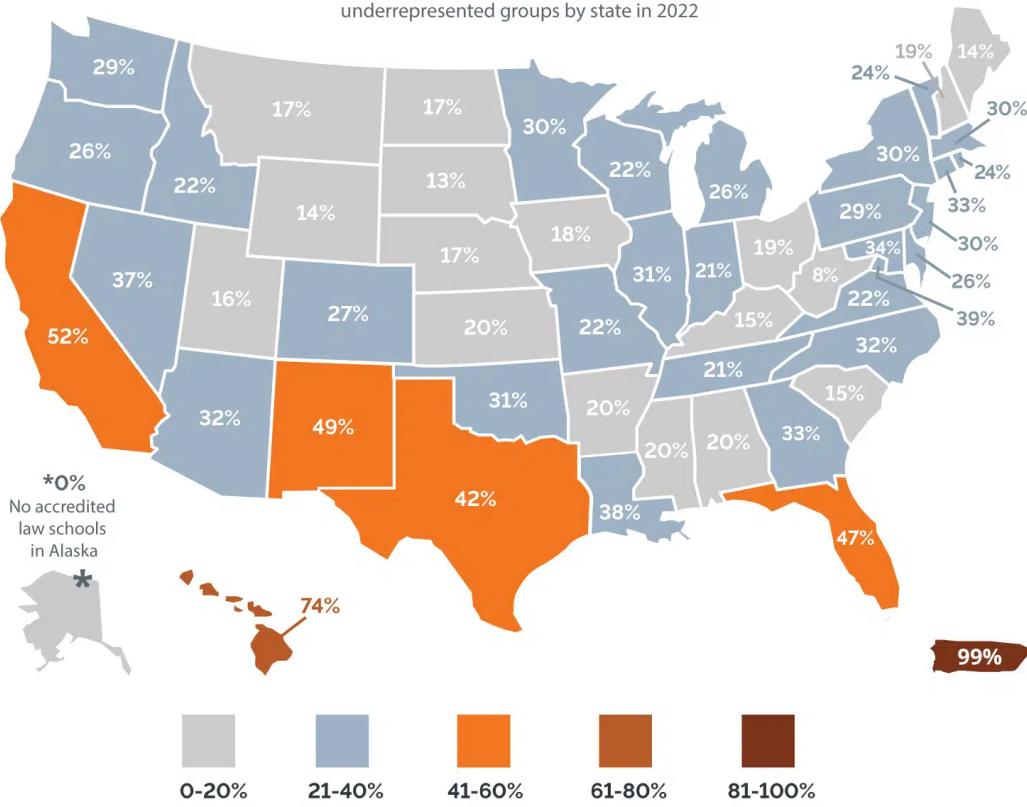


# Law School Enrollment by Race & Ethnicity (2022)

## RACIAL-ETHNIC MINORITY LAW STUDENTS BY STATE

Percentage of law students from traditionally underrepresented groups by state in 2022



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### A comprehensive review of law school enrollment by race and ethnicity in 2022, with a focus on Black student enrollment

Law school enrollment among students of color increased for the 3rd year in a row in 2022, according to the most recent data collected from the American Bar Association (ABA).

The data nevertheless shows that Black people, in particular, continue to be underrepresented in law school classrooms relative to their representation in the general population.

Let's take a closer look at the racial and ethnic composition of law schools in 2022, including the top 10 law schools based on minority enrollment. Let's also take a look at a recent United States Supreme Court decision that could have serious implications for minority law school applicants.



## Race and ethnicity classifications

The ABA requires each accredited law school to report enrollment data annually by completing a Standard 509 Disclosure. The Standard 509 Disclosure allows law schools to report the race and ethnicity of their students using seven distinct categories [defined by the ABA](#):

- **Hispanics of any race:** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- **Asian:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Vietnam.
- **Black or African American:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- **Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- **Two or more races:** The category used to report a non-Hispanic person who selects two or more of the other racial categories.
- **White:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

## Minority representation in law schools

The *total number* of minorities enrolled in law school in the United States increased for the fifth year in a row in 2022, and the *percentage* of minorities enrolled in law school increased for the third year in a row.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total minorities	34,909	35,082	36,077	37,688	38,576
Total law students	111,581	112,877	114,549	117,283	116,724
Percentage of minority students	31.28%	31.07%	31.49%	32.11%	33.04%

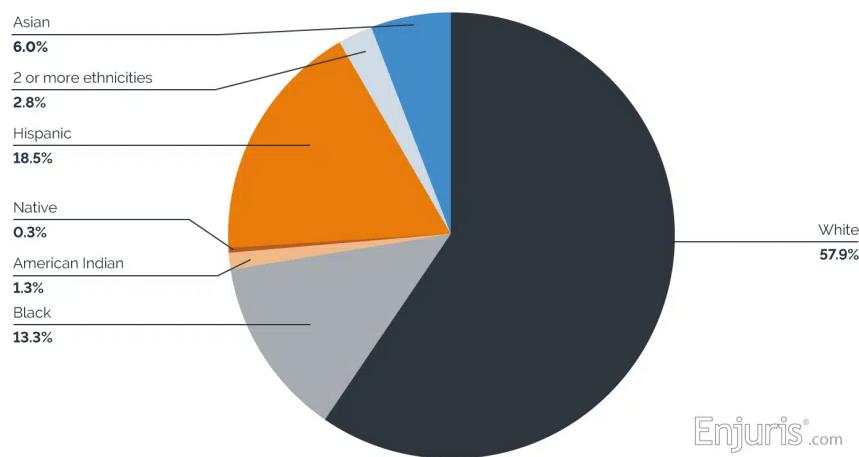
Each of the seven racial and ethnic groups identified by the ABA increased in size in each of the last five years, with the exception of Black, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian, all of which have seen some fluctuation.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Black	9,045	8,819	8,869	9,036	9,079
American Indian	627	598	546	544	515
Hispanic	14,285	14,334	14,841	15,479	16,005
Two or more	3,891	4,164	4,345	4,608	4,631
Asian	6,872	7,019	7,330	7,825	8,152
Native Hawaiian	189	148	146	176	194
White	68,344	69,816	71,061	72,294	70,879

The racial and ethnic makeup of law students in ABA-accredited law schools comes close to reflecting the racial and ethnic makeup of the United States population as a whole. The first pie chart below shows the total percentage breakdown of ethnicities and races in the U.S. according to the most recent [United States Census Bureau data](#). The second pie chart shows the total percentage breakdown of ethnicities and races in all ABA-accredited law schools.

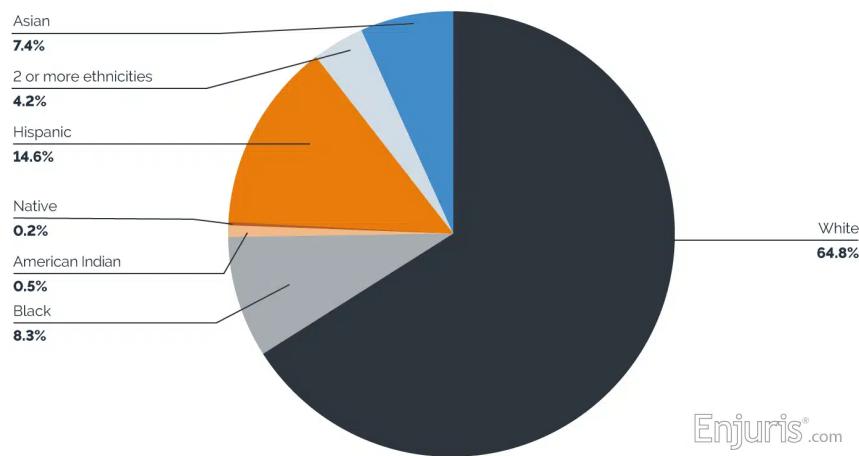


## Race/ethnicity in the United States



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## Race/ethnicity in law schools



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As you can see from the pie charts, the most significant disparity between the general population and law students is among students identifying as Black (13.3 percent compared to 8.3 percent), followed by law students who identify as Hispanic (18.5 percent compared to 14.6 percent).

### Facing facts:

Law schools have historically struggled to attract Black students. In 2011, the first year for which data is available, Black people made up 7.15 percent of law students while making up 13.4 percent of the population. In comparison, Hispanics, the other group currently underrepresented in law schools relative to their representation in the general public, made up 9.12 percent of law students in 2011. This means that Hispanics have increased their presence in law school classrooms by more than five percentage points over the last decade, whereas Black people have only increased their presence by a little over one percentage point.

### Law school rankings based on ethnic-racial minority enrollment

The [ABA Council for Diversity in the Educational Pipeline](#) and the [Law School Admissions Council \(LSAC\)](#) have made efforts to increase the enrollment of traditionally underrepresented groups and people of color in colleges and law schools across the country.

In addition, many law schools have taken steps intended to increase enrollment of minorities, particularly Black students, in competitive law programs.



For example, in 2019, [Syracuse University College of Law](#) sought to double Black student enrollment in five years by entering into "3+3 admissions" agreements with three historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Georgia. The 3+3 program allows students to finish a bachelor's degree and a law degree in six years rather than seven.

Since announcing the program in 2019, the number of Black law students enrolled at Syracuse University College of Law has gone from 49 (2019) to 46 (2020) to 56 (2021) to 51 (2022), underscoring the challenge of increasing Black enrollment.

Here is a look at the top 10 law schools with the highest percentage of students identifying with each race and ethnicity recognized by the ABA.



# TOP 10 LAW SCHOOLS

JD enrollment of **racial & ethnic minorities** (2022)

Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Two or more races
78.02%	100.00%	28.01%	5.58%	8.24%	32.25%
 <b>HOWARD UNIVERSITY</b> 1867	 <b>PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE PUERTO RICO</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY of HAWAII'</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC</b> McGeorge School of Law	 <b>UNIVERSITY of HAWAII'</b>
59.65%	98.77%	24.18%	4.88%	2.06%	17.11%
 <b>NC Central UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>DERECHO INTER</b>	 <b>UC HASTINGS</b> COLLEGE OF THE LAW SAN FRANCISCO	 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA</b>	 <b>CINCINNATI</b>	<b>GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY</b>
59.38%	98.54%	20.75%	3.89%	2.02%	15.52%
 <b>SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>UPR</b> Universidad de Puerto Rico	 <b>UC DAVIS</b> UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	 <b>THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA</b>	 <b>University of Idaho</b>	 <b>HOWARD UNIVERSITY</b> 1867
50.36%	66.29%	20.13%	3.82%	2.01%	13.99%
 <b>TSU</b> TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	 <b>STU</b> ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY	 <b>USC</b> University of Southern California	 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>W</b> WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Doleby Law School
49.32%	51.58%	19.70%	3.25%	1.95%	10.72%
 <b>UNIVERSITY of the DISTRICT of COLUMBIA</b> David A. Clarke School of Law	 <b>FIU</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA IRVINE</b>	 <b>NC Central UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY of HAWAII'</b>	 <b>O</b> <b>LAW</b>
43.09%	48.29%	18.95%	3.17%	1.56%	10.10%
 <b>FAMU</b>	 <b>ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>Santa Clara University</b>	 <b>UNIVERSITY of SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	 <b>BYU</b> BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY	 <b>I</b> University of Idaho
40.88%	38.22%	18.41%	3.09%	1.53%	9.98%
 <b>JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL</b>	 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO</b>	 <b>USF</b> UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO	 <b>Oklahoma City UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>Miami</b>	 <b>UC DAVIS</b> UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
19.50%	34.14%	17.09%	2.96%	1.03%	9.05%
 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS.</b>	 <b>WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW</b>	 <b>CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>O</b> <b>LAW</b>	 <b>WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW</b>	 <b>OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY</b>
16.28%	34.01%	16.67%	2.71%	0.90%	9.01%
 <b>FAULKNER UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>MIAMI</b>	 <b>W</b> UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON	 <b>WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY</b>	 <b>WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>Stanford University</b>
15.40%	33.87%	16.58%	2.15%	0.68%	8.97%
 <b>UNIVERSITY of BALTIMORE</b>	 <b>NSU</b> Florida	 <b>Berkeley</b> UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	 <b>MH</b> MITCHELL   HAMLINE School of Law	 <b>UNIV</b> UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS	 <b>Northern Illinois University</b>

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Here's a look at where students from historically underrepresented communities are not attending law school.



# BOTTOM 10 LAW SCHOOLS

JD enrollment of **racial & ethnic minorities** (2022)

Black	Hispanic	Asian
0.00%	0.95%	0.00%
 Pontificia UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE PUERTO RICO	 West Virginia University	 Facultad de DERECHO <b>INTER</b>
0.00%	1.59%	0.00%
 <b>UPR</b> Universidad de Puerto Rico	 <b>SIU</b> CARBONDALE	 Pontificia UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE PUERTO RICO
0.43%	1.75%	0.00%
 UW	 UND UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA	 <b>UPR</b> Universidad de Puerto Rico
0.60%	1.76%	0.32%
 <b>GONZAGA</b> UNIVERSITY	 LMU Lincoln Memorial University	 West Virginia University
0.62%	1.97%	0.39%
 Facultad de DERECHO <b>INTER</b>	 UT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO	 THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI
0.72%	2.15%	0.45%
 THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH*	 WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL	 SD UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
0.78%	2.45%	0.66%
 <b>BYU</b> BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY	 CLEMSON STATE UNIVERSITY 1964	 APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW
0.98%	2.71%	0.75%
 UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*	 FAULKNER UNIVERSITY	 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
1.20%	2.79%	0.79%
 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA	 Capital University	 THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
1.42%	2.80%	0.98%
 BELMONT UNIVERSITY College of Law	 HOWARD UNIVERSITY	 CLEMSON STATE UNIVERSITY 1964



Note that the chart above doesn't include a list of schools with the lowest percentages of **American Indian or Alaskan Native law students**. This is because there were 59 ABA-accredited law schools in the U.S. that reported enrolling zero students who identified themselves in this group.

The chart also excludes schools with the lowest percentages of **Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander law students** because there were a total of 133 schools in the U.S. that reported enrolling zero students who identified themselves in this group.

## The United States Supreme Court decision on affirmative action and its impact on minority enrollment

On June 29, 2023, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the policies of Harvard University and the University of North Carolina, which consider an applicant's race during the admissions process, violate the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution.

The ruling essentially prohibits schools from using affirmative action practices that have long been credited with increasing the presence of Black, Hispanic, and other minority students in law school classrooms.

At the University of Michigan Law School and Berkeley School of Law, the number of minority students dropped precipitously after Michigan and California banned affirmative action in public university admissions—although both schools found creative ways to boost their numbers.

We will continue to track the racial and ethnic composition of law schools to see how this landmark United States Supreme Court ruling might impact minority enrollment.

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Data source: American Bar Association, ABA Required Disclosures (Standard 509 Reports). Any mistakes in data reported to the ABA are the responsibility of the reporting school. Enjuris assumes no responsibility for inaccuracies or for changes in such information that may occur after publication. The figures here are as reported on December 16, 2022. Schools may update their data at any time. Please see the ABA website for updated figures.

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