-156	382
36. St. John's University (NY)	150-156	182
36. St. Louis University	151-155	197
36. Wayne State University (MI)	147-154	134
40. John Marshall Law School (IL)	151-156	349
40. Michigan State University	149-153	143
42. Cleveland State Univ. (Cleveland-Marshall)	150-155	185
43. Capital University (OH)	150-155	205
43. Golden Gate University (CA)	151-155	139
43. Marquette University (WI)	152-157	185
46. Chapman University (CA)	150-154	36
46. Quinnipiac University (CT)	152-155	139
46. Southern Methodist University (Dedman) (TX)	153-161	426
49. Pennsylvania State University (Dickinson)	153-155	89
49. Thomas Jefferson School of Law (CA)	147-152	184
49. University of Louisville (Brandeis) (KY)	149-158	68
52. California Western School of Law	149-154	94
52. Florida International University	151-155	167
52. Hamline University (MN)	147-153	207
52. New England School of Law (MA)	149-152	374
52. Nova Southeastern University (Broad) (FL)	144-151	171
52. Pace University (NY)	150-154	242
52. Texas Wesleyan University	149-154	291
52. Valparaiso University (IN)	144-149	56
60. Case Western Reserve University (OH)	150-155	34
60. Hofstra University (NY)	150-154	296
62. Florida Coastal School of Law	149-152	162
62. Loyola University New Orleans	148-154	148
62. Phoenix School of Law	149-154	140
62. University of Arkansas—Little Rock (Bowen)	148-153	145
62. Widener University (DE)	148-152	451
67. Florida A&M University	144-150	179
67. University of Missouri—Kansas City	151-156	27

UNRANKED SCHOOLS

School	'08 part-time undergrad LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 part-time enrollment
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School	149-153	177
Barry University (FL)	149-155	151
Charleston School of Law (SC)	147-152	183
Charlotte School of Law (NC)	148-152	63
Duquesne University (PA)	149-152	227
North Carolina Central University	144-151	125
Northern Kentucky University (Chase)	150-154	234
Oklahoma City University	146-150	94
St. Mary's University (TX)	148-152	127
Thomas M. Cooley Law School (MI)	143-148	3239

School	'08 part-time undergrad LSAT score 25th-75th percentile	'08 part-time enrollment
Touro College (Fuchsberg) (NY)	148-152	231
University of Akron (OH)	149-154	242
University of Detroit Mercy	144-151	147
University of La Verne (CA)	148-153	113
University of Toledo (OH)	151-155	152
University of Tulsa (OK)	154-164	45
Western New England College (MA)	147-152	168
Western State University (CA)	149-152	127
Whittier Law School (CA)	151-155	142

Sources: *U.S. News* and the law schools. Assessment data collected by Synovate. The part-time J.D. law program rankings are based solely on votes from a peer assessment survey of law school academics conducted in fall 2008. LSAT scores are for 2008 entering part-time students. A more detailed explanation of the methodology is available at www.usnews.com/grad.

Law School Diversity

To identify law schools where students are most likely to encounter classmates from different racial or ethnic groups, *U.S. News* has created a diversity index based on the total proportion of minority students—not including international students—and the mix of racial and ethnic groups on campus. The index is calculated using demographic data reflecting each law school's student body during the 2008–2009 academic year, including both full- and part-time students. The groups that form the basis for our calculations are African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, and

non-Hispanic whites. Our formula produces a diversity index that ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The closer a school's number is to 1.0, the more diverse is the student population. Law schools that enroll a large proportion of students from one ethnic group, even if it is a minority group, don't score high in this index. To be included in the table, a law school must be accredited by the American Bar Association. Because student-body ethnic diversity data are not consistently compiled and reported as yet for other types of graduate schools, *U.S. News* has prepared a diversity table for law schools only.

THE MOST DIVERSE SCHOOLS

School	Diversity index (1.0=highest)	Largest minority and its proportion	School	Diversity index (1.0=highest)	Largest minority and its proportion
Florida A&M University	0.65	African-American, 47%	University of Pennsylvania	0.46	Asian-American, 13%
Texas Southern University (Marshall)	0.65	African-American, 50%	Yale University (CT)	0.46	Asian-American, 13%
University of New Mexico	0.61	Hispanic, 31%	California Western School of Law	0.45	Asian-American, 14%
University of the District of Columbia (Clarke)	0.61	African-American, 31%	Northeastern University (MA)	0.45	Hispanic, 10%
Florida International University	0.60	Hispanic, 42%	Atlanta's John Marshall Law School	0.44	African-American, 19%
Northwestern University (IL)	0.60	Asian-American, 20%	Brooklyn Law School (NY)	0.44	Asian-American, 15%
University of Southern California (Gould)	0.59	Asian-American, 19%	Golden Gate University (CA)	0.44	Asian-American, 20%
St. Thomas University (FL)	0.58	Hispanic, 33%	Hofstra University (NY)	0.44	African-American, 10%
Loyola Marymount University (CA)	0.57	Asian-American, 24%	University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign	0.44	Asian-American, 10%
Santa Clara University (CA)	0.57	Asian-American, 28%	Nova Southeastern University (Broad) (FL)	0.43	Hispanic, 17%
North Carolina Central University	0.56	African-American, 46%	University of San Diego	0.43	Asian-American, 17%
Thomas Jefferson School of Law (CA)	0.56	Hispanic, 17%	University of the Pacific (McGeorge) (CA)	0.43	Asian-American, 12%
Stanford University (CA)	0.55	Asian-American, 14%	Loyola University New Orleans	0.42	African-American, 13%
University of San Francisco	0.55	Asian-American, 18%	New York Law School	0.42	Hispanic, 10%
American University (Washington) (DC)	0.54	Hispanic, 13%	Seattle University	0.42	Asian-American, 16%
Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey–Newark	0.54	African-American, 14%	University of Wisconsin–Madison	0.42	Hispanic, 8%
Cornell University (NY)	0.53	Asian-American, 18%	Arizona State University (O'Connor)	0.41	Hispanic, 11%
Southwestern Law School (CA)	0.53	Asian-American, 15%	Fordham University (NY)	0.41	Hispanic, 10%
University of California–Berkeley	0.52	Asian-American, 19%	Georgetown University (DC)	0.41	Asian-American, 10%
University of California–Davis	0.52	Asian-American, 27%	Texas Wesleyan University	0.41	Hispanic, 10%
University of California–Los Angeles	0.52	Asian-American, 19%	University of Miami (FL)	0.41	Hispanic, 13%
University of Hawaii (Richardson)	0.52	Asian-American, 59%	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	0.41	Asian-American, 13%
St. Mary's University (TX)	0.51	Hispanic, 26%	Duke University (NC)	0.40	Asian-American, 9%
Western State University (CA)	0.51	Asian-American, 18%	Florida Coastal School of Law	0.40	African-American, 9%
CUNY–Queens College	0.50	Asian-American, 17%	George Washington University (DC)	0.40	Asian-American, 10%
Harvard University (MA)	0.50	African-American, 12%	Southern Methodist University (Dedman) (TX)	0.40	Asian-American, 10%
University of California (Hastings)	0.50	Asian-American, 23%	South Texas College of Law	0.40	Asian-American, 10%
University of Maryland	0.50	African-American, 13%	St. John's University (NY)	0.40	Asian-American, 10%
Whittier Law School (CA)	0.50	Asian-American, 19%	Texas Tech University	0.40	Hispanic, 15%
Columbia University (NY)	0.49	Asian-American, 16%	DePaul University (IL)	0.39	Hispanic, 10%
University of La Verne (CA)	0.49	Hispanic, 16%	New York University	0.39	Asian-American, 10%
University of Arizona (Rogers)	0.48	Hispanic, 11%	Ohio State University (Moritz)	0.39	African-American, 9%
University of Texas–Austin	0.48	Hispanic, 16%	Chapman University (CA)	0.38	Asian-American, 16%
Emory University (GA)	0.47	African-American, 11%	University of Oklahoma	0.38	Native American, 9%
University of Nevada–Las Vegas (Boyd)	0.47	Asian-American, 12%	Washington University in St. Louis	0.38	Asian-American, 10%
University of Chicago	0.46	Asian-American, 12%			
University of Houston	0.46	Hispanic, 11%			

Note: The diversity index is based on ethnicity data collected by *U.S. News* from each law school. The methodology used to compute the index was published in a 1992 article by Philip Meyer and Shawn McIntosh in the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. For this index, students classified as ethnicity unknown/unreported were counted as white. A more detailed explanation of the methodology is available at www.usnews.com/grad.