A Snapshot of Women in the Law in the Year 2000

A Snapshot of Women in the Law in the Year 2000 provides an overview of the status of women in all sectors of the legal profession. Using the most current statistics on women in the law, it provides a clear assessment of where women lawyers stand as we enter the new millennium.

**Women in the Legal Profession**

**Where Do Women Practice Law as Compared to Men?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Industry/Association</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Aid or Public Defender</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired or Inactive</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Women Comprise 28.9% of all U.S. lawyers**

964,000 Attorneys
278,596 Women Attorneys

**Women in Law School**

- **Students**
  - 47% Women

**First Year Enrollment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Women in Private Practice**

- **Faculty**
  - 31% Women

- **Faculty and Administration**
  - Deans: 10.4%
  - Tenured Faculty: 6.4%
  - Full Time Professors: 20.7%
  - Associate Professors: 45.3%
  - Assistant Professors: 51.9%

**Women in Corporate America**

- 44 Women Hold General Counsel Positions at Fortune 500 Companies

- 24% Women

- 9% Women

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**Women in the Judiciary**

- Two of nine U.S. Supreme Court Justices
- 16% of U.S. Circuit Court Judges
- 14.8% of U.S. District Court Judges
- 26.3% of Justices on State Courts of Last Resort

**Women in Government**

- Women Comprise 41.9% of Legal Aid Attorneys and Public Defenders

**Women in the ABA**

- Total Membership: 404,698
  - 28.5% Women Members

**Salary/Pay Equity Information**

- Annual Median Salary of Men Lawyers: $69,680
- Annual Median Salary of Women Lawyers: $50,648

The Annual Median Salary of Women Lawyers is 73% of Men's

2. Percentage may total more than 100 due to rounding.