

# PLSC 476: Empirical Legal Studies

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# Legal Employment: Categories

ABA Employment Categories (see also [here](#)):

- Bar Passage Required (e.g., attorneys, clerks)
- J.D. Advantage (e.g., consultants, bank examiners, etc.)<sup>1</sup>
- Professional (e.g., accountant, teacher, etc.)
- Non-professional
- Unemployed:
  - Full-Time Graduate Education
  - Start Date Deferred
  - Seeking Employment
  - Not Seeking Employment
- Unknown

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<sup>1</sup> "...the employer sought an individual with a J.D. (and perhaps even required a J.D.), or for which the J.D. provided a demonstrable advantage in obtaining or performing the job, but the job itself does not require bar passage, an active law license, or involve practicing law."

# Legal Employment: Types

ABA Employment Types:

	Part-Time	Full-Time
Short-Term	I	II
Long-Term	III	IV

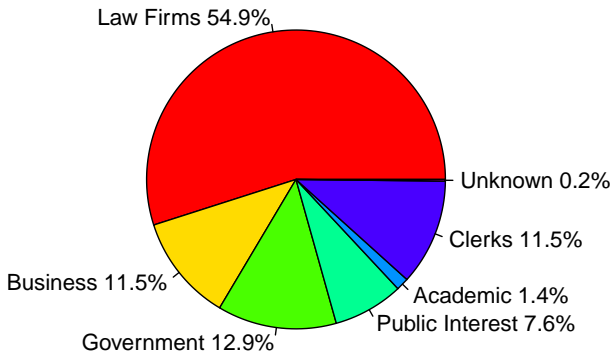
In general:

- Long-Term  $>$  Short-Term
- Full-Time  $>$  Part-Time, so
- $I < II \approx III < IV$

## ABA Employer Types:

- Law Firms (of any size)
- Businesses (not including law firms)
- Government
- Public Interest Positions
- Academic (all levels)
- Judicial Clerks (all levels)
- Unknown

## J.D. Employers, 2019 (All Schools)<sup>2</sup>

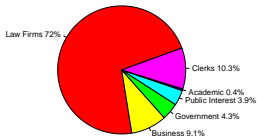


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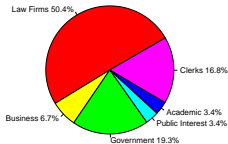
<sup>2</sup>Never, ever use pie charts.

# J.D. Employers, 2019: Three B1G Schools<sup>3</sup>

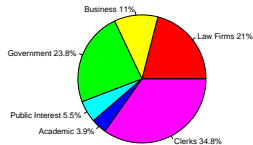
Northwestern Law



Penn State Law



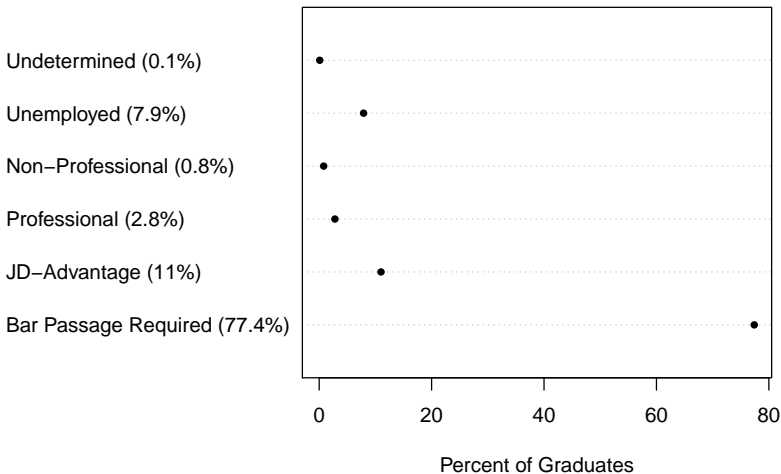
University of Maryland Law



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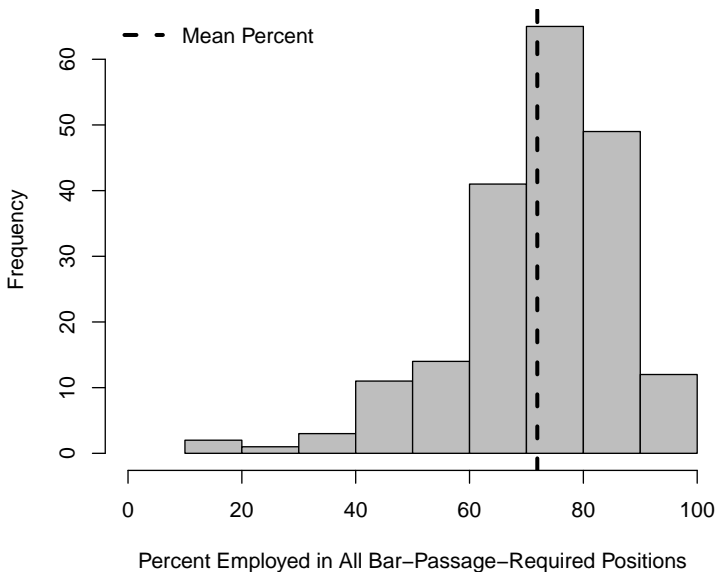
<sup>3</sup>Ever.

# J.D. Employment, 2019 (All Schools)

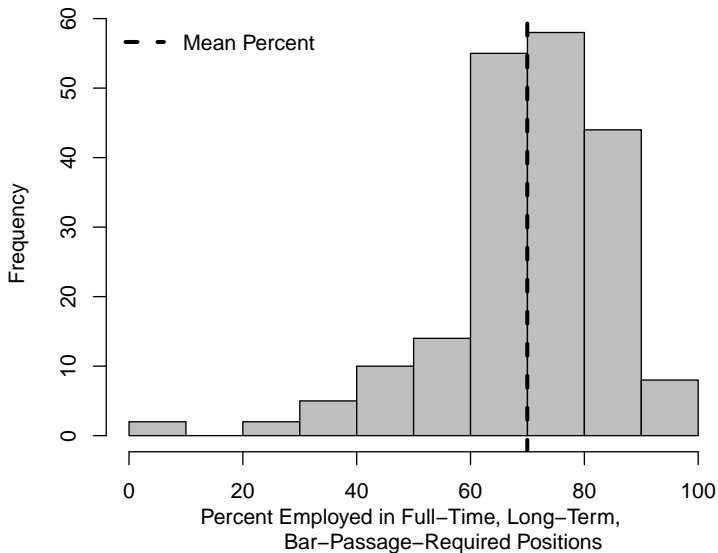




# Bar-Passage-Required Percentages (2019)



# “BPR-FTLT” Percentages (2019)



# Highest and Lowest “BPR-FTLT” Percentages

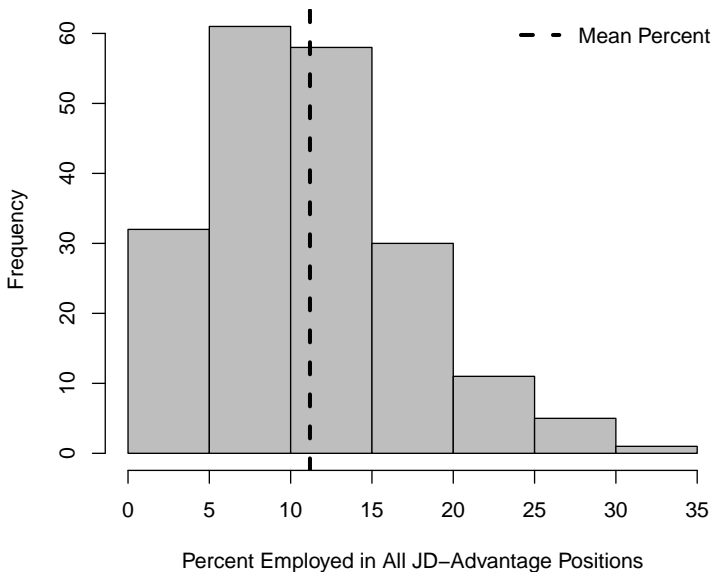
Top 10:

School Name	BPR-FTLT Percent
Columbia University	96.52
Duke University	94.12
University of Virginia	94.06
University of Chicago	93.56
University of Michigan	92.18
University of Pennsylvania	91.60
Baylor University	91.34
University of California-Berkeley	90.24
University of Georgia	89.50
Washington University	89.36

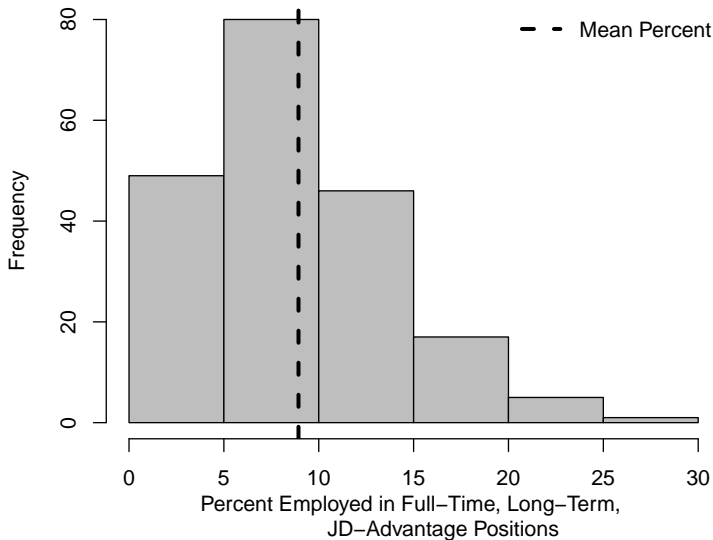
Bottom 10:

School Name	BPR-FTLT Percent
Florida A&M University	40.31
University of San Francisco	39.50
Ave Maria School of Law	39.39
Western State College of Law	38.68
Golden Gate University	34.58
Western Michigan University	33.57
District of Columbia	29.23
University of Puerto Rico	25.00
Inter American University of Puerto Rico	9.89
Pontifical Catholic University of P.R.	2.11

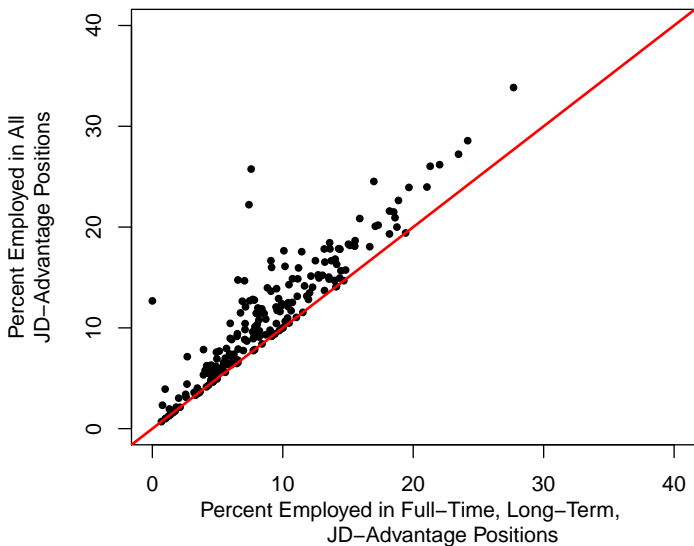
# J.D.-Advantage Percentages (2019)



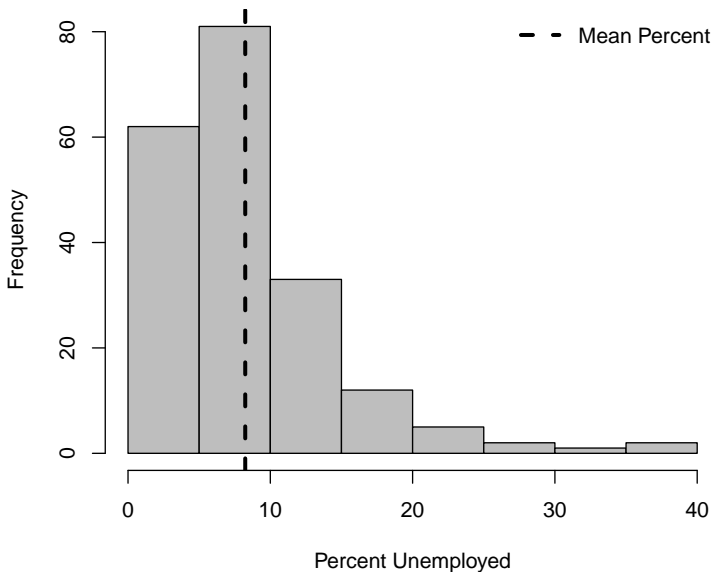
# “JDA-FTLT” Percentages (2019)



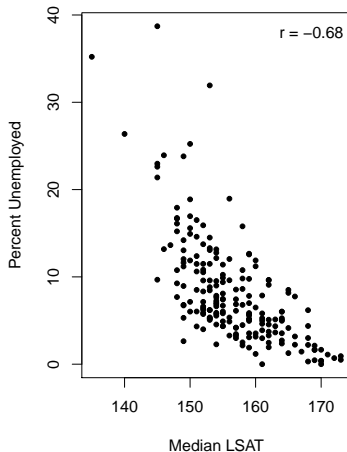
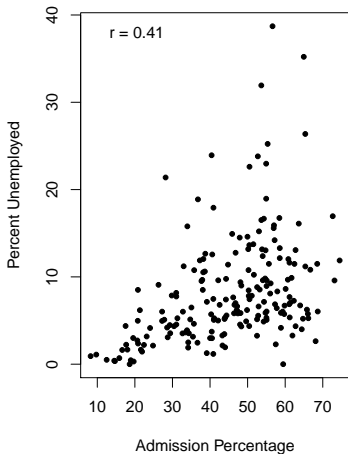
# J.D.-Advantage Comparison (2019)



# Unemployment Percentages (2019)



# What Correlates With Unemployment?

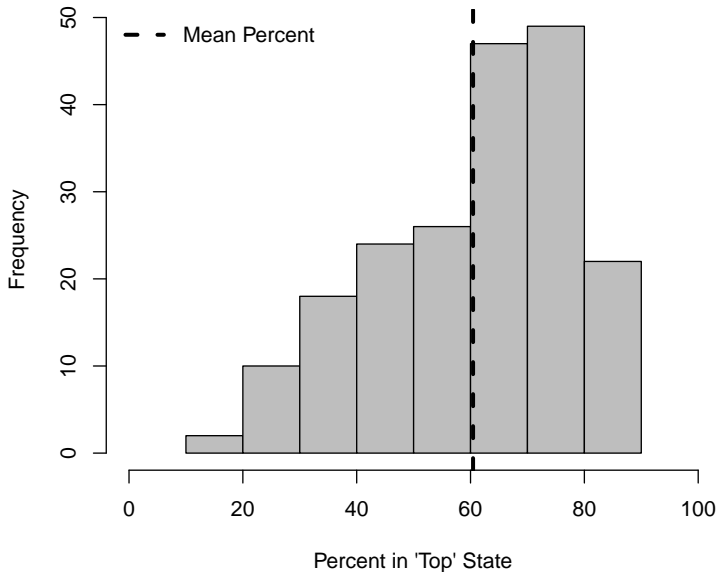




## J.D. Employment: Location

- Most law graduates take the bar and seek employment in the state where they attended law school
- Schools vary widely in their geographic “reach” ...
- Reasons:
  - Reputation / Prestige
  - Specialization(s)
  - Unusual Contexts (e.g., state laws)
- ABA collects data on each law school's “*top state*” – the number of its graduates who are employed in the state employing the largest number of that school's graduates

# “Top State” Percentages (2019)



# Highest and Lowest “Top State” Percentages

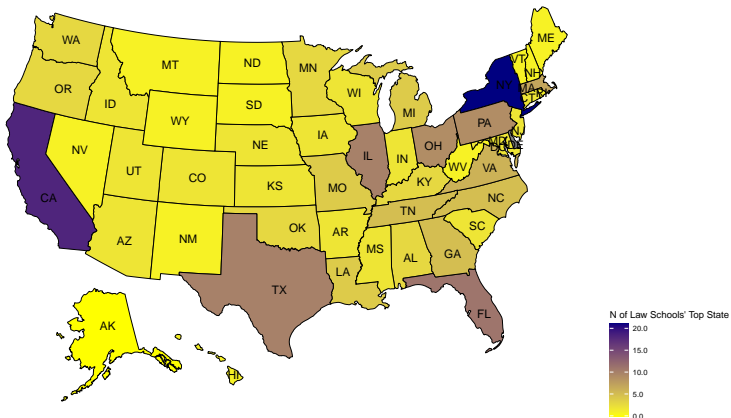
Top 10:

School Name	Top State Percent
Cleveland State University	88.64
University of Nevada - Las Vegas	87.60
Texas A&M University	86.92
Southern Methodist University	86.18
University of Houston	86.15
St. John's University	86.04
Baylor University	85.83
Loyola Marymount University-Los Angeles	84.74
Touro College	84.07
Texas Tech University	82.96

Bottom 10:

School Name	Top State Percent
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Law	27.97
Appalachian School of Law	25.81
Washington and Lee University	25.45
Washington University	25.11
University of Michigan	24.10
University of Virginia	23.43
University of Notre Dame	22.80
Howard University	20.30
Vanderbilt University	16.75
Vermont Law School	16.10

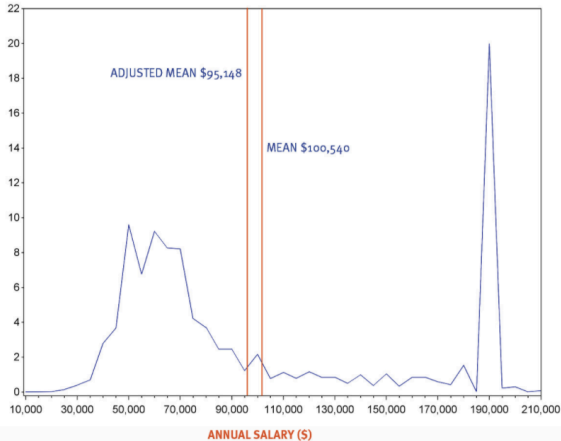
# Map of “Top States”



# Starting Salaries, Class of 2019 (via NALP)

## Distribution of Reported Full-Time Salaries — Class of 2019

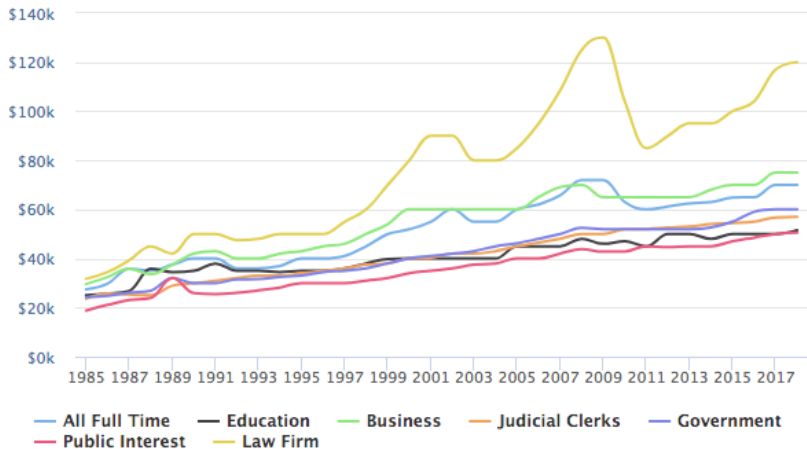
% OF REPORTED SALARIES



(Source)

## Median Salary 1985-2018

Current Dollars, By Type of Employer



(Source)