

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW

### Summary: Class of 2009 Graduate Survey

The College of Law collects and reports annual graduate employment statistics allowing graduate employment status, job settings, location, and salaries to be quantified and described each year and compared over time. This data is used in reports to NALP, the ABA, *U.S. News*, and others, and there are variations in each research methodology.

*Findings of the Class of 2009 Graduate Survey include:*

- 96% of known Class of 2009 graduates seeking employment were employed as of February 15, 2010, compared to 97% for the Class of 2008 and 99% for the Class of 2007.<sup>1</sup>
- 62% were employed before graduation, 76% were employed six months following graduation, and 96% were employed nine months after graduation.
- 123 graduates report employment in legal positions and five report employment in non-legal positions.
- 63% reported employment in private practice, compared to 59% in 2008.<sup>2</sup>
- 28% reported employment in government positions, including 13% in judicial clerkships.<sup>3</sup> 6% reported employment in business or industry, 3% in academic settings and 2% are employed in public interest positions.
- The range of salaries reported was \$42,000 - \$160,000. The average salary reported was \$72,500, a slight increase over 2008.<sup>4</sup>
- Average private practice salary reported was \$83,500 – mean salary of \$126,700 for law firm jobs in other states and \$76,100 for law firm jobs in Tennessee.
- Graduates are employed in 13 states. 80% of positions reported were in Tennessee, compared to 68% in 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> Employment status is known for 138 of 140 graduates. Five (5) are unemployed and seeking work. Four (4) graduates are enrolled in a degree program. One (1) graduate is unemployed and not seeking work at this time. Two (2) graduates did not respond to the survey and their employment status is unknown.

<sup>2</sup> Number of graduates in law firms by number of attorneys: Solo practice – 10; 2- 10 attorneys, 33; 11 – 25 attorneys, 12; 26 – 50 attorneys, 4; 51- 100 attorneys, 4; 100+ attorneys, 16; unknown, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Judicial Clerks, 5; State Judicial Clerks, 11; District Attorneys, 6; Federal Agencies, 4; State Agencies; Military, 6.

<sup>4</sup> Salary information is available for 51% of graduates.