

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW

### Summary: Class of 2010 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 2010 Graduate Survey include:*

- 90% of known Class of 2010 graduates seeking employment were employed as of February 22, 2011, compared to 96% for the Class of 2009 and 97% for the Class of 2008.<sup>1</sup>
- 61% were employed at graduation, 75% were employed six months after graduation, and 90% were employed nine months after graduation.
- 123 graduates reported employment in legal positions and 12 reported employment in non-legal positions.
- 53% reported employment in private practice, compared to 63% in 2009.<sup>2</sup>
- 27% reported employment in government positions, including 11% in judicial clerkships.<sup>3</sup> 12% reported employment in business or industry, 4% in academic settings, and 4% are employed in public interest positions.
- The range of salaries reported was \$37,000 – \$145,000. The average salary reported was \$65,300, a decrease from 2009.<sup>4</sup>
- The average private practice salary was \$78,100, with a mean of \$70,000. The average for law firm jobs in Tennessee was \$75,400; \$87,200 was the average for law firm jobs in other states.
- Graduates are employed in 20 states and several foreign countries; 74% of positions reported were in Tennessee, compared to 80% in 2009.

---

<sup>1</sup> Employment status is known for 162 of 167 graduates. Fifteen (15) were unemployed and seeking work; eight (8) graduates were unemployed and NOT seeking work; and four (4) graduates were enrolled in degree programs. Five (5) graduates did not respond to the survey and their employment status is unknown.

<sup>2</sup> Number of graduates in law firms by size of firm: solo practice, 4; 2-10 attorneys, 31; 11-25 attorneys, 6; 26-50 attorneys, 8; 51-100 attorneys, 5; 100+ attorneys, 15; firm size unknown, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Number of graduates in government positions: federal judicial clerks, 2; state judicial clerks, 13; district attorneys, 4; federal agencies, 2; state agencies, 4; local agencies, 3; military, 4.

<sup>4</sup> Salary information is available for 60% of 2010 graduates.