

Survey Responses: Oregon State Bar Survey of New Lawyers, 2007

*Please note: Not all participants answered every question on the survey.
The figures presented with each question represent only those
respondents who answered that particular question.*

1. Which of the following statements best describes your employment history from April 2006 to today?

I have worked as a lawyer from April 2006 to present. <i>To question #3</i>	72.0%
I have worked as a non-lawyer from April 2006 to present. <i>To question #4</i>	7.5%
I have worked as both a lawyer and a non-lawyer at various times from April 2006 to present. <i>To question #6</i>	14.9%
I was unemployed in April 2006 and now work as a lawyer. <i>To question #12</i>	3.7%
I was unemployed in April 2006 and now work as a non-lawyer. <i>To question #5</i>	0.0%
I am currently not employed. <i>To question #2</i>	1.9%

2. Please comment on the circumstances surrounding your current unemployment. *To question #17*

Responses included finishing another degree and/or seeking work.

3. Please select which of the following statements most closely matches your experience from April 2006 to present.

I am in the same position as I was in April 2006. <i>To question #11</i>	81.0%
I am now employed as a lawyer at another firm/company. <i>To question #7</i>	18.1%
I moved from solo law practice to practice with a firm/company. <i>To question #8</i>	0.9%
I moved from practicing with a firm/company to solo law practice. <i>To question #9</i>	0.0%

4. Please select which of the following statements most closely matches your experience from April 2006 to present.

To question #5

I am in a non-lawyer position with the same firm/company where I worked in April 2006.	58.3%
I am in a non-lawyer position with a different firm/company.	41.7%

5. Given that you have not worked as a lawyer from April 2006 to present, how likely are you to practice law at some point in the future?

To question #17

(1) Very unlikely	16.7%	<i>Response average: 3.08</i>
(2) Somewhat unlikely	25.0%	
(3) Neutral	16.7%	
(4) Somewhat likely	16.7%	
(5) Very likely	25.0%	

6. Please select which of the following statements most closely matches your experience from April 2006 to present.

I moved from non-lawyer employment to employment as a lawyer. 75.0%

To question #12

I moved from employment as a lawyer to non-lawyer employment. 25.0%

To question #10

7. Why did you decide to switch to a different firm/company? Please list all reasons that apply.

To question #11

Some factors listed in the responses to question #7:

*Compensation
Mentoring / training
Opportunity for advancement
Firm reputation
Firm size
Practice area
Work schedule
Work environment
More challenging work and responsibility
More rewarding work
Management
Move from temporary position or clerkship
Geographic location
Quality of life*

8. Why did you switch from solo law practice to employment with a firm/company? Please list all reasons that apply.

To question #11

No responses.

9. Why did you switch from employment with a firm/company to solo practice? Please list all reasons that apply.

To question #11

No responses.

10. Why did you switch from working as a lawyer to non-lawyer employment? Please list all reasons that apply.

To question #17

Some factors listed in the responses to question #10:

*Lack of satisfaction with law career
Geographic location
Inability to find employment as a lawyer
Moved from temporary lawyer positions
More substantive work*

11. What is your level of overall job satisfaction compared to your first year as a lawyer? In the "Comments" field, please list the most significant factors affecting your answer.

To question #12

(1) Much more dissatisfied	2.6%	<i>Response average:</i>
(2) Somewhat more dissatisfied	17.4%	<i>3.44</i>
(3) About the same	31.3%	
(4) Somewhat more satisfied	30.4%	
(5) Much more satisfied	18.3%	

Some factors listed in the responses to question #11:

*Rewarding work
Level of responsibility
Stress / anxiety
Experience level and expertise / confidence
Quality of life / work-life balance
Compensation
Opportunity for career development
Management / mentoring
Work variety
Coworkers
Field of practice
Nature of the organization / firm
Work schedule
Workload*

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12. Which category best describes your current position?

To question #13

Sole practitioner	5.7%
Associate at a small firm (1-5)	17.9%
Associate at a medium- sized firm (6-14)	12.9%
Associate at a large firm (15 or more)	25.0%
In-house counsel	1.4%
Judicial clerkship	4.3%
Public sector/government	17.9%
Nonprofit/legal services	9.3%
Other (please specify)	5.7%

Comments under "other" included public defender, contract or non-partnership track attorney, and recently closing a solo practice.

13. What is your current salary (full-time equivalent)?

To question #14

Less than \$30,000	5.7%
\$30,000-\$39,999	8.6%
\$40,000-\$49,999	27.9%
\$50,000-\$59,999	21.4%
\$60,000-\$69,999	12.9%
\$70,000-\$79,999	5.0%
\$80,000 or more	18.6%

14. What is your primary practice emphasis?

To question #15

General (no one area greater than 50% of practice)	8.8%
Bankruptcy	1.5%
Business/corporate	8.0%
Civil litigation – defense	8.0%
Civil litigation – plaintiff	9.5%
Criminal – defense	16.8%
Criminal – prosecution	5.1%
Estate planning	5.1%
Family law	6.6%
Government lawyer (non- criminal)	3.6%
Immigration	0.7%
Intellectual property/patent	5.1%
Labor/employment	1.5%
Real estate/land use/environmental	10.2%
Tax	0.0%
Workers' compensation	3.6%
Other (please specify)	5.8%

Areas listed in the "other" field included federal law, health law, appellate law, victims' rights, juvenile law, insurance, clerkship, etc.

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15. How challenging have the following job-related issues been for you over the past year?

Go to question #16

(Very difficult = 1; Fairly difficult = 2; Neutral = 3; Fairly easy = 4; Very easy = 5.
N/A was also included as an option.)

	Response average
Understanding substantive law	3.19
Understanding legal procedures	2.81
Practical application of law	3.08
Obtaining appropriate mentoring	3.24
Applying legal ethics to practice	3.53
Understanding employer's expectations	3.37
Receiving challenging work	3.93
Billable hours requirements	2.86
Balancing career and family/personal life	2.78
Maintaining civility and professionalism	4.05
Business development	2.68

16. What is your current level of satisfaction with the following?

To question #17

(Very dissatisfied = 1; Somewhat dissatisfied = 2; Neutral = 3;
Somewhat satisfied = 4; Very satisfied = 5. N/A was also included as an option.)

	Response average
Being a lawyer	3.74
Lawyers with whom you work in your firm	4.30
Lawyers with whom you work outside your firm	3.60
The legal profession in general	3.48
Clients	3.51

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17. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following services provided by the Oregon State Bar.

Go to question #18

(Very dissatisfied = 1; Somewhat dissatisfied = 2; Neutral = 3; Somewhat satisfied = 4; Very satisfied = 5. "Have not used" was also included as an option.)

	Response average	"Have not used"
CLE seminars	3.79	7.5%
CLE publications	4.03	14.9%
Casemaker (online legal research accessed through the bar's website)	3.39	57.1%
Oregon New Lawyers Division	3.35	41.9%
Website (www.osbar.org)	3.99	3.8%
Lawyer Referral Service	3.31	65.8%
Professional Liability Fund	3.75	45.3%

18. As of today, what is the total of any remaining undergraduate debt you have?

To question #19

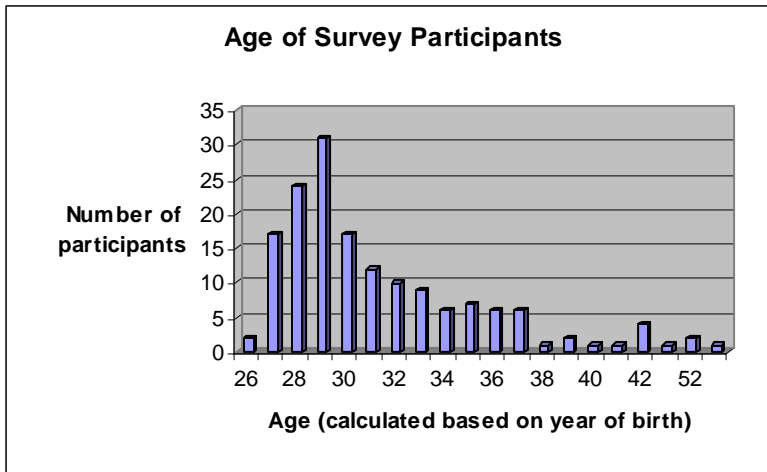
Percentage reporting undergraduate debt:	36.0%
Average debt amount, among those who have debt:	\$17,507
High:	\$90,000

19. As of today, what is your law school debt?

To demographics questions

Percentage reporting law school debt:	85.1%
Average debt amount, among those who have debt:	\$76,712
High:	\$154,000

Demographics of Survey Participants



Age <i>(calculated based on reported year of birth)</i>	
Average age:	31.5 years
Age range:	26 to 53 years
% 30 years old or under:	56.9%
Race/ethnicity	
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.5%
Black	1.3%
Hispanic	3.1%
Native American/ Alaska Native	0.0%
White (non-Hispanic)	91.2%
Multicultural	1.3%
Other	0.6%
Gender	
Female	55.3%
Male	44.7%

Sexual Orientation	
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgendered	7.1%
Heterosexual	92.9%
Marital Status	
Divorced	3.1%
Married/Domestic partner	52.8%
Single (never married)	44.1%
Widow/widower	0.0%
Children	
1-2 children	15.5%
3 or more children	5.6%
None	78.9%
Disabilities	
Learning disability	3.1%
Physical disability	0.0%
No disability	96.9%