



ABA National Lawyer Population Survey

Lawyer Population by State

Year 2021

Resident Active Attorney Count			
State	This Year	Last Year	% Change from Prior Year
Alabama	14,897	14,897	0.0%
Alaska	2,340	2,324	0.7%
American Samoa	55	55	0.0%
Arizona	15,688	15,081	4.0%
Arkansas	6,808	6,299	8.1%
California	167,709	168,569	-0.5%
Colorado	22,802	22,802	0.0%
Connecticut	21,036	21,036	0.0%
Delaware	3,058	3,058	0.0%
Dist. of Columbia	28,011	27,743	1.0%
Florida	77,223	79,328	-2.7%
Georgia	33,158	32,584	1.8%
Guam	262	262	0.0%
Hawaii	4,184	4,270	-2.0%
Idaho	4,029	3,967	1.6%
Illinois	62,720	62,720	0.0%
Indiana	15,802	15,761	0.3%
Iowa	7,452	7,306	2.0%
Kansas	7,932	8,045	-1.4%
Kentucky	13,570	13,570	0.0%
Louisiana	21,414	20,568	4.1%
Maine	3,985	3,995	-0.3%
Maryland	40,800	40,800	0.0%
Massachusetts	42,720	42,908	-0.4%
Michigan	35,453	35,453	0.0%
Minnesota	26,065	25,823	0.9%
Mississippi	6,845	6,886	-0.6%
Missouri	24,369	24,369	0.0%
Montana	3,183	3,167	0.5%
Nebraska	5,546	5,546	0.0%
Nevada	7,482	7,509	-0.4%
New Hampshire	3,495	3,495	0.0%
New Jersey	40,137	41,152	-2.5%
New Mexico	5,612	5,612	0.0%
New York	185,076	184,662	0.2%
North Carolina	24,253	24,253	0.0%
North Dakota	1,696	1,697	-0.1%
North Mariana Islands	134	134	0.0%
Ohio	38,189	38,189	0.0%
Oklahoma	13,713	13,549	1.2%
Oregon	12,158	12,196	-0.3%
Palau	44	50	-12.0%
Pennsylvania	49,087	49,249	-0.3%
Puerto Rico	13,944	13,944	0.0%
Rhode Island	4,071	4,071	0.0%
South Carolina	10,853	10,798	0.5%
South Dakota	1,985	1,907	4.1%
Tennessee	18,818	18,818	0.0%
Texas	93,821	92,833	1.1%
Utah	8,581	8,473	1.3%
Vermont	2,198	3,612	-39.1%
Virgin Islands	776	776	0.0%
Virginia	24,020	24,230	-0.9%
Washington	26,701	26,316	1.5%
West Virginia	4,770	4,770	0.0%
Wisconsin	15,488	15,482	0.0%
Wyoming	1,692	1,773	-4.6%
TOTAL	1,327,910	1,328,742	-0.1%

Compiled by: American Bar Association, 321 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60654

* Individual state bar associations or licensing agencies are asked to provide the number of resident and active attorneys as of December 31st of the prior year, e.g. 2021 data is as of 12/31/2020. The numbers reflected here are the best available data provided to the ABA from the respective associations or agencies.

Notes: Vermont returned to tracking resident/non-resident status in 2021; the count now reflects resident active attorneys. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, not all states and territories participated in 2021; prior year responses (2019 or 2020) were used for the following: Alabama, American Samoa, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Guam, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, West Virginia. Responses from 2018 were used for Virgin Islands.

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Resource also found at: http://www.americanbar.org/resources_for_lawyers/profession_statistics.html



ABA National Lawyer Population Survey
10-Year Trend in Lawyer Population by State
Year 2021

Resident Active Attorney Count												
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change from 2011
State												
Alabama (1,24)	13,876	14,135	14,303	14,531	14,630	14,666	14,717	14,822	14,821	14,897	14,897	7.4%
Alaska (22)	2,451	2,418	2,442	2,469	2,456	2,439	2,402	2,311	2,324	2,324	2,340	-4.5%
American Samoa (13,22,24)	47	44	64	102	102	98	59	59	55	55	55	17.0%
Arizona (4,22)	14,471	14,471	16,208	15,993	16,155	15,926	14,960	15,601	15,081	15,081	15,688	8.4%
Arkansas (7,11,18)	5,545	5,928	5,953	5,970	5,970	7,320	6,851	7,080	6,693	6,299	6,808	22.8%
California	157,388	159,824	163,163	163,327	165,952	167,690	168,746	170,044	170,117	168,569	167,709	6.6%
Colorado (22,24)	20,211	20,768	21,094	21,545	21,761	21,781	22,164	21,099	22,802	22,802	22,802	12.8%
Connecticut (7,11,22,24)	20,585	20,842	21,150	18,655	18,655	21,517	21,341	21,111	21,036	21,036	21,036	2.2%
Delaware (22,24)	2,820	2,853	2,888	2,881	2,921	2,952	2,978	2,978	3,058	3,058	3,058	8.4%
Dist. of Columbia (6,20)	50,440	51,271	51,928	51,928	52,089	52,711	54,692	53,778	56,135	27,743	28,011	-44.5%
Florida (6)	64,715	66,556	68,464	68,464	74,258	75,697	77,008	78,244	78,448	79,328	77,223	19.3%
Georgia	28,871	28,520	28,974	30,463	31,340	31,499	31,672	32,802	32,409	32,584	33,158	14.8%
Guam (2,4,5,22,24)	256	256	256	313	313	266	266	270	262	262	262	2.3%
Hawaii (22)	4,054	4,107	4,132	4,260	4,193	4,224	4,236	4,261	4,270	4,270	4,184	3.2%
Idaho	3,553	3,627	3,725	3,705	3,736	3,714	3,836	3,882	3,911	3,967	4,029	13.4%
Illinois (2,4,22,24)	60,069	60,069	62,496	61,871	63,211	63,060	62,782	63,422	62,720	62,720	62,720	4.4%
Indiana (3,7,11,13)	14,016	15,512	15,646	15,883	15,883	15,854	15,826	15,826	15,845	15,761	15,802	12.7%
Iowa (22)	7,200	7,308	7,383	7,183	7,526	7,560	7,523	7,454	7,306	7,306	7,452	3.5%
Kansas (7,22)	8,129	8,156	8,199	8,261	8,266	8,234	8,218	8,131	8,045	8,045	7,932	-2.4%
Kentucky (22,24)	12,579	12,891	13,061	13,328	13,448	13,451	13,509	13,540	13,570	13,570	13,570	7.9%
Louisiana (7,18,22)	17,974	18,327	18,528	18,532	18,775	19,099	19,307	18,918	20,568	20,568	21,414	19.1%
Maine (6,22)	3,718	3,865	3,863	3,863	3,944	3,931	3,940	3,988	3,995	3,995	3,985	7.2%
Maryland (12,17,22,24)	22,172	22,477	23,068	23,508	23,902	24,142	38,800	40,309	40,800	40,800	40,800	84.0%
Massachusetts	41,920	42,483	43,008	44,257	43,974	43,221	43,442	42,926	42,788	42,908	42,720	1.9%
Michigan (7,22,24)	33,370	33,692	33,995	34,739	34,739	35,087	35,236	35,362	35,453	35,453	35,453	6.2%
Minnesota (7,18,22)	23,363	23,774	24,091	25,272	24,522	24,952	25,483	25,252	25,823	25,823	26,065	11.6%
Mississippi (6,22)	6,886	6,955	6,955	6,955	7,059	7,094	7,067	7,007	6,886	6,886	6,845	-0.6%
Missouri (7,22,24)	23,933	24,276	24,423	25,337	25,337	24,922	24,787	24,754	24,369	24,369	24,369	1.8%
Montana	2,980	3,008	3,046	3,084	3,126	3,140	3,159	3,179	3,184	3,167	3,183	6.8%
Nebraska (6,24)	5,238	4,983	5,028	5,028	5,361	5,506	5,545	5,565	5,555	5,546	5,546	5.9%
Nevada (6,17)	6,732	6,850	7,080	7,080	6,858	7,219	7,281	7,333	7,030	7,509	7,482	11.1%
New Hampshire (19,24)	3,423	3,449	3,507	3,515	3,521	3,506	3,507	3,523	3,523	3,495	3,495	2.1%
New Jersey (10,22)	40,754	40,997	40,993	41,250	41,569	41,569	41,168	41,021	41,152	41,152	40,137	-1.5%
New Mexico (6,22,24)	5,318	5,513	5,468	5,468	5,547	5,581	5,524	5,428	5,612	5,612	5,612	5.5%
New York (17)	161,031	163,798	166,317	169,756	172,630	175,195	177,035	179,600	182,296	184,662	185,076	14.9%
North Carolina (7,22,24)	20,706	21,280	21,855	23,136	23,136	23,325	23,694	24,087	24,253	24,253	24,253	17.1%
North Dakota	1,448	1,546	1,560	1,599	1,665	1,669	1,698	1,694	1,687	1,697	1,696	17.1%
North Mariana Islands (22,24)	130	135	135	210	210	126	123	128	134	134	134	3.1%
Ohio (22,24)	38,118	37,745	38,541	38,234	38,849	38,237	38,623	37,873	38,189	38,189	38,189	0.2%
Oklahoma (9,16,21)	11,704	12,978	11,970	13,465	13,465	13,431	13,470	11,695	11,768	13,549	13,713	17.2%
Oregon (5,6)	12,065	12,276	12,276	12,276	12,464	12,475	12,227	12,427	12,274	12,196	12,158	0.8%
Palau (22,25)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44	50	50	44	N/A
Pennsylvania	48,492	48,947	49,697	50,072	48,992	49,644	49,406	50,112	50,039	49,249	49,087	1.2%
Puerto Rico (2,4,6,11,22,24)	13,282	13,282	14,193	14,193	15,318	13,673	14,293	14,008	13,944	13,944	13,944	5.0%
Rhode Island (7,22,24)	4,114	4,060	4,173	4,179	4,224	4,219	4,167	4,154	4,071	4,071	4,071	-1.0%
South Carolina	9,384	9,537	9,587	9,874	10,031	10,208	10,316	10,445	10,568	10,798	10,853	15.7%
South Dakota (19)	1,880	1,865	1,905	1,934	1,939	1,960	1,933	1,995	1,995	1,907	1,985	5.6%
Tennessee (6,24)	16,630	16,947	17,203	17,203	17,965	18,288	18,461	18,695	18,702	18,818	18,818	13.2%
Texas	78,844	80,657	82,607	84,800	86,494	87,957	89,361	90,485	91,244	92,833	93,821	19.0%
Utah (6)	6,552	7,309	7,840	7,840	8,413	8,468	8,204	8,285	8,362	8,473	8,581	31.0%
Vermont (6,14,18,22,23)	2,263	2,270	2,300	2,300	2,272	2,326	2,326	2,227	3,612	3,612	2,198	-2.9%
Virgin Islands (4,5,8,13,15,19,22,24)	650	650	650	456	456	561	372	776	776	776	776	19.4%
Virginia (7,22,24)	23,936	24,091	24,468	24,064	24,062	24,193	24,249	24,208	24,230	24,230	24,020	0.4%
Washington	23,503	23,741	24,032	24,620	24,844	25,577	25,786	26,057	26,182	26,316	26,701	13.6%
West Virginia (7,22,24)	4,753	4,854	4,901	4,942	4,918	4,922	4,862	4,849	4,770	4,770	4,770	0.4%
Wisconsin (7)	15,252	15,364	15,538	15,481	15,481	15,072	15,549	15,539	15,512	15,482	15,488	1.5%
Wyoming (7,22,24)	1,658	1,668	1,681	1,778	1,778	1,715	1,776	1,716	1,773	1,773	1,692	2.1%
TOTAL	1,225,452	1,245,205	1,268,011	1,281,432	1,300,705	1,312,869	1,335,963	1,342,379	1,352,077	1,328,742	1,327,910	8.4%

Data Source: American Bar Association's National Lawyer Population Survey

* Individual state bar associations or licensing agencies are asked to provide the number of resident and active attorneys as of December 31st of the prior year, e.g. 2021 data is as of 12/31/2020. The numbers reflected here are the best available data provided to us from the respective associations or agencies; significant exceptions are noted below.

- (1) The Alabama number reflects all resident attorneys regardless of whether they were active or not.
- (2) Illinois, Guam, and Puerto Rico did not provide current data for 2011 so prior year's stats were used.
- (3) During 2011, Indiana began using a new system for attorney registration leading to greater accuracy in reporting in 2012.
- (4) Arizona, Illinois, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands did not provide current data for 2012 so prior year's stats were used.
- (5) Oregon, Guam, and the Virgin Islands did not provide current data for 2013 so prior year's stats were used.
- (6) Dist. of Columbia, Florida, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Utah, and Vermont did not provide current data for 2014 so the data from the most recent submission were used.
- (7) Due to timing of the survey in 2014, the following states submitted data from Fall 2014 rather than as of December 31, 2013: Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming. All but Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia chose not to submit updated data for the 2015 survey.
- (8) Prior to the 2014 survey, the Virgin Islands did not report on active/inactive status. The decrease in 2014 is a more accurate representation of Resident Active lawyers.
- (9) Prior to the 2014 survey, Oklahoma excluded lawyers categorized as "Over 70" from their Resident Active submission. The 2014 results include this group.
- (10) In 2016, New Jersey was in the process of a system conversion and was not able to provide information in time to be included in the survey. As a result, the most recent prior submission was used.
- (11) In 2016, four agencies had changes in the availability of Active/Inactive status data. Arkansas, Connecticut, and Indiana were not able to provide a breakout of Active/Inactive status for Resident attorneys as they had in prior years. Puerto Rico had not provided Active/Inactive status details in prior years, but was able to provide it for the 2016 survey. In 2018, Indiana corrected the resident active figures for 2016; this report has been updated to reflect the new total attorney count for 2016 than was previously reported.
- (12) In 2017, the source of the Maryland data changed from the voluntary Maryland State Bar to the Maryland Supreme Court. The Maryland Supreme Court does not track residency status, leading to larger results than prior years.
- (13) In 2017, three agencies had changes in the availability of Active/Inactive status data. Indiana was not able to provide a breakout of Active/Inactive status for Resident attorneys in 2016, but was able to for 2017. American Samoa had not provided Residency or Active status details in recent years, but was able to provide it for the 2017 survey. Virgin Islands changed its classifications for the Active/Inactive status for the 2017 survey.
- (14) Vermont was not able to provide current data for 2017 so the data from the most recent submission were used.
- (15) Virgin Islands was not able to provide residency in 2018 due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- (16) In 2018, Oklahoma removed senior members from the Resident Active count (they can still practice but are over the age of 70).
- (17) In 2019, Maryland, Nevada, and New York provided corrected 2018 lawyer counts; this report reflects the corrected 2018 total attorney count.
- (18) In 2019, four agencies had changes in the availability of residency data. Arkansas adopted a new software system and cleaned up data; the decrease in 2019 is a more accurate representation of Resident Active Lawyers. Louisiana changed how it reports residency status, causing an increase in the reported lawyer count. Minnesota and Vermont no longer track resident/non-resident status; the counts now reflects all active lawyers.
- (19) New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Virgin Islands did not provide current data for 2019, so prior year's stats were used.
- (20) In 2020, the District of Columbia changed how it reports residency status to report DC addresses only and not the DC metro area.
- (21) In 2020, Oklahoma returned senior members to the Resident Active count after excluding them in 2018 and 2019.
- (22) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, not all states and territories participated in 2020; prior year responses were used for the following: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Mariana Islands, Ohio, Palau, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming.
- (23) In 2021, Vermont returned to tracking resident/non-resident status; the count now reflects resident active attorneys.
- (24) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, not all states and territories participated in 2021; prior year responses (2019 or 2020) were used for the following: Alabama, American Samoa, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Guam, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, West Virginia. Responses from 2018 were used for Virgin Islands.
- (25) Data for Palau not available prior to 2018.

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ABA National Lawyer Population Survey

Historical Trend in Total National Lawyer Population

1878 - 2021

Year	Resident Active Attorney Total	% Change from Prior Year	Year	Resident Active Attorney Total	% Change from Prior Year
2021	1,327,910	-0.1%	1980	574,810	15.4%
2020	1,328,742	-1.7%	1979	498,249	7.2%
2019	1,352,077	0.7%	1978	464,851	7.6%
2018	1,342,379	0.5%	1977	431,918	1.6%
2017	1,335,963	1.8%	1976	424,980	5.0%
2016	1,312,869	0.9%	1975	404,772	5.0%
2015	1,300,705	1.5%	1974	385,515	5.4%
2014	1,281,432	1.1%	1973	365,875	2.1%
2013	1,268,011	1.8%	1972	358,520	4.5%
2012	1,245,205	1.6%	1971	342,980	4.9%
2011	1,225,452	1.9%	1970	326,842	1.7%
2010	1,203,097	1.9%	1969	321,473	1.7%
2009	1,180,386	1.6%	1968	316,104	1.7%
2008	1,162,124	1.6%	1967	310,736	1.8%
2007	1,143,358	2.4%	1966	305,368	1.8%
2006	1,116,967	1.1%	1965	300,000	0.9%
2005	1,104,766	1.9%	1964	297,186	1.0%
2004	1,084,504	2.4%	1963	294,372	1.0%
2003	1,058,662	0.8%	1962	291,559	1.0%
2002	1,049,751	0.1%	1961	288,746	1.0%
2001	1,048,903	2.6%	1960	285,933	2.6%
2000	1,022,462	2.2%	1959	278,746	2.6%
1999	1,000,440	1.5%	1958	271,560	2.7%
1998	985,921	3.4%	1957	264,373	2.8%
1997	953,260	0.7%	1956	257,186	2.9%
1996	946,499	5.6%	1955	250,000	12.8%
1995	896,140	3.5%	1950	221,605	10.8%
1994	865,614	2.3%	1945	200,000	10.4%
1993	846,036	5.8%	1940	181,220	13.3%
1992	799,760	2.9%	1935	160,000	15.1%
1991	777,119	2.8%	1930	139,059	6.2%
1990	755,694	4.2%	1925	131,000	6.9%
1989	725,579	1.7%	1920	122,519	0.4%
1988	713,456	2.7%	1915	122,000	-0.1%
1987	695,020	2.7%	1910	122,149	3.5%
1986	676,584	3.5%	1905	118,000	3.1%
1985	653,686	0.9%	1900	114,460	27.7%
1984	647,575	4.0%	1890	89,630	39.7%
1983	622,625	0.9%	1880	64,137	0.0%
1982	617,320	0.8%	1878	64,137	N/A
1981	612,593	6.6%			

Data Source: 1998 forward - American Bar Association's National Lawyer Population Survey, prior to 1998 - ABA Archives, specific source unknown.

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Notes: In 2018, Indiana corrected the resident active figures for 2016; this report has been updated to reflect the new total attorney count for 2016 than was previously reported. In 2019, Maryland, Nevada, and New York provided corrected 2018 lawyer counts; this report reflects the corrected 2018 total attorney count. In 2020, the District of Columbia changed how it reports residency status, causing a decrease of more than 28,000 reported resident active attorneys in DC. In 2021, Vermont began tracking residency, causing a decrease of more than 1,400 reported resident active attorneys in VT.

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ABA National Lawyer Population Survey

10-Year Trend in Lawyer Demographics

Year 2021

Resident Active Attorney Demographics: Gender												
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change from 2011
Gender												
Male	67%	67%	66%	64%	65%	64%	65%	64%	64%	63%	63%	-4.2 pp
Female	33%	33%	34%	36%	35%	36%	35%	36%	36%	37%	37%	4.1 pp
Other (1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0 pp
Count of States Reporting Statistic	42	44	43	43	43	45	46	46	45	44	44	2
% of Lawyers with Reported Statistic	57%	59%	59%	61%	63%	66%	61%	63%	61%	60%	62%	4.4 pp

Resident Active Attorney Demographics: Race/Ethnicity												
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change from 2011
Race/Ethnicity (2)												
African-American	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	-0.2 pp
Asian	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	0.8 pp
Caucasian/White	88%	88%	89%	88%	86%	85%	85%	85%	85%	86%	85%	-2.9 pp
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0 pp
Hispanic	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0.9 pp
Multiracial (1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2.0 pp
Native American	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	-0.6 pp
Count of States Reporting Statistic	17	16	16	17	18	19	22	21	20	21	25	8
% of Lawyers with Reported Statistic	21%	21%	21%	21%	25%	30%	29%	28%	35%	31%	36%	15.0 pp

Data Source: American Bar Association's National Lawyer Population Survey

* Individual state bar associations or licensing agencies are asked to provide demographics data for resident and active attorneys as of December 31st of the prior year, e.g. 2021 data is as of 12/31/2020. The numbers reflected here are the best available data provided to the ABA from the respective associations or agencies.

Notes: In 2018, Indiana corrected the resident active figures for 2016; this report has been updated to reflect the new total attorney count for 2016 than was previously reported. In 2019, Maryland, Nevada, and New York provided corrected 2018 lawyer counts; this report reflects the corrected 2018 total attorney count.

(1) Beginning with the 2016 survey, choices included "Multiracial" as an option for race/ethnicity and "Other" as an option for gender.

(2) Race/ethnicity percentages may total to more than 100% as many states allow responders to choose more than one option for race/ethnicity.

Beginning with the 2020 survey, two new questions about attorneys who identify as LGBTQ+ and as persons with a disability were asked. Results are not included in the 2021 report due to insufficient response.

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