



Defending Liberty  
Pursuing Justice

LAWYER DEMOGRAPHICS

**NUMBER OF LICENSED LAWYERS - 2008**

**1,180,386**

Source: ABA Market Research Department, 5/2009

**GENDER**

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Male	92%	80%	73%
Female	8%	20%	27%

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004 editions

**AGE**

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
29 yrs. or less	15%	10%	7%
30-34	21%	16%	12%
35-39	15%	18%	14%
40-44	9%	18%	15%
45-54	16%	18%	28%
55-64	12%	10%	13%
65+	13%	10%	12%
Median age	39	41	45

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004 editions

**RACE / ETHNICITY**

	<u>1990*</u>	<u>2000*</u>
White, not Hispanic	92.6%	88.8%
Black, not Hispanic	3.3%	4.2%
Hispanic	2.5%	3.4%
Asian Pacific American, not Hispanic	1.4%	2.2%
American Indian, not Hispanic	0.2%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, not Hispanic	--	.04%
2+ races	--	1.2%

\*Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census

NOTE: U.S. Census considers Hispanic an ethnicity, not a race. Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

**LAW STUDENTS**

<i>Academic Year</i>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Total JD enrollment	140,298	141,031	141,719
Gender			
Male	51%	53%	53%
Female	48%	47%	47%
Minority enrollment	21.2%	21.6%	22.4%

Source: ABA Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar

<http://www.abanet.org/legaied/statistics/stats.html>

**PRACTICE SETTING**

<i>% of lawyers in...</i>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Private Practice	68%	73%	74%
Government	9%	8%	8%
Private Industry	10%	9%	8%
Retired/Inactive	5%	5%	5%
Judiciary	4%	3%	3%
Education	1%	1%	1%
Legal Aid/Public Defender	2%	1%	1%
Private Association	1%	1%	1%

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004 editions

**PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS**

<i>% of private practitioners...</i>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Solo	49%	45%	48%
2 – 5 lawyers	22%	15%	15%
6 – 10 lawyers	9%	7%	7%
11-20 lawyers	7%	7%	6%
21 – 50 lawyers	6%	8%	6%
51 – 100 lawyers	7%	5%	4%
101 + lawyers	*	13%	14%

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004 editions

\* Largest firm size for 1980 data was 51+ lawyers.

**LAW FIRM SIZE**

<i>% of law firms with...</i>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
2 – 5 lawyers	81%	75%	76%
6 – 10 lawyers	12%	13%	13%
11-20 lawyers	4%	7%	6%
21 – 50 lawyers	2%	3%	3%
51 – 100 lawyers	1%	1%	1%
101 + lawyers	*	1%	1%
Total # firms	38,482	42,513	47,563

Sources: *The Lawyer Statistical Report*, American Bar Foundation, 1985, 1994, 2004 editions

\* Largest firm size for 1980 data was 51+ lawyers.

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding. Compiled by the ABA Market Research Department.